



WWOOF™ Australia
World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
wwooof.com.au +61 (0)455 023 173
34 Main Road, Colwarr, Victoria 3857 Australia

Travel Safely as a WWOOFer

WWOOFers are advised to always adopt safe travel practices while WWOOFing in Australia. We recommend WWOOFers travelling alone select hosts with families if they are travelling to remote locations. It is important to always ensure friends and/or family know when and where WWOOFers will be and have the contact details of their hosts in case of emergency. Many WWOOF hosts have reviews from other WWOOFers which can assist in guiding choices of great hosts to visit.

No matter where or how you travel you may feel safer traveling with a companion. If you can get a friend to go WWOOFing with you, you can register together for a **Dual membership** - friends travelling together.

It is very important to read Host Profiles carefully before making contact. We recommend that you 'interview' your prospective host so that you get a feel for the individuals and the situation. Ask about the food and accommodation, the schedule and activities, and any expectations of one another, especially if you have any specific needs or goals. You are also encouraged to do any additional screening necessary to feel comfortable arranging a visit. This could include reading online reviews, contacting other members, asking for external references, scheduling a video or phone call, and any other methods. As with all WWOOF arrangements, be sure to have clear and open communication before finalizing a visit. We recommend speaking with prospective hosts over the phone as well as by message - what you hear in a voice can be quite different than written communications.

WWOOF Australia has around 700-800 organic farmers & growers. Approximately one third of our hosts have been hosts between 10 and 30+ years. Approximately 40% have been hosts between 2 and 10 years, roughly 25% are new hosts. New hosts are required to complete a detailed WWOOF Host Profile and are evaluated case by case by the WWOOF Office. All Host and WWOOFer Profiles are regularly screened to ensure our Guidelines are being adhered to.

Given the national nature of the WWOOF Program and the great distances across Australia we are not able to conduct in-depth background checks on our hosts - or volunteers. WWOOF operates a great deal on trust. We also need to be mindful that what may be unsuitable for some, may be perfectly acceptable to someone else.

If things don't feel right WWOOFers are advised to trust their instincts and arrange to leave, they are under no obligation to stay if they feel unsafe, or the situation is not what they expected. In some cases, it is just a case of personality clash – and both parties agree to disagree and move on amicably. When travelling, you should **always have a back-up plan** in place, and enough emergency funds to help you out if necessary.

WWOOF operates largely on the honour system with members trusting one another to be respectful and to fulfil the mission of WWOOF. Because of this, **we rely a great deal on host/volunteer feedback. Complaints are taken very seriously** - with the most serious of accusations resulting in immediate suspension of membership during investigation and ultimately expulsion if found to be true. For more information, see 'How are complaints handled'

Gladly we can report that relative to the number of WWOOF exchanges each year - complaints are very rare and serious complaints are even rarer.

WWOOF Australia, in conjunction with National Crime Check, are making [applying for a WWOOF volunteer Police check](#) quicker and easier. Once WWOOF receives confirmation of a clear Police check, usually within 24-48 hours, we will add a [Police Checked symbol](#) to your WWOOFer Profile along with the date of the Police check.



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We have also made [Police checks available for WWOOF Hosts](#), who will also have a symbol and date on their profile once we have received their Police Check, gradually as more Hosts and WWOOFers opt for a Police check you will begin to see this symbol appear in more WWOOF profiles.

Police checks are entirely optional, but will certainly enhance your WWOOF Profile and give both WWOOF Hosts and WWOOFers peace of mind.

Zero Tolerance Policy

If we receive a complaint regarding any sort of verbal or physical abuse, assault, sexual or other harassment, discrimination, or any other form of threat to health and safety, we reserve the right to immediately suspend membership pending review and possibly permanently revoke membership.