



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 58 (December 2005-January 2006) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

*Feeling Hot, Oppressed, Smoke Getting into Your Eyes? Call this number*Page 2

Buffalo Bolognaise at the Berry Café at Last !!!Page 3

Snakey Advice - Page 6

Community Centre to come under the Hammer!!!

No, not an auction, but necessary repairs and maintenance. This is a partial list of items brought to the attention of the committee: White stairs from road – potholes, railing, gravel the driveway; entry into kitchen area – affix to building, remove mat. Toilet side door from kitchen area – hold open device. Bulletin board surfaces, location, blocking windows, chalk board – rationalize, re-organize? The plastic/Laserlight roof over the BBQ storage area leaks; provide storage shelves. Roofing gutters need cleaning and maintenance. North wall needs repainting. Water tank next to top shed either doesn't get or hold water. And INSIDE: all clubs to reorganize their gear, clean up cupboards and discard ancient foodstuffs – at least provide sealed containers. The White hot water urn in the kitchen doesn't seem to actually heat water. Get a lick of paint on the ceiling and walls. Lighting in general – upgrade, modify? Electric cords and power points in kitchen area – kitchen rethink, redesign? To sell or remove: TV, Old school radio, broken chairs, unwanted books and magazines, other unused or broken items.

How about a playground before the kids grow up?

Any further commentary in writing, please to **Greg Leonard**

Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club

Under a program subsidised by Vic Tennis, the Club has recently concluded a very successful *Mums' Tennis* coaching program. Over a period of five weeks twelve local ladies, the majority of whom were completely new to the game, enjoyed the professional attention of Kinglake coach **Daryl Taylor**. Coaching is continuing on Monday mornings for this enthusiastic group and with further coaching in the New Year. Interested? Contact **Albie on 5965 2354**.

Under the Lights: Monday night social tennis and Thursday night *tennis for the more serious* is continuing – from 7 p.m. Open to all. **More players, of any standard, needed.**

Tuesday social play – a small group enjoys tennis from 9 a.m. (sharp) until 10 a.m. – please come along. If you want to know more, call **Jean Lowe** on 5965 2294

Tuesday Ladies Tennis team were very pleased to reach the semi-finals in Section 2 but, after a close game, were unfortunately beaten on the day by Seville.

(Cont'd Page 2)

(from Page One)

The annual Tennis Club raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Carols on Sunday, December 11th. Tickets available from Albie on 5965 2354 or Jean on 5965 2294. Great edible prizes thanks to our donors who include **National Park Hotel, Kinglake; De Bortoli Restaurant; Cru Restaurant; Brammar Estate; and Yileena Park Estate**. You've got to be in it to win it!!

The Club will hold an **Open Day from 11 a.m. on Sunday, 22nd January 2006.**
BBQ from 12 p.m. **ALL WELCOME**

Slasher reported in Steels Creek!

The roadside slasher will be coming through Steels Creek soon and some folks might want to protect the new plants that have sprung up over Spring. New vegetation can avoid being slashed if it is marked by a peg or a stake, made clearly visible to the contractor with the use of a coloured cap or tape at the top. The contractor will have no problem working around these spots - a great example of Shire and resident working together. The native plants that pop up every year, only to be slashed again and again, must obviously be the strongest of their kind, so it's well worth giving them a decent go this year

Rob Fallon

Fight Degradation !

At a recent Landcare meeting, it was decided that a process be undertaken to enable funding applications to be made for specific priority Landcare projects. If you would like to join us in helping to combat land degradation issues, please contact the group's Secretary:

David Allan on 5965 2556.

Rainfall report – Get in Gauge call Dave 5965 2556

Gauge Site All (mm)	October 2005	November 2005 (to 25/11)	2005 - Year to date	Previous Year to same date
'Newera' Brennan Avenue	56.0	63.8	667.3	752.3
'Blackwood Hill' Pinnacle Lane	64.5	56.8	664.7	764.2

Bushfire Survival – are WE ready?

Both Dixon's Creek and Yarra Glen CFA brigades continue to cover Steels Creek upper, lower, and in between; however the best coverage comes from prevention, planning, and preparation. The CFA Fireguard programme suggests working together with neighbours and establishing telephone tree communication links. Perhaps this can become a priority for the Committee?

Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

***No Camera? No Problem !* Call in Jimmy Olsen ...**

Now that I have my digital camera, I hope to be able to grab community type shots to load on the www site as opportunities arise. See pictures (1 MB) uploaded to the Clamberers Home Page

<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/clamberers/>

Roving Reporter Eric "Jimmy Olsen" D. Allan

December 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Titty Club Art. Social Tennis.	2	3 Tennis Comp
4	5 Social Tennis	6 Ladies Tennis Stitchers	7 Concluding 1 st Aid Course	8 Titty Club Art. Social Tennis.	9	10 Market Gulf Station Tennis Comp.
11 History Christmas Carols	12 Recycle Ladies Lunch Social Tennis	13 Ladies Tennis Book Group Garden Outing	14 Tennis Comm. Mtg	15 Titty Club Art. Social Tennis.	16	17 Tennis Comp.
18	19 Social Tennis	20 Ladies Tennis Stitchers	21 Solstice	22 Titty Club Art. Social Tennis.	23	24 <u>No Market</u> Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Recycle Hanukkah Begins Boxing Day	27 Ladies Tennis	28	29 Titty Club Art. SMB. Social Tennis	30	31 New Years Eve

Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling bin

ART

Thursdays - 1:30 PM – 4.30 PM SC4 Bring your paints, discuss your art and share skills. **Light More Light!**

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesday - 8.00 PM 15 members – limited by CAE resources. Lively discussions in members' homes.

Les Tomlins 5965 2080

CLAMBERERS - In Recess to March 2006

If readers know of any good walks that may be suitable for the coming year we would love to hear from you.

David and Robyn Allan 5965 2556

Friends of Yarra Flats Billabongs

Development of wetlands adjacent to Yarra Glen.

Kevin Heeley 9730 1704 kevinheeley@bigpond.com

<http://yarraflatsbillabongs.melbournewater.com.au>

GARDEN

Newsletter, Outings 2nd Tuesdays, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.AM at SC4 – all welcome.

Jill Hess 9730 1960, Gillian Poulton 5797 8266

HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch Inc)

Environmental issues presented periodically Healesville Living and Learning Centre 1 Badger Creek Road.

Maureen Bond 5962 1224 maub@virtual.net.au

HISTORY

The Y.G. & D.H.S. meets 2nd Sundays at 2 pm YG Living & Learning Centre. : www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1891 Eric Tetlow 9730 1445 etetlow@aplhalink.com.au

GULF STATION HOLIDAY EVENTS:

10 December Garage Sale and display of rare breeds including Ayrshire cows.

28-29 January Pioneer & Working Horse Festival www.natrust.com.au (Scroll down to Gulf Station info)

MARKET

2nd and 4th Saturdays at SC4, 10.00 AM Sharp! Community Announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods. The Creek's best home made scones, coffee and tea at every market!

Jean Lowe 5965 2294

Berry Café reopens with Athel and Heather, prop. Starting 13 December, Buffalo Bolognaise!

January 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day Haijj Begins	2 Women's Group Social Tennis	3 Ladies Tennis Stitchers	4	5 Art. Social Tennis	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7
8 History	9 Recycle Social Tennis. Ladies Lunch	10 Ladies Tennis	11	12 Art. Social Tennis.	13	14 Market
15	16 Social Tennis.	17 Ladies Tennis Stitchers. Book Group.	18	19 Titty Club Art. Social Tennis.	20	21
22 Tennis Open Day	23 Recycle Growing Group. Social Tennis.	24 Ladies Tennis	25	26 SMB Art Social Tennis Australia Day	27	28 Market Tennis Comp. Gulf Station
29 JT Deadline Year of Dog Gulf Station	30 Social Tennis.	31 Ladies Tennis Islamic New Year				

LAND CARE GROUP

John O'Neill 6965 2224 or David Allan 5965 2556

Bi-Monthly meetings and on going projects. This is a start up group; a great chance to influence the outcomes and direction of land care issues for years to come. Story Page 2 – *Fight Degradation*.

MOVIES

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

On Summer break until February. Suggestions for new programme of twenty feature films most welcome.

SMB

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at Anita's Fudge Shoppe, Yarra Glen

STITCHERS

Jane Calder 5965 2372, Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SC4. Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Bring own work – knit, patch, embroider; currently working on a panel to commemorate the 2002 Long Yarra Walk.

TENNIS

Albie Leckie 5965 2354, Lindy Montell 5965 2202

Since 1911. Newsletter, Competitions, 80 active and social members. Mondays, 7.00 PM, Social tennis (started in October again). Tuesdays 10.00 AM, Mid-week ladies competition. Thursdays 7.00 PM, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 6 PM, Regular competitions. Ladies Lunch 2nd Monday; bring a plate to share.

TITTY CLUB

Morgan Calder 5965 2481 m-calder@bigpond.net.au

Mothers group adventures Thursdays 11-am during December until the 22nd. start again on the 19th of January.

WOMEN'S Evening Activities and Friendship Group

Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

1st Monday, 7.00 at JJ's in Yarra Glen Come for company, crafts and coffee. You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat. 25 Days to Christmas!

AHEAD: Feb. 10 Movies; 26 Croquet, Feb./ March Hard Rubbish, March 26 Clamberers

Parks Victoria - Kinglake National Park News December 2005

A big welcome to the new summer fire-fighters who are now on board at the National Park and being trained. The Green corps have been a great help for us; with new tracks and landscaping at Jehosophat Gully Picnic Area, sheep fencing for Sun Moth Management at Mt Piper, fencing off direct seeding regenerating areas at Horseshoe Lagoon, and fauna survey work and tree planting at Wallaby Creek. *Five students from NMIT Epping, at the end of a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management, seized the opportunity to work at Kinglake National Park for their work placement.* Their main project has been to complete a comprehensive fauna survey of the north-eastern end of the Everard block. Parks Victoria is currently planning to conduct a fuel reduction burn in this part of the block some time around April 2006. (Residents in the Gordons Bridge Road / Wattle Court area will be contacted over summer.)

After one week of trapping and spotlighting the NMIT team saw Greater Glider, Agile Antichinus and Bush Rats. It will be interesting to monitor these creatures' numbers over the next couple of years as the bush is revitalized from the fire

Unlike the introduced Black Rat, the native Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*) is an important part of the forest ecology. Bush Rats are nocturnal, shy creatures that inhabit areas with moist vegetation with a dense groundcover, living off a diet of native seeds, fungi and insects.

The first deer survey for the park was conducted in the Wallaby Block during October, the park area which is the 10,600 ha of park north of Whittlesea. Thirty transect sites were surveyed to look for deer scats of Samba deer species. Results are still pending. We will endeavour to notify as many residences bordering the park as possible prior to feral goat control operations.

As we scale up staffing on weekend patrols for the summer period we will have 2 -3 rangers patrolling each weekend. Finally to all Jolly Thing readers, have a great Christmas, and we hope you can take time to relax and unwind in some of our country's many natural places, including this national park we are lucky enough to have in our own "backyard".

David Farrar, Parks Victoria Ranger Kinglake National Park.(03) 5786 5351 or 131963

Croquet Redux ... Polish your Mallets and Balls

We have managed to get Bill to prepare the Croquet Lawn for the 2nd Steels Creek Croquet Tournament to be held on **Sunday 26th of February**. So the wombats and rabbits better stay off the lawn or else, refer to Bob Murray in Caddy Shack and his final solution with the gophers.

Andrew Chapman & Judith Augustine

From the *International* Desk

"Feel free to start planning your trips to Japan for sometime after August next year!"

Yvette Montell

"Sorry, can't help write for JT. Rome has priority. Montone exceeded all expectations."

John Houston

A View on Margaret Thatcher – Octogenarian

"I know, dear readers, that on the auspicious occasion of Margaret Thatcher's 80th birthday, you will all like to join me in toasting her. But sadly, burning witches at the stake is now outlawed, so the toasting will have to remain a mere fantasy."

Brian Reade, *Daily Mirror*, London, October 13, 2005

Conditions apply – frailty and age are assets; daily charges; a good deal once paperwork is set up!

The Eastern Transport Register (ETR)

The Yarra Ranges branch of the Eastern Transport Register is managed by this Project.

The Project has two vehicles available for borrowing that are garaged at Healesville. There are a variety of other vehicles across the Yarra Ranges owned by other members of the ETR available for borrowing. HACC eligibility applies to borrowers. There are some costs involved for use of vehicles.

The Register can be accessed via an on-line (internet) booking service or via contact with staff of the Register (Ringwood ph: 9879 6975 Healesville ph: 5965 3523).

Please feel free to make any enquiries if you have transport concerns or would like to become a lender or borrower of vehicles.

Coordinator - Teresa O'Donnell Ph: 5965 3523 yrcap@yrcap.org.au

'I sold \$50, bought \$40 and donated \$10' heard at Community Clear Out - 26 November

Trading was brisk between traders from 6-8 and probably 50% of sales occurred then; anecdotally the remainder of sales were with buyers between 8 and 11.

There was an estimated \$3000 of commerce changing hands with a contribution to SC4 of \$373. Many items were donated.

Approximately 14 stalls were set up before 8 am with about 45 people attending to business; after 8am the crowds poured through the gates until 10am and the regular market people showed. Meanwhile scones and tea appeared followed by wonderful sausages via the tennis club.

Many new faces from near and far appeared; see you next year !

Yarra Glen RSL Thanks Residents for Remembrance Day Support

Citizens gathered at the Memorial Hall to pause to remember those citizen soldiers who gave their lives to maintain our freedoms. At the conclusion of the service, poppies were laid at the base of the newly restored Memorial. The Yarra Glen RSL received donations of \$687.85 through the sales of Remembrance Poppies prior to the day. These donations are placed in a Welfare account that may only be used to assist veterans in need. Locally, these monies have been used to help Yarra Glen veterans defray expenses when they enter hospital for care. The RSL also uses these donations to assist in veteran's funerals or financial difficulties with accommodations, food, or direct loans or grants. Yarra Glen and District veterans with circumstances where we may be able to help should contact the Yarra Glen RSL Secretary,

Ted Bowling, at 9730 1913

Snakes Alive!

Most bites occur when people attempt to remove or kill these protected species; it is illegal to kill them; they are shy; it is best to leave them alone. If a problem, call the **DSE 136 186** or local council.

**The Grand Easter Art Exhibition 2006 is at Balgownie Estate,
Entry forms will be out before Christmas.**

Across

1. Shellfish or mine (6)
5. Don't tell your grandma to suck them!
7. Hassling dog (5) \ (4)
8. Puds and cakes (4)
9. It's ore is Hammersley's wealth (4)
10. Half a favourite pork dish (5)
11. Moths should keep their distance (6)
13. Flower or Caddy (4)
14. Santa... (Italian) (6)
18. Being his name was important (6)
21. Teenagers love to fly it (4)
22. Stitching (6)
24. Slightly ornamented column (5)
25. Memorable 60's musical (4)
26. May need a strategy (4)
27. Such peace is precious (5)
28. Arctic ducks warmth (4)
29. Can sound with an 'ee' or an 'eye' (6)

Down

1. Word book (7)
2. Took up attitude of body or mind (5)
3. Those are distant, are near (5)
4. Sweet nutritious hay (7)
5. A first one may be valuable (7)
6. Look for these in your Xmas stocking
12. "Diamond" (3) \ (7)
15. Purple green salad fruit (7)
16. Common analgaesic (7)
17. Distinguished (7)
19. Caviar (3)
20. Tenser when drunker (7)
22. Many meanings, points made will do
23. Coeliacs beware of this (5) \ (5)

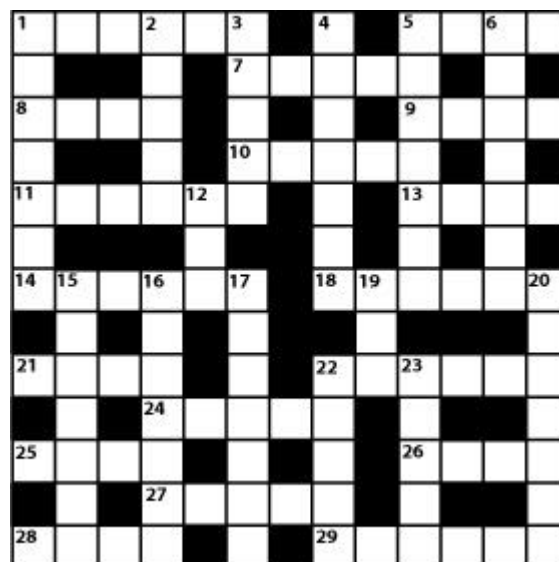
CROSS CREEK 11 Answers

Across

5. Viticulture 7. Scar 8. Luscious
9. Cyanide 11. Army 13. Usage
14. Pelisse 16. Filtrate 17. Head
18. Elastoplast

Down

1. Stir 2. Occlude 3. Close 4. Sukiyaki
5. Vichyssoise 6. Equidistant
10. Nightcap 12. Receipt 15. Party
17. Hoar



The Steels Creek Community Centre Management Committee: **Geoff Keets**, President; **Albie Leckie**, Vice-president; **Keith Montell**, Treasurer; **Ed Bartosh**, Secretary, with **Greg Leonard**, **Vicky Stewart**, and **David Allan** elected as committee members.

thejollything@fullandplenty.com

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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 29th January 2006
for the next *Jolly Thing*

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

For photos and club archives

Steels Creek

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS



DATE: Sunday, December 11th 2005

VENUE: Steels Creek Community Centre

**B.Y.O: Chairs, Drinks / Glasses,
Picnic or meat (gas b.b.q. available)**

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



8.00 p.m: CAROLS

Sing along to taped music.

(Word sheets provided)

Afters: Port & Coffee

Cake & Shortbread

(Provided by committee)



HICCI: (Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc)

As Christmas is rapidly approaching, we would greatly appreciate any donation of a child's unwrapped present for distribution to those less fortunate than ourselves. Please leave present at Community Centre between now and Carol Night.

See you all there!!!!