

A DAY AT KAIHU - July 2007

After two weekends of getting the Landrover going, the day arrived – Kaihu, here we come!

Got up nice and early, had some brekkie and made some lunch, the off we go – a nice trip to Dargaville Mobil to await the others.

Everyone soon enough arrived and then we were off to Kaihu. When we get there we're not sure it's the right place, but think it might be, so we head on up this forestry track towing the vehicles on the trailers and at the top of the hill Syd says "wrong place". Trying to get hold of the owner for directions we come across a man and his boy walking along the track so we asked him where it was – turns out we turned off too early and we had to go to the end of the road, a good 10+ k's from where we were. So we turn the vehicles around and head back out then up the road until we come across some trees across the road. Out with the chainsaw and axes to clear the road – about 8 trees in all... Many hands make light work.

Finally we get to the property and the barn to have lunch.

After lunch we unload the vehicles, some minor repairs done, then into the paddock to play. Drove into the paddock over a bit of a rock shelf only to find we have to get across a creek to go any further. We all give it a go only to get stuck; Syd goes in and gets towed out with a broken axle (no landrover hex there). Brooke is finally the only one to get through and Brett goes in and comes out again backwards and smoking. About 50 feet on the other side of this creek is another drain – but we need to make a bridge to get over this one. By this time it's getting late so we decide to get ready to go home.

We have to dig the rock shelf out to get out of the paddock, and then once we're out we go for a tiki-tour down the end of the track then head back up to reload. Syd get his trailer wedged in the drain and has to winch himself out.

A good exploratory run – we'll need a full weekend for more exploring some time.

Thanks Syd for the long enjoyable day; a good test of tow vehicles.

- *Colin*