the jolly thing

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 56 (August-September 2005) FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY

http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/ for *current photos and more commentary*

Yarra Glen is HOT even if the weather is NOT **– Page 7**
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***Samantha* Comes Home** **- Page 6**

Steels Creek Community Centre Annual General Meeting

The Steels Creek Community Centre, Inc. announces its **2005 Annual General Meeting** (AGM) to be held on Wednesday evening, the **10th of August** at **7:30 PM**. The AGM will be held in the Community Centre building at 699 Steels Creek Road. All members of the local community and SCCC committees and groups are invited to attend. Business to be conducted will include: officer and committee reports, election of officers and Committee of Management members for the coming year, and other general business of the community. A draft agenda is posted in the Centre as well as on The Jolly Thing web site.. A final agenda will be available by 27 July. Nominations for the positions on the Committee must be received by the Secretary by 3 August, or at the meeting if there are not enough in advance to fill the open positions. Nomination forms and proxy forms are available on the web site as well. Contact the Secretary, Ed Bartosh for assistance.

Community Centre Committee Report

Your Community Centre Management Committee had a meeting at the Centre on 8th June 2005. Keith Montell reported Centre funds at $8726.48. Under Centre maintenance, John Houston reported that the grass was being mown and that the Shire had cut away the trees at the front shed to keep them from falling and destroying the structure.

The Garden Club reported that the shadehouse is proving a wonderful asset, and they thanked Henry Verhoeven for the very efficient watering system that he has installed. They are now planning on three plant sales a year to offer a wider variety of plants.

The Tennis Club reported that the summer and ladies leagues went very well this year. (story p. 2)

The Land Care Group planted 100 trees on Gulf Road and is looking to continue with more projects. They thanked the Centre for sponsoring them for grants through the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority.

The Stitchers reported that their "Biggest Afternoon Tea" was again a wonderful success, raising over $1600 for the Cancer Council.

Other business followed with a motion for the Centre to purchase two added tables for the meeting room similar to those recently obtained by the Garden Club, an open request to all groups who use the centre to clean up after themselves – including sweeping the carpet and kitchen floors, and a date was set for the Centre AGM – Wednesday 10th August at 7:30 PM at SC4.

AGM SEASON

Wednesday 10 August 7:30 pm Steels Creek Community Centre at SC4
Thursday 11 August 7 pm HEWI at Healesville Living and Learning Centre
Sunday 14 August Noon: Tennis Club at the Club Rooms > BBQ bring meat and drink
Wednesday 24 August 8 pm Land Care AGM at SC4
Tuesday 13 September 7:30 pm Garden Club at SC4

Small Vineyard Wine Tastings - "On The Palate"

A number of Yarra Valley wineries have joined together under one roof to provide an opportunity to taste their wares. On alternate Fridays this winter, a selection of different varietal wines are showcased for a chance to compare like with like. The place to be is Yering Farm on St. Huberts Road between 4 and 7 pm to treat your tastebuds. The first event had 19 vintners display up to 4 wines each – with the showcase given to the Pinot Noir. It was a superb tasting as you could compare the winemakers' skills side-by-side on this single grape – and often multiple years of one vintner. However, there were other wines on display as well, so you were not limited to Pinot. There is no fee, and no advance booking is required. The next tastings are 29/7 – Shiraz; 12/8 – Cabernet; 26/8 Red Blends; 9/9 – Chardonnay; 23/9 Whites & Finale.

What *Wombats* Eat

Now I can hear you say that a Wombat eats roots and leaves, but a recent study of my own shows that they also like some Vegetables. This study was thrust upon me quite unexpectedly; a wombat got into our vegie patch. It was no doubt the same wombat that insisted upon helping Bill to prepare the Croquet Lawn. We have a name for him, JT Wilberforce Wombat, the stories of his exploits used to amuse our daughter when young.

The fence put up some 12 years ago was no match for Wilberforce, entrance was easily gained. Now at this time of the year our patch can be quite bare, it depends on when the break comes, but not this year broccoli, cabbage, broad beans, parsley, peas, lettuce all doing well. There had been great anticipation of tasty healthy fare.

In surveying the damage it was apparent the Wilberforce had definite likes and dislikes. Cabbage and broccoli high on the like list; peas and broad beans definitely not for him, not as much as a leaf nibbled. Strawberry leaves were good and parsley, of course, lady wombats like a man with sweet breath. Lettuce did not feature strongly on his like list.

The fence has been reinforced. The results of the study sent to PJ Nichoson (the Wombat Man). Wilberforce when last seen was being herded back to his lodgings on the banks of Steels Creek by the dogs and I am busy planting a ring of broad beans around the patch. **Andrew Chapman**

Weeds, Water, Wombats, Walking Track, Wildlife

Summary of all issues and activities suggested by Steels Creek Landcare Group Members on Membership Forms (as at 12 June 2005). The list goes on: weed invasion, particularly blackberries and other exotics along roads and on some private land Rabbits, Blackberries, Regeneration, Trees, Birds, Erosion, Sustainability. Interested? Help to shape this important programme and obtain help with your concerns.

David Allan 5965 2556 drallan@iprimus.com.au

Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club

Over sixty people enjoyed a very pleasant traditional **Christmas in June**. Many thanks to all who attended and those who donated some great raffle prizes.

Night Tennis is continuing on Thursdays at 7 p.m. All welcome. Why not join this enthusiastic group of keen tennis players of varying expertise?

The **Tuesday Mid-Week ladies** team has recently commenced playing the Winter season. When the team plays away from home the courts will be available. If you would like to join in for social tennis , meet at the courts at 9.30 am Tuesdays, Aug. 2nd; 23; Sept 6, 20, 27 Oct. 4; 11; 25; Nov. 8th. All welcome. Coming in October: Professional coaching for ladies. Our Three Saturday teams are going strong. New players most welcome **Albie 5965 2354**

COMMUNITY TALKS

Saturday 30 July 11am – noon **The Yarra Flats Billabongs**

McCoombe Room Yarra Glen Memorial Hall Admission: Gold coin. Everyone welcome

Kevin Heeley will outline the history of the billabongs, the development of the Billabong Reserve, and plans for the future of the unique environment at the entrance to our town that will become an excellent resource for recreation, education and the protection of flora and fauna.

Plus - sausage sizzle fund-raiser for the Yarra Glen Girl Guides

HEWI *(Healesville Environment Watch Inc)*

Wednesdays, August 3 – 24 1:30-3 pmStereo Microscope workshops with **Jane and Malcolm Calder** at the Healesville Living and Learning Centre, 1 Badger Creek Road. Bookings, call Sue on 5962 5982

Thursday, August 11, 7pm - Healesville Environment Watch Inc.(HEWI) AGM - **Richard Naisbitt**,(formerly Raptor Keeper in Charge, Healesville Sanctuary) will present '**Living with Wildlife in Africa – Conservation and Education'**. Healesville Living and Learning Centre 1 Badger Creek Road.

Maureen, 5962 1224. maub@virtual.net.au

CLAMBERERS - Re-scheduled July walk

SUNDAY, JULY 31ST, 2005 WIRRAWILLA/MYRTLE CREEK WALK

11 AM Meet at the start of the WIRRAWILLA RAINFOREST WALK, approx. 8km from Toolangi, on the Sylvia Creek Road. After organising car shuttle we'll drive anothe 4km along Sylvia Creek Road to the MOUNT TANGLEFOOT PICNIC AREA for BYO lunch.

A short distance back from the picnic area is the start of the MYRTLE CREEK WALK which leads back to WIRRAWILLA, downhill all the way. For those who would like a more gentle forest walk, the WIRRAWILLA RAINFOREST BOARDWALK is a very attractive experience on a fine day (20-30 minutes) Jane and Malcolm Calder will lead.

BIG PAT'S CREEK WALK HAS BEEN POSTPONED Details to come at the Saturday Market

Margaret Houston 9730 1957

Do Your Trees Measure Up?

Thought I might mention a rather pleasant interaction that I had with a roadside contractor recently. If anyone is confused about the definition of "seedling" or would like to know the height of a tree while it is still upright, this might be of interest. Following last year's roadside pruning by TXU contractors, I took my tape measure out and discovered on our frontage several felled trees in excess of 6 metres, all removed at ground level. According to the literature, anything above 4 metres should be pruned rather than felled, so I checked with the supervising contractor. He agreed that the operation had been excessive and we then reached an agreement by which we, as residents, manage our own frontage subject to the contractor's inspection. A quick call this year to remind them of the arrangement has kept our bush frontage relatively intact whilst we go about the business of encouraging slower growing and less fire prone indigenous plants underneath the power lines (such as blackwoods and lomandra).

What we want to avoid is the hard barren ground that is instantly created with the removal of shade bearing trees. Nothing likes this dry ground much, except for invasive weeds, dry grasses or the native burgan (ti-tree), all of which present a potentially greater bushfire threat than the now cleared eucalypts. So, if you have any concerns about how your part of the roadside is treated year after year and would prefer it to be done with a plan in mind, our contractors really are a reasonable bunch to talk to. Even the slasher is a reasonable possum!

Rob Fallon

Singer of the Year Concert: Melbourne Welsh Male Choir: 25-30 young singers > 3 finalists at the Robert Blackwood Hall 17 September 8pm; tickets from Henry Verhoeven $ 24 to 26th July 5965 5574.

August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's Group.	**2** Ladies Social Tennis Stitchers	**3** HEWI Microscopes	**4** Art. Social Tennis.	**5**	**6** Tennis Comp.
7 Welsh Male Choir Concert (Healesville)	**8** **Recycle.** . Ladies Lunch	**9** Ladies Tennis Comp. Garden Outing	**10** HEWI Microscopes **SCCC AGM 7:30 PM**	**11** Art. Social Tennis. **HEWI AGM Richard Naisbitt**	**12** Movie. *My Man Godfrey*	**13** Market. Tennis Comp.
14 **Tennis AGM NOON**	**15**	**16** Ladies Tennis Comp. Stitchers. Book Group	**17** HEWI Micoscopes	**18** Art. Social Tennis.	**19**	**20** Tennis Comp.
21	**22** **Recycle.** Growing Group	**23** Ladies Social Tennis	**24** HEWI Microscopes **LandCare AGM**	**25** SMB. Art. Social Tennis.	**26** Movie. *This Gun for Hire*	**27** Market. Tennis Comp.
28 Clamberers.	**29** . .	**30** Ladies Tennis Comp.	**31**			

***Recycle* = reminder to put out your recycling bin**

ART Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

Thursdays - 1:30 PM – 4.30 PM SC4 Bring your paints, discuss your art and share skills.

BOOK GROUP Les Tomlins 5965 2080

3rd Tuesday - 8.00 PM 15 members – limited by CAE resources. Lively discussions in members' homes.

CLAMBERERS Margaret Houston 9730 1957

Last Sunday (April to October).Since 1993, the walking group has hiked over local tracks to explore the flora and fauna of the Valley and surrounding areas. Walks are announced at the SC4 Market beforehand, or ring Margaret. *See also page 3*

GARDEN Jill Hess 9730 1960, Gillian Poulton 5797 8266

Newsletter, Outings, November Show since 1992, 63 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.AM at SC4 – all welcome. 2nd Tuesday Outings. Renewals Due Now AGM 13th September 7:30 pm SC4.

MARKET Jean Lowe 5965 2294

2nd and 4th Saturdays at SC4, 10.00 AM Sharp! Community Announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods. The Creek's best home made scones, coffee and tea at every market!

MOVIES Jean Lowe 5965 2294, Chris Mullen 5965 2094, chris@fullandplenty.com

2nd and 4th Fridays – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic 16mm films at SC4. $5.00 food / donation for film. *See page 7 for what's showing in August and September.!*

LAND CARE GROUP John O'Neill 6965 2224 or David Allan 5965 2556

Bi-Monthly meetings and on going projects. This is a start up group; a great chance to influence the outcomes and direction of land care issues for years to come. Story p. 2; AGM 24 August 8 pm SC4.

"Looking at a map, I see not the way home, but rather the route to a new adventure. Literally a whole world of opportunity". ~ Y. Montell

September 2005						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**
				1 Art Social Tennis	**2**	**3**
4 *Father's Day*	**5** **Recycle.** Women's Group.	**6** Ladies Social Tennis Stitchers.	**7**	**8** Art. Social Tennis.	**9** Movie. *Topper*	**10** Market.
11	**12** Ladies Lunch	**13** Ladies Tennis Comp. **Garden AGM.**	**14**	**15** Art. Social Tennis.	**16**	**17** .
18	**19** **Recycle.** Social Tennis.	**20** Ladies Social Tennis Stitchers. Book Group.	**21**	**22** Art. Social Tennis.	**23** Movie. *Vertigo*	**24** Market.
25 Clamberers	**26** Growing Group. Social Tennis.	**27** Ladies Social Tennis	**28**	**29** SMB. Art. Social Tennis.	**30**	.

Steels Creek ~ A State of Mind

SMB Gordon Brown 9730 1937

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

STITCHERS Jane Calder 5965 2372, Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SC4. Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Bring own work – knit, patch, embroider; currently working on a panel to commemorate the 2002 Long Yarra Walk.

TENNIS Albie Leckie 5965 2354, Lindy Montell 5965 2202

Since 1911. Newsletter, Competitions, 80 active and social members. Mondays, 7.00 PM, Social tennis (starting in Sept again). Tuesdays 10.00 AM, Mid-week ladies competition. Thursdays 7.00 PM, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 6 PM, Regular competitions. Ladies Lunch 2nd Monday; bring a plate to share.

WOMEN'S Evening Activities and Friendship Group Pam Verhoven 5965 2274

1st Monday, 7.00 at JJ's in Yarra Glen Come for company, crafts and coffee. You'll be made most welcome for a pleasant evening of food and chat.

HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch Inc) Maureen Bond 5962 1224 maub@virtual.net.au

Environmental issues presented periodically; Wedneday microscope workshops 1:30 -3 pm; see story page 3. Venue is Healesville Living and Learning Centre 1 Badger Creek Road. AGM 11 Aug.

ACTION REQUIRED ASAP

First Aid training –some groups require qualified personnel: David Allan

Farm Chemical User Permit Certificate Training – David Allan 5965 2556 drallan@iprimus.com.au.

Will the Mystery Guest Please Sign In?

Membership of SCCC is determined by signing-in on one of the books at the Centre during attendance at a group . This matters for insurance purposes. **Ed Bartosh**

It's Raining, It's Pouring … but How Much?!

The weather this year has really reminded me of the old bush ballad, that includes the lines, "…*Where the creeks run dry, or ten foot high, and its either drought or plenty*." We started off with the floods in February, then hardly a drop until 23 May. Since that date, according to my rainfall record, it seems that it has rained on average about every second day!

My own rainfall recording activities go back to 1983, when I became part of the Board of Works (later Melbourne Water) voluntary rain gauge operator network. Since then, I have provided a yearly return of rainfall that is added to the historical rainfall record in the wider Melbourne area. Over time, this data assists with better decision making and infrastructure planning for many urban and rural activities throughout the region.

How many other people in the general Steels Creek area keep rainfall records; what might those records show? Does it really rain more on the ridges than in the valley? Or are some areas really drier than others? Maybe we could consolidate our rainfall data and find out.

Contact **David Allan** 5965 2556 drallan@iprimus.com.au.

MANICURED? "nature strips" - *a contradiction of terms*

In Spring 2003 I was very excited to find a small patch of Bulbine Lilies and Chocolate Lilies growing on the road reserve of Steels Creek Rd near Pinnacle Lane. Interspersed amongst them was 3 or 4 regenerating eucalypts, a Cherry Ballart and some Kangaroo Grass. As the Shire slashing contractor was working along the road I staked the patch and went to speak to the contractor, who was more than happy to mow around them. As the stakes disappeared shortly afterwards, I was pleased to see that the contractor also mowed around the patch last summer.

Unfortunately it would now seem that the adjoining landowner has decided to "tidy up" the road reserve and the unslashed area has now been slashed including the regenerating eucalypts and the Cherry Ballart.

People are attracted to our area because of its natural values and when they arrive with their suburban ideas, they immediately set about changing it. There is a continual decline in remnant indigenous vegetation on our roadsides and they will eventually look like suburban streets and become environmental deserts with nothing growing but exotic grasses and a few scattered and aging eucalypts.

The Shire, as the authority responsible for managing these public areas (as roadsides are), has a policy of not slashing indigenous vegetation, and yes, wildflowers and Kangaroo Grass are indigenous vegetation.

I would encourage residents to allow the nature strip outside their property to grow through Spring – you may be surprised what wonderful plants may then appear.

Barry Sheffield

Debortoli Wines has agreed to be the official wine sponsor for the **Commonwealth Games** next year. They estimate **459,276 bottles** of their wine will be served during the event.

Doggone come home

(*did she read the Woody Story in JT No 55*?)

Alexandra's dog Samantha was lost in the forest about a mile or so up the Mt Slide Road whilst Judith was out riding on Saturday after noon. After 2 and a half weeks of gold mining presumably down a disused mine shaft in the Full And Plenty Creek area Samantha returned clay covered ,much thinner but with no gold, still her owner, Alexandra, was delirious with joy. to see her The dog has told us nothing,

Andrew Chapman

MOVIES – 6PM at SC4 for a Light Gourmet Dinner followed by films.

12 August **My Man Godfrey** 1936; William Powell, Carole Lombard, Mischa Auer:
In this screwball comedy about the Depression, one of the community of 'forgotten men' living on the city dump becomes the butler for an eccentric, upper crust family.

26 August **This Gun for Hire** 1942; Veronica Lake, Robert Preston, Alan Ladd:
In San Francisco, during WWII, Philip Raven, a cold-blooded killer, is hired by a nightclub owner to murder a chemist in possession of a formula for poison gas.

09 September **Topper** 1937:Cary Grant, Roland young, Constance Bennett:
Sophisticated fantasy in which a young couple are killed in a car crash after a wild night of partying and drinking. Their astral bodies return to drive banker Cosmo Topper to distraction.

23 September **Vertigo** 1958; Alfred Hitchcock; James Stewart, Kim Novak:
A detective, hired to follow an apparently possessed woman, is drawn into a spiral of voyeuristic obsession.

"STEELS CREEK AS I KNEW IT" ***Hot off the press***

'Steels Creek As I Knew It – 1951-1989' by Ivy Arney is a classic Australian story of the battler in the bush. The Arneys moved to Steels Creek with a dream of a gentle rural life for their family. Ivy recounts the dismay they felt when they first saw the run-down isolated farm at the end of Steels Creek but the low price sealed the deal. Ivy still wonders whether the decision would have been different if she had been wearing her glasses which had been broken just prior to the trip. Her memories recall many of the individuals and families who formed the small community, the various battles they had with fire, flood, and infestations of fleas and caterpillars.. It is well illustrated with clear photographs from her family album.
Publication Series : No.2.Price $9.50. Available from the Secretary or Yarra Glen Post office.
"RECOLLECTIONS AND RECORDS OF MINING AT STEELS CREEK, VICTORIA",
Publication Series : No.1 Is available @ $8.00 per copy. **Eric Tetlow** 9730 1445 etetlow@alphalink.com.au

"A Diverting History of Melbourne's Murky River"
Kristin OTTO lives in Japonica Drive, off Gibbs Road; a member of the Yarra Glen Historical Society and author of book *Yarra*. 1 cumec = 35.5 cusecs. Signed copies at the newsagency in Yarra Glen.

Plans Galore: " **Yarra Glen IS H-O-T "** (overheard from a cityside developer"

Yarra Glen Visions and Values Project is available on www.yarraglen.com website and around the town. Related activities: Yarra Glen Recreation Precinct Newsletters; Yarra Glen Parkland Concept Plan; YV Racing Centre Redevelopment, to name a few ….

"The proposed development of a new supermarket complex on the land currently zoned residential next to current shopping centre is still a possibility. The developers have promised to spend a significant amount of money on developing the remainder of the adjoining sub-division in exchange for the community allowing a rezoning to take place.

One thing is for sure: it is an extremely important decision for the community to make as this decision will have a lasting impact on the future of the town. As has been shown by other developments that have happened in the past, there is no turning back once the decision to develop is made." ***Grapevine # 21***

Kangaroos Hit Recent Visitors and Residents

Why not program one of these numbers into your mobile phone for instant access? Animal Helpers Tony and Georgina 5965 5040; Fan and Steve 5965 2051 (0417 017 087) Help for Wildlife 0417 380 687.

CROSS CREEK 10 © J&J Wordsmiths

Across

1. A flowery field (6)
5. Shown at SC4 on a Friday night (4)
7. Ire (5)
8. Can't speak (4)
9. Not hard (4)
10. Ding dong (5)
11. Change over (6)
13. Let go (4)
14. .....Doodle, Dandy (6)
18. Logs (6)
21. A chukka for Chuck? (4)
22. Nook (6)
24. Behind bars (5)
25. Westpac is one (4)
26. Leave out (4)
27. Boredom (5)
28. .....as a church mouse (4)
29. Neater (6)

Down

1. Chasteness (7)
2. What is owed (5)
3. Useful type of dog (5)
4. Versus (7)
5. F of FOI (7)
6. Graceful (7)
12. A prompt for snooker (3)
15. Green salad fruit (7)
16. Doorbell substitute (7)
17. Classy (7)
19. Ailing (3)
20. Go in again (7)
22. Confess (5)
23. Jimmy Durante found the lost one (5)

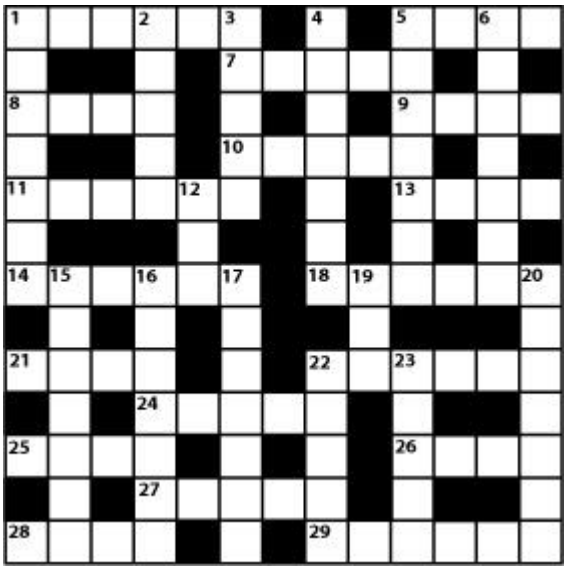
CROSS CREEK 9 Answers

Across

1. Easter 5. Cute 7. Usual 8. Snug 9. Ivan 10. Tinge 11.Apathy13. Nuts 14. Yering 18. Gastro 21. Ohio 22. Adroit 24. Set up 25. Oder 26. Numb 27. Alibi 28. Calm 29. Lesser

Down

1. Ecstasy 2. Tight 3. Rusty 4. Turning 5. Clients 6. Traitor 12. Hen 15. Echidna 16. Is Osram 17. Gastric 19. And 20. October 22. April 23. Rungs



OWNERSHIP / CIRCULATION

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The "Jolly Thing" is published by and for the greater Steels Creek Community Centre Inc 699 Steels Creek Road. PO Box 213 Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775 President: Geoff Keets 9730 1698, Vice President: Malcolm Calder 5965 2372. Treasurer: Keith Montell 5965 2202, Secretary: Ed Bartosh 9730 2858.

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

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HOOGIES
OF YARRA GLEN
Ask us...

DEADLINE for the next *Jolly Thing*
is Friday 30th September 2005
Editor: Chris Mullen 5965 2094
thejollything@fullandplenty.com

Games night alternate Fridays? **TO PASS GO**
Call Pam 5965 2274