

February 2017-03-24

Albany 4WD Training Day for new members

On Sunday 12th February an eight hour training session was offered by the club to assist new members in becoming familiar with sand driving and recovery options.

Four vehicles with five participants took instruction from Leader Tony Christian and Tail End Charlie Kent Stehn. I went along for the ride.

The participants were:

Ramona Sachse driving a Nissan Pathfinder

Peter Richardson driving a Nissan Pathfinder

Anna deHaan driving a brand new Isuzu D-Max

Alan Williams and Trish Rogers driving a Prado

The day began in "The Gravel Pit" with a thorough inspection of each vehicle for recovery points. Participants were shown the difference between recovery and tie down points, and modifications were suggested for safe recovery where recovery points were absent. Following a rundown on club convoy procedure the group drove to Cheynes Beach picnic area. Here, over a cuppa, an in depth comparison of various types of deflators and pressure gauges took place, followed by individual tryouts on all the vehicles.

With assistance, each participant "tyred down", learning the reasons and effects of driving with low tyre pressure on sand.

The convoy hit the beach just before noon, on a bright day after heavy rain which had left the sand very firm.

Our intention had been a run to, but not beyond the flowing Bluff Creek, however, the group felt confident enough for a "water crossing" and extended run down to the rocks and back.

Off the beach in a swale with plenty of room out of the wind the contents of Kent's recovery bag were displayed. Retrieval gear, snatch straps, equalising and dampening attachments were discussed along with various other "essentials" Kent carries.

Tony set up a practical demonstration of snatch strap use and all had the opportunity of attaching the recovery gear.

The beach done with, Tony lead the convoy up the bush track beyond the back beach to the lookout to Bald Island. Totally different driving conditions to the wide open beach, the track provided us with close scrub and slightly rocky inclines to negotiate. On the return journey the participants had a choice of three options over the most challenging hillclimb. No-one took the chicken run. Pump up at CVP over snacks at 4pm.

Day complete. Well done guys.

Kay STEHN







