

Spring Newsletter

Number 67

www.wollangarra.org

Ph 5148 0492



Licola 3858

Patron: John Landy,
AC, MBE

Spring, spring, spring! There has been a veritable explosion of colour on the flat. The acacias have bloomed their brilliant yellow flowers, the cherry blossoms have blossomed, and the birds and bees are doing their thing.

Now, though, as the wind picks up, the white petals are cast around the flat, ending up in all sorts of strange places. It is such a brief period of colour, then it is gone.

Thanks to Loz for making an unexpected financial contribution to Wollangarra. You see, while at the Hop, we held an auction of a few chairs that Will built then donated. Loz thought the bidding was going a bit slowly, so she put in a few bids to push it along a bit. "I'll stop at \$90", she told Nick. Then Hamish starts saying "Any more takers? Going once..." And the chair was Loz's. Hamish walked up to her and said "Congratulations. Now go and pay that guy over there in the John Deere cap." "Yeah, I know him," said Loz. "I'll just get him to take the money out of my next pay."

At the moment we are busy preparing for the Open Day and Bush Dance. By the time you read this it will have

all been and gone, and all the questions we have will have been settled. How many hamburgers? How much lighting? Where do we put the dance floor?

It's quite exciting for us, as we've never had the Bush Dance here before. Lots of logistics to consider, such as lighting and inclement weather precautions. And not knowing how many more people we might attract with the new format, with one big day and then it's all over.

Additionally, we'll be running a holiday Stage 1 course in the immediate week after. There are a few local young people coming, which is great news, as Wollangarra was always intended for use by the people of Gippsland.

Currently, we are waiting on the arrival of Preshil, signalling the start of the crazy second half of the year. These last few months will really fly, and the year will be over before we know it. The staff are starting to realize this too—no sooner do they arrive, than it feels as though the year is running out. The next newsletter will be their farewell. But until then, we have

a camp to run and sheep to shear and gardening to do.

- Ross



Ross, Freya and Steph trying to break the record for "Rafting the Macalister Gorge with the least inflation possible". Smiling, despite the bruising.



Folk Rhythm & Life

1st, 2nd & 3rd

December 2005

Helpers on the Woll stowell get a free ticket.

Contact us for more details.



The Hop

Much fun was had by all at this year's Hop. It was a great chance for the Mittagundi Mob to hang out with the Wollies while beer was poured, spilled, and drunk, merchandise was sold to those who wanted it (and also those that were coerced) and much shaking of one's thang to the grooves of Colonel Vipers Whipstick Band. Thanks also to the other musos that night: Sal Kimba and Papa Changa.

We raised over \$500 on the night at the stawell, which also included the auction of Wilbo's chairs. Thanks heaps to Will for those impressive donations. There is also more money on it's way from Tom Hay, the organiser of the Hop.



The Stage 2 Crew on the gate for the Hop. After a week at Woll they still couldn't get enough, and went straight to the Hop and kept working.

What's New At Woll

New troop! Welcome "LJ" to the Woll family of transportation. LJ came to us from Mittagundi and we all look forward to many years of 4WD pleasure. Thanks to Mittagundi and Wangaratta Toyota for letting us buy it from them. And I guess we should say goodbye to Stevo who, after 640,000 km, has gone into retirement.

The fence is finished! There was much rejoicing when that was taken off the "Never Ending Job List". I do feel a bit sorry for the sheep, as they are pretty keen on the ford area, and now they just kind of stand around, and say "What happened?" And a note to any visitors—that gate on the telephone track that never really used to do anything? Well, it does a lot now. So please keep it shut.

The phone line to Tussocky has been put in the ground, but we are now just waiting on the Telstra crew to come out and connect it all up. Much of that was dug on the weekend of Woodchop, but Freya and Hugh had to dig an even longer trench over at Tussocky.

The lamb explosion continues, even after we thought it was over. No-one is going hungry this year, or even the year after.

Insulation in the roof. Who would have thought! Technology, again. It was quite a mission, actually. First, thanks to Ideas Man Marcus for "procuring" the stuff (don't ask too many questions), thanks to Malcolm (the car) for taking it all to Woll, and a big thanks to the staff for spending a hell of a long time up there in the roof laying it all down. It's a combination of silver backed bubble wrap and bats—and it's toasty! Then next thing is to seal the gaps—and that'll be fun...

What is Wollangarra?

Wollangarra is an independent non-profit outdoor education project established in the firm belief that young people and mountains are natural partners with a great deal to offer each other. The pioneer-style homestead, which serves as our base camp, is situated on a small, remote river flat of the Macalister River, half way between the towns of Heyfield and Licola. Wollangarra is a unique and simple place. It has no electricity, is accessed only by flying fox and has been built by hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers using second hand recycled materials. Nearly 2000 old railway sleepers were used in the construction.



It allows young people the opportunity to discover the heart of Victoria's high country in small, well organised and supervised hiking groups, and shows them practical and important ways in which they can help the environment. The five staff and directors that live there balance education, environmental sustainability and the pioneering lifestyle through the development of the self, community and environmental awareness.

July Stage 2



June Stage 2 saw the arrival of many wonderful young people up to the high country. They arrived with huge smiles and boundless energy and set out to do some darn tough work in the mountains. This stage 2 we worked on the local walk track. The local walk is very important to us at Wollangarra, as it the only hike we begin from Woll. It is wonderful to be able to walk out the back door and head off into the high country, and we use it regularly. The track needed a lot of love, as it was very overgrown and eroded in some sections, and many trees had fallen down over the track. So with an amazing amount of energy the Stage 2's spent 3 days clearing vegetation from tracks, building erosion banks, benching and putting in new steps. They were truly amazing, and worked so hard, whilst still having such a great time.

Huge thanks go to the Hard and Soft Core Poses for rapping their way through the week and keeping us all entertained! And if they weren't all amazing enough, they all came home to bake a cake and compose a song for Ross to celebrate his one year anniversary (as director at Woll). We'd like to send a huge Thankyou to the Stage 2's for all their hard work and great company. It really is an honour to be able to spend time with such enthusiastic, passionate and inspiring young people. We recently walked the track and it was fantastic! It was such a delight to walk on a clear and solid track. Thankyou so much for your hard work, and we look forward to seeing you in September!



Clockwise from top left: a very serious group of young people—Hanna, Anna, Grace, Hamish, Nathan and Rachel (I presume that is the Hard Core Posse, judging form the expressions); the Stage 2 group at Burgoyne's Hut, while working on the Local Walk behind Wollangarra (this hut was restored by Stage 2 and 3 groups from 1996 through to 2003, with the assistance of many bush carpenters, such as Graham Fall); the crew hiking off into the distance—we apologise for the poor manners of Hamish; James making a one legged snow angel; the crew eating ice stalactites up at Kelly's Lane.



The 2006



After a couple of weeks of putting our feet up, the five of us hit the ground running when we headed off to Mittagundi on our first day back from holidays. As tradition goes, we spent a week at Mitta helping out on one of their winter courses. This was quite an adventure for us, as we swapped our well worn hiking boots for skis and headed out with the Mitta crew to the snow. We base-camped at Fitzgeralds Hut and were lucky enough to get a dump of snow on the second day. We spent three days trying to remain upright on our skis, whilst attempting to maintain some semblance of dignity. Hopeless task really, as we (well, just me, Loz, actually) spent most of the time face first in the snow. Many lessons learned from our time at Mittagundi: (1) just because you are a 'leader' doesn't mean you know one thing about skiing; (2) it is very easy to go fast, very difficult to stop; (3) snow balls are most effective when fired at close range; (4) snow is wet and cold, and not much fun down your jumper or pants; (5) the best solution to minimal skill is bend forward, hang on and hope you land somewhere soft; and (6) laughter is the best solution to a faceplant in the snow.

We had a couple of 'farm days' back at Mitta and were educated in various cow de-bloating techniques. All we can say is that we are happy the cow is better, and that we hope we never get bloat. Despite their unconventional veterinary approach, they are a great bunch up at Mittagundi. They even let us sneak out with one of their troopies (big thanks to Mike and Terri for looking after it for us while we were at the Crossing).

Our next stop was the thriving metropolis of Cann River. A night camped out by the river and a 'wild' night at the Cann River pub put us in good stead for a long journey to Bermagui. We were welcomed with open arms from the very tired



Clockwise from top left: the joys of electricity—Nick on the jack hammer showing the concrete who's boss; Gemma and Billy being chauffeured around in the White Rocket; Ross taking his pick of the jobs while at the Crossing; Wollangarra and The Crossing cementing their relations—Sas praying to the cement gods, while Steph, Loz and Gill look on; Freya down in the new toilet hole—as if we hadn't had enough toilet hole digging at Woll; Ross at Fitzy's hut on the Mittagundi ski course—a hut built by Ian and Liv and friends back in the mid nineties; Freya getting dirty; whenever Woll hit the road, they always do it in style—Chateaux a la Ground; Ian and Liv and the Woll crew in Harrierville.

R o a d T r i p



but amazing group at the Crossing. They had just finished six weeks straight of courses, and needed a day's rest so we were more than happy to help them out with that. We had a great day on the beach with them all before heading back to the Crossing to spend some time digging dunnies. We had such a wonderful time with Dean, Annette and Jye and their amazing new staff members Gill and Sass. They welcomed us into their train carriage, fed us well and made sure we had a wonderful time. We were very inspired by the work they do and the passion they have for making the world a better place. A big thank you to them all for having us, we'll be back, for sure!

Next stop was to see 'Crazy Pete' at Nungatta, before heading over Mt Hotham to Harrietville to visit Ian and Liv Stapleton. We spent a night with them hearing stories of their amazing journey with Wollangarra. And we thought we had it tough... those two are amazing! They looked after us so well, we wanted to stay. A big thankyou to both Liv and Ian for their warmth, hospitality and great stories!

After a long trip home we finally arrived back at Woll to a mass of colour and flowers. Spring has definitely sprung at Woll, and it's great to see the place looking so alive, and smelling so good!



W a n t e d — S t a f f f o r 2 0 0 6



Wollangarra is seeking 5 staff for 2007. Working at Woll is really easy and fun, with everyone getting along really well all the time, as you can see.

To see if you think you have what it takes to work here, fill out our "Suitability Questionnaire". Circle the answers, and add up your score at the end.

- A. How much do you like porridge?
1. A lot
 2. A real lot
 3. Hard to put into words how much
 4. More than life itself
- B. How much do you like early mornings?
1. A lot
 2. A real lot
 3. Would rather eat my own head than get up after sunrise
 4. Only thing better is not sleeping at all
- C. When climbing a mountain with a heavy pack, you are most likely to say:
1. This is fun!
 2. I hope this hill goes on forever
 3. I wish my pack was 10 kg heavier
 4. Can I give anyone a piggy back?
- D. When cleaning toilets you think:
1. This is Heaven
 2. This is Nirvana
 3. Every time I see a white light at the end of a tunnel
 4. I'd love to get down there and *really* clean it

Interpreting your score:

Between 4 and 7: Soft. Don't even think about applying. Stay home.

Between 8 and 11: Weak. You need to toughen up a lot. Give as a call then, but not before.

Between 12 and 15: Close, but no cigar. You probably think you are hardcore, but it is precisely this illusion that is holding you back from realising your potential.

16 or better. Let's have a chat.

For more information, such as Selection Criteria and details about what it is like to live and work at Wollangarra, visit www.wollangarra.org. Applications close October 31.

New Merchandise

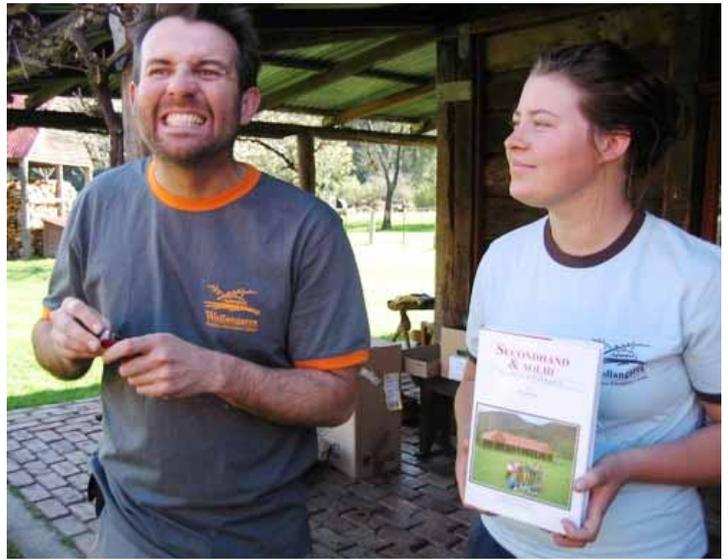
New logo, new merchandise. Goodbye Comic Sans, hello the lovely serif font of Calisto. See the front of the Newsletter for more detail.

- **Unisex T with Coloured Neck & Arm bands**

Look stylish this Spring in the interestingly named "Slim Fit Ringer" (that is what the supplier calls it). However, we call it the Unisex T with Coloured Neck and Arm bands. Not quite as linguistically appealing, but more descriptive.

Available in an assortment of colours: red/white, ice blue/brown, emerald/navy, charcoal/orange

And while you're wearing the shirt, why not read "Secondhand and Solid"?



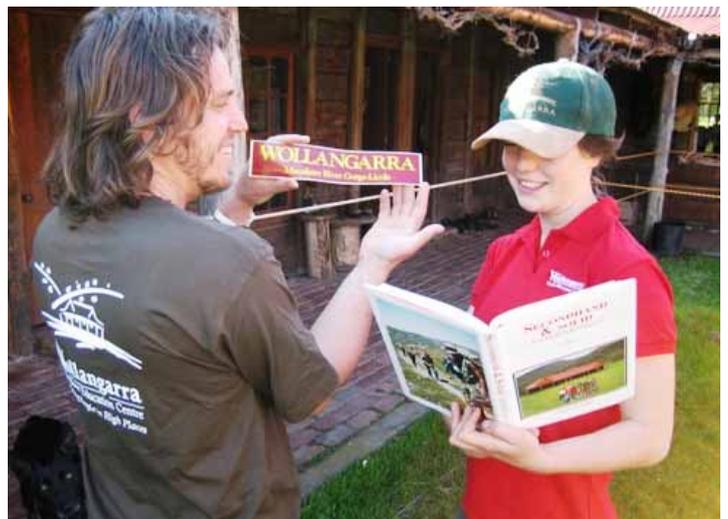
- **Polo Shirt**

- **Unisex T-shirt, Single Colour**

Want to look a bit more stylish, more debonair? Then you need the Polo Shirt. Whenever Woll hits the golf course, you'll find us in no other garment than this classy number. Available in unisex and ladies cut, with colours: red, sky blue, navy & bottle

Unisex Ts available in brown, grey, army green and navy.

But don't get too excited about the cap. That one pictured is the only one we have, and you can't have it.



- **Work Shirt**

- **Crosscut Saw**

Look tough in the Wollangarra Work Shirt. Made from cotton drill and featuring the same technology principles of the Sticker (in that it says "Wollangarra") this shirt will see you through the tough times.

Available in blue & fawn, long and short sleeve, and full and half button.

And what better activity to do in your shirt than a bit of crosscut sawing?

(Check availability of saw before ordering)



But That's Not All...
 We still have a lot of old stock, which is all heavily discounted. In particular, lots of Girly Ts.

Stage 3 Report

An article reprinted from the Ben Cruachan Walking Club Newsletter.

Two members travelled to the Wellington River campsite just beyond the first bridge above Licola. The arrangement was that we were to meet a group of stage 3 people from Wollangarra Outdoor Education group and camp at that location for four days working on the Lyrebird Gully part of the Mac Track (just near Melb Grammar School camp). We arrived sometime after lunch on Monday, set up our camp and organised some firewood. Later in the afternoon the group turned up with a big surprise— we had an all girl team, just 7 in number. (Well! As the only male guess who was a little overwhelmed.) I was thinking that some of our younger members were missing something here. After introductions, they set up their collection of tents and prepared the evening meal. Not having ever sat around a camp fire with eight female companions, it was a new and enlightening experience for this crusty old fella – talk about the ghost of Wallace’s hut. Moving right along, the plans for the next few days were sorted out and as it was a very cold night it was off to bed.

Next morning it was bitterly cold; minus 2 degrees Celsius, I believe. We were quickly off up the track, anyone familiar with that part of Mc track will appreciate that you warm up fairly quickly. The more work we do on this section of the track, the higher up the ridge the work area is. It is now at the stage that by the time you get to the work area you have just about done a hard days work getting there! The girls, obviously more intelligent than us older folk, turned up a bit later when the sun ad come over the hill. None the less, we completed to perfection the whole section we had planned; and all on the first day.

Day 2 was similar to the first but us wise old folk opted to only go a little way up the hill and do some repairs and tidying. Our all girl wonder women team went further up near the top and rebenched some of the track that was badly degraded and also did a stroll to the top. All the proposed work was completed ahead of schedule. On the last day we headed for home and they stayed on for some quiet time (their quote). Our talks around the campfire at night were most interesting. I was surprised at the varied range of subjects discussed – obviously a group of very intelligent young people. A big vote of thanks must go to this group of energetic young women for their assistance in helping us again this year.



Ideas Man Marcus and Malcolm—does this man know when to stop? Is no job too great?

Ode to Trevor & Maude

Real happiness we'd not experienced,

Never

Than the day we welcomed

Our Maude and Trevor

They brought such life

To the Wollangarra shack

Every time they said

"Quack, Quack"

But from us

They were tragically taken

Listen to my words

Be not mistaken

For a devious animal

Crept into their box

Who would have thunk it?

A cowardly fox!

"Twas Ursula

Who broke to us the news

Our sadness was deep

Our hearts bruised

We'll get that fox

Don't worry matey

We'll fix it right up

With a bit of 10 80

-Anon

Stage 1 Courses

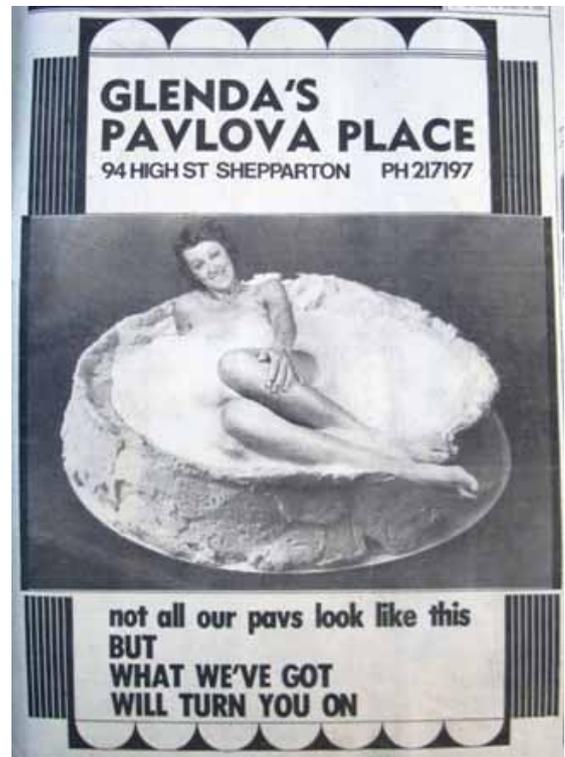
There haven't been many courses since the last newsletter. Winter is a time of either work on the flat, staff annual leave, or helping out at other places like Mittagundi and the Crossing. However, we did sneak a course in this time, and that was a YMCA group of Americans and young people from Westernport Bay. It was a modified program, whereby they stayed on the flat for the week and worked around the property.

Much was accomplished around the place, including working on the fence and tidying up a lot of wood that was left over from Woodchop. We also took them up to the helipad on the mountain behind Woll, which seemed to sort them all out a bit.

At the time of writing, Preshil are about to arrive, heralding in the second half of the year. But you will have to wait for the next issue to see how they went.

Wish List

- Donations for a new chain-saw (with decompression lever so that even Nick can start it)
- Garden forks
- GIANT Knitting needles
- Wool
- Plastic coffee cups for hiking
- Scrabble dictionary (we now have a book of lists)
- Green and Blacks fair trade chocolate
- Fair trade percolator coffee
- Flower seed
- Klezmer sheet music
- Wheel barrow
- Brown paper packages tied up in string (for the staff)



Clockwise from top: Behind every great man, is an even greater woman—June Medew and Ken during a recent visit. Note Ken not wearing overalls!; Thanks to Will Ford for sending us this old ad from a Shepparton Newspaper—we might try and order a few for Open Day next year; Great helpers—Dave came up and spent a week in the garden, while Marcus did his usual thing and went around trying to invent new ways of doing nearly everything; Garden frames courtesy of Andrew and Linda.



W o l l M e r c h a n d i s e

Second Hand & Solid	\$15	Polo Shirt	\$25
Jim & Molly	\$8	Girly T-Shirt (new)	\$25
Unisex T-Shirt, coloured neck and arm bands (new)	\$25	Work Shirt—full & half button, long & short sleeve, fawn & blue (past staff only)	\$35
Unisex T-Shirt, single colour	\$25	Girly T-Shirt (old)	\$15
Wine, from Rutherglen	\$15/\$150	Unisex T-Shirt (old)	\$15
Stickers	\$1	Cards – Wollangarra Icons	\$2 each, 8 for \$12

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Total (including donation for postage) \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to Wollangarra Inc.

Note: new stock of shirts are regular sizes; old stock—order 2 sizes larger than normal.

Thankyou To...

- Ken and June Medew—for so many things we can't fit it all in here
- The Magnanimous McCallum Family—for continuing to do what they do
- John and Gwen Colpo
- Marcus—ideas and inspiration
- Dave—toil in the soil
- Jason Chan—chai tea
- Neil Barraclough—garden help
- Bob and Marg Thomas—incredible hospitality
- Andrew Simmons—fire fighting knapsack
- Alby Drew—marigold seeds and lavender
- Des and Trish Sinnot—toolbox, boots and radios
- Aerial Motors—hugs when you need them
- Granma Ford
- Tony and Robin Ford
- Mrs P Wallace—hand made beanies
- The Crossing
- Mittagundi
- Ian and Liv Stapleton—for putting up with the 5 of us, and dogs
- Pete Sands at Nungatta
- Mike and Terri Heffernan
- Tony and Marg Coote
- Mrs P Cawood—pillows
- Andrew and Linda Fullagar—help around the place, and some other things
- Our babysitters—Macrae family, Ursula Grott, Ross Davis and Jenny Scanlon
- Ross Davis—tool donations and the regular friendly phone calls
- Hamish for the Stage 2 photos



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Wollangarra

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