



4WD CLUB

Easter 2006 - Huts Reconnaissance Trip

Dates	Easter 2006. April 15, 16 and 17
Event Organiser	Andy Kass

Attendances	Paul Burke Andy Kass
Visitors *	

Easter 2006, Barry Ranges Huts Reconnaissance Mission.



This trip was the second of a series of trips to investigate the condition of the huts in the Barry Mountains area. Similar to the first trip, we started off in some pretty poor weather conditions. There were only 2 participants on the trip being Paul Burke and myself Andy Kass. As we both attended the committee meeting on the Thursday evening, it was decided to meet up in Yea on Friday morning and begin the trip with a visit to Dandongadale Hut before the weather got real bad.

After morning tea at Mansfield we headed through Whitfield, on to Dandongadale then up the Abbeyard Track before turning right onto the Dandongadale Buffalo Divide Track. The showers were very persistent and certain parts of the track were already a little greasy.

The rain didn't hinder the burn-off on the left side of the track. Some of the hollow trees were burning well providing both a challenge to drive around as well as a ready made fire for lunch in the rain.



Paul decided it was a good idea to cook a jaffle in this log in the middle of the track (above).

When we got to the top of Mc Creedy track we stopped for some decision making. The track looked steepish and slippery in the rain. What will it look like if the predicted snow arrives while we are down at the Hut (right)? The gamble was taken and we proceeded to descend. We found the hut in the valley at the end of the track after a few small but slippery creek crossings. It was already in use by a family of campers who allowed us to take photos and write the report. They were a bit at a loss when advised it was also our responsibility to



sample all unopened bottles of alcohol found in the huts. After finding and returning a bracelet lost by one of the campers on their previous trip, we decided to get out of the valley before we were trapped for the weekend.

After scrambling up the hill we made our way towards Abbeyard for the night. After lots of light showers during the day, we were presented with a 10 minute heavy down pour to signify the end of rain for a while.

Saturday morning we headed off to assess the remains of West Humffray Hut, the rebuilt Riley's Creek Hut (left), the deteriorating Humffray River shelter (below left) as well as Guys Hut on Mt Sarah. We also inspected the site of the Selwyn Hut but missed out on the Shower Block Hut due to it being late in the day. We made camp once again near Abbeyard close to an unattended campsite. The rain had held off for most of the day however we did get a light sprinkling of snow at Guys Hut.



In the morning as we packed up, 2 motorbike riders arrived at the unattended campsite. When asked if they got lost yesterday they answered with a reserved “Yes”. They spent the night out in the freezing cold because they took a track which looked OK on their map but was now a very overgrown walking track. Night fell on them after several Kms of lifting their bikes over fallen trees and rocks etc. They were packed up immediately to head for home.



We decided to head home via Cobbler (right) and King River hut. As the sun was shining and the tracks were getting drier, travel was a bit speedier than on the previous 2 days. That was until the traffic jam at The Staircase. Someone was making repairs on the side of the track and about five other vehicles had to park nearby to assist. As well as this, the vehicle in front of us was working hard at not getting hung up on the rocks. A troopy we thought was coming up the track was getting ready to winch the vehicle in front of us down the hill. All ended well and no winch was required. The Stairs are getting

challenging again due to all the traffic they have been receiving.

A pleasant weekend was had despite a bit of bad weather at the start.

As we were without our partners, Paul tried to pick up a deer he was chasing up the road (left). I managed to pick up a mouse that loves Helgas Bread. Any suggestions for his/her removal will be welcome. The Nissan is beginning to smell like a rat house.

There will be more trips planned to visit the remaining huts and perform ongoing maintenance, so I am sure there will be plenty of opportunities to get out into the Barry Ranges area.

Andy.



Paul! Where are you???