



the jolly thing

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 84 (April-May 2010) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

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

for current activity photos and more commentary

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President's Prattle

It was great to see so many Screekians at the family day on the 7 February everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours; swap yarns; building plans; and general gossip. Tully Henchel provided a pleasant musical backdrop and the weather was perfect, even a little on the warm side. It was amusing to see six stalwart men of the valley carry the marquee from one side of the grounds to the other – perhaps we can make it annual event! (Or the Screekian Tent dance – Steels Creek's answer to Morris dancing)



Work is slowly (isn't it always) progressing on the rebuilding works. Support for the inclusion of a junior children's playground has been positive and this will be incorporated into the overall landscape design. We are still chasing funding but are quietly confident that sufficient will be raised to build a really good Community Centre.

This must be Artist season as **Margaret McLoughlin** has opened her exhibition at Yering; Tarrawarra has opened a bush-fire themed exhibition; and the **Yarra Glen Easter Art Show** is on at **Alowyn Gardens** Come along and see works from 150 Artists (270 hanging works 230 non-hanging works and 10 sculptures).

.Some great opportunities to view local artists' works have a coffee or just enjoy the surroundings.

Over the past months **John and Margaret Houston** have been photographing those members of our community who received either a Maggie Beer or Stephanie Alexander cookbook to help re-establish their library.

Christine Mullen recently wrote to both authors, together with photos, to let them know how much pleasure their books have brought. Sixty books in total were distributed. The following edited extract is from Maggie Beer's reply to Christine: "What a gift your father has left- he must have been a very special person to think of organising for all (those affected) members of the community to receive a copy of "Maggies Harvest" or Stephanie's "Cook's Companion". Looking at your photographs really brings to life the strength of your community. The smile on their faces makes me feel very humble to think indirectly I can have some part in all your lives". **Keith Montell**

Food Writers Report

Due to an unfortunate accident at the occasion of Tristan's wedding our resident food writer **Judith Augustine** has both bones in her lower left leg broken. Having spent twenty one days in hospital any comments on the food eaten would be too depressing to even contemplate let alone expand on. Hopefully by the next edition she will be up and about and able to report again.

Daylight Savings Time Ends on Easter Sunday

Don't forget to turn back your clock for the end of Daylight savings time on the early hours of Sunday, 4 April. Enjoy the extra hour's sleep!

(It always signals the start of winter to me: Editor)

Music In A Box – Well Actually In An Old Church

On Saturday night the 20th of March I attended The Aloysius Music Box at the Old Catholic Church in Sayle St., Yarra Glen.

It was just by chance that I had read about this in the new Yarra Valley and Ranges magazine.

Aloysius Music Box is the brainchild of Genevieve Dickson who grew up in Yarra Glen.

She is a 4th year music student studying at Melbourne University. Genevieve felt that the church had great potential to showcase young musicians from Melbourne and the VCA. This was the third concert in what is planned to be a monthly event.

On Saturday night a very small audience was treated to Italian arias sung by Genevieve in a beautiful soprano voice. This was followed by a recital on piano of the music from the French film 'Emile'. After an interval a violin duet, 'Violino Romantico' played classical music.

The performers were professional, entertaining and engaged with the audience.

Aloysius Music Box will feature different performers each month.

If you enjoy music, I urge you to attend one of the recitals in the future and support a terrific initiative that few people know about.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.00

The next recital will be on Saturday April 17th and are held then every third Saturday of the month.

Enquiries: **0400 534991**

Robyn Henchel

Steels Creek Garden Club

Our next outing on Tuesday 13th April will be a trip to Marysville to visit Bruno's Art & Sculpture Garden. Bruno created a garden full of hidden sculptures full of whimsy, beauty and humour. It was a fantasy world set in a beautiful rainforest. Many of the sculptures survived Black Saturday and Bruno has reopened his garden for people to again stroll through, not only to wonder at the beauty of his sculptures but to marvel at the ability of nature to rejuvenate, giving hope to all. If you would like to join us on this outing, please meet us at McKenzie's Reserve no later than 9.30am. Transport will be by private car and we will be having lunch at the Marysville Bakery afterwards. More info please ring **Gillian 5797 8266**.

The Stitchers Group

A Magic, Invisible Thread Helps Hold Steels Creek Together

Over the years, through good times and bad, women have been adding individual stitches to help make the wonderful quilt that is Steels Creek.

People come from near and far to place a few more stitches of magic, to make our community what it has become. They stitch together with an invisible thread in many forms including the market, film nights, garden club and tennis club.

As we stitch, have coffee and exchange sewing and craft ideas, we spend a relaxing afternoon knowing that at the conclusion we have made our community a little stronger with our invisible threads.

We have in the past, stitched quilts to fundraise and sent them near and far to comfort others. It was our turn last year to receive many quilts, comfort found in the stitches sewn with love and compassion by strangers.

People may ask what is the magic in your community. It is the magic of the invisible stitch binding us strongly together.

Whether you join us for an occasional outing, complete a group or individual craft project, or would like a coffee and company meet with us any Tuesday 1.30-4.00

For further information on Stitchers phone **Jane Calder 59652372**

Pam Verhoeven Stitchers Member

Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club Happenings

Open Day: We'll have a BBQ Open Day on Saturday, 24 April starting at 12 noon. Come have a snag and coleslaw and enjoy a social hit. The courts are looking good after being repaired and refurbished following the flooding damage.

Saturday Tennis: Saturday competitions start up again in May after the holiday break. They are on at the courts on Saturday afternoons at 1:30.

Thursday Morning Mum's Tennis: This is going really well. 9:30am Thursdays. All welcome.

Social Tennis: Warm or cool, the tennis is always just right on Monday and Thursday night social tennis. We will be continuing our no-fee policy through to the end of the membership year, thanks to those who slaved under the marquee at Bunning on Boxing Day.. Come and enjoy the tennis and friendship. **Ed Bartosh, Secretary, SCTC**

SC3 Film Club

Super Meal and jolly good company at 6pm. Films starts 7.30pm.

More nights of fun, suspense and drama together with wine (yours) and fine food.

We are getting back to some older classics now and some even have singing in them!

Keith

Screening on Friday 9th April:

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS (1944)

That's what Judy Garland sings and that's what all the fans of the then 22year old star will do (or else just come to SCCC). This charming piece of nostalgia stars also Margaret O'Brien (7yo); Mary Astor; Tom Drake; and Marjorie Main. Classics include "The Boy Next Door"; "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" and "The Trolley Song". Clang-clang, Ding-ding, Zing-zing: don't miss it! (Details from [IMDB](#))

Screening on Friday 23rd April:

THE GENERAL (1926)

Set in 1861, and based on actual events, The General is a superb action comedy starring Buster Keaton in one of his finest roles. Johnny Gray (Buster) has two loves, his girlfriend Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack) and his locomotive. Johnny tries to enlist but he has to remain as a Railroad Engineer, Annabelle thinks he's a coward. Then his train, with her aboard, is stolen by Union Spies. The chase is on with tremendous action and stunts (no double for Buster he did it all himself). (Details from [IMDB](#))

Screening on Friday 14th May:

THE STING (1973)

Winner of seven Academy Awards (inc. best picture) this is one of the most popular films of all time. Set in the 1930's, and starring Robert Redford as a small time crook and Paul Newman as a veteran conman, this intricate comedy caper features a classic double cross as they seek revenge for the murder of one of their gang. The amazing ending is worth waiting for. It was 30 years before I saw this and when I did I loved it! (Details from [IMDB](#))

Screening on Friday 28th May:

TOPSY TURVY (1999)

Is it a musical or a story with music? This film covers a period in the partnership of Gilbert & Sullivan when the creative well had run dry and, following a flop, tensions were high. Success arrived with "The Mikado" that went on to be huge hit.

The film touches on the lives of the married Gilbert (Jim Broadbent) and the carousing Sullivan (Allan Corduner) but also gives insight to lives of the working actors; choristers and costumiers of the D'Oyly Carte team at the Savoy Theatre.

Colourful and full of extracts from the plays and the infectious music of Sullivan. (Details from [IMDB](#))

Modern Choices

A poem from the Steels Creek Poet Laureate

Relax with a movie

Just push the button

The new TV

Has different ideas

Clock – timer – colour tone –

Graphic equalizer –

choices, choices

AV1 or 2 - Components -

Menu - Channel -DTV -TV

I **must** choose

I Want My Old One Back

Modern Instruction books

Speak computer speak

A foreign language

A plot to exclude us

Instruction book

50 Pages

18 sockets and wires

Plug X to Z, A to M

Snow on the screen

Hail outside

Rudi Anders

ANZAC Day March and Service in Yarra Glen

The Yarra Glen RSL is sponsoring a march on Sunday 25th April to commemorate ANZAC Day. The march will start at 10:15am at the Yarra Glen Police Station on King Street and proceed to the Memorial Hall. Following the march, there will be a commemorative service in the Memorial Hall. Children from the local schools will address what ANZAC Day means and why it is important to them. Light refreshments will be available following the service.

Ed Bartosh, Secretary, RSL

Clamberers

Clamberers undertake monthly walks in and around the Steels Creek area and elsewhere, from April to November each year. Walks are usually held on the last Sunday of each month during that time.

Our first walk this year will in the Warramate Hills located north-west of Woori Yallock and east of Gruyere, overlooking the central Yarra Valley. This walk will be held on **Sunday 18th April** instead of the last Sunday in April, which this year is Anzac Day. Note that this Warramate Hills walk has been swapped with the Brocks Spur walk, which will now be held at the end of May (30th).

Full details of the walks will be emailed to registered Clamberers beforehand. If you are not on the email list but would like to receive details of walks, please send your email contact details to Robyn Allan at rka@wideband.net.au.

Robyn Allan Ph 5988 7073 (H), 0409 139 371 (M)

Arrivals and Departures

Henry Alan O'Neill Brand, already known as **Hal**, born at 8.45pm 12 February. All well though mother a *little* fatigued after two day's labour, a first child to Erin Marie O'Neill and John Brand, he comes complete with the family characteristic FOMO (fear of Missing out) and his own web site. As hennery was due on 7 February his nick name, while in utero, was Burnie Ash. Thank Goodness these names were not seriously considered after his arrival!

Vale

Norm Hargreaves, whose grandparents were early pioneers of the Yarra Valley, died last month. As a jack of all trades, he has left His mark on much of Steels Creek; digging dams (several of our dams were dug by him) ditches and other earthworks, there would be few properties that he had not worked on. He was a life member of the Yarra Glen Cricket Club, and a first class bushman, "He could drop a tree on a handkerchief" said long time friend Alby Leckie. Another link of the Creek's past gone.

Frederick William Sadlier Our good friend passed away on 23 March at the age of 94. An overflow crowd attended the funeral service at St Paul's Anglican Church that Friday. Fred was a founding member of the Yarra Glen & District Historical Society and a long-time member of the RSL. His friendly smile and good-natured spirit will be greatly missed. Many stories were recounted about Fred and his job on the waterline, at the Show, and around the town. Good innings, Fred.



Bike Trail Up Date

No news is good news they say, the next few weeks will see if that saying is true with regard to the now called *All Purpose Yarra Glen to Steel Creek Trail*, part of which will be called after Eric Tetlow. Watch This Space!

When Will The Blue Wrens Return?

As I watched the little hawk gracefully hovering, head motionless wings fluttering with feathers expanded like fingers, over the long grass I had just slashed, I thought of the gradual return to normal of the bird life. Crows had of course returned immediately after the fires and had grown fat and bold on the remains of the less fortunate animals, others like the Grass parrots and rosellas had some months later colourfully whizzed back, their bright hues contrasting strongly with the burnt terrain, magpies had again forced their way though the sky, like swimmers out to break their personal bests, their delightful warbling starting the day. Kookaburras, their laugh preceding them, spied sitting on top of the new fence posts eyeing the slim pickings. Then smaller birds again flittered about, swifts chasing high flying insects in the late afternoon sun, sparrows and finches twittered in the trees, willy wagtails stridently protected their territory.

But I yet have to see blue wrens, the last I saw of them was on the Sunday afternoon after the fires two dead on the burnt grass their blue feathers still vibrant, all that remained of the large family of twelve that used to skip across the orchard lawn. I await their return.

Andrew Chapman

Rainfall Report – end of March 2010

Gauge Location	February 2010 (mm)	March 2010 (mm) (to 27 th March)	Year to Date (2010) (to 27 th March)	Year to Date (2009)
'Blackwood Hill' -Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek	73.2	66.0	227.2	51.1
'Highlea' - Dixons Creek	95.8	68.6	252.0	71.0
'Kilravock' – Adams Lane, Steels Creek	71	63	208	38.5
'Pencloe' – Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek	54.4	64.8	201.1	39.5

Rainfall from the Mt St Leonard Station for the month was 112.4 mm, year to date 310.4 mm, last year to date 122 mm.

Rainfall averages

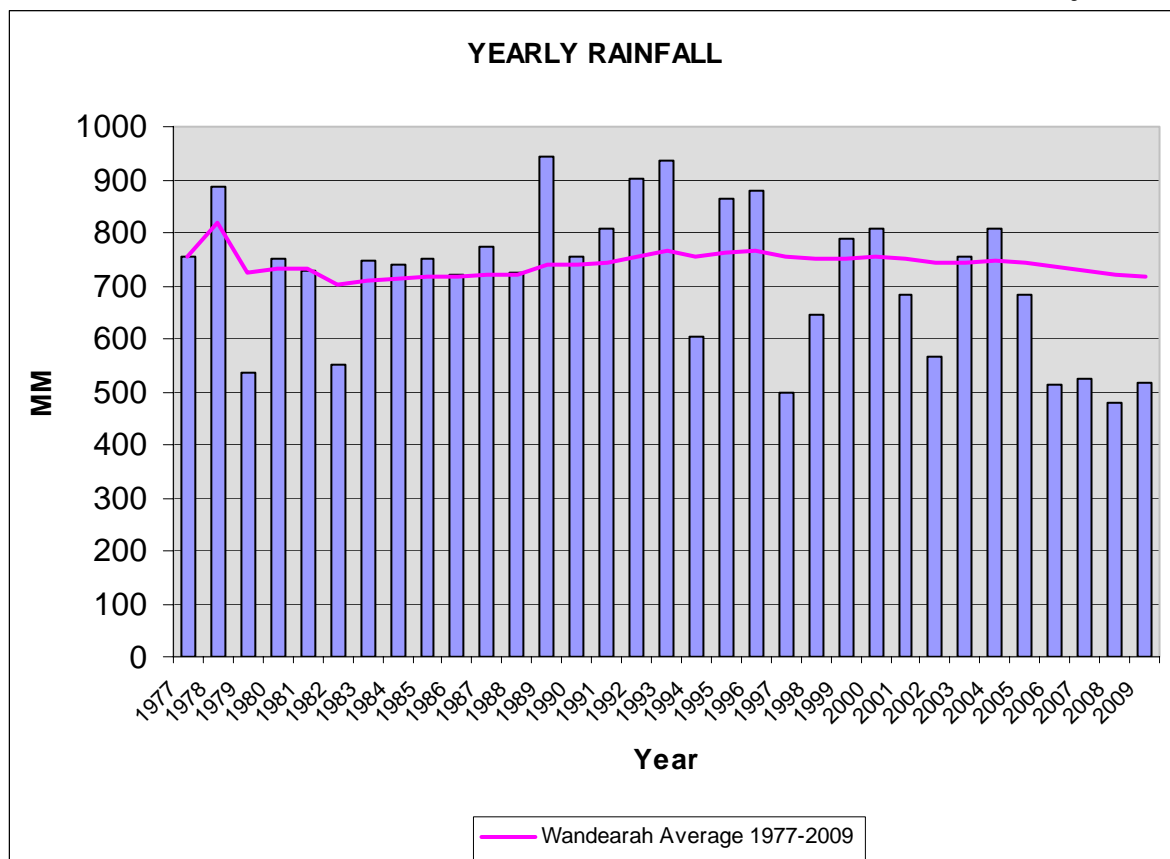
Rainfall figures were collected at Yarra Glen Post Office, for the Bureau of Meteorology, between 1890 and 1974, with the yearly average being 765 mm. I have been recording rainfall figures at "Wandearah" Japonica Drive since 1977 and the average is currently 715.7 mm – a decrease of 50 mm from the Bureau average. The table below shows the monthly variations between the two sets of averages, with the greatest decreases being February to May. I have had two Februarys where there was no recordable rainfall and four when the rainfall was less than 4 mm.

In 2009 I recorded 1.1 mm in January and nil in February and the period from January to August was the lowest that I had recorded for that period. The year was only saved from being the lowest recorded, by the 100 mm that fell in September. It was still 200 mm below average and was the fourth lowest yearly total. The last eight years has included five of the lowest yearly totals with four of those in the last five years – **the lowest total was 2008 with 478 mm.**

The highest yearly total was 1989 with 941 mm and the highest monthly total was June 1977 with 170.5 mm. 2010 has had a great start to the year following last summer, with regular rainfall and all three months above average.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Average 1890-1974	49	50	52	67	71	61	63	73	74	77	68	60	765
Average 1977-2009	47.2	39.1	43.3	58	56.7	66	62.4	69.5	71.7	69.7	67.3	64.7	715.7

Barry Sheffield



The Jolly Thing Delivery

As delivery to local letter boxes has now ceased you are now able to get **The Jolly Thing** 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 and it will be included in the e-mail distribution list.
2. Pick up a free copy at the Yarra Glen Post Office, the Yarra Glen IGA 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/

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

Malcolm Calder

Email Addresses - New and Up dated

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

APRIL 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Art Social Tennis	2 <i>Art Show</i>	3 <i>Art Show</i>
4 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> <i>Easter Art Show</i>	5 Women's Group Social Tennis <i>Art Show</i>	6 Social Tennis Stitchers	7	8 Art Social Tennis Singing	9 Movie	10 Market
11 YG&DHS	12 Recycle Social Tennis	13 Social Tennis Garden Outing Stitchers	14	15 Mum's Tennis Art Social Tennis	16	17 FYFB Working Bee
18 Clamberers	19 Social Tennis Growing Group	20 Social Tennis Stitchers	21 YG Township Group	22 Mum's Tennis Art Social Tennis Singing	23 Movie	24 Market Tennis Club BBQ
25 <i>ANZAC Day</i>	26 Holiday Recycle	27 Social Tennis Stitchers Book Group	28	29 Mum's Tennis SMB Art Social Tennis	30	

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. New Members welcome

Robyn Allan 0409 139 371

CLAMBERERS

Last Sunday (April 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 before hand. or see item on page 4

Robyn Allan 0409 139371 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
<http://yarraflatsbillabongs.melbournewater.com.au>

GARDEN

Newsletter, outings 2nd Tuesdays, 60 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.

HISTORY

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

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1801
<http://www.yarraqlenhistorical.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

LANDCARE GROUP

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

Ivan Filsell Ph 5965 2248 or David Allan 0413 396 296

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

MAY 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Tennis Comp
2	3 Social Tennis Women's Group	4 Social Tennis Stitchers	5	6 Mum's Tennis Art Social Tennis	7	8 Market Tennis Comp
9 YG&DHS	10 Recycle Social Tennis	11 Garden Outing Social Tennis Stitchers	12	13 Mum's Tennis Art Social Tennis Singing	14 Movie	15 Tennis Comp FYFB Working Bee
16	17 Social Tennis	18 Social Tennis Stitchers	19 YG Township Group	20 Mum's Tennis Art Social Tennis	21	22 Market Tennis Comp
23	24 Recycle Social Tennis Growing Group	25 Social Tennis Stitchers Book Group	26	27 Mum's Tennis SMB Art Social Tennis Singing	28 Movie	29 Tennis Comp
30 Clamberers	31 Social Tennis					

HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE

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

MOVIES

2nd & 4th 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 2nd & 4th 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.

Jane Calder 5965 2372, Annette Conrad 5962 5995

TENNIS

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 70 active and social members. Mondays, 7.30 PM*, (Social tennis). Tuesdays 10.00 AM - Social Tennis. Thursdays 9.30 AM, Mum's tennis. Thursdays 7.30 PM*, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM regular competitions. *Night tennis running strong under the new lights.

Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

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

WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Friendship Group

1st 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.

Lindy Montell 5965 2202

YARRA GLEN TOWNSHIP GROUP

Meets the third Wednesday of the Month 6 to 8pm. All welcome

Melinda Koth 9730 2600

Cross Creek 38

Across

1. A welcome sort of hand (7)
4. A flutter on these at Yarra Glen? (5)
7. Some cousins are said to be this (7)
8. Praise highly (5)
9. A gentle walk (6)
12. Get the better of (8)
15. Find a way (8)
17. She met (anag) some ideas (6)
18. Workaday boat pushes through (5)
21. Said to make the man (7)
22. Translucent fabric down the cliff face? (5)
23. Encompassing half a Yakka? (8)

Down

1. An unwelcome hairy visitor (8)
2. Dorothy Sayers wrote of ----- *Poison* (6)
3. Every crossword needs one of these (4)
4. Strong emotion on the road? (4)
5. A picture may have one (8)
6. Gardeners know that "The answer lies in the ----." (4)
10. Here rather than elsewhere (5)
11. Left Bank headgear (5)
13. As thin as an ----- (8)
14. Greed (7)
16. More expensive or more beloved (6)
18. Head honcho (4)
18. Eastern 18 down (4)
20. Often harder than to do (4)

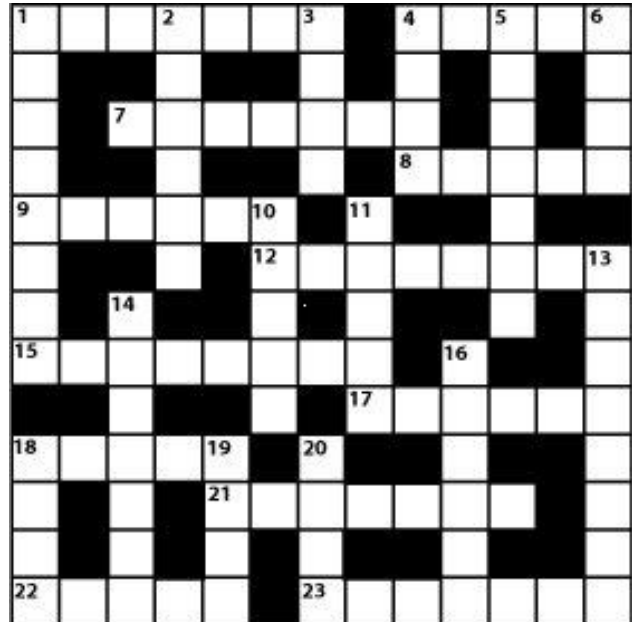
Cross Creek 37 Answers

Across

1. Book 3. Cuddles 8. Optimum 9. Incan 10. Monda
11. Engine 13. Righteousness 16. Banana 18 Choir
21. Cadet 22. Ironing 23. Training 24. Anon

Down

1. Bookmark 2. Often 3. Commemoration 4. Doing
5. Licence 6. Sand 7. Impart 12. Estrogen 14. Opa
15. Aston 17. Sector 19. Onion 20. Scut



200 Print / 270 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; **Mike Watkins**, Vice-president; **Richard McLouglin**, Treasurer; **Sandra Turnley**, Secretary, **David Allan**, **Andrew Chapman**, **John Houston**, elected as members **Jane Calder**, Garden Club and **Heather Smith**, Tennis Club
<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>

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thejollything@yarraglen.com

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HOOGIES

O F Y A R R A G L E N



No worries!

DEADLINE 28 May 2010 for the next
Jolly Thing