



Glen Forrest to Serpentine Out and About

This is our first attempt to write a Trip Report and how nice it is to reflect on a wonderful day out. A crisp morning on Sunday June 25th 2017 at 8.30am, the Out and About 4wd crew assembled at Glen Forrest shops carpark corner of Hardey Road and Great Eastern Highway. A group of 20 cars were involved in a day run from Glen Forrest to Serpentine. The run was constructed from the book 4wd Perth days out. Troy and Marietta had volunteered to be the trip leaders and this was to be Troy's first trip as a leader. As we waited for the last of our twenty cars, remarkably this was Steve and Kerry (Tail end Charlie) everyone engaged in simple conversation and the IGA seemed to be doing a roaring business. The formalities were then concluded, protocol was addressed and then up stepped our fines master Terry. We quickly went back to our car to get our name badges (thinking we will get a hefty fine), everyone was then informed if we didn't have some Chinese type tyre on our 4wd then it was to be a 20cent fine. So the Royal Flying Doctor got a donation from all those who attended. Kerry and Steve originally escaped a fine for being late but Terry was quick to catch on.

9.00 am and 20 vehicles turned on their lights, conducted a radio check and head count and the day commenced. We began by heading down Hardey Road, turning left into Glen Forrest Drive, and finally turning right onto Mundaring Weir Road. We continued until we turned left onto Ashendon Road. Once onto the gravel road it became apparent that the run was going to be very scenic, lovely trees, lots of shrubs and some flowers which were different for a June run. Just when Steve and Kerry were thinking this part of the drive was a bit 'ho-hum', out came a little grey Kangaroo patiently waiting for our 20 cars so it could cross the track. The little blighter was too quick for tail end Charlie and connected with the back of their car. Thankfully neither car nor Roo were injured or damaged. Moving right along we came across a cyclist who seemed to be doing it tough up some of the steep hills. The CB conversation quickly moved to the benefits of Lycra and we all learnt interesting facts about the benefits of Lycra. Some of the comments were however may not have been rated PG but were said in jest.





We were then informed by Terry that we were passing the old site of the Barton's mill prison. Apparently this was a POW camp during the World War II period. We are not sure how many people were imprisoned there. We were also drawn to the attention of an old railway line used to transport timber, (I am under the understanding that the timber mills cottages became the POW camp- hence the name). Bauxite had also been mined near here later in the 1960's. A lot of this had earlier been destroyed by fire and by the late 1990's the Jarrahdale town site became Heritage listed. General knowledge like that is invaluable.

As we entered the Power lines we decided to stop for some lunch. Out came some impressive awnings to shield us from the sun. With the 4wds parked we all sat for what we thought was going to be a relaxing ½ hour or so. This was interrupted by a small bbq gas explosion which gave us all a bit of excitement thinking we now had the opportunity to practice our first aid skills that a majority of our club members have now been trained in. Fortunately they were not required but this ended with some quick firefighting skills instead.

As we progressed along the power lines we learnt of the many escapes Mike and Clare have had in there Toyota. This conversation seemed to last for a while, and was a reminder of how serious but humorous some situations are. Also how adventurous Mike is and the fact he drives a Toyota.

Due to over 4cm of rain 72 hours prior to the run, the tracks were damp and mud was to be found, and some ruts, making it all the more interesting. Progressing along we noticed that the trees and forest changed colour and that the foliage became lighter. We also noticed we were driving through die back areas and that some of the areas were now allocated and could be used for firewood collection. On the final leg of the journey we decided to follow some narrow tracks which required a certain amount of skill to negotiate. A small amount of free pin striping to the sides of the cars,(most escaped the trauma with some skills) and only a bit of dust but some serious fun as well.. Looking back down the hill as we progressed up the steeper section of the track was a magnificent view. 20 vehicles in a line with their lights on and all in various if any amount of difficulty. Thank goodness for dual fuel, as one of our vehicles decided gas was the only way to go and was able to finish the trip. Our trip drew to a close near Karnet Prison farm and everyone was invited to coffee down the hill at the Dome in Kelmscott.



A terrific time was had and full compliments should go to Troy and Marietta for organising and running the event. Well done.



Vicky and Lindsay