

A Collection of Trekking Tips

One BNT trekker collected these hints and passes them on to you

Contributed anonymously December 2005

- A Bum Bag is handy for sunglasses, lip gloss, sun screen, GPS, cigarette lighter, phone, nibblies, money, eftpos card, pen knife, etc. The theory being if you fall off your horse and it runs away you can light a fire, have something to eat, know where you are - before you panic!!!
- Carry maps and BNT guide book in a plastic waterproof clear bag around your neck, you can get them at camping shops, and it's easy to see the day's map one side and the BNT book the other side.
- A spun aluminium water bottle (available from bushwalking shops) is handy as you can boil water in the evening and put it in a pair of socks in your sleeping bag and it's like a hot water bottle. If you use that day's socks it will dry them out and you can put them on warm the next morning. The water can be drunk the next day as it's been boiled and is now cooled.
- Carry a roll of electrical tape/insulation tape for running repairs, also needed for repairing your spun aluminium water bottle as putting hot water in it will eventually make it leak around the screw top and a run of tape around the plug will seal it up again.
- Nose bags made out of feed bags folded in half and bailing twine over the ears are light and easy to replace.
- A Green grocery shopping bag is handy for toiletries and spare clothes as you can hang it in a tree while you wash and it's easy to get to things.
- Canvas buckets and feed buckets from Ruth Manning of Digger Dog are very light and durable. They will stay upright when $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water without support.
- Electric fence poles made out of the spare poles, bought at camping shops, 4 in a packet with elastic, make two for the fence; with wire twists from the farm co-op store, about \$1 each, 6-8 are handy. A large steel tent peg for making the hole first then the electric fence post will go into the ground easier. Also use the peg for grounding the electric fence.
- Electric fence poles that are long fibreglass posts, cut in half, with wire twists are also light and durable. A ring of garden hose put over the end will protect the post if you want to hammer it in the ground.
- Light tent strings are good for tensioning the corners of the electric fence if you don't have trees around. You need 8, 2 for each corner. Plus 8 light tent pegs to tension off. Occy straps around trees with electric wire through them will tension the fence without damaging the tree. Bailing twine is also handy around trees to run electric fence tape through.
- All the electric fence gear will fit in a jeans leg sewn one end and a drawstring the other end. Electric fence wire is easier to wrap up on a small reel from a haberdashery shop or hardware store.
- A thin towel is easy to dry around the campfire at night or a chamois towel is good as it dries quickly. A large one is easier to use.
- A tarp is a necessity and handy if you put your tent, usually wet, electric fence gear, hobbles, canvas buckets in it on top of the pack horse then it's the first thing off the horse and you can hobble horses, pitch tent, get water and stack your saddles on the tarp ready for the night.

- A packet of garbage bags is handy for wet stuff.
- Two 10 litre plastic containers are handy for brekky and nibbles in one and dinner in the other, then you're not hunting around trying to find the required ingredients, they can be left in the bottom of the pack saddle all the time as it helps to keep the shape of the pack bag and you can get things out easy without having to lift the containers out all the time.
- Two rectangle plastic buckets will do the same and if you put your food into reusable shopping bags then into the buckets you can lift the bag out when you need the buckets.
- Plastic cliplock bags are handy for things that have to be emptied from a cardboard box, to save space, and packets that are open, a large one is handy to put all the small open packets in and then you're not hunting around for all the small open packets.
- Rope hobbles from Dural saddlery are light and durable, They have redhide loops for the legs joined by rope so they don't clink all night when you are trying to sleep (unlike hobbles joined by chain). Alternatively the hobbles made from seat belt material with white fluff lining, from any saddlers, seem to be lighter than old style hobbles.



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