



Project Availability: April to November

Avocet Conservation Project

The Avocet Nature Reserve is found in central Queensland, approximately 270km's west of Rockhampton. The endangered Brigalow scrublands and savanna grasslands found on the reserve provide habitat for a large range of native fauna. During the stay at the reserve, volunteers often spot wildlife including Grey Kangaroos, Black Striped Wallabies, Rufous Bettongs, Wallaroos, Brushtail Possums and Sugar Gliders, as well as countless bird species. The Avocet Nature Reserve also supports a population of around one hundred endangered Bridled Nailtail Wallabies.

The Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, also known as the Flashjack Wallaby, was thought to be extinct until 1973, when it was recorded on a cattle station near Dingo in central Queensland.

Inspired by this particular Wallaby, cattle station owner Hugo Spooner established what has become the Avocet Nature Reserve. The State Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) has been supporting the release of Flashjacks onto the property since 2003. Current estimates show that populations are still severely threatened – only minor numbers remain in the wild. Wild Mob is proud to be working with the Bridled Nailtail Wallaby Trust to support the essential work of the researchers at the Avocet Nature Reserve.

Project Work

Volunteers will help with a range of activities contributing to the conservation of the Flashjack Wallaby and overall reserve management. Activities may include Flashjack trapping and monitoring exercises. Additionally, a key task will be surveying feral activity through monitoring sand traps, sensor cameras and trapping stations. General reserve maintenance and bird surveys might also be part of the work. Staff will provide training for the required conservation work. The project is suitable for volunteers with a moderate fitness level. Wild Mob believes happy volunteers are productive volunteers — we aim to create an enjoyable and educational working environment each and every day.

Educational Components

The ecosystems of the Avocet property and abundance of wildlife provide a range of educational opportunities for volunteers attending the project. Working alongside Wild Mob and DERM staff will give volunteers first-hand experience of the operational duties of ecologists and conservation officers as well as valuable insights in endangered species management.

Additional Activities

There is a lot to see and do at Avocet Nature Reserve. While on the project, volunteers can take part in additional activities including:

- After dark safari for a different perspective of the ecosystems and a chance to spot nocturnal wildlife
- Sunset walk through Minerva National Park, enjoying the breathtaking view from the top of Virgin Rock as the sun sets over central Queensland
- Visit to nearby Indigenous cultural sites

Living Conditions and Facilities

While participating in the Avocet Nature Reserve project, volunteers will stay at a bush camp facility on the property. All-weather, three-man tents will be shared between two volunteers. Wild Mob will provide all camping equipment including sleeping bags, liners and thin sleeping mats. Volunteers will need to bring their own pillow. There will be a composting toilet and bush shower available. We recommend bringing sufficient clothes for five days, as there are no laundry facilities at the camp.

Avocet Nature Reserve campsite is a bush camp. There is no access to electricity and Internet. Optus and Telstra phones receive an intermittent service.

Health and Safety

All Wild Mob staff are senior first aid trained and Blue Card holders. Our experienced project leaders ensure a safe working environment for all volunteers by providing safety briefings prior to commencing all activities, as well as adequate training and supervision. Wild Mob has carried out extensive risk assessments in order to minimise exposure to any dangerous situations. In the event of an emergency, project leaders carry satellite phones to contact emergency services. The nearest hospital is located in Emerald, approximately thirty minutes by car.

Food

Wild Mob believes in a balanced diet, containing a mix of fresh fruit and vegetables, locally sourced meats and a few treats for good measure. Volunteers share responsibility for meal preparation and cleaning. We supply breakfast, lunch, dinner, morning and afternoon teas and all drinks while on site. Wild Mob staff aim to shop in a socially responsible manner, which can include organic and local produce. Wild Mob will cater for special dietary requirements when notified in advance.

Transport

The Wild Mob project leader will meet the project volunteers at a designated meeting location in Rockhampton. The group will then travel to Avocet by 4WD vehicle or mini bus, which takes approximately three and a half hours. The group will return to Rockhampton upon completion of the project. Wild Mob volunteers are responsible for their own transportation to and from the pick-up location. While on the project, volunteers will move about the site either in 4WD vehicles or on foot.

Regional Sights and Attractions

The central Queensland coast is a very diverse region. The area is a great launching pad for exploring Queensland. With the Great Barrier Reef, beautiful beaches and the outback on the doorstep, there are plenty of natural and cultural experiences available. To find out more about Queensland's National and Marine Parks visit: www.derm.qld.gov.au.

Traditional Acknowledgement

Wild Mob would respectfully like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners, their Elders past and present, as well as the important role Indigenous people continue to play on the Land where we carry out our conservation projects.

Project Partners

Wild Mob is proud to partner with the Bridled Naitail Wallaby Trust and the Queensland State Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) as part of the Avocet conservation project.



Project Specifics

- Accommodation: Three-man tents, shared between two.
- Facilities: Bush camp and basic facilities. There is a composting toilet and a bush shower. No laundry facilities.
- Equipment: All necessary operational materials are provided, including tents, sleeping bag, mat and project related gear.
- Services: No electricity or Internet. Limited mobile phone reception. Optus and Telstra mobiles receive intermittent service. No nearby shops.
- Food: All meals, snacks and drinks supplied by Wild Mob. Volunteers share cooking and cleaning responsibilities, under supervision of project leaders
- Skills required: Moderate level of fitness
- Duration: 6 days and 5 nights
- Group size: maximum 11, minimum 6 volunteers per camp
- Age limits: 14 years and over. Minors, not travelling with a School group, must be accompanied by an Adult
- Meeting point: Mackay, QLD
- Contribution: \$500 per volunteer

Additional Notes

- Wild Mob provides all necessary operational materials during the stay

Contact Info

Wild Mob
2 / 249 Coronation Drive
PO Box 1724
Milton QLD 4064
Australia

Phone: +61 (0)7 3369 9665
Fax: +61 (0)7 3337 9835
E-mail: info@wildmob.org
www.wildmob.org
ABN: 41973239045

 facebook.com/wildmob
 twitter.com/wildmob_org
 flickr.com/wildmob