



OUT AND ABOUT CLUB

LANCELIN DUNES

Day trip

Sunday 12 June 2022

Who was there ...

- Mike and Clare – trip leaders
- Troy
- Bob and Heinz
- Matt and Thomas
- Julian and Jenne-Lee
- Reece and Lisa
- Susan and Zoe
- Steve and Thomas - TEC

The weather report said rain and possible thunderstorms, but standing in the Carramar Village Shopping Centre carpark, it was cool with clear blue and sunny skies, so much for the forecast!

By 8:15 everyone had arrived, with Sue departing again to get her Maxx Tracks and meet us at the Lancelin bakery.

Steve (and Thomas) agreed to be Tail End Charlie and with convoy procedures and trip objectives outlined, the convoy set off up Wanneroo road.

About an hour later we arrived at the Silver Coast Bakery Lancelin where Sue caught up with us. It was overcast and raining, with the promise of even more wild and wet weather to follow.

Everyone was eager to venture onto the sand regardless, so we did!

We almost had the place to ourselves, which proved to be good. We aired down and the convoy headed off.



I had planned to take the convoy up some slopes and gradually find taller and then steeper descents to get practice at sand hill driving. The wet sand meant little chance of getting bogged (at least I thought so) more on that later.

Having the dunes to ourselves I took the convoy through the changing terrain, up and down until finally finding a suitably high and steep hill. Everyone had a go descending with advice over the UHF to 'keep those wheels straight' downhill, without incident.

As we all had different vehicle types and driver capabilities I suggested everyone try their vehicles in high range with a bit of momentum and then again in low range to get a feel of what worked best for their vehicle and driving styles, in these conditions at least, I did too.



Eventually I found a long sand dune where other drivers had climbed over at one end and descended at the other end. We all ascended and descended once, then I suggested everyone try again in both high and then low range but also to forge their own tracks up.

Did I say the wet sand would help prevent any bogging? Ha!

Accolades go to Reece and Lisa for forging their own track but not quite enough momentum to get over the crest. Initially a recovery downhill with a snatch strap was contemplated, but we decided that that might prove dangerous to both vehicles (though in hindsight we could have used two straps joined together)

I thought we might be able to push the Navara back down the slope, nope, bellied out, no up or down motion attainable.

So the real recovery began. Reece and Lisa were ok, warm and dry ensconced in the Navara (at that angle the doors were too heavy to open) so we got down and sandy and wet (yes we were dodging rain squalls all morning – but 4wders do that) and attempted a maxx track recovery, nope.

Under the watching eye of the ranger on an adjacent hill (no pressure) we finally decided to use the winch on the Navara and extract uphill. I volunteered the cruiser as the stationery object to winch off of.



After a few attempts, with the cruiser dragged a short distance, Reece, Lisa and the Navara, re-joined the convoy, with the recovery team wet and sandy but happy and unharmed too.

With a few moments to contemplate the events we moved back to the first hill for one last low hill descent then headed out of the dunes, airing up back at the entrance.

Unanimously the convoy agreed to end the trip at the Lancelin Dunes Hotel Restaurant for a well deserved lunch.

After the meal we all said our farewells and ventured south to our noise warm dry homes (after washing the 4bys first I hope).

Clare and I thank you all for venturing out into the inclement weather and we both hope you all enjoyed the experience.

Ps. I have decided all fines have been suspended, because Reese and Lisa's fine will cover them all!

Cheers
Mike n Clare