



WOLLANGARRA HOLIDAY PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKAGE



What is Wollangarra?

Wollangarra is an independent, non-profit organisation situated beside the Macalister River south of Licola, Victoria. Through outdoor education, Wollangarra aims to provide a small but vital step towards a healthier environment, a stronger community and happier young people. We believe that by doing rather than talking, and fixing rather than complaining, we can help young people to see environmental issues as exciting and demanding challenges to the way we live, rather than as endlessly depressing and negative threats to our future.

Wollangarra is a unique and simple place. There is no electricity and access is via flying fox across the river. Everything is in the old style, including wood fired stoves and boilers, open fire places and old gas lights.

All of the materials used to build Wollangarra came in over the flying fox, were hauled through the river, or were cut from the surrounding bush and shaped using traditional bush tools and skills. Hundreds of volunteers came from all over the state to take on the task of helping a project they believed in.

The pioneer style homestead accommodates up to 24 young people in a simple but comfortable way. There are no timetables or bells, watches or mobile phones. Wollangarra offers young people the chance to get away from all that and discover the heart of Victoria's high country in small, well supervised hiking groups. They are then given the opportunity to return on follow-up programs and become part of an ongoing program of practical conservation in the nearby mountains.

How do the stages of the programs work?

Wollangarra operates a three stage program. While each stage is completely independent of the others, Stage I is the initial contact for young people. From here Stages II and III are accessible, however an individual school is not required to commit to the whole program. Attending only Stage I is fine. Previous hiking experience is not required. A degree of fitness will help, but our Stage I program is designed as an introduction to the mountains, not as a once in a lifetime challenge. We provide all the necessary gear, including backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, rain jackets and even boots!



TO MAKE A BOOKING

STEP 1: REGISTER YOUR PLACE ON THE PROGRAM.

All bookings for holiday programs are completed online. It is fast, easy and reserves your place right away. Bookings open on the first day of each term for the upcoming holiday program. You will receive a confirmation email of your booking once completed.

Visit: <http://wollangarra.org.au/bookings/>

If you have any questions or queries before you sign up, please call the homestead on 03 5148 0492, and the staff can answer any questions. Please remember that we live and work onsite and we aren't always available to answer the phone, please try to call within business hours. Alternatively you can email general@wollangarra.org.au

Sponsored Places

Wollangarra has sponsored spots available for all school holiday programs. These are funded by generous donations from the extended Wollangarra community and reflect our values and commitment to making Victoria's mountains and High Country accessible to young people of all financial backgrounds. Money is never a barrier to a young person's Wollangarra journey.

To utilise a sponsored place, please call the homestead and ask for the code, which is then applied at the checkout.

STEP 2: COMPLETE ONLINE MEDICAL AND PERMISSION FORM

Around one month before the program you will receive two separate emails asking you to complete a medical form and permission form online through the CareMonkey system. You will also receive information about the program in regard to public transport. CareMonkey will continue to send you reminder emails every couple of days until these forms are completed.

Wollangarra requires this information before the program so that we can manage the risks associated with participation in an outdoor education program. Complete and current information surrounding your medical conditions, histories and medical and/or dietary requirements is vital to providing the best possible management strategies and experience for the young people attending.



PROGRAM FEE 2020 - \$250 pp

Included in the fee is everything except public transport to and from Heyfield/Traralgon train station, and lunch on the first and last days.

Cancellations/Refunds

If for whatever reason you cannot make our program (please think carefully before making a booking) we will refund your money up to 6 weeks prior to the commencement of the program.

We do not offer refunds less than 6 weeks prior to the program, however you are welcome to switch to a later program so please consider carefully prior to making a booking.



General Overview of Program

Note: please keep in mind that programs can differ depending on conditions, participants and public transport options. The most up to date information is that sent to you prior to the program.

Stage 1

Wollangarra's introductory program, *Meeting the Mountains*, offers young people from 14 -17 years the chance to discover the joy of hiking in our beautiful mountains. Young people journey in small, well organised and fully supervised hiking groups. With these expeditions Wollangarra hopes to encourage an awareness of our environment.

Meeting the Mountains is a five-day course with two nights on hike, and two nights on the farm to experience the pioneer lifestyle of the Wollangarra homestead. Young people hike in small groups of 10-12, and are supervised by Wollangarra staff members. The hike is designed to be an enjoyable experience for the young people, as we are looking to establish a positive connection between them and the mountains. The hikers return on Thursday evening to a hot shower and a lamb roast dinner waiting for them. After dinner we sit around the open fire and swap our stories from the week.

Stage 1 Brief Itinerary

Day 1	A Wollangarra staff member will meet young people at Southern Cross Station and assist them getting to Heyfield. The group will be met with the rest of the Wollangarra staff at Heyfield, purchase their lunch and drive to Wollangarra. Afternoon is spent getting to know the Wollangarra homestead and getting ready for hike with some jobs like baking bread, gardening, cooking, and packing their hiking packs.
Day 2	Finish packing and head out on hike in groups of 10-15
Day 3	Spend the day hiking
Day 4	Hike in the morning, return to Wollangarra for a celebratory dinner.
Day 5	The morning is spent tidying up Wollangarra before walking out along the telephone track, meeting the cars at Cheyne's Bridge and being driven into Heyfield to meet the public transport. Young people head home independently of Wollangarra from Heyfield.



Stage 2

Stage Two is a unique opportunity for young people who enjoyed their Wollangarra Stage I to come back, get their hands dirty, visit more amazing mountains, and meet lots of other like-minded individuals.

The program is slightly different to that of a Stage One. It runs for six days, rather than five and three nights are spent camping. Stage II's may camp together in one big group (maximum of 24 young people with four or five staff) or in two smaller groups (12 young people with 2 staff). This is a great opportunity to really get to know the other people on the program.

When Stage Twos go hiking their main purpose is to work on a conservation project in our local area. This means we often carry tools and any thing else we might need with us. In the past, Stage II's have worked on building and maintaining hiking tracks, rebuilding sections of old high country huts, or revegetation in important conservation areas. This is all done with the assistance of Wollangarra staff members and sometimes professionals in the field (like Parks Victoria Rangers, stone masons or local walking club members). We also make sure that we have a rest day going for a wander up a river bed or up a mountain nearby.

Stage 2 Brief Itinerary

Day 1	Young people arrive on public transport to Heyfield and are met by Wollangarra staff. Young people purchase their lunch and all drive to Wollangarra. Young people spend the afternoon getting ready for hike with some jobs like baking bread, gardening, baking munchies, cleaning up the chicken coop, cooking dinner and packing your hiking pack.
Day 2	Young people finish packing and head out on program
Day 3	Continue work on your project, may include small day walk
Day 4	Continue work on your project, may include small day walk
Day 5	Finish up work in the morning, return to Wollangarra for a celebratory dinner.
Day 6	The morning is spent tidying up Wollangarra before walking out along the telephone track, meeting the cars at Cheyne's Bridge and being driven into Heyfield to meet the public transport. Young people head home independently of Wollangarra from Heyfield/Traralgon.



What to bring to Wollangarra

Wollangarra has a well-stocked gear store of donated, op-shopped or fundraised-for second-hand and solid hiking gear. We operate with the ethos that young people should be able to be kitted-out to safely head into the mountains, no matter what financial background they come from. Please try and pack everything on this list, however, if you can't we can provide a lot of it. Everything you pack you will be carrying into Wollangarra (about 2kms) – We strongly recommend **only** bringing what you need and packing into a back-pack or duffel bag rather than a suitcase. Op-shops are great for obtaining most of these items below, if you do not already own them, or can't borrow them.

Needed:

- 1 x Pairs of shorts. – *to hike in*
 - 1 x Long sleeve shirt with a collar. – *an old workshirt is perfect*
 - 2 x T-shirts
 - 3 x Pairs of socks – *for hiking so thick wool/wool blend sock are best.*
 - 4 x Sets of underwear.
 - 1 x Closed toe shoes – *hiking boots if you have them, otherwise sneakers*
 - Torch and spare batteries.
 - Basic toiletries – *toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap, tampons, pads, etc.*
 - Wide brimmed hat – *not a baseball cap.*
 - Sunscreen. – *we send some out in group gear if you do not want to bring your own.*
 - Personal medications – *e.g. asthma puffer, allergy medication etc.*
 - Pair of swimmers – *all year round. You never know!*
 - Money to buy lunch on the first and last days – *if on a school course, check with school if this applies to you.*
 - Roll of Sports Tape – **only** if you have any existing knee or ankle injuries that may require taping.
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Optional:

Wollangarra supplies all of these, but you may bring your own if you have them - we will check if they are suitable to keep you safe in the mountains. Please don't buy specifically for the program.

- Long pants – *polarfleece, quick dry or Wool are best.*
- Woolen jumper
- Hiking boots – *worn in with good ankle support*
- Thermal pants and Thermal long-sleeve top – **ONLY polypropylene or merino wool. No cotton.**
- Rain jacket – *Thick, gortex or similar*
- Sleeping Bag with a -5°C rating or better– *Wollangarra provides sleeping bags suitable for out on hike and back at the Homestead.*
- Inner sheet
- Sleeping mat
- Hiking backpack – *must be a specific hiking backpack and at least a 75 litre capacity.*
- Beanie
- Emergency whistle

A camera and a journal are great to bring along too. Just make sure you waterproof them.

If you do bring your own equipment we will check its suitability for the hike, and reserve the right to insist that you use Wollangarra equipment if we feel it is safer or better suited. Please do not bring tents.

You are financially responsible for the loss or deliberate damage of all Wollangarra equipment and property, so please treat it well.



Please **DO NOT** Bring:

- Lollies and junk food.
- All personal music players e.g. iPods.
- Hairdryers
- Valuables - damage or loss is possible
- Single use items such as hand warmers, wet wipes
- Knives and weapons including pocket knives.
- Make-up and aerosol spray deodorant.
- Cigarettes - smoking cigarettes whilst at Wollangarra will result in you being immediately sent home at your parent/guardian expense

Wollangarra offers a unique chance to be away from all of these things, to enjoy a week of living simply and healthily as part a small community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Transport

For Stage 1, we would usually do a pick up from Heyfield at 12:38pm on the Monday. This is the 9:15am train from Southern Cross, arriving at Traralgon at 11:48am, then a bus from Traralgon at 12:00pm, arriving in a Heyfield at 12:38pm. On a Stage 1 holiday program, the students will be met at Southern Cross by a staff member. The only times this would change were if Vline were doing line works or it was a public holiday.

Generally Stage 2's are picked up from Traralgon at 11:24am. This is the 9:05 train from Southern Cross Station.

Both programs are dropped at Heyfield to meet the 12:38pm bus from Heyfield, arriving at Southern Cross at 4:35pm.

How old do I have to be?

Our Stage 1 and 2 programs are open to young people between the ages of 14-17. If you have been on a specialised program to Wollangarra and are younger than those ages, we ask that you wait and come along on a Stage 1 program once you are 14. If you are 18 or over we suggest you look into Stage 3 or come along to a work weekend.

What if I don't own everything I need?

Wollangarra can lend you a great deal of the things you'll need, particularly hiking gear such as rain gear, boots, thermals, shirts, water bottles, sleeping bags and so on. You do not need to buy any gear to come on a Wollangarra program.

Will I need money?

You'll need some money for lunch on the first and last day and your myki card for the public transport. We do sell Wollangarra merchandise, if you would like a jumper or t-shirt as a memento from your experience.

All valuables (phones, wallets etc) will be kept in a safe in the Wollangarra office.



Can I come on a Stage 2 if I haven't done a Stage 1?

No. One of the most exciting parts about coming along on a Stage 1 is that you get to learn about Wollangarra and how the programs run with all of the other participants. If you wish you can do a Stage 1 and 2 in the same holidays (a few, but not many people do this) but you must go home for the weekend in between to give our staff team a much needed day off.

Any other questions?

Feel free to contact us on either email (general@wollangarra.org.au) or at the homestead (03 51480492)