

Spring Newsletter

Number 79, 2009

www.wollangarra.org

Ph 5148 0492



Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre *Young People in High Places*

Licola 3858

Patron: John Landy,
AC, MBE

Wollangarra was set up as a place where young people (and old) could contribute to something meaningful and purposeful and for young people, especially, to be a part of a functioning, positive community. Twenty years on Wollangarra is alive, with large numbers of young people actively involved, full programs, Stage III being the place to be, plenty of important projects on the go both at Wollangarra and in the Mountains and the greater Wollangarra community growing and supporting. It's all happening!

This years staff are entering the final part of their journey for 2009, with only 9 weeks to go . The search for staff in 2010 has begun and we have had a steady response from some amazing people, so keep the applications coming in. The position of Director is up for grabs again, starting in July next

year. So please spread the word or give a nudge to those you know have thought about it or whom you think would be great for the job.



Karen, Lisa, Conrad, and Kev and Jason from MGS get busy with the Dug-out reconstruction.

Even though the year is closing fast there is still a lot coming up at Wollangarra. The fire dugout will start reconstruction, sprinklers are being put to the outer buildings, citrus grove to be planted, Stage I programs to run, Stage III induction weekend and the final Holiday Stage II program in December. Keep an eye on the web site to see how you can help.

All of the 20th Anniversary Dinner and 2009 Open Day & Bushdance celebrations will be covered in the next edition, so expect a biggy. Talking about expecting a biggy, no news on the baby front, any day now, thanks for your support. *Simmo*

Sign up for our Electronic Mailing List

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email (to save paper and expense) please fill this slip out and send it back to Wollangarra, Licola, 3858, give us a call or send an email to wollangarra@yahoo.com.au. Also remember you can always check it out on our website (www.wollangarra.org). Thanks

Name
Current Address:.....
Email Address:.....

Work at Wollangarra in 2010

For 2010 Wollangarra is looking for;

- 5 Amazing Staff
- 1 Stage III Facilitator
- 2 Directors (to start mid-year)

If you've always wanted to work at Woll, but never taken the chance, here it is! (See Pg 4)



Stage I Courses

July Holiday Stage I: Some highlights for this intimate group included soaking up the sun and views at letterbox corner, spending the night at Burgoynes hut with the Stage III's and having a chocolate party.

Newhaven #1: The staff were all super excited to be back hiking with young people again after our mid year break. This keen group had a lot of fun, especially playing an impromptu game of cricket at Hickeys Creek.

Newhaven #2: The nodding blue lilies were in full bloom and floral fragrances filled the air as we walked the local track. Some also enjoyed a nice paddle in the Macalister.

Newhaven #3: ...with the girls and boys in separate hike groups, much fun was had by all. There was crazy wind blowing up a storm and a rainy night, but spirits were not dampened...

Camberwell High School: This excitable group of young people explored the surrounding hills over a few lovely sunny days. Quiet time for reflection at Hickeys Creek was a real highlight.

Melbourne Grammar School: A fine bunch of lads they were and work hard is what they did. They spent the first day removing old sleepers and earth from the dugout and in the afternoon carrying the new sleepers over the river. They headed for a 2 night hike through the Gorge to complete a great week. Thanks for your help guys. - Karen

L-R: Newhaven #1 posse, MGS boys are all smiles with the arrival of the sleepers, Thursday night dress up still alive and kicking.



Calendar 2009/2010

Wish List

December	5 - 6	Work Party (Dugout)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cement • Fitted Single Bed Sheets • AAA and AA batteries (rechargeable too!) • Coloured paints (full tins) • Rake hoes • 75mm/100mm Ag pipe (slotted pipe) - 50 - 100m length • 2" Poly pipe - the more the merrier • Galvanised tripod sprinkler stands • Corrugated iron • Fire-proof sealable door • 12mm steel rod (reo) 2.5m lengths
December	6 - 11	Hike/Burgoynes Party	
December	11- 14	Stage III Induction	
December	14-19	Stage II "Helping the Mountains"	
December	22	2009 Staff Leave	
January	5	2010 Staff Begin	
January	tba	Stage II "Helping the Mountains"	
January	22-24	Fruit Bottling	
January/Feb	27-2	Wilderness First Aid for Staff 2010	

Stage II - July

Eight brave young people signed up for our June/July Stage II and despite the crazy weather had an awesome time. Our project was to plant 1650 trees for Wollangarra's next door neighbour, Rob Gilder along the Macalister River in areas where the flood had cleared all the vegetation.

1650 trees sounded a little daunting, but through pouring rain and howling winds these super young people worked so hard that we got all the trees planted and still had time to drop into Burgoyne's hut to hang out with the Stage III's and have a nice walk back to Woll.

Rob Gilder threw us a BBQ on one night and Marni Gilder kept a delicious supply of cakes delivered to the workers, so we felt very well looked after. The week was heaps and heaps of fun. My highlight was our planting ceremony for the last tree including speeches and chanting, made all the funnier when we found another tree that needed to be planted. Thanks to all the young people who came up with wonderful attitudes and kept smiling and laughing all week. Also thanks to Natalie (Miss Bu) for coming up to help out and joining in so enthusiastically on our "Grease" sing-a-long.

It seemed fitting that the sun finally came out on our last day as we wandered into Wollangarra. The Stage II's enjoyed some well deserved basking in their hard work.

We hope to see them all back next time. - Lisa



Left: Holiday Stage II gang trying their best to look like the 1650 trees they just planted.



Right: Kait Maher hard at work on the river bank at Glenfalloch Station.

Work Parties



Open Work Week July 27-31, 2009

Straight after staff holidays, we were once again inundated with helpers. Sam, Jess and Georgie came up for work experience, Tim and Teddy (the French Mexican?!) came from Eildon, Eric (Ant's dad) rode his pushy from Traralgon station, and John waggled school with a Hiace-load of his students from Preshil. They continued construction on the 'space-age' (its all relative) Rota-Loo, tidied up the remainder of the loose wood from the flat, fixed up a bit more of the local walk, and a score of other bits and pieces from the endless 'to do' list.

Left: Tim, Lisa and Simmo hard at work on the Rota-Loo.

Employment Opportunities for 2010

Wollangarra provides a unique working environment and a fulfilling experience for those who wish take it on. The following are positions available for 2010;

Staff: We are currently looking for five amazing people of varied backgrounds, ages and experience who are keen to be part of the Wollangarra team in 2010. As a staff member there are many joys and challenges in spending a year at Wollangarra. If you like the idea of living simply, being part of a team that is committed to practical conservation, young people and the mountains, living and working in a beautiful remote location, putting in an honest days work and having lots of fun along the way then keep reading.

You don't need to have a lot of experience in regards to all this, as we provide an intense training program at the beginning of each year. We simply ask for enthusiasm, energy and a willingness to learn. If you think you would like to take on this extraordinary and rewarding challenge, or know someone who would then please go the 'Employment' link on our website (www.wollangarra.org) for a detailed position description.

Stage III Facilitator: Please see the Stage III lift out (page 4) for details.

Wollangarra Directors: Wollangarra is looking for new Directors to start mid-year 2010. The role of Director is to oversee and take part in the running of Stage I, II and III programs, facilitating staff experience, staff training, community events, work parties, farm and property related projects/maintenance, administration (newsletter productions, website maintenance, accounts, accreditation associated documentation etc)... and that's just for starters. It is an exciting and rewarding challenge for those who undertake it.

Important qualities for this position are excellent people skills, a strong understanding and commitment to Wollangarras philosophies, flexibility and the ability to laugh at oneself. Experience and/or qualifications in outdoor education, staff management, property maintenance, business management skills etc are also helpful.

A full position description can be obtained from 'Employment' at <http://www.wollangarra.org>



Do you have what it takes to be a Wollangarra staff member? (Left) The 2009 crew hanging tough in a high place earlier this year, (Right) Karen and Ant raising the dress code bench-mark for Wollangarra staff to a "Harry-high-pants" level.



Where are they now?



Doug Lockey was staff at Woll back in 1998 with Ant & Melissa Mair. He had just arrived back in the country after 4 years of outdoor ed work in the UK. A small ad in "The Age" for staff caught his attention. He knew nothing of Woll, but it sounded interesting so he applied. After a great year as staff, Doug has frequently returned for Fruit Bottling and Wood Chops. After spending a year teaching at a high school in Katherine, NT, Doug decided it was time for a change. A one year stint at the ATO in an educational role eased him into his current role of investigating for the State Revenue Office. He still throws the odd adventure into the mix with trips to PNG and Indonesia, as well as plenty of bush walking and skiing. Although overseas still beckons him, he is content living and working in Ballarat. - Ant

Doug hiding behind the mountain of wood he split at this year's Wood chop.

A r o u n d W o l l a n g a r r a

Here's a bit of a snap shot on what's been going on around Wollangarra...

Dugout: Yes the dugout has been dug out and the sleepers are to be replaced by new ones, which will hopefully last another 20 years or so. 120 sleepers were generously donated for this purpose and we were able to get them transported from Wodonga. Slowly but surely many young people have been working to get each sleeper over the fox...just like the old days.

Rota Loo: Thanks to many helpers over many months the Rota Loo (our new composting toilet) is now fully operational. Simon (with lots of help) has put in heaps of hours to make sure we can all poo comfortably and sustainably. (thanks again to Wayne McCallum and Parks Vic for donating the toilet, we just had to get it over the river and whack it up)

Road Trip: This year was a shorter road trip, unfortunately, but a hectic schedule couldn't keep these staff from the annual visit to the Stapleton and Gilbert residences. Once again the generosity of time, knowledge, stories, delicious food, and good company was enjoyed by this years staff. Ian treated us to a private viewing of the Harrierville Museum, a walk around the property and many stories of days gone by. The next day was spent in Jacks shed where he wowed everyone with his big machines and blacksmithing skills. Thank you Ian, Liv, Jack and Aileen for being the wonderful, selfless people you are.

Animals: Beware Orlando the voracious rooster! I'm not sure if that's a warning to visitors or to Orlando himself (as he could end up in the pot if he keeps it up). Lambs, lambs everywhere. Skinny the ram has done a superb job to provide us with nearly a dozen lambs to goo and gah at in the spring and grace our dinner plates some time next year. - *Josie*



Gareth, Brad and Tom Woods lending their collective skill to the construction of the Rota-Loo.



A fine example of our new lambs, happy, fluffy and loving life on the Wollangarra flat



Conrad helping unload the sleepers

W o r d s f r o m s o m e h a p p y c a m p e r s

'Woll is an amazing place that can change peoples lives. There is also some amazing people that live here. The experience that I had here was a very good chance to make changes to myself and how I treat others. One of the people that helped me most was Conrad. He always has stories to tell and has time to show you things. Hope to come back soon.' - *Dunks (Stage I)*

'Wollangarra is a place of dreams, friendship and peace. Treat it as we have and love it the way we do. The hiking was great, although hard at times and I LOVED every minute that I shared with my fellow students. Lets just say you take back more than just friendship. The memories have somehow cemented you to the ground you walk on. Thank you Wollangarra and the staff' - *Kirsty (Stage I)*

'Thanks to the staff of Wollangarra for making my camp experience so wonderful. I've done tons of things I normally wouldn't do, like moving sleepers and river crossings etc. These great thoughts will stay in my memory for a long time to come. Good luck with the dugout.' - *David (Stage I)*

Thommo's Two Bob *Translated by Penny*

I'm sure everyone knows by now that I am fast headed to being a big brother! All the Wollies are having bet on when the baby is going to arrive and the prize for guessing the right date is naming it. If I win I'm going to call it 'Tractor', which at the moment is my favourite conversations starter, but is also a very good thing to say when you don't know what else to say.

Recently Grandma gave me a big boy haircut - no more mullets or choirboy dos for this big brother to be. I've been spending some quality time with Dad perfecting my frisbee throwing and footy kicking. I'm also pretty good at throwing a dogs ball, something I was kept very busy doing for Sniffer, Ian and Liv's dog (she fetches it rather than trying to round it up like Missy does).

It'll be good to see everyone at Open Day. Look out for me there - I'll be doing the chainsaw demonstration.



(Left): Always keen to help out.
(Right): Checking out Mumma's tummy



Helpers Thank you Rap

It's been a while, she said with a smile
 Since we thanked our peeps, who've offered heaps
 In the way of time and energy
 We love you all, blessed be.
 Over this year, much cause for cheer
 They heard our calls and graced our halls
 To lend a hand when that's what we need
 We love you all, blessed be.
 So, to Gemma, Clare, Denno and Robby
 To Keith, Tessie, Will and Nathalie
 Thanks for your time and your joie de vivre
 We love you all... blessed be.
 Word. - Josie



The Hop 2009



It's always a wonderful thing to see the many faces of Wollangarra and Mittagundi come together to celebrate a night of great music, fun and laughter, while supporting two very worthwhile causes. Although the evening happens seamlessly there is much preparation that goes into making it a really special night for everyone. Thank you to: Tom Hay for organising...well most of it! Ross Richards for organising the music side of things, Tess for her work with the volunteers, Nick Proctor takes care of all things foodie on the night and of course the wonderful musicians themselves who give up their time and talents for everyone to enjoy.

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- Josie

(Above left): Colonel Vipers Whipstick Band were the head line again at the Hop (Right): The Tropes stole the show with their funky tunes



Supporter Profile

Ralph Barraclough: Ralph hails from the banks of Target Creek, past Licola, and is one of our longest standing and loyal supporters. Ralph got involved after meeting Ian and hearing what he had planned for the blackberry infested river flat. Over the years he has lent his services and knowledge on repairing the rusty old land rovers, repairing tents and supply of tent pegs (he actually has his own tent peg machine). Many a phone call over the years with news of rising river levels has helped us to save the pump and vehicles parked too low. As the former Captain of the fire brigade and long term resident he know the country like the back of his



(Above): Ralph giving the Local TV his opinion at the opening of the new Cheynes Bridge last June. (Right) Ralph in the early days.

hand. He has also proved a vital source of bushfire preparedness and advice particularly the last couple of years. Most recently of note, Ralph kindly repaired 'Barbara' the boiler up at the shower block much to the delight of all the staff as things were starting to get a bit...er hmm...on the nose, if you get my drift.

So a huge thank you to Ralph and kind regards from all of us here this year and on behalf of all the staff and directors gone before us. - Conrad



Mick Gray: is the owner of Maffra Poly and Pumps and Tinamba Irrigation and is an extremely cluey, handy guy with all things engineering and irrigation/pumps wise. He's been on board the Wollangarra freight train of support for many years. Mick is pretty handy with the welder and has put together a few roll bars for the vehicles over the years, as well as rebuilding the flying fox trolley and pulleys for the endless rope after the flood in 2007. At the start of the year our old faithful water pump threw a leg out of bed and had a massive tanty that left Penny (in charge of pumps) in tears. We needed a new one, quick. A drop by the workshop and talk to Mick about its resurrection was short and sweet. Advice about what was on the market and best suited to our needs and we were on our way again. Mick has enjoyed baby sitting Wollangarra on occasion in the past and hopefully will again soon.

Currently Mick is busy preparing the new structure to replace the old flying fox that was lost in the floods of June 2007 to Tussocky Flat. Another fine and trusty supporter and helper, we thank you Mick and look forward to seeing you here or in town again soon. - Conrad

W h a t i s W o l l a n g a r r a ?

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.

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

Second Hand & Solid	\$15	Girls T-Shirt	\$25
Jim & Molly	\$8	Work Shirt—full button, long sleeve, Bottle Green & Navy Blue	\$35
Unisex T-Shirt, coloured neck and arm bands	\$25	Stickers	\$2
Unisex T-Shirt, single colour	\$25	Cards – Wollangarra Icons	\$2 each, 8 for \$12

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Total (including donation for postage) \$ _____ Please make cheque payable to Wollangarra Inc.

Thankyou To...

- Michael Achurch Trust for sponsorship of 3 students
- Gaz for amazing honey
- Amy Abikhair for honey
- Anna Moscovitch for olives
- Red Warren for grain
- Ross Richards for Sew Awl, sharpener & Hop music organisation
- Ralph Barraclough for fixing the boiler
- Alan Semmler for veggies
- Russell Lloyd and friends for babysitting
- Dan Abikhair and friends for babysitting
- Georgina for being a wish list fairy (tea strainers, fitted sheets and batteries)
- Clare Easton for dresses, cards and Leunig
- Ella Wright for vegan lollies, choc balls, muffins and woollies
- Nick Proctor for donation of time and food towards the Hop.
- All the musicians who played at the Hop.
- Tom Hay for organising The Hop
- Robby Ford for many care packages (biccies, great paper, clothes, merchandise and other goodies)
- Preshil crew & John Collins for helping out on open work week
- Carmen Bulmer for babysitting, photos and seeds
- Miss Bu for helping out on Stage II
- Tammy Dennett for yummy chocolate
- Chrissie and Thomas for munchie bags
- Ian and Liv for their warm hospitality
- Jack and Aileen Gilbert for their warm hospitality, pizza oven paddle, fire poker, leather work, worm farm, honey and drill bits
- Frank Steere for new gas trolley
- John Collins for babysitting and photos
- Ross Davis for babysitting & info



Tess and Will putting up the post and rail fence at the fox.

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Wollangarra

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