

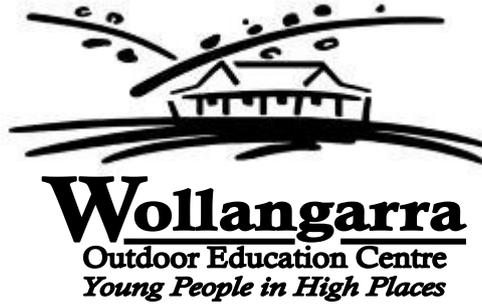
# Stage III

Stage III

Wollangarra

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Contact Us

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

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## Alpine Walk Dahl and curry night fundraiser

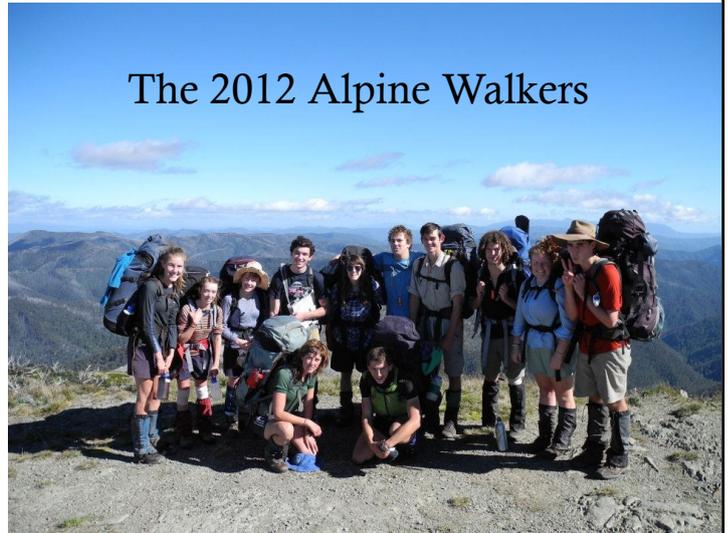
The 25th of February was a gorgeous sunny afternoon in the beautiful Barwon Heads Community Arts Garden. The Dahl and curry night was a fundraiser I organised for my alpine walk fundraising. It was a huge success with about 100 people rocking up and we raised a mega total of \$1,300, which



was totally awesome!

For entertainment on the night we had both the local ukelele groups playing, Inertia

## The 2012 Alpine Walkers



Brass Band and the superb Ellie Ware and Karlee Hayes rocking out to end the shindig. It was a great night sitting in the sun drinking icy homemade lemon cordial and tucking into a dahlicious plate of curry.

Thanks to everyone that came down for the night and helped out, ate curry, sat at the gate, helped with the set up, craft-ernoon and stood behind the stall it was dahleriously great to see you all!



*The incredible Barwon Heads Ukulele Group*

## *April Stage III Hike*

On the 1st of April I left home at 6am to make it to Southern Cross in time for the train. When I met Maddie Gort and Mae Godfrey at Southern Cross I just knew we would be in for a good week. We met up with Justin Hawkins and Paul Nichol (otherwise known as Pickle, Pinnacle, or simply plain old boring old Paul) at Traralgon and purchased the food for the week. After spending as little as one hour at Wollangarra we left Woll with Lyrebird gully as our destination, with our 6th and final hike member in tow, Lou King.

The first night was spent at Melbourne Grammar's school camp near Lyrebird Gully; right next the start of the Crinoline Walking track. After waking up and have a very easy morning, we finally started walking. The first day was quite hard, with a constant uphill hike. Soon enough we lost Paul. We began calling out and discovered he had gone exploring, and found a cave hidden in the bush, with a drip line for which to fill our bottles. It was one of the great things about having such a small hike group; we were able to find these hidden gems that are everywhere among the mountains. After exploring a little more, we made it back to our packs and continued hiking. We made it to the footy field with time to spare, and begun reading Huckleberry Finn as a group. Water was found in a drum left at the campsite which we were able to boil and drink. This night Mae went and camped out solo away from the group.

The next day was our designated track work day and we went further up the track to fix some things up. We added extra parts to the track, added rock steps, and cleared a decent section of track because it was beginning to be overgrown. The night was spent at the footy field again, and Lou decided to camp out solo this night. Sitting around the fire singing songs was lovely, and it was really nice to relax under the stars after a great day.

The next day was our most "hekkas" day yet. We managed to spend the whole day without a track. We hiked up the crinoline and pretty much rock climbed to get to the top. We played games and sung songs from the top, It was pretty crazy being higher than almost everything in the immediate area. After assessing the situation Paul and Justin decided that there was likely to be a water source on the way to our next campsite, so we made that our destination. As it turned out, our water source was in fact a waterfall dropping off into a giant valley. The sound of water combined with an amazing view was exhilarating, and it took everyone's breath away. But it was getting late quickly, so after filling up our bladders and bottles, we set off again. Soon enough we found ourselves at "awesome clearing" which we named ourselves. It stuck out, with views in almost every direction; the best thing was that we arrived just as the sun was setting, with a bright red glow across the horizon. That night Louise, Justin and I decided to camp under the stars, but got so wet and the moon was so bright we couldn't sleep, so we migrated back under the tarp.

The next morning we were treated to a clear sky and a valley full of clouds, it was a sight. The mist falling over a nearby highpoint into something that resembled a giant slow moving waterfall was really something. After a hearty porridge breakfast, Paul showed us some stuff related to navigation, which proved to be quite useful over the next day. We went back down to the waterfall for more water, and managed to find ourselves 'geographically challenged', got lost down a spur ended up backtracking and almost gave up just to read some more Huckleberry Fin. In the end we found the track that Justin and I recognised from having worked on it two years prior. The rock shelter was such a relief. It felt amazing to be able to lie down and take in the magnificent views from your sleeping bag. After some solo time, and a chance to think, Paul cooked us a three course meal, a beetroot risotto which seemed to excite all of us a little too much. After some lovely thankyou's for the week, we managed to get to sleep.

The plan the next day was for Paul to leave an hour or so earlier, and ride the bike down to the white rocket, and come back to pick us up. We woke up as Paul just left and we hurried to get our stuff ready. A quick breakfast and toilet break later, we were off. It was a relief to have a obvious track under our feet, as the last few days were spent with branches in our faces. This day seemed to go so quickly, after singing and eating all the chocolate we seemed to have forgotten about, we made it to Tamboritha saddle. We were treated with barley sugars, baked beans and honey for lunch after a quick dip in the river. We finally made it back to Woll, and after packing up we needed to cook our pre prepared meal for the Woll staff – super tacos. Maddie took over and we had our bellies full in no time. And soon enough, Maddie, Mae and I were on the train back to the city, wishing we could still be out, up in the mountains with no cares in the world.

This hike with its hard days and its easy ones was easily one of the best hikes I have been on, and I want to dearly thank Louise, Justin, Mae, Paul and Maddie for making it what it was.

Sam Shayler

## *Upcoming Events*

Woodchop: 9-11 June

The Hop: 29 June

Stage III flat week: 2-6 July

## *Stage III committee*

If you haven't heard who our committee members are this year, here they are:

**Oliver Smith:** Wollangarra Events

**Justin Hawkins:** Wollangara Events

**Harriet Negus:** Fundraising

**Lauren Wraight:** Fundraising

**Nicola Woodward:** Environments Officer

**Chris Bates:** Saving Suburbia

**Anthony Gowie Gowans:** Saving Suburbia

**Maeve Nunan** Secretary

**Cassandra Martin:** Young Person Liason

If you are interested in becoming part of the stage three committee, general members are always warmly welcomed. Just let us know and we would love you to be a part of this amazing group.

## **Stage III Wish List**

- Hiking gear
- Nalgene containers
- Overpants
- Lining boards
- Insulation

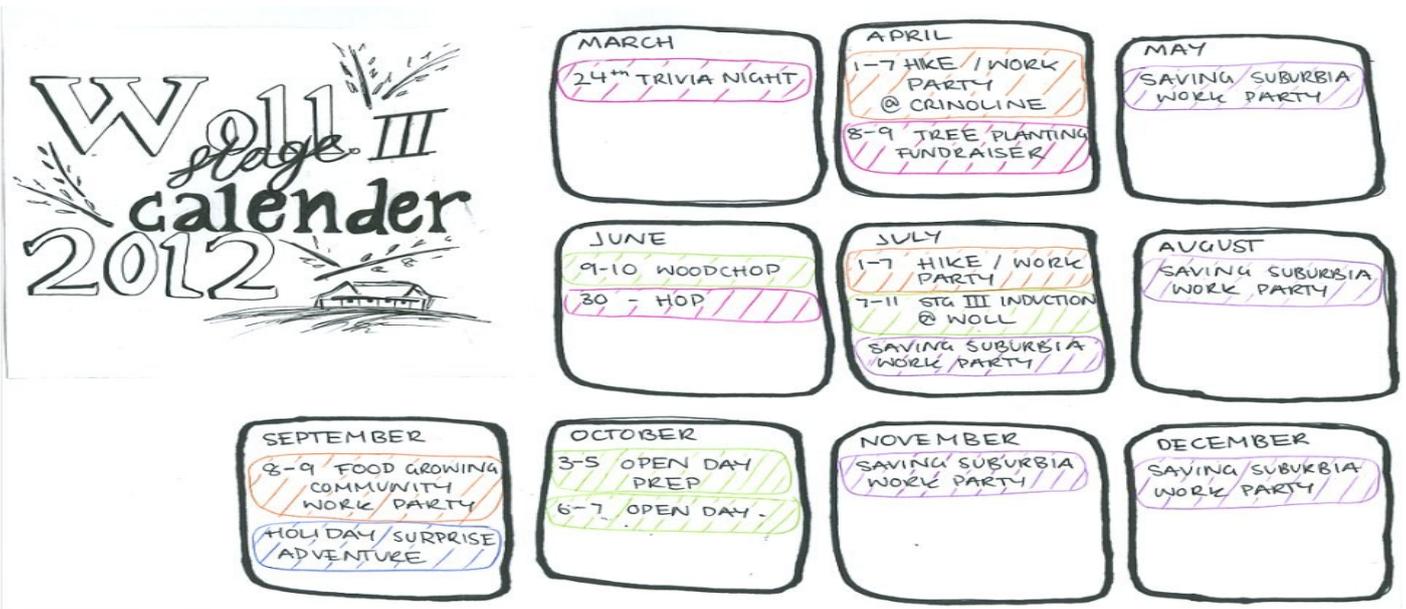
*Stage III now has an extra \$2000 dollars! But what should we do with it?*

*If you have any ideas let us know.*

# Stage III

*A dynamic, strong community of active young people for purposeful, practical conservation in Victoria's mountains and at home*

The Stage III program is open to anyone who wants to be involved in helping and hiking in Victoria's mountains. There are no prerequisites. Everyone is welcome to join one of our trips to enjoy and give back to the high country, learn new skills and meet like minded people.



The amazing Stage III crew that planted 2000 trees to raise \$2000 for Stage III. Thanks to Karlee Hayes, John Collopy, Dylan Burns, Brooke Hudson, Hodgey, Lydia Sims and our lovely facilitator Paul.

## Contact Us

**Paul Nichol - Stage III Facilitator**

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