

Spring Newsletter

Number 121

September 2021

Patron:

John Landy, AC, MBE



WOLLANGARRA

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September already, where has this year gone? I bet many of us feel this way. At Wollangarra

Spring has sprung in September. The wattles have all bloomed, painting the banks of the river bright yellow for a few weeks. All of the fruit trees on the flats have blossomed white and pink - the splume of blossoms blown across the paddock by the spring winds like snow is a picture I won't easily forget. Mornings are getting lighter sooner with a warm breeze welcoming the day like an old friend giving you a hug. Its just glorious after a long winter! Unfortunately our Spring has mainly been spent in lockdown, unable to share this splendour with young people. The Staff team continue to impress us, strong and persevering through a



challenging uncertain time with much grace and commitment to improving the facilities at Wollangarra for young people. We are all, you included I'm sure, finding little moments and small things in our daily lives to bring happiness and hope. We have advertised and



excitedly planned our Open Day in hope we can have you all up for a fun day in the sun! Not to fear if it too gets postponed, for like Spring we hope this COVID time is a shoulder season which too will pass into Summer and new times. For now, we keep on looking forward to the return of young people to the flats as soon as possible and many joyful events for the community in the near future. We miss you all and thank you for hoping with us! ~Kay

Welcome Lotus!



Introducing the mysterious and elusive new staff member Lotus, here for the 5 months stint. She narrowly escaped the latest lockdown when she first came up heading out from the big city and was immediately accused of smuggling COVID out with her by the DHHS (She didn't though). She's had prior experience leading on horse riding camps and has had heaps of different experiences travelling around New Zealand, Europe and around Australia in various spots, not to mention she's already accumulated a total 2 days program time on the job trial. Her passions include but are not limited to: hiking, caving, horse riding, wildlife and nature and ironically following obscure Facebook groups (Lockdowns been tough she says). A connoisseur of fine dining, she makes a mean hash brown and pancake, yet she prefers to eat ice cream for most meals. Having a background in conservation she's demonstrated a lot of knowledge of local fauna and wildlife. She's also really passionate about bats so stay tuned for some

cool bat facts! All in all she's a cool and levelheaded lady with a strong conscience, good humour and friendly demeanour, and we're all pretty excited to have her on the team. Her favourite colour is a deep earthy green but she states that bright green belongs in hell. ~Fergus

Welcome Scout!

Scout is my four legged best friend. He has been in my life for the best part of 6 years now and is such a loveable bundle of character. Best described as an oversized puppy (highly food oriented) scout loves being around people and other animals. Scout has a plethora of tricks including smiling and pawing on command and loves going for explores through the bush. Since arriving at Woll, scout has decided chasing sheep is hilarious and herds them from one paddock to the next. I'm thrilled to have him here with me on my adventure at Wollangara. We both look forward to more bushrides and exploring our new home. ~Lotus



Modified Wood Chop!



Unfortunately, like many things this year, Wood Chop couldn't go ahead as planned... Instead, with the much valued help of Bushy, we had a colossal Wood Haul. Frantically and laboriously shifting the entire wood heap from the car landing to the fox in the few days before the floods came sweeping through. After a few days of intensive flood preparations, around the clock flood watch, and another few days of flood recovery (including the much involved



process of re-stringing the foxes, using bow and arrow, fishing line, incrementally larger diameter cord, and eventually the fox lines themselves) we were able to host a 'Micro Wood Chop/Flood Recovery Work Party' with a few dedicated locals. While Conrad and Bushy chopped their way through the ENTIRE wood stack on the flat, the rest of us got to work tidying up after the floods. In the months since then, moving the remaining wood over to the flat, chopping, and stacking it has been an ongoing process for staff and vollies alike; laborious, but a pleasant outlet for energy and frustration during the long weeks without programs. ~Sarah

Programs Update!



Amidst the lockdowns, we managed to run some more programs since our last update! As well as being great for our own Wollie mental health and sense of purpose, it also allowed about a hundred young people to escape from restricted suburbia. With three school groups and a large combined stage 1/2/3 holiday program, we met a mixed bunch of mostly excited young people from all walks of life. Due to heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding of the MacAlister river, we lost our landline connection in May (which is now finally fixed!) and had to adapt some of our

programs accordingly. We spent a couple of nights in bush shelters built by the stage one and twos after a hearty lunch of damper and campfire dinner, did some track work and built a stone retaining wall near the vehicle landing to repair flood damage, went for day walks and had the usual Thursday night feasts. The staff had a two week break in amongst the lockdowns, followed by two more regular school programs with proper Woll hikes, exploring the surrounds of Woll post-flood. With now mostly sandy campsites, things look a bit different, but are as enjoyable as ever. Weeks filled with hikes, camping, games, home cooked food, views, struggles up and down the hills really are very good for the stil soul! Unfortunately we had a fair few schools we had to cancel because of restrictions, but hope that things will open up again soon so that more people can join our Woll experience. ~ Issy



Fox Flyers

We started up the Fox Flyer initiative at the end of 2020, asking for financial support from our community to help us get back up and running after having no programs in 2020. We have been so humbled by the support of our Fox Flyers, who have come from across Australia to support Woll. Some of our Fox Flyers have never been to Woll but have heard of the programs and opportunities we offer young people and see us as something they want to support. Others have been young people, parents, staff, active community members, and council members. All in all, a diverse and great group of people, and we are stoked and thankful to have them on board.

As Fox Flyers they committed to donating \$50/month across 2021, and their combined donations have already supported running staff training such as the Bronze Medallion, as well as purchasing materials for the new rota-loo toilet. Across the year they will also support us to continue running low cost and accessible school holiday programs, and maintenance costs of the infamous flying fox into Woll.



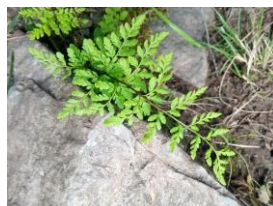
Keen on being a Fox Flyer? It is definitely not too late, and we would love to have more people join. If you are keen, head to www.wollangarra.org.au/foxflyers for more info and sign-up options, or chuck us an email to donations@wollangarra.org.au

~Annabelle

Upcoming Events

While we really hope to have people back on the flats soon, please bear in mind, these upcoming events are dependent on COVID restrictions, and more information will be given on social media closer to the time.

- Open Day 2021: 2nd October
- Melbourne Cup Working Bee: 30th Oct- 2nd Nov
- Skills Week: 7th-11th Dec
- December Stage 2: 13th-18th Dec



Colouring in Picture

Here is a picture drawn by Lotus of the animals on the flats for those who enjoy colouring in. We would love to see your different finished products! Either post this page back to Wollangarra or send us a copy to directors@wollangarra.org.au. We will post the top three on our facebook page for everyone's enjoyment.



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).

- Stihl Burshcutter
- Lawnmower
- Pole pruning saw
- Star pickets
- Dorper Wire
- Weatherboards or other timber cladding
- Foam camping mats
- Large & Small screw-top jars
- Rolls and ROLLS of flyscreen
- Garden Hose 15+ metres
- Gloves/mittens
- Fleece/Down Jumpers
- 3" and 4" Phillips head wood & board screws
- Stainless steel bowls to take on hike

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

Brian Beasley

Generous donation to Woll!
Thank you so much!

Sandy Hancock & David Gibbs

Generous donation to Woll! Many Thanks!

Andrew & Linda

Generous donation to Woll! Thank you!

Peter Frost

Generous donation to Woll!
Thank you so much!

Wayne & Fam

Toilet building and great company! Come visit again soon!

Woll's Young People

For your continued support while away from Woll!

Rita

Supporting Staff in 2021

Ian & Liv

Always thinking of us, supporting us, checking in on how jobs are!

Conrad

New Snorkel for the Troopie!

Council

Availability, help and support

Fox Flyer Donors

For the donations and ongoing support

Global Giving

Amazing grant received!

The Brady's

For the babysitting!

Jen Gao

Babysitting over July winter brake!

Ralph

Keeping us updated on local weather

The Heyfield resource centre

Holding parcels for us and printing the Newsletters that go out via post

Anyone else

Many thanks from the Wollies!



If undeliverable, please return to:

Wollangarra

***3439 Heyfield Licola Rd, Glenmaggie,
Vic 3858***

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