



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 64 (December '06-January 2007) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

- The Great Pumpkin is moving!*** – Page 3
Supermarket Proposal BACK IN THE NEWS – Page 6
Fireguard Groups Established to Help in the Bushfire Season – Page 3

COMMUNITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN ***ON HOLD***

We had hoped that by now we would be well into the project of developing a plan for the Steels Creek Community Centre. However, we are waiting on a condition and status report on the present Community Centre and associated buildings from the Shire. This report will be available shortly. On Monday Nov. 27 the property consultants that manage Shire properties spent a couple of hours looking around and taking notes so we really can expect a report, perhaps before Christmas!

We are sorry it is taking so long to get things underway, but really it is essential for us to understand any issues or constraints we may face in thinking through our plan. There really is no point in holding meetings without this information. We are doing our best to hurry things along and we have strong support from Councillor Jeanette McRae to get the plan completed.

In the mean time we have spoken with several of our community groups and with Shire staff, and we believe that there is a good deal of consensus regarding our overall needs for an appropriate Community Centre. We will be preparing notes from the ideas we have been given, including those from the Annual General Meeting and Special Community Meeting last month. Once we get the Shire report we expect to hold the first Working Group meeting as soon as possible after that, and there will be a report outlining progress in the next Jolly Thing, due out at the start of February, 2007.

We apologise for this delay, but in the end the information we are waiting for will speed up our discussions once they start. Please contact members of the Community Committee if you have any comments or ideas you want included in the discussions. All ideas are welcome.

Thank you for your commitment to this process. 28/11/06

Malcolm Calder, President
Ed. Bartosh, Secretary
Steels Creek Community Centre

PS: The draft minutes of the AGM and SGM are on the web site at :

www.YarraGlen.com/steelscreek/

NB: This year's SC4 History Prize, the book Historica, will be awarded by Eric Tetlow, on behalf of the Committee, to the Yarra Glen Primary School.

“Rain, rain, go away, come again another day”

Well it did and despite the ever present threat of rain (and boy how we need it) the day passed with nary a drop falling; an intrepid 26 players competed in the **Third Steels Creek Croquet Tournament**.

Bill the ground keeper had been ecstatic with the approach of rain, as he does not like people walking on the lawn, but the sky stayed dry and he was last seen throwing stones into the dry bed of Steels Creek in disgust.

Early arrivals and new to the area **Mike and Ann Watkins** were bang on time and could have been forgiven for thinking the event had been cancelled, but soon the numbers swelled with the arrival of the **Leckies, Lowes, Houstons, Mullens** and **Verhovens** (the latter couple in their gleaming '47 Oldsmobile), some Melbourne friends and family also added to the numbers, and, after suitable refreshment, for the sun was broaching the yard arm, play commenced.

The state of play was noticeably more subdued this day than in the past, and the referee was not called upon nearly as frequently to display his ignorance of the rules. Though the absence of the **Houghton** girls whose knowledge of the rules is second to none, did in the eyes of the writer take from the event a small slice of joy.

Up till now the ever vocal **Ed Bartosh** had not won this event but when he and **Betty Taylor** beat the **Leckies** the new champions became apparent and **Ed and Betty** had won the day.

Andrew Chapman Keeper of Courts

“The McPhersons of Yarra Glen ” Reissue of 1992 Classic

Your chance to own a piece of local history

Although well recognised by local historians as a key contribution to the story of European settlement in the Kangaroo Ground and Yarra Glen area, Muriel Watson's book has, to date, remained somewhat of a 'secret treasure'. Being a private publication, copies were never abundant and the work has therefore not received wide public exposure. *The McPhersons of Yarra Glen* was originally published privately by the author, Muriel Watson, in 1992.

A large number of other local family names appear throughout the work and are placed in clear genealogical context. A surprising number of local lineages are shown to intertwine with the McPherson family line. Moreover, the author shares with the reader details of numerous relationships of McPherson family members with friends, neighbours and townspeople.

A very comprehensive index, compiled by YG&DHS member Helen Mann, has been added in this edition and will greatly aid any reader or researcher in accessing the abundance of local references contained in this work.

\$ 24 from the Secretary, Eric Tetlow, 9730 1445. etetlow@alphalink.com.au

“Phenomena At Steele's Creek (sic)” a Short Story by Louis H. Clark

In this 1500 word account there is chat about ghosts playing music and a lassie named Amelia. Recently a neighbour found the wreckage of an ancient piano in the exact area described in the story.... the mysteries continue.

From "The Progressive Woman" May 1958

ONLY 29% Households Are In Touch – Community Fireguard Groups

Telephone trees are in place for approximately 65 households in Steels Creek. These effective communication links have proven effective in spreading accurate information and instructions in past emergencies. More folks should sign on to save property and lives in times of need.

If you are not covered and would like to participate contact one of the existing groups or set up your own network. This is all done in conjunction with CFA organization and educational programmes.

The Crest, Valley Road, Uplands		22 Households
Peta Whitford 9730 1155		
Brennan Avenue, Old Kinglake Road		14 Households
James Scott 5965 2575		
Hunts, Steels Creek Road, Old Kinglake, Mt Slide		12 Households
Keith Montell 5965 2202	0427 771 616	
Greenwood, Hargreaves, Sewell, Harvey		16 Households
Keith Montell 5965 2202	0427 771 616	
(Keith has taken over from Georgina Rowley for both groups)		

Monday Night Ladies Last Meeting 4th December Resuming 1st Monday February

Watch the Jolly Thing for a possible new venue.

Movie Club

Thanks to all patrons; thanks to **Betty Taylor** for the loan of her loudspeakers; thanks to the **Montell family** for replacement speakers; thanks to the **Calder family** for the black out curtains. Thanks to **Zorro** for moving on.

A survey of 219 new film titles was passed around at the last meeting of the year; anyone wishing to influence the choices please advise. We will resume regular screening in February 2007; meanwhile see you at the cinema!

The First Yarra Glen Show was organized in 1901

Yarra Glen Roads and Streets explained by name; Bill Lawrence was active in the Yarra Glen Show in the 1930s and it is for him that Steels Creek's **Lawrence Lane** is named.

From the current edition of the YG&D Historical Newsletter. **Secy Eric Tetlow**

HEWI has a new colourful online Newsletter Format Check it out:

<http://hewi.friends.melbournewater.com.au>

The Great Pumpkin is Moving!

Germination has occurred and the contestants are tending their crops in rapt anticipation of exciting results in spite of frost, hail, heat and cold Still not too late to obtain seeds:

Each participant invested in three seeds; here are the germination reports: Malcom Calder 2/3, John Houston n/a, Albert Leckie 5/3, Morgan Calder n/a, Ivan Filsell n/a, Christine Mullen 2/3, John O'Neill n/a, Jeff Summerscales n/a, Brett Travis n/a, Christine Tomlins n/a, Ray Dahlstrom n/a.

(n/a means nothing available – please phone in your results; if germination is a problem contact Christine for new seeds ASAP.)

Christine Mullen 5965 2094 John O'Neill 5965 2224

Rainfall Report – Rainfall in the Steels Creek area up to 30 November 2006.

Gauge Location	October 2006 (mm)	November 2006 (mm)	YTD (mm) 2006	YTD (mm) 2005
'Newera', Brennan Avenue	13.5	27.0	504.1 (approx)	671.8
'Blackwood Hill', Pinnacle Lane	13.3	17.8	507.4	668.7
'Yarradene Farm', Yarra Ridge	17.5	33.0	519.0	695.0

December 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3	4 Women's Group	5 Stitchers S&S	6	7 Art Social Tennis.	8	9 Market Tennis Comp
10 History	11 Recycle Ladies Lunch	12 Ladies Tennis Garden Outing	13	14 Social Tennis.	15	16 Tennis Comp CHRISTMAS CAROLS
17	18	19 Book Group Stitchers S&S	20	21 Art Social Tennis	22	23
24	25 Recycle CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	27	28 SMB Social Tennis	29	30
31 NEW YEARS EVE	NEW YEARS DAY					

Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling bin

ART

Thursdays - 1:30 PM – 4.30 PM SCCC Bring your paints, discuss your art and share skills.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

BOOK GROUP

4th Tuesday - 8.00 PM 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. 3rd Tuesday in December moving to 4th in January

Christine 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 SCCC Market beforehand.

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

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, 930 am at SC4 – all welcome. 12th December, Hedgend Maze Outing, meet 9:30 at McKenzie Reserve.

Chris Lumsden 9730 1136, Gillian Poulton 5797 8266

HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch Inc)

Environmental issues at 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 1:30 pm YG Living & Learning Centre: www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au

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

MARKET

2nd and 4th Saturdays at SCCC, 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! One market December 9th only.

Jean Lowe 5965 2294

SC3 = SC4 =SCCCC = Steels Creek Community (and Cultural) Centre, 699 Steels Creek Road

January 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day	2 The Day After the Night Before	3	4	5	6
7	8 Recycle	9 S&S	10	11 Social Tennis	12	13 Market
14 History	15	16 Stitchers SINGING	17	18 Art Social Tennis	19	20
21	22 Recycle	23 S&S SINGING Book Group	24	25 SMB Art Social Tennis	26 <i>Australia Day</i>	27 Market
28 Tennis Club Open Day	29 Garden Club Growing Group Social Tennis	30 S&S SINGING	31			

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
2nd and 4th Fridays – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic 16mm films at SC4.

SINGING

Angie Macmillan 97301998
TUESDAY EVENINGS 7.30PM 22 WALLACE ROAD, CHRISTMAS HILLS Resumes in New Year.

SMB

Gordon Brown 9730 1937
Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at Anita's **DELICIOUS** Fudge Shoppe Yarra Glen.

STITCHERS & S&S

Jane Calder 5965 2372, Christine Tomlins 5965 2080
Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SC4. Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Bring own work – knit, patch, embroider – Informal "Sit & Sew" alternate Tuesdays.

TENNIS

Albie Leckie 5965 2354, Lindy Montell 5965 2202
Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 100 active and social members. Mondays, 7.00 PM, Social tennis (starting in warmer weather). Tuesdays 10.00 AM, Mid-week ladies competition. Thursdays 7.15 PM, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 6 PM, Regular competitions. **Ladies Lunch** 2nd Monday; bring a plate to share; just a chat and a feed at the tennis club 11:00 am – 1:30 all welcome!.

WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Activities and Friendship Group

Pam Verhoven 5965 2274
1st Monday, 7.00 at JJ's in Yarra Glen. Come for company, conversation and coffee. You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat. Kitchen will be open.

NB: Many groups have changed times for holiday periods; check ahead to 'double make sure.'

Clamberers

On Sunday 25 November, the last Clamberers walk for 2006 was held in the One Tree Hill Reserve. We were rewarded with wonderful sunny weather, a light cooling breeze, lots of bird calls in the trees and good company. We also enjoyed a wonderful (very) close encounter of the fascinating kind with an echidna that seemed totally unconcerned with us gawping at its antics as it searched for ants in the bush and even around our feet.

Thanks to all who have helped with leading walks during the year. Clamberers will now take a break over the hotter months **until late March 2007**.

David & Robyn Allan - Ph 5965 2556.

Supermarket Progress Report

"On Tuesday, November 28 Yarra Ranges Shire Council agreed to ask the Minister of Planning to appoint a panel to consider all submissions made about the Supermarket development in Yarra Glen. This is a normal process adopted by local governments in Victoria when very controversial planning matters come up for discussion. There was only standing room left in the public gallery when the matter came to Council and the greater majority of those present expressed their opposition to the Amendment. Spokesperson for the objectors, former Healesville Shire Councillor Veronica Holland, presented a very strong case as to why the motion should be abandoned. While Chris O'Connor, on behalf of the developers, outlined the group's commitment to establishing the wetland area and the lengths his group had gone to meet community concerns regarding the building and car park site.

In supporting the position the Shire has adopted, Councillor Jeanette McRae explained later that the appointment of a panel would enable all the submissions, for and against, to be clarified and considered more objectively. The motion asks the panel to **"advise on design issues associated with: the functional integration of the proposed development with the Yarra Glen town centre; the location of the proposed car park; the scale and visual impact of the proposed building; and its impact on residential amenity"**. These reflect the main issues raised by many objectors.

All those who have made submissions will be given the opportunity to appear before the panel, probably in February or March, to put their case and answer questions. The Panel Report will come back to the Shire 4 - 6 weeks after the hearings for further consideration and eventual adoption or abandonment. In other words, debate is not yet finished and if you want to have your say you should contact Cr McRae or write to the Shire."

STEELS CREEK TENNIS & SOCIAL CLUB

Have you got your tickets? Some great prizes to be won. The annual raffle will be drawn during Carols by Candlelight at the Community Centre on December 16th.

Thursday evening tennis for big hitters is continuing and Monday under the lights, for new players and the less experienced, has recommenced. Meet at 7.15 p.m. **New players always welcome.**

Our Mid-week Ladies team is enjoying a successful season and will be playing in the finals this week.

The Tennis Club will be holding an Open Day on Sunday, 28th January. 11 a.m. start for a hit of tennis before the bar-b-que at 12-12.30. Bring your own drinks and meat and a salad or dessert to share. **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Alby on 5965 2354 or Lindy on 5965 2202

Road Worthy or a Worthy Road?

"A Steels Creek resident reports that the confusing new road markings at the junction of Pinnacle Lane with Steels Creek Road will be modified shortly by the Shire to better reflect the normal traffic movement at the site"

STEELS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

At last we have some money! The long awaited grant from the Enviro fund has at last materialised in our bank account giving us the funds to start the weed control and planting program we have been talking about for months.

We were strongly advised not to commit any of the funds until we actually received them. This proved to be good advice as it has taken nine months from starting the application to actual receipt of funds. The delay has probably saved us a lot of heartache as, if we had planted in winter/spring, by now we would be watching young plants dry up. We now have time to prepare for autumn/winter planting if the drought breaks.

Meanwhile the council has completed clearance pruning along Steels Creek Rd. and has done a pretty neat job. Now mowing is well advanced, normally I complain that they mow too early before native wildflowers have set seed, but not this year most are well and truly dry.

Ivan Filsell Steels Creek Road Project T 5965 2248

One Short of A Quartet?

Several lads have tried out the A Capella singing group directed by Angie MacMillian. This has proved a boon to domestic bliss as well as abdominal strength, improved breathing and improved ability to carry tunes without the assistance of basketry.

The informal gatherings usually amount to two or three chaps and six or seven women but the professional direction by Angie produces some amazing sounds. Working in her dedicated recording studio we actually make CDs to analyse the music and so improve. If you are finding Tuesdays an unmusical bore and need some breathy exercise come along.

There may be some rogue appearances during the holiday season but regular sessions return in the new year.

Friends of the Yarra Flats Billabongs

Working Bees will continue on the 3rd Saturday of each second month.

Next is 2006 December 16th 9am –12 Noon

Garden Club Christmas Break Up Tuesday 12 December

Fairyland North

For those of you sceptics who need a little boost; try a drive along Greenwood Lane to the north of Steels Creek. The domestic post boxes have taken a fantastical turn! From The Adams Family to Vlad's to Toad Stools, to Woodland Scenes, these otherwise functional catchments have been transformed into works of fantasy. It is impossible to know just how this has happened or why but there if you want a spell cast in your direction you may find the source if you look closely and keep an open mind and heart!

Steels Creek: a state of mind !

CROSS CREEK 18 © J&J Wordsmiths

Across

1. Pound Bend miners did this (8)
5. Much-loved Victorian National Park (4)
7. It's both Far and Near (4)
8. Market day (8)
9. Pinnacle Laner or State Highway (6)
12. Turning base metals to gold (7)
15. Gardeners' day (7)
19. 19 Down plus one (6)
21. Listed in the Atomic Table (8)
22. An equal horse? (prefix) (4)
23. Unwelcome in local gardens (4)
24. It needs pricking out (8)

Down

1. Ditch(6)
2. Well known (5)
3. Accurate beam (5)
4. To appoint to a particular task (6)
5. Burgoyne is our local one (6)
6. Distressing 1st of May? (6)
10. Hunts or Greenwood (4)
11. Dame - Lyons, our 1st woman MHR(4)
12. The Johnson who flew here solo in 1930 (3)
13. Best leave these Andean leaves alone (4)
14. Thanks Chris, that you do this for TJJ (4)
15. To needle through a crowd, perhaps? (6)
16. Time to bring out the UV cream (6)
17. Corrects (6)
18. Not seeds, but fabric (6)
19. Not real jewellery (5)
20. Did he name our district? (5)

CROSS CREEK 17 Answers

Across

1. Landcare 5. Shed 7. Gwen 8. Ben Cairn 9. Revere 12. Stashes
15. Art Show 19. Mia Mia 21. Westrail 22. Omni
23. Yeth 24. Examiner

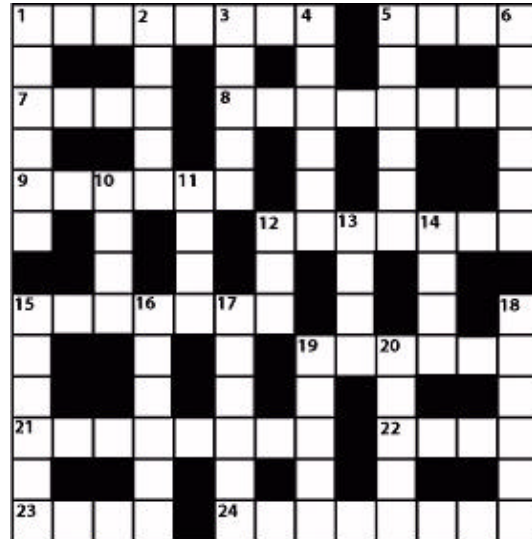
Down

1. Ligers 2. Dente 3. Albie 4. Ernest 5. Stains 6. Dances 10.
- Vent 11. Rush 12. Saw 13. Anti 14. Haem 15. Airway 16. Stitch
17. Octave 18. Napier 19. Melba 20. Aioli

For photos and club archives

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

Combined property values in excess of
\$5 Million
 have recently sold in the area. Welcome
 to the Toorak of the Yarra Valley!



220 Print / 125 Email / 13 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: **Malcolm Calder**, President; **Alby Leckie**, Vice-president; **Keith Montell**, Treasurer; **Ed Bartosh**, Secretary, with **Geoff Keets**, **Greg Leonard**, **Vicky Stewart**, and **David Allan** elected as members.
<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>

Circulated free to letter boxes, front gate poly pipes, the post office and SC4; postal subscription is available for \$5 send or free via the internet send your details please. Editor Chris Mullen 5965 2094; Circulation: Malcolm Calder 5965 2372. thejollything@fullandplenty.com

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



No worries!

DEADLINE 30th January 2007
 for the next *Jolly Thing*