

GROSE RIVER - VICTORIA FALLS. TA2

Tony Dutton
Vince Mc Cormack
Richard Graham
Stephen Davis

EQUIPMENT. - Pack (A Frame T.D) Tent - (LM) Ground sheet (New \$3-10), First Aid Kit, tent pegs, 2 pair jeans, shorts, sandals, costume, Towel, ~~W~~steel, map, ~~B~~knife & fork, fry pan, 2 T shirts, 1 Football jumper, underwear, 2 spoons, raincoat.

FOOD- 2 packets biscuits (date, wholemeal)
5 x 1lb tins meat.
1 x 1lb. pineapple (sliced).
3 oranges.
1 pack dried apricots.
3 eggs. + butter for biscuits.

THE TRIP.

FRI 23, FEBRUARY, 1973. - Tim Graham drove us to Strathfield. Got 6-11pm train to Mt Victoria (R-50 Return). Vince didn't appear to be on the train but he turned up around Capstone. He'd been up the front 2 hours. Arrived at Mt. Victoria about 8-40pm.

Passed by P.S so we left our names. & where we were going (only one other group went out this weekend).

Darkness. Turned off at The Victoria Falls sign. Darkness. Straining eyes to see anything. Fortunately no rain at this stage. Only light was from Graham's boots & the binding snatch that was lit occasionally. Walked for what seemed to be hours + hours. Very dark - no moon + complete cloud cover, could only just see the guy next to you.

Couldn't find anywhere to camp along the road so decided to go to the lookout for the night got there at about 10-15pm. Camped in the shed on the ground (cement so very hard + uncomfortable didn't get a very good sleep

SAT 24 - Had an early breakfast, woke 6 1/2 am left about 7-30 am for Grose R. walked back along track to point about 1/2 way along it. Turned off here for the river.

Passed through trees shrubs & rocky terrain. Had to use ropes for one section (see pictures 2) eventually got to the river. Followed it rest of way till camp. Walked along the river + sometimes in & through it when necessary to avoid huge rocks, boulders or vegetation when too thick. Rested occasionally & ate. Many freshwater crayfish in the river all the way. Talk about hard.

As we got on to the more difficult part - Huge boulders blocked our way right across the river - here the water plunged over up to heights of ~~40~~ 5 feet in deep pools. Therefore we found it necessary to go around them. One such example caused great trouble & much time. The vegetation was exceptionally dense & thick with many ~~th~~ thorned vines requiring cutting. Once around this veg it was necessary to lower ourselves down with ropes to get to the river level. There were only two or three such obstacles but it was extremely difficult to overcome them.

Many smaller examples of somewhat similar examples abound. These we either jumped down from or sat down & slide the rest of the way. Sometimes we were on all fours.

The river base consisted of gravel and boulders & increasing quantities of sand towards the lower reaches.

The trip took us 10 1/2 hours (including 3 hr rest stop) This got us to camp at about 7-15 pm. Everyone was completely exhausted.

Camp was set up & tea made. I went to bed early.

Rained only occasionally during the day. But this didn't matter too much as we were continually (at least 100 times) crossing the river, mostly at knee deep level. But once or

to waist level. (got sleeping bag containers wet)
~~the~~ One stone I jumped off I slunk down
to my knee - Sam got out of that.

Rained during the night. Vince/Tomp tent
was pitched in a sort of hole, they woke up
with their tent under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch water & sleeping
bags soaked. Decks got wet too, mine on in
small patches.

SUN 25 - Raining still when we get up. I had can of
cold baked beans & stayed in tent till rain ceased.

We packed up & left for Victoria Falls.

Well what do you know there was a track
all the way (got a picture (63) of camp) Not mud at
times but still a track. Made good progress. Still a
little climbing & 2 or three times across the river.

Saw one good camp site on other side of the river
from our own camp - grassed over and flat.

Made the bottom of the falls, rested here for a while.

Vince took a picture of the falls for me.

Long way up to the top. Made the top in good time
had dinner up there. Took 2 pictures of the valley
from the lookout.

Walked back to Mt Victoria in about 1 1/2 hrs.

Left for Sydney on the 4-30 train got home at
7-00pm (got wet when off the bus at the top of
Dreadnought St)