



NZ LIFESTYLE CAMPING



Official Publication of the All Points Camping Club of NZ
Issue 1 March 2018

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NZ LIFESTYLE CAMPING

Issue 1 Autumn 2018

Editor's Ramblings

Welcome to the first issue of NZ lifestyle Camper, a Quarterly magazine designed for all campers whether you have a tent, caravan, small vehicle, motorhome, bus or 5th wheeler. We wish to promote all classes of camping with positive stories. We hope to work with leaders of the tourist sector to ensure that New Zealanders, as well as overseas tourists, can keep enjoying the kiwi tradition of going camping and ensure future generations can also enjoy the lifestyle of the past.

We have stories from the North, the East, the top of the South, perhaps the West can contribute next time.

Please start writing your stories, they don't have to be in perfect English, I am sure we can turn them into an interesting article or two.

Please support our advertisers as they are the ones that will make this magazine last the distance.

If you have a special place you wish to share with other like-minded people, we can let them know.

Self-containment is a large hot topic at present and we will try to bring ideas and projects to you that will, I hope, help you understand the rules and regulations.

Enjoy the reading, pass it onto colleagues and help us to expand this humble beginning to being "The Magazine" for Campers. Send letters, poems, recipes, blogs, photos, jottings or tips for the new campers to enjoy

editor.allpointsnz@gmail.com

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**Looking for somewhere
to camp**

**or wanting to list a
property for campers?**

www.park-sleep.co.nz



Listings worldwide

As this is the first edition of NZ Lifestyle Camping, there may be some errors and omissions for which we apologise. Please bear with us as we progress and grow. We are open to suggestions and comments.

Our next issue will include a full listing of APCNZ self-containment testing offices and supporting businesses. These can be found on the website www.allpointscampingnz.org

Just So Festival.

By Amanda

The weekend of the 24th February we had the pleasure to attend the first ever, New Zealand Just So Festival held at Kaitoke Regional Park in Upper Hutt.

Just So Festival is described as an arts camping festival dedicated to families. Full of art, literature, theatre, music, drama, and crafts Just So Festival promises to have something to delight everyone from the smallest of babies upwards.

After seeing the videos of the sell-out tours in the UK and Brazil we knew we had to attend, and Just So NZ did not disappoint.



Three jam packed days of pure delight, from the largest bubbles you ever see, to circus tricks, stage performances, drama and music workshops and so much more.

Children and adults alike were enthralled from the moment they stepped foot into the Kaitoke Regional Park. From the largest bubbles you'd ever see, to circus tricks, stage performances, drama and music workshops and so much more.

We attended this Festival as a family of four (2 Adults and 2 children aged 5 and 3). And while the children and myself were really looking forward to this event my husband was not entirely convinced he would have a good time.

But even he had the most joyous of times, watching the children experience pure delight, participating in circus tricks alongside them and enjoying music which was yes family friendly but with something to suit everyone's tastes.

Alongside all the entertainment and activities on offer Just So also provides the completely bonkers tribal tournament. Where festival goers select a tribe to participate in and can collect golden pebbles to add to their tribes' tally, which are added up at the end of the Festival.

In a very unorganised fashion, we attended as Bats as this seemed like the easiest costume to magic up the day before the festival. The girls ran around all weekend not only participating in all the activities and experiences on offer, but also being swept up in the delight of collecting golden pebbles (which those of you who had children or grandchildren who were a part of the painted rock craze I am sure can imagine how addictive the collection of golden pebbles can be.)

The end result of the Festival? Two adults and two children completely exhausted but full to the top with joy and amazing memories.

If you have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, look into attending the next Just So Festival, you will not be disappointed.



How to explore New Zealand by camper van – The right way

By Kathy Wilson

New Zealand is a long, narrow and mountainous country that's best explored by road. The most cost-effective way to do this is to rent or purchase a campervan that acts as your all-in-one accommodation, packhorse and mode of transport. Read on to learn some of the core benefits of taking a campervan holiday around NZ.



Is freedom camping free?

Before you book your rental and hit the NZ tarmac with reckless abandonment, it's important to note you can't park overnight just anywhere you fancy. Parking at many of the hundreds of campsites around NZ is illegal if your campervan isn't 'self-contained'. To qualify as self-contained (and earn the certification sticker) a vehicle must be able to contain water waste for up to three days – that's water supply, grey water (sink and shower waste water) and toilet waste. The fines for not abiding by this law can put a real damper on your holiday, so a little research can go a long way.

Getting the most out of your trip

Because there's so much to see in NZ and you will likely be restricted by time, we recommend you stay at a combination of free camp sites and Kiwi Holiday Parks and Accommodation (KHPA) venues. This will prevent you from missing things along the way due to your booked accommodation venues being too far apart. It also gives you the best of both worlds – 'roughing it' by cooking your meals, showering and answering nature's call in your camper; and 'treating yourself' to the cooking, toilet, shower and laundry facilities at any of the [41 KHPA sites](#) dotted around the country.



Forget public transport, but don't forget to rest

Not having to depend on public transport to get from one stunning kiwi location to the next is potentially the biggest perk of campervan travel. You're in charge of your own destiny, free to move on at the drop-of-a-hat or stay a while longer if you're especially enjoying a spot.

But don't forget that you're also in charge of a very heavy automobile and that lapping up the sights, sounds and activities of Aotearoa will leave you feeling exhausted at times. Tired drivers are dangerous drivers, especially on NZ's demanding winding roads, so if you're feeling like you could do with a rest, pull over and take a nap.

Save large by preparing your own meals

Aside from your camper rental and fuel, food will have the biggest impact on your wallet during your expedition. Eating fast food or from restaurants and cafes everyday will quickly eat into your funds, so to speak. To cut down on this type of spending and preserve cash for [fun activities](#), visit a supermarket like [Pak'nSave](#) or [Countdown](#) every few days to stock up on ingredients for meals you can prepare in your campervan or at a [communal KHPA kitchen](#).

The best NZ region to visit is...

You could ask ten different people this question and get ten different answers. People who like [winter holidays](#) will say try [Wanaka](#) and [Rotorua](#). Those who are led by their taste buds will tell you to follow [this map](#), and sun-lovers will say follow the [food and wine festival circuit](#).

We think all the above are brilliant ideas. You can't really go wrong with the right insurance, a campervan that suits your needs, a [map of powered and non-powered KHPA locations](#), and some research about [driving in New Zealand](#). But perhaps look at [Northland](#) and the [West Coast](#) of the South Island to see some one-of-a-kind attractions.

Oh, and don't forget to get a Kiwi Card to [save on campervan rental](#), accommodation and activities, and [download our free app](#) to locate handy facilities and exciting attractions.

Happy planning and safe travels!



All Points Camping is proud to be working with Kiwi Holiday Parks to promote camping in NZ and offer our members terrific savings on Holiday Parks and tourist attractions.



Toitū te whenua

Mission

To promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation.

Background

Leave No Trace (LNT) New Zealand seeks to educate and challenge the New Zealand public and visitors on how and why to minimise their environmental impacts while enjoying natural and cultural heritage areas.

LNT language is used internationally and aims to develop people's environmental ethics. Rather than a set of rules, LNT promotes ethical choices through a framework of seven principles.

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

► PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Plan ahead by considering your goals and those of your group. Know before you go- get local information, skills and gear you need to make your trip a success.

► TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE GROUND

Some areas are more fragile than others. Choose to camp and travel on the most durable surface you can, the best ones are tracks, gravel, snow and most grasses. Impacts on fragile natural features caused by travel and camping can take many years to heal.

► DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Pack it in, pack it out. As users of the outdoors we all have a responsibility to clean up after ourselves. Rubbish and toilet waste are unsightly and can introduce unwanted organisms into the environment. Lead by example, if you see rubbish, pick it up.

► LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

People visit natural areas for many reasons; such as exploring nature's mysteries and surprises. When we leave natural objects and artifacts as we found them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow. Many sites of spiritual and cultural significance to Māori are interwoven with the natural environment.

► MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF FIRE

Local regulations and conditions change depending on time of year and location. Lightweight stoves, fire pans and mounds mean campfires are no longer essential for cooking or comfort. Wildfires are often caused by carelessness and the natural appearance of many recreation sites has been damaged by campfires, visual scarring and stripping vegetation for firewood.

► RESPECT WILDLIFE AND FARM ANIMALS

Know when animals are particularly vulnerable, such as breeding times, and change your behaviour with them by observing from a distance. Avoid feeding animals either deliberately or accidentally by leaving food or rubbish lying around. Farming is a big part of New Zealand's culture and economy, know how to move through farms without disturbing farm animals.

► BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

We all go into the outdoors for different reasons, so we must share. Think about others, respect their activities and what they might be trying to get out of their recreational experience.

www.leavenotrace.org.nz

admin@leavenotrace.org.nz

A Camping Resurgence

Most of us at some time have experienced and enjoyed the health and social benefits of camping. Getting out of the town and cities, breathing in fresh air and actively enjoying our fantastic country is beneficial to New Zealanders of all ages. From these experiences many of us have gained skills that have helped us to become more resilient and adaptable. This is something all families need.



Back in the 1960's and early 1970's camping and caravanning were a significant weekend past time for many NZ families. There were a multitude of caravan clubs with thousands of members around NZ. These clubs worked together to promote responsible and affordable camping for all New Zealanders. No frills campgrounds were abundant and affordable and district councils actively encouraged and supported this. For many of us this was our youth, and we have wonderful memories and stories to tell. 50 years on and most NZ families and individuals cannot afford to go camping in NZ, or are highly restricted as to where they can camp.

If they are not in a 'Certified Self Contained' vehicle these families are often not welcome. You can't certify a tent, or some variations of campers and these are often all that NZ families can afford, if at all. Around NZ music events and family friendly festivals around NZ, with a camping component, are promoted with overnight camping available for certified self-contained vehicles. Even when toilets and other facilities are available, organisers often exclude a very large proportion of our responsible camping population. Responsibility relates to people, not the type of vehicle or camper you own.

Over the past few years there has been a lot of blame and media attention loaded on campers, in particular freedom campers, for not respecting our environment. Often these claims are simply hearsay and rumours. We must wonder why these rumours and the denigration of responsible campers are perpetrated so repeatedly. The proponents of these rumours fail to acknowledge that these campers are often the most responsible in our community. Having a smaller environmental footprint and being less wasteful with resources, these campers usually have very strong environmental concerns. In late 2015 I had the privilege to co-found a new camping club.

The All Points Camping Club of NZ, was formed to try and bring balance back to the NZ camping industry and to support NZ families and active campers. The organisation has grown rapidly. This is just one of many new groups that are springing up to try and bring back traditional camping values and balance into the NZ camping scene.

The resurgence in retro caravans and interest in outback style campers is also growing rapidly. Traditional camping values are still important and responsible camping is about people and values. It's all about recognising our camping heritage, respecting all responsible campers and making sure we don't lose this. Those camping experiences we had as children must also be available to our children and our mokopuna. There is a change in the wind with camping in New Zealand. It's good for our families, our future generations and it's great for our society.

Find out more about All Points Camping NZ at www.allpointscampingnz.org

Camping in New Zealand

by Cheryl Tyler

I grew up with the kiwi camping family, most school holidays we packed up the house with tent and later campermatic for two weeks of family fun around New Zealand in the 70s and 80s plus as part of the Girl Guide movement...



When I had my own son and my relationship broke up I realized I didn't want him to miss out on the camping holidays just because it was just the two of us so I bought a cheap tent and off we went. Over time we added sit on kayaks and bikes as we were off.

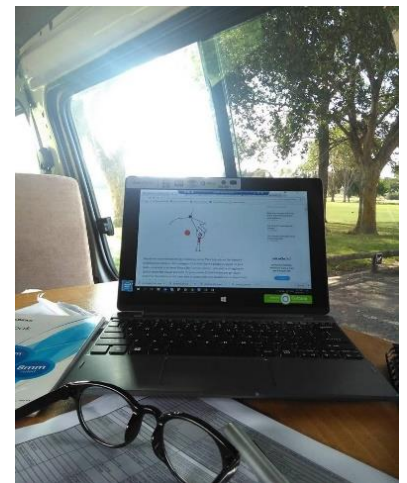
We have mostly camped in the North Island from Cape Palliser to Cape Reinga and experienced all the joys of camping from losing our tent in a storm in Northland (Whananaiki) and having to spend the night huddled soaking wet together in the car to staying in Doc campsites when we canoed down the Whanganui river to having Christmas day lunch eating Ham rolls and Roses Chocolates 10km in on the Dunes section of the Motu Trail.





But as happens with children they eventually grow into teenagers who spend less time with family and more with friends. I found without my little

camping buddy I was missing getting out into nature so as part of a brief Trademe browse I found a small Toyota HiAce that had been converted into a camper and bought it there and then. I haven't looked back, every now and then I find myself sitting at home and can jump in my van and hit the



road in minutes and be on my way to a camp ground, Doc site or Reserve where I can relax, walk in nature, read, write and meet new people. With a good Wi-Fi connection I have even managed to "work from home" a few times while parked next to a river and I've been having so much fun last labour weekend when I planned to go to Takaka on my own, my son asked if he could come along so we have bought him a small tent and every now and then he joins me on my trips.

In the next few years I might upgrade the camper and look at doing this on a more permanent basis



Club Corner

This is your section to promote your camping related club and any events or news.
There is no charge to promote your club in the NZ Lifestyle Camping Magazine or website.

If you do not have a club webpage NZ Lifestyle Camping can provide one for you at a nominal monthly fee or possibly free of charge.



All Points Camping Club of NZ

– Established as a national and inclusive camping club supporting all NZ campers.

Wanganui Vintage Weekend 2018. Wellington Anniversary weekend



This year we had the use of Wanganui Intermediate School again. This is a great venue, handy to the activities in the Main Street, and with great facilities. We had the use of the swimming pool, kitchen in the hall and of course showers and toilets.

Our numbers were up on last year, with several motor homes, caravans, teardrop campers and a tent.

We ventured into town for most of the activities during the weekend. The Riverside market was a must visit with all sorts of crafts and other items for sale. The Village market held in the old farmers Building had a great range of antique and collectible and steampunk items for sale, and the local Steampunk people also had a display.

There were traction engine rides available down by the riverside market for \$2. We went for one of these rides on these massive machines. Although they do not have a fast top speed, their power was obvious when travelling up a fairly steep hill.

In the Main Street on the Saturday there were a large number of veteran, vintage and modern vehicles on display.

There were all makes and models ranging from the early 1920s through to the late 1980s. You could have spent hours looking at them. Later on the Saturday there was music in the street down by the Rutland hotel. You could purchase a drink and sit and enjoy a variety of music.

Back at the school on Saturday evening quite a few of us sat outside until well after 10 pm. This was a huge contrast to last year when the weather was terrible. From the area beside the school pool we were able to see the Steam train going past. One of our campers unfortunately made contact with the electric fence trying to take photos of the train.

On Sunday there was another smaller market riverside, with a stage set up and live music. The traction engine rides were again available, and some vintage steam vehicles were also on display. Some of the campers left Sunday afternoon, but the rest of us stayed until Monday to enjoy the company and weather.



APCNZ's Upcoming **All Inclusive Camping Events**

APCNZ carries liability insurance and support to help members host events.

Our club is NZ wide.

Would you like to host events in your region?

We also promote at no cost other camping events but not 'self-contained vehicles only' events.

Easter 2018 we will be camping and fishing at Foxton Beach.



Thurs 29 March 2018 to Mon 2 April

Foxton Beach School - Entry off Hart St.

A Family Friendly rally, whether you have a Tent
- Caravan - Motorhome.

Lots of camping space. Children's activities.
Sandcastle competition, bring your fishing rods,
guitars and games. Raffle and prizes. Can you
busk? Have you got talent? \$7.00 / night adults,
Children up to 16 yrs. free.

www.allpointscampingnz.org/easter-at-the-beach

Kimbolton Sculpture Festival



A Family Friendly Art Themed event with an inclusive camping weekend. APCNZ is proud to be financially supporting this fantastic weekend.

Tents - Caravans – Motorhomes. This will be paddock camping adjacent to the event

APCNZ is proud to be financially supporting this fantastic weekend.

Join us on the Friday and enjoy a fun and music filled day with the festival on Saturday.

There will be stalls of all kinds and children's activities. \$5.00 / vehicle / tent per night.

For more information about the festival or to enter the rural sculpture competition please check out the festival website at www.ruralart.nz

<https://www.allpointscampingnz.org/kimbolton-camping>

APCNZ AGM and Beach Weekend 11/12/13 May

Our club annual general meeting will be at Himatangi Beach Holiday Park at 2:00pm on Saturday the 12th of May. Discounted accommodation is available at the camp for the weekend. Book with the camp. We are currently looking at putting on band entertainment on the Saturday night. This will be the clubs 3rd AGM and is an important one as we move to becoming an incorporated society. On the Sunday there will be a short meeting for those interested for NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd. which is being established as the commercial arm of the club.

Steampunk the Thames 9th-11th November

Last year we hosted a camp at Thames South School. For 2018 we will be back there again from the 9th to 11th of November. Steampunk is amazing fun. If you are interested in building a Victorian style, Steampunk caravan please let us know. Visit www.allpointscampingnz.org for more details on our Events or search All Points Camping on Facebook



Membership benefits with APCNZ

If you are a current financial member of APCNZ you should have a Kiwi Holiday Parks discount card. The discount card is now given to all of our members and is valid for 24 months from the date of issue.

Please keep these cards in a safe place. If you lose this, you can get a replacement from [Kiwi Holiday Parks](#) and Accommodation. When the All Points Camping Club was first started Kiwi Holiday Parks supported the club and we continue to have a beneficial relationship. The other company that has supported us from the start and still does is [Camper Care Insurance](#).

As All Points Camping grows we continue to look at business partnerships that will give the greatest benefit to our members. For this reason, we are excited to have entered into an agreement with [DiscoverNET](#) for totally mobile 4g broadband. [DiscoverNet](#) is the kind of innovative company we like dealing with. Already offering excellent service and connectivity it has perhaps NZ's best value and most flexible plans. APCNZ financial members can now receive a further 5% discount of the listed monthly rates and equipment. An email will shortly be issued to all financial members with details on how to get this great deal. If you would like to take advantage of the special APCNZ rates immediately members can email Gary on info@allpointscampingnz.org.

A vertical advertisement for DiscoverNet NZ. At the top is the 'discover net' logo in white and orange. Below it are three icons: a map of New Zealand, a download arrow, and a Wi-Fi symbol. Each icon is followed by text: 'go anywhere with superfast broadband', 'worry free browsing with massive data capacities', and 'antennas and accessories'. At the bottom is the website 'www.discover.net.nz'. The background is dark with a pattern of small white dots.

discover net


 go anywhere with superfast broadband

 worry free browsing with massive data capacities

 antennas and accessories

www.discover.net.nz

The following suppliers have undertaken to give our members the best possible deals.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>If you have a pop top, caravan, motorhome, motorcycle, classic or prestige car contact John at Camper Care / Star Insurance or talk to one of the team. Tell them you are an All Points Camper member and receive Star treatment. Two of the great things about the Star group is the free roadside assistance and their very flexible coverage for accessories and contents. https://campercare.co.nz/ Ph 0800 965 965</p> |
|  | <p>Darrell is the man to talk to at OZTent NZ. The OZTent range is so easy to put up or attach to a vehicle. Also, agents for Weber Barbecues and part of Heatrite (Plumbing, Gas, Heating) in Palmerston North it's a great company to have supporting us. www.oztent.co.nz Check out the videos online.</p> |
|  | <p>Phillip at Tackle Tactics could be considered a fishing expert. <i>"NZ's leading supplier of quality Surfcasting & Fishing gear."</i> Check out their website and mail order store http://www.tackletactics.co.nz/ or pop into their store in Foxton. Anything you need for Fishing - Phillip Kettle is the man to ask.</p> |
|  | <p>Contact Vantage RV for savings on Roof Top campers, the latest satellite dishes, TVs, Fridges, accessories plus much more). http://www.vantagerv.nz/ Silverdale, Auckland</p> |
|  | <p>Lifestyle Gear provide innovative and trendy outdoor and camping products with a focus on being environmentally friendly. Their hardwearing floor mats made from recycled rubber being one of the most popular products. Check out their website at www.lifestylegear.co.nz . Using code APC10 will give all APC members 10% off all products that are not on already on sale.</p> |
|  | <p>DiscoverNET Mobile Broadband - From 15 March APCNZ members will have access to totally mobile WIFI / broadband at NZ's lowest prices. 5% off</p> <p>The purchase of plans and equipment. Please go to www.discover.net.nz/apcnz to obtain your discount.</p> |
|  | <p>RV Mega / RV Shop (Mt Maunganui) - Store wide savings with your APCNZ membership card.</p> |
|  | <p>RV Dreams (Lower Hutt) - Store wide savings with your APCNZ membership card.</p> |
|  | <p>Kiwi Holiday Parks and Accommodation. Financial membership with APCNZ includes the KHP discount card, providing discount at all Kiwi Holiday Parks, Buebridge Ferry, selected rental vehicles, tourist attractions plus discounts at more than 200 Top Parks in Australia.</p> |

As well as getting discounts at ALL Kiwi Holiday Parks **All Points Camping NZ** members receive discounts at the following campgrounds.



Miranda Holiday Park

Situated on the coast road to Thames Miranda Holiday Park has everything you need for a relaxing stop. The hot mineral pool is perfect for ending the day. The camp is very well equipped with excellent facilities. It is well managed with considerable investment in sustainable practices and waste management. There are campsites and cabins to suit all needs, a pet friendly area and activities for children. This camp is definitely one you must visit. If you are heading to or from the Coromandel and want to be within easy distance of Auckland this is a great place to use as a base.

www.mirandaholidaypark.co.nz

Flat Hills Café and Tourist Park

Situated on State Highway One in the Northern Rangitikei this is a main café /break stop for buses heading North and South. The rustic café has a huge range of food and beverage option and a large farm themed outdoor activity area for families and group. There is also a maze for those who often find themselves lost. Nestled under the hills the Tourist Park has cabins and camp sites. If heading south and with time on your hands, we recommend turning east off the main highway and heading through northern Manawatu. This will take you through the beautiful countryside with the most amazing views.

<http://www.flathills.co.nz/>



Rotorua All Seasons Holiday Park

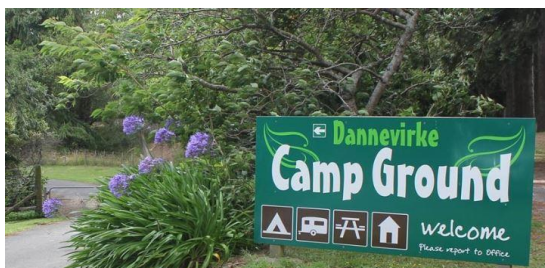
We know that at some time everyone will visit Rotorua. The award-winning Rotorua All Seasons Holiday Park provides 'a quiet location offering the ultimate in relaxation'. This fun and family themed holiday park is close to the town centre, reclaimed wetlands and a great base for those day trips.

With so much to do in the area, days can be exhausting, and this is the perfect place to unwind. www.allseasonsrotorua.co.nz

Himatangi Beach Holiday Park

Winner of multiple hospitality awards this camp situated on the west coast of the North island is only 90 minutes from Wellington on a good day. The flat beach goes for miles and it is great place to go surfcasting or take the Kontiki too. Another family friendly camp that just keeps getting better.

www.himatangi-beach-holiday-park.co.nz



Dannevirke Holiday Park

Situated in a quiet tree lined reserve within walking distance of the Dannevirke town centre this is a fantastic place to relax. It is a great place to shelter when winds are strong and there is heated pool just next door. Dannevirke is steeped in Scandinavian history from the first settlers who came to fell the large swathes of Totara.

<http://www.dannevirkeholidaypark.co.nz/>

This is not an exhaustive list and we will continue to add further discount campgrounds to help support our All Points Camping members. Remember to tell the camps you are an APCNZ member and show your membership card if asked.

Responsible Camping

There has been a big push recently in NZ to promote responsible camping. Some people have taken this to mean that only persons using certified self-contained vehicles are camping responsibly. In reality Certified Self Containment can help a person be a responsible camper but just having a certified self-contained vehicle, with all the documentation, does not make a person a responsible camper. Similarly, the size or style of camping vehicle a person uses from tent through to motorhome does not determine if that person is responsible.

Over the past few decades, while we have seen a large shift towards certified self-contained vehicles, our society has largely neglected to reinforce responsible and sustainable camping practices. Practices that once we were all taught, that lead to initiative and resilience. Resilience and preparedness is what the government through civil defence and other organisations say that we need, and it has been stated many times that campers are better able to cope, adapt and recover in a natural disaster. Responsible and traditional camping practices must be encouraged and promoted by all local authorities, throughout NZ if we are to build a resilient nation for when a major emergency does happen. Local authorities must stop targeting responsible sustainable campers as being a nuisance and start educating and encouraging.

There are many families in our society that have never been camping. Going camping is an activity all NZ families should be able to enjoy and without being judged on the type of camping vehicle they use. In my opinion it's time to stop focusing on the method or vehicle with which a person is camping and to instead turn our focus to how we can get more NZ families out camping, affordably and sustainably. Local authorities must stop targeting responsible sustainable campers as being a nuisance and start educating and encouraging.

I look forward with interest to the development of the latest working parties but wonder if this time, for a change, NZ campers will be allowed representation.

Gary Stoneley, President, All Points Camping Club of NZ

Certified Self Containment

In June 2017 All Points Camping NZ became an issuing authority for the certified self-containment of motor caravans and caravans. This was taken on to support the many thousands of NZ campers who may choose not to be a member or not get their vehicle certified through the NZ Motor Caravan Association. Over the past 9 months the organisation has built up a team of qualified and trained testing officers around NZ. The positive feedback we have received has been fantastic. There are still some gaps in our coverage for testing and we are slowly working on getting more testing officers. If you have a trade background and know how to interpret, apply and adapt standards or have experience with motorhomes and caravans this is something you can do. This is also ideal for vehicle testing stations.

The Toileting Issue

A recent change to the self-containment standard is the requirement that for a vehicle to be certified the vehicle toilet must be able to be used with adequate head and elbow room with the bed made up. Once this is able to be done the toilet may be used in a toilet tent or awning. Each case must be looked on its merits and some vehicles and setups are not suitable for this. If you are looking at purchasing a vehicle to be self-contained make sure you look at the choices available and seek advice. It also pays to get a mechanical check on the vehicle.

Most people movers can be configured to meet all requirements but may not have much room to enjoy day to day camping. Despite recent rumours, there is no requirement for the toilet to be in a separate room / cubical and the NZ building code does not apply to motor vehicles unless they are immobile.

The vehicle must be fit for purpose – suitable for habitation, temporary accommodation. We recommend you read or download the guidelines www.allpointscampingnz.org/get-certified

Book an appointment with a testing officer to get your vehicle checked. It may not pass first time.

Please note: APCNZ requires a payment fee. This can sometimes be paid through the testing officer or paid direct. Check out our website for payment options. When making payment it is important that the person's name and preferably vehicle registration number is noted in the reference field.

Is Your campervan self-contained?

There are loads of camping grounds in New Zealand you can stay which cater to all of your needs, but if you enjoy low cost, free, and freedom camping, then you must be self contained.

To meet the requirements to obtain a self-containment certificate for your vehicle you must at minimum have:

- A sink with water trap connected to a waste tank
- Fresh water tanks – 12L per person for three days
- Grey/black waste water tank – 12L per person for three days
- Evacuation waste hose stored in a sealed container
- Rubbish bin with a lid
- Toilet (portable or fixed) – minimum of 3L per person for three days and can be used inside the campervan with the bed made up.
- Where possible and for your convenience a shower, hand basin, larger storage tanks can be fitted.

Every vehicle is different, make sure you do your homework to see what best suits your camper, and the number of occupants contained onboard.

All information, regulations, self-containment authorities, and testing officers can be accessed on the web.

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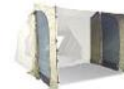
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East Cape Escape

After a 12hour trip from Levin to the Thornton Park Motor Camp in Whakatane, we won't talk about the tyre trouble out-side Taupo and again in the back roads of Murupara in the dark, except to say that the afterhours staff at Carters Whakatane are the best in the country.

We made it in the end and caught up with the other fishos there for the next nights fishing competition. The Thornton Park motor camp is the base for the comp and has been for 11 years. A great camping ground with good very clean facilities. Saturday night camped on the beach fishing, well trying to catch the winning Snapper. That didn't happen so back to Thornton for another night and a shower. With the road into Kauri Point freedom camping and jetty closed due to slips we spent a night fishing at Dotterel Point, Pukehina, freedom camping with water and toilets.

Now to head East. So back to Whakatane and on to Opotiki and beyond. Who forgot to get a camping permit from the I Site in either town? More on this a bit later. A great drive with lots to see and really good coffee from the only store in Omaio on Hwy 35. We got to Hicks Bay to find the wharf is closed due to being run down and falling apart. The weather wasn't great, so Jo and I popped over the hill to Te Araroa and spent a night in the camp ground

there. An interesting camp ground, Jo was not impressed with the sign stating only 3-minute showers. We met a retired couple from Christchurch, in a restored Sprite pop-top. The Owner/ Manager was really nice and let us leave the pop-top there while we went to check out the East Cape Lighthouse, gravel road. Back to pick up the pop-top and journey on. Tikitiki's church with the ornately carved interior. Ruatoria that still has the pie cart in the main street.

Tokomaru Bay, to permit camp right on the beach front. Public toilets at one end of the camping area and the local shops within walking distance. Oh, another closed derelict wharf. We setup camp, got supplies and while I was fishing... remember that camping permit I forgot to get, you can get them online from The Gisborne Council web site, but 7 days in advance.

Well the Inspector arrived looking for a permit. She was very nice and understanding. Normally she would have permits etc. with her but being the first weekend of the permit season, she had not yet received all the bits from Gisborne. I explained that we would get a permit at Tolaga Bay and was told to say Hi to Dolly. Dolly at Tolaga Bay Foodmarket is a camping permit issuing officer and most friendly and helpful. Suggesting a very lovely place to camp and fish just down the road. Waihou Bay beach is amazing, the fishing was even better. Public toilet by the gate along with collection area for



issued council rubbish bags and dump station for required chem toilet.

A great camping system in Gisborne, in MY opinion one of the best in the country. Very cheap to get a permit and issued rubbish bags and info sheets and a map of the region showing the 9 camping sites. The only requirement is a porta-potti for every eight people. You can camp in a camper, in a tent, in your car or under a tarp as long as you have a toilet. A permit starts at 2 nights for \$16 for up to 8 people.

We got into Gisborne City and as Jo was helping friends on the food stall at The Original Gypsy Fair for the weekend and I was going to be fishing, we stayed at the Top 10 motor camp in town. Clean, Friendly, Showers, laundry and very secure.

Mahia or more correctly Blue Bay freedom camping site right on the beach. Public toilets and changing rooms, only 1 rubbish bin that some of the locals come in and drop their rubbish off. A beautiful camp site only 8km from the store in Mahia. The weather came right, and we stayed 3 nights along with other campers from the Gypsy fair and around the world. A young French couple got their rental van stuck in the sand, the old 4x4 came to the rescue, happy campers. We also got to meet one of APCNZ's CSC testing officers who was also enjoying the sunny weather and company.

Down to Hastings to see family. Way too windy to stay on the Napier foreshore so a night at Hastings Top 10 then home to get ready for work. Thank you to the friendly people of the East Cape that helped make our trip special.

Gee I still have 182 hours leave, I need a holiday.



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A Quick Verb from Top Of The South

MARAHAU

Waitangi Day rolled around on a Tuesday this year, so our Blenheim friends and us decided to shut our business's on Monday and make another 4 day weekend_--I'm starting to like these long weekends, Mmmm

The 4 of us decided on Old Macdonald's Farm Holiday park. (<https://www.oldmacs.co.nz/>)

Situated on the Fringe of Abel Tasman N/P, 100 acres of beautiful park, in Tasman Bay.

So Saturday 3 February we finished work at midday, hooked the mighty D-Max up to our Concept Ascot 2 Caravan, attached the lights, 2 chains, load level/anti-sway springs etc and we're off.

Marahau being only a 45-minute drive from our home, we had an uneventful run, Marahau hill is a 2nd gear climb up and over, exiting at the beautiful Golden Sands beach this area is renowned for.

Having never been to Old Macdonald's Farm Holiday Park, we were given a map to get to 'THE BULL PADDOCK'. Wow

So private, just 2 sites per area with hedges between the next pair of sites, Great for us as we enjoy complete privacy.

Once we were all set up, roll-outs out, privacy screens up, removed bikes.

It was then suggested a bike ride into Marahau beach for a swim and coffee, a relaxing way to finish the afternoon.

Barbee and salads out-LETS EAT, drink then bed.

Next morning, Me, Myself and I went for a bike ride to watch all of the 20 something Tractors

launching water taxis, Kayaks and tourist boats, literally in the sea, as the tide was low and shallow water.

Over the next 3 days we did pretty much the same,

Bike rides, Swim, coffee, Walks to glow worm grotto, Beer, Sun bath, snooze etc...

Tuesday pack up time and hit the road.

Another Awesome weekend away.

Till next time,

Murray and Di

Motueka

Unfortunately, due to the recent storms down that way most of the farm was damaged and will be unusable for a long time so please contact them before going over that way. Editor



The Freedom to Camp

Back in the 60's and early 70s my folks would take the opportunity to fill our school holidays with fun and adventure by renting a caravan and taking us to either seaside or lake, where they'd let us kids loose to have the time of our lives.

The freedom is to camp; and camping means meeting new people, going to places you may never have otherwise gone and driving without a mind to where you were going, until you actually get there.

To take this away is to restrain a kiwi [one who already has lost its wings] but to now take away its ability to travel far and wide in our own country is extremely stifling; neigh, it's deplorable!

I have, within the last couple of months become an owner of a campervan (Willow the Wanderer) and will, once fully kitted out, be taking to the highways and byways, and hope that I too can decide, 'This looks like the perfect place for the night', and 'great place, I think I'll park-up for a few days!'...and do so without being harassed and harangued

If OE-s wish to go camping, let alone freedom-camping, then it should be laid out clearly (through Immigration and in local information centres) with information packs BEFORE they start their planning schedules and/or right from the onset of them arriving here in the land of the long white cloud!

Then there's the rental companies of clangers and bangers, who should also be more pro-active and responsible with their 'own Kiwi backyards' and have a set of rules for use when hiring these vehicles out so as to make sure BAD OE-ers aren't a thing of the future!

Do not curtail and put down the rest of those who have self-contained campers, caravans, those who leave green footprints if tenting and all those who are truly caring for the natural environment that we wish to - seek, see and be amongst...be it even on foot!

Denise Tanner, Sanson, Manawatu

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INSTANT TENT

– JUST ADD SAND AND SEAWATER

A unique way to explore the coast in a mobile tent

Steve Devine is a Wellington tech school teacher who is a keen lower north island camper, diver and fisherman.



Due to the constant Wairarapa winds and sand in the coastal regions making conventional camping impractical, Steve found if one could do away with tents that would solve many of the problems. Steve started to use any of the family vehicles he had at the time as a camper. Eventually he acquired a 4wd van.

The journey in modifying the van lead Steve to the realisation that many families could do very similar temporary fit outs with their family people movers and wagons of any type or size. On a Friday afternoon a small family could slide pre-filled cabinets filled with cooking gear, food



and clothes into the back of their people mover

or wagon along with some foam mattresses and sleeping bags and head to a nearby DOC campsite for the weekend. No tents to put up, or to dry and re pack when back home.



There is flexibility to sleep at least two adults but at the same time have internal seating for several people when needed in the evening or when raining. The cabinets are either held in place by removable brackets and existing seats and can be put outside under a tent fly if needed to accommodate an extra adult.

The bed is a simple timber frame with an inner sprung mattress which is quickly removable if needed. There is a toilet out the back with a simple electric shower. The camper can be



turned back into a relatively stock seven-seater people mover in about an hour.

Steve is motivated by helping others and has set up a You Tube channel showing others coastal access, conditions and useful driving hints.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcS2AATeXktxVplzwWPsybg>

The second stage of the channel will be to introduce families to the outdoors with a focus on location, bed set up, food ideas and simple fishing & diving hints etc.



Steve's vehicle is a 2003 Mitsubishi Delica L400 V6 3L Petrol 4x4 high/low auto with 32" mud tyres. Steve does most of the basic mechanical work and modifications himself including rear springs, torsion bars, bash plate, roof rack extensions and framing. The running gear is based on a Triton/Pajero. It has plenty of power from low down and the seamless gear change of the auto makes it ideal for the coastal environment.

Future modifications will be working towards full certification and a solar fed dual battery set up to run a fridge.



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Anytime Data
Anywhere Data
Fixed IP address
4G Wireless Modem
Modem cost - \$261
1 Month Term
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Choose Plan

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Anytime Data
Anywhere Data
Fixed IP address
4G Wireless Modem
Modem cost - \$261
1 Month Term
Additional Data - \$2.50/GB

Choose Plan