



MELBOURNE TO BEMM RIVER, VIC.

This is the place where you can really "get away from it all" for a few days. 440kms east of Melbourne this tiny coastal hamlet, a detour on the way to somewhere else, is a secret paradise. Curiosity sent us here for a quick look on our Victorian holiday in 2005; a quick look that turned into a 3 night stay.

Bemm River is 23kms off the Princes Highway in Far East Gippsland on the edge of the Cape Conran Coastal Park and across the inlet from the Croajingalong National Park. Bordered by the Sydenham Inlet and the Bemm River, it is within a couple of kilometres of Bass Strait. There's not much in Bemm River; as the sign on the highway says, you can't even buy fuel there. But there is the Bemm River Hotel, a take-away food store where you can buy basic supplies, Bemm River Holiday Lodge, and the Bemm River Caravan Park. The camping area at the caravan park is



grassed with plenty of shade trees and fireplaces for those cooler evenings. We chose an open spot at the top of the hill, pitched the tents, and settled back for a couple of days of R&R. This is a photo of our campsite on our first visit. As the sun moved around the site was well shaded and you can

see the fireplace just in between our 2 tents.

The nearest town for groceries, fuel, and postal services is Cann River, 63kms north east of Bemm River. From there you can explore the spectacular Croajingalong National Park and visit Point Hicks lighthouse. Point Hicks was named after one of the crew of Cook's Endeavour.

But Bemm River for fishing, sailing, and boating is unsurpassable. The river and Sydenham Inlet are the best places for bream and blackfish and for outstanding ocean salmon the beach on Bass Strait is the place to be. The beach called Py-Yoot is a terrific place. A couple of kilometres from the caravan park along a dirt road this beach is never crowded. In fact when we were there we were, more often than not, the only ones on the



The Bemm River

beach. So whether you want to fish, swim, or walk on the beach, all of these or none of them, you won't find a more peaceful place. The air is

clean and clear and the wonderful smell of the ocean is so fresh; like us you'll want to come back again and again.

There are quite a few bushwalking tracks around this area and several off-road trails as well. Some of these trails



Swimming in Bass Strait

are more accessible than others and most of them are seasonal; they're closed from June to November, the wet months.

If you want a few days break from the "big smoke", take that detour to Bemm River, it's well worth it.

You can read a little more about our off-road adventure and our first visit to Bemm River in our journal, *From The Mountains To The Sea*.

