

## ALBANY 4WD YEAGERUP & CALCUP TRIP September 9 – 11, 2022

*Remember that wherever we go it has to be "Jimny possible!"*

### THE RECCE

I have always been a big believer in preparation and leaving nothing to chance, wherever possible, most of the time.... It sounds good in theory but when following through, the activity takes an awful lot longer than you first thought it would. If I hadn't done the recce for the A4WD Yeagerup, Calcup & Lake Jasper trip, then we would have spent a lot of time wasted in back tracking and not getting to expected destinations, and I would have been very embarrassed.

I went the week before with another 4x4 friend and we gallantly went down the Summertime Track and found that the winter storms had not been kind to it, washing much of it away



making it impassable in parts. This meant that we had to go down some new back tracks to get down to the beach. Once on the beach it was apparent that it was very soft even at 15psi. We drove a good way down the beach to a point where 'the high track looked sketchy and the low track whilst going close to the sea was doable.' Opting for the

low one and knowing that the tide wasn't going to be an issue as it was still going out with low tide at 4pm and it was just after 1pm. I also told my friend to wait on the hard while I had a go. I



became quickly aware that this wasn't going to work as I started sinking in, so I tried to reverse which didn't work. Anyway, with the two of us there and using 6 Maxtrax and the winch on her car, it took about 2 hours to get out. This



definitely crossed off this stretch of the trip. So back to camp, that is the old Sid's Camp now the Northcliffe Bush Camp (NBC), to check it all out in anticipation of the A4WD group.

We went straight to the entrance of Lake Jasper track in the morning which had signs stating that various entries and access points were closed. A quick check of the first ford that we came to showed that there was no way the A4WD club nor the Jimny would be able to attempt this. The suggested side routes would have made it a long black-top detour and so Lake Jasper was crossed off the list. We checked out the rest of my planned trek including the lovely drive through the tall timber forest, the rest looked good for the trip. I updated the map files and passed them along to everyone in the team.

## THE ALBANY 4WD – YEAGERUP & CALCUP TRIP

Confirmation of attendance jumped about a bit leading up to the trip, but come Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>



September we were looking good. I led the charge getting to NBC at around 4, Jack who came down from Mandurah got there around 7, and Tilly who decided to do a further evening recce enroute near Windy Harbour, joined us at around 8, with plenty of time for a bit of lubrication and discussion about the next day's plans.

Quite clearly the weather gods blessed us with fine weather and



Graeme, Sue, Jared, Amanda, Toby & Owen, along with Rene arriving ahead of time at the Hollow Butt Café which has a nice name but average coffee. With everyone briefed it was



time to make tracks to Yeagerup. As expected, and thanks to some recent rain the initial climb from the national park track and on to the Yeagerup dune and up to the top was just like a walk in the park for



all concerned, and I think a sigh of relief as well as there are videos showing many not getting over this initial hump. So, it was onwards and downwards as the group



slowly made it its way to the beach where we all got a good look at what was to come on the way backup.



A quick drive down to the Warren River showed that there was no way



we would be crossing it at all. Back at Yeagerup beach and a break for morning tea and for some time to ponder what was yet to come, and to watch others making hard work of it all.



Certainly, the recent rain made the track firm underfoot making the going relatively easy to get up, although Rene had a few challenges with the low pressures and the tyres losing the bead on a few occasions. Everyone kept their cool and it didn't affect the journey. We did take a little detour just after exiting Yeagerup air-up point through some really pretty tall-timber country.



Upon exiting we decided to skip Calcup for the day and for those wanting a better view of the national park and a last challenge they tackled a climb up the Bicentennial Tree. Certainly, Graeme made quick work of it all.





Back to the NBC where Jared and Amanda gave new meaning to accommodation, more like a Bedouin palace in the middle east. I must say all credit to Jared and Amanda with Toby and Owen who were great



company and really fitted in well with the whole group and looked like they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Certainly, the marshmallows and coloured crystals on the camp fire added to the evening's entertainment before a reasonably early night for all.



Another stunning day to attack the legendary and sometimes challenging Calcup Hill. The drive in was through some pretty backroads before entering the national park and to the air down point, where Sue (club botanist) came across some orchids before making our way to the top of Calcup Hill with some spectacular views of the hill down to the dunes and



the beach.



As soon as we were all on the beach, we made our way along to the Warren river to the opposite side to where we had been the day before, again showing that the river was in full flight and no one would be crossing it till later in the year.



It was evident in driving back along Calcup beach that the sand was fairly boggy and chopped up and was going to make it a challenge to get over the initial dunes. I went over first and picked the left-hand line, the best of the two. It was pretty easy to get over with a fair bit of right boot, so I waited on the other side for the rest. There was no doubt that the



conditions made it very challenging. Jared and Amanda had a few goes at it, and eventually got over, but Rene was having no joy and to add to that his tyres were popping the bead and



eventually came off the rim altogether. A problem with the low pressures and his 18 inch wheel size and tyres. I decided to go back down to the beach to assess the situation where we changed the wheel and took the

decision that I would tow him off the beach and over the first troublesome hill to the next setoff point.





After that, Rene was fine, as was the rest of the group in making their way up the hill. Jack made the most of it spinning the wheels for some great pictures. Once we were all up, it gave us all a chance for a last look before driving to a lunch spot to air up and for Jack and the Jared & Amanda clan to make their way back to Perth. The rest of us enjoyed the break and then made our way to Northcliffe before hot-tailing it back to Albany.

In sitting down after the weekend and reflecting on everything that had happened, I was really chuffed that it had all worked out so well and pretty much according to plan following the recce the week before. As this was my first trip I consider it a success, but only because of the planning and the support of Tilly in both the mapping as well as the backup for lots of advice. There are things that I learnt, and I will apply them to the next time I lead a trip, but the key lesson was that by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail, which includes in our case making the trip 'Jimny driveable'. So, leave nothing to chance where possible and ensure everyone has a safe time and enjoys themselves. I can honestly say that I am sure everyone did on this weekend trip. A rough route of the map is below from the trip.



Andrew Crisp

Albany 4WD Club

