

WHAT DOES WOLLANGARRA COST?

A standard expedition in 1991 will cost \$105, ex-Heyfield and including everything. This cost can be reduced slightly if the school can provide a bus right to the Wollangarra walking track and by a bit more again if that same bus can be used for transporting the group between Wollangarra and the mountain area nearby. The highest price though is \$105, for a group coming to Heyfield by public transport.

WHO CAN ATTEND WOLLANGARRA?

We invite enquiries from everyone, schools, groups and individuals alike. Sometimes two or three smaller groups can attend together, and often one or two individuals can be added to a school group if everyone is happy about it.

The place is always a mixture of hard work and good fun. All we stipulate is that each participant knows this, and still wants to come. If you are keen to help the environment in a practical way, then you are welcome to be part of it all. Some sponsorships are available to those in genuine need.

WHAT ABOUT WINTER?

In winter, when the mountains are covered in snow, we plan to run a program of weekly, low-level expeditions and work parties during the school term, based at Wollangarra. These will be a cheaper way again for schools to attend. All enquiries are welcome.

"SECONDHAND AND SOLID"

The story of the building of Wollangarra.

This very popular hard-cover book (printed on 100% recycled material), has been the biggest single fund-raiser for Wollangarra so far. Complete with heaps of color and black and white photos, it tells the whole story of how it was all achieved, and all the characters who became involved. It is a really great read of 250 pages, and is terrific value at \$25 (including P&P)!

To obtain a copy, just send a cheque made out to "Wollangarra" to:
Ian Stapleton, Wollangarra, Licola, Vic 3858.

All proceeds go to Wollangarra. You will be helping us to help young people and the environment.

For more information about Wollangarra, please send this form to:
Wollangarra,
Licola, Vic 3858

I am keen to learn more about Wollangarra. Please send me more details about:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Expeditions | () |
| Work Parties | () |
| Winter Program | () |
| Sponsorships | () |
| Funding or Fund Raising | () |

Name

Address

WOLLANGARRA

MACALISTER RIVER GORGE
LICOLA VIC 3858

PATRON: MR JOHN LANDY



Young people and high places

WOLLANGARRA is a new, non-profit project, established in the firm belief that modern young people and remote mountain places are natural, if not somewhat unlikely partners, with a great deal to offer each other.

Wollangarra's program enables many young Victorians from throughout the community, to visit our mountains on a whole range of well organised and supervised hiking expeditions to all sorts of remote and special places. We then encourage them to return with us, on work parties during their holidays, to help look after such places in a whole new program of practical, positive and "hands-on" conservation and care.

This we believe, will help some of our fast living, "high-tech" young people to look upon many environmental issues as exciting and demanding challenges to the way we live, rather than as endlessly depressing and negative threats to our very future. "Doing", rather than "talking", "Fixing", rather than "complaining". And in the process they are almost certain to experience a good strong dose of the satisfaction that comes at the end of a hard day's work, and the simple qualities of life that can still be found in a happy, caring and purposeful community, of any size.

WHERE IS WOLLANGARRA?

Wollangarra is built on a small, remote river flat at the foot of the Macalister River Gorge, near the small township of Licola, and on the edge of one of the most spectacular and beautiful sections of the Victorian Alps. To reach Wollangarra, you have to walk a short distance and cross the Macalister River on a flying fox. There is no vehicular access into Wollangarra at all.



"Wollangarra"

WHAT IS AT WOLLANGARRA?

On this remote little river flat is a beautiful pioneer-style building capable of accommodating up to thirty people in a simple but comfortable way. It has been built entirely from recycled materials, by an enthusiastic army of young volunteers over a period of nearly two years. There is of course, no electricity, and everything is old-style: wood-fired stoves and boilers, open fire places and old gas lights. The building was constructed from nearly 1500 secondhand railway sleepers, and a mountain of other materials gleaned from 14 old buildings that were demolished around Victoria. With no machinery and no power, it took an awfully long time, but the result is a unique and outstanding building which has had a minimal impact on the environment that Wollangarra is working hard to help and protect.

HOW DID WOLLANGARRA GET THERE?

It was all hauled in there by hand, by young supporters, sleeper by sleeper, bit by bit, and ton by ton. Every single part of the house and the buildings around it, came over the flying fox and was hauled up the river flat to the building site by hand. Young people from all over the State came together to take on this task, to help a project that they believed in. They all had a great time doing it too!



One of the sleepers



Fishing from the "fox"



Building Wollangarra



Painting the roof

WHO FUNDS WOLLANGARRA

Wollangarra is backed up by a Supporters' Club of nearly 1000 people from all walks of life, including many recent participants. This group raises all the necessary funds to keep Wollangarra going, over and above the ongoing running of the expeditions and work parties which are operated on a break even basis. There is deliberately no government funding, and we do not seek it. Strong organisations get to be that way by fighting their own battles. Wollangarra's land buildings and equipment are all paid for, and we did it ourselves.

HOW MANY CAN GO ON A WOLLANGARRA EXPEDITION?

Up to 24 with one teacher and four Wollangarra staff, but we prefer numbers of 15-20 if at all possible.

IS WOLLANGARRA CO-ED?

No. We take groups of boys and groups of girls, but not both together. This is a firm policy with school groups. Work parties are sometimes mixed.

IS PREVIOUS HIKING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED?

No, not at all. A degree of fitness will help, but our trips are designed for anyone to be able to cope with.

We provide rucksacks, sleeping bags, tents, parkas, boots, mittens, balaclavas, water bottles and so on. Only warm clothing is required, and the mandatory toothbrush!

IS WOLLANGARRA'S REMOTENESS DANGEROUS?

Wollangarra is in fact a little under a mile away from the main bitumen road from Heyfield to Licola, so it isn't really all that remote, although it often seems so.

There is a dugout for use in any bushfire situation, a telephone and a two-way radio. Staying at Wollangarra is no more dangerous than anywhere else, in fact less so than many places with roads and cars nearby.



Inside Wollangarra

WHAT DOES WOLLANGARRA MEAN?

It is a combination of two aboriginal words: "Wollanbin" meaning "high places", and "Koolangarra" meaning "young people".

WHAT IS WOLLANGARRA ALL ABOUT?

At Wollangarra we believe that by far the most important of all the issues that face our community today, are those of our young people and our embattled environment. Our young people, although well off in a material sense in so many ways, are searching for a purpose and direction in life that many of us seem to have lost amongst the endless conflicts and confusions of a community system that seems to get bigger and less personal every day.

At the same time our environment is staggering and crying out for help as our material, growth-based lifestyle takes its inevitable toll.

Wollangarra sees the needs of both the young people and the environment as being closely tied together. The environment is demanding a hands-on, down-to-earth, community-based response from us all, in order to maintain any sort of future. Car stickers and talk are no longer good enough. Action is required, in terms of the way we live, rather than just more communal moaning and groaning and hypocritical rhetoric.

And isn't this just what so many of our young people are craving for? They want for nothing materially, but they feel a great need to be playing a more important and purposeful role in a community that recognises their worth and their values. So many of them seem to be desperately searching for some way to make a start. What better and more purposeful way than by helping the environment?

Wollangarra aims to provide just that. A small but vital step towards a healthier environment, a stronger community and happier young people.

Wollangarra is about to start operating in three stages.



Mountains and kids

WOLLANGARRA STAGE ONE: EXPEDITIONS

During each school term (except the winter one), Wollangarra and its full time staff (who are based at Wollangarra permanently), run a whole range of one-week hiking expeditions for school groups into the nearby mountains. All equipment and food is provided, and highly experienced staff accompany each group. The major aim of these expeditions is to encourage an awareness of, and a love for our wonderful, but threatened mountain environment, and to foster in the participants a desire to come back and be part of looking after it.

We can cater for up to 24 students at a time, but prefer groups of 15 to 20 if possible. We require one teacher to accompany the group.

Each trip begins and ends with a night in our home at Wollangarra which is a great example of practical and positive conservation in itself, and also a perfect way to remind young people of the qualities of life that still abound in simple things.

WOLLANGARRA STAGE TWO: WORK PARTIES

During the final night back at Wollangarra, the members of each returning expedition will be asked to consider coming back to Wollangarra (as individuals or small groups), to be part of our extensive program of work parties in the mountains and remote country nearby. Work party members are normally ex-expeditioners, and they organise things directly with Wollangarra, quite independently of their school. Other young people may attend work parties, but expeditioners have first priority.

The work parties operate on a self-catering basis, with Wollangarra charging only what is necessary to cover costs. They tend to be very cheap and terrific fun! Jobs include restoring huts, collecting rubbish, digging dunny holes in remote places, walking track maintenance and many more. Most are in remote and beautiful spots, and the length of time involved can vary from one or two days to two or three weeks. This program is a deliberate attempt to offer positive and challenging conservation to young people, rather than to add to the bombardment of negative, whingeing stuff that we hear of so often these days.



Looking after the huts

WOLLANGARRA STAGE THREE: CLUBS

This part of the project is an attempt to extend our type of conservation, practised mostly in the mountain environment, into the equally important environments at school and at home.

Under the supervision of a teacher, who has attended a Wollangarra expedition, we hope to establish "Wollangarra Clubs" at many of the participating schools. These clubs will invite those who wish to join, to draw up and regularly revise lists of ways in which they might help the environment in the way they go about their daily life. Considerations will include not only the things that they choose to buy or not to buy, but also the things that they opt to do without or to use time and time again.

A regular newsletter will keep such clubs up to date with the goings-on at Wollangarra and the work-parties, and swap news with various clubs and schools. It is a small way of helping young people to make a start, with some sort of framework to work from, and encouraged by the knowledge that other like-minded young people are doing the same elsewhere.

WHO RUNS WOLLANGARRA?

It is a totally independent, non-profit organisation, run by a voluntary council of 12, and not attached to any school, church or government agency. Its staff work virtually voluntarily for a cause that they believe in.

The director and founder is Ian Stapleton who established the Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre, and was director of Outdoor Education at Timbertop for many years.