



The Wollemi Pine: The Incredible Discovery of a Living Fossil From the Age of the Dinosaurs

James Woodford

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An enthralling detective story about evolution and natural history.

In mid-1994 a National Parks & Wildlife ranger abseiling in the Wollemi Wilderness outside Sydney, came upon an extraordinary sight: a canyon filled with massive pines. These trees towered above the surrounding foliage, with fern-like leaves and peculiar lumpy bark.

What he accidentally discovered that day has become one of the century's most important botanical finds. The ancient pines were thought to have become extinct millions of years ago. The Director of Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens described the discovery as 'the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur still alive on Earth'.

This edition of *The Wollemi Pine* features a new chapter which examines the progress of the pine's reintroduction into civilisation, and some of the challenges and issues involved in its commercial propagation.

James Woodford is a science and environment writer for the Sydney Morning Herald. In 1996 he won the Eureka Prize for environmental journalism, and was awarded the prestigious Michael Daley prize for science journalism in 1996 and 1997. His hugely entertaining book on wombats, *The Secret Life of Wombats*, won the Royal Zoological Society of NSW Whitley Award for Best Natural History Book. He lives with his family on the south coast of NSW.

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