



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 65 (February-March 2007) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

Kunzea peduncularis & Kunzea leptospermoides find out more - Page 3
A Dog Gone Shame K9 vs. Homo Sapiens - Page 7
Jeane and Johnne Lowe Saye Goode Bye - Page 6

SUPERMARKET Submits to Further Hearings

On 7th Feb 2PM at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, a "Directions Hearing" will be held to gather further information in support of submissions regarding the Planning Permit Application YR 2006/983 locally known as the Supermarket project. This hearing shapes the procedures and outcomes of the actual subsequent "real" hearing where the 'panel' of two will proceed to determine the outcomes of this issue. More information available from Nicole Maloney 9637 9706 or Kris Hansen 9294 6195.

All submissions must be completed before COB 5 February 2007

ART ALONE ENDURES – Three Important Exhibitions *Imminent!*

4 Feb 1PM Christine Mullen & Jo Brazil at Lovegrove Winery Cottles Bridge till 1 April. Mel:263 K1

23 Feb 6-8PM Margaret Houston, Noel Nicolson, Cherry Manders, Marina Campbell, and Sharon Rodwell at Domaine Chandon till 31 March. Mel: 276 C 8

6 to 9 April **The Grand Easter Exhibition (aka: Yarra Glen Art Show)** at Balgownie Estate. Artist's entry forms now available; volunteers please reserve some time prior to, during and after the above dates to assist with this community event! More shortly. Contact: **Christine Mullen 5965 2094**

Fires Strike Steels Creek Area for the **Second Year in a Row**

This year the fires in Victoria have been massive in area and frighteningly destructive, especially in the forested country to our east. The resources of the State and the selfless good will of thousands of volunteers have been stretched to the limit. We all owe them our heart-felt thanks.

The CFA, Red Cross and other volunteers responded to yet another fire threat to Steels Creek and surrounding areas. The fires that threatened us on Saturday 6 Jan were deliberately lit at the top end of Mt Slide Road and much closer than last year. Thank you to all who responded quickly and battled for over 24 hours to get the fire under control.

Please continue to be vigilant and report **anything** suspicious.

Parks Victoria - **Kinglake National Park** staff along with neighbouring Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) staff at Toolangi and Broadford, have been deploying regular crews to wild-fire hotspots all over the state since 2 December 2006. It was not just fire-fighters being deployed, but all the support that is required to keep them fed, supplied and accommodated whilst fire fighting. The main fire destinations were Mansfield and Orbost. The skills and experiences gained by ground crews, fire tower spotting, logistics and command, from our own large Kinglake - Australia Day Wildfire during 2006 were utilised in the latest round of fires. Similarly, our own local fire-fighters are gaining valuable skills from far flung regions of the state which may prove invaluable in the event of "our own patch" being threatened again.

More to *LEAVING* than a Leisurely Drive Down Steels Creek Road ...

Leaving the bush fire area successfully requires careful preparation. Know when to leave; leave it not too late! In addition to your prized possessions, pets and people you should have an emergency pack always ready to go including torch and radio, breathing masks, bottled water, phone numbers, first aid kit, woollen blankets. It would be prudent to consider a chain saw depending on your road and the condition of the trees. It is no coincidence that the council has been madly pruning in our area.

For some really awesome photographs of the fire FROM ABOVE,
contact John / Jenny Barnett [barnetts185@bigpond.com]

Yarra Glen RSL Sub Branch Elects New Officers

The Yarra Glen RSL Sub Branch elected its officers for the year 2007 at its Annual General Meeting on 21st January 2007. The officers are Ted Bowling, President, Neil Eagle, Vice-President, Ed Bartosh, Secretary, and Peter Morley, Treasurer. Outgoing President, John Gosling, OAM, was thanked for his long service as President and member of the Sub-Branch.

For membership information, stop by on a Friday or visit <http://www.rslvic.com.au/> on the web and see the membership pages.

Ed Bartosh 9730 2858

Rainfall – December 2006 and January 2007 - the Controversy Continues!!!

Gauge Location	Dec 2006 (mm)	Total '06 (mm)	Total '05 (mm)	Jan 2007 (mm)	Jan 2006 (mm)
'Newera', Brennan Avenue	37.5	568.6	748.7	24.7 (to 27/1)	65.4
'Blackwood Hill', Pinnacle Lane	43.7	551.0	746.0	28.0 (to 27/1)	73.3
'Yarradene Farm', Yarra Ridge	53.0	572.0	790.0	25.5 (to 27/1)	65.0

At 'Blackwood Hill', **Malcolm Calder** reports that 2006 has been the driest year they have recorded in 21 years, although 1997 was nearly as dry, (553 mm). Their 21-year mean is 795 mm. It is interesting to note the 10-year mean from 1986 to 1995 was 850 mm, and the 10-year mean from 1996 to 2005 was 764 mm. So we seem to be getting gradually drier (surprise, surprise).

At 'Yarradene Farm', **Greg Leonard** reports that his average for the past six years is 760 mm, with 2004 the highest at 883 mm.

At 'Wandearah', **Barry Sheffield** reports 1997 was the lowest with 497.8 mm, 2006 was 512.2 mm, 1979 was 536.7 mm & 1982 was 549.8 mm while the highest was 1989 with 941.7 mm.

My average for 1977 to 2006 is 736.6 mm. The Bureau of Meteorology figures for Yarra Glen recorded between 1890 & 1974 produced an average of 765 mm.

Garden Club BBQ for All the Family

Tuesday 13 February 2007 at 6.30pm. at Ann McDonnell and Lyn Taylor's place, 1995 Melba Highway, Dixons Creek. (3rd driveway on left past Berry Café) BYO meat etc. Salad or sweet to share. BYO chairs.

More info: 5797 8266

Kunzea peduncularis & Kunzea leptospermoides Burgan mean anything to you?

This plant has recently been split into several species, 2 of which occur within the Shire of Yarra Ranges. To decide where each species occurs I need specimens collected from **wild growing**, not garden, plants. If you are interested in collecting some specimens for me please

be in touch for further details.
Marilyn Gray, on 9294 6298. ext. 298

Global Warming Workshop: Developing Practical & Local Solutions

Following on the screening of An Inconvenient Truth attended by more than 100 people, this workshop will focus on networking and continuing the good works.

Facilitator: Lou Sbalchiero Date: 7:00pm Tuesday 6 February

Venue: Supper Room, Healesville Memorial Hall, Main Street Healesville

Contact Maureen, PH. 5962 1224 Email: hewisec@bigpond.com

Also check out the HEWI Newsletter: hewi.friends.melbournewater.com.au

Steels Creek Community Helps Clean Up Australia 4 March

Steels Creek Community and Yarra Glen Tree Group will again register to help **Clean Up Australia** on Sunday 4th March. 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 grounds 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**

GIS to the Rescue! Excellent Arial Photos at a Great Price

If you want a localized or general photo of your property for approximately \$ 45; be in touch with: **Scott Davidson** GIS Officer Geographic Information Systems - IT Services

Yarra Ranges Shire Council Ph: (03) 9294 6170 E-Mail: s.davidson@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

24 Feb Saturday; 10-2 H'ville Living and Learning Centre; Malcolm and Jane Calder
present: **Water Wise Gardening** ... bookings: contact SUE 5962 5982

10 Years and 1500 People are all wetter and better?

The Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Management Program has successfully helped local landowners with fencing, off stream stock watering, weed control, revegetation and maintenance of existing projects as well as proving educational opportunities. Get with the programme. Contact

Rob Dabal [rob.dabal@melbournewater.com.au] 9712 2266

Would you be interested if a truck yard & workshop with associated heavy vehicle traffic were to be established in Steels Creek? Contact John O'Neill 0418260227(6.30AM-6.30PM)

NB: Calendar notes expanded below or in the Jolly Thing !

February 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Art Social Tennis.	2	3 Tennis Comp YG SHOW
4 ART Exhibition at Lovegrove	5 Recycle Women's Group Social Tennis.	6 Ladies Tennis Stitchers SINGING Warming Workshop	7 <i>Directions Hearing for Supermarket 2PM</i>	8 Art Social Tennis.	9	10 Market Tennis Comp
11 The Lowe Good Bye Tennis Club History	12 Ladies Lunch Social Tennis.	13 Ladies Tennis Garden BBQ SSS** SINGING	14	15 Art Social Tennis	16	17 Tennis Comp Flats Working Bee
18	19 Recycle Garden Club Social Tennis.	20 Ladies Tennis Stitchers SINGING	21 .	22 SMB Art Social Tennis	23 ART Exhibition at Domaine Chandon	24 Market Tennis Comp Water Wise Gardening
25	26 Growing Group Social Tennis.	27 Ladies Tennis SSS** SINGING Book Group	28			

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. Page One for exhibitions.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

BOOK GROUP

4th Tuesday - 8.00 PM 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC.

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.
Working Bees third Saturday of every second month starting in Saturday 17 February 9 – 12 noon

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.
BBQ 13 Feb. See Page 2 for details. Tuesday 13 March 2007 Blue Lotus Water Gardens Yarra Junction Meet at 9.30am
McKenzie Reserve More info 5797 8266

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.yarraqlenhistorical.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!

March 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Art Social Tennis	2	3 Tennis Comp Semi-Finals Welsh Choir
4 Clean Up Australia Day	5 Recycle Women's Group Social Tennis.	6 Ladies Tennis Stitchers SINGING	7	8 Art Social Tennis	9 Movie Colonel Blimp	10 Market
11 History	12 Ladies Lunch Social Tennis. LABOUR DAY	13 Garden Outing Ladies Tennis SSS** SINGING	14	15 Art Social Tennis	16	17 Tennis Comp Grand Finals
18	19 Recycle Social Tennis.	20 Ladies Tennis Stitchers SINGING	21	22 Art Social Tennis	23	24 Market Scottish Day Gulf Station
25 Clamberers Daylight Savings Time Ends	26 Garden Club Growing Group Social Tennis	27 Ladies Tennis SSS** SINGING Book Group	28	29 SMB Art Social Tennis	30	31

SC3 = SC4 =SCCCC = Steels Creek Community (and Cultural) Centre, 699 Steels Creek Road
Grand Easter Exhibition 8-9 April

LAND CARE GROUP

Ongoing projects and a great opportunity to obtain information, advice and possibly funding about tackling Landcare issues of significance to YOU! ' John O'Neill 6965 2224 or David Allan 5965 2556

MOVIES

2nd Fridays – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic 16mm films at SC4. Chris Mullen 5965 2094, chris@fullandplenty.com

SINGING

A-Capella men and women folk songs Tuesday evenings 7.30pm 25 Wallace road, off Skyline Drive Angie Macmillan 97301998

SMB

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

STITCHERS

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

TENNIS

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 100 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 2nd Monday; bring a plate to share; just a chat and a feed at the tennis club 11:00 am – 1:30 all welcome! Summer Finals in March – new season starts April 21. See Alby by Feb 17 to join a team for the Winter season. Albie Leckie 5965 2354, Lindy Montell 5965 2202

WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Activities and Friendship Group

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.** Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

Three Creekers Croak for the Choir!

The **Melbourne Welsh Male Choir** is featuring three people from our own Steels Creek community in its next major concert. **Beth Williams** (Mezzo-Soprano) plus **Edd Williams** (Beth's father) and **Henry Verhoeven** (both 1st tenors in the choir) will be appearing at **Malvern Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 3rd March**. This **St David's Day Concert** will also feature as guest artists, the **Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir**, plus **Alannah Guthrie-Jones** on harp. Beth Williams will sing both as a Soloist and with the choir of more than 60 men. Tickets are available for \$25 each (children under 12, \$15) from 9893 6016 or www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au or tickets can be ordered from:

Henry Verhoeven at **10% discount** by ringing 5965 2274 or 0409 040 775

STEELS CREEK TENNIS & SOCIAL CLUB: HELLO, GOOD BY, HELLOOOO!

The Tennis Club will hold a thank-you and farewell get-together for **John and Jean Lowe** who will shortly be moving to Lilydale. A Bar-B-Que is to be held at the Courts at 6 p.m. on Sunday, 11 February. **ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME**. BYO chairs, drinks, food and a plate to share.

The Tennis Club raffle was drawn on 16 December. Winners were 1st prize: **David & Robyn Allan**; 2nd prize **Brian Sheehan**; 3rd prize Loretta Chiquin; 4th prize **Michelle Marshall**; 5th prize **Keith Cantle**; 6th prize **Kylie Paton**; 7th prize **Fiona Verhoeven**. Thanks go to our generous sponsors – Cru Restaurant, Balgownie Estate, Toolangi Tavern, De Bortoli; and the International at Lilydale.

The Club House has benefited from a recent facelift including new tiles, table and chairs – seeing is believing! See pictures from the open day on their web site www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/.

The Mid-Week ladies team were runners-up in Section 3, Season 2, 2006.

The new Season for Saturday tennis will commence in April. **NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**. The Summer season resumes in February. Social tennis on Monday nights will continue at least until March after which continuation will depend on participation. Thursday night social tennis for the harder hitter is going strong.

Contact Alby 5965 2354 if interested in playing either socially or as part of a team.

Kinglake National Park News: Fires & more fires!

With everyone feeling the pressure of the drought and wishing for a longer spell of rain, rangers last weekend noticed that the Masons Falls had stopped flowing for the first time in 3-years. A ranger greeted walkers on the falls walk who asked the question, "Can you still call Masons Falls, the falls if there's no water flowing?" The ranger said yes we still call it Masons Falls.

Feeding Wildlife during the drought: Yes or No?

A recently inquiry from a resident who wanted to know if it was OK to feed and place water out for the birds near her place because of the drought conditions. The Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) manages all the Wildlife related management issues in the state of Victoria on all public land and private land. Geoff McClure a DSE – Wildlife Officer from Alexandra said, "It is generally not an accepted wildlife management practice to place an artificial food source or water source out for birds or other wildlife. Most wildlife will be stressed between the months of February to March and establishing an artificial food and water source creates an imbalance within wildlife populations.

It's better to let the wildlife adapt to the conditions and live a healthy wild-life.

The ranger team, Kinglake National Park

Out & About 12:23 AM Steels Creek Road: 12 Big Greys, 17 Wallabies, 3 Wombats, 13 Rabbits = 4.5 animals per km

Movie Club

NEW TIME: screenings will take place once per month on the second Friday with the usual classy cuisine followed by classic films and shorts.

9 March

The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp ***(1943) 163 min; A British Soldier survives three wars and falls in love with three women all played by Deborah Kerr with Roger Livesey and James McKechnie. ([web link for more info](#))

<http://www.monopoly.com.au/>

Shaping the future of the new Australian Monopoly Board Game is in your hands. It has been interesting to see how the numbers move about: Yarra Valley is 3.6%, down from 4% but VIC is down to a very low 8.5% from a previous high leading the country at 35% Give it a go!

Dogs in the Billabongs, Can't Read, Signs Stolen, Dogs Still at it!

Some local residents are persisting in walking their dogs through the Billabongs site. This issue has come to a head through the recent theft of the 'No Dogs' signs at both ends of the walking trail by persons unknown. "The Shire has placed another sign at the town end of the site to notify users that a Shire representative will be in attendance to explain the purpose of the signs and to emphasise the importance of excluding domestic pets from the area."

We suspect the Shire Rep speaks doggerel !

Battle of Yering Commemoration

You may have noticed a large stone has been placed beside the old roadway near the viewing platform in the Billabongs. Two plaques are to be placed on the stone to encourage passers by to remember the day in 1840 when a confrontation took place between local indigenous people and troopers based at Yering Station.

GIS reports 134 properties recorded within the Steels Creek locality.

Clamberers

Steels Creek Clamberers will commence our 2007 rambles (clambles??!) with a bring-your-own-everything picnic lunch get-together at Badger Creek Weir picnic grounds (2 km east of Melways p278 K9) on Sunday 25th March. After lunch, we will go for an easy stroll to Badger Creek Weir and return along the forest racks in that area. Regular walks on the last Sunday of each month until the end of November will then be held. Further details will be publicized in The Jolly thing and announced at Steels Creek Market.

Robyn or David Allan, phone 5965 2556.

COMMUNITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY REPORT

Since Christmas I have had several discussions with Shire staff and with Councillor McRae regarding the future development of our Community Centre. I believe there is good progress in developing the anticipated Report on the status and condition of the Centre, and staff are looking into costings of various possible options for consideration by the community. **But the bottom line is that we do not yet have a report to consider.**

In the meantime all the locks at the Community Centre have been changed, and that includes the front gate. Now all locks are opened with a single key. We have been issued with a limited number of numbered keys which will be issued to committee members and leaders of the different groups which use the Centre.

The Community Committee will meet shortly and as soon as we receive the Report from the Shire we will call a meeting of the Working Group to develop a position and plan or plans to be discussed by the whole community. I can assure you that we are doing all we can to get this process going and resolved.

Malcolm Calder, President, Steels Creek Community Centre.

CROSS CREEK 19 © J&J Wordsmiths

Across

5. Their departure is our loss (4, 3, 4)
7. May our hillsides not do so (4)
8. Set apart (8)
9. Hosts given to proclaiming (7)
11. Hands, work and Harry? (5)
13. Shears do this (5)
14. Of the head (7)
16. Made point strongly (8)
17. Fishermen need this (4)
18. Camping comforter (8, 3)

Down

1. We're glad you're staying R & I (4)
2. Of Galen, ancient Greek doctor (7)
3. Mining entrances on the level (5)
4. A gold coin one? (8)
5. They keep us informed (11)
6. Problem solving (11)
10. Overtopped (8)
12. Markets are for this (7)
15. SC4's have had a coat of paint (5)
17. School beginners (4)

CROSS CREEK 18 Answers

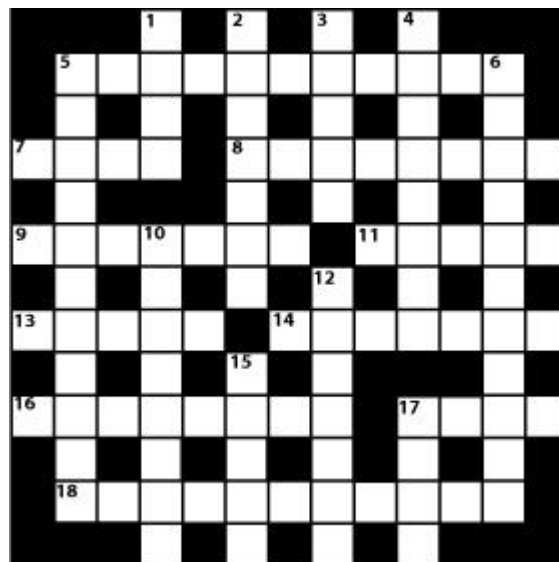
Across

1. Tunneled 5. Prom 7. East 8. Saturday
9. Calder 12. Alchemy 15. Tuesday
19. Pastie 21. Elements 22. Equi 23. Deer
24. Seedling

Down

1. Trench 2. Noted 3. Laser 4.
5. Parish 6. Mayday 10. Lane 11. Enid
12. Amy 13. Coca 14. Edit 15. Thread
16. Summer 17. Amends 19. Paste
20. Steel

STEELS CREEK
~
A STATE OF MIND



220 Print / 130 Email / 13 Nations (now in Japan and China!)

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 March 2007 for
the next *Jolly Thing*

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