

High Country Easter trip 2012

Attended by- David and Cheryl.

We left at a reasonable time on Thursday night and joined the convoy out of the City. The traffic flowed well and within two hours we were pulling in to Mansfield for a meal, There was a lot of vehicles around town but the hotel was almost empty. We were served quickly the food was good and we were on the road an hour later. We refueled leaving Mansfield and headed for Pineapple Flats for the night.

The track was in good condition the only issue the Circuit road was closed from the King basin Road to Clear Hills track The King Basin road was in good condition it had been cleaned up recently and we were soon crossing the river in to the Camping site.

There were some ten camps when we arrived all families with little tacker's. We found a nice spot set up the swag and settled in for the night.

Friday 6th April 12

We were awoken in the morning to the sound of the kids having a ball, we had breakfast and due to the immense response we had to the Trip we waited 2 seconds past 10.00 and set off on our way.

The King Basin Road was in good order the creek crossing was, as normal as I have experienced, although they have had some good flows down the river.

We stopped at King Hut to check out the new works. There was plenty of good campsites available the King Hut was almost empty.

We set off up the Staircase to Mt Cobbler, apart from a few rocks the stair case is now a ramp.

Lake Cobbler looked good and is slowly recovering from the fires; there is good camping around the lake.

After a cuppa we set off to the Cobbler Abbeyards track, the track is steep but in very good condition and a good link to the Catherine Station. There were a few campers along the Buffalo River.

We headed in to Schultz Track and headed towards Mt Selwyn. The track was steep in places but in good condition.

We decided to go over Mt Selwyn as the Buckland Valley was always crowded; we then headed to Mt Sarah and set up camp within a stone's throw from Guys hut.

As the site had plenty of fire wood we decided that tonight was the night for a roast.

The site was sheltered and the clouds were blowing overhead. Once the wind dropped the sky was as clear as ever and the full moon made it look like day light.

Saturday 7th April 12

After an easy morning and a leisurely breakfast we headed towards Mt Hart and dropped down the Hart Spur to the Wonnangatta Valley, Hart Spur track was good fun straight down, it was rocky but in not to bad condition.

The Valley was packed. We stopped for a coffee at the old station and Spoke to the friends of Wonnangatta. We drove around and there were plenty of good camping sites on the river.

We then set off to Zeka Track to Mount Howitt they have spent some money on the track but it is still challenging. We stopped at Howitt Hut to check it out; they have done some work in the car park.

We found a nice sheltered camp site along the Howitt Road just before the Bryce's Gorge, nicely protected and plenty of Firewood.

Sunday 8th April 12

We headed south checking out the tracks and went down to Kelly Hut, followed the track to McMichael's hut and finally Higgins hut, then back on to the Tamboritha Road, all the tracks and Roads were in good condition.

We stopped for lunch at Horseyard Flats camp Plenty of good camping site available.

The next stop was the Pinnacles. The Lookout was destroyed in the fires but has been rebuilt, it and the views are just magnificent.

Then it was to Billy Goats Bluff track. This track need no introduction just hang on and land at the bottom some 10 km later. They recon they have spent some money on it but I don't know where, it is slightly better than the last time is went up it, some 5 years ago Diff locks locked in.

We met the local Copper in his 3 litre Nissan and he made it.

Once at the bottom on Wonnangatta Rd we found a lovely Camp site On the Wonnangatta River for the night, it was nice to have a swim and wash the dust off.

Monday 9th April 12

It was still warm in the morning so we had another swim before heading in to Grant Historic Area.

We headed up the Wonnangatta Rd to Eaglesvale. There was plenty of good camping along the valley.

From Eaglesvale we took the Eaglevale track to Cynthia Range Track and followed this track to the Crooked River road. What a ball tearer of a track.

We followed the Crooked River track to Talbotville and there was plenty of campsites along the river. The blackberries are becoming a big problem.

The Crooked river track was a good as ever some 16 creek crossings. The DSE have done some work on the blackberries but there needs to be a follow up. I came out via Bull town Spur Track and boy was that fun.

The weather was starting to turn so we headed to Dargo to get a feed and work out what was next.

We had a beer at the pub then over to the General store for a feed.

The weather was closing in, we had had great weather and travelled over some fantastic tracks and some excellent country side the views had to be seen a photo did not do them any justice.

So we headed for home, it was a great trip a pity none of the Club attended.

A lot of organization goes in to these trips, and people missed out on some fantastic country.

See you next trip SID



Camp Mt Sarah Guys Hut



Cloud Formation



The Pinnacles



Billy Goat Bluff



Cynthia Range track



Old Relics Talbotville



Old Building once covered by blackberries



Guy Hut



Kelly Hut



McMichaels Hut