

Carr Creek

Starting off on Sunday morning from Caravonica, we headed up to Mareeba for the usual breakfast/bakery stop. In convoy we had “I wonder where that track goes?” Mick, “Come on Cowboys!” Dave, “Terror” Barclay, Mrs Bishi – Vince and “Who’s driving” Sam, Lynne combo. On the way we listened to what seemed to be (insert brand name here) Four Wheel Drive Club and was one having trouble with their vehicle? With the usual banter on the radio we stopped at Mareeba and got our supplies.

On the road again heading north we turned off in the Carr Creek area. David who had never been here before was initially upset as we weren't heading up the hill to start with.



Mick lead the trusting convoy up and down what seemed like one day may have been a vehicle track. The only users now seemed to have all their wheels in a single line! We were all able to squeeze between the trees and over the blind crests, up the loose climbs and down the goat tracks before us.

The first obstacle that we were challenged with was a dry creek washout. Two lines, both not the smoothest. Mick first through being reasonably unscathed from the experience. Then Dave, who choose the other line and again got through unscathed. Next Terry, after getting through both car and crossing did look a little re-arranged. Nothing a hammer won't fix.



Vince and Lucy in their new Mitsi, followed, having the vehicle rise to the occasion. Finally Sam and with some dusting up and more modern artistic touches on the sidesteps cleared the crossing. The track from here is a mine field of rocks, ants nests, stakes (not rib eye or T bone) and other surprises in long grass that grows along this one wheel track.

The next fun challenge we came across is fondly known as a Z turn. The track has a turn on a slope that a vehicle our size cannot turn on. So we turn into the bushes where we can. Reverse into a cutting as far as we can, skimming the inner corner and then driving up the other side. Easy!



Step one. Turn around



Step two. Reverse down the track



Step Three. Reverse into Alcove.



Step four. Don't fall down the hill.

After the Z turn and before the next “fun bit” we had lunch in some shade on the track. Vince entertained us with his impersonation of a turtle and thankfully reasonably unharmed (or so he says) finished his now dusty lunch.

The section of track just in front of us “Ettie Corner” after Mo’s mum deciding to walk it at 92 years of age rather than being in the car as Malcolm drove it (faith in your son-in-law). Mick driving around letting the rear wheel slowly enter the deep washout and then turning down and squeezing through the width of track at the bottom. Dave, with success from earlier taking a different line decided to again. Terry followed Mick’s line and then Vince who seemed a little relieved at the bottom as everything went as it should. Finally Sam breezed through with not a care in the world (or was this because Lynne was driving?)



Further along we finally came across some motor bike riders out for a Sunday afternoon of fun. We spotted them on the ridge ahead of us. Knowing that they would not be expecting a couple of 4wds on this track, we tooted horns and flashed lights then moved as far off the line as we could. They had heard us and safely passed us giving a friendly wave.

From here the track is broken up into ridge runs. Each mountain section drops into the surrounding level before heading up to the next ridge. After the first of these steep and loose climbs, Terry found himself a little dehydrated and hot so with a cooling off and top up we continued to the biggy. Loose, steep and full of steps this climb is apparently fun as all who climbed her had smiles as wide as Australia on their faces at the end. And this was the end of a great day except for the entertaining football on the radio on the way home.