

Lidsdale SF

Nigel Ward (leader)

Stewart Thompson
Dave, Ian, Julius and Orlando Pearce

Warren and Julie

(4 cars only (one pulled out at 6.30am due to having a wife with a dose of the lurgy))

We all met at Shell Lithgow for a 9.30am start and, after a bit of a meet and greet in the 7 degree morning sun, we headed for the track leading to the Quarry for a leisurely air down.

The roads were generally quite dry despite the downpour the night prior.

First up was a bit of a tinker at the Quarry. We all had a good go at the various ramps, then headed to the road leading up the other side of the Quarry. This was a road Warren and I had come across in basic training a year prior, before we'd modified our vehicle, and it had been a bit of a challenge at that point. The road had deteriorated a fair bit since then.

Stewart was first up and, after coming up the first section well, he came a bit unstuck (or stuck as the case may be) and was pretty chuffed to be able to put his winch to good use for the first time.



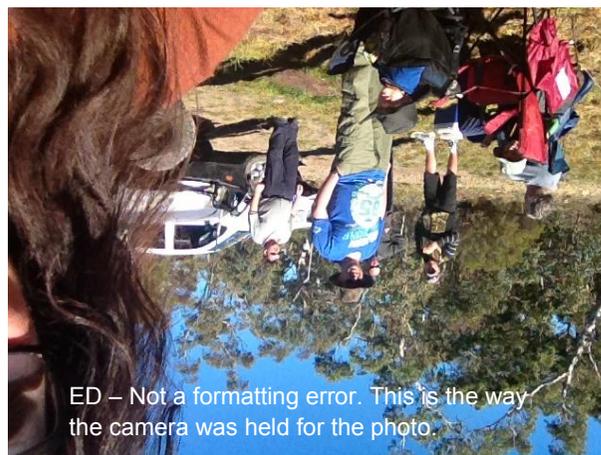
Then came a rather tense moment for one of the spectators (along with a sharp intake of breath, a few swear words, an apology to the children present, then a few more swear words, all by said spectator) as Warren's ascent up the first section of the hill resulted in his front left tyre coming well up, leaving him staring at the moon with the vehicle teetering a bit. This is probably a relatively normal sight for most experienced members of the club but not for his wife.

After some good guidance from Nige and Dave, Warren was successfully on his way and we all headed up the remainder of the hill without any more swearing in front of children.

After a spot of lunch at the top of that hill we all headed on through a good range of varying challenges navigated without any damage or drama.

We all headed to Hell Hill just for a look. Then Dave, bless him, went up it as if it was a Sunday drive through the park... Which I guess, technically, it was!

I believe one of the kids, after declaring the trip thus far lacking in excitement, had even fallen asleep during the ride up. The rest of the party opted for the easier route and met back up with Dave, Ian and the kids at the top where a more lengthy lunch was had and more stories were shared.



ED – Not a formatting error. This is the way the camera was held for the photo.

We then headed to the river crossing and on to the Wombat Hole. This was a real bit of fun, especially when another club called the Big Balls 4wd club turned up in a range of heavily modified vehicles and went fairly hard out. At one hairy point one vehicle (a Muu) almost toppled over exiting the Hole.

We came across the same crowd later when we found they were blocking the tracks to the top of Mt Walker. So after a u-turn we headed through the forestry section and continued on toward the end of the day. We all aired up and headed home around 4pm.



A really enjoyable day had by all. Thanks Nige for providing us with this day trip.

Julie