

# Sunny Corner to Capertee

via  
Blackbutt Mountain Road and  
Pinnacle Fire trail





Pinnacle firetrail – Sunny Corner to Capertee.

Saturday 24 July 2010

Vladimir Soeter – X-Trail

Andrew Tims – Hi-lux

Simon Hirshbein – Patrol

Passengers – parents Phil & Joyce Hirshbein

Ron Vollema – Pathfinder

Passenger – son Henry (12)

I arrived at Sunny Corner expecting more of a town, so it wasn't immediately obvious that the derelict looking building on the right was the "Town Hall" where we'd all meet. Vladimir was already there and he'd also been through the "High Street" trying to locate it, then deciding it had to be this building on the right.

Andrew joined us shortly after, then a couple of 4WDs with camping gear stopped to ask us where the campsite was as the map shows there is one but we couldn't locate it. Shortly after 10am Simon arrived with his parents, and we set off down Sunny Corner Road, turning right at the intersection at the end of "town" towards Dark Corner. After a few hundred meters we turned right into Daylight Creek Road, where we aired down and started the off-road part of the trip.

We took an earlier left turn than originally intended, taking us to the start of Blackbutt Mountain Road. This proved to be a great track for anyone looking for something a little more challenging than Baal Bone Gap yet not requiring a modified vehicle to get through. A few hundred meters into this track the X-Trail found itself at a bit of an angle but it made it through after adding some extra weight in the form of Simon and Andrew on one of the back wheels.



About 12k into the trip another large rutted section on Blackbutt Mountain Road the open differential of the X-Trail saw it struggle for grip. We tried to help it along by putting rocks under the but to no avail. Instead we decided to help it along with a snatch strap and I backed up the Pathfinder close enough to hook up both ends of the strap, only to find the strap Vladimir got out was a winch extension strap which was so long there would have been no need to reverse the Pathfinder 30 meters in the first place. So instead we went for a careful tow rather than a snatch, helped by the long strap as I could see the strap extending in the rear view mirror. And credit where credit is due, this was the last section where Vladimir needed assistance; he completed the rest of the track without help even though there were still some interesting sections to come.

Andrew recently had an air locker fitted to his rear diff, and was itching to test this out. His chance came when we crossed a creek with a reasonably steep bank the other side, where the track had been improved with some rocks to make it easier to get up. To Andrew this hurdle was a 'walk in the park', the rest of us decided that it was cheating. Nor did we know what the fuss was about as all Nissans got up the other side fine.

We stopped at the clearing in the forest just before Jackass Hill, and had a look on foot what all the fuss was about. But the sight of scrapings on the rocks and broken mudguards we agreed we'd take the chicken track instead. So the long way around it was, across the creek a couple of times and up the rutted hill the other side and eventually got to the T-junction with The Pinnacle Fire trail. To the left of this junction is a lookout (large rock) where we stopped for lunch.

From here on to River Ron's hut was an easy drive compared to Blackbutt Mountain Road, to Woolshed Flat. We opted for the de-tour at the end via The Diggings Campground to add a few more water crossings before ending the trip at the junction of Upper Turon Road and Castlereagh Highway.

Thanks to all participants for a great trip!

Ron  
Editor

