Bitten by the bug

Gear up for that camping trip. By Elisa Scarton

Camping — you either love it or you hate it. But if the call of the wild and nights spent roughing it are too alluring to resist, then you've probably been bitten by the camping bug. (Symptoms include an obsession for the great outdoors, a desire to wear clothing that matches the greens and browns of the wilderness, and an inexplainable hankering for food that's been barbecued).

The great recreational activity of camping has been the national vacation of choice since the dawn of affordable four-person tents. But these days a night or more spent among the gumtrees can be as rough or luxurious as you make it. Camping purists prefer to stick to the sleeping bag and hastily arranged bonfire, while modernists not willing to part with life's comforts tow caravans complete with patio furniture.

Whatever your style, it's impossible to deny the free feeling that comes with camping. There's nothing better than spending summer days with family and friends, soaking up the beauty of your surroundings, especially if there's a game of cricket afterwards.

So in the spirit of everything that keeps us returning to campsites, here is a selection of the best camping gear to take on your next great adventure. ■

1. SunnyLIFE Picnic Rug, $39.95 Details: 9421 6325 or sunnylife.com.au
2. Alegra 3.5 Litre Bowl with Servers, $54.85 Details: tupperware.com.au
3. Weekender, $63. Details: tupperware.com.au
4. Retreat 270 Tent, $799.98. Details: kathmandu.com.au
5. Cabana Moon Chair, 139.98. Details: kathmandu.com.au