

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 78 (April-May 2009) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

### Special 3775 Edition

To be posted to all in the 3775 post code. To receive future editions please refer to The Jolly Thing delivery on page 7.

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### **President's Prattle**

The Jolly Thing is a community newsletter that circulates mainly in Steels Creek but is distributed and read by many people in surrounding localities and even has international readers.

This special edition of the Jolly Thing has been prepared for distribution throughout our postcode 3775. There are other media sources available to residents but this newsletter is trying to inform our community at a 'grass roots' level.

It is now a couple of months since the fires hit our region and most residents and local businesses are moving into a recovery and rebuilding phase. The immediate and ongoing support of all emergency services; government agencies; charities and volunteers has been unstinting and invaluable to the community. I am sure many of our residents will be seeking the support and assistance of various organisations for some time to come.

In Steels Creek we held a couple of community gatherings at the Community Centre to try to lift our spirits; to help come to terms with the enormity of our losses; and to try also to start the recovery processes. Arising from these meetings a number of concerns were identified as needing some reasonably quick responses from various authorities.

To meet these concerns we have used our Community Centre committee as a basis to form an ad hoc group of residents from the 3775 postcode. This group has already held meetings with local State and Federal parliamentary representatives and is liaising also with Councillors and staff of the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Our focus as a group is to try, amongst other things, to set in place

- a coordinated information system for residents;
- a dedicated Recovery Manager, based in Yarra Glen, for the area who can be a focal point for residents and businesses seeking advice and assistance both in the short and longer term; and
- to set in place a positive approach to the rebuilding of local industries and infrastructure.

These points will be raised with the Shire Municipal Recovery Committee.

**Keith Montell**

### **Some Gems From Gembrook**

At the market we welcomed a group from the **Gembrook Community Market**. They run a monthly market and donate profits to various local charities. They wanted to directly help an affected community and chose SCCC to receive a grant from them of \$2,500. This sort of support is really uplifting and makes it that little bit easier to continue the recovery process.

**Keith Montell**

### **Yarra Glen Easter Art Show & CFA Benefit Auction**

**Yve Hart** has everything well in hand for our **Grand Easter Exhibition** 2009 with over 500 entries. This is the 8th year of the **Yarra Glen Art Show** and once again our venue is the picturesque setting of **Balgownie**.

The opening night is on Thursday 9 April at 6pm with an **Auction** to follow. **All are welcome to attend.**

The show will be open daily from **Good Friday 10 April, to Easter Monday 13 April, 2009.**

Those seeking more information, **or to volunteer their time**, please contact **Yve Hart, 9730 1115** or check the web at: <http://www.virtual.net.au/~yarraglenartshow/>

### **Day Light Saving (Gone)**

Remember to put your Clocks back on Sunday 5 April and have an extra hour's lie in, you deserve it.

## ***We Have Still Not Lived Long Enough***

We should have seen this coming. We *did* see this coming. Yet we failed to save lives. We have still not lived long enough.

*They had not lived long enough* were the words that Judge Leonard Stretton used to describe the people who lived and worked in the forests of south-eastern Australia when they were engulfed by a holocaust wildfire on 'Black Friday', 1939. The judge, who conducted an immediate Royal Commission into the causes of the fires, was not commenting on the youthfulness of the dead: he was lamenting the environmental knowledge of both victims and survivors. He was pitying the innocence of European immigrants in a land whose natural rhythms they did not yet understand. He was depicting the fragility and brevity of a human lifetime in forests where life cycles and fire regimes had the periodicity and ferocity of centuries. He was indicting a whole society.

In 1939 Australians were deeply shocked by what had happened in their own backyard. Rampant flame had scourged a country that considered itself civilised. As well as shock, people sensed something sinister about the tragedy and its causes. Judge Stretton tried to find the words for it in his fearless report. Of the loss of life at one sawmill settlement, he wrote: 'The full story of the killing of this small community is one of unpreparedness, because of apathy and ignorance and perhaps of something worse.' The 'something worse' that he tried to define was an active, half-conscious denial of the danger of fire, and a kind of community complicity in the deferral of responsibility.

There is something sinister also about this dreadful tragedy of 2009, although the character of it is different. Those of us who know and love these forests and the people who live in or near them are especially haunted. In 1939, some of the ignorance and innocence was forgivable, perhaps. 'Black Friday' was a late, rude awakening from the colonial era of forest exploitation and careless fire use, and it demanded that people confront and reform their whole relationship with the bush. When the 1939 fires raged through the forests of valuable mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), settlers did not even know how such a dominant and important tree regenerated. In the seventy years since 1939, we have lived through a revolution in scientific research and environmental understanding and we have come to a clearer understanding of the peculiar history and fire ecology of these forests. We have fewer excuses for innocence. We knew this terrible day would come. Why, then, was there such an appalling loss of life?

Victorians live entirely within what the international fire historian Stephen Pyne calls 'the fire flume'. It is the most distinctive fire region of Australia and the most dangerous in the world. When a high pressure system stalls in the Tasman Sea, hot northerly winds flow relentlessly down from central Australia across the densely vegetated south-east of the continent. This fiery 'flume' brews a deadly chemistry of air and fuel. The mountain topography of steep slopes, ridges and valleys channel the hot air, temperatures climb to searing extremes, and humidity evaporates such that the air crackles. Lightning attacks the land ahead of the delayed cold front and a dramatic southerly change turns the raging fires suddenly upon its victims.

There is a further ingredient to the chemistry of the fire flume. Across Australia, eucalypts are highly adapted to fire. Over millions of years these trees have turned this fragment of Gondwana into the fire continent. But in the south-eastern corner – especially in the forests of the Victorian ranges – a distinctive type of eucalypt has evolved. Ash-type eucalypts (the mountain and alpine ash) have developed a different means of regeneration. They do not develop lignotubers under the ground like other eucalypts, and they rarely coppice. They are unusually dependent on their seed supply – and, to crack open those seeds high in the crowns of the trees and to cultivate the saplings successfully, they need a massive wildfire. Ash-type eucalypts generally grow in even-aged stands. They renew themselves *en masse*. These particularly grand and magnificent trees have evolved to commit mass suicide once every few hundred years – and in European times, more frequently. Not all the communities that were incinerated in 1939 and 2009 were in or near the forests of ash, but many were, and the peculiar fire ecology of the trees is another deadly dimension of this distinctive fire environment. These are wet mountain forests that only burn on rare days at the end of long droughts, after prolonged heatwaves, and when the flume is in full gear. And when they do burn, they do so with atomic power.

The 2009 fires were 'unprecedented', as many commentators have said. They erupted at the end of a record heatwave and there seems little doubt that this was a fire exacerbated by climate change. But it is the recurrent realities that are more striking. For those of us who know the history, the most haunting aspect of this tragedy is its familiarity. The 2009 bushfires were 1939 all over again, laced with 1983. The same images, the same stories, the same words and phrases, and the same frightening and awesome natural force that we find so hard to remember and perhaps unconsciously strive to forget. It is a recurrent nightmare. We know this phenomenon, we know the specific contours of the event, and we even know how people live and how people die. The climate change scenario is frightening. But even worse is the knowledge that we still have not come to terms with what we have already experienced.

The Bureau of Meteorology predicted the conditions superbly. The Victorian Premier, John Brumby, issued a warning. Fire experts knew that people would die that day. History repeated itself with uncanny precision. Yet the shock was, and still is, immense. It is the death-toll, and not the weather, which makes the event truly unprecedented.

The recommended survival strategy of 'leave early or stay and defend your home' was a death sentence in these Victorian mountain communities on a forty-something degree day of high winds after a prolonged heatwave and a long drought. There is no identifiable 'early' in this fire region on the fatal days. We understand why this policy has evolved and it has much to recommend it. It is libertarian; it recognises the reality that people prefer to stay in their own homes and defend them if they can; it seeks to minimise late evacuation which is so often fatal; it encourages sensible planning and preparation; and it has demonstrably saved lives and homes. It will continue to guide people well in most areas of Australia. But I fear that it has misled people in this distinctively deadly fire region to believe that they could defend an ordinary home in the face of an unimaginable force.

We need to abandon the idea of a *national* fire plan and develop ecologically sensitive, bioregional fire survival strategies. We need to move beyond an undifferentiated, colonial sense of 'the bush' as an amorphous sameness with which we do battle, and instead empower local residents and their knowledge of local ecologies. The quest for national guidelines was fatal for the residents of these Victorian mountain communities on such a day; it worked insidiously to blunt their sense of local history and ecological distinctiveness. Clearing the backyard, cleaning the gutters and installing a better water pump cannot save an ordinary home in the path of a surging torrent of explosive gas in the fire flume.

A 'stay and defend' option is only realistic in such places and conditions if every property has a secure fire refuge or bunker. A bunker at the shire hall or at the end of the street is not good enough – people will die getting to it. I welcome the Prime Minister's promise to rebuild these communities 'brick by brick' – and I would like him to add: 'and bunker by bunker'. Many people built bunkers in their backyards in the Second World War and most, thankfully, were not used. But we know for certain that any secure bunkers built in these Victorian forest towns *will* be used in the next generation, and they will save lives. This is an appropriate challenge to the design and construction industries of the fire continent.

Fires inflame blame. Arsonists will be rightly condemned, but they will also distract us from addressing the reality of fires mostly caused by lightning. There were arsonists in 1939 and 2009 and there will be again in 2069; they are a sickening factor mostly beyond our predictive control. Water-bombing helicopters will again be promoted and in some areas they will be effective. The environmental and protective impacts of systematic control burning of our forests will be debated even more vociferously. Climate change will be correctly identified as a new factor in fire behaviour. But none of these policies or issues will ultimately save lives in these Victorian mountain communities on a holocaust day. Deep in the forests on Black Friday, 1939, with flames leaping kilometres ahead of the fire front, there was only one way to go – down. Well-built dugouts saved lives.

There was another meaning to Judge Stretton's declaration that *they had not lived long enough*. He was saying that lived experience alone, however vivid and traumatic, was never going to be enough to guide people in such circumstances. They also needed history. They needed – and we need it too – the distilled wisdom of past, inherited, learned experience. And not just of the recent human past, but of the ancient human past, and also of the deep biological past of the communities of trees. For in those histories lie the intractable patterns of our future. There is a dangerous mismatch between the cyclic nature of fire and the short-term memory of communities. These bushfire towns – where the material legacy of the past can never survive for long – need to work harder than most to renew their local historical consciousness. The greatest challenge in fire research is cultural.

There is a perennial question in human affairs that is given real edge and urgency by fire: *do we learn from history?* Testimony from the 1939 and 2009 fires suggests that there is one thing that we never seem to learn from history. That is, that nature can overwhelm culture. That some of the fires that roar out of the Australian bush are unstoppable. As one fire manager puts it, 'there are times when you have to step out of the way and acknowledge that nature has got the steering wheel at the moment.' It seems to go against the grain of our humanity to admit that fact, no matter how severe are the lessons of history.

**Tom Griffiths** 14 February 2009 Professor of History in the Research School of Social Sciences at the A N U and the author of *Forests of Ash: An Environmental History* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

### ***Food Writers Report***

Well the food writer's efforts this month have taken a turn out to left field, preparing sandwiches for 20 or more family and friends who are helping clean up the fires aftermath! I selected the smoked salmon with capers and smoked salmon mousse on white bread and classic Virginia ham and cheese with the last of my home made chutney on wholemeal bread. A banana cake or fruit cake for sweets plus a bucket of lollies. My, my how our life has changed.

**Judith Augustine**

## ***ANZAC Day March and Service in Yarra Glen***

The Yarra Glen RSL is again planning a parade from the Yarra Glen Police Station and continuing to the Memorial Hall at the corner of ANZAC Avenue and Bell Street on ANZAC Day, Saturday, 25 April 2009. 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. (<http://www.yarraglen.com/RSL/>).

## ***Overwhelming Result of Fire Appeal Concert.***

Two of our own "Screekians" directly affected by the Black Saturday fires performed on stage during a Bushfire Appeal concert on Saturday 28 February. The concert was initially organised by the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir as its annual St. David's Day Concert. However, when a choir member and his wife were killed at the Kinglake fires, the concert was quickly rescheduled as a "Bushfire Appeal".

Held at the George Wood Performing Arts Centre (Yarra Valley Anglican School) the Choir performed to over 800 misty eyed, emotional and very enthusiastic audience members. Together with the Choir, internationally renowned artists, harpist Alannah Guthrie-Jones and soprano Christina Wilson plus 'rising star' soprano (and winner of the Choir's 2008 *Singer of the Year* competition) Jacqueline Porter appeared on stage.

Our own Ed Williams, whose property was totally destroyed, sang with the Choir (after having the soot brushed off him!!) in a hastily borrowed suit. Similarly, Henry Verhoeven, who was lesser affected by the fires, also appeared. In total, 11 choir members were killed, sustained property damage or were evacuated in the Victorian fires that we would all rather forget, but probably never will.

The raw emotion on stage and in the auditorium of that evening was palpable, and was no doubt the driving force in raising **over \$12,500** for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. It is expected that that amount will be substantially exceeded once all accounts are settled.

**Henry Verhoeven**

## ***Steels Creek Garden Club***

### **Free Garden Plants**

There are already some 50 or so potted plants at the Calder's, looking for homes in fire-ravaged areas. These are thanks to the generosity of Robin Jones at Toolangi, and she tells me she has plenty more available. Please come any time, just phone to check I'll be here.

Then on **Saturday 2 May**, 9.30am - 1pm, there will be a garden bits and pieces session at the Calder's, 375 Pinnacle La, Steels Creek. Please bring your plants for sharing, any time from Thursday 30 April, any prunings suitable for making cuttings, divisions of plants, spare bulbs, iris roots, etc., etc. so that those who need to restock their gardens can start doing so. This is free for everyone, whether or not they are members of the Garden Club, or whether they are fire-affected or not. It's a revival of something the Garden Club used to do years ago and which was always a fun occasion. Tea and coffee will be available.

If you can't bring pieces to the Calder's, then Maggie, the Garden Club President, is happy to receive them at her place, 27A Forrest St, Yarra Glen, from Thurs 30 April also.

**Jane Calder 5965 2372**

## ***Garden Renaissance Project***

Maxine O'Neill and Christine Mullen both have strong connections to Steels Creek. They would like to assist the people of this community who have lost their gardens to restore them. This would involve the participation of friends and family who are gardeners from all across Victoria who wish to be involved in a bushfire renewal project. The energy and inspiration can take many forms: design, infrastructure planning, propagation, and turning a spade. A recent visit to Steels Creek reveals that an extraordinary renaissance is already taking place. It could be time to start some working bees to help those plants that have started to grow again. If you are interested in rendering or assistance or you would like some help in your garden or know someone who would, please let us know. I would like to start up a fund for new hand tools and a tool bank for larger items.

Contact: Maxine O'Neill [maxnpaul@gmail.com](mailto:maxnpaul@gmail.com) & Christine Mullen [christine@fullandplenty.com](mailto:christine@fullandplenty.com)

## ***A Grand Community Gathering***

At **The Yarra Glen Grand Hotel** on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April** A special event for the community to say thanks to all. Featuring Wilbur Wilde and others. Proceeds to our CFA, for further details call 9730 1230

## ***The Stitchers Group***

Are compiling a booklet of tried and true family favourite recipes to be duplicated for those who have lost their recipes in the bushfire. **Please let us have yours.** Hand written is fine (as long as your writing is legible!) on one side of an A4 page, please. They can be given to any Stitcher (there's always at least one of us at the fortnightly markets) or sent to Jane Calder, 375 Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek, 3775. By the end of April please, so we can get them out quickly.

### **Southern Highland Quilters' Guild NSW.**

We've had a very kind and thoughtful contribution made to Steels Creek Community from the Southern Highland Quilters' Guild NSW.

They have organised for especially made quilts, ready sewing kits, ready craft kits, magazines - all the bits and pieces imaginable - and have brought them to all the crafty Screekians affected by the bushfires.

They're available from **Jane Calder** from the Stitchers Group on **5965 2372** or **acacias@bigpond.net.au**.

The Southern Highlands Quilters Guild was started by Carolynn Clisdell in October 2005 and has grown and 'blossomed' ever since, with the enthusiasm for their craft never waning. Their group meets twice a month and the noise and laughter from 20 - 30 ladies is heart warming and very motivating. They have a number of very skilled quilters and ladies with good ideas, so everyone learns and gains. Some of the group are members of local Volunteer Fire Services.

It is in their constitution that they make 2 quilts per year for some good cause and of course this year already they've blown that number right out of the water! They are now sewing even more madly than ever for the "3 F causes" That is 'Fire, Floods and Flying Doctor Services". To that end they put out a call for fabrics and it poured in and is still coming, that in itself was fun for them. (Ask a quilter what is their favourite thing in Life and all will say FABRIC!) The expertise and imagination that has been produced to make quilts out of some fairly wild fabrics, has to be seen to be believed! Some of the quilts have been pieced by one member, batted by another, quilted by another and bound and labelled by another. A Community effort!

Anyway, they send their best wishes and say "We all sincerely hope that the recipients of our quilts will enjoy them as much as we have enjoyed making them. Good Luck to all our new Friends in Victoria."

**Pamela Bishop**, President and **Carolynn Clisdell**, Social Secretary, **Southern Highlands NSW Quilters Guild**

## ***Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club Happenings***

**Tuesday Morning Social Tennis.** This initiative has been off to a slow start. Anyone wishing to come for a hit between 9 and 11am please call Alby (5965 2354). We need to have a minimum of 4 interested in playing before we can get it going.

**Lighting Project.** The lighting project has been on hold for quite some time, now because of a dispute between a neighbour and the Council. However, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon. James Merlino, MP visited the Tennis Club on 17 March and announced a \$50,000 grant to the club for lighting. The Shire has committed \$20,000 as well.

**Bushfire Relief.** The **Shire** quickly arrived after the bushfires to replace the water tank damaged by the fires and made a relief area by setting up portable showers on the club reserve. They brought bottled drinking water for locals needing it, and set up a stock water tank across the road. We were given clothing and equipment for residents who lost their tennis gear by **Slazenger Footwear**, Kingsgrove NSW, **SPORTSMART**, Moorabbin, **Susie Palfreyman**, Designer Paintworks, Brighton, **Contours Gym**, Sandringham, and **Warrick Ansell** of Melbourne. With all this help, we were able to continue ERT competition tennis on the Saturday after the fires. Also, **Tennis Victoria** was present on March 17, with Tamatha Harding giving the club new shirts, balls, and a slew of racquets as well. She is their contact for the bushfire relief effort. Our drive was commended by the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP during his address on the National Day of Mourning where he said that we "*were true to the Australian spirit of standing strong in the face of adversity.*"



**Saturday Tennis.** Both Steels Creek Tennis Club teams have won Premiership of their sections (OS-08 and OS-13) of the Eastern Region Tennis Association. Each team finished at the top of their ladder and played through to win in the Grand Final. Finals were played on Saturday, 28 March 2009. Congratulations to Alby Leckie and Reon Vulgar, captains of the teams, and all who participated and supported the teams. Well done!

**Fundraiser at Bunnings.** Your tennis club will be at Bunnings on Saturday, April 11 selling sausages to raise money for the operations and special projects of the club. Come to Bunnings, Croydon/Chirnside and help out - by serving or eating. Thanks.

**Ed Bartosh, Secretary, SCTC**

## **SC3 Film Club**

**Super Meal and jolly good company at 6pm. Films starts 7.30pm. All in Air-conditioned comfort**

A slight change to our program to give us an Easter break, then a movie night on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of April. All movies will be preceded by an episode of "**Buck Rogers**". Set in 2500AD Buck and his mate Buddy are brought back from suspended animation to battle Killer Kane and his gangsters. See genuine "sparkler " propelled rocket ships - Wow!!! See you at the movies.

**Screening on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April:**

**The 39 Steps (1935) B&W**

Our re programmed classic from the Hood collection of Hitchcock films

Annabella is running away from secret agents- she meets Richard- she ends up deceased and Richard is on the run trying to prove his innocence but everything is going wrong. Starring Robert Donat (Mr Chips) surely it couldn't have been him! For more see <http://www.allmovie.com/dvd/39-steps-61837>

**Screening on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May:**

**Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)**

Henry Mancini's theme tune "Moon River" should get you in the mood for the antics of Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard as Holly Golightly searches for a millionaire to marry and George struggles to make a living as a writer. Patricia Neal and Mickey Rooney are among the co stars. For more see

<http://www.allmovie.com/work/breakfast-at-tiffanys-6998>.

**Screening on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May:**

**An Affair to Remember (1957)**

Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr star in this poignant and humorous love story of two people ( there's usually two) who meet on an ocean liner and fall in love etc and agree to meet in six months to see if love endures but things go wrong, as they do, and the future takes an emotional and uncertain turn. For more see

<http://www.allmovie.com/work/an-affair-to-remember-1134>.

That's it – no more "chick flicks" for a while!

**Keith Montell**

## **Future Wine Events**

### **Grape Grazing**

Is now on the weekend of April 18 & 19. More details and tickets [www.grapegrazing.com.au](http://www.grapegrazing.com.au)

### **Shortest Day Lunch**

The tenth annual "**Eastern Subaru Shortest Lunch**", presented by the Yarra Yalley Smaller Wineries, is being held on Saturday 20 June and Sunday 21 June 2009, 10am – 5pm both days

Further details available from [www.yarravalleyssmallerwineries.com.au](http://www.yarravalleyssmallerwineries.com.au)

## **Clamberers**

Clamberers commenced their monthly walking activities for 2009 on Sunday 29 March with a picnic/planning get-together held at the Sugarloaf Reservoir Park Saddle Dam Picnic Area.

The intention of the planning activity was to enable a plan for the walks for the year to be prepared well in advance.

**Walks are being scheduled for the last Sunday in each month up to and including November.**

**Clamberers regulars and anyone else who may still have further suggestions for suitable walks are invited to make them known to Robyn Allan.**

Details of coming walks, including those for April and May, will be circulated to regular Clamberers and also publicised at Steels Creek Community Market Days. **If you would like to be added to the email distribution list for information about coming walks, please provide your email details to Robyn, 0409 139 371, or at [drallan@wideband.net.au](mailto:drallan@wideband.net.au) .**

## **Croquet Update**

The lawns are scorched, the equipment destroyed and Bill, our devoted groundsman, is devastated, his pride and joy, an Atco Royal Reserve mower, is now bush fire sculpture.

How ever thanks to the generosity of Ester Stump a member of the Kew Croquet club we have two replacement sets, not new but in eminently playable condition. And when the grass grows enough and Bill gets out his trusty scythe, play will be on again



## ***Rainfall Report***

Regular readers of The Jolly Thing will have noticed that for the past few years, there has been a bi-monthly **Rainfall Report** with figures contributed by four local rainfall observers.

Tragically, during the February bushfires, one of our observers lost his life, two other observers lost their homes (though one did retain his gauge, slightly singed) and the fourth observer lost his gauge along with the garden and many out buildings including a winery, but has purchased a new gauge. For this reason we have an abbreviated report of rainfall for this edition of The Jolly Thing.

However, we would like to rebuild our modest but significant contribution to the rainfall record in our local area and beyond. Already one observer is known to have obtained a new rain gauge (how's that for confidence in the future!), and others are planning to do so. **If you would be prepared to join them with recording of rainfall at your property, and making the recordings know every two months, you are invited to contact David Allan ([eda@wideband.net.au](mailto:eda@wideband.net.au) or mobile 0413 396 296) to register your interest or to find out more information.**

David also has information about Melbourne Water's volunteer rain gauge operator network.

### **Rainfall Report – to end of January 2009**

Gauge Location	February 2009	March 2009 (to 30/01)	Total to date for 2009	(Total to date for 2008)
'Kilravock', Greenwood Lane	1.5	37	38.5	141
'Blackwood Hill', Pinnacle Lane	5.9	45.2	51.1	132.5

Rainfall from the Mt St Leonard Station for the month was 102 mm, year to date 122.4 mm, last year to date 260 mm.

## ***The Jolly Thing Delivery***

This issue of The Jolly Thing will be the last one that will be hand delivered to your letterbox or poly-pipe. From June 2009 you will be able to get it in one of the following ways:-

1. By e-mail. If you do not already subscribe to this service, please forward your e-mail address to [achapman@woodards.com.au](mailto:achapman@woodards.com.au) and it will be included in the e-mail distribution list.
2. Pick up a free copy at the Yarra Glen Post Office or the Yarra Glen News agent in the first week in the month of publication. (February; April; June; August; October; December.)
3. By Post. For an annual subscription of \$6 we will post to you a copy in the week of publication. For this option please forward a \$6 cheque and your full postal address to the following address:- Malcolm Calder c/o the Steels Creek Community Centre, P.O. Box 213 Yarra Glen, 3775
4. By the World Wide Web. You can download T.J.T. from the web soon after the start of the month of publication. All editions are available from August 2003.  
The address is [www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/JT/](http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/JT/)

Thank you for your support of "The Jolly Thing" and the Steels Creek Community. We look forward to your continuing involvement. **Malcolm Calder**

## ***Every one has a story – get it ready for 2009***

Why not share it with the jolly thing readers, be it sad, serious or humorous: local or not. Jot it down and send it to the editor. You could be the winner of the second Chris Mullen award for literary excellence.

## ***Email Addresses - New and Updated***

Want receive the Jolly Thing by email? Let me know your email address and it will arrive as by magic.

**Changed your email? Send me your new one.**

Do you want to be kept up on Local Steels Creek happenings, events and offerings? Let me know and I will put you on the **Grape Vine** so you don't miss out.

**Andrew Chapman** [achapman@woodards.com.au](mailto:achapman@woodards.com.au)

APRIL 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Art Social Tennis	3	4
5 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends (fall back)</i>	6 Social Tennis Women's Group	7 Social Tennis Stitches	8	9 Art Show Open Social Tennis Singing	10 Art Show	11 Art Show
12 YG&DHS Art Show	13 <b>Recycle</b> Social Tennis Art Show	14 Social Tennis Garden Outing SSS	15	16 Art Social Tennis Singing	17 Movies	18 Grape grazing  <i>FYFB Working Bee</i>
19 Grape grazing	20 Social Tennis	21 Social Tennis Stitches	22	23 Art Social Tennis Singing	24	25 Market  <b>ANZAC DAY</b>
26 Clamberers	27 <b>Recycle</b> Growing Group Social Tennis	28 Social Tennis SSS Book Group	29	30 Art SMB YG Township Group Social Tennis Singing		

**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**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday - 8.00 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. New Members welcome

Robyn Allan 0409 139 371

**CLAMBERERS**

Last Sunday (March to November). Since 1993, the walking group has walked over local tracks & explored the flora and fauna of the Valley and surrounding areas. Walks are announced at the SCCC Market beforehand.

Robyn Allan 0409 139371 [eda@wideband.net.au](mailto:eda@wideband.net.au)

**FRIENDS OF YARRA FLATS BILLABONGS**

Development of wetlands adjacent to Yarra Glen.

Working Bees third Saturday of every second month starting at 12 noon

Kevin Heeley 9730 1704 [kevinheeley@bigpond.com](mailto:kevinheeley@bigpond.com)  
<http://yarraflatsbillabongs.melbournewater.com.au>

**GARDEN**

Newsletter, Outings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 53 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.30 am at SC3 – all welcome.

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 [hewisec@bigpond.com](mailto:hewisec@bigpond.com).

**HISTORY**

The Y.G. & D.H.S. meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 1:30 pm Memorial Hall:

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1801 Eric Tetlow 9730 1445 [etetlow@aphalink.com.au](mailto:etetlow@aphalink.com.au)

<http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyite.com.au>

**MARKET**

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

**LANDCARE GROUP**

Ongoing projects and a great opportunity to obtain information, advice and possibly funding about tackling Landcare issues of significance to YOU!

Ivan Fillsell Ph 5965 2248 or David Allan 0413 396 296

**HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE**

To arrange hire of the revamped Hall and/or any equipment please contact Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

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



MAY 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Tennis Comp Plant Exchange
3	4 Social Tennis Women's Group	5 Social Tennis Garden Outing Stitchers	6	7 Art Social Tennis Singing	8 Movies	9 Market  Tennis Comp
10 YG&DHS	11 <b>Recycle</b> Social Tennis	12 Social Tennis SSS	13	14 Art Social Tennis Singing	15	16 Tennis Comp <i>FYFB Working Bee</i>
17	18 Social Tennis	19 Social Tennis Stitchers Book Group	20	21 Art Social Tennis Singing	22 Movies	23 Market Tennis Comp
24	25 <b>Recycle</b> Social Tennis Growing Group	26 Social Tennis SSS	27	28 SMB YG Township Group Social Tennis Singing	29	30 Tennis Comp
31 Clamberers						

#### MOVIES

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic movies at SCCC. March through November.

Keith Montell 5965 2202

#### SINGING

Is now a Ukulele group meeting at Hargreaves Hill in Bell St on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

Angie Macmillan 97301998

#### SMB

Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at Anita's Yarra Glen.

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

#### STITCHERS

Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SCCC. Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Work shops plus, 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, 70 active and social members. Mondays, 7.00 PM, (Social tennis). Tuesdays 10.00 AM - Social Tennis. Thursdays 7.00 PM, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM, Regular competitions.

Albie Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

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

#### WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Friendship Group

1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7.00 at JJ's in Yarra Glen. Come for company, conversation, food and coffee. You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat.

Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

#### YARRA GLEN TOWNSHIP GROUP

Meets last Thursday of the Month 6 to 8pm. All welcome

Melinda Koth 9730 2600

## Cross Creek 32

### Across

1. We'll need these as the weather cools (7)
4. .... diem, seize the day (5)
7. Pyrenees principality (7)
8. Loutish search engine? (5)
9. 5.down's preferred speed! (6)
12. Craftspeople (8)
15. One of our five senses (8)
17. A model of Ford (6)
18. Currently in short supply (5)
21. This trading is illegal (7)
22. Could be a crowd (5)
23. Two very funny men (7)

### Down

1. 2009's ..... season was the most tragic ever (8)
2. Four score and ten (6)
3. How good to be this at 2 down (4)
4. One hopes not to have feet of this (4)
5. No doubt can be found at the Grand Prix (7)
6. Once a Greek nymph, now just a voice (4)
10. Pauls ..... lies to the east of Yarra Glen (5)
11. A level of Australian Government (5)
13. Literally immaculate (8)
14. A glory of Scotland's high summer (7)
16. Slip, slop on the sun..... (6)
18. St John's one is a local weed (4)
19. No longer green (4)
20. Nicholas II was the last .... of Russia (4)

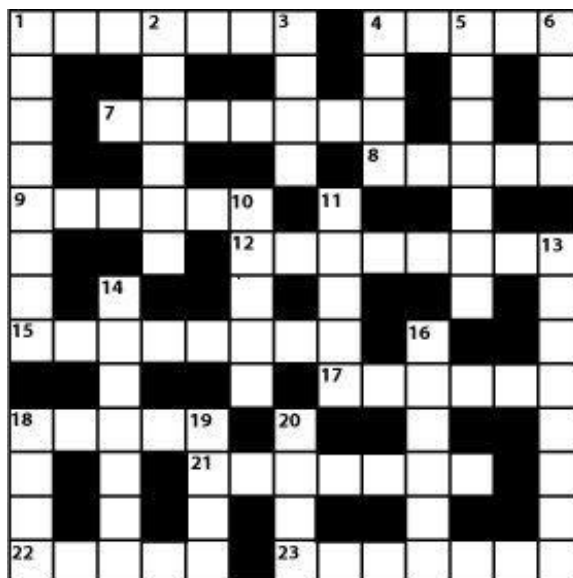
## Cross Creek 31 Answers

### Across

5. Breastbones
7. ASAP
8. Liferaft
9. Twister
11. Track
13. Elder
14. Student
16. Nitrogen
17. Borg
18. Gingerbread

### Down

1. Jeep
2. Psalter
3. Aaft
4. Infrared
- Bushwalking
6. Softcentred
10. Steering
12. Standby
15. Agree
17. Beet



220 Print / 230 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. Management Committee: **Keith Montell**, President; **David Allan**, Vice-president; **Mike Watkins**, Treasurer; **Sandra Turnley**, Secretary, **Andrew Chapman**, **John Houston**, and **Eric Tetlow** elected as members **Chris Tomlins** Garden Club and **Heather Smith** Tennis Club  
<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>

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We gratefully acknowledge **Frank Hoogenraad**, for the support of the Steels Creek Community and *The Jolly Thing*.

**HOOGIES**  
 OF YARRA GLEN



*No worries!*

DEADLINE 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 for the  
 next *Jolly Thing*