

But wait, there's more – Here's Bert's side of the story.....

It all began with getting drunk then loading up my buggy with all the crap I'm not gonna need, go to bed, wake up in the morning, repack buggy leaving out all key items that will be needed later. Into town, pick up Rod, and we're off to Pooreorea. A few hours later we're there - a few beers, find a bed space and a feed, bit of a yarn then a sleepless night dreamin' of 4x4.

When we headed off in the morning, the track we were on got worser and worser, making it betterer and betterer. Then Peter's land rover sucked a kumara, so while all hands were on deck rebuilding his carby, I took the mitsubitch for a play where the motorbikes were having fun, up a steep little climb. But the ruts were bigger than me so I could only go as far as the truck guts dragging on the ground would allow - oh well.

Peter's truck's going again so we head for the bullring track with Ron and Stacy on quads nearly disappearing in the water holes. We met all the other trucks and bikes coming back the other way, so we carried on to see what all the fuss was about. Got to the top of the hill to look down, and where's the bottom? It's a nice long, steep, slippery, rutted out track with a big water hole at the bottom. Peter and Brett found the hole but the Mighty Mitsi prevailed!

We carried on into the bullring playing around on lumps and bumps until I tried tipping my truck into a BIG!!! hole that I didn't see – scared the crap out o' Rod though!

Once the track we were on dried up we went back to the clearing for lunch.

Then we carried on looking for tracks; man you could spend days in there and not go on the same track twice. We were following Kim up this hill – well not following exactly, just caught up as he was winching up a gnarly bit, then he turned around to winch me up, as bouncing off the walls had only got me half way up.

Not long after that my CV went POP! crunchy, crunchy, crunchy! Ooh dat's not good!! Peter was down to two wheel drive as well. That only left Brett's hilux with all wheels working. Ron and Stacy went with Kim to meet us at the bullring hill that we came down at warp nine so he could winch our broken asses up.

Back to the YMCA to fix the truck - due to Brett's extensive parts knowledge we robbed Rodney's Pajero for a CV - that saved us and kept us in the dirt for day two. I'll be carrying spares from now on.

Day 2, Sunday morning: Gassed up and headed to a bog in a road or something like that. We got to an intersection with 4x4's playing in a water hole on the side of the road, so we had to have a turn. Everyone hooned off down a track and me and Brett stopped a couple of times for minor repairs and lost them, but never mind we had a ball anyway. Where does this track go,

where does that one go? We found some choice spots! One track got worse and worse, and then went up and up and up with deep ruts. Nothing like a challenge, so up we go about halfway then diggie, diggie, diggie – ooh look state highway one, have another crack and my truck catches fire! Hot power steering oil and hot manifold oil don't mix too well; especially when the fire extinguisher is empty from the previous day's fire. Couldn't quite get up that hill, but found out later we were going UP the luge, instead of down it like normal people. Turned around, had lunch and slowly worked our way back towards the YMCA, going up every track we saw. Brett had a go at a cross axel chassis twister behind me and Rod but didn't realise he was in 2WD – it's funny watching a Hilux balancing on two wheels (one front and one back) with Brett scratching his head. Back at camp we got Brett's tyres sorted out as they kept falling off his rims then went out again until dark.

I could go on and on about the tracks and places we went but your just gonna have to come along next year and find out for yourself. I'm hooked on this place - excellent 4 wheeling and a place to stay, hot showers, beds and bogs better than home. Just need gas lights or battery lights so when the sun goes down we don't have to have the generator going.

Bert