

Mid-week - Bendora Dam

Trip: 22 Aug 2024

Participants:

- *David Dark (Trip Leader)*
- *Erik & Helen Beens*
- *Brian & Diana MacDonell*

A small bunch of members met at Uriarra Crossing for a comfortable 9:30 departure. Travelling first via a Lower Cotter loop of Bullock Paddock Rd, Yellow Rabbit Rd and Warks Rd passing the now closed Vanitys Crossing Rd.



Back on Brindabella Rd and entering Namadgi NP, via Blundells Ck Rd, we wound our way down through tall gums and native forest until finally re-entering Warks Rd, then driving back up along the escarpment with beautiful views east across the hills & valleys.



We emerged at the intersection of Bendora Rd, now back at an elevation of 1000m. The main road descends 6 kms to the Cotter River.



The road then parallels this a further 3.5 kms to a pleasant, clean Bendora Picnic area at 700m. There's a smallish car park, flushing clean loos, picnic tables and fire pits (BYO wood).



After mornos in the sun we walked down to the dam 400m (no access onto dam) to view the water.

A quick weather change meant a walk back up in light rain.

We backtracked to 2 kms down Warks Rd, turning left onto Old Mill Rd and climbing up again stopping briefly to view an old working weir off to the left (presumably part of an old mill?).



Old Mill Rd Weir



Old Mill Rd & Weir

Tuning left onto Mile Hill Rd and emerging in a clearing on Mt Franklin Rd, then on to Bulls Head Picnic Area (where else would 3 Toyotas stop LOL!).



Toyotas @Bulls Head



Bulls Head Shelter

A covered and welcoming shelter allowed lunch out of the elements at 1pm. With a cold wind, temps dropping to single figures our all-season trip as half expected.

As it was still early arvo the trip was extended to Mt Franklin on quite a rough and potholed section, then a short walk up to the old chalet site for a look see.



It was freezing here so we weren't long in getting back to the comfort in our vehicles. Back at Bulls Head, Erik and Helen retired from the trip, hoping to capture a photo of a male Flame Robin seen previously, with success.



Diana, Brian and myself continued on home via the Cotter. We agreed it was pleasant days drive with like-minded people, close to home in the clean fresh air, a prescription worth repeating.

Author: David Darke