



Top left:
Defender cooling off
in the water

Above left:
Range Rover deep
in the forest

Main pic:
The infamous
'powerline' trail

Below:
101 before, during
and after the rollover



Mid-way through the single section there was also a driver exchange where the driver and navigator had to swap seats by exiting the vehicle but without touching the ground. The scene became a cross between yoga and mud wrestling.

new and old

The group of competitors had vehicles ranging from Series One 80 through to current models of Freelander, Discovery and Range Rover. The new vehicles gave a very respectable performance especially over the rocky sections.

The Range Rover unfortunately became stuck in some slippery mud and required a gentle physical push. Everyone (including myself) was taking photos as if a celebrity had just tripped on the red carpet. I'm sure that if the new vehicles were shod with better off-road rubber, their performance would have been on par with their older cousins.

The small group of competitors that

cleared the section was then let loose on the tie-breaker questionnaire that was prepared to really sort out the armchair off-roaders. (See page 86 if you want to try for yourself.)

Meanwhile, a small group of 'extreme' vehicles had ventured off to attempt the power line trail. They succeeded after six hours of winching, pulling, pushing... oh, and up righting an overturned 101. Saved by the roll cage, the 101 restarted and completed the run.

A group dinner was served early in the evening. Mountains of barbecued chicken and ribs, baked potato and a token piece of green vegetation. This was definitely a party.

curiosity and the cat

Being told that a night-run was being planned for after dark, we discussed the options to fill the last few hours of daylight... we had to investigate what this 'power line' trail was all about!

Armed with several winch-equipped vehicles we ventured out, our navigational instructions being, "Head down the



101 photos: Peter Goundry