



MURRAY SUNSET

Sept/Oct 07

Early Saturday morning, Kris & I eagerly started off in drizzly rain for our next Overland Club 4WD adventure. Arriving at Golden Grove saw us a tad quiet as we had not been away with many in this group before. An hour later saw us in Mannum eating bakery food at 10am and being warmly welcomed. A ferry trip over the mighty Murray with a bitumen drive to Bow Hill and we were on our way east to Victoria.

Chris & Sue Baker had done their research and had us on mainly dirt back roads to Paruna where we refuelled. I was served fuel the old fashioned way by a local lad (and excited Port supporter) of 12 years old who played in the towns U17 footy side.. Yes that's right U17!!!

Drove to Meribah then over the border and down a reasonable track in the Sunset Park to our camping ground. Everyone one set up camp. Some settled in to listen to the footy final whilst others collected firewood for the weekend. Came back from gathering firewood to discover Ports fate- at least they made the final . . . (I'm a Richmond supporter!) Saturday night saw much drinking and singing around the fire - a good time had by all.

Up early Sunday and tires deflated for a 7 hour drive around the park. Our Trip Leader led us west then turned south along the border track. My partner Kris was driving and we realised we were in 2WD when an easy looking hill presented a problem. Into 4wd and no problems. What

a contrast in scenery as the tracks changed from soft sand to dry clay to rocky gravel.

Amazing country Australia. We blessed our 4WD, because if you got lost on foot in this Mallee scrub I doubt you would ever find your way out! After passing the clay lakes we stopped for lunch at the Pink Lake campsite which was very busy. The flies ate more of our food than us but it didn't matter- this was becoming a 4wd adventure against the elements. Off to Mt Crozier through many k's of twisty deep sandy tracks. Darren and I had the smallest/ slowest vehicles and we seemed to hold everyone up but by the cheerful banter on the UHF it didn't seem to bother anyone. Paul was tail end Charlie and one stage we were 7.5KM behind our trip leader - I'm sure Chris used to be a rally driver!

A quick walk up Mt Crozier took its toll and the steep ascent saw plenty of us panting but the views were worth it. A long drive ahead saw us pushing hard to get back to camp. Darren and I discovered tires actually screech around some corners even when off-road. Back at camp everyone was tired but fulfilled after a long day 4WD driving.



Sunday night was quiet but everyone enjoyed each others company around the camp fire (except those who were so relaxed he fell asleep).



Monday morning as we were packing up a Western Brown Snake decided to slither through the camp and Eileen's warnings saw everyone keeping a safe distance- one idiot was wearing thongs filming it. I changed into boots afterwards. Martin & Lynn, Brian & Kay departed early and the rest of us headed up the North/South track to the shearers quarters.

I soon learned how to dodge trees towing a campervan along this skinny/ sandy track. Lunch again shared with the flies then on our way home. Nearly lost Chris & Sue as they were shuffled to the back of the ferry at Swan Reach but they soon caught up in Sedan. Here we said our farewells and thanked our Trip Leaders for organising a great weekend and everyone else for their wonderful company.

Chris & Sue Baker/Prado- thanks for a magnificent trip. Well organised, safe, great information and company, well done.

Les & Eileen Butler/Pathfinder.
Norm & Sue Baker/Patrol.
Paul & Shirley Kelly/Landcruiser.
Darren & Bev Fergusson/Jackaroo.
Brian & Kay Hignett/Landcruiser.
Stuart Bradshaw, Rose Fitzgerald & Jess/Landcruiser.
Martin & Lynn Galbreath/Landcruiser.
Shaun Bancroft & Kris LeDuff/Triton.

Thanks again to all the above for being great company and giving us another wonderful trip with the club.



Shaun Bancroft