

OUT AND ABOUT TRIP REPORT

TRIP: Pickering Brook South

Date: 29 April 2018

Trip Leader: Doug Brown

Note: See the end of this report for details of the GPS waypoints cited below.

Between 8:30am to 9:00am, Doug, Steve D., Kerry, Steve K, Terry, Jan, Mike and Clare, with visitors Paul and Clarissa, gathered at the Pickering Brook general store/truck stop for a day run through the water catchment area east of Canning Dam. Mike and Clare volunteered to be Tail End Charlie.

The convoy departed at 9:00am and after airing down at the end of the bitumen in Carinya Road, it hit the tracks. After a kilometre of gravel the convoy passed a trailer load of rubbish which had been dumped in the middle of the track. Fortunately, the convoy was bypassed this ugly scene by turning off into a minor track that lead to Dale Road **[GPS #1]**. The convoy then drove down Dale Road turning right at the powerlines crossing **[GPS #2]** and headed south following the powerlines towards Brookton Highway. The state of this track was reasonable with only small ruts experienced not necessarily requiring four-wheel drive mode.



(Powerlines track just north of Brookton Highway.)

One kilometre before the Brookton Highway, the track forked with the trip leader taking the wrong track resulting the first of several black marks being recorded against him. Some vehicles followed the trip leader down this track and ended on Brookton Highway four hundred meters from the rest of the convoy.

The convoy regrouped on the south side of Brookton Highway and continued following the powerlines for another three kilometres to the junction of Rutherglen Road **[GPS #3]** where it turned right. It was a short drive of two kilometres down an eroded Rutherglen Road to Abyssinya Rock where the convoy stopped for morning tea which was held in a clearing only a short walk from the rock formation **[GPS #4]**. Some members took the opportunity to have a close look at the rock with Mike reaching the highest point where nice views can be had towards the Monadnocks Conservation Reserve in the south east.



(A view from the top of Abyssinya Rock looking southeast.)

The convoy departed Abyssinya Rock driving west along Rutherglen Road and turning left into Boundary road **[GPS #5]**. Although called a road, this was a little used track presenting challenges in the form of fallen trees with overgrown chicken tracks. Low bushes growing in the middle of the track meant the undersides of all vehicles were given a thorough clean. After driving approximately six kilometres, this track came to an end and the convoy turned into Four Ways Road and headed west **[GPS #6]**.

Four Ways Road proved to be narrow in places but still reasonable with some erosion making it interesting. The convoy drove down to the Marginata Road junction where it turned left and headed south west to Kinsella Road **[GPS #7]**. Kinsella Road is a wide and well-maintained gravel road which runs from Albany Highway at Gleneagle to Brookton Highway at Lesley. Once on Kinsella Road the convoy drove south with the trip leader looking for a particular scenic location to have lunch. The location had been found during the recce but no GPS reading was taken at the time. (Here, the trip leader acquired another black mark and learnt a lesson about trip planning.). The lunch location remained elusive and it was decided to have lunch on the side of a shady plantation track **[GPS #8]**.

After lunch the convoy headed north back along Kinsella Road and then into Four Ways Road driving east until it intersected with Leona and Jarrick Roads **[GPS #9]**. The convoy proceeded along Jarrick Road until it crossed the powerlines track **[GPS #10]**. (Jarrick Road was driveable but included some pin striping opportunities which was offset by some nice scenery.) As it was getting late in the afternoon, Doug asked if anyone wanted to take the powerlines track back to Brookton Highway at which point the run would end. It was unanimous that the run should continue as planned.

The convoy turned into Schulstaad Road **[GPS #11]** and drove 11 km through a mix of track conditions passing several interesting flat granite features. It then turned left into an unnamed track which meandered through to Metro Road **[GPS #12]**. The small track proved interesting as it meant driving through wandoo country.

Once Metro Road was reached **[GPS #13]** the convoy had to drive 10kms north to reach Brookton Highway marking the end of the day's run. Metro Road was a surprise given its poor condition being a major access road in the area. There were dips, holes and other effects of erosion which were not easily seen owing to shadows crossing the road in the late afternoon light. (While driving along Metro Road several large clearings were passed which appeared to be used for rave parties explaining the amount of litter evident.). Smoke haze became noticeable at this time coming from controlled burns being carried out in Jarrahdale and Mundaring.



(Photo taken on Metro Road and Brookton Highway T junction showing the sun through the smoke haze.)

Around 16:00pm the convoy came to the junction of Metro Road and Brookton Highway where it stopped to air-up. Once this was done, Paul and Clarissa and Steve K left the convoy to head home. The remaining convoy members agreed to meet at the Brookton Tavern in Karragullen for refreshments before calling it a day.



(Airing up at the junction of Metro Road and Brookton Highway.)

GPS WAYPOINTS

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|--------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| GPS #1 | 32° 03' 14", 116° 07' 52" | GPS #8 | 32° 17' 31", 116° 12' 04" |
| GPS #2 | 32° 06' 02", 116° 13' 42" | GPS #9 | 32° 15' 13", 116° 18' 45" |
| GPS #3 | 32° 13' 44", 116° 18' 40" | GPS #10 | 32° 14' 56", 116° 19' 09" |
| GPS #4 | 32° 14' 03", 116° 17' 39" | GPS #11 | 32° 15' 53", 116° 20' 17" |
| GPS #5 | 32° 14' 02", 116° 16' 23" | GPS #12 | 32° 19' 15", 116° 25' 09" |
| GPS #6 | 32° 16' 13", 116° 16' 10" | GPS #13 | 32° 19' 07", 116° 27' 02" |
| GPS #7 | 32° 14' 37", 116° 12' 00" | | |