Sam

No problem. Similar to Wombat. Blackwood is very dry at the moment. The river has almost stopped flowing which is strange at this time of year and Easter Monday track which is usually full of 4WD bog holes was basically dry recently when I rode. The other sort of trail you might get is loose rock. Even if you do get rain between now and when you ride, Blackwood trails drain pretty well unless it's sustained rain for many days. So ditch the mud tyres...

Below is the entry to the tunnel with all of the flood stuff in it - you can see the river going in in the photo. Climb up and over the saddle in the photo and you'll get to see it without trees! This is a good spot for a break as the river on the other side is in a nice location. Gribbles Track is behind us when looking at the photo. It's very steep so just leave the bikes in the bush near Byers Back Track - it's only 100-200 metres down to the tunnel area - you'll have trouble enough walking the trail though I have walked up it with a bike as there's a trail coming down the opposite spur but that's another story...

There's a mine adit on the Byers Back track back towards Blackwood which is pretty nifty (can't miss it). I wouldn't go into most of the mines as most are in shitty slaty rock which always worries me. If you do want to go into one, there is one in good rock as you come down into Blackwood. When you get to the end of Byers Back Track and back on the gravel road, you'll go round a big hairpin bend. Keep an eye out for the mine entry on the left. I haven't been in that entrance and it was locked for some time but there is another entry down the side trail as shownn in pic below about 100 metres and up on the left. The guy that showed it to me actually camps in it when he goes up there! His logic is it can be 0 degree outside but year round its about 10-15 in there. He took me in a reasonable way but he said you can actually spend about 3/4 of an hour wandering around in there and there are eating areas for the miners as it has a number of runs under the mountain. Obviously you'll need a torch and 5 mins was enough for me but it was interesting just to see what the mines were like...

Rgds

Ray

See photos next page...



