



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 53 (February – March 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/>

1000 Years Late! <i>Hildegard von Bingen</i> comes to Steels Creek	Page 7
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Steels Creek LANDCARE Group

A public meeting to discuss landcare concerns in the Steels Creek catchment area to call for membership of the above group is to be held on **Wednesday 2nd March** in the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm and concluding at 9.30pm.

There will be guest speakers from the Catchment Management Authority and a neighbouring group. All residents in the area (rural & urban), which includes the northern parts of Yarra Glen, are invited to attend and welcome to become members. For details and membership forms, contact: **David Allan 04133396296. drallan@iprimus.com.au**

Inaugural SC Croquet Tournament Sunday 27th Feb 2PM

Petanque and Boules also available

@ Kilravock CNR Hargreaves & Greenwood Lane - enter from Adams Lane.

Two Lasered Competition Lawns for Beginners and Accomplished players.

Afternoon Tea Provided \$5 per person

Dress Code Ladies Tea dress and Hat ~ Gentlemen: Shirt tie/cravat and Hat

Practice day and Lessons on Sunday 6th Feb 2PM

BYO GROG, Cigars, Friends and Family

RSVP 0408321936 or alexandra.augustine@hotmail.com

HOW TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR ANIMAL'S CLASP

Does anyone else have a similar problem to us? We love going away for holidays, but find it hard to get away because of our animals – 2 horses, a pig and 4 goats. If so, how about forming an animal sitting club where we look after each other's animals on a reciprocal basis.

Contact **Bron or Ray on 9730 1916. raydahl@optusnet.com.au**

FOOT FOOT FOOT FOOT FOOT

Goanna sighted by singing plumber in Old Kinglake Road tree. And he measures everything! Yes it's true; and goanna eggs reported in Skyline Road and Harvey's Road: HUGE maaate !

Cockatoos – *Bird Bashing Bravado Chapter Two ... (same story new author)*

When we first planted daffodils in our new garden we were looking forward to the splash of yellow brightening the winter sky, the foretaste of spring to come. Then the weekend came that, filled with anticipation, we arrived up to find a solitary flower standing amid a scene of devastation, smashed leaves and flowers every where.

The immediate suspect was the Wombat which frequently traversed the new garden from its winter home under the veranda to the creek. However he was soon proven innocent.

As we were surveying the damage from the living room window, a cockatoo landed and swaggered up to the remaining undamaged flower and while putting up its comb, proceeded to screech and dance around the flower.

It then became apparent what was in the cockatoo's mind. He had thought that the daffodils were another tribe of cockatoos, the colour of the daffodils matched the cockie's crests, and no doubt the cockie was telling the remaining flower that unless it lowered its crest and agreed to submit its allegiance to the existing mob, it would certainly suffer the same fate as the rest had. Apart from bobbing its head in the breeze the daffodils was unable to comply with the cockatoo's request. After another minute, the cockatoo let out a string of invectives and attacked the flower; shredding it in moments then huffing and puffing around before calming down, surveying the destruction and then flying off.

The awaiting mob in the nearby tree gave him a raucous welcome back fitting for the brave warrior that had defeated the invaders of their turf.

This continued for a few years but as more bulbs were planted and the cockatoos were out numbered, discretion became the better choice and the attacks ceased. **Andrew Chapman**

The Supermarket Debate (*– From The Grapevine No. 13*)

The developers of the supermarket and specialty shops complex, **Yarra Valley Land Developments Pty Ltd**, have presented their amended plans for the supermarket complex to a number of local traders and others in the town. Whilst the plans are attractive from the point of view that it is proposed to spend a significant amount of money on landscaping and developing open space on what is currently an eyesore in the town, I believe it still does not alleviate the fundamental problem with a development of this nature – the devastating economic impact that it will have on a number of well established local traders who have made a significant contribution to what is the community of Yarra Glen over a long period of time.

The developers are keen to present their plans to the broader community and intend to do this over the next few weeks but in the meantime a widely based survey has been conducted by **Strachan Research** (on behalf of the developers and Woolworths Ltd) ostensibly to gauge the attitude of the community to the proposed development. However, a number of those surveyed have indicated to me that the survey is in fact a "push" poll (*i.e.*, the questions are framed in such a way to influence the opinion of those being surveyed). The main question of concern seemed to be the presentation of only two choices for the development of the site: high rise dense residential development or a supermarket surrounded by open space! **S.Shortis**

Steels Creek Community to Clean Up

Steels Creek Community and the Tree Group will again jointly register to help Clean Up Australia on **March 6 2005**. As in the past, our main focus will be on cleaning up Steels Creek Road, with the Tree Group moving north from Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, and the Steels Creek Community moving south from the end of the bitumen.

Steels Creek Community Co-coordinator, **David Allan**, said, "This year, to use our volunteers most effectively, we are also planning to include some of the side roads, off Steels Creek Road as well. Just which roads we might actually get done will depend on how many people we have available on the day, and how much rubbish is around." If you are aware of any known problem areas, David would appreciate a call so that clean-up effort can be most effectively co-ordinated.

Barry Sheffield, of the Tree Group, will be arranging for a rubbish skip to be positioned opposite Steels Creek Community Centre, and for a supply of bags for rubbish collection from the roads. All we now need is an enthusiastic crowd of community minded people to make a difference!

Activities are planned to commence at 10. 00 am and to wind up with a sausage sizzle for all at Steels Creek Community Centre from 12.30, courtesy of the Tennis Club.

David Allan on 5965 2556, or 0413 396 296 drallan@iprimus.com.au

Grand Easter Exhibition

The fourth annual Yarra Glen Art Show will again be at Yering Station over the long Easter weekend 25th-28th March. Entries close 21 February. Volunteers needed from 22nd -29th March. Please check www.virtual.net.au/~yarraglenartshow/ to download entry forms and view past events. **Get Involved!** Contact:Christine Mullen 5965 2094 artshow@fullandplenty.com

The One that Didn't (quite) Get Away (or, 'A Fisher's Tale')

Q. When is a dam not a dam?

A. When it's so full of dam(n) trout that they try to escape!

Strange but true. It all happened late in 2004, when a particularly adventurous rainbow trout was seen to be making a break from a certain dam near Old Kinglake Road. The adventurous little Piscean had apparently tried to avoid drawing attention to its departure, by timing its bid for freedom with the heavy November rainfall. However, a local eagle-eyed observer spotted it, and raised the alarm. Perhaps its fish-sized suitcase had been a dead give away.

The incident lead to a trout census of the dam, concluding that it would be in the long term interests of the fish population if their numbers could be reduced.

Thus, it was decided to call in some noted local fishing experts, along, with their high-tech fishing gear. A suggestion that: "... a stick of jelly might do the trick!" was also considered but rejected – it might disturb the ducks. However, it was suggested that to fillet fish caught, a chain-saw might be handy – the trout were rumoured to have grown quite large....

(Cont'd Page 6)

February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Stitchers Tennis	2	3 Art Tennis	4	5 Tennis
6 Croquet Practice	7 Recycle Tennis Womens	8 Tennis Garden BBQ	9	10 Art. Tennis	11 Movie	12 Market Tennis
13	14 LSL Tennis	15 Stitchers Tennis Book Club	16	17 Art Tennis	18	19 Tennis
20	21 Recycle Tennis	22 Tennis	23	24 S.M.B. Art Tennis	25 Movie	26 Market Tennis
27 Croquet Tourney	28 Growing LSL Tennis					

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

BOOK GROUP **OPENING FOR TWO PEOPLE** Les Tomlins 5965 2080
3rd Tuesday 8PM 15 Members Limited by CAE resources; lively discussions in member's homes.

GARDEN Jill Hess 9730 1960 Gillian Poulton 5797 8266
Newsletter, Outings, November Show Since 1992, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group 9am SC4 all welcome. 2nd Tuesday Outings.

Annual Garden Club BBQ 8th February 6:30 PM BYO Everything plus salad or sweet to share.
Chris & Paul Grey 85 Forest Street YG 9730 1673 Families welcome !

MARKET Jean Lowe 5965 2294
2nd 4th Saturday SC4 10 am sharp; community announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods; *The Creek's best home made scones*, coffee and tea every market.

MOVIE Jean Lowe 5965 2294 Chris Mullen 5965 2094 chris@fullandplenty.com
2nd & 4th Friday 6:00 Classy food followed by classic 16mm Films at SC4. \$5 food / donation for film.

Agapanthus decapitation - the time approacheth...

These dreaded environmental weeds will soon be losing their purple flowers and setting seed. There's nothing quite so satisfying, environmentally speaking, as protecting our own vegetation by beheading these foreign invaders - no offence to any South African friends! Seed heads can be bagged and binned for safe disposal. Good luck... if anyone needs a hand on their own property let us know and I'm sure we can get a group together. **Rob Fallon 5965 2535**

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Stitchers Tennis	2 Land Care Meeting Yarra Glen	3 Art Tennis	4	5 Tennis
6 Clean Up Australia Day	7 Recycle Tennis Womens	8 Garden outing. Tennis	9	10 Art Tennis	11 Movie	12 Market Tennis
13	14 LSL Tennis	15 Stitchers. Tennis. Book Club	16	17 Tennis	15	19 Tennis.
20	21 Recycle Tennis	22 Tennis	23	24 Tennis	25 2005 NO MOVIE	26 Grand Market. Tennis
27 Easter	28 Exhibition Growing Tennis	29 Tennis	30	31 S.M.B. Tennis		

SMB Men's Morning Tea

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

Last Thursday 10:30 at Cheese Freaks Café and Store Yarra Glen

STITCHERS

Jane Calder 5965 2372 Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

1st 3rd Tuesday 1:30 – 4 at SC4 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.

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 (LSL), Monday 7pm Social Tennis, Tuesday 10am Mid Week Ladies Competition, Thursday 7pm Hard Hitters, Saturday 1-6 Regular Competitions.

WOMEN'S Evening Activities and Friendship Group

Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

1st Monday 7:30 SC4 **7th Feb 7PM La Porchetta** Bring good ideas, come for company, crafts, coffee;
Only 321 days to Christmas

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

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

A Fisher's Tale (Continued from page 3)

So on the appointed day, a group of three keen fishermen gathered at the dam, armed with shiny fibreglass rods, and a suitable supply of liquid refreshment. A variety of bait was available, ranging from fishing 'flies' and worms, to sweet-corn and kidney beans. Soon the water was whipped to frenzy by the fish – apparently laughing at the efforts of the intrepid fishermen. Baits were nibbled, but 'catches' comprised mainly water-weeds, submerged logs, a lost pump suction float anchor cable and other fisher-folk's lines. Eventually, one fish was caught, apparently embarrassed by the human's ineptitude.

But then another would-be fisherman arrived. What high-tech, secret WMD (for fish) did he carry? Those already present gaped in incredulity as the newcomer tied a short length of line to a nearby stick, baited the hook - and promptly caught a fish! So much for expensive fishing gear.....!

Having realised that this talented new-comer was obviously of a higher intellect than the rest, the fish in the dam decided that increased cunning was required. A battle of minds and wills then commenced between man (men) and fish. But for the rest of the afternoon, no further fish were caught, notwithstanding many provocative leaps and splashes (mostly by the fish), to keep the fishermen hopeful but catchless.

Finally, as dusk drew nigh, the fishermen departed in defeat, with far more empty beer bottles than fish. The fish quietly celebrated their triumph.

Post Script: As the sun was finally setting, the resident fisherman's wife, who had earlier professed significant ignorance of the use of fishing gear in general, quietly returned to the scene of the battle. In the gathering dusk, she picked up a rod, and cast the line. It apparently went straight into the mouth of the largest fish in the dam, and it was promptly caught!

Could this be the fore-runner of an annual Steels Creek Fishing Contest??????????????
(Names and location omitted to protect the incompetent)

From our Occasional Brennan Avenue Correspondent

Stream F-I-O-W Project

Jenny Barnett is representing Environment Victoria on a committee overseeing the development of a stream flow plan for Steels, Dixons and Pauls Creeks. She is interested in knowing about when the local creeks and tributaries stop flowing over summer and any historic fish records (especially if in writing).
Jenny on 5965 2323 jennyb@vnpa.org.au

MOVIES: The season resumes at SC4 with food at 6PM film following on

11 February

42nd Street *** 1933 Warner Baxter, Ruby Keeler, Bebe Daniels, Una Merkel, Ginger Rogers, Dick Powell: all singing all dancing: Music: *42nd Street, Shuffle Off to Buffalo.*

25 February

Gaslight ** 1944 d George Cukor; Charles Boyer, Ingrid Berman, Joseph Cotton, Dame May Whitty; a Victorian schizophrenic drives his wife insane when she seems likely to stumble on his guilty secret of an old murder and hidden rubies.

11 March

Shop Around the Corner** 1940 d Ernst Lubitsch; James Stewart, Margaret Sullivan, Frank Morgan; In a Budapest shop, the new floorwalker and a girl who dislikes him find they are pen pals. "One of the most beautifully acted and paced romantic comedies ever make ..."

25 March – NO FILM: **Grand Easter Exhibition = Yarra Glen Art Show**

The Hills are Alive with the Scent of *Brewing*

The best kept secret this holiday season is the grand opening of the Hargreaves Hill Brewing Company in Steels Creek. Barely three months old, the new venture was started by **Simon Walkenhorst** and partner **Beth Williams** who have been planning and developing the release of the company's first ale for the last two years. Simon and Beth are both classical musicians - Beth is a singer and Simon a pianist, who started brewing as a hobby, thus beginning as he says "the quest for the perfect beer."

But it is the music of the yeast and hops that gets Simon excited lately. "Most brewers will tell you that it is technically harder to produce a great beer than a great wine - we have this conversation often in my family." Simon's younger brother Anthony is a winemaker who has recently returned to the Yarra Valley after making wine in Niagara, Canada, and soon departs for Marlborough, NZ for this year's vintage.

In a recent interview Simon explained how another musician, **Hildegard von Bingen** helped change the future of beer - "Hildegard is the best known composer of the 11th century, and was also known for her prophetic powers. She also was known to be one of the first to use hops in brewing, recognising their preservative powers and the bitterness that makes beer so refreshing."

Beth and Simon hit on the name Hargreaves Hill from the place the Williams children were sent to 'chill out' in their formative years in Steels Creek. The new stainless steel brewery is specifically designed for brewing ales, which have a bigger mouth feel and complexity than the lagers which dominate the Australian market place. A typical batch size is 400 Litres and takes 8 hours to brew, one week to ferment, and a further 3 weeks to mature. Hops come from California, while the malted barley comes from a traditional floor maltings that was recently established in Romsey, just to the west of Melbourne. "We use rainwater which is absolutely pristine in this part of the valley. It is filtered and pasteurised before use, although we don't adjust its hardness or its pH, as most breweries do, to emulate particular beer styles. We wanted to create a specifically regional beer, like Burton-on-Trent, Bohemian and German beers which became famous because of their unique water profile. Our traditional brewing techniques negate the need for preservatives and other additives such as refined sugars, which are detrimental to the flavour of ale."

Simon's palate will be put to the test in April this year, when he joins colleagues from around Australia and the world on the judging panel of the Australian International Beer Awards, held annually in Melbourne. "The tasting lasts for 3 days, and unlike wine tasting, to judge a beer properly, you must swallow it - there are no spittoons. The bitterness, a key element in the structure of a beer can only be assessed properly by swallowing."

Hargreaves Hill Pale Ale is available from scores of local merchants (RRP \$16.99 per 6 pack). It is rumoured that the tennis club will be adopting this locally brewed beverage as its preferred refreshment!
<http://www.hargreaveshill.com.au/>

PAINT **BY THE YARRA** WEDNESDAYS

Painting and drawing sessions resume 9th Feb. at historic Yarra River property YAARN
Wednesday mornings from 10am. Tea and coffee provided; BYO food. Cost is \$25 a session.

NOEL NICOLSON 9730 1223

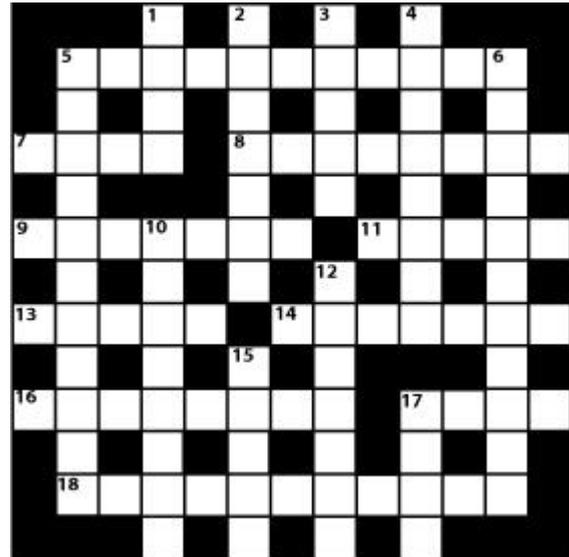
CROSS CREEK 7 © J&J Wordsmiths

Across

- 5. Wedding, 21st or Christmas
- 7. Lobster?
- 8. "Measuring the marigolds"
- 9. Neck of land
- 11. Snake's poison
- 13. Paper volumes
- 14. Femininely young
- 16. Dental replacements
- 17. So be it
- 18. Goes uninvited

Down

- 1. Tactic
- 2. Plain to see
- 3. Aries' month
- 4. Child's windmill
- 5. Baptism
- 6. Worried anticipation
- 10. Meekness
- 12. Of one's family
- 15. Ordain or decree
- 17. Dull ache



CROSS CREEK 6 Answers

Across

- 1. Advance 4. Facet 7. Revisit 8. Exits 9. Misers 12. Kinglake 15. Toolangi 17. Course 18. Plaza 21. Benalla 22. Snarl 23. Thinker

Down

- 1. Alarmist 2. Axemen 3. East 4. Fate 5. Capital 6. Tons 10. Skint 11. Antic 13. Exterior 14. Hosanna 16. Auslan 18. Puss 19. Abel 20. Knot

**WOMEN'S EVENING
ACTIVITIES & FRIENDSHIP
GROUP**

The first meeting for 2005 will be held at La *Porchetta's*, Yarra Glen, on Monday 7 February at 7 pm. when we will discuss ideas for the coming year. Newcomers welcome, even if you aren't sure if you can come to later meetings. Further info: Pam Verhoeven 5965 2274.

OWNERSHIP / CIRCULATION

220 Print / 125 Email / 10 Nations

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

DEADLINE for the next "Jolly Thing" is Thursday 31 March 2005



All Family BBQ Feb 8th
Check Garden Club Page 4