



High Range 4WD Club of SA Inc

Fleurieu Peninsula
Sunday 30 January 2011
Submitted by Helen

The Fleurieu Peninsula is a picturesque peninsula located south of Adelaide. It was named after the French explorer and hydrographer Charles Pierre Claret de Fleurieu, by the French explorer Nicolas Baudin (ha, bet you didn't know that did you – neither did I!!) as he mapped the south coast of Australia in 1802.

Towns of interest in the area include scenic Victor Harbor, the heritage town of Willunga, Mount Compass, Goolwa, Yankalilla, Rapid Bay and the wine region of McLaren Vale. There is fine surfing at Waitpinga and Browns Beach. A ferry travels between Cape Jervis, at the tip of the peninsula and Kangaroo Island (did know that!!)

The day dawned hot (very hot!). I kept my eye on the phone and emails, to see whether anybody would pull out, but only one car did. We are an intrepid lot. It was a pleasant surprise to find that we had 13 vehicles to accompany us on our journey (together with some children, and dogs!) WE had two new drivers, Chris and Wayne (welcome guys), and Scott and Jenny returned for another visit. We met at the Yankalilla car park at 9.30am, with a departure time of 10.00am. It was no surprise then, to discover that Henry was late (lucky not on his way to Victor Harbor, or worse, Kimba!), so after our usual talk about convoy procedures and forms to fill in, we departed for the lovely Ingalla Falls. Due to the burst of hot weather, the falls were nearly dry and the pool below was stagnant. But the walk was pleasant. Phil delighted everyone with his Tarzan impersonation at the top of the falls, together with his trusty sidekick John. We then departed and headed on to Maple Lane (a very deceiving name!). We traversed a nice rocky track, through some beautiful bush country, accompanied by clouds of butterflies. It was amazing to spot lone houses amongst the bush land and we are still trying to work out whether there is a scout camp out there, tin buildings are a bit of a giveaway! We followed the track out to bitumen and off down another dirt road, to a wonderful, hidden beach called Tunkilla Beach. Lucky for us, we met no oncoming traffic, as this road is essentially one way! This beach is on the bottom (the sole) of the peninsula and faces the Southern Ocean. As the weather was so hot, nobody climbed down to access the sand. We did discover though that we could clearly see Kangaroo Island with a very clear view of the Cape Willoughby Lighthouse (I looked it up on the KI map!). Part of the Heysen trail is along this beach – you would be exhausted before you got to the bottom!. Carolyn envisioned herself fishing from the beach. As the day was hot, the sea was quite calm, but on cold days, it is a fierce beach indeed. This beach is also a favourite haunt of hang gliders, as it has favorable winds.

We then found our way to a beautiful pine forest, where we stopped for lunch in the (not so cool!) shade. We discovered that it was David's 60th birthday, Happy Birthday David. After lunch (toilet stop!), we made our way through more lovely country to Waitpinga Beach, which is a favourite spot for surf fishermen and surfers. This was an easily accessible beach, via a boardwalk, so most people took the opportunity of making their way OVER THE VERY HOT SAND, to the cool waters of the surf. Henry took the opportunity of showing us his prowess in the surf and we didn't mind at all getting wet from the tricky surf waves.

After helping Carolyn recharge her car, after the battery went flat, lights on!, we made our way to Victor Harbor for toilet and refreshment stop. Geoff, Jo and Phil went for a swim. Victor Harbor was slightly cooler, which was a relief.

After Ron scared most of the girls with his pet spider, we said our goodbyes and headed home. Some of the group continued on through Pt Elliot, geo caching.

Thank you to everybody who came out for the day – despite the heat. It was great to catch up after Christmas and to share our discovery of the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula.

Flora and Fauna

Butterflies, cows, sheep, horses (probably dying in the heat!)

Some wildflowers

Weather conditions

Hot – 42 degrees, sunny

Mishaps

One flat battery

Hot people

Vehicles

Helen, Phil, Jim, Caitlin (Ford Territory), Geoff & Jo (Toyota Landcruiser), David & Sue (Nissan Xtrail), Carolyn & Ron (Nissan Xtrail), Di & Keith (Nissan Navara), Henry (Hyundai Santa Fe), Gary, Sandra, Luke (Mitsubishi Pajero), Brenton (Nissan Xtrail), John & Helen (Hyundai Tucson), Len & Mary (RAV4), Scott & Jenny (Nissan Patrol), Wayne (Dual Cab), Chris (Mitsubishi Challenger) – 13 vehicles, 25 people

Photo Gallery



Keeping cool before heading off



Phil the climber (dry waterfall!)



Keeping cool at the waterfall



Me Tarzan!!



OMG – two Tarzans – Phil and John



Tunkilla Beach – the land mass on the horizon is Kangaroo Island





Happy Birthday David – 60 years young!!



Waitpinga – time for a dip



Looks cool!



Victor Harbor