

minimal impact camping means **caring**



Minimal impact

Minimal impact (n). *Caring activities designed to decrease the negative effects that users have, especially on the environment.*

Minimal impact techniques are used to reduce the effects that people have on the environment. Minimal impact camping allows campers to enjoy their natural surroundings without causing too much environmental degradation.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CARING!



Washing up

The use of detergents should be minimised when camping. Try to use hot water to get billys and table tops clean rather than a lot of detergent. Use a biodegradable soap for washing hands and bodies. Never wash in streams or lakes! Instead collect water and take it away from your camp. Walk 50m away and wash up here. When you are finished spread your dirty water over the area. This allows the water to filter through the earth before it eventually returns to the water source.



Toilets in the bush

If a toilet exists please use it! To reduce the occurrence of *giardia* it is important that campers use toilets if they are provided. If there is no toilet then walk 100m away from water and the track, dig a 15-cm hole and bury your waste and the toilet paper as well.



Fires and stoves

Escaped campfires cause ecological damage and unsightly scars on the landscape. Burning and collecting wood can destroy homes for small plants and animals. Escaped campfires can lead to disastrous bushfires. For these reasons many areas will have bbq's and fire sites provided. Make sure that you use the established sites rather than create new ones. Heed any fire regulation signs that are displayed in the park. In times of high fire danger do not light any fires. Check with the local staff for details.



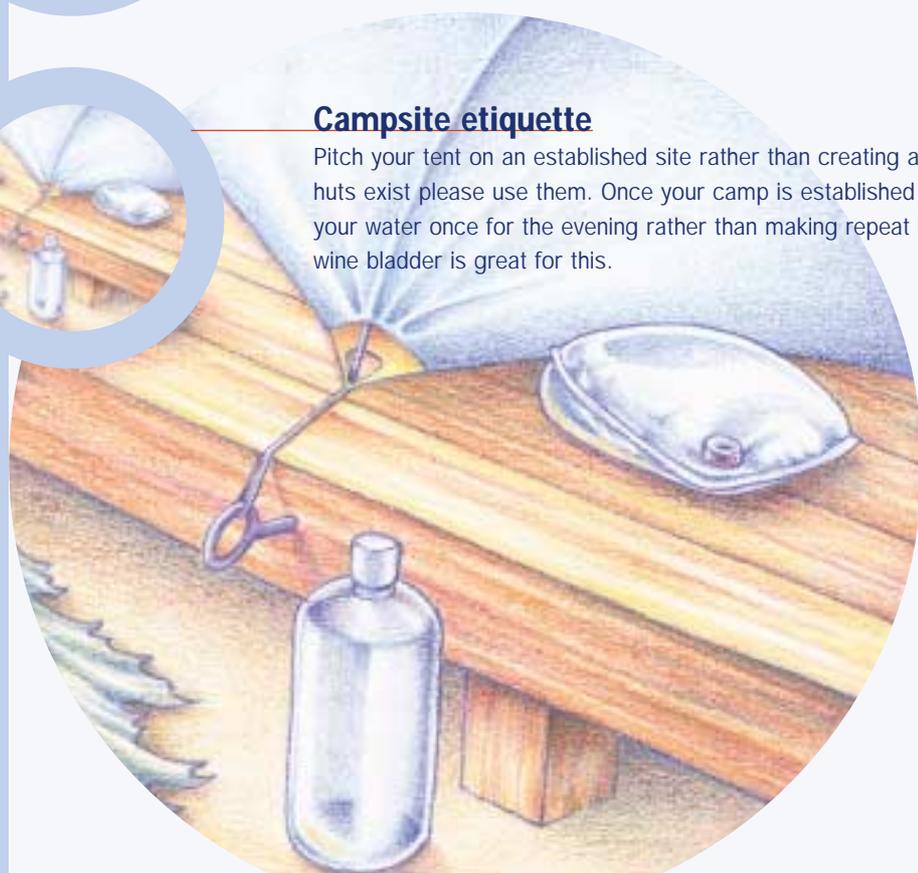
Pack it in – pack it out!

Unless bins have been provided take all of your rubbish out with you! This includes food scraps, twisty ties, sanitary pads and tampons, condoms, and any other campers' garbage you can collect. Leave the site in a better condition than when you found it.



Campsite etiquette

Pitch your tent on an established site rather than creating a new one. If raised tent platforms or huts exist please use them. Once your camp is established minimise your movements. Collect your water once for the evening rather than making repeat trips. A large water carrier like an old wine bladder is great for this.



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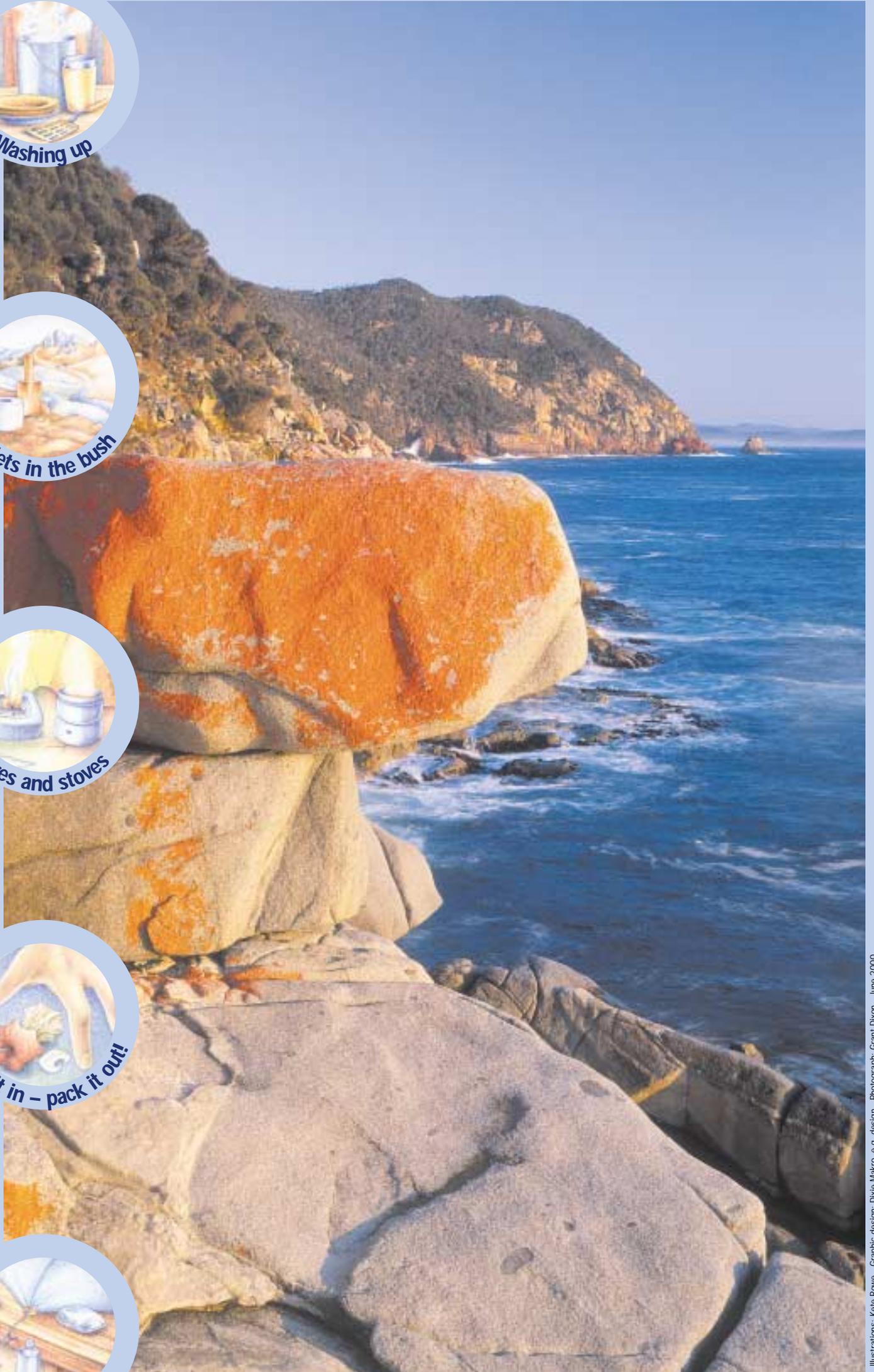
Fires and stoves



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Campsite etiquette



Illustrations: Kete Rowe. Graphic design: Dixie Makro, e.g. design. Photograph: Grant Dixon. June 2000

For further information, questions and comments
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