

## **Broke Inlet Trip**

**5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March**

The Saturday morning started off looking grey & cloudy and the weekend forecast was not promising but we headed off after lunch with the hope of improvement.

Anthea & I travelled on our own to meet up with Jane & Todd and Georgia and Connor at Rest Point Caravan Park later that afternoon and to meet Angela & Ray and their friends Margareth and Don the following morning as they were unable obtain a park site( caravan park was almost standing room only) so opted for the Motel.

After enjoying a few drinks and nibblies without a campfire (no wood, no fire base) the evening ended early due to the cool drizzly weather.

The following morning we met Angela, Ray, Margareth & Don at the caravan park in the now almost constant drizzle and then our four vehicles headed out west to the entrance to D'Entrecasteau National Park. After the usual registration of vehicles etc. and deflating of tyres we set off for the mouth of the inlet 27 kilometres away.

The track was in good condition despite having had a lot of traffic over the summer but probably helped to firm up a bit by some recent rain. We initially made our way to the stockman's hut for a coffee break and chance to get to know our fellow 4 wheel drivers. We continued on to the fisherman's hut on the edge of the inlet to find surprisingly no one camping there. This spot has the first available access to the inlet and affords a great view over the vast inland water way which is home to an abundant variety of waterbirds, although this time black swans were in big numbers.

The drizzle had now stopped and the sun was making a rare but welcome appearance.

We continued our drive towards the mouth around the edge of the inlet eventually coming to a very loose sandy corner which managed to stop Don but with Todd's assistance and a little less tyre pressure regained momentum fairly quickly. Continuing on, we made our way down the long sandy straight past quite a lot of campers to the mouth of the inlet. The water level in the inlet was low compared to any of our previous visits so had opened to the sea for some time following last winter. There were quite a few hardy anglers trying their luck and others just enjoying the area.

We decide to head back down the inlet for lunch via the dunes which looked challenging due to their height and sand volume but turned out to be quite easy in the end but created a little excitement never the less.

Enjoyed a long lunch on the edge of the inlet although not peaceful and private due to the presence of a drone being flown around by others camped nearby. Several of our group who wished to use the privacy of the bush felt a bit intimidated. Following lunch we headed back along the track to a less used side track which leads to a small camping area on the upper

reaches of the inlet.



The track in is now starting to get a little overgrown in sections but



still accessible. The camping area here is quite protected and suitable for a small group.

Returned back to the main track and headed back to Banksia Camp for a drive through before leaving the park and heading to Mandalay beach carpark to reinflate our tyres before saying good bye to Angela, Ray, Margareth & Don.

The rest of us returned to the caravan park for a tidy up before enjoying a few drinks and generally relaxing after a good days drive.

We departed the following morning in bright sunshine (the best of the weekend) and headed for home but not before sampling the coffee and pastries of the new bakery opposite the Tree Top turn-off on South Coast Highway. Definitely worth another visit.

Many thanks to Jane, Todd, Georgia & Connor for their company in the park and thanks to Angela, Ray ,Margareth & Don for their extra effort in making the trip.

Anthea & Geoff