



*The Kiwi Bach
Companion* by Kirsty
Cameron, Random House
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Reviewed by Isa Moynihan.

All you ever wanted to know about spending time in your bach, or renting it to your friends/rellies/strangers. The information ranges from basic (what you need for the pantry, toolbox and first aid kit) to the more advanced messing about in boats, and how to catch – and cook – crayfish, or fix a leaking tap.

The writer and the guest chefs assume that power is laid on and dairies conveniently at hand,

which may not apply in all areas (speaking from personal experience). Although gas bottles and the good old barbie can be used for cooking, there is no adequate, long term substitute for a fridge. So, for the powerless, necessities such as butter, cream and fresh milk may not be available every day - or at least not for baking.

That quibble aside, this is a cheerful, down-to-earth (and -water) book for Kiwis building their memories of long golden days at the bach. Published in early October it headed the top five books in the leisure category listed in the *Sunday Star-Times* of 28/11/2010.

Author Kirsty Cameron has an impressive track record as a journalist, editor and publishing executive in New Zealand and Australia where she worked *inter alia*, for *The Auckland Star*, *Time Inc.* *The Australian*, and *Style*.