

Trip Report

Ring River - Montezuma Falls

What started as a leisurely 8 hour Sunday drive turned out to be an epic 15 hour ordeal reminiscent of the Camel Trophy videos I used to watch when I was a kid.

We met at the Homemaker centre in Devonport at 8am, with many familiar faces and quite a few new faces also. We got on the road by about 8:30 meeting the Ortners down there, and arriving in Rosebery about 10:30 to regroup and air down. After a bit of confusion finding the start of the Ring River track we were on our way. The track to the river was good with a few holes to drag the bum through but no big deal, the river was very low and no issues, but then it started. Ortners and Berrys were the first ones up the hill, Dave drove it but Adrian, driving Sonia's car, had 1 winch pull to get up. Berry had tried on the radio to get everyone organised in order with a winch car every 2nd vehicle, but we were all too busy standing near the river eating hot pies and sausage rolls out of the 12 volt ovens that are very popular now.

Until this point we hadn't given much thought to Corey who had turned up in his Hyundai Terracan. Luckily it had good tyres and a lift but was still no match for the Ring River hill. Corey got it up as far as he could, then Mick had a go and made it a little further where Zane hooked to the front of it and started the big winch up the hill. Not long after Corey let all the smoke out of the clutch leaving us with a dead weight to contend with. We shuffled the cars around and Scotty hooked to the Terracan and double block pulled it another 200 metres up the hill to where he could get underneath and bleed the clutch. This turned out to be a great idea and the Hoond was away again.

Mick managed to pop a tyre off the bead in the same spot, fixed it and continued to drive the hill, then Thomas did the same not far away. We were all underway again with some of the cars making it up the hill and some needing a bit of help. We made it to the falls at about 4pm with not a lot of daylight left, but it should be all good from here, it's an easy track out..... right?

Thomas managed to lose a wheel on the way out, unusually all the studs were ok but the wheel was flogged out and the nuts were gone. He pinched a spare wheel off Norry's Prado and wheel nuts from any one's car that wasn't looking to get mobile again. That only lasted to Tullah where the stub axle nut had come loose and there were sparks coming off the front wheel. The guys rallied around to offer Tom moral support and point out his mechanical prowess while he wrestled the red hot parts to build something that might get him home, all the while letting everyone how much he loves 4wding and his vehicle.

So it turns out we aren't used to such large groups on a trip and could have been a bit more organized to make everything run a bit smoother, but it's not a bad problem to have.



Trip Leader:

Lyndon Kettle

Date:

27th May 2018

Destination:

Ring River, Montezuma Falls

Attendees:

Lyndon, Kim & Makkai Kettle

A32PM - 80 Series Landcruiser

Adrian, Sonia, Izzy & Chad Woodberry

E98HR - Mitsubishi Triton

David, Lauren, Levi & Indy Ortner

A78BJ - 80 Series Landcruiser

Scott Beecham

E84DT - GU Patrol

Mick Smith

F22FT - GU Patrol

Gavin & Boyer Stebbeings

LSI - 000 - GU Patrol

Geoff & Catherine Lowry

DJ 0400 - GQ Patrol

Daniel Shepard

ES 0255 - Hilux

Thomas Lewis

DS 9877 - 80 Series Landcruiser

Caleb Brady

F34PM - Mitsubishi Triton

Zane, Stacey Piper & Savannah Deering

FA 2395 - 80 Series Landcruiser

Andrew Norris

F16QZ - Toyota Prado

Jack Evans

E44YH - GU Patrol

Adam Williams & Chloe Simpson

E71DI - 80 Series Landcruiser

Joe, Jody & Casey, Madison

MUDMONK3Y - 105 Series Landcruiser

Corey Brown

F05WA - Hyundai Terracan



Kettle's



Clowns



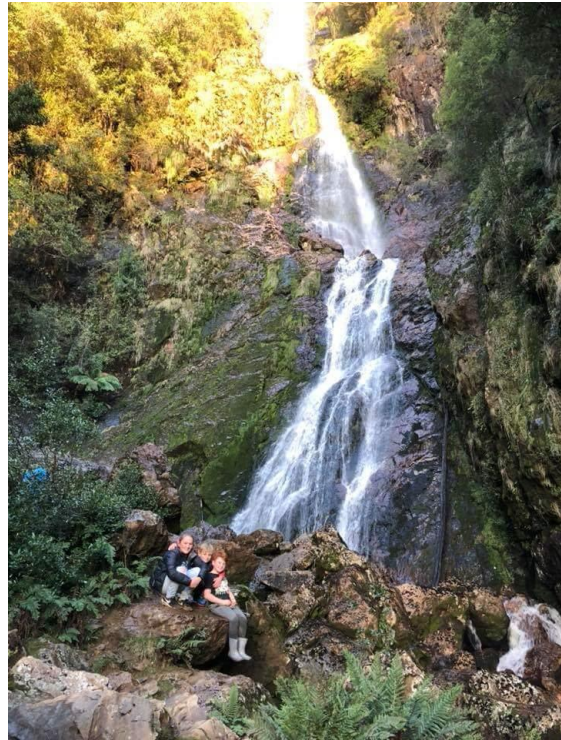
Ortner's



Montezuma Track



Caleb getting his feet wet



Montezuma Falls



Tom showing his mechanical prowess.



Kids in a hole