

TOKOROA RUN – 10-13 August 2007

Set alarm wrong, set for pm instead of am, so lucky we were on time. Started out, meeting at designated spot. Brooke, Carol, and Colin early; Syd and Brett bringing up the rear, a bit late. Convoy left at 9:15am Friday, 10th August. Hit rain at the Brynderwyns; a few hairy moments with the brakes locking on the way down. Stopped for a few pit stops, the sky looking rather black the closer we got. We finally got to Tokoroa Locksmiths (Kim's place). Peter wagon's not ready to go so we mucked about for a few hours while Syd and Brett helped weed out the technical problems. Got Peter's working, then left to get takeaways for tea. Low and behold, Syd breaks a left rear axle on the trailer pulling into the parking area for tea, so back to Kim's for emergency repairs. We get back underway about 8:00pm, with Brett leading the pack; arrived at camp about 9-9:30pm. Unpacked our gear, sorted out sleeping arrangements, had a cuppa, then hit the hay. The late arrivals – Stacey and partner, and Jim, and Peter woke us up at 1:00am. Back to sleep until Colin wakes everybody up at 7:00am.

Saturday run: The weather was wet and just got wetter as the day progressed, with the sun peaking through the black clouds on very odd occasions. We started with brekkie at about 7:30am, then organised lunch etc, and who was going with who. Took off about 10:00am, down hills, up gullies, through bog holes - or around them, whichever way the driver decided to go. Kim, the lead driver, went through the first bog hole and got stuck; he got towed out then everyone else went around – but not Syd. Syd, as usual through the mud, had to give it a go. If there was water Syd (and a few others) had to go through it, drowning everybody in the process, including his co-driver (Stacey's partner), who seemed to be enjoying herself. Colin liked the trees – rearranged the guards on this landy with a few banks etc. Brett's wagon decided to play up with the electrics and fuel and the steering arm needed to be straightened 2 or 3 times. Meanwhile, all wildlife vanished, with profanities flying. Quite a few towing exercises on the day; Brooke the only one tipped over, while being towed up a hill and around a corner; all vehicles had to be towed at some point. Driving back to base camp at night with a few vehicles and only one with a light working – arrived back about 9:30pm absolutely soaked. Showers first, then had tea, a few drinks and went to bed and *died*.

Brett and Brooke had both popped a tyre off the rim on Saturday; lucky Tony had air on board. Brooke woke up next morning with the same flat – all the air at the top. Brooke and Carol decided to call it a day seeing as they had no vehicle to carry on playing in. Colin towed Brooke's wagon out onto the main road while Brooke drove his Falcon out; then Colin went back to Syd and Brett fixing their wagons for another go - weather's still shitty. The guys from Tokoroa were awesome. The tracks were well worth the trip down; no matter which way we went on the tracks it was a really good run. We'll be better prepared next time. Many thanks to the well put on run from the Tokoroa Boys – Kim, Peter, Jim, Tony etc. Awesome time had by all; some really gnarly tracks.

- *Brooke*