

RECOVERY TRAINING DAY REPORT

5th of May 2019

With 13 vehicles full of eager participants, this has been the best attended club activity this year.

We met at 9.00AM at Bakers Junction with most people turning up early. Our departure was slightly delayed due to a certain individual having a sleep in. What a great mix of people and vehicles! We had everything from novice four wheelers in quite new vehicles to young Matt in his venerable 80 series Tojo. It was noted that Toyotas had the majority in the group.

We were fortunate enough to be joined by three vehicles and crew from the State Emergency Service. The knowledge and enthusiasm supplied by the orange people was great to have. Just on that subject, SES are all volunteers and after working with them now on two huge searches, where they push into incredibly tough country and provide the sheer people power needed for these huge operations, I can't praise them enough and I certainly hope they enjoyed the day out with us. It was certainly easier than searching Bluff Knoll!

We set out for Cheynes Beach, to catch up with Alan, who had gone scouting ahead, and Mac, a guest participant from Gnowangerup. Once at the beach we parked up so that David Poultney, who had kindly agreed to lead the day, could do an introduction and talk about 4WD basics to the group.



After helping the newcomers deflate their tyres we headed off down the beach. As someone had to get 'bogged' for the recovery, I had left my tyres at 40psi and even on a firm beach the vehicle felt completely different.

Finding a spot that seemed suitably soft I managed to immobilize the Disco but David wasn't happy with that and dug some holes for me to get further stuck in!

We dutifully set up the snatch recovery demo but the Disco wasn't having a bar of it and started climbing out of the holes before the snatch went tight! After a bit of a scout about we found a spot to do the job properly and soon had the Disco sitting on the chassis rails.



After an uneventful recovery we found a sand dune for everyone to play on and Mac brought his new toy out to play. This might be our first club video with drone footage.

We settled in for a pleasant lunch on the beach and then back to the dunes for a winching demo, where Derek 'recovered' David's vehicle with the electric winch, and I took a turn using my old hand winch. Funnily enough, none of the SES boys wanted to try the hand winch! Been there before apparently.



We went for another run up the beach but unfortunately one of the SES vehicles developed a mechanical fault and had to leave, with the other crews going along to help him out. Newcomers Anne and Keith also had to take off but we hope to see them on another trip soon.

We explored another dune complex for a better challenge. After showing the crew how easy it could be to drive up a dune, I sat back, relaxed and watched the bulk of the Toyotas struggle to make the summit!! [Hey, it was only the old fat Toyotas that didn't make it, and don't forget half the Mitsubishis didn't either 😊 Alan]

Another pleasant run back to a nice lookout and then most of us headed down the Bluff Creek track. Alan couldn't resist the lure of an ice cream and headed back along the beach to Cheynes.

Thanks to Mac and family, Matt, Anne and Keith, and the SES crew for coming along – you're all welcome back on any of our runs and we hope some of you may consider membership. Thanks to David for coming along to run the training and of course our intrepid movie maker, Derek. Can't wait to see your next production.

Hope to see some of you at Collie on 17 May.

Laurie

