



Cruising in Comfort



Traveling on unsealed road's is not the norm for two of Porsches most successful models, the Cayenne and Macan SUV's. Their normal habitat is St Georges Terrace, Bitumen Highways, Shopping Carparks or Footie Ovals.

The Cayenne and the Macan are two of the most versatile and capable vehicles that Porsche has ever produced. They have very good handling and performance, can carry 5 people, your Golf Clubs and your luggage! Being a SUV, they also have much better ground clearance than a standard road car and have the systems and technology to help you go most places with comfort and ease.

At the request of club members who wanted to have a Cayenne / Macan Run we picked a Sunday in May to be the occasion and we opened it up to all members with SUV or 4x4. The Macan Muster was set to go however it turned into the Cayenne Cruise.



On Sunday 5th May we travelled to BP Baldivis Service Station to meet up with other club members. The weather was bright and sunny which was a pleasant surprise after the thunderstorms of the previous week. We had good registration numbers a week out but as the bad weather swept through, we ended up with a small group of optimists that believed that it's not that bad and WOW how right they were! A PCWA run with a difference, this run was the first ever for Macan's and Cayenne's or any member with a SUV that wanted to come along and take part. What was particularly fitting was the Porsches were shining white and those of us in the non-Porsche cars were black.



Run sheets and radios handed out, we headed out of the carpark and South along the Freeway, at the Karnup Road we exited the freeway and took the backroads through the Lowlands. We crossed over the South West Highway and headed up to Jarrahdale and the Serpentine Dam. Progress on this section of the journey was the same as with any other Porsche vehicle, the bonus being we had a much better view due to the higher seating position. The Dam and surrounding area looked spectacular with increased water levels and greater flow rates on the downstream side of the Dam. We stopped briefly on the dam wall for the usual obligatory photo opportunity and then travelled across where we checked out the lower level carpark. During Autumn with changes to the foliage it made the most fantastic kaleidoscope of colour highlighted by the sun light shining through the trees and that crisp fresh air... could it get any better than this?



Leaving the Serpentine Dam car park we continued on Kingsbury Dr, the thoughts of taking the short cut along Scarp Rd to North Dandalup Dam and then on to Del Park Road were short lived as we had no way of checking the condition of the gravel sections of the road after the mid-week storms and as "discretion is the better part of valour" we took the South West Highway and Del Park Rd. to Dwellingup.

Our plan from Dwellingup was to make our way to Lane Poole Reserve and the direct route would be to take Nanga Rd, we decided to take River Rd. The early part of River Rd is a sealed single track changing to unsealed for the second half before joining up with Nanga Rd.

All cars had radios for this run to make sure that everyone was informed of the road conditions and oncoming traffic and as we headed down River Rd, We announced slight corrugation on the early part of the unsealed section, back came the response from those in the Cayennes and the Discovery "...what corrugations?" they didn't even notice that change of road conditions!

Having paid our Park fees for day use only, we entered Lane Poole Reserve via Park Rd on the Northern bank of the Murray River, the road is wide, smooth and sealed for 2.5 kms until after the Baden Powell day use area. As the reserve is part of the Department of Parks and Wildlife, we were able to ring up the day before to check the condition of the roads and were pleased to be informed that all roads were in very good condition, the unsealed surface was smooth, wide and no pot holes



with very little dust due to the recent rains. The Achilles heel of all SUV's is their low profile tyres and you can just as easily be at risk due a puncture caused by pot holes on a poorly maintained bitumen street as a unsealed road, so driving to the road conditions in Lane Pool Reserve was going to be very low risk.

As we cruised down River Rd following the twists, turns and undulation of a road that mirrored the curvatures of the valley formed by centuries of erosion by the Murray River, the scenery was breath taking and everything smelled so fresh. My lasting memories of River Rd was blasting down what felt like an Autobahn during Rally Australia when it was used as part of the Murray Pine Stage, today is a much more relaxed pace and we have time to take it all in.



We cross over to the west bank of the river at Bob's Crossing, which is a single lane concrete weir that crosses the river East / West and continue down Murray Valley Road hugging the western bank of the river and from the roads elevated position you can see the Murray River below and appreciate the spectacular view. A couple of times we passed a few cars heading in the opposite direction, it was priceless to see the look of disbelief on their faces, did we just see a convoy of white Porsches on Murray Valley Road?



Back out at Nanga Rd, at the end of the unsealed road, our off-road adventure reached "Trees Adventure" and we pulled up under the Jarrah trees for refreshments and to check out the adventure area complete with Zip Lines, Flying Fox's, climbing frames for all ages along with a kiosk for a well-deserved coffee. Had we been that way inclined, the Reserve also caters for Mountain Biking, Bushwalking, Trekking, Canoeing, Swimming, Fishing and Camping – all this and is only 1.5 hrs out of Perth. A bonus of the SUV vehicle is the ability to bring all the toys with you and still have room for the children, sorry no iPads or Facebook there is plenty to keep them busy enjoying themselves!

We then started to compare the different vehicles and the extras fitted to make them more usable for the owner requirements. From a standalone battery system that runs the Fridge which keeps your food and drinks cool or your shopping from the Boat Shed, the system charged by a solar blanket or mains supply, custom made slide out benches and drawers. The comparison discussions kept going but agreed it's more important to plan the adventure to suit the SUV and there are lot of amazing places available to explore around Pemberton, Walpole, Denmark and the South West without the need to modify your Porsche SUV.



Standard practice to check out what is under the hood. Having completed the off-road adventure and they are not even dirty!

Now we were about ready to head back to the Blue Wren Café in Dwellingup for lunch and more discussions on the best type of car and of course we had to ask the question...

Which road would we take??

The sealed Nanga Rd ... or the unsealed Murray Valley Road and River Road of Lane Pool Reserve?

Everybody wanted to go back the Reserve Roads...which we did!

A huge thanks to all that took part for a memorable day and proving that you don't have to miss out on the wonders that WA has to offer by driving a Porsche SUV.



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To check out Lane Poole Reserve click [HERE](#)