



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 59 (February - March 2006) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

Dog Bites Snake ...Two Years Running! - Page 4

Hitum Titum or Scrub? - 2nd Annual Croquet Tourney - Page 2

Ian de la Rue Award to Malcolm Calder - Page 7

Hot Times in the Valley

The Open Day at the Steels Creek Tennis Club took a dramatic turn with the 40°+ temperature and the fire up the hill. The Tennis Club was host to more than 100 volunteers and professionals who attended to the FIRE IN OLD SLIDE ROAD 22 January; the Red Cross provided supper for the hard working fire fighters and the club helped where it could. The Leckie's deep dam provided much water for the fire; though the cows did not care for the rotor wash from the helicopters.



Two days of 'maintenance' followed. This fire "number 22" in DSE parlance consumed only one hectare about 3km up the Old Slide Road but required four appliances, a huge D8 dozer and scores of support vehicles. Information and communication are the keys to successful community safety programs. **Story on the development of telephone tree communication links page 7.**

Victoria Bushfire Hotline 1800 240 667 or on the web at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/> and <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires/updates/report/index.htm>

WALK, WATCH AND WONDER

Toolangi Discovery Centre and the Yea River Thursday, February 23 9.30am -3.30pm This whole day session will be hosted by **Steve Meacher** from the Natural Resources Conservation League. Bookings HL&LC on 5962 5982

TENNIS ANYONE?

Steels Creek Tennis Club Annual Raffle 2005

This very successful raffle raised a record \$1,100 towards Club funds. It was drawn during the Christmas Carols at the Community Centre on the 11th December. Lucky winners were **Theresa Blackmore, Louise Keyes, Debbie VanFlorenstein, Noel Ashmore and Robyn Allen**. Our thanks once again to our raffle sponsors, **Kinglake National Park Hotel, De Bortoli Winery, Cru Restaurant, Brammar Estate Winery, and Yileena Park Winery**. Thanks also to all in the local community who bought tickets and contributed to this fundraising effort.

<http://www.YarraGlen.com/SCTC/>

A Capella singing with Angie Macmillan

Tuesday nights at 8.00pm Wallace Road, Christmas Hills

Singing starts on Tuesday 7th February 2006

New members very welcome; You don't have to have a great voice.

Just come and have fun, singing in a group.

Contact Angie on 9730 1998

MOVIES Commence February 24, 2006

The **Sixteen Millimetre Screening Society of Steels Creek** resumes regular bi-monthly sessions 24 February with a light gourmet meal at 6pm followed by a short film and feature. BYO Jaffas!

24 February

Things To Come**** 1936 92min; w Alexander Korda, ad H.G. Wells; Raymond Massey, Ralph Richardson, Cedric Hardwicke; War in 1940 is followed by plague, rebellion, a new glass-based society, and the first rocket ship to the moon. "A leviathan among films A stupendous spectacle." ([web link](#) for more info)

10 March

Sabotage*** 1936 81min; d Hitchcock; Oskar Homolka, Sylvia Sidney, the proprietor of a small London cinema is a dangerous foreign agent. 'famous sequences and a splendidly brooding melodramatic atmosphere.' ([web link](#) for more info)

24 March

Way Out West**** 1937 86min; Laurel and Hardy come to Brushwood Gulch to deliver the deed to a gold mine. 'One of their most perfect films, it ranks with the best screen comedy anywhere.' ([web link](#) for more info)

HITUM TITUM OR SCRUB ? * – *Period Dress Optional, some form of dress mandatory!*

The 2nd Annual Steels Creek Croquet Tourney on Sunday 26 Feb will start at 11am at @ Kilravock CNR Hargreaves & Greenwood Lane - enter from Adams Lane. BYO food and grog. Some refreshments provided. \$ 10 per person with proceeds going to the community centre.

Petanque and Boules also available

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

BYO **GROG, Cigars**, Friends and Family

Will youth and beauty triumph again?

The Silver Cup Awaits!

The Houghton Hitters Return

Please RSVP by Monday February to 0408 321 936 or alexandra.augustine@hotmail.com

* Sartorial ranking system developed by E.F. Benson, Queen Lucia.

Steels Creek Community Centre - Past, Present and Future – Discussion Paper

A discussion paper is being prepared for distribution and consideration by the community. Some matters include: adequacy and condition of current building, history and background of the centre, maintenance and costs, parking and relocation. More in the April *Jolly Thing*. **Geoff Keets**

Rainfall report – Rainfall in the Steels Creek area up to 27 January 2006 - all values in mm

Gauge Site	December 2005	January 2006 (to 25/11)	2005 – Full Year (mm)	2004 – Full Year (mm)
'Newera' Brennan Avenue	76.9	50.5	748.7	827.3
'Blackwood Hill' Pinnacle Lane	77.6	47.9	746.3	845.5
Greg Leonard Western slope	95	39	790	883

Grand Easter Exhibition – Yarra Glen Art Show April 14 -17

Exciting new venue at the sparkling Balcownie Estate in Gulf Road, Dixons Creek.

Interested artists, sponsors and volunteers please contact **Christine Mullen 5965 2094**

And visit <http://www.virtual.net.au/~yarraglenartshow/>

Yarra Glen RSL Sub Branch Elects New Officers

The Yarra Glen Sub Branch elected its officers for the year 2006 at its Annual General Meeting on 15 January 2006. The officers are **John F. Gosling**, OAM, President, **Neil Eagle**, Vice-President, **Ted Bowling**, Secretary, and **Peter Morley**, Treasurer. Outgoing Treasurer, **Ken Crute** received a letter of commendation from State Executive John Deighton thanking him for his 10 years of service to the Yarra Glen Sub Branch in this capacity.

Formed in 1919, the Yarra Glen Sub Branch of the RSL holds its regular meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 10 am in the RSL rooms in the Memorial Hall. Members also normally meet on Friday afternoons for a social gathering. Our mission is to support the well-being and betterment of our members, former and serving members of the ADF, and their dependants, with the provision of welfare and commemorative services and, where appropriate, contribute to the worthy needs within the community. The Returned and Services League has some 1500 Sub-Branches through out Australia and with a membership of 240,000, is one of the largest service and ex-service associations in Australia. For membership information, stop by on a Friday or visit <http://www.rslvic.com.au/> on the web and see the membership pages.

Contact: **Ted Bowling** (03) 9730 1913 or visit <http://www.YarraGlen.com/RSL/>

C - L - A - M - B - E - R - E - R - S

Our first get-together for 2006 will be held on 26 March, the last Sunday in the month. We are planning a walk along Old Kinglake Road through Kinglake National Park to Mt Everard, returning via The Bundy Track. Final details will be distributed closer to that time.

For the April, May and June walks, we need a volunteer or two to lead walks. Please let us know if you would be able to help.

This year we would like to put an extra emphasis on birdwatching during our Clamberings. If you're interested, bring along your binoculars and notebook and pencil to record what we see. If you would like to be advised of forthcoming walk details, please contact

David and Robyn drallan@gotalk.net.au 5965 2556.

Chatsworth, Derbyshire, UK: *and you thought your house was too big!*

1 ton of timber grows every hour, 6 million trees, 25,000 planted every year, 2564 lightbulbs, 112 fireplaces, 65 baths, 7800 panes of glass

Steels Creek Community Helps Clean Up Australia

Steels Creek Community and Yarra Glen Tree Group will again register to help **Clean Up Australia** on Sunday 5th March next. Our main focus will be Steels Creek Road covering its full length from Eltham - Yarra Glen Road to Greenwood Lane. Time, participants and weather permitting, we can also take a look at some of the other roadsides in the Valley. If you know of any locations that have become a dumping ground along our roads let me know.

Activities commence at 10.00 AM with registration of individuals at Steels Creek Community Centre. We plan to finish up back at the Centre for a chat and a sizzled sausage or two afterwards from around 12.30. Any strong large rubbish bags would be useful on the day, so please bring them along. Also bring gloves and wear strong walking shoes or boots and appropriate clothes. Trailers and drivers required.

Contact **David Allan** 5965 2556

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**Carols at Christmas** were very inspiring this year. A spontaneous songfest ensued, even before liberal Port consumption of Committee sponsorship! Much appreciated were all the lovely children's gift donations for HICCI. Any suggestions for next year, please, to **Pam Verhoven** 5965 2274.

## **BARNEY BITE S AGAIN ! - Snakes, Dogs and other matters ...**

"Do you like Dogs Father Brown?" "Yes, as long as they are not spelt backwards". CK Chesterton

Barney, our black and white short haired Jack Russell cross has done it again, and almost a year to the day. This time it was a 5 foot brown snake with a broken back (but with a still rearing head) that he bought home for us to dispatch on 2 January 2006.

Last year, on 4 January he brought home a similarly sized red-bellied black snake \* that we also had to dispatch. That time he had taken in some venom and spent an anxious ten days at the emergency veterinary clinic at Blackburn. After several doses of anti venom and several blood transfusions he pulled through, better but not wiser.

We took him to the clinic again, but he had not been bitten and was home the next day. We did learn that a black snake's first bite is a warning one with no venom, and that most pet deaths are caused by brown snakes, which are not so considerate.

The quote from Chesterton refers to the fact that all this has cost a lot more than we have put in the Church plate last year.

**Andrew Chapman**

\*Could well be a copper head JJC

**The Steels Creek Stitchers** would like to thank all those who supported their recent raffle to raise funds to buy materials for making prizes for this year's Biggest Afternoon Tea raffle. The raffle raised \$311, with the two prizes being won by **Iris Caddy** and **Meryl Collinson**.

## **Yarra Glen Project Steering Committee Survey - Respond by 15 February**

Another group that has been working hard over the festive season is the Yarra Glen Project Steering Committee. The group welcomed two new members to its December meeting (**Damien Crowley** and **Veronica Holland**), and has been busy organizing government grants and business sponsorship to fund the Questionnaire that is to be made available to everyone in the 3775 postcode area.

The Questionnaire has been designed to establish what is important to **you** as a member of the community and asks your opinion on a number of aspects of your community. It is only by getting a strong response from as many members of the community as possible who are willing to give 15 minutes of their time to complete it that the committee will be able to expand the research that has been carried out so far in the quest to find the community values most reflected by a majority of stakeholders.

All members of the community are invited to assist in ensuring that the Questionnaire is accessed and actioned by as many other members of the community as possible. Please talk about it with immediate family members, neighbours, or organizations, friends and acquaintances.

Your thoughts and opinions are as highly valued as those of every other member of the community.

The Questionnaire will be distributed to every household and additional copies will be available at the Newsagency and the Post Office. It can be completed electronically via a website – (the preferred option) or manually, and **must be returned by 15 February**.

[www.YarraGlen.com/future/](http://www.YarraGlen.com/future/)

Hannah Sky 0409 5664 262

| February 2006                                      |                                                       |                                                |                                                  |                                          |                                      |                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                | Mon                                                   | Tues                                           | Wed                                              | Thurs                                    | Fri                                  | Sat                                   |
|                                                    |                                                       |                                                | 1<br><i>Questionnaire*<br/>Release</i>           | 2<br>Art<br>Social Tennis                | 3                                    | 4<br>Tennis Comp                      |
| 5<br><i>Agapanthus<br/>Amputation<br/>Day **</i>   | 6<br><b>Recycle</b><br>Social Tennis<br>Women's Group | 7<br>Ladies Tennis<br>Stitchers                | 8                                                | 9<br>Art<br>Social Tennis.               | 10                                   | 11<br>Market<br>Tennis Comp           |
| 12<br>History                                      | 13<br>Ladies Lunch<br>Social Tennis                   | 14<br>Ladies Tennis<br>GardenBBQ               | 15<br><i>Questionnaire*<br/>Response<br/>Due</i> | 16<br>Art<br>Social Tennis               | 17                                   | 18<br>Billabong Bee<br>Tennis Comp    |
| 19                                                 | 20<br><b>Recycle</b><br>Social Tennis                 | 21<br>Ladies Tennis<br>Stitchers<br>Book Group | 22                                               | 23<br><b>SMB</b><br>Art<br>Social Tennis | 24<br>Movie<br><i>Things to Come</i> | 25<br>Market<br>Tennis Semi-<br>final |
| 26<br>Clamberers<br><b>Croquet</b><br>11 - sundown | 27<br>Garden Club<br>Growing Group                    | 28<br>Ladies Tennis                            |                                                  |                                          |                                      |                                       |

**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.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

#### BOOK GROUP

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

Les Tomlins 5965 2080

#### CLAMBERERS

Last Sunday (March to October). Since 1993, the walking group has hiked over local tracks to explore the flora and fauna of the Valley and surrounding areas. Walks are announced at the SC4 Market beforehand.

David and Robyn Allan 5965 2556 [drallan@gotalk.net.au](mailto:drallan@gotalk.net.au)

#### Friends of Yarra Flats Billabongs

Development of wetlands adjacent to Yarra Glen.

Next working bee Feb 18 9-12 am bring boots, gloves and hand tools.

Kevin Heeley 9730 1704 [kevinheeley@bigpond.com](mailto:kevinheeley@bigpond.com)

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

#### GARDEN

Newsletter, Outings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 930 am at SC4 – all welcome.

14 Feb BBQ BYO everything at Wendy and Tom Steele's place 93 Lorimers Lane.

Jill Hess 9730 1960, Gillian Poulton 5797 8266

#### HEWI ( Healesville Environment Watch Inc)

Environmental issues at Healesville Living and Learning Centre 1 Badger Creek Road. **Story Page 7.**

Maureen Bond 5962 1224 [maub@virtual.net.au](mailto:maub@virtual.net.au)

#### HISTORY

The Y.G. & D.H.S. meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 130 pm YG Living & Learning Centre:

[www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au](http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au)

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1891 Eric Tetlow 9730 1445 [etetlow@aplhalink.com.au](mailto:etetlow@aplhalink.com.au)

#### MARKET

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

\* **Questionnaire for the Yarra Glen Project** – Story Page 4

\*\* **Amputate Agapanthus** remember to remove agapanthus seed heads once the plant has flowered.

| March 2006                     |                                                |                                                |     |                                   |                                    |                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun                            | Mon                                            | Tues                                           | Wed | Thurs                             | Fri                                | Sat                        |
|                                |                                                |                                                | 1   | 2<br>Art<br>Social Tennis         | 3                                  | 4<br>Tennis Grand<br>Final |
| 5<br>Clean Up<br>Australia Day | 6<br>Recycle<br>Social Tennis<br>Women's Group | 7<br>Ladies Tennis<br>Stitchers                | 8   | 9<br>Art<br>Social Tennis         | 10<br>Movie<br><b>Sabotage</b>     | 11<br>Market               |
| 12<br>History                  | 13<br>Ladies Lunch<br>Social Tennis            | 14<br>Ladies Tennis<br>Garden Outing           | 15  | 16<br>Art<br>Social Tennis        | 17                                 | 18                         |
| 19                             | 20<br>Recycle<br>Social Tennis                 | 21<br>Ladies Tennis<br>Stitchers<br>Book Group | 22  | 23<br>Art<br>Social Tennis        | 24<br>Movie<br><b>Way Out West</b> | 25<br>Market               |
| 26<br>Clamberers               | 27<br>Garden Club<br>Growing Group             | 28<br>Ladies Tennis                            | 29  | 30<br>Art<br>Social Tennis<br>SMB | 31                                 | April Fools Day            |

#### 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.

#### MOVIES

Jean Lowe 5965 2294, Chris Mullen 5965 2094, [chris@fullandplenty.com](mailto:chris@fullandplenty.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic 16mm films at SC4. \$5.00 food plus a donation for film.

#### SMB

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at the Berry Café, Dixons Creek

#### STITCHERS

Jane Calder 5965 2372, Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Tuesdays 10.00 AM, Mid-week ladies competition. Thursdays 7.00 PM, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 6 PM, Regular competitions. Ladies Lunch 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday; bring a plate to share.

#### TITTY CLUB

Morgan Calder 5965 2481 [m-calder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:m-calder@bigpond.net.au)

Mothers group reorganizing with the growth of kids and new year obligations.

#### WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Activities and Friendship Group

Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

1<sup>st</sup> 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. **Kitchen will be open.**

**You read it in the *Jolly Thing* first: The Melba Festival, a celebration of culture and art along the Melba Highway, is to be held over the Easter Weekend.**

## MICROSCOPIC STUDIES OF LIVING ORGANISMS

Wednesdays, Feb 15 – March 8 Twilight sessions 6.00-9.00pm Healesville Living and Learning Centre. We are very fortunate that **Jane and Malcolm Calder** will offer this course again. They lead us on an exciting voyage of discovery - the beautiful, but normally hidden detail within tiny objects.

Stereomicroscopes are very easy and relaxing to use, with two eyepieces and excellent lighting. The magnification allows us to find surprising patterns and textures within common organisms.

The first session will cover the optimal use of the stereomicroscope to examine very small objects and then we will be able to identify pond water plants and animals, various fungi and yeasts and learn about their contribution to a healthy environment. **Bookings: HL&LC on 5962 5982**

### HEWI CALENDAR 2006

#### February

|    |                            |          |
|----|----------------------------|----------|
| 15 | Twilight Microscope Course | 6 - 9pm  |
| 22 | Twilight microscopes # 2   | 6 - 9pm  |
| 23 | Walk, Watch and Wonder     | 10am-3pm |
| 23 | Meet Our Councillors       | 7.30pm   |

#### March

|    |                          |         |
|----|--------------------------|---------|
| 01 | Twilight microscopes # 3 | 6 - 9pm |
| 05 | Clean Up Australia Day   |         |
| 08 | Twilight microscopes # 4 | 6 - 9pm |
| 09 | Weeds Society seminar    |         |

**Lilydale Swinburne offers an e Commerce course for 18 weeks starting 13 Feb**  
Contact: Hauline Hall: [phall@swin.edu.au](mailto:phall@swin.edu.au) 9215 7001

### ***Ian de la Rue Award for Community Leadership to Malcolm Calder***

The Shire of Yarra Ranges commemorates Ian's contribution to the Community well being. He was a small businessman with a passionate commitment and advised the Shire on many matters relating to small business. He was a quiet achiever who died 6 months ago.

This first award made to Malcolm Calder is in recognition of his contribution to the community over many years and his involvement in the establishment of the present day vibrant Steels Creek Community, Yarra Glen Art Show and, most recently, the Yarra Glen Values and Vision project.

### **Telephone Tree Communications – 22 households contacted in 10 minutes !**

Recent events have highlighted the necessity for efficient communication. A couple hours easy effort is all it takes to set up a telephone tree. A key person seeks details and maps out blocks and contacts. "The fact that it worked on Sunday was a real bonus. For me, just knowing where everyone was and what their plans were was a positive factor," says Pita Witford of "The Crest." Anyone interested in establishing similar systems for the Brennan and Hargreaves areas should contact Pita at: 9730 1155 [piwhitford@bigpond.com](mailto:piwhitford@bigpond.com)

### CROSS CREEK 13

#### Across

- 1. Over wordy (7)
- 4. Used to treat severe bruising (5)
- 7. Supports important books (7)
- 8. Square root of nine (5)
- 9. Fellow primate (7)
- 12. Make sure it's safe to do this (8)
- 15. Consistency of subject or approach (8)
- 17. Neckline strap (6)
- 18. Last season's song (5)
- 21. You'd expect it to mean 'not shrewd' (7)
- 22. The lot (5)
- 23. Address ER as this (7)

#### Down

- 1. Of vigorous speech (8)
- 2. The day does it (6)
- 3. These numbers are never odd (4)
- 4. Forty day fast (4)
- 5. .... father, strong to save (7)
- 6. This springs 5. down (4)
- 10. A much sought after fountain (5)
- 11. Magistrate's table (5)
- 13. A long way from here to this (8)
- 14. These cats are great lookouts (8)
- 16. Usually fleeting (6)
- 18. Over or under cover (4)
- 19. Brief pause (4)
- 20. Money-making trick (4)

### CROSS CREEK 12 Answers

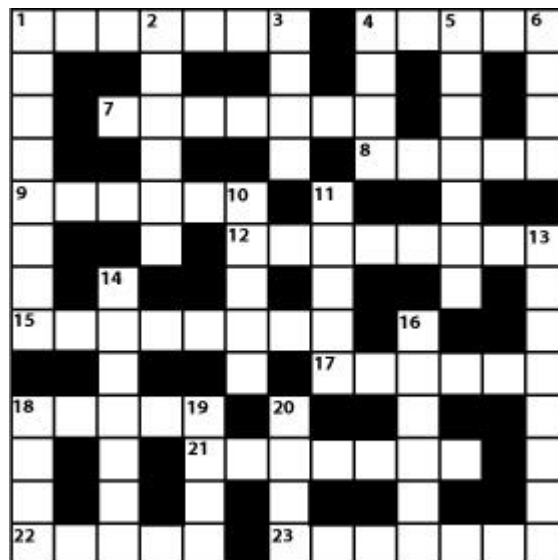
#### Across

- 1. Limpet 5. Eggs 7. Hound 8. Xmas 9. Iron
- 10. Sweet 11. Candle 13. Iris 14. Natale
- 18. Ernest 21. Coop 22. Sewing 24. Slightly ornamented column 25. Hair 26. Exit
- 27. Inner 28. Down 29. Either

#### Down

- 1. Lexicon 2. Posed 3. These 4. Lucerne
- 5. Edition 6. Goodies 12. Lil 15. Avocado
- 16. Aspirin 17. Eminent 19. Roe 20. Tighter
- 22. Score 23. Gluten

**Thank You to all firefighters and associates who worked so hard in the Australia Day / week long conflagrations; well done!**



### 220 Print / 125 Email / 11 Nations

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 The Community Centre Management Committee: **Geoff Keets**, President; **Alby Leckie**, Vice-president; **Keith Montell**, Treasurer; **Ed Bartosh**, Secretary, with **Greg Leonard**, **Vicky Stewart**, and **David Allan** elected as committee members.  
<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>

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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 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006**  
for the next *Jolly Thing*

For photos and club archives  
<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>