

Ourimbah State Forest reccie

Trips participates:

Stefan Fischer, Kurt Bergmann and Sebastien Fox

Vehicles: Land Rover Discovery II (Auto), Nissan Patrol (Manual) and Prado 90 Series (Auto)

Ourimbah is located approximately 80Km north of Sydney and can be reached within an hour via the Pacific Motorway (M1). The plan was to checkout some of the harder tracks in the Ourimbah State Forest area.

We meet up at the Forest of Tranquillity rest area and within a couple minutes we were into the thick of it. Stefan had decided to checkout a steep hill climb. Stefan and Kurt made it up the first section ok but I slipped off the crest of the ruts and then bellied out. After a couple of attempts I made it up the first section ok. If you haven't got 35" tyres you

have to stay out of the ruts! Stefan attempted the second section of the hill climb but the side slope kept getting worse as was the angle in Stefan's Discovery so we aborted the attempt.

The next major obstacle was a massive mud puddle about 30 meters long with no chicken track around it. Testing showed it to be only about 35cm (12") deep but we decided to prepare Stefan's vehicle for a recovery in case he got stuck, so the winch and snatch strap on the rear were setup. Fortunately it has been fairly dry over the last few weeks so we all made it across ok, it would be a different matter in the wet I am sure!

The highlight of the trip was another hill climb offering three or four alternative routes for the first 2/3 of the hill. Kurt in the big Patrol decided to go straight up the most difficult track and got nearly to the top. Unfortunately he couldn't safely get over





the massive rock ledge. It had a nasty side slope, which kept trying to slide his vehicle into a massive overhanging rock boulder. Stefan attempted the same climb and climbed the ledge but on top the vehicle can very close to the overhanging rock. To reduce the risk of any panel damage we decided to winch the Discovery the last few feet.

The Prado not having the clearance of the Discovery or the underbody/driveline strength of the Patrol took another challenging route to the top.

We all had a really fantastic day and although some sections of the trip would have to be classified as grade 5. By taking our time and winching some of the more difficult sections none of the vehicles sustained any damage.

A movie of the trip is available, please contact Stefan for details.

