

Brett's Run - Pureora 11-13 August

Friday morning - meet everyone at the dog pound on Kioreroa Road 8:30am. Carol and Brook are already there when I arrive at 8:25am; time gets away from Syd and Brett while having a coffee and they don't arrive until ten past nine!!

Heading down in convoy, it's a good trip down and the tow wagon goes well. At Tokoroa Peter's landrover wasn't going so a couple of hours spent fixing it, then off we go, only to turn around and go back to Kim's as Syd's trailer broke an axle and needed welding up. We finally head off into the dark following Brett as only he knew where we were going. When we arrived it was find a bed, have a coffee, and off to bed.

Get up early next morning, have breakfast then get ready. When everyone else arrived we were off to play - first into the pumice pit, up hills and around - a nice spot. With Kim leading us we're off to find some good tracks. It's rainy by the way. We spent all day going up this track, through water holes, bouncing off trees, getting towed up and through holes. A winch is much needed in Pureora Forest. When it got too late to carry on we headed back to camp - about 8:30pm - cold and wet.

Next morning, up to fix the vehicles, get Brett's running better, weld Syd's steering arm back on. Landy dinged, but still running okay. Brook's jeep had a flat tyre so Carol and Brook call it quits and head for home. Had to use the Nissan to tow his trailer out as he only had the Falcon and the track was pretty wet and rough.

About 2:00pm Sunday we get going - down the track heading to the bullring. The track is wet and slippery all the way, having to dig the track wider in one hole so I could get through in the Landy, but we didn't quite get out the other end of the track. We came to a steep hill, sliding all the way down. By this time there was only Syd, Brett, and me. Once we're all down we go further around the track - more water holes - and Brett's wagon starts playing up again. So it's just before dark and we decide we had better start heading out as we had to go back up that steep hill. Brett's wagon was dead. Syd gets up to the top in the Pup so I go around Brett and get halfway up, out with the 150m club rope and Syd tows me up the top. Then I hook on Brett with Syd in front of me and we pull Brett's wagon up in stages as we could only go about 30ft at a time, finally getting him up in the dark. Then we proceeded to go out with all vehicles hooked up, but part way out Brett's steering goes so we stop

and try to fix it - too dark, so we decide to leave Brett's wagon where it is and head out in Syd's and mine. Back at camp about 9:00pm, again.

Monday morning, I was meant to go hunting in Taupo, but we ended up doing vehicle recovery and head back in to get Brett's wagon. We leave the Landy at the start of the track and only take the Pup in. We straighten Brett's steering arm then get his wagon started and drive back out, pick up the Landy and head back to camp. Brett's wagon dies again... so hook onto the Landy and tow him back to camp. Load everyone up, clean up camp and we're off for home.

A very good trip, with plenty of tracks that will be great for a summer trip. . .

Colin Thorburn .