

Hands On for Heritage

Wayne McCallum



Guys Hut team at Work

Wollangarra is an outdoor education centre situated on the Macalister River between Heyfield and Licola. It's renowned for teaching young people about sustainability and the value of working together through hands on projects. I first became involved in 1992 when someone came to the office asking if I could provide some meaningful projects for young people to work on. "Could I what!" was my response.

Guys Hut is one of those, built by the Guy family in 1940, it sits on the edge of Bryces Plain on the Snowy Range. In 1995 it was slowly sinking as the bottom logs rotted so a team of about twenty from Wollangarra carried the new logs about a kilometre to the hut. They jacked it up, shovelled out the rotting logs and slid the new ones into place. And it was snowing! Another work party gave the chimney a new top which lasted till 2008 until its base began to disintegrate. I joined the next work party and we cut new logs and rebuilt the chimney. I still have an image of this tiny slip of a girl manhandling some enormous rocks to line it with.

Nowingi Ironclad

Rob McGlashan

The historic Nowingi Ironclad water catchment was built in the 1920s to capture water for the small community around the Nowingi railway siding, about 30km south of Red Cliffs. It was made of metal sheets riveted together flat on the ground to create a water catchment 60m long and 30m wide. This feeds into a 100,000 gallon underground concrete tank, which at

This relationship between Wollangarra and Parks Victoria is of great mutual benefit. As well as learning a whole lot of practical skills the young people get a great sense of achievement. They also learn and see the benefits of working together as volunteers on historical community projects. I believe it makes better citizens of them.

Guys Hut will now stand for many years to come, and for future generations to admire and enjoy. We get so much more work done than if we had to pay contractors to do it, given the limits on people and resources. Without these young work teams it would no longer be standing.

My wife and I served on Wollangarra Council for a number of years, three of our children have gone through Wollangarra and I was Chairman for five years. It's a relationship I'm extremely proud of. I'm still finding projects for them to work on, and yes, still volunteering.

by a freak wind storm two years ago was a devastating loss. But thanks to a real collaborative effort the Ironclad has been returned to its former glory.

The Red Cliffs Rotary Club got funding grants from both PV and the Mildura City Council for the custom-rolled iron sheets which were then

Bringing Back Burnt Hist

Tamara Watson

At first glance you wouldn't think there's anything left of Cambarville after the February 2009 bushfires. Interestingly this small, remote Yarra Ranges township began with a timber salvage operation after the Black Friday bushfires in 1939. The timber industry was vital to the town's survival, and it declined rapidly when the mill closed in 1970 and families left the area in search of work elsewhere.

Trees have been the main survivors, with stands of Cypress and Cedars marking the original main street, and huge tree stumps scarred from springboards used by timber cutters a reminder of times gone by. The Big Tree, an 84metre Mountain Ash on the Cumberland circuit walk, is still standing. It's still one of the biggest Mountain Ash in the state despite losing eight metres off its top in a wind storm in the 1950's.



Cambarville Mill

Kinglake Weeds Tour

Samantha Strong

It's hard enough to pick a weed from a native species at the best of times, let alone after fire has ravaged the landscape as it did in Kinglake. So helping people to do that was the focus of two Is it a Weed? Tours around Kinglake organised by PV and some other local agencies

The group spent time in the National Park, on private land and roadsides studying the difference between weed species and their native look-a-likes, and learning the best ways to control weed infestations. A good example is the very rare Round Leaf Pomaderris found