

TRIP REPORTS

DRIVER TRAINER WEEKEND



Ben had found a nice little camp site hidden in the bush just off the track and was keen to show us but as usual some grubs had been there so after about 20 minutes and 6 bags of rubbish we picked up the area was clean and presentable again. Again a few ruin it for everybody.

We knew that the area had been hit hard with storms with the path of destruction and trees down but Ian & I went to look at the river crossing. The river was up and running but it looked no deeper than I have seen it previously in years past. I took the plunge and took the car through. It was deep. Very deep ½ way up the doors. Last time I did it the water did not even wet the diff! I turned around and headed back saying a bit of a prayer to the Toyota gods and GIO insurance as this time I was driving into the stream. 1st gear low range at a steady pace as the water was washing over the bonnet. I was glad to see the exit and stopped to let the water drain and Ian and I headed off to catch up with the others. Might be a while till the long crossing is used for basic training I think!



We caught up with the other just after the second river crossing which of course is not as deep but was still running. We all headed off up the long steep climb with the call we all dread that one of our trainers had car issues. Leigh's alternator decided it did not want to alternate any more. He was running on his battery alone. After stopping and drying it as best we could Ben decided the safest way was to take the quicker way out to the highway so Leigh could get home.



Good news, the alternator started to alternate again but we did not want to risk it so we headed out to the normal air up area. At least Leigh could not get home safely.

Somebody decided that as it was early afternoon, a quick trip to Rydal Pub might be a good idea. (no prizes for who suggested that) so we aired up and hit the highway only to have another call this time from Ben saying he had the death wobbles. Seems like he had done something to his front end so we limped into Rydal Showgrounds where it was safe and with some shade for Ben to do some bush mechanics. With the aid of a ratchet strap Ben managed to tie up his front end and nurse the Patrol home.



Surprised I am sure to know I called into Rydal pub to see Phil & Judy and to have a quick feed and a drink.

Your driver training team is set and ready for another full year of fun and training.

Glenn Evans.