

Search Dogs Sydney

After Action Review

Dickie Search – Cessnock 12th-14th June 2020



Team Boof: K9 Boof, Team Leader/Handler Adele J, Search Tech Amanda G

Team Rufus: K9 Rufus, Team Leader/Handler Chris D, Search Tech Tone M

Command: Mal J

Base: Trace M

1) What did we do:

- Travelled safely to Cessnock in convoy on Friday night
- Assisted family with search for a missing person
- Utilised 2 x search teams in with one command post

2) What did we do well:

- Followed our pre-determined GPS tracks
- Covered our search areas well
- Successfully cleared a 4WD to allow team to be dropped in closer to search area
- Practised use of ration packs for the first time
- Adjusted our strategy for the day once Trace had suffered a back injury in the week leading up to the search – proving we have skilled capability to move members around and change roles where required
- Able to undertake complex 4WD operations
- Used new technology in SARTopo and our additional Garmin Astro 430 handheld GPS allowing K9s to be monitored individually
- Search commanders able to transfer all tracks at the end of the day to SARTopo giving us instant access to the days completed searches
- Radio and comms work was good
- Continual sit reps back to Trace at base
- Command post location was well chosen
- Planning of timings for the weekend

3) What could we do differently:

- Have additional members available to allow us to run more than one command post
- Create pre-post departure checklists to ensure we carry and return all equipment
- Practice and better use of marking tape in search areas