

Trip Reports:

Buckland Valley training weekend

Most of the crew arrived on Friday with only a couple arriving on the Saturday morning, all eager to spend another great weekend in the beautiful Buckland Valley for the clubs first training weekend of 2014.

The weather this time around was a bit warmer than the reputation that has grown to be the Wang 4x4 club training weekends. With a large group of people the decision was made to accommodate quite a large area of Good Hope Flat with 2 campfires to go with.

Starting sharply at 9:30 am Saturday morning Kate, Bruce, Noel, Burkey & Tom assisted to deliver the theory component of the training. With many questions, a few laughs and some useful information spread around the camp it was yet another enjoyable theory session. As usual it didn't take much for Tom to be talked into taking a night drive following the theory and a light tea. The destination was into the pines, across demon ridge and STRAIGHT down into Bright. Only a few minor technicalities encountered along the way however it was a great night had by all. Not forgetting to mention a very good looking convoy of 14 vehicles with hundreds of thousands of lumens coming from the many, many light bars.

Once back at the camp site there were a few quiet refreshments had, and a good night's sleep to follow.

Awakening to the pitter patter of raindrops on the tents, swags and camper vans the next morning, it was decided to cover the finer points of the Wangaratta 4x4 club guidelines, complete a snatch strap demo with a bit of a "spot the big no no's twist" and then on to the practical session as well as the assessments.

After a bite of lunch with the weather clearing slightly, DJ decided to lead an optional scenic route on the way home with 7 vehicles attending this trip and rumour had it, it was a most pleasant trip home.

The facts and figures from the weekend were;

- 38 Wangaratta 4x4 club members attending the weekend.
- 20 trainees sitting the course
- 19 vehicles attending the water crossing
- 26 vehicles in total attended the weekend
- 14 vehicles on the night drive
- &7 vehicle on the scenic route homeward.

Fines from the weekend were;

- Tim Meek- water crossing
- Damo - caught in 'Towel Only' pose, unfortunately unforgettable
- Jason French - Diesel polluting on Sat night - exhaust fumes on the hills
- Val Hill - forgetting to lock the hubs in on a steep hill on the trip home
- Tim Meek - bogging in the swamp area on trip home
- John Haring - losing his trailer on the way into camp on Fri night - trailer coupling came off
- John Sullivan - continually sleeping in on the weekend
- Mark White - digging the dunny hole too big
- Val Hill - couldn't pack down the toilet tents

- Kerry O'Conner - refusing to reinact the head lock she uses on Damo when he misbehaves
- and many many more followed.

A big round of applause to Nev for completing his training after 31 years in the club, and Kyle Patton for being the club's second 'L' PLate driver to partake in the training weekend

Lastly big thank you's to the trainers Burkey, Kate, Bruce, Noel and all the other club members who helped out throughout the weekend.

See you out on the tracks,

Tom



**Wangaratta
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Jamieson/Mt Terrible Trip Report 19 & 20 April 2014

A small contingent of Wangaratta 4x4 members, consisting of Damian O'Connor in his 80 Series, Keith Holland in his Mitsubishi Challenger, Lisa and Chris Penniceard and myself in our Hiluxes, met at the Glenrowan service station on the Saturday morning. We were meant to have another member on our trip, but after a gruelling night drive the young Mr. Tim Meeks had pulled out- even though Keith had done the same drive and was bursting with energy and raring to go. After a few of us had our fill of Bacon and Egg McMuffins we hit the road, had a quick fuel stop at Mansfield and drove on to Jamieson.

(The team...)

We aired down at the entrance to Sappers Track (which starts just the other side of the river from the town centre of Jamieson) and hit the dirt tracks- nothing too difficult, but some great views of the region.

After a bit of a drive we exited Sappers Track and took Sappers Link Track down to the river. Sappers link had a few stepper descents and gave the group an indication of the tracks to come over the rest of the trip.



A quick river crossing (which washed some of the dirt that was on Keith's Challenger from the night before), we were back on the tar for a quick stint and headed on to the start of Flourbag Track.

Flourbag was an easy drive, with only a few quick stops made along the way to take pictures. From there we turned onto Moonlight Spur Track, and right from the outset you could see the change in the track. There were lots of fun climbs, with the rocky firm ground providing plenty of traction. There was also a significant increase in Radio banter between the group at this stage- mostly at the expense of poor Keith and his Mitsubishi. At the end of Moonlight Spur Track we stopped for a very chilly lunch.

After lunch headed along Ryan's Spur Track, stopped quickly at the hut beside the track and then headed along to Big River Road via Boundary Track. There was a mix of black humus to orange clay tracks in this