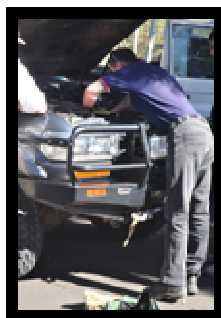




**Goolwa & the Murray Mouth - Australia Day 2012**



The trip started at the meeting point in main street of Birdwood near the bakery, across the road from the Blumberg Hotel at 8am. After the formalities we set off travelling through Mt Torrens and onto the freeway exit to Hahndorf. Morning tea was at the Meadows bakery where we enjoyed some delicious fresh baked goodies before meeting up at the Meadows Football Club oval where Dave had to repair the air conditioning fan belt on his Toyota.

We left Meadows at about 10am and travelled the beautiful scenic drive through Echunga on our way to Goolwa where we were meeting up with a few other club members, with the final count of club vehicles being 17 – what a record. We pulled up along the road heading onto the beach to let down our tyre pressure and carry out our final vehicle safety inspections before venturing onto the beach.

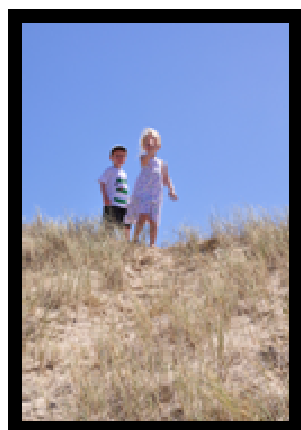


Dave, the trip leader, organised our convoy of vehicles to park along a lovely spot where we set up shade tents and got out our deck chairs, ready for some play time and relaxation. Once we were set up, Dave rounded up the vehicles that wanted to travel to the Murray Mouth for a look around and off we went.



The drive to the Mouth was uneventful as the sand was easy to travel along, although very bumpy in a few places! Once we arrived at the Mouth we were able to get out and enjoy the water and sand, even though it was rather windy and the wind was

quite chilly. A few of us set up our deck chairs and relaxed before we decided to head back to the others to enjoy a picnic lunch and a splash in the water.



The kids all had a great time climbing up the sand dunes and playing with their buckets and spades in the water, having a blast getting wet!

Later in the afternoon, once we were all well rested and relaxed, a few club members departed the convoy to travel their separate ways as some were going on a short holiday and others were visiting family and friends.

The weather was perfect for such a fun day out beach driving. It was cool but not cold, slightly windy but nothing that would blow you away and the sun was shining gloriously above. Unfortunately, even with my slip slop slap I still ended up slightly burnt on my shoulders, but it was well worth it to have finally visited the Mouth of the Murray!

Dave tried to lead the remainder of the vehicles from the beach but was held up by some vehicles ahead which were stuck in the sand after trying to rescue those who had experienced problems getting up the hill. After ½ hour, we all met on the bitumen as the car park was very busy and we pumped up our tyres again ready for the trip home.

Thank you to Dave and Michele for organising the club trip. I can't wait to do it again.

**[Barbara]**