



# the jolly thing

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 96 (April-May 2012) '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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## Captain Speaking



Sunday 1 April was the day when over 150 past and present residents and friends of Steels Creek gathered for the re-opening of the Centre. The Guest of Honour, **Iris Caddy**, was chauffeured to the event by **Keith Montell** in his vintage Morris. Not to be outdone **Lyn Matthews**, who designed the outstanding new hall that blends so well with the old school building, drove his vintage Chamberlain tractor all the way from Perth to be there.



Our thanks to all the people who helped

to make the day such a success and a special vote of thanks to **Melbourne Water** whose funding enabled the project to go ahead.

The next phase of the project is to build an adventure playground and landscape the surrounds so watch this space.

**Mike Watkins - President**

Thanks should also go to those back in the early 1990s who had the foresight and determination to convince the shire not to sell the old school but to keep it as a community asset, **Tim Todhunter & Rex Bean** were two of the more prominent protagonists in this.

As **Vera Adams**, now commemorated in the Vera Adams Memorial room, wrote in her *Social History of Steels Creek* "In a vibrant and active society it is necessary to have a meeting place on neutral ground SC4 is our only neutral meeting place. We must make every possible effort to retain it."

**Editor**

## Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club Happenings

**SCTC Open Day:** Eastern Region tennis competitions start at the end of April, so the Club will host an open day/BBQ on Sunday 22 April – starting about 12:30. Come for a free sausage sizzle and a social hit. There will be a jumping castle for the kids, big and small.

**Saturday Tennis:** Saturday competitions are starting again on April 28. Come show your support from 1pm on Saturdays.

**Our top team needs recruits. Contact Alby if you'd like to join in!**

**Social Tennis:** With the arrival of cool autumn evenings, social tennis is a good way to warm up and get some exercise. Come enjoy our friendly tennis on Monday and Thursday nights.

**Coaching:** Coaching is going well for our mums, kids and adults classes. Coach Lee Patrick really puts participants through a workout – with the aim of better control and more skill in our play. *Lee with the kids ----->*

**Bunnings Fundraiser:** Your club is pushing out the hot sausages and cold drinks on Easter Sunday, April 8 We'll be there all day, so come by and support your club. Bunnings should have free hot cross buns if true to last year.

Web site: [www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/](http://www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/)



**Ed Bartosh Secretary**

## Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday April 1st – (This is no joke)

Don't forget to turn back your clock for the end of Daylight Savings Time on the early hours of Sunday, 1 April. Enjoy the extra hour's sleep!

If you are an hour early for your appointments and meetings you probably have not done this.



## ***Steels Creek Progressive Dinner***

Members of the Steels Creek Community are holding a progressive casserole dinner on 28 April – starting at the Tennis Club at about 6:30pm. Cost is \$20 per person, with proceeds going to assist Scott Harmon (Vicky Stewart's nephew) in expenses competing in the 2012 Special Olympics. He competes this month in the State Tournament, with possible follow-on in the Nationals in Tasmania in June. Good Luck to Scott. Contact Alby Leckie (5965 2354) for reservations.

## ***ANZAC Day Commemorative March and Service***

The Yarra Glen RSL is sponsoring a march and service on Wednesday, April 25 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 at the Memorial Hall. Children from the local schools will address what ANZAC Day means and why it is important to them. The Yarra Glen Primary School Choir will perform, as well as local singer/guitarist Paul William Ray. Light refreshments will be available following the service.



Members of the RSL will be at Ritchies Yarra Glen IGA on three Thursdays prior to ANZAC Day for the annual ANZAC Appeal. Donations for pins support the RSL Welfare Fund.

Web site: [www.yarraglen.com/RSL/](http://www.yarraglen.com/RSL/)

**Ed Bartosh Secretary**

## ***Steels Creek Community Needs Project***

**Purpose:** to identify short and long-term needs of the Steels Creek community and to provide feedback to the Victorian Bushfires Appeal Fund and feedback on other issues that can be referred to relevant bodies.

**Briefing Session:** Tuesday April 17, 6.30pm - 8.30pm Community Centre

During my conversations, a range of short and longer term needs were identified.

I heard that since the fires and as a result of the fires, people need help with: land management and control of weed and erosion, advocating and liaising with the Shire about roads and road maintenance, support for young families and people not yet into new homes, personal support, managing - for example - panic attacks on high wind days, running a waterpipe with a standing pipe at the corner of Old Kinglake or Hunt's Lane in Steels Creek, to improving mobile phone access.

I also heard that people living in Steels Creek community care for each other, for their community and for their land. They want things to be better and they want any money available to be spent in a manner which builds a better community.

In order for the full range of needs to be identified, and for community agreement on "what to do" a process is needed where all community members can be involved. This information can then be compiled into a community plan of action.

### **A four stage process**

1. Briefing session and guidelines for community volunteers - Tuesday April 17, 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Community Centre
2. Two week period of "talking with neighbours, friends and community" April 17 - May 6
3. Summary of community conversations, early May (date to be confirmed at April meeting)
4. Follow up

I would like to invite you to the briefing session in the Community Centre on Tuesday April 17. At this session we will have a map of the community and allocate areas for connecting. We will agree on topics for conversation. We will be clear about the purpose and scope of the task making sure it is practical, useful and will help strengthen the community.

We will invite key service providers to supply information about what help is already available - and ask them to provide support during this process. We will also agree on a communication plan to make sure that everyone in the community has an opportunity to be involved.

In the first instance, this invitation to the briefing session, is to the people I spoke to during the March meetings.

However I would stress that it is an *open invitation* to any interested community members. I would be grateful if you would pass the message on through your networks and encourage all interested community people to come.

Please let me know if you will be attending with an RSVP before Saturday April 14. My email is [cathy@cathymcgowan.com](mailto:cathy@cathymcgowan.com) or you may leave a message on my phone 02 60 246 834.

I will look forward to meeting you again in April and working together to develop projects which meet the needs of the Steels Creek community.

**Cathy McGowan Consultant to VBAF P: 02 6024 6834 M: 0418 326 960**

## 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 outing this year (25<sup>th</sup> March) was a leisurely stroll around the Blue Lotus Water Gardens near Yarra Junction, followed by a picnic lunch in the grounds. Walks are generally of a moderate level of physical challenge, and there is usually ample opportunity to stop along the way to examine items of interest that may be found. A program of walks has been prepared for the rest of 2012, as follows (subject to possible change):

Date of Walk	General Location	Walk Leader
25th March	Blue Lotus Water Gardens	Kaye McRae
29th April	Skyline Ridge – Tuans Track to Brennan Avenue	David and Robyn Allan
27th May	Mt Monda / Mt St Leonard Summit areas	Barry Sheffield
24th June	To be advised	A Volunteer!
29th July	Bundy Track, Old Kinglake Road circuit	Jack Sheehan & Pa (David Allan)
24th to 26th August	Southern Mornington Peninsula – weekend of walks away	David & Robyn Allan
30th September	Old Maroondah Aqueduct west of Sugarloaf (to be checked further)	David Allan
28th October	Murrindindi Cascades	Barry Sheffield
25th November	Maroondah Dam – Donnelly's Weir and return	David & Robyn Allan

If you would like to be kept up to date, full details of the walks will be emailed to registered Clamberers before each walk. If you are not on the email list but would like to receive details of walks, please send your email contact details to **David and Robyn Allan** at [drallan@wideband.net.au](mailto:drallan@wideband.net.au) . 0409 139 371.

## A Shed Raised And Razed.



After a hard days work, these proud gentlemen (no names, no pack drill – their faces may be familiar) stood in front of the new 'easy to construct' garden shed at the Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club.

It looked terrific.

Unfortunately.... the shed was no match though for the Steels Creek wind tunnel! Three days later, after some good strong gusts, the shed lay in ruins.

**Heather Smith**



## Having A Clear Out?

Take your unwanted goods to the **Mustard Tree Op-Shop** in John Street, Lilydale and enjoy coffee or lunch at the Selah Door Cafe. Open from 10.30 - 3.00, there is a wide selection of hot and cold drinks, including smoothies and spiders, together with slices, muffins, raisin toast and biscuits. For lunch, on weekdays only, there is a choice of soup, focaccias, toasted sandwiches and quiche, all at very reasonable prices. Sit inside and browse through the books or outside under the market umbrellas. All profits go towards community work.

## *Weeds and Not Weeds*

A number of people seem to be concerned by all the "Deadly Nightshade" that has appeared throughout the Valley over recent months. Relax, it's **NOT** Deadly Nightshade, that plant does not occur in Victoria or in NSW, what we have here is Black Nightshade, *Solanum nigrum* and although the green parts of the plant smell pretty yuk, it is not poisonous. In fact, the berries when ripe and therefore black, can be made into a very palatable pie. I have eaten the ripe berries myself with absolutely no ill-effects whatsoever, and certainly the currawongs also seem to thrive on them.

Another "black" plant which is worrying some people is *Gahnia*, a native Sword Sedge about a meter high, with drooping black heads and long cutty-grass leaves. It is a natural coloniser of disturbed ground, ie following a fire. It will gradually lessen as other plants take over and trees shade it out. Meanwhile, why not take the approach that Australia's ecology evolved long before we arrived and what we are seeing is a perfectly natural process of succession and recovery.

**Jane Calder**

## *Group Activities in Steels Creek.*

### **The Steels Creek Garden Club.**

The Steels Creek Garden Club was established in 1992 and was the first group based in the Community Centre. It is well known for the annual Steels Creek Flower Show, held usually on the first weekend in November. It is a 'no entry fee' show but makes a lot of money for the Club by plant sales whereby top quality plants of all types, donated and grown-on by the Growing Group, are for sale at bargain basement prices. The Growing Group work over the year to assemble a range of plants for sale, some that are seldom if ever, available through the usual nursery trade. The display of roses is the other main attraction of the show, but there are also floral arrangements, mini landscapes, flower stalls and posy making and often craft for sale too. The Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club provide a great BBQ lunch and Devonshire teas for visitors.



While the Flower Show is the main event of the Garden Club, the Club is active throughout the year. The year starts in February with an evening BBQ open to all, members and others. Each month there is a meeting or a day visit to one or more gardens and in recent years a group from the Club have spent each third Monday morning working as volunteers in a local garden to help the owner keep on top of weeds and other garden jobs. The Growing Group meet on the fourth Monday of each month to sow seed and propagate plants ready for the annual show. Before "Black Saturday" their work was done up at the Community Centre, but since the fires they have met at the Calder's place. In the design of the new Community Centre, provision has been made for the Garden Club and the Growing Group to work there and they are all looking forward to returning to their home base with its improved facilities and access.

There are now over 60 members and I think that they would all agree that their Club embodies a real feeling of community and sharing.

If you want more information about the Garden Club contact **Deb. Edwards, 9730 1497**

## *Garden Club*

Garden Club Next outing is to Mont de Lancey, entry \$7.50 which includes a conducted tour, on **Tues 10 April**, meeting at McKenzie Reserve, YG at 9.30am BYO morning tea, lunch will be BYO or at a nearby cafe.

Growing Group hopes to be back at SC3 for its Monday 25 June meeting, depending on the completion of the appropriate facilities, check the next Jolly Thing or ring Deb 9730 1479. Meanwhile we will continue to meet at 375 Pinnacle La, Steels Creek 9.30am on 30 April and 28 May

## *Biggest Afternoon Tea*

Biggest Afternoon Tea this year will be held at SC3 from 1.30 - 3.30pm on **Tuesday 15 May**. There will be a raffle and some handmade items for sale and of course a yummy homemade afternoon tea all for the bargain price of \$5 entry. Do come along and join us and in so doing support the work of the Cancer Council, Victoria

## *SC4 Film Club*

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

All in our newly rebuilt Centre with inside toilets and everything!

**Screening on Friday 20 April:**

**Knock on Wood (1953)**

**Danny Kaye** as neurotic ventriloquist and **Mai Zetterling** as a famous psychiatrist Star in this zany comedy which has lots of action. Many consider it better than *The Court Jester* which was produced and directed by the same team. (More from [IMDB](#))

**Screening on Friday 18 May:**

**Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (1965)**

Starring **Sarah Miles, James Fox, Alberto Sordi, Gert Frobe, Terry Thomas** et al.

Handsome dashing heroes take to the skies, cheered on enthusiastically by beautiful damsels, as they attempt to win a valuable cash prize by crossing the Atlantic in record time and of course bringing fame to their nations.

Naturally where money and national pride and glory is involved, there is skulduggery and dirty rotters and dare we say foul play. Boo! Hiss!

Oh well let the best looking and most romantic team win! Hoorah! (More from [IMDB](#))

## ***Black Saturday At Steels Creek - Progress report On The Book***

As readers of *The Jolly Thing* will know, the writing of the book *Black Saturday at Steels Creek* has been coming on nicely. In February I distributed about 50 copies of the draft manuscript to everyone whom I had interviewed or corresponded with, to the Community Centre and to anyone else who wanted to comment. I'm delighted to report that I had a very good response, both in the number of people who commented (about 30) and in the range of comments, corrections, clarifications and suggestions they made. I am also delighted to report that this appeal encouraged several people who I had not reached to offer me their stories, and I have incorporated them in the next version of the manuscript. I've tried to phone, e-mail or send a card to everyone who's commented, to thank them individually and often to follow up particular changes, but if I haven't contacted you individually for some reason please accept my thanks for the generous, co-operative and forgiving way that everyone has responded. Naturally, everyone who has contributed or commented is acknowledged in the manuscript.

As many readers will know, I had made many, many errors and slips (such as getting names, times and other details wrong – for example, I had the geography of Brennan Road and Old Kinglake Road confused, but we've sorted that out). Many errors arose from the combination of relying largely upon individual memory (often collected through 'oral history'), the need to try to tell complex stories concisely and, of course, the chaotic nature of the fire. In spite of these flaws, virtually everyone has been positive about the structure and tone of the way I've gone about telling the story of Steels Creek before, during and after Black Saturday. Some felt that I had emphasised some aspects of the story unduly, or had omitted or diminished other parts of the story, and I've done my best to accept their suggestions in reducing some parts and beefing up others. This is important because, as I've been saying, it's my book, but it's your story. It's important that the book broadly reflects the views of the community, of the people who have entrusted me with their stories of an important event in their lives. I should also say that I've realised that while I've tried to capture as many stories as possible, I'm conscious that the book will certainly not name everyone affected by the fire in Steels Creek, and hope that the stories I tell will be seen as representative of the community as a whole.

The next step is that by Easter I'll deliver the 'final' manuscript to the publishers, Scribe Publications of Melbourne. Assuming that Scribe finds it acceptable (we have an 'understanding', not a contract) it will go into production and be edited by Scribe's people and over the winter I'll work on the necessary maps and illustrations. I hope that if editing and production goes smoothly the book will appear around the fourth anniversary of Black Saturday, though I'm experienced enough in book-making to be wary of making any firm promises. (In any case, it's important to get it right.) As a back-stop, I'll be circulating the 'final' manuscript to a small group of representative readers to make sure that the version that's gone to Scribe contains no more errors, and we can make further necessary minor revisions while working with the publisher's editor.

Two final comments. First, I should remind you that this book is only one of the several products that will come out of the bushfire history project that we've been involved in with the Steels Creek community. It will complement Moira Fahy's film about families in the aftermath of the fire and Tom Griffiths's 'community history' of Steels Creek. Second, I don't want to compare *Black Saturday at Steels Creek* to the several fine books that have appeared about Black Saturday over the past three years, but I would say that no other community has recorded and documented their experience of the fire and what followed on this scale. By involving so many people from one community in this venture I hope and believe that we have together helped to understand what Black Saturday means for Steels Creek, and indeed for Australia as a whole. I hope to keep you informed of progress as the book enters production.

**Peter Stanley** National Museum of Australia

## ***From Toronto to Alphington Via Steels Creek***

When the Jolly Thing was going viral through the internet, several of the Mullen's global pals signed on way back last century. They moved away from 'Steels Creek a State of Mind' and took up in Alphington by the Big Smoke to attend university and peruse travel opportunities, even back to Canada.

A couple of months ago some Toronto friends of twenty years ago, who have been regular readers of the JT, decided to visit Melbourne. They had not quite realised that the Mullens had moved away from the valley down to the mouth of the Yarra and had no contact details.

They cleverly consulted the Editor of the JT and communication was re-established between Victoria and Ontario. We had a lovely visit from them not three weeks ago. Our friends were mightily impressed with Melbourne and promised to return sooner than 2032!

Thank you to the Editor for keeping good records and putting the world in touch with itself through the vigorous vehicle of the Jolly Thing.

**Chris & Christine Mullen**

## ***Landcare***

Northern Yarra **Blackberry Action Group** (NYBAG)

As the spray season draws to a close, **Carolyn Suggate** continues working with landholders in the northern reaches of Steels Creek to control blackberry. The NYBAG Steering Committee is made up of community members from the fire-affected area as well as reps from the different government agencies. NYBAG is a sub group of the Northern Yarra Landcare Network, offering the use of spray equipment, rebates on the cost of chemical, safety-wear and contractor spraying, as well as advice with mapping outbreaks and the coordination of blackberry control across property boundaries.

NYBAG has signed up 28 properties to the north of Hunts Lane in Steels Creek and 17 in the north of Dixons Creek in its first year. Yarra Ranges Council contractors have sprayed the roadsides in these areas. Parks Victoria and DSE have applied for their own funding to assist with more spraying on the Kinglake National Park and State Forest boundaries, and VicRoads have made a commitment to spray the Melba Highway north of Pinnacle Lane. Melbourne Water is also following up with people on the Stream Frontage Management Program to help with creek infestations. We are hopeful that all agencies involved can carry through on their commitment to compliment action by landowners in our area.

## **Erosion Information Night - *We all have it, so how can we fix it?***

**Steels Creek Landcare Group**, with the support of **PP&W Catchment Management Authority** and **Melbourne Water** has planned an Information Session aimed at exploring the issues around this question.

When: **Wednesday 2 May at 7.30 - 9.30pm**

Where: **Steels Creek Community Centre**

### **Topics include:**

- Identifying types of erosion and what causes them
- Solutions for current erosion problems
- Understand the big picture and what to do in your own place
- Melbourne Water will outline some of their programs and background information on Steels Creek's land types

There will be time for you to ask questions about your specific situation.

Contact **Sandra Turnley – SCLG secretary on 9739 1550**

An **Indian Myna Control Workshop** was held on Saturday 11 February at the Dixons Creek Reserve. The first hour was spent hearing about the behaviour and characteristics of this invasive species and guests then made their own traps using the materials provided or they bought one already made. More than 40 people attended, with 33 traps made or sold on the day. A further trap-making session is planned for later this year.

A **Rabbit Control Workshop** was held on Saturday 25 February at the Dixons Creek Reserve. Our 32 guests received expert advice and asked questions about the best techniques for rabbit control. A regional approach to rabbit control in the Steels Creek area could be the next big thing.

A **Native Grasses Information Night** was held on Wednesday 21 March at the Dixons Creek Reserve, with 45 people there to hear Dr Ian Chivers from NativeSeeds talk about the practicalities and benefits of native grasses for pasture, lawns, landscaping erosion control and inter-row planting in vineyards.

**Coming up:** stay tuned for more tree planting days this coming Autumn, provided the plants and owners are ready! We also hope to see the launch of the Dixons Creek Landcare Group. The combined efforts of Landcare Groups in both Steels Creek and Dixons Creek will definitely strengthen Landcare for the region. For more information, call **Rob Fallon on 9294 6832**.

### ***Wombat Tunnels For Steels Creek Road?***

A submission to The Shire by the Save The Wombat Committee to provide tunnels under the road is being considered by the shire. The President of STWC, Wilberforce Eral is confident of a successful outcome.

### ***Asian Appetite***

If you are looking for a pleasant lunch or dinner locally, there is nowhere better than **Asian Appetite** in Bell Street Yarra Glen, near to the newsagent. The food is great and the service excellent. For variety and an Asian flavor in a quiet atmosphere, this is the place to go.

**Jenny Tetlow**

### ***Farewell Roundstone***

On a fine autumn evening a large group gathered to have a final pizza from the Roundstone pizza oven (a survivor from black Saturday)



A nostalgic occasion for all there as we bid farewell to **John and Lynne Derwin** who are off to new pastures in Exeter, NSW, though taking a flock of sheep to a property called **Fox Hill** could be a problem!

For 14 years they were a supportive and enjoyable part of our community and will be sorely missed. We wish them well for their move. **Richard McLouglin**, in thanking them on behalf of us all, remembered the Friday pizza nights in particular as enjoyable nights for the locals, partially because it was not far to drive home after.

The new owners of the property, a family of eight all told, were there to meet all and sundry, and no; they won't be rebuilding the Roundstone restaurant and cellar door.

**Your Roving Reporter**

### ***Black Snake***

Basking

sun soaked

somnolent

shiny black

coiled mass

disturbed

unravels

slithers silently,

glimmers and glides

smoothly

slowly

safely

beneath the soft soil

**Lindy Montell**

### ***Weather notes***

After the very wet year last year, this year started out quite dry with only 48 mm up to 26 February, whereas the averages suggest that we should have had almost 100 mm by the end of February. However, that all changed with 70 mm falling in about 36 hours starting on the 27. We are now above average for the January to March period. The other significant weather event was the very strong northerly wind on the 5 February. I had four trees blown down on my property & I made the comment to a neighbor that I felt it was the strongest north wind that I had experienced at Yarra Glen. The neighbor's reply was "What even Black Saturday?" – My response was "Yes, I think it was". That conversation set my mind ticking over, so I have checked out the BOM website & requested data for 2009. As Coldstream is the closest weather station, we can only rely on the data from there. On 7-2-2009 the strongest wind gust recorded at Coldstream was 81 km/h from WSW direction – this was of course after the wind change & means that the northerly wind on that day was less than 81 km/h. On 5-2-2012 the strongest wind gust was 80 km/h from the north. By deduction this would mean that the northerly wind strength on Black Saturday was either less than or perhaps equal to that on 5-2-2012.

**Barry Sheffield**

## Rainfall Report – end of March 2012

Gauge Location	February 2012 (mm)	March 2012 (mm) (to 28 <sup>th</sup> March)	Year to Date (2012) (to 28 <sup>th</sup> March)	Year to Date (2011)
'Blackwood Hill' -Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek	69.7	64.4	166.4	292.1
'Highlea' - Dixons Creek	64.6	78.2	178.6	314.8
'Kilravock' – Adams Lane, Steels Creek	72	74	167	267
'Newera' – Brennan Avenue, Steels Creek	61.7	63.4	149.5	Not available
'Wandearah' – Japonica Drive, Yarra Glen	86.3	59.6	178.3	288.9

Rainfall from the Dixons Creek Station for the month was 59.4 mm, year to date 165.80 mm, this time last year 294.48mm

## In to Felting?

Felting is offered as an occasional activity at SC3 depending on the availability of funding.

Contact **Elisabeth 0417 003 956**

## Serial – A Full And Plenty Mystery

### Episode Four - Some unwelcome visitors

*He must have found gold, how else could Clemmie have led the life she did said the old man to his younger companion. Well if what she told you before she died, you could be right. It may be worth a tip up to Hectors old place to see what we can find, the younger man replied. A good idea and I know where the place is muttered the old man as they left the Albert Park Hotel.*

I had settled comfortably into life at Steels Creek. I played a bit of tennis, very keen competitors some of the senior players and I lost more games than I won. Attended the odd film night, some of the films were a bit ancient but the food and company made it worth while, got fresh vegies at the market, though my own veggie patch was coming on. I had also been invited to join a few of the locals in their weekly golf game but I am not a golfer and agree with who ever said a game of golf is a good walk ruined. What I was enjoying too was the occasional morning cup of coffee at cafe Delicious where you always seemed to run into some one you knew as well the odd drink or meal at the Hargreaves Hill brewing Company. I was also working my way around several the local vineyards giving their Pinot Noirs a good work out. You will notice that I have not mentioned anything about writing and this because I had not been able to come up with any fresh book worthy ideas, in that department my mind was a blank, too much pinot I here you say, may be not enough.

My trusty helpers Fred & Bill, the latter recovered from his accident though still a little ginger on his feet, had actually arrived on time and put in a good days work clearing the boundary fences, which were heavily over grown with blackberry. On the south corner we uncovered a small gate which opened onto what had once been a well used track, now also covered with black berry. As the light was fading we called it a day and after a few beers Fred and Bill went home It had been a busy day, so after feeding my self and the dog I went to bed after one page of my book turned off the light and fell into a dreamless sleep.

Sam woke me with a loud bark and I leapt out of bed. she barked again, a very threatening bark and ran to the door growling. Inturuders flashed through my mind and I grabed a large walking stick and a torch. I opened the door and Sam leapt out and grobbed the arm of a man in the living room, I shone my torch around. His companion, an older grey haired man turned an ran out the door yelling "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!." He had mistaken my walking stick for a gun. As Sam and I subdued the young man I heard a car startup and take off in a hurry.

"Well," I said,"and what brings you to Steels Creek". "Gold" he muttered, "Hectors Gold". With a brief look at Sam whose collar I held, it appeared that he was much more afraid of Sam than of Me. "That's just a rumor, no evidence that he ever found gold" I replied. "No he found gold alright, he lived the life of Riley with Clemmie. Herb lived next door to them in Albert Park" Herb I gathered was the grey haired man who had done a runner and left young Wilfred, for that was his name, behind.

At that moment car headlights flashed across the windows, car doors slammed shut followed by a banging on the front door. Was Herb back with reinforcements?

## ***Relocation Notice***

**Now the renovations to the Community Centre are at an end the Groups that usually meet there are now able to return to the Centre. Check with the convenor.**

### ***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 [andrewchapman44@bigpond.com](mailto: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/](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**

### ***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](mailto:andrewchapman44@bigpond.com)

APRIL 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>SCCC Grand Opening</b> <i>Daylight Savings time ends</i>	<b>2</b> Women's Group Social Tennis	<b>3</b> Stitchers	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Art Social Tennis	<b>6</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Easter</i>	<b>9</b> <b>Recycle</b> Social Tennis	<b>10</b> Stitchers Garden Outing	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Art Singing Social Tennis CFA Meeting	<b>13</b> Arty Crafty	<b>14</b> <b>Market</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Social Tennis	<b>17</b> Stitchers <b>SC Briefing Session</b>	<b>18</b> YG&D Township Group	<b>19</b> Art Social Tennis	<b>20</b> Movie <i>(Knock on Wood)</i>	<b>21</b> FYFB Working Bee
<b>22</b> <b>SCTC Open Day</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Recycle</b> Growing Group Social Tennis	<b>24</b> Stitchers Book Group	<b>25</b> <b>ANZAC Day</b>	<b>26</b> SMB Art Singing Social Tennis	<b>27</b> Arty Crafty	<b>28</b> <b>Market</b> Tennis Comp <i>Progressive Dinner</i>
<b>29</b> Clamberers	<b>30</b> 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.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

#### ARTY/CRAFTY THINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays 10 am to 12.30 pm at Stable Studio 11 Armstrong Grove Yarra Glen

Margaret Brewster 9730 1298

#### BOOK GROUP

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

kerin 0411 265161

#### 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 2

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://yarrafatsbillabongs.melbournewater.com.au>

#### GARDEN

Newsletter, outings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 60 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.30 am 375 Pinnacle Lane Steels Creek – all welcome.

Deb Edwards 97301479

#### 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

<http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.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

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

MAY 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Stitchers	<b>2</b> Erosion Information Night	<b>3</b> Art Social Tennis	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Tennis Comp
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Recycle</b> Women's Group Social Tennis	<b>8</b> Stitchers Garden Club	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Art Singing Social Tennis	<b>11</b> Arty Crafty	<b>12</b> Market Tennis Comp
<b>13</b> YG&DHS	<b>14</b> Social Tennis	<b>15</b> Stitchers Biggest Afternoon Tea	<b>16</b> YG Township Group	<b>17</b> Art Social Tennis	<b>18</b> Movie <i>(Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines)</i>	<b>19</b> FYFB Working Bee Tennis Comp
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Recycle</b> Social Tennis	<b>22</b> Stitchers Book Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Art Singing Social Tennis	<b>25</b> Arty Crafty	<b>26</b> Market Tennis Comp
<b>27</b> Clamberers	<b>28</b> Growing Group Social Tennis	<b>29</b> Stitchers	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> SMB Art Social Tennis		

**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**

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

Sandra Turnley 9730 1550

**MOVIES**

3<sup>rd</sup> or 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 Yarra Glen 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 SC4 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, 60 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.

Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

**\*Night tennis under the lights.**

<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.

Lindy Montell 5965 2202

**YARRA GLEN TOWNSHIP GROUP**

Meets the third Wednesday of the Month 7 to 9pm –at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, see our web site for more information. (<http://www.yarraglen.com/townshipgroup/>) All are welcome.

Dean Putting 9730 1975

## Cross Creek 49

### Across

1. Pony with an elegant head (4)
3. Piece of clothing or of writing (7)
8. Pale and wan (7)
9. She turned Ulysses' men into swine (5)
10. A Phantom lived there (5)
11. "I found you just ... .." (2,4)
13. Within a cell (13)
16. A carefully chosen local number plate (6)
18. Give way, give in or harvest (5)
21. Remove some calories from a nasty boil (5)
22. Sees the world for what it is (7)
23. Plenty of ads around this dysfunction (8)
24. Christmas pudds need a good one (4)

### Down

1. These steroids have no place in sport (8)
2. Walk-through puzzle to surprise you (5)
3. Of the built environment (13)
4. Implied (6)
5. Is it your favourite custard, too? (7)
6. On the face, these have it (4)
7. African antelope (7)
12. One who has a claim on you (8)
14. Toffee and tarts (7)
15. One not of a specialised learning (6)
17. e.g. the re-opening of SC3 (5)
19. A bailiff may do this to someone(5)
20. These boxes have +/- gone (4)

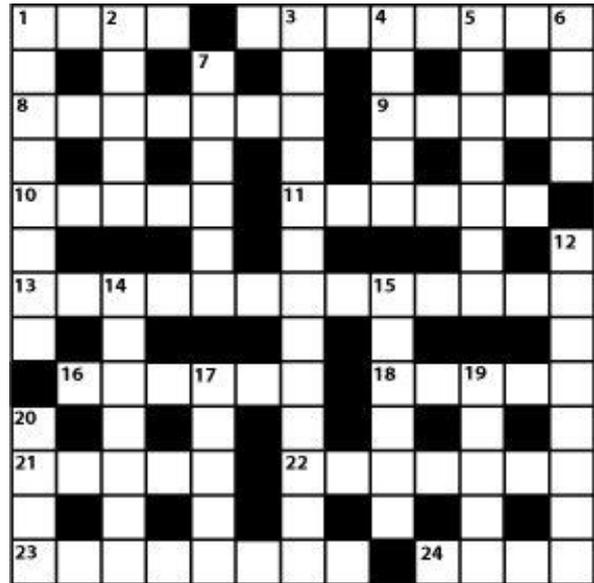
## Cross Creek 48 Answers

### Across

1. Cricket 4. Alien 7. Scratch 8. Eaten 9. Eroded 12. Retrench 15. Lapidary 17. School 18. Ranch 21. Alcohol 22. Torch 23. Maltose

### Down

1. Cockerel 2. Cicada 3. Tote 4. Ache 5. Instant 6. Noon 10. Dread 11. Stays 13. Hellfire 14. Spender 16. Throat 18. Root 19. Hash 20. Scam



180 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

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# HOOGIES

O F Y A R R A G L E N



*No worries!*

**9730-1611**

**DEADLINE** for the next Jolly Thing is  
28 May 2012.