



B.A.R.C.O.M.



Best Australian Rafting Challenge On Murray
Victorian Branch – Venturer Scout Activity

Wet trip? Let's talk water proof

	Mon Sep 18	Tue Sep 19	Wed Sep 20	Thu Sep 21	Fri Sep 22	Sat Sep 23	Sun Sep 24
Summary	Late shower	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Possible shower	Possible shower
Maximum	26°C	17°C	21°C	27°C	24°C	27°C	19°C
Minimum	7°C	3°C	2°C	6°C	8°C	10°C	8°C
Chance of Rain	90%	5%	5%	10%	50%	70%	40%
Rain Amount	1-5mm	< 1mm	< 1mm				

Fig 1. Swan Hill Weather - <http://www.weatherzone.com.au/vic/mallee/swan-hill>

Waterproof jacket

The BARCOM Expedition Personal Equipment checklist lists; 1 x Waterproof jacket & trousers as required items for the BARCOM expeditions. But what does this actually mean?

The jacket (hardshell) must be waterproof, windproof and to a level that will actually keep you dry and safe. There are various fabrics and price points that will achieve this, BUT the jacket must be rated as such to help save your life in poor conditions. The suggested jacket has a level of over 20,000mm hydrostatic head waterproof rating. Accepted will be anything from 11000 upwards but be aware if the weather turns bad this will only keep you dry for a limited period of time! Anything under 15,000 is not going to keep you dry in heavy rain. 5,000-10,000mm is only rainproof and waterproof under light pressure and is unacceptable. Being in rain for a prolonged period means that a set of waterproof pants are also a requirement, waterproof pants use the same rating system.

“A hydrostatic head test is a test used to measure how waterproof something is. Once a garment has been tested it is given a waterproof rating- the hydrostatic head rating.

In a hydrostatic head test the fabric is pulled tight under a sealed tube of water. Water is then poured into the tube and observed to see how much water can be added before the water starts to leak through. For example, a hydrostatic head rating of 3,000 means that 3,000mm of water was in the tube when it started to leak. The higher the hydrostatic head rating the more waterproof the material is. ”

Waterproof Rating (mm)	What can it resist?	Weather conditions
0-1,500	No real resistance	Dry conditions
1,500 - 5,000	Light resistance and snowproof	Light rain and dry snow.
5,000 - 10,000	Waterproof under light pressure and rainproof	Light to moderate rain, average snow
10,000 - 15,000	Rainproof and waterproof unless under high pressure	Moderate rain, slightly heavier snow
15,000 - 20,000	Rainproof and waterproof even under pressure	Heavy rain, wet snow
20,000+	Rainproof, very waterproof and can be subjected to very high pressure	Very heavy rain, wet snow

Think about standing around for a few days in the rain ... choose the wet weather gear that will keep you safe.

Need more technical details?

- Choosing a waterproof jacket [Paddy Pallin] <http://www.paddypallin.com.au/blog/choosing-a-waterproof-jacket/>
- All about waterproof fabrics [Paddy Pallin] <http://www.paddypallin.com.au/blog/all-about-waterproof-fabrics/>



Various wet weather options on display

Cold weather clothes

The BARCOM Expedition Personal Equipment checklist lists; 3 x sets of cold weather clothes. If it is wet, it will get cold and the wind chill will make it colder, throw in at least one long sleeve thermal top (NOT compression wear). Merino or synthetic is fine. A Polar fleece jacket or vest is also a good cold weather choice. Temperatures will drop at night; think about throwing in a beanie or a Buff for when it gets dark.



Areas of light flooding into low-lying areas alongside the Murray

Gumboots

The BARCOM Expedition Personal Equipment checklist lists; 1 x Pair gumboots – these are for walking around on shore in damp conditions. Gumboots will help keep your feet dry, you may have another set of waterproof boots that you would prefer to use rather than the gumboots

Gumboots are not to be worn on the raft as they act like an anchor if you fall into the river.