



High Range 4WD Club of SA Inc

The Murray Mouth, Goolwa

Sunday 18 January 2009

Submitted by Helen (Highwater) and Phil (McCracken)

As the River Murray approaches the sea in South Australia, it enters shallow Lake Alexandrina and then divides into five channels leading into the Murray Mouth area. From there, the Murray water either enters the Southern Ocean or mixes with the waters of the Coorong, a 2-3 km wide coastal lagoon system stretching for at least 100 km from the river mouth. The sparsely-vegetated coastal dunes of Younghusband Peninsula separate the Coorong from the Southern Ocean.

This trip was our first for the new year. Happy New Year to all our members. We were to meet at the Hahndorf fruit and vegetable market at 8.30am.

Once we had filled out the obligatory trip attendance form, Cuffs, our trip leader advised us of our call name and number. The day was lovely warm and sunny. This trip has always proved popular and we had 12 vehicles. Geoff proudly showed off his new acquisition, Toyota Landcruiser, a huge change from the little RAV4. We departed around 9.00am.

For this journey, Phil and I were childless! Although there were a number of children among the other families, which is great to see, as this particular trip is great for the children. We set off for the huge journey to the toilets in Hahndorf, and after the girls had relieved themselves (glad to see it is not always me!), we were away. We went through Meadows, where we encountered yet again, the huge Meadows country market on the oval. Note – try and see what the fuss is about one day! There wasn't much traffic really and we made good time journeying around the back roads toward Goolwa. We arrived at Goolwa around 10.30am for morning tea and a rest (oh and toilet stop! – I think Di wins hands down for the quickest in and out before we even got to the loo – sorry no prize!!).

As it was only about 11.00am, too early for lunch, we headed for the beach. Everybody let their tyres down and we did too! Then we were off, with trusty Rob in the lead with the Patrol. The sand seemed less churned up than usual and the Territory just breezed through. We got to the mouth, where we stopped for shell collecting and let the dogs have a run. Even though it was a little windy, it was the first time that we have been on this trip where it wasn't blowing a gale and raining. There were lots of families about collecting the cockles and enjoying the beach. We then found a nice spot to eat lunch. At this stage we were joined by other club members, Henry and Helen, who happened to be staying at Goolwa. I think that they even got lost trying to find us. Sigh!! . By then it was getting hot. Phil, being the thoughtful guy that he is, rigged up a shelter between our car and Rob's and we girls proceeded to settle in for a lovely lunch, some nice drink and a great gossip. We found out all about each other's partners and I am so glad that there is still a market for talcum powder!! Phil and Henry came and joined us because the conversation was so interesting and they didn't want to miss out. Sitting under the shelter with the cool breeze from the sea was just lovely.

After lunch we headed back (not before we nearly collided with some idiot who headed straight at us and with some clever driving from Phil, we avoided getting

bogged, but the idiot didn't and he had to dig himself out, hee hee!). We found a great spot for cockle hunting. I think that because it was nearing the end of the season, the cockles were in short supply, however we found enough for Rob to go fishing. It was a fantastic sight to see everyone get into the spirit of cockle hunting. The water was lovely. It is here that I must extend my thanks to my hero John who rescued me from being swept out to sea, after I was knocked off my feet by the strong tide. I am sure it looked funny and Phil did say he was too far away to rescue me, but I did appreciate John's efforts because I nearly pulled John over with me, in panic!! So I was thoroughly drenched for the ride home! Mission – next time we head to the Mouth, Claire and Nigel will ditch the farm gear and wear shorts!!

After an hour or so, we headed out of the beach, back to the car park to re-inflate the car tyres. After a last minute gossip with some of the girls, watching the guys do the hard work, it was time to head home. We drove back through Kuitpo where we discovered that the iconic Cox Crossing road had been permanently closed. Sad indeed.

We headed back through the hills toward Handorf where we finished at the fruit and vegetable market.

We all agreed that we had enjoyed ourselves very much. The Murray Mouth is always a good trip, but I have to say that absolutely hate talking with the girls, they are so boring!!

All the cars performed really well with no dramas.

Weather – warm, dry, sunny, slight breeze.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the next adventure!!

Cheers

Helen and Phil

Members

Ranger 1 – Trip Leader – Cuffs, Xtrail

Ranger 2 – Graham and Angie, Mazda Tribute

Ranger 3 – Keith and Di, Nissan Navara

Ranger 4 – Greg, Judy and Lyndel, Mitsubishi Pajero

Ranger 5 – Helen and Phil, Territory

Ranger 6 – Adrian and Belinda, Toyota Prado

Ranger 7 – Geoff, Chris, Nick and clan, Toyota Landcruiser

Ranger 8 – Rob and Barb, Nissan Patrol

Ranger 9 – Nigel and Claire, Toyota Landcruiser

Ranger 10 – Scott and co, Toyota Landcruiser

Ranger 11 – Peter, Stephanie, Alisha, Rachel, Toyota Troopcarrier

Tail End – John, Helen, Niall, Hyundai Tucson

Late addition – Helen and Henry, Santa Fe

13 vehicles, 31 people

Photo Gallery

Meeting place – talking already





Pit stop



Toilet stop





At the car park, letting down tyres



At the mouth





Great picture





Talking again



Cockling





Fantastic shelter



Cuffs wanted Phil to take this photo – Greg working away and us girls catching up – it was a big day, eh girls!



End of an era – closing of Cox Crossing road - forever