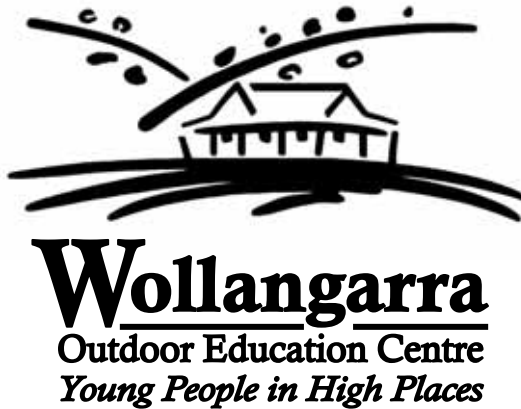


Number 72

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Patron: John Landy,
AC, MBE

As we look towards the next year, we also reflect on the year that was. And what a big one it was! Through the fires at the beginning, then mudslides and major flooding (more than once), courses still ran, work around the flat still done, fundraisers still happened and we still managed to visit and support our friends in far away places. How, I ask myself with wonder, did this all happen in the space of a year? Then I look up... there's Tess calling up all the Stage III's to organise the induction weekend and Gaz busy getting the post and rail fence in the ground. There's Simon in the propagation house watering the precious native seedlings, Tessa organising the food ordering, while Tina is busy cleaning out the showers. I remember Jo busily packing the hike food for the next group and Ross trying to update the website over a trunked radio phone. It is these people and their unflappable belief and love for what they do that keeps Wollangarra ticking over every day.



However we would struggle to do any of this without the support of so many. Our wonderful families and friends, the fantastic local supporters opening up their arms and their homes to welcome us week after week,

the tireless work party participants and supporters from afar. Everyone doing what they can to help Wollangarra and it's staff do the great job they do. The staff team of 2007 has put in more than anyone could have ever expected. They have turned, some might say, disaster into amazing success.

To Ross, Tina, Tess, Jo, Tessa and Gaz

each of you have bought your unique qualities and ideas to make this year at Wollangarra truly awesome.

Looking forward, we know we'll all see you up here again and wish you all the best for whatever the future may hold. We all owe you a massive Thank You! - *Josie*

Stage III Facilitator Position

There is a new role, based away from Wollangarra, which has recently been created. If you love working with young people, doing practical conservation work, liaising with lots of interesting people from bush tool specialists to Park rangers, have excellent organisational skills and believe in Wollangarra's aims and objectives this may be the job for you. Check it out on page 12...

Fruit Bottling

26th and 27th January

Come and meet the new staff. Bring up a big box of fruit and have a chopping good time!



S o L o n g & F a r e w e l l

Tess Macrae Called by the kookaburras, I wake each morning to a new day. This morning, the clouds are hiding from the sun, and the sky hangs blue above me. I lie cradled in a valley, embraced by the curve of a river.



When it's cold I see the dawn mist, rising from the lazy river. I won't forget the touch of water so cold it makes my body tingle. The eggs are warm against my skin when I collect them in the morning.



I've watched the bush change through the seasons, seen the new leaves dust the blackened trees with greenness. I've seen the river rise and fall, seen the lambs with fluffy legs, as week as butter.

Each month I've seen the full moon rising high above the mountains, bathing the trees in silvered light. I won't forget the feel of rain, softly falling like a blessing, or the smell of the rain-washed bush.

This year I have learnt more, felt more, experienced more and gained more than in any year previous. What a great honour to be part of this community and call this place home. Thanks to all who have shared their meals, their homes and their stories with me. Gaz Tessa, Jo, Ross, Josie, Simmo, Thomas, Tina, Neville, Gemma and Billy. Thank you. For all you have bought to my life and all you have taught me, I treasure you. To the mountains and the young people – thank you for the challenges, the delights, the laughter and the friendship you have so freely given.

I will leave some of my heart here at Wollangarra and with its people, and although there is sadness in leaving, there is a greater joy in knowing it will always be here to welcome all with open arms.



Tessa Lee Sitting on the rails Graham Fall split for our new post and rail fence, being deafened by cicadas. Half of the fence is already up, thanks to the fresh Stage IIIs. Looking out to where their sleeping gear is spread, drying in the sun from last nights heavy December dew. Not a cloud in the sky. It's my 9th last day working for Wollangarra. It's been a big year.

I'm finding it hard to write about ME, to separate the ME from Wollangarra, because the two have been so closely inter-



twined. There's been Wollangarra in everything I do and me in Wollangarra (is this what it feels like to be married?!). We've both survived in spite of floods and fire. The future looks bright for us both; me because I'll be off to Tassie next year to do some more study, and Wollangarra will prosper because of the formidable commitment of young people to care for the high country, make friends and learn new skills.

I am thankful to so many for the opportunity to live in a place where magic is allowed to happen daily. All the locals, my housemates, past staff, helpers and long time supporters, I leave Wollangarra a richer person for having spent time with you all. See you next time.



Staff of 2007

Gareth (Gaz) Shapiro

It's a hard one to start. Only three weeks until we say goodbye and in some ways it feels like a lifetime ago that we were all standing in the front yard on our first day checking out those strange people we would live with for the next year.

I can't sum it up. Many people probably say that, but it's true, I can't. Do I have regrets? No, not regrets, only I would have liked more time to get to know all the incredible people that are connected to Woll that I've been lucky enough to meet. I guess that's the nature of living at Woll. You get a little taste of everything, but there's never quite enough time to do or see it all.



Just a simple thank you to all those who have let us into their lives and showed us a thing or two about hospitality and being kind. Am I changed? Sure I am. I don't think you can help but change here. Much of it I won't realise 'til I'm 50, but I'd like to think I'm a little wiser. Yes, I made a few mistakes, but I reckon I learnt some too.

And the young people, ah the young people. There'll be sides I'll miss and sides I don't. I'd like to think that the 400 young people that came through this year are changed in some way. How much I had to do with that, I can't say.

The people I live with, the ones where I've sometimes thought "what are you thinking?" and the next minute thought how lucky I am to be working with you, will be a big chunk in my memory for a long time. It makes me smile to think we shared a year, or at least a part with some. And to Wollangarra, the flat, the river and the mountains on either side - thank you - you do amazing things to people.



Tina Reilly

When I think of Wollangarra, I will always remember the small moments and snippets that can't quite be captured in a simple description. I always find it hard to describe the place to those who don't know it - but to me Wollangarra is kitchen table chatter, puns and laughs, it is young people skimming rocks, making bread and trudging up hills, it is dirty hands, feet, hair and face, followed by an evening swim, it is visits to Ken and June's for poached eggs on toast and chats in their lounge room,



it is Thomas on the grass squealing with excitement,

Tessa Lee playing tunes while young people wash dishes, Tess chatting while making her famous gravy, Gaz in the shed before breaky, Simon working in the garden - saying little but planning and thinking lots, Josie enthusing boys to make cleaning the felt fun.

Wollangarra is sleep too deep to dream in, it is tunes in the kitchen and harmonies on the verandah, it is eating steak watching a storm approach, it is taking the time to do things without haste - because you care. It is friendliness without falseness. It is a place I will never forget and always come back to.

Thank you to all those people who have made my time here one I will look back on and always smile. So now, I don't think I will say farewell. Just take care - until we meet again.



Gemma Dog Well, I am outa' here folks. Yes, after arriving at Wollangarra as a pup in 2003 with Jen and Riener, I have seen my fair share of friends come and go. Each time I seem to bond with the staff here, they up and leave me. At least I have made heaps of mates.

I have had so many adventures here; whether it has been hiking with young people, stalking the chickens, chasing the sheep (still not exactly sure what you guys want me to do with them), swimming the river (the last flood was fun), racing the Woll cars across the front paddock (my PB is 40km/hr), or doing circle work underneath the fox as it takes off.



I have loved every moment.

I'm heading for a sea change with me ol' buddy Geordie. Says he is taking me for long walks on the beach and stuff (sounds romantic). I bet there's plenty of birds to chase at this place called Bermagui. Anyway, I'll head out with my '07 mates just before Christmas, then head north in the new year. I reckon life is looking pretty good in the future, but I'll miss all that Woll has given me, so I'll make sure I get Geordie to bring me back as much as possible. Thanks for all the pats, cuddles, bum scratches and letting me lick you. Thanks for all the



fun and adventures, sorry for any naughty things I may have done. Love you all. Gemma Dog. - Simon

Neville Macrae Nev the Dev isn't quite up to writing yet, so he just wanted to pass on a few thank yous. Firstly thanks to Rob Gilder for picking me out for the Woll crew, and thanks for Tess for agreeing to take me. Thanks to everyone who has cuddled me, fed me, picked up my poo, or let me eat poo. Thanks to the bush around Woll for being my home - I'll miss it next year. All my Woll family-you've been great when you haven't been telling me off. I'm told I make quite a beautiful scarf. Thanks to the sheep and chooks for the entertainment, to Rob and Marnie picking me up during the flood, and to Ray and Mary for giving me a holiday in Licola. Billy you taught me a few things, and Gemma, I think you're probably the love of my life, I can't quite imagine life without you. Tommo - you're a good little pup, thanks for the not-so-gentle pats. When I'm not snoozing or flopping in Flemington, I'll be back. - Tess



Staff 2008

We've now hired three awesome staff members for 2008.
Lucy, Michael and Tegan.

Come up and meet them on the fruit bottling weekend (26-27 Jan)



However we are still looking for two more staff to join the 2008 team. Please have a look at the staff page of our website (www.wollangarra.org) for more information. Here are some quotes from a few of the past Wollangarra staff:

"I reflect back upon my year at Woll and remember it for its simplicity and beauty and how this magical place has changed with the seasons. I, as well have changed with them..." Freya staff '04

"Wollangarra provides an excellent opportunity for future employment. You receive your chainsaw ticket, 4WD ticket, Swiftwater rescue, Wilderness First Aid (Leaders), extensive experience working with young people, practical skills related to farm work (fencing, sheep, general maintenance) and environmental management" Will staff '05

"Being here has given me the opportunity to live at a sensible pace, which has allowed me to do the... well, dreaming, I needed. I won't go into detail, but the right kind of dreaming is very important for our souls." Geordie staff '05

"I love living simply, taking young people into amazing places and giving them an experience they wouldn't usually get, meeting tonnes of great people and living at Wollangarra - most beautiful valley in the world." Tess staff '07

If you think you would like to take on this extraordinary and rewarding challenge, or know someone who would, then please send us a letter and resume to Wollangarra, Licola, 3858.

Tommo's Two Bob *Translated by Tessa Lee*

Since I last wrote dear reader, I've discovered so many new things about this place where we live. One simple truth however, stands above all else; life never, ever, ever gets boring here at Wollangarra. There's always someone building something, fixing something or cooking something scrumptious. Like everything, though, there is a downside. This, my most recent amazing revelation, was accompanied by the realisation that my mother, yes that's right, my own flesh and blood, was sabotaging my learning opportunities by putting me in my bed every day! Just when things start to get good, she'd claim she saw me rubbing my eyes or yawning or some other such HORRIFIC baby crime, and she'd put me in my bed for what she called a 'nap'. This was intended to cure my so-called 'tiredness'.

I'm trying my hardest not to miss out on anything. Tina and Gaz were so impressed with my progress concerning crawling and standing up that they gave me a driving lesson. Once Tess heard about that, she thought she'd better give me a go on the chainsaw, in case I came across a fallen tree on the track when I'm out giving the 4WD a spin in the scrub. Despite my best efforts to stay abreast of things (Mum's even cutting back on that too!), I still feel like I miss out on a vast cross section of projects.



This morning I woke up to find that Dad had slashed all the grass with the tractor (my next goal is to drive that old cranky machine), Will Ford had cut down the dead wattle trees, Tessa and Tina and Andrew (who's come to visit for a bit to help us prepare for Open Day) had made an archway for the kiwi-fruit vine in the garden, the whole orchard had a big white net over it, and Tess was putting new handles (or 'arms') on Frank, the new rickshaw!

I suppose that's something at least: there's so much to do all the time that I don't have to worry that we'll run out of work. I'd hate to wake up one day from my 'nap' and find that there was nothing left to do, that I'd missed out on EVERYTHING! Until next time...

Road Trip The usual suspects plus Burgs loaded up the white rocket in late October and headed for the hills. After the compulsory stop at Ken and Junes for a backyard chat and to raid their lemon tree we headed to Elaine Schaeche's where she welcomed us with a beautiful lunch and even gave Thomas his first ice cream in a cone.

Next stop – Mittagundi. It was lovely to have some time to just hang out with the Mitta crew. Our stay included a Blue Duck dinner, the chocolate game (*below*), a cow suit, swims and many laughs.

The white rocket then journeyed on, up and over the top and down the other side to Feathertop Track. Ian and Liv opened their home to all of us. In the short time we had, we drank lots of cups of tea in their homely lounge room, heard many stories, walked the town and saw Ian's current project – The Harrierville Historical Museum, had snags on the BBQ, marvelled at Ian's shed and enjoyed just listening and relaxing.

Typo Open Day was the last on the list - A great day of activities, music and catching up. How lucky we all were to be able to have the time to visit such places and spend some time with the people who we often think of but rarely see. Thank you to everyone who welcomed us, fed and bedded us. It is very much appreciated by all. – Tina



Burgs, Tess, Ian, Will, Liv, Josie, Simon, Gaz,, Tina



Work Parties &

We've had some really successful work parties this year. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.



22nd-23rd September: We continued and completed the bank stabilisation, concreted in the poles for the fox platform on "the other side", and a dedicated group spread grass seed on all of



the silt deposits on the flat and also on the river bank and car park area over the river.

Above: Great work everyone! Above left: Will Ford, Tom & Brad Woods set the fox platform posts in.

13th-14th October: A smaller group of 12 people attended and we ended up getting the fox anchor set in by the end of the weekend. This was a huge achievement and required a lot of hard physical work. We moved the 2 (2.5m long) iron RSI beams from the rivers edge to the anchor site. Each beam took 6 people to lift and we slowly moved it, taking 5 steps at each lift. Carefully and cleverly we lowered it into the anchor hole and assembled the rod, covered by almost a cubic meter of hand mixed concrete. A major achievement for all the people involved from digging the hole to having the anchor set in place.



Mixing 1 cubic metre of cement by hand.



Laying in the anchor rod

20th October: John Colpo and Red Warren (and their families) came to help put up the flying fox cable. Ken Medew made it up and helped out where he could. It took a few goes, but by the end of the day the fox was flying again. We still had some adjustments to make, but the cable was up. We can't thank John, David (John's son) and Red enough for all their help. It ended up being a great day!



Left: All the young bucks working on the fox over the other side of the river. Meanwhile, who is left holding the load on the Wollangarra end?
Right: Ken Medew does it again with John Colpo.



Around Wollangarra

24th-25th November: With Open Day looming and the second flood washing away our access on the other side, we were in desperate need of a track to make getting from the fox to the carpark a possibility. Enter the Macrae family, Ally, Jane Lloyd, Tim Heywood, Will Ford, Teagan and Michael. In the course of the weekend we cut a rickshaw track all the way. This was also a massive job that required a lot of hard yakka. Al and Clare Macrae capped the weekend off with a beautiful meal on the Sunday night. We celebrated our accomplishments and also Will Ford's 22nd Birthday. He has attended just about every work party and does a mountain of work for Wollangarra. Thanks Will.



The anchor setting work party.



Getting the flying fox cable across the river.

3rd-7th December The week leading up to Open Day was open to helpers in preparation for the Saturday. Two young people, Andrew Garfield and Will Gort came out to lend a hand. They both worked long and hard, especially recovering the tree for the post and rail fence (a story in itself). Several girls from Star of the Sea came late in the week as well as Aleks Svazas. Thank you guys for helping us get ready for what was to be a really good Open Day.

Thank you to all who attended and worked with us during the work parties after the floods this year. We have achieved almost of our goals so far and we couldn't have done it without you. It has shown what people can achieve with a bit of hard work and a strong purpose. There are still plenty of jobs to do at Wollangarra and Work Parties will continue into 2008. Please check the website for details. - *Simon*

Here is a bit of a summary of a few things that have been going on at Wollangarra recently;

- Fruit forest has been netted for birds
- Over 100 trees have been planted
- Native plant seed collected and propagated.
- Worm farm cranking
- Chickens laying heaps of eggs
- Stage One courses continuing successfully
- Post and rail entrance fence
- New rickshaw "Frank" for track leading up to the fox
- New flying fox
- New track and steps down to swimming hole
- The whole top flat has been fenced off
- New fox platform and access track
- Stabilised river banks
- Local walk from Wollangarra to Box flat re-done (thanks Stage II)



Clockwise from top left: Netting the fruit forest, checking out the solid construction of the new fox platform, Gaz and Richard shear a sheep, the new post and rail entrance fence.

Open Day &



Open Day – that special weekend, glistening like a diamond on everyone’s social calendar. The weekend where the work-horse that is Wollangarra gets magically transformed into a strutting show pony and people gather to celebrate and ‘oohh and ahh’.

Normally held in September, Open Day was postponed this year so we could get the new flying fox up and running. Glad we did because rafting in the 150 attendees across the river would have made for some sore muscles. The festivities began on Friday night as helpers arrived for dinner, Hugs were exchanged and the camping area was dotted with tents by Saturday morning.

Throughout the day people arrived from near and far, it was a mix of those wonderful familiar faces and a healthy smattering of first-timers. We were kept informed of what was happening by the awesome Aleks Svazas’ booming voice and entertaining antics.

Tina kept us on our toes by organising the porridge-eating competition (won by Kate Walsh), a sack race, the epic Woll-athon, the sheath toss (put together by Jack Gilbert) and the mighty cross-cut saw competition. Worth mentioning is the fact that Gareth and Will Ford had NOT been practicing for the cross-cut, even though their winning time of 30 secs would suggest otherwise.

Clockwise from top left: Graham Fall shows how you really use an axe; the Star of the Sea girls serving up a storm in the Woll café; A very comfortable looking sheep, while Ross does what he does best; Aleks couldn't help but get your attention; Claire won best dressed for the bush dance in her trendy gaiter outfit; Brian Beasley makes a bush stool for Wollangarra; the sack race; preparing for the Woll-athon; Jack Gilbert and Tess quench their hard earned thirst after a big weekend; tent erection mania in the Woll-athon; Will and Gaz win the Cross-cut Saw competition; the musical stylings of The Spontaneous Bush Band; Clare & Jane make the mad dash for glory.



B u s h D a n c e



Another big highlight of open day every year is the bush craft demonstrations. Brian Beasley and Kevin Harris, all the way from Junee, NSW, showed us their wonderful skills with a shave horse, while Margaret Beckett spun wool and made felt. Graham Fall showed us his extensive axe and pioneer tools collection, hand split and worked on some Wollangarra logs for our new feature post and rail fence. Jack Gilbert made a beautiful wooden chair.

As the sun went down and the BBQ fired up, singlets and shorts were swapped for beers and jumpers, as we settled in for a night with the Spontaneous Bush Band. What a happening outfit! All the musicians involved donated their time and services for the night and I hope they had as good a time playing as we did dancing.

Sunday morning was met with sleepy faces soon cured by Josie's famous egg and bacon rolls. Then it was goodbyes and hugs all around as we bid farewell to everyone.

There are too many thank-yous to list right here (see the "thank-you" section of the newsletter) but I'll sneak a couple in: a big thanks to all those who came along: some to lend a hand and catch up with friends and others just to check the place out for the first time. Thanks to Jack Gilbert, Graham Fall, Margaret Beckett, Brian Beasley and Kevin Harris for demonstrating their unique crafts and sharing a yarn or two. And also to the young people who frequent Wollangarra year after year we hope you enjoyed your Open Day 2007. - Tessa



Stage I



Listening to the sound of young people on their first Wollangarra hike is one of the best part of Stage Ones. It is the sound of excitement and adventure, pack straps; fly swishing, out of tune songs, and nervous bubbles of laughter as they chat about the path they are about to walk. Lately, the Stage ones have still been going up McMillan's, eating pesto pasta, munchies and vita wheats and always ask for ghost stories around the fire.



But each group is different – with different jokes, ideas, and personalities. We have been planting (and naming) trees with most of the courses, and we've also done lots of veggie garden work, general cleaning up, built swimming hole steps and washed all the woollen jumpers....the list could go on. So that's it – another year of programs.

Thank you to all the young people, teachers and helpers – for your hard work, fun and fire chats. A special thank you also to the group from Westbourne who, due to the second flood, came up for a modified program and helped us prepare for open day and do some work around the flat. May next year bring with it the opportunity for stage ones to 'meet' the more distant mountains. - Tina



Clockwise from top left: Holiday St.I get their war paint on, Simon and Maddy 'the longest stretch'; falafels in the kitchen with Camberwell High; Toy take a moment by the river; The Westbourne boys are dressed to impress;

Lunch on a log with Camberwell High; Fi and Georgia enjoy the view; while Anthony enjoys his delicious brown porridge.



S t a g e I I



What a ripsnorter the October Stage II was. A fantastic group of keen young folk gave up a week of their holidays to come up to Woll to rebuild the local walk between the Woll and Box Flat. They took on lots of responsibility for the hike, organising their own food, tools, navigation and group gear, which made the week really rewarding (and certainly took a load off the staff).

They worked their bottoms off (literally, they went through a group toilet a day) over four days, making 120 benches with 250 bush stakes, using only the materials around them, a few tools and a fair whack of brain power and energy.

It was so inspiring to see a track materialise where it had been completely washed away. Many young people will benefit from that work. A huge thanks to all the Stage IIers, and to Burgs and Wilbo, who came along for the ride and really helped us out.

The December Stage II is our last course for the year, and it's shaping up to be a cracker. The course is booked out with a waiting list, and we'll be heading up to Moroka Gorge to do some track work after the fires and floods have gone through. There's plenty of great work in the mountains at the moment, so if you're keen get your applications in for the April Stage II before it fills up. - Tess

From the Visitors Book

"...I feel that we have achieved something that I didn't on Stage I. You are all great people. Stage II opened up my mind and made me realise how far I can push myself. I'll see you all in December for my second Stage II."

(Jesse, Stage II)

"My sisters once told me how good this place is, but it is absolutely amazing. I've never been anywhere like Woll before and I have come to realise how great life can be without myspace and tv. Thank you guys, the leaders, just for being yourself and making me feel like I'm home. I remember on the first day how you all said that you wanted to live in the mountains and I was like, as if! Over this best week ever I have come to understand what brings you so strongly to the bush and one day I hope I will feel that way too..."

(Bec, Star of the Sea)

"Wollangarra has been fantastic. I don't think I have ever not been worrying about something at a time. I enjoyed having the time by myself by the water. It strangely made me think of all the things in life that I don't think twice about..."

(Emma, Camberwell High)

Calendar 2008

January	18 - 22	Holiday Stage I "Meeting the Mountains"
January	26 - 27	Fruit Bottling
March	25 - 28	Holiday Stage I "Meeting the Mountains"
Easter Holidays		Alpine Walk
March - April	30 - 4	Stage II "Helping the Mountains"
June	7 - 9	Wood Chop
June - July	30 - 4	Holiday Stage I "Meeting the Mountains"
July	6 - 11	Stage II "Helping the Mountains"
Sept	22 - 26	Holiday Stage 1 "Meeting the Mountains"
Sept - Oct	28 - 3	Stage II "Helping the Mountains"
October	4	Open Day and Bush Dance
Dec	15-20	Stage II "Helping the Mountains"
Dec	23	Staff Leave

Stage III



Stage III has always been an important part of Wollangarra and its community, and still is. Over the years Stage III has changed depending on the group of young people at the time. Some years the focus has been on the several mountain projects and other years on spreading the Wollangarra philosophies in suburbia. It is hard to define Stage III, as it is an ever-changing body of people. However, what can be said is that Stage III is a wonderful part of Wollangarra that allows young people to become independent beings with strong environmental values and capabilities that can be put to use in the beautiful mountains of Victoria and the wider community.

Stage III aims to capture and practically apply the ideals and values gained throughout Wollangarra involvement by offering several courses. Mountain courses are run, usually in the holidays, with the focus on environmental or heritage work such as repairs to Burgoyne's hut and maintenance of the Mount Useful and Crinoline tracks.

This work is often carried out in partnership with parks and walking clubs, such as Ben Cruchan. Participants gain many valuable skills in undertaking this work. Stage III also has projects in suburbia, which bring conservational work learnt at Wollangarra home to Melbourne, involving the local community. It's also a supporting body to the Wollangarra community, with involvement in work parties and support at Wollangarra events.

Recently Stage III numbers have dropped, as juggling of Stage III, uni/school, jobs and travel can be a handful. The Stage III committee efforts have now been directed towards reinvigoration and increasing numbers. However a bigger group with recruitment of stage II is needed to sustain and improve Stage III. We want to push Stage III to its potential because we know how amazing it can be!

One of the ways we are aiming to invigorate Stage III is with the help of a facilitator. We see the facilitator as a helping hand to Stage III giving the energy and attention Stage III needs to regain its full potential. We hope that together we can bring about a new burst of energy and see a flow of movement from Stage II to III. Among other things, a facilitator will help maintain the valuable relationships with parks, walking clubs and the many people that can offer skills and knowledge to Stage III. As well as helping to keep all Stage III's informed and connected. This will create room for the Stage IIIer's to do what they do best, practical conservation in the mountains! Also maximising the transfer of knowledge and skills about our environment and heritage of the mountains.

What we want to get across is that Stage III is still here, still passionate and still strong. The things that Stage III offers to the mountains, the suburbs, Wollangarra and individuals involved is amazing and unique and above all valuable. With this we look to the future with high hopes to what next year holds and the new people it will bring. - *Mardi Thorpe Stage III*
Keep Saturday 5th of Jan free for a Stage III community BBQ in Melbourne. Email: s.bates@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

Stage III Facilitator Position Vacant

This is a very exciting time at Wollangarra for Stage III. We are looking for someone with the right skills and experience to reinvigorate our Stage III program. The applicant, to be based away from Wollangarra, will be responsible for:

- Empowering Stage IIIs become an autonomous working community, once again.
- Liaising with Stage IIIs, various local bodies (i.e. Parks Vic and Ben Cruchan Walking Club etc), Stage III leaders, Wollangarra staff and directors to run a number of Stage III programs in Victoria's high country each year.
- Raising funds through grants, philanthropic trusts, or other fundraising ventures, to support the program.
- Managing and reporting on Stage III budget.
- Promoting Stage III through the Wollangarra newsletter and website.
- Attending and presenting a report at all (quarterly) Wollangarra council meetings.

The position requires an average of 100 days per annum by either one person, or job shared by two. The tenure is for two years and the remuneration is relevant to Melbourne living.

For a more detailed position description, please see the Wollangarra website (www.wollangarra.org) on the 'staff' page.

This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to be involved with Wollangarra, but can't commit to living there.

W h a t ' s O n

Fruit Bottling



What: Wollangarra's annual Fruit Bottling weekend is where everyone gets together to preserve all of the Wollangarra fruit (and any extra stuff), for courses, staff and visitors throughout the year.

When & Where: January 26 & 27 (Australia Day weekend) at Wollangarra (34kms towards Licola from Heyfield). Give us a call to let us know your coming.

Why: It's a great opportunity to come and lend a hand, meet the new Wollangarra staff, catch up with old friends, as well as, meet lots of interesting new people and go for a dip in the river.

Bring: Some food to share on the weekend (like meat, veg & goodies), a box or two of fruit or tomatoes, bathers and sleeping gear. See you there!

Mittagundi Pioneer Skills

Enjoyed our bushdance? Up for some toe-tapping, knee-slapping good times? Well head on down to the Mittagundi Pioneer Skills Weekend, held at Mittagundi from the 12th-14th January, 2007. Pioneer skills is Mittagundi's open weekend, with lots of demonstrations, a rip roaring bush dance on the Friday night and lots of fun and food for the whole family. A great weekend away and a great way to support the Mittagundi. For more info, please call Mittagundi on 03 5159 7238

Permaculture Design Certificate Courses - 2008 at The Crossing Land Education Trust

Set in the hinterland close to the beautiful seaside village of Bermagui, The Crossing Land Education Trust is a purpose built education centre catering to accommodation needs, teaching spaces and self-catering facilities for breakfasts and evening meals. The 72 hr intensive Brogo Permaculture Garden Design Courses mix up the learning by offering tutorials, site visits as well as hands-on practical exercises. A big feature of our courses is the amount of wisdom and experience we can call on locally to deliver sections of the course with each offering their unique teaching style. People such as Vries and Hugh Gravestien, Phil Gall, Dean and Annette Turner, Julie Davies and Kathleen McCann assist John Champagne with delivery of the vast amount of information. Course Dates: APRIL 21ST to MAY 2nd and OCTOBER 6th to 17th
Cost: \$910 plus accom. For more information check out their website: www.thebegavalley.org.au/thecrossing.0.html

A l p i n e W a l k

We are pleased to introduce the Alpine Walkers of 2008...

The Alpine Walk is an exciting way for young people of Wollangarra to meet other like minded people and is intended to be the final step in completing Stage II and moving onto Stage III. As a fundraiser for other young people to come to Woll, the walk puts a lot of responsibility on these five young people to raise as much as they can. I know some have already started. I'm looking forward to spending 10 days with them in some of Victoria's most beautiful bush. - *Gaz*

"I came up to Woll on a holiday program knowing nobody. I am honoured to be now be asked to participate in this hike, it is an absolute dream." - *Alex Scott*

"Up here at Wollangarra, I've met the most amazing people and been allowed to spend the greatest times in the serenity of the flat. I know the Alpine Walk will be a challenge, but one that will be more rewarding than anything else I could ever do." *Bonnie Ayles*

"Being asked to do the Alpine Walk is every exciting and I know it'll be very challenging as well, but I couldn't ask for any more." - *Nick Kruse*



"I first encountered Woll on a school trip in 2005. There are few places in Australia like Woll, where the starch-ridden collars of modern civility are allowed to feel the beauty of work and wilderness in a safe and inspiring surrounding, it is an experience that the rounded soul cannot be without." *Darcy Moran*

If you would like to sponsor any of these young people please send a cheque or money order through to Wollangarra with reference to whom you would like to sponsor. Thank you.

Left: Alex, Nick and Darcy hanging tough at Woll. (The fifth walker is Georgia Griffiths, a Stage IIer from Newhaven College.)

Supporter Profile

Many people support Wollangarra and it's staff in varied ways, so we'd like to say thanks to you all. It means so much to us...here are but a few.

Red (Graeme) Warren We only met Red this year, but he's been around longer



than anyone can remember. Not that he's old, just he's been involved with Wollangarra for a hell of a long time, since way back when Ian was around. You'll see him around, he's a short, good natured bloke who can sure tell a good yarn.

Doesn't matter what time of day it is he's always got time for you and is always thinking about how he might help out, especially with the tractor, or like saving us last minute by babysitting Wollangarra.



A jack of all trades and a real funny fella, we've enjoyed getting to know you this year, so thanks. We hope you

enjoy next years crew and that you continue to come to Woll. It wouldn't be the same without characters like you. All the best! - Gaz

"Other members (from the Heyfield Lions Club), like John Colpo, Graeme Warren and Alby Drew were soon involved too, and have done a power of things to help us ever since, as you will find out soon enough..." (Ian Stapelton, Secondhand and solid)



John and Gwyn Colpo

I first met John Colpo at the beginning of the year, he walked up to me in the street and said "You must be Tessa". It's only recently that I've become aware of the magnitude of the Colpo contribution to Wollangarra's day to day running.

John helps out in so many different ways. He collects the lambs (for roast dinner on course) from Wollangarra and delivers them to the abattoir, then he and Gwyn spend at least a day cutting the meat into roast portions which then gets stored in their freezer. John was the one (along with Red Warren) who drove out from Heyfield to collect us flood victims on the day back in July when we trekked out from a water-logged homestead. It was John and Red's (these two are often in the same sentence together) expertise which largely enabled the most recent flying fox erection – as well as the last one in 2005. John's generosity can perhaps be explained by the fact that his connection to Woll dates back to the days when Ian Stapleton

first arrived on the flat. A member of the Heyfield Lions Club and former Wollangarra council member, John gives constantly and selflessly.

All of this is complimented by the cups of tea and friendly yarns, which are available from both John and Gwyn on a weekly basis. Being greeted in the street by your first name when you've just arrived goes a LONG way to making you feel like a part of the community, to which any staff member will testify. It's this sort of golden friendliness which typify the Colpos and on behalf of Wollangarra – Thank you John and Gwyn.—Tessa Lee

What is Wollangarra?

Wollangarra is an independent non-profit outdoor education project established in the firm belief that young people and mountains are natural partners with a great deal to offer each other. The pioneer-style homestead, which serves as our base camp, is situated on a small, remote river flat of the Macalister River, half way between the towns of Heyfield and Licola. Wollangarra is a unique and simple place. It has no electricity, is accessed only by flying fox and has been built by hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers using second hand recycled materials. Nearly 2000 old railway sleepers were used in the construction.



It allows young people the opportunity to discover the heart of Victoria's high country in small, well organised and supervised hiking groups, and shows them practical and important ways in which they can help the environment. The five staff and directors that live there balance education, environmental sustainability and the pioneering lifestyle through the development of the self, community and environmental awareness.

Thanks for your help

There was movement at Wollangarra, for the word had passed around,
 That helpers hands were needed for each course.
 And others, still more others, to keep Woll safe and sound
 While all of the staff members were away.
 All the tried and noted helpers from places near and far
 Would muster at the homestead for a night.
 For the bushies love hard hiking where the wild bush places are,
 And they came to help on courses with delight.
 There was Jodie Steel, who worked at Woll when Josie, too was up,
 No doubt she's a hard worker, we all know.
 And Red, he came and babysat, when all us staff were up
 Visiting Mittagundi, Ian, Liv and Typo.
 And Scottie-too-hottie of Flemington came down to lend a hand,
 He fits in like a hand fits in a glove.
 And Janos – she helped out with babysitting and shovelling sand,
 She's a gem that we all know and love.
 There was Robby, who looked after us – the Wollangarra Mum,
 She's far off travelling now. We wish her well.
 And Burgs – she stayed and helped for weeks, though we paid her none.

Now she's gone, we miss her heaps – she caused our hearts to swell.
 And Wilbo, he's been round a lot – more than most this year,
 No harder worker ever walked the flat
 And Steph – she's been a regular, and we all hold her dear,
 To this young lass we oft' take of our hat.
 Then Lucy came – what a gal! Woll is lucky that she'll stay,
 She's one who'll return to call Woll her home next year.
 And Tegan and Michael – the same again – they'll not be long away,
 What lucky young fold of '08 that they too will be here.
 Brian Medew came to walk the bush with the folk of Camberwell High
 His experience and smiles helped us all that week
 As to Stage One's we bade a fond goodbye,
 Finishing with a moonlit walk to McMillan's peak.
 And down by the Macalister, where the gum clad mountains raise
 Their burnt and rocky spurs on high,
 Where the air is bright as crystal and the white stars fairly blaze
 At night time in the clear, blue-black sky.
 And where around the Wollangarra flat, the grasses sweep and sway
 To the breezes and where none their jobs do shirk,
 The helpers from Wollangarra are homestead names today
 And the staff, they tell the stories of their work.



Lucy Tegan Michael Burgs Scottie Wilbo Brian Steph Red

Thank you to everyone who has so generously given...

- Geelong Grammar
- Richard Allen
- Sophie Halloway
- RM Clayton
- Ben Cruchan Walking club
- J and G Mel
- Barry Walker
- Heyfield District Community Bank
- Ms.Nancy Sturgess
- Ian de Kem
- Jen Parks
- Elizabeth Purkiss
- Foster Griezic
- Ruth and Steve Lee
- Ruth and John Morrison
- Patricia Field
- Foundation for Outdoor Education
- Newhaven College
- JP GJ Herbert
- Julian Illich
- RA and ML Illich
- Jane Kennon,
- Hugh Rabbino-vici
- Irene Lucas Foundation
- Macrae Family

We reached our fundraising target and continue rebuilding. Your thoughtful donation has not only helped replace what was here, but also to improve it. Thanks.



W o l l M e r c h a n d i s e

Second Hand & Solid	\$15	Girls T-Shirt	\$25
Jim & Molly	\$8	Work Shirt—full & half button, long & short sleeve, fawn & blue	\$35
Unisex T-Shirt, coloured neck and arm bands	\$25	Stickers	\$2
Unisex T-Shirt, single colour	\$25	Cards – Wollangarra Icons	\$2 each, 8 for \$12

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Total (including donation for postage) \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to Wollangarra Inc.

Thankyou To...

- June Medew—sheets and being lovely.
- Ian and Liv, Mittagundi and Elaine Shaeche - for their hospitality.
- Willie - organising RSJ's for fox anchor.
- Phil - batteries
- Greg and Dennis - getting us out of a tight spot.
- Jack - Sewing awl.
- Ralph - weather warnings.
- Des Sinnott - tent & other goodies
- John & Gwyn Colpo - couches and help with sheep and fox.
- Bridget Mattingly - care package.
- Conrad McKee - Chickens & support.
- Tim Heywood - gloves & help at work parties
- Ian Morris and Richard Fawaz - shearing sheep
- Ian Newham of WMB Engineering - professional advice on fox and sourcing materials.
- David Colpo and Debbie and Red Warren - help with getting fox up.
- Tinamba Pumps and Mick Gray - Fox trolley and rope pulleys
- Shane of Heyfield panel beating and trailer hire - trailer loan
- Steph Barclay - Planting chart
- The Peninsula school - raft & gear loan,
- Macrae family- delicious dinners
- Elizabeth Purkiss - wool donation
- Ross Davies - perculator & many goodies.
- Gone Fishin' - raft.
- Stuart Brooks - Speed awl.
- Ken Medew— fixing our fridges and helping out.
- Open Day Thanks
- Jack Gilbert
- Nick Proctor
- Maroubra Eggs
- Glenmaggie Wines Tony Hawkins,
- Brian Beasley
- Ryans Family Butcher
- Heyfield Bakery
- Eureka Coffee
- The Spontaneous Bush Band (John, Andy, Kayla, Norm, Ross, Megan and Sal).
- Wiggies
- Gippland Trophy House
- Surkitt Quickpicks
- Gippsland sewing centre
- JSM Embroidery and Workwear
- Collins bookstore
- Aussie Disposals
- Sandra
- Essence in Harmony Montain Goat Brewery,
- Margaret Beckett
- Kevin Harris
- Graham Fall



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