

Ardrossan and West Coast YP Trip

By Syd Greig, photos Les Thomas and Frank Austin

Syd again! This is now almost my last spot to show the club - Ardrossan for beach and jetty crabbing and my sand dunes off road near Port Victoria.

We all met at my house on the Monday at 8.30am, my wife and I with the dog, quad bike strapped down on the trailer and a canoe on top of the trailer's overhead rack. With Pat and Frank Austin, Jim Biggs and Nick Vandenberg we headed over to the Yorke Peninsula. Les and Lyn Thomas made their own way a little later on.

We did a bit of fishing on the Monday afternoon off the jetty but since we had a dodge tide for 2 days we decided to do our small off road 4WD adventure a day early. On the Tuesday we left about 9:00am. I went with Nick, Frank went with Jim and Les came in his vehicle. The girls stayed behind (lucky for them).

West Coast Yorke Peninsula



We all headed across to Arthurton, then via dirt roads to Weetulta, then across to the west coast visiting camp sites on the beach:



The first site was called The Gap. We saw a few locals bogged; they even had their caravan further down the beach. A sign said “**No camping on the beach**”. Oh well, we then headed south towards Port Victoria passing The Bamboos and then Tiparra Rocks. The site here had a very steep drop down to the water and no safety rails. A good place not to go at night since it was very dangerous. So we made our way back to some tracks and picked up some local roads on a RAA map. After getting to Port Victoria I managed to find some old tracks through a farmer’s property.

Port Victoria Jetty





We aired down and proceeded to the beach where I used to camp some 15 years ago. We went back up some old tracks I had remembered but it was all too easy for Jim and Frank. Jim kept calling me and Nick up on the UHF. **“Hey Syd, let me know when I need to put my vehicle into 4WD”**.

Well I was embarrassed - we came to a 4 way intersection which went right back towards the beach we started from. We came to a bit of a sand hill which I thought used to go to the beach all those years ago. Luckily, Les who can walk more easily up sand hills than I can, went to the top and back around behind a grassy clump on the hill and then came back down 20 metres to the right on this U shaped track.





Nick and I in the Nissan went straight up over to the right and back down. Jim had a go and got bogged half way up the sand hill. Jim backed down to get ready for another go. Les had a go and on the 2nd time went straight over the top, around and then back down the track.

Jim had another go but again got stuck and backed down. Nick and I went over again followed by Les. Jim went up again, got stuck and backed down. So I called Jim up “**Hey Jim you were saying let me know when it’s time to put it into 4WD. Jim its time**”. Jim must have been getting embarrassed. Frank jumped out of the vehicle to lighten the load and more air was let out of the tyres. So on his final attempt to avoid the fines master, he gave it a little bit more, just enough to stop right at the top and could not go forward or back.



We then took an hour to winch Jim out and could not go back to the other sand hills that were bigger. Hey Jim, we are all going back another time. Are you coming? Sorry to give you stick but the 4WD joke was very funny at the time that was before you got bogged.



So off we went over to the beach Jim was leading us towards Port Rickaby. Jim calls up **“Getting a bit soft”**. We had to turn around as the tide was coming in. - no more getting bogged today. Back over the hills and back into town which has nothing more than a caravan park and the only shop. Those of us who were getting hungry looked forward to getting something to eat from the shop. Being a Tuesday the kitchen was closed and there was nothing to eat.

We then aired up left it to Frank and Jim to find our way back to Ardrossan. Those who came had a blast. We will go back to the west coast with my tinnie and maybe Nick's boat. Port Victoria has a caravan park and a good beach and a jetty for fishing. We had a great day of 4WD activity. Those of you that missed it don't miss the next trip. I'm surprised the old track was still open.

Wednesday was dedicated to crabbing and fishing. Some boys went down to the jetty. I took my quad bike with rake and trolley down along the beach but no crabs. The others got just a few off the jetty with their new crab nets.

We must get our Trip Coordinator to try and schedule another trip to the west coast this year in case they close the old tracks. You know this is what being in a club is all about. If you have a favourite spot tell us and share it as I have. Don't keep it to yourself. It may not always be open so all in all a great trip.

My next and last trip is the best and most exciting. Full on 4WD tracks and sand hills you have never seen the likes of. We start at 15 psi and have needed a winch many times. This may be the last trip I lead but if you are serious take time off. This is the ultimate 4WD trip of a lifetime. We will take on Fowlers Bay, Scots Beach, Camel Track Road and the Dog Fence. Only come if you are prepared for the ultimate experience. We can avoid certain tracks but the Dog Fence sand hills are the best I have seen and driven in 45 years. If I don't have any takers from our club I will do a guided tour because I'm running out of time and my knees have just started working. I have not been there for 6 years but I will go there this year in October - put it in your calendar. Don't miss it. Regards Coorong Kid (alias Fines Master). Hey Jim be warned.