



# High Range 4WD Club of SA Inc

“The Rocks” Balaclava

Sunday 24 February 2008

Submitted by Helen (Highwater) and Phil (McCracken)

This trip was a day outing starting off past the last Service Stations at Smithfield heading north on Main North Road for a 9.00am start.

On this day we were accompanied by our children, Jim, Anton and Phillip. We arrived late to find that our convoy for the day was four vehicles. After waiting for a while to see whether we would be joined by others, we decided to make tracks at around 9.30am. Our convoy consisted of Cuffs, our President in his Xtrail, joined by his trusty dog Duke, Barb and Rob in their Landcruiser, Di and Keith in their Territory and Taylor/Rocconi in their Territory. Cuffs was the tour leader and Di and Keith were Tail End Charlie.



So with our little convoy, we set off. The weather was chilly with a hint of rain. We had



an uneventful journey to Freeling where we stopped for a little while outside the Gungellan Pub (home of the McLeods daughter’s series). The High Rangers had undertaken this trip about a year earlier and on that trip, around 20 vehicles were in convoy. We reminisced about the amount of people then compared to our little group now. The vehicles took over the streets of Freeling for our photo shoot outside the

Gungellan Truck Stop on that occasion.



Then it was on to Kapunda for a stop at The Miner, and then to town for morning tea. Once again the Rocconi lads cleaned out the bakery!! Then off road for a couple of hours around the back tracks, to The Rocks, a picturesque shaded water hole. Once again, we commented on great the off road tracks would have been had it rained, however there were some challenging hills and tracks.

Once at The Rocks, we set up for lunch. It was the perfect opportunity to get to know some of the club members better, for a smaller group setting allowed for better intimacy. We got to know Duke a little better, because he was more settled among the smaller group. He enjoyed eating everything that was offered

him, much to everybody's amusement, after Cuffs indicated that he would have a smelly car on the way home! We enjoyed our lunch which was accompanied by some lovely fresh crabs supplied by Keith and Di. Yum (flies loved them too!). Jim, the bush kid, retreated to the car, after being bombarded by the hordes of flies. We also learned that Keith and Di were to be married in March and we took the opportunity of congratulating them. Best wishes to you both.



After lunch, we took the opportunity of exploring the near dry waterholes and the overgrown creek bed. It was quite sad really. We climbed some very steep terrain, and had some amusing moments when Di took a very graceful fall on her bottom and Phil took a very fast slip (everybody saw you Phil!!). After that, just about everybody slipped over, or skidded on gravel!!

Then Cuffs and Rob and Barb took their vehicles for a very steep hill climb and descent. The Territories were hampered by their tow bars as Phil found out after just about gouging through to China!! Actually Barb got out of the vehicle and took the photos, she wasn't going down that hill!!



After this it was time to leave. We took a very roundabout route home, and I have been told to report to you that we were NOT lost, were we Cuffs? Apparently Duke was reading the map?

We took leave of each other at Gawler and had an uneventful journey home.

Even though we had a very small convoy for this trip, it was a very enjoyable experience. It was a faster journey, with no mishaps. Our children enjoyed being part of a smaller group and we got to know more about our fellow travelers, which was nice.



As is becoming the norm, the surrounding countryside was extremely dry and dusty. The Rocks was very dry also, with no water in the creek and hardly any in the waterholes. It was deserted, which meant we had the pick of the spot! By lunch time the weather was very warm and the walk was quite tiring, especially the hill climb! The wildlife we encountered were one four foot brown snake (I didn't see it, but Keith and Di waited for it to cross their path), one blue tongue lizard, plenty galahs, one kangaroo (lost I think), and some really dumb sheep , who were on the loose and panicking, which caused them to run smack into a fence and nearly knocked themselves out! Hilarious!

We had a fantastic day, the kids enjoyed and we are looking forward to the Easter trip.

Thank you to Cuffs (hope you are feeling better) and our tail enders Keith and Di – it was quite funny actually, even though the tail enders never lost site of the leader, they faithfully reported each twist and turn. Well done!!

Meanwhile, we look forward to the next adventure .....!!

Cheers  
Helen and Phil

**Convoy**

Cuffs (Xtrail), Rob & Barb (Landcruiser), Helen & Phil and clan (Territory), Keith & Di (Territory)

