

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 94 (December 2011-January 2012) 'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY'

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

for current activity photos and more commentary

Two Poems The Serial Page 3
Page 4

Captain Speaking

The AGM was held at the Centre, and **Graham Lloyd** has now joined the crew, oops committee; so welcome Graham. Work at the Centre continues apace and has now reached the stage where the Centre is unusable. Although slightly behind the revised (!) schedule the building should be finished by Christmas. Then there is the fit out. In the meantime, the next 2 markets will be at the Tennis Club.

The Carol concert will also be at the Tennis Club on Friday 16 December. This year there will be live music to sing along to, so come along at 6pm for a BYO barbeque, followed by carols and port and Christmas cake to finish. At the concert Jane Calder will be delighted to accept on behalf of HICCI an unwrapped present for a child. Finally the end of the turbulence is not far away. A Happy Christmas and New Year to all.

Mike Watkins

Another Eventful Year Passes

How quickly it has gone again and thanks to all those who have helped in the production of the *Jolly Thing*: the proof readers, Anne Watkins and Jane Calder, Ed 'Mr IT' Bartosh, Malcolm Calder in charge of distribution, Harry Harrison at the hire Print Room, Hoogies for their financial support, Jean Low and Jane Calder for the crossword, David Allen for stepping in as Editor when I was out of action and last, but certainly not least in the eyes of the poor Editor, all those who have contributed articles during the year.

Andrew Chapman

And a **Huge** thank you to Andrew Chapman for the production of **The Jolly Thing** and the **Grape Vine** especially as he was as he modestly puts it "out of action".

Mike Watkins

Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club Happenings

SCTC AGM: The Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club, Inc. held its AGM on 23 October at the clubrooms. The meeting was followed by a BBQ with the Club supplying sausages, coffee and tea. The officers remain: President: Alby Leckie, Vice President: Norm Stewart, Treasurer: John Poulton, Secretary: Ed Bartosh, Social Coordinator: Jean Lowe, SCCC Representative: Heather Smith, Committee Member: Gwen Leckie. There are openings on the committee, so if you are interested in having your say in making the Club better, please speak to Alby.

Coaching: The new coaching sessions are almost complete and have been a critical success. Lee is coaching three groups: ladies, youngsters, and adults. Costs have been subsidised by grants from the government. We'll start new sessions in the New Year.

Saturday Tennis: Saturday competitions are going again (when it's not raining). Come show your support from 1pm on Saturdays.

Social Tennis: Summer is now here, so come enjoy the warming weather on Thursday nights. Come and enjoy the tennis and friendship. We'll start having a BBQ available on Thursdays before tennis when it gets a bit warmer still. Mondays will start again when the Tuesday coaching finishes.

Web site: www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/

The Chris Mullins Award

This year goes to **Rudi Anders**, our local poet. His brief and expressive poems have captured the essence of life in Steels Creek. Congratulations Rudi

Steels Creek Community Centre Redevelopment

The building works are proceeding at a great pace now and we are on track, financially and time wise, for a completion of the major work by the end of December. There will still be some internal fit out work to be completed in the new year but that should all be finished in January/February and we will be able to start using our new facility then.

The storage shed/workshop is also nearly completed and will provide a really good facility for art/craft work and "messy" activities. An outdoor semi covered area will be built at the end of the shed for use of the gardeners to propagate; pot; prune; and generally get their hands dirty. An additional water supply will be installed to service this area.



The site may still look like a battlefield for a while until we commence landscaping work next year. We are working with the Shire to develop a landscape plan (based on initial ideas by Brian Spears), and this will incorporate a "natural" play area for children. Several parents of young children have provided ideas also that have helped to provide a design framework.

The Healesville Lions are assisting with the coordination of this project and have committed a very generous amount of funding towards it. Together with other funds already received (Blue Circle, Gembrook Market, and Shire) it should be possible to create something that enhances the site and meets our community needs.

Keith Montell

Thanks again are due to Keith for his hard work and dedication to this project

Bushfire Memorial

To assist with the development of memorials, the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund has provided funding to all Councils across fire-affected areas. Yarra Ranges Council is keen to hear the preferences and views of community members so that a memorial/s will represent what is preferred.

In the next couple of weeks you'll receive a survey which asks for your thoughts on what a memorial should represent, the elements of it (e.g. a tree carving, a contemplative garden, a seat) and ideas for location. It will also be available online at www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

This is a chance to have all ideas and thoughts considered, and the survey is part of a concerted effort to hear from as many people as possible. If you'd prefer not to fill out the survey, but to have a discussion instead, please contact **Rob Read**, Bushfire Community Support Officer on **9294 6835**.

Clamberers

Clamberers provide a series of monthly walks from March to November each year in nearby and regional locations. The walks provide an opportunity to explore or re-visit some of our beautiful bushland and other areas in good company. This year it has been good to see some younger family members coming along on the walks, and even leading one of them! A good family day out!

This year we also enjoyed our second annual 'weekend-of-walks' at the Wonthaggi Heathlands and the Bass Coast around Kilcunda. Thanks to Rob and Bev for planning the lovely walks and to Bron Dahlstrom for her support too. We hope to include a similar weekend away in our program for 2012.

Walks have now concluded for 2011, and will resume at the end of March 2012. Information will be circulated to registered email addresses before then.

If you would like to receive information about these walks but have not been doing so, please register your details by emailing (or telephoning) Robyn Allan at drallan@wideband.net.au, telephones 5988 7073 and 0409 139 371.

SC4 Film Club

Hopefully with the completion of the Community Centre extensions, Movie Night will recommence in March 2012.

CFA Community Meeting

7:00 – 8:30 pm, Thursday 8th December, Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club, Steels Creek Rd.

Meetings will be cancelled on days of Total Fire Ban for your safety
For details of other meetings near you, check CFA's website www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call 8739 1300

Market Day



Numbers have been rising at recent market days, despite some wet Saturdays. As the photo shows, produce does change hands and bargains are a plenty. It is also a great way to catch up and be informed as to what is going on in and around our community and for those new to the area to meet their neighbours. At the most recent market **Alby Leckie** come to the fore with a batch of lovely scones, Gwen was not well and unable to bake, so Alby whipped a batch up.

So if you have not been, come along and enjoy. The next market, last for the year, is on **Saturday 10 December**, and until further notice will be held at the Steels Creek Tennis Club

Several Poems

Steels Creek

Alone I stroll the winding path Cool air is gentle on my skin Nothing stirs, in a sea of green Treetops touch the misty sky

The magic of silence Casts its spell Time dissolves My mind's at peace

Bathed in stillness
The path meanders on and on

A sudden sound Close Loud Concealed in scrub

Alarming

My heart beats fast Brain alert Looks for escape

I know the sound A warning call Sambar deer Solid built A quarter ton Armed with Antlers

Hoof-beats recede Calm returns Green and gray Charm me again

Rudi Anders

Kangaroo

Sprawled on the grass
Soaks up the sun
Leans on an elbow
Languidly, lazily
Legs stretched out
Ears twitching
Jaws juicing
Wary brown eyes watchful

Lindy Montell

Serial – A Full And Plenty Mystery

Episode Two

Yarra Glen has changed since I used to pass through it many years ago on the way up to Mt Buller skiing; then it had a milk bar, a pub and not much else, surrounded by plenty of open farm land. Now it is a busy shopping centre with a huge IGA, a hardware store, several cafes and restaurants; and the open farm land is now covered in vines.

I stopped off at the local agent where I was to pick up a key and directions to the property.

"Well Lachlan, demand for this type of property, that is bush blocks, has some what dropped due to the fires, you may have heard of them. How your late Aunt's place was not burnt to the ground is a miracle; most others nearby were" said the agent as he passed over the keys. 'I would wait awhile and see the house can be tidied up before putting it on the market.' And he gave me the names of some handy men who could help with the tidy up. "Not that they are all that reliable; there's a lot of demand for workers at the moment."

After a cup of coffee at a nearby café, I headed up the Steels Creek Road and saw the results of the fires that some few years ago had devastated the area, tall dead gum trees some burnt out houses and sale boards. Though the rebuilding of houses was very impressive as was the regrowth. There was a Community Centre undergoing extensions and an active tennis club with two courts.

I stopped to seek further directions from a local feeding hay to his cows. He knew of my Aunt and had heard she had gone into a home, but was not aware of her death or that the house had survived the fires. Pointing to the Mt. Slide Road, he said "Its about a couple of miles up, and by the way, if you're still around on Saturday, there is a market at the Community Centre - a good way to meet the locals".

The house had timber walls, an iron roof and was set on a stone base, though was not in as bad a condition as I had thought. It was somewhat of a time capsule, pretty well in the same state as when my Aunt had left, dusty, but tidy and liveable. The day had warmed up, and as I sat on the veranda I noticed a glint of water coming from a small dam with a large shed nearby. The bones of the garden were evident, several oak trees, a spreading Chinese elm and some maples were the main trees, well spaced on lawns gone rampant with blackberries. There was a fenced off vegetable patch and daffodils of all colours. A sudden cry followed by several different birdcalls was followed by a burst of grey and green rushing across the lawn, a lyrebird in full flight.

I drove back to Yarra Glen and took a room for the night at The Grand. As I was having a pre-dinner drink at the bar, an elderly bloke came up and introduced him self: "Clarrie Reed's my name. So you're Flo's nephew. I knew your great Aunt Flo, nice lady. Sorry to hear she's gone"

I did not ask him how he knew who I was; word gets around in a small town. He was of squat build and had a florid face on which grew a grey trimmed beard. "Bit of a mystery though" he continued on in a clipped English accent "around her husband, Hector. He vanished for many years and then was found dead in a burnt out car that ran off Steels Creek Road. There had been rumours that he had found gold, but I doubt it. Before I could reply, he had scampered off to join a group at the other end of the bar.

I dreamed of pirates and buried treasure that night.

To be continued in the next issue

Go to The Chapel

The Chapel Restaurant in Castella Street is run as a not-for-profit initiative, staffed by trainee hospitality students on work experience. Profits go to "Careforce", offering support to families experiencing hardships.

From November 29 the menu offers a Christmas Dinner with a choice of three mains and two desserts, plus tea or coffee for \$20.00. Groups are welcome.

Breakfast is from 8.30 - 11.00 and Lunch from 12 noon - 2 p.m. The restaurant is not open for dinner.

Prices are reasonable and food is excellently cooked.

Jean Lowe

Trees, Trees And More Trees

If it's trees you're after, ornamental or fruit, look no further than Narangi Park in Hunts Lane where Athel Smith has a wide selection of trees, common and not so common all at very reasonable prices. But don't ask him how you tell if a tree is a dogwood because he will reply "By its bark"

Steels Creek Garden Club Annual Flower Show



Once again we would like to thank Muriet Wiles' for her generosity in allowing us to hold our Flower Show at her beautiful property Cuttagee Estate in Willowbend Drive, and once again it was a wonderful success with a wide variety of plants offered for sale, pottery from our delightful local Cowshed Pottery as well as a variety of produce, craft items, preloved garden magazines, etc. All up we made just over \$2,500 and as usual we will be making donations to local schools and CFA's.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, it is a great feeling being part of such a friendly and committed team, and of course thanks to all who came and bought, we couldn't have done it without you.

Vale Sonia Keets

On a sadder note, in the days immediately before the Flower Show, we farewelled our good friend Sonia Keets, a founding member of our Club way back in 1992. Before illness overtook her, Sonia was an active member of our Steels Creek community and she leaves many happy memories of the time she spent with us. We'll miss you, but never forget you, Sonia.



Jane Calder

Birds

We love the bird life at our place in Steels Creek nothing better than a glass of wine on the veranda late in the day watching the birds parade. A family of Kookaburras have been constantly feeding off worms on our lawns driven up by the wet soil, the two babies as big as their parents, delighting us with their twilight laugh with the young ones trying to imitate. Unfortunately the Jacobean Lilies, which are in flower, are suffering as their favourite launching place is off the urn in which they are growing.

But a distressing side has been the death of two Shining Bronze-Cuckoos, beautiful emerald green wing and back feathers and the striped underside, common to cuckoos, one on one day the other, its partner we assume, the next, both by flying into the same spot of our windows. We have never seen these beautiful birds before they are rarely found in the area and according to What Bird Is That (page 80) they migrate from New Zealand, along way to come to meet such a fate. We are organizing a deterrent.

Andrew Chapman

Rainfall Report – 28 November 2011							
Gauge Location	October	November	Total to date	Total last year			
<i>'Blackwood Hill'</i> -Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek	65.8	153.4	961.2	981.7			
'Highlea' - Dixons Creek	88.4	172.8	1068.8	1104.6			
'Kilravock' – Adams Lane, Steels Creek	74	176	1012	1002			
<i>'Pencloe'</i> – Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek							
'Wandearah' - Japonica Drive, Yarra Glen	75.5	141.8	921.9	875.6			

Rainfall from the Dixons Creek Station for the month was 138.4 mm, year to date 938.8 mm,

Surely one of the wettest Novembers on Record and another Year over 1000mm which when we arrived in 1982 was the around the average rain fall.

Editor

Eric Tetlow Memorial Talk

Recently the Yarra Glen and District Historical Society were treated to a fascinating talk on Notable Artists and Writers of the Mid Yarra Valley by Barry Watts. This, the third Eric Tetlow Memorial Talk, will be published by the society at some later date.

Relocation Notice

Whilst the renovations to the Community Centre are in progress a number of the Groups that usually meet there are now meeting elsewhere. If in doubt check with the convenor

Stitchers: Yarra Glen Living & Learning Centre Anzac Av Yarra Glen, Art Group: At Margaret Brewsters 11 Armstrong Gr Yarra Glen

Book Group: Meeting in Members' homes.

The Growing Group: At the Calder's 375 Pinnacle Lane Steels Creek But Please Note that the Market Day is now held at the Tennis Club.

The Jolly Thing Delivery

As delivery to local letter boxes has now ceased you are now able to receive **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 andrewchapman44@bigpond.com 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 291 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

Every one has a story

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 Fifth **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 andrewchapman44@bigpond.com

DECEMBER 2011							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
				1 Art Social Tennis	2	3 Tennis Comp	
4	5 Recycle Women's Group	6 Stitchers	7	8 Art Singing Social Tennis CFA Meeting	9	10 Market Tennis Comp	
11 YG&DHS	12	13 Stitchers Garden Outing	14	15 Art Social Tennis	16 Christmas Carols	17 FYFB Working Bee Tennis Comp	
18	19 Recycle Social Tennis	20 Stitchers	21	22 Art Singing Social Tennis	23	24	
25 Christmas	26 Growing Group Social Tennis Boxing Day	27	28	29 SMB Art Social Tennis	30	31	

Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling bin

ART Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

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

BOOK GROUP Beverly Shearsby 0414 517927

4thTuesday - 8.00 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. New Members welcome

CLAMBERERS Robyn Allan 0409 139371 eda@wideband.net.au

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 2

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 <u>kevinheeley@bigpond.com</u> http://yarraflatsbillabongs.melbournewater.com.au

GARDEN Deb Edwards 97301479

Newsletter, outings 2nd Tuesdays, 60 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.30 am at SC3 – all welcome.

HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch Inc)

Maureen Bond 5962 1224 hewisec@bigpond.com.

Maureen Bond 5962 1224 hewisec@bigpond.com.

Environmental issues at Healesville Living and Learning Centre, 1 Badger Creek Road.

HISTORY Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1801

The Y.G. & D.H.S. meets 2nd Sundays at 1:30 pm Memorial Hall: http://www.yarraqlenhistorical.websyte.com.au

MARKET Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

 2^{nd} and 4^{th} 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!

Check for possible Relocation = SC4 = SCCC = Steels Creek Community (and Cultural) Centre, 699 Steels Creek Road

JANUARY 2012							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1 New Year's Day	2 Recycle	3 Social Tennis Stitchers	4	5 Art Social Tennis	6	7	
8	9 Women's Group Social Tennis	10 Social Tennis Stitchers	11	12 Art Singing Social Tennis	13	14 Market	
15 YG&DHS	16 Recycle Social Tennis	17 Social Tennis Stitchers Book Group	18 YG Township Group	19 Art Social Tennis	20	21 FYFB Working Bee	
22	23 Growing Group Social Tennis	24 Social Tennis Stitchers	25	26 SMB <i>Australia Day</i>	27	28 Market	
29 SCTC Open Day	30 Recycle Social Tennis	31 Social Tennis Stitchers					

HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE - DO NOT REMOVE ITEMS WITHOUT CHRISTINE TOMLINS' PERMISSION

To arrange hire of the revamped Hall and/or any equipment please contact

Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

LANDCARE GROUP Ivan Filsell Ph 5965 2248
Ongoing projects and a great opportunity to obtain information, advice and possibly funding about tackling Landcare issues of significance to YOU!

MOVIES Keith Montell 5965 2202

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

SINGING Angie Macmillan 97301998

Is now a Ukulele group meeting at Hargreaves Hill in Bell St Yarra Glen on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month.

SMB Gordon Brown 9730 1937

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

STITCHERS Jane Calder 5965 2372, Annette Conrad 5962 5995

Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at YG L&LC (temp). Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Work shops plus, bring own work – knit, patch, embroider.

TENNIS Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 50 active and social members. Mondays, 7.30 PM*, (Social tennis). Tuesdays 9.00 AM - Social Tennis (contact 5965 2202). Thursdays 9.30 AM, Mums' tennis. Thursdays 7.30 PM*, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM regular competitions. *Night tennis under the lights.

*Night tennis under the lights.

WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Friendship Group

Lindy Montell 5965 2202

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.

YARRA GLEN TOWNSHIP GROUP

Meets the third Wednesday of the Month 7 to 9pm – Due to construction at the Yarra Glen Memorial hall, see our web site for the location. (http://www.yarraglen.com/townshipgroup/) All are welcome.

Jeanette Tucker 9730 2600

Cross Creek 47

Across

- 1. Forested Spur road to Marysville (6)
- 5. Once was Persia (4)
- 7. ...of thought or maybe of carriages (5)
- 8. Anna befriended its King (4)
- 9. Imitated in a monkey fashion (4)
- 10. Made eyes at (5)
- 11. Prenatal state (6)
- 13. Mighty clean Trojan (4)
- 14. Two's enough (6)
- 18. Required (6)
- 21. Chinese dynasty (4)
- 22. Marriage brings these (2-4)
- 24 To correct (5)
- 25. To knock out (4)
- 26 Strong musical ending (4)
- 27. Glittering headpiece (5)
- 28. Dame Hess, renowned pianist (4)
- 29 Of the lower spine (6)

Down

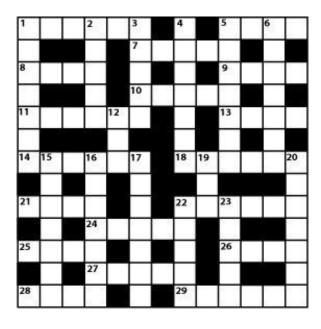
- 1. Sweet or savoury? (7)
- 2. Little portrait (5)
- 3. Wood grafted on to stock (5)
- 4. Look up to see one most mornings (7)
- 5. Bemused (2, 1, 4)
- 6. Run of the mill (7)
- 12. ... Roy hill climb for MG's (3)
- 15. Better than wise or wealthy? (7)
- 16. A printers' ink colour (7)
- 17. Many (7)
- 19. ...Malley was imaginary (3)
- 20. To feel hopeless (7)
- 22. An 'ell of an idea? (5)
- 23. Temporary professional replacement (5)

Cross Creek 46 Answers Across

1. Scuff 7. Lilydale 10. Langwarrin 12. Northern 14. Cart 16. Roti 17. Good year 20. Tournament 23. Sheen 24. Insanity 25. Steer

Down

- 1. Seaman 2. Fell 3. Ting 4. Byway 5. Carriages
- 6. Bennett 9. Yacht 11. Bratwurst 13. Roo 15. Edens
- 16. Retail 18 Runner 21. Mute 22. That



180 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

The "Jolly Thing" is published by and for the greater Steels Creek Community Centre Inc, 699 Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek. Postal address: PO Box 291, Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775. Management Committee: Mike Watkins, President; Andrew Chapman, Vice-president; Ray Turnley, Treasurer; Sandra Turnley, Secretary, David Allan, John Houston, Christine Tomlins, Keith Montell and Graham Lloyd, elected as members; with Jane Calder, Garden Club and Heather Smith, Tennis Club

http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/_Circulated free at the Yarra Glen Post Office and SC4; postal subscription is available for \$6 or free via the Internet. Send your details please.

Editor Andrew Chapman 0412 280773;

Circulation: Malcolm Calder 5965 2372.

thejollything@yarraglen.com

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



DEADLINE for the next Jolly Thing is 28 January 2012.