

Dummies Guide to the Yurt

Philosophy

The dream for Imago is to demonstrate that sustainable farming practices can be commercially viable and fun. In keeping with this, I'm trying to minimize wasteful practices and hope that you might help me in this.

Getting there

The address is 550 Mt Royal Rd Carrowbrook. From Singleton take the Bridgeman Rd turn-off to Lake St Clair from the New England Highway heading towards Muswellbrook. Travel along this road about 40km, past the Lake St Clair recreation area until you get to the end of the bitumen. Then take Mt Royal Road up the hill 5.5km. When you get to the fork in the road the gate (#550) is on your right.

Please keep the gate closed. The padlock is threaded through the hole, but the gate is not actually locked.

At the moment the road is under significant repairs, so please do not drive on it. Park at the top near the gate and walk down. There is a blue trolley in the trailer near the gate that you can use to carry things down on. The yurt is about 1.5km from the gate and takes about 15mins to walk to.

What to bring

- Food
- Linen, pillow doonas or sleeping bags (there are blankets here however)
- Clothes for hot and cold weather
- Torch
- Umbrella
- Sunscreen
- Toilet paper
- Garbage bag
- Recycling bag

First Aid Kit

A basic first aid kit is in the bottom box under the sink in the kitchen. Personal protective equipment such as gloves, eye and hearing protection is under the verandah in a plastic box with a blue lid.

Water

Water is collected from the roof and there is at most 1000L so please be careful to leave water for the next people. (People use around 100-200L per day in the city.)



All the water in barrels and the metal tank outside the kitchen is rainwater.

Water for the kitchen is most easily gotten from the metal tank. Take the blue water cube and fill it up from the tap which should have a short hose attached. Don't forget to make sure that the bucket under the sink is regularly emptied into the long grass outside. Overflows are nasty!

Water for showers can be taken from the hoses near the shower..

Showers

The shower is next to the toilet. Bring lower the canvas bag down and make sure the rose is turned up so that water doesn't flow out. Fill it from the two taps in the shower area. The white hose is hot water. Don't fill it up too much or it will be too heavy to lift. Put the canvas bag back on the hook and pulley it up. Turn the rose to let water out. Enjoy!

Sink

The water at the sink drains into a bucket below. Please keep an eye on how full the bucket is and empty it regularly.

Compost

There is a small container with a blue lid on the kitchen bench for food scraps, these can be fed to the chickens. (Remember to turn off the electric fence before you go in and to reconnect it all before you leave.)

Toilet

In the yoilet (yurt-toilet) is a composting toilet. There is a blue bin full of sawdust, feel free to put a handful down the chute. Do not put food scraps down the toilet. **Please close the lid after every use!**

The top switch in the yoilet turns on a fan if it is a bit smelly. The middle switch turns on a light. **Don't forget to turn them off after you leave, as they are solar powered.**

Electricity

Electricity is produced by the solar panel on the pergola and stored in the battery behind the blue sofa. The whole system is controlled by the regulator on the wall near the stereo (BP Solar GCR M1200).

To use the electricity you will need to be able to read the regulator display.

The display cycles through the following and the amounts are measured in increments of 5%. Each full black rectangle = 10% and a small open square = 5%.

- (VBAT) the voltage of the battery,



- (IM) the amount of electricity coming in
- (IL) the amount of electricity going out
- (SOC) the amount of electricity in the battery.

During the day the electricity should charge back up to 100% (ie SOC = ten rectangles) and at night decreases as you use appliances. **Never allow the amount of electricity in the battery (State of Charge, SOC) to drop below 80%.** ie eight full black rectangles. The more appliances you use the less time you will have before you reach 80%. (5% electricity going out should last all night, but 15% electricity going out may only last one hour) You will need to monitor this until you become familiar with it. If the system has not been used for a while, the first night may not give you much electricity but once charged the following days should give you plenty more electricity.

Lights

If the electricity drops below 85% turn off all appliances and use the main kitchen light which should last for a few hours. To turn on the reading lights (white on a stand) you will need to turn on the inverter (bottom white switch next to the regulator). You'll also have to check that the switch for the light is turned on at the powerboard (on the floor).

There is also a solar powered torch sitting in one of the three cedar window ledges. To charge it up place the black side towards the sun for a few hours. When you leave please place it back in the window so that it will be charged up for the next person.

Music

To turn on the stereo you will need to switch on the inverter. The switch is the bottom white switch next to the regulator.

You can now turn on the stereo at the switch board (top switch, black plug) and then use the remote to control the stereo. The tuner uses the least electricity while the CD player uses a fair bit. If you have an iPod or Discman, you can plug it in with the cord already plugged into the stereo and switch it to AUX. This will use much less electricity and you can charge your iPod during the day when charge is coming in.

Don't plug anything over 50W into the switchboard! If you are not sure, don't plug it in.

Fridge

You will need to attach your BBQ gas bottle to the fridge (lasts about two weeks). Please detach the one there and replace with yours.

The instructions and buttons for turning the fridge on are in the flap at the very bottom front. In summer have it on 3-4, in winter set it to 1. It can take up to a day to get properly cold in summer.



Wood Stove

The wood stove provides heating, a stove top and an oven. There is a wood pile up the hill and an axe if you need it.

To light the stove, push the lever at the top back of the stove down to open the back vent. Pile up the wood and newspaper inside the top box (there is more newspaper under the verandah). Open the front vent (in the top door) by turning it out fully. Light the newspaper and close the door, but leave it ajar a little bit.

1. Once the wood is burning (2-3mins), lift the back lever. This sends the heat around the oven and makes the wood burn for longer.
2. Once the wood is burning well again (further 3-5mins), close the top door.
3. You can adjust the temperature using the vent on the top door. In for cooler and slower and out for hot and fast.

The thermometer on the oven is wrong, use the following table to get the real temperatures. However even with this table, cooking in a wood oven is different (better!) so you'll need to experiment to get a feel for how it works!

Oven	Temperature on gauge	Real temperature
Slow	85°C	150°C
Moderate	100°C	180°C
Hot	115°C	210°C

Gas Stove

The stove top is lit using matches or lighter. The griller and oven have a sparker button on the front of the stove.

Phone

There is no landline.

Most networks work at Imago Forest, however not all the time or in all areas.

Emergencies

Call me on 04 0301 3366.

If you need assistance immediately, call 000 on your mobile. If you cannot get through on 000, try 112 which is the all-frequencies number for mobile phones.

Martin Falding at Callicoma Hill may be available. He is on the left just before my gate on Mt Royal Rd.



Leaving

- ❑ Restock firewood basket.
- ❑ Completely close all doors, windows and curtains
- ❑ The porch double door needs to be pulled shut to make sure it is locked properly.
- ❑ Turn off all switches
- ❑ Turn off all taps
- ❑ Put solar torch back in window with black side facing sun.
- ❑ Close front gate on your way out.

