



OUT AND ABOUT 4X4 CLUB

TRIP: Meckering weekend - day trip

Date: Saturday 22 August 2020

Trip Leaders: Steve and Kerry

Report: Mike and Clare

Participants: Steve and Kerry; Terry and Jan; Woody; Alex and Maria; Andrew and Hertha; Chris R; Mike and Clare; visitors: Paul H; and Jessica; day trippers: Frank; Sue, Nicole & Zoe; Ernesto and Iwona.

Did you hear the one about...?

A visitor came to the Club meeting and asked a member: *"has the Club ever been to Meckering"*

The Club member answered: *"yes mate"*

Visitor: *"did the earth move for you?"*

Member: *"get out, we don't want your type of humour here!"* no! no! just joking . . .

Member: *"yeah mate, but it was the roar and rumble of the Club four-wheel drives, mate!"*

Ok that didn't happen, but the day trip was a very pleasant meander through and around a few acres of granite rock formations, jump-ups (ok maybe hop-ups) forests, streams and water logged glades, found on the farm we were staying on.

The Club has been to the farm before and as such one of the members had requested that the trip leaders reverse the direction of our trek this time, just to be different – they did.

We had 11 vehicles in our convoy this day, leaving the 'Nursery' where we were camped, at 10:42am on Saturday, heading off on one of the main farm thoroughfares arriving at the 'playground' a few minutes later. Andrew executed his Tail End Charlie duties, utilising his past rural skills, closing the few gates we passed through on the way.

Throughout the morning the convoy bypassed a few locations where previous historical bogging's, rescues and places of legendary 4wd action occurred - great memories, though it appeared no legends would be born today... or would there?

I had to keep reminding myself that we were driving through some acreage in the middle of a working farm and not through the wilds of the surrounding bush.

We navigated around '5 Mile Hill' eventually arriving at 'Bald Hill' which is the highest point on the farm. The convoy scaled the rocky ridges and stopped to take it all in. What a view - vivid green wheat and barley crops and bright yellow Canola crops presented such a panoramic vista of the surrounding farm it nearly took ones breath away... but hang on what's this, a Big Puddle on top of Bald Hill, just begging to be driven through, so the challenges began.

Woody took the Pajero through first, making it all look simple. Chris had to show us the hydraulicity potential of the Cruiser, but no drowning was forthcoming, while visitor Paul got some action shots of the Cruiser as it plunged into the pool, and out again – the pool was only

about 15cm deep. Terry showed us how easy the big tray back could tackle the pot holed terrain surrounding the otherwise smooth water hole – the tray back was built for this type of terrain. But then Sue's 'L' plated daughter Nicole decided to demonstrate to mum Sue and the rest of us, her emerging off-road driving skills, in mum's precious Prado!

I once owned that model Prado, but I never knew it could do what Nicole was doing with it! I did not know a Prado could bounce that high and still stay upright – just kidding Nicole. After a few scapes and bounces and a little less accelerating and a lot of braking, Nicole navigated the Prado around the pot holed surface and into the puddle, proceeding gracefully out the other side, to some more bouncing and braking. I believe mum has since had her hand surgically removed from the front grab handle and I later heard Sue muttering something about 'go slower!!!!' – maybe not.

Nicole was last seen navigating the Prado down a narrow grass covered, tree strewn defile towards a level track in the wake of Chris in the still dry Cruiser.

After all this, Terry decided to show us how the tray back could navigate down and across the steep bank of the puddle, also exiting gracefully, proceeding on down the slope to some nearby flat ground.

While Steve was showing us the ease of which he manipulated the Hilux - complete with dents he and Kerry prepared previously - around the potholes and through the puddle like he was navigating the shoppers carpark at Coles – is that where the dents originated Steve? we heard a 'crunch' over our shoulders. Yep, Nicole was helping mum put some more dents in the Prado – a legend in the making!

The rest of us took in the 'show', extended our sympathy to Sue, and admired the spectacular views of the farm and surrounding countryside whilst continuing with a thorough chat about all and sundry. About then I spotted Maria heading for the Jeep again with another piece of 'special' sculptured wood for her crafty collection – did you tell Alex?

Then at precisely 12:42pm we formed up, and the convoy headed back to the Nursery for lunch. A very pleasant 2 hours exploring this ever-changing area in the middle of a working pastoral property on the edge of Meckering township.

Was the visitor, right? Did the Meckering earth move for us? I thought the trip was unique, so I guess it did move me, at any rate, what about you?

Thanks Steve and Kerry for another top trip ... see you next time.

There was more fun to come around the campfire that night and later still in the 'games room' at the Nursery. Another story though ...

Cheers

Mike and Clare









