



Club Training Day

Dandenong National Park Olinda

4WD CLUB

Dates	Sunday 12 July 2009
Event Organiser	Vince Bosua

Attendances



Vince & Sue Bosua – Toyota Prado
Paul & Maxine Burke – Landcruiser 80 series
Neil & Sharon West – Landcruiser 80 series
Andy & Dillon Kass – Nissan Patrol
Ian Day – H3 Hummer
Brian McLean - Nissan Patrol
Cath, Michael & Lauren Hurley – Nissan Patrol
John Brandwood – Landcruiser 100 series
Matt, Tamara & girls – Nissan Patrol
Clayton Bryant – Holden Rodeo
Wylie McGinnes – Toyota Hilux
Ando McCracken – Nissan Patrol

Apologies

Brian & Helen Watson – Leadership Training Day
Graeme Linaker – gone to help with trees Kinglake
Nigel Jones – 1st Aid Refresher course

A great day, rain held off most of the time (lunch was a bit drizzly), 20 members in 12 vehicles attended.



Morning rendezvous saw us relocate from Kalorama General Store (no coffee and a small car park) to the Kalorama Five Ways intersection with Silvan Reservoir Lookout car park becoming the new meeting point. (Coffee across the road, bigger car park for the greater than expected number of club members cars and a great overview of our intended travel area.

10:30 hrs saw us start with a short lesson and update on convoy procedures. Newer members in particular benefited from this quick session. Handout notes provided to all so no excuses for future outing travels.



Quick overview of the days plans - start with a convoy run through the lower reaches of Dandenongs National Park towards Silvan Dam, up to the Arboretum top car park and lookout point to meet Parks Vic Ranger Lex Wade, on to Valley Picnic Ground to show location of toilets and bar-b-que facilities, then down to Eagles nest Picnic Ground area where we have access to some tracks for winch setup discussion and practical demo as well as practical sessions on snatch strap use.

1050 hrs 12 vehicles set off in convoy through the Park access roads and up to the Chalet Road Lookout where we found Lex waiting to greet the club.



Lex provided a brief history on the background of the HJ Hamer Arboretum after which we set off for Valley Picnic Ground. Turning off Silvan Road onto Boundary Road we soon struck obstacles in the form trees down across the picnic ground access road. Good thing we have the Ranger with us!

(Seems the road was clear at 0830 this morning on the inspection run). Lex sets to work with the chain saw and we soon clear the road. In the cars and on around the bend, more trees down. In all 3 separate sets of trees across this road before we make Valley Picnic Ground.

We take time to check out the picnic ground facilities and think of a Plan B as Lex sets off through the MVO gate to check our intended course. He returns some 10 minutes later, all clear we can cancel Plan B and proceed into the park on the MVO tracks.



Lex takes us via Georges Track & Hermons Track to Eagle Nest Picnic Ground where we set up our training sessions on Eagle Nest Road for winch set up discussions & practice and Chamberlain Track for snatch strap discussions and practical.



Ian Day takes the snatch strap training and Vince the winching training.

1200 noon 1st training sessions commence with lunch break at **1315 hrs** and change over of training teams after lunch at **1415 hrs** just as the drizzle starts to fall. Soon it clears and the sessions continue for the next hour.



1530 hrs sees everyone at the Eagles Nest Road MVO gate for final round up, photos and farewells.



All in all a good day, new lessons learnt, information exchanged, some cooked lunches and the weather held up.

Thanks to Lex for his assistance and guidance in the park, thanks to Ian for his instruction on use of and options with snatch straps, and thanks to all the members for being interested and involved in the sessions provided on the day.

Report by Vince Bosua