

Trip Report

Date: 8th August 2015

Location: Harvey

Car 1	Steve	Winch	Trip Leader
Car 2	David	No Winch	Scribe
Car 3	Tony & Em	Winch	
Car 4	Martin, Meena & Co	No Winch	
Car 5	Swinger & Jake	Winch	
Car 6	Beswick & Cooper	Winch	
Car 7	Mad Dog & Morag	No Winch	
Car 8	Stewart, Julie & Co	Winch	Tail End



We all met for the start of the day at the Pinjarra Bakery and I blame the cops for closing the highway for making me late. After stocking up on pies and coffee we heading down the highway leaving close to 9am for a day in the bush. We were expecting rain but for the start of the day things were looking good and it was quickly getting warm, and it was with anticipation that we let the tyres down and followed our trip leader Steve into the bush tracks of Harvey.

In a very short time we found our first obstacle with a nice drop into a small mud pit, and the rock half way in on the right edge was a test of nerves as a slide into the rock was required to get around and down into the lower section. Luckily for myself, Martin and Stuart there was ample room to watch (we went around).

Following this we continued along the damp tracks through the forest edged by the very green cow pastures, and the next challenge we found was a nice steep hill climb. What would be very slippery in wetter conditions turned out to be a good intro into the challenges we would face later in the day. Even this hill though claimed a scalp and Martin was attacked by a rut/rock combination which managed to quickly remove his side step (and convince him to get sliders).

After a regroup at the top we then cruised along until Steve found a fallen tree at the top of a crest which at first approach looked like a detour into the bush was the only route. Thankfully a sharp turn at the crest & tree through a hand cut hole was the easy solution through which Steve and myself proceeded. Not to miss an opportunity Tony thought the detour might be more exciting so he headed right and soon found that sharp angles, mud and a short stubby Jeep don't always work on the first attempt or the 20th. Thinking it might be his only opportunity of the day it was out with the winch and with a bit of help it was up and over towards some very slippery mud.

We then continued until we came to the top of a steep descent into the valley (on Staples Track) and our trip leader gave us an opportunity and warning to decide if we wanted to tackle the ascent of the opposite side of the valley. We



headed down and across the mud pools and Steve was up the other side giving the new truck a good test. The track though had other ideas and a combination of deep ruts, clay mud and some serious sideways camber had him thinking of 35s and lockers all round. A survey of the track above disappearing into the clouds showed more ruts and washed out and crushed drains and it was decided that a retreat and lunch was in order.

Lunch was shorter than usual - possibly because we knew that the reverse journey might take some effort. Trip leader Steve headed for the hill out and made good progress until loosing traction and sliding back onto a massive log placed in a rut. Car 1 was stuck and a winch out was in order.

Not being impatient type and thinking that the lack of a winch might become an issue I decided to have a go up the left side of Steve and became more impressed with my driving skill (the Ranger) the higher I got. To be brief and not gloat I'll use dot point.

Steve	Winch used twice - stuck on a log & at the tree
David	No Winch - to the top with no assistance
Tony & Em	Winched out - bounced across and stuck in two ruts at once.
Martin, Meena & Co	No Winch - took alternate route
Swinger & Jake	Winched out of mud pool at bottom and up the hill.
Beswick & Cooper	Winch - took alternate route
Mad Dog & Morag	No Winch - Took alternate route, which Morag Walked
Stewart, Julie & Co	Winched up after almost rolling at big tree



It was fun watching from the top and without Stuarts display of how far a 200 can lean over I would have given points to Tony for the most spectacular way to get stuck.

Following a couple of hours (2:45pm) getting to the top we then reversed the journey and headed for our start point. With only Steve getting another opportunity on the winch when an unseen tree stump became an anchor at the fallen tree / mud hole. Our exit from the track and the finish of a great day was then at 15:46 and it was with some relief that we all aired up and thanked Steve for a great day out.

