
Stage III
Wollangarra
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STAGE III NEWSLETTER WINTER-SPRING 2011

PENINSULAR WORK PARTIES (P. W. P)

Recently the Mornington Peninsula Stage III contingent started up our own little way to help out in the traditional Wollangarra way, back home.

Peninsula Work Parties (or P.W.P) are a group of 6 Peninsula Stage III'ers that are, in the words of Ian Stapleton, trying to 'carry on that hands-on approach back to the equally important (if not nearly so easy to appreciate) environment at home'.

Our aim is to bring the values that we have learned from our Wollangarra experiences and apply them back into where we come from. We are starting by joining some community work parties and hope to have our own project underway in the next 6 months.



Restoring Native Vegetation at Rosebud Foreshore.

We hope we will be the first of many sub-groups from Stage III and we would love for everyone to support P.W.P by coming down for a work party or two on the Peninsula! Our first event is September 11th at Rosebud foreshore, for more details get in contact with me on 0408996720

Gowie

OPEN DAY!!

Great food, Heaps of great demonstrators, Auction, Bush-dance, Swimming in the Mac, heaps of great competitions, what other reasons do you need! Stage III will also be cooking Pizzas on the day so we need many hands!

Date: 8th October

Transport: Pick up on the Friday night drop off on the Sunday.

BYO: \$\$\$ for food (plus \$10 for a Bus from Woll to Taralgon)

RSVP: Please Phone Wollangarra if you are planning on attending.



WINTER CRINOLINE HIKE— GROUP A (WITH PHOTOS FROM GROUP B!)

When I first heard that the July Stage III was going to be 'shadowed' it's fair to say that I was a little apprehensive. According to Deno, we would be split into two groups of five young people, each being observed at a safe distance by a staff member. Our destination was to be the Crinoline, a beautiful mountain named after the dress worn by 18th century women. Group A (which was quickly renamed 'Pirates of the Crinoline') would start at a rock shelter on one side while Group B would start at Lyrebird Gully on the other. The two groups would then spend several days hiking and doing track work, crossing over.

We would not be led by a staff member; instead it was up to us to assume total responsibility for almost every aspect of our hike, including food planning, navigation and early morning wake-ups. The point of this exercise, I was told, was to allow us to further develop our skills as Stage IIIs by making mistakes in a safe environment and taking the initiative to solve our own problems rather than leaning on a staff member. Our shadow would act as a resource rather than a leader. Smaller group numbers would allow us to take on even greater roles of responsibility and leadership. In simple terms: we were on our own, for better or for worse (safely, of course). This, doubled with the fact that we would try and maximise our hiking time by



Group B: Gowie, Sam Shayler, Bonnie McWilliams, Nick Neggie and Harriet Negus en route.



Bonnie McWilliams enjoying a windy bivy

packing in Melbourne and heading directly to the mountains from Traralgon station instead of spending our first night at Wollangarra, meant that this Stage III would be unlike any undertaken before. It seemed a strange and kind of scary concept.

Nevertheless, keen to try something new and visit the mountains once more, I signed up for the unknown. Before long I was added to the facebook group and sent numerous messages. We debated the benefits of porridge (infinitely better than muesli!) and discussed the finer points of lunch on hike. Never before had we been so involved in the organisation of our hikes. As complicated as it seemed at the time,

Over the next few days we battled poor weather, route changes, broken boots, aching feet, the ever-present threat of getting lost or spur-sucked, constant uphill battles and never-ending 4WD tracks. It took awhile to get used to the strange bearded man following us, especially when he hid behind a tree as we looked back, but we learned to enjoy the challenge of leading and organising ourselves. Unfortunately, it seemed as if some unknown force wanted to prevent us from reaching the Crinoline – we decided this was probably wizards – and after an injury forced the Pirates to be driven back to Woll, it seemed that no amount of blind optimism and determination would get us there. With one Pirate missing and a faithful hound in tow we set off again from the flat,



Entertainment... Burgoynes hut style!

this time to Orchid Flat, fixing the old track along the way. We spent a relaxing night under the stars and re-

turned the next day to reunite with Group B.

Even though we were a tad disappointed that the Crinoline remained unconquered by us, this was dwarfed by the exciting adventure we all had. By listening to the other group's stories, I can tell they feel the same, proving that the journey is more important than the destination. This was an immensely valuable experience, which will definitely benefit other Stage IIIs to come. I look forward to more shadowing and greater roles of responsibility in the future. Thanks to Deno for being an epic shadow!

By Lucy Kervin-McDermott

INDUCTIONS

The time has come again! Yup thats right over the next few months we will be inducting the next generation of Stage III's into our midst.

In this next round of inductions we are hoping to give the incoming stage III's a practical example of what it means to be a stage III. The new stage IIIs will be getting together in Melbourne to plan a 3 day hike into Wollangarra.

With heaps of time to learn the skills that come with being self sufficient in the bush we hope that this experience will provide the perfect opportunity for new Stage III to be exactly that... Stage III's!

There will be heaps of time for Stage III D&M's, the obligatorily Macalister Rive encounter and more than one opportunity to spend time getting lost and then finding oneself again!

If you're interested or know anyone who is interested in future inductions please contact Deno or Wollangarra

Cheers, The Stage III induction Team (Lucy Kervin McDermott, Louise King & Deno)



STAGE III NEWSLETTER WINTER-SPRING

A NOTE FROM DENO

There have been many sources of joy for me this year as the Stage III facilitator, living in a beautiful place & working with such a dedicated & enthusiastic Stage III cohort is a real privilege.

It has been really exciting to have started work with the Peninsular crew in starting up some local projects down their way. Having worked in a few different places & spent a few years thinking about Outdoor Education it's pritty rare that the lessons that we learn in the mountains can get applied at home in such a practical way.

Another source of joy this year has been having the opportunity to work with the committee & the woll events guys (Justin and Ollie) to experiment with the way we run Stage III hikes.

As you would have read in Lucy's report the last Stage III hike saw both groups work ing to be as independent from Wollangarra as possible.

Taking the time to plan routes, plan and purchase food & group gear before we even left Melbourne seemed to really distinguish the difference between a stage II and a stage III.



Hike Group B... a unique bunch.

I hope that as a collective these experiences are providing Stage III to do even more amazing and worthwhile projects and trips in the future.

Deno.

PS, The Stage III gear store has recently acquired

- 1 Trunking radio
- 5 Nalgene Containers
- 2 Compasses

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **11th September:** PWP Rosebud planting day.
 - **18th September:** October & January Hike planning get together
 - **24th—28th September:** Induction Hike
 - **30th—6th October:** Crinoline Work Party
 - **8th October:** Open Day
 - **9th - 16th December:** Hike/Work party
 - **8th - 15th January:** Hariettville-Mittagundi hike/work party
 - **17th - 20th January:** Induction
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STAGE III NEWSLETTER WINTER-SPRING

JULY STAGE III—HIKE GROUP B

I never thought it would be possible to leave Wollangarra and walk for three whole hours and still be able to see the roof of the homestead from the hill you're standing on! ...For myself, Nic, Gowie, Harriet and Sam, that seemingly impossible task, soon became our reality.

A challenge is defined as "Something that by its nature or character serves as a call to battle or contest. This seems such a vague description of what a challenge really is, the depth of what 'challenge' means is far more than a test of measuring of someone's physical ability, as we learnt on the Stage 3 Winter hike early in July.

Purchasing food for 5 people for 6 days: Challenge.

Getting the food from Phillip Island to Melbourne, via Mt Eliza, Footscray and The Hop: Challenge.

Planning a route that is both stimulating but achievable, while considering the whole group's attributes and ability: Challenge.

Packing sufficient equipment and personal gear, allowing for emergencies and injury, without over-packing. Challenge.

Surviving Nic and Gowie's graphic recount of the entire Lord of the Rings trilogy without breaking down or responding violently: Challenge.

Realising that we massively overstated our physical ability and knowledge of contour lines on a map and then developing an alternative route plan: Challenge.

A week spent with friends, learning new skills and lessons as we hike independently through the mountains, surrounded by vast wilderness and the beautiful sounds of nature: Priceless.

I think I speak on behalf of everyone in Hike Group B when I say that the challenges we faced throughout that week were largely new and terrific learning processes, more so than a physical battle. There were certainly moments when we felt as though we could not walk any further, but the bigger challenge was convincing each other and ourselves that we could in fact do it.

It was sharing and encouraging each other that finished up being more rewarding in the end, than reaching the top of any mountain. The new program involving Stage 3s in planning and leading their own hikes has been a great initiative and I'm positive that in the future more hikes like these will come about and I'd love to see Stage 3s, both young and older getting on board and independently putting together similar trips.

Because essentially, that was Ian's vision that one day Stage 3 could be semi-independent from Wollangarra and that we'd have the freedom to come up here, enjoy and help the mountains whenever we could. Harriet, Sam, Gowie, Nic and myself would like to more publically thank Ivan for 'shadowing' our hike, and allowing us the piece of mind that if in the event of emergency, he would be there to assist us. Also, thanks to Denno for facilitating the whole process. We had a blast!

By Bonnie McWilliam

STAGE III SLAVES GO TO BEECHWORTH

One weekend, not so long ago, I ventured up to Beechworth along with Eric Woodward to help out in Tess Macrae and Will Ford's veggie garden. This was after they'd won some stage III slaves at trivia night back in March.

Despite the slightly dismal number of slaves, Eric and I decided to put in the effort to represent Stage III's Tess and Will had bargained for (although perhaps not to let Will know about this decision) and, with the help of Clare Easton on the second day, we managed to build the beginnings of one very sturdy rabbit and fox-proof fence as well as stack some more wood for the winter. The weather was lovely, Eric learnt to use a chainsaw and Tess, Nutmeg and I went on a walk to see the spring that sources their water.

At night we enjoyed a warm indoor fire, listened to music and ate delicious baked potatoes. Pancakes were on the breakfast menu. All up, we were pretty well-off for slaves. Thanks so much to Tess and Will for picking us up, hosting us, playing 'spot-the-Beechwoth-tourist' and being generally awesome- it was definitely worth the trip and I hope there can be a follow up some time soon.

Cass Martin.

Annual Harietville– Mittagundi Hike.

Planning For the Annual hike from Harietville to Mittagundi is under-way. Due to a large amount of interest there will be a get together on **Sunday the 18th September at at 12pm under the clocks at flinders street**. If you are interested in the hike you must either come along to this meeting or let Lauchie Rigg know before then.

October Stage III.

Ollie Smith is heading up a return journey to the Crinoline to do some much needed track work. Details will be sorted at a meeting on **Sunday the 18th September at at 12pm under the clocks at flinders street** (Yes it's the same time and place as the Harietville hike meeting, we will sort all that out on the day). Rough details are as follows. Please check Facebook for details.

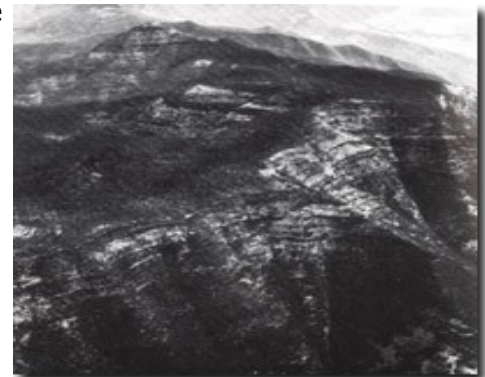
Where: Crinoline

When: 2nd-6th October (stay on for open day after that)

What: Track work and a bit of a hike



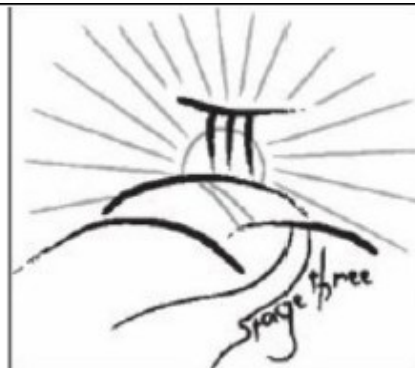
Last years Hike Group Stylin it up.



Long Hill and The Crinoline.

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