

Winter Newsletter

Number 124

Winter 2022



WOLLANGARRA

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This winter at Wollangarra has been a busy one! We've had the pleasure of running some interesting programs and working with a variety of young people, including a trip to the High Country on the Stage 2 to chase some snow. Wood chop brought good company, amazing food and lots of wood was stacked and chopped. Good times seeing the community rebuild itself after Covid.



Thanks to all who came together to keep Wollangarra keepin' on. It's been a cold and wet winter, so the stoves have been particularly hungry.

Despite the chill in the air, we have had some blue-bird winter days and daily swimming continues in the river by some dedicated Staff. Morale was on a high as we closed



shop for our winter break in July. As Directors feel so lucky and supported by our Staff and community in running meaningful programs while we now balance a family of four.



Returning to Woll after our well-deserved brake found everyone excited to start another 6 months. We look forward to the days getting longer, fun programs and busy events and playing with our new baby lamb; and baby South who is thriving under the watchful care of his older brother Meri.

Check out upcoming dates for events and programs, we can't wait to see more of you all this next half of 2022! ~Kay

Around the Flat



Amongst a Calendar of full programs and community events, the days spent around the flat feel well utilized, with projects reaching completion. Getting side projects up and going can sometimes feel like a struggle with the usual challenges of living and working at Woll; however, the tractor trailer got a makeover. A few days were spent on stripping all the old timber, removing the steel frame from the axels and repainting the new steel a beautiful black. The resource yard had everything needed to replace all the timber including the supporting frames. Hardwood boards spanning the entire length topped the flat tray and were planed, sanded and oiled... ready to haul another 30 years' worth of goods onto the Wollangarra flat!

It's also no secret that the Staff at Woll love a cuppa and/or six, and safe to say we are very effective at applying the 'Tea' in 'Team work', but after the first half of the year our indoor kitchen mug shelf simply wasn't holding up to the daily thrashing. A few recycled boards from the resource yard, a saw, a hammer and a few nails saw the mug shelf reinstated as the critical infrastructure it is. With double its' original holding capacity, Woll staff and visitors are enjoying the increased mug choice, a small joy of great significance on these chilly winter days on the flat.



Wollangarra is as always grateful to Glenfalloch Station for their continued support. At the start of the year Toby, Meri and I picked up a trailer load of Doper sheep and a young ram. The first weekend of the mid-year staff holidays was when the first lamb decided to show up. The director family and the babysitters (Brady family) gave the new lamb a hearty welcome and watched a healthy little black-spotted bouncing machine discover the flat for the first time.

The chicken coop had four happy Isa browns to the start of the year but after a conversation with my mother- who has enjoyed raising her own chickens for some time- she kindly donated five new Isobrowns to keep up our egg supply, four Wyandotte hens and a rooster in the hope we could have our own chicks in the coming year. I'm not sure how to train a Monitor lizard not to eat chicks but I've seen enough less believable things come about at Woll, so we'll see how we go. ~Laurence



Program update

Post lockdown programs have been popping! We've been busy with many a programs lately. Just finished up with Kardinia, now heading into a block of Newhaven as I sit here in the sun with a blanket over my head because I can't see, next to the rosemary bush (hope I painted a little picture for you there). HAA was a blast, a week filled with lost hair extensions (found again in mysterious places), stiff joints for some and a man who claimed he once ate three 1kg burritos in one sitting (I haven't fact checked this but I'll keep investigating and let you folks know, stay tuned). Hanging around the fire, hiking the helipad and a ridiculously fabulous Thursday night stew topped it all off. St Philips, a school from Alice Springs, made the commute to the flat and the desert drovers became alpine roamers for the first program after staff holidays. From chocolate cake fiends and acrobats to footy punters and flower collectors.. It was a true delight to have St Philips on our little bend of the river. ~ Zoe



Stage 2 Winter Holidays

As we all arrived at Southern Cross Station many hugs and excitement was shared throughout everyone at the thought of going back to Woll. After an afternoon of packing and munchie making we went to sleep tired and ready for the next day. As we loaded into the Troopies to head up to the Wellington High Plains energy was high at the thought of base camping in the snow. As we arrived we quickly realised something was missing, snow. So after lunch and a snowball fight with icy snow we headed off on a short walk to our new campsite. One of my favourite parts of the trip was the next day when a short break turned into hours of tobogganing down icy hills on our groundsheets. On our final day out hiking the bright sunny weather changed and we were greeted with fresh falling snow on our lunch break, exciting but cold. When we came back from hike Shaya had cooked us an amazing kangaroo pasta for dinner and we all settled down for an early night. On Friday we had a day at the flat consisting of jobs, a swim and a lazy crafternoon, as well as lots of cuppas. After a classic lamb stew made from a Woll sheep eaten with random utensils we settled down for our final night at Woll, full and happy. Thanks to the leaders and everyone involved on this stage for making it a great one. ~ Ivy Anderson (current stage 2)



Calling all Stage 3's



In July it was a pleasure and a hoot to Induct Jett, Flynn, Harriet and Sean into Stage 3. We romped down to red rest, doing some much needed track work along the way. Guided by the wonderful, fabulous and hilarious duo of Orla and Essie, many laughs were had, many cuppas were drunk. The phone was run for and the Thursday night dinner was one of the best for the year.

Stage 3 is well and truly building back up, after a super successful trivia night and young people coming back to this place they call home. It's an exciting time of growth and we are looking forward to a weekend hike to the Cathedral ranges and a September hike to Lake Tali Karn.

If you have been a part of Stage 3 recently, but fallen off the bandwagon, give us a buzz at Woll and ask for Maeve if you are keen to jump back on. We want you here yahoooooooo. ~Maeve



Wood Chop

Wood Chop went ahead this year and after 2 years of cancellations due to Covid, it was fabulous to see an integrational Woll community coming out of the woodwork to help stock the Woll wood shed. Big thanks to all the old Stage 2's and 3's that dropped in as well as the local wood chopping weapons, including Michael Cleary and his daughter Lishay Cleary from Seaton, amongst many more. Hundreds of hands over the weeks leading up to Wood Chop were utilized to carry rounds from the vehicle landing to and across the fox and a human chain moved the two large trees which fell with the major floods last year, straight up the river bank. Safe to say this place relies on community to get things done. With a wood shed stacked and stocked, the Staff team can focus on delivering high quality programs to the many young people that come to Wollangarra. ~ Laurence



Biomonitoring at Woll

As a Biologist, I can't help but marvel at the diversity and multitude of wildlife that surrounds us here at Wollangarra. Our bush on the property is filled with a variety of both annual and seasonal birds, 2m lace monitors, possums and wombats and our backyard mountains host roos, deer and wild dogs. Our plant life is rich with seasonal orchids and stunning natives! The river sees fish, platypus, waterbugs, water dragons and more throughout the year. As custodians of this land we have the obligation to take care of it and to share this beauty with young people who come to visit Woll. I thoroughly believe that one will only conserve/look after that which one loves and that one can only love something by knowing it. So here is to inspiring young people to look closely, explore the natural world around them and look after that which they love at Woll and beyond.



Forming part of a larger Biomonitoring project currently in its infancy, we took some time to bring our attention and focus to the river. We successfully ran our first waterbugs survey with excited St. Phillips students. Waterbugs can tell us a lot about the health of rivers and we found many amazing critters, young people were dazzled and inspired and we got to know and love our special Macalister river that little bit more.



This is the beginning of a long-term data collection project on biodiversity and environment at Wollangarra. We are currently in the process of building relationships with local organizations, such as the Victorian Catchment Management Authorities (CMA), landcare groups and local environmental consultants, to help us establish some small scale, simple and easily repeatable sampling sessions for fauna, flora and environment at Wollangarra that can be incorporated into programs when it suits. The data collected will be used to inform the management of wildlife and environment on the Wollangarra property as well as be shared as citizen science data with interested organizations for greater management purposes in Victoria. Watch this space!

If you are interested to get involved in this project, please get in touch via email on directors@wollangarra.org.au

~Kay

The Hop

Well, well, well, how wonderful The Hop was this year! The evening was filled with delicious food, fun drinks, brilliant people and most importantly, plenty of dancing! From strip the willow to docey-doe... folks were absolutely well and truly into the bush dance vibe. Maeve (AKA auctioneer extraordinaire) has since disclosed to me that she has found her calling, her souls wish, her happy place on the auctioneer stage and will be fleeing Wollangarra shortly to pursue this dreamy dream. I made her promise she would make an appearance at our Open Day in October though, and also not leave until Jan 23, so all is well. Zo-zo spent an entire week's wage on a beautiful spoon in the auction and the infamous Essie trained it home with the most impressive chopping board you have seen all year. How nice it was to come together in the Richmond Hall as old friends and new faces, current stage II's & III's, past staff legends, the lovely council, community, past directors and Mitta-folk for a well-overdue boogie. A huge thanks to all who organised the event, in particular Wollangarra Council and Mittagundi and the rad volunteers who rocked the show on the night. ~ Shaya



What's coming up? Dates

Join us for the upcoming events at Wollangarra for the rest of 2022:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Garden Party | – 10 th Sept |
| September Holiday Stage 1 | – 19 th -23 rd Sept |
| September Holiday Stage 2 | – 26 th -30 th Sept |
| Open Day | – 1 st -2 nd Oct |
| Melbourne Cup Weekend | – 29 th Oct - 1 st Nov |
| Skills Week | – 6 th -10 th Dec |
| December Holiday Stage 2 | – 13 th -18 th Dec |



Upcoming Events

GARDEN PARTY

Calling all green thumbs and garden lovers alike! Join us for splendiferous garden time and a wonderfully musical evening as we prepare the Wollangarra garden for spring time abundance!

Check out our event by searching 'Wollangarra Garden Party' on Facebook and call the homestead to RSVP your seat in the garden.

* This event requires any under 18 yrs. old present to be under direct supervision of a parent or guardian

** Options to stay at Woll for 3-4 nights in the lead up to garden party event available upon enquiry



OPEN DAY

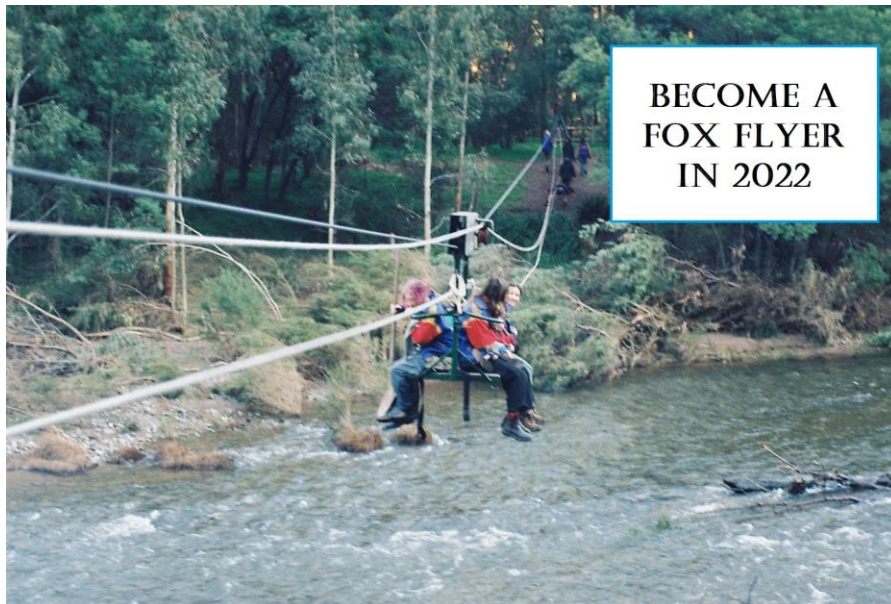
Open Day is going ahead this year on the homestead flats on the 1st Oct 2022! Come along for a fun filled day of demonstrations, auction, delicious food and drink and more! Ticket sales open soon, keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details. Yay!!



Fox Flyers

Wollangarra is so grateful for all of your donations throughout 2021. Your donations have directly enabled Wollangarra to continue operating throughout the uncertainty of lockdowns and the ups-and-downs of COVID restrictions in Victoria last year.

Thanks to your help, we were able to maintain the property to appropriate standards for running programs, finish projects on the flats and run much loved Holiday programs; offering sponsored spots to those young people who really need it. Reconnecting young people to the mountains and the basics of living with nature has never been more important than in the times young people find themselves.



Given then invaluable help Fox Flyers donations provided Wollangarra in 2021, we have decided to run the Fox Flyers Members program for another 12 months in 2022. While we are hoping 2022 will be a year in which things return somewhat to normal and that we will be able to run programs, we are still recovering from two years of lockdowns and restrictions and are still finding our feet in this new world. Your 2021 membership would have been automatically cancelled after 12 monthly payments from the date you became a Fox Flyer. If you would like to support Wollangarra for another 12 months in 2022, please sign up again here:

<https://wollangarra.org.au/register/foxflyers/>

Also, we are hoping to host the Fox Flyers Members Thank your dinner (sadly cancelled in 2021) later in 2022 for both 2021 and 2022 members! We will keep you posted on dates for the celebratory evening.

THANK YOU for your support. We hope to see you up at Wollangarra soon at one of our community events. ~ Directors

Support Wollangarra

Wollangarra is a small outdoor education centre situated beside the Macalister River in Gippsland. We pride ourselves on the high quality outdoor education programs we have run for young people aged 14-22 since 1989. Through outdoor education, Wollangarra provides a small step to a healthier environment, stronger communities, and happier young people. Wollangarra runs approximately thirty programs throughout the year, as well as several working bees and community events. When young people come on the property there are no timetables, bells, watches, or mobile phones. The living is simple and these young people get the chance to discover Victoria's mountains in small, well-supervised hiking groups. They are then given the opportunity to return on follow-up programs and become involved in a vibrant community and with our ongoing conservation programs. We strongly believe that our programs help young people see environmental issues as exciting and demanding challenges to the way we live, rather than as depressing and negative threats to our future.

Wollangarra's programs are available to schools and community groups. We offer both fully and partially sponsored places to any young person who needs financial assistance and we run many programs at or below cost-price and have worked with many different groups from diverse backgrounds. A non-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission, Wollangarra is independent of any school, religious or government funding. That means we rely on the generosity of our community and supporters to keep us keeping on. Your donation will help Wollangarra continue to deliver programs that get young people inspired to care for our environment in a hands-on way. Extra funds mean we can offer sponsored spots in our hike programs for those who cannot afford it, maintain our stock of hiking gear, and manage our beautiful property.



If you would like to support Wollangarra, here is how you can.

Resources we need: If you have got any of these lying around, we would love to give your second-hand goodies another lease on life. Give us a call if you have any of the items that you are happy to part with, and we can organise the best way to get it off of you. Please call if you have any questions about anything (03 5148 0492).

- Waxed food wraps
- Munchie Bags
- Pillows
- NEW art for New Toilets

Financial assistance:

Wollangarra has deductible gift recipient status (DGR) and is on the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO). our ABN is 44 395 948 159. Donations can be made on the website and are tax deductible.

Or if you would like, you can mail us a donation cheque to our postal address to Wollangarra, 3439 Heyfield, Licola Rd, Glenmaggie VIC 3858.

You can also donate to Wollangarra by making a direct transfer to the Wollangarra Public Fund. Just email our Business Manager (businessmanager@wollangarra.org.au), after you have donated to get a receipt.

Wollangarra Public Fund
BSB: 633-000
Account Number: 139 880 017

Any financial assistance is greatly appreciated!

To book into a program or get involved with Wollangarra, please visit our website <https://wollangarra.org.au/> or contact us on 0351484092.

Thank You's

Volunteers

Thanks Claire and Six, Lucy Fallon, Meaghan, Emma Ward, Essie, Meah, Jen Gao and Max for helping out!

The Nicholson's

Alpine Walk wines

Babysitting

Catherine Nits, Luke and Hazel and Orla

Conrad

Mini boss

Nicola

Dead dog bags, sheep checking and dog spinning

Murf

Garden Goodness

Margaret

Munchie bags and cakes

Neaves

Cuppas and Pomegranates

Briggi

Visiting and living at Woll

Amy, Ben and Elwood

Visit & Seedlings

Hazel & Orla

Babysitting, Wood Chop and Merch pickup

Leo

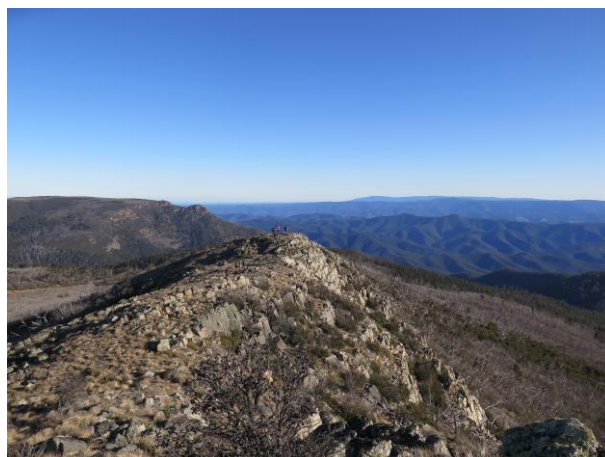
Chainsawing

Melanie

Boots and Jumper Donation

Will

Garlic Seedlings



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Licola Rd, Glenmaggie, Vic 3858***

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