



May 2007 Huts Weekend

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| Dates | Weekend of 26 th and 27 th May 2007 |
| Event Organiser | Andy Kass |

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| Attendances | Andy Kass. John Brandwood Sasha Djelic Paul Phillipi* |
| Visitors * | |

As part of my job as HMO for the club, it was my responsibility to organize another trip to the high country to perform some maintenance and reconnaissance activities. Unfortunately due to the fires over the summer months, most of the tracks in the Barry Ranges were still closed due to the danger of trees or branches falling down. I made the mandatory phone calls to the Parks Rangers to establish which tracks we could rightfully travel on. At the time of my initial enquiry, all tracks leading to huts in our area were closed. I decided to use Fry's Hut as a meeting point for this reason. I did make another call to the rangers the day before the trip and found some tracks had opened up.

On the Friday night I traveled to Fry's hut to find a very cold and deserted camp area. There were 2 lots of campers, neither of which were the party I was looking for. Thanks to the UHF radio and Sasha listening in on Channel 14, I was quickly directed back to Sheeppyard's Flat to find a dwindling fire with Sasha and his friend Paul barely keeping warm by it. I set up the swag, added some wood I brought from home to the fire pile and joined in on the conversation with a drink or 2. Amazed how the time had flown, we hit the sack with about 3am.

The night was relatively cold and I woke to the usual sound of someone trying to get the fire going again. A relaxed breaky was had and John arrived in time for a cuppa before we packed up camp and headed off.

First stop was Fry's Hut where we chatted to an off duty ranger who was called in from Western Vic to assist with cleaning up projects in the High Country. From there we took a leisurely pace up to the ruins of the Bluff Hut stopping at the water diversion tunnel along the way. The Bluff site has been cleared of fire debris and is fenced off in preparation for a rebuild of the original building in November this year.

We continued up to Lovick's Hut to see if any work had been done with the relocation, but still no more than the posts in the ground. On the way, we stopped for lunch enjoying the sunshine with a tremendous view over towards Mt Buller.

There were some patches of snow near Lovick's Hut but only enough for a short snow fight.

From Lovick's Hut we back tracked a little and made our way down the Sixteen Mile Jeep track to Pikes Flat where we set up camp for the night. The fires had certainly ravaged this part of the



country but we still found some logs for the camp fire. Warmth was essential, as by 7.00 PM it was already 0.0 Deg C reaching -3.0 Dec C overnight. By 8 pm we were all thinking "Is it bed time yet?"



Sunday we woke to a frosty morning and had another leisurely breakfast by the fire. We set off around 11am to cross the river and check out the old Refuge Hut before heading to Bindaree Hut then the Falls. As time was getting on we skipped the trip to Craigs Hut Site and made our way to King River Hut for a little repair of the log fence and a fire place cleanout. We then made our way to Pineapple Flat for lunch. On leaving the Flat, John got the 80 series hung up on a small stump just to give Sasha a snatch strap recovery lesson. We were traveling

well for time in the expectation of reaching Mansfield before 3PM when we found a mandatory late afternoon obstacle. 45 minutes of cutting , dragging and rolling the tree off the path we had an opening in the track fit for tanker. Up and over the hill for a quick refuel in Mansfield and we were all on our way home.

An enjoyable weekend was had by all, especially John who celebrated his birthday on the Sunday.

Thanks to all participants for a great weekend. Andy.

