

# Full Day of Battering

*The rains everyone had been waiting for had finally come. It was time for creeking!*

**By Quinton Kennedy**

A group of friends awoke early and all met at an Okere Falls residents house to figure out what the day had to offer. Plans had been made before I got there, so I jumped into my car, and followed the truck carrying the rest of the crew. I soon noticed that my fuel warning light was on, but I had no way of telling the boys ahead of me.

After driving in some pretty gnarly downpours, we made it to a gas station. I'd had to find it all on my own, having lost the other vehicle. Little did I know, this was the first of many unfortunate events on this mission.

We pulled up to the gate where the rest of the crew were all geared up and ready to go, so we had to hurry to get ready.

I phoned the other vehicle to see where it was and to ask if they had my gear. The answer was a heart breaking "No". The Tuakopai seemed just not meant to be.

My first save from my epic beater was a friend, Rob who let me borrow his gear and paddle his Titan Rival. This was a relief, but not long after putting in, beater number two occurred.

The second slide of the upper section, about half way down, I was launched face first and slid the rest of the way down on my face and side. I came out of it with a cut face and a swollen eye. I managed to continue down the river and had an incredible time.

I had to work after the days paddling, or so I thought.

The boys had all crammed into a truck to drop me off at my car.

Unfortunately, the keys weren't in my pocket. We searched the put in, the other put in, the take out, and the truck I was in. Nothing. It was time to call the locksmith because by this time, everyone had gone home. Ollie and I had the pleasure of sitting in a truck for 3 ½ hours, waiting for the locksmith. It turns out, I had left the keys in the car, while frantically getting dressed to catch up with the rest of the group.

This made me about four hours late after a gruelling drive home through some horrendous weather. What a day!

Never the less, I still came out with a smile because I got on a river I will truly never forget!









*Photo supplied by Quinton Kennedy*