

Parsons Beach Dunes, Minlaton—November 2010

By Maureen & David Price

The Minlaton weekend trip on the last weekend in November turned out to be a great success.

As usual the stalwarts that enjoy their off-roading so much they end up on most trips came along but it was great to see club members who hadn't taken part in any recent events joining in the fun in the dunes.

Saturday morning began with a short adventure via the dirt roads and the beaches to Port Rickaby. From here we used the gravel road to Barkers Rocks, a great fishing spot. Unfortunately, quite a few other people had the same idea and the parking area was a bit crowded so after a quick stop we turned and took the beach track to Bluff Beach. At the end we drove up the boat ramp and stopped for a quick pit stop .

Leaving the Bluff we headed to Parsons and stopped to lower tyre pressures before heading into the dunes. Large areas of these dunes are now off limits to 4x4 but the area we were to play in still boasts the largest dune at Parsons and it was not long before we were all lined up at the bottom in a large bowl type arena; everyone was keen to have a go at driving up to the top of this monster dune. Declan in his 110 was the first to succeed with Eric in his Disco 3 also climbing effortlessly to the top, the rest taking some time to find the right gear or correct tyre pressure to accomplish the climb.

After lunch BJ set up a course through the dunes with some cross-axle difficulties thrown in for good measure. Everyone was happy trying to get through the marked course and all had quite a few attempts before Dave Reads 110 began to produce the pungent smell of clutch slip! At this point we all decided it was time to move on for some "follow the leader" through the narrow tracks up and over the dunes.

Amazing how time flies when you are enjoying yourself - all too soon it was time to return to Minlaton caravan park for a barbeque in the camp kitchen.