



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 108 (April-May 2014) 'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY'

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for current activity photos and more commentary

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Steels Creek Stories - DVD "Afterburn"

This one hour DVD by Moira Fahy is the last part of the *Steels Creek Stories Project*. It stands alongside the two books, "*Living with Fire*" by Christine Hansen and Tom Griffiths, and "*Black Saturday at Steels Creek*" by Peter Stanley. Together, they form a major contribution to our understanding of the impact of fire on Australian communities.

To quote from the DVD's cover notes, "*This film follows three [Steels Creek] families over three years ... as they come to terms with the devastating effects of trauma and the long shadow of recovery. But they don't travel this path alone. A leading trauma and disaster specialist, Dr Robert Gordon, walks this journey with them, helping them dial down the adrenalin, and make sense of the recurring nightmares, panic and tears.*"

This DVD provides intimate details of the experience and aftermath for these three families during and following the fires. It will be of real value to all those who need to help people and communities plan for and face trauma in the future.

Some copies of the DVD have been given to the Community Centre. They can be borrowed by contacting David Allan (5965 2556). **Please Note:** *Binding contracts with both Channels 7 and 9 prohibit copying or commercial showings of this DVD. As Producing Documentary maker, Moira Fahy is apparently personally liable for any breach of this contract, please respect this legal requirement.* The DVD's are also available for purchase from Moira Fahy at \$20. Orders can be processed through the Centre or Malcolm Calder and will be forwarded to Moira.
David Allan President.

ANZAC Day Remembrance in Yarra Glen

The Yarra Glen RSL is sponsoring a march and service on Friday, April 25th 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. Light refreshments will be available in the Hall 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. There are two new items in the Appeal stock this year. Donations for pins support the RSL Welfare Fund. As always, we appreciate your generous support.

Web site: www.yarraglen.com/RSL/

Ed Bartosh, Secretary

Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday April 6th

Don't forget to turn back your clock for the end of Daylight Savings Time on the early hours of Sunday, 6th April. Enjoy the extra hour's sleep!

Also don't forget to change your smoke alarm batteries....



Steels Creek Autumn Festival

Sunday 23rd March dawned somewhat overcast and cool, with the forecast predicting the possibility of showers. But it didn't discourage people from coming to the **Steels Creek Autumn Festival**, a free Community Event, sponsored by VBAF as part of its support for Steels Creek Community Centre.



The rain pretty much stayed away, and a great day was enjoyed by some 70 to 80 visitors, including some new faces from surrounding areas. It was a relaxed occasion that seemed just right for slowing down as summer starts to move into autumn and the cooler weather. The mood was really helped along by the easy tones of **Geoff Townsend and Con Koumouris** playing a great mix of jazz classics and other numbers, and by the impressive catering of Hot Rod's Roasts. The kids also gave the Jumping Castle a good work out too.



Thanks to Keith Montell and other helpers who put it all together.

Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club Happenings

Social Tennis: Tennis participation has been good on both Monday and Thursday nights. Come by from 7:30pm and join in (either or both nights). Pennant level play not required (if fact, would be very out of place). Stay afterwards for a chat and drink (BYO please). Very enjoyable and low key.

Open Day: Despite the heat, we had a very enjoyable Tennis Victoria Open Day on Sunday, February 9th. About eight kids and 16 adults enjoyed a sausage sizzle, and some brave adults joined Lee and the kids on the courts.

Club Feedback: We are asking for feedback about the Club on how we can do more for members and the community. Are there programs you'd like to see started, modified or removed from the Club's activities? Hot Shots for the kids? More/less group coaching? Competitive teams in other leagues, such as Tuesday Ladies? **Let us know** on Facebook or by e-mail to ed@yarraglen.com

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub

Ed Bartosh, Secretary

Garden Club

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

S4Reel Film Club

S4Reel Film Club

Guaranteed laughs, suspense and drama together with fine food and good company. Dinner and movie in our Gold Class venue.

- Screening On Friday 18th April : **INVICTUS** (2009)

Nelson Mandela, in his first term as the South African President, initiates a unique venture to unite the apartheid-torn land and enlist the National Rugby Team on a mission to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup. An inspiring true story with brilliant acting by Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon. (more - see <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1057500/>)

- Screening On Friday 16th May : **IRMA LA DOUCE** (1963)

This romantic comedy opens with a resounding warning: its chief concerns are passion, bloodshed, desire, and death. "Everything," exclaims the narrator, "that makes life worth living." Set in the red-light district of Paris an honest, but naïve, policeman (Jack Lemmon) has his life changed as he falls madly in love with a glamorous Lady of the Night (Shirley MacLaine). (more - see <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057187/>)

DINNER FROM 6pm – FILM STARTS 7.30pm

Steels Creek Art Group

Thursday afternoon has become a special time for at least ten people who regularly come to the Community Centre to paint or draw. They enjoy time out in a wonderful space that calls 'Welcome' to anyone who wants to try out their skills amongst friends. At 1.30 tables are out and after the initial chit-chat of the weekly news, we get down to business. For about an hour there is total silence as we immerse ourselves in the art we hope to create. Around 3 the work stops for the afternoon coffee or tea with biscuits. This is a serious ritual, and for about 30 minutes - sometimes longer - we sort out the various troubles of the world or catch up on a recent TV broadcast. Just occasionally we talk art. Then we get back to any finishing-off work that needs to be done and all too soon 4.30 comes around, and we all pack up for home.

All this boils down to a group of local people who make time to enjoy creating art and sharing the experience with others.

If you ever had any thoughts about trying your hand at art, then you would be most welcome to come and join us on any Thursday afternoon. Our new Community Centre is an ideal space for creating art of all types. The lighting is very good, the air conditioning works wonders and the kitchen facilities make it easy to make the tea. We are so lucky to have access to this space and the convenience of its location.

Malcolm Calder

(And including,) **Artistry of Plants (Plus).**

This year we started up a new enterprise of art classes on a Monday afternoon at the Community Centre, 1.30 - 4.30 PM. These classes were initially advertised as "*The Artistry of Plants*", but there are people who prefer to develop skills in other areas of water-colour painting such as birds and animals, and even landscape. So the scope has widened from the initial idea.

Initially 11 people enrolled but with broken legs, pre-planned holidays, illness and over-commitment, numbers have fallen, but there is a strong nucleus of around 6 people who are regular attendees and we all enjoy improving our water-colour skills. In all, there will be eight classes this Term and then we will review whether or not we will continue to meet.



There is a charge of \$10 per person per class from which comes \$2 for the Community Centre and \$8 to cover the costs of materials and tuition. If you would like to try your hand at water-colour painting starting in the new May Term, please contact Malcolm on 5965 2372. I find that we must restrict numbers to a maximum of 10 to make sure everyone gets proper attention.

Malcolm Calder

Steels Creek Community Centre Committee

- Constitution Reform Update

Readers will recall that a Special General Meeting of SCCC Inc members was held last November, to consider proposed changes to the SCCC Inc. Constitution. The meeting unanimously endorsed the proposed changes, and details were forwarded to Community Affairs Victoria (CAV) for their formal endorsement. We have now been advised by CAV that they have approved our Special Resolution, but that certain rules required under legislation had not been addressed - it had been our understanding that they had been covered or were not required. CAV advised that Model Rules covering the missing rules will therefore be deemed to also be included in our Rules. Your Committee is yet to decide what action may need to be taken. But the amended rules, with the addition of the 'missing' Model rules, are now the Rules of Association for SCCC. A copy will become available on the web site.

- Committee Vacancy

Steels Creek Community Centre Committee still has a casual vacancy for an ordinary Committee member. If you feel that you would like to join with the Committee in the management of our Community Centre, we would very interested to hear from you. Please contact David Allan, President (5965 2556, 0413 396 296, or Christine Tomlins, Secretary (5965 2080). Thank you for responses already received - if possible we are hoping to encourage younger blood onto the Committee, so the search continues....

SCCC Committee (Continued...)

- Keeping Ourselves Nice...

Our Community Centre is just terrific but it must be remembered that it needs to be ***maintained*** to stay that way. Maintenance includes grass cutting, weeding, pump repairs, gutter and external cleaning, paper/toilet/kitchen supplies and general tidying. It also seems (unfortunately) to include *locking doors left unlocked* and *turning off left-on lights*. All these needs are willingly carried out by a relatively small core of members. They are happy to do what they do, but would **always appreciate their task being made a little easier**.

YOU can help by making sure that when you leave SCCC, it is in as good (or better) condition than you found it, (rubbish removed, clean and tidy), and **ALL lights turned out and ALL doors locked**. Our hard-working maintenance volunteers would be most happy!

David Allan, President.

Stitchers

On Tuesday 27th May at 1.30pm Stitchers will be holding their eagerly-awaited annual Community Afternoon Tea at the Steels Creek Community Centre, with proceeds going to the Cancer Council of Victoria. Entry is \$7.50, which includes a delicious homemade afternoon tea. There will be the usual raffle of handmade quilts and other items plus some further small pieces for sale. Do join us for an enjoyable gathering supporting a very worthwhile cause! Jane Calder 5965 2372.

Steels Creek Landcare



Steels Creek Landcare Group has a new website. See it at <http://www.steelscreeklandcare.org>



In March, SCLG followed up its February Rabbit Control workshop with a **practical demonstration of the rabbit baiting** at the Lloyd's property. The day began with carving some baiting trails in known eating areas. Free feed oats were then laid into the furrows to attract rabbits. The poisoned bait oats will be laid out in the furrows with three feeds each a few days apart.

A bait station of wire netting was made to show an example of how to exclude native animals and non-target species from taking the bait. Burrows were smoked to locate connected exits. Harbour was explored to locate hidden burrows. The burrows were ripped and destroyed using a five-tonne excavator.



The Landcare Group would like to encourage all readers to join us over the next three weeks in undertaking rabbit control baiting on your own properties. Working together at this time will really help reduce the rabbit numbers and their effect on our environment and landscape. The Landcare group **thanks the local traders who are supporting this initiative**, particularly Hoogies, Rural Fence & Trade Coldstream, and CRC Excavations.

Information on **member discounts** for Pindone, blackberry spray and fencing materials can be found on our website. Members purchasing pindone at RF&T during April will go into a draw for a solar electric fence Energiser, **generously donated by RF&T**. The Landcare group's **smoker is available** for members to borrow and the group is purchasing some more equipment to assist members with fencing needs, including a **motorised steel post driver and wire spinning and straining gear**.

For more info, please contact Ray Turnley, Pres. SCLG 97301550 or steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com

Chainsaw Safety

With the arrival of the cooler autumn weather many of us are cutting firewood, or cleaning up trees around the property, using a chainsaw.

I had cut down a fairly large tree and cut it up for removal but as the day was hot decided to pack up early and return the next morning to finish. It was just a small job, trimming two stumps, and I was just finishing when I suddenly felt a hard and very painful blow to my leg. The chain had obviously loosened and then slipped off the bar cutting my leg in the process. Luckily the chain guard caught the chain or it may have been far more serious. It certainly gave me a fright!

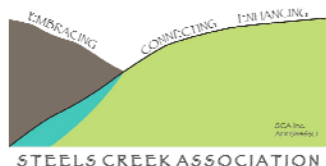
I am fairly careful with my chainsaw, but my experience showed that it only takes one bit of inattention to come to grief. Since then, I now wear **safety chaps** whenever I use the saw (as do the professionals) and they are well worth buying if you are a frequent sawyer or, if a casual user, remember that **they may be borrowed from the Community Centre**.
Keith

HEWI – It's for Steels Creek too!

Healesville Environment Watch Inc (HEWI) is not just a township group only concerned with Healesville issues! HEWI was formed in the old Shire of Healesville (that included Steels Creek), so the name was appropriate then. When Yarra Ranges Council was created, the name 'HEWI' was then too well established to change.

Until 2009, HEWI's Steels Creek numbers continued to grow, partly due to our advocacy for environmental planning and compliance, supporting residents with Green Wedge issues. With post-fire recovery consuming everyone's energy, HEWI's activities in some regions have reduced, although re-establishment of Steels Creek Landcare group and the recent establishment of Chum Creek Landcare and the Blackberry Action group have been exciting developments.

However, Green Wedge status remains under threat and demands continuing advocacy. Climate Change is another major issue impacting our unique and fragile environment. We would love to hear from anyone interested in sharing ideas for protecting our natural landscape. Want to find out more? Some of our team will be at the Steels Creek Market on 26th April, so don't be afraid to ask! And to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen: hewisec@bigpond.com.



SCA UPDATE

More Free Wellbeing Classes at SCCC – From 28th April!

Whether you're continuing from Term 1, or are still to take your first step towards greater health and wellbeing, enrolments will soon open for Term 2 classes at the Community Centre. We are even hoping to commence some new classes, so watch *The Grapevine* for more information over the next couple of weeks.

Commencing in the week starting 28 April, for a nine week term, the following classes will continue:

- MONDAYS: Group Fitness with Amy, 7.30 – 8.30pm
- TUESDAYS: Yoga with Wendy, 7 – 8.30pm
- WEDNESDAYS: Group Personal Training with Studio Glo, 9.30 – 10.30am
- FRIDAYS: Pilates with Allison, 9.30 – 10.15am (Note: Change possible here – **watch for updates**)

Please contact Kenneil Martin via email at projectassist.sca3775@gmail.com or phone 0435 997 714 to register or for more information.

These classes are brought to you by Steels Creek Association Inc. with the assistance of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. Please note that we can only run these classes if we have minimum numbers enrolled to start, and can only continue classes if there is regular attendance, so don't delay registering and please commit as much as possible!

Any enquiries concerning SCA Inc. can be made to **Allan Giffard**, ph 0419 362 283, or by post to PO Box 298 Yarra Glen 3775.

Council to Improve Hunts Lane Hill Alignment

Athel Smith and others from the Hunts Lane Community Fire Guard group met in mid-February with Council representatives concerning improving the notorious alignment of the Hunts Lane hill. Recently, Athel received a letter from Tony McGann, Manager Infrastructure Services at the Council, confirming that several improvements options are being considered.

The first option is widening and laying back the bank on the inside of the bottom curve to allow for two way traffic, and better sight distance. The second option is excavating the top of the crest and widening to allow two way traffic and to improve visibility. The third option includes options one and two and sealing the steep section in between. All three options would require Planning Permits because of tree removal.

Option One could be accommodated in Council's current annual budget. **Design and preparation of the permit application will be started as soon as possible with a view to carrying out work before next fire season.**

Option Three would require a significant project, so the Council will focus on Option Two.

Option Two is still an extensive project, but would deliver a proportionately greater benefit. It will be referred to the Council's Capital Expenditure Program. Tony advises that the Council will focus on achieving this option, and will examine the crest project in more detail.

The letter also referred to a request for overhanging branches to be removed, but the request has been dismissed by the Council's Tree Operations area.

For enquiries, contact Athel Smith, Coordinator - Hunts Lane Community Fire Guard, telephone 5965 2368.

Bricks for the Sheep Shed

Gillian Conrad unexpectedly passed away two years ago, aged 31. A program has been developed in her memory and honour named 'Gillian's Rainbow Bridge' that supports disadvantaged children and abused/neglected animals. It is based in the Long Gully area between Yarra Glen and Healesville. Now that autumn has arrived Gillian's Rainbow Bridge can take a deep sigh of relief that most of the hot weather is behind us. Yes!! Now we can get into building Gill's programme for the children and animals.

One of our first endeavours is to get the activity/consulting room up and running, and we would definitely appreciate your help! **We are desperately in need of more old bricks to cover the floor of the activity room, known as "the sheep shed"**. This is where the children will learn about a variety of animals and have an opportunity to interact with them. They will also be able to let their creativity run free with felting, story writing, and photography, being just a few of the activities on offer. You can imagine how beneficial a day at the farm will be to children whose lives have been stilted by their unfortunate environment. So please, have a thorough look through your stash of outside materials. I'm sure you may have some spare bricks lying around! We need bricks that are solid, flat on top and preferably with a reddish tone. **We need about 2000 bricks in total - 300 have been donated so far, just another 1700 to go!! We will collect them if you are unable to deliver them yourself.**

Gillian's Rainbow Bridge is always thankful for people's generous contributions and appreciates their involvement in the progress of Gill's innovative programme. **We will be holding a working-bee to lay the bricks, so if you would like to be involved please let us know. Contact Annette on either Mobile - 0497 230 394, or Farm - 5962 5995 - she would love to hear from you.** Also, don't forget to have a look at Gill's updated website- www.gilliansrainbowbridge.org.au . Annette Conrad.

Rainfall – to end of March 2014

Station	February 2014(mm)	March 2014 (mm)	Total to end of March 2014 (mm)	Total to end of March 2013 (mm)
'Blackwood Hill' (Pinnacle Lane)	23.9	22.9	68.1	150.1
'Kilravock' Adams Lane	20.0	30.0	70.0	145.0
'Highlea' Dixons Creek	21.6	36.8	82.8	157.0
'Newera' Brennan Avenue	25.1	20.6	63.7	135.5
'Wandearah' Japonica Drive	30.7	21.3	73.6	130.0

The dry start to the year has continued, with February 19 mm below average and March 30 mm below. We are now 77 mm below average, so far this year.
Barry Sheffield

Articles Submitted by Community Members -

Going Green – Episode Two *(in which Sophie encounters Chaos)*

Returning home after a week away, they immediately knew something was wrong as they entered the front door. Smashed ornaments lay scattered over the floor and every surface seemed to have been roughly swept over. Cautiously they moved from room to room following the trail of destruction. In the bedroom, the door to the walk-in robe seemed to be blocked, but after a lot of pushing they finally managed to force it open. Sleeping bags and blankets had fallen from a shelf high above the clothes rail, blocking the door, and clothes had fallen from their hangers, littering the floor. Dismayed at the mess and still wondering what on earth had happened, they soon found the cause of all the chaos. Backed into the corner of the now empty shelf was a very large Goanna that didn't look at all happy. Being an animal lover, Josie quickly got some of the raw meat intended for the cat's dinner, stood on a chair and tried to coax the Goanna to eat something. The angry hiss she received for her efforts nearly made Josie fall from her chair as she made a very hasty retreat.

To encourage the Goanna to leave, they tried opening the window in the walk-in robe, and put a large plank from the shelf leading through the window. That night they slept with the door to the robe securely fastened, hoping that the animal would have the sense to make a bid for freedom. Unfortunately it wasn't to be, and the next day Josie was on the phone to the zoo. It took a couple of tries to get through, as every time Josie tried to explain that she had a Goanna in the wardrobe the person she was speaking to would hang up thinking that it was a prank call. But after the third attempt, Josie was put through to a reptile keeper who patiently explained how to remove the Goanna. Armed with long, thick industrial rubber gloves and a beach towel, Josie again slowly stood on the chair, and trembling, threw the towel over the Goanna. Grabbing it by the neck and tail, Josie raced through the bedroom to the cries of her partner who was standing on the bed shouting, "Gutsy effort, Josie!!" The Goanna, having been released in the garden, raced to the safety of the nearest tree where it stayed surveying them for the rest of the day.

It took quite a few weeks to clean up. They kept finding remnants of Goanna skin on all their clothes from when the reptile had shed its skin. And from then on, whenever Josie and her partner went on holiday, they always remembered to block off the cat-door! And to this day, you can still see the *claw* marks where the Goanna had literally climbed the walls looking for a way to escape.

Contributed by **Josie**.

BlazeAid... 'Mateship' personified. *A personal account by Henry Verhoeven.*

It was whilst caravanning through the fire ravaged Warrumbungle National Park in mid-west NSW in July 2013 that Pam and I came across the BlazeAid camp set up to assist local burnt out property owners. The effects of that local devastation were very apparent on Pam's face, and I felt quite mortified that we were unable to alter our travelling arrangements to offer at least a modicum of assistance in that 'hour of need'. My comment to Pam of, "I am sure we will be able to assist at some future time," turned out to be prophetic.

The Wallan / Darraweit Guim Bushfires of 10th February 2014.

This hilly Victorian farming district near Kilmore was severely affected by mainly grass fires that destroyed 28 houses and 16,000+ livestock. Within three weeks, BlazeAid had established a camp at Wandong (followed a week later with

one at Clarkefield) to offer assistance to burnt out farmers. All BlazeAid camps operate from donations in cash or kind or occasional Shire funding, but not from State or Federal grants as the organisation wishes to retain its autonomy from those political masters.

The camps are totally operated by volunteers. At Wandong, the 'vollies' numbered between 30 and 40 (plus students and Community Service men), with many husband/wife teams both *'on the fences'* or with the wives assisting in the meals, cleaning or laundering. During the eight days I was at the camp, the 'vollies' differed in age from 16 to 83. They came from around the country, the camp co-ordinator being a husband and wife team from Hobart. As a team leader, I had crew members from Perth, Tamworth, Bowral, Terang, Mia Mia and Boronia plus a dozen Year 12 *Assumption College* students. Others came from as far afield as Surfers Paradise and Cairns. Some had been touring Australia when they stopped to heed the call for help. Because all tools are supplied, it made 'just stopping to help' so much easier. Many make BlazeAid a 'way of life' with stays of two to four months being quite common. The Wandong camp will last for about nine months.

Many, like myself, stayed in caravans, whilst others had tents or just 'slept rough' in their cars. Brand new shower, toilet and change facilities were at our disposal. Plenty of hot water to wash away the grime of a hard day's work. Breakfasts and dinners were all cooked, whilst morning teas and lunches were an 'assemble it yourself' affair. Work started at 7.30 am with 'knock off' anywhere from 3.00 to 4.00 pm depending on the temperature. The **comradeship** was outstanding, both in camp and 'on the job'. Many stories of how many kilometres of fencing had been removed or erected by the eight teams were recounted after dinner. Regardless of the banter, the tally just kept growing.

Most 'vollies' were removing destroyed fencing, clearing trees off fence lines or rebuilding (mostly boundary) fences, whilst some assisted in cleaning up destroyed shedding. All assisted in the task of putting smiles back on the faces of those who up till then hadn't known where to start in picking up the pieces of their shattered lives. ***We can relate to that, can't we?***

I will be going back to re-acquaint myself with my new 'best friends' - **will you come along with me to enjoy the whole experience?**

For more information: Website: www.blazeaid.com.au

Lyn Bailey 0400 833 262 blazeaid@gmail.com (overall Blazeaid co-ordinator)

Brian 0401 373 562 (Wandong camp co-ordinator) blazeaid.wandong@gmail.com

Clarkefield camp co-ordinator) blazeaid.clarkefield@gmail.com

Railway Report

Readers may not have noticed much activity on the railway in recent times, but there certainly has been plenty happening out of sight from the road. Since Christmas, the railway volunteers have gone into overdrive. Three bridges on Tarrawarra Straight (east of Tarrawarra Station) have had their remnant timbers demolished, piles excavated and capped with concrete extensions, and large concrete footings poured. These bridges are of five spans, seven spans and eleven spans each, resulting in 52 piles excavated and capped and 26 footings constructed. Continuous work has been carried out to take advantage of the dry weather that enables heavy concrete trucks access across the flood plain. The work has been helped by the co-operation of the Brothers at Tarrawarra Abbey in allowing access through their paddocks for work crews and concrete trucks. The bridge crew has now moved on to the two bridges between the Steels Creek bridge and the new by-pass roundabout.

The railway has also recently acquired a Y-class diesel locomotive that became available after one of the private freight operators went into liquidation. The Y-class locos have historical relevance to the Healesville line, as they were the last locos used by the Victorian Railways on goods trains, after the condition of the line had deteriorated so much that the heavier T-class locos could no longer be used.

Barry Sheffield

Addendum: At the time of going to print, the concrete work for another bridge has been completed with another sixteen piles being excavated and capped, and 8 footings being poured.

Tuan or Brush-tailed Phascogale – an uncommon sighting

It is good to know that the Tuan, a fairly rare species, is still to be found in Steels Creek. A recently deceased specimen was noticed lying in the gutter beside our driveway. Because we were not sure what kind of creature it was we laid it out on a piece of A4 paper and took a photograph. The photograph was then taken to Healesville Sanctuary where it was explained to us that it was probably a male Tuan. The male of this species experiences a short, energetic but happy existence. Towards winter he will go in search of a female and on finding one will copulate for several hours, during which time the female is known to doze off! Gestation lasts for about thirty days and more young are born than can be accommodated by her eight nipples. The male will die after the first breeding season but the female may survive a second season. The greatest threat to the Tuan is lack of habitat so it is good to know it can thrive in and around Steels Creek.



Lindy

High Bow Hill (- what's in a name??)

Readers may recall my item in the August-September *TJT* about the incorrect naming of the hill to the north of Balgownie on Gulf Rd. The Yarra Glen and District Historical Society wrote to the Registrar of Geographic Names informing them of the incorrect name. The Registrar then referred the matter to Council to investigate and conduct community consultation. That process was concluded in February and the **hill is now officially High Bow Hill**, in accordance with the intention of the early land owners, the Williamson brothers.

Barry Sheffield

Did you notice anything ...???

Eagle-eyed repeat visitors at SCCC have commented on the inexplicable change in the colour of the spinning 'tea cup' children's ride in the playground. When installed, it was bright orange (see picture). It is now dark green! No one seems to know how the chameleon-like colour change took place, when or who-did-it! Can anyone throw any light on this? Rumours about life-boat manufacturers needing orange coloured fibreglass to assist the Federal Government's on-water 'border protection' operations cannot be confirmed or denied...



The original tea-cup - now dark green!

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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.

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

APRIL 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Stitchers. Yoga.	2 Group Personal Training.	3 Tai Chi. Art. Social Tennis.	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7 R Group Fitness. Artistry of Plants. Women's Group. Social Tennis.	8 Stitchers. Yoga. Garden Club Outing.	9 Group Personal Training.	10 Tai Chi. Art. Social Tennis.	11	12 Market.
13 YG&DHS (Yarra Glen).	14 Group Fitness. Artistry of Plants. Social Tennis.	15 Stitchers . Yoga.	16 Group Personal Training.	17 Tai Chi. Art. Social Tennis.	18 SC4Reel Movie. <i>(Invictus)</i>	19 FYFB Working. Bee.
20 EASTER	21 R Group Fitness. Social Tennis.	22 Stitchers. Yoga. Book Group.	23 Group Personal Training.	24 SMB Tai Chi. Art. Social Tennis	25 ANZAC Day	26 Market (including HEWI).
27	28 Growing Group. Group Fitness. Social Tennis.	29 Stitchers. Yoga.	30 Group Personal Training.			

'R' = **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

4thTuesday – 7.30 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. New Members welcome.

Ivan Filsell 5965 2248

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. **Currently in abeyance....**

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

HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE

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

Vicki Stewart 5965 2552

MAY 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Tai Chi. Social Tennis	2 Pilates.	3 Tennis Comp
4	5 R Group Fitness Women's Group. Social Tennis	6 Stitchers. Yoga.	7 Group Personal Training.	8 Tai Chi. Social Tennis.	9 Pilates.	10 Market. Tennis Comp
11 YG&DHS (Yarra Glen).	12 Group Fitness Social Tennis	13 Stitchers. Garden Club Outing. Yoga.	14 Group Personal Training.	15 Tai Chi. Social Tennis.	16 Pilates. SC4Reel Movie <i>(Irma La Douce)</i>	17 Tennis Comp FYFB Working Bee.
18	19 R Group Fitness Social Tennis	20 Stitchers. Yoga.	21 Group Personal Training.	22 Tai Chi. Social Tennis	23 Pilates.	24 Market. Tennis Comp
25	24 Growing Group Group Fitness Social Tennis	27 Stitchers Community Afternoon Tea. Yoga. Book Group	28 Group Personal Training.	29 Tai Chi. SMB Artistry of Plants. Social Tennis.	30 Pilates.	31 Tennis Comp

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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 anything 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, 60 active and social members. Tuesdays 3:45 PM - kids lessons; Thursdays 9.30 AM - Mums' tennis; Friday 10 AM - Ladies Coaching, Mondays & 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 61

Cross Creek 61

Across

1. Are these good or bad dreams for a stallion? (10)
6. Woolly ones have died out (7)
8. Duty list (6)
9. Give generously to e.g. a fund (5)
11. "There's nothing the rich get rich and" (5)
12. While we whippersnip, the Brits do this (5)
14. From little ones big oaks grow (5)
16. Miserable constricted breathing (6)
17. S/he sorts out complex situation (7)
18. A "what will be will be " approach (10)

Down

1. War zone, neither ours nor theirs (10)
2. A Society promoting ethical animal treatment (6)
3. They move the public around (5)
4. The freeway link between Mitcham and Kew (7)
9. Was part of Ethiopia, now autonomous (7)
10. Big hoo ha, maybe including a queen (5)
13. Scandinavian imps (6)
15. May join two rivers/waterways (5)

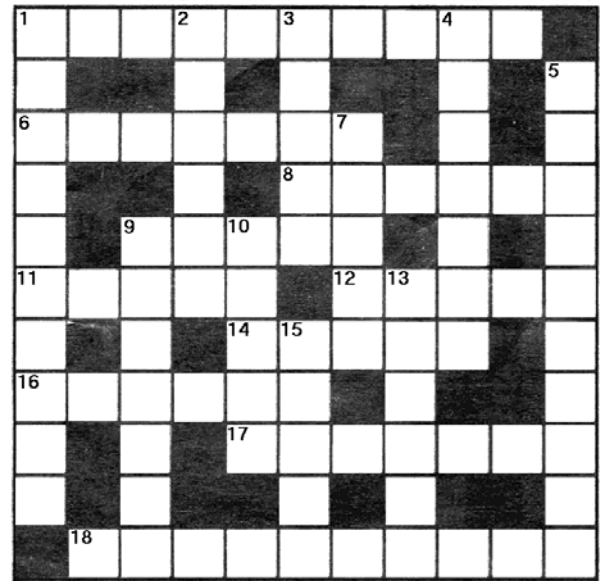
Cross Creek 60 - Answers

Across

1. Sandflies 7. Kip 8. Pathology 10. Cravat 11. Code
 13. Mint 14. Sikkim 16. Tankerton 18. Ego 19.
 Piggybank

Down

2. Aga 3. Floral 4. Icon 5. Skyrocket 6. Spiderman 8.
 Pacemaker 9. Trainstop 12. Winery 15. Snug
 17. Own



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** and **John Houston** - elected as members; with **Jenny Tetlow** - Garden Club and **Ed Bartosh** - Tennis Club.

steelscreek.vic.au

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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
 29th May 2014.