



Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve

Volunteer Information

Volunteer Warden



Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland
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Visitor Centre (07) 4093 2514
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Who are we?

The Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland (WCTQ) - formerly known as The Mareeba Wetland Foundation - is a not for profit community-based conservation organisation established in 1994, to support an innovative solution to land management and conservation. The WCTQ now also plays a regional role in nature conservation and wildlife management and research in conjunction with partner organisations .

WCTQ is responsible for the management of the Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve, one of the largest habitat creation projects in Queensland. Established in 1996, the Reserve currently protects over 5000 acres of tropical savannas and wetlands in north Queensland, providing a vital sanctuary for much of tropical Australia's rare or endangered habitats and wildlife.

In 2005 the Mareeba Wetland Foundation was the winner of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia's Community Conservation Award.

What do we do?

The Reserve operates as a nature reserve with emphasis on education, tourism and direct community involvement in the enhancement of local biodiversity through wetland habitat creation and conservation projects. It is now nationally recognised for its ambitious approach to private conservation land management coupled with nature based tourism and environmental education. Revenue is raised from nature-based tourism activities operated by Tourism Naturally, and are redirected into the Conservancy's conservation programs. The WCTQ is currently running a landmark Gouldian finch re-introduction programme.

The work of the Reserve is only made possible through the assistance of volunteers. It relies completely on donations from members and visitors and income from tourism for its financial support.

Why be a volunteer warden?

Volunteers play an extremely important role in maintaining and enhancing the conservation values of the Reserve and in realising the aspirations and goals of the Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland, the conservation and preservation of the natural environment *for wildlife, for people, for ever.*



Benefits of becoming a volunteer include:

- Make a difference in conservation at a community level and work towards conservation goals
- Meet new people and make new contacts
- Work in the outdoors in far north Queensland, one of the most diverse regions in Australia
- Learn about the flora and fauna of the dry tropical savanna and wetland ecosystems
- Gain practical on-ground experience in ecotourism, field research and land management techniques to further your education or career

Who can volunteer?

Anyone who can spare some time and energy, enjoys spending time in the bush and wants to contribute to a valuable conservation initiative is encouraged to apply. Volunteers are welcomed from all walks of life, but if you have any special skills or area of expertise or interest, please tell us about them!

Some previous knowledge or experience is necessary as there is a wide range of tasks, and volunteer wardens are expected to work largely unsupervised on a day to day basis, though initial training and induction is provided by Conservancy staff. Practical skills are especially valued.

Volunteers must be over 18 years of age and have travel insurance / Medicare cover. A full open drivers licence and own vehicle is also recommended; there is no public transport to and from the Reserve.

References can be supplied at the end of your stay on request.



What do volunteer wardens do?

The activities volunteers undertake are quite varied. The priorities for Reserve management change with the seasons, availability of other volunteers, and other requirements. A warden is not expected to undertake all of these jobs all of the time, but the ability to work outdoors is essential.

Reserve Maintenance

- Infrastructure erosion control
- Dam wall maintenance
- Construction of outdoor facilities for volunteers e.g. shade structures and benches, bbq area
- Weed control – chemical and manual methods
- Assist/monitor feral animal control
- Assisting graziers with fire breaks, monitoring effects of grazing and fire trials and burning regimes
- Maintenance of WCTQ tools and equipment
- Maintenance of soft release enclosure and aviaries
- Monitoring roads and tracks, especially during and after Wet Season
- Maintenance of warden accommodation and surrounds

Vegetation and Wildlife

- Feeding and watering finches and soft release animals
- General monitoring and regular surveys of wildlife
- Assisting with mist netting and bird banding (as available)
- Monitoring released Gouldian Finches and other banded finches
- Water quality sampling and monitoring
- Contributing towards flora database
- Revegetation



Administration and Reporting

- Assisting with visitors, such as members events
- Data entry and record keeping
- Assist with interpretive displays and educational information
- Writing articles for newsletters
- Assist with grants and fundraising

Are there any costs involved?

Volunteers are required to be financially self sufficient and have enough funds to cover living expenses while on the Reserve. Volunteers are responsible for all travel costs. They are required to contribute \$75 a week towards running costs of the warden accommodation including gas and electricity and provide their own food, toiletries and other personal items.

Volunteers are required to obtain a WCTQ logo shirt to wear as necessary. They should provide their own workwear including long sleeved cotton shirts, hat, long trousers/shorts, and boots.

How long can you volunteer for?

Volunteers can participate in the programme for three or six month periods. Any extension or curtailment is by mutual agreement.

Volunteers are accepted at any time of year, depending on prior bookings. As the accommodation is limited to 1-2 wardens at any one time, it is recommended booking well ahead. Warden's work varies depending on the time of year at the Reserve—discuss your interests with the Co-ordinator.

Where will you be staying?

The volunteer warden's accommodation, Quoll Cottage, is a purpose built 1 bedroom cottage with office, kitchen, bathroom, and large timber deck. It is air conditioned, with ceiling fans, insect screens, power and gas cooking. A washing machine is also provided. *Please note the cottage is non smoking.* There is no phone or internet, and it is recommended that volunteers have their own mobile phones. Those with laptops can access the internet from the Visitor Centre by arrangement.

Quoll Cottage is located on the gravel ridge behind the Visitor Centre and Jabiru Safari Lodge, with views across the Reserve to the Hann Tableland National Park.



What you will need to bring.

- Hat and sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Torch or lantern
- Insect repellent
- Towels
- Clean clothes and work clothing
- Strong covered boots or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Personal toiletries
- Mobile phone (or phone card)
- Enthusiasm and sense of humour!

Other useful items:

- Binoculars, Camera and film, Laptop, Field guide(s) and note books, Reading material



What about free time?

Work at the Reserve is based around a five day working week, but flexibility is the key as some jobs require early starts or evening work, or for the Reserve to be free of visitors. The Reserve is closed to the public during the Wet Season (Jan-Mar).



Explore the Reserve and surrounding area when not working. Seventeen kilometres of walking tracks crisscross the Reserve. The Reserve is located in the most biodiverse part of Australia, with easy access to World Heritage rainforests, and just an hour from the tropical coast and access to the Great Barrier Reef

Staying in touch

The Visitor Centre has a telephone that can be used with a prepaid phonecard. Mobile telephones work at Quoll Cottage. The quick checking of emails with a laptop can also be arranged with the tourism staff .

Getting there

Volunteers are required to have transport to and from the Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve. The Reserve is easily accessible and is only one hour from Cairns and Port Douglas, far north Queensland, although it can feel quite remote once inside. The Reserve is approximately 15km NW of Mareeba and directions to the Reserve are well signposted from Mareeba or Bibbohra.

If this sounds like it is for you then contact the WCTQ!

Fill out the following Volunteer Application Form and return it to the Conservancy.

For more information or to discuss in person, please contact the WCTQ Co-ordinator Gwyneth Nevard on 0408 932303 (00 61 408 932303) or email info@wildlifequeensland.com.au



Volunteer Warden Application Form

Thank you for applying to volunteer at the Mareeba Wetlands. Please complete this form to assist us in planning your availability and return to the address below. Mareeba Wetlands staff will provide any training necessary for tasks undertaken. If you have any questions, please give the Co-ordinator a call. We look forward to your participation, and we thank you for your support!

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number(s):

Email:

Date of Birth:

2. EXPERIENCE

Have you any experience in the following (please tick):

1. Living in a remote area

2. Outdoor maintenance

3. Knowledge of fauna & flora

4. Wildlife care **bird banding**

5. Funding and grants

6. Machinery eg quad bike **brushcutter** **chainsaw** **tractor**

Weed spray equipment

3. REQUIREMENTS

As a volunteer warden at the Mareeba Wetlands you may be required to carry out a range of tasks. Please tick which tasks you would most like to do, and cross those which you are unable to do.

Gardening/ light outdoor tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife monitoring/reserve surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assist with admin/fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assist with members events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reserve maintenance (this can involve use of machinery)	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. EXPERTISE

If you have a particular interest or area of expertise, please tell us:	
Do you hold a current First Aid certificate? Yes/No	Drivers Licence? Yes/No

5. AVAILABILITY

Please specify your ideal dates for volunteering. (See P5)		
First choice:		
Second choice:		
If you live locally and wish to volunteer on a regular basis, when are you available :		
Weekly <input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly <input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/>
One spell only <input type="checkbox"/> (please give dates)		

6. FURTHER DETAILS

Is there any information we should know about your present state of health (eg medication you may need in an emergency, asthma etc)	
Person to contact in case of an emergency:	
Name and address:	
Contact phone number:	

.....
Signed

.....
Date