



Julimar State Forrest

Day trip 4 September 2022

Trip Leaders: Kerry and Steve

Tail-end Charlie: Troy Smallacombe

Participants: Les and Carrol Crombie; Bob Jones, Mike Leddin and Clare Jones; David and Margot Mayes; Andrew and Hertha Mitchell; Julian and Reece Van Rooyen; Troy Small, Steve Baker (trip report)

Welcome Visitors: Matt and Thomas Jones, Heinz Nieman.

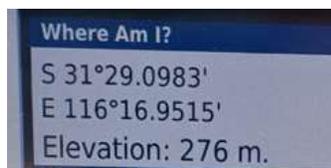
There had been several patches of rain in the days before the trip which indicated there should be some interesting ascents and descents out on the track. And the promise of a puddle or two to help wash off the mud. The forecast for the day of our trip was fine with a light rain or a shower late in the afternoon. Perfect!

Everyone arrived, 10 cars in all, in Bullsbrook at the Bullsbrook Rd rendezvous point. All in good time for a chat, passing around the registration form, and enabling Kerry to kick off a comprehensive briefing at about 8:25.

To my surprise, during the briefing, I found myself volunteering to write up the trip report 🤖!

We set off in a convoy around 8:35, with a single interloper in a Nissan Navarra being the only vehicle separating us our convoy. The Nissan turned off only shortly before we arrived at the Heine Rd entrance to Julimar, putting an end to speculation that the driver had heard of our trip and was seeking to join us for the day. It was about a 40 km/ 30 min drive to the air-down point just of the right of the Heine Rd entrance.

The first stage of the drive through Julimar revealed lots of picturesque wildflowers (don't ask me their names) – as Kerry had said, this was a great time of the year for a drive in Julimar! We made our way along and arrived at a rather interesting little hill climb. Somewhat challenging due to recent rains generating a mix of slippery mud and rocks. With a little caution and ideally low range the hill was satisfyingly conquered by all. We proceeded on to our first stop – to recover from our muddy creek crossing.





A little further along the road, and at a slightly higher elevation, would have been a great spot for lunch, but no, onward and forward. 'Fools lunch', like 'fools gold' it wasn't actually lunch, which would have been welcomed by those who eat at midday, I'm sure.



Then, back down the hill:



More wildflowers!



And quick dip to wash some mud off, amidst even more, gorgeous, wildflowers...



To get the mud off, some vehicles needed more of a soak than others!



And had to be dragged out from their 'bath':





Following a short inspection, a de-brief (I'm sure I heard someone say, 'I said it was deep and keep to the right!') and off we set again!

After witnessing the fun of 'bath-time' the driver of the second Nissan Patrol was heard to say, with buoyant, mix of bravado and gusto: "let's see if an 'old' Patrol can get through where the new one failed – ha-ha"!!

There must be something about Nissan Patrols and 'bath-time', as not long after that, a voice on the radio was heard to say, "don't worry, you cars in front can carry on, we'll get him out!"

Sadly, as I was in the first group, I didn't get a photo of that... So, rather than the lead cars turn around, we divided into two groups with an agreement to, in the words of Vera Lynn, 'meet again' for Lunch.

Another quick dip on the way:



Followed by a very nice water crossing that included a short drive along the river (sorry no photos of that) before finding a fun, downhill 'slip and slide', with our lunch spot tantalisingly in sight.



Then a simple water crossing, - no getting stuck this time!! - I had to smile, with feet already wet, a 'near miss' second bog (which I almost didn't mention), the crossing was briefly 'walked' to test the depth first. Just be sure. This time. 😊.



And, finally, it was time for lunch (Yey!), at the 'Bog-holes' – you wouldn't have said that to Vera Lynn! A comfy chair, food, a chat about the day's adventures (so far), and a spot of vehicle inspection...

I was pleased my hot pastie survived a good bounce around in the 12v oven! But crumbs fell everywhere when I opened the oven door! Next time – best get two and wedge them in I thought!



After lunch we headed back with a scenic drive along what I think was Cookes Rd, turning left into Mortimer Rd, and bearing left to the top of Heine Rd, and a precarious, short but steep, section, with most opting for the 'chicken wise track', and on down the hill to the 'air up' spot (same as air down spot in case you wondered) for a chat and a final 'de-brief', before each vehicle made its way home.

In summary: it was a grand day out! Fun driving, with a couple of technical spots, in beautiful countryside, and with the GREAT company that IS the 'Out and About 4x4 Club'!

Thank you everyone for, as you can see by photos above and below, a great, and memorable, day out!



Steve B. - P.S. My car had a very welcome wash driving through rain on the way home 😊.