



Project Availability: March to May, September to November



Wollemi Conservation Project

Located around 200km north west of Sydney, Wollemi National Park covers 500 hectares and forms the second-largest wilderness area in New South Wales. It is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area formed in 2000. The park's landscape is made up of breathtaking canyons, cliffs and undisturbed forests that support a diverse range of native wildlife and flora, including the Wollemi Pine.

The Wollemi Pine was discovered in the park in 1994. It belongs to the 200-million-year-old Araucariaceae family and is one of the world's oldest living plant species, dating back to the Jurassic period. There are less than 100 known parent trees in existence. Access is restricted in the park, but conservation efforts have enabled cuttings of the original plants to be purchased to support the survival of this species.

In recent years feral activity has become a significant concern, posing a great risk to native wildlife. Another problem is the environmental stress caused by unguided trampling of native species and spreading of invasive weeds. Wild Mob works alongside NSW Parks and Wildlife Service to help with feral management strategy and conservation of the biodiversity in Wollemi National Park.

Project Work

Volunteers will be involved in various activities designed to survey and mitigate feral species impacts using scat and track plots combined with camera traps to identify and monitor movements within the park. Participants will also assist with general park maintenance. This may involve identification and removal of introduced plant species, walking track construction or fence upkeep and maintenance. Staff will provide training for the required conservation work. These activities are suitable for anyone with a good level of fitness and working hours will be adjusted to the suit the group's abilities and weather conditions. 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 project will focus on the interactions and impacts of feral animals within the park's ecosystems. Volunteers will gain insight into the local Aboriginal history of the Wiradjuri people and their customs, including kinship, roles of Aboriginal songs and dances and the importance of sacred sites. Project leaders will also familiarise participants with the natural processes taking place all around them while in the national park. Wild Mob staff have backgrounds in environmental management and education, and love to share their knowledge with volunteers in a practical learning environment.

Additional Activities

There are several attractions in and around Wollemi National Park. During the project Wild Mob will organise additional activities including:

- A swim in Dunn Swamp. Despite the name, it is one of the most pristine waterways and recommended in the top 10 places to visit in NSW
- Exploring Dunn Swamp and surrounding wetlands from a canoe for a different perspective of the ecosystem
- Informal lectures on local Indigenous culture
- Extended guided nature hike through Wollemi National Park

Living Conditions and Facilities

While participating in the Wollemi Conservation project, volunteers will stay at a campsite in Olinda, just outside Wollemi National Park. 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. Toilets and a bush shower are available. We recommend bringing sufficient clothes for six days, as there are no laundry facilities at the camp.

The Wollemi base camp has basic facilities. Electricity is available but there is no Internet access. Telstra offers limited mobile phone reception.



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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 minimize exposure to any dangerous situations. In the event of an emergency, project leaders carry a satellite phone to contact emergency services. The nearest hospital is the Rylstone Hospital approximately twenty minutes by car from base camp at Olinda.

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 tea 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 volunteers at a designated point in Rylstone, NSW. From Rylstone the group will travel to Olinda base camp by 4WD vehicle, approximately twenty minutes. The group will return to Rylstone upon completion of the project. While on the project, volunteers will move around on foot or by car. Alternatively project leaders may be able to pick up volunteers on route from Sydney. Please discuss this with Wild Mob when making your booking.

Regional Sights and Attractions

The Greater Blue Mountain World Heritage Area offers a wide range of activities, including hikes, rock climbing, abseiling and white water rafting. Why not visit one of the many historic towns like Kandos, Mudgee, Hill End, Sofala and Turon River. The regions surrounding Sydney are also home to many wineries, restaurants and galleries. For more information visit: http://www.visitnsw.com/zone/Sydney_Surrounds.aspx

Traditional Owner 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 NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water, the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and Walan Cultural Connections as part of the Wollemi Conservation Project.



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water

www.environment.nsw.gov.au



www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



www.walancc.web.officelive.com

Project Specifics

- Accommodation: Three man tents, shared between two.
- Facilities: Bush camp with basic facilities. There are toilets and bush shower. No laundry facilities.
- Equipment: All necessary operational materials are provided, including tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mat and project related gear
- Services: Electricity is available. There is no access to Internet. Limited mobile phone reception. 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: Good level of fitness
- Duration: 6 days, 5 nights
- Group size: maximum 9, minimum 6 volunteers per camp; If a larger group is required please discuss with us.
- Age limits: 14yrs and over. Minors not travelling with a School group must be accompanied by an Adult
- Meeting point: Rylstone, NSW
- Contribution: \$500 AUD per volunteer

Additional Notes

- Wild Mob provides all necessary operational materials during the project.
- Volunteers will require sturdy fully closed shoes for hiking and working.
- Gators are a good option for those who wish to protect their shoes and clothing when walking through the bush.

Contact Info

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