

From Dando's to Nando's:
touring the Otways, the Great
Ocean Road, and Mt. Buangor
National Park.

August 2008

Proposed Itinerary

ALTERNATIVES	Wednesday 13th August	Leave Benson's approx. 2—3, depending on last-minute work commitments. Travel to Chinaman Camp Ground Mt. Cole region	Chinaman Camp
	Thursday 14th August	Leave 8:00 pm, travelling via Sunraysia Highway to St. Arnaud, then via Beaufort to Colac, and Forrest to our first camp	Overnight Stephenson's Falls campground
	Friday 15th August	Adventuring around the area prior to the pre-booked Platypus Tour @ 3:30	Stephenson's Falls
	Saturday 16th August	Attend Cape Otway Lighthouse Festival	Blanket Bay Campground
	Sunday 17th August	Drive Great Ocean Road from Apollo Bay to Anglesea and return via inland tracks to overnight camp	Beauchamp Falls campground
	Monday 18th August	Take in Otway Fly, Triplet Falls, and Melba Gully evening your to see the glowworms	B&B or similar Lavers Hill
	Tuesday 19th August	Visit Little Aire Waterfall, Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary, and look for 4WD tracks	Aire River East campground
	Wednesday 20th August	Wreck Beach, Johanna Beach, 12 Apostles	B&B or similar Port Campbell
	Thursday 21st August	Warrnambool via Logan Beach Whale Nursery to see the whales with calves; Discovery Bay and Glenelg Lower National Park.	Princess Margaret Rose Caves campground
	ALTERNATIVES	Friday 22nd August	Via Mt. Gambier to Beachport and Robe OR Travel towards Little Desert National Park
Saturday 23rd August		Depending on previous decision, continue to explore chosen area for 4WD tracks.	
Sunday 24th August		Return to Mildura	

Getting Started

We originally planned a trip to the Hunter Valley region of NSW, focusing the 4WD activity in the Watagans National Park (thanks Roothy!), but this soon changed due to work pressures on the Bensons, and our concern about rapidly increasing fuel costs early—mid 2008.

As I had always harboured a desire to drive along The Great Ocean Road, this became the alternative destination for our August holiday, and I set about planning and researching the area.

To make it more interesting for Greg, and Terry if he and Anne could get away for a few days, I looked to include a bit of 4WD adventure. The tales that I found on Internet-based forums and websites began to make me wonder what I was leading us into.

“bottomless bog holes” ... “don’t even THINK about going without a winch” ... “xxx Road is a pearler” ... and more along those lines.

And of course, The Otways is acknowledge as the wettest area in Victoria, and we were planning to be there in the dead of winter—but then we also went to Tasmania in winter, and that was great, so ... *nothing ventured, nothing gained...* and the plans started to come together.

Unlike last year, we now had a winch, and after a “training run” on the old Speedway Track at Koorlong, where Greg was unable to dislodge Terry’s Patrol from a mound of loam, it became quite plain that Terry would soon have a winch, and Anne was led to agree having perched precariously on that and another subsequent mound while we attempted to winch the Patrol but only managed to drag the Navara forward rather than the Patrol off the obstacle. It required a lot of digging to lower the Patrol to a level where the tyres could get a grip on the dirt, making the winching operation achievable.



The itinerary for the trip was built around the many features of the area that were listed on websites, and in the jottings of people who had visited both The Otways, and The Great Ocean Road. There certainly was a multitude of waterfalls to be viewed, and vistas to be enjoyed if this information was anything to go by.

Although we would primarily be camping in swags most nights, Anne and I were keen to include at least two nights in rented accommodation for a bit of a break. Greg and I also set about designing a canopy which could be strung between our tent and the Navara, and once Terry got involved it became quite palatial with zip-on walls, and in fact the new canopy proved to be extremely versatile throughout the trip.

As an extra touch of ‘luxury’, I bought a large woven plastic mat (3.5m x 3.6m) from the local Chinese grocery store, and this also proved invaluable.

