

# "Wollangarra"

*Licola Victoria 3858 Ph. 03 5148 0492  
Summer Newsletter#61, March 2005*

## Welcome to the Staff of 2005!



*Jane Lloyd, Clare Easton, Will Ford, Lizzie Rich, Geordie McCallum*

Well 2005 is off to an absolutely fabulous start. We have just completed a busy couple of months of training and socializing, and learning all there is to know to keep Wollangarra going, and have completed our first two Stage 1 programs, and already the staff are touching young people incredibly, and giving Wollangarra all they have. The place is just looking fantastic, and everyday we are reminded just why we chose these five wonderful people as the staff of 2005! With Lizzie, Geordie, Clare and Will all having spent time at Wollangarra as young people, and having also completed the Alpine Walk, and Jane having just finished a degree in Environmental Science, and also being one of the most open and easy going people I have met, it's no wonder we are feeling so lucky. Between Wilderness First Aid, 4WD training, Swiftwater Rescue, a black snake in the dress ups in the first week, and seven inches of rain resulting in a mighty flowing creek through the property and almost flooding the gear store, they are ready for anything. We have also been fortunate enough to be able to fit in a weekend at Mittagundi for Pioneer Skills, and time at Wollangarra just to enjoy life on (and in) the Macalister River getting to all know one another. It's also reaching the time when Reiner and I, and Charlotte and Flynn will be heading off from Wollangarra and onto our next adventure, whatever that may be. We have set a date for early July, and would love to see all of you up at Wollangarra before then, so please pick a weekend, or come on up to Woodchop in June. We have loved, and still are loving our lives at Wollangarra. Flynn is settling in wonderfully, and receiving endless loving from all those around, and Charlotte is busy making new friends all the time, and truly embracing Wollangarra. It will be hard to find a place that allows little people to thrive so amazingly once we leave! We look forward to the next few months of meeting many young people, and sharing in their journeys at Wollangarra and beyond, and to seeing the place move into autumn, and the greening of the grass and rising of the river, and to winter starting and nights around the open fire chatting and playing music, and hiking and gardening and learning and growing and all that Wollangarra has to offer! We really want to thank the five of our staff for coming into Wollangarra with such enthusiasm, and openness and positivity. It is clear from the moment you meet each of them that they are in the right place at the right time, and that the Wollangarra community is incredibly fortunate to have Jane, Lizzie, Will, Clare and Geordie as the Wollycogs of 2005, and we look forward to all we will learn from them!

*Jen, Reiner, Charlotte and Flynn*



*Rain falling on the Wollangarra flat: 7 inches on 2<sup>nd</sup> February alone!*



*Some very wet Wilderness First Aiders, but still Smiling!!*

## Greenies of the future.

The Tature Primary School have been working at a twofold job last week. In the heat of first summer parents and children have been helping the Goulburn Valley Tree Group with their tree pricking and using the process as a money raise Parents Club.



\*Will Ford, six, was only too willing to display the tree that he had pricked at the GV Tree Group.

Little did the author of this know that our Wills Ford has proved that he is only too "Willing" when it comes to anything concerning conservation and preserving the environment. A career in tree pricking? We shall see....

A familiar face in the Wollangarra community, Will brings unlimited endurance and tenacious work ethic to the 2005 staff team. He has made the trip from the bright lights of Tatura many times throughout the years, and Wollangarra is lucky to have him for he is certain to teach, inspire and plant many thought seeds in many young people.

Last year saw him in Tassie, a member of a Green Corp project in Hobart. Spending time in such a beautiful place which faces many environmental and political problems gave Will increased motivation to educate others about the importance of conservation and Will is the perfect place for him to do so. His great love of the environment and passion for life is contagious, and he is always sharing his knowledge.

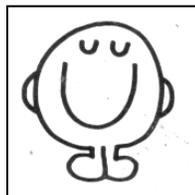
Will's perfectionism and enthusiasm see him quietly move mountains with what seems like incredible ease. Where there's a Will there's a way. Will has Wollangarra written all over him, and both will benefit greatly from the other. It is a pleasure to be working with such a great companion. Oh the places he will go!

By Clare

## Jane

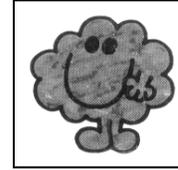
*From the far, dark depths of Melbourne, she came here a stranger. A realistic environmentalist, a down-to-earth, happy person, this was clear from the beginning.*

*In not too much time, she was easy to get to know. Soon it was clear that there was much more to respect Jane for- her open-mindedness, caring nature, and refreshing positivity. Jane has an inspirational bank of useful knowledge, which I hope to be able to learn from throughout the year. I have no doubt that she will touch the hearts and minds of many (lucky) young people. I guess she's not too bad for a stranger found on the internet!! Actually I'm very excited at spending the next 12 months working and living with her. By Geordie.*



## Introducing the Lizzie

- Easy to get to know
- 4 seasons
- All terrain



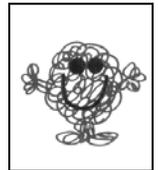
Cross Country: In rough terrain a Lizzie not only improves group morale, but adds speed through bursts of random energy, which are quickly converted to dancing and skipping. Very Steep Hills: To ensure a fast ascent, just add sugar (usually available in the form of chocolate). Many giggles will indicate that the summit has been reached, which will soon be followed by a steep descent unless sugar levels are maintained.

On the Flat: With minimum fuel required, a Lizzie will leap into action to complete a multitude of tasks. Care should be taken to maintain the focus of a Lizzie, however in the event that your Lizzie has wandered off, you will soon find her hard at work on a different task.

Performance History: First coming to Wollangarra as a year 9 student and subsequently taking part in the Alpine Walk, your Lizzie has traveled overseas, studied fine arts, glass blowing, metal casting and the environment, guaranteeing effective performance through different obstacles, and in all types of terrain.

## Geordie

To my luck I bumped into Geordie at the 2004 FRL festival, and he said in a very Geordie style, "Yeah, I'm working up at Woll this year, you should too". He planted a good seed, because now I'm here I am having the best time of my life. I didn't know Geordie that well before I came, but one thing that was in my head when I decided to come was, "I'll get to hang out with Geordie!" which is what that man can do well. HANG OUT! Working never seems like work with Geordie, it's always easygoing and funny. He's either hanging from a ridiculous angle of the homestead, or spitting water at you and joking till you're both in fits of laughter. He's my crazy blonde fluffball of fun, but don't tell him cause he might tackle me to the ground. Geordie is a great person to learn from because his abilities are confident and reliable, he's had a lot of experience in the outdoors and at Wollangarra, but he has also done some hardcore work in fire crew and he has been studying Outdoor Ed in Bendigo for the past couple of years. I've already learnt a lot from him already (he taught me how to drive, nearly navigate, take good photos and be practical about heaps of things. You can tell he enjoys when he's passed some knowledge on, he's got a genuine face of great leader and teacher. He knows a choice trick to learning, and that is confidence, and he is a walking example of what he believes, I'm rapt that I got the chance to know this wicked dude, and am still getting to know, cause he's someone I'm gonna know for a long and amazing time Cheers Geordie, Your mate, Lizzie.





## Clare, by Will.

Clare hails from the thriving metropolis of Ararat in Western Victoria. After finishing school in 2003, Clare headed off to the big smoke to study media communications, a far cry from her family's little cottage in the faraway village of Ararat. But after a year, it turned out that living in the city and learning about the complexities of text messaging just weren't right for Clare. So she deferred from Uni and headed back to her beloved hometown where everything happens a little slower than in the big smoke. But surprisingly enough, Ararat didn't offer Clare the adventure and exciting lifestyle she was searching for. Her answer lay in Wollangarra. A 2002 Alpine walker from Mittagundi, Clare became a Wollangarra convert as soon as she arrived here. I don't think she could have imagined herself working here several years later with two of her walking companions, Will and Geordie. But she's here, and I'm not entirely sure what we'd do without her. Clare is the Queen of the kitchen, you can hardly tear her away from the place. When she's not cooking her delicious zucchini bread, she'll be whipping up some other yummy thing or just cleaning up after us grots. Clare's the kind of person who does all the jobs no-one else wants to do. She's also been dubbed the "Carnage Queen" on account of her uncanny ability to injure herself almost every day. But every time she does, she is able to get up and laugh at herself, a quality very important at Wollangarra. We all look forward to eating more of Clare's zucchini bread, listening to her playing music in her room as we sit at the kitchen table, hearing her stories of the exciting life she lived in Ararat and watching her bump into things. We just hope she makes it through the year with all her limbs.

## Wollangarra Staff Reunion March 12-14 (Labour day weekend), at Wollangarra

Well by the time this is out, we'll have had a wonderful weekend of reuniting!

If for some reason you missed out, we'd still love to see you up at Wollangarra, and would like to take this time to extend an open invitation to all those who have given their time, and their heart and their soul to Wollangarra to come on back up and reconnect with this great place.

Simply give us a call and let us know when to expect you!!

## And where are the 2004 staff now?

Ziff has headed back to Melbourne to complete the final year of his degree in Medicine, and is to be found at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. We'd highly recommend anyone making a trip into hospital head to there and request him, as we are sure he will be a truly fine doctor, even if he doesn't have dreadlocks anymore! Ziffer, hope there's not too many meetings!

Clare is busily working away in Nando's Chicken, she must have truly loved the job of chickens! Though far from her ideal job, the end is in sight at Nando's, and she has tickets book to Canada and beyond in May for the remainder of the year. Clare is also preparing to lead the Alpine Walk in the coming school holidays, so we cannot wait to see her ever smiley face at the end of the walk!

Mat has just moved up to Shepparton for the year to do a Dip Ed in primary teaching. He will be a fantastic primary teacher, so long as he is not too naughty himself. We wish him all the best in Shep, and hope he can make it through a few classes without too much silliness!

Dan is busy working five days a week and living down in Tassie with a mate who does rammed earth building. No doubt he is making the most of the beautiful country nearby at every opportunity, and spending as much time near trees as possible!

Freya is also in Tassie, along with Dan, settling in to life further south and exploring her new surrounds. Frey went up to The Crossing in January and had a great time on their Earth Education program, and may possibly do a bit of teaching later in the year around Melbourne.

We are looking forward so much to seeing you all here in a couple of weeks, and hearing more about life outside of Wollangarra! And again, thank you all so much for the wonderful year we shared, the staff this year are truly benefiting from all your work around Woll, and with young people, and especially from the garden!! We promise to save you a few delicacies.



Will, Geordie & Clare- 2002 Alpine Walkers!

## Fruit Bottling



I have often thought the journey of fruit to be a perilous one. Firstly, to escape the thinning procedure (they seem to let any idiot (sic) thin apples these days) and then to make it through the picking process, only to go through the ordeal of being sorted, packaged, stored and sent to nearly every corner of the country! However, most of that fruit generally ends up somewhere to be purchased. There are many reasons why people buy fruit; to eat (strawberries), to draw (pumpkins), to juggle (oranges), to appear healthy (celery) or to simply draw faces on (eggplants). Now, fruit lovers may come and go and the fruit may still be sitting somewhere ready for the taking, until eventually only the squashy, browning or 'slightly-almost-about-to-nearly-go-off' fruit is left. Then these lucky fruits may have the good fortune to be bought and taken to a special place. These lucky few may take a bus, take a train or go hop on an aeroplane (I lie) or simply be put into the car along with someones parents. Either way, some of that fruit may end up at Wollangarra.

January at Wollangarra is a time for new things and old fruit. New staff (a very big welcome to Geordie, Clare, Jane, Will and Lizzy) along with many Woll supporters (old and new) cut up the old fruit and bottled it into old jars. All the while others cook and clean making new chutney's (mmmmmm chutney) and jams. The new dog, Mac (also known as Chief, but who I think should be called Charlie) discovered lots of new delights on the Woll flat, including our old pal Gemma the Dog. The new veggie garden underwent some hardcore weeding, and the old veggies were eaten. This fruit bottling, in my opinion, had everything a good old fruit bottling should have. There were old friends and plenty of chances to make new ones, there was warm weather, an excellent swimming hole and heaps of fruit! I can't wait to dig into that chutney, with all those onions (and all our tears) and spread that jam that tastes extra good with the knowledge that it was very happily homemade! It was another awesome fruit bottling, thanks to all who came.

**Junior Correspondent: Freya Thomas**

## *DOGS DOGS DOGS*

### Ode to Howie



How many hands have patted his head,  
And how many legs has he mounted.  
The answer my friend, is truly so much,  
That it just couldn't even be counted.

Howie's been here since he was a pup,  
Way back in the early days.  
When Wollangarra was just finding its feet.  
And mullets were the craze.

He was the donut-doing fox chaser,  
The bird-barker and clap-yelper.  
Who's been here so much longer,  
Than any Wollangarra helper.

He's been taken away in a police divvy van,  
Arrested for stealing some snags.  
But was released on bail a short time later,  
On the condition someone cut off his dags.

Now Howies left us and gone into retirement,  
At a place called Dimboola with Riss.  
To while away the last of his years,  
In utter contentment and bliss.

Thanks for all the good times Howie, we'll miss  
you!

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And Welcome to Mac.



Formerly known as Chief, Mac aka Macalister, is the latest addition to the Woll community. A local, coming from Seaton, Mac is a very playful 9 month old Red & White Border Collie. It seems no dog could ever fill Howie's shoes(or socks), but we have promised to Mac an endless amount of loving and fun.

# What's happening in 2005??

## Stage 3

### School courses to date:

It's early days for courses, with our third program for the year from The Geelong College arriving today. We have had two very successful programs so far, both also from The Geelong College, and both to Bryces Gorge. Special thanks to Tim Parks and Roger Smith, it's always a pleasure to have you both at Wollangarra, and thank you for all the yummy treats you bring!

Coming up in early 2005 we have courses with Geelong Grammar, Chairo Christian School, St Kevin's, Camberwell High, Forest Hill SC and International Student Volunteers.

### Holiday Courses

Every school holidays Wollangarra offers a five day Stage 1 program- Meeting the Mountains for young people who are attending their first Wollangarra program, and a six day Stage 2 program- Helping the Mountains- for young people who have attended Stage 1 and would like to return to Woll.

Dates for 2005 are as follows:

#### Stage 1:

18 - 22 April  
27 June -6 July - to be confirmed  
19 - 23 September

#### Stage 2:

10 - 15 April  
3 -8 July  
25 - 30 September  
16 - 21 December

Please contact us at Wollangarra for further information on Holiday programs, and to be sent out booking forms.

### *!Music Trivia!*

The second annual Music Trivia night is to be held at the Heyfield Wetlands Centre on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Entry will be \$8, and drinks will be available at bar prices.  
(Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult)

To book a table phone Wollangarra on  
5148 0492

Places are limited, and a great night guaranteed, so book early to avoid disappointment!!

Burgoyne's hut now has a completed post and rail fence, and is looking great, so it's time to get the Stage 3 building completed, and get back out into the mountains.

Materials needed include: Lining boards, insulation, glass, cupboards, pillows...there's bound to be more. If you can help please let us know at Wollangarra

We have a new Stage 3 committee for 2005, comprising: Will Morris, Penny Bates, Tegan Stevans, Sarah Bates, Hugh Rabinovici and Kate Jackson.

Also the next Stage 3 in Suburbia project is to be a revegetation project at Coongulla, April 22-24. Contact Loz on 95219440 for further details.

For more regular Stage 3 info you can receive the Stage 3 newsletter The Grapevine. Contact us at Woll.

## THE HOP

Collingwood Children's Farm

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June

(Put this date in your calendar now. More details in the next newsletter)



### ALPINE WALK



Beginning at Mittagundi on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and finishing at Wollangarra on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 young people and three leaders from Wollangarra, Mittagundi and Typo Station will walk over 150kms to raise funds to assist less financial young people to attend these three amazing places. This years Alpine Walkers from Wollangarra are: Rob Bakes, Charlotte Deans, Chris Mollica, Mardi Thorpe and Tristan Simons. CONGRATULATIONS to these five outstanding young people!

Your help is needed, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Simply fill out the form below, and return to Wollangarra by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, With Thanks!!

#### ALPINE WALK 2005

YES! I would like to donate to the 2005 Alpine Walk, in support of the efforts of the young people who have committed their time and energy to this cause.

I have included a cheque/money order for the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please send receipt to:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THANKS, THANKS

*Phil Johnson*- Elgas: Parts and time.

*John Ellis*- Office of Gas Safety: advice and your time.

*Samantha Lowery*-Wellington Shire: Food Safety help.

*Russel Wallace*- Wellington Shire: Building I inspection.

*Susannah*-Licola Lions Camp: CAV help.

*John and Red*- Sheep and plumbing help.

*Ken and June Medew*- Gas help and sewing.

*The Dennets and Jemma*- Looking after Woll.

*Colin and Marianne Easton*- Sewing Machine and fruit bottling and gardening and sheep help.

*Ted and Elaine Schaece*- Fruit bottling: for making it happen and your tireless work.

All the wonderful bottlers, and especially *Doug, Aleks, Tim, Tracey, Jack, Meg, the Berkowitz family, the Giddings family*- for great help at Fruit Bottling, and eskies!

*Neil Barraclough*- Garden help.

*Ralph Barraclough*- Weather updates.

*Sam and Cam*- Great instruction and fun at Wilderness First Aid.

*Frank, Tom, Martina and Josie*- Truly exceptional food for WFA,

*Noel Harris*- Looking after Woll so well and so often.

*Ross Davis*- Pump help and sprinkler heads.

*Aerial Motors*- Food storage, vehicle washing and entertainment!

*Janina Svasas*-cookbook.

*Murray Tucker*- Swiftwater Rescue.

*Laury-Vic Uni*: Photos of WFA

*Tony Ford*- Donation and great article on Will!

*Sam Hanna*- Brolga Designs: T-shirt printing.

*Rob Gilder*- Your hospitality and bravery at having us all to lunch!

*The Geelong College*- Generous donation.

*Toby*- Taking the staff hiking.

*Andrew and Linda Fullagar*- Generous donation.

*Andrew Menk*- Wild subscription.

*Hedge*-Labels.

*Nia and Jenny*- Organising the reunion.

And to everyone else who has helped us at Wollangarra but have forgotten to mention here, THANK YOU!!

## FUN STUFF TO BUY!!

Stock up now for Christmas, it's only 305 days away!! To order phone us at Wollangarra.

### Wollangarra Red

A fine drop, and at only \$15 bottle or \$165 dozen you may as well fill the cellar!



Wollangarra Icons

### T-Shirts

They're new, they're fun and they're on sale now in a range of great new colors:

Chocolate Brown with

Aquamarine writing.

Khaki with Raspberry writing.

Navy with Emerald writing.

Available in Mens and Womens

XS-XXL. \$25.00

### Cards

### "Wollangarra Icons"

Six images of life at Wollangarra. \$3 per card or \$15 for the set of six.



Wollangarra Icons

**What are we wishing for?** Stainless steel bowls- like the ones we have, Plastic chopping boards, Polystyrene lidded boxes, Fox stuff- Lots of concrete, A large steel I-beam, A new fox cable (or about \$10,000 to help replace this wonderful lifeline of Wollangarra), Rectangular fence wire, Paint in all colors, Extra thick oven mitts, Mulch, Worms, Straw, Mushroom spores. Two wonderfully enthusiastic Directors to commence in June: Contact Wayne McCallum on 5148 0244 for further details and a position description.

*If undeliverable please return to:*

Wollangarra  
Licola 3858

Surface  
Mail

Postage  
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Australia

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