



CERVANTES

Saturday February 28th 2015

Rod, Julie, James & Olivia – Trip Leader

Tony

Frank & Jenny

Jo, Chris, Ryan & Reece - Scribe

Sandy Pants

Naser

Martin

Paul, Gemma & Cooper

Swinger, Leanne, Jake & Sabryn

Steve, Rita & Bree

Simon, Raelene, Benjamin & Jordan - TEC

We left camp at 10am on a stunning blue sky day, with the intention of heading to Stockyard Gully Caves and then back via the beach towards camp. Naser drew the short straw as Scribe but as we set off I stepped in and offered as he was a 'Loner' after all...he didn't have to think long about the answer ☺ As we pulled away from Cervantes we turned left out onto the Indian Ocean Drive and then first right onto Seville Street. There was already a little banter over the radio mentioning the fact that there had not been a u turn as yet...obviously something I don't know about!

At 10.12am a few of us overshot the left turn we were meant to take, so we swung around and turned onto the sandy track in Beekeepers Reserve where we stopped to let the tyres down. A few friendly Bobtails joined us while we got on with our business. The radios echoed when Rod asked if anyone had a spare tyre valve...hmmm that can't be good! The valve had popped off while he was taking air from the tyres and landed somewhere in the sand...after some careful searching the valve could not be found so he decided to remove the one from the spare tyre. Once all inflated James spotted the valve just lying beside the wheel...always the way!! All fixed up and we were ready for the off.

The track went from boggy to rocky and back again for many kilometres. We did a good bit of rock crawling through one spot in particular. After some time Rod pulled up to have a discussion about the track ahead. It was taped off saying "Do not enter as fire arms in use"...oops! The decision was made to remove and replace the tape so we could continue onwards. After all the other end of the track was not taped off. We came off the track and turned right onto a corrugated road but not for long as we turned right again onto another sandy track. A few comments to Rod over the radio along the lines of "are you sure this is the way you want to go"... "Yes, trust me", Rod says. It was a great track with a good dry river crossing. We really enjoyed it. So much so we decided to turn around and do it again in reverse ;-). No U-turns...honest ☺

We followed the tracks out to the bitumen and headed for Cockleshell Gully. As we were a little behind Rod's schedule he suggested we just headed for the Caves and have lunch there. We arrived sometime around 12.30pm, I think, having too much fun to record the time. We all parked up and went for a walk. The kids had a great time running through the cave in the dark while the rest of us enjoyed the coolness. We made use of the tables and shade and had lunch and headed off again around 2pm.

We headed back from the caves in the same direction we came but turned right a little way back down the track where we headed into the scrub. Rod did a little taster first and asked if we were all happy to go down some scratchy tracks...we all said go for it! Well, we trailblazed our way through a very overgrown unused track for a good distance, where we came across a few more rocky outcrops which were fun. We ploughed on and eventually came across a track that followed some powerlines. It wasn't too far down here when Swinger pulled up as something was possibly dragging from his car....this was highly possible after we had just gone through some dense bush. It was all quiet on the radios....waiting...waiting...what's up Swinger? We finally had word that it seemed a little more serious than something stuck. The car was still making a noise

when idling and Simon had an inclination that it was the idler bearing. He said we just needed to keep moving but that we'd head for the nearest bitumen and get back to camp. We found a spot to air up and got back on the bitumen around 3pm.

On our way towards Jurien Bay Swinger came over the radio to say his battery light was on...Chris said "That's your belt"... and the next thing we hear is that the belt had broken. We were just over 5kms from Jurien so the

majority carried on while Simon and Paul helped Swinger out. We waited at the fuel station in Jurien and finally got word that Paul was towing Swinger and that we needed a mechanic. Chris found a mechanic at the local BP garage who was just about to shut shop. They cruised into town after about 5 or 10 minutes and pulled up outside the garage. The owner had a fair few belts in stock and an idler bearing. That's about it for my knowledge of technical speak!

Part of the group headed back to camp while a few stayed behind to assist with the recovery and repair. I think we had Swinger, Paul, Steve, Simon, Tony and Rowly...oh and me taking photos but then I got bored and headed for camp too ☺

Back at camp we chatted and made a decision that we could make it to the Pinnacles for sunset so we messaged the mechanics and told them to meet us there. We couldn't have timed it better...as we reached the junction so did they and we all made our way up Nambung National Park. It was a little bit too windy for our planned cheese and dips so we took a few silly photos and watched the sun go down then headed back to camp to unwind after a busy, fun day.

Thanks Rod and Julie for a cracking Day 1..Jo ☺





Cervantes Long Weekend Day 2

Trip leader Rod and Julie

Scribe Masson's

Tec Rowlands

As we assembled in the morning it was agreed that we would have an easy day, just a drive up the beach and chill out till after lunch. Well, as scribe I wish that was all to report.

We drove to the end of town and off the bitumen to let down tyres. Normally this is a pretty mundane time of day until all these flags starting appearing on vehicles. Discussion followed along the lines of who had the longest pole, it's how you use it etc. It was decided Dave was the winner but maybe he was helped by his mounting position.

Off we went following 'Trusty' along the tracks. along the way he found some dunes. As our car had some issues the day before we were forced to watch as others did some dune driving and circle work. Rod then went to find the exit which he did and off we all went.

This track proved a bit scratchy and at one point the farm truck pulled a branch down in front of the Rowlands which needed a bit of work to remove. In the meantime the rest of the convoy moved slowly along the track until an entry point was found to the beach. This was a little soft but everyone made it through ok. There was a bit more driving to follow but eventually we made it to a pretty nice spot for lunch. Who would have thought it would take so long to find a nice beach to have lunch and a play on in a place like Cervantes.

During the next 2 1/2 hours there were a few activities such as eating, swimming, kite flying, remote control cars, chatting, and some cricket. This was a great way to spend a few hours and eventually we had to get going.

'Trust me' Rod decided to head north and let James have a drive so he could sit in the back and play with his new gps mapping system. From what I can understand I am guessing that this must have meant that Julie was the supervising person in charge of the vehicle, however she also must have been looking elsewhere as James continued along the beach. As I pulled our car to a gentle stop to observe the goings on the silence was broken with an "oh shit" from the passenger seat as the prado seemed to crab walk and move downwards along the beach. It was about this time I think Rod looked up from his device to see what was happening. A change of drivers ensued and Rod managed to bog the car even more. Tony was also up there but couldn't lend much support for fear of wetting the jeeps wheels. There was an exit off the beach where the rest of the convoy had pulled up so it was decided to send a vehicle with a winch along the top track to see if it could get close to winch Rod out. The farm truck was the chosen vehicle and Tony's jeep also went up for support. The rest of us also exited the beach to go and lend a hand.

When we got there we realised what a predicament the prado was in. It was in a very angly spot that was difficult to get access to. What was decided was to reverse the jeep into a dune and use it as a tree to anchor a snatch block between the farm truck and the prado to get a better pull angle. This worked for a while and with putting max traks under the rear wheels seemed to be making progress. We then thought a single pull at an angle would get the prado out. Not to be, as one bent recovery point later this plan was aborted. It was then agreed to use 2 snatch blocks, so that the winch cable went from the farm truck to the prado, then to the tree(jeep) and then back to the prado. Upon pulling the cable the prado popped over the dune much to the relief of everyone. This was an awesome recovery and another one where lessons were learnt.

After this we headed along the track to find a gravel road that would take us back to the bitumen and to the caravan park.

Thanks Rod and Julie for a nice easy drive along the beach.

Swinger



Need a farm truck Leanne 😊