

## **Jamieson 31/10/2025 – 4/11/2025**

Participants: Marcus (leader) Tom and Jerome, Ravi, Jeanette, Rose and Isobel, Raymond and Joyce, AiHoon, Aries and Anika, Paul and Tineke, Don and Jenny, Sagar, TJ, Himalay and Chai.

The team started arriving on Friday afternoon in the warm dry weather and set up camp with a full range of accommodation options – tents, cabins, air B & Bs, caravans and slide-ons.

Saturday morning offered a variety of activities with the ladies choosing to visit the Mansfield Market and a familiarisation trip was the choice for one of our newer members.

### **Sappers Track to Jamieson Lookout**

Two cars set off to sample the climbs and descents after airing down in the campground. The start of Sappers had been recently graded so it was easy travelling, but the surface deteriorated as the track got steeper. We stopped a few times to talk about the line of attack and practised driving through the brakes on our way to Saddle Road and then returned via the Jamieson Licola Road back to camp for leisurely lunch that the ladies bought at the Mansfield market.



### **Sappers Track to Bains Bridge Ford**

A convoy of five cars set off in full sunshine for the afternoon drive along the full length of Sappers Track. We found a good spot for afternoon tea and enjoyed a good chat before continuing. As we approached the Goulburn River the bright yellow flowers of the broom bushes added colour to the trip.





The river was flowing strongly but not deep enough to stop us crossing.



After determining the appropriate line to follow and assessing the climb out we set off one car at a time with many cameras ready to catch the action. Nearby campers came to watch as well. The water was a little under wheel height.





### **The Slate mine**

Sunday a beautiful sunny day so we were up early for the trip to the Slate mine. Six cars headed off the bitumen straight onto the Stoney Creek Track, onto the red clay and up the spoon drains to the top of the spur. As the track was dry and had been graded in the last few months, it was easier than we expected. We took a minor wrong turn along the way but regrouped and took the right track (left turn) staying on Mitchells Track. Morning tea and time for a chat. Fortunately, there was no other traffic on the track.



Raymond also ensured he took a run up for the steeper hills as he was driving a manual vehicle. A number of great views along the way!





Prickly bitter pea provided a splash of colour for us.

At last we reached the slate mine after about 3.5 hours of driving up and down hills with many spoon drains. The old slate mine was such a great destination. The views all around were lovely.







Coming back, we took Steiners Road and it was a good surface with a coating of white road base. At times we lost tail end Charlie, but they assured us they were coming, just staying back out of the clouds of white dust. This then became the Howqua River Rd where we stopped and aired up the tyres just before the Mansfield Woods Point road. Once back at camp we had just enough time for a quick swim in the river prior to dinner at the pub.

### **Mt Terrible**

On Monday five cars headed out mid-morning before the predicted heavy rain arrived with the aim of reaching Mt Terrible. We had aired down and headed down the bitumen to Poletti track. After turning into Poletti track it was red clay that then it turned into a firm rocky track as we joined the Mt Terrible track and climbed higher up to the summit of Mt Terrible.

Tom guided us all over the more challenging areas in the track and Marcus did a great job of picking the best line as the rain began and slowly got heavier. We chose the easier options due to the deteriorating visibility at the higher elevations. After leaving Jamieson at about 10:45 we arrived at the top after 1.5 hours. Mt Terrible lived up to its name of almost no visibility and significantly colder than Jameison below.



We took a few quick photos of the white fog and used the shelter for lunch.



We did see some lovely flowers during the trip including egg and bacon plants, purple black-eyed Susan, white common heath, yellow everlasting ball flowers and yellow broom plants.

As the rain had set in, we had to make choices on the safest way back down the mountain. We stayed on the all-wheel drive Mt Terrible track as the rain continued to fall and the puddles got larger and began to form small rivulets running down the track. We did take the “chicken track” option, taking us about 1.5 hours to reach the bitumen on the Eildon-Jamieson Rd. Unfortunately, no views of Lake Eildon on the way down. The rain continued to fall so we drove slowly back to camp due to our low tyre pressures after a great adventure in the rain. We look forward to doing it again when the weather is kinder and the views clear.



The threat of heavy rain on Monday helped some campers to pack up and squeeze into the Air B&B accommodation, for which they were very thankful.

Words and pictures: Jeanette and Paul