



High Range 4WD Club of SA Inc
Murray Mouth, Goolwa
Sunday 11 December 2011
Submitted by Helen

This was our last club trip for 2011. I think that we have had a successful trip calendar this year and to wind up with a lovely drive to the Murray Mouth was a terrific way to spend time with our fellow club members, wish Christmas cheer and visit a favourite spot that we have travelled to before.

We met at 9.30am at Grumpy's, outside Hahndorf. We had a large trip of 15 vehicles with many regulars and a couple of visitors. After reacquainting ourselves with each other it was time to go. Barra was our trip leader navigator and Chris drove!!

We headed out of Hahndorf, with help from Barra's GPS, towards Meadows, via the numerous dirt back roads which traverse the beautiful countryside. We encountered spectacular scenery, with yellow fields just harvested of hay, pretty bush settings, coastal views when we breasted steep inclines and myriads of pretty farmhouses dotted around the landscape, some selling their beautiful fresh produce like eggs, fruit and cherries (yum I love cherries!).

The roads were easy to drive and were dry, but not too dusty. On one occasion, we found the road descending and around a bend, we encountered an "enchanted forest". The sun happened to break through the clouds, bathing the lush vegetation in a pretty golden glow. There were gorgeous ferns of various colours and varieties, beautiful old trees stretching their spectacular gnarled branches over the road to form a shady arch. The old branches were covered in every colour of green lichen and were the home to tiny little climbing vines. The ground was covered in dense undergrowth, home to a spectacular array of colourful wildflowers. As we drove on, we were assaulted by clouds of butterflies which shrouded our cars in beautiful fluttering waves. This little forest seemed forgotten in time and was totally unexpected. When we exited the little oasis, it seemed it never existed, as we returned to what seemed bare countryside after!

We continued our drive to Meadows where we stopped for morning tea and a trip to the Sunday Markets. It was fun to take in the lovely surrounds of a little country town and a nostalgic trip to the market to sample wares and bring home goodies was appreciated by all.

On the road again, continuing along the lovely dirt roads till we reached Goolwa. It was disappointing actually, when we hit the bitumen, to encounter the hoards of travellers speeding to and fro to their various destinations. Our little convoy had enjoyed the peaceful surroundings from whence we had just emerged!

We had lunch at our usual spot, just near the Hindmarsh Island Bridge in the lovely little park. The wind was a little nippy, so we made a wind break with our vehicles and enjoyed catching up with everybody's gossip and adventures.

After lunch, we made our way to Goolwa Beach, let down our tyres and headed onto the sand. The weather was windy and coolish. The sea was wild and woolly with nice big waves. Everybody was out cockling, so there were a lot of people and cars about. It had probably been raining recently, as the sand was nicely packed and it was a very easy run to the Murray Mouth Entrance. There was another club there, nicely set up for the day and once again plenty of people around. We took the opportunity of collecting shells, admiring the scenery and of course talking (again!).

After around 40 minutes, we made our way back along the beach, into the car park, re-inflated our tyres and started our journey home. Some people left the convoy for home and around half made their way back with Barra, along the dirt roads again, to Grumpy's for a beautiful pizza dinner.

It was a beautiful day, no mishaps, fantastic company, fantastic weather and a terrific beach run. What more could you want!!!

Thank you to everybody for making this year an enjoyable one for our various trips. Thanks to those who have helped me put things together and who have volunteered to help lead trips.

I look forward to next year's adventures.
Merry Christmas to you and Happy New Year!!!

Ken&Val (Troop carrier), Henry&Helen (Santa Fe), Martyn&Anja (Nissan Patrol), David&Sue (Nissan Xtrail), David&Jo (Terracan), Carolyn (Nissan Xtrail), Chris (Challenger), Helen,Phil&Jim (Territory), Gary&Sandra (Pajero), Scott (Patrol), Barra&Chris (Landcruiser), CJ,June,Jerrick,Jerren (FJ Cruiser), Geoff&Ruth (Suzuki), Brian&Marlene (Santa Fe), Mick&Deb (Ford Courier) – 15 vehicles – 30 people!!!

Photo Gallery



Meeting up - my poor little camera couldn't fit us all in!!



The things people put underneath their cars!!! Poor CJ nearly hit his head on the ground trying to look at these little beauties!!!



