



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 92 (August-September 2011) 'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY'

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

Vietnam Veterans' Service to be Commemorated
FREE Chemical Users Course

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This is your Captain Speaking...

I am pleased to report that some progress has been made with the new hangar (sorry, Community Centre building). The schoolroom building's roof has been renewed, together with the insulation. This should help with the inside temperature control in both summer and winter, not to mention eliminating the leaks that have produced the wonderfully textured ceiling. The retaining wall is all but complete and building work should start next month, weather-gods and Council permitting.

The winter weather has not deterred those attending the Friday night movies and Saturday markets. There may need to be a winter break after the mid August movie and a "Travellers' Tales" talk (see page two). But until then, come along and enjoy good food, good company and an entertaining illustrated talk.

Finally you will have noticed that this edition of "*the Jolly Thing*" has been produced by Dave Allan and Ed Bartosh rather than our tireless editor, Andrew Chapman, who is having hospital treatment. On behalf of Steels Creek Community and all our readers we extend our best wishes to Andrew.

Mike Watkins

Steels Creek Tennis & Social Club Happenings

Christmas in July: SCTC held its first Christmas in July in the new clubrooms. What a great success it was! Fifty-five friends joined to celebrate a communal feast and tradition of the Club. Foods were prepared by various ladies under the orchestration of Life Member Jean Lowe. It was warm and crowded, but no one missed the old clubhouse for a second.



Thursday Morning Mum's Tennis: Coaching to start again on 25 August. Meeting at 9:45am for lessons with the new coach. A few spaces for new women are available. Contact Libby Sharp at 5965 2175 if you'd like to join in.

Other Coaching Programs: We are working on a Tuesday evening (7:30 start) adult mixed level coaching program and a Tuesday afternoon (4:15 start) kids program (ages 4 and up). Contact Alby at 5965 2354 to give him expressions of interest in either program. The program is to be subsidised by a VicSport grant – details on cost after our 10 August Committee meeting.

Saturday Tennis: Saturday competitions continue after the school holidays. Come show your support from 1pm on Saturdays (see the JT calendar for dates of play).

Social Tennis: It's been a bit cool on Monday and Thursday nights, so attendance is down for the social hits. But it's warm on the courts once you start moving around after the ball. Come and enjoy the tennis and friendship.

Web site: www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/

Ed Bartosh, Secretary

Remember the Service of Our Vietnam Veterans



The RSL sub-branches in the Yarra Valley are joining for a commemoration of the service of our Vietnam Veterans on Sunday, 14th August at the Lilydale cenotaph and memorial wall. Veterans will march in from the old firehouse at 10:30am for an 11:00 service. All are welcome to attend. There will be a light lunch (\$7 charge) at the Lilydale RSL afterwards. Web site: www.yarravalleyvv.au.com

Garden Club Report

Can we help?

Was there a special plant in your garden that you lost in the fires?

The Steels Creek Garden Club would love to replace it for you. Whether it be a potted plant, ornament, fruit tree, rose, herbs or veggies, just send an email to Jill Hess at jillhess@netspace.net.au or call her on 9730 1960 with a description of what you are after, its colour, size etc, and we will take it from there to make it happen for you.

S4Reel Film Club

More fun, suspense and drama together with fine food and good company.

Keep an eye on *The Grapevine* in case there is a change of venue or date as building works may be starting sometime soon (i.e. sometime this decade).

- Screening on Friday 12th August:

Comedy Night

A couple of short comedies - British of course - to keep us laughing through the cold nights.

- Friday 26th August:

Travellers' Tales

Starring **Lyn and Nola Matthews** as they recount their epic journeys across Australia. Their mode of transport a Chamberlain tractor! This one is sure to "pull" you in.

Next Screenings: To be announced – keep an eye on *The Grapevine*..

Clamberers

Clamberers provide a series of monthly walks from March to November each year in nearby and regional locations. The walks provide an opportunity to explore or re-visit some of our beautiful bushland and other areas in good company. This year it has been good to see some younger family members coming along on the walks – a good family day out!

If you would like to receive information about walks but have not been doing so, please register your details by emailing (or telephoning) Robyn Allan at drallan@wideband.net.au, telephones 5988 7073, 0409 139 371.

Relocation Notice

Whilst the renovations to the Community Centre are in progress a number of the Groups that usually meet there are now meeting elsewhere. If in doubt check with the convenors

- **Stitchers:** Yarra Glen Living & Learning Centre Anzac Av Yarra Glen,
- **Art Group:** At Margaret Brewster's - 11 Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen
- **Book Group:** Meeting in Members' homes.
- **The Growing Group:** At the Calder's - 375 Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek

But **Please Note:** The Market Day and the Film Club are still being held at the Community Centre.

Food Writers Report

On Saturday 23 July we as a family had a most enjoyable and interesting dinner at **Mt Rael**. We had signed up for the "Dinner with the Artist and a Private Showing of the Archibald Finalists at *Tarra Warra*".

It was \$160 per head, but that included canapés and five or so glasses of Champagne whilst we waited for the other guests and Song Lee, the artist, to arrive. When all were assembled we sat down to a delightful repast.

Entrée choices consisted of scallops with quenelles of mushy peas and a fried disc of black pudding, a great veloute of Jerusalem artichoke soup with truffle oil floating on top or a single raviolo of crab and ricotta.

For the main course some, chose the Atlantic salmon on potato rosti, whilst others went for the twice cooked duck. The true carnivores ordered the beef, eye fillet on the bone, most unusual and giant sized.

I had the entrée soup and scallops, just perfect for me as next came sweets: chocolate fondant or appletartine of mandarin on a shortbread biscuit.

Everyone not only enjoyed the food and the free flowing inclusive wine (the ice riesling as a dessert wine was a knock out), but greatly appreciated Song Lee and the detailed stories about the Archibald. Song Lee had painted himself in pixels with multi shopping bags, depicting the intense consumerism that is afflicting Chinese affluent society. A timely comment.
Judith Augustine

Rainfall Report – 3 of July 2011

Gauge Location	June	July	Total to date	Last year to date
'Blackwood Hill' -Pinnacle Lane, Steels Creek	No report this period (recorder is overseas!)			
'Highlea' - Dixons Creek	68.2	79.4	663.6	552.4
'Kilravock' – Adams Lane, Steels Creek	58	92	606	468
'Pencloe' – Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek	82.5	67.5	677.2	521.1
'Wandearah' - Japonica Drive, Yarra Glen	68.2	54.8	589.6	418.7

Rainfall from the Mt St Leonard Station for the month was 148 mm, year to date 1055.80 mm, last year to date 743.4mm.

FREE Chemical Users Course

The Northern Yarra Landcare Network is pleased to offer free courses in the use of farm chemicals such as those that are most effective against blackberry. These courses are available free to property owners in the fire-affected area.

Completion of a Chemical Users Course will mean you can...

- Qualify for the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) from the Department of Primary Industries.
- Learn about spray equipment and how to calibrate it correctly.
- Understand how to interpret labels and use the right techniques.
- Improve your preparation, storage and cleanup of chemicals.
- Know the safety issues around the use of herbicides so you, your property, your neighbours and local wildlife will be safer.

Two courses are offered. Each course is run over 2 days.

Course 1

Day 1: Saturday 27th August

Day 2: Saturday 3rd September

Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Course 2

Day 1: Saturday 8th October

Day 2: Saturday 15th October

Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Venue: Details to be confirmed.

To register please use the following link - www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/chemicaluserscourse

For more information, please contact Rob Fallon on 9294 6832

White 'Pies

I have seen this unusual white chested magpie a number of times over the last five or six years in the area around Hubbard Rd. Just recently I had my camera in the car when I spied him and got this photo.

Barry Sheffield

(May be he is testing Collingwood's new away jumper - Ed)



Yet Another Food Critique

There are some very pleasant and interesting places to dine in the Yarra Valley with, a wide range of prices and offerings. Exploring them is good for the soul; not often good for the waist line; and sometimes highly damaging to the credit card.

Well here is another venue offering amazing value, quality food and entertainment.

A recent menu was:

- Soup of the Day: – Thai pumpkin with cummin & sweet chilli (with a variety of breads).
- Mains:- A selection of - Pork Goulash; Seasoned Roast Chicken; and Savoury Pasties.
- Side dishes:- Fried Rice; Green, Seafood or Greek salads.
- Dessert:- Fresh Vanilla slice; Wine Trifle
- Cheeseboard. Tea & Coffee

Excellent food with a warm and friendly atmosphere in air conditioned surroundings.

BYO and cash only (no cards).

Cost: - \$12, including a feature film.

Where: - 699 Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek (*second and fourth Fridays*).

Landcare

Steels Creek Landcare is back in action after two years in recess following the bushfires. Many residents of Steels Creek have been flat out on their own 'Landcare' problems along with re-fencing, re-building and re-establishment of farms and gardens. There have been many local activities where local landholders have met, discussed problems and solutions and just got on with the job.

Now there is a mood to again get together and find solutions to bigger problems, such as blackberries, weeds, erosion and rabbits. The new Landcare committee has scheduled a meeting, (7.15 PM on Thursday, 25th August 2011 at Yileena Park Winery) to welcome all members and to set out a program for the year ahead. This will also be an opportunity to outline financial and other aid that may be available to members. Come along and join the discussion over a glass of local product.

Ivan Filsell (chair) Sandra Turnley (Sec) Rob Fallon (Coordinator)

Yarra Valley Open Studios

What a wealth of artistic talent we have in the Yarra Valley! Make sure you see some of it - just pop down the road and enjoy Margaret McLoughlin's unique work. September 10th, 11th, 18th, 19th and 20th are the dates. Call Margaret, telephone 9730 1258, for more information.

Celebrating Cabbages

The French are said to know a thing or two of love:

Mon petit chou -

My little cabbage.

The sweetest of endearments.

But somehow, we with England in our blood,

Too often cook our cabbage till it's rank -

Mustard gas just a whiff away.

Try it roughly chopped, the merest spoon of water

Boiled for one minute

Then served with butter (olive oil if you must)

and freshly ground black pepper.

That's what I hankered for coming home from college

After hostel food, stewed and stewed and stewed.

Our eyes are feasted too — a freshly halved red cabbage
an intricate array of red and white.

Then cook it long and slow

with onion, apple and a bacon hock, vinegar perhaps.

It's food for any God

And what's a trip to Vicky Market without a juicy bratwurst,
sauerkraut and all.

Captain Cook was canny — his sailors didn't sicken

Fed on sauerkraut and limes

While other ships lost men to painful, drawn out scurvy.

So let's hear for the brassicas — enjoy them one and all.

Jane, with thanks to Lindy, who first sowed this thought in my head.

Yarra River Levels

Along with my general interest in the fluctuating height of our Yarra River, my main focus is when the level rises above 2.6 metres, as that is when water will start flowing into the Yarra Flats Billabongs.

Since August last year there have been 16 separate occasions when these high river events have occurred. By comparison, during the previous five years, there was one high river event in 2009, none in 2008, one in 2007, none in 2006 and three in 2005.

As an indication of how waterlogged the Yarra catchment is at the moment, for the month of July, there have only been 3 days when the river level was below 2.6 metres and the mean, as at 25th July, it was at 3.1 metres. For 15 consecutive days it was above 3.0 metres.

Barry Sheffield

It's True What They Say About The Belladonna Lily

The Belladonna Lily – *amaryllis belladonna* – is a tough, drought tolerant survivor..Who could forget their waving pink flowers brightening up the blackened landscape in March 2009. In the last few weeks of February and the first few weeks of March, up they pop along Steels Creek Road first and then in our garden. That was until this year.

Now I know the belladonna can be a bit finicky about the depth it is planted, generally half in and half out. And it has the ability to adjust its depth and won't flower until it is happy with it. The bulbs I have were obtained from Joe & Pat up the hill from us, and flowered after being planted adjoining the croquet lawn in 2005. They continued to do so up until this year.

As soon as I saw the belladonna flowers along Steels Creek Road this year I knew that ours were due in a few weeks. But when I went to check on their progress I saw that there were no signs of flowers forming. Then I realized what had happened. The enthusiastic Bill-the-Gardener had whipper-snipped the area where they were planted (how the grass had grown this year!), and whilst not actually cutting into the bulbs, Bill had scared them into not flowering this year. A rap over knuckles for Bill, and he has been told to stick to maintaining the croquet lawn and nothing else.

As a consolation prize, five flowers appeared from where I have removed some lower limbs of a Chinese elm that I had planted three years ago. This was the first time they had flowered.

And some time later, up popped the pink ones, but not the white, as if to prove the point.

Andrew

Ray Dahlstrom's Studio 40 – Pearsalls Road, Inverloch

Ray Dahlstrom's new studio at Inverloch became one of the highlights of a short stay in the area by a group of old friends. Eight largish ladies crowded into this interesting small space and were delighted to view Ray's beautiful artwork. It clearly illustrates the Dahlstrom's transition from the bush of the north-east to the seascapes and subterranean world of the Bass Coast. Ray and Bronwyn were most hospitable (they love seeing old acquaintances). While missing all their friends in Yarra Glen and Steels Creek, they are clearly happy in their new home. As an added bonus and to demonstrate the acoustics of the studio, Karen Dahlstrom delighted their visitors with a moving rendition of *Summertime*.
Contributed by **Lindy**

Every one 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 Fourth Chris Mullen award for literary excellence.

Email Addresses - New and Updated

Want receive the Jolly Thing by email? Let me know your email address and it will arrive as by magic.
Changed your email? Send me your new one.

Do you want to be kept up on Local Steels Creek happenings, events and offerings? Let me know and I will put you on the *Grape Vine* so you don't miss out. **Andrew Chapman** achapman@woodards.com.au

AUGUST 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Recycle Women's Group Social Tennis	2 Stitchers	3	4 Art Social Tennis	5	6 Tennis Comp
7	8 Social Tennis	9 Stitchers Garden Outing	10	11 Art Singing Social Tennis	12 Movie	13 Market Tennis Comp
14 YG&DHS Vietnam Veterans Service at Lilydale Cenotaph	15 Recycle Social Tennis	16 Stitchers	17 YG Township Group AGM	18 Art Social Tennis	19	20 FYFB Working Bee Tennis Comp
21	22 Growing Group Social Tennis	23 Stitchers Book Group	24	25 SMB Art Singing Social Tennis	26 Travellers' Tale	27 Market Tennis Comp
28 Clamberers	29 Recycle Social Tennis	30 Stitchers	31			

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

Robyn Allan 0409 139 371

CLAMBERERS

Last Sunday (April to November). Since 1993, the walking group has walked over local tracks & explored the flora and fauna of the Valley and surrounding areas. Walks are announced at the SCCC Market before hand or see item on page 6

Robyn Allan 0409 139371 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.melbournewater.com.au>

GARDEN

Newsletter, outings 2nd Tuesdays, 60 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.30 am at SC3 – all welcome.

Gillian Poulton 5797 8266

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 Y.G. & D.H.S. meets 2nd Sundays at 1:30 pm Memorial Hall:

Mrs. Brenda Cawte 9730 1801

<http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au>

MARKET

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

Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

LANDCARE GROUP

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

Ivan Filsell Ph 5965 2248

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

SEPTEMBER 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Art Social Tennis	2	3 Tennis Comp Semi-finals
4	5 Women's Group Social Tennis	6 Social Tennis Stitchers	7	8 Art Singing Social Tennis	9 Movies	10 Market Tennis Comp Grand final
11 YG&DHS	12 Recycle Social Tennis	13 Social Tennis Stitchers Garden Outing	14	15 Art Social Tennis	16	17 FYFB Working Bee
18	19 Social Tennis	20 Social Tennis Stitchers	21 YG Township Group	22 Art Singing Social Tennis	23 Movies	24 Market
25 Clamberers	26 Recycle Growing Group Social Tennis	27 Social Tennis Stitchers Book Group	28	29 SMB Art Social Tennis	30	

HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE – DO NOT REMOVE ITEMS WITHOUT CHRISTINE TOMLINS' PERMISSION

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

Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

MOVIES

2nd & 4th Fridays – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic movies at SCCC. March through November.

Keith Montell 5965 2202

SINGING

Is now a Ukulele group meeting at Hargreaves Hill in Bell St Yarra Glen on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month.

Angie Macmillan 97301998

SMB

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

Gordon Brown 9730 1937

STITCHERS

Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at YG L&LC (temp). Since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Work shops plus, bring own work – knit, patch, embroider.

Jane Calder 5965 2372, Annette Conrad 5962 5995

TENNIS

Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 80 active and social members. Mondays, 7.30 PM*, (Social tennis). Tuesdays 9.00 AM - Social Tennis (contact 5965 2202). Thursdays 9.30 AM, Mums' tennis (soon). Thursdays 7.30 PM*, Social tennis. Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM regular competitions. *Night tennis under the lights.

Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879

<http://www.yarraglen.com/SCTC/>

WOMEN'S GROUP Evening Friendship Group

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

Lindy Montell 5965 2202

YARRA GLEN TOWNSHIP GROUP

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

Jeanette Tucker 9730 2600

The Jolly Thing Delivery

As delivery to local letter boxes has now ceased you are now able to receive **The Jolly Thing** in one of the following ways:-

1. **By e-mail.** If you do not already subscribe to this service, please forward your e-mail address to achapman@woodards.com.au and it will be included in the e-mail distribution list.
2. **Pick up a free copy** at the Yarra Glen Post Office, the Yarra Glen IGA or the Yarra Glen News agent in the first week in the month of publication. (February; April; June; August; October; December.)
3. **By Post.** For an annual subscription of \$6 we will post to you a copy in the week of publication. For this option please forward a \$6 cheque and your full postal address to the following address:- Malcolm Calder c/o the Steels Creek Community Centre, P.O.Box 213 Yarra Glen, 3775
4. **By the World Wide Web.** You can download T.J.T. from the web soon after the start of the month of publication. All editions are available from August 2003. The address is www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/JT/

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

No Cross Word this edition as the compilers are having a sabbatical

200 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

The "Jolly Thing" is published by and for the greater Steels Creek Community Centre Inc, 699 Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek. Postal address: PO Box 213, Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775. Management Committee: **Mike Watkins**, President; **Andrew Chapman**, Vice-president; **Ray Turnley**, Treasurer; **Sandra Turnley**, Secretary, **David Allan**, **John Houston**, **Christine Tomlins**, and **Amanda Williams**, elected as members; with **Jane Calder**, Garden Club and **Heather Smith**, Tennis Club
<http://www.virtual.net.au/~thejollything/>

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thejollything@yarraglen.com

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HOOGIES

O F Y A R R A G L E N



No worries!

9730-1611

DEADLINE for the next Jolly Thing is
28 September 2011.