



8 – 18th April 2010

It is unanimous; we have to rename Beyond Hotham to Beyond Expectations!!! Everyone seemed to have a great time and the feedback has been glowing. This year 80 wonderful people joined the Beyond Hotham 2010 journey.

Many different makes of 4wd were represented, with Toyota and Nissan being the most popular. Participants came from near and far, from Harrierville to Queensland and all places in-between.

Beyond Hotham began with a “Know Your Vehicle” session at the workshop, followed by the Official opening at Kalyna Lodge. The CEO of Mount Hotham Resort Management, Jim Atteridge welcomed everyone to the third annual Beyond Hotham 4wd Experience. He also took the opportunity to thank all our supporters, Gapsted Wines, Opposite Lock, Smiths Tyre and Battery, RACV Resorts, Rays Outdoors, Four Wheel Drive Association of Victoria, Zirky's and The General Store. He outlined our new relationship with Victoria Police and Parks Victoria who this year lead trips. This partnership was formally recognised with our trip leader vests displaying their corporate logos.

Friday saw the first of the day trips, and three groups headed off to Feathertop, Mayford and to Mt Delusion. Successive days saw more destinations being added. Each trip had a theme and these included Hut History, 4wd Recovery, Early Gold Discoveries and Flora and Fauna.



The weather created a bit of excitement over the first weekend with some groups driving in a very thick fog while those trips that headed south were languishing in t-shirts and sunshine. By the time they came back to Hotham it was covered in a light layer of snow, and if participants had not been taking many photos this certainly was a Kodak moment not to miss.

The Gourmet Dinner Under the Stars was relocated to Slaty Shed where 60 people enjoyed an amazing meal and also had a chance to view the Sleeping Round camper expo. Michael Coldham, past State President Four Wheel Drive Victoria, addressed the happy gathering describing the Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Victoria which support access to tracks and allows 4wd clubs access to management vehicle only tracks. Michael then introduced Peter James from Lara Electronics. Peter has developed a radio communication system for remote areas. It is currently being trialed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service with great success. By the time the evening ended the skies had cleared and the stars were shining!

Lightforce supported our Night Drive and Jason gave a very 'bright' presentation while we enjoyed our soup and sausage. Thanks to Jason for making the trip from Adelaide to become another interesting part of Beyond Hotham.

The overnight trips which were a new addition this year were well supported and headed off in three different directions. One group went into Mayford, another into the Buckland and Wonnangatta and the third to McNamaras Hut and Talbotville. Everyone came home with a new respect for the environment, their vehicles and trip leaders and fellow participants.



Next year's Beyond Hotham will have a similar format in that it will run for 10 days with overnight trips offered through the week. The dates for your diary are 7-17th April, 2011. Please keep an eye in the website for more information but I would not expect too much news until after winter.

The volunteer trip leaders and presenters for this year's Beyond Hotham deserve untold thanks and without their efforts Beyond Hotham would not have the success it has today. Also a special thanks to the businesses that have supported Beyond Hotham for the prizes they donated. They were certainly well received by the lucky winners.

Take care and thanks everyone for your support and see you in 2011
Annie

