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Patron:

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WOLLANGARRA

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## Autumn Newsletter 2019



The start of the year is always busy, filled with training, getting to know the place and the community. It's exciting, nerve wracking, exhausting, reinvigorating, daunting and so fun. It's a great chance for us to take a breather, reflect on the year that was, take a big breath and then take a big step forward. In this newsletter you'll meet the 2019 team, and hear what we've been up to for the last few months. But first, I want to thank them, for coming in and making this place their own. Running with what must stay the same and getting excited about what they can put their own flare to.

Thanks Catherine, who has taken to her job areas like a duck to water. The gear store has never looked so shiny and you'd never know she'd only had her license for mere months. Thanks Jen, who's green thumbs have brought life back into our garden. Her passion for those seedlings can only be compared to a mothers' love. Thanks Josh, who's secret power is admin and he didn't even know it, has taken to organising our holiday programs as though admin was his middle name. Thanks Fiora, who has already got RSVP sheet ready for most of the work parties for the year. She wasn't too sure about events at the start of the year but this role was made for her. Thanks Annabelle, coming through the Wollangarra programs, it seemed a rote of passage for her to be Stage III facilitator, and her passion is evident in the calendar that has been put together.

Each year Wollangarra is blessed to have wonderful, passionate people who give a year of their lives to this extraordinary place, and this year is absolutely no different!

- Clare, Jay and Elliot.

# Welcome To Our 2019 Staff Team



## Jen by Josh

Jen brings a huge variety of skills and experiences to the Wollangarra table. She's done everything from surf coaching, to teaching circus, to coaching cricket, to leading treks on the Larapinta trail in Alice Springs. Also a top notch chess player, her passion and enthusiasm for teaching young people in the outdoors and her beautiful smile will surely make Wollangarra a joyful place to be in 2019.



## Catherine by Jen

Introducing... Catherine. Many of you will be familiar with Catherine, who has been visiting Wollangarra as a young person for a number of years. Last year she was actively involved in the Stage 3 committee, along with studying a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management. Although the youngest of the team, Catherine is probably the most mature of of us lot. She had a strong work ethic and is

appreciated as the baking queen of the team. She makes a scrumptious sourdough! She also loves emptying the sludge pit and cleaning out the chimney in her Santa Claus outfit.

Catherine is a unicycling extraordinaire. Last year she became the youngest person and only female to complete the Great Victorian Bike Ride on a unicycle. She doesn't restrict herself to one-wheeled vehicles though; this year she is looking after the Wollangarra four-wheeled vehicle fleet, in addition to her own fleet of three unicycles.

Catherine is goes by "Caffrin" (according to Elliot), "Catareena" (when the team is in an Italian mood) and "Catherine Monica Francis Bernadette Nitz" (we haven't figured out her real middle names yet).

# Welcome To Our 2019 Staff Team

## Fiora by Annabelle



The wonderful Fiora (Fi, or Fiiiiioooaarrhhaa in the thick Italian accent) is a lovely lady from the green pastures in Eastern Melbourne, Victoria. She has spent the last few years in Melbourne studying fine art and print making, and her artworks are particularly beautiful too. They will likely feature around Woll throughout the year, at least we hope so. Fi loves hiking and has spent a fair bit of time on long solo hikes across Australia and overseas. Most of Fi's scheming about future adventures involve some aspect of a long hike. And she currently has her sights set on the Larapinta Trail sometime soon, maybe even this year. Fi also loves a good boogie, if there is a chance to groove then Fi will be there with bells on. Fi loves looking after the Woll chickens, daily river swims, cuddles and long runs. Oh, Fi also has the most trendy mullet Wollangarra has ever seen! So far, Fi and her mullet have been filling Wollangarra with delightful singing and belly laughs, as well as her ever kind and caring nature. Oh and strange healthy hot chocolates too.

## Annabelle by Catherine

Annabelle Noonan. She is amazing. A woman of many nicknames that go well with her car – the black rimmed Impreza – ‘Hoonan with Noonan’ is just one of these. Annabelle's family is from Barwon Heads but for the past year or so she has been living in Torquay channeling her inner beach bum, surfer nut and bogan. Before working at Wollangarra Annabelle studied Outdoor Education in Bendigo. Following that she did a few years of freelance outdoor education work – at some bloody amazing places so be sure to ask her about it! – and she is currently halfway through a masters in teaching. Annabelle has a great sense of humour and a work hard, no-nonsense attitude.



# Welcome To Our 2019 Staff Team



## Josh by Fiora

Josh grew up in Canberra, yet his free and adventurous spirit has led him to seek new experiences and expand his horizons journeying and working in Australia and abroad. Josh has worked in the Cook Islands as a dive master and has a deep love and respect for the ocean and marine life. His favourite animals are manta ray, turtles and spiders.

Josh has also studied outdoor recreation and has worked in both China and New South Wales as an outdoor leader. Most recently Josh was working at the Crossing in Bermagui where he was inspired by the environmental philosophy that underpins the outdoor programs there. Josh is a master yoghurt and kombucha maker here at Wollangarra. He also loves spending time hanging out with the chickens and sheep and working in the garden. He begins each day with a swim in the Macalister river and is developing a new passion for admin having taken on program administration as a job area. Josh's most used expression is "shakas mahalo," his favourite colour is green and his favourite food is bircher muesli. We love having Josh at Wollangarra, he is cheerful, fun and very kind.

## Chainsaw Training



In early March, long time Woll supporter and ex-staff member Conrad came to run our chainsaw training. Our 2019 crew learned how to safely use and operate the Woll chainsaws. Over two days we started the pre for the June Wood Chop event by felling a couple of large trees in our wood lot. Big thanks to Conrad for teaching us another skill to help us keep Woll running smoothly in 2019. - Josh

# Wilderness First Aid

For a week in mid-February Angus and I as Stage Three crew were lucky enough to tag along to the Mittagundi and Wollangarra staffs Wilderness First Aid Training course. We were trained by the amazing Adam and Dean from Survive First Aid who taught us more than we could have imagined in the short five days that they were training us. We participated in



scenarios where we had to alternate between being the patients and responders to potential first aid scenarios. Elliot was by far the most enthusiastic actor. Whom was followed closely behind the helpers that week who acted out a night scenario where we had to attend to disorderly burn victims. We have now got the basics under control: snake bites, rolled ankles and stomach pain. To severe cases requiring tourniquets, femur traction splints and CPR. As well as, everything in between. Hopefully we never have to use the training, but it's a relief to know it's there!

Thank you so much to the Brad Pryce award for giving Angus and I the opportunity to undertake this training, without this support we would not have been able to do so, so thank you very much <3.

-Serena Beddison



# Wilderness First Aid cont.



Wollangarra played host to many victims of broken bones, wounds, snake and spider bites, anaphylaxis, asthma attacks, hypothermia, heat illness, spinal injuries and more, over five (fake) blood-soaked days in mid-February. The 2019 Wollies were joined by the Mittagundi staff, friends from The Crossing, two Stage 3 recipients of the Brad Price Award and a few other members of the

Wollangarra and Mittagundi community for this week of practical and empowering training. We had the pleasure of channelling our inner Leonardo di Caprio and Sandra Bullock, and watching some Oscar Award winning performances by talented actors and actresses within our community. Thank you to Adam and Dean from Survive First Aid for training us, and the kitchen team: Clare, Mali, Gilly and Olivia for feeding us plentiful and delicious food for the week.



-Jen

# Fruit Bottling

2019's Fruit Bottling weekend was a weekend of food, music, laughter, tears and of course bottling fruit. We said a big goodbye to the wonderful 2018 staff team and we were warmly welcomed as the 2019 staff team too. Around 80 people came along to be part of it all. A lot of busy hands got the garden looking shmick, delicious food was pumped out of the kitchen, and a really lovely sing along occurred around the fire on the Monday night to finish off a beautiful weekend. Thanks so all that came up and were part of it.



-Annabelle

# 4 Wheel Drive Training



We recently spent 3 action packed days being taught the art of 4-wheel driving. This training was thrilling! We drove vehicles up and down incredibly steep hills on rough rocky gravel tracks. We learned to safely navigate river crossings and practised winching and towing vehicles out of sticky spots. Our horizons were expanded as we accessed some magnificent places in the mountains surrounding Wollangarra and the stunning views made the bumpy ride all the more enjoyable!- Fiora

# Locals Lunch

The involvement of local supporters over the years has been vitally important to the success of Wollangarra. On a sunny Sunday in early February, in the grapevine-covered courtyard, the new staff team had the pleasure of meeting and thanking about a dozen supporters from the local community over a yummy BBQ lunch. It was a diverse bunch of guests – some long-term supporters from the early days of Wollangarra who have seen the place change and grow over the last 30 years, and some more recent and younger supporters. We are grateful for their involvement in this organisation. - Jen

# Calendar

DATES	EVENT	FURTHER DETAILS
April 6th - 7th	Pop Up Over 18 Work Weekend	Over 18, self drive, two days of working fun! Call 51480492 to RSVP
April 8th - 12th	April Holiday Stage 1	If you know someone who NEEDS to get to Wollangarra for the first time, get them to call the homestead on 51480492 and book a spot. BOOKED OUT
April 14th - 19th	April Holiday Stage 2	Come back to Woll for a second, third or 15th time. BOOKED OUT
June 8th - 10th	Wood Chop	Our annual wood chop weekend, come up and split, stack, carry, wheel wood around and fill the wood shed.
April 29th - May 3rd	Mid-Term Open Stage 1	If you've been wanting to come along to your first every Stage 1 program, now is the time. Call the homestead to book.
May 12th - 17th	Mid-Term Stage 2	Come and get some bush education on our very first mid-term Stage 2. Call the homestead to book.

# Thank you's!

**Mali** for being so bloody awesome, picking up the newsletter, multiple NSM orders and helping with catering at Wilderness First Aid.

**Monica** for help with all the preserving.

**Francis** for coming up the week before Fruit Bottling and help over Labour Day weekend.

**Brady Family** for all your help over Fruit Bottling and ongoing support.

**Ross N** for all your help over Fruit Bottling and fixing Clare and Jay's window.

**Hedge** for printing of the newsletter address labels.

**Conrad** for your ongoing support, chainsaw training and for your help at Wilderness First Aid.

**Kirsty McCallum** for helping us get our newsletters to the post office.

**Liv Flower** for helping in the kitchen during Wilderness First Aid.

**Gilly** for spending the week of Wilderness First Aid in the kitchen.

**Rachel** for your help during the Jan Stage 2.

**Angus** for help on the Jan Stage 2.

**Huon** for Jan Stage 2 help.

**Sandy** for teaching us about communication.

**Anthi** for teaching us about communication and self care.

**Adam Dickinson** for teaching us about mental health safety.

**Adam and Dean** for teaching us how to save peoples lives.

**Whitey** for taking the crew 4 wheel driving.

**Tom** for donating a camera

**The McCallums** for being such great supporters of us, always.

**Ralph** for all of your support always.

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