

Enriched by WWOOFers

By The WWOOF Office, W Tree, Vic.

Noeline started hosting WWOOFers in 1981 and hasn't looked back, opening her gates and her heart to friends from all over the globe.

Noeline Dahlen-Maclean is possibly WWOOF's longest serving host, involved since 1981, and also the oldest, as she is now in her 93rd year. She says it has been a privilege to be part of the organisation and to connect with so many lives,

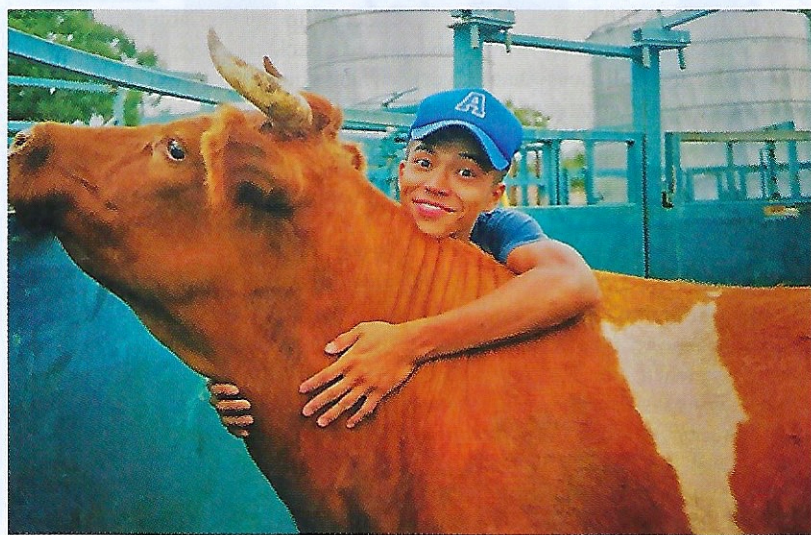
young and old, from 30 different countries. 'I have been enriched by their cultures and cuisines and I trust that the knowledge that they have gained from WWOOFing will be a part of their lives forever.'

Noeline's only child, John,

developed a rare degenerative disease of the brain stem and had to give up work at age 22. During the next 30 years, as his condition permitted, he took many WWOOFers on learning educational travels.

Noeline now lives in Jindabyne, in the Snowy Mountains of NSW, with a fabulous view looking across Lake Jindabyne to the mountains. There is plenty to see and do here, including hiking, skiing, horse riding, swimming, sailing, and cycling around the lake.

A feature of the property is the Kunama Cultural and Education Centre (formerly Kunama Gallery). The Centre showcases the work of artists, sculptors and writers, alongside a permanent exhibition of paintings by internationally renowned artist, Alan Grosvenor (1925–2012). Noeline and Alan met in 1991 and spent 21 happy years together, dur-



WWOOFer Uji hugging the cow.

Top left: Eunmi feeding a lamb.
Top right: WWOOFer in the bath and view from Noeline's house.

ing which time they hosted many WWOOFers. Noeline said, 'Alan is still very much here with his art. He has recorded the passing of time in the mountains and the history of the mountains in his paintings.'

The Centre is situated on five acres and WWOOFers can help with ground maintenance, gardens and an organic veggie garden.

Korean WWOOFer Eunmi visited Noeline in 2001. She now lives in Australia and is still in touch with Noeline, her first WWOOF host. In a letter to WWOOF in 2021, Eunmi wrote:

'It was almost 20 years ago that I participated in the WWOOF program and I can proudly say that it changed my life. Looking back, I think that all the things I learned and experienced became my skills and strength for my adult life. I work with young Aussies and often see young people that lack essential life skills and experience, and living and helping people on the farm or a similar situation can be super beneficial. Lastly I give huge appreciation and love to Noeline, my Aussie grandma.'

Maxime, from France, stayed with Noeline and her son in 2019. In a recent letter to Noeline, he writes: 'I remember many times this short journey, because you inspire me with strength and your smile! Thank you again for the experience, I think it built me as a man.'

Noeline's current projects include starting up a community garden for local children. She is also interested in devising a course for WWOOFers and other young people – to teach 'back to basics' skills in the digital age and to inspire and educate young people to get off their computers and get the best from their experience of WWOOFing.

If you would like to meet incredible hosts like Noeline, join our community today. For info, go to our website: [wwoof.com.au](http://www.wwoof.com.au). 🌱

Top: Noeline and Eunmi.
Middle: Noeline and WWOOFers.
Right: Son Jack and WWOOFers.

