



OUT AND ABOUT 4X4 CLUB

WINDY HARBOUR

DECEMBER 29th to 7th JANUARY 2022

Report by Jan Eldridge

A few members commenced the trip with an overnight at Greenbushes Sports ground on the South Western Highway north of Bridgetown. Good spot away from the main road, plenty of shade, good clean toilet facilities. Evening temperature became very humid (39 degrees) but it was still pleasant enjoying good company, however, the night got chilly. In the morning the Parrots and Kookaburras certainly let you know it was time to wake up.

On the journey to Northcliffe a short stop at Nannup for fuel, supplies and a coffee break. The South West certainly has its share of rain, vegetation lush and green. A clear blue sky so a pleasant drive to Northcliffe.

The convoy was complete at Northcliffe – Marie, Alex, Hertha, Andrew, Jan, Terry, Woody, Carol, Les, Chris, Frank, Jo and Roger. Lunch was devoured then all headed to the camp site at Windy Harbour. Weather cooling down, not too windy. Maria, as Trip Leader had organised that we had a large site to accommodate five vans, two camper trailers and a tent,

so we had plenty of room, not a great deal of shade but awnings were erected. The only slight disappointment, fires not permitted. The site was reasonably close to the camp kitchen.

People just relaxed enjoying the cooler weather although the evenings did get chilly. Had rain one night.

Some members went for drives around the area as they had not been this way before, so they explored the surrounding countryside.



Jo had fun exploring her new toy - a drone.

A 4x4 trip was organised by Alex to the Gardner Beach along a track to the Gardner River. Did not cross the river, fun getting off the beach, a steep sandy incline to a one car track with

a few wider passing sections. Yes, members did get bogged getting off the beach, Alex first but Roger snatch strapped him back then he got up OK. Others got up OK, Terry got up first sand hill but could not get over the next one, he backed down when a call came from Andrew (Tail End Charlie), he was well and truly bogged down to his axle on the first sand hill out from the beach. By this time there were three cars coming over the hill in front of us heading for the beach. They were able to get passed us but not able to get passed Andrew, they tried to winch him up, no good. Woody had returned to help but again he could not get passed the three cars. Fortunately, another 4x4 came along the beach saw that Andrew was having trouble, snatch strapped him back down the hill to the beach – they were good Samaritans. The three other cars then ventured down the hill to the beach. Meanwhile, Terry was able to get up the next sand hill and continued on to the lunch stop. Woody stayed to help Andrew if need be. Thankfully no more hiccups and all at a bush Gardner River camp site for lunch.

Safely back to camp for a short rest before getting ready for our New Year's Eve dinner. Tables joined and once again Maria and her artistic talents set the tables with goodies. Dinner consisted of Pork, Turkey Rolls, Chicken, Potatoe Bake, Vegetables and two Italian dishes. Of course, liquid refreshment helped the large portions of dinner go down to make room for Hertha's specialty, Apple Crumble and Custard followed by Carol's Pavlovas.

Once the tables were cleared, Jo introduced us to a new pass the parcel game. The prize was in the middle of the parcel, but each layer of paper was taped with sticky tape. A kitchen glove and set of dice are also needed. The parcel got passed around and each member threw the dice to match two dice, the parcel was passed to the person who matched the dice, they then put on the gloves, once they had the gloves on the dice were again passed around whilst the person with the gloves tried to unwrap the parcel. When another person threw matching dice, the parcel was passed to them with the gloves and the system continued on as before. It sure was hard trying to unwrap the sticky tape paper. Finally got to the end and Carol was the winner = a red sun cap.

We then introduced Jo to our dice game. Each member paid \$1 for 5 bottle tops. There are four dice with C for top to centre, K for keep top, L for pass to the left and R for pass to the right. Each member threw the dice and whatever showed up they had to put their bottle top in that position. You could lose all bottle tops but were still in the game until there was one person left with a single bottle top. That person had to throw a C or a K to take the kitty. Jo took to the game very quickly and finally won the centre kitty – which she donated to the RFDS.

Time was getting towards the final minutes of 2021, some members retired, others joined for final drink to welcome in 2022, hugs and "Happy New Year", all then retired after a long, fun and eventful day.



No early rises, leisurely breakfasts, then fun games.

Marie introduced us to two new games,

Velcro dart board on which you had to throw small balls that attached themselves to the dart board,

Table ping pong game – plastic cups set up at one end of the table and you stood at the other end to throw ping pong balls to land in any of the cups. Hertha was the winner.

Next Mexican Dominoes was set up on the table. Each member selected 12 dominoes, a main domino of double numbers was set up in the middle of the table and if members had the same number on their dominoes they could start a train, if they did not have the same number, they could not start a train. Members then took turns to place their dominoes on a train. If they could not follow, they picked up a domino.

The winner was the one to put his last domino on a train. We had played two games, Terry and Andrew were winners. Whilst we were playing the game Maria provided some wipes and we were able to clean the dirt from the well used dominoes.

In the evening Terry and I did a drive to a lookout to watch the sun go down. Found a good spot out of the wind.



Lunch next day at the Northcliffe Hotel – very good meal and service.

Afternoon 4x4 forest run track, I was navigator and missed the first turn so onwards to the next track, steeper and rocky. Terry had trouble getting up as once again he was not in 4x4, once into 4x4 no trouble getting up. Alex was next and had difficulty, Roger to the rescue, snatched him back down, second attempt he took a different line and up OK. Other members up OK so we ventured on along unknown bush tracks, no other difficulties but a fun day driving through lush forest track with tall trees, twisty sections and beautiful views.



Breakfast next morning, pancakes in the camp kitchen, cooked on our All For Adventure cookers - Andrew the chef, Hertha the assistant – a very good breakfast with a variety of toppings before our 4x4 adventure for the day.



The Summer-Time Track to Malimup Beach. First section of track corrugated, rocky and rough. Once we reached the sandy forest section it was lush green with over hanging branches and the under growth also lush and green which still had some bush flowers blooming. Track twisty and several soft sand sections, you felt you where always going down hill even up some hilly sections.



Our trip leader did have a mishap at the last sand hill, unfortunately he got caught in soft sand and ended up sliding to the left, he managed to hold the car steady but was at the edge of a steep gully. Roger and Frank to the rescue, Roger snatched strapped the front of Chris's car to hold him steady whilst Frank Snatched him from the rear and with Woody's driving instructions Chris was back on the track and continued over the hill and downward to the beach. Remainder of the convoy all arrived at the beach OK.

A well-earned rest and lunch stop. Ocean sparkling blue with crashing waves, tide was on the decline so it was agreed we would go on the beach run to Meerup River and Warren

Beach. The run was a combination of soft sand, hard patches, one area you had to judge the waves and drive around a rocky outcrop. Roger had a slight mishap as he misjudged and got caught by a wave, his side protective panels got washed off – he had to go for a swim and was only able to save one section.

The Meerup River was fast flowing but not deep so the drive across was easy. The Warren River was much wider, deeper and fast flowing so it was agreed not to try to cross. A decision was also made not to venture up Calicup hill as we had people who did not do the beach run waiting at Summer Time track for the trip back to camp. The run back along the beach and the Summer Time track a much pleasanter drive as it always seems to be on a homeward run. Arriving back at camp, Bob and Lucy had arrived and were setting up their camp.

Next day, a day of rest for some, others did their own thing, touring around Northcliffe area or into Walpole to tour that area. Hertha and I challenged Terry and Andrew for a game of bocce – the girls won.

Next few days included a trip to Pemberton for shopping and lunch at the bakery.

Members then agreed to a run through the Beedelup National Park – Terry Trip Leader. Beedelup Falls, two walks, one a short walk to lookout over Karri Lodge Resort. A longer walk along a well-maintained bush walk to the falls lookout – a large decking over looking the falls and a board walk over the falls with a swing bridge to return to the lookout.

On returning to the car park members came across a very noisy Kookaburra – it had a nest of very hungry young ones - hence the noise.

We then travelled through the Warren National Park, the first river crossing a steep downward run and the upward side had a big gap just out of the water which was a challenge to get the right line over it – all OK.

The drive through the forest very spectacular lots of new growth. There were a couple of tracks down to the river a bit squashy to all get down, but it was well worth the challenge and the view of the flowing river. One spot was a good camp area for tents or camper trailers but not suitable for caravans as it was a narrow decent around a large tree.

Followed a new bush track and came to another great Warren River crossing, tried to cross but even too rocky for the Toyota, after several attempt decided to return to the main track and head back to camp. There were people on the other side enjoying the cool clear water.

Woody was Trip Leader for another run, the Gardner National Park, found a good tent or camper trailer camping area by the Gardner River – the river was fast flowing, crystal clear, easy to drive through. Continued touring the Shannon National Park. Good tracks and forest full or new vegetation. Only one track caused a challenge, twisty narrow with overhanging branches – the track came to a full stop, so all had to manoeuvre around the track to get back to the main track.

As this was to be our last day with the group, Terry suggested lunch at the Northcliffe Hotel – all agreed so it finished a good run with a good meal.

Windy Harbour camping trip is always fun, but a trip with a difference, 4x4 driving, walking, swimming, fishing, lunch at the Northcliffe Hotel, a combined meal to celebrate New Year, Pancake breakfast, lots of funny games and just relaxing with good company. No set plans just discussions around morning coffee breaks for things to do that day.

