



Event Report

Night Drive

Friday 17th November 2000

As there was little interest a week ago I had not planned a route and was about to cancel the event, then after the meeting (The night before the drive) a few more members indicated they were interested.

Commencing at 2000hrs at Gembrook we departed for Mortimore Reserve. We headed along a number of tracks which have been used previously for driver training.

I think Kevin was a little nervous when we turned into a track, only just wide enough for vehicles. This trip was the first off road encounter of this brand new Jackaroo.

After being faced with a large bog hole and track that had been ripped up, just off Triangle Tk, we decided to turn around and by-pass that section. Getting one to three vehicles through would have been fine, but not eight.

After another U turn due to some very recent track closures we had a break at Four Brothers Rocks.

We headed down Rankin Fire Line, I had been down this track a few months ago and knew it was muddy and steep. Faced with a now washed out track with deep ruts and once committed, no way of turning around I had to continue. I now have an extended foot well on the passenger side, thanks to Veronica who was hanging on for grim death. Kevin proceeded down, and after slipping into the deep ruts near the top, that's where he stayed for 45minuts until he was winched out. After that the remainder of the group turned around and headed out to by-pass this track. We met up at Link Rd and by this time it was almost midnight. Due to most having commitments the following day we headed out to Gembrook.

I may have been a little optimistic by planning to finish at Lilydale at midnight.

Thank-you to all members who attended, especially those who travelled some distance such as Peter. I trust you all gained some valuable experience at driving at night. (and vehicle recovery at night).

I plan to run a Part II Night Drive in the new year.

Written by Daryl Owen