

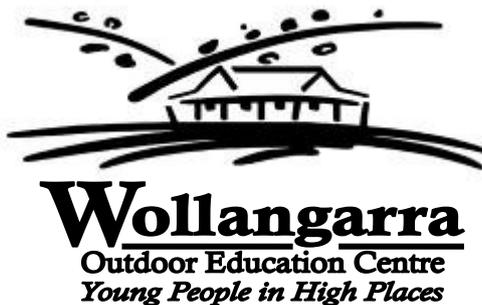
# Stage III

Stage III

Wollangarra

Licola 3858

Ph 5148 0492



Contact Us

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

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## Stage III turns temporary staff-ee!

As part of my university course at RMIT (Youth Work) I was required to undergo a series of work placements at different organisations and locations around Melbourne. After securing placement at several locations, my placement reporter was increasing by the twofold but there was one placement I had not yet hunted down and caught. Being a die-hard Stage Three it was to be certain that Wollangarra was one of my main destinations for placement, the trophy placement. Luckily and thankfully I was accepted to come down and help for two weeks in April and in the months prior, I was certainly very eager to depart from Melbourne and head off to Woll.

When asked to reflect on my placement at Woll, I am unsure where to start. Woll has been a huge mix of emotions and triumphs for me since 2008, when I first set out as a Stage 1 and now as a Stage Three 5 years later I was graced with being able to help fulfil the role of helping out while courses ran. When deciding where to start talking about my journey I am faced with many different stories and I need to pick one. Should I start at the freezing cold mornings? Or the amazingly sunny afternoons? The back breaking work? Or the amazing cups of tea and breaks? The early mornings? Or the late nights by the fire? Whatever the start, I know that all these stories reach one amazing result and so I shall go from the start.

It all began with a train, an early Sunday morning, a group of excited Stage Twos and a lack of caffeine. Traralgon was the destination and after a long journey, an amazing nap on the train and more sleep. I was ready to climb mountains. And that's what we were doing, with Mt. Howitt set as the destination. We were to go up on the Monday and come back on the Thursday. While up at Mt. Howitt we (By we I mean the Stage Twos) worked alongside Ranger Wayne to remove the old drop dunny that was at the Macalister Springs camp site, accompanied by a day walk up to Mt. Howitt and along the Cross-Cut Saw. Then we were back at Woll, for a lovely dinner and debrief and then home the next day! BAM one course down and already half way. With many a few 5am wake ups under my belt and Saturday being a staff day off I was certainly ready for a relaxing day. Thankfully I was not disappointed and I was able to spend the day chilling out with other staff and just starting to really get to know the staff team for 2013. Along with a relaxing drumming session on Sunday night to really cap the week off, I was ready to face a new course but this time there was a dramatic plot twist! (Read below for dramatic plot

twist or if there is no text below please send five dollars to Oliver Wright for the gripping instalment of this amazing tale. Will he save the princess? Slay the dragon guarding Mt. Howitt? Save the day? All will be revealed!

Coming into my second week I was put to the test as a Stage Three and as a Rap/Hip Hop mastermind. With song requests coming at me left right and centre I was churning out freestyle raps like...a....freestyle rapper! With a Stage One group coming in this week I was tasked with: a) Rocking out on the flat with Claire and Leo, b) Writing a freestyle rap about how we don't like to use time at Woll, c) Helping out with jobs around the flat, d) Being awesome. With the Stage One group going up to Mt. Howitt as well, then the decision was made that I would stay and help out at the flat (that was not previously established!) and so I only spent a small amount of time with the group. When I came into contact with the group I was able to lay down a pretty mad rap about how we don't like to use time at Woll. Here it is:

Watch me closely  
Listen to my rhyme  
As I explain why we don't use time

See here at Woll we go with the flow  
Chill out, relax  
By the Macalister Yo!  
We don't let time control our day  
We eat and sleep when we want and that's ok

Because time controls us  
It is so lobotomous  
And now I can rhyme with the word hippopotamus

So now that you know  
It would be nice  
If you could relinquish any watch  
Or technological device

Also this week you will pair with a bro  
Girls with girls, guys with guys (Ya Know!)  
One will take pegs, one will take poles  
It's very important that you know your roles  
You will need to know this when doing your pack  
Up in alpine country there is no going back

And so the Stage One's left us and we set about doing jobs around the flat such as brutally murdering the rickshaw, various town jobs, preparing food for Thursday night's dinner and chilling out. That was my final week at Wollangarra.

*Stage III turns temporary staff-ee continued...*

Coming to the end of my time at Wollangarra as a helper I left with a real sense of accomplishment and achievement knowing that I certainly learnt a lot from my successes while at Woll but more so from my failures. Being given the space to experiment with different ways of communicating with young people and trying new exercises really helped me develop as a youth worker and I see the whole experiences as a really amazing transformation within myself. With that I would like to thank Claire and Raku for having me down as well as the amazing staff team Bea, Eric, Casey, Indi, Leo, Paul and a HUGE shout out to DJ Sultana for helping me out while I was down at Woll and being my right hand man.

Have a great day. Actually have a great week.

Olly Wright

## *Farewell Paul*

As soon as Paul began as Stage III facilitator, he was immediately thrown into the deep end. Although he had read the position description, nothing could completely prepare him for what was ahead. Coming to the end of his time as facilitator, Paul has proved to himself and those around him that he is capable of managing whatever this job entails.

Paul has brought unique skills to the community of Wollangarra and Stage III. His background in water activities such as kayaking and white water rafting has meant that Stage III were able to have a rafting adventure in the September holidays of 2012. We have all admired Paul's handy work with bicycle parts and his love for tyre tubes. Paul's creation of the 'Beast' has been one of the projects that has been appreciated by all who were able to use it, allowing the rickshaw to take some long service leave here and there. Another one of Paul's handy tips includes opening canned food with nothing but a spoon. You have to see it to believe it.



Paul working hard in December

I am probably not the only one who has appreciated Paul's availability to assist projects and provide advice in times of uncertainty. His attentive but calm demeanor has allowed us stage three-ers to feel free to try new things whilst knowing that Paul was there as a back up.

It is safe to say that Paul has embraced his position at Wollangarra, worked out little things along the way and allowed for Stage III to keep running positively and effectively.

Thanks Paul and good luck during your time post Wollangarra.

Ellie Ware

*Wollangarra is seeking a Stage III Program Facilitator to begin in July. For the full Position Description visit [www.wollangarra.org/newsletters/Stage 3 Program Facilitator PD.pdf](http://www.wollangarra.org/newsletters/Stage%203%20Program%20Facilitator%20PD.pdf)*



Stage III-ers taking full advantage of the Beast

## *Stage III attends to fire victims*

Friday March the 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>, Stage 3 held a fire recovery weekend, with the aim to help Woll's neighbours who have always supported Woll. Gowie, Annabelle, Hawk, Oliver Wright, Isaac, and myself were lucky enough to be involved in such a cool weekend.

After a sleep out under the amazing stars, Saturday began by heading down the road to Donna and Anthony's place. Their shed was completely burnt down in the fires, but fortunately the house survived. Their job for us was to paint their cattle yards. We spent Saturday, and some of Sunday on the task, and almost finished the whole thing (we ran out of paint). Our painting skills were enhanced by the quality tunes blasting from the troupe... Dolly Parton, the Village People and many country classics ("I hope it ain't twins again!") on repeat...

Soon we ran out of paint. Anthony quite optimistically told us he could mix up some more no worries, and match the colour just fine adding more supple oil as needed. Donna was sceptical to say the least, but we gave it a shot anyway. The cattle yard was finished with some artistic tonal changes from charcoal, to grey to pink. Surely the cows will appreciate the variety.

On return to Woll we stopped by the apple tree, which was routine for the weekend. Once we made it to Woll, we headed straight for the river. After many cries of 'abandon canoe' we managed to get seven on the canoe at once, and for more than a couple of seconds. Quite the achievement! We even got to witness Eric's stunning Mr T haircut. At dinner, we invented a recipe for apple fritters cooked on the BBQ, which were an absolute treat! Plenty of cinnamon and brown sugar on those! I definitely recommend it.

After finishing off the job on Sunday, a visit to Busy Bee's and a stop for a swim on the way to Traralgon capped off the weekend. More lunch was enjoyed on the train.

It was super great to do something small to help the neighbours. Seeing the burnt remains and damages done by the fires was crazy... to think it came so close! I can't imagine what it would have been like while the bush was burning, but I really appreciated gaining a better understanding of the severity of bushfires.

Elizabeth Hindle

In the depths of a not so warm, not so chilly April 3 brave stage III's accompanied by the ever present P-Diddy Nichol ventured up to the Wollangarra flat to help out with a bit of bush fire recovery. After the local area had been hit with massive fires we took it upon ourselves to help out some of Wollangarra's good friends and supporters, our neighbors.

As they were all busy re-building fences and the like we found a way we could help out without taking any of their time. We got placed in charge of the clean up after the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria big shin dig earlier in the year. By doing this we also received an incredibly generous donation from the MCAV for Stage III. Maddie "The Machine" Gort, Oliver "Tinny Total Finder" Smith, Dylan "Another Cigarette Butt?" Burns and Paul "Found a Sheep's Skull" Nichol set out early in the morning to find what seemed to be a relatively clean paddock, well were we mistaken! After conducting what can only be called one of the best emu bobs of the 21st century we discovered an incredible amount of empty tinnies, cigarette butts, twine, alphabet stickers and an array of other odd bits and bobs! Our small but powerful crew got through the entire paddock (Which was really quite large!) in one day, a remarkable feat by all accounts!

For the following day we decided that the track to Tussocky desperately needed some TLC after the fires, so with an axe, a saw, cookies and the always helpful rake-hoe in hand, across we went and spent a solids day working on the track, moving boulders the size of smart cars and chopping away fallen trees to create a track envied by all other tracks that could see it! We had a fantastic week and achieved an amazing amount of work, thanks to great dedication from Maddie, Oli and Paul for helping get a great week up and going for a spectacular success.



Bushfire recovery crew in February

Dylan "Another Cigarette Butt?" Burns

## *Nicola's Fun Fact*

*The myth that carrots help you see in the dark* was created by the British Royal Air Force in the second world war. Members of the public were told that British pilots ate a diet high in carrots so they could see German bombers in the dark. They were able to do this in fact because of the air forces top secret interception radar. Carrots contain beta-carotene which is converted to vitamin A in the body. Vitamin A is used in eye function, as a antioxidant and pretty much in every other bodily process. Despite this favourable trait eating, lots of carrots is unlikely to help your sight unless you are vitamin A deficient. Eating too many carrots will literally turn your skin orange because beta carotene is a pigment.



## Stage III Trivia Night

This year's Stage III Trivia Night was held again at the Brunswick Uniting Church and raised a mammoth \$2051! Fun was had by all who attended, interrogated with quizzical questions to provoke discussion between teams. The theme was 'pairs' which resulted in both The Blues Brothers and The Bananas in Pyjamas making a celebrity appearance.

Dinner was provided which included yummy burgers and salad. A big thank you to all who helped out with food preparation beforehand and a special mention to Paul Nichol who organised a lot of it.

Items were sold at the auction including crochet drink bottle holders and laptop cases made by Nicola Woodward and Harriet Negus, bush craft stools and seats made by Isaac Kervin-Mcdermott and George Northy at Bush Skills weekend, flower wreaths made by Maeve Nunan and bicycle panniers made from original Wollangarra hiking packs created by Paul. A big thank you to all those who donated items for the auction and prizes.

What made the trivia so good, were the hosts of course, Anthony 'Gowie' Gowans and Annabelle Nunan who added a cultural touch to the night wearing their traditional German dresses.

A final big thank you (drum roll please) to the main organisers of the event, Oliver Wright and Lachlan Rigg who did a lot of the behind the scenes work including getting the venue and putting the trivia together.

All in all a tiptop night, shared with friendly faces, old and new; and congratulations to the team who won the trivia. Although 'All the Single Ladies' were in the lead most of the night, 'Stage 4' got a second wind and took home 1st, as well as literally taking home the donated prizes.

Ellie Ware

## Saving Suburbia Project

One of Saving Suburbia goals this year is to establish a relationship with another group that shares similar goals and aims to work together in our Work Parties. The beginning of this connection happened in March when Stage III had their first Saving Suburbia Work Party at Glenburn Bend Park in Glen Iris.

It was a successful event, with 8 Stage III's and Paul working alongside the Friends of Gardener Creek Group to weed, clean up and place weed preventing matting in the park. Also worthy of note was helping clear dead branches off a National Trust protected tree affected by recent storms. The productive day was concluded with a lovely lunch at Chris Bates' home, which was well deserved for all our hard work. Trevor, from Friends of Gardener Creek, greatly appreciated our help and we look forward to working with him in the future, our next event hopefully planting trees with the group on National Tree Day, details to be confirmed later.

We would love to have more numbers at our Saving Suburbia events so keep your eyes on Facebook updates or get in touch with myself (gowie21@live.com.au) or Chris Bates for information or if you have any ideas or projects for us.

Anthony Gowans



## Yackandandah Folk Festival

Back in late March, a group of Stage III's and a few other Wollies headed up to the small country town of Yackandandah for their annual folk festival. We had a Woll stall set up with burgers, sausages and drinks for sale. It was a weekend jam packed full of great music and easy going people. There was markets, choirs, buskers, some ripper new bands, as well as some bigger names too. The town of Yack really knows how to have a good time. And though overall the fundraising stall wasn't as successful as planned, we all learnt a lot about future fundraising for Woll and Stage III, as well as all having a wonderful weekend. I know I fell in love with the little town of Yackandandah after just one weekend and I know I will be going again next year. I would highly recommend everyone else to come and enjoy a weekend away, in a town that is full of talent and loving people who know how to have good time.

A big thankyou needs to go out to the Bridge family who let the Stage III crew stay with them for the weekend, they were all so welcoming and made sure we all felt at home. And another thank you to Will Ford and P-Didds for all their work to get the stall up and running, the stall would not have happened without you both.

Annabelle Nunan



## *Congrats Alpine Walkers of 2013*

*Congratulations to this year's Alpine Walkers* Michael 'Six' Caffery, Isaac Kervin McDermott, Claire Woodward, Oscar Nitz and Luke Dixon as well as their leaders Gabrielle Bridge And Dennis Bainger who have both been leaders at Wollangarra in the last few years. For a full report see the latest edition of the Wollangarra newsletter.

## *Upcoming Events*

The Hop: June 29

Stage III Flat Week: 30 June - 5 July

Stage III Induction: 8 - 12 July

## *Stage III Induction*

Have you done a few stage II camps? Do you feel like you need to step up to the challenge? If you answered YES, then Stage III is calling your name. The Stage III induction focusses on becoming more independant on hikes by teaching handy skills such as hike preparation and navigation, and it makes the move up to Stage III that little bit smoother. If you want to know more, give Wollangarra (5148 0492) or Paul Nichol ( 9733 0536) a call for a friendly chat. The dates for the course are July 8 - 12.

## *Stage III Calendar 2013*

MONTH	DATE(S)	EVENT
March	22 - 24	Yackandandah Folk Festival and BBQ Fundraiser
April	1 - 4	Stage III Conservation Project
May	3 - 5	Stage III Bush Skills Workshop - Chestnut
May	11	Stage III Trivia Night
June	8 - 10	Woodchop
June/July	30 - 5	Stage III Flat Week
July	8 - 12	Stage III Induction
August	17 - 18	Stage III reconnaissance / Organising for September trip
September	22 - 28	Stage III Trip
October	2 - 4	Stage III Open Day Preparation
October	5 - 6	Open Day
October	26 - 27	Stage III reconnaissance / Organising for December trip
November	9 - 10	Stage III Work Party
December	15 - 20	Stage III Mountains Work Party
December	15 - 20	Stage III Flat Week

## *Stage III Wish List*

- Dead dog bags for pack liners
- Dry bags
- Ground sheets
- Lining boards

## *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.

## *Stage III Committee 2013*

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.

<b>Al Katrivessis:</b>	Treasurer
<b>Maeve Nunan:</b>	Secretary
<b>Dylan Burns:</b>	Wollangarra Events
<b>Lachlan Rigg:</b>	Fundraising
<b>Chris Bates:</b>	Saving Suburbia
<b>Anthony Gowie Gowans:</b>	Saving Suburbia
<b>Karlee Hayes:</b>	Young Person Liason
<b>Annabelle Nunan:</b>	Young person Liason
<b>Ellie Ware:</b>	Newsletter
<b>Meredith Johnson:</b>	General Member
<b>Nicola Woodward:</b>	General Member
<b>Bonnie McWilliam:</b>	General Member
<b>Harriet Negus:</b>	General Member

### **Contact Us**

**Paul Nichol - Stage III Facilitator**

**Phone:** 5148 0492 or 9733 0536

**Email:** stageiiifacilitator@hotmail.com

**Address:** Wollangarra, Licola VIC 3858

Thank you to all  
newsletter contributors.