

Southern Explorers Four Wheel Drive Club Summary Trip Report SA West Coast – 18 August to 24 August 2020 Trip Leader: Jim B

The trip continued from Coffin Bay National Park with Jim and Margaret (Toyota Prado), Justin (Toyota Prado), Paul and Linda (D-Max), Jeanette (Rav-4), Ian and myself (Toyota Hilux). We saw Coles Point and Mt Greenly before heading further north to Point Drummond and then on to Picnic Beach for a lunch stop. It was here that a couple of local pods of dolphins entertained us by surfing the clear waves and frolicking in the bay! With the weather deteriorating again, we booked into cabins in the Elliston Caravan Park and enjoyed a pub meal.

After another couple of heavy showers, Justin, Jeanette, Ian and I headed off for a walk to the local jetty, where the waves were pounding quite heavily against the shore, making it necessary to time a quick walk onto the jetty to avoid spray! We had an invigorating walk in the wild wind before heading



back to the cabins to collect the others to head off on the Elliston Sculpture Cliff Top Tour. This was a very delightful two hours spent stopping at each parking bay, cameras out, taking shots of the rugged coastal scenery and/or the various sculptures on the loop.



Back to Elliston for lunch before heading down to have a look at Locks Well Beach. Then it was off to Nowhere Else, a little point on the map which intrigued us all. We arrived to find a stone building, and a large rock with a plaque surrounded by wooden palings engraved with "Nowhere Else"! We travelled further east by grassed and rocky paddocks heading for Bascombe Well Conservation Park and some 4WD tracks! We started on a nice little track that would eventually lead to a

couple of ruins that could be worthy of a visit, given more time but decided not to go too far as time didn't permit. After turning around we headed north and hit the main road west of Lock before heading back into Elliston – where we enjoyed another pub meal!

The following day the convoy headed north towards Streaky Bay, heading back on to dirt to visit Talia Caves, The Tub and Woolshed Cave. This part of the coastline is also very scenic and rugged, as the winds continued making for some spectacular wave action against



cliffs. The Tub was particularly interesting as you could see the waves breaking through a gap under the edge.



We pushed on to Venus Bay, Port Kenny before visiting Murphy's Haystacks, an interesting inselberg granite outcrop just off the highway. From there we travelled west to Sceale Bay before we headed north on a now bitumen road into Streaky Bay. More cabins were utilised (rather than tents in the poor weather) and another good pub meal was had!

More 4WDing on the cards today as we headed out of Streaky Bay to Tyinga Beach. The 4WD track was indicated on my map as being 11km long and continued on from the Tyinga Road heading south west around the coast. We made many stops along the track (mainly dirt with quite a lot of rocky outcrops) enjoying more splendid coastal scenery, the photographers amongst us getting a



good workout!

We came out



at Baird Bay for lunch after 2 hours on the track. Next we headed to Point Labatt and the sea-lion colony – rewarded by a number of sea-lions on the beach and also some seals on rocks further out before heading back to Streaky Bay. Time was running a little short so we decided to quickly go around the Cape Bauer Loop to the Whistling Rocks for a look followed by the pub for another nice dinner.

The following day the weather finally started to look a bit better, more blue sky and winds abating but by no means gone. We headed north out of Streaky Bay to Point Brown for some more superb coastal scenery and then headed into Smoky Bay for a comfort stop and a quick look around. From Smoky Bay we headed into Ceduna to restock and refuel. The sign in the main street indicated there were 14 whales at Fowlers Bay and 94 at the Head of the Bight so that was looking good for the next part of our trip. On to Penong and another comfort stop, some having a quick look at the many windmills in the township. Back again on the road we continued to head west to our final destination for the night, Fowlers Bay.



An earlier start to this day, with 4 cars making tracks for the Head of the Bight and some whale watching. We stopped for another club photo at the Nullarbor Sign before the final 30km to the Head of the Bight whale watching centre. There we walked the few 100 metres to the top of the cliffs. Ian and I ventured left

first to watch the whales, armed with camera and binoculars. I spotted around 15 different whale groups, usually mum with a calf, the sun was shining, bit of wind around but very good. On to the Bunda Cliffs where we saw more whales and more impressive coastal scenery. One whale calf of reasonable size delighted us by breaching several times, so those with cameras were well and truly kept busy trying to capture the perfect shot.

Shortly after 14:00 we dragged ourselves away, went back to the highway and turned left to visit Nullabor Roadhouse before heading back to Fowlers Bay via Nundroo. Jeanette was keen to see more of the coastline near Fowlers Bay so three cars headed off to Mexican Hat and Wandilla whilst Jim and Margaret made a quick trip to Scotts Beach before heading to Fowlers Bay. The three vehicles that headed to Mexican Hat encountered some rough corrugated dirt roads and finally some impressive coastal scenery! From there we headed back to Fowlers Bay, quite late.



From Fowlers Bay we headed to Ceduna, via Point Sinclair and Cactus Beach, a beautiful spot! From Ceduna on to Poochera for our next overnight stop. The pub owners greeted us and set us up on our sites, even providing a drum and some wood for a fire later in the evening. We ended up having a meal at the pub.

Greeted by a beautiful sunny day, we packed up trailers and tents and headed east out of Poochera shortly

after 09:00. To read about the next part of the trip, go to the [Gawler Ranges Trip Report](#).

Vanessa R

