



## TRIP LOG SYDNEY DISTRICTS 4X4 CLUB

Date of trip: 30/31 May 2009

Start location: NOWRA

End location: Yalwal

Route traveled: Local fire Trails

Accommodations: Tents, Camper Trailers

Meals: cook and make your own

Sites visited: Yalwal camping Area, Tianjara Falls, George Boyd Lookout,  
Monkey Gum Fire Trail

### Attendees:

Trip Leader Ben Sweetnam & Family  
Craig & Christine & Family  
Pam & Jack  
Noelene & Stan  
Jen & Ron  
Dave & Ann  
Micheal  
Richard & Family

We gathered at the "Big Helicopter" in Nowra for the planned trip to Tianjara falls and surrounding fire trails, and according to our trip leader Ben, it would be the last person to arrive that would file the trip report, so here I am. In all we had 8 vehicles arrive in the car park and set off for what was to be an exciting and fun filled 2 days away.



The weather was a bit on the grey side, however it was explained to me that ron "monsoon" Mason was along on the trip so this type of weather was quite natural, and that I should not worry as I had come prepared with my wet weather gear, anyway, we started off south towards Yalwal and after some bitumen driving we eventually came to the Yalwal rd, this went on for a few kms and was a reasonable riding dirt rd, after a short while we came across the Yalwal main campsite, there were plenty of people around and it was decided to backtrack to a smaller campsite that we could have to ourselves.

We quickly set up camp with a variety of camper trailers & tents and then moved off to explore some fire trails. Off we went towards Tianjara Falls to have lunch and to have a look around, the trail to the falls was pretty good and posed no challenges.

We arrived at the Tianjara lookout carpark and started to set up for lunch when the heavens decided to open up, naturally it was our "TEC" "Ronsoon Mason that had brought the weather with him. After a slight downpour we ventured off to have a look at the falls from the lookout, its quite a sight with the backdrop of the cliffs and the water dropping some 70mtrs to the valley floor, well worth the trip to get there.

After lunch it was time to check out some of the local fire trails, I found the following few hours to be great fun, there was something for everyone here I think, we travelled over some challenging country, with plenty of rain in the preceeding weeks, the bog holes were full of water and mud and the ruts were getting deeper and wider and this made for some interesting driving, Jack of "the Fairweathers" had new "Mickey Thomson's" to try out and the track ahead was just the tonic for that.

After twisting and turning along the muddy and very wet track, we eventually came across the George Boyd Lookout, which afforded some magnificent views of the ocean and Lake Conjola to the south, the weather had become quite bitter at this point so our visit here was brief, but it allowed us some good photo opportunities and the time for some of the boys to water in the local plant life.



So time to make our way back to camp and get ready for dinner and "happy hour", this would seem uneventful stuff, however, "Ronsoon Mason" had other plans and decided to try out the power line track which sort of criss crossed the main fire trail, unfortunately "Ronsoon" had forgotten left from right and headed off in the wrong direction, allegedly to aid a small child that had fallen off her trail bike, haha, in the meantime the rest of us were deciding how best to locate Ron, anyway in the end all was well, maybe the broken shackle can be retro-fitted with a compass??.

Back at camp that night was pleasant, albeit with many on again off again showers and lots of effort required to keep the campfire burning, the chocolate and variety of drinks were very beneficial in warming up our spirits before retiring for the evening (who did bring the port??)

## Day 2

We headed out to explore Monkey Gum Track today, this was to prove challenging in spots and provided lots of photo opportunities and lots of skill from the drivers and the guides, the trail started off easy enough, however, there were several spots along the way that required serious thought and lots of guidance from the more experienced members of the group, for my partner and myself it was a challenge but loads of fun, something I would enjoy doing more of I might say, however, it goes without saying that without the right know how and experience things could go very badly, we had some very good people on hand which made this trip, fun, exciting & safe, thanks to all for a great weekend, my thanks to Ben for leading the trip and to those that helped make it such a good weekend away.

The Monkey Gum track was probably a grade 3, but in spots became a grade 4 and certainly after some minor altercations with rocks, stumps & bog holes probably a grade 5, I'm glad to say that it was one of the best trips I have had in a while and I think I speak for everyone in saying it was enjoyable.

As this is my first trip report, I hope I haven't waffled on too much, special thanks to Ben for all the hard work involved in organising, planning and researching the trip, also to Craig, Ben, Jack and Ron for their help along the track, especially the last one,



Without Your help, it could have been very tricky, and to everyone else, thanks for being a friendly bunch of people, makes for a good trip when you are with a good group of people,

Thanks & kind regards,

Sutton

PS

I did forget to bring water but who is telling (Jack??)