



Campfire IN THE Heart

evolving a MEDITATOR-IN-RESIDENCE 'ROLE DESCRIPTION'

The Retreat Centre has long practised meditation in the tradition recovered by Benedictine monks John Main, and Laurence Freeman, and shared globally by The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

[Campfire in the Heart](https://campfireintheheart.com.au/our-vision/) always welcomes enquiries from those who'd like to volunteer, to be part of the life of the place joining the small resident community, part of our collective Vision <https://campfireintheheart.com.au/our-vision/> for the place, in the ancient and wondrous setting of the East MacDonnell Ranges, 7 km from Alice Springs/Mparntwe.

Each person's unique response to the place adds to the creative possibilities we can offer to those coming on retreat and the like. Over recent years, a particular opportunity has opened up, to volunteer as a *meditator-in-residence (MIR)*

We ask that Meditators-in-Residence:

- ✚ stay ideally between 2 - 6 months
- ✚ as a spiritual presence, work with and complement the offerings of the mangers there, joining in all aspects of the day-to-day running of the place as need be
- ✚ out of their own established practice, offer daily times of meditation in the WCCM tradition. The MIR is in no sense an expert in meditation, rather a beginner among beginners. Past MIR's have found their personal practice can be upto 4 times daily, beginning online with the morning group and in the evening, in person with those onsite. It's often been quite natural for the MIR to take an interest in the care of the meditation room and the 'prayer focus' there.
- ✚ discern how their particular gifts might best serve Campfire ... perhaps in reaching out to the local community eg schools, parishes, offering an experience of Christian meditation and/or an invitation to 'come and see' the Campfire site ... maybe offering an introductory session/s maybe connected to the labyrinth as well ... or a quiet day or deep silent retreat ... perhaps in visiting local elders in the aged care facilities nearby, or hosting their visit to Campfire. Being available to staff and volunteers as well as visitors to the site for 'ad hoc' conversations is always a gift ... the possibilities are as many as we are

✚ in all things embodying the Benedictine values of hospitality, generosity and humility in relationship with those who living at or visiting Campfire, holding a spirit of silence in all things. Each brings their own 'manifestation of the Spirit for the common good' (1 Cor 12:7) and are encouraged to be who they are in Christ. In the evolving nature of this role, a spirit of initiative and flexibility is valuable to deal with ad hoc as well as potentially challenging social experiences regarding our First Peoples and their situation in central Australia.

Modest accommodation is provided, a NT Ochre Card is required as we engage with children and vulnerable others. We offer MIR's regular reflective conversations with some of the directors to ponder how it's going and what needs more attention.

We are calling for expressions of interest among WCCM meditators within Australia and internationally from those who feel called by the spirit of Campfire and see themselves aligned with our Vision.

It is an evolving possibility, we welcome your contribution to how it could develop. Please have a look at the various website posts by previous meditators-in-residence for some detail of how their stay unfolded.