

Stockton Beach Sand driver training

Trainee	Passengers	Vehicle
Craig Wallace	Christine, Callum, Braden	Prado
Ian Bamforth	Jill	Rodeo
Bradley Penning	Graham, Joel, Mitchell	Landcruiser
Mitchel Evans	Tim Penning	Suzuki
Sebastien Fox	Jor	Prado
Keerthy Mysore	Sumana, Sukrut	Discovery
Laurie Williams	Peter Moss	Raider
Ron Vollema	Kirsten, Henry, Miles	Pathfinder
Allan Kenny	A. Altmets (x2)	Challenger

Trip leaders:

Ian Mckinley	Rhonda	Rodeo
Anthony Barker		Pajero

Lost:

William Wong	Tan, Benh	Pajero
Tony Yong	Chiew	Pathfinder

We all met up at 9am at the Anna Bay entrance, registered for the cleanup then drove to a quieter spot on the beach for a briefing. The trainees were split into two groups as there were so many of us, seemingly Ian drew the short straw having to control the younger drivers more spritely drivers – before we'd started the training he had to call them down from the dunes already. Each group drove on to another section of the beach and started the clean up for a couple of hours, we all joined up for lunch

The two groups of trainees then went their separate ways, general direction south towards Lavis Lane through the dunes and started with an easy drive on the flatter are between the dunes until Shrek made a right turn up an what looked like easy hill but not many made it up in one go and had to air down even more. I will admit now that I was still in high range too which may not be a big deal but I should have at least switched the stability controls off. After many tries with only one success story we'd ripped up the dune enough to leave it to nature to repair and find another. We had more luck up the second dune and all made it to the top. On the way down Shrek showed how to slide down a steep drop off that made one of those dykes I used to live next to look flat. I was happy to see the others do this first from the bottom where it didn't look as daunting and on subsequent drop offs I gave it a go too. I found it was time for a snatch strap recovery and got myself in a small dip but large enough not to get out of there by myself. We managed to point the Pathfinder at least in the right direction before it wouldn't budge at all, leaving no option but a perfectly executed snatch strap recovery thanks to Allan. While I made my way down the rest went on to enjoy the view from the top then we joined up again near Tin city.

We then continued the journey south and joined up with the other two groups near the Lavis Lane exit and had one final play.

Excitement in the other training group when Brad helped tow out a dragster type buggy for someone unable to climb a hill, but on the way down the buggy caught up and the snatch strap got caught around Brad's rear wheel which had to be cut to be removed.

We exited the beach at Lavis lane, then aired up and headed for Sydney.

Thanks to all Ian & Shrek for a great day!

Ron (Ed.)