



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 124 (December 2016- January 2017) 'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY'

<http://steelscreek.vic.au>

### **IN THIS EDITION:**

*Not so much in this edition, as the end of the year approaches the "busyness" of Christmas has our focus on family; as such often the social or community engagements take 2<sup>nd</sup> place (as they should).*

*Many of the local groups slow down or stop over Christmas and into the New Year. Where the information has been sent it has been included on the calendar but please check with the organizers of each group for specific details or check the calendar at <http://steelscreek.vic.au>*

#### **Note from the editor**

The Jolly thing is a newsletter and as such is full of articles of interest to our community of people. **Entertaining stories** are always welcomed whether true or fictional as are **photos** of the area (preferably, together with a story) or to be used if they happen to suit the articles submitted.

**Promotion material** will be considered for local businesses but only if there is value to the community, local groups' submissions are very welcome. **Personal stories** must be submitted by the person involved and all items must be emailed to [scjollything@gmail.com](mailto:scjollything@gmail.com)

Thank you

### **Steels Creek Landcare Group**

Bunnings sausage sizzle is on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and help is appreciated, please contact Angie Lloyd on 0412 343 242 if you are able to help for a couple of hours.

#### **Goat farm visit and social dinner**



On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January starting at 5pm and going to about 8pm (or whenever the chat and wine runs out) we will be visiting Brockspur Eco farm at 57 Harvey road Steels Creek where Ed and Amanda Williams will show us their goat dairy herd (including milking – you might even get to assist). This will be followed by a social BBQ dinner.

We ask that you either bring a plate of salad, nibbles or dessert to share and the SCLG will provide bread and meat.  
BYO drinks.

RSVP is required to allow for catering and is open to the whole community

Either email [steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com](mailto:steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com) or phone Angie 0412 343 242

#### **Brockspur Eco-farm Story**

Edd and I brought our property in 1979 after migrating from England the year before. Land here sold cheaply in those days but even so we started our life here under a shed roof with no power, or amenities at all. We were young then and even with three small children we were happier living outside than in a suburb.

In England we lived on a smallholding with chooks, dairy goats and a horse and cart. Growing vegetables on the Yorkshire moors was challenging and we hoped that the milder Yarra Valley climate would make our self-sufficient life easier.

We soon discovered that Australia is a land of extremes and we began the slow process of adapting to the new environment. I have never lost my joy at being able to pick my own citrus fruit and walk each day surrounded by multi coloured parrot type birds but we had a lot to learn about growing food and animals in mineral depleted soils.

Our plan was to have a commercial goat farm, so we built up our herd numbers and constructed a dairy. It was a large operation for those days with a refrigerated bulk tank and swing over milking machines. I started work at 6am every day and worked for two hours before organising the children and getting them off to school. The day was spent working on paddocks and vegetables and then we milked again before cooking tea in the evening. I will never forget the morning Australia won the America's cup. A friend turned up in the milking parlour with a bottle of champagne and a radio so we could listen as the boats sailed over the finish and celebrate!

In the nineties we left the farm with friends and our children and went to work in the Tanami desert taking our youngest son, Josh. This was the best adventure of my life and I shall always be grateful that I had the opportunity to live with Aboriginal people and learn about their culture. We also had time to read and think things over so that when we returned to the farm five years later we had more ideas to try.

At this stage I did the Permaculture Design course with Graeme George. At last I had found a group of people who had similar ideas about how to live. Now we could begin sharing knowledge with others and things progressed fast. With the help of Wwoofers we set up in business as a host farm. This was great fun and we met interesting people from all over the world.

This period ended in 2009 with the bush fires. We felt as if thirty years of effort had vanished overnight. Oh well, at least this time we knew what to do, so we started again from scratch. Luckily my eldest son, Alvyn, is an architect and he helped us design a new house and sheds. Our house is designed like a cave and stays at about 22 degrees all year round and we have included many features that we think will help in the case of future fires. Sheep keep the grass under control on our roof and we still have a few goats and have a dairy to make cheese.

The ruins of our old house have been adapted to provide an outdoor living area complete with shelter shed, kitchen and pizza oven. The old garden has been retained as a food forest and chooks live in near-by orchards.

## [VicEmergency App](#)

The FireReady app has been replaced by the VicEmergency app. If you already had the FireReady app your device would have been provided with an update that will change this. If you haven't got the app go to the App Store or Google Play to download the VicEmergency App.



### **VicEmergency Hotline**

**1800 226 226**

The VicEmergency Hotline brings together all emergency numbers including the Victorian Bushfire Information Line, the Victorian Emergency Relief Information Line and the VICSES Flood and Storm Information Line.

VBIL (and other the other lines like the SES flood and storm line) are currently being directed to the VicEmergency Hotline. Where possible alter these numbers in your phone contacts.

The VicEmergency website [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au), VicEmergency Facebook and twitter, the VicEmergency app and the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226 all provide emergency warnings and information to the community.

## Steels Creek Art Group

Spring has been a busy time for our artists. In addition to our usual Thursday afternoon sessions, we held our very first workshop on Saturday 29 October. Janet Hayes was our guest artist and she introduced our class of 10 into the wonders of pastel painting. For some of us this was the first time we had ventured into the pastel medium, but Janet has had a lot of experience both as an artist and as a teacher and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are working on our next workshop in early February trying our hands at portraiture with Raylene Sharp. Attached are a couple of photos of the group during the workshop and just look how hard we are concentrating! Once again we were reminded of just what a great resource we have with the Community Centre. Art classes on Tuesdays have now finished for the year.



More generally, there are a couple of sculpture events in our area. The first of these is the Toolangi Sculpture Trail based on the Forest Discovery Centre in Toolangi. The main events were held over the weekend of 20/21 November, but the bush trail sculptures and track will remain until the forest reclaims them. A great excuse for a walk in the bush. The other is the Yering Station sculpture exhibition which closes on 5 December, so you just might catch it if you're quick.



We can report that the Steels Creek group will be participating in the Yarra Valley Open Studios next year. This event is taking a new format. Three regions, Healesville, Yarra Glen and Warburton will each open their studios for a weekend from September to November. Steels Creek will be part of the Yarra Glen weekend in early October. More about that later. And finally, 2017 will see the next Yarra Glen Art Show in early March, so all you artists get painting.

## Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club Happenings

**Competition Tennis:** We have two teams of differing ability playing. All games start by 1:15pm. If you are interested, contact Rob Fallon (0417 471 009) for the higher section or Alby (5965 2354) for a medium standard.

**Ladies Social Tennis:** Lindy and Joanne have been playing on Monday mornings at 9am. Contact Lindy if you'd like to join in for a bit of light fun (5965 2202).

**Social Tennis:** Thursday social tennis is back on at 7.30pm. If you are keen for a game, contact Alby (5965 2354) See you then.

Web site: [steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club/](http://steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub](http://www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub)

## Steels Creek Garden club

The garden club would like to thank the community and friend who came to support this year's flower show and plant sale. The day had the feel of a country fair, lots of new ideas featured on stalls, plenty of bargain for all. People come back each year just to catch up with old friends over coffee and home baked treats. The day finished with the raffle and people went home with all sorts of treasures. We raised an outstanding amount \$3262.60, the most of any year. It's been a fantastic year, we have a wonderful, enthusiastic club of gardeners and we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year, Jill Hess

## WEATHER REPORT

### WEATHER REPORT

You may see on TV weather reports temperatures given for Yarra Glen. These are actually the temperatures for Coldstream as there isn't a Bureau station here, but you can check unofficial temperatures & rainfall for Yarra Glen, as there is a Davis Weather Link station at Yarra Glen CFA, which you can access via this web address - <http://www.weatherlink.com/user/yarraglencfa/>

## **New Addition to the JT "Classifieds"**

Feel free to send in items for sale or "free to a good home" (editor's discretion as to suitable inclusions – you can't sell or give away husbands or kids)

**Kabota tractor** for sale only 108 hours use, 2 or 4WD, 22HP comes with 3 way bucket, auger, box scraper, carryall, slasher, 3 point linkage. Suit small property. Only used for 4 hours in last 2 years, always shedded, great condition serviced at 104 hours. \$14,500 (with bucket only) or \$15,900 with auger, box scraper, carryall and slasher contact Angie 0412 343 242

## Steels Creek Community Centre Bookings now On-line

Ever thought about using our Community Centre for a function or event, but were not sure about checking availability, fees, booking process. It is now easy as the Steels Creek Community web-site now has an automated on-line process for that purpose.

Simply:

- Open the Steels Creek Community web-site (go to [www.steelscreek.vic.au](http://www.steelscreek.vic.au) ).
- Select the **SCCC** tab.
- Scroll down the page to find, 'Do you want to book the Centre for a function/event?'
- Click on, 'Check availability and make an on-line booking enquiry here.'
- Follow prompts for information, charges and to make a booking request.

You will receive an acknowledgement of your request and further confirmation when the booking is confirmed. If you have queries, the contact person for bookings is Christine Tomlins, telephone 5965 2080

### *The Jolly Thing Delivery*

1. **By free e-mail subscription.** If you do not already subscribe, please visit [steelscreek.vic.au](http://steelscreek.vic.au) to register your details, or forward your e-mail address to [scjollything@gmail.com](mailto:scjollything@gmail.com) 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.
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### **The Steels Creek Grapevine**

Want to be kept up to date on Local Steels Creek events and offerings?

**'The Steels Creek Grape Vine'** so you don't miss out.

Go to <http://steelscreek.vic.au/publications/the-steels-creek-grapevine/> .

December 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 R	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Working bee at the SCCC 9am Market 10-11am</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Landcare Bunnings sausage sizzle</i>	17
18 <b>SCCC Xmas carols</b>	19 R	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 <b>SMB - 10am</b>	30	31

**ART**

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

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

**BOOK GROUP**

3rd Tuesdays – 7.30 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. New Members welcome.

Ivan Filsell 5965 2248

**FRIENDS OF YARRA FLATS BILLABONGS**

Development of wetlands adjacent to Yarra Glen.

Kevin Heeley 9730 1704 [kevinheeley@bigpond.com](mailto:kevinheeley@bigpond.com)

**GARDEN CLUB at SCCC**

Newsletter, outings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 60 members. Fourth Tuesday Growing Group, 9.30 am at SCCC– all welcome.

Jill Hess 9730 1960

**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 Yarra Glen & District Historical Society meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 1:30 pm Yarra Glen Memorial Hall:

Helen Mann 9730 1875 <http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au>

**LANDCARE GROUP**

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

Angie Lloyd 0412 343 242, [steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com](mailto:steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com)

**HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE**

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

Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

January 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 R	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Market 10-11am
15	16R	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Landcare Goat farm visit and social dinner</i>
22	23	24	25	26 SMB	27	28 Market 10-11am
29	30 R	31				

**R – put out your recycle bin**

**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.

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

**MOVIES**

2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday - March to November – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic movies at SCCC.

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.

Stephanie Giffard 0418 364 318

**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 199 129

**TAI CHI**

Every Thursday in School Term time at SCCC.

Hannah Sky 5965 2211

**TENNIS**

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 60 active and social members. Mondays 9am, ladies social tennis; Thursdays 7.30 PM\* - Social tennis; Friday Locals Tennis - for adults and kids - 5pm last Friday of the month (Unless noted in calendar); Saturdays 1 to 5 PM regular competitions.

Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

\*Night tennis under the lights. Website: [steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club](http://steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club)

**WOMEN'S GROUP - Evening Friendship Group**

1<sup>st</sup> 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 77

Across

1. Fruit needs to do this for best flavour (5)
4. Said, like taxes, to be always with us (5)
7. Counting system based on 12 not 10 (11)
9. Here, it would be made from cake not wood (3)
10. Not a feature of an Oz Christmas (4)
12. Too many .... doctors these days? (4)
13. Picturesque grouping of people (7)
14. ....and tear takes its toll (4)
15. "Sheats and Kelley" wrote such poems (4)
17. One of Melbourne's two daily papers (3)
19. Sound of a young singer (6,5)
20. Major feature of the Steels Creek Flower Show (5)
21. Is this river black? (5)

Down

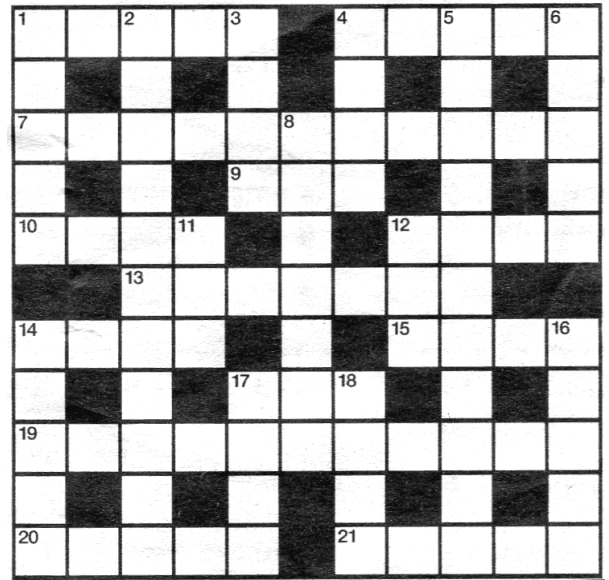
1. Fairgrounds offer scary ones of these (5)
2. Once upon a time they needed an actual camera (5,6)
3. A good name for a Christmas baby? (4)
4. "Just as the ....is bent" (4)
5. Half shortened, half full name seasonal dessert (4,7)
6. She's not lazy, just saves us effort (5)
8. What Americans call universities (7)
11. "Oh, what a lovely ..." , a new take on WWI (3)
12. Cracker for a Salvation Army Officer? (3)
14. ...., ..... everywhere (5)
16. Do fine stockings cause such madness? (5)
17. Warm, fermented, often hopless beers (4)
18. Not odd (4)

### Cross Creek 76 Answers

Across

1. Yering. 5. Dumb. 7. Rosti. 8. Lift. 9. Argo. 10. Carob. 11. Expose. 13. Opal. 14. Alsace. 18. E notes. 21. Aqua. 22. Gnocchi. 24. Drone. 25. Need. 26. Asti. 27. Mitzi. 28. Esky. 29. Dreams

- Down
1. Yileena. 2. Intro. 3. Grace. 4. Ascribe. 5. Diablo. 6. Magnate. 12. SEC. 15. Liqueurs. 16. Academy. 17. Escorts. 19. Nun. 20. Spirits. 23. Orate



### 200 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

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Management Committee: President – John Brand

Treasurer – Keith Montell

Secretary – Christine Tomlins

Ordinary committee members – Geoff Townsend, Mike Hardy-Dobney

Art Group representative – Anthea Forbes

The Jolly Thing is distributed free at the Yarra Glen Post Office, SCCC and else-where; postal subscription is available for \$6, or free via email and the Internet. Register your details at [steelscreek.vic.au](http://steelscreek.vic.au) or send to:

Editor: **Angie Lloyd - [scjollything@gmail.com](mailto:scjollything@gmail.com)**

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  
**27<sup>th</sup> January 2017**