

From the Fishers Mouth

24th May 2010

The falling of the leaves is an indication that the cold nights are here to stay for the next few months, but days when the sun is warm are perfect for camping.

Autumn and early winter are ideal times to camp with the weather being too cold for mosquitoes, there are very few (if any) flies, you need a fire to keep warm at night and there are still fishing options available with lobsters and cod.



Cold weather camping requires a little more preparation than a summer overnight jaunt. To start with you need a good tent or swag to protect from the frost or dew, and also a good doona or sleeping bag. Anyone who has spent a cold night in a swag or tent with not enough cover will agree that it's a very unpleasant experience.

If you plan to use a public area to camp, you may also want to carry wood in with you as the timber pickings are very slim on most reserves and lake foreshores.

To make camping a comfortable experience there are some great products available that save time and also allow you to remain fresh so that you can concentrate harder on the fishing. Collapsible stretcher beds allow you to set up a bed in seconds that keep you off the ground. They add room underneath for storage of clothes etc so that tents and swags aren't cluttered with clothes and other necessities; however the biggest advantage is the ability to sit on the edge of your bed to get dressed, put on boots etc, whilst you wake up and get your bearings.

One other nifty device I have trialled lately is the portable hot water service. There are a few varieties with similar features with each powered by gas for the heater and a battery to run the pump. These allow showers in the bush, instant hot water for washing up and some versions can operate hot enough for a cup of tea or coffee.

You may think I am getting soft with sleeping on a stretcher and having a hot shower in the bush, but a few comforts around the camp keep you fresh so that you're energised to enjoy the outdoors.

My idea of enjoying the outdoors (surprisingly) is to fish. One thing I have noticed over my years of fishing is that you catch more fish when you are fresh and keen. Fishing with child-like enthusiasm to check baits & lures, move locations and generally fish actively will see your catches improve. If a good sleep and a hot shower can assist me to catch one more fish, I am all for it.