



After meeting at Caravonica on the 29th May at 7.30 am Sam finalized the trip sheets.

Seven vehicles left at 8 am and headed up the range to Mareeba where we had a comfort stop. On the way to Springmount Turnoff another vehicle joined the convoy. The first stop was Collins Weir (which we never knew existed) a lovely spot for smoko.



Then the real trip started. At the first gate there were three horses to greet us, Sam and a couple of other people tried to chase them away with gentle pats; Ron got out and showed them how it was done. A little further on we struck our first encounter with a hole that had to be filled in to allow us to proceed.

The next obstacle was Collapsed Bridge.(we thought this will test us) and it did. Sam got through with little effort then Andy went a different way with a bit more trouble. Then our turn came. After a couple of attempts the Prado had to be towed out, but we weren't so disappointed in our vehicle as a few more bigger Landcruisers had to receive the same treatment.



After crossing the Walsh River we had our lunch at a beautiful spot where we got to know some other people in the convoy. Then moving on along the road Ron and some others had to be guided through another washout.

The next challenge was a place that was called The Stairs (Steps-ed) where again rocks had to be placed in holes to allow all vehicles to be guided through safely.



Over the Walsh once more we came across our aim for the day, Natural Bridge. It is truly one of nature's wonderful formations across the river and was well worth the trip to see it. Smoko was had here while we enjoyed the view. Another member of the convoy produced a watermelon that was enjoyed by all.

One more obstacle on the way home was a washout in the road which most detoured around but four more experienced drivers took on the challenge and won.

From there we travelled on to Watsonville and then headed for home.

Thank you Sam and fellow helpers for your guidance, patience and your company in making our day so enjoyable. Also thanks for Dave who gave us photos of all vehicles in unnatural positions.

