

Ph: 4748 5502

# ADELS GROVE

Fax: 4748 5600

reservations@adelsgrove.com.au

## CAMPER'S GUIDE

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS

Welcome to Adels Grove. We hope you have a pleasant and relaxing time in our unique corner of Queensland's Gulf Savannah.

Your camp site has been set among the trees to provide maximum available shade. No trees were cut down to locate these sites. You will also find your site is defined by rock borders. If you find it necessary to shift any of these rocks while you occupy your site, please **put them back** the way they were before you vacate your site as they also act as erosion stoppers and collectors of leaf litter for soil improvement.

### **Sites must be rebooked or vacated by 10.00 am**

Tents and van annexes should be kept within the site roadway boundary since we have a regeneration program on the other side of the rocks to provide more screening between sites or for extra shade. The water lines run just outside the stone borders – **please ensure tent/annexe pegs are inside this area**. Please report any mishaps to the office (accidents *do* happen).

Please remember that while trees provide shade they can also **shed large limbs** from time to time, especially during windy periods. **Your life or that of your family could be in danger** – the orange-bark bloodwoods and the white ghost gums are the worst offenders in this region.

**WATER** from your campsite tap is drawn directly from Lawn Hill Creek and is **untreated**. **PLEASE BOIL WATER BEFORE DRINKING**. The high calcium content of this water is not a health hazard but you may notice some 'liming' in your pots or billies.

**YOUR FIREPLACE** is the **only** spot where you may light a fire and we suggest that if this doesn't suit you **then do not light one**. Digging holes for your camp oven will incur great wrath from management. Please keep your fires to a minimum and extinguish them before going to bed or leaving for the Gorge as winds can spring up during the day or night and you could be held responsible for any resulting fire damage in the area. **Please leave the ashes within your fireplace** – we will collect them on a regular basis.

## **SHOP, RESTAURANT & BAR**

- Restaurant and bar facilities are available to all visitors to Adels Grove. **Bookings are essential for breakfast and dinner** - please see reception **well in advance** to help with catering requirements.
- The notice board alongside reception advertises the meal of the day and available dinner vacancies.
- Breakfast is served **between 7am and 8am** and dinner is served at 7pm, with counter lunches (**hot and cold**) available between 12 noon and 2pm.
- The bar is open **between 12 noon and 2pm** and from 4pm to 10pm, so please feel free to **come up and have a drink or two on the deck**.
- **No BYO allowed on the deck or in the restaurant area. Dress standards apply.**
- Our shop (next to reception) is open **7 days** a week from **8am to 6.30pm**. We stock a basic **range** of items including souvenirs. **Come in and browse**. We offer **Eftpos** facilities and accept Visa, MasterCard, Diners and American Express. **Card transactions incur a surcharge.**

## **GENERATORS / NOISE**

Small, quiet generators are **permitted at designated sites only between 8am and 8pm while you are at your site**. Please do not leave **generators on** if you are going away for the day. Car **radios**, loud music, singing and **general noise** should be reduced from **9pm** in consideration of your fellow campers.

## **ANIMALS**

Crows, kites, wallabies, **dingoes** and feral pigs may **scavenge** around your campsite during the night or while you are away. Please **do not leave** food or rubbish where these animals can access it.

## **GARBAGE**

We collect and sell the aluminium cans and donate the **proceeds to the Royal Flying Doctor Service** in Mount Isa so we appreciate you **crushing** your cans and placing them in the bins provided. Aluminium cans and **glass bottles** go in individual bins so please **separate** your rubbish and help the **RFDS** and the environment.

## **DUMP POINT**

The dump station is located opposite the entry to Adels Grove on the road adjacent to the air strip.

## **SWIMMING**

The waters of Lawn Hill Creek are quite deep and in most places the banks are high and steep – **please supervise children constantly while in this area**. The depth of water in the creek tends to mask the flow of water and from time to time submerged logs may move along under the surface. **Diving is not recommended** for this reason. **The Beach** has a shallow area suitable for children. **The crocodiles** found here are Freshwater Crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnsoni*) and are considered harmless although they may bite if harassed.

## WALKS

The river terrace (The Grove) below sites 1 to 9 is bordered by the access track from the amenities block to the creek at one end and by Lawn Hill Creek (which curves up towards the reception building) at the other end. Please feel free to wander. **Lookout Hill** offers excellent panoramic views of the **Constance Range** to the south-west towards Lawn Hill Gorge and **Century Mine** in the opposite direction.

**To get to Lookout Hill** – Walk out to our 'Savannah Guide Station' entrance gate, veer left towards the 'Nature Walk' sign then on to the green 'Lookout Hill Walking Track' sign on the wire fence, and follow the track. Ignore any side tracks and after 300 or so paces you should see a small, spinifex-covered hill through the trees not too far ahead. Climb to the top and when there, look towards the National Park and see if you can work out which is the entrance to the first gorge. The total distance from the amenities block and return is about 2 kilometres. This walk is best first thing in the morning before the sun gets too high. Along the track you may notice old nails, bits of wire from buildings and shelters, old wax match tins and various other bits and pieces. These are all artefacts from earlier occupations (some associated with the 'Frenchman') and should be left in place for the interest of those who come after you.

## CANOEING

We have a couple of canoes for hire on the waterhole behind the Grove. Hire can be organised from our shop. We also have a number of canoes for hire at the Gorge, and throughout the main visitor season these are supervised and hired from the 'boat ramp' area at the National Park on a daily basis between 8am and 5pm. *Bookings are only available to certain commercial groups who have made arrangements well ahead.*

## DOGS

Many people have a dog travelling with them and since Queensland Parks and Wildlife prohibit domestic pets, we have a policy which allows people to bring their pets to our camp ground. Please consider our other guests and the native wildlife and keep your dog restrained **at all times**. Do not allow them to enter the ablutions blocks and ensure they do not bark all day and night. **Your dog will be asked to remove itself from the property if it contravenes these few simple rules.** It is ok to leave your dog on a chain at your campsite while you are away at the Gorge but please ensure that it will have sufficient shade and water for the entire day. We also offer a dog-sitting service if you prefer to leave your dog with us. This will incur a donation to the RFDS.

## MAIL

Our mail service is by aircraft at Lawn Hill Station Homestead **every Thursday**. Guests are welcome to use our mail bag to post letters or cards. Any outgoing mail should be handed in at reception **by 9am on Thursday**. Stamps are available at reception. Reception hours are 8am to 6.30pm.

## **TOURS**

**Riversleigh Fossil Field – ‘D’ Site:** Riversleigh has been noted as one of the most significant and important fossil sites in the world, and is considered a major part of Australia’s heritage and culture. Our professional guides lead visitors on a half-day experience that leaves them with a greater appreciation of this World Heritage site and a better understanding of the evolution of our unique Australian fauna. More recent local history and flora and fauna are also a feature of this tour. Tours depart from reception at 8am and return at 12.30pm. Morning tea is included.

**Lawn Hill Gorge:** The gorge is the main attraction for visitors to Adels Grove. The beauty of the gorge, the challenge of some of the walking tracks and the opportunity to swim and canoe make this a popular tour. The tour will leave you with a greater appreciation of one of the most beautiful national parks in Australia and provides a better understanding of some of the unique flora and fauna found in the area. Tours depart from reception at 8am and return at 12.30pm. Morning tea is included.

**Harry’s Hill Sunset Tour:** The tour leaves from reception and our experienced guide will take you for the short drive to Harry’s Hill in one of our tour vehicles. You will learn about the local land marks, flora and fauna. Watch the sun set over the Constance Range and Adels Grove while you relax with a nice cold glass of wine or a soft drink and a lovely platter of nibbles. You will be returning in time for 7pm dinner. Please check departure times when booking.

**Doherty’s Track Exclusive Tour:** Breathtaking Escarpment not accessible to the general public. Scenery you need to see to believe. Meet your experienced guide at reception at 1pm and travel in one of our tour vehicles to the amazing area. Your tour guide will give you an understanding of the history, flora, fauna and landscape of the area travelled. Experience the wonders of this amazing land. Afternoon tea included.

## **LAUNDRY**

The laundry is located in the main amenities building. Washing machines are coin operated, coins and washing powder available at reception. The clothes line is located at the end of the building.

## **FISHING**

Fishing is not allowed anywhere in Lawn Hill National Park but you may fish in Lawn Hill Creek here at Adels Grove. Guests are reminded that they can only fish in the creek ***outside the boundaries of the swimming area***. Bait and other fishing items are available from the shop.

## **ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE**

*In an emergency we have 24 hour telephone access to the RFDS in Mount Isa. Non-urgent medical consultations with the doctor can be arranged during normal working hours. Please contact management if you require further information.*

*For after-hours **medical emergencies** please contact management in the unit to the rear of the kitchen. Enter via the steps near the high, white water tank at west of main building.*

## **IN CASE OF FIRE**

There are two emergency assembly areas. One is **on the grass across from the main entrance** and the other is at **the campground laundry** near the amenities block.

## **ADELS GROVE HISTORY**

The property of Adels Grove occupies an area of some 30 hectares (around 80 acres) and extends from Lawn Hill Creek on one side to Louie Creek (across the airstrip) on the other. It was first surveyed 1904 and was declared a 'Miner's Homestead Perpetual Lease' in 1920, being within the Burketown Mineral Field at that time. This 'Field', which includes those hills which can be seen to the east and south of Adels Grove, now forms part of the Carpentaria Minerals Province and has produced lead, silver and zinc since the late 1800's. The Century Zinc Mine is located within these hills and is some 12 km due east of Adel's Grove. On most nights you can see the reflected glow of the mine works in the sky and the occasional drone of heavy equipment can be heard.

By 1930 the Adels Grove lease had been purchased by **Albert De Lestang**, a French botanist who, we are led to believe, was commissioned by the government of the day to experiment with the growing of tropical trees and fruits. By 1939 he had in excess of 1,000 different species of trees and shrubs growing, many of which were imported from Africa, Asia and tropical America. It is said by those locals who knew Albert and had visited him that it was indeed a most beautiful botanic garden. In the area where the ablutions block now stands, Albert had a building complex that incorporated living quarters, shop, storeroom and office. He made much use of post-and-rail lean-tos with paperbark roofing. Post and rail fences (all painted white), hitching rails and stone-lined pathways complimented the layout.

Albert was able to supplement his income by selling fruit and vegetables grown here, stores and clothing items as well as collected seeds and plants. He advertised *'repairs, blacksmithing, carpentry and saddlery as well as the purchase, sale or exchange of horses and motor vehicles, catering for motorists, drovers, bagmen and other travellers'*. Picture in your mind a profusion of

flowering bougainvillea and other exotic and native species thriving along the small irrigated depressions throughout the complex and you would have something quite different from what you see today.

In the early 1950s the Adels Grove complex was accidentally burnt out from a fire that escaped from one of the small mining ventures to the south. By this time Albert was in his early seventies and having lost his building complex, all of his written records of plants and hybrids, his stores and a large percentage of the planted grove, he succumbed shortly after to a great depression and broken spirit. He was eventually taken to a home in Charters Towers where he died in 1959, aged 75, and is buried in the cemetery there.

The *Adels* part of the property name is taken from his initials and as such perpetuates his involvement and efforts here. In the years since his death the property changed hands several times with none of the subsequent owners apparently having the dedication or means to continue the botanical aspect of the Grove. Most of the remaining exotic shrubs and trees, in particular the fruit trees, have therefore succumbed to lack of irrigation, fires and termites. There are a mere dozen or so exotics remaining including a few mango trees. Termites were as much of a problem to Albert as they are to us today and it is a continual battle to keep some plant species alive, even those native to the area.

## FAUNA

Adels Grove and the surrounding Lawn Hill cattle station are both within a fauna sanctuary and as such all wildlife (yes, including the snakes) are protected for the enjoyment of future generations. The mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects of this area are reasonably prolific, although many are either nocturnal or migratory and are therefore not often encountered. Of the mammals, the Agile Wallaby is by far the most common along the riverine habitat, whereas you may see Red Kangaroos on the more open country towards Lawn Hill Gorge.

There are many different species of birds in this area and a list of these can be obtained from our shop or at the National Park ranger station. We are happy to assist you in identifying any bird which you encountered.

Reptiles include the one species of crocodile (the harmless **Freshwater or Johnstone's crocodile**), a couple of turtle species but quite a variety of lizards and snakes. During daylight hours you may sometimes see a number of different species of **Whip snakes** (all venomous), maybe a **Western Brown snake** or an **Ingram's Brown snake** (both venomous and considered dangerous) or the **Common or Green Tree snake** (harmless). The Tree snake is very slender and around here is normally a beautiful yellow-gold with a bluish head. It may sometimes be seen hanging around the amenities block looking for a green tree frog for lunch.

Occasionally you might also see a **Black-headed Python**, a very attractively coloured snake with glossy black head and neck and a creamy to brown body with dark brown to black stripes. This snake is also not venomous. In the water you may see a **Macleay's Water snake**, often a rich dark red-brown on top and a creamy colour beneath – it is mildly venomous but has rear fangs and because of its placid nature poses no real problem to humans. Another water snake is the **Arafura File snake**, usually quite dark in colour, up to about 2 metres in length and non-venomous. After dark is when you may see an **Olive Python**, yellow-brown to olive-brown with a pearly sheen on top and creamy-white below, and up to 6 metres in length. This bloke feeds on warm-blooded animals such as birds and wallabies and although no cases of human predation are known to us, babies and very small children could well fall within the size range of prey for this reptile. We do not wish to alarm you unduly with this information but merely make you conscious of the possibility. Although snakes have the ability to squeeze through very small openings, *they cannot open tent zips or caravan doors.*

Another snake found here is the small (to 600mm), brown, dark-headed **Myall or Curl snake**. You may often see this snake roaming the campground at night. While none of these snakes are likely to target *you* for their next meal, they (like us) will react if startled so *please use your torch when walking at night* to avoid any unpleasant surprises! Statistics show that less than one person per year dies from snake bite and that most people bitten by snakes in Australia were trying to catch or kill it. You are more likely to drop from worrying about snakes ('I think I saw a snake' – chest pain – thud) so just skirt around any that you see and all should be ok.

The most commonly sighted lizard here is the **Gilbert's Dragon**, often called the **Ta-ta Lizard** because of its habit of waving a front limb when it stops running. It is grey-brown with a creamy-white stripe on the lower jaw and another along its side. This lizard will be the creature most responsible for the rustling you may hear in the leaf litter and fallen palm fronds along the various walks.

Many different species of insects are found here, including spiders (some poisonous), centipedes, scorpions and some hairy caterpillars that can cause you grief if you brush against them. This is a common occurrence across Australia and although this place is a little piece of paradise we are not excluded from this aspect of nature. We advise also that for your comfort we do not permit mozzies here during the dry season.

**We hope you enjoy your stay!**

