

GEORGES RIVER OFF ROAD CLUB

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EDITORIAL

" FROM ACORNS GREAT OAK TREES GROW "

From this first edition of the GRORC magazine we will see the growth of an informative newsletter as the activities of the club and its membership expand. We will inform members and any interested people outside the club of past and future outings, give details of past trips, hints to four-wheel-drivers and technical information.

The magazine, however, will contain only what is contributed by members of the club. We look forward to articles and trip reports to swell the pages, as well as ideas on cover design, type of content and policy of the club towards conservation, the environment, fuel shortages or any issue of relevance to the aims of GRORC.

This first magazine is small, but we look forward to your help in building on our small beginnings.

Barbara & John Eden
Compositor & Editor

BARRINGTON TOPS TRIP

24th/25th MARCH 1979

The bulk of the convoy departed GRORC H.Q. at 5am; other vehicles joined with us at previously arranged locations. In all there were 7 vehicles and 13 people when we reached the Barrington Tops area (mainly State forest), 65km north of Singleton.

The time was about 10.30am when we started on the four-wheel drive section. The first few kilometres were relatively easy with only a number of creek crossings to contend with, causing no problems. We shortly came upon a large fenced area where the undergrowth had been cleared away and the trees left untouched. Erected in this area were worksheds, B-B-Q huts and swings. On a previous re-con trip of the trail, it was found that this area had had a 99 year lease taken out on it by the Newcastle Landrover Owners Club. After a brief stop we headed off for the hard stuff.

Soon we had all changed into low range and one at a time we started winding our way up the first steep section of a very long hill, on which a few people had some small problems, such as sliding into gullies, lifting wheels off the ground and various other unscheduled manouvres. This gave the other people a bit of time to look around, and take in the beautiful views which could be seen from the side of the hill. Near the top of the hill, lunch was had and stories of death defying driving skills were exchanged.

Once over the hill the road became relatively easy with only a few mud holes to contend with. By late afternoon we had arrived at our predetermined campsite, and set up camp. Some people went for a walk and checked out the road ahead. On their return we were told of a wash-away in which we might have a little trouble.

The next morning , 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours after leaving camp we were about 2 kilometres from camp, with nearly every vehicle having been winched through the wash-away, and then a few having been stuck in the mud after it. A fair bit more mud was struck, but didn't present any great problems. With the hard four-wheel driving over we turned off the main track on to another track which eventually led us onto some good roads and thence to Singleton.

After having tea at Singleton, we headed off home and arrived about 11.00pm.

I think everyone agreed the trip could be classed as hard, but very enjoyable.

Michael Miller.

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