



## **THE PINES AT NIGHT 11th November 2017**

Trip Leaders: Terri and Paul

Convoy: Terri and Paul

Kerry and Steve (Tail End Charlie)

Jacquie and Russell

Jan and Terry

Troy and Paul (visitor)

Chris

Ernesto and Ivonna (visitors)

Hertha and Andrew

Report By: Hertha and Andrew

We all met around 5.00pm in the Ellenbrook Library Carpark. Some of the group needed coffee and headed down Main Street while the rest stayed and socialised until everyone arrived.



Leaving at 6.00pm we headed down to an open area off Drumpelier Drive and everyone aired down. Terri gave us a rundown on the trip and advised that due to the bush tracks, soft sand and hills we need to have around 16 to 18 psi in our tyres.

We headed off into the Pines and immediately struck a tricky sandy incline. Our visitors Ernesto and Yvonne had a bit of trouble and decided that this trip was perhaps not for them, and they didn't want to hold up the Convoy, so departed. Hope this didn't put them off 4WD driving and they come on another trip in the future.

Once on top of the hill we had good views of Ellenbrook, Aveley and the hills on our right, while on the left we could see the huge amount of bushland that has been cleared for the new Northlink Highway project. The extent of cleared land is amazing. The highlight though was the wonderful sunset to the West. Further along we passed the Sand Mining operations and the large Water Tank project which is to upgrade the water supply for Ellenbrook and adjacent suburbs. We drove through part of the Northlink Project cleared area and then across a newly formed limestone access road where a Security Vehicle was on duty. The track was becoming quite winding, hilly and bumpy with some very narrow and overgrown sections. Alternating between 4H and 4L was necessary. Some pin striping to vehicles was the order of the day.



By now it was quiet dark making it more difficult to assess the conditions compared with daytime driving. Just a small lapse in concentration on one section and we found ourselves going nowhere in soft sand. Couldn't go forward or back and tracks and shovel didn't help either. Terry and Jan were in the vehicle behind so kindly snatched us out backwards and in no time our Convoy was moving again.

We stopped for a short break with welcome snack and drink then on our way again with more bumping and thumping, generally following the powerlines and eventually crossing Neaves Road. To our left was a boundary fence for the shooting range with warning signs posted all the way along.

Another short break was welcome about 9.30pm. The evening was cool with a nice breeze and just the occasional distant lightning to the North East and the constant crackling of the powerlines above us. It makes you wonder, being this far from the coast, but someone had decided that this was a good spot to dump a small boat hull.

On our way once more, again rough tracks and the vegetation closing in on us. The next obstacle was a very steep and slippery 6 metre high bank (**really only 3 metres**) with a sharp right turn at the top. Paul donned his Hi Vis jacket and with radio in hand to direct us, we were all soon up and over.

We carried on, still following the powerlines, and arrived at our biggest challenge of the drive – 4 Dunes Hill Climb. Some conquered the hill first time, some had several goes and finally conquered the hill, some didn't conquer the hill, but we all had a good time.

Back on the limestone road, adjacent to the Hill "play area", we inflated our tyres and started the return journey towards Old Yanchep Road and onto Neaves Road. From here we all went our separate ways home. Three of us headed East on Neaves Road to Ellenbrook passing the spot where we had crossed earlier in the evening and arriving home around midnight (just in time to watch the Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying). Total trip distance approx 110kms.

Thank you Terri and Paul for a very well organised and enjoyable night in the Pines.