

The Wonder of the Ancient Wollemi Pine The Greater Blue Mountains Area



Wollemi Pine Fossil

The remarkable discovery of the Wollemi Pine in the Greater Blue Mountains Area was a key factor in the area being inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 2000. The 200 million year history of the relic Wollemi Pine, its evolutionary success and its status as a threatened species all contributed to building the case for why its home in the Greater Blue Mountains Area must be recognised and preserved as one of the world's top natural environments.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area consists of 1.03 million hectares of mostly forested landscape on sandstone plateaux, escarpments and gorges 60 to 180 kilometres inland from central Sydney. The area includes vast expanses of wilderness and is equivalent in area to almost one third of Belgium, or twice the size of Brunei. It is comprised of seven outstanding national parks including the Blue Mountains, Wollemi (where the Wollemi Pine was discovered), Yengo, Nattai, Kanangra-Boyd, Gardens of Stone and Thirlmere Lakes National Parks.



Cultivated Wollemi Pine

A major feature of the Blue Mountains is its dense population of oil bearing Eucalyptus trees which are said to reflect a blue colour into the atmosphere. It is also an area of breathtaking views, rugged tablelands, sheer cliffs, deep, inaccessible valleys and swamps teeming with life. The unique plants and animals that live in the area relate a story of Australia's antiquity, its diversity of life and its rugged beauty.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area is famous for containing ancient, relict species of global significance. The Wollemi Pine is the most famous of these as it is considered a "living fossil" dating back to the age of the dinosaurs. It is also home to more than 400 different kinds of animals, many of which are threatened or rare species of conservation significance such as the spotted-tailed quoll, the koala, and the yellow-bellied glider.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area affords representation of a major component of global biodiversity not previously represented on the World Heritage List. In fact, it represents the highest biodiversity in temperate forest environments, in Australia and globally, both within and across taxonomic levels. The Area includes almost ten percent of the Australian vascular plant flora and is outstanding on a global scale for its biodiversity.



Mature Foliage

**Buy a Wollemi Pine and help to preserve
this wonderful species for future generations.**

<http://www.wollemipine.com>