

Joadja Weekend

Sat 19th & Sun 20th August 09

Trip Leader:

Cindy Venter and Brett McCurley - GU wagon

Followers:

Charles & Jenny Bottemanne - GU wagon
Stephen Cramp – 80 series Landcruiser
John O'Riley – SWB Pajero
Scott & Wendy Dempster – GQ wagon (Sun only)
Marius & Joan Venter – Hilux (visitors)

Sat 19th

With an amended meeting time of 11am at the Wombeyan Caves Rd turnoff, and with a brief run down of convoy procedures for the newer ones joining us, our group eagerly headed off to explore some tracks in and around the Joadja Nature Reserve.

Following the main track we were fortunate to find some great lookouts that provided spectacular views of the Joadja valley and had us snapping many photos whilst admiring the fantastic bush scenery.

A leisurely stop for lunch was had and then it was down to River Island to set up camp, have a look at the progress of the rejuvenated Classic Trails staircase and other tracks, and enjoy a relaxing drink and feed around the campfire.



Sun 20th

After packing up camp we headed off at approx 9am back up to the Wombeyan Caves Rd and on towards the Joadja turnoff where we were meeting up with Scott & Wendy who were coming along on the guided tour with us.

A quick detour at Jenny's request had us all drive our vehicles over and directly on top of the well known sandstone tunnel that the Wombeyan Caves Rd passes through on the way down to River Island. Something we've all wanted to do but never got around to it. Ticked that box now!



We eventually met up with Scott & Wendy and, with us all now keen to see and hear about the bygone mining era of Joadja, we enthusiastically drove down into the Joadja valley and met up with Mark, our guide.



After a quick introduction and a look at some old photos, we jumped aboard his guided tractor ride for what was a very interesting and educational tour around the old buildings, retorts, chimneys, houses and other fascinating remains of the Joadja township. Mark has a wealth of knowledge about the actual area and its rich history and his great storytelling had us all vividly imagining what life was like back then.



With many a photo taken and a myriad of questions asked and answered, we sat down to lunch as Mark talked about the lack of Government Heritage funding he has not received for the area and his own thoughts and ideas for what he has planned for the future restoration of the area.

We then said our goodbyes and farewells and headed on back home.

Thank you to Cindy, from all who attended, for organising a very enjoyable trip.

Brett.

