



Camp Barjarg Trip Report

4WD CLUB

Dates	21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd August 2009
Event Organiser	Matt Ahern

Attendances	Matt & Tam Ahern (and Kids) Vince & Sue Bosua John Brandwood Wylie McGinnes
Visitors *	Brett & Andrea McDonald* (and Kids)

This weekend was planned so that you could just do what you wanted to do when you wanted to do it.

Friday night saw Matt & Tam arrive a little late and after a phone call from Wylie to find out where the key was, the camp was opened and the Coonara lit. John apparently arrived early enough to drive around the area, back into Mairdample and then have a counter meal at the pub.

With the water pump turned on and the heat pumping out of the coonara, the kids settled down to watch a movie on Johns laptop (well for 5 minutes anyway). Good try John!!



Saturday morning: John wakes and heads for the shower, turns on the tap, nothing??!!!! No hot water!!! Just so happens that the hot water service in the mens change room has a faulty pressure relief valve and has been turned off at the valve. Luckily the ladies has a separate service that works perfectly, and there's doors on their showers!!

Shortly after breaky Brett & Andrea (Matt's friends) arrive with their two kids. It was then decided to head for the hills and check out some of the 4x4 tracks in the area. We headed for an area that Matt had been to before that had great views down the valley. The tracks were relatively good considering that they had had quite a bit of rain over the last few days. After checking out the views and checking on a Geocache (GPS treasure Hunt) that Matt had found a few years ago we started heading back. The trip down was a little slippery and steep which saw Wylie put is bash plate to good use (that is what its for after all). We were expecting Vince and Sue to arrive at any stage and as it turns out they were listening to us anyway all the way from Merton.





After lunch Vince and Sue decided to settle in and enjoy the serenity of the camp (Vince worked while Sue read, well that's what they told us??) while the rest of us went and checked out a few more tracks and visited Rocky Ned's Lookout. On the way we encounter a few tracks that had been closed (seasonal track closures) that were not marked on the map as SSC tracks, so there were a few detours. Finally we arrive at Rocky Ned's and John



discovers that his UHF has stopped working. We just thought he didn't want to talk to us, or he was too busy singing! John elected to stay at the cars and fix his radio while the rest of us trekked up to the lookout (quite a walk). After arriving at the lookout and checking out the view we had a little treasure hunt for a Geocache, and after quite a long search, Wylie came up with the goods.



That night after dinner we all settled down for a few drinks and a quiet chat around the coonara.

The next morning some were up early and others chose to make the most of their warm bed. After breakfast it was time for a little cleaning. So it was out with the mops, on with the vacuum and out with the bins and after a short time the place was spick and span and we were ready to leave. Brett and

Andrea decided they would leave a bit earlier and visit a family friend further along towards Benalla, and the rest of us decided to take a short drive to Lake Nillahcootie to have a look, upon arriving there we watched the local football team go through their cold water treatment (and I would imagine VERY COLD). After a quick wander around and a group photo Vince & Sue headed home, shortly followed by John.



Matt, Tam & Wylie decided to head for the hills again and went exploring the Mt Samaria area (in search of some more geocaches) and to make the most out of a reasonably good day. After some beautiful views and a 1.5km trek to the summit of Mt

Samaria (which must have felt like twice the distance for Lori and Taryn but they made it) we headed for Spring Creek Sawmill ruins. We were stopped here for a short time when Matt noticed that the oil light had begun to glow, so it was up with the bonnet and have a bit of an investigation. With oil levels good and oil pressure good (still with light on) we pushed on towards Mansfield. Further along the track we come across a large tree that had fallen across the track, so Wylie was out with the new chainsaw (although christened earlier in the weekend)



and set to work. With the thanks of two other guys that turned up with their chainsaw the track was soon cleared and we were on our way again.

After a bit of a jiggle of the wires to the oil light sender and a phone call to a mechanic just to make sure, the diagnoses was an electrical problem, so after a quick coffee it was time to head for home. The car performed beautifully on the way home, never missed a beat (although the oil light stayed on). The outcome was a bugged sender unit, they also found a fuel leak that I had been smelling for months (bugged fuel pump) so new fuel pump, and found leak in power steering pump (replaced that also) \$850 later. Anyone want to buy a good GQ Patrol?

The hot water service that didn't work resulted in the plumber splitting the hot water service and water going everywhere. They are now having instant systems fitted. Hope you all had a good weekend. We did!



Report by Matt Ahern