

President's Report

Steels Creek Association Inc – AGM 2013

It is with great pleasure that I present my first, and the inaugural Steels Creek Association's, President's report.

Steels Creek Association has a lot to be proud of. In our first year of operations, the continued hard work and lateral thinking of the committee members has enabled SCA to secure just over \$362,000 in funding for our community. This funding will assist not only individual members of our community, via our health and wellbeing classes and capacity-building training programs, but also improve existing infrastructure – like finishing the landscaping at the Steels Creek Community Centre (currently underway) – and create new infrastructure for all of the community to enjoy together (such as the seating along the Steels Creek track).

As President, I have found the challenge of establishing a new community group and dealing with the funding providers such as VBAF and FRRR an interesting and, in some cases challenging, experience; however, I believe the rewards the community have received and will receive in the future will be well worth the effort.

Of course, none of the results would have been possible without the tremendous work that the committee and our project manager (Eva Matthews) have contributed, and for their efforts I am very grateful.

SCA's commitment moving forward is to ensure that the community has access to funds and services that help our community to improve the wonderful environment we know and love as Steels Creek.

We will continue to liaise with the community to ensure the projects we deliver are representative of the community's needs, and I encourage all members of the community to put forward their ideas and suggestions to help SCA achieve the best possible outcome for all.

Highlights of our first year:

- Secured just over \$341,000 in grants from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, administered by the committee and first-year programs rolled out by the project manager
- To date, this funding has seen SCA facilitate:
 - A well-attended series of 5 seminars on Post-traumatic Stress, presented by trauma expert Michael Burge OAM
 - The purchase of new equipment for the Steels Creek Community Centre, including coffee machine, couch, outdoor poster boards to help advertise community events, and accordion door, with indoor play equipment for children soon on its way also

- The finalisation of landscaping of the Community Centre, making it a safer, low maintenance space for all to enjoy
- Weekly wellbeing classes at the Community Centre
- A family BBQ day, sponsored and supported by Coates Hire Lilydale
- A 20% discount on hires from Coates Hire Lilydale until at least the end of Dec 2013, to help with property recovery and ongoing management
- The scheduling of the first of the capacity-building training programs – First Aid and Chainsaw – which will be delivered between late August and late October
- Regularly and openly communicated with residents in Steels Creek and neighbouring communities through letterbox drops, listings in the Grapevine and Jolly Thing, and the SCA membership base; soon to be further enhanced with the development of a new website for our community
- Spearheaded a campaign, with the support of our Federal member Tony Smith, to improve mobile communications in and around Steels Creek
- Organised and sent a letter of support and useful advice to the Tasmanian communities affected by bushfires earlier this year
- Together with the Clamberers, hosted the inaugural Steels Creek track community walk and BBQ
- Secured \$20,000 in funding from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal for improving the amenity and enjoyment of the Steels Creek track through creation of four landscaped seating areas

Allan Giffard, President