

# Sundown National Park

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 of June 2015 By Disco Dave

Mary-Ann and I left the beautiful Bribie Island just after lunch to meet up with David Lord and his son's Zac, Alex and Nic. Also on the trip was Melanie Bartlett, Matt, Andrew and Paul Hogan. We were to meet at Dalveen free camp for a relaxing evening before heading off to Maccas at Stanthorpe on Saturday morning. Mary-Ann and I had purchased a new tent for this trip and had no time to test it but we knew it would be easy because we had a quick look at one already set up at the camping store.

Just before we started up the hill I called up on the 2way to see if there was any one from our club on air. We found Paul who was not far in front and happy to have a chat.

The weather was cloudy and we drove through a little shower just after Warwick. 5k outside of Warwick the cloud got a bit thicker and started to drizzle. Not far from Dalveen it started to rain and blow. As the cloud thickened (*the cloud has nothing to do with the internet*) the rain became heavier.

I called again on the 2 way hoping to get Andrew who was already at Dalveen so I could get directions, **success** thank God as it was now dark, blowing and raining.

We arrived at the camp to find the rain had turned to sleet (*bloody freezing*) but we braved the weather and proceeded to set up the tent and thank God Andrew and Paul had some knowledge about this. It only took about half an hour to get it up (*the tent*) and get all the stuff out of the car into the tent and start dinner. Mary- Ann's job was to get the tent ready for sleeping and I cooked dinner outside in the now freezing conditions. Paul and Andrew somehow cooked their dinner and they ate it in Andrews car and washed it down with rum or something. We ate in the tent that now had *water on the floor* and with the wind howling like a pack of wolves outside, we decided to thaw out by going to bed. We lay there listening to the rest of the group arriving and going through the exercise of setting up. They made so much noise we didn't get to sleep till 10 pm, with the wind still howling and nearly blowing the tent away.

I bet you think I am going to say we woke up to a beautiful day. **Well!** you got that wrong. We had cooked oats and coffee in the rain for breakfast packed up wet and headed to Maccas, where it was nice and warm inside.

With another coffee and hash browns for comfort food and a lot of coxing from the trip leader we headed to Sundown National Park. As we got closer the weather started to fine up, arriving at the gate we were greeted by a dry dusty road but the weather was fantastic for the rest for the weekend. The road to the camp site was a little rough and long. We arrived at the camp site around lunch time to a much warmer climate. After setting up, having lunch and enjoying the now warmer weather, we did the drive to RAT'S CASTLE. The tracks were a bit rougher than last time I was here but nothing my trusty Disco couldn't handle. We all got through ok.

The creek crossing before Rats Castle was handled by Mel in her Prado with ease, showing that a steady pace, good wheel placement and spending time to work out how she was going to tackle the crossing is the key. She did a good job, well done Mel.

Sunday morning we had breakfast, packed up and drove to RED ROCK CANYON lookout "*Beautiful views*" We then headed home.

I must mention that the only driving hiccup was David Lord **getting bogged in a creek bed of dry rocks.** Many thanks to David Lord and All for a fantastic trip.

Disco Dave