

TRIP REPORT: TEWANTIN TO RAINBOW BEACH, SAT 17 JAN 2015.

This trip started Friday night for Helen & I. After dinner we drove to Pomona to stay the night with trip leaders Linda & Geoff Bailue so we could get an early start for the next day's beach trip. Of course, to get into the right spirit, some liquid refreshments and good conversation were shared before bedtime.

On Saturday morning 4 other vehicles joined us at the designated meeting place, the park near the BIG SHELL HOUSE in Tewantin. We then linked up with 2 more vehicles at the Ferry. Thankfully we had all obtained our beach permits on-line as there was quite a line up at both the Ranger Station and at the Ferry. Interestingly Geoff had to buy 2 permits as the first one was dated the day he was on-line, not the date of the trip. Fine effort Geoff!

So we had 8 vehicles lined up. Linda & Geoff Bailue in their new 2009 Landcruiser 200; David & Kathy Sweet in a Prado; Michael Elliott & Dianna Kateley in a Pajero; Matt Zander in his Landcruiser 105; Shane Rose & Sharon Quinn in an FJ Cruiser; Colin Fitzgibbon in his Jeep Cherokee; Helen & I in our new 2008 Landcruiser 200 Sahara and Vince & Bronwyn Hausmann in their Patrol taking the role of Tail End Charlie. Now only the left hand ferry was operating and it takes exactly 8 vehicles so we knew that we all would not get on together and planned to re-group at the air-down point near the 3rd cutting beach access road.

Our group had inched our way to within a couple of vehicles from the ferry when they brought the 2nd Ferry into action; and it was twice as fast. By the time we got on the left Ferry the right one had loaded, delivered it's load, re-loaded and was on the way back. So the last four cars of our group got to the air-down point before the first four. At the air-down point, it was very busy and finding somewhere to park was tricky. Some other group had double parked to allow more room for others. No worries, we all got onto the beach in reasonable time and lined up for the obligatory photos before heading off for the beach run. Whilst quite hot and humid, it was a picture-perfect day, and we were happy!

Linda led us off at a nice pace allowing time to take in the wonderful scenery and banter over the CB about how we are the lucky country; that we should not take this for granted; and ensure it is preserved for future generations to access and enjoy.

The next obligatory stop was at Red Canyon where we had morning tea. Due to the heat, and the fact we have all walked it before, none of us took the walk up amongst the coloured sands, but several took the invitation from the sea to go in for a dip.

Now apparently at this juncture, Rosey sneakily took advantage of Matt's open car while Matt was taking a swim and turned the heater up to max! On the drive up to Double Island Point, Matt had his window open but couldn't work out why he was feeling a little warm, even though Rosey kept asking him over the CB how he was coping with the heat! Another fine effort I'd say, both for Rosey and for Matt.

When we got to the Leisha Track we could see the large number of vehicles parked up at Double Island Point, so Linda suggested we just duck over the track to Rainbow Bay for lunch and come back to DI Point later. However, when we lined up to approach the track with many other 4bies, 2 other vehicles became bogged and other impatient people were plowing through the soft sand erratically to get past and it was getting a bit dangerous. So we went onto DI Point and despite a very full "car park" we all managed to find a park close to the pathway to the lighthouse. We spent ¾ hr there, plenty of time to explore or/and have a swim.

Lunch was calling so we headed off back down to the Leisha Track and crossed over to the Bay. What a glorious sight coming on to the beach from the track. We were greeted by a vast amount of flat sand thanks to a low-low tide and the most sand that has come back onto that beach in a decade. There were dozens of 4bies lined up several hundred metres away at the water's edge, obviously a fisherman's paradise.

We took a hard left onto the beach and drove along some wide stretches and some narrow stretches of beach where there was some amazing looking driftwood scattered in several places. Helen wanted some for the garden and wondered if it would be okay to come back one day with trailer to

collect the larger pieces. I think she was joking. After an easy but pleasant drive we set up for lunch right where those infamous coffee rocks used to be just below the township of Rainbow Beach, but now completely covered with sand.

Geoff & Linda erected a marquee and David slung a tarp between it and his car, providing shade for everyone, which was surely needed given the 33 degree heat and 90% humidity. Lunch, chatting and swimming took care of about 90 enjoyable minutes before heading up to the town to indulge in post-lunch ice creams. Yum!!! What a great way to end a beach drive, hey. But wait, there's more!

We aired-up at the Shell Servo and headed off thinking we'd take the highway via Gympie back to Pomona but when we went past the turnoff to the Cooloola Way we had a short CB discussion and quickly agreed that the Cooloola Way would be a more scenic and enjoyable drive. So we took our 1st and only u-turn of the trip and headed back to the turnoff only to realise that we need to air-down again. That done, the Cooloola Way was well worth the drive despite the dust we created along the track. Being in the lead, Linda didn't think the dust was an issue at all.

Linda & Geoff invited us all back to their place at Pomona for happy hour and a BBQ dinner. We got there about 4:15pm and the temperature was still in the low 30's. We had a great evening, great fun and jocularly with a bunch of lovely people; as well as refreshing liquids and a delectable dinner, before heading off home. Life is good!

So a big "Thank You" goes to Linda for being Trip Leader and to Linda and Geoff for their hospitality and congenial hosting of the day. Also, thanks to all the people who came on the trip and made it a fun and memorable day.

Cheers

Peter Arnall