



# Stage III Winter Newsletter 2011

Stage III

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Contact Us:

[www.wollangarra.org.au](http://www.wollangarra.org.au)

Or search for 'Stage III Mountain Work Parties' on Face Book

## Note from the editor

### Thank you:

- **The Macrae Family:** For the use of their beach house for committee training.
- **Nicola Woodward:** For organizing the Clean Up Australia Day event.
- **Justin Hawkins and Liam Folwer:** For helping to organize the Miller's Hut Project.
- **Wayne McCallum:** For the knowledge, support, songs and food on the Miller's hut project.
- **Kate Gilson and Suz Christenson:** For Committee training.
- **Ella Barry and her team and all the prize donors:** For a wonderful trivia night.
- **Thank you all!**

Another great season for the Stage III community, with work parties and hikes going on left right and center, it is exciting to see how much is happening and the amount of enthusiasm for this year that has been shown this year. With a big shuffle of roles and responsibilities within the committee it is a transition period for all of us. It is awesome that there are so many stepping up to seize the day and really get into the heart of things.

There have been a few very successful hikes by Stage III with a focus on restoration and conservation such as the Projects up to Miller's hut and the Alpine walk, as well as work parties not only at Woll but also closer to home for many of us.

Hope you have all had an awesome time this year so far.

## Committee member Bios and roles

The Stage III is a committee set up, and run by Stage III. Although everyone in stage III works together, and is part of the team, the Committee meet once every two months to organise and run many of the 'behind the scenes' work, that keeps Stage III up to date, and running efficiently and safely.

These are the people on the Committee, and the roles of responsibility they have taken on within Stage III.



**Ella Barry:** Plainly, and simply, is the Treasurer for Stage Three. All the money we raise through our fundraisers and such, go straight to Ella for safe keeping. She keeps all the money in check, manages our budget, and gives us a clear idea on what we have for spending money for Stage Three Gear, and other things.



**Grace Duncan & Annabelle Nunan:** Are our Secretaries. Before our meetings, they devise an Agenda for us to work off efficiently, and within our selected time frame. At the meetings, they take notes on what has been said, and the decisions made. Using this information, they devise new items and issues to be discussed at our next meeting.



**Justin Hawkins & Oli Smith:** Are in charge of Wollangarra events. These two spunks organise the planning, details and running of the Stage III hikes, projects, events and work parties. They cover everything from Map and route planning, to transportation, and agendas of the Stage 3 hikes.



**Lucy Kervin Mcdermott & Lauren Wraight:** Look after to Fundraising for Stage III. Events such as the Trivia Night, The Hop, and little fundraiser gigs on the side are all very important for



Stage 3, so we can accumulate things like hiking gear, and even transport options for Stage III, so that we don't have to rely on Wollangarra's equipment.



**Louise King & Cassandra Martin:** Are our Young Person Liaisons. These two girls are our people that other Stage 3's can contact if they are unfamiliar with how Stage 3 works, and are interested becoming a part of, and involved with Stage 3. They also plan the induction which all Stage III's take part in.



**Alex Scott:** Is our Saving Suburbia hero. He is in charge of using young people and Stage III for community projects in Melbourne and the city. These activities include such things as conservation gardening with local councils, and projects like Clean Up Australia Day.



**Lachlan Rigg & Olly Wright:** Are our Publicity people. Organizing things like this newsletter, promoting Wollangarra and Stage III, and the details of upcoming events in and outside of Wollangarra, through the powerful tool of the Internet.



**Nicola Woodward: Is our Environmental Officer.** Her main focus is to look at how Stage III runs its events, look at what could be changed, then come up with an action plan that will allow Stage III to continue to help the mountains, but with a minimal effect on our environment. She also contributes to Stage 3 environmental projects like Clean Up Australia Day.



**Chris Bates, Bonnie McWilliams, Eric Woodward, Al Katravessis and Tish Gort** are our General Committee members. They are important to our discussions at meetings, and bring a different view and ideas to the items on our agenda, without being restricted to a category of focus.



Photos From Facebook,  
Bios by Oli Smith

## Clean Up Australia Day Event Report

In an effort to bring stage 3 to the people, we hit the road on the 6th March to clean up the Peninsula! It was a beautiful sunlight day and the turnout was good...

After we finally all found each other, we took on what turned out to be the most pristine beach in all of Australia. Interesting finds included: every type of alcohol containers you could imagine, pads, toilet paper, massive iron chains, and washed up jellyfish- most of which ended up in Claire Hazelwood's mouth.



The Capel Sound park rangers then put on a barbecue which really hit the spot- pavlova included. After a passionate and informed speech about alpine grazing from an original 70s activist, our jolly little band began to disperse. Not before, of course a swim (short lived), a sea weed fight (everyone vs. the petrified Claire), a game of Donkey, French cricket, super mega ninja destruction and a pair of too small board shorts.

To summarize; it was a fantastic and successful day and hopefully, along with national tree day, an annual event. I would like to thank Denno, the members of the committee who came out in force, as well as the rest of the jolly band.

-Nicola Woodward

## Fundraiser Report: Trivia Night!

In the middle of March we held our third annual Stage III Trivia Night, and what a night it was! With the theme Thursday night Dinner Dress-ups people really got into their costumes, dressing from crocodiles to green peas to boys in short dresses! The night was filled with trivia, games, dance offs and silent auction bidding. The Stage III vibe was certainly flowing through the room and there was a great competitive spirit in the air. The night was hosted by the fabulous Nathan Burmeister, and the hilarious Annabelle Nunan who did a fantastic job and ran the night smoothly. A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped support Stage III. All in all the night was a great success with over \$2000 being raised for Stage III. A great effort and big help for Stage III. Again thank you to all who helped make the night so successful.

-Ella Barry

## Hike Report– Alpine walk

Ahhh, the Alpine walk...

When I think about it, it seems like an eternity, and yet it was only weeks ago that I was part of team that was invincible. No matter how high the mountain, we conquered. No matter how wet, we dried. And no matter how stinky..... well we just sorta dealt with the stink.

On the evening of the 23 of April a group of 14 legends ascended to Mittagundi via the driveway. Tired, smelly and covered with mud we chanted victoriously as we saw the glint of the homestead's tin roof. But it wasn't that easy, the epic tale started 12 days before, when we all travelled to

Wollangarra, excited yet nervous to be part of the Alpine Walk. Slowly as we got closer to Wollangarra, we meet more of the members from other youth organisations such as Mittagundi and Typo Station. Once luggage was sorted we played name games to bond. We all talked to each other and got to know each other. With 11 big days ahead of us we got a good night's sleep ready to pack and sort every for the hike tomorrow.

With a cool breeze our spines tingled awakening and we sprang out of our sleeping bags with life and got to work. With breakfast in our stomachs we started organising food and "scroggin" (traditional hike snack). With all that done we packed our bags and did small jobs on the flat, eager to get some 1-1 time with someone we'd never known before. And the day seemed to pass before we knew it.

Waking up and stretching and saying our goodbyes we left before we knew it and we were gone, embarking on a journey that few have tread. Driving off it started to cloud and shower and before we knew it, it was raining. Dropped off then having lunch we were sung a song to get us roaring along the track to the beloved Vallejo Gantner hut, and it's toilet that lets 'poo with a view'. The tedious setting up of our tents took so long in comparison with the end of the trip .

Opening the tent to fog was surreal and mystic, unsure if we had travelled to a different land, this natural beauty greeted us in the morning. With two full water bottles we packed up and got going. We ventured through the fog with tiny bits of ice in our hair and shared scroggin. In the fog everyone was blind but together we could see. With mini showers on us we soldiered on through the land taking weird and wacky pictures, as well as pictures of the sacred landscape. When we arrived at camp we set up and in no time after dinner we slipped into bed.

The days were filled with epic views and great sing-alongs that still chime in my head. And before we knew it the day ended. Each day felt like years had passed yet each night we all grew sorrowful in the realisation that this wasn't going to last forever. One of the most notable views of the experience was probably the summit of the Viking and the chimney (a key hole in a rock) that we climbed up. With the sun still up when we arrived at camp that night we all did yoga to a fiery sunset.



With sunsets and sunrises passing us by we cared little for the date, but just the change in their unique form. With the days shorter and winter approaching, the walk demanded more of us as the hiking length grew bigger and we were forced to squeeze the distance into less time.

The hills we challenged often seemed impossible, but those at the front of the group always cheered you on and you lost all doubt, sometimes running to the peak. Every morning we were always faced with the paradox of "Are our packs getting lighter or just our muscles growing?"

Amidst us we had talented guitarists who keep energised or just happy and nothing beats singing as a team on the top of Mt Selwyn. Trudging on as a group we all gelled so well and we all harmonised to each other.

The most luxurious moment of the hike had to be finding our food drop, with all sorts of goodies like muesli bars, Nutella and noodles. We sat down with packs off and gluttonised. There wasn't a care in the world except for the fact that someone else's noodles were ready before yours. Because of the big lunch delay, that night we hiked in the dark and it just happened to be a full and wholesome golden moon that beckoned us to howl.

The next morning we hiked to the top of The Twins to eat breakfast as the sun rose. All tired and longing for a nice hamburger, only to find Ian Stapleton the creator of Wollangarra and Mittagundi driving past and conveniently having brought hamburgers and chips with him. We then cruised to Derek's hut where we would indulge in a rest day that next day. The rest day was filled with card tricks and card games but best of all noodles for breakfast!



We then bounced from day to day with hut to hut. Dibbins's, Wallace's, Fitzzy's. With so much accomplished and only so little left we all basked in each other's presence.

On the last day we powered through and had a massive lunch as it would be the last time we could be with each other.

So that brings us back to our arrival and how we got to Mittagundi, but our story doesn't end there, as we all feasted together to conclude our extravagant quest.

The only problem is now that it's over we all want to do it again.

There would be nothing that we would change.

-Al Katrivessis

## Miller's Hut Project

During the April Holidays Stage III headed up to the Wellington high plains to work on Miller's Hut. With names on its walls dating back to 1923 Miller's hut has been an important shelter to Mountain Cattlemen, Bushwalkers and ski tours on the Wellington high plains for almost 100 years.

Stage III's task was to replace the hut's rotted Mountain Ash uprights with harder and more resilient Red-box. It was wet and tedious work with Louise almost catching a fish in the holes we were digging for the new posts!

Adzing, cross cut sawing, drilling mortises and cutting tenors, broad axing and lots of hammering were some of the many skills used over the course of the week with many thanks to Ranger Wayne Macallum for his knowledge, humour and liberal quantities of fresh meat!

Given the technical nature of the work we managed to replace half of the uprights leaving the others for another work party later in the year.

Thanks must go to all the crew (Tish, Ollie Wright, Bryn, Mal, Louise, Liam, Justin and Ranger Wayne), particularly for those who took on roles in organising the trip, first aid, reccies or food.

## Upcoming Events

**Stage III Slaves:** 2-25th June

**The Hop:** 2nd July

**July Stage III:** 2nd-9th July

Looking forward to a productive and fun season.

Stay safe, stay warm, keep being awesome.

