

Warriup/Cheynes Beach Trip Report, 20/05/18

By Tom

The Trip started on a frosty but beautiful clear morning at Bakers Junction, where we gathered, some coffees in hand, ready for the day ahead.

We waited for any late comers before deciding it was time to hit the road after a quick briefing for the drive. Important to note we used channel 17 as opposed to the usual channel 14 as it's for emergency services in this area of the region. We had Alan out in front again in what appears to be an unstoppable Prado, Cameron, Natalie, and Lachlan in their Colorado, I was following up in the Hilux and Bill, Sue, Jessie, and Hanna bringing up the rear in the trusty troopy.

We made our way down the highway, through Manypeaks and past the Cheynes Beach turn off, where we eventually made our way to Warriup Road. From there it was a dusty and winding drive as we made our way to the start of the access track to Warriup Beach and stopped to air down our tyres.

Alan snaked us through various turns and Y junctions (great memory Alan!) [on the way there I worked out I could load my recorded track from DropBox so I was actually following it on Hema Navigator, but thanks anyway 😊 Alan], and the sand got softer as we made our way towards the beach. Upon arriving at the beach Bill and co spotted a pod of dolphins, so it was a great time to try and grab a few pics and soak in what can only be described as a magic day.

We continued along the beach and up one of the breakout tracks towards the Bluff Creek fishing hut for some morning tea. Just before the hut, there was a good section of reasonably shallow water with an interesting exit out of a deeper hole. Not sure I would want to go through there in winter! Alan went ahead and checked it out before we all made our way through and pulled in for morning tea. The hut belongs to the Mt Barker Angling Club and maintained by those who stay there throughout the year.



After some morning tea we made our way back through the water, and along the beach towards the limestone lookout. Here we followed Alan up quite a steep and very bumpy limestone rock track to a beautiful viewing spot at the top.



We did see a few schools of fish and some hungry birds, but think the whales might have been having a day off with this weather. It was also a good spot to gauge the next section which would take us either along the beach and across the sand between water and rocks, or take the track that bypasses around the back. It was nearly high tide but it wasn't actually that high, and with plenty of beach left, the decision was made to take the first option. We missed the waves and water (almost) and continued up the beach towards the caravan park.

From the road leading to the caravan park we entered another track which would take us past Back Beach, and up the hill to another lookout in the hope to spot some whales. There was another steep decent down laden with limestone rocks to negotiate but all made it through with ease.

We had lunch and a rest (and Lachlan had a sleep) while soaking in the view.



Progress so far with only 4 us meant we had some time to check out Back Beach, so we jumped back in and back up the steep incline. Once there we did a quick turn around on the beach and parked up to take a look.



Jessie and Hanna went swimming...



... and Lachlan had a play while Cameron took a few photos of the bay.



Now Alan and Cam must have chewed the track up because for some strange reason I didn't quite make it up the hill on the track out of the beach on my first, or second attempt. It's usually 3 goes and then recovery but on the third go I managed to climb up the hill. Bill repeated my effort in the same fashion needing a couple of attempts before getting out, I was pretty sure I'd compacted the track for him but apparently not.

From here we travelled along the track as it wound its way along the headland overlooking the afternoon ocean and exited to bitumen right next to the boat ramp and BBQ area. Hubs and 4WD were disengaged and we made our way to the caravan park store to air up and grab drinks and ice creams before making our way home.

Thanks to everyone who came along and Alan for leading us and showing us some fantastic spots to see, hopefully see you on the next trip.

Tom, 20/05/18