

Summer Newsletter

Number 119

March 2021

Patron:

John Landy, AC, MBE



WOLLANGARRA

Licola, 3858

Ph: 5148 0492

www.wollangarra.org.au

Fire is an alluring thing, the ephemeral appeal of the flames, the radiant colours, the heat and its power. We can all sit under a starry sky and watch fire, it is in us, from our ancestors. It is simple as it is complex. To create it we need heat, fuel and oxygen. The last of which comes from the air around us, and the oxygen in our atmosphere comes from life: algae and plants. So, without life on Earth there is no fire. Perhaps then, Earth is the only place where fire happens. For us there is no life without fire and without life there is no fire. It represents the reciprocal relationship that we have with the Earth. Here at Wollangarra, we cook with fire, we warm with fire, we light our home with fire, we treat our water with fire and we pleasure in watching fire. Like all-natural things, we must respect it and we should never underestimate it. In looking after the bush around us we can sustain our fuel supply, make clean air and provide a home for our fellow animals. When we first came to Wollangarra the team, Kay and I made fire with a hand drill, together

generating the heat to make an ember, nursing the fire to life, cooking our meal on the fire and then sharing our meal around the fire. On our program training Ferg made fire with a bow drill

set, his patience and perseverance to make it happen was a lesson for us all. I lit a small piece of white punk fungus to carry Ferg's fire as an ember. That is what Kay and I are here to do, to help carry the ember that is Wollangarra. You the community are the wood for Wollangarra's fire, you the Young People are the air that breaths life to Wollangarra's flames and we the Wollies carry the ember to light the fire that is Wollangarra.

~Toby



Around Wollangarra

The summer at Wollangarra has been a relatively mild one compared to the summer we had last year in Victoria. This was much appreciated by the garden, animals and ourselves. Arriving here in the summer also meant we got to enjoy longer days, refreshing swims in the river, warm nights playing music around the fire and lots of time outdoors working on the property and exploring the natural surroundings. Sadly we started 2021 with the loss of one of our sheep. On a happier note, the five chickens we brought with us to Wollangarra are having the time of their lives and are very pleased with their new coop (thanks to Issy) and greet the Outdoor Leaders daily around the homestead. Following 2020, it has been wonderful to host events again; having young people and the community on the property is really when Wollangarra comes alive. Wollangarra -what a place built on an amazing community! Thank you for a good start to 2021! We look forward to many more events and programs for the remainder of the year. ~Kay

2021 Outdoor Leaders

Fergus



An enigma to all, but mostly himself, Ferg plans on spending his time here at Woll learning all that he can to make his dream of one day becoming a Bush Hermit a reality. Ferg wore a clip-on tie with his Hard Yakka work shirt to his job interview. Coupled with a vegan leather jacket and pants stolen from Meri's wardrobe, Ferg cuts an imposing yet stylish figure. Ferg enjoys archery and Ju Jitsu in his spare time. He has a kind heart, and if you ever need help is more than willing to drop his steely demeanour to help solve any problem you could possibly have. An asset to the team, we all hope he goes for a threepeat and stays another year. ~Oli

Isabel



Most of you have probably had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Issy for a year or so longer than I have, and for that you are fortunate. She is wonderful and quick with a pun. Issy is a tireless worker, with a strong sense of initiative and an easy, personable nature. Originally from Holland, she has been traveling abroad for the past 8 years, more-or-less hiking, woofing, working, and adventuring with locals around the world. Luckily for us she is backing it up with two years at Woll, and hopefully this year she will be able to share this great place with a whole bunch of young people and a broader transect of the Woll community than 2020. ~ Sarah

Sarah



Sarah arrived at Woll after debarking the Spirit of Tasmania at the start of February. Full of energy, she seemed to feel right at home, diving into the kitchen making kombucha the night she moved in! At Woll, she is looking forward to share the experience and way of life here with young people. Also, Sarah is keen to share wholesome food, cook with what's in abundance in the garden. Sarah is the Wollguardian in charge of the Wollgarden this year! In her time off, tae-kwon-do is often on the menu. She also enjoys reading and drawing and anything outdoors in her spare time. We are very excited to have Sarah on board this year! Energetic, positive and ready for whatever comes her way, she fits right into the Woll spirit. ~Issy

Oliver



We are grateful to have Oli volunteering with us. Choosing to take time out from his university studies, Oli is contributing back to Wollangarra, a place that he has spent many a fond day. Approaching the new directors at Mittafest and asking to be a part of the team, he cashed in a few favours to scrounge up a fine pair of hard yakka trousers and a bus ride to Woll. Oli takes care of the chooks, ducks and gear store and is always on hand when you need him. He's a total machine, has a lot of enthusiasm and we're super stoked to have him on for the first half of the year. ~ Ferg

Training

My time so far at Woll has been filled first and foremost with learning, followed closely by food, banter, labour, and swims in the Mac. My first course here was Complex Trauma at Mittagundi. This was a great two days of meeting the Mitta crew, some other wonderful people (and animals) and getting an introduction to the world of bush adventure therapy. A few days later we competed our bronze medallion and CPR in the very much unheated Hayfield pool. Thankfully followed by hot chippies and coffee to defrost with while we re-planned our following week with regards to the recently announced lockdown (!!). Despite lockdown we managed to conduct program training on site as well as skill sharing sessions and a day of bush crafts. More recently we have completed communications training in the Hayfield Community Resource Centre with the lovely and lively Rita. It was great to connect to the Heyfield community and I am sure we will all benefit from the training not only in our interactions with each other this year, but in our ongoing self-care, and personal and emotional growth. Since then, Toby, Kay and I joined the Mitta crew to complete our defensive driving training in Bairnsdale and spent a wonderful night with Paul, Ali and their daughter Hazel in Bruthen. We went through several breaking and swerving exercises at various speeds on a wet track; demonstrating just how much difference a few Ks can make -knowledge that we can all apply throughout the rest of our driving lives. Finally, we have completed our hike training, both in the alpine around Lake Tali Kargn as well as through the Macalister Gorge. I look forward to a year full of learning as well as utilising and building on the formal learning we have done so far, as we pursue our simple, purposeful and meaningful lives here on the beautiful flats of Wollangarra. ~Sarah



Mittafest!



The first expedition for the 2021 staff team, or what existed of it then, was a trip to see the cousins up at Mittagundi. It was really nice to get to see so many familiar faces after such a long year of isolation and I think it's widely agreed that the Mitta staff put on a pretty awesome event. There were demonstrators for a variety of pioneer skills like woodwork, cheesemaking and more. Personally, I spent a heinous amount of money at the auction; you're welcome Mitta. There was an open mic and a great live band before all subsided to make way for the bangers that played into the wee hours of the morn. Needless to say, it was great. The Mittagundi officials clearly still hold their prejudice to Woll staff as despite our stellar efforts with an understaffed team we placed last in the Mitta Olympics. But all in all, it was a great time and thanks so much to the crew up there for letting us come cause trouble on the farm. ~Ferg



Fruit bottling!

Fruit bottling happened this February! After a year of Covid restrictions and program cancellations, we were thrilled to finally have another event on the Flat. We had 6 wonderful days filled with wonderful conversations, laughs, some serious hard yakka, some seriously hot weather, lots of river swims and extravagant Woll cuisine.



Mother nature helped us out by loading up our fruit trees with heaps of produce. Not having had programs also meant we still had plenty of jam and chutney in stock, so the focus was mainly on preserving fruits. The star of the show was most certainly the blood plum tree near the swimming hole gate, which produced over 130 kilos of delicious plums! Most of those were bottled into jars and plenty more were eaten on the spot. Such luxury! Many thanks to Frances, John and the stage II/III crew for taking on the majority of the fruit work. Thanks to the Brady family as well for processing the homestead paddock plum tree over the holidays. Our cool store is now chockers, ready for a year of people at Woll. During fruit bottling we started on a second Rotaloo block. Thanks Wayne for leading the building crew and being an absolute powerhouse! Many a beautiful person also helped move mountains of weeds in the garden and clearing new paths, haul rounds of wood for future cooking and showers, and cooking for all those hungry souls who came up to help. Last but not least, a big Thank You to 2019/2020 Wollies Annabelle and Josh, for your help with the event. Thanks to everyone who came to reunite at Woll after being away for a year, it's been wonderful! ~Issy



Labour Day Weekend!



The second event under the direction of Toby and Kay, Woll hosted the usual Labour Day weekend work party. A big thank you to everyone involved, you all worked tirelessly and achieved so much. From Francis, Zip and the passata bottlers, to the greatest lumberjacks stage 2 has ever produced, to everyone else who came up just to see what Woll was about and ended up doing so much more. From the team up here, we cannot wait to have you all back again, with your cheery smiles and manic laughter guiding us away from 2020. ~Oli

Locals Lunch

Locals lunch this year was a success with 25+ locals sharing a meal in the courtyard under the grape vines. There was a huge spread of delicious salads: potato salad, carrot salad, cucumber-mint salad, pasta salad, and some roast veg and snags. Topped off with home-baked cakes and fresh fruit salad for dessert, we all ate too much and enjoyed a merry yarn with our neighbours. It was great to put some faces to names and meet the locals that contribute to this community of Wollangarra. Well done team! ~Kay



Brad Pryce Award Winners

Isabelle Borley



A few weeks ago, Cassie and I ventured off to Mittagundi to participate in Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training as the recipients of the Brad Pryce Award. We cannot thank the Stage 3 community enough for this opportunity, especially Conrad for his sponsorship and checking in with us. For me, the first thing I noticed was how much I had missed the mountains over the last year. It was fantastic just to get back out there, and it stirred a lot of excitement for the year to come. Mittagundi is certainly a different place compared to Woll, but it still breathes the same tunes of community and warmth. The course itself can be confronting, WFA is meant to prepare us for the

worse case scenarios and how to keep someone going until further help can arrive. And this honestly can leave you with feelings of helplessness. We learn and treat snake bites, open fractures, spinals, cardiac arrests, and so much more, in just a week. Despite not hiking or really doing any physical activity, you're exhausted by the end of the day. But it was nothing a swim in the Mitta, a chat with some new people and friends, or (somehow) oyster shucking and eating, couldn't fix. The best and most informative part of the course was certainly the scenario training. We had limited people on the site, so we all became amateur actors for a week. We were drenched in fake blood and prosthetics, and gave our best performances of chainsaw injuries, concussions, or even underlying issues like low blood sugar or anaphylaxis. There was certainly a learning curve when it came to tunnel vision and treating patients. You walk into a scenario and see a trauma or bleed and immediately think to treat that, when the most dangerous part could be someone sitting near an ant's nest and they have anaphylaxis. After 5 days, a lot of information, and plenty of triangle bandages later, we felt well equipped to take on the outdoors and challenges it poses. Again, we want to thank the lovely community we are a part of that provided this opportunity, as well as Heidi from Survive First Aid who taught our course, and the gorgeous staff of Mittagundi that played host to us. We are ecstatic to get back into the high country and helping out as much as possible! See you all out there! ~Issy

Cassie Fallaw



I had never been up to Mittagundi before yet heard such great things from it, so when I got a message from Meg Hynes stating that she could not attend the course and I go in her place I was thankful to have been given that opportunity. As a stage 3 at Wollangarra I have heard along the years of the Brad Pryce Award and looked up to those who have received it. So, at first, I was nervous on the first day of many. I, unlike most of the people attending the course, had never had any first aid training before, yet it was easy enough for me to keep up

and learn all the things that I had no experience with. The course ran over a week's period starting in mid-February. The 6hr commute was long but I had Issy at my side most of the way. There was in total 14 people who attended the course, some of them Mittagundi staff who were in the process of getting all of their training for the year to come and then some people who had heard of the course through word of mouth or, who had been up to Mitta before and wanted to gain those extra skills for the future of the outdoors. Personally, for myself, the importance of this course is to be confident when in an outdoor setting, that if anything were to happen, I could be of some help. As a hiker and camper (currently travelling SA solo) I find it important to have the necessary skills that could one day help another. Heidi's training was full of laughs and stories to share, often leading back to her past job as a paramedic. Even though I had no past knowledge, Heidi answered all our questions and made the course easy to navigate around and make sense of things. We did lots of hands-on work like learning how to hypo-wrap a person to bandaging up snake bites which helped when we were doing much of the theory work or doing patient reports. The course consisted of group tasks such as role-playing an injured patient and helping them in groups of 2 to 3, up to having mass accidents and having numerous responders that used our leadership skills and new first aid skills. I enjoyed the small group responding tasks that made it more of a challenge to remember all the things that Heidi had taught us and putting it to use. I would recommend this to anyone who has a passion or who wants a career for the outdoors as it is a very credible and also important course to have up your sleeve. I thank Wollangarra for sponsoring this trip and Issy for accompanying me on it and the people who made the course so enjoyable. Much appreciated and happy hiking. ~Cassie

Fox Flyers Update

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



The Alpine Walk 2021

The Alpine Walk is a major event and fundraiser for Wollangarra and Mittagundi that occurs in the Easter school holidays each year. The walk is a huge and exciting undertaking, winding through some of Victoria's most rugged and remote high country. Five special young people are selected from Wollangarra, and five from Mittagundi, to take part in the walk, as well as a leader from each organisation. The young people selected have shown considerable support, enthusiasm, and passion for Wollangarra or Mittagundi and have demonstrated their leadership and resilience capabilities on successive programs over the preceding year. Young people who take part in the Alpine Walk have a unique opportunity to grow and develop as young leaders and experience powerful personal growth. Part of Wollangarra's objective is to allow young people who couldn't otherwise afford to come on an outdoor program to experience Victoria's mountains and get involved in looking after them. The money the Alpine Walkers raise from undertaking the Alpine Walk goes directly towards sponsoring other young people to come and be a part of our program, as well as helping Wollangarra and Mittagundi cover the initial cost of the Alpine Walk for the following year.

Since the Alpine Walk did not go ahead last year due to COVID-19, the same special five individuals chosen in 2020 will walk the Alpine Walk in 2021! For more information on the individual walkers, please refer to the 2020 Summer (Feb) Newsletter.

Please support our young people as they attempt to support others in the community by donating directly to Wollangarra using the codes provided for each participant below:



Ned Anderson
 CODE: NAAW20
 BSB: 633000
 ACCOUNT #:
 139880017



Xavier Magree
 CODE: XMAW20
 BSB: 633000
 ACCOUNT #:
 139880017



Isha Litchfield
 CODE: ILAW20
 BSB: 633000
 ACCOUNT #:
 139880017



Fynn Haubld
 CODE: FHAW20
 BSB: 633000
 ACCOUNT#: 139880017



Harriet Fallaw
 CODE: HFAW20
 BSB: 633000
 ACCOUNT #:
 139880017

Upcoming events

We look forward to running holiday programs this year. Here are the dates for some of the upcoming events and holiday programs at Wollangarra for the first half of 2021:

Month	Date	Event
April	3rd-4th	>18 Easter Weekend Work Party
April	6th-10th	Holiday Stage I - "Meetng the Mountains"
April	12th-16th	Holiday Stage II - "Helping the Mountains"
June	12th-15th	Wood Chop
June-July	28th June- 2nd July	Holiday Stage I - "Meetng the Mountains"
July	4th-9th	Holiday Stage II - "Helping the Mountains"



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 questions about anything you think we might be able to use (03 5148 0492).

- Garden Hand Shovels x 5
- Good secateurs
- Pole pruning saw
- Star pickets
- Dorper Wire
- Foam camping mats
- Large & Small screw-top jars
- Fowler's Jar Lids
- Rolls of flyscreen
- Garden Hose 15+ metres
- Gloves/mittens
- Fleece/Down Jumpers
- Weatherboards or other timber cladding
- 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 Yous

Chelsea

For answering many a question!

Wayne & Fam

Toilets and a delicious pizza night

Woll's Young People

Coming back to Woll in 2021! We have missed you

Don

Tractor training and reciting amazing poetry

Rita

Delivering a great communications training workshop

Lucy

Donations of second-hand raincoat and waterproof pants for use around the flats

Mitta Crew

Being all round legends and fun to do complex trauma and defensive driving with!

Hamish (Mitta)

For all your knowledge

Ian & Liv

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

Ross

Fire training & always being available for a chat

Conrad

Supporting Brad Pryce award winners in their WFA

Jen

Lending her knowledge in the garden

Tim & Thomson Valley

Troopie help

Josh & Annabelle

Never-ending help and all the good times on the flats!

Council

Availability, help and support

Fox Flyer Donors

For the donations and ongoing support

Frances

For being the Fruit-bottling and Passata queen!

**The Brady's**

For all the babysitting, help in the garden and over fruit bottling and toilet building!

Terry

Good for a chat and organising a road crew

Margret

Always thinking of us when there are bits and bobs we may be able to use!

The Heyfield resource centre

Hosting us for comms training

Anyone else

Many thanks from the Wollies!

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