



Backyard Explorer

David Hart

Alex and Andrea
Kevin and Vicki
Alexey, son Feodor and Vladimir
Thomas and Juli
Eric, son Brinley
Warwick
Alex and Sarah
Marie
David and Sue
Lyn

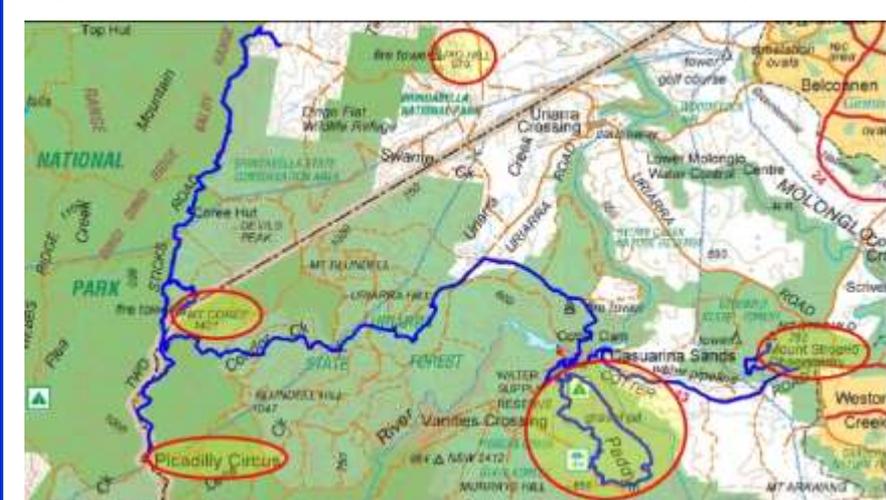
Leader BT50 MIA
Mitsubishi Pajero
Land Rover Discovery 3
Nissan Patrol 2011
Toyota Prado 90 series
Nissan Patrol 2003
Landcruiser 100 series
Holden Colorado 7
Mitsubishi Triton
Toyota Troop carrier

Due to the recent rains our trip leader Alex completed a short recy on Saturday afternoon and he confirmed that the trip was still on.

Sunday morning dawned with low cloud and misting showers, just the weather for a drive. So the intrepid 4WDers gathered at Mount Stromlo at 8:30am to decide the plan of attack and ob-



tain instructions. Alex informed the group that after his drive on the Saturday afternoon to confirm road conditions all was good to go except for his vehicle. His vehicle decided it didn't want to go out 2 days in a row so he and Andrea hopped a ride with Kevin and Vicki. This may be a



first for the club – a trip leader without his vehicle and leading a trip from the passengers' seat in someone else's vehicle!

After a discussion and instructions we were assigned our convoy number and went to air down. Lyn found a nail in her tyre and decided it wasn't worth the risk and withdrew from the days adventures. We were now 8 cars for

the day. We departed from Mount Stromlo at about 9:30 with hopes the drizzle would lift into a lovely day.

We drove to a small look out just past the Cotter and had a quick look back to the dam wall and over some of the tracks we were about to drive on. The vehicles were corralled ready to hit the dirt.

We stopped for morning tea at about 10:40 at Murrays Corner rest stop on the Paddys River Road before we went across Paddys River and started the climb up the hill heading along the Bullen Ridge. There was some great calling between drivers to ascend some steeper parts of the tracks. As Charlie we were the last to arrive at the top of Bullen Ridge for a rest stop and view the scenery down to Tidbinbilla across to Canberra and over the mountains behind us. As normal the comment was passed that now Charlie has arrived we can all continue on (but Alex did wait just a little). Vicki took control of the lead vehicle with Alex in the front passenger seat, Andrea and Kevin had a chance to watch the scenery go by from the back seat. Vicki said she would slow down a little, not much though. On the track the lead vehicle had to make a quick stop, Andrea had spilled hot beverage on herself, Vicki said that it was not her driving that caused the spill, Alex and Kevin decided not to comment either way – very diplomatic of them.

It was turning into a lovely day of clear skies and 26 degrees.

We drove along the ridge line and back down to the Cotter and then around past Uriarra and around the base of Mount Coree where we stopped for lunch. We finally all got parked and sat and chatted over lunch. It was lovely sitting under the trees. We organised the group and reduced down to 4 vehicles to go up to the top of Mount Coree.

Sarah and Alex went up first to check on how many vehicles were already up at the top of Mount Coree, we were given the all clear so the rest of us went up the track. What a wonderful view, many many photos were taken!! We descended from Mount Coree about 3pm.



Once everyone was back in their own vehicles we headed off to Pig Hill Summit Lookout along Two Sticks Road and Baldy Range trail. After driving up some quite nice little hills it was obvious the track had not been driven in a while. We then went to turn onto Doctor Flat road, but the map did not quite represent true life. Funny how they can't get maps right! We then came to a closed gate and decided not to go on and we had to turn around (private land – right of access, not public access). The comment was made that it wouldn't be a ST4WDC trip without a turn around. After we finally all managed to get facing the way we came we stopped for a quick chat some group photos and then headed back to Piccadilly Circus where we were to air up have another chat and then head home.

Thank you to Alex for being our illustrious leader and Kevin and Vicki for allowing him to lead from your vehicle, everyone got to meet new club members and enjoyed a great day driving through some great scenery which is so close to home.