

A high-angle photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest. The road is light brown and shows signs of being a well-used track. Two off-road vehicles are visible: a silver one in the foreground and a red one further down the road. Power lines and poles run alongside the road. The surrounding vegetation is lush and green.

Baal Bone Gap

13 December



Ben, Gislea Zoe & Connor Sweetnam Trip Leader.
 Stephen Parkins
 Stan & Noelene Kynoch
 Glenn Evans & Jessica Andreta (no not another wife)

How unusual, I was last after being held up at the service station getting fuel but I did manage to get 2 good pies for breakfast!

We were meeting at Zig Zag and I was greeted with the normal good afternoon slept in etc even though I was only 1 minute late. Sort of set the tone for the day. We aired down and started to drive down to Blackfellas hand trail. The trip was slowed by the amount of dust that was in the air. I personally have not seen the dust so thick and we even had to stop about 10 times as I lost sight of the road. We turned of to "warm up" by going for a drive up the wombat holes that run along with the main track. We all made it up with no real issues but they have been chewed out as I had to lock in my hubs. Normally I can do this in normal 4WD. We continued along and turned onto Blackfellas hand trail and left onto the track to the lost city. (The one I lost last time) Here we found the only small muddy puddle for the day but we all went around it.

The view was as spectacular as normal and well worth the drive. After a while another group joined us and after a quick chat we moved on. Ben, always keen to have a explore found a short track to the right that went down to what may have been a small creek which we had a go at. There was 2 options, 1 was easy with a small wash out at the end and one that was a bit of a challenge and very deep and narrow. 3 of the 4 went the easy way but 1 of us went the hard way. With only inches to spare, I managed to get the fat bum of the Patrol (and before anybody thinks it, I know just like the driver) through the gap and to the bottom. Going up the other side was a bit harder with some decent steps and wash outs but time did not allow us to do this but Ben has logged it for future reference. We turned around and went back up the way we came. 3 out of 4 made it up the harder section but 1 after several great attempts just could not get traction and was forced to go around the section.

We continued along the Balckfellas Hand Trail noting that some dopes have smashed all the road signs along the way leaving just the posts in the ground. I bet these brain dead idiots will be the first to complain when they close these areas because of vandals! After dropping into the valley, we stopped for morning tea and a drink to wash out the dust which was worse along this track.

After a quick break we drove along to the Aboriginal art works

are and climbed to track to see the art work. Question, Why can these Aboriginal art works painted at least two hundreds ago last this long but Dulux and Bunnings will only guarantee there paint for 10 years? We signed the visitor's book and went back to the cars.

Ben then took us to Wolgon Road and turned left (I would have turned right but Ben was the boss) and after about 200 metres he did a U turn and we joined the Baal Bone Track. We all climbed the hill to find a tree has fallen and made the track quite narrow at one spot. The drive was worth it as we stopped at the look out and I explained where I ended up last time I tried to do this trip showing everybody where the look out is that I found over the other side of the valley.

Back into the cars and to the next look out for a lunch break. Setting up the awnings and sitting back while Jessica had a sleep. Seems as last night was her first "real drink" and it was catching up to her. More photos from the look out and just standing at this magnificent look out taking in the serenity.

Driving back down to the next valley where it is normally full of ferns and lush and green I found it very dry with most of the ferns brown and dying owing to the lack of water. The rocks normally covered in moss was now baron and the whole area had transformed from a beautiful green lush area to a dry and dying area that like every where else crying out for rain. Turning left we followed the track up to the Mudgee road to air up.

Another successful and enjoyable trip run by Ben with a great group of people and a nice easy drive. I managed to stop at the pub (only because Jessica wanted a "plumbed in" toilet) and the publican managed to pour me a beer while I waited. I perfect end to another trip. Thanks Ben.

Glenn.

