



Peake weekend 13 – 14 September 2014

This was the last training weekend at Peake for the year and the weather forecast was perfect for playing in the dunes.

Mark and Viv (Nissan Patrol) arrived mid morning on Friday followed by Jim, Lea and Sue (Lea's twin sister) (Prado) around lunch time, then Trevor and his brother Bradley (Mitsubishi Triton) and Steve and Maria (Prado) later in the afternoon. Martin and Lynn (Landcruiser) arrived after dark and Barry and Jenny (Mazda BT50) close to bed time after their High Country Trip briefing in Adelaide.

The diligent Training Officer that he is, Mark thought he should inspect the tracks prior to the serious training commencing on Saturday. Jim and Lea followed just to familiarise themselves with the area again. With Sue as an unsuspecting passenger, Mark took to the dunes with passion only to find that conditions were quite different (and maybe more challenging) to our last trip in June. At least I know my long handled shovel works!

No going back into Taillem Bend on Saturday morning as everyone was finding their own way to Peake. John, a guest from Gawler and Districts 4WD Club was first to arrive in his Patrol followed by Steve, Val and Lynne (Val's sister) (Landrover Discovery), Trevor and Sandra (Mitsubishi Pajero) and Geoff (Landcruiser).

Introductions completed, Mark outlined the extensive training schedule he had developed for those with books whilst others could go out for a leisurely drive in the dunes. Martin and Barry were allocated their 'students' for training and assessment for the morning and away we went to all corners of the property.



Some of the group who were not training or driving opted to go for a walk up the track towards the farmhouse and back. Successful morning after meeting farmer Dion who offered fresh eggs at a good price! The puppy followed the walkers back to the gate where Dion arrived in her ute to retrieve him!

After lunch we were joined by Ewen and Dee (Prado) to tackle more tracks and dunes which seemed to be becoming more challenging by the minute – a good test of the skills we were acquiring – which is what the weekend was all about.

Finally, happy hour, and a chance to wind down, relax and swap tales from the day's adventures, followed by dinner and good company around the campfire for the rest of the evening. Fargo kept us all updated on the footy scores from WA.



Trevor and Barb (Landcruiser) arrived early on Sunday morning to spend the day in the sand. Steve and Jim were assessed on an exhaust jack recovery while Martin assessed Terry. Mark then gave Jim some compulsory wheel change training after Jim damaged a side wall on one of his Prado's almost new

tyres. Oh well – it happens! Others went for a drive, led by Steve. Winch training was next for John then lunch and pack up for most.

A few of us stayed back and went for a short drive in the afternoon, finding some interesting hills, slopes and predicaments. In the process Trevor and Barb found that their front lockers weren't working!

All-in-all a great weekend with terrific weather, abundant wildflowers and fantastic company. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, including family and friends who joined in and to John from Gawler Club for coming along.



Special thanks to Mark for his efforts in organising and undertaking the training and to Martin and Barry for their time and patience in assessing all weekend.

I look forward to seeing these weekends strongly supported next year.

Jim