

Stage III

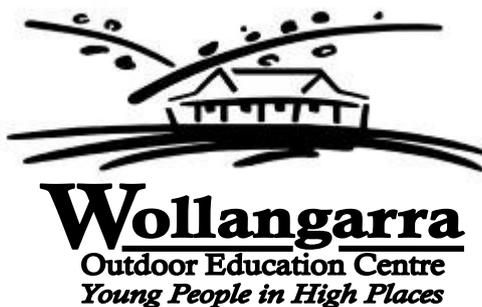
Stage III

Wollangarra

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Contact Us

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A letter from the new facilitator

Hello Stage III's,

Let us start with a small story. On my first day of uni in Bendigo after moving from the heart of Sydney, someone who would become one of my closest friends asked "were you a Mittagundi or Wollangarra young person?" to which I replied, "what on earth does that mean?" Five and a half years later, here I find myself just a few months into my time as Woll's newest Stage III Facilitator and I feel rapidly more at home than ever. It was meant to be!

Wollangarra - its place and its people have exceeded the hopes I had for being a part of an outdoor education centre with a twist. Where fox's fly, river meets mountain, purpose is bound with practicality and dresses are a weekly routine. Woll is no centre, it is a home and a community where already I have met countless young people for which it provides a space for them to feel completely themselves, to connect with other young people and adults on a simple but honest level.

The nature of Woll's courses, which allow young people to return and give back to it and its surrounds is extremely unique. I am delighted to be in a position where I get to work with you returning folk, to be a part of the range of the things it is that you do. From committee meetings to paving, from track-work to cartwheels in the snow, from planting trees to flippin' snags at Open Day...and everything in between. Stage III is certainly dynamic, as are the people that make it up. I very much look forward to the rest of the time I have ahead of me at Woll, continuing to assist Stage III in being something that helps you develop the skills to create your own courses, events and community activities that connect your personal interests, your love of Woll, the natural environment and the places you live.

To the Stage III's that I have already encountered – thank you for showing me your capabilities and making me feel welcome. To those that I haven't yet encountered – I very much look forward to it!

See you all soon!

Amy



Stage III September

From the 22nd – the 28th of September, 4 enthusiastic newly appointed stage three's, including Isaac Kervin-McDermott, Claire Woodward, Luke Dixon, Jo Chibnall and Amy (the new and fabulous stage three facilitator) drove chirpily off to the beautiful Moroka Gorge, where they would be spending the next 5 days (or so they thought) working with Ranger Wayne (times 2) and Ranger Wayne Senior's granddaughter Maddie, doing what stage threes do best, fixing board walks and building steps.

The week got off to a fairly relaxed start, enjoying the spring sun and freezing Moroka water while waiting for the Wayne's to arrive, and when they did work kicked off quickly. Carrying star pickets, cutting and bending star pickets, hammering star pickets and attaching star pickets to the board walks meant that we quickly formed a close relationship with star pickets. Even though at times this relationship faced hardships, where the star pickets were highly resistant to change, being cut in half or getting hammered through a



Stage III September continued...

rock, in the end we always managed to work through these difficulties together and end with the desired result (no matter how frustrated we became and how close we got to giving up). As well as completing 19 well-made, sturdy steps we had a really enjoyable time swimming, lying under the stars, playing games around the campfire and bonding as a group. On Wednesday we went up to the Pinnacles, to fair well Ranger Wayne senior and Maddie, where we got an amazing 360 view of the mountains and we learnt more from the very knowledgeable Ranger Wayne senior.

Everything was running perfectly, the weather was nice and sunny, and a bit windy during the night, however, the day that we had planned to go exploring of the beautiful gorge the weather took a turn for the worst. The sun turned to rain, the wind turned from manageable to a gale force so after a quick team meeting we decided to head back to Woll a day early. The surprises did not stop there, on the drive home the rain turned to snow. After a quick essential stop, where we danced and cartwheeled in the snow, (some thinking it was a good idea to take off their tops...) we continued back down the windy road, spirits lifted from this unexpected visit.



Cartwheeling in the snow never goes astray



We were, as usual, warmly welcomed to Woll and spent the night helping with the end of the Stage 1 course. The next day we got straight to work building the new veranda for the Outdoor Kitchen so that it was ready and beautiful for open day. After releasing our inner brick pavers we cooked a beautiful meal for the leaders and spent our last night relaxing under the abundance of stars. On the trip home we stopped off to visit Margret Becket, we were spoiled for choice of tea and biscuits and comforted by her cosy house and fire. We reluctantly left her warm house after a great conversation and got on the train home. Thanks to all the Stage 3's for the hard work, Amy for being such an amazing leader, Ranger Wayne Junior for the great plans in the future, Ranger Wayne Senior for the ongoing support of Wollangarra, Maddie for coming up to help out and of course the Wollangarra crew for being so flexible and welcoming.

Claire Woodward

Lachie's Walk of Life

Our friend from Stage III, Lachie Rigg recently embarked on a journey taking him around Victoria. Still on the road for a while, he snail mailed through a letter about his trip. It reads the following:

When I set off from Cranbourne on the 20th of October I had four goals: 1) Walk the perimeter of Victoria, Melbourne to Melbourne. 2) Challenge myself to do something somewhat unique without fully grasping the magnitude of my undertaking. 3) Give something back to two organisations that are rather close to my heart and 4) Learn exactly how much every individual item in my pack weighs and how much I really need it to survive.

There were months leading up to it of preparing as well as route, food, water and financial planning. Despite this preparation, I found that once I was on the ground walking, most of that preparation went out the window and I was left to think on my feet as much as follow my plan.

After my tough first few days I quickly hit my stride and in no time started to enjoy myself. I travelled down toward South Gippsland and to Leongatha where I jumped on the Great Southern Rail trail, in a few weeks I had reached Woodside where I had a few rest days at Olly Wright's property (Olly is also my Melbourne liaison while I'm away!). Another week of walking up the South Gippsland Hwy put me in Sale. I finished off the first 300km by reaching Bairnsdale before heading back to Melbourne for a few days of rest.

It has been a bit of a bumpy ride but I'm loving being out here and covering ground at a reasonable pace. It's an exciting thought to know that people are donating and that both Woll and the Cancer Council highly appreciate your support.

For updates on my progress head to www.facebook.com/lachieswalkoflife and watch my day to day progress on a map! At this site you can also follow links to donate to these to great causes, your support is highly appreciated!

Similarly, If you happen to see me strolling along during your travels, be sure to give me a wave, or better yet, stop and say g'day. Much love to all you Wollies and have a great day!



Stage III at Open Day

After a lovely afternoon in Harrietteville visiting Ian Stapleton, 5 Stage III's met up with several others to help set up at Woll the Wednesday before Open Day. As usual there were many Stage III's willing to help out with Open Day and our work in the lead up to the big day was, as always, welcomed. This year especially, as it was Amy's first Open Day seeing us in action as well as Claire and Raku's first Open Day as directors!

Our major roles for the day were preparing and running the barbeque lunch, the café and helping out on the bar. Cooking the barbeque was successful, even with parts of the barbeque catching on fire, and anyone who tasted a treat or iced tea from the café would say the same about that (not that it caught on fire but that is was successful). As always Stage III's had a great time at Open Day, not just participating in events but helping out where we could, always a fun day, we look forward to next years.

Anthony Gowans

Upcoming Events

Stage III Flat Week: 15 - 20 December

Stage III Induction: 15 - 20 December

Stage III Hike: 5 - 12 January

Jan Stage III Induction: 13 - 17 January

Fruit Bottling: 18 - 19 January

Stage III Induction

Stage II's or anyone keen to be part of the Stage III community!

There is a Stage III induction running from December 15th—20th. It's going to be the only induction for the year so we are hoping to get up a big crew up on the flat to learn about how Stage III works and what it means to be part of the Stage III community. From there you are able to help be part of planning your own hikes and work parties throughout the year. There are no prerequisites for inducting, it is based on when you feel ready.

If you are after more information give our Stage III facilitator Amy a call at Woll on 5148 0492

Stage III Wish List

- Dry bags
- Ground sheets
- Lining boards

Nicola's Fun Fact

In the Northern Territory researchers are teaching endangered spotted quolls to avoid cane toads by feeding them a cane toad sausage that makes them sick but doesn't kill them. This technique is so effective that the mothers have passed on this knowledge to their offspring and a new generation of quolls have been found to be surviving and avoiding cane toads.



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 awesome group.

Al Katrivessis
Maeve Nunan
Dylan Burns
Lachlan Rigg
Oliver Wright
Chris Bates:
Anthony Gowie Gowans
Oliver Smith
Annabelle Nunan
Ellie Ware
Meredith Johnson
Nicola Woodward
Harriet Negus
Karlee Hayes



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.

Contact Us

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Thank you to all
newsletter contributors.