

BEACHPORT WEEKEND

The Adelaide Jeep Club attended Beachport on the weekend of the 24-27 January 2014. Some members booked in on the Thursday with the majority arriving on the Friday. Flash attended on the Saturday and Sunday travelling from relatives at Millicent. A total of 17 cars and 34 people attended with members staying on powered sites, unpowered sites and cabins.

On Saturday morning weather was fine about 30 and after a briefing 11 cars travelled to the 'bowl' or 5 mile drift. Enroute the 'horse' decided he was a horse and took his own track and got stranded and belly up on a rise resulting in a double snatch strap recovery to extricate him and then he had to snatch the saviour out. We spent a good hour in the bowl doing sand driving techniques before we moved on the designated tracks travelling north led by Flash in his wrangler with his 3 ladies on board. Sections of the track were quite loose and sections that were steep and rocky making a good combination of varying road surfaces and elevation. Momentum was the key to get up some loose rises and positive steering input as the cars crawled their way up.

Everyone had their personal challenges with several attempts to get up some of the steeper hills. The poms found a new way to get up a hill where Rob thought it best to go through the hill like a torpedo making a tunnel.

Lunch was convened in a large open bowl area with dunes all around. After lunch the drive continued north on the beach where our convoy interrupted the nude Olympics being conducted. At the time I went past contestants were doing a sack race. Other races included a snatch and tackle derby which Shelley was keen to stop and watch but there was no parking available.

The drive terminated at Nora Creina where some cars returned to Beachport and others went in to robe for a bite and coffee. All members attended the Beachport pub Saturday night and great food was served. The Toyota LCC was not happy as we had to kick them out so we could pinch their tables.

Sunday was fine and about 30 again for the day with a near 900 move off and the convoy travelled south down to Carpenter Rocks by roads and after airing down travelled the northern beach past the Canunda National Park. Some areas reminded me of travelling on some remote planet until we hit the beaches which were very soft. Lunch was taken on the beach near a beautiful cove but the water was very cold. After lunch one vehicle had difficulty on the beach where several attempts to extricate by using paddling techniques coupled with a max trax combo saw the KJ off the beach. Definitely needs a lift before another beach run is conducted. The convoy continued on where we had a long stretch of everyone shitting themselves on extremely soft sand with a tide that was coming in made the trip – memorable. After exiting the beach members split up and made their own ways home via Millicent to get fuel and others went to get coffee. Training was conducted on both days and Alex and Sue MacMillian had a few of the competencies signed off. Worthy of mention is Sue's negotiation of a steep sandy track when she went up in one go after having two WK Grands take several attempts to get up. She did a brilliant job in the KK.

Sunday night we had a camp fire as the nights were cold. A presentation was made to a recipient who won what I determined as the inaugural Wood Duck award to a dedicated member who through thick and thin, and constant advice from the passenger seat just persevered to get her car through every challenge presented to her. The car moved forward. It stopped. She got out and dug. He kept on giving advice. She dug. Got in the car and drove it out. Not once but several times. Not once did she complain – openly, she just dug the sand away and kept on receiving the advice. An inaugural winner for pure guts and determination was Ivan Hieb. This award will be presented each January long weekend to a worthy recipient. Ivana was presented with a bottle of French red wine.

On Monday morning at different intervals our seasoned travellers headed back to the hum drum of city life in to temperatures of 40+. A great turn out for a long weekend. Over half the club membership attended which is a brilliant start for the year and a sign of positive activity to happen. We have booked the same site for next year so write it in your diary for the January Australia Day long weekend.