

# High Range 4WD Club of SA Inc

[www.hr4wdclubsa.org.au](http://www.hr4wdclubsa.org.au)

## Morgan Trip - June Long Weekend

Our trip started with everyone meeting at Smithfield for 8am Saturday morning. We had a great turnout of members that had come along for the day.

In all we started off with 10 vehicles, those present were Robs mate Shaun & Anthony, Henry & Helen, Len & Mary, John & Neil, Brenton & his Dad, Nick & his Wife (whose name I have forgotten, my apologies), newcomers Brian & Marlene & daughter, & Peter & Stephanie & children, Rob & myself. A little further up the road Debbie T & Cooper (the dog) joined us as well.

We headed off about 8.15am with Shaun leading the way and went via the Sturt Highway turning off at Truro through to Eudunda then on to Morgan. We arrived a little after 9.30am.

Once at Morgan we made the usual pit stop and this is where Geoff and Ruth joined the group. This took our vehicle count up to 11.

As soon as everyone had done the necessary and got coffees and other refreshments we headed off to the quarry. But this was after discussing whether we should enter via the easy route or the more challenging entrance. The challenging entrance won out of course.

Without any incidence all vehicles made it up the steep entrance and then it was off to find out what else the quarry had in store.

We wound our way along the upper tracks with Shaun still leading, and then down into the creek for a very windy, sometimes narrow and sideways ride through the soft creek bed. Everyone negotiated the low tree branches, tree roots and rocks and came out the other side all unscathed and their nerves still in tact I think. Well I didn't hear any complaints and all were still smiling.

After this we set off for a set of hills that we ourselves had negotiated on several occasions and thought the others might like the challenge of trying.

First they had to negotiate the narrow windy rocky road down to the base of the hills but then once at the bottom and after all vehicles had made it down one by one everyone got out of their vehicles to survey the 4 different tracks up the hill and decide if they were going to just watch or attempt the hill climb.



The downward descent to the base of the hills

Shaun was the first to go up and then Rob and after they both descended some of the others decided to give it a go. Geoff was the first and made it up and back down as if he was going for a Sunday drive. After this John didn't need much goading and up he went in his usual gusto style and before you could blink was at the top ready to come back down on a different track.

Brenton gave it his all and made it up and back down. Peter had several goes at the different tracks and then to cap our session at the hills Shaun went up again and came back down the centre track but got stuck at the bottom in the rocky ditch. With his front wheels wedged and his back ones up the hill and no traction a couple of the guys tried standing on the back step as extra weight but to no avail. The final outcome was out came Shaun's winch and hooked onto the front of Robs car was pulled out till he had enough traction to drive out. After that it was decided to go play elsewhere.

So off we all set back up the hill and through the scrub till we found our way to the quarry bed. There were some other 4wd's playing in the quarry when we got there so we did the right thing and waited till they had exited and then made our way down.

This is where David joined us, taking our vehicle count to 12

Now this is where the fun started. Obviously there had been some rain in the quarry at some stage (I prayed hard enough) and it had produced some nice, big, deep mud puddles.

For the next hour nearly the smiles never left our faces as first one then another sloshed as fast as they could drive through one mud puddle after another, up the sides of the quarry and back down again.

After a group photo shoot and much discussion as to how dirty the vehicles were, it was decided that everyone had worked up an appetite so we made our way back out and into Morgan again and down to the picnic BBQ area down by the river for lunch.



Lunch time by the river

After lunch it was decided to go across the river into the Conservation Park to see what it had to offer.

Before we set off some of the group decided to call it a day, Nick and his wife headed off to Renmark, John and Neil headed home so did David. After saying goodbyes and making the usual rest stop, where we caught up with Jeff Mundy who was in the area doing some Geocaching, we headed for the ferry. This trip had to be done in 2 lots as we could not all fit on in one go.



Across the river we go

Once over the river we headed into the Morgan Conservation Park hoping to find some more adventure and again Shaun led the way because he had been here before and nobody else had.

We drove along the sandy track encountering quite a few mud holes which of course most drove through and was a bit slippery in some places, till we came to a fence and realized we could not go any further. It was then decided to go back to where we had seen a good sized sand hill and have a break and check out the area as possible camp sites. Some of course had to try out the sand hill and negotiated it easily with only Len getting a little bit stuck, but managed quite well to get out of it and make it up over.

At this point after we had been there a while Len and Mary, also Brian and Marlene decided to head on home, so we said our goodbyes and discussed what we would do next. The decision was to return via the Blanchtown road and check out Cordolla, which is a private property that allows camping along the river.

Once back across the river Geoff and Ruth, Shaun and Anthony decided to head off so now we were down to just 5 vehicles. Brenton his Dad, Henry and Helen, Debbie T and Cooper, Peter and Stephanie and Rob and I.

With Rob leading and me looking out for the sign post we headed off and eventually made our way to Cordolla and drove around the river track looking at all the camp areas.

We showed the others our favorite camp area by the lagoon. Everyone loved the peace and tranquility of the place and decided it would be a good overnight or weekend place to come just to relax and enjoy. So it looks like it could be another possible club trip.

While there it was decided to finish off the day by having dinner at the Blanchtown Hotel, that is all except Brenton. Just as it was getting dark we headed off and at the crossroads of the Sturt Highway and the Blanchtown Road we pulled up and said our goodbyes to Brenton and his Dad.

Dinner at the hotel was great along with the open log fire and the good company. We all headed home about 8.30pm saying goodbye as each of us reached our turnings for home.

Hopefully all who went for the day enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to Shaun for showing us all the good tracks.

Barbara Sampson

UP AND DOWN THE HILLS



Rob



Shaun



Peter



Geoff

Still climbing the hills



John



Brenton



All hands to the rescue



The big pull



Mud



Mud



and still more mud





Muddy fun & games



Still more mud





If you can't get up



then come down



Trying but just can't get over the hump



Hope their windows are closed



THE DIRTY DOZEN (So aptly named by one of the group)



MOST OF THE GANG – still with smiles on their faces at least till they get to the carwash