



Club Easter Camp 2011 – Mt Cole State Park

4WD CLUB

Dates	Friday 22 nd – Tuesday 26 April 2011
Event Organiser	Vince & Sue Bosua

Attendances	Vince & Sue Bosua Neil & Sharron West Matt, Tamara Ahern and girls Grant & Karen Thomson Alby Armour
Visitors *	Evan & Marg Thomas

Thursday saw Bosua's, West's & Ahern's travel up to western Victoria headed for Mount Buangor State Park. Neil & Sharon arrived at Middlecreek Camp Ground first, only to find it still under water in places and very boggy. All the larger dry spots had been taken up by other campers.

A quick call to Vince & Sue who happened to be talking to the girls at the Beaufort Information Centre found some other options. The Bosua's travelled up to Middle Creek to see the conditions with the West's after which a couple of options were explored. A quick call to Matt & Tamara, a rendezvous at Beaufort saw us all on our way to Forte's camping area in the plantations north east of Beaufort, but was already claimed, so on to Smith's Bridge camp ground 17 km north of Beaufort, on the Elmhurst- Beaufort Rd. This turned out to be a great little spot.

Just to prove how wet Middle Creek camp ground was, Westy moved to the side of the access road to let a Commodore pass, only to bury in the super soft table drain. A quick call to Vince saw the Landcruiser and camper-trailer back on the road. Sharron was not impressed ALL the mud was on her side, not his!



Thursday night came over cold and wet, leading into Friday remaining cool. Up went the new club shelters just in time for Grant, Karen & Alby to arrive with some sunshine. Marg & Evan turned up soon after. The new shelters worked out well and provided a dry place for the Friday night campfire sit in.



Vince & Sue had to disappear back to Lilydale late Friday afternoon for a funeral Saturday morning and returned back to camp late Saturday afternoon (with some more sunshine).

Saturday saw Matt & family lead a trip into the local area, checking out waterfalls and Geo-cache sites. On the return journey firewood gathering was the task at hand. Sharon, Marg & Karen looked after the camp.

A good supply of dry wood saw camp cooking happening, with Sunday being the Camp Oven cook off. Sunday started slowly with 2 teams departing camp for Mt Ben Nevis via 2 routes, Matt, Alby & Grant via bush tracks and some more geo-cache sites, while Vince, Neil & Evan took the girls via the more scenic route via Elmhurst, Warrak & home through Beaufort. We all met up at Ben Nevis Lookout for lunch, where Daryl Fiscallini caught up to us, having heard our radio traffic while shopping in Ararat. It was good to see him on the mountain for lunch.



After lunch, back to camp by 15:30 to start preparing the camp oven cook off. Marg and Evan headed back to Melbourne having packed up the camper trailer in the morning while it was still dry. All sat down to various forms of camp roasts before settling down to a great camp fire. A farming couple from Camperdown on their way home from an 8 day fund raising horse ride for the Fred Hollows Foundation made camp during the afternoon and soon after dinner came over to share our camp fire. It was nice to have them come over and talk about their horse riding interest.

Monday morning was a bush track run, exploring a range of tracks Matt & Tamara had travelled earlier, while Grant, Karen and Alby packed up camp for their return journey home. The morning run saw us U turning on a few tracks due to storm damage and fallen timber, but eventually up at the Communications Tower at Mugwamp lookout.



Back to camp for lunch, pick up the girls and head off to Ferntree Water Falls back in Mount Buangor State Park. The Ahern girls found another cache (helped by Matt and a few friends) and we headed back to camp via Middle creek camp ground. Still wet and boggy, but plenty of campers still.



Tuesday morning saw early sunshine so we all slowed down the pack up to let the canvas dry out from the overnight dew. (And it was too nice to go home!!) A lunchtime departure saw us all at our various homes by late afternoon, travelling with all the other Easter campers headed home. Even so, the run home was pretty good, only taking 2.5 hrs.

Thanks to all that came, you seemed to have had a great time and we will do this area again in the not too distant future.

Report by Vince Bosua