



# Campfire IN THE Heart

## What's On: Summer Update 2024





## ***Dear friends of Campfire in the Heart,***

As the temperatures rise, our quiet season begins - a time of looking back and forward, of giving thanks, and inviting old and new friends to visit Campfire. It's also a time where our recurring monthly expenses (\$7.5-8K) are no longer offset by income from retreats and other happenings. Fortunately there are occasional [Airbnb](#) bookings. We well know this is a difficult time financially for so many and ask for your donation only if that is possible for you at this time. Campfire is a journey of trust in this as always. Our bank details are found [here](#).

Another way to support Campfire is to take a look at our gift ideas and mementos - such as gift card packs lovingly created by the Taylor grandchildren, t-shirts and our newest offering - embroidered aprons! Or purchase a [Christmas gift bundle](#), starting from \$55.

Thanks to those volunteers who have gifted Campfire their talents these past few months, especially our longest-serving volunteer so far, Stacy. During her 6-month stay with us she initiated a wealth of useful resources, ranging from signage and checklists, to her crowning achievement... the Volunteer Handbook! Stacy was proud to show the handbook to Campfire's founder Sue Woods on her last visit (see photo above.) Thanks also to current volunteer Keesha who is giving of her gifts, painting a mandala on the wall of the residence. Stay tuned for the finished result!

Our initial meditator-in-residence Peter Murphy left us at the end of September and is now at [Bonnevaux](#), the WCCM centre for peace near Poitiers in central France, where he will be part of the residential community in 2025. Read about his reflections on Central Australia below. Interested in being a meditator-in-residence? View the evolving [role description here](#).

In October we were happy to host again the keen local ice bath community of Alice Springs. Each gathering attracts a dedicated group of up to 33 attendees

(not including horses!). Starting with [Wim Hof's](#) breathing exercises, the group then also enjoyed the unique opportunity to walk the labyrinth before their plunge.

Our [Contemplative Book Club](#) also provides another opportunity for locals to 'come and see' Campfire, with the latest being a 6-week reflective reading of 'The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment', by Eckhart Tolle.

Our program for 2025 is coming together, with return bookings from some like [Coomera Anglican College](#) and [Sage Drums](#), as well as new friends. We are grateful they choose us and look forward to the energy and joy they bring to the place.

Our [WCCM](#) offerings are taking a slightly different shape this year, with weekend retreats we hope will draw the Alice Springs locals, as well as our interstate guests for whom an extended program will be available over 5 days. This will include an option for a day pilgrimage walk on a section of the Larapinta Trail, a reflective session with Warlpiri woman and star of the documentary [Audrey Napanangka](#), as well as other contemplative opportunities immersed in this desert landscape.

When we began the journey of Campfire nearly 3 years ago, we had no idea how many aspects would be involved, nor how many good people would join in on the way. We give thanks for all this and the spirit working always in everything.

Much love and all blessings of this sacred season.

## ***Judi, Paul and the Campfire Companions (Board)***

---





*We're sharing our Vision Statement again to keep ever-present our collective hopes for Campfire in the Heart.*

## **Our Vision**

Campfire in the Heart is a sacred place of retreat grounded in the contemplative Christian tradition and the world's wisdom teachings. In the spirit of love the Campfire community welcomes all who come.

## **It desires to be:**

### **A space that nurtures**

- Presence to Land and Spirit,
- Attention to the creative tensions unfolding into the new
- Openness to healing and reconciliation
- Transformation in depth and breadth

### **Grounded in Contemplative Practice through**

- Silence and simplicity
- Prayer and meditation
- A desert spirituality of deep listening
- Affiliation with The World Community for Christian Meditation

### **A curious, inquiring community**

- Intentional and service oriented
- Inclusive, Christian ecumenical
- Hospitality to all who come.



---

## **Upcoming retreats**

## Mandala Mini Retreat

Mandalas have intrigued cultures around the world, from Celtic spirals and Indian Mehndi to mediaeval church labyrinths.

Creating your very own mandala with intention, colours and symbols will help you manifest the changes you desire in your life.

4 April 2025

Cost: \$125

[More info](#)



## The Inner Pilgrimage

An exploration of the way of meditation in the Christian tradition, as taught by John Main of the [World Community for Christian Meditation](#).

A tradition of silence, stillness and simplicity, where we come apart from all that usually occupies us to drink deeply from the source within.

*“Oh God you are my God for you I long, my soul thirsts for you like a dry weary land without water.” (Psalm 63.1)*

16 - 18 May 2025

Cost: \$180 - \$490

[More info](#)

## Radical Simplicity: Meditation for Everyone

*“The one who made the universe dwells in our hearts and in silence is loving to all.”* Chandogya Upanishad

The world’s wisdom traditions all agree that our source of peace is within us.

*“If we can find stillness at the centre of our being, we will experience a wonderful transformation of our lives”* (Laurence Freeman).

This retreat will also offer optional extra days with extra activities for those who are able to stay longer.

30 May - 1 June 2025

Cost: \$180 - \$490

[More info](#)



## HEART Red Centre Retreat

Come to a special week in the Red Centre NT Australia. Start the journey in Alice Springs, travelling and witnessing Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges), a Standley Chasm tour with Indigenous Guide and have a swim in the Ellery Creek Gorge. Take the scenic road trip to Yulara, and explore the magnificent Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park guided by Jane Anderson.

June & August 2025

Cost: \$2,900

[More info](#)

## Women's Mountain Bike Retreat

Experience the desert trails with Georgina Landy, mountain bike and health coach.

Imagine yourself mountain biking hand-made flowy trails amongst an ancient desert landscape of escarpments, ochre colours, ghost gums, and blue skies.

June & July 2025

Cost: \$2,677 – \$3,297

[More info](#)



## Mind the Gaps

*Fr. Bernard McGrath, Benedictine monk, will be returning to Central Australia next year...*

The landscape in which Alice Springs and Campfire in the Heart are set, with the various Gaps: Simpsons, Emily, Jessie, Honeymoon...and Pine Gap!

The gaps in our knowing and the 'gaps' in our location offer us a wonderful opportunity to reflect more deeply on what really matters, when it come to the past, the present & the future of humanity.

20 - 25 July 2025



Cost: \$450 - \$1,095

[More info](#)

## More Mind the Gaps

Following 2024's retreat Mind the Gaps, this retreat continues to explore the spiritual wealth left us by Christ in the meditation tradition of John Main.

We will reflect more deeply on their teachings, in particular the understanding of John Main's encouragement to *"Shun thoughts and ideas. Shun everything that takes you away from the poverty of that one word (the mantra)."*

Presented by Fr. Bernard McGrath.

1 - 6 August 2025

Cost: \$450 - \$1,095

[More info](#)



## Celtic/Core Cellular Healing Circle

Come to a special week in the Red Centre NT Australia. Start the journey in Alice Springs, travelling and witnessing Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges), a Standley Chasm tour with Indigenous Guide and have a swim in the Ellery Creek Gorge. Take the scenic road trip to Yulara, and explore the magnificent Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park guided by Jane Anderson.

29 Aug – 3 Sep 2025

Cost: \$40 - \$550



---

## Retreat reflections

### Listening to Country

Peter Murphy's paper ['Listening to Country'](#), inspired by his time at Campfire as a meditator-in-residence, will be part of an upcoming book on the sacramentality of creation.



He says *"The more I reflect upon my stay at Campfire, I think what a remarkable time it was"*.

[Read here](#)



### How volunteering at Campfire changed my life!

*"During that first week, I discovered that not only do I love being in service as a volunteer, but I CAN meditate (after trying for three decades!). I enjoyed the meditation on Monday evening and the sessions held during the retreat so much..."*

Written by Stacy Lee Hughes

[Read here](#)

# Weekly events



## Monday Meditation

**Mondays 5:30 pm**

Suitable for beginners, as well as experienced meditators.

[More info](#)



## Campfire Reflection

**Wednesdays 6:30 pm**

A pot-luck dinner, followed by time of reflection and sharing around the campfire.

[More info](#)



## Labyrinth Walking

**Sundays 2-4 pm**



## Online Offerings

**Weekday mornings**

A peaceful space for meditators of all traditions to come together and walk in silence.

[More info](#)

Campfire in the Heart offers a free online meditation every weekday morning, followed by morning prayers.

[More info](#)

*Have you attended our weekly gatherings or a retreat? Have you organised your own event here?*

We would love it if you could leave us a testimonial on our [Google listing](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Share your feedback and help other people discover and enjoy this unique space in Alice Springs.

---

## Interested in volunteering?



Our volunteers have said that no two days are the same. In fact, no two hours are the same!

Volunteers are integral to our capacity to provide our desired level of hospitality to our guests, as well as to maintain this special environment in the midst of the desert.

Days volunteering at Campfire can involve a variety of different activities...

[Find out more](#)



## Campfire in the Heart

147 Ragonesi Road, 0873, Alice Springs

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}  
You've received this email because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)

