

# POWERLINE TRIP

Saturday 10 July, 2010.

The group that joins the trip:

Ross M	GU Patrol	Chris C	GU Patrol
Stephen D	GU Patrol	Bob & Sandra D	Navara
Brett M & Cindy V	GQ Patrol	Joachim B	GQ Patrol
Charles & Jen B	GU Patrol	Jean P	GU Patrol
Chris (HiTech)	GU Patrol	Fred M & Robyn	GU Patrol

The aim of the trip:

This is a day trip along the Powerline Track through Newnes State Forest. This trip is about having fun while seeing what you and your truck do. The plan is to drive as much as the Powerline track as suits us and exploring the surrounding area for other tracks to drive. We would not expect any panel damaged as we will be selective in the track chosen to drive. In saying that, we will be looking for a challenge for our somewhat modified trucks. We will also visit the Lost City.

The aim of the trip was certainly achieved apart from the visit to the Lost City.



We meet at the Zig Zag Railway carpark at around 9am. It was a cold morning and we were well rugged up apart from Chris C who had short sleeves and a vest. Looking at Chris had us feeling colder.



We welcomed another Chris, from HiTech 4X4, on the trip. You may remember Chris from HiTech as he and his brother Ben have been sponsors of our club events for many years.

Lydia arrived with Ross M and Ross parked so the passenger seat was directly above a succulent puddle. Lydia said it was good to see so many familiar faces, but "what a pity I couldn't remember their names". Quite a few new ones too, there was time to introduce ourselves while cars negotiated difficult spots.

It was cold standing around while the tyres were let down to their necessary lower pressure but the blood got moving as we drove off at about 9.30am. After a short while the Power Lines came into view and the fun began.

The first obstacle was a very large and somewhat deep puddle. Chris C came to grief in the puddle as he had forgotten to lock his hubs. Jean Pierre came to the rescue and snatched Chris's truck out of the water.

After the recovery it was off to meet the challenges of the Power Line tracks. There was often a choice of tracks, drivers changing their minds in the last minute, for the harder track of course but for most tracks we all attempted them with a few recoveries.

A heart warming incident was when a stuck vehicle, from another group, blocking our track, was guided down by our fellers.

Lydia was impressed with the beautiful foliage and tree trunks, lots of green everywhere to go with the mud and puddles.

“Patches of vivid yellow to delight the eye, Mudgee wattle still making a magnificent show”.

I think most of the drivers and passengers missed what Lydia saw as we were too focused on the tracks and obstacles.



Bicentennial National Trail to a couple of lookouts.

It was great to get out on tracks that challenge us a bit as this is how we learn, and have fun driving and catching up with friends. This is what four wheel driving is all about.

We hope to run this type of trip to the Power Line track and surrounds a few times a year so I hope you can join us.

Jen and Cindy tackled some of the harder sections on the tracks and acquitted themselves very well.

Lunch was taken on the side of the track and it was a great chance to have a chat about what we had just driven through and how the trucks were holding up.

A few more obstacles brought us to the Angus Place Trail. Driving down this track is like driving through a mini Lost City. This track brought us out at the Angus Place mine on the Wolgan Road. We arrived at this point at about 2pm as planned. Most of the group headed home from here but some of us took a short run up the

