

Trip Report: Peake – 5-7th November 2021

Trip Leader: Steve & Mel

Attendees: Steve & Mel, Mike & Jan, Paul & Linda, Jeff & Michelle, Jim, Ian & Vanessa

The annual trip to Peake was on the board for the following weekend and urgent messages needed to be sent out to say there was a mix up with the booking. This meant a number of people could no longer attend. Bruce was listed as Trip Leader but his knee wasn't having any of that.

We didn't want to cancel the trip as we didn't want our regular booking jeopardised. Steve asked me if I would like to spend our 45th wedding anniversary at Peake instead of a 5-star hotel – as if I could refuse that offer! Steve took over as Trip Leader and made a few phone calls to rally the troops. We ended up with 4 vehicles on Friday and 6 on Saturday which worked out well.

It was a very hot day on Friday when we arrived to set up camp. Steve & Mel travelled up with Mike and Jan and Paul & Linda arrived a couple of hours later, followed by Jeff & Michelle with the Taj in the evening.

Saturday, we headed into the sand around 8.30am and navigated the dunes to the drift area. Steve had 3 attempts at the first dune but couldn't quite make it over. The other 3 got up and over with no problems. The next set of dunes again saw Steve struggle, until he had to reverse back down and realised that only two wheels were driving. Without his glasses on he had actually unlocked the manual hubs instead of locking them. With hubs locked the Patrol easily climbed the hill. Just to prove it he soared over the first dune that had him beat the first time.

Paul and Linda ended up sideways down a dune and the Isuzu with warning lights flashing wasn't keen to play for the rest of the day. They met the RAA at Peake and the problem was resolved.

Jim and Ian & Vanessa radioed that they had arrived so we headed back to camp. Ian asked if he could attempt some of the dunes with his camper trailer in tow. The camper trailer made it through the 'drifts' and a few dunes as well.

After lunch we headed back out into the dunes. Jim was like a kid in a lolly shop – up and over as many dunes as he could find, with a huge smile on his face. He said he had forgotten how much fun it was at Peake. Jeff's ranger had to be snatched out by a Nissan and Steve will never let him forget it.

The weather changed through 4 seasons in one day but we were able to stay dry and have a campfire each night.

Sunday, we had another 'play in the sand' before packing up and heading for home. Although Steve was the designated Trip Leader, we rotated Convoy Leader so everyone had a go at leading. A great weekend with good company. Looking forward to next year and hope we can get more to come along for an enjoyable weekend.

We have booked Peake for the 1st weekend in November 2022 – Friday 4th – Sunday 6th November. Please save the date in your calendar. Looks like I'm spending my next anniversary at Peake???