



High Range 4WD Club of SA Inc

Towitta Recreation Park

“Christmas in July”

Saturday 26 July and Sunday 27 July 2008

Submitted by Helen (Highwater) and Phil (McCracken)

Towitta Recreation Park is situated near Sedan, not far from Angaston in the Barossa Valley.

The plan was to meet Rob and Barb at Smithfield, together with Andreas and Cristin and travel together to Towitta. However, Saturday dawned freezing and raining and we decided that seeing as Phil had a late night (2.00am!) and I was still recovering from pneumonia, that it was better in bed. We broke the news to the kids and everybody breathed a sigh of relief and went back to bed! At around 8.30am everybody surfaced and seeing as we were packed and ready anyhow and we had borrowed the camper trailer, it seemed a shame to waste it. So we hastily ate, finished packing and set off. We had Phil's boys, Anton and Phillip. Jim bowed out and stayed home with Grace. We have to pry that Nintendo from him somehow!

We thought we might still catch up to Rob and Barb so we set off Main North Road way, through Smithfield and Gawler Bypass. Alas we didn't manage to catch them. The weather was still rainy and cold and after a coffee stop and petrol, we arrived at Towitta around midday.

It was a lovely spot with a lovely huge shelter shed which had a large kitchen area, fridge and heaps of room for eating and sleeping if you wanted. There were toilets (bliss) and plenty of good spots to camp. Several of our fellow club members had already arrived and some had set up already.

After we set up, (and I stopped crying because we had forgotten our pillows and torches, thank you so much Andreas, Cristin and Rob who shared!!), we helped decorate the Christmas tree and the shed. Everybody had brought enough wood to last till Christmas in December, and we set about getting the bonfire ready. At around 3.00pm it was lit and proved to be a wonderful source of warmth all night long. The rain had stopped and even though it was cold, it was not frigid. The sun even came out for a little while.

At around 5.00pm dinner was started. By the time dinner was cooked, all who were coming had arrived. There was enough yummy food to last till December! What a wonderful array of salads. Lovely. It was fantastic to welcome some new faces to our club. Namely Claire, Nigel and their two lovely boys and Pete and Stephanie and their beautiful clan of 5 children! Welcome.

After dinner, it was time to sit around the campfire and share stories and if you were inclined to quietly imbibe in the good stuff! We had a Christmas quiz session and winners were able to pick from the goodies under the Christmas Tree. Now remember everybody, nobody is allowed to visit the website of www.santatouchme.com!! Anton's answer for one of Deb's questions. Thank you Deb for organizing the quiz questions.

It was quite cold, but from what others said, it was not nearly as cold as last year, where there was ice and nearly snow!

At around midnight, Pete and Stephanie and their little clan of sleepyheads left us for the journey home. Hope you had a safe trip guys.

At around 2.00am Phil and I disappeared and left the diehards at it!! It is good to know that Caroline has got her routine worked out and makes sure she snaffles that bottle of red, before Ray shuffles off to bed!! Good night Ray!!

I think that it must have been that late night beforehand that Phil had with his mates playing poker, but when we wandered off to bed, we discovered that we had no crate on which to leap up, to get into the bed in the trailer. Big issue!! When you are slightly inebriated, have crook knees and getting on in years, it is hard to vault up onto this bed. Phil was hopeless. He couldn't stop laughing and after that I started. After much laughter, don't ask how we did it, but somehow we got into the bed. Brrr!! Cold!!

Same as always, Rob and Phil kept the wildlife awake with their snoring. Onya guys!!

We were woken up by Keith (thank you) banging something outside of our tent.

We set about packing up and cleaning up the shed. Thanks to Keith and Di, Rob and Barb and Andreas and Kristin for helping with the cleanup. We were ready to leave at around lunch time, whereby the weather turned freezing and our journey home was slower because of the continual rain.

We decided to go home via Mt Pleasant and Eden Valley, through to the freeway via Birdwood. It was a very pretty trip. It is almost easy to believe that the drought is over. The countryside was so green and lovely. The little towns were beautiful. There was a car rally on and there were radars at nearly every town, so we had to be cautious.

We had a lovely time on this trip. We are so glad we made the effort, because it could have been so easy to stay at home. It was fantastic to see some new members and see some new "old" members, Nick and Kate. There were quite a few children and our club trips would not be the same without dogs!! As usual it was great to see the different array of camping houses people had – caravans (Caroline and Ray's win again!!), camper trailers and tents. Keith and Di are enjoying their new vehicle, leaving the Territory all alone! We didn't do any driving on this trip. Just as well, because I am waiting for John's Tucson to get bogged!!

I would like to thank Deb for her organization of the trip and to all of the members old and new who came.

Also, Cuffs are you getting better yet? And we hear that Henry is not well. Get better guys.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the next adventure!! (Bushy's is the next trip – take care ladies, there is no flushing toilet, just a long drop, groan!).

Cheers
Helen and Phil

Members
Debbie, Mel, Jason, Debbie's Dad & Betty, Keith & Di, Ray & Caroline, Ken & Val, Peter, Stephanie & 5 kids, Nick & Kate, Nigel, Claire & 2 Boys, Phil, Helen & Boys, Cristin & Andy, Rob & Barb

Photo Gallery



Beautiful setting





It's beginning to look a little bit like Christmas!





Do think we have enough wood people?!





Plenty to eat!



Roaring bonfire



The morning after!



The old girl is slightly cold Rob! Not you Barb!

