



Wilbinga Visitors Trip

Date: 18th of November 2018

Trip Leader: Paul Gunton

Participants: 13 vehicles – 5 club members & 8 Visitors vehicles, too many names to mention.

At 9:00am on Sunday morning a rather large group of vehicle started to gather outside the BWS in the car park of the Atlantis Beach Sales Office. Unfortunately the BWS was not open at that time but as the day progressed I am sure a few of us could have done with a visit there.



Once all the formalities were completed we started to make our way out of the car park to head towards the entrance to the track where we would air down. A call came over the radio to halt the convoy as one of the visitors was having some trouble getting his vehicle into 4WD. I thought this was a bit odd as 4WD was not needed to exit the car park but later found out he was just trying to test it. After a while Saheed & Atka decided it wasn't going to work so they decided it best to leave the trip early and tend to the problem. To our surprise they managed to fix the problem by switching the car off and switching it back on again, they must have called the I.T. department, and re-joined the trip.

We made our way into the air down area were funnily enough, we aired down. Once we were all ready the convoy departed up the entrance track until we were called to halt once again when one of the vehicles wouldn't start and needed a jump start. The vehicle was never identified but suspect it may have been a Prado but that is just a suspicion I have that has not been confirmed. Eventually we all got under way and after a quick and very confusing radio check due to us apparently having two car number nine's and car number 4 or 5 missed the call I was no more



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aware as to who was who by the time we got to car number 11. Funny thing is we had 13 cars! Anyway we eventually made our way to the first hill challenge where we all settled for a bit of morning tea.



After morning tea I decided to tackle one of the big hills and after 3 attempts and only getting up about $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the hill I gave up. Bob tried the same with another one and had the a similar result and Thomas tried and he had the same issues so we all decided it was too soft and a bit too hard so we all moved over to one of the slightly less challenging sand dunes. We all had a go at that one and made it up successfully, some had several goes and to our surprise Adelle in her Toyota Rav4 made it up with ease. She got very loud cheers from the crowd that had now gathered on the top of the dune as well as over the radio.

At this point we realised that Thomas was still at the bottom of the dunes and was having issues with his vehicle. It wouldn't go into gear and after several attempts to get it going we diagnosed that he had a major issue with his transmission so we formed a small convoy, Myself, Damo & Mike and Damo towed him back to the air down area so he could get a tow to a repair shop. Thomas was not defeated at this point and wanted to see the day out so he rode shotgun with me for the rest of the day.

Once we made our way back to the group we had lunch and then moved on but by this time my plans were all out the window so we headed for the main sand bowl so we could drop on to the beach. I



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found the entrance to the beach but due to the tide there wasn't much beach to play on so we went as far as we could, did a U turn then drove into the main sand bowl where I had originally planned to have lunch. We had a bit of a play on a few of the hills and again I was unsuccessful in getting over the biggest Wilbinga dune, one day I will conquer it! There was a couple of horse shoe sections that Bob and Sebastian had a play until Sebastian didn't quite judge the turn correctly and got stuck on the dune. It was all good as I put the Jeep into action and proceeded to rescue the Prado.



Once we had all had a bit of a play it was time to head home so we started to make our way back to Two Rocks. Along the way on a tricky section of the section of the track Saheed got the Lexus stuck on a track and needed to be recovered. As about five or six cars were ahead of the incident so we made our way just up the track to the next sand bowl where we had some fun playing on a big hill while Mike and the a few others rescued the stranded Lexus.



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After about 30 minutes we got the call on the radio to say the remainder of the group had successfully rescued the Lexus and were making their way to us. We were clearly visible at the top of the big hill and once they came over the last hill on the track we could see them. They all made their way up to the top of the dune where we all were and we all regrouped once again.



From here we dropped back down on to the exit track and made our way back to Two Rocks where we all aired up and made sure Thomas had a plan to recover his vehicle. We all hung around for bit to make sure Thomas was all good and discussed the day and what is coming up in the future. Even though there were a few miss haps along the way the day turned out to be very successful, even the weather was fantastic except for the very last 10 minutes when it started to rain while we were all airing up.

I would like to thank everybody that turned up and made it a successful day and to those members that helped out the visitors where needed. It



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goes to show what a great club we have and that we would all go above and beyond for a fellow 4WDer.

Trip Report Written By;

Paul Gunton.