



Shark Bay Trip 18 – October -2021

Trip Leaders: Jo Wilson and Roger Graham

Participants, Frank Marzoli (Tail End Charlie) he had no problems in keeping control of the convoy

Start

Meeting Place: BP Servo at Muchea Tonkin Interchange for 8.30 am departure

We left on time heading north on the Brand H'way (the two Patrols heading for an awesome adventure)

1st stop - Badgingarra for a short break and coffee

2nd Stop - Dongara for another break

3rd Stop - Northampton

Final Stop - Lyndon Homestead Farm stay, this was to be our Base for the next 3 days



Convict hiring depot



Lyndon Home stead

The next day we explored the pink lake, Port Gregory, drove along its beaches to check out the reef that protects the coast in this area, next day off we went to Horrocks beach, and I must say this is a magical little town with a secluded beach that is protected by a reef.

Wonderful, friendly people, then we drove over some sandy hills to Little Bay to find some wonderful camp sites certainly worth the drive



Local Fisherman waiting for a catch

On the way back Roger and Jo investigated a track off the main road that runs past the homestead, and this led to the mouth of the Hutt River

If in the area and need a place to stay this, is it. Space for caravans or camper trailer or you can also book one of the donga rooms. Very friendly caretakers who will make you feel welcome

Next day we packed up and headed for Denham, but first we had to make a stop in Kalbarri to refuel, and then we were off, next stop Overlander and then Denham.

Denham Seaside Caravan Park has had some amazing expansion since I last visited Denham in 1992. Also, the town is now sporting some very nice new facilities and it's a lot bigger.

The next day Jo led us on a trip to the Eastern Gulf beach access track at least 12 to 15 km of sandy track following an old fence line. We encountered some obstacles on the track in the form of loose fence wire, with a couple clay pans to cross (albeit they were dry). On reaching our destination we were confronted with a spectacular view of the bay and tranquility well worth the drive



Sandy Track to the Eastern Gulf Bay



Eastern Gulf Bay



The two mighty Patrols on the beach overlooking the Eastern Gulf Bay

After this, another sandy track, this time in a northerly direction. Once again following an old fence line,

This track had numerous Clay pans to cross and some had evidence of recent bogginess



Roger has just navigated trough a damp patch on this claypan

This track eventually led us back to the Denham – Monkey Mia Road and on to Little Lagoon for a well-deserved lunch break

And then on to Eagles Bluff Lookout for some snaps



View from Eagles Bluff Lookout

Visit to the Ocean Park Aquarium



We were a bit late for the shark feeding show, so we did not hang around

Back in the Denham town site we encountered some of locals

A Dad and four children going for a walk



Look how protective he is, making sure that he can keep an eye on them all the time (some parents could take a lesson from this fella)

That evening we had to batten down as the forecast was for wind and rain during the night,

And yes, it did blow and rain, but not as bad as forecasted

The next day we could not travel to Big Lagoon as the roads in were closed due to the rain, so we spent the Day visiting the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre. This includes the HMS Sydney Memorial Movie, this was an emotional retelling story of the sinking and the battle as told from the journal of a German sailor,

If you are ever in Denham, make sure you visit the HMS Sydney Memorial.

Next day off we went to the Francois Peron National Park for a visit to Big Lagoon and Cape Peron

1st stop The Cape Peron track air down point (Low pressure is recommended for this track)

And off we went to Big Lagoon, once there we could not access the Camping ground as there was still water on the track and the caretaker did not want anyone tearing it up, but advised us that the picnic area was open to all traffic so off we went



That is Jo Wilson in the pink shirt

On the way out I'm saying to myself what is all the fuss about 4wd vehicles only and low tire pressure? As I was travelling in 2-wheel drive only, and I could have driven here in a standard sedan

But I was in for a surprise as soon as we re-joined the main track, we encountered about one and half Kilometres of sandy, bumpy track that require low range and a speed of 5-10 km per hour. We nicknamed this section the Bouncy Castle for four-wheel driving vehicles. Later, we encountered another section a little bit longer than this one

Next stop Cattle Well beach site and to get to this site we had to skirt along one of the biggest clay pans in the area, solid track/ road but lots of potholes, making the driving a bit of a challenge at times



Very explicit about what you can do in this area

Then on to South Gregories camping area this was quite well laid out and not as windy as some of the other sites that we visited.



Our next major stop



The Cape





And now it was time to Head back down the track to the Francois Peron Homestead, oh and by the way remember the Bouncy Castle track we encountered on the way up it was easier on the way back. Dawn the next morning was time to pack up and head home, stopping at Overlander for a fuel-up and then on to Drummond Cove Caravan Park for an overnight stay.

Unfortunately, the next morning I had to leave the convoy there as I needed to be back home for the next day Saturday the 23rd . Jo and roger stayed another day to do some exploring.

Overall, this was an amazing trip. We had fun, and we did some amazing kms and tracks

Thank You Jo and Roger