

February 2007

Bulldust

Newsletter of the River City 4WD Club Inc.



Club Meets 2nd Wed of every month at 7:30pm, in the QAFWDC Hall, 90 Muriel Ave. Moorooka

Editor's Comments

2007 is zipping past. Won't be long now and it'll be AGM time again. Latest news on the grapevine is that Adam has already indicated he is prepared to hold the chair for another 12 months. And good on him too.

A committee meeting was recently held at the Gesch's, to discuss a few issues that needed finalising and were the club was heading for the next 6 months.

The DAU is progressing nicely and appears to actually be going to happen. A dry run for our 4 organisers/trainers (Debbie, Scott, Kermie & Adam) is expected to take place mid April. 2 nights of theory will be followed up with a weekend of competency driving. After the finer details are sorted out by the group and they are all accredited, we will be organising the first round for the general membership.

Although accreditation is not mandatory, the committee strongly advises all members to partake in this competency training. Some will learn a lot, some will know most already, but the main thing is it will ensure those who participate on club trips have been provided with the basics and have shown they are able to safely operate their vehicles in an offroad manner, without endangering themselves, occupants of the vehicle or onlookers.

It is expected that down the track, it will be mandatory to have this accreditation to participate in certain 4WD trips within the club. There is also still the talk that one day you may need this accreditation to drive in State Forests, but there is nothing factual to back this up yet.

The state of the club first aid kits (x2) was also mentioned. Quite often they don't end up on every trip and some of the items are perishable and keep getting thrown out (bad news but good news). The decision has been made that it is the responsibility of every member to carry their own first aid kit with them. Let's face it, you should all have one in your car anyway. The club will no longer be maintaining their first aid kits.

It was also mentioned that all members should be encouraged to carry a small fire extinguisher in their vehicles. During these dry times and the fact we are often out in the bush, it would be disastrous for a vehicle electrical fault starting a small fire, which then consumes your whole vehicle and surrounding bushland (lets not even think about your life), just because you didn't carry a \$20-\$30 fire extinguisher.

Some other news that I find very exciting, is that Kermie has taken on the task of investigating new club shirts. I think it's a good idea that we

keep changing them. It gets people to update their daggy old faded ones. Kermie promises to get COOL ones this time, that are more appropriate for our climate and strenuous activities we get up to. Don't worry, no name change, but I do hope we go with some colours in the insignia this time.

Kermie and his acquaintance David (new member as of the last meeting), are looking into getting a club website going again. Some of you might remember a while ago we attempted to get a website going in conjunction with Mission Australia. It was progressing reasonably until it was time for someone to host it, but it never eventuated. Good luck to Kermie and David in this venture. You have lots of work ahead of you and I'm sure lots of positive and negative feedback from the backbench.

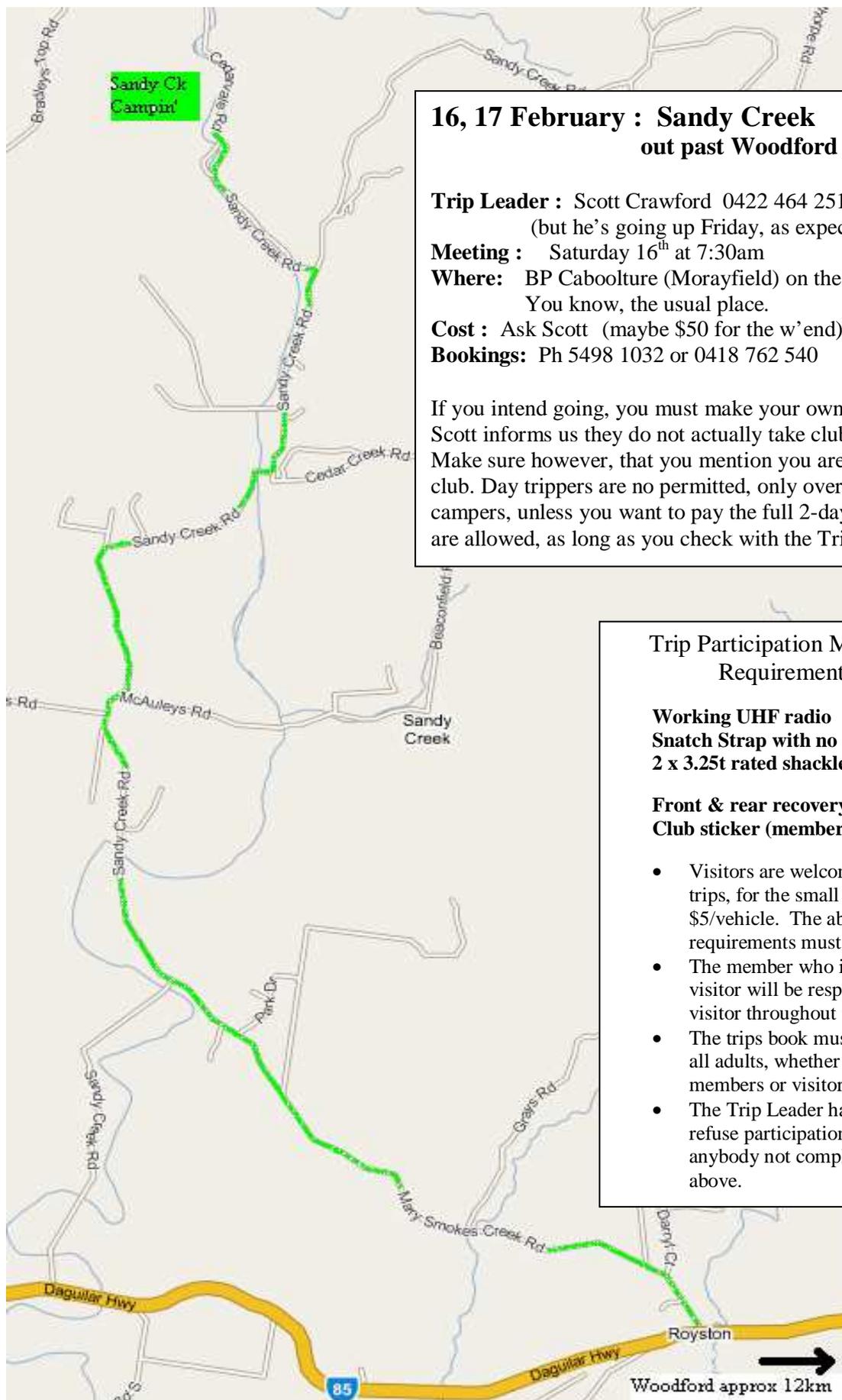
Finally, Prado Pete is delegating the club promotions pack for new and prospective members, to our future Secretary Wendy Richens. In addition to this promotions pack, we should be seeing an updated flyer that can be used to leave on prospective member's windscreens. We're also toying with the idea of a prize for the member who introduces the most new members in a year.

John

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What's Happening this Month



16, 17 February : Sandy Creek out past Woodford

Trip Leader : Scott Crawford 0422 464 251
(but he's going up Friday, as expected)

Meeting : Saturday 16th at 7:30am

Where: BP Caboolture (Morayfield) on the highway
You know, the usual place.

Cost : Ask Scott (maybe \$50 for the w'end)

Bookings: Ph 5498 1032 or 0418 762 540

If you intend going, you must make your own booking, as Scott informs us they do not actually take club bookings. Make sure however, that you mention you are with the club. Day trippers are not permitted, only overnight campers, unless you want to pay the full 2-day price. Dogs are allowed, as long as you check with the Trip Leader.

Trip Participation Mandatory Requirements :

Working UHF radio
Snatch Strap with no fraying
2 x 3.25t rated shackles

Front & rear recovery points
Club sticker (members only)

- Visitors are welcome to attend trips, for the small fee of \$5/vehicle. The above requirements must still be met.
- The member who introduces the visitor will be responsible for that visitor throughout the trip.
- The trips book must be signed by all adults, whether they are members or visitors.
- The Trip Leader has the right to refuse participation in the trip to anybody not complying with the above.

4th March : ~~Numinbah SF~~ postponed to a later date

17th, 18th March : **Richmond Range (near Bonalbo)**

Trip Organisers : Roger & Jenny 3289 5402 or 0429 428 467

Meeting Time : Probably 7:30am

Meeting Place : Possibly Shell Jimboomba

We will be staying at Orme and Sandra Malt's picturesque property. Orme and Sandra are past River City members from way back, who have ever so kindly permitted us to stay on their property. This will be a great social weekend, with some driving being done in the nearby Richmond State Forest. There is bitumen right to the front gate, making it easy access for vans. Campers will need to be self sufficient regarding water, showers and toilets.

Christmas in June (it gets earlier and earlier every year)

When : Queens Birthday Weekend 9th, 10th, 11th June

Where : Stanthorpe – Top of the Town caravan park



As has been done in the past, we're heading down to Stanthorpe for a weekend of wine tasting, olives, chocolates and snuggling up by the fire (yeah right). Guaranteed to be another great weekend away. Probably no 4WD driving though, unless Prado Pete convinces us to go for a day drive into Sundown National Park or maybe the drive out the back of Girraween to Wallangarra.

If you intend coming, make sure you let Kieran know and what sort of site you want booked. i.e. cabin / tent site / van site / power and how many people.

For details on the Top of the Town, have a look at their website. www.topofthetown.com.au

While we're talking trips, here's some not to be missed

1st April – **April Fools Day car rally** (Adam & Debbie)
6th - 9th April – **Clarence River bush camping** at Alice (John & Helen)

Trip report – Fraser Island Clean-Up 2007

It was Thursday night that I set the alarm to go off at 2am with my daughter shouting in my ear "don't you dare wake me up at that time" but true to myself I awoke much before it was to go off. So I arose at 1-30 after opening my eyes at about 1am.

So being quiet as possible I set about to make the Mrs (poor Glenda) spring into life which she did. So things were off to a good start.

So we throw every that we needed into the mighty

Navara and hit the road much before schedule at only 3-15 am. We made it into Gympie by 5am and off to Rainbow and by taking our time we drove down the main street of Rainbow at about 7am. We stopped as all good sand drivers do and locked in the hubs and let the tyre pressure down and headed for the Manta ray at Inskip. Were the bitumen finished two well defined wheel tracks headed straight to the manta so we were on board before we knew it and heading across the water.

As we were travelling solo we then had to find the others (Kermie and daughter,

David Mc and wife and their gang and also Peter P and his gang) who had come up on the Thursday afternoon.

We knew that they were going to camp somewhere north of Eurong. So we rounded Hook Point with several others. Being thoughtful we cranked up the CB and kept going and after sometime we saw a low flying GQ and I turned to Glenda and says "hey that was kermie" so after a hairy u-turn we took chase with horns blasting and lights flashing (we found out later that his CB was car put) and he finally saw us and stopped. After a quick

exchange of greetings he let us to the camp sight where we found all of the others

As is the necessary thing to do we all headed for the registration tent at Cornwells Break where we met up with Jeff C of the QAFWDC and did the paperwork whilst Kermie headed south to find our Andrew B who also was heading up solo and after a short time they both appeared. But there was no sign of Sid G who was still somewhere between Fraser and Brisbane.

Being there before and knowing the problems of finding your camp site, we had erected the Club banner with a string of party lights and that was thanks to Cassie R.

Now being a good group of people we all got together to decide what we were going to do for the day and because of the heat we decided to go for a drive and do the clean-up duties on Saturday morning. So, with that decision we thought that Sandy Cape lighthouse would be the place to visit as several of us had never been there or not for a long time.

After a nice drive up the beach past the Maheno and the Coloured Sands we took to the bypass roads past Indian Head and Middle Rocks where things started to go bad. First to come to grief was myself at Indian Head and Kermie came to my rescue, and then Peter P and I was stuck once again. The problem was that the sand was like talcum powder and even hard to walk through because you sank down to your ankles it was so soft and to add to the problem it was very hot on the feet. David Mc (a friend of Kermie and on his first trip with us) was to become our saviour (A BIG THANKS) as he had winch and it was given a good work out. We all finally

removed ourselves from that place and headed down the beach with a lunch stop thrown in and we finally arrived at Eli Creek to find that at least several hundred others also had the same idea but not to worry we simply joined in.

Now still not knowing about Sid we were taken by surprise when we arrived back at camp to find him pitching his tent. He must be given points for bravery as he did not know where to find us he simply drove north looking for the banner who he knew would be somewhere.

With a group decision coming into play we headed off to Kingfisher Bay Resort for a feed and boy was it good but the fuel prices were to be expected at only \$1-80 a litre

After several nice feeds (we all had one) and accompany drinks we headed off into the night with Kermie showing us the way (he had the most driving lights). It was an interesting journey as the distance was about 16 km's of bush tracks but not to worry we were all in good company.

As we reached the eastern beach kermie was heard to let fly with some colourful language and we all had to stop quickly and the reason there appeared to be a bogged red Maverick right in the middle of the track, that was true but that did not cause the blockage. With his usual helpful nature and with Andrew B close behind they had the Maverick moving and resting on the hard sand where the rest of us could come through.

The problem was then shown to the rest of us. It being that the two guys in it were members of the QLD DEAF Society 4x4 club and could only communicate by signage (very interesting to watch them in a full on discussion). What had happened was that they had

somehow broken the axel housing and had tied it together with a snatch strap (big points for inventiveness). But the quote of the night was from Andrew when he said ("why did they not call for help on the CB) and with a great combined effort (we all contributed a little even the ladies did there bit) Kermie and Andrew towed this broken vehicle back to their camp site.

Upon returning back to ours we all sat around and did the usual things of spinning tall stories and having some quiet drinks and the top item was the plight of those two deaf fellas.

After a good night's sleep by us all Saturday dawned upon us and it was time to do what we had come to do. So we headed off to our assigned area (it was around Eurong Beach and its network of walking tracks). Between us all we collected 39 bags of rubbish and filled David's trailer (thanks again). The more strange items found were two full cans of beer with matching classes, a bash plate from a Hyundai, but the big find was by Andrew and Sid who found a 6 cylinder engine block and once again a combined effort had it out of the bush and on its way to the tip.

We rolled up to the collection site where we were greeted by a nice lady ranger who was surprised at our find (the engine block and she even took a photo). Now after a hot long day it was decided to head into Lake Mackenzie for a much needed wash down and cool off.

That night was the night of the "Thanks Concert" where a feed was supplied (we all had a belly full) for our efforts. During the course of the evening several facts were announced like 75 cubic metres of rubbish collected-935 people in attendance-495 vehicles.

As part of the evening a club bingo was played and the River City made it into the last three but it must be said that the most unusual find was a rubber fly.

It must also be said that a **BIG THANKS** must be given to Jeff & Nola Chase of QAFWDC for their efforts in organising the whole event both the area and the concert.

So Sunday morning came all too quickly, so it was time to say farewell to kermie and little lady and also to David

Mc and his lovely Mrs and their family. So after all of that we (Johnny N and Mrs N)- (Peter P now known as Freddy Flintstone and his gang) along with Andrew B and Sid G headed south (along with many others) to Hook Point and the barge. At the barge the queue was **HUUGE** but we finally got on and with much sadness we bid hooroo to this wonderful place and we all agreed that we will be back next year.

Finally we arrived back at 5 Pirra Cres PM and had

travelled some 869.7 kilometres all of which was very enjoyable because of the places we saw and the experiences and friendships that made this trip so pleasing

Been Seen on the Beach
John & Glenda Osbaldiston

(Aka Mr & Mrs Navara)

\$\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$\$\$

EvaKool Fridge/Freezer 70L, replacement value over \$1800. Sell for \$1100. Ph Scott Crawford

Porta Potti with chemicals, hardly used \$50 Ph Keira Johnstone 0412 309 683

Chair Covers, custom made in polar fleece. Makes your folding camp chair heaps more comfy, especially in winter.

Ph Jenny Gesch 3802 1355

Honey, fresh from our own local producers, better GI than processed honey. \$12 for 2 litres.

Ph Wayne or Andrew 3287 3771

Minutes of the RIVER CITY 4WD CLUB General Meeting – 10/1/2007

Meeting Opened: 7.36pm
Visitor: nil
Apologies: Ken Campbell, Toni & Syd, Bob & Jenny, Scott C.
Minutes Previous Meeting: Moved: J. Gesch Passed: J. Osbaldiston
Correspondence: Moved: Bennie Passed: D. Murray
Treasurers Report: Balance: ???
Paid: ???
Income: ???
Raffle: 3 in 1 Rechargeable Spotlight, Tow Hook
QAWFDC: Only 9 people turned up to the meeting, 11 needed to proceed, so meeting was cancelled.
Trips Completed: DVD Night: good night, Debbie & Adam forgot to take Andrews DVD ☹ there was a good turnout.
New Years Trip: Not an official club trip, but a good time was had by all.
Trips Coming Up: Ten Pin Bowling – Saturday 13th January. 5 booked in, Sonja waiting on numbers from this meeting.
Fraser Island Clean Up- 25th-27th: Johnny Navarra organizing. Some going up Thursday & some on Friday. BBQ Saturday night. A trip up to the lighthouse may be done.
Yarraman – 25th -27th Jan: 2 in the trips book, numbers will predict where and what the trip entails, lots of 4wd driving & lots of scenery. Dogs are ok.
DAU: Debbie has ordered 10 books, the lesson plan now needs to be done. Hopefully commence in February.
TECHNICAL: A testical report was given by several male members – an in depth report on the perils of a vasectomy.

GENERAL: Ken C. can't lead for Numinbah on 4th March – new leader required. Ken can lead it in a couple of months time, so there is a possibility this day trip may be swapped with another.
 Adam is chasing a rear bar for the GQ.
 Tanith has started her first job at the local Seafood House.
 Bennie would like to know “where did Lada Autosport go?”
 Location of club property: John Dibble & Jenny Gesch have the first aid kits. Adam Murray has the winch, drag chains, tree protectors etc. John Dibble has the handheld radio. Peter has the banner.
 Peter Prado is doing a “new members info pack”
 Adam suggested club purchase a Port-a-loo for members use – most members present have their own and don't like the idea. There is 1 for sale by Keira if you wish to purchase for yourself.
 Deb & Adams trip – Texas for lunch via Millmerran. Stayed Warialah – everything green and lush.
 Travelled between Newell Hwy & New England Hwy. Discovery ran 16.1L per 100km towing the van.
 Estimate around 900km for 95L tank with no van.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.10pm

***The Johnny Navara
Comedy Corner***

The boss walks up to his head computer programmer and asks if he could change a light bulb.
 The programmer replies that he cannot do it.
 The boss asks why
 The programmer replies "that's a hardware problem"

One of our prominent members who is involved in the transport industry, needed a new pair of safety boots, so he rolled up to his local foot ware store. He asked the bloke behind the counter if he could have a pair of safety boots with extra large ripple soles. The man asked why such a thing. He replied that he was a nature lover and that he wanted to give ants a sporting chance.

**Trip Report –
Yarraman and surrounds**

Due to the high number of River City participants in the Fraser Island Clean-up, our alternative trip to Yarraman had a relatively small attendance. That wasn't a problem for us, as there is plenty to do up there and Helen, Tibby and myself have stayed there before by ourselves and had an enjoyable time.

Adam, Deb and the kids were heading up Saturday. The intention was that Roger & Jenny and ourselves would head up together Friday morning. That plan changed Thursday night when we got the call from the Gesch's:

Roger- *“Hello. We've just lost power in the storm.”*

John- *“What, is that going to stop you from coming away?”*

Roger- *“Well, Jenny's been replacing the stone padding on the front of the van.”*

John- *“And ?”*

Roger- *“I had to grind off the external steel box from the draw bar and I can't weld it back on with the generator.”*

John- (with laughter)

“Right.....Well at least you haven't got the wheels off the van or Mav' this time”

Why you would replace the padding so close to the weekend away, when there was grinding and welding to do by Roger, I guess it's a Gesch thing we'll never understand. Anyway, we decided to make our own way up, so they weren't under any pressure thinking we were waiting for them.

After a good drive up, we set up the van and within no time, the Gesch's arrived. After much dilemma and forward thinking, we decided on the best way to configure the vans, allowing for the arrival of the Murray's.

Friday afternoon we went for a drive on the old Din Din Rd (4WD track) which took us from the back of Yarraman,

out through the bush (and a little mud) and into the Din Din State Forest. Don't worry, we had never heard of it either until only 18 months ago. We then wandered through the Yarraman State Forest and had a look at the Tarong Power Station.

Arriving back at camp, we were amazed to see someone had set up on Adam & Debbie's site and right next to our vans. We grumbled and cursed and grumbled a bit more, but didn't have the heart to tell the elderly couple they were supposed to be on a different site. After all it was this nice gentleman who staggered around warning everyone of the eminent tornado.

Roger and I wandered into the fields, to evaluate the situation. We both agreed, he was suffering from heat stroke (or dementia). It was however quite entertaining watching him squeeze his X-Trail under the awning of his van and still manage to get into the van.

We watched the storm blow over and enjoyed a cooling shower of rain, before heading to the Royal Hotel for dinner. Considering it was the Australia Day weekend, I was a bit disappointed there was no mouse racing. We had a good feed and headed back up the road to camp.

After a very lazy start on Saturday, we headed out to Nanango so R & J could visit ex-members Bob & Marilyn. Being lunchtime, we decided the Rimfire winery at Maclagan would be good for some wine tasting and lunch. The wine was good, but lunch was not on. If it wasn't for the peanuts purchased on the side of the road at Nanango, we would have been starving.

We made it to Cooyar and devoured a very yummy bacon, egg and salad burger. We had a swing on the swinging bridge and just as we were about to head off for an adventure in the bush, we heard Adam on the radio. He was wanting us to buy some oysters from the Cooyar pub. Something to do with he had a bit of catching up to do since his recent op'.

With all 3 vehicles now in convoy, we headed up the road to see if the "4WD Only" track on the topographic map I had, was able to be found. Luckily we had not one, but 2 GPS on hand, as a back-up. Helen spotted the track and the GPS confirmed it was a gazetted road.

It was a good drive through the country, until the track got more and more overgrown. We ploughed through, as the GPS confirmed we were still on track and we had plenty of daylight left. The only challenge was a slight diversion around a fallen tree, causing us to have to negotiate a rather deep gully.

The 'Cruiser got through with only a little rear

bumper work being required. The Mav' got through with a scrape, but no scars. The Disco' would have got through, with a different bullbar or at least a lift kit. We thought about some track building, but Adam decided to look for an alternate path, with the assistance of Roger walking ahead.

Finally we made it to the half way point of our trek and decided to head for home, instead of continuing on (maybe next time we'll do the other half). We hit the bitumen for about 10kms and then headed into the Yarraman State Forest. We tried to rely solely on the GPS this time, but after much discussion, stopping at each intersection, occasionally checking the map and lots of joking around, we stumbled on Rocky Creek Road (purely by accident I think), which got us back to the highway and only a few kms from camp. Dinner was had and we sat under the Murray awning for a pleasant evening chat.

Sunday morning was another late start (and why not). We decided to do the Old Coach Road between Nanango and Blackbutt. I had already spoken to the ladies at the information centre, in the expectation of obtaining permits for the drive. Like last time we did this, there was lots of confusion and they didn't really know whether it was opened still or closed. We tried to do the right thing, but in the end decided to go for a drive and see for ourselves.

After a slight detour to see if we could get to the weir, we turned off and headed down to the 7 Mile Diggings reserve. Of the numerous times we've been here over the years (first time was about 10 years ago), I think we've only ever seen fossickers on one occasion. There are lots of 4WD tracks all over the reserve and I wouldn't be surprised if the area is

frequented more by people looking for the challenge of finding a hill, rather than the challenge of finding a piece of gold.

We eventually made our way back onto the coach road and stopped by the dry creek bed for morning tea. Debbie had been driving the Disco' up until now and doing a fine job. I think she was trying to show Adam a thing or two.

It was unfortunate to see local farmers were forced into putting up gates and signs, to deter people from venturing off the coach road, in the search for a hill to climb. Hopefully people in future will do the right thing by the land owners and we won't hear the bad publicity and threats of closing the road as a result. It is an historic area after all and would be a shame if access was eventually denied.

The Blackbutt end was heavily eroded in the past, with an alternate route available. This time the alternate route was on the verge of being heavily eroded and the thought crossed my mind of "poor Adam and Debbie probably wished they had brought the Mav'".

Much to my relief the Disco made it through without any belly scrapes. Adam was thrilled at how well it did, considering it is pretty well standard and with not so good road tyres. We headed back to camp for lunch and a very leisurely pack-up.

The decision was made to head home via the back roads through Googa State Forest, Crows Nest, Esk, Somerset and Kilcoy. We couldn't pass up the invitation of a camp oven stew at the Cosgrove's on the way home. What a way to finish a really enjoyable weekend.

John

