

# Carry on Camping

**ANDREW CRIBB TAKES YOU ON A TOUR OF  
W.A.'s BEST CAMPING SPOTS, COURTESY OF  
CALM.**



Jiri Lochman

*Friday night. Rush home from work. DON'T PANIC... Do the shopping, pack the bags, drag the tent out of the shed. Got the tent-pegs? Where's the blessed cat? It always knows the time to disappear.*

*Cram the car with gear: Ice for the esky? Kids packed? Five a.m. start tomorrow. Off to the wild free places. Who hid the bait?*

*About 8.30 the following morning you finally get on the road. You can almost*

*smell the sea and hear the sighing of wind in the guy-ropes.*

*The great sun-bronzed Australian outdoors waits to embrace you with open arms. Gradually time begins to slow. Flickering past the windscreen the shadows of tall trees and the pungent, dank scent of the forest understorey tug at the edge of your senses.*

*All you need now is the perfect location to pitch the tent. Caravan Park? Too crowded this year. Beach? Can we*

*camp there? Can't find anything but motels and resorts in the guide from the local tourist bureau.*

*Where was that peppermint grove we saw last year when we were sight-seeing in the national park? Other people were camping there, and the ranger didn't seem to mind. Plenty of shade, only half a kilometre from the beach. Great swimming hole, good fishing too. Looked like there were some fascinating walks nearby.*

Whether your favourite country is north or south the national parks and State forests of W.A. offer you a natural alternative for your camping holiday.

Between June and August, when the weather is mild, the North-West is at its best, and if you're looking south we recommend October to December, and April - May.

But camping spots often seem to be closely guarded secrets, and knowing what to expect when you get there is an art in its own right.

Nearly all national parks, and most areas of State forest in W.A. have camp sites with simple facilities,

easily accessible on gravel roads by ordinary car, but natural is the key word when considering bush camp sites as a place to stay.

### **THE RITZ — AU NATURALE**

Sophisticated facilities were never intended to be a strong point, but if you're happy to provide your own water, sleep under a canopy of stars, and put up with the company of mother nature, you could be staying at the Ritz.

Individual tent and car bays, screened from nearby sites by vegetation, are usually situated off a one-way access road. This means

no through-traffic, and a sense of space around each tent.

In other areas, open sites for groups of tents are provided.

Pit toilets with brown timber walls, green corrugated roofs, and clear plastic skylights for natural lighting blend discreetly into the landscape, within easy access of each tent bay.

The carefully-tailored car bays not only give you a spot in the shade to park your limo, they also stop people driving over the tent pads and ruining the area's appeal.

A rustic timber table and small neo-CALM fireplace near each tent pad

Getting away from it all at Hoffman Old Mill near Harvey



Marie Lochman

complete the appointments, and as a backdrop the fresh scent of gum-leaves (or peppermint, or . . .) sets off the tastefully-decorated landscape, straight from the hand of the creator to you.

The tariff for this luxury? In national parks, \$4.00 per night for two people in a tent, \$2.00 per night for each extra person.

In State forest camping areas, no fee!

CALM staff service these areas, and will call to make sure you are enjoying the facilities, and allow you to settle your account without inconvenience.

You may also like to explore other areas. This is the time to ask for a brochure, or information on other parts of the national park or forest.

Display shelters near most Park entrances, or camp grounds, contain a wealth of useful information and a map. Brochures on most national parks and forest areas are available from the nearest district office of CALM or from CALM field staff.

Perhaps you are keen on exploring the wild on foot? Boldly going where few people have gone before? Unlocking the secrets of this ancient continent?

Variouly described as back-pack camping, wild camping, or just plain camping, you can do it almost anywhere.

Pack your gortex underwear, and put on your thick socks and ruggedest boots. Roll up your super-lightweight, designed-by-NASA-for-use-on-the-moon hiking tent, which doubles as a canoe and hang-glider, fill a large water-bottle, and off you go.

It is wise to contact the Park ranger or CALM district office before disappearing into the wilderness. Someone then knows where you are, in case of trouble.

There is nothing quite like the magic of camping



Marie Lochman

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Large-scale, full-colour maps (1:50 000) of forest areas are available from CALM for only \$5.00 each. For other areas the Central Map Agency, Department of Land Administration, Cathedral Avenue, Perth (PH: 09 323 1222) is the place to contact.

## BAGGING IT OUT

One of the nicest things about outdoor places in forests and parks is that they usually look as if they haven't been visited lately by Attila the Hun and the barbarian hordes.

In some of the most used places rubbish bins are supplied to help keep the litter invisible. These are usually kept empty, with new bins, by CALM crews who could be doing things more vital for conservation.

So here is your chance to keep camp fees low, and camp sites worth coming back to. Bag it out. Anything you bag in, bag out again. Leaving a place looking as if

you've -never- been- there has a certain satisfaction.

## FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED

Planning a natural camping holiday is almost as easy as picking up the phone. CALM produces brochures which give essential information on most national parks and forests.

Brochures include information on most temperate weather or best season for features such as wildflowers; where and how to contact rangers and CALM staff; good places to camp, see, canoe, fish, bushwalk, hang-glide, take your 4WD etc.

The brochures also provide essential guidelines on the 'Code of the Bush': take care with campfires, take your litter home, no picking wildflowers or shooting.

For the Metro area and nearby, the highly acclaimed *Beating About the Bush* is yours for only \$7.95 direct from CALM. Complete with full-

colour maps, photographs and over 80 scenic natural picnic and camping areas for you to discover and enjoy, this is the book to have in your glove-box.

But if you want the wild south, hold on. CALM is producing the definitive camping and touring guide to all the national parks and forest areas from Dwellingup to Eucla.

A key feature of the new guide will be detailed colour maps, and a complete index to more than 300 natural recreation areas in the south of the State.

Articles on each national park and forest give some of the intriguing background to our natural environment, as well as down-to-earth information on facilities, and what to expect.

Superb colour photographs from one of Australia's best new wildlife and landscape photographers help to make this THE guide book you must have. So, keep your eye out for it, mid-1988.

You couldn't get closer to the water than at Shelley Beach, West Cape Howe National Park.



## TOWING THE LINE

*Clare Bramley, freelance writer for the R.A.C. and Sunday Times, gives a few tips for a comfortable and safe caravan holiday.*

It might be a bore to get organised; but it pays guaranteed dividends.

The first thing to do is to make a check list of what you must take, and check each item as you pack it. **Keep the list.**

When you return from your trip, re-check your equipment from the list and replace anything that is missing. Don't leave it until the next trip comes up.

Have a place for everything, and see that it goes back where it belongs. Small spaces need to be well organised.

Don't overload your van. Unless you are going into the wilderness, stores and water can be replenished. Carrying a full tank of water all the way to an established site where water is available is carrying a lot of extra weight for no purpose.

Personal equipment - bedding, food and crockery for a family accounts for between 150 and 200 kg. When loading the caravan the load distribution

ratio should be 60 per cent to the front and 40 per cent to the rear. The tow bar vertical coupling load should be between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the laden caravan mass.

The caravan loaded and unloaded mass should be displayed on the side of the van. If it is not, the formula is 50 kg per 300 mm approximately.

Remember you are packing a vehicle that will be moving. What will stay in place in a stationary van may not do so when the van is bumping and swaying, plus stopping and starting.

Try to keep the load low in the van, and as much as possible over the axle. Heavy items stowed in high cupboards will tend to make the van unstable, because of the high centre of gravity.

So it is easier to arrange things where you want them when you arrive. To do so before you leave home may result in damage and confusion.

The best place to put gear is on the floor, and, if possible, anchor it. The stretch ocky straps used for surfboards are very useful for this, particularly if you are going over bumpy roads.

A good way to avoid crockery rattling together and getting chipped or broken is to make little individual bags for every second piece. These can be made from old wincy sheets or old towels.

Avoid placing bags, cases or other moveable items on the seats unless they are strapped down.

Don't forget to take a first aid kit, a torch, and some extra clothing to cope with a possible change in weather.

Include among your stores food that does not require refrigeration, such as long-life milk and package fruit juice. These also have the advantage of being in square packs and take up less storage space.

Include a roll of tear-off bin bags to put all your rubbish in, insect repellent, and if you are going where the water is brackish, salt water shampoo and soap. (You should never use soaps or shampoos in rivers or lakes.)

Before you leave, test all appliances.

And, of course, you will make sure to remember the can opener is packed.



Andrew Critch

# LANDSCOPE



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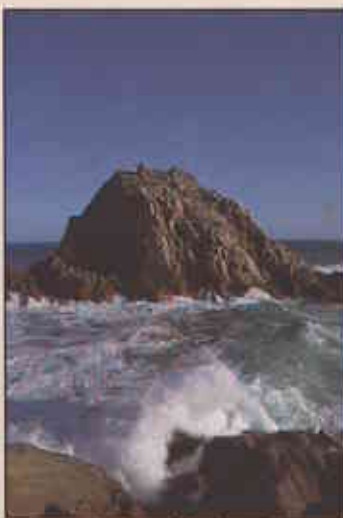
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## EDITORIAL

The economic development versus environmental protection debate is a constant feature of our society today. No-one will disagree that our environment needs protection; there is also no doubt that Australia must improve its economic performance if we are to maintain our living standards and enjoy the natural environment which we are blessed with. This *Landscape* describes a project which combines environmental and economic advantages.

Australia's import bill for forest products is \$1.7 billion. Of this a considerable portion is paper which is made from eucalypt fibre. A Perth scientist was the first person to demonstrate that eucalypt could be made into paper, yet it is other countries that have capitalised on this discovery. For example, Brazil, Portugal, Chile, South Africa and Spain have established over 3 million hectares of highly productive eucalyptus plantations. Australia, home of the genus *Eucalyptus*, has only 40 000 hectares of eucalyptus plantations.

Despite our late start, there is no reason why W.A. cannot share some of the rewards which would come from capitalizing on the increasing world demand for high quality paper. We have the land and climate to grow the trees and the skills to do it competitively.

Widespread afforestation of the south-west is also an essential prerequisite to ameliorating salination and eutrophication of our waterways. It is unlikely that afforestation of the magnitude required could be achieved unless it is commercially driven. The production of trees for paper could provide the opportunity to carry out the afforestation program necessary for improving the environment at no cost to the State.

It would be ironic if the world demand for the much maligned woodchip provided the solution for what would arguably be two of the most serious environmental problems in south-western Australia.

### Cover Photo

Trees loom out of the mist at Amelup near the Stirling Ranges.  
Photograph by Robert Karri-Davies.