

We hope that your experience here will be one of mutual reward, learning and joy.

Background

Zaytuna Farm is the home of the Permaculture Research Institute of Australia (PRI). During your stay you will most likely be interacting with PRI students enriching your experience. Zaytuna Farm is situated on 27 hectares (66 acres). 1158 Pinchin Road in the village of The Channon in Northern NSW. The closest major country town is Lismore and Byron Bay is only a 50 minute drive away.

Arriving at Zaytuna Farm

We ask that you arrive only on Mondays 9am till 2pm. Please do not arrive on Sunday as no one will be here. Arriving on Monday allows you to be ready for the working week, and we can assure staff will be here to greet and welcome you. Best arrive before 2pm so you have plenty of time to get your camp set up and allow yourself to feel settled in. If you really are not able to arrive on a Monday, please give us notice and we will accommodate you.

Institute Policies

Institute Policies PRI is a registered non-profit organisation that leases Zaytuna Farm for the purpose of running and teaching Permaculture courses. For this reason we ask that all students and wwoofers observe some rules put in place by Zaytuna Farm.

Incoming students and wwoofers should be aware that there is a no drug, no alcohol policy throughout all area of Zaytuna Farm. We ask that wwoofers, students, staff, interns and guests observe a policy of modest dress, which includes wearing appropriate attire near/in the main infrastructure/dam. We prefer that men wear shirts at all times and avoid short shorts and that women also avoid wearing short skirts and shorts and other revealing attire onsite (no bikinis).

On arrival all wwoofers and students are asked to read and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before going or doing anything on the farm. This is very important. The MOU outlines these policies further in details.

Work Hours

We must let you know that our wwoofers work quite hard most days. So be prepared for that. However the work is rewarding and social and a great opportunity to live and learn permaculture, hands on. Work hours on the farm vary depending on the time of year and individual circumstance. But generally a wwoofers working hours are 6:30am – 4:00pm (with all meal & tea breaks of course) Monday to Friday. Fridays may possibly be a slightly shorter day if you are able to finish all work required. Weekends is your time to explore the local area or just relax.

Accommodation

Currently accommodation for all wwoofers and students is onsite within our camping grounds.

Alternatively, wwoofers may choose to take advantage of a stay at a local Eco Lodge (www.etsprings.com) However the Eco Lodge is a 15minute drive away, so you will need to arrange your own transport.

Wwoofers choosing to camp will need to bring a tent (or dome, bus, van, etc.), sleeping gear, mattress, torch and any other items which will help you to be more comfortable during your stay with us. Vehicles can, in most circumstances, be parked in the campground. There are also camping shelters and these shelters are raised above the ground and have a roof. These are distributed to students of PRI in the first instance, when no students are on site and if the shelters are vacant you are able to use these. The shelters have a 4 x 2.5metre footprint which includes the frame, so if your tent fits inside these dimensions you might like try a shelter. However, if you miss out on a sheltered site or your tent is too large to fit into the shelter, there is no need to worry as there is plenty of camping space available.

Please be prepared for all weather conditions, and familiarise yourself with what the temperature will be during your stay.

There are hot showers and composting toilet facilities on-site, and this may be the first opportunity for some of you to see these systems in action. All the water taps connected to the main kitchen, house, camp kitchen and shower are safe to drink - all taps in the camping area contain safe drinking water. However, please be aware that all other taps around the farm are connected to dams and are not suitable for drinking.

Given our proximity to a watercourse we ask that you ensure that your toiletries and soaps etc. are eco-friendly. That means free of any chemicals and labeled as such. Please ensure you bring your own towel.

Meal Times

Meal times are standardised and although some of the PRI classes sometimes run over time, we basically stick to the meal schedule below:

Breakfast: 8:30am
Morning Tea: 10:30am
Lunch: 12:30pm
Afternoon tea: 3pm
Dinner: 5.30/6:00pm

Please be aware that we provide catering for all meals 5-days a week - from Monday to Friday - but on the weekends, you will need to cater for yourself. You can do this by taking a trip into the surrounding towns (i.e. Nimbin, Lismore, Bangalow, Byron Bay); by bringing some food supplies and snacks with you; by buying food at the nearby shop or The Channon market held every second Sunday. Or there is a general shop and a Pub that provides meals 15 minute walk away from the farm. There is a simple camp kitchen with a fridge in the common room to store and cook meals.

If you have any special dietary concerns, please let us know prior to arrival and we will do our best to cater for you. However, please be aware that while we will do our best to accommodate dietary needs we operate with limited human resources and therefore we cannot promise to cater for anything other than vegetarians and those who have a standard diet (i.e. we cannot commit to catering for vegans, gluten free diets etc). For

your interest, much of our food is grown on site and all drinking water is harvested rainwater.

Internet

Wireless internet is available in the common room in the evenings between 5:30pm and 10pm. And all weekend.

Power Usage

Power Usage Zaytuna Farm's electricity comes from a stand-alone solar system. This means that when the sun shines we have plenty of power. We ask that you conserve power as much as possible and ONLY recharge your electrical items during the day. All electricity will be shut down every night at 8pm.

Mobile Reception

Mobile reception is generally poor in this area – however students and wwoofers usually find places somewhere on the farm where there is mobile reception. It just may take some walking around depending on where service you are with.

Farm Shop

In The Farm Shop we have many books, DVD's and various permaculture tools and items from sale in our office. We take cash but we prefer to use our credit card facilities. The shop is usually open Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm.

Laundry Facilities

You will need to wash your working clothes. There is now a washing machine located onsite. It is \$4 per load.

Items to Bring

- Be prepared for all weather (wwoofer work in the rain) Please bring wet good weather gear.
- Good working boots to work in and casual shoes for weekends.
- Gum boots (rubber boots/wellies)
- Long working pants (these will also help protect against snake bite and scratches)
- Long-sleeve lightweight close weave cotton or other protective material shirts to avoid sun damage – it is very warm between October and April in NNSW with extreme levels of UV.
- Natural based sunscreen (safe for our dam water if you wish to swim)
- Sunglasses
- Wide brimmed hat – very important
- Water bottle
- Lots of warm clothes and bedding for the cold season.
- Flashlight/head lamp – the latter is probably more convenient
- A pair of flip flops I think they are called in the US or thongs in the Australian vernacular and jandals in NZ for wearing during meal times – there is a 'no work boots/outside shoes' policy in the class room, toilet and around the eating area at the PRI so it is a good idea to have a pair to wear around that area (i.e. there are no shoes allowed in the teaching area, eating area, toilet etc). It saves on your socks and keeps your feet clean if that might be an issue for you

- A good tent that will fit in a 4 metres x 2.5 metres area (if you wish to make use of the raised tent platforms) – ensure that the tent is waterproof.
- A good set of gloves – maybe leather riggers gloves
- Notebook & Pen
- Camera
- Arnica, tea tree oil and/or other remedies for tick or insect bites.
- Personal items and medication
- Snacks to enjoy

Attitude

In addition to the above list, there are a couple of other essentials we recommend you pack with you that will help you in any situation - flexibility, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude! This is a dynamic working farm as well as an education facility and demonstration site for students, so every day will be an opportunity for learning. Those who actively take advantage of each opportunity will find their time at Zaytuna incredibly rewarding. Be prepared that some lessons may be challenging!

When you come to Zaytuna Farm to stay you'll also be learning about living communally at a campsite with an international community. Communal living requires participation, flexibility and effort from all of its members. You will be encouraged to participate in simple daily chores that ensure the health and hygiene of the farm and the camp area. We've observed a pattern that those who work to contribute to the health of the community by giving their best effort will make great connections and find joy in their time here.

We remind you that Permaculture is partly a study in positivism and solutions based thinking. We ask that you bring your solutions with you and help to learn with us to create a better world for all!

Directions to Zaytuna Farm

There are various ways to get to the farm. Following please find information on how to get there:

See where the farm is <http://www.whereis.com/nsw/the-channon/pinchin-rd?id=244A6D60625271>

Zaytuna Farm is located 1 kilometre from the Village of The Channon, 20 km outside of Lismore, in northern New South Wales. The closest airport is located in Lismore and is serviced by ReX (Regional Express) Airlines. Other regional airports with reasonable access to the PRI include Coolangatta and Ballina. Brisbane Airport is the closest major international airport with limited international services available through Coolangatta airport.

By Car From Brisbane The Channon is located roughly a three hour drive from Brisbane. Follow the Pacific Hwy south past Tweed Heads and the NSW/Queensland border, continuing past the Byron Bay exit for approximately two kilometres to the Bangalow exit. Take this exit and continue on to the roundabout at the top of the hill in Bangalow (just over the bridge) and turn right towards Lismore. Then drive for approximately 14.6 kilometres to Clunes. Just after entering the village of Clunes, at the top of the hill, turn right towards Dunoon and The Channon. Continue to follow the

signs towards Dunoon and The Channon. Turn right into The Channon Road at the sign for 'The Channon' and continue driving until you reach the village. Carry on past The Channon Tavern and take the first left onto Koonorigan Road. Continue over the bridge and at the fork in the road keep to the left. You will then move onto Pinchin Road which is a gravel road. The farm entry is the first driveway on the left at 1158 Pinchin Road. There is a sign labeled "Permaculture Research Institute" at the entrance to the driveway.

From Byron Bay Drive west from Byron to the Pacific Highway entrance and head south. Then follow the directions as above.

From Sydney and the South, take Pacific Highway north, continuing on past Ballina and Lennox head. Take the exit labeled Bangalow and follow the directions as above from Bangalow.

Lismore to the Channon Quinns Bus Service MONDAY to FRIDAY:

0555 Lismore Transit Centre at Molesworth Street to The Channon
1530 Lismore Transit Centre at Molesworth Street to The Channon (Bus says SCHOOL BUS, no number). Its mostly white with blue & green stripes towards the back.

IMPORTANT: Tell the friendly bus driver you are a wwoofer at the Permaculture Farm and he will show you where to swap buses so you can get dropped off right out the front of the farm. Save you walking a long way with your bags! 😊

CALL Quinns bus service on 02 66 28 21 37 for further help.

Lismore to the Channon Quinns Bus Service SATURDAY:

0545 Lismore Transit Centre, Molesworth Street to The Channon
0730 The Channon to Lismore (need to hail).

On School holidays, the bus from The Channon to Lismore departs from The Channon shop otherwise the times are the same.

The trip to/from The Channon takes approximately 20-30 minutes.

NOTE: YOU NEED to call them to Quinns Bus Service to let them know you need picking up (02) 66 28 21 37

Public Transportation Bus [Premier Motor Services](#) and [Countrylink](#) run daily bus services leaving from Brisbane airport and Brisbane Transit Centre to Lismore. Train [Countrylink](#) operates rail and connecting coach services to country regions of New South Wales and some interstate locations. Services vary, dependent on from where you are coming, so please check their website to validate routes and times.

Lismore Taxi service phone number is 6621 2618 or 66214502. The taxi is likely to cost in the vicinity of \$60.

All of us here at PRI/ Zaytuna Farm are looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you onto the farm. A new Permie family awaits you! 😊

For all Questions, Concerns &/or Feedback – Please don't hesitate to contact us:
wwoofing@permaculture.org.au phone: 02 6688 6578