

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 52 (December 2004-January 2005)

FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

YOU'LL READ IT IN "THE JOLLY THING"

Now on the web: <http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>

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Community Centre Committee Report



Your Community Centre Committee had a meeting at the Centre on November 10th. Keith Montell reported Centre funds at \$9328.18, not including the just received cheque for \$2500 from the Shire of Yarra Ranges for the next Art Show.

Under Centre Maintenance, it was agreed to have the Centre lawn kept trimmed over the summer, and a plumber will be contacted to assess the leaking water tanks and toilets for repairs.

The Garden Club reported that the rain reduced turnout for the Plant Sale, which brought in about \$1700 versus \$2600 last year. The Garden Club expressed their thanks to the community, especially given the weather conditions.

The Tennis Club reported that they are selling raffle tickets for this year's fundraiser. There are some great prizes, and only 500 tickets will be sold. Contact Alby Leckie for tickets.

The Annual Carols Evening is scheduled for 6:30 PM December 19th at the Community Centre. Those attending should bring their meat for the BBQ and drinks as well as an unwrapped gift for giving to those in need.

Finally, Virtual Access, a local Internet Provider, was recognized for their contribution of web space for the Jolly Thing and other club notices.

WALKING the *L-E-N-G-T-H* of the YARRA RIVER

On Tuesday 7 Dec at 1.30pm, Kate Whitehouse, one of the four young people who walked the Yarra from mouth to source in 2003, will be coming to Stitchers to talk about this journey. Her ultimate aim is to produce a series of fabric panels depicting people's personal reaction to/relationship with the Yarra and our Stitchers Group hopes to be involved in this. Do come along and hear what Kate has to say, even if you don't want to be part of the actual project. Further information

Jane 5965 2372.

LAND CARE COMING TO THE CREEK

John O'Neill, Rob Fallon, Bruce Day, David Allan and Stephan Carroll (with apologies from Malcolm Calder, James Scott, Andrew Chapman and Hanna Sky) met with Greg Milne, Yarra Landcare coordinator for the CMA on Tues 16th Nov. It was agreed that the Steels Creek landcare group will affiliate under the VFF Farm Tree & Landcare Association, which will ease the administrative burden and has an attractive insurance package. We further agreed to set the boundaries of the group (generally the Steels Creek catchment area down to the Yarra)

It is also proposed that we meet with and observe the workings of a nearby landcare association to gather ideas. It is proposed to call a general meeting of all those with any landcare issues to join a Steels Creek Landcare group, hopefully in Feb 05 (Details later)

John O'Neill 5965 2224

TOO SMALL TO MALL ?

One constructive response to the "Safeway Alternates Development Debate" (SADD) is an initiative by the local Chamber of Commerce headed up by Stephen Shortiss. For further information and to receive the "Grapevine Newsletter" apply to: stephen@svsmanagement.com.au or fax to **03 9730 1091** or call in at the **Bendigo Bank, 10 Bell Street Yarra Glen.**

Yarra Glen Township Group (from the "Grapevine")

The 'values and visions' questionnaires have been prepared and the first 11 people (one from each group) have been contacted by **Hannah Sky** and interviews are now under way in this in-depth process to develop a vision and blueprint for the future of Yarra Glen and its surrounding areas. This exciting concept of gaining the views of all stakeholders will gain impetus over the next few months and continues to enjoy the commitment of the **Shire of Yarra Ranges** to the process.

Photos of the recent Garden Show are available at:

<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/garden/sale041106.htm>

ADSL Arrives in Yarra Glen – Next STEELS CREEK !!!

Just a few weeks ago, ADSL, a form of Broadband computer connection, was turned on in Yarra Glen. This winter, Yarra Glen's "interest requests" for DSL exceeded the Government's [trigger level](#). (Steels Creek/Dixon's Creek is still short by 3 requests.) This means that faster computer connections for the web and email are now possible using your regular telephone line. Unlike dial-up, DSL allows you to talk on the phone and surf the Net at the same time – and at a much faster rate. The cost is about the same as dial-up for the basic service – but the speed is more than 5 times faster (but slower than cable broadband in most cases). Not all residences can have DSL, as you have to be within 5 km of certain exchange equipment. BUT, if your line passes the qualification test, starting the service is easy.

Cont'd

To initiate service, contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) – Virtual Access, Telstra 1800687829 , Optus, or other ISP. They all price their service with various plans. Your ISP can tell you about your past use history (expect to download 3 times more with DSL they tell me) for a plan suited to your needs. Many have discounts for yearly commitments or advance payment. Calculate your cost benefit and see if it is worthwhile. In my example, I had an unlimited dial-up plan for \$25/mo. I dialled-up at least 4 times a day (120/mo at 17cents each) – so I was paying \$45/mo for my Internet connection. A switch to an unlimited broadband cost \$60/mo plus installation (some ISPs are offering reduced rates for new DSL customers which lower or eliminate this cost) or \$15 more for monthly usage. (If I had taken a basic package, I would be saving money by switching.)

Connecting was easy! I ordered a self-install package that I plugged in, ran the setup CD, and was surfing at 6 times my dial-up speed within 15 minutes. Most ISPs will offer an installation service if you don't want to do-it-yourself.

For more information contact your ISP or visit Virtual Access at www.virtual.net.au and see if you are eligible for DSL. You can also fill in a form there or call Virtual Access at 1300 132 351 to add to the "expression of interest" for your area (e.g. Steels Creek). Know also that it may still take upwards of 6-12 months to get DSL after the interest level has been reached.

Virtual Access provides free web space to the Steels Creek community for the Jolly Thing archive (www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/) and other club events as part of their community service program.

Ed Bartosh

PAINT **BY THE YARRA** WEDNESDAYS

NOEL NICOLSON 9730 1223 is holding paintings sessions at her historic Yarra River property on Wednesday mornings and afternoons from 10am. BYO food, tea and coffee provided. Improve your drawing and painting skills. Cost is \$20 a session.

From the Historical Point of View

A party of the 1st Prahran Scouts under Scoutmaster Bainbridge, have been spending the holidays on the Donnelly Weir road, just above "The Glen." Early on Monday morning a section of the South Yarra Scouts, which were camped to the number 60 strong at Yarra Glen, paid a surprise visit to the Prahran boys' camp and effected a successful raid, capturing their flag. No one was in the Prahran camp at the time, neither were there any sentries posted.

The Yarra Glen boys are evidently keen on scouting. A party of them a few nights ago paid an early visit at 1 o'clock in the morning with the intention of entering the South Yarra camp unknown and effect a capture. They swam the river, but the South Yarra boys had sentries posted and the attack failed. We are pleased to see such enthusiasm. It shows keenness in attack and alertness in defence. It must be gratifying to those who instituted the movement to see the boys attacking their work with such intelligence.

HEALESVILLE GUARDIAN 23rd April 1911

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir – Re report in your valuable paper of the 21st April, in reference to the Yarraville boys' camp. I thank you for your report in reference to keen scouting, and would only be too glad to give any reports concerning my troop at any time, or how to start them in any district. Seeing that Yarra Glen is anxious to start a troop, I should think that a mounted troop would turn out a success. I may also thank the residents of Yarra Glen for their kindness to my troops and myself while in camp. Thanking you for your good report. – I remain, yours fraternally,
A.E. Weir, Scout Master, 1st Footscray and Yarraville Troops, I.B.S.V.S., No.9 District.

HEALESVILLE GUARDIAN 12th May 1911

Healesville Historical Society is : ahsoc@optusnet.com.au

Your Local History Comes Alive: www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au

December 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	Recycle		1	2 Art Tennis	3	4 Market Tennis
5 Hard Rubbish	6 Womens Tennis	7 Stitches Tennis	8	9 Art Tennis	10	11 RAFFLE SC4 10:30 Tennis
12	13 Recycle Tennis	14 ZOO Outing SCGC Tennis	15	16 Art Tennis	17	18 Market
19 Carols	20 Tennis	21 Tennis Book Club	22	23 Art Tennis	24	25
26	27 Recycle Tennis	28 Tennis	29	30 SMB Art Tennis	31 NEW YEAR	

SMB Men's Morning Tea
Last Thursday 10:30 at Cheese Freaks Café and Store Yarra Glen

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

STITCHERS Jane Calder 5965 2372 Christine Tomlins 5965 2080
1st 3rd Tuesday 1:30 – 4 at SC4 (Except December 2004)
24 members, 10 regulars; work on community effort for afternoon tea raffle proceeds to Cancer Council; plus own work; crochet, knit, patch, embroidery, since 1993.

TALKS Geoff Keets 9730 1698
Anyone with ideas and suggestions regarding topics and presenters please bring forward suggestions. Travel, flora, fauna, health, all of interest.

TENNIS Albie Leckie 5965 2354 Lindy Montell 5965 2202
Since 1911 Newsletter, Competitions, 80 active and social members
2nd 4th Monday 11am Ladies Social Lunch, (**NOT IN DEC/JAN**) Monday 7pm Social Tennis Resumes in September, Tuesday 10am Mid Week Ladies Competition, Thursday 7pm Hard Hitters, Saturday 1-6 Regular Competitions.

CLAMBERERS Margaret Houston 9730 1957
1st Sunday April – October. Since 1993; this walking group uses local tracks to explore the flora and fauna of the valley and surrounding areas. Walks announced at SC4 Market beforehand or ring Margaret.

Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling for the Garbos to cart away

NOTE MANY ACTIVITIES CLOSE FOR SUMMER – Check with conveners

SC4 = Steels Creek Community and Cultural Centre 699 Steels Creek Road

JANUARY 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Tennis	4 Tennis	5	6 Art Tennis	7	8 Market
9	10 Recycle Tennis	11 Tennis	12	13 Art Tennis	14	15
16	17 Tennis	18 Stitches Tennis Book Club	19	20 Art Tennis	21	22 Market
23	24 Recycle Tennis	25 Tennis	26	27 SMB Art Tennis	28	29
30	31 Tennis					

WOMEN'S Evening Activities and Friendship Group Pam Verhoven 5965 2274
 6th Dec Break Up 7PM La Porchetta, No meeting in Jan, 7th Feb 7PM La Porchetta
NEW COMERS WELCOME AT BOTH EVENTS 24 Days or 321 Days before Christmas

ART Malcolm Calder 5965 2372
 Thursday 1:30 – 4:30 SC4 Bring your paints, discuss your art and share skills

BOOK GROUP Les Tomlins 5965 2080
 3rd Tuesday 15 Members Limited by CAE resources and lively discussions in member's homes.
OPENING FOR THREE PEOPLE

GARDEN Jill Hess 9730 1960 Gillian Poulton 5797 8266
 Newsletter, Outings, November Flower Show Since 1992, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group 9am
 SC4 all welcome. 2nd Tuesday Outings: **TO THE ZOO 14TH DEC CALL DEB 9730 1479**

MARKET Jean Lowe 5965 2294
 2nd 4th Saturday SC4 10 am sharp; community announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods,
 home made scones, coffee and tea. **December markets 1st and 3rd Saturday**

MOVIE Jean Lowe 5965 2294 Chris Mullen 5965 2094
 Movie operators on leave until dark comes earlier... Thank you for support. See you again in February.

PLAY GROUP REPLAY IN NEW YEAR
 Holidays, the arrival of new siblings and work commitments have temporarily closed the play group. We hope to
 get started again sometime in the New Year and welcome any suggestions for activities from mums and dads in
 the area. This is not a formal play group with set activities, rather a get-together of parents and kids from around
 Steels Creek so any input or help is appreciated. Anyone interested in continuing this group or wishing to be on
 the mailing list for future updates please contact Sonja on 5965 2575 (Thu-Sun).

Cockies Attack Rainfall Recording Facility

- Annual Total Rainfall Data in Peril

The Sulphur-crested Cockies have been getting a bit big for their boots lately, up Brennan Avenue way.

Recently, they announced their renewed presence after being absent for the winter. There they were, gaily screeching in the trees and announcing to their friends that they had found two inviting looking bird feeders, well stocked with a copious supply of sunflower seeds. They soon saw off the much more polite resident Crimson Rosellas, and set about consuming their new-found bounty. They rapidly emptied the open platform feeder, but were somewhat slower with the one that had its seed supply contained behind wire mesh.

The Resident Humans thought that the Cockies were a Bit Rude, so decided to not refill the bird feeders immediately, in the hope that the Dear Screechers might Go Away. After a day or two, it did seem that this had in fact occurred, so the feeders were refilled.

But it would seem that the Cockies had their spies keeping an eye out for this possibility, as they soon returned, and again emptied the open feeder, with many raucous calls of appreciation (?). However, it seems that they then decided that the Sunflower Delight contained within the wire mesh feeder should rightfully be theirs too. Once their decision had been taken, the Cockies quickly achieved their objective by simply levering off the wire mesh with their inbuilt beak-crowbars, and then peeling back the wire mesh like a sardine can. Sunflower Seeds gone.

This is probably where Resident Human / Cocky relationships descended to a new low. At least one of the Resident Humans was heard to mutter uncharitable thoughts about, 'the rapacious gluttony of these Rats-with-Wings', and it would seem that the Cockies must have heard too. In retribution for this apparent slur, over the next few days, rose blooms were nipped from their stems and strewn about the ground. The Cockies could be seen sitting in the nearby trees, watching to see if their tactics were intimidating enough to ensure a better and more continuous supply of Sunflower Seed. When further supplies of Sunflower Seeds did not appear, It would seem that the Cockies then decided that another jolly prank would be in order, and removed the top of the Resident Humans' rain gauge. Fortunately, rainfall recording was not in fact disrupted (due to an actual lack or recordable precipitation at that time).

The Resident Humans now await further visitations of the Dear Screechers and any further acts of vengeance that may be visited upon them

Name and Address Withheld (for fear of further Cocky retribution)
Thanks Dave

CROSS CREEK 5 Answers

Across

1. Swift 7. Lilydale 8. Annul 10. Langwarrin 12. Northern 14. Plot 16. Rote 17. Gold rush 20. Journalist 23. Train 24. Instance 25. Utter

Down

1. Season 2. Foul 3. Ping 4. Bylaw 5. Garrulous 6. Rennet 9. Lathe 11. Bratwurst 13. Roo 15. id est 16. Rejoin 18. Horner 19. Sneak 21. Lick 22. Trot

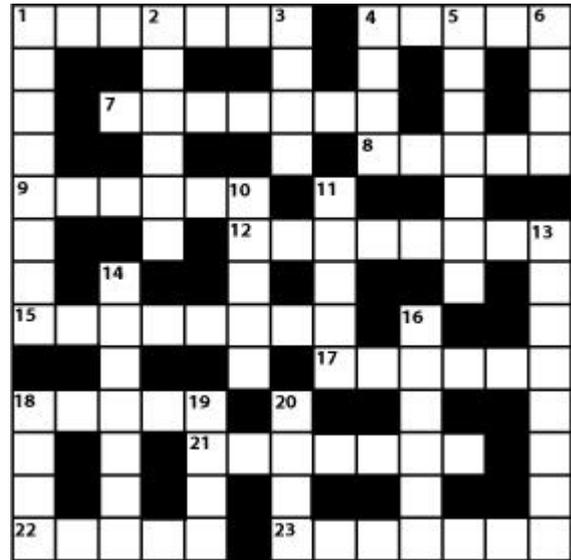
CROSS CREEK 6

Across

1. -----Australia Fair (7)
 4. Surface of a crystal (5)
 7. Go there again (7)
 8. Need to be kept clear (5)
 9. Never spendthrifts (6)
 12. A local park for a royal? (8)
 15. Spuds, timber & strawberries (8)
 17. Soup's the first one (6)
 18. Shopping precinct (5)
 21. Rose city (7)
 22. Bare one's teeth (5)
 23. Rodin's famous statue (7)

Down

1. Scaremonger (8)
 2. Woodchoppers (6)
 3. Middle -----(4)
 4. Outcome (4)
 5. Top-notch (7)
 6. Old-fashioned heavyweights (4)
 10. Out of cash (5)
 11. Silly action (5)
 13. Outside (8)
 14. Shout of adoration (7)
 16. Australian deaf language (6)
 18. Kitty (4)
 19. Adam's murdered son (4)
 20. Tie up a small wader! (4)



Jolly Thing now in **Switzerland!**

OWNERSHIP / CIRCULATION

220 Print / 125 Email

The "Jolly Thing" is published by and for the greater Steels Creek Community Centre Inc 699 Steels Creek Road. PO Box 213 Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775 President: Geoff Keets 9730 1698, Vice President: Malcolm Calder 5965 2372. Treasurer: Keith Montell 5965 2202, Secretary: Ed Bartosh 9730 2858.

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thejollything@fullandplenty.com

We gratefully acknowledge Frank Hoogenraad (**Hoogies of Yarra Glen 9730 1611**) for their support of the **Steels Creek Community and *The Jolly Thing***.

HOOGIES

O F Y A R R A G L E N



Ask us...

DEADLINE for the next "*Jolly Thing*" is Thursday 31 January 2005

Tennis Club and Raffle Great Prizes and Many Chances !

Players are still needed for night tennis. Monday for fun tennis and Thursday for more serious play.

The raffle we are now running will be drawn at SC4 on Sat. Dec.11 at 10.30 a.m. Many thanks to all the people who have helped with donations and selling tickets.

Contact Albie 5965 2354 for tickets – the perfect Christmas gift.

Mid-week ladies have finished a very good season halfway up the ladder. Anyone interested in playing with them on a Tuesday can contact Lindy on 5965 2202.

The committee wish everyone a safe and happy Xmas and New Year.

Garden Club moves to the Melbourne Zoo 14 th December
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Deb 9730 1479

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS



DATE: Sunday, December 19th.

VENUE: Steels Creek Community Centre

B.Y.O: Chairs / Drinks / glasses / Picnic or B.B.Q. Food

B.B.Q. starts 6.30 p.m.

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8.00 p.m: CAROLS

Sing along to taped music..(Word sheets provided)

Afters: Port & Coffee Cake & Shortbread (Provided)

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HICCI: (Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc)

As Christmas is rapidly approaching, we would greatly appreciate any donation of an unwrapped child's present for distribution to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please bring present to Community Centre Carol Night.

See you all there !!!!!