

# minimal impact means bushwalking softly



## 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 bushwalking (MIB) allows walkers to enjoy their natural surroundings without causing too much environmental degradation.

IT'S ALL ABOUT WALKING SOFTLY!



### **The use of fuel stoves**

Campfires cause 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 the entire World Heritage Area and some other areas in Tasmania have been declared Fuel Stove Only Areas, this means campfires are not permitted and fines apply. When using a fuel stove take care to place your stove and any hot pots on hard surfaces. Some vegetation does not easily recover from the heat of stoves and pots.



### **Pack it in – pack it out!**

Take all of your rubbish out with you! Why? Littering spoils the experience for others. Most rubbish won't decompose and causes pollution. Animals may try to eat your rubbish; this can seriously harm them. Rubbish includes food scraps, twisty ties, sanitary pads and tampons, condoms, and any other bushwalkers' garbage you can collect off the track!



### **Stay on track**

For your own safety and the environment's sake, please stick to the formed track. If the track is braided or wide stay in the middle of the track. If there is no track, fan out and do not follow in each other's footsteps. Never create a track with tape or cairns. This is illegal and fines apply.



### **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 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.



### **Phytophthora procedures**

The root rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is present in Tasmania. This microscopic fungus is transmitted in mud and soil and can kill native plants. To help stop the spread of Phytophthora make sure you start the walk with clean gear including boots, tent pegs, gaiters and tent floor. Make sure you use washdown stations when they are provided on track. At the end of your walk wash down all equipment.



### **Toilets in the bush**

If a toilet exists please use it! 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.



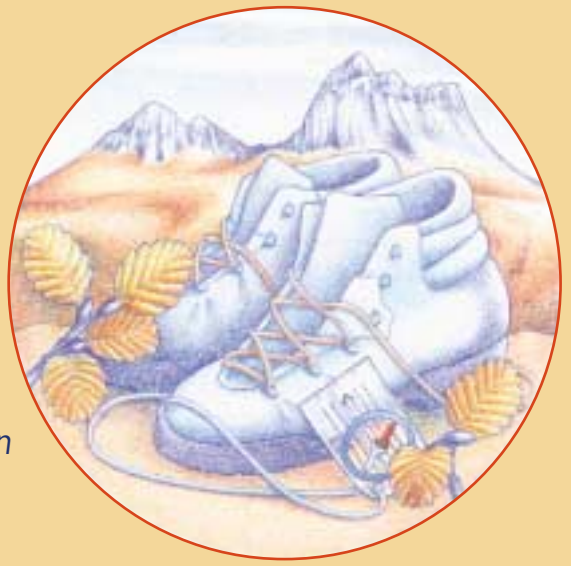
### **Party size**

The Parks and Wildlife Service recommends varying party size restrictions for different walks. If you plan on walking in a group larger than 6 contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for further information.

For further information, questions and comments contact the Parks and Wildlife Service  
Ph: (03) 6233 2669 Fax: (03) 6223 8308  
Email: [tracks@dpiwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:tracks@dpiwe.tas.gov.au)



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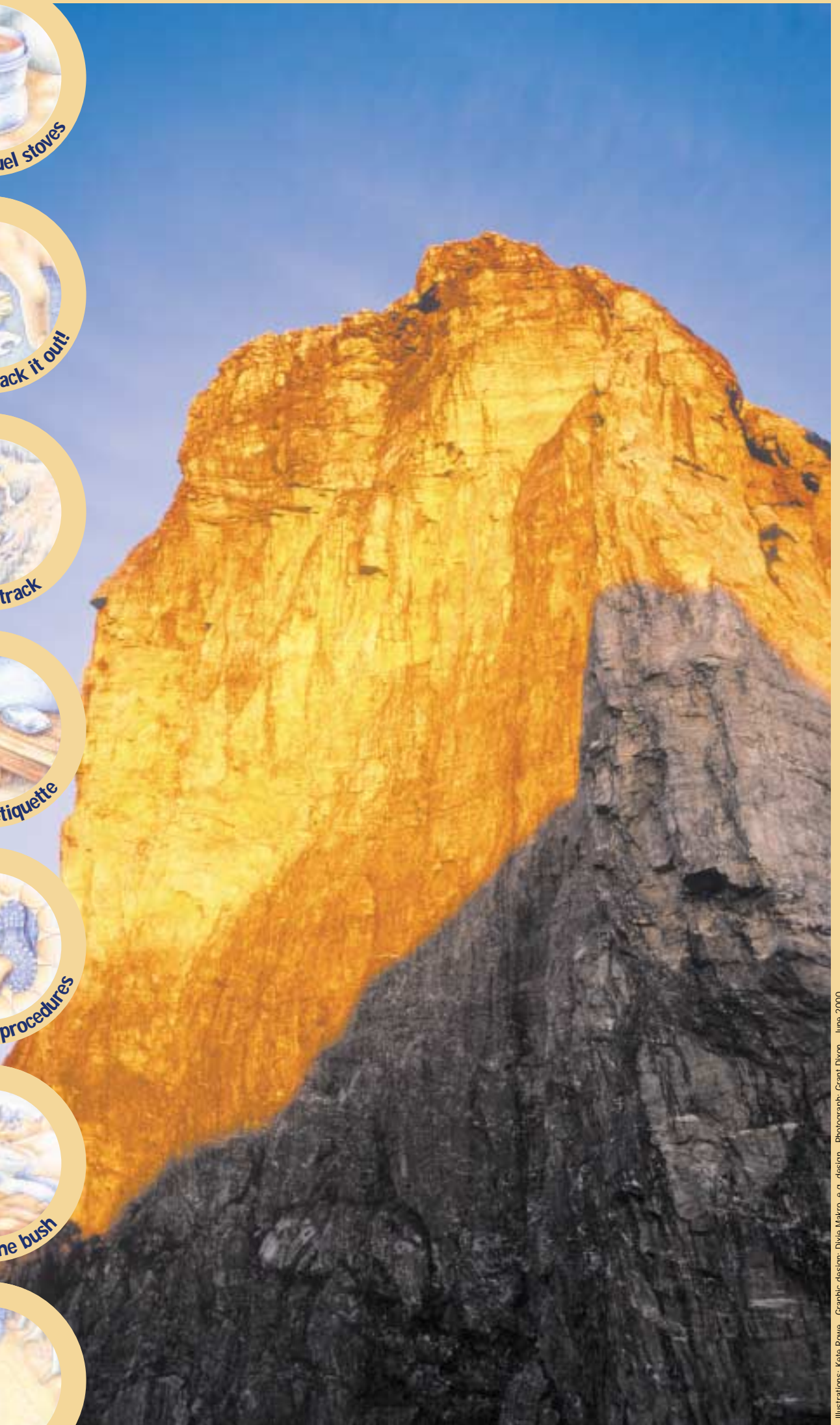
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Illustrations: Kete Rowe. Graphic design: Dixie Makro, e.g. design. Photograph: Grant Dixon. June 2000

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