

Southern Explorers Four Wheel Drive Club Summary Trip Report

SA Coffin Bay – 15 August to 18 August 2020

Trip Leader: Jim B

The trip commenced at the Clubrooms with Jim and Margaret (Toyota Prado), Justin (Toyota Prado), Ian and myself (Toyota Hilux). We headed north via the South Road improvements, lunched at Port Wakefield, had an afternoon stop at Port Germein and settled into the Whyalla Foreshore Caravan Park for the night.



The following day commenced with a glorious sunrise across the gulf, as we broke camp and headed south towards our overnight destination of Coffin Bay National Park where we were joined by Paul and Linda (D-Max), and catching up with Jeanette (Rav 4) at Tumbly Bay for lunch. Once in the National Park the speed limit

dropped down to 40kph and we meandered our way in, stopping at the Templetonia Lookout (lovely views but quite windy) before arriving at our spacious campsites where we set up for our 2 night stay, welcomed by some local kangaroos.



Another glorious sunrise started the day. First stop was the Templetonia Lookout (again) where the views were even better than the previous day and the wind had dropped. Templetonia is the scientific name for Cockies Tongue, a native flowering shrub that was in abundance. Next was Gunyah Beach – the 4WD track initially being rained on but then the



shower passed as we headed closer to the shore. We stopped for a group photo before heading down towards the beach but didn't venture too far as the sand was soft.



The afternoon saw us driving further into the park to Black Springs campground with a walk down to the beach where crystal clear water awaited and then on to Seven Mile Beach. We drove along the beach for a while before turning around and heading back where we stopped to check out the dead sperm whale washed up on the shore. Setting off again, we retraced our steps and just before we arrived back at camp we had to drive through quite a bit of water as the tide was in and parts of the track became submerged, however the sand

underneath was quite solid. The weather was very windy with the occasional shower, some heavy, rolling through. We all survived the wild and woolly night in tact!



The weather gods were kind and allowed us to pack up without rain. We drove out to Point Avoid for a look at some rugged coastal scenery before leaving the National Park taking the roads less travelled to migrate north along the coast. For further details on the West Coast component of this trip see the West Coast Trip Report.

Vanessa R