

TRIP LEADERS TRAINING COURSE  
THEORETICAL SESSION SAT 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
VENUE home of Driver Trainer

Attendees:

Ian & Rhonda McKinley  
Glenn Evans  
Daniel Haynes  
Chris & Mary Keys  
Jack & Pam Simpson  
Ron Mason

Simon Hershbein  
Steve Passfield  
Glenn Evans  
Roger & Jill Sheath  
Anthony "Shrek" Barker  
Hedley Hall [Scribe]

The meeting [presumably] started at 10am as planned, but yours truly was still in the Medical Centre having tests that were booked last January, when I was not too well. I feel somewhat hard done by, as even though I did not arrive until 10.30, it was beyond my control.

My congratulations to all those who prepared the Instruction Booklet, as it is full of information and will be a handy tool for all of us – both Trip Leaders and Trip Followers. Some of the subject matters invoked quite lively discussion, which proves that the course was interesting and everyone wanted to have input.

After about 2 hours of instruction and brainstorming, we all trooped outside, where a most satisfying BBQ was cooked by Ian, ably assisted by Roger [who turns out to be a master sausage-turner!]. There were also very tasty, [home-made by Ian] meat-&-onion pasties and cole slaw, plus heaps of fresh bread for the snags.

After a hot cuppa washed down lunch, we continued the learning session for another ½ hour or so.

The session was wound up with arrangements for us all to meet at 9am in the Information Bay outside the RAAF base at Richmond. I was not the last to arrive at Clarendon!

Hedley

## Day 2 (the fun part)

Trip report: Trip leaders weekend

Ian & Rhonda Mc Kinley (Rodeo)  
Daniel, Michelle, Ashleigh & Blake Haynes (Jackeroo)  
Chris & Mary Keys (Pathfinder)  
Jack & Pam Simpson (Pajero)  
Ron, Jenni & Tobi Mason (Patrol)  
Anthony & Clair Barker (Pajero)  
Simon Hirshbein & Kathy Lawrence (Patrol)  
Headley Hall (Challenger)  
Steve Passfield (Pajero)  
Glenn Evans (Pajero)  
Andrew, Lucia & Ewen Fox (Pajero)  
Roger & Jill Sheath (Patrol)  
Bruce Gendle (Troopy)

We all met at the tourist information centre, Richmond / Windsor, after Saturday's theory lesson on how to run a successful trip. Ian showed us the personal information form that we were to complete and he had nominated a ground Charlie insuring that we would be reported missing if we did not contact them by a designated time.

Ian ran over the detail of the days outing and as we had 13 cars, it was decided to split the group as a safety issue and to give 2 people that chance to be trip leaders and tail end Charlies. Group 1 headed off and as I was nominated as the trip leader for group 2 we waited 10 minutes to allow them to get a bit of a head start. My group consisted of Headley, Chris, Ian, Roger, Bruce & Andrew as tail end Charlie complete with passengers.

The group sent off up Bells Line of Road and turned off at Mount Wilson Road. After a short time we met up with group 1 and set off as 1 to have a morning tea break. The trees were beautiful as the change of season was upon us and the leaves were anything from red to yellow to orange to green. We picked the best time of the year to be here. As we drove along to a park next to the Cathedral of Ferns, we found a small park where we could all park with out disturbing the already 20 or so families that were enjoying the beautiful scenery and picnic facilities. After a quick cuppa, some went for a quick walk to get some photos but most of us just enjoyed each others company.

After an hour or so, we headed off and continued along through Mt. Wilson and joined Bowens Creek Road where we hit dirt. The road was only grade 2 but a couple of rocks exposed on the track could still cause damage if hit and may have resulted in a flat tyre if not careful. The track followed the edge of the mountain with the only thing that stopped the view was the horizon. The track was narrow in places but a miscalculation or a bit too close to the edge would result in a rather large recovery cost from the bottom of the valley. We passed a couple of other cars (must have been hire cars or company cars) who were very courteous and with the help of tail end Charlies, ensured that we passed safely.

Once reaching Bowens creek, we stopped for photos and to admire the crystal clear water and the old timber bridge which we were about to cross. It had been a while since this bridge had its official opening and it was decided that 1 car at a time would be good practice.

The trip up the other side was slow only because we wanted to look at the scenery. The road lead us back to Bells Line of Road where we turned left and headed a short distance down the road to a park for lunch.

The next challenge was Wheeney Creek. This would allow us to change leaders and tail end Charlies so we could appearance both ends of the trip. Keeping in constant radio contact, we headed down to Wheeney Creek and across the creek by way of a shallow causeway where we stopped and parked at the local camp / picnic site. What a site, 13 four wheel drives, 26 people all in a convoy. One of our better patronised trips. The tradional group photo was taken and a "quick quiz" was conducted by Ian which was along the lines of "What if we couldn't go home owing to rain, breakdown or some other emergency" As there were heavy dark rain clouds on top of the mountains and thunder in the distance, anything was possible. Some surprising answers but we seemed to pass O.K.

Reluctantly we headed up to the main road and back onto the tar road and pulled over to complete the trip.

After our goodbyes and a short reminiscing of the day we all went our separate ways home. Heading down through Richmond, the clouds opened. Again it washed all the hard earned dust and mud off the Pajero!

Yet another very enjoyable and successful outing with the club.

Thanks to Ian & Rhonda for allowing us to use there house Saturday for the meeting and the BBQ lunch and advising us on the correct procedures for a safe and enjoyable trip and Simon (who came up from Melbourne) for the weekend in organising the trip.

Again the club highlighted what 4 wheel driving is all about. Driving through the bush safely with no damage to the environment while enjoying the surrounds with good company and quality family time outdoors.

Glenn Evans