

"Wollangarra"

Licola Victoria 3858 Ph. 03 5148 0492
Winter Newsletter #62, July 2005

For the past two years Wollangarra has been home to a funny, farting, cute, amazing, wise, inspiring and beautiful family. Sadly Jen, Reiner, Charlotte and Flynn are about to leave. They have passed through Wollangarra, and with mysterious consequence it has passed through them. Jen and Reiner have left an indelible mark on this place, and it has woven it's magic upon them. Each of you, in your own way, will be sadly missed.

Jen, we will miss your wisdom, your strength of character and your special presence around the young people. We will miss your calm temperament, your passion for and beliefs about conservation, and your bad jokes. Thank you for giving so much energy to Wollangarra. Your dedication to gaining accreditation is a massive step in maintaining the beliefs of Ian Stapleton and ensuring all young people have the opportunity to experience Wollangarra. In this way you have made a difference to not only the 1300 young people that came here during your time, but also the thousands that are yet to come. Remember to dream BIG, we all know you are destined to do more amazing things in your life. May you remain young at heart but may your crow's feet grow large and beautiful.

*Jen, Reiner,
Charlotte, Flynn*



*Thank you
and Farewell*

Reiner, we will miss your stories and jokes, your ideas, your silliness and your laughter. We will miss your ability to remain calm in every situation, your double decker tacos, your farts, burps, Reinerisms, bonfires and the way you ask, "How you travellin'?" Thank you for your awesome enthusiasm and commitment to Wollangarra. You could not possibly comprehend how much of a positive impact you have made on so many young people during your time here. May your future hold happiness, adventure and challenge beyond your wildest dreams, and may your scalp grow bald and shiny.

Charlotte, we will miss your boundless imagination, your adventurous spirit, and your wisdom that is far beyond your years. We will miss being fairies and princesses, sheep and horses, giants and aeroplanes. Thank you for being so cute and for teaching us more than we could have imagined. May you grow up to be wise like your Mum, and funny like your Dad, and may you never lose your princess crown and fairy wings.

Flynn, we will miss your smile and your laughter, your cuddles and your crazy jumpsuits. Thank you for bringing so much happiness and love to so many people without saying a word. May your vocabulary develop remarkably and may you grow up to have more hair than your father.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Wollangarra community, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Jen, Reiner, Charlotte and Flynn. We will all miss you dearly and we wish you all the very best for whatever the future may hold.

Love from Will and the Wollycogs.

A fond farewell.

By Jen, Reiner, Charlotte and Flynn

*It's hard to believe, two years ago, we came across the fox,
Our bags were full, our eyes were wide, we even wore clean sox.
Just three of us came in that day, to celebrate our new home,
We never would have imagined, how much we could have grown.
As a family and as directors, we had so much to learn,
So many memories created, a life to always yearn.*

*With fifteen staff we've shared our lives, and made great lifelong friends,
The start of a wonderful journey, and one which never ends.
They've seen us laugh, they've seen us cry, to all we've said goodbye,
Knowing that we'd stay in touch, a family to stand by.
To all of you, who shared this life, we want to say thank you,
For helping to support us, to share in dreams come true.*

*To all the folk of Heyfield, and Maffra, and around,
Who've given us support, and beds, and a great change of surround,
We'll miss you all so greatly, and hope to stay in touch,
You made our lives much easier, by helping us so much,
With gas and sheep and trees and the fox and cars and mulch and more,
Your knowledge has proved invaluable, your friendship we adore.*

*To the thirteen hundred young people, who've come through our front door,
You made ours lives feel so fulfilled, we couldn't ask for more,
Than to be the Woll directors, and to learn and live and teach,
To share your hopes and dreams, to know the heights that you may reach.
So for all the laughs, the tales, the hikes, the talks and late, late nights,
We want to thank you all so much, for bringing us to new heights.*

*To the sheep, the chooks, the goats, the dogs, this land we've come to know,
You have helped us now to realize, the direction we'd like to go,
We'll always strive to find a place, with purpose, work and space,
Where life just kind of rolls along, and finds it's own new pace.
A place where people come to be, accepted just as they are,
Where dreams can form, and thoughts can grow, and nothing seems too far.*

*So now its time for us to go, across the fox for one last ride,
With our family that now has grown to four, and a truly great sense of pride,
For all that we have come to know, and what we've had to give,
To Woll and its community, and the amazing life we've lived.
We know that we'll be back quite soon, to walk around the flat,
To visit our Wollangarra family, when we just have time to chat!*

*So thank you all for giving us, the chance to come and be,
A part of Wollangarra, a truly happy family!*

What's New at Wollangarra?

Ross Richards, AKA George, Georgie, Ross the Boss, the new Director



From Mathew Flinders Girls Secondary College, to Sophia Munde Steiner School, to Mac Robertson Girls High School, Ross has already played a significant role in the lives of many young people throughout Victoria, and now we would like to welcome here to Wollangarra as our new Director for the next 2-3 years.

From aerospace engineering onto teaching, Ross has quite an amazing wealth of knowledge. Always ready to launch into a great chat on quantum physics, or theories of creation of the universe, or the latest theories on communication he will no doubt keep the community interested and intrigued.

Ross also brings with him his guitars which ring out the sweetest of tunes, his mountain bikes which seem to go to more places than could be imagined, and his new dog Billy. So welcome and we wish you the most wonderful time of your life, and offer to you our ongoing support on this latest adventure!

Hi Ace

With great financial assistance Wollangarra has been able to purchase a new vehicle to replace Ralph- the 1987 Land Cruiser. We are now the new owners of a 1997 Toyota Hi Ace bus. We have decided to try out this new means of transport for the next 12 months as a more affordable alternative to a third troop carrier. We are still in need of replacing our 2 troopies for newer models also, and would greatly appreciate any assistance to help us on the path to a fleet of truly reliable and lower mileage vehicles.

CAV Accreditation

After beginning more than six years ago, the completion of this long road is nigh. We have finished all aspects of accreditation through the Camping Association of Victoria, and are now just awaiting our formal letter of accreditation. Completion of this task has seen Jen spend more than 200 hours in front of the computer, rewriting and creating the policies and procedures for all aspects of the running of Wollangarra, as well as the completion of a full OH&S overhaul of Wollangarra, and Reiner spending many hours alongside Ken and the staff ensuring property tasks were completed. This accreditation will see us more easily able to gain low cost insurance, and will also mean that all schools can continue to attend Wollangarra programs as some move towards only being able to utilize accredited camps. We would like to specially thank several people for assisting us in this project- Ken Medew for all help with gas and plumbing, Ian Newnham of WBM Engineering for fox design and advice and the soon installation of a new fox structure, David Strickland of the CAV for coming to Wollangarra to advise us on what needed to be done, and all the staff of 2004 and 2005 who have spent many days working on some pretty tedious tasks! Its been a lengthy and time consuming process, but the loose ends that have now been tied at Wollangarra will ensure our future success for many years to come, so thank you all for seeing this process through.

Hybrid Toilet- Freemasons

The construction has commenced, and we will soon have a second hybrid toilet on the flat, with thanks to the Freemasons generous donation. Hybrid toilets are a great alternative to our current pit toilets, ensuring that the only effluent to reach the soil is purified to the point where it can fertilize our fruit trees and not pose any health hazards. The remaining solid waste is removed every 5-6 years.

The Wollangarra / Mittagundi Bushdance HOP at the Collingwood Children's Farm.

There was dancing,
There was prancing,
There was hopping,
There was bopping.
We had fun, and made funds.
It was cold, the dance moves bold.
It was country meets the city, and everyone looked so pretty.
The farm was full (and that's no bull).
Thanks for making it there, we appreciate you care.
See you all next year,
We hope without any fear!

Wood chop



We here at Wollangarra were stoked by the amazing turnout of axe men and women for the annual wood chop weekend. There was a backlog at the flying fox as supporters, friends of Wollangarra staff, young people and locals came to rekindle their Wollangarra spirit or ignite and new one, and then branch out into the many jobs that are involved in the journey from tree to flame.

In between the good old fashioned hard work, there was much fun, food and laughter shared between over 80 people who lit the flat ablaze with their energy. Once the woodshed was full it was time to split, and for our trustee workers to make like trees and leave, satisfied with a job well done.

We touch wood that next years wood chop is a s much of a hit. A huge thanks to all the heroes who came, sawed and conquered. We love you to bits!

WOLLYDOGS!

After 5 months living the high life at Wollangarra, Mac, AKA 'Chief Macalister Ginga Ninja Spion Kopje' has been returned to his former home in Seaton. Although he loved running and playing in the wide open space, not enough training meant some bad habits were left unchecked, and we would like to give a huge thankyou to Judy Knight, for not only providing us with a new dog after Howie retired, but for being so willing ot take Mac back and give him the love and training he deserves.

With Ross, the new director, comes a new addition to our canine family, and we hope Billy, Ross' 4-month old Border Collie x Kelpie enjoys living at Wollangarra as much as Mac did, while getting all the attention he needs.

As for Gemma, her future home is still undecided as to whether she will leave with Jen and Reiner, or remain behind to become a true Wollangarra fixture.

Golden Memories:

- ♥ Watching Mac learn to swim.
- ♥ Watching Mac and Gemma chasing each other across the flat.



- ♥ Seeing Mac hang by his teeth from the flying fox.
- ♥ Having dogs peer out the window of a misted up troopie.

Courses



After 12 groups from 7 different schools, a Stage 2, a Stage 3 and a bunch of International Student Volunteers, Wollangarra has finally settled down into Winter. We started the year with trips up to Bryce's Gorge, thinking we would get as much walking in the High Country as possible before it started to get too wet. Luckily for us, the winter rains held off, and we made it into the High Country with all our Stage 1 school courses.

The Stage 2's and 3's did some fantastic work on the Local Walk, and our International friends got to spend some time getting to know the Australian bush on a 4-day trip from McFarlanes Saddle to Tali Karng and down the Wellington River.

Although many of the young people passing through Wollangarra found the early mornings, washing up and Wollangarra porridge trying at times, it was all made worthwhile by the amazing experiences they gained from just five days living the Wollangarra lifestyle. Some of the highlights included: telling ghost stories and drinking hot chocolate around the campfire, having mud fights on the Wellington Plateau, swimming in the pool at the top of Piemans Falls, waking up to discover that the handwashing water had frozen solid at the toilets, and checking out the amazing views from Spion Kopje, Gables End and the Sentinels.

The Alpine Walk

Once again the Alpine Walk was a great success. Five young people from Wollangarra joined five from Mittagundi and two from Typo Station, to walk from Mittagundi to Wollangarra, raising funds to help each organization to sponsor less financial young people to attend their programs.

The Alpine Walk began in 1995, and we have now had more than 120 young people participate in this walk. The walk is lead by ex-staff who volunteer a lot of time to organising and participating in the hike. The route covers over 150km of spectacular and often remote alpine country over 11 days, and is a great undertaking for all involved.

Special thanks from us to Chris Mollica, Charlotte Deans, Mardi Thorpe, Rob Bakes and Tristan Simons, the famous five from Woll and to the seven amazing young people from Mittagundi and Typo, to Clare, Richie and Oadie for all the time you gave to ensuring the success of this years walk, to Mittagundi and Typo for lots of organizing and food drops and assistance to the walkers, and to all those people who have made donations towards the Alpine Walk. It is a tradition that we want to continue well into the future, so thank you all for helping make it possible.



Wanted- Bushwalking Coordinator.

A new position has arisen at Wollangarra for the remainder of 2005, interested applicants can contact Fiona Stewart on 5728 6680.

Beginning by September the position will involve overseeing the Wollangarra hikes including: staff training and support, route selection and evaluation, hike preparation, gear maintenance, leading of three days hikes in the surrounding high country.

Applications close ASAP.

Wollangarra Staff Reunion

Held on Labor Day, we all enjoyed a wonderful labour free weekend of reuniting with old friends, and making new friends. With representatives from all years bar one, the turnout was brilliant, and it was great to hear tales



of old and new, and put faces to names of the much talked about and valued Wollangarra staff! Thank you so much to Nia and Jenny for making the weekend happen, and to all who came for a truly great time!

!!The Never-ending Wish List!!

Potato Masher, normal size and super strong.

Pizza trays that will fit in the oven.

Perspex sheet to cover the skylight in the kitchen.

Bamboo blinds for the outdoor kitchen.

Photo developing chemicals.

Woollen mittens and gloves.

Metal bowls to take on hike.

1 Litre Nalgene water bottles.

Sno-seal for the boots.

Good black pens.

New couches for the lounge.

Mesh Fencing wire and star pickets.

Woollen blankets.

A weaving loom.

Old wool carpet to use as weed matting.

Camera film.

Wool for knitting and crocheting.

Crochet hooks, all sizes.

A Scrabble set.

More innersheets.

New Pillows.

Sandpaper.

Axes- old and new.

Nylon guitar strings.

Unspun wool.

Laserlite sheets.

Cash donations towards a new Wollangarra Vehicle.

WOLLANGARRA OPEN WEEKEND

FRIDAY 30th September

7pm til late

GLEN MAGGIE BUSH DANCE

@ the GLEN MAGGIE HALL

drinks @ bar prices - BBQ dinner (GOLD COIN DONATION)
under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.

\$12 Adults
\$8 Concessions
4/12 Free

Saturday 1st October

Craft Workshops

- *bring your creative spirit
- *~~NO~~ Open Stage evening for the musos to entertain
- *Star Gazing @ night.
- *BYO bedding + accommodation
Plus food to share

Sunday 2nd

OFFICIAL OPEN DAY

- *A fun day for all, there'll be talking + playing + music + tea + cakes + sheep shearing + BBQ lunch + a pumpkin pip spit + gum-boot throwing + lots, lots more.

10ish til
4ish.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Wollangarra Merchandise!!

To order simply fill out the form below, and return to: "Wollangarra", Licola 3858. Please include a donation for postage if required.

◆Wine- Wollangarra Red- from
Rutherglen. \$15 bottle or \$165 dozen.

◆Secondhand and Solid- How we built
Wollangarra- \$18 per book, or 2 for
\$30.

◆Cards- Wollangarra I cons. Scenes of
Wollangarra. \$2 each or a set of 8 for
\$12.

◆T-shirts- Mens and Womens- XS to
XXL, (sizes run small).

Colors- Brown with aquamarine, Navy
with emerald, Khaki with raspberry!

◆Jim and Molly- Two very special
Australians- \$8 per book.

◆Stickers- \$2 each.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address: _____

WINE _____ bottles CARDS _____ STICKERS _____ 2ndHand & Solid _____ Jim \$ Molly _____

T-SHIRTS: Size/color _____ Size/color _____ Size/color _____

Total Payment Amount _____ (Please make cheques payable to Wollangarra I nc)

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE!

The Smiths- Tireless wood-
chopping and chocolates.

Rob KT- Mulch, mushrooms,
worms, windows, great
company.

Julain Illich- Awesome
munchie bags.

Terry Higgins- Tree felling
and pest control.

Denise Macauley- Donation.

Tom Lester- Knives,
goodies, great friendship.

Norm Morris, Noel Harris
and Ross Davis-Pre wood
chopping.

Ben Blackburn- Great help
during I SV.

Marcus for many great
inventive ideas.

Sue Buxton- For a great
CAV visit. David Akers,
Maffra Landcare and
Karen, Sale Landcare

Derrick & Simone- Jackets.

Neil Barraclough- Endless
garden help and know how.

Margaret Beckett- Clothes
and envelopes.

Conrad McKee- Donation.

All the Work Party
Helpers.

Freya Thomas- Walk dinner
help.

Mat Gray- Stage 2 help.

The amazing Alpine
Walkers- Charlotte, Rob,
Mardi, Tristan and Chris.

Clare, Oadie Rich- Alpine
Walk leaders.

Mittagundi and Typo-
Alpine Walk organization.

The McCallums- For so
much.

Michelle Mollica and
Friends- Fundraising.

Ken and June Medew-
Endless help and great
friendship.

Ron Wenzler and Norm
Morris- Trivia night.

Murray Goulburn- ongoing
donations of dairy
goodness.

The Aerial Crew- Keeping
us on the road.

Dave, Jackie, Chris and
Claire- Support and
friendship.

Sophie, and all the
Heyfield Op Shop ladies.

The Dennetts- Babysitting,
hard work, a welcoming
home.

The Railway and
Commercial hotels- wine
donations.

Tom Hay- Hop organization.

John Colpo and Red
Warren- New fire grate.

John and Gwyn Colpo-
Freezer and friendship.

Ian Newnham- Ongoing fox
help.

Ian and Alistair Morris-
Sheep shearing.

Jack Watson- Website
setup.

Linda Gallas- Wool and
treats.

Everyone on the
Wollangarra council.

All who came to our
farewell for being such a
special part of our journey.

Everyone else who has
given their time and
energy to Wollangarra
in any way, THANK
YOU!!

If undeliverable please return to:

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