

Camping Etiquette for Caravan and Campers

By Ian Molloy

Life is a lot different when you are camping with fair less privacy. At caravan parks, roadside stops and in the bush you will find yourself living in very close proximity to all sorts of fellow travellers. You can generally avoid most of the difficulties than can arise by observing the following basic points of camping etiquette:

- Do not set up too close to your neighbour without asking.
- Park your car on **your** caravan-park site.
- Walk around, not through, other people's campsites. It is their home. After all - you would not walk through their hotel room.
- If it is not yours, do not touch it.
- If you do not know how to operate it, do not use it until you know how.
- Do not take anything that does not belong to you; this includes what you may think of as minor items such as plugs and hoses or even toilet paper.
- Do not empty hot water on lawns or gardens.
- Empty night toilet buckets in the toilets and do not rinse them in the bathroom sinks or camp kitchens.
- Wash your vehicle only in the prescribed area.
- Do not refuel cars on lawns.
- Do not camp on the road adjoining a caravan park.
- Build campfires only in designated areas.
- If you bring it with you, take it away with you. Be careful with rubbish and plastic bags. Do not burn or bury rubbish.
- Probably one of the most important things for camping etiquette is to respect others and keep noise to a minimum at night. This especially applies to using stereos.
- Brief your children on how to behave in camping areas.
- Keep your pets on leads at all times.
- Always clean up after you have used the toilet block facilities.
- Do not use the toilet washrooms' sink for washing dishes or clothes.
- Do not leave rubbish lying around your campsite.
- If you smoke, do not leave butts lying around.
- Observe the speed limit in the park.

Not only is camping etiquette important, but think of future generations and help preserve Australia's magnificent landscapes.

- Drive only along defined roads and tracks. Do not drive along closed roads.
- Do not throw rubbish from your vehicle.
- Do not deposit bags of rubbish alongside overflowing bins at roadside stops - take it with you and do not burn or bury rubbish.
- Do not cut down standing timber for firewood. Collect a minimum amount of ground wood if you must have a fire.
- Do not use detergent, soap or shampoo in rivers, streams or lakes.
- Respect private land, including Aboriginal land.
- Protect native flora and fauna. Some States impose substantial penalties for picking wildflowers. All native fauna is generally protected.

- Remember the saying, "take only photos and leave only footprints".

This is the twenty-first page of 23 with related information about making the most of your caravan holiday. Check our website at www.crikey-adventure-tours.com/caravan-holiday.html for the other articles.

Ian Molloy is the owner of Crikey Adventure Tours. Visit his website www.crikey-adventure-tours.com for more information about this article and other related topics. He not only has his tour business operating from Peth in Western Australia, but his site is full of very helpful information. Some of these includes tips on motorcycle holidays www.crikey-adventure-tours.com/motorcycle-holiday.html, driving cross-country, caravanning and generally lots of tips about having a "camping" holiday.

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