

Induction weekend 30th & 31st August 2014

Saturday morning induction started by hitting the books and getting into discussion with Brett, Molly and Lance. After covering all that was necessary we broke for lunch, and thanks to Molly's cooking we had very satisfied tummies.

We proceeded over to a little hill nearby and got the practical component of the course done with snatch strap recoveries and stall/key starts. Once they were done thanks to Brett and Lance's help we all successfully completed induction.

Later that afternoon the fun began. We were allowed to be unleashed to do a drive. With Brett and Molly as lead, Tyler, Lance, ourselves, Andrew, Jason, and Jenny and John as tail end Charlie we made our way on Saltshed Rd, down Scrub Rd and Yelburn Rd. We got back to camp and joined everyone for happy hour. We were all happy, satisfied with ourselves for passing our induction, for a job well done.

Sunday - The next trip to go on was planned. Some of the inductees from the group went on other trips with the Reccy while Mark, Andrew and I went on a trip with Grizzly as trip leader. On the same trip Andy, Anzac, Biscuit, Jesus, Nicole and Terry came along. We went to Gallangowan State Forest, the Old Mill and Telecom Hill. This track definitely had its challenges for us more 4WD retarded. It was great exploring the old mill and bringing home some souvenirs. We then continued on with the first obstacle being a creek crossing with a slippery uphill, that by itself was a challenge with Andrew finding it slightly difficult, with Jesus spotting we all got through, that was the biggest challenge I found yet.

The next obstacle was just further down the road was a very bumpy downhill part of the track where I ended up managing to get one of the back wheels off the ground. With the heart thumping that bit more I got past it. At that point little did we know the biggest challenge of the day was still yet to come. Telecom Hill. Turning the first part of the track to Telecom was okay so I thought nothing of it. Not only did I think that I was doing really well through the last set of challenges we were driving a Colorado that we haven't fully got set up yet that was doing just as well. Anyway once the first part was done, we looked up at the hill and saw what was yet to come. A few choice words were said with the thought of we can't back out now. With me still driving we discussed the line of where I should go and once Andrew was safely up I went for it. I hit one nice part of the track and as everyone knows by now I broke one of our sidesteps. Once all of us were up and my heart out of my throat we had to wait for a few guys (not in our club) to come up the other side then our boys assessed the other side.

Mark took over the driving so he could have some fun. Grizzly, Anzac, Biscuit and Andrew went down before us. We all got down the other side and at that point Andy decided to go back up the Hill in reverse with Terry climbing in. Once all done on closer inspection of our vehicle I felt so much better when we found Mark broke the other sidestep going down.

With all of us done with that section of the trip we headed back to camp and that's where we packed up and ended our journey and the weekend.

Challenges were fulfilled, fears were conquered, personal boundaries reached and broken and fun was had.

Bring on the next trip

Written by Danni Padmore under the close supervision of Mark Padmore