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**TOP PET  
FRIENDLY  
PARKS**



## Reinventing the family caravan



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## Australia's best caravan makeovers





**“It’s an appalling obsession,” Darryl Jones says. “I even have my entire family scouting them when out and about.”**

## the secret life of *Australia’s brush turkey*

**DARRYL JONES is the foremost expert on the bird famous for bailing up bush barbeques up and down the east coast.**

Darryl Jones holds a huge range of formal qualifications, but the Griffith University Professor is perhaps best known as the “Brush Turkey Man”

He was first hooked on the bird more than 30 years ago while on a science weekend in NSW’s Dorrigo National Park.

“We were set a task of studying a bird for a day. A brush turkey walked past and dug itself into a mound... from that moment I was fascinated.”

There’s certainly plenty to be fascinated by

when it comes to studying what is Australia’s biggest megapode – the bird species that includes fowls and quails.

According to Professor Jones, the most interesting fact is the bird is forced to be independent at birth – or even before.

The female lays eggs into giant mounds of bush scrub material, built and maintained by the male, which then monitors it with its beak to make sure it maintains a constant warm temperature for incubation.



"Once the eggs hatch, the chicks don't have anyone to look after them. Their parents don't even recognise them. They can walk and fend for themselves almost immediately and fly within a few hours.

The species is not endangered, although numbers were threatened during the Great Depression when they became a popular food source.

Their biggest threat is goannas, which tend to dig up the nesting mounds and eat the eggs.

They can live up to 20 years and can be found from an area stretching down

the East Coast from Cape York to as far south as the Illawarra.

"They're such great survivors, considering everything humans have thrown at them from clearing the bush to construction."

Known to sometimes jump on picnic tables and help themselves at barbeques, Professor Jones says the way the species has adapted to urbanisation is part of what keeps him fascinated. 📌



*Darryl Jones first became intrigued by the Brush Turkey on a field day back in the 1980s.*



# MY TOP FIVE

## Professor Darryl Jones

*Cradle Mountain*  
Tourism Tasmania / Jason Charles Hill

### 1 Cradle Mountain, TAS

"I spent a month travelling around here and the landscape is just spectacular. There is an abundance of animals everywhere from wombats to echidnas to wallabies. It is an excellent place to see the natural environment."



### 2 Atherton Tablelands, QLD

"I really love this place with its stunning rainforests and national parks. It's definitely a lot cooler in temperature than other parts of the world."



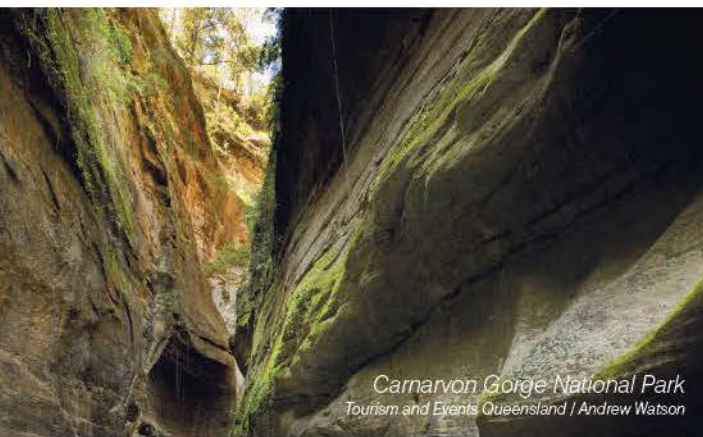
*Atherton Tableland*  
Tourism and Events Queensland / Darren Jew

*Dampier Peninsula*  
Tourism Australia / Frances Andrijich



### 4 Karratha, WA

"I have fond memories from my childhood here. It was a time when the coastline was very much untouched. One of my favourite parts was waking up early with what felt like a million birds chirping about."



*Carnarvon Gorge National Park*  
Tourism and Events Queensland / Andrew Watson

### 3 Carnarvon Gorge National Park, QLD

"This is such an incredible place. Carnarvon Gorge feels like a jungle in the middle with its whole range of animals and vegetation. It is also a centre for Indigenous culture, which makes the national park a special and sacred place."

### 5 Bunbury, WA

"Here you will find huge towering forests and extraordinary contrasting environments. It's wonderful exploring the natural beauty and then finishing your stay with a tour through the Margaret River wineries nearby."



*Cape to Cape Track*  
Tourism Australia / Warwick Thornton and Brendan Fletcher