



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 66 (APRIL 1 – May 2007) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

Great Pumpkin Winner Announced - Page 3

Foxy Fates – Page 6

Croquet in May – Page 2

Community Centre Status Report

A preliminary Status Report has been received from the Shire on the condition of the Steels Creek Community Centre. In general, the community centre is in good condition, but a number of things relating to community health and safety need to be done to bring it up to standard. In addition, a number of general maintenance tasks need attention. The broad picture is that the Council takes responsibility for external and structural matters, and we as the users of the property are responsible for all internal maintenance. Over the next year the Council anticipates an expenditure of around \$16,000 to get the place up to scratch and it is good to know that this money is already committed from the Shire's community houses maintenance budget. Since January, we now have a single key and lock system for all the doors and gates at the Centre, and a new electrical meter board has been installed.

Any major works the community may like to have, such as improved parking access, additional space, or updated toilet and kitchen facilities, would have to be funded through special capital grants from the Shire or State Government with significant input from the community. We are currently preparing an application to the Shire for a small Capital Works Grant to improve aspects of the internal layout of the building.

At no stage does the Shire's report address the issue of the future of the Community Centre, but clearly they are prepared to spend money on the existing building.

Our SC4 Committee has recently met to consider this interim report and has raised a number of questions relating to the future of the Centre which need to be clarified by the Shire before we can call a meeting of the Working Group that was established at our public meeting last November. That Working Group will be advising the Community Committee and the Shire on the desired future of the Community Centre, but we do need more information from the Shire on Shire funding policies and planning regulations before we can make informed decisions.

So, the process goes on, but I do believe that we will be able to work out our "Future Plan" over the next few months.

Malcolm Calder, President, S.C.C.C.

Public meetings with Counsellor Jeanette McRae are the 4th Monday of each month.

10.00 AM – Noon. Coldstream Community Centre, Kelso Street, Coldstream
1.00 PM – 2.30 PM Living and Learning Centre Anzac Avenue, Yarra Glen
3.00 PM - 5.00 PM Healesville Community Link Main Street Healesville

The next ones are 23rd April, 28th May

Yarra Glen Toy Library = Happiness on Seven Cents per Day!

Want to keep your children happy, but you buy a new toy and 2 weeks later they are bored with it? Then join the Yarra Glen Toy Library. Lots of toys, games and puzzles for children 0 – 6 years. Borrow a toy (or three) if they are bored with it in 2 weeks take it back and get some new ones! Located on the same side as the Laundromat – behind the bus stop.

Hours of borrowing: Every Saturday 10am-11am 1st Thursdays 7pm-8pm

Annual membership fees:

1 child	\$25.00	2 toys plus any number of puzzles/games
2 or more children	\$35.00	4 toys plus any number of puzzles/games

Contact Julie on 59 65 25 35.

STEELS CREEK TENNIS & SOCIAL CLUB New players are always welcome

Thursday evening tennis is proving particularly popular with a number of new players having joined this group. Monday night under the lights is also continuing and new players are particularly welcome. Meet at 7.15 p.m.

At the close of the season Steels Creek Section 10 Open team battled for the flag in an interesting match against Manchester Heights. Steels Creek won 4 sets to 2.

Section 4 were runners up to a strong St. John's team losing 4 sets to 2.

The Mid-week Ladies team is again enjoying a successful season and are currently positioned mid-way on the ladder.

Contacts for the Tennis Club are Alby on 5965 2354 or Lindy on 5965 2202

Steels Creek Croquet Tournament at Kilravock 20th May

The rain has fallen at last, the wettest March for 5 or 6 years, the kangaroos have gone and Bill is about to revitalize the Lawn for this years tournament. Bring your favourite mlet, food and wine and \$5.00 per entrant proceeds to the community centre. Back by popular demand, Croquet at Kilravock is now a twice yearly event. Dress to dominate and drive your vintage game home! 11 am start, salubrious trophy awarded to winners, three manicured lawns in action all day to dark (and after if last year is and indicator!). Plenty of games for all.

Andrew Chapman 0412 280 773

Clean Up Australia Day – 4th March 2007

Steels Creek Community and Yarra Glen Tree Group cleaned up again this year along Steels Creek Road. The amount of litter seemed to be somewhat less than in previous years, but we still managed to do justice to the rubbish skip provided by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Numbers of Cleaner Uppers was down a bit on last year, which meant that it was that much harder to cover the whole of Steels Creek Road effectively.

Thanks to Barry for assistance with road warning signs and safety gear, and to Albie and Gwen for the sausage sizzle afterwards!

David Allan - Site supervisor

Clamberers

Steels Creek Clamberers will continue their Sunday roamings as follows:

29th April we will tackle the Mt Jerusalem Track and depending on time, inclination, weather etc, will seek the summit of Mt Jerusalem, or possibly continue on to Kinglake for refreshment before returning via the same route. **Meet at Steel Creek Picnic Ground in Old Kinglake Road (Melways Index Map 10) at 10.30 A.M. for 11.00 A.M. start.** Bring eats, drinks, strong shoes and appropriate clothing for expected weather.

27th May, we will take a lakeside stroll around the northern shores of Sugarloaf Reservoir. **Meet at the northern picnic area at Sugarloaf Dam (Melways 273 B2) at 10.30 A.M. for 11.00 A.M. start.** Bring eats, drinks, appropriate weather for expected weather.

Further announcements at SC4 Markets.

Contact David & Robyn Allan, 5965 2556

A TRYING YEAR FOR PUMPKINS – The Nifty Nine

Local **cucurbitists** joining in the great pumpkin competition were frustrated mostly by difficult germination, lousy weather and a bad year for the usually successful crop. Even the fabled movie club soups may be at risk! Of the nine entrants, ranging from Pinnacle Lane to Lawrence Lane and beyond only two reported significant growth. Three had no crops and most were frustrated with a 'mini-me' version of the expected HUGE decorative pod. After careful consideration the Huge Official Pumpkin Executive (H.O.P.E.) have awarded the runner up award to Christine Mullen at 106cm and the number three and number one spots to Ivan Filsell who measures up at 80.5cm and 109.5 respectively. Better luck next year. The H.O.P.E will reinvest the entry fees from this year into something more fruitful for next year!

Thanks to all who could dig it.

Rainfall Report – to end of March 2007

Gauge Location	February 2007	March 2007 (to 28/3)	Year to End of March 2007	Year to End of March 2006
'Yarradene Farm', Yarra ridge	34.5	71.5	133.0	140.0
'Blackwood Hill', Pinnacle Lane	25.9	71.1	125.0	132.3
'Newera', Brennan Avenue	35.5	68.5	134.9	123.8

**HARD RUBBISH WEEK COMMENCES 9 APRIL
RESIDENTIAL HARD, METAL & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION
ENQUIRES 1300 368 333**

Fish Survey In Yarra River – No Joke This!

No April Fooling here; the DSE and Melbourne Water are doing an important study on the viability and health of fish in the river between Warburton and Melbourne. Tagging and participation of anglers is the go.

Contact Rhys Coleman at River Health 131 722 or Steve Sadlier at DSE 9450 8600

The Ryrie Family: Australian Pioneers by John H Edwards (Norrong Press)

Enquiries about John's books to: norrongpress@ozemail.com.au

April 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 APRIL FOOLS DAY	2 Recycle Social Tennis	3 Ladies Tennis Stitchers Singing	4	5 Art Social Tennis. Art Show Opening	6 ART SHOW	7 ART SHOW
8 ART SHOW EASTER	9 Women's Group Social Tennis. ART SHOW	10 Ladies Tennis Garden Club Outing SSS** Singing	11	12 Art Social Tennis.	13 Movie Strangers on a Train	14 Market
15 History	16 Recycle Ladies Lunch Social Tennis.	17 Ladies Tennis Stitchers Singing	18	19 Art Social Tennis	20	21 Tennis Comp FYFB Working Bee
22	23 Garden Club Growing Group Social Tennis.	24 Ladies Tennis SSS** Singing Book Group	25 ANZAC DAY (Parade and Service in YG)	26 SMB Art Social Tennis	27	28 Market Tennis Comp
29 Clamberers	30 Recycle Social Tennis.					

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:

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1801 Eric Tetlow 9730 1445 etetlow@aphalink.com.au
www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.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!

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

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

MAY 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Ladies Tennis Stitchers SINGING	2	3 Art Social Tennis	4	5 Tennis Comp
6	7 Women's Group Social Tennis.	8 Garden Outing Ladies Tennis SSS** SINGING	9	10 Art Social Tennis	11 Movie	12 Tennis Comp Market
13 History Mother's Day	14 Recycle Ladies Lunch Social Tennis.	15 Ladies Tennis Stitchers SINGING	16	17 Art Social Tennis	18	19 Tennis Comp
20	21 Social Tennis.	22 Ladies Tennis SSS** SINGING Book Group	23	24 Art Social Tennis	25 Movie	26 Tennis Comp Market
27 Clamberers	28 Recycle Garden Club Growing Group Social Tennis	29 Ladies Tennis SSS** SINGING	30	31 SMB Art Social Tennis		

Grand Easter Art Exhibition 8-9 April 10am-6pm

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! New season starts April 21. www.yarraglen.com/SCTC

Albie Leckie 5965 2354, Lindy Montell 5965 2202

WOMEN'S GROUP Evening 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

To Net or Not to Net? 121 Animals saved from the Foxy Fate

Vignerons are quick to blame animals for crop loss and animal lovers are equally speedy to condemn the wine growers for their use of nets over vines as a cruel trap for the innocent. Tony Wooley, resident animal rescuer, reports a win-win this year as a local grape grower engaged him to rescue the trapped beasts. His report: 1 each, copper head, echidna, feather tail glider, eastern spinebill; 2 black birds; 4 magpies; 6 each bronze wing pigeons and pee wees, 7 red wattle birds, 9 currawongs, 10 wood ducks, 13 crimson rosellas, 16 each Indian miners and noisy miners, and finally 28 eastern rosellas. One eastern grey kangaroo was seen sleeping on the balled up nets.

Think of all the animals kept out! While some credit the fox with dining on trapped animals, they have a distinct preference for grapes as is known in UK garden circles where they are thus encouraged to lure them into protecting the flowers from pesky mammals.

GRAND EASTER EXHIBITION BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

Nearly 500 works of art are on display at Balgownie Estate in Gulf Road at Melba Highway over the Easter weekend. Special thanks to the more than 40 local volunteers and 31 merchants who make the show a success. Several artists will be painting on site weather permitting.

Free admission; please drop in from 10am – 6 pm; don't miss this great event with art for sale to suit every taste and budget

BIGGEST AFTERNOON TEA

This year the Steels Creek Stitchers will be holding their annual BIGGEST AFTERNOON TEA fundraiser for the Cancer Council at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 29 May** from 1.30 - 4pm. Entry \$5 which includes a delicious homemade afternoon tea. This year there will be exclusive one-off handmade bags for sale as well as the usual raffle of a number of quilts and a quilt display.

Yarra Glen RSL Sponsors ANZAC Day Remembrance Activities 25 April 2007

The Yarra Glen RSL is planning for local events, beginning with a parade from the Yarra Glen Police Station and continuing to the Memorial Hall at the corner of ANZAC Avenue and Bell Street. This year, those who wish to join the parade at the top of the hill may do so at the alley beside Rosier Realty. There will be a remembrance ceremony at the Memorial, to be followed by a reception in the Memorial Hall. Featured speakers will be Councillor Jeanette McRae and students from the Yarra Glen and Dixons Creek Primary Schools. Members of the public who wish to place a wreath to commemorate the sacrifices of deceased veterans are welcome to participate, and they should contact the Secretary, Ed Bartosh, in advance of the day to make arrangements. The parade will start at 10:15 a.m., and the service will commence at approximately 10:30 a.m. (www.yarraglen.com/RSL/)

Ed Bartosh, Secretary, Yarra Glen RSL 9730 2858

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

The latest from the Australian Bureau of Statistics makes for interesting reading:

- At the 30th June 2006, the population of the Shire of Yarra Ranges was 142,701.
- This makes it one of the biggest shires in the state: bigger even than the Mornington Peninsula (141,777)
- Two of the suburban cities around the same size are Whitehorse (145,137) and Knox (150,444)
- The median age of the population in Yarra Ranges was 36.4
- This is slightly less than the median age for all of Victoria of 36.8

PLANTING DAYS - STEELS CREEK LANDCARE.

After a long wait for funding to arrive and an even longer wait for rain and good planting conditions at last we are ready to start planting Steels Creek Road Stage 1. Our funding is for the removal of problem trees, spraying of weeds and planting appropriate indigenous trees, shrubs and ground covers. Stage 1 is from Pinnacle Lane to Old Kinglake Road on the west side. This section has been chosen as it contains significant native vegetation, it connects designated areas of roadside significance and adjoining landholders are in support of the project. This project has had advice and support from the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Yarra Glen Fire brigade as well as weed control and native vegetation experts.

All we need now is help and support of all local residents who love trees, birds, animals and an improvement to the lovely Steels Creek environment. Please come and help plant on:-

SUNDAY 15TH APRIL 9am to 12 noon Planting 12 to 1pm **REFRESHMENTS.**

SUNDAY 29TH APRIL 9am to 12 noon Planting 12 to 1pm **REFRESHMENTS.**

A selection of tools and protective clothing will be available but additional spades, mattocks and watering cans would be welcome. To volunteer or for more information and the chance to win a small **PRIZE** please ring:-

Project coordinator Ivan Filsell on 5965 2248

MOVIE CLUB

13 April

Strangers on a Train*** (1951) 101 min; D, Alfred Hitchcock, W, Raymond Chandler; Farley Granger, Ruth Roman, Leo G. Carroll; An accidental meeting of two strangers leads to a proposal for exchanging murders. A great tennis movie! ([web link](#) for more info)

May 11

Design for Living ** (1933) 91 min; Ernst Lubitsch, W Noel Coward; Miriam Hopkins, Fredric March, Gary Cooper, Edward Everett Horton. Two friends love and loved by the same worldly woman and they set up house together. "Notorious for its wealth and variety of moral code infractions." ([web link](#) for more info)

No Fooling! We are STILL in a Drought – Read This and WEEP!

Stage 3a is the second phase of Stage 3 water restrictions and is being introduced due to low rainfall over summer and below average stream flows on April 1st throughout Victoria (<http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/ourwater/>).

DSE has announced that all individuals owning rainwater tanks will be getting rates notices based on the rainfall in their area and the size of their tanks. Registration forms for all landowners will be put in the mail at the start of Stage 3a - this Sunday April 1. However, rebates of up to \$1000 have been available from 1 January 2007 for the purchase and installation of large rainwater tanks for those on Melbourne water to help offset this levy. Also, inspectors have been monitoring the vehicle registration of those using the standpipe at Eltham and Steels Creek Roads. Double rates will apply to those found to have been using this water source over the last 45 days. Check the starting date and reconsider!

Second Annual Dixons Creek/Steels Creek Wine Show

Thanks to all who entered their The Second Annual Dixons Creek/Steels Creek Wine Show was held over the Melba festival weekend at the Berry Café. Thirty-five local wines were featured and judged by Matt Aldridge and Reon Vuglar. The results were very interesting as a few non-commercial or amateur wines were found to have excellent quality and flavour. Best of Show was awarded to Panther's Paw 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon, with other Silver Medals given to Sticks 2006 Sauvignon Blanc, Sutherland Estate 2003 DHV Shiraz, and Cooina Estate 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon. Proceeds of the show will be given to the Dixons Creek and Yarra Glen Rural Fire Brigades. . Full results will be available on the web at <http://www.yarraglen.com/DCSC-wineshow/>.

CROSS CREEK 19

Answers

Across

5. Jean and John 7. Burn 8. Estrange 9. Angelic 11. Dirty 13. Click 14. Cranial 16. Asserted 17. Bait 18. Sleeping bag

Down

1. Main 2. Galenic 3. Adits 4. Donation 5. Journalists 6. Negotiating 10. Exceeded 12. Trading 15. Steps 17. Bubs

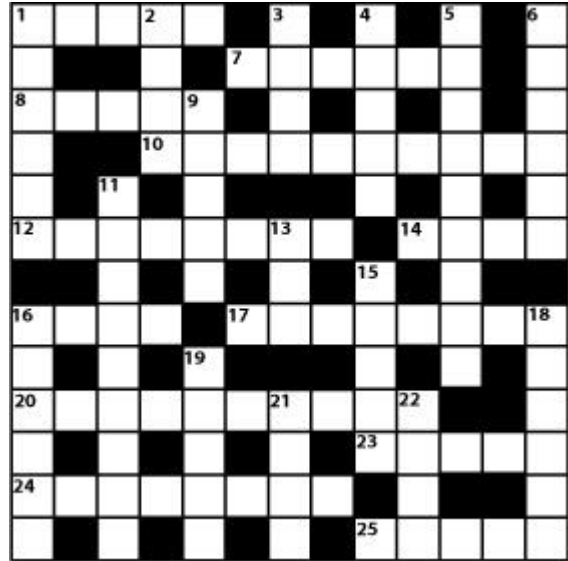
CROSS CREEK 20

Across

1. War's first victim? (5)
7. He favoured a round table (6)
8. We hope you've paid yours (5)
10. Most country towns have one (10)
12. Smelly chook? (4,4)
14. Yarra Glen's is a memorial one (4)
16. Pants are no place for these (4)
17. Springtime scourge for some (8)
20. There's many a good local one (10)
23. Federation Square lost a glass one (5)
24. Acidic juice of pre-veraison grapes (8)
25. Light car ? (5)

Down

1. The second T of the GATT acronym (6)
2. They bind us (4)
3. A wrongly named raven (4)
4. Locally, five have gone to one (5)
5. The T of PTS disorder (9)
6. A sub- suburb of Mount Waverley (6)
9. A skimpy dress to move (5)
11. Famous tea clipper (5,4)
13. "How to --- Friends and Influence People" (3)
15. Green, broad or Heinz. (5)
16. It is said that to travel is better than to --- (6)
18. Unpowered aircraft (6)
19. One piece of information (5)
21. non-P.C. term for human differences (4)
22. Australian writer, ---- Astley (4)



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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/>

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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*.



No worries!

DEADLINE 31th May 2007 for
the next *Jolly Thing*