



Snow Trip – Mt.Skene

4WD CLUB

Dates	18 & 19 July 2009
Event Organiser	Daryl Owen

Attendances	Daryl & Veronica Owen Kate & Ando McCracken John Brandwood Brian Mclean Wylie McGinnes
Visitors *	Day Trip - Ian Day & Tania*

Meeting at Warburton at 0830 for a coffee and last fuel stop we head up the Reefton spur and along the Woods Point Road.

Turning onto the very wet and slippery Mt.Selma track the first sign of snow was sighted.

From here we wound our way down to the Jamison-Licola Road and headed towards Mt.Skene.

Stopping for lunch in a clearing at Mt.Skene a couple of us took the opportunity for a toboggan ride. With a 1cm soft surface above a 10-15cm hard packed snow base, turning and stopping proved to be a challenge.



Warmer inside the fridge, with -1°C outside





Lunch stop on Mt.Skene



As Ian was here for a day trip, and returning via Jamieson and Mansfield, so as a group we headed over Mt.Skene to the snow line on the other side.

At about 2pm we made the return back over Mt.Skene heading for our camp site at Connors Plain.

On top of Mt.Skene we found two 4WD's, one was bogged to the axles with another vehicle attached with a 3m tree trunk protector. The 'recovery' vehicle was unable to pull the bogged vehicle and was unable to reverse to disconnect the strap due to the icy surface.

After a few minutes they managed to free the recovery vehicle, and we were about to offer a 'snatch' strap, when they produced their own.

We chose to detour around the recovery area, along the same path we stopped for lunch. It was at this point we put into practice the teachings from the previous weekend's training day.

Daryl became bogged in the snow, and John quickly assisted with a snatch strap. No sooner had Daryl's vehicle been recovered from that point snow, John was now down to the axles in snow.

With the snatch strap session over we moved onto winching both John and Daryl out of the snow and back onto the main road.



Setting camp at Connors Plain at about 4pm, the adjacent logging coupe provided plenty of fire wood from the discarded slash timber. Although the temperature was somewhat warmer than the Mt.Skene summit, it was still only 2°C.

On Sunday we had a leisurely pack up and headed back over Mt.Selma. The nights rain providing the added challenge of very slippery and muddy tracks.

On our way into Woods Point we stopped and had a look in a horizontal mine cut into rock back in the 1870's. Parts of the original timber rail line still in tact.

After a brief look though Woods Point and Matlock we headed for Noojee, stopping for lunch in a sheltered clearing along the way.

Arriving at Noojee at about 2:30pm we headed separate ways home for an early finish and the opportunity for a clean up and unpack before the working week ahead.

Report by Daryl Owen.