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FORESTS AND RECREATION



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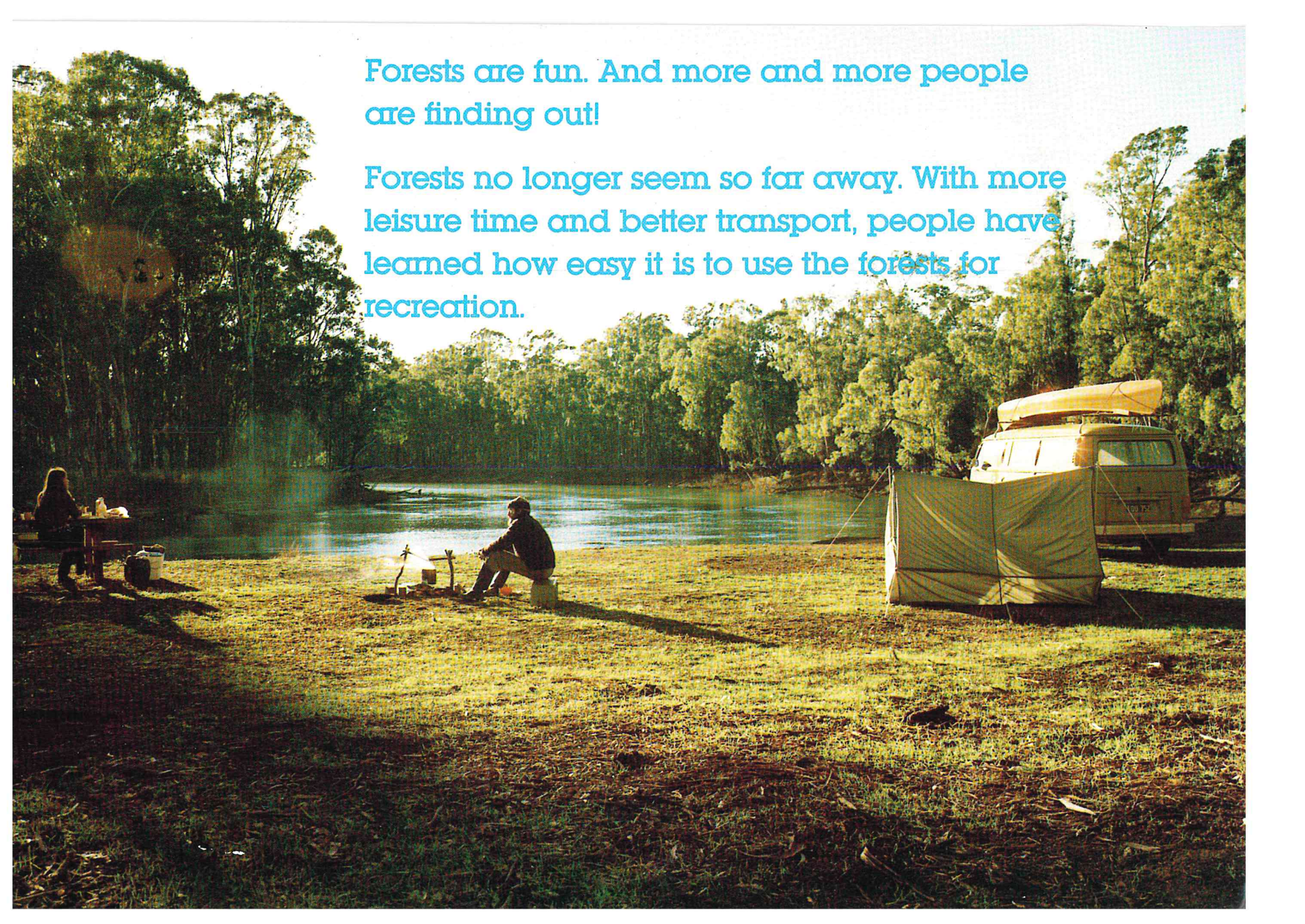
FORESTS AND RECREATION

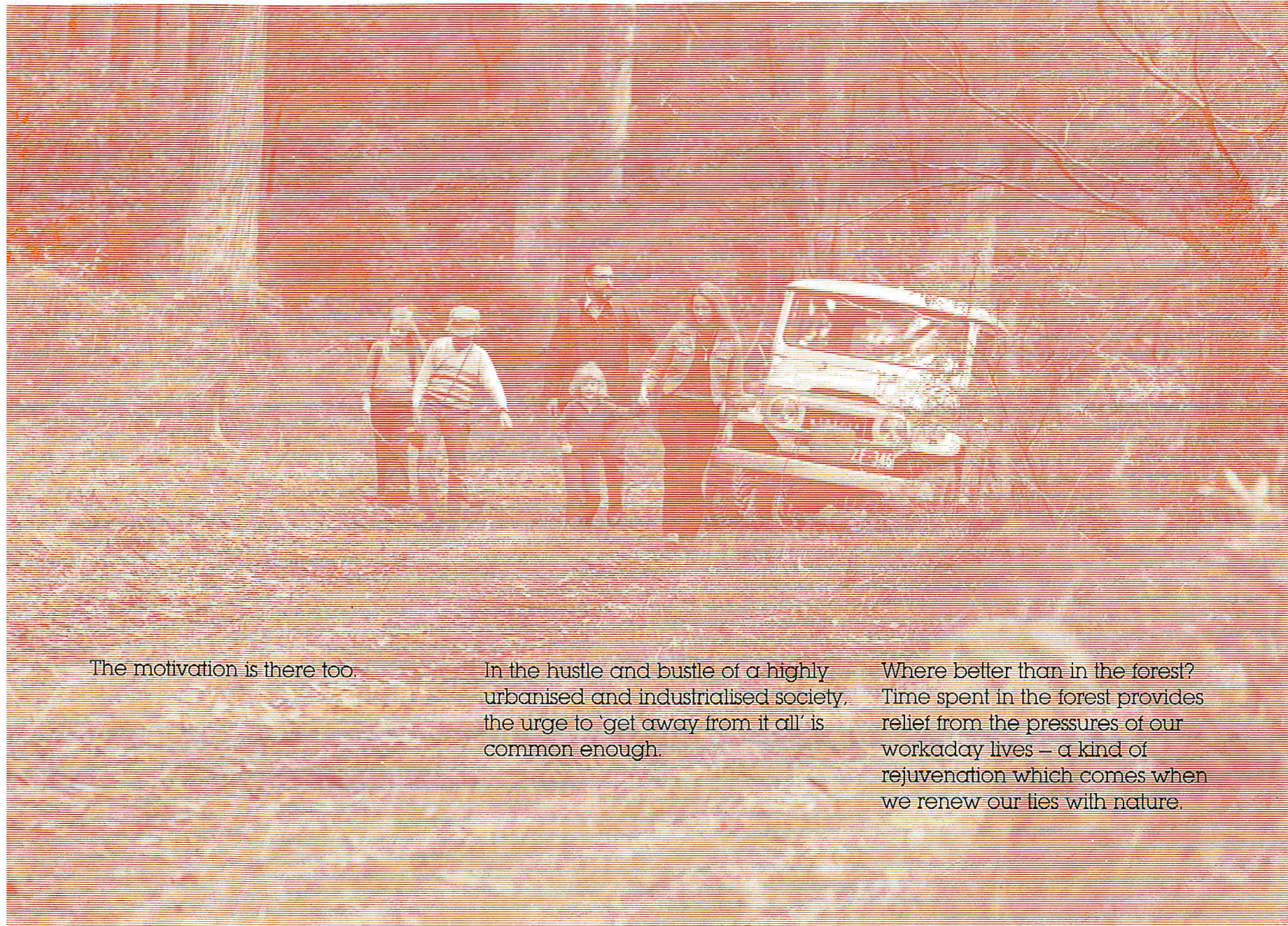
FORESTS AND RECREATION

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OR

Forests are fun. And more and more people
are finding out!

Forests no longer seem so far away. With more
leisure time and better transport, people have
learned how easy it is to use the forests for
recreation.





The motivation is there too.

In the hustle and bustle of a highly urbanised and industrialised society, the urge to 'get away from it all' is common enough.

Where better than in the forest? Time spent in the forest provides relief from the pressures of our workaday lives – a kind of rejuvenation which comes when we renew our ties with nature.



Throughout history forests have served the human community in many ways.





Forests are important to the air
we breathe . . .

Forests protect the water we drink . . .

Forests are the habitat of much of
our wildlife . . .

Forests give us timber, paper, honey,
eucalyptus oil, charcoal . . .

These values remain as important
as ever.



The difference today is that we can
no longer list these forest values
without including recreation.



Forests have often been described as 'nature's air-conditioner'. They are also 'nature's playground'.

It is not enough to see forests as a source of 'products'. They are also a source of pleasure.

Forests are not just a place where animals find food but a place where human beings find fun.

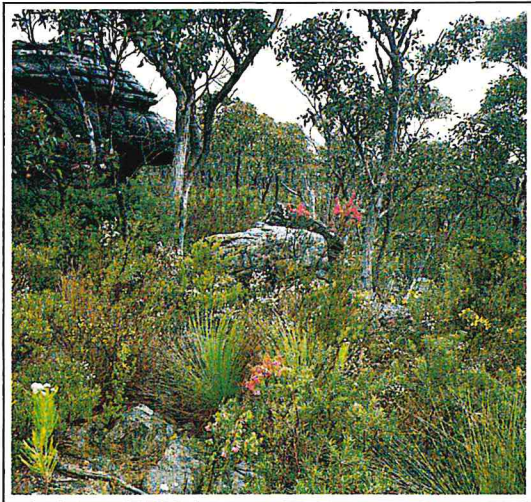
A group of children and adults are having a picnic in a grassy field. In the foreground, several children are sitting on the grass, some eating. In the middle ground, a group of children and adults are standing around a picnic table, which has various items on it like bottles and cups. One child in a red shirt is holding a plate. The background is a dense forest. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Your State Forests are for you to enjoy. Enjoy them!

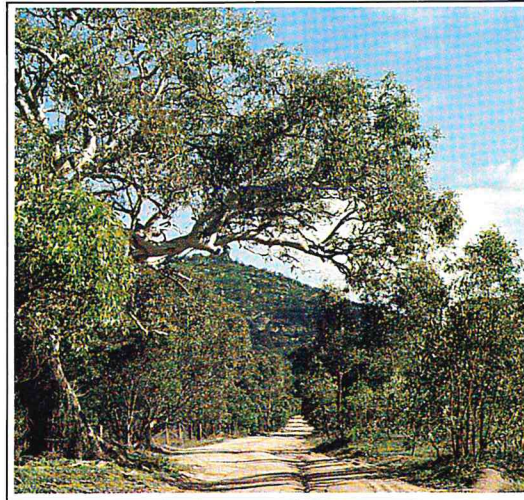


If you find yourself saying 'Not me!',
think again.

Forests cater for everyone. There
are forms of forest recreation to suit
the young and the old, the fit and
the unfit, the adventurous and the
less adventurous.



Perhaps you would like to **drive** through the forest. In this way you can watch the changing scenery from the comfort of the car or bus. You can stop at different points to view particular features at leisure or at close range, or just to take in the sounds, smells and general 'atmosphere' of the bush.





Or you could **walk**. By walking you see the forest close up at all times and can experience its richness and diversity much more intimately. You may like a walk of just a few hours or a week-long mountain trek.





Driving doesn't let you see enough?
Walking is a drag?
Try good old-fashioned **horse riding**
for a change!



Many people bring their recreation to the forest, seeing it as the most pleasant setting for their favourite sport or pastime.

You may meet up with joggers (you may even join them!) as they use the forest tracks for their exercise ...

... or the devotees of **orienteering** making their way at full pelt towards their checkpoint, map and compass in hand.

Then there are the **cross-country skiers** and the **snow campers**, for whom winter has turned the forest into a wonderland . . .





... and the **canoeists** and **kayakers**
surrounded by forest as they ride
the wild rivers.

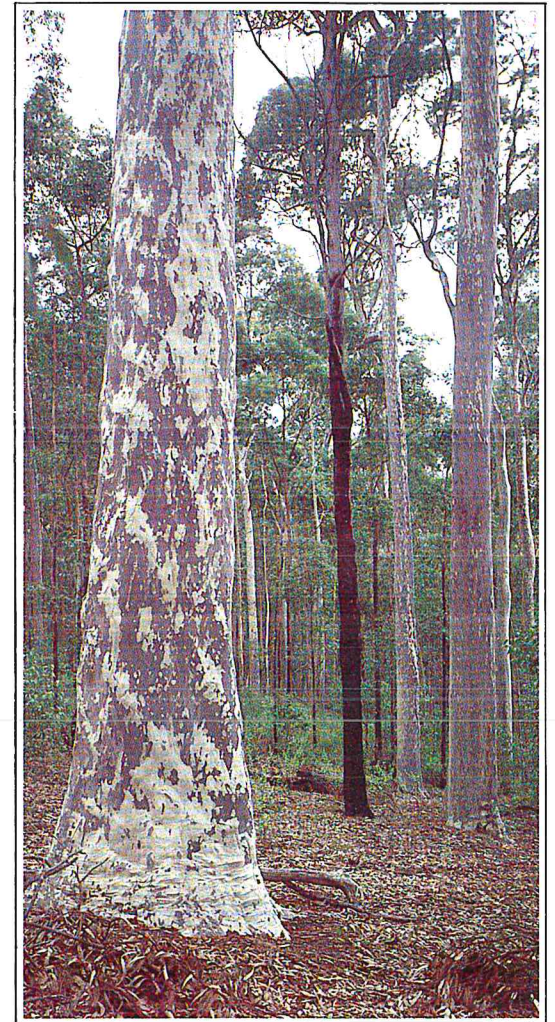
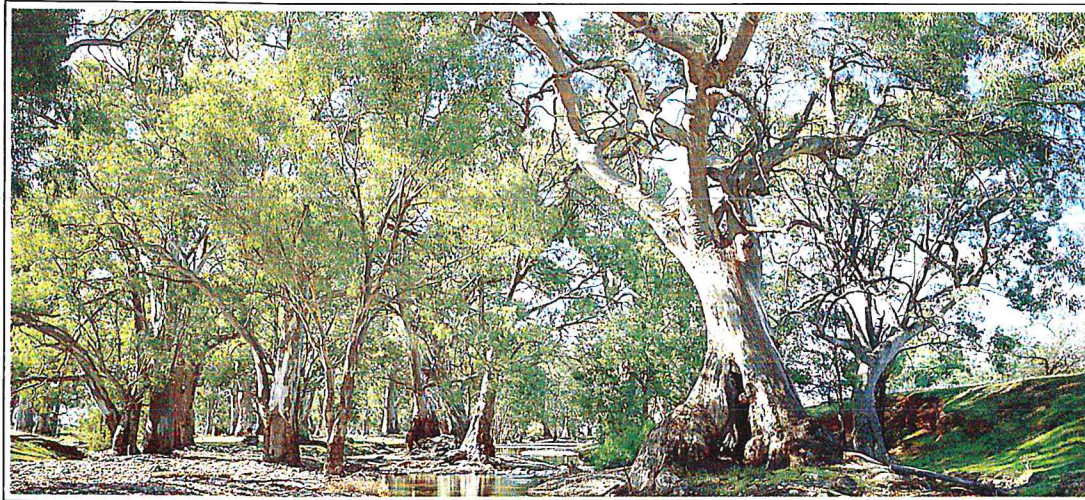
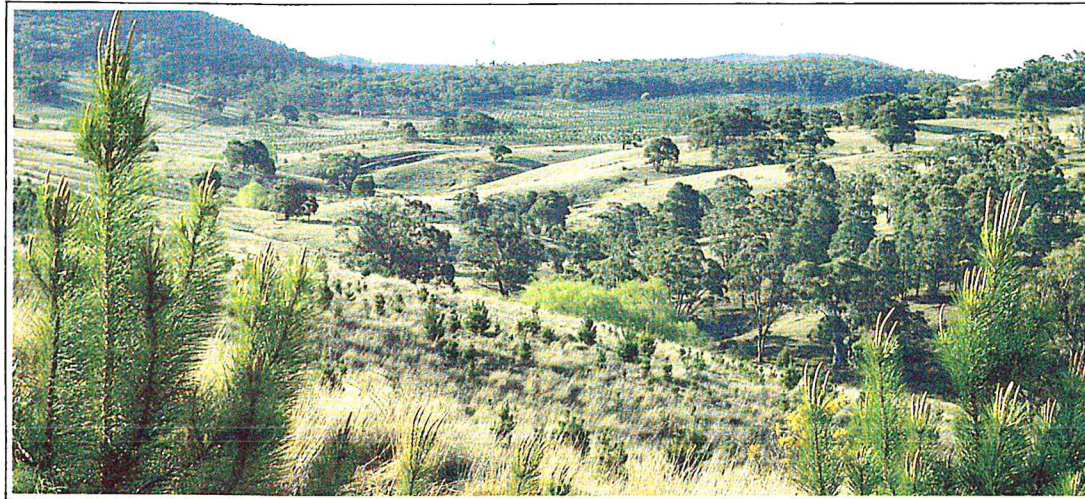
For others, the forest is recreation.



They do not bring their recreation to the forest but find it in the sheer joy of seeing the forest, hearing it, smelling it, touching it – and trying to understand it better.

As they walk through the forest, they think about the ground underfoot. Is it soft and moist? . . . or dry and hard? What does this have to say about the geography, about the rainfall, about the plant species, about . . . ?







Or they find themselves stroking the surface of leaves and bark with their fingertips, smelling the scent of wildflowers and trees, trying to identify the intriguing forest sounds that ring out across the ridges or murmur gently from the gullies.

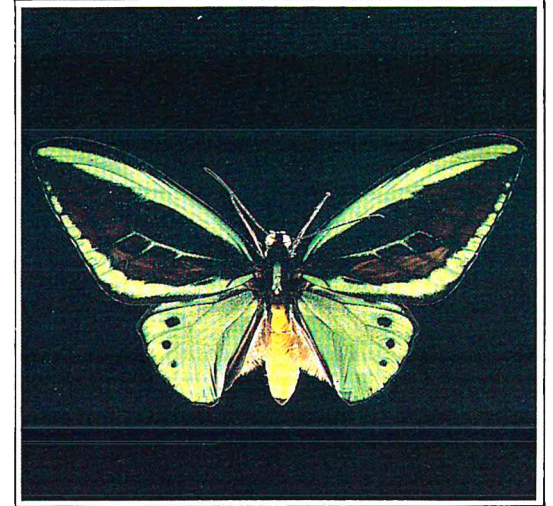




They look, quietly and intently, for
birds, mammals, reptiles, insects . . .
or, in the case of the more elusive
and nocturnal animals, for their
tracks and traces.

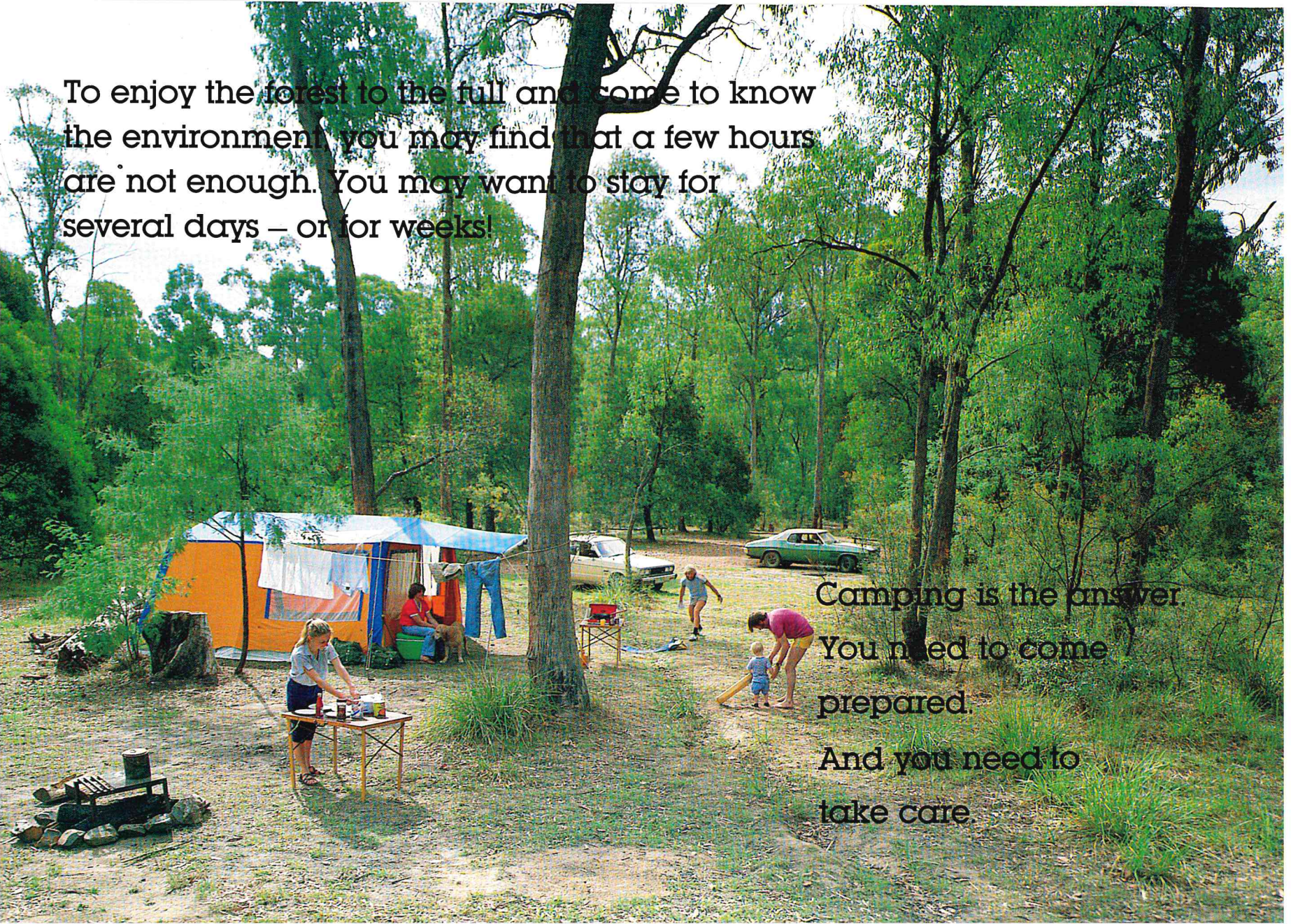
They find much to do – and to enjoy
– in the forest.

You may care to join them.



To enjoy the forest to the full and come to know the environment, you may find that a few hours are not enough. You may want to stay for several days – or for weeks!

Camping is the answer.
You need to come prepared.
And you need to take care.



For a start, find out from your State Forest Service what regulations are in force about camping in State Forests.

There are probably rules about campfires. You may be required to bring a portable toilet.

In any case, there should be plenty of cleared area around your fire. When you have finished with it, douse it with water or cover the ashes with soil.

Make sure there is no pollution of the waterways.

And don't rubbish the bush!

The forest has its dangers. Whether camping or on a day trip, you should be careful.

Be prepared for changes in the weather.

Wear the right sort of clothing and carry the right sort of equipment.

Try not to travel alone. Always inform the authorities or some responsible person about your trip.





Your State Forest Service can help you to enjoy your State Forests.

Facilities differ from State to State
but the following are common:

- signposts and notice boards
- picnic spots and camping sites
- nature trails, forest walks,
scenic drives
- literature and maps
- advisory services

**Before visiting your
forests, why not visit
your forest service?**

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