

Toperi Challenge 2009

28th and 29th November 2009

Comp Team:

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| Driver: Denny Danis driving the Bullet | Navi: Paul McKeown |
| Driver: Chris angel driving Chubby | Navi: Mick Hill |
| Driver: Matt Vernon driving Slinky | Navi: Richard Weston |
| Driver: Dave Davis | Navi: Marlin Dodd |

This was the second year of The Toperi Challenge but the first year the Nissan Patrol Club entered. It was held at Orange on a member of the Canobolas Four Wheel Drive Club's private property. It was the most challenging competition I have seen outside of Tuff Truck.

Drivers were in teams of two and worked together to recover each other or assist in any way they could. The points gained were for the team, not for individual drivers. There were two stages each day. Competitors were only allowed three attempts at an obstacle, and then they were called out. The team had nine minutes to complete each stage of the first three stages. If they completed them in less than nine minutes, they could use the extra time at Stage 4.

Stage 1 consisted of a bog hole at the bottom, then a sharp 90 degree turn. It was around here somewhere that Chubby broke a CV and couldn't finish the track. Next there was a very steep hill. Near the top of the hill was a big dip full of water and some rubber strips to drive. It was impossible to drive so out came the winches. After this there were some tricky corners made even harder by logs across the track. It was here that Dave came to grief, putting his truck on its side. He also broke a CV joint at this point. The other two vehicles though, did well on this stage.



Stage 2 consisted of a rock garden and logs to negotiate. There were bonus lines to take. Chubby well and truly made up for his poor performance on Stage 1 by not only completing the track in record time but also towing Denny up the bonus line so they both got 130 points. Matty also had a spectacular drive. His truck is called Slinky because it can lean over almost 90

degrees but keep all four wheels on the ground and not roll. He also got 130 points.

Stage 3 was a challenge with wombat holes and logs to climb over. There was a very long log on the side of the track that competitors had to put two tyres on and drive the length of to get bonus points. Many trucks came to grief on this course and one truck rolled completely onto its roof with one tyre in a tree! Luckily the recovery vehicle was a crane. Slinky couldn't keep all four wheels on the ground and ended up on his side only centimetres away from the 100 point marker. Dave broke another CV joint on this stage. Chubby and the Bullet both got over 100 points on this track by driving the bonus lines.



You could only drive stage 4 if you completed Stage 3 so Chubby was the only one to drive from our team. He had a spectacular drive but only had a few minutes to complete this mongrel of a track called Billy Goats Gruff.



Chubby and The Bullet came 10th out of 40 vehicles which was a great achievement.

It was a great weekend and we will be there next year with bigger trucks!

Andrea