

Palmer River June 2011

All parties met at the Palmer turn off at Whites Creek at 1330 Saturday afternoon.

After a short chat and signing the club book we proceeded onto the Palmer River. Justin in his 130 with Glen and ? was in the lead then Mick with his boys Vinny and Gus in their series 2 followed by Jorge and Lockie in their defender, Rob and Jayden in their disco then Jeff and Patricia in their 110.

The road was in good nick having been recently graded. There were only occasional patches of bull dust and most of the gullies and creek crossings had be fixed up after the wet, in fact the road gang were still working approx 10km prior to reaching the Palmer.

The crossing of the Palmer River was the final obstacle to be traversed. All the vehicles negotiated the 3 feet or so of water without incident which signalled our arrival at the camp site.

It was apparent quite a number of others had the similar idea of a long weekend on the Palmer with several large groups in well separated camps along the north bank of the river. After a short reconnoitre a site was selected well above the river and camps were struck – it was now approx 1600, time to collect fire wood while the last of the daylight persisted.

Over a refreshing ale or two, plans were made for the morning to explore Maytown and some of the old mines.

The morning saw us assemble at 0900 for the drive into Maytown. It was decided two vehicles would be used, Mick's Series2 and Robs Disco. Who says you can't comfortable fit 4 adults and 3 kids in 88 inches of classic Land Rover! The 8-9 km drive into Maytown took around 20min mostly in low range 2nd and 3rd. We spent about an hour exploring Maytown and surrounds before heading to the old Lara battery. We found the battery in surprisingly good condition given the number of years that have passed. Some deep shafts begged for the obligatory rock to be tossed in – just to check their depth.

We returned to camp at around 1400 for a late lunch and refreshing swim. Mick and the boys tried their hand at gold panning - you can see for yourself the results from the pictures attached!



The Gold Rush - photo Jorge Martins



River of Gold - Photo - Jorge Martins

As night fell the fire was stoked up and the boys; Vinny, Gus, Jayden and Lockie set about cremating a pack of marshmallows, Lockie particularly had discerning taste - rejecting 4 or 5 carbon encrusted specimens till he perfected his technique. Mick and his boys, up early, took the opportunity to explore the Queen Mill battery prior to breaking camp and joining the convoy for the trip home. An uneventful drive out concluded at Mt Carbine where we all enjoyed hot chips and soft drinks prior to heading our separate ways unscathed if not a little dusty from our weekend on 'The Wild Palmer'.