



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 55 (June-July 2005) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

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**THE CASE OF THE PRIZE RABBIT** (from Leigh Ahern)

Please, may I impress upon my fellow *Jolly Thing* readers the need to be vigilant for "rabbits"?

No, I refer not to the cuddly lagomorphs that go "thunk, thunk" as you motor anonymously by, but to the **PRIZE RABBIT** who, remarkably for this day and age, still treats Public Land (especially Road Reserve) as a dump. Yep. Though I'm utterly certain that *you*, dear reader, are *not* the culprit, *someone* out there is still doing it!

To be sure, our Bunny is clearly a *true pioneer*. He nurtures and grows sheep (and cattle) on his little dream-farmlet. He gazes o'er his flock, he marvels at his own agricultural achievements. Then one day, the penny drops: "Hey, wait a minute, aren't they made of *meat*? We could *eat* them!" So, with finely honed butchery skills and an old scout sheath-knife, he zaps an unsuspecting sheep (or, yes, maybe even a cow!). *Eh, voila!* The Sunday barbie, the feeding frenzy, the smug satisfaction of the replete "provider"!

But, wait, some bits are left over that he just *can't* eat. Oh, dear. What to do with head, skin, legs, and offal? And only 10 hectares of farmland, not nearly enough room to dig a hole!

Ah, of course! Silly me! Do the Traditional Thing. Drive up into the National Park and dump it! (all that useless bush, those empty gullies...). Broom, broom. But then: "Oh, bugger, Park gate! Who put that there—and why?" Oh, well, here beside the car park will do! (Doink, off the back of the ute.) "No bugger will ever know." **(Not unless they have a nose! And eyes!!)**

.....

If you recognise this brilliant pastoral guru of whom I speak (or, indeed, *the RABBIT*), please remind him for me, nay, **for all of us**, that (a) it is illegal to butcher your own stock at home, and (b) it is both unlawful and bloody inconsiderate to dump the left overs on someone else's land, in this case **OURS—yours and mine**. (The latter (point 'b') applies equally to the RABBIT who dumps domestic or garden waste, or who burns off potential compost, on the Road Reserve.)

*So please, Mr R, if you insist on generating carrion (or weeds) at your place, why not dispose of it there also?*

### **STEELS CREEK TENNIS & SOCIAL CLUB – 'CHRISTMAS IN JUNE'**

This very successful annual event is to be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June**. An event not to be missed!

Once again revellers will gather at **Heather and Athol Smith's** – 300 Hunts Lane, Steels Creek. Sherries are at 7 p.m., followed by a sumptuous, traditional Christmas dinner. A raffle to raise funds for the club (with some terrific, locally donated prizes) will be held during the evening.

The cost is **\$20.00 a head** – **BYO** wine/beer, and although the Smith's house does stretch for this function, **numbers are limited**. To ensure your spot at this always popular annual get-together please contact **Jean Lowe** on **5965 2294** or **Lindy Montell** on **5965 2202**

### **LANDCARE**

On Saturday 28 May last, **Steels Creek Landcare Group** conducted its very first field activity. An initial small tree planting near the corner of Steels Creek Road and Gulf Road was undertaken. Despite threatening drizzly skies, about 25 members and supporters were present and planted approximately 100 trees, provided by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. **Councillor Di Moore** came along too. This is the first planting of a proposed series of plantings along the length of Gulf Road (weather, seasons and other projects permitting!). Following the tree planting, members gathered for a sausage sizzle at the home of **Tom, Sally and Margaret Belford** – thank you Margaret, for the hospitality and the warming soup!

The **next meeting** for the Steels Creek Landcare Group is planned for **8.00 PM on 22 June 2005 at SC4**. At this meeting, it is proposed to further consider issues suggested at the Public Meeting last March, as well as those raised by members, to determine what funds, resources and priorities would be appropriate. Developing a long term plan to deal with identified issues can then provide the framework for action in our local area.

All members, and anyone in our local community concerned with land degradation issues, including environmental issues, are encouraged to join us. *Have your say!* *New members are a still welcome and membership forms are available on request.* Contact **David Allan**, Secretary, on **5965 2556**.

### **RURAL LAW ONLINE – A New Legal Resource for Rural Communities – An initiative of the Victoria Law Foundation**

Rural communities, farmers and their families now have an important **new legal resource** at their fingertips. All Australians work and live under increasingly complex laws and regulation. For rural communities, quick access to *plain language* legal information can be especially difficult.

**Rural Law Online** draws on a team of independent legal experts to provide an up-to-date, plain language website, tailored to the needs of rural Victorians. Rural Law Online provides:

- Practical legal information on more than 170 law topics
- Discussion Forums – have your say and get feedback from legal experts
- Find-a-Service – matches your needs to an extensive list of advice and support services
- Links to relevant websites,
- Feature topics and Rural News
- A Legal Dictionary

**Rural Law Online** is a **free, web-based service** giving rural Victorians practical information on law and legal issues affecting their daily lives. Web topics include: Laws and our Legal System, Land and its Uses, Emergencies, Environment and Planning, Livestock, Pets and Wildlife, Crops, Business and Consumer Law, Employment Law, The Law and Families, Dealing with Government Departments and Resolving Disputes, and Vehicles and Firearms.

Go to [www.rurallaw.org.au](http://www.rurallaw.org.au) for further information.

### **DIG DEEP INTO STEELS CREEK MINING HISTORY (*you just might strike Gold!*)**

The latest publication of the **Yarra Glen & District Historical Society** has just been released. It is titled: **"RECOLLECTIONS AND RECORDS OF MINING AT STEELS CREEK, VICTORIA"**, and is now available at \$8.00 per copy.

This is **No.1** in a series of proposed publications on our local history and the anecdotes of former & current residents. To reserve your copy contact The Secretary, **Eric Tetlow**, on **9730 1445**.

### **DID ANYONE ELSE NOTICE?** (From a local pedant!)

For many years, there has been a road warning sign in Steels Creek Road, just south of the turn off into Old Kinglake Road. It warns drivers heading north that they are approaching an 'S' bend in Steels Creek Road.

"Yeah, right.", I hear you say – "What of it?" Well, for many years, the sign warned that the road *zigged* to the left, before it *zagged* to the right, whereas in the *real* world, the opposite is in fact true! It does not appear to be recorded how many drivers were fooled by this sign and took its incorrect advice literally. But it may be assumed that not many would have done so. If they had, by now there would have been quite a pile of rather bent cars amongst the trees near Old Kinglake Road! Rumours that the sign was installed by a council contractor with links to a car wrecking business have never been confirmed or denied.

But now all is well. Apparently the Shire must have realised that the sign was fooling no-one, and has recently replaced it with a new sign which actually shows the *zigs* and *zags* in the correct direction!

But the new sign has quite taken all the excitement out of life - I guess I'll just have to go back to watching the grass grow again .....

### **BIGGEST AFTERNOON TEA – A Big Success**

The **Steels Creek Stitches** would like to express their **sincere thanks** to all those who supported their recent **Biggest Afternoon Tea fundraiser** for the Cancer Council of Victoria. Sad though we were to be leaving Anita's Fudge Shop, our new venue of the Supper Room at the Memorial Hall did prove more spacious. It allowed us to also have a quilt display and a children's corner both of which proved popular.

**In all, we raised almost \$1600, a magnificent effort, thanks to wonderful local support.**

### **STEELS CREEK ART GROUP.**

It has taken several weeks to recover from this year's **Easter Art Show at Yering Station**. This year we can again report both an artistic and financial success. The number of entries was again a record, art works were of the highest standard, we sold over 20% of the works on display and we contributed \$3,500 to the Leukaemia Auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital. After four successful years, this regional art show has established itself on the calendar of the Yarra Valley. The chief organisers, **Chris and Christine Mullen**, wish to thank all those who gave of their time or money (sometimes both!) to make the Show such a success - "*Good on you, mates!*"

The Steels Creek Art Group continues to meet at the Community Centre (SC4) each Thursday afternoon (1.30 - 4.30 PM). This year our numbers have increased to eight and in the next few weeks we are going to consider future developments and activities. If you are interested in sketching, drawing or painting, come along one Thursday and see if you would like to join in - we are all learning! Contact **Malcolm** on **5965 2372**.

June 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Art. Social Tennis.	3	4 Tennis Comp.
5 Welsh Male Choir Concert (Healesville)	6 Women's Group. Social Tennis.	7 Ladies Tennis Comp. Stitchers.	8	9 Art. Social Tennis.	10 Movie. (The Horses Mouth)	11 Market.
12	13 Recycle. Social Tennis. <b>Queen's Birthday</b>	14 Ladies Tennis Comp. Garden-Craft Day.	15	16 Art. Social Tennis.	17	18 Tennis Comp. YG "Visions" Mtg  <b>'Shortest Lunch'</b>
19	20 Social Tennis.	21 Ladies Tennis Comp. Stitchers. Book Group.	22 LandCare Meeting	23 Art. Social Tennis.	24 Movie. (Jane Eyre)	25 Market. Tennis Comp. <b>Christmas in June.</b>
<b>'Shortest Lunch'</b>						
26 Clamberers.	27 Recycle. Growing Group. Social Tennis.	28 Ladies Tennis Comp.	29	30 SMB. Art. Social 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  
homes.

15 members – limited by CAE resources. Lively discussions in members'

Les Tomlins 5965 2080

#### CLAMBERERS

Last Sunday (April 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, or ring Margaret. *See also page 7*

Margaret Houston 9730 1957

#### GARDEN

Newsletter, Outings, November Show since 1992, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.AM at SC4 – all welcome. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Outings. **14<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30 AM. Craft Day at SC4 run by Chris Tomlins.** Bring along morning tea. **Potting group plants for sale.** *See Page 7 for more information.*

Jill Hess 9730 1960, Gillian Poulton 5797 8266

#### 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

#### MOVIES

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 / donation for film. *See page 7 for what's showing in June and July!*

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

#### LAND CARE GROUP

Bi-Monthly meetings or projects. Next meeting 22 June at SCCC – 8PM.

John O'Neill 6965 2224 or David Allan 5965 2556

July 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Women's Group. Social Tennis.	5 Ladies Tennis Comp. Stitchers.	6	7 Art. Social Tennis.	8 Movie. ( <i>I Was a Male WarBride</i> )	9 Market.
10	11 <b>Recycle.</b> Social Tennis.	12 Ladies Tennis Comp. Garden Outing.	13	14 Art. Social Tennis.	15	16 Tennis Comp.
17	18 Social Tennis.	19 Ladies Tennis Comp. Stitchers. Book Group.	20	21 Art. Social Tennis.	22 Movie. ( <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> )	23 Market. Tennis Comp.
24	25 <b>Recycle.</b> Growing Group. Social Tennis.	26 Ladies Tennis Comp.	27	28 SMB. Art. Social Tennis.	29	30 Tennis Comp.
31 Clamberers						

**Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling bin**

**SMB**

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at Cheese Freaks Café and Store, Yarra Glen

**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, 10 regulars. Work on community effort for afternoon tea raffle. Proceeds to Cancer Council, plus own work – knit, patch, embroider.

**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 (SC Teams currently 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>). **Also, see page 2 RE 'CHRISTMAS IN JUNE'!**

**WOMEN'S Evening Activities and Friendship Group**

Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7.30 at SC4. Come for company, crafts and coffee. **For the 6 June and 4 July meetings we plan to meet at J.J.'s Pizza Place in Yarra Glen, which is proving a popular venue.** You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat. *Contact Pam Verhoeven 5965 2274 for further details.*

**WELCOMING NEW -COMERS TO STEELS CREEK VALLEY**

From time to time properties change hands, people move on and new faces appear around the Valley. Some are moving here from not too far a-field, but others come from further away. Maybe they would like to get to find out what the community has to offer. Maybe it would be a useful and friendly thing to simply say "Hello" and perhaps **pass on a copy of this Community Newsletter.** If someone wants to get to know people and to find out what is going on around the Valley, what better way to do so than to contact the people listed on these pages! A friendly welcome is assured!

## NEW WINERIES OPEN THEIR CELLAR DOORS ALONG STEELS CREEK ROAD

It's all been happening lately along Steels Creek Road, on the winery front!

As anyone with up-to-date prescription glasses would have noticed (as well as those of us not so sight challenged), **Yileena Park** has recently opened their brand new tasting rooms in Steels Creek Road, opposite **Judy's Bio-dynamic Vegies**. If you have already visited (open Thursdays to Sundays), you will have noticed that **Bob** and **Dianne** have spared no expense with fitting out the new building – the workmanship of the timbered wall panelling, the fittings and the paintwork is quite stunning. They have an interesting range of wines – a Chardonnay, two Pinot-Noirs, a Merlot and two more Reds as well. **Dianne** has mentioned that later in the year, they are proposing to do platter type lunches. There is a stunning view from the deck in front of the tasting rooms, so lunch with a nice glass of something to go with it on a pleasant spring or summers day should be well worth waiting for. There is also a cosy fire place inside the tasting room for these chilly winter days.

Perhaps a bit less obvious, but no less worthy of welcome is the little boutique vineyard, winery and new cellar door of **Brammar Estate Winery**, opposite **Grapevine Cottage**. Look for their signs. **Ian** and **Wendy** grow, make and bottle all their own wine on the estate, right there in the shed that also doubles as the Cellar Door. Cellar Door is open on weekends only. Wines include a 2000 Merlot/Cabernet-Sauvignon/Cabernet-Franc blend, a 2001 Merlot/Cabernet-Sauvignon/Cabernet-Franc/Shiraz blend, 2001 Chardonnay/Verdehlo/Viognier blend, a 2001 Semillon/Sauvignon-Blanc/Gewurztraminer blend, as well as a 2001 Pinot Noir, a 2000 Viognier and a 2001 Pinot Gris.

These two wineries join the other existing Steels Creek wineries in making Steels Creek Valley a distinct 'valley within the Valley' destination for discerning wine lovers visiting the Yarra Valley wine region.

*Happy Wine tasting!!*

### **WOODY - an unfinished doggy storey..... (from Andrew Chapman)**

Recently we received a "bluey" (now a pink form) from the Mornington Peninsula Shire council concerning an unpaid fine for our now long departed but favourite dog **Woody**. He had been a black and white border collie cross who came to us at the age of 6 weeks from **Becky Morris**. One summer long ago, he had incurred the wrath of the Council by taking an unaccompanied walk along the beach front from Sorrento to Dromana and had ended up in the Dromana pound. Although this had happened over 10 years ago, the statute of limitations does not apply to unpaid council fines..

The Council's reminder brought to mind another time some three years earlier than this incident, when we really thought we had lost our Woody (or Collingwood, to give him his full name).

We had gone on a skiing holiday in July and had left Woody with our nephew in St Kilda. On our return, our nephew said that Woody had escaped in the night and had not returned.

We searched and searched. There were an incredible number of black and white dogs around each corner, but not our Woody. Reluctantly we realized that he was not going to return.

Some eight months later in the following summer, Becky Morris's father, **Mossie**, was shoeing one of our horses, and with his mouth full of nails casually mentioned that he had seen our dog sitting outside a house opposite the Yarra Glen Hunt Club.

With some scepticism, but buoyed by a belief in Mossie's gifted insight into the animal world, **Judith** set off to investigate.

A short time later, Judith and Woody, for it was indeed he, returned home! Apparently he had arrived near the Hunt Club, thin and weary, several months earlier.

If I ever I get to Heaven (an unlikely event, I hear you say), the first question that I will ask Woody (yes, there *are* dogs in Heaven) will be; "How on earth did you manage get from St Kilda to Yarra Glen!?"

## CLAMBERERS

*time to get out your wanderlust and take a hike!*

Our next walk is on **Sunday 26 June** and will be a local circuit in the Steels Creek area, lead by **David and Robyn**. We will meet at **10.45 AM** at the Steels Creek Picnic Ground in Old Kinglake Road. From here we will walk along Old Kinglake Road before leaving the road and climbing towards Mt Everard. After a well earned rest(!), we propose to follow the ridges south-east to the very top of Brennan Avenue spur, at the northern end of Yarra Ridge. From here it is generally all down hill back to the Picnic Ground. *Bring lunch, drink and clothing suitable for anticipated weather.* There are no toilets (except at David and Robyn's on the way down Brennan Avenue!)

The **July walk will be on Sunday 31 July**. It will be lead by **Barry Sheffield**, who will take us (by request) on a repeat of the popular Big Pats Creek – Richards Tramway timber track walk that we did last year. **Meet at 10.30 AM**, at the bridge on Big Pats Creek Road, 200 metres past the end of the bitumen, and three kilometres past Melway Reference 291 D12 (refer to that map!) Discover how Richards solved the riddle of how to get timber from his Starvation Creek mill to the broad gauge railhead at La La Siding (Warburton), via a steep and narrow strip of land at Big Pats Creek!



Clamberers having lunch at Big Pats Creek

**MOVIES** - 6PM at SC4 for a Light Dinner, followed by a Classic Movie. The next four movies are:

**10 June**            **The Horses Mouth** (1958) 93mins, Alec Guinness, Kay Walsh, Renée Houston, Ernest Thesiger:

*An obsessive painter is a liability to his friends. "A work of genius." (More from [www.AllMovie.com](http://www.AllMovie.com))*

**24 June**            **Jane Eyre** (1944) 96mins, Joan Fontaine, Orson Welles, Margaret O'Brien, Agnes Moorehead, Elizabeth Taylor, John Abbott:

*"The essentials are still there; and the nonessentials such as gloom, shadow, mist have been redoubled and magnified." (More from [www.AllMovie.com](http://www.AllMovie.com))*

**8 July**              **I Was a Male War Bride** (1949) 105mins. Howard Hawks: Cary Grant, Ann Sheridan:

*A WAC in Europe marries a French officer and can't get him home. "Cary Grant pretends to be a Frenchman (and later a Frenchwoman)... not likely to appeal to the prudish." (More from [www.AllMovie.com](http://www.AllMovie.com))*

**22 July**            **A Farewell to Arms** (1932) 78mins,            Novel by Hemingway: Gary Cooper, Helen Hayes, Adolphe Menjou, Jack La Rue:

*A wounded American ambulance driver falls in love with his nurse. "Cooper at his youngest and sexiest – moving from drunkenness to intoxication." (More from [www.AllMovie.com](http://www.AllMovie.com))*

*"See you at the Movies!"*

### **GRAND SALE!, GRAND SALE! - Roll up One and All!!**

The **Garden Club** will have **plants**, including natives, raised by the Growing Group **for sale at 9.30am on the Craft Day at SC4 on 14 June**. Non Garden Club members are welcome to come just for the plant sales. We're rapidly running out of space in the shade house and need to sell some plants to make room to accommodate more plants!!!!

CROSS CREEK 9 © J&J Wordsmiths

**Across**

- 1. ----- Art Show (6)
- 5. Very appealing (4)
- 7. Normal (5)
- 8. Cosy and warm (4)
- 9. Russian John (4)
- 10. Hint of colour (5)
- 11. No interest (6)
- 13. May's harvest? (4)
- 14. Victoria's first vineyard (6)
- 18. Montezuma's revenge (6)
- 21. US State bordering L. Erie (4)
- 22. Dextrous (6)
- 24. Establish (3,2)
- 25. German frontier river (4)
- 26. No feeling (4)
- 27. Proof of innocence (5)
- 28. Seas are never always this (4)
- 29. Smaller amount (6)

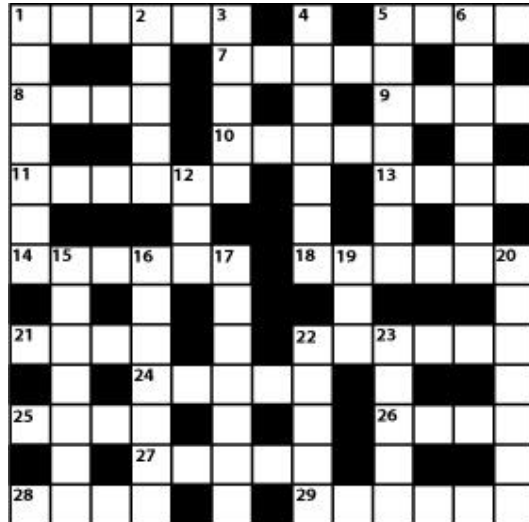
**Down**

- 1. Dangerous party drug (7)
- 2. Drums and drunks (5)
- 3. Red dog's name? (5)
- 4. Right gives way to left (7)
- 5. Customers (7)
- 6. One who is disloyal (7)
- 12. Her pre-wedding party (3)
- 15. Prickly monotreme (7)
- 16. A light globe brand-- ----- (2,5)
- 17. Of the stomach (6)
- 19. Commonest linker (3)
- 20. Was the eighth month (7)
- 22. ----- June, and November (5)
- 23. Ladder links (5)

CROSS CREEK 8 Answers

**Across**

- 1. Angular 4. Babel 7. Western 8. Delay 9. Autumn 12. Anaconda
- 15. Telegram 17. Yellow 18. Ousel 21. England 22. Hanks 23. Sausage
- Down** 1. Alphabet 2. Useful 3. Reef 4. Band
- 5. Beeline 6. Lazy 10. Nacre 11. Balmy 13. Anywhere 14. Glisten
- 16. Blinks 18. Oath 19. Lees 20. Ages



**OWNERSHIP / CIRCULATION**

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**HOOGIES**  
OF YARRA GLEN



*Ask us...*

**DEADLINE** for the next *Jolly Thing* is Sunday 31 July 2005

Editor: Chris Mullen 5965 2094

[thejollything@fullandplenty.com](mailto:thejollything@fullandplenty.com)



*Added note to Electronic JT - Launch of*  
**YARRA GLEN “VALUES & VISION” PROJECT**  
Stage 1

**Yarra Glen Memorial Hall**

**12 noon, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Join us for a free sausage sizzle, tea & coffee between 1 lam & 2pm

There will be copies of the project report, community displays and plenty of opportunities to talk. A good community response to this event will help us move forward with this important project and the formalization of a Yarra Glen Township Group. It will also strengthen our involvement with the Shire and ensure that our views are known.

**Come along and be part of the action!**

YARRA GLEN INTERIM TOWNSHIP GROUP