

UWA Students Desert Retreat

19th – 24th July 2015

What is the desert like?

A desert retreat is an opportunity to slow down, disconnect from the usual patterns of our lives and achieve a greater clarity by way of careful listening to what's going on within. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- unwind in vast tracks of wilderness with various kinds of terrain and vegetation
- observe native wildlife during gentle local walks
- experience community cooking and sitting around the campfire
- hear stories of early settlers, prospectors and wood cutters, the railroad and Kalgoorlie pipeline
- have as much solitude as you like
- gaze at the best view of the night sky you will EVER experience (weather permitting)
- contemplate life



What else do I need to know?

You will experience the ruggedness of the Australian outback, with basic infrastructure support. (bed, hot showers, toilets) This is not a holiday resort. The nearest town is 70km away.

You need to be at least 18 years of age.

You will be disconnecting from your mobile phone for five days (incoming emergency calls can be received by the retreat centre)

You will be expected to chip-in with basic camp chores including cooking and participate in an end of day check-in with other participants.

No BYO alcohol (some wine will be available with meals)

It will be very cold at night (possibly sub zero)

Where is it?

Koora Retreat Centre is in the Boorabin National Park in the Great Western Woodland area, 475km East of Perth. You can get there in the following ways:

From Perth—by car (we intend to drive together) or train to Southern Cross, from where we can arrange to pick you up

For students exploring the East Coast during the mid year break, you can get a direct flight from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane (Virgin airlines) to Kalgoorlie. Explore this fascinating town and then catch a train to Southern Cross, from where we can arrange to pick you up.





Who's running it?

The retreat is being organised by Michael Wood and Ian Robinson from the UWA Chaplaincy. Both of us have a particular interest in the contemplative life and the value of silence. Dr. Robinson did his PhD studies on the desert tradition in the Bible and Christian history. The retreat Facilitator is Dr. Anna Killigrew, who is co-owner of Koora Retreat with her husband, Peter. Anna was previously Anglican Chaplain to UWA.

The retreat does not assume any faith position and is respectful of the uniqueness of each person who attends.

For more information about Koora, go to:

www.kooraevent.com.au

How much does it cost?

The total cost is \$495 including all meals and accommodation. This amount includes a petrol contribution (for shared car-transport) of \$50. If you go by train or drive your own car, the price will be discounted accordingly.

There are no discounts for shorter stays and no refunds for early /unexpected departure.

A full refund will be given provided written notice is received no later than 5th July. A 50% refund is available for cancellations made after 5th July.

Maximum of 20 participants—first in, first served

Minimum of six participants



How do I register?

To express interest, please send an email to michael.wood@uwa.edu.au

Because of the remote and communal nature of this kind of retreat, Michael or Ian will meet with each person individually to answer your questions and ascertain that this retreat is right for you. We will also ask you to declare your fitness to live in a location without immediate or easy access to medical facilities

Michael Wood: (08) 6488 4762

Ian Robinson (08) 6488 5895

