



Harvey Dam Trip Report

Date: Saturday 10th July 2021

Participants: Hertha and Andrew (Trip Leaders)

Kerry and Steve

Greg and Pauline

Bob D.

Julian and Reece

Mike and Clare (Tail End Charlie)

Allen and Liz (Our Guides)

Reporter: Hertha

Once upon a time a group of city people decided that it would be a good idea to do a trip along some of the tracks through the forest areas around Harvey Dam. This was in the middle of Winter, and during a time following a lot of rain and storms.

Consequently, there was plenty of mud, and more mud. Allen, a Harvey local, our guide for the day, had intended to do a recce on the day before our trip but he gave that a miss as the rain was so heavy that “water was running down Harvey streets.” (his words).

Our day started something like this – the alarm woke us in the middle of the night - 6am actually - but as it was still dark, to me it was the middle of the night. We were on our way by 7.30, and no rain so all was good so far.

We arrived at the Harvey Visitor Centre, the designated meeting spot, at the same time as Allen and his wife Liz. The rest of the group arrived in due course, and we headed into the forest around 10.30. It was warm and sunny, and we were looking forward to a great day.

The adventure started after we aired down on a gravel parking area just off Honeymoon Road. We were soon on our first steep slippery track heading down towards the Dam. No problems so far, but then another lumpy, bumpy hill, even steeper than the first and with a few tricky sections which everyone negotiated successfully before reaching the bottom with a view across to the Dam wall.



We headed along the edge of the Dam for a short distance until Allen decided it was time to venture back up into the forest. So more slippery, slidey hills which most of us needed a few tries to conquer. Not a problem though for Allen in his highly modified Ford Maverick. Mike and Clare did it first try in the Cruiser but only because the rest of us had flattened out the ruts before they came up (that is my theory anyway). The next part of the track took a little longer, but we all made it eventually.







I think Allen took pity on us then and lead us on a very pleasant drive through the forest before arriving at our lunch spot. After some sustenance we were off again up and down hills and around some gravel roads and with a water crossing thrown in.





Then the most challenging part of our drive, a sticky, gooey inclined and deeply rutted mud patch that most drivers had to have several attempts at. Greg and Pauline had to be snatched up by Reece (well done Reece). Mike decided a bit more 'right foot' was necessary to get through on the first try but as he bounced over the rim at the top the two left hand tyres decided to separate from the bead and purge all their air. A muddy good time was had to get the tyres re-seated and inflated again. This took about an hour with all the boys doing their little bit – supervising, directing, advising or just watching and some actually working. While all this was happening another 4WD group were well and truly entertained by our antics. They declined to try their luck at driving the same section and took off on the main gravel track.





When the job was done and after the cleaning up of some sticky mud, we headed back to the gravel road to air up and say our good buys, before heading home.

What a great day we all had and many thanks to our guides Allen and Liz. I am sure there are many, more challenging tracks around Harvey Dam but Allen picked just the right mix for us to make it a totally enjoyable days outing.

In the days following Andrew has removed a conservative estimate of 100kg of mud from the underside of our vehicle. The mud is now mixed with and improving the condition of our vegetable garden soil.
