



TRIP REPORT

Written by Paul

MECKERING FARM DAY TRIP

Out and About 4x4 Club Inc. – Saturday, 26 August 2023

Over the years our Trip Leaders Kerry and Steve, have taken Club members to a working Farm in Meckering owned by a friend of theirs and we have all enjoyed the opportunity to camp over for a night or two. This trip was a little different as it was organised as a day trip only to explore the countryside on the farm and spend most of our time 4WDing.

A small group of members took part to tackle this event and included: Kerry and Steve, Claire and Mike, Steve (AKA Zipper) and myself. We met at Bakers Hill about halfway to Meckering to visit the local Bakery (a delicious place to go to and well worth a visit), signed onto the Club Attendance Register and participated in the trip briefing from Kerry. We then set off for our destination in convoy with Kerry leading the way and myself bringing up the rear as Tail End Charlie.

The journey up the Highway to Meckering was uneventful although a little busy with traffic. On arrival at the farm we proceeded straight past the old Nursery site where we would normally camp and drove to the wood line to start our day's adventure traversing the bushland across the many 4WD tracks of the area.

We proceeded as a convoy over several known tracks before Kerry decided to chart a new course and created a couple of new tracks that had several 4WDing challenges including creek crossings and rocky outcrops to traverse. We made our way to the main rocky lookout area and strolled around examining the rock and natural features, including spectacular views across the whole countryside.



Our journey continued onto other interesting areas of the farmland where we explored the tracks and surrounding bush. At one time we needed to stop as Kerry and Steve were experiencing a strange ticking sound coming from one of the front wheel areas. Several of us helped them out by inspecting under the vehicle and at one point dry clumps of dirt and material were found in the sump guard. It would appear this was from a previous off road trip where the vehicle had been driven through muddy water and the debris had washed into the sump guard and subsequently dried out into a hard mass. This trip to Meckering must have loosened this mass and broken it into smaller pieces that simply moved around when the vehicle was driven. All in all this ended well with no further difficulties.

The convoy returned to the main rocky outcrop for lunch and a rest and during this time Kerry and Steve's vehicle was checked once more and a couple of bolts were tightened around the sump to make sure nothing was wrong. During the lunch we gathered around a couple of vehicles and enjoyed lively conversations about many subjects and as always we solved many global problems including world peace, carbon fuels and what vehicle performs the best off road (Toyota of course).



After this fellowship we once again headed out onto the tracks, driving through the bush areas and with a long stay over at a large rocky outcrop where we proceeded to drive up one side of this feature and down the other – without damaging or breaking anything.

One of our members decided that he did not wish to drive up and so three of us made the first climb and descended in one piece. A second member then decided that he would watch and that left two members to do another climb together.

Once these two intrepid 4wheelers came down another member dropped out and that left just one member to make the uphill climb and return alone. That member was Kerry and she was driving up and down for some time all by herself – not even her partner Steve was in the car. We watched on and just came to the conclusion that she had “rock fever” and just needed to get it out of her system.

The trip concluded shortly thereafter and we drove back to the front gate of the property and said our goodbyes. We took with us a great collection of memories, photos and good times.

See you all on the next trip.

