



Mt Observation to Gorrie Rd

28 July 2019

Trip Leaders: Troy & Marietta Smallacombe

Convoy: Paul Gunton
Bob Dorizzi
Andrew & Hertha Mitchell
Frank & Rosa Marzoli
Bob & Matthew Jones (visitors)
Nesto Godinez
Chris & Robyn Tucker - Tail End Charlie

Meeting point: BP Station at The Lakes (corner Great Eastern Hwy and Great Southern Hwy).

Meeting time: 9.00am to leave at 9.30am

Five cars were already at BP when the trip leaders arrived and two more cars came making it eight cars on the convoy. The day was divine and promised a good drive. From the service station, we turned right to Great Southern Highway and drove 14.5 km unto Turkey Farm Road where the excitement began. We hurdled through fallen trees and branches and as we went further the track became narrower. We aired down on the side track before we turned to Wundabiniring Road.

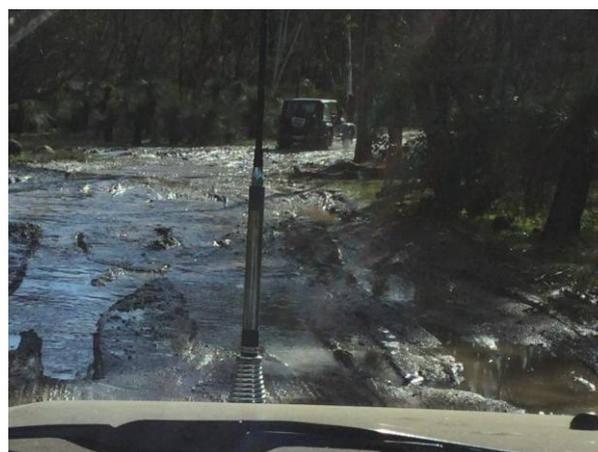


It seemed that the tracks in this area are maintained by another 4WD club and what used to be big ruts before had been filled up with dirt and rocks, thus, making the drive a little less thrilling than how it was a year before. Anyhow, most parts still required 4-wheel drive per se.

At Mt Observation, we stopped for morning tea and comfort break while enjoying the view. After the morning tea stop, we kept going onto what seemed to be the track the trip leaders followed at the reccy only to find out that we turned too early. Thanks to the quick-thinking Chris Tucker who pointed it out and therefore we traced our way back to the 'right track'. This track, however, became narrower and narrower until it disappeared so again we had to drive through the overgrown vegetation but at least we could see the tyre tracks made from the reccy a week before. But as the boys said, the lesser visible the track is, the more fun the drive becomes.



Finally, we came out onto a clearer track, the Pony Road where a few puddles are still present from the previous week's rain. There were also a couple of bike trailers. As we progressed with the trip, we noticed few bikers were playing with their bikes on Ball Road. It can be recalled that a week ago this road was muddy and twisty. Alas! It still is! Good on the bikers, they avoided the muddy portion and turned around.



Further on, we were met by few cars going the opposite way – a BMW, 2 Hi Lux, and 2 vans one of which was carrying a surfboard. What a puzzle! Someone commented that we were getting closer to Hay St at Perth CBD whilst another said we were

approaching Cottesloe Beach. We then realised that there was some sort of festival or gathering with more or less 30 cars camping in the bush.



We stopped for lunch at corner Dunlop Rd and Crawler Rd where we found an odd and weird design on the road – some sort of ritual or cultural structure we tried to interpret. No one can explain what actually it was.



After lunch we made our way to Smit Rd then Wellbucket Rd where few challenges awaited us. Then we crossed a river unto a hill of big deep ruts. There were few oohhs and ahhs as each car manoeuvred to the top.





We thought going down would be easier but few floating rocks and mud here and there proved to be not easy after all. Finally, we found our way to Gorrie Rd where few more puddles put more mud unto the cars. We drove almost 8km unto Great Eastern Highway where we aired down. It was found out that front guard of the trip leader's Jeep was bent and we didn't know when and where it happened. It was a great trip, thanks to all who came!

Troy and Marietta