

MITTAGUNDI

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

SUMMER 2023



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DIRECTORS REPORT

Well.... We arrived at Mittagundi on New Year's Eve, we had the place all to ourselves so we went for a wander around Mittagundi before settling down at Harry's for the night. After making ourselves at home, whilst we were having dinner, Michael found himself going to turn the washing machine off to stop the beeping sound. He came across Jeanie (the milking cow) in the laundry room. She had somehow made her way into the room and had managed to close the door behind her, make a bed and a big mess on the floor. Michael steps back inside Harry's and says 'Dani, there is a cow in here'. And that there was our introduction to Mittagundi.

Since then, we have had the pleasure of meeting the 2022 team and assisting on a 10-Day mixed program that ran from the 3rd January to the 12th of January. It was a great program filled with 18 young people who were mostly thrilled to be on program, and you can read more about this within this newsletter. We then went straight into festival which you can also read more about below. Some of the festival highlights for Michael and I were meeting more of the community including locals, ex -staff and volunteers, hosting the bush dance onsite and having the demonstrators doing what they love and sharing their skills. Since the festival, we have had some time on the farm learning our way around, we've begun navigating the admin side which has largely consisted of booking in and confirming the training that our 2023 staff team will undergo.

Matthew arrived from England, via USA, on the 19th of January. We met him in Albury and were very excited to introduce him to his first kangaroo and to Mittagundi of course. He hadn't even heard of Mittagundi until some point last year when he came across it online and decided to apply to work here. Thankfully he seems to be settling in just fine and seems to rather like this lifestyle. He kindly spent his birthday with us on the 2nd of February, floating down the Mitta Mitta River basking in the sunshine.

Next to arrive was Lil (Lilith) on January 22nd. However, she had already been spending lots of time at Mitta, volunteering for Woodchop in 2022, the first 10-Day program in 2023 and helping out with the festival. She decided that 2023 is going to be the year that she becomes a full-time team leader. On top of all this time at Mitta, Lili was also a young person in 2018 and came on multiple follow ups. We're beyond excited to see her continue her journey here.



(Image: 2023 staff: Michael, Matthew, Dani, Tully, Lilith and ...)

Then Tully arrived on the 4th of February, also an ex young person as well as an ex alpine walker. Tully first came to Mittagundi as a young person in 2018 and attended several follow-ups. She has spent her first year out of high school travelling around Australia in her van. She now plans to settle down at Mittagundi for a year and complete the goal of a year on staff.

As we write this, we are still waiting for Raphaele to join our team. She will be coming from France and is also an ex young person from when she did a 1-year exchange in Mansfield. She'll be arriving on the 6th of March.

Also on our team, continuing her journey with Mittagundi is Mossie (Amos) and we're extremely lucky and beyond grateful to have her with us. She will stay on the farm here at Mittagundi and help us with our first program in March. Then she will be on and offsite while she spends a bit more time in Wang but continues as the Bookings and Communications Manager. She is looking forward to travelling to Canada and WA this year whilst still helping us in the background as well as on the Council.

We are still looking for one more program leader if anyone is interested. However, we are thrilled to be back to running a full year of programs, starting with a girls 10-Day in mid-March followed by a boys 10-Day in early April. In total, we are planning to run ten 10-Day programs with the 2023 staff, plus the usual assortment of follow-ups, winter, and outreach programs.



(Image: 2023 staff: Dani, Michael, Lilith, Amos, Tully and Matthew)

2023 STAFF TEAM!

We are so excited to announce our staff team for 2023! We have our Directors, Dani and Michael, four Program Leaders, Lilith, Matthew and Tully, plus Raf who will be joining us in March. We have begun our training and are well underway with our various job areas around the farm. We are all very excited for the year ahead, we hope to see you around!



Matthew

Matthew arrived at Mittagundi in mid-January with open arms. Already he has made Mittagundi his home and is a fantastic chook dad. As an early riser you'll always find Matthew in the kitchen bright and early lighting the stoves or making a pot of coffee. He brings a love of music with him, and you'll often hear him strumming and singing. He is also a trusty shotgun passenger and can be trusted to provide good tunes and know the lyrics to all your favourite songs. Prior to coming to Mittagundi, Matthew was briefly living at home in England and before that was working on a husky farm in Norway. This year Matthew is keen to learn more about Australian bush culture and hopefully box a kangaroo. We are so glad Matthew has found Mittagundi and visa versa.

Lilith

Lil may have been born in Melbourne, but her home has always been in the bush, including Mittagundi. Having experienced being a Young Person and a Vollie (Volunteer) she now gives her love and expertise for outdoor education back to Mittagundi. You will likely find Lili around the farm arguing with cows, learning to drive the Troopies, or picking veggies in the garden. This year she would like to learn skills unique to Mittagundi such as looking after the cows, hiking the local tracks, operating the joinery and in general learning as much as possible about this beautiful place and how it operates. Having had Mittagundi as an important part of her life as a Young Person, Lilith wants to help create Magic Moments for Young People in 2023.





Tully

Tully is the newest member of our 2023 family! As an ex-Young Person and Alpine Walker, she is very excited to return to Mittagundi for the year. She is looking forward to forming connections with Young People and helping them experience Mittagundi as she did. Tully wants to learn many new skills this year including working with the horses, creating a productive garden and learning how the farm runs. She is also super keen to get into the hiking, rafting, and abseiling! This year Tully also hopes to explore the Valley and meet members of the Mittagundi community! You will find her weeding in the Gardo, milking Jeanie the cow, or hanging out with the horses. Also joining her is her doggo, Vinnie, the Coolie Cross, come and say hi!

Amos

Back again!! You'll catch Mossie around the farm saying she 'never wants to leave' and that she's 'just the Bookings Manager'. For those who know Mossie better we know that she is a key ingredient of Mittagundi. As a 2006 young person turned 2018 staff member, she has made a lasting impression on many Young People by being an inspiring dag, a guitar player, and a kitchen queen.

This is plain to see in the fact that in 2022 there were 2 staff who were 2018 Young People, and again this year both Lilith and Tully are walking in Mossie's footsteps.

You can't take the Mittagundi out of Mossie and you really can't take Mossie away from Mittagundi. We are so glad to have her around the farm for the next for 2023 and beyond.



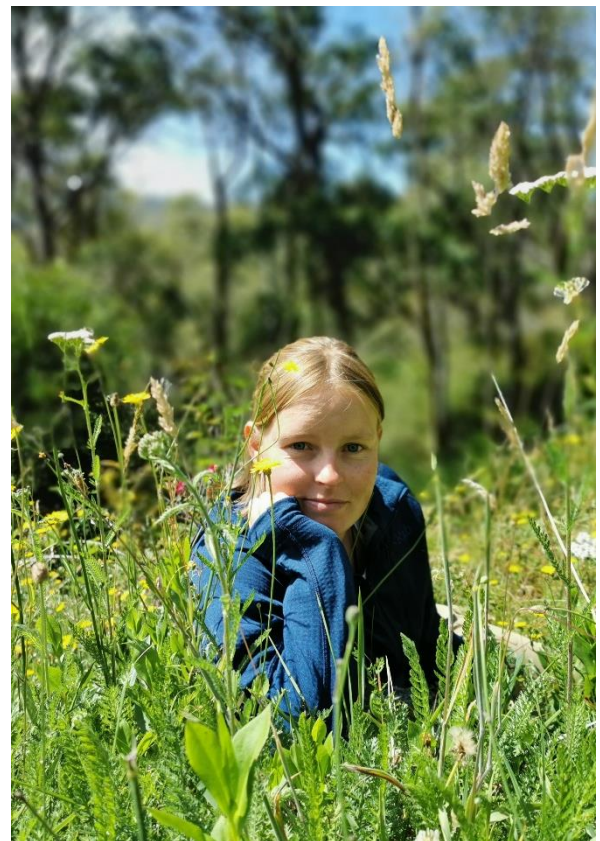


Michael

Traditionally you can always either find Michael asleep under a tree or a few hundred meters off the ground 'working'. For the next two years you can also find him directing Mittagundi with Dani. Michael was the program manager in 2014 and has finally decided to come back. Which is about time as he has spent the last 8 years in New Zealand talking about Mittagundi endlessly with family and friends. Michael loves early mornings, negotiating with the chainsaws, and playing games with cows. He then loves to hit the pillow as the sun goes down so he can wake up again in the morning and do it all again.

Dani

Having heard about Mittagundi from Michael for the past 8 years, Dani is excited to experience this beautiful place and call it home for the next couple of years. Directing alongside Michael, the 2023 staff team, the cows, the chickens, the horses, the kangaroos and so much more, she is looking forward to all the highs (and the lows). Dani is getting used to the mornings day by day and really enjoys rafting, abseiling, and even hiking with young people (which she may not admit too often). When not doing these things, you can find her trying to work out the farm life, admin life balance.



FESTIVAL 2023!

We had a busy and wonderful start to the year, running a 10-Day Program straight into Festival weekend! Thanks to the hard work of the 2022 leaders, volunteers, and the Young People on the 10-Day we managed to pull it off smoothly.

The property came to life in the week beforehand, with endless mowing of grass, hanging of bunting and fairy lights, setting up tents, creating the trailer stage with lights and PA system, and food preparation. There are many people who made valuable contributions of their time, effort and energy and we would like to thank everyone who got involved. Specific mention can be found in the Thankyous below.

It was wonderful to see people starting to arrive on the Friday; community members, ex-staff, family and friends, and we kicked the weekend off with the Bushdance as the sun set. We welcomed back the brilliant Briagolong Bush Band, Gary, Alex and Col. We are grateful for their enthusiasm and wonderful music. It was magic to see the fairy lights come on and the community coming together. We were glad to host the Bushdance right here on the farm amidst the trees and haybales.



(Image: Crowd gathered to watch the Crosscut Saw during the Mittagundi Olympics)



(Image: Demonstrators Jack Gilbert and Brian Beasley with Ollie)

The Saturday hit off with a bang, there was sledding down the Mitta Mitta, Mittagundi Olympics, spit roast dinner and speeches as day turned to night. Lots of swims and dancing was had. The Olympics were a hoot, with ex-staff, current staff, future staff, Young People and friends and family all coming together to form teams. There was porridge eating, a pack relay, running for the phone, wood chopping and the crosscut saw! Thank you to Coby and Lilith for running the event.

We also had the annual Festival auction, run by the brilliant Maeve from Wollangarra. We would like to thank her for her enthusiasm and engaging auctioneering. We auctioned a range of pieces made by Jack Gilbert, Byron and Brian, Richard, Wren and others as well as paraphernalia and Ian's books.

Day turned to night, and we had a roast dinner and speeches. We said thank you and farewell to the 2022 staff, Marti, Shae, Ebony, Zara, Kalum and Emmah. Their hard work and dedication throughout 2022 have kept the farm running and Mittagundi alive!

We had a recap of the year from Mike Heff, and Mossie, who then handed over to our new Directors, Michael and Dani. They introduced themselves and Lilith, as well as Mossie, as the (partial) staff team for 2023! It was magical to have a new team up there ready to take the reins for 2023!



(Image: 2022 staff, Emmah, Marti, Shae, Ebony, and Mossie)



(Image: staff, Young People, council, locals, ex-staff, and family lined up for roast dinner)

After the speeches there was a beautiful moment when council chair, Mike, gathered all the ex-staff and key community to present Jack Gilbert with a piece of Mittagundi Photography as a token of appreciation for the decades of generosity and wisdom Jack has given to us.

The 2023 Festival was a great demonstration of our community coming back together after consecutive years of fires and pandemic. We were so happy to see staff, ex-staff, Young People, Directors, locals, friends and family all come together.

Thank you to everyone who joined in with our 2023 Festival, we loved seeing the place come to life with community! We hope to see you next year!



PROGRAMS

Woodchop – December 2022

Well, what can I say, young people bring Mittagundi alive. One of the most exciting and electric follow up programs, Woodchop happened December 10th to 17th in 2022 to wrap up the year. It was the first program that the remaining 2022 team ran since winter. It was a time to celebrate the year while also helping the next one. We had 20 Young People return to Mittagundi for a surprisingly cold week. It didn't stop them filling the woodshed, clearing the farm of branches, twigs, and bark while most were splitting and stacking non- stop!

In January we had 10 of the 20 Young People return for the festival. I took it upon myself to ask them to stand during the speeches on Saturday night and be acknowledged for their work. The community is very important to us so are the Young People, so I took the opportunity to recognise both. It was worth reminding everyone who attended the festival that Mittagundi was built by young people for young people and is a place full of purpose and reward. The week was so magic, and the group of young people really filled our cups of gratitude.

- *Amos/Mossie*



Mixed #497 – January 2023

It all came together as soon as the new directors Dani and Michael hit the ground. We had a course to run straight after staff Christmas break. Our wait list is still growing, so it was not too hard to fill this course. Mittagundi hadn't ran a 10-Day program since before winter in 2022. This was so great for the staff to have one last adventure into the high plains, on the Mitta Mitta River and around the farm with Young People. The weather was great all course and the Young People managed to help staff a lot with setting up for the 2023 Bush dance and Festival. This mixed program of 18 young people really got the ball rolling on what will be a year of courses again for Mittagundi.

- *Amos/Mossie*

Please head to our website to book in for 2023/2024 courses.

Events

Fruit Bottling at Wollangarra!

On a sunny weekend in January, the Mittagundi team visited Wollangarra for their Fruit Bottling weekend! It was a great event, involving Young People, parents, committee members, volunteers, and friends. We picked, stewed, and bottled fruit, and learnt about the process of making jams and chutney from the wonderful John Brady. We also enjoyed many swims in the beautiful Macalister River, which were much needed during the hot days.



(Image: Matthew, Amos, Dani and Lil at Wollangarra)

We'd like to thank the team at Woll (Maeve, Coby, Cas, Max, and Emma) for having us and for making us feel so welcome and involved! Our thanks also to Toby (Director) for giving us a tour of their property and systems and insight into how Wollangarra fits into the surrounding environment. It was wonderful to see so many people in the Woll community coming together for the weekend and enjoying being on the flat!

Raft Training

Over the past month we have been completing our staff raft training with Paul Nichol from Bruthen, an ex Wollangarra staff member and part of the Mittagundi community. We have had an awesome time and have learnt so much from how to catch eddies, to how to manage a group on the water. We are so grateful that Paul has willingly offered his time and energy to us, and for all the enthusiasm and humour he brought with him. We are looking forward to more rafting with Paul soon!



(Image: Paul, Lil, Michael, Felix (ex-staff), Amos, Matthew, Dani and Adam (ex-staff) at Hinnomunji)

Horse Training

We are very glad to have spent 2 full days with our neighbours working with our horses, Arby and Winnie. We all learnt how to lead, how to check their feet, how to put their pack saddles on and how to look after them on hike. We are now walking our horses multiple times a week and working them in the round yard. We look forward to overnight hiking with them next week!



Wilderness First Aid

The Mitta team made a second journey to Woll for the year to complete their Wilderness First Aid Course with Survive First Aid. Many thanks to our wonderful instructors, Adam and Laura from Survive. We undertook 4 days of theory and practical assessment through mock emergency scenarios, including lots of fake blood and screaming. We have all come away with a lot of knowledge and confidence in our own First Aid skills. Thanks again to Toby and Kay and the Woll crew for hosting us in their beautiful home and workplace of Wollangarra!



Council Weekend

Post Covid Mittagundi looks better than ever!!

Old habits die hard – its February and it seems we have always made the expedition to Mittagundi in February – in the early days it was to let the new staff practise on Councillors – abseiling, rafting, feeding etc.

Alas we now have qualified trainers so all we can tell is stories about the wonderful legacy that our staff team are inheriting and the importance of maintaining the extraordinary spirit that is Mittagundi. Jack Skermer produced the biggest turkey that I have ever seen - beautifully cooked in our wood fired stoves that have served us so well – not an ounce of dryness in the breast for your cook envy readers. The Council met on the Saturday afternoon on the new extended veranda of the gear shed. My driving partner Bloggs checked the horses – and indeed the cows on Sunday morning.

The property is clean and tidy, and the grass is very green. We have strong bookings with waitlists for some courses. We have the usual and just enough dollars in the bank to cover the costs but I am reminded that the funding concept has always been two thirds course fees and one third fundraising and donations.

Our Chair Mike Heffernan welcomed us all and the staff introduced themselves. Michael and Dani (Co-Directors), Matthew, Amos, Lili and Tully.

Presentations were made to retiring and long serving Councillor Greg Marks and to our retiring bookings manager Belinda Black also with many years of service – thank you.

Mittagundi continues to be well governed by Councillors including Anneke, Kev, Helen, Dick, and Jack with whom who we shared the dinner table – and of course Gordon came for dinner too!

I feel that Mittagundi is in for one of its best years ever – I look forward to news of the difference we might be making to young people in the outdoors.

And I look forward to a dinner in Melbourne for supporters later in the year to have the opportunity to tell even more stories and be kept up to date of our Mittagundi community.

- David Gibbs



On The Farm



(Image: Morning staff check in, Dani, Michael, Tully, Mossie and Matthew)

Cows

We currently have 9 cows here on the farm, all happy, healthy, and cheeky. We are milking Jeanie every day, and she has certainly become more comfortable around people, though she does like to test our patience. We are still trying to wean her off her addiction to pellets, making a bit of progress each day.

Her calf, Dane, has entered teenagerhood and has found a place among the herd. We will soon be weaning him off milk and will continue to milk Jeanie for our own purposes. We are also working hard to socialise him and get him used to having people patting him and being in his pen.

We are soon to have a visiting bull on the property, hoping to have two of our cows pregnant in the coming months.

- Lilith



(Image: Bella milking Jeanie)

Horses

We had the pleasure of meeting Arby and Winnie as soon as we arrived to Mittagundi. They kindly mowed Harry's back lawn and since then, most of us have gotten to know Winnie and Arby relatively well by taking them for walks, trimming their hooves and beginning some round yard work with them both to get them (and us) ready for programs.

- Dani

Chooks

We currently have 12 chickens...one less than we had last week sadly. The remaining 12 are happy and healthy, with just one quite broody. The egg count has remained the same since handover from 2022 staff member Emmah. Our new Chook Dad Matthew has plans to redecorate and renovate the chook shed and orchard run by revamping their composting floor and the space in the orchard. Photos to come in next newsletter!

- Matthew



(Image: Dani and Arby in the roundyard)

Pigs

In late February we picked up our new pigs, Bae and Connie. They made the long journey from Wangaratta, a generous donation from Jean-Paul and his team. They are settling in well, with plenty of overgrown grass to eat away at, and plenty of scraps and porridge as well.



Fences

We have recently begun a project to shift the location of the top gate on the driveway. The fence and gate near the forge and workshop have been removed and a new section of post and rail fence has been built across the driveway between the wood shed and the car port, as a continuation of the driveway fence. The long-term goal for this is to be able to make use of the area in front of the workshop as a grazing area.

Garden

The Mitta Garden is happy and healthy! As we begin 2023 we have begun to revamp our composting bays with food scraps, carbon goodness (bark and sticks), grass cuttings and cow poo! We are also enjoying the products of the hard work of the 2022 staff as we harvest produce from the garden. We have been having fresh-picked strawberries on our porridge as well as a green salad made entirely from our own garden! Big thanks to Adam who made us some delicious homegrown blackberry jam!

We have also been harvesting bowls and bowls of cucumbers and tomatoes, making many salads from entirely homegrown ingredients. There are seedlings sprouting in the ground and the MittaGarden is alive!



(Above: One of many abundant garden hauls. Below: staff chairs from chainsaw training)



Council Chair Report

It has now been a few weeks since the festival and handing over the director role to Dani and Michael. I never really thought about the idea of handing this role over for a second time and it wasn't until I left again that it hit me just how much I had enjoyed my time as the director and how a tiny bit lost, I have been since.

I feel very humble to have had the opportunity to be the Mittagundi director again, we have achieved so much, and we managed to run several courses for Young People during this time. It was fantastic at the festival to see a few of them return, especially hearing many of them saying that they want to one day live at Mittagundi for a year.

2022 was by no means an easy year for Mittagundi. It was the first year we had no director and the first year we had to cancel courses due to lack of Outdoor Ed trained staff. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we did manage to pull off a few courses. 2022 was also the first time a previous director became a director again. Thank you, Faith, for all you did and all the hard work you put in to make the start of the year successful with the courses we ran. 2022 was also the first year we introduced the role of Camp Manager. Josh, Tom, David, and Mossie, thank you for giving up your time to be at Mittagundi and providing all the various forms of guidance and assistance you did to the staff and many young people that experienced Mittagundi over the year.



Thank you to Sam and Alana for all your efforts to find staff over the year. Thank you to the school groups that attended and were patient with us while we worked out how we were going to do things. To the many volunteers that helped – you were all amazing and we certainly would not have done it without you.

The 2022 staff, you were the first staff team to not have a permanent director, your year was certainly different from any other staff year. You should all be very proud of yourselves; I know I'm very proud of you and really can't thank you enough for all you endured and all that you gave to Mittagundi and the Young People. Marti, your bakery skills are to die for, and you gave so much passion and energy to the farm and Young People. Kalum, I loved your passion for the river, chainsaws, roasted cauliflower, and hard work. Ebony, thanks for your organization efforts and all your chats. Zara, your attention to detail and wanting everything to work perfectly made your trip leading flawless. Emma, I love how you spend time organizing things to make sure everything works, and I love how you would always ask, 'Heff are you okay?', thank you. Shae, the hard worker – did you ever stop. Your efforts with the Young People were amazing, your curried lettuce and cucumber is a must have recipe, the cows loved you like you were their mother. Shae was another first for Mittagundi in 2022 as the first child (well stepchild) of a staff member to work at Mittagundi. Shae, you often drove me nuts and caused me grief as a daughter might, but I'm so proud of how hard you worked. You believed in Mittagundi, the Young People enjoyed spending time with you, and I just love how much you have grown over the year. Thank you for wanting to live and work at Mittagundi, and with me. It was fun, it was a privilege, and it is one of my highlights of 2022.

I have mentioned Mossie already, but I need to single her out again. What an incredible person and what an amazing effort you have put into Mittagundi for spring and still now. Thank you, I loved doing

the director role with you at Mittagundi managing the day-to-day stuff. I loved bouncing all our silly ideas off each other (well maybe my stupid ideas), you were my rock for spring, and you did the most amazing job looking after the place. Thank you.

The end of spring we ran woodchop and got the woodshed looking a bit more respectable. It was fantastic having several young people return to help. It was also great to have several volunteers come to help with the week. The staff all then had a few weeks rest after Woodchop, I remained at Mittagundi to look after the place whilst also trying to do my other job.

A few days after Christmas Michael and Dani arrived and were thrown right into it. Mossie had managed to organise a mixed course with 18 Young People on it. This was staffed and run by Michael, Dani, Dan, Sam, Sandon, Mossie, Emma, Shae, Marti, Ebony, Lili and me. We trialled picking up the young people in Bairnsdale due to the ongoing closure of the Falls Creek Road. The course was great with a good group of Young People, that, as frequently occurs, provided us with a few challenges.

Following the course with the help of many volunteers we ran the Mittagundi Festival, with the staff convincing me to have the Bushdance at Mittagundi (not the Hall, and yes, I was hard to convince and yes ok it was awesome on the grass at Mittagundi). The festival was a great success and just how we wanted it, a low-key event with lots of people having a great time. Thanks to all those who came, all those that helped and all those that danced both nights away. It was nice to be able to present to Jack Gilbert, a very long-time supporter of Mittagundi a gift in recognition of his incredible contribution to



Mittagundi and all the many staff that he has helped over the years. Thank you, Jack, As always, Mittagundi needs people power to help the place survive. There are many ways you can help, and all help is appreciated. If you feel you can help on the property or assisting on courses, please contact Michael or Dani. If you feel you could help with ongoing governance and administration tasks, please contact me or if you have any fund-raising energy and feel you could help this way, please contact me as well.

Mittagundi is alive and well and we are pressing on this year with full bookings with waiting lists and a great new staff team. It is a very exciting time for Mittagundi and a time I am looking forward to. Lastly, I would like to welcome on behalf of the whole Mittagundi community Michael and Dani to Mittagundi and their role as the Mittagundi Directors. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you both, working with you, talking about all things Mittagundi with you. I am very much looking forward to continuing working with you and to see the incredible things that I have no doubt you will bring to your role. I love that you both get Mittagundi, and I love that you both want to be here – Thank you and good luck.

Mike Heff
2022 Winter and Spring Director
Mittagundi Council Chair

Thank You

There are many characters that make Mittagundi what it is, many of these people working quietly in the background. So, as we continue to collaborate with one another and build upon this wonderful community, here's a special thank you to those who have contributed in one or more ways in the past few months:

Thank you to...

- Our Woodchop volunteers, Maya, Lilith, Lani, Gus, and David.
- Rod and Heather Whyte for the gas lantern heads.
- Max and Wendy Cameron for the thermal socks and Gortex pants.
- Jack Gilbert for festival demonstrations, auction items and financial donation.
- Sandon Allen for help on our January 10-Day program, at festival, and farm tasks.
- Lydia for help during and after festival with farm tasks.
- Maeve from Wollangarra for running a fantastic auction at festival.
- All the Wollangarra staff for volunteering at festival, Max, Coby, Cas, and Maeve.
- Adam Smith for help before during and after festival.
- Felix Arnold for help during and after festival.
- Bec Campbell for Woodchop driving and constant avocado supply.
- Dick Alder for assistance with vehicle transport in Melbourne.
- Ross from Omeo for the charcoal.
- Terri McNeil for caretaking and driving a Troopie to Melbourne.
- Our January 10-Day volunteers, Sandon, Dan, Lilith.
- Hamish Skermer for lending his lights and bunting for festival.
- The Briagalong Bush Band for hosting our festival Bushdance.
- Pat Byrne for the PA system for festival, and open mic performances.
- Everyone who came to and participated in our festival weekend!
- Wollangarra for welcoming us at their Fruit Bottling weekend!
- Byron and Brian for their demonstrations at festival! And for the music and conversation.
- Paul for helping us learn how to raft over 4 epic days of trips on the Mitta!
- Adam, Felix and Chloe for help and company around the farm.
- Love Shack Brewing Company in Castlemaine for their donation.
- Tom Heffernan for falling trees for Woodchop.
- Omeo Op Shop for their donation of goods.
- Kev McGennan for organising staff gifts.
- Maeve Nunan for caretake help; baking and gardening.
- Bec for home grown produce and catering for Council Weekend.
- John-Paul and his team for donating us our new pigs.
- Paul and Aly and Hazel for hosting us at their house.
- Arby for his hospitality at his house, and for a day of river training.
- Ebony Hearn for her help around the farm.
- Greg from council for donation of pack, sleeping mats and tent.
- Bloggs and the Warby Street Vet for their donation of medicines.
- Anna Winneke and Neri for donation of chickens and food and help on the farm.

Come and work at Mittagundi!

Program Leader 2023

We are looking for just one more (male) Program Leader for 2023!

We are looking for applicants that have a passion for working with young people in an outdoor education and working farm environment. The position requires the leader to lead young people in outdoor adventure activities (cross country skiing, snow camping, hiking, white water rafting and abseiling), logistics activities in support of these activities, and farm-based projects (such as feeding animals and gardening). Alongside a variety of training provided, the role offers the opportunity for self-growth and discovery in a unique environment, whilst living and working in the stunning alpine region of East Gippsland.

See our website for more details on the role www.mittagundi.org.au/jobs



(Image: Dani, Amos and Lil in the Macalister River)

How to get involved more

Follow us on social media: @mittagundi

Come Volunteer at Mittagundi

Mittagundi is passionate about providing opportunities for all to experience the outdoors and fall in love with the mountains. If this is something that interests you, then volunteering at Mittagundi may just be your cup of tea.

10-Day program and follow up volunteers: We are always looking for enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to help throughout the year. Our 10-day programs run from September to May with shorter Follow Up programs interspersed. Spring and Autumn are particularly beautiful times to be up at Mittagundi and they are very productive times on the property too. There is always plenty to be done in the garden, with the animals and ensuring our programs run smoothly from behind the scenes. We would love your help and would welcome you warmly into the Mittagundi community.

Winter volunteers: Our Winter courses are 6, 7 and 9 days long and involve 3 day trips in the snow as well as time on the farm at Mittagundi. We require 2 volunteers per Winter program. There are many ways that people can help at Mittagundi during winter. Some volunteer helpers will go out on ski trips, some may be helping out at the base around Mittagundi milking cows, baking bread, chopping firewood and so on.

It's a great way to be involved in a quality Outdoor Education program focusing on community, lifestyle and personal values. A great place to stay in the Mountains and a unique experience helping young people to learn and grow.

To enquire, apply or learn more, please visit our website: www.mittagundi.org.au or contact us on 0467 678 818

If you would like to help Mittagundi here is how you can

Check out our list of essential resource needs below. Any financial help you can provide this year to purchase these items would be immensely appreciated! Or maybe you know someone who can help? Give us a call on 03 5159 7238

- RESOURCES WE NEED -

- Tupperware (good condition & with lids)
- Gas fridges
- Gortex jackets and pants
- Hiking boots
- Cross Country skis
- Long sleeve collared shirts (non-cotton)
- Car seat covers (for Hilux and Troopie)
- Nalgene drink bottles
- Wetsuits (full length)
- Rafting helmets (Large)
- 2x throw bags
- Barrels (for rafts)
- Epipens x4
- Large Photo Albums (Hard cover if possible)
- Saddle pack bags x 2 (good condition)
- Gardening utensils: Hand Trowels, small spades, weeding utensils etc.
- Drill bits 5mm and under
- Two decent double/queen bed sets and mattresses

Mittagundi is a non-profit organisation that receives no funding from the Government. Our programs are heavily subsidised and we are reliant on a fantastic community of supporters for about 30% of our operational costs.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

CHEQUE ATTACHED FOR \$ _____

I have made an electronic deposit to your Westpac Account of \$ _____

on ____/____ ACCOUNT DETAILS: Westpac Bairnsdale

BSB 033653 A/C 630000

Please debit my: Visa/Mastercard Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____CCV Number: ____

Signature: _____

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE VIA THE WEBSITE: <http://www.mittagundi.org.au/donate/>

What is Mittagundi?

Mittagundi is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with outdoor programs available to all young people aged 14-17. It was established over 40 years ago with a commitment to provide opportunities for young people from all walks of life to live and enjoy the challenge of a remote and simple lifestyle.

The atmosphere at Mittagundi is simple, honest and happy. There are no watches, no timetables and no money. Instead, there is an opportunity for young people to live and work together in an environment where people matter more than anything else. Mittagundi is run by a professional and passionate team of volunteers and a whole community of support.

To book into a program or be involved with Mittagundi please visit our website www.mittagundi.org.au or contact us on 0467 678 818



(Image: Driving over Trappers Gap Road in February)