Here are ten farm and station stays for you to choose from. They all offer a different experience, but there's one thing they have in common - their region is suffering from drought.

If you have the time, don't stop at just one, take a tour of all these properties.

There are other camp spots in these drought affected areas as well – community run showgrounds or recreation halls, carparks in pubs, private campgrounds and caravan parks. You'll also find fun events and festivals.

Make it your mission to bolster up some of these drought-declared communities for your next trip.

Unfortunately many of them have been through other hardships like fires. With all the attention on the devastating bushfires across our country, we don't want Australians in the drought areas to be forgotten. Every dollar you spend to stay on these farms and in these rural areas helps locals, and keeps jobs and small businesses alive.

Rains will come, but it will still take years to recover from this drought.

Please don't underestimate the impact we have as a collective travelling community. Our choices can really assist our drought-stricken communities.

So GO WEST. Have fun and stay with a farmer!







GO WEST Have fun and stay with a farmer!





If you'd like your own copy of CAMPS 10 to check out these farm stays, use the voucher code GOWEST and we'll donate \$10 from every purchase direct to charities that support farmers in the drought. This includes our other books, and is not available with any other offer, or with the Camps Australia Wide App.











Best for craft and art workshops

Retirees Brenda Webb and Tim McNamara started their farm stay on the Darling Downs in 2018.

Said Brenda, "We're doing better than some, we haven't had to sell off stock – they aren't starving, but even that is going to get difficult soon as there hasn't been any planting in the district for two years now."

They no longer provide agistment for other locals on their 65 acres, but they are still pumping water next door to a neighbour whose dams are all dry.

"We have 30 dorper sheep and we are handfeeding – we totally ran out of rainwater about eight months ago. We had 4 ml last night – 152 for the whole year – so over 400 down."

Bretims has a Camp Host, who they call the 'Patron Saint of

Abandoned Lambs'. "Ewes are deciding their lambs can't be viable. Hand rearing is expensive — our hero got up every four hours to feed them and saved four of the six lambs."

Brenda also sells her artwork at markets or has commissions – but says camping is their main income: "Right now the creek is dry, there is very little cover in the paddock. The campsite is windy and dusty, but you are welcome to stay.

"We hope it blows dust west one day then blows back the next - so we get it back! What I need is a whole heap of people to come do a rain dance. It is not easy!"

This year, Brenda has painting and craft workshops planned, including pin cushions made from toy-sized teacups, and bags for your handbags.

















Facilities at this budget camp include a toilet, water, shade and fireplaces. It is dry weather only and pets allowed.

Located in a koala corridor, they boast many different native birds and local wildlife including wallabies and kangaroos – wild ducks and spoonbills make use of their two dams.

There are loads of local events including the Leyburn and Pittsworth Sprints, Millmerran Camp Oven Festival, Warwick Rodeo and Campdraft or Jumpers and Jazz, Toowoomba Festival of Flowers, Stanthorpe Apple and Grape Festival and country music festivals. Nearby Allora, home of Mary Poppins author also has their Heritage Farm Machinery show.

This Camp Area is at 3170 Millmerran-Leyburn Rd, 5 km north of Leyburn, and includes a 1 km dirt track.

PHONE AHEAD TO BOOK: 0412 267 026.



GPS: 27 58 37 S 151 34 40 E

Look up Queensland site 871 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















T Wongalea Fishing and Camping



Best for riverside views

"Wongalea" is a privately owned property on the scenic MacIntyre River, with 1 km of picturesque river to enjoy fishing and camping.

Owners, Lionel and Angela Edwards, said they had a really good booking for Christmas, but they've cancelled because of the drought. So they've lost valuable income.

Angela gave us an update on the drought: "There's water in the river - it's a little green, so I wouldn't recommend swimming. Massive old trees are starting to die now, the dust storms are unbelievable. We had a fire about 20 km away - on the south side of our property.

"We are feeding cattle full time every day. We have shut certain paddocks. It is day by day, month by month. We say

we are not buying more hay, then a month goes by; we buy another load!

"Shops are shutting in the small towns – in Inverell, little shops need people to come out and spend some money in them, farmers don't have money. Farmers have to put off workers, no one is spending. There is a flow-on effect to workers, some major retailers have shut – and that is in a town of over 16 000 people."

Angela says campers visit the Yetman shop, or have a drink or meal at the Yetman Pub, and it is great that the local town gains from their business.

"Farmers are bloody hard workers and need a pat on the back for surviving one of the driest times on record. Please keep















T Wongalea Fishing and Camping



supporting our farmers and the local community. They need people to shop locally.

"We're tough, we'll battle it out - we've been 40 years on this place - droughts, fires, floods, this one is the biggest. It's a rollercoaster every day. We ask ourselves: are we doing the right thing? You are just tired! But we wouldn't want to live anywhere else - we love it here."

There are no fixed BBQs, and there's pit toilets and a portaloo - but they are clean! There's room for big rigs, caravans, campers and tents. Expect shade, views, fireplaces, picnic tables, pets are allowed. The river is usually accessible except in very wet weather.

Come and camp riverside at Wongalea Fishing and Camping, 16 km south of Yetman via Bedwell Downs Road.

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL: 0427 504 198.

GPS: 29 2 28 S 150 49 25 E

Look up New South Wales site in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.



















Best for café goodness

How often do you have the opportunity to camp on a farm, in the middle of a state forest with fresh bread and pizzas baked on site. And did I mention they make award winning gelato?

Originally from Germany, founder, Maria Rickert has worked hard to make their 13 000 acre property in the Pilliga a destination.

"Our farm has 70 km bushwalking tracks – it was a lot of effort. We offer pottery classes for all age groups – from hand-sculpted pottery to wheel workshops."

She said the drought has been tough on their family run enterprise, with only 20% of their stock left. "We've sold our animals – there's not enough water or food. My sons are volunteer firefighters – so they have been away from the

property (Johannes and Bernhard and wives all work on Barkala) – first here, then to others as well.

"We're trying to make a living – there's just not enough firefighters – they are always on call... my boys both went to the Hunter Valley to help.

"We rely completely on tourists to come here and participate in workshops or stay the night, it goes back into employing people."

And there's plenty to do: swim in the pool, artist demonstrations all day long, play with clay sessions, excellent star gazing with their 'Dark Sky' nights or book in for bird watching.

"Animal feeding is very popular for kids and depending on the















🌃 Barkala Farmstay



season, you can watch milking and horse leading."

The Blue Wren Bush Cafe is licenced and open seven days, 8am to 8pm as well as wood-fired pizza. They also provide authentic German meals, and cater for gluten-free and vegan visitors.

Their wholesome meals are made from local products with vegetables and honey from the farm, "People come from afar to eat our gelato, we sell it to other towns," said Maria.

Pilliga is a vast forest – 5,000 square kilometres of woodland; you can explore the ancient Sandstone Caves and Sculptures in the Scrub.

In addition to the camping ground, they have five eco-friendly guest houses - even the air conditioners are solar powered! The property is pet friendly (conditions apply) with toilets, showers and BBQ.

Turn west off the Newell Highway, between Coonabarabran and Narrabri into Borambitty Road, follow the signs 11 km.

BOOK IN ON: 02 6842 2239.



GPS: 31 2 42 S 149 19 4 E

Look up New South Wales site 920 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















The How's the Serenity Camping Ground



Best for peace and quiet

David Cook is the newest farm stay listed. "The camping ground is run in conjunction with our working cattle property of nearly 800 hectares (2000 acres) and only opened late 2019.

"Unfortunately the drought has been relentless. Our dams have water in them, however, the creeks have been dry for some time. The grass is very scarce and we are feeding cattle everyday," David said.

"Please don't let this stop you from visiting us - as we are sure you will still enjoy yourself at a very reasonable price."

David has already been urged to increase his rates. "The farm stay is a help financially and for the future. But I need to justify the time involved and set up with the income it brings. I would

like to keep it at the price I have it, and continue to advertise the third night for free. I want families with four kids or more to be able to afford it."

Camp next to facilities: clean filtered non-potable water, chlorinated drinking water, flushing chemical toilets, hot shower, sheltered BBQ and table area, rubbish bins and access to power (limited number available). It is a pet friendly camp (with conditions) and a dump point is coming soon!

Or continue to the 'Wilderness' area, they have shade and open spaces and invite you to enjoy the peace and quiet, go for a bush walk and see the birds and wildlife and say: "Ahhh . . . how's the serenity!"















How's the Serenity Camping Ground



"Guests have been telling me, 'It's good to help out farmers'," David said. "Everywhere is brown, but everyone is accepting of that."

If it is unattended when you arrive - stop at 'The Shed' where you'll find maps, safety messages and payment details. You choose your preferred campsite; set up, settle in and relax.

Dubbo is an interesting region to explore – as well as the renowned Western Plains Zoo, you can visit the Old Dubbo Gaol, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Observatory, Botanic Gardens and Adventure Playground or the nearby Wellington Caves.

ACCESS IS 24 HOURS ALTHOUGH IF ARRIVING LATE A CALL BEFORE SUNDOWN WOULD BE APPRECIATED - 0478 876 255.

From Dubbo head north on Newell Highway towards Gilgandra for 20 km and turn left onto Collie Road for just over 6 km.



GPS: 32 2 25 S 148 31 21 E

Find this new site on our Camps Australia Wide App, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















TF Four Corners Farm Stay



Best for a health retreat

Photo credit: Paul Zuccarello @mariachi.abandoned.melbourne via Instagram

Outback born and bred, Ken, Anita and Katelyn Burcher welcome you to Four Corners, a 23,000-acre working station.

Anita is an art tutor and qualified massage therapist and has set up an outback healing centre.

"We've had four good years in 20, more recently the last two-and-a-half to three years, and we're still paying the last drought off. It is marginal country out here."

Anita predicts it will be 10-15 years they'll be recovering from this drought.

"We've the very minimum number of breeding stock, and just the sheep we couldn't catch when we trucked up. A lot of people are in the same boat."

Their farm stay is almost in the middle of New South Wales. There are toilets and showers but please bring your own drinking water. Pets are on application only and it is big rig friendly. BBQ, fireplaces, picnic tables and shade. Note there are limited powered sites.

Come and observe seasonal activities like mustering, shearing, fencing, stunning sunrises and sunsets and night skies. Amble around the homestead tracks or go for a bush walk. Take an art lesson or book a massage!

Book a tour around the property with your hosts and learn about plants and bush tucker. Try your hand at the camp oven, bring a fishing rod for one of the well-stocked ground tanks or just sit around the campfire and spin yarns.















TF Four Corners Farm Stay



Photo credit: @glen.k via Instagram, Australian Kelpie at Four Corners Farmstay

Spot the locals - kangaroos and wallabies, emus and eagles, wrens and robins, bearded dragons and goannas - just to

If you're an artist, writer or photographer, come for a retreat. Let the rich red soils, towering gums, and natural beauty of the land inspire you.

"It's really good to have the connect between city and country, and great to have people come out and support us! Sometimes having a cup of tea with someone is better than a counsellor."

Four Corners Farmstay is 8 km south of Nymagee township on Burthong Road.

PLEASE PHONE TO BOOK: 0438 683 626.



GPS: 32 9 2 S 146 18 7 E

Look up New South Wales site 1084 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.

















Best for outback history

Take on an adventure 'Back of Bourke' to 320,000 acres that is Trilby Station. Experience the remote lifestyle first-hand, particularly during this prolonged drought.

"The drought becomes more real for guests when they are on our station." Said owner, Liz Murray, "They see how you are living rather than what's on the media. You can see for yourself – there's not a blade of grass!"

Six generations of the Murray family have lived on the Darling River. Liz said, they haven't had significant rain for more than three years. "We are lucky we have tourism – although our numbers are down."

Trilby was a section of Dunlop Station, spanning one million acres and the first in the world to shear sheep by mechanical means in 1888. You can still visit the Dunlop shearing shed

and homestead made from stone guarried in the area.

The station 'Mud Map' tours guide you through 90 km of self-drive tracks where you can discover what they do in a flood, why the fences are like they are, how they water this vast property, what plants are edible for stock, and the times of stockmen and paddle steamers.

Stop at an open-air museum of early settlers' farm machinery and a typical 1950s homestead.

"You can observe station activities, fish, use the yabby nets or swim in the pool - plus we have canoes free of charge," invited Liz. Help feed the work dogs and collect eggs - make the most of the 10 km of bush running, walking, cycling or driving tracks.

"All of our visitors have loved their stay... they've seen the

















devastation and stress the drought has on families – they say they'll come back again when the river is full." said Liz.

They have cottages and a bunkhouse, powered caravan sites with campfire areas, camp kitchen, gas BBQ, gazebo and bathroom facilities. Or choose secluded riverside campsites amongst age-old river gums with pit loos and fireplaces (hot showers and washing machines at the bunkhouse).

Ask for the dinner, bed and breakfast package – or even 'meals on wheels' for campsites. Pets are allowed, there's mobile phone coverage, room for big rigs, unfiltered river water – but limited drinking water.

Liz said, "We're in it for the long haul – two of our four children are home. As long as we can keep feeding the sheep, this is where we love to live."

Trilby Station is between Louth and Tilpa on the Darling River Run, 160 km north west of Cobar, or 125 km south west of Bourke. Roads are unsealed, a 4WD is not required.

CALL 02 6874 7420 TO BOOK.



GPS: 30 37 14 S 144 55 37 E

Look up New South Wales site 1044 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















Wandilla Station



Best for country music

Home of 'Music in the Mulga', founder and co-ordinator of this four-day country music festival, Carmel Meurant has lived in South West Queensland all her life.

"It's been running for 12 years - we hold it here on the property. People that come say there is no other music festival like it – it's so friendly and relaxed."

Last year 1500 journeyed to the festival, said Carmel, "It costs a lot of money to put on, just because of where we are situated – even toilet and shower hire!"

Be treated to an Aussie line of country music and country rock performers, Friday night bush dance, annual Yabby Races and Fashions of the Field events and the atmosphere of a large family gathering.

Don't wait until the next music festival in May, come out now to experience the red soil mulga country on the Paroo River. It is a semi-arid climate, with permanent waterholes.

She and her husband David are in their ninth year of drought. Left are only 250 head of cattle and 200 goats, no sheep. Carmel said they have run out of food, but they have the Mulga.

"What you'll see," Carmel said, "depends on what we are doing, because we are a working property. We may go on a water run." This is where they look around the property, checking water for the stock.















Wandilla Station



Otherwise there is bushwalking, wildlife (the area holds a conservation zone) - great for birdwatchers and photographers. When it is less dry, wildflowers are also a drawcard.

Facilities include toilets, showers, artesian water, fireplaces, BBQ and it is suitable for pets and big rigs. Note it is dry weather only.

Carmel and David will welcome you, "Come out and visit - it lifts people's spirits as well as pays for essentials."

Wandilla Station is 15 km south of Eulo via Pitherty Road, turn west at the Big Yellow Sponge Bob letterbox!

BOOK YOUR STAY ON 07 4655 4065.



GPS: 28 17 4 S 144 59 9 E

Look up Queensland site 969 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















T Bonus Downs Farmstay



Best for a smokehouse

Photo credit: www.gallivantingoz.com.au

Owner/operators since 1990, Lyle and Madonna Connolly offer a genuine outback experience where you can be a part of living history.

"It is the personal experience," said Madonna. "People like the peace, quiet, history and learning about our way of life. The friendliness and openness, skies and sunsets... mainly they just love the freedom. It's the relaxation and hospitality of the bush.

"At night, guests gather at the smokehouse and we share the history of the property and our passion for the Outback." As well as a dining area, camp kitchen and BBQ, the

smokehouse has water access, firewood, toilet and shower facilities.

Madonna said, "Take a homestead tour and learn about our early pastoralists." Or tour the 33,000 acre playground with a rare Ooline rainforest plantation.

Swap the TV and phones with star gazing, canoeing and yabbying on the dam. The swimming pool is available in warmer months, bring a racquet for the tennis court, take on the 13 km bush walking track, plus it is only half an hour from the Great Artesian Spa Complex.

As well as powered and unpowered sites, you can stay in the















T Bonus Downs Farmstay



Jackeroo's Cottage or BYO swags and camp out in a genuine Shearer's Shed - perfect for groups! Pets are allowed for a small fee, but please remember it is a working property with stock and their own working dogs.

BOOK YOUR PET IN ADVANCE: 07 4623 1573.

Bonus Downs Farmstay is 630 km west of Brisbane, which is approximately seven hours drive. It is situated 46 km south west of Mitchell on the Bollon Road with bitumen to the entrance. There's even an airstrip.

GPS: 26 42 41 S 147 41 1 E

Look up Queensland site 783 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















T Ups N Downs Farm Stay



Best for a communal campfire

New owners, Kathy and Bob Cozer were talking to a 98-year-old Roma local about the drought. Kathy said, "He told us it was the 'worst I have ever, ever seen in this area'

"We've only taken over for the last two months - we don't have much stock and won't buy more stock until it rains."















Ups N Downs Farm Stay





The Cozer's property is only 7 km out of Roma. "It is so peaceful here, just beautiful. The sunsets are magnificent. It's a quirky little place. We've spruced it up – see the ornaments made out of old tools.

"It is just so lovely – have a fire (not during fire ban) – you can't do that in town. There's nothing better than happy hour round the campfire – people pass on their tips."

Say hello to their pig, alpaca, camels and ten chooks. "We intend to buy some highlander cattle..."

Ups N Downs is pet friendly, there are picnic tables, camp kitchen, toilets, laundry and potable water.

"We have five dongas you can rent, they're comfortable with a good bed and fridge," invited Kathy.

As for what to do and see around Roma? Kathy said, "Our

saleyards are the biggest in the southern hemisphere!"

You can visit the Big Rig and Oil Patch – with a night show, see the Lenroy Slab Hut Museum and café or the 50 stained glass windows on a tour St Paul's Anglican Church.

Make sure you take a photo at Roma's biggest bottle tree and stroll down the main streets of Roma, through avenues of these iconic trees. If you sew, don't miss the huge fabric shop. It's a wonderful town for events, too, with eight races a year and Easter in the Country.

Turn west off the Carnarvon Highway onto Hartleys Lane, 5 km north of Roma.

CALL THEM ON 0407 740 252.

GPS: 26 30 48 S 148 46 41 E

Look up Queensland site 775 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.















🌃 Myella Farm Stay



Best for farm experiences

"When you come here, you are joining our family," said Carl Hendrick. "We cook for you, we eat with you, and the bonus is we get a nice experience from you as well.

"We offer farm experiences and horse riding. If there is no mustering we'll go on a trail ride. We cater for people with zero experience - there is training offered."

Carl's partner Lyn grew up on the farm with parents Peter and Olive Eather. Sadly, Peter passed away aged 86 years, Peter was the one who established their water systems for droughts such as this one.

"Yes, times are tough but we're pushing on - life at Myella doesn't stop. We've reduced stock numbers to conserve grass and water. We are selling another truck load - after today

we'll have 120 cattle left on the farm," explained Carl.

He gave an example: "Recently guests came and stayed for a few days and did all our farm activities – they had a great time. Before they left they told us, 'we nearly cancelled because we didn't think you'd be able to accommodate us'.

"I told them - don't abandon us! We'll let people know if we run out of water - whilst we are all having difficulties, we are open for business."

Carl emphasised: "When the farm isn't making any money, the farm stay will still be supporting us. Our business helps neighbouring communities. Baralaba township benefits from our visitors. We don't want the town to slow down and die everyone says, 'thank God we've got the visitors'!"















🌃 Myella Farm Stay



Myella Farm Stay has all sorts of accommodation for all sorts of travellers - as well as activities, there are walking tracks, meals and powered camping sites. When you come you can be kept busy with farm tours, or you can relax watching the kangaroos on the grass or with a swim in the pool.

Drinking water is available, although vans and RVs can't plug into the water supply. No pets - but there is a fireplace, laundry, cooking facilities and bathrooms.

Carl and Lyn invite you: "Only 90 minutes from Rockhampton it's not that far off the beaten track to come out to, and all fully sealed roads to the front gate."

MYELLA IS 21 KM WEST OF RANNES OR 15 KM EAST OF BARALABA AT 1591 BARALABA-RANNES ROAD.

CONTACT THEM ON 07 4998 1290.



GPS: 24 9 20 S 149 57 2 E

Look up Queensland site 578 in Camps 10, our Camps Australia Wide App or POI for your satellite navigator, simply go to the map or list and search for the site name.







Why not try this delicious recipe on your trip?

Kindly supplied by Annette Hobbs.



Want more great camp-friendly recipes like this? And the contributor's favourite campsites and 'must dos' around Australia? **TAP HERE** to find out more about the unique Camps Community Cookbook via Messenger. We will donate \$10 for each purchase to a charity for the drought. Use the code **GOWEST** at the checkout.

APPLE & GINGER PIE

Contribution by: Annette Hobbs, Victoria

We love this delicious apple pie, especially when out camping and eaten around the campfire after dinner. Scrumptious on its own or served with warm custard or topped with cream.

Ingredients

125g butter

¼ cup sugar

1 egg (beaten)

34 cup self-raising flour

34 cup plain flour

1 tin apples 800g

6 pieces naked ginger

Method

- 1. In a bowl, combine flours and rub in butter.
- 2. Add sugar and beaten egg.
- 3. Work the dough together with your hands.
- Place the apples in a bowl, slicing ginger thinly and mix.
- **5.** Grease a 9-inch cake tin and line with greaseproof paper, place the apple mixture evenly on the base.
- **6.** Roll out the dough and place on top making sure the dough reaches all edges.
- 7. Preheat oven to 180^c
- **8.** Bake pie for 45 minutes or until crust is golden brown.



Check out the Camps Australia Wide Community Cookbook via Messenger

Find out more about the cookbook on our webstore







TIPS for your farm adventure

After chatting to all of these farmers and producers, here are a few pearls that may help your travels:

- **1.** Bring drinking water. Load up your tanks and do your laundry before you arrive.
- 2. It's hot you'll want to make sure you have sunscreen, hat, long sleeves and safe footwear if you are planning on exploring some of these great properties. Insect repellent, too!
- **3.** Many of the farms have access in dry weather only that is not a problem at the moment, unfortunately.
- 4. Always book ahead with the property owner. It is a long way to travel and some farms have limited sites or are for self-contained vehicles only.
- **5.** Ask first if you can bring your pet. Most of these properties are pet friendly, but it is always good to double check.

- 6. Use your GPS with care in the outback. Make sure you get directions before you leave. Download maps beforehand, or make sure you have your CAMPS 10!
- Once you are there, if they have water restrictions, limit your use of water. We mean REALLY limit it.
- **8.** No need to comment on the dust, heat, weather forecast or flies! People don't need a reminder.
- **9.** Best not to ask about future holidays, it is not likely farmers will have much planned yet.
- **10.** Bring your smile and listen!

For the farmers

Did you know you can list your farm or station stay **FOR FREE** with Camps Australia Wide? It is as easy as a phone call to 07 5474 2542, or visit www.campsaustraliawide.com

One more thing you can do

Use the voucher code **GOWEST** and Camps
Australia Wide will donate \$10 from every
purchase direct to charities that support farmers
in the drought. This is not available with any other
offer, or with the Camps Australia Wide App.

www.campsaustraliawide.com







PETS ALLOWED



OVER \$25*



PETS NOT ALLOWED

* 2 people for 1 night with power, if available







