



4WD CLUB

High Country Huts Whitfield-Cobbler-King River

www.cfa4wd.org

Dates	28 th October – 1 st November 2005
Event Organiser	Daryl Owen

Attendances	Daryl, Veronica & Rachel Owen Paul & Maxine Burke Andy Kass & Helen Craig Donaldson Rod Hanscomb
Visitors *	*Marcel Van Elmpt *Trevor, Tracey, Steph & Mike Owen

Departing on Friday, Daryl, Veronica, Rachel and Marcel camped along the King River just south of Lake William Hovell, stopping for the scenic views at Powers Lookout on the way in. The King River was fast flowing and deep, in an attempt to get to Top Crossing Hut Daryl drove into one crossing, as the water rose over the bull bar it was a wise decision to reverse out. The river crossing at Sandy Point was about headlight height. Marcel's troopy began to float, with the rear wheels only just maintaining traction on the odd rock. Rather than risk damage, it was decided to use a strap onto Daryl's Hilux as a precaution. Veronica waded into the cold river dragging the strap. The force of the water pulling the strap from her hands on the first attempt. It took both Veronica and Marcel to hold the strap across the river until it was attached to the troopy. The strap was probably not needed, but a good precaution.



Saturday morning we departed camp and visited Ryans Hut on the Wabonga Plateau. The road into the Pyramid falls was closed, so we headed onto Whitfield to meet the others at 1230hrs.

After lunch at Whitfield, we headed east a few kilometers to where the track clearing finished. It was amazing to see the devastation the September 2005 storm had done. We saw many trees had been cleared from the roads, and then came across a section with literally every 2-5metres a fallen tree across the track. We turned back, and headed along the Lake Buffalo road to the Cropper Creek Hilton.



Whilst reversing Daryl backed onto a broken bottle, sustaining a puncture. This was quickly repaired with the use of a tyre plug.

As camping at the hut was not suitable for four vehicles we continued on to find a camp site. Rain was beginning to fall and looked like it was about to set in for the evening. As we progressed along the Yarrabulla creek track the rain continued. Setting up camp in the rain, a fire was lit with the hope that the rain would stop. Although the fire continued to be maintained, it was an early night for all.

We awoke Sunday morning to find the rain had not eased. We packed up and headed off towards Mt.Cobbler. Rod headed home via the north due to work commitments. Finding ourselves on another track blocked by fallen trees we were again forced to find an alternative route.

The track in dry weather would be quite easy, however with the persistent rain and numerous fallen trees, some of the by pass tracks were challenging. Andy came to grief on one, clipping a rear flare on a fallen tree.

Arriving at a fallen tree, almost one metre in diameter, and the by pass track very steep, tight and slippery, after some discussion it was decided that the best option was to remove the tree. The by-pass tack was too dangerous and would require recovery, turning around would require the removal of at least two fallen trees and would add at least two to three hours to the journey.

Creating a space wide enough on the track took a little over two hours. Firstly clearing the area, exposing just the trunk. At this point the rain increased. Then we placed logs under the trunk to aid the winching. The trunk was cut into three sections (the center section sufficient to drive through) and then the centre moved a short distance, then cut into two sections where we were able to roll it safely off the track.

Thanks again to Andy for the use of his electric winch. Soaking wet we then headed onto Lake Cobbler.



Dandongadale Falls

The Dandongadale water falls were visible from quite a distance

The Cobbler Lake hut was occupied, still raining and windy, so with a brief chat we all decided to take advantage of daylight savings and head to the King River where we could at least shelter from the wind. This was a good decision and a quiet camp ground was found just west of the King River Hut.



King Hut

Monday morning, the rain had stopped, the sun was shining and this was a very pleasant spot. We headed up to Craig's hut for a look at the DSE works and then onto Bindaree Falls via Monument Track. The falls were spectacular with the recent rainfall. Back to the camp site along the King River and we all had a relaxing afternoon.



Bindaree Falls



Bindaree Falls

Tuesday we departed shortly after 10am, with lunch at Mansfield and a nice early drive back home.

Report by Daryl Owen