

Tuff Truck Challenge



28 - 29 March 2009

Attendees:

Glenn Evans (Patrol)

Mitchell Evans, Mitchell Robertson (Rodeo)

James, Bradley & Eddie Penning (Patrol)

Rather an unusual event for the club but I have been saying I was going for the past couple of years, so this year was it. I had no real idea what to expect so it was going to be an experience no matter what happened. What an eye opener.

Mitchell, Mitchell (yes 2 of them) and I arrived early evening on the Friday to be greeted by a 99% full camp site. We had a choice, Family camping area or Ferrel Hill. No choice, it was going to be the Family camp site no matter what. Mitchell and Mitchell were not impressed with my decision but by the end of the weekend they both agreed that the decision to stay at the Family side of the camping ground was a good one.

I managed to find a spot and set up the tent in between a tree and another group (from Victoria). There was just enough room for the cars and the tents. Both Mitchell E and Mitchell R were too lazy to set up tents so they rigged up a couple of tarps and slept in the back of the ute.

The Mud Run was on. Amazing the positions that the customised 4wd's got into and the punishment that they give them. Only 1 made it all the way through but it was not from lack of effort.

I was rostered on as a bus driver Saturday morning so while the boys caught on there much needed sleep (they both had head aches, must have been the noise) I went up to the officials area to start my shift. The organisation of the event was outstanding. The crowd was building steadily as more people arrived and the campers got up. By about 9.00am the competition was well under

way.

The positions and angles that the drivers got the cars were unbelievable. They did not study gravity at school. Safety was the first concern and was evident by the amount of scrutiny the cars were under and the number of officials along the tracks.

Patrols that only resembled Patrols by the name badge that you needed a ladder to get into, Suzuki's with 45 inch tyres and V8 supercharged motors, Toyotas that looked more like tanks were every where. Kids were running around with there fingers in there ears because of the noise, Adults were doing the same but I think it was because of the amount of grog consumed the night before. Every time a cheer went up you knew that somebody had become "unglued" from the rocks. 60 degree rock climbs was not unusual. Rocks, ruts and steps that were bigger than most small 4 wheel drives were tackled and in some cases conquered.

After my shift on the busses, I joined the thousands up the hill and was having enough trouble walking up the track let along driving up it. I happed to be standing beside a mother of one of the competitors who was in tears after her son rolled his nissanpajerotoyotasuzukli onto its roof. The driver's girlfriend was trying to calm her down saying he would be OK as he was safely strapped in but she was crying because it scratched the paint that he spent all night the week before touching up? "Oh Sue, he will be so upset, He used all the paint to touch it up for the show & shine and now he will have to buy more". Hmmm.... a caring understanding mum. The son is at 180 degrees to what he should be hanging upside down over rocks and she is worried about the paint on the car. With in minutes he was back on the 4 wheels and driving down the hill

Night saw the mud run completed but over on ferrel hill the "boys" thought it was a competition

to see who could drink the most the quickest. Glad I was over the other side. We had the normal streakers (all male) run through the mud to the cheers of the crowd. It was interesting to see them run through the mud up to there knees and then drop into a hole up to there neck in some places. We decided to retire about midnight but you could hear the party going on over the hill.

Sunday morning was very quiet. Some very sick boys walking or staggering around. The competition started again with some people deciding to leave after breakfast but as a group left, more day trippers arrived. The competition was heating up as only 60 points was between 1st and 5th.

The roar of the crowd was only dampened by the roar of the spectators. By lunch time Saturday they estimated they were 40% up on the previous years. This was a real family event with grandparents to kids in prams around. Toilets, showers and security every where. A very well organised and run event. I would strongly suggest that anybody who goes go early Friday and camp in the family area. It is a lot quieter and just as much fun. I will be back next year.

Glenn

