



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 106 (December 2013-January 2014) 'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY'

<http://steelscreek.vic.au/>

for current activity photos and more commentary

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Steels Creek Flower Show and Fete



On Saturday 9th November the Annual Steels Creek Flower Show and Fete was held at Steels Creek Community Centre. In spite of cool and damp conditions, some 25 stall holders were in attendance with a great range of locally made items. With the cool weather, the coffee stall and the BBQ were also in demand all day too. Other attractions included pony rides and local musicians, and brilliant face painting for the children. The overall result was a gratifying sum in excess of \$2000 (after expenses), with some 400 people having visited SCCC during the day. Part of the proceeds are to be directed to a recently fire-affected community in New South Wales (*more information in due course*). Thank you particularly to Vicki Stewart, who worked tirelessly to

make this event happen, and to our numerous sponsors. [*Limited space prevents sponsors being named here, but a list will be published in The Steels Creek Grapevine as soon as it is available – Ed*]

Steels Creek Stories Project – The Journey Concludes.

The Steels Creek Stories Project has been a cooperative study by the Steels Creek community and historians Tom Griffiths (Leader) Christine Hansen and Peter Stanley; and documentary producer, Moira Fahy. Together, we and they have looked deeply into our experiences of the Black Saturday fires of February, 2009 and subsequent recovery. This overall project is the first in depth, social history of an Australian community undertaken as events unfold, and is expected to be an invaluable source of information and support for fire managers, community advisors and trauma relief services in the future.

Already we have seen the launch of the first two components of the Project; Christine and Tom's book, "*Living with Fire; People, Nature and History in Steels Creek*" and Peter's book "*Black Saturday at Steels Creek*". Now there is to be the launch of the final component, Moira's DVD documentary "*Afterburn; In The Tiger's Jaws*".

"Afterburn" is to be launched at a ceremony at the Melbourne Museum on Monday, 9 December, at 10.30 am, with invited guests. This event, hosted by the Fire Commissioner and the Museum, is by **invitation** only and **Steels Creek community has been allocated 10 places** (in addition to the three families involved and the two community group Presidents). **Our 10 allocated places are available to community members on a "First Come, First Served" basis.** Please call Malcolm on 5965 2372 if you would like to be included.

In a recent letter Moira Fahy, writes:-

"Thank you once again for the opportunity to be part of an extraordinary project, and for the opportunity to get to know so many extraordinary people and such a special place as the Steels Creek community and valley. (Continued)

"I hope the Steels Creek community is feeling, as the days, months and years move further away from Saturday, 7 February 2009, that the feelings, memories and sadness associated with that day are easing. This film will bring this day and time back and it will not be easy to revisit, but maybe the film was always meant to take this long to complete so that its viewing would be muted by the time between then and now.

"I hope and believe that this film, while difficult to watch, will also be healing for many people as they see three families struggling through the tumultuous, painful experience that they also travelled. I hope this retelling helps them recognise they have not been alone in this experience and that what they have carried quietly within is not aberrant or wrong but a normal response to a deeply traumatic event.

"I also hope it launches some who have not yet sought help and are still struggling alone, to seek help and eventually gain some peace of mind and a reconnection with themselves and the people they love.

"In the interviews I undertook in 2002 – 03 for my ABC and Film Victoria documentary on the 1939 Victorian bushfires, I was shocked to encounter evidence of survivors in their eighties and nineties still horribly crippled by the trauma they had suffered during the event nearly sixty five years earlier. So many tears and so much guilt and pain and rage poured out of these people in those interviews. It was something I was not looking to discover but was something I was deeply troubled by and felt a burning responsibility to understand and assuage. For many, this was the first time they had shared the horror of what had happened to them on that day and given voice to the cauterising affect trauma had had on their lives.

"This experience stayed with me and created a specific focus and interest for me in this new film – and in my previous films that captured these events – in exploring the long-term impact of trauma on people's lives. I had a question: how could people in 2009 and in the years that followed do things differently, and manage their recovery in such a way to insure a better future than for the survivors of the 1939 fires.

"I also understand that it has not been easy for the Calder's, the Fallons or the Williams to continue to participate in this project over three years and I am deeply grateful that they have had the courage, generosity and fortitude to do so."

Christmas Carols at Steels Creek

In a similar manner to previous years, come and celebrate the approach of Christmas with **Christmas Carols at Steels Creek Community Centre**, on **Friday 6th December, starting at 6.00 PM**. Words and music will be provided, and **free BBQ snags, salads and soft drinks** will also be available. BYO other drinks. Fruitcake and shortbread afterwards! Contact Mike on 9730 2685 for further information.

Steels Creek Community Centre Working Bee – 14th December

Recent rain and intermittent spells of warmer weather have been just what the weeds have enjoyed at Steels Creek Community Centre.

To keep them at bay, we are running a brief gardening and weed-busting working bee from 9.00 AM at the **Community Centre**, before the next **Community Market day on Saturday 14th December 2013** (2nd Saturday in December). **Please BE THERE** with gardening tools – whipper-snippers and weed digging tools would be great. Perhaps spray units could be good if the weather is likely to be suitable. Bring gloves etc.

Let's see what we can knock over before the market at 10.00 AM!

Contact, Keith on 5965 2202.

Check out Steels Creek's new Website – www.steelscreek.vic.au

Saturday 23rd November marked a significant milestone, with the launch of our new community website.

The website was funded from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, to act as a 'virtual hub' for our community – an information source as well as a communication channel.

While Steels Creek Association Inc. has developed the site and is currently managing it, the site doesn't represent or belong to any particular group. The domain name – '.vic.au', rather than '.org' or '.net' – was deliberately chosen to signify that this is a website for our whole community.

Its design reflects the colours and character of our community, is easy to read and to find what you're looking for. The site showcases our Community Centre, local groups and local businesses. You can find out what's on, find information and links to help with bushfire preparation and safety, also bushfire-related and general support services. You can post notices, ask questions, advertise stuff you want to sell or buy ... and much more. There is lots to explore – I hope you do, and often!

The site's content is comprehensive enough to be useful without needing to be added to or changed much over time (although information will be updated as required). However, a website can quickly become boring if, every time you look at it, there is nothing new to see. As such, we're hoping that once individuals and groups get used to having this resource in our community, they will be inspired to submit content, make suggestions – make it their own (for example, clubs could submit photos, post a poll, highlight events, write reviews).

Lastly, to local group coordinators/committee members – I request that any changes to the general information on your pages be notified to the web administrator (via 'contact us' links) as soon as possible, so that the site remains a relevant and useful community resource.

This new site marks a starting point. May it grow and evolve to continually reflect the needs and interests of our diverse community for many years to come.

Eva Matthews, for Steels Creek Association Inc.

Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club Happenings

Saturday Tennis: The new season has started, but if you are interested in playing occasionally or regularly, contact Alby or Ed. There is only one team this summer. Come and show your support.

Social Tennis: Whether a hot or cool evening, come and enjoy the friendly tennis on Thursday nights under the lights. Interest has been waning lately, so contact Alby if interested.

Open Day: We will be scheduling a Tennis Victoria Open Day for Sunday, February 9th, starting about mid-day. So plan for a day starting with a sausage sizzle, tennis, kid's tennis, give-aways, and more.

Web site: steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub

Ed Bartosh, Secretary

Steels Creek Clamberers – where to from here?

For many years now, Steels Creek Clamberers have undertaken monthly walks in the surrounds of Steels Creek and also further afield. Over that time, a lot of kilometres have been covered and many pleasant memories shared. Many people have also contributed to making the walks happen – suggesting walks, researching details, making arrangements, leading the way and even recording what has been achieved. Recently, David and Robyn Allan have undertaken the role of 'walks coordinator' to ensure that the monthly walks happen.

However, **the current 'walks co-ordinators' will not be available to undertake the role in 2014. Unless someone is prepared to take it on, the walks cannot continue** in the usual manner next year. If you feel that the walks should continue, would YOU be prepared to consider the co-ordination role? It's not too hard to do! Why not give David or Robyn a call to find out more.

David Allan, telephones 5965 2556, 5988 0486, 0413 396 296, drallan@wideband.net.au

Garden Club

This year's **Garden Club Breakup** will be on **10th December**. Meet at McKenzie Reserve in Yarra Glen at **11.30 AM** to sort out transport and travel arrangements, for **lunch at Rosewood Cottage**, 101 to 105 Whittlesea - Kinglake Road, Kinglake. Please **bring a Kris Kringle gift** (\$5 to \$8). Numbers are limited – only a few places left. Cost is \$25. **Please Note that booking is essential, and payment must also be made to secure the booking!** Contact Maggie Lloyd-Smith, telephone 9730 2521 for booking and further details.

Next year's Garden Club **Opening BBQ** will be on **10th February (a Monday)**, at Lorna Skate's home, at **59 Yarraview Road**, Yarra Glen, and starting from (say) 5.30 PM. Lorna may be contacted on 9730 2999.

For further information, please contact **Deb Edwards**, telephone **9730 1479**.

SC4Reel Film Club

Super Meal and Jolly Good Company from 6pm on. Films starts 7.45pm.

Our program of a Meal and a Movie has now concluded for 2013. Watch for further announcements about further delights in 2014. [*A Big Thankyou to Keith and Lindy for keeping the movies coming throughout the year! -Ed.*]

Stitchers

Over recent weeks Stitchers have been busy making items for the recent Fete, and although we sold close on \$400 worth of goods (all of which goes to the Fete fund), we still have quite a number of bits and bobs, most of which will be available for sale at our final SCCC Market on Saturday 14th December. So, do come along and check out our range of inexpensive, well-crafted Christmassy items!

On Tuesday 17th December we are going to a quilt exhibition at Boxhill Town Hall. Ring Jane 5965 2372 if you'd like to come. Our first meeting for 2014 will be at the usual 1.30pm on Tuesday 7 January.

Steels Creek Art Group

The Steels Creek Art Group is an informal gathering of people who come to draw, sketch, print, paint and talk every Thursday afternoon between 1.30 and 4.30 pm. It is a very friendly atmosphere and we have afternoon tea as well. Anyone interested in having a go with pencil, pen or brush is welcome to come along and enjoy a relaxing time. We generally carry on over the holiday period, this year up to December 19, starting again on Thursday, 9 January. Malcolm Calder, 5965 2372

Steels Creek Community Centre – Constitution Reform

At our last Meal & Movie night for 2013 (15th November), we also conducted a **Special General Meeting to consider a Resolution to amend the SCCC Constitution (Rules)**. The Resolution was **passed unanimously**. The minutes of the meeting, the proposed amended Constitution and other relevant documents were then **forwarded to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV)**. CAV (amongst many other things) administers the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, the legislative basis for Associations such as SCCC Inc. We believe we have got the changes right, but CAV will check. If they agree with us, the proposed changes will then come into effect. At the date of writing, CAV have advised that it might take another week or two to consider what we have provided to them - there is apparently a back-log of similar cases with them at the moment. Watch for further updates.....

David Allan, President

Have Albert and Harold Steptoe moved to Steels Creek Community Centre?

There was a recent rumour to this effect when it was noted that quantities of un-necessary STUFF, including a vast amount of plastic cutlery, old books, cooking requisites, pamphlets, odd tables, a gate, several old chairs and other oddments, had been accumulating and cluttering shelves, the shed and the kitchen area!

However, as there was no sign of **Hercules** (Albert and Harold's horse) or the cart, that possible source of all the STUFF has been discounted. So **where has all this STUFF come from? IS IT YOURS?** *(Continued)*

With numerous groups and classes now using the Centre, it is not surprising that each will have some items that are useful to them, and that need to be kept somewhere central – like, at The Centre. But **PLEASE DO NOT** just dump STUFF at the Centre because it might, just possibly, be of some vague use at some indeterminate time!

In seeking to keep the Centre in a condition suitable for all users, your Committee requests that *only material and equipment that can actually be of use be stored at the Centre*. Otherwise, we may need to call on Albert and Harold to come in and REMOVE it!

Steels Creek Landcare

Blackberry action

Congratulations to all the Screeekians who are dealing with blackberries on their properties as part of the Blackberry Action Group program. This year's spraying and other eradication efforts are kicking off again over the summer season. You too can support your "screek" and near neighbours by joining the program to fight the spread of blackberries.

Call Mark Deslandes on 0438 271 453 or David Callow on 0423 941 633 (or email northernyaralandcare.net.au) for a property visit and some good advice about blackberry action on your property and the program's benefits in supporting your efforts.

See <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/other-declared-weeds/blackberry> for some updated DEPI information.

Rabbits

Noticed a rabbit or two around your place? Want to do something about getting rid of them? Like the Blackberries, we can best tackle the rabbit problem together.

The Landcare Group is planning a three pronged approach and would really like your help in making it work well. The Creek undertook a very successful rabbit baiting effort in the 2001 and we hope to do as well again.

The first step will be an information session in December to outline the extent of the rabbit problem and how we can best deal with it. The second step will be to have a number of you committed people join us to co-ordinate the action in your local area. We will meet in January to assist co-ordinators to put a process in place. Working together, we can reduce rabbit numbers in each area and collectively, across the valley.

The last step will involve February being the rabbit busting month. We will run a practical workshop or field day to demonstrate the various rabbit reduction measures - baiting, harbour clearing and warren destruction, trapping and more.

We aim for as many as possible to all take some rabbit action during February. More details soon on the Grapevine. Call Ray Turnley on 9730 1550 if you can assist in your locality.

Fire Preparation.

With the approaching summer season, we all need to be fire ready with our plans in place. Are you and your property prepared for the upcoming season? See CFA Fire Ready Kit at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit/>

Wishing you all well for the festive season and in your Landcare efforts , Steels Creek Landcare Group.

Chris Mullen Fine Literature Award for 2013

The Jolly Thing has great delight in revealing that one of its own emeritus editors has scooped the coveted Chris Mullen Fine Literature Award (CMFLA) for this season. Readers may recall that Malcolm Calder, founding editor passed the inkwell and visor over to Chris Mullen back in 2004, who became completely done in by the intensity of the work and handed it off to Andrew Chapman in 2007, who in turn yielded to the current editor David Allan in 2013. Since Chris is the donor of the prize and Malcolm is disqualified due to association with a crosswords editor, and Dave as sitting editor and cannot be included, Sherlock could perhaps make the deduction (*hint – maybe it's another past editor!*). **YES, the prestigious award this year goes to – [drum roll] Andrew Chapman!**

Prior recipients of the award include: Eva Matthews (2012), Rudi Anders (2011), Ed Williams (2010) and David Allan (2009) (was there an award for even earlier talent???)

However, notwithstanding scurrilous suggestions of nepotism and cronyism, the real reason for the award going to Andrew is because of his **excellent writing skill and the clever insights revealed thereby**. Not only was he a tireless editor sorting through the avalanche of materials submitted, he also took on a leadership role at the highest office available at the time to preside over the complex affairs of our community. After retirement from politics and journalism's meagre rewards, he has submitted many penetrating articles for publication. His soon to be released children's book,

(Continued)

Captain J.T. Wilberforce Wombat, is a wonderful evocation of earlier, gentler times in Steels Creek and a marvellous addition to local lore. *JT 105* included a snippet, *'Wombats at Play'*, which is a teaser of the exciting adventures in store.

Congratulations Andrew!!!

STOP PRESS – Breaking News from our Literary Critic....

Just in time for Christmas! *'Captain JT Wilberforce Wombat'* is now ready for holiday giving...!!

Local raconteur Andrew Chapman's illustrated book of animal adventures along Steels Creek **has now been released**, hot off the press and a beautiful addition it will make to your library! These are the stories that Andrew lulled his daughter Alexandra to sleep with before she became a sex therapist! At 24 pages and \$28, it is marvellous value. For further details and to **Order**, contact **Judith Augustine**, 0408 321936, email aaugustine@telstra.com. Credit cards accepted.

CG

Community Fire Alarm – Steels Creek

The following is a condensation of information that first appeared early in 2013, and refers to the Community Emergency Sirens located at the Tennis Club at the intersection of Hunts Lane and Steels Creek Road. It is re-published for community information.

"Community Alert Sirens [in Steels Creek]."

Community alert sirens are for alerting communities about significant emergencies including fire, hazardous material incidents, flood and severe storms.

The sirens at Steels Creek will now be sounded to alert communities of life threatening emergency incidents. As a member of the community, you need to understand what the sounding of the siren will mean. The siren duration will be as follows:

- *a short, up to 20-second signal will indicate a siren TEST which will be done on the second Sunday of each month at 11.00am. (Testing will commence on Sunday 10th February 2013.)*
- *a prolonged, 5-minute signal will indicate that an emergency is occurring and the community is at risk of being impacted and must seek more information.*

It is important to understand that a 5-minute siren is not a signal to evacuate now – it is a signal to seek further information. There are many sources of information including CFA website, radio, phone apps and the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (1800 240 667)."

For further information, contact Athel Smith, telephone 5965 2368.

A Simulation Exercise in Time Management if Faced By Fire.

Set out below is a notice from Dixons Creek CFA/Fireguard who will be conducting a simulation exercise in time management if faced by fire. *Attendance is recommended.* This is probably the priority Fireguard function for the forthcoming bushfire season.

“YOU HAVE 7 MINUTES”

A SIMULATION EXERCISE IN TIME MANAGEMENT IF FACED BY FIRE.

Date – Wednesday 11 December at the Dixons Creek Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

ALL WELCOME

The exercise will focus on-

- **current circumstances**
- **what would you achieve**
- **what could you achieve**
- **a realistic personal action plan**

You will be supported in the exercise by an expert panel focusing on:

- **Home/property**
- **Pets/animals**
- **Self/family**

(Continued)

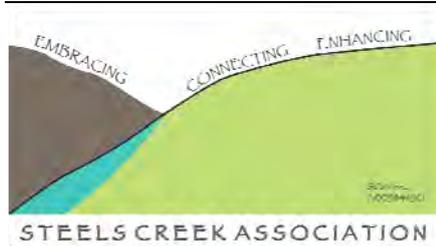
This is a unique opportunity to effectively plan for such a difficult emergency.

Topical print-information will be available.

Tea/Coffee and Biscuits provided.

This is a Dixons Creek CFA/Fireguard fire awareness initiative.

Any queries : Diane Stone – phone 5965 2258/0428 604 230, email: distone4@bigpond.com



SCA UPDATE

1. **Launch of Steels Creek's new website – www.steelscreek.vic.au.** It's been many months in the making, with much thought and work from key stakeholders. It will be the third invaluable pillar in our community's suite of communication channels, along with *The Jolly Thing* and *The SC Grapevine*. Please check it out and let us know what you think – via the website! [For more on the website, please see the separate article in this edition of TJT.]

2. **Our Wellbeing Program 2014 survey has been extended to 7 December.** Please take a couple of minutes to help us plan the program to best suit our community's needs. Links to the survey can be found on the website (Your Views page).

3. **Mobile phone survey results.** Earlier this year we started a process of collecting data on mobile phone reception, as well as ascertaining views on the options available to improve coverage in Steels Creek. The results are now in! 44 households took part in the survey (thank you). It showed us this:

- Average signal strength for those with Telstra or Optus: 2.6/5 bars
- Average signal strength with other networks: 1/5 bars
- The range varied considerably overall and within households, from 0 to 5 bars
- This confirms what we already knew, i.e. mobile coverage is poor overall!
- There was reasonable interest in the short-term option of Yagi antenna and/or signal booster – on average 50%
- There was significant support for a mobile phone tower – 82% in favour, 7% unsure, 11% against

SCA will follow up with key stakeholders at the earliest opportunity, to continue the discussion and keep moving towards better outcomes for our community.

4. Responding to concerns about the lack of maintenance of **the Steels Creek–Yarra Glen track**, SCA recently sent a letter to Council expressing these concerns and requesting Council's response. The Manager of Parks & Environment has acknowledged that the track does require increased maintenance, and has said that mowing and spraying will be completed on a more regular basis, in addition to the annual roadside slashing that occurs each December. Hopefully this commitment will improve the safety and amenity of the track from now on. However, SCA will be happy to follow up any further concerns, should that be required.

5. On 13 & 14 December, we will run our second **chainsaw training** program. The course is now fully booked. If you haven't yet registered but are interested in a place, please still contact Jesse and she can put you on a waiting list in the event of any cancellation, and to also put you on a priority list for further programs we hope to run next year.

6. On 1 December, we will have run our second **Apply First Aid** training – again fully booked. We have just **2 places left in the online defibrillator awareness training**. We require a **minimum of 10 registrations** after which participants have a month to complete the 30-minute course. **Please contact Jesse to register.**

7. Lastly, we wish to thank all members who have supported us this year. We look forward to welcoming more of you next year – any time! Wishing all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Program enquiries/registrations: Jesse Odgers (email: projectassist.sca3775@gmail.com or ph: 0408 515 059)

Enquiries for SCA Inc. can be made to Allan Giffard, ph 0419 362 283, via email to secretary.sca3775@gmail.com, or by post to PO Box 298 Yarra Glen 3775.

Articles Submitted by Community Members -

Local wild-yeast bread made with love now available at Steels Creek Market

More than a quarter century ago I baked for a local market in Bowraville on the mid-north coast of NSW. I loved baking, and people loved my bread. In a bush shack and a small domestic oven I produced a small volume of a variety of breads. I even baked for the caterer when 'The Good Wife' starring Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown was filmed there in 1986. But somehow, I wasn't satisfied with the product. I think it was my Swiss heritage: I had grown up with an appreciation of bread which my baking was not satisfying.

Two years ago I tried again, this time following a technique from a book my adult son gave me. The result amazed me. Then I started a sourdough culture. The new results delighted me. When I sourced premium grade organic flour the product was truly fantastic. And it's not just me saying it - ask my customers!

I'm not looking to create a big business, this is about lifestyle: bringing quality ingredients to life with wild yeast culture, time and love, is a magical and immensely satisfying process. Shaping into loaves, setting to rise then baking where it springs to a golden nutritious food brings me great pleasure. Then selling the product: watching people's eyes light up at the sight and smell of home baked bread. Handing over the bread and knowing it will be eaten with pleasure, solitary or shared with friends and family - bread is the stuff of life!

I will aim to be at the Steels Creek Market each fortnight with a variety of loaves. If you would like to order a loaf or more, drop me a line. If there's a demand for mid week bread (I bake on Wednesdays too) I'll include Steels Creek in my Wednesday 'bread run'.

I hope I see you at the next Steels Creek Market! Kylie Moppert, 0410 446 003, kylie@finrepsol.com.au, 9730 1101

Cattle at The Gate

I awake, get out of bed, open the blinds and look out the window to see what the day will be like. To my great surprise, a Mob of cattle has meandered up our driveway and is nearing the gate (open) to our house block. I hasten out to confront them. I am, due to the cool breeze, reminded that I am only wearing a tee-shirt.

The Mob reaches the gate and pauses. Fortunately, on seeing me waving and yelling they turn and head back down the driveway. I secure the gate and head back to the warmth of the house.

The Mob continues on its travels down the driveway, following John Brand who is on his tractor. He does not notice them, despite Erin, standing at their door way, waving and pointing. Perhaps he just thinks she is extra happy to see him! Then the Mob is corralled in the Mote's yard and is run back to Echo Vale from whence the cattle had escaped.



Season's Greetings!!!

Ho! Ho! Ho! The Jolly Thing and the Committee of Steels Creek Community Centre extend to all readers, Compliments of the Season and Best Wishes for the Coming Year. Thank you for your contributions, participation and support over the past year!

Rainfall – to end of November 2013

Station	October 2013 (mm)	November 2013 (mm) (to 30/11)	Total to end of November 2013 (mm) (to 30/11)	Total to end of November 2012 (mm)
'Blackwood Hill' (Pinnacle Lane)	71.2	69.3	689.5	712.1
'Kilravock' Adams Lane	66.0	78.0	746.0	754.0
'Highlea' Dixons Creek	69.2	82.2	761.8	814.4
'Newera' Brennan Avenue	71.5	72.2	623.6	700.1
'Wandearah' Japonica Drive	63.6	63.7	608.0	683.0

These figures probably do not reflect an intense fall of some 35mm in about as many minutes around parts of Hunts Lane and Hargreaves Road during the afternoon of 23rd November, resulting in local flooding and washing out of roads etc.

Weather Report

The lower than average rainfall has continued with October, 13 mm, and November, 4 mm, below average. Spring was 18 mm below average but overall for the year it is 97 mm below average.

There was a high river event of 3.4 metres on 16th November.

Barry Sheffield

The Jolly Thing Delivery

1. **By free e-mail subscription.** If you do not already subscribe, please visit steelscreek.vic.au to register your details, or forward your e-mail address to eda@wideband.net.au and it will be included on the e-mail distribution list.
2. **Pick up a free copy** in the first week of the month of publication - (February; April; June; August; October; December). Available in Yarra Glen - Post Office, IGA, News Agent, selected cafes and elsewhere - also at Steels Creek Community Centre.
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 72, Yarra Glen, VIC 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 from August 2003 are available. Go to steelscreek.vic.au .

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

Everyone 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 sixth Chris Mullen Award for Literary Excellence.*

Email Addresses - New and Updated

Want to receive *The Jolly Thing* by email? Let me know your email address and it will arrive as if by magic.
Changed your email? Send me your new one!

Want to be kept up to date on Local Steels Creek events and offerings? Let me know and I will put you on 'The Steels Creek Grape Vine' so you don't miss out. David Allan – Editor; E: eda@wideband.net.au, M: 0413 396 296.

Steels Creek Calendar

DECEMBER 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Apply First Aid	2 Recycle MindGym. Group Fitness. Women's Group.	3 Stitchers. Yoga.	4 Group Personal Training. Dru Yoga.	5 Tai Chi. Art. Social Tennis.	6 Pilates. CAROLS	7 Tennis Comp
8 YG&DHS (Yarra Glen).	9 MindGym Group Fitness.	10 Stitchers. Garden Club Lunch Outing. Yoga.	11 Group Personal Training. Dru Yoga. 'YOU HAVE 7 MINUTES...' (see P6).	12 Tai Chi. Art. Social Tennis.	13 Pilates. Chain Saw Training	14 Working Bee at SCCC Market. Tennis Comp Chain Saw Training
15	16 Recycle MindGym Group Fitness.	17 Stitchers. Yoga.	18	19 Art. Social Tennis.	20	21 FYFB Working Bee.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Recycle	31 New Year's Eve - Happy New Year!				

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 – 7.30 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. New Members welcome.

Keryn Comport 0411 265 161

CLAMBERERS

Last Sunday (March to November). Since 1993, the walking group has walked over local tracks and explored the flora and fauna of the Valley and surrounding areas. Details of walks emailed to registered recipients. [See article this issue.](#)

David Allan 0413 396 296 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.friends.melbournewater.com.au/>

GARDEN

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

Deb Edwards 9730 1479

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 Yarra Glen & District Historical Society meets 2nd Sundays at 1:30 pm Yarra Glen Memorial Hall:

Mrs Brenda Cawte 9730 1801 <http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au>

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

JANUARY 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 New Years Day	2 Social Tennis	3	4
5	6 Recycle Women's Group.	7 Stitchers.	8	9 Art. Social Tennis.	10	11 Market
12 . YG&DHS (Yarra Glen).	13	14 Stitchers.	15	16 Art. Social Tennis.	17	18
19	20 Recycle	21 Stitchers.	22	23 Art. Social Tennis.	24	25 Market.
26 Australia Day	27	28 Stitchers. Book Group. Yoga.	29	30 SMB. Art. Social Tennis	31	

Recycle = reminder to put out your recycling bin

HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE

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

Vicki Stewart 5965 2552

MARKET

2nd and 4th Saturdays at SCCC, 10.00 AM Sharp! Community announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

MOVIES

2nd or 3rd Friday each month – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic movies at SCCC. March through November.

Keith Montell 5965 2202

SMB (really just a coffee and a chat, football and opera and all in between!)

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

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

STEELS CREEK ASSOCIATION

Facilitating the safety, wellbeing, sense of connectedness, healing and enhancement of the Steels Creek Community.

Allan Giffard 0419 362 283

STITCHERS

Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SCCC, since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Workshops plus, bring own work – knit, patch, embroider.

Jane Calder 5965 2372 Nola Matthews 0412 199129

TAI CHI

Every Thursday in School Term time at SCCC.

Hannah Sky 5965 2211

TENNIS

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 90 active and social members. Tuesdays 3:45 PM - kids lessons; Thursdays 9.30 AM - Mums' tennis; Friday 10 AM - Ladies Coaching, Thursdays 7.30 PM* - Social tennis, Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM regular competitions. *Night tennis under the lights. Website: steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club.

Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

WOMEN'S GROUP - Evening Friendship Group

1st Monday, 7.00 PM. Come for company, conversation, food and coffee. You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat. Note: For current venue location, contact Lindy (5965 2202), or Christine (5965 2080).

Lindy Montell 5965 2202

Cross Creek 59

Across

1. A stretch of river perhaps (5)
4. What's black and white & eats bamboo? (5)
7. Little trains usually need this (6,5)
10. A storm can put this up a sailor (4)
12. Maybe not good on the other foot (4)
13. One with CFC now banned (7)
14. Knockout (4)
15. Good drink on the left of a boat? (4)
17. The Tasman one's known as The Ditch (3)
19. Restaurant on the Silvan-Monbulk Rd (7,4)
20. Millers were usually this (5)
21. Very formal mother (5)

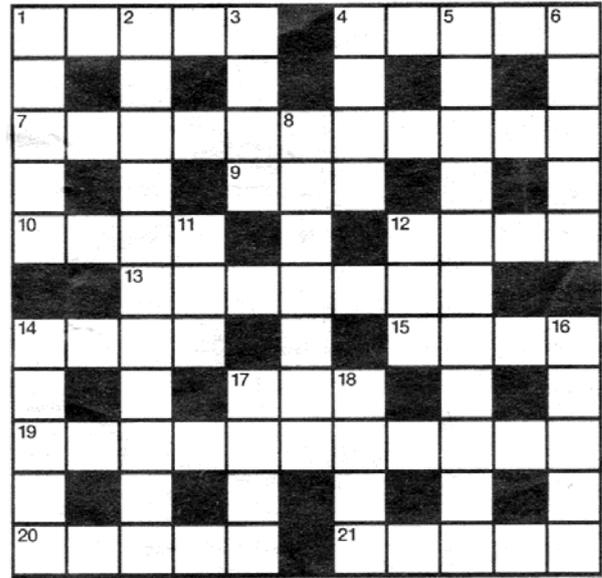
Down

1. You can now ----- your library book on line (5)
2. Science of aerial navigation (11)
3. Owl greeting (4)
4. Leaf of a book (4)
5. Does this doctor get on your nerves? (11)
6. One who acts for others (5)
8. Exuberant Goldberg? (7)
11. Bear's retreat (3)
12. A light slangy blow (3)
14. Full up (5)
16. Rhymes with there, spells with weir (5)
17. A command a dog should know (4)
18. Does he have one fewer rib?!!

Cross Creek 58 – Answers.

Across: 1, Mousetrap. 7, RMH. 8, Alternate.
10, Saline. 11, Help. 13, Rope. 14, Tavern.
16, Overacted. 18, Inn. 19, Elemental.

Down: 2, Owl. 3, Erring. 4, Ream. 5, Precedent.
6, Sharpened. 8, Australia. 9, Telephone. 12, Garage.
15, Fete. 17, Eta.



200 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

"The Jolly Thing" is published by and for the Steels Creek Community Centre Inc. (SCCC), 699 Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek. Postal address: PO Box 291, Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775. Management Committee: **David Allan** - President; **Vicki Stewart** - Vice-president, **Keith Montell** - Treasurer; **Christine Tomlins** - Secretary, **Mike Watkins** - Immediate Past President, **Geoff Townsend**, **Gretha Edwards** and **John Houston** - elected as members; with **Jenny Tetlow** - Garden Club and **Ed Bartosh** -, Tennis Club. steelscreek.vic.au
Distributed free at the Yarra Glen Post Office, SCCC and elsewhere; postal subscription is available for \$6, or free via email and the Internet. Register your details at steelscreek.vic.au or send to:
Editor: **David Allan**, 0413 396 296;
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Circulation: **Malcolm Calder** 5965 2372.

We gratefully acknowledge **Peter England**, for support to the Steels Creek Community and *The Jolly Thing*.

HOOGIES

O F Y A R R A G L E N



No worries!

9730-1611

DEADLINE for the next *Jolly Thing* is
30th January 2014.