



Night Drive

9 August 2003

Attendance

Daryl & Veronica Owen – Hilux
Clayton Bryant – Nissan
Tim Sczerkowski – Ford Courier
Anthony Sequirra – Nissan
Ashley Mills & Family – HiLux
Colin Chapman & Geoff – Land Cruiser

Departing at Coldstream at just after 7:20pm we headed to Dixons Creek and onto Paul Range Track. Climbing our way along the range, some of the wash out sections provided some challenges.

After Toolangi we headed across Myres Creek Road and turn left at Sylvia Creek road, whilst I had turned a little early, to save face I located a short cut back onto the Mt.St Leonards Road. This track was mildly overgrown with a few challenging holes.

Upto the Mt.St Leonards carpark where there was a little snow, about 1-2cm.

We made our way up a track to the top of a hill (about 900m above sea level) along the Bicentennial Trail. Stopping here for a break. Whilst a little apprehensive at first the kids enjoyed the snow.



From here we wound our way along Monda Road and up over Mount Monda (about 880m ASL) and up to Archer Lookout (900m ASL and no lookout). Clayton had a couple of attempts at the track and decided to go around, but once everyone else had got up, he could not conceded defeat, one last attempt and he made it up. The snow covered tracks made for some particularly challenging areas, especially at night.

Winding our way down the side of Archer Lookout the track looks slightly over grown, due to the weight of the snow bending the bushes onto the track. This track is very slippery with a few sections of free sliding about 20m. Thankfully there were ruts just deep enough to keep the vehicles on track.

Geoff in his first time off road 00 series, became stuck in a bog hole, which required some simple recovery.

Arriving at the Maroondah Hwy at about 1130pm, Tim and his kids returned home whilst the rest of us set off for Mt.Strickland.

Winding our way up one track we came across a large Black wattle that had come down across the track. With no areas to turn around, the track was cleared with the use of chainsaws.

A couple more trees down and using a winch extension strap & snatch strap to pull Anthony over a small section we made it to Pooley Road where we were greeted by the Marysville Police. After we convinced them that we were just out driving around (at 1:30am) and that we were infact not deer hunters, we gave licence details and headed up to Mt.Strickland. At about 1050m ASL and in a logging cope the road was covered in snow and ice. A quick break and we headed back to Narbethong and followed the Maroondah Hwy to Healsville where we all headed of home at about 3am.

Report by Daryl Owen