An essential item

Although the billy-can had humble beginnings as a make-shift cooking tool for miners on the goldfields, it became a very common outdoor kettle, even for wealthy family picnics (as depicted in the below work by Frederick McCubbin). Although it might look slightly different today, the billy-can is still an essential part of camping and outdoor gear.

Frederick McCubbin
*Picnic at Studley Park*
1885, Oil on canvas. Private Collection, Melbourne

Image courtesy of the-athenaeum.org