

# Cania Gorge Trip 21/3/08

After traveling 5 and a half hours and 467km NORTH EAST of Brisbane on the Burnett Highway through Monto we come to Cania Gorge. Checking into the Cania Gorge Tourist Retreat at 5:30pm the owners of the Tourist Retreat had selected a open area for the club and made a fire place for us (fire wood was \$6 a barrow full) and setting up for the four days it was time for a drink ,food then bed.

Next day we did a walk through the park itself, our intrepid adventures did **BIG FOOT oooo arrr** and the **GIANT CHAIR LOOKOUT wow!** and fern Tree Pool or puddle, then back to camp for lunch as the main group would be arriving soon. **AND** here they come 1:45 pm and the ritual of camp erecting started, "how far to the toilets and showers!!!!!!!" but theres a pool . Any way the Ashman 's and the O'neil's were off to see the great lake built in 1984 we done the setting up thing last night. On reaching the great lake(Lake Cania) suppose to be barra in those waters the gold town of Cania is. At the look out there stands a stone memorial where the head stones from the cemetery "that is now at the bottom of the lake" are. On to Shamrock mine site where the old digging for the precious metal **GOLD!!!** were done, as three moon creek diggings are under water. Anyway there were shallow digs everywhere up this one particular ridge and gully and the mine itself was 180 meters deep lucky there was a steel grid over it, there was a gold stamper battery 1960s one I think, back to camp. Next day , "Saturday "up and off to see Two Story Cave, on the way you get to see King Orchard Crevasse. Well on entering Two Story Cave the smell get you first, yes that right, it's the habitat for insectivorous bats. Go closer, and shine a light and watch the bats fly and the girls scream. Off to Dragon Cave oooooooooo scary stuff on entering the cave you see a naturally-formed, black dragon-like mural highlighted against white sandstone wall not much of an artist had to have a couple of drinks I suppose , on to Blood wood Hole I mean Cave so called because of the blood wood tree roots hanging to the left hand side. Next Dripping Rock where upon the way you follow three moon creek and get to see some wonderful sand stone cliffs eucalypt woodland and dry rain forest before entering the base of dripping rock ,moss grows on the rock face and water drips down from above ,onwards past weathered caves of vivid yellow and red ochres where people tried there hand at hand painting. On further to the Overhang, a major feature shaped over centuries by weather and erosion a cool spot to rest with stag net waters "don't drink the water". Back to camp. While the kids swam in the pool and everyone was relaxing before the cooking season and the big feast ,Stephen O'neil, Paul Tuttle and your's truly decided to go for an estimated 1 hour drive according to Paul har har ended up being 5 hours and lost most of the time. We exited at 56k southeast of Mulgildie(aboriginal for muddy water)yes we did have a map and it was nothing like where we were driving, **useless**. With Steve in a fit about his roast he was going to put on and the trouble he will be in by the hand-break ,we arrived 6:30 pm when all the cooking was done "see Steve,Jenifer can cook a roast in the camp-oven".Dinner was a black tie affair, well the Ashman's boys got dressed up for the occasion. All enjoyed the night and as the evening departed and only a couple of brave soles were left Paul got a tong lashing by a woman from another campsite (**people are trying to sleep here** ) I think were the words.

All up early next morning leave by 8 am were the words from Boxie well 8:45 with Mark VanDorren as trip leader we were off to find the Liberator Bomber crash site. Driving along Cania road left into Wongalee Rd 4.1km left into Clonmel Rd, 26km turn right into Mahoon Creek Rd,well the going was good to here then the dust and what dust it was "**bull dust**"and nothing was seen again, Mark had a good view in front of the road but the rest of us, it was go slow with lights on two way communication and doing our best not to crash into one other. 35.1km open the first gate and time for a break form the dust while everyone caught up. Then into the never never again 36.7km open gate2 and turn right another break then off again through gully's with water 39km gate3 ,41.5 gate4 , 43.4km gate5 the hill above the gate was rough and some engaged 4wd 46.1 gate 6 along the road further a good deep creek crossing for all.

Only one got stuck ,the Suzki of Mat and Savina out with the recovery gear "**Out of the way**" Boxie tells everyone but Ingrid is not listening and Boxie uhsers them up the bank. A good time for them to take a bath, not to dust proof them suzuki's and continue on the right hand track.47.4km a sharp left hand turn and straight ahead to Kroombit Tops national park and no more dust. 53km old Scrubber yards on the left,as we drove the track you could see rain forest of Piccabean and Tree ferns, Cliffs creek and Mahoon Creek .54.7 km the head of Three Moon Creek and large dark trees Yellow stringy bark still we go on 56.1 km on the right is a spring on Cliff Creek which is where the Kroombit Tinker Frog lives but no time to fine him **onward**, looking up we saw large Elk horns and King Orchids. At 58.9 km Eastern Escarpment Lookout Car park. Out we get and off for a stroll to see the view. The lookout was barred off and some of the more adventurer climbed over the barrier to see the view and take pictures, apparently if you look a clear day you can see tankers off Gladstone, the Boyne Island Smelter, the Power station and Awonga Dam but none of that today. You could see sheer cliffs, on the left Clifton Homestead and on the right CedarVale Homestead back to the 4 bes and onwards.60.7 km was a weather station that is computerised and sends direct to the National Parks and on a tree to the left was a memorial plaque to Glen Hockey, he was a timber cutter, milling trees heard a noise looked up and a limb from another tree hit him on the bridge of the nose killing him instantly he was 32 years old .64.5 km left at a T junction and at 66.7 km we took the left hand road and onwards, 74.4 km was a cleared area which was a designated helipad, 74.9km we turned right 79.8 km was Kroombit Creek it runs to the left and Kaiboe Creek runs on the right. On

the right is Douglas Springs a scene of a massacre of Aboriginal people. It occurred after the Hornet Bank Massacre when aboriginal people killed 11 members of the Frazer family except one child who hid under the bed. The tribe of aboriginal killers were hunted down to this area by Trooper ?? that's right (Douglas) hence the name, any way you can read about that in history books, **onwards**. At 81.3km were the reminisce of Charlie Smiths yards 82.6km we turned left then as if a vision from one of those documentary at 84.5 km **THE CAR PARK !!!!** time to rejoice, we made it to the crash site of Beautiful Betsy (the Liberator Bomber for those who were not there)out the 4wd and off to see the wreck. My son and myself couldn't hold back our excitement and down the track we flew, un be knowing to the women of the group who shall remain nameless decided to relieve themselves. Well my son and myself and people who were not part of the group **GOT ONE HELL OF A SUPRISE** talk about three moon creek how about 5 moon hill( the two of us will reconise you's from a police line up again)undies and pants up ,off with screams of “**perverts#%!!!**” with replies of “**this is the track**”I think the old bloke coming the other way got a stroke. At last the plane wreck, not much left, tail section, engines and props and scattered reminets. Paul got told off again by a bloke for disturbing the site( he only picked up a piece and looked at it) some people hay. To the 4 bee for lunch and our home trip.86.4km back to the junction loop at102km turn right and down to the lookout, 119km at the junction of the roads from Nestor Vale we went via Clewley's Gap the road was very rough over the range and not much of a road some times. Our troopers stopped to look out of the gap not telling the front goes so a catch wait had to be done. Over hills through valleys then out of the park we came. 125.6km Cedar Vale Homestead was on our right with some discussion we turned right at the **T** intersection and drove around the front of the homestead and through the gate along Cedar Creek with Red Cedar and Sandpaper Figs trees on Monal Rd. Up we go up and up continuing to climb whoops!!! have to engage the front diff hubs, “**not just me**” anyway the Suzki made me stop or I would have rear ended it. Engaged hubs “**arr thats better no slipping**” finally climbing over Gentle Annie “ **good climb**”past Monal gold fields no time to stop getting late pictures country side along Monal Rd132.3km was the Shire Boundary into Monto continuing on 31.4 km to Rocky Creek Rd and 11.1 km back to Clonmel Rd 10.1km to wongaleeRd , 2.1 km to the Park on Cania Rd and6:45 pm showers cook tea talk about the drive we had embarked on. Outcome to long of a day and drive but got us prepared for the trip home tomorrow. Monday up pack up out by ten and home. **Thanks everyone**, remember no music but screaming kids are welcome at Cania Tourist Park not as good as I thought wont go back in a hurry.