



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 54 FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY (April-May 2005)

<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/> for current photos and more commentary

	Croquet Report	Page 2
	Grand Easter Exhibition Art Show Success	Page 2
[Late Breaking News Insert]	LandCare Comes to the Creek	Page 3
	Safeway Saga Continues ...	Page 6

Steels Creek's Gallipoli Souvenir "Lone Pine" Tree

The storms of early February wrecked havoc in many parts of the Yarra Valley, including Steels Creek. The old pine tree on the drive of the Community Centre lost one of its major trunks which split and twisted down to the base. One telephone call to the Shire resulted in the arrival of their tree maintenance group and the broken trunk was amputated at its base and sawn up.

The question has often been asked "how old is that pine tree?" No answer could be given until this trunk fell and it was possible to count the annual growth rings on the sawn face. There were between 80 and 87 rings making the tree at least 85 years old. It was probably planted around 1920. This tree is not the usual Radiata Pine growing elsewhere in Steels Creek; it is the Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*), the very same species which is native to the eastern Mediterranean and was growing at Gallipoli as the "Lone Pine".

At least two of the surviving soldiers from Gallipoli did bring cones home and these produced seed from which memorial trees were grown to commemorate fallen comrades. Eric Tetlow unearthed some great information from the Australian War Memorial web site. It is recorded that two soldiers souvenired cones from the "Lone Pine" and brought them back to Australia. Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith gave his cone to his mother living in Inverell (NSW). In 1928, after ten years or so, she grew two seedlings from the cone. One of these was planted at the Australian War Memorial in 1934 by the Duke of Gloucester, the other in Inverell.

(Cont'd Page 6)

Yarra Glen RSL Sponsors Anzac Day Remembrance Activities

Monday, April 25, 2005, is the 90th Anniversary of Anzac Day and the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII. The Yarra Glen RSL is planning local events, beginning with a parade at 10:15 a.m from the Yarra Glen Police Station and continuing to the Memorial at the corner of Anzac Avenue and Bell Street. There will be a remembrance ceremony at the Memorial, to be followed by a reception in the Memorial Hall.



Ted Bowling 9730 1913

HEY ! New Mums Have Your SAY !

What's on for mums at the Maternal and Child Health Centre Yarra Glen 25th May 10am
Karen Cross from the toy library will speak 9730 1659

Grand Easter Exhibition More Grand Than The Last!

The Grand Easter Exhibition of the Yarra Glen Artshow at the Barn at Yering Station was a huge success for 2005. Overall sales increased by 30% with 530 artworks from 135 artists from all corners of the Yarra Valley as well as Ireland, South Australia and the Mornington Peninsula. Over 50 community volunteers and local artists were involved in the set up and running of the show. 108 major works were sold as far off as NZ, HK, UK and Ireland. Thank you to all participants.

More than 3400 people passed through the display of ceramics, sculpture, mobiles and paintings. Awards were provided by generous donations from more than twenty-five community business sponsors and the Shire of Yarra Ranges. The three recipients for the "best depiction of the Yarra Valley" are Cherry Manders "Landscape," Jenny Redden "Out the Back," and Reg Cox "Vintage Crop." There was great interest in John Nobes' "Peacock" enamel sculpture, David Williams' serenely beautiful pottery, artists' unframed works and artists' cards.

Proceeds from the show support the arts in our valley as well as the Leukaemia Auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital. The range of art this year was 'new and refreshing' as well as 'the best show' around according to visitors. Please check the website for details, photos and information regarding the next Yarra Glen Art Show: www.virtual.net.au/~yarraglenartshow.

Inaugural Steels Creek Croquet Tournament -a day on the lawn shooting the hoops

On a beautiful Sunday as only Upper Steels Creek (Australia's answer to Provence and Tuscany) can produce, a costumed group of near and far locals gathered on the laser-levelled lawn to do battle.

Despite a few wombat and rabbit scrapes, necessitating a local rule and the production of the appropriate scat to receive a ruling, the lawn was playing well. Its preparation was in the capable hands of an elderly family retainer, Bill, who was not present at the tournament as he does not like to see people walking on the grass.

Fashion highlights were all around, the Lowes, the Tetlows, the Bartoshs and Colin & Joy Brown who had motored from Coldstream in their Classic MG Magnette, were all dressed elegantly. Eliza, Grace and Isabel were charming in their long dresses and bonnets. Unfortunately there were a few who were not, and no, we are not mentioning names, Albie. John Houston was able to wear his old Etonian tie around his waist, a feat that, alas, eludes the writer who wore his around his hat.

After a hard-fought series of preliminary games, and several minor rule disputes; capably solved by the senior tournament umpire (the rules used were the American Croquet Association Rules, helpfully provided by Ed Bartosh, who then proceeded to strongly debate every ruling), the final two teams were decided.

(Cont'd Page 3)

Yarra Flats Billabong Reserve

Plenty of activity has been occurring down at the wetlands. I recently took a walk down there to see the new walking path that has been laid and noticed that the linking bridge was also almost completed. A viewing platform has also been constructed with great views along the northern arm of the billabong. You should all visit the area as the circuit along the path and around the old road makes for a great walk

From YG Grapevine Newsletter 16 Stephen Shortis ed.

Late Breaking News...

LANDCARE MEETING 28th APRIL

A meeting of the Landcare group will be held on Thursday 28 April at the Steels Creek Community Centre at 7.30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues raised at the public meeting held last month and to plan activities for the coming months. Amongst the first activities proposed will be the revegetation of our roadside verges in late May (calling all tree planters!). All members are invited to attend as well as all prospective members and friends. Any suggestions, membership forms, or other questions contact - John O'Neill 0418 260 227 / 5965 2224

"You mean to say Nick is still an undiscovered artist?" overheard at GEE

Yarra Glen Visions and Values

As the work on the 55 interviews conducted by **Hannah Skye** approaches completion, I have been fortunate enough to be able to listen to a number of the interviews conducted with some of the representatives of the 11 groups (55 people in all) considered to have a stake in the future of Yarra Glen and its environs. I have been impressed with the visions shared by a large number of those questioned in relation to the future direction of the town. The interview sought their views on nine main areas: social fabric, natural environment, built environment, local economy, tourism, living and learning, arts/culture/heritage, safety & accessibility and community/shire relationship.

It is intended that the findings to date will be presented to the wider community to ensure that they do reflect the collective visions and values of all stakeholders. However, my initial reaction is that the results to date are significantly at odds with those achieved in the market survey commission by the developers of the proposed new supermarket and more research and consultation will need to be undertaken before any developments are permitted to go ahead.

Stephen Shortis

STEELS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Have YOU Joined Up Yet?

Steels Creek Landcare Group is now a definite reality in our area, and will shortly be prioritising land degradation issues and planning actions to tackle them in the **Steels Creek Landcare area** which comprises all land effectively within the Steels Creek catchment, but excluding National Park and State Forest lands. The area is a unique mix of land uses including rural (agricultural and rural living), conservation, and urban fringe properties on the northern edge of Yarra Glen.

Landcare is all about tackling land degradation problems for both economic benefit and long-term protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Problems might include weed invasion, rabbits, protection of native flora and fauna and effective waterway care. Landcare encourages landholders to work together to solve land degradation problems in their own areas, often through coordinated action across a number of properties. It therefore makes sense for as many property holders as possible to become involved.

In early March, the Group held a well-attended public meeting in Yarra Glen. **Councillor Di Moore** and Member for Seymour **Ben Hardman** were present. The meeting was held to provide information about the benefits of becoming a member of Landcare and to encourage membership, which costs **\$20.00 per property annually**. Members receive the Landcare magazine and access to expert information and funding opportunities for protection of land and natural resources. Steels Creek Community Centre is to receive \$800 to support its environmental work. The Member for Seymour, Ben Hardman, said these funds were for administrative support and work promoting local Landcare projects.

John O'Neill on 0418 260 227, or David Allan on 5965 2556.

(Croquet from 2)

As so often in this life, the Final was Youth and Beauty versus Age and Experience. After a volatile struggle, in which the match see-sawed frequently, much advice was offered from the side lines. Until, one of the finalists rebuffed this advice with the comment that they needed no advice from the sidelines as they were in the finals, and the advice givers were not. With all players through the penultimate hoop the combination of the Misses Houghtons struck and struck again gaining the Peg, and hence the cup (or silver stubby holder to be precise). **Eliza** and **Grace** had triumphed over **Albie** and **Greg**.

With the tension of the final over the players and spectators adjourned to the upper lawn and partook of the more than adequate refreshments whilst the trophy was presented. Dusk saw the crowd depart and a worried Bill returned to contemplate his trampled lawn.

Andrew Chapman

NB: Ed Bartosh has heaps of very flattering photos from the event – online

"Xmas in June" Tennis Club dinner again this year; date and info will be in the next Jolly Thing

Steels Creek – A State of Mind

<h1 style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2005</h1>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Recycle Womens Tennis	5 Stitches Tennis	6	7 Art Tennis	8 Movie <i>(Man in White Suit)</i>	9 Market
10 YV CUP Racing	11 L.S.L. Tennis	12 Garden Outing Tennis	13	14 Art Tennis	15	16
17	18 Recycle Tennis Growing	19 Stitches Tennis Book Club	20	21 Art Tennis	22 Earth Day Movie <i>(Day Earth Stood Still)</i>	23 Market Competitive Tennis
24 Clamberers	25 ANZAC DAY L.S.L. Tennis	26 Tennis	27	28 SMB Art Tennis	29	30 Tennis

ART
2372

Thursday 1:30 – 4:30 SC4

Bring your paints, discuss your art and share skills.

Malcolm Calder 5965

BOOK GROUP
2080

3rd Tuesday

Opening for ONE avid reader

15 Members Limited by CAE resources and lively discussions in member's homes.

Les Tomlins 5965

CLAMBERERS
1957

LAST Sunday April – October. Since 1993; the walking group hikes over local tracks to explore the flora and fauna of the valley and surrounding areas. Walks announced at SC4 Market beforehand or ring Margaret. Details on page 7.

Margaret Houston 9730

GARDEN
8266

Newsletter, Outings, November Show Since 1992, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group 9am SC4 - all welcome. 2nd Tuesday Outings. 12th April Orth's wholesale nursery propagation demo; 10th May Mt Macedon bus trip book NOW.

Jill Hess 9730 1960 Gillian Poulton 5797

MARKET

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.

Jean Lowe 5965 2294

MOVIE

2nd & 4th Friday 6:00 Classy food followed by classic 16mm Films at SC4. \$5 food / donation for film.

Jean Lowe 5965 2294 Chris Mullen 5965 2094 chris@fullandplenty.com

**Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling for the garbos to cart away
HARD RUBBISH DISPOSAL coming in May**

MAY 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 Recycle Womens Tennis	3 Stitches Tennis	4	5 Art Tennis	6	7 Tennis
8 Mother's Day	9 L.S.L. Tennis	10 Tennis Garden Outing	11	12 Art Tennis	13 Movie <i>(Gentlemen Prefer Blondes)</i>	14 Market Tennis
15	16 Recycle Tennis	17 Stitches Tennis Book Club	18	19 Art Tennis	20	21 Tennis
22	23 Growing L.S.L. Tennis	24 Tennis BIGGEST Afternoon Tea	25	26 SMB Art Tennis	27 Movie <i>(Jamaica Inn)</i>	28 Market Tennis
29 Clamberers	30 Recycle Tennis	31				

SMB Men's Morning Tea

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

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

STITCHERS

Jane Calder 5965 2372 Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

1st 3rd Tuesday 1:30 – 4pm 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— Come for Company, Crafts, and Coffee .

The 4 April and 2 May meetings of the Monday Night Women's Group will again be held at J.J.'s (was La Porchetta's) pizza place in Yarra Glen at 7pm in the upstairs dining room. Do come along for a pleasant evening's socialising, bring your knitting if you like (very trendy these days!)

Only 271 Days to Christmas in December !

BIGGEST Afternoon Tea

Once again the Steels Creek **Stitches** will be holding their annual fund-raiser for the Cancer Council, but this year the **BIGGEST AFTERNOON TEA** will be at the **Yarra Glen Memorial Hall** supper room on Tuesday 24 May from 1.30 - 4pm with the many-prized raffle being drawn at 3.30pm. The Stitches would like to take this opportunity of thanking **Anita at the Fudge Shop** for her wonderful support over the years and we're only sorry that the ever increasing number of people who support us has meant that we now need a bigger venue. Keep this special afternoon free to come along and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea while supporting a very worthy cause.

Clean Up Australia Day – 6 March 2005

Steel Creek Community make a Clean Sweep

In conjunction with the Yarra Glen Tree Group, Steels Creek Community again participated in *Clean Up Australia Day*. This year, **about 30 Community and Tree Group members** picked up along the full length of Steels Creek Road, and in addition, along sections of adjoining roads including Pinnacle Lane, Hunts Lane, Mt Slide Road, Greenwood Lane and other roads too.

Although Steels Creek Road itself had remained relatively tidy following previous Clean-Up Day efforts, by the end of activities this year, the rubbish skip provided by the Council was more than overflowing, groaning with all manner of discarded items. This reflects the increased number of roads covered this year. Apart from the usual beverage containers, plastic bags, food containers and the like, there were many other items including a significant number of tyres, an entire car engine and gear-box and several lengths of steel and polyethylene pipe.

Well done, one and all! Thank-you to all who volunteered their time and efforts on the day, and to **Steels Creek Tennis Club**, who put on the most welcome sausage sizzle at SC4 afterwards.

Wouldn't it be nice if **everyone** did the right thing **all the time**, and *Clean Up* days were simply not required?!

Safeway NoWAY

Most people are aware of plans afoot to build a massive (½ acre) Safeway *stupormarket* in Yarra Glen next to the existing shopping centre. The developer of the site held a 'show and tell' on grape grazing day where he displayed models and elevations of the concept. Most people who viewed the plans were appalled at the size and scale and the inappropriateness of the development.

About 30 of those opposed to the idea met to discuss ways and means of averting this unsympathetic blight on our horizon. It was agreed that a small group would talk to the Shire; the press would be notified and a public forum would be held some time in the future.

What is at stake with this proposal is what we value about Yarra Glen. Most of us do not live here because it is convenient, but because it offers a rich living experience, based on a beautiful setting, a village atmosphere and a strong, supportive community. If Safeway succeeds in building a huge *stupormarket*, Yarra Glen will lose its individual character and become yet another outpost of suburban mediocrity. When people start to move to Yarra Glen because it is convenient rather than special, then we will all be the poorer.

If you would like to know more about the meeting, minutes outlining all points raised, are available from veronicaholland@netspace.net.au. Or contact Malcolm or Jane Calder

(Lone Pine from page 1)

Sgt. Keith McDowell of Victoria gave his cone to an aunt, Mrs Grey, living at Grassmere. About ten years later Mrs Grey raised four seedlings. One of these was planted in Wattle Park in 1933 and another at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Two of the young plants went to western Victoria, one to the Warrnambool Gardens and the other to the Soldiers Memorial Hall at The Sisters, some 15k south of Mortlake. There is no mention in these records of a tree being planted at Steels Creek. However, Vera Adams has said that she believes the pine tree at the old Steels Creek School is indeed a memorial tree. If so, our age estimate makes this tree more than ten years older than those in the records of the Australian War Memorial.

All the evidence points to the view that this tree is in fact a seedling grown as a memorial to one or more soldiers who served in the First World War. Eric has confirmed that Arthur George Hunt from Steels Creek was killed in Gallipoli. Has anyone got information which might help to resolve the question? In the meantime I am trying to grow some seedlings from the pine and we know several RSL groups who would like to have young plants.

Malcolm Calder

CLAMBERERS

time to get out your wanderlust and take a hike !

Our regular walks will move to the **last Sunday** each month, April - October, and everyone is invited to our first activity for 2005: SUNDAY APRIL 24th **11AM PICNIC IN THE PARK AT THE BADGER WEIR PICNIC AREA**
Meet 11am at the Badger Weir Picnic Area for an early BYO lunch before taking one of the short walks to the weir, or simply wander among the giant Mountain Ash and Manna Gums and enjoy all this beautiful park has to offer.

Parks Victoria literature reminds us that the picnic area is surrounded by pristine wilderness catchment which has been managed for water harvesting for over 100 years. The first weir was built on Badger Creek in 1908. This was replaced by the existing weir in 1929 and Badger Creek now supplies up to 110 mega litres (110,000,000 litres) of water every day to Melbourne.

So, come join the fun- it's a perfect setting for a picnic, with landscaped grounds, old-style shingle roof rotundas, plenty of other seating, barbecues with wood provided. Don't forget your BYO lunch. The Park is 5km from Healesville via Don Rd/Badger Weir Rd.

SUNDAY, MAY 29th BROCK SPUR/VALLEY VIEW LUNCH/BANKSIA RIDGE LOOP

We are indebted to Kaye McRae for her introduction to this walk with its spectacular views across the Steels Creek valley to the Yarra Ridge and south to the Dandenongs. This time we will incorporate the Banksia Ridge Loop for those who want a longer walk. To the lunch spot and back is about 5km. The Banksia Ridge Loop adds another 3km. Full details at Saturday markets **Margaret Houston 9730 1957**

Movies 6PM at SC4 Light Supper followed by film.

8 April **The Man in the White Suit******1951, Ealing; Alec Guinness, Joan Greenwood, Cecil Parker: "brilliant satirical comedy, put together with meticulous cinematic counterpoint."

22 April **The Day the Earth Stood Still**** 1951, Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal, Sam Jaffe: "quite wry and alarmingly smooth."

13 May **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*** 1953 d Howard Hawks, Jane Russell, Marilyn Monroe, Charles Coburn: Dumb blonde and showgirl go to Paris in search of husbands.

27 May **Jamaica Inn*** 1939 d Alfred Hitchcock; Charels Laughton, Maureen O'Hara, Leslie Banks, Robert Newton: in Old Cornwall, an orphan girl becomes involved with smugglers.

TENNIS

For the summer season, two of our three Saturday teams made it into the Eastern Regional Tennis Semi Finals. We have three teams entered for the winter season which starts after the school holidays. The Tuesday ladies are doing well in their section. The Monday night tennis (for a social hit) and the Thursday night (for a more serious hit) start at 7 p.m., just turn up any time you want to join in.

Saturday Competitive Tennis starts again on April 23

Fans can follow the standings at <http://www.ertinc.org.au/>, click on Senior Ladders, then Steels Creek in the "Select a Club" box.

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir concert at Healesville Memorial Hall Sunday 5th June at 2.00pm.

Two local identities will be performing on stage.

The 2 hour concert includes about 22 to 25 repertoire items including 25% Welsh language or Welsh related; the balance from the far corners of the world and musicals like Chess / Oliver / Jesus Christ Superstar, plus

Gershwin Showcase. Tickets are \$15 each and are available from **Henry Verhoeven**

(5965 2274 / 0409 040 775)

Yea, Dixon's Creek and Marysville residents... <http://www.virtual.net.au/>

Your exchanges are now approved for ADSL. An activation date is yet to be set. From the Virtual Access web site

CROSS CREEK 8 © J&J Wordsmiths

Across

1. Not rounded (7)
4. Noisy tower (5)
7. A John Wayne film (7)
- 8 Postponement (5)
9. Season (6)
12. Amazonian snake (8)
15. Historic communication (8)
17. Cowards and jaundice (6)
18. Dark, English "thrush" (5)
21. Land of Hope and Glory (7)
22. Quantities of yarn (5)
23. Tennis Club's lunch special (7)

Down

1. 26 letters (8)
2. Worth having (6)
3. A reliable knot (4)
4. Sound of the Sallies (4)
5. Straight to it (7)
6. Good for nothin'? (4)
10. Sheen inside a seashell (5)
11. Warm and still (5)
13. "-----I wander" (8)
14. Gleam (7)
16. These keep our eyes moist (6)
18. Taken on the Bible (4)
19. Winemaking sediment (4)
20. "Rock of -----" (4)

OWNERSHIP / CIRCULATION

220 Print / 125 Email / 10 Nations

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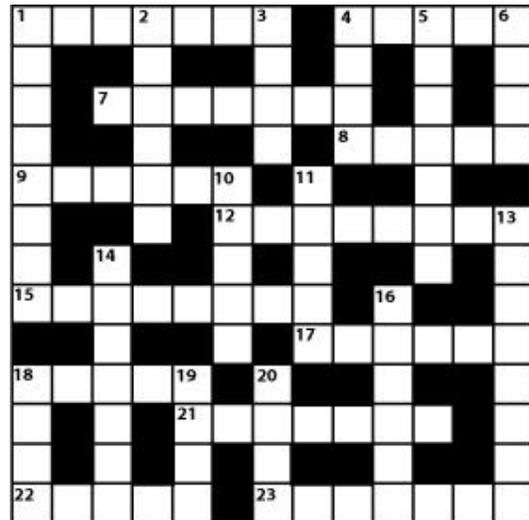
CROSS CREEK 7 Answers

Across

5. Celebration 7. Cray 8. Inchworm 9 Isthmus 11. Venom 13. Reams 14. Girlish 16. Fillings 17. Amen 18. Gatecrashes

Down

1. Ploy 2. Obvious 3. March 4. Pinwheel 5. Christening 6. Nervousness 10. Humility 12. Kinsman 15. Enact 17. Ache



HOOGIES

OF YARRA GLEN



Ask us...

DEADLINE for the next *Jolly Thing* is Thursday 31 May 2005

Guest Editor: David Allan 5965 2556

drallan@iprimus.com.au