

Trip Reports:

4WD TRAINING – BUCKLAND VALLEY- 16 & 17 JULY 2011

Well, the 2011 4WD training weekend has been run and done, and a most enjoyable event it was too.

A big thanks to Stan Williams, the instructor for the weekend, for making the big trip down from Bathurst NSW. Thankyou also to Noel Ham, Barry Richardson and Tom Barnard for their various and important roles in the instruction.

The event kicked off in earnest at 8.30 am Saturday with comprehensive theory by Stan. This was followed by a session with Noel on the importance tyre pressure can play in a vehicles' ability off-road.

From there we moved onto general driving techniques and vehicle recovery by Noel, Tom, and Barry.

After a well timed morning tea break we all headed down the road a couple of kilometres for a thorough exercise in water crossings. With a fast flowing waterway that just splashed over the bullbar, our slightly cautious trainees all successfully made it over and back. The fast flowing water ensured that nearly everyone experienced a bit of sideways movement mid-crossing, but fortunately neither trainees or vehicles required any CPR!

Later in the afternoon those who weren't camping the night went and did their practical drive session. After dinner that evening a few more were keen for a night drive, so a couple more elected to do their practical drive in the dark! Well done.

Sunday morning kicked off around 9.00 am with virtually all those in camp deciding to go on a drive. This gave the remaining trainees the opportunity to do their practical drive session. At about 11.30 am those on the trip split into 2 groups, with half returning to camp and then home while the remaining drivers headed off for a closer look at the snow.

A big thankyou to the organisers of the weekend, the weather held up fairly well for this time of year, and it's safe to say that all those involved had a good time.

David Ashford.

