STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 130 (Dec 2017- Jan 2018)

'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY' **http://steelscreek.vic.au/**

In this issue
Reports of Birds and Gardens and Pizza and Tennis
Community Xmas get together
A recipe or 2 to try and a Merry, Merry Christmas to all who share this beautiful place we call home

SCCC Presidents Report

Hello JT readers. Well here we are at the end of another year, it seems to have flown by.
At the SCCC AGM in Sept, JB decided not to renominate as President. Thankfully he will remain on committee as a general member, as well as continuing to be our resident I.T. expert and the Grapevine and Website editor. Which should be enough for him to deal with!!
I have stepped up to take on the President role. So fun times ahead.
Going into summer it reminds me of how important communication is within our community. We have had several new families moving into Steels Creek, so I thought it was a good opportunity to detail the different channels we use.
We have a great website: www.steelscreek.vic.au. If you aren't subscribed to The Jolly thing or the Grapevine. You can do so on this website. Just look for the link at the bottom of the website home page. So, get online and look. There is a lot of information there.
The Jolly Thing is a newsletter published bimonthly. Copies can be emailed if you subscribe otherwise pick up a hardcopy at the Yarra Glen Post Office or the Community Centre. Our hardworking editor has been a bit short of content lately. Please help her out, so she has something to edit!! We would love to receive your stories, recipes, gardening tips or reports from our local groups. You can submit articles by emailing Angie at scjollything@gmail.com
T**he Grapevine:** A group email, sent out to inform locals of upcoming events, or to pass on information received by SCCCC for distribution to our community. Also, can be used missing pets, community events that have missed JT deadline.
Facebook: I am in the process of shutting down the Steels Creek Association Facebook page, it has been replaced with Steels Creek Community Facebook page. The Steels Creek Tennis Club also has a Facebook Page. If you are a user, please get online and join.
We had a great Pizza night at the Community Centre on the 18th Nov, hastily relocated from the Tennis Club after heavy rain. Thanks to The Steels Creek Tennis Club for hosting and subsiding the cost. It was great to see some new faces and catch up with everyone.
The next Pizza Night will be on the 3rd March at SCCC. Hosted by SCCC. The event will be subsided by funds received from SCA however the time has come that we must now charge for the event. Cost will be $10 per adult and $5 per child. (the $3 Community centre fee is included in this cost) It is important that these events do not run at a loss, so we will need to cater accurately. RSVP's are essential, by 23rd Feb. To me: Ph 0414278649, maree@rothwells.com.au Please bring your own drinks.
On behalf of the Steels Creek Community Centre Committee we wish all Skreekians a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your time with family and friends.
Maree Rothwell

Community Xmas, farewell to 2017 and Market

As we do so well in Steels Creek the community has spoken! Well those of us who were at the last Market did.

A Community decision was made the final Market for 2017 will be at the SCCC (699 Steels creek rd) at 10am on Saturday 9th December. Now if you haven't been to our Market you are in for a surprise as it is possibly the smallest Market ever but you will find local freshly made goats cheese, free range eggs (be quick to get them) Rhubarb, preserves, home-made cards, and garden produce as well a delicious scones with home-made jam and cream and "proper" coffee (for the bargain price of $2 for a scone and coffee). There will also be some local honey (both raw honey and comb).

Starting promptly at 10am it is a lovely way to meet some of your neighbours and is all over by 11 am usually winding up with reports on the local groups who are so active in our valley. Those of us who regularly attend (every 2nd and 4th Saturday) see it as an important part of the landscape that make Steels creek unique. Originally starting as a "swap" market for extra produce that people had in their gardens you are welcome to come along and if you happen to have a bucket of lemons (even a small bucket) or any other produce bring it along and set up on one of the tables and get ready to enjoy the company.

This Market we are also inviting anyone who would like to wish your neighbours Merry Xmas to come along, perhaps bring a small plate of festive fare to share (Xmas cake, mince tarts and shortbread come to mind)

It's Time for another Pizza Night

Where: SCCC
When: Saturday 3rd March 5: 30pm
Cost: $10 per adult. $5 per child, payable on arrival.
BYO drinks
Many Thanks to SCA for their donation which has subsided the cost of this event.
RSVP: Very necessary for correct catering.
Please call or email Maree Rothwell Friday 23rd Feb
Ph 0414278649, maree@rothwells.com.au

Spring is in the Air

It's an interesting time of year – flowers blooming, birds singing and little chicks hatching. Often nests are so well camouflaged they are not easy to see but this Shrike Thrush nest has been built in one of our hanging baskets. They've already had one clutch of three chicks that have flown the nest and this is a second attempt. Two eggs were lain first and a third on the following day. As the nest is located outside our bathroom window we have been able to keep a close watch on developments. The adult birds have become used to us having an occasional furtive look through the vertical blinds and their beautiful clear song wakes us in the morning.

The latest batch has just hatched and the photo shows the two day old chicks.

Last year's nest is being utilized by a pair of Buff Rumped Thornbills. It was fascinating to watch the Thornbills quickly and efficiently demolish the nest they had built last year and create a new one utilizing fibre from the old nest. They've attached the new nest to the bottom of last year's Shrike Thrush nest in the vine at the front of our house. (In order to fool predators, Thornbills usually create a false nest on top of the long woven nest they create – they then enter the nest through a small, quite hidden opening lower down.) What fascinating, clever creatures.

Lindy

Steels Creek Tennis Club

As we near the end of another great year I would like to thank all of the committee for all there help and input throughout the year. With all your help it has made it an enjoyable year.

A recap of the year saw Friday night family tennis on the last Friday of the month continue to grow with good turnouts and enjoyable nights.

We had two pizza nights which were well attended with some new faces which was great to see.
Saturday comp has continued throughout the year with mixed results but fun has been had by all teams.

Thursday night social tennis has started back up for the warmer months stating at 7:30pm

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year with safe travels.
Look forward to seeing you around the tennis club in the New Year.

Bev's Choc Macaroons

Ingredients
½ Cup Vegetable oil
2 cups sugar
1 cup coco
4 eggs beaten, one at a time
2 tps vanilla
21/2 cups plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
Pure icing sugar
Method
Mix oil, sugar, and coco.
Add beaten eggs, one at a time.
Add vanilla
Sift flour and baking powder together and add
Chill mixture overnight, or a least for a few hours
Rolls into balls
Dip balls in icing sugar to coat
Place on a baking paper lined tray and cook for 10 minutes in a 180 degree Celsius oven.
Cool and eat!!! Yum!

A page from our readers

To make you smile

A lawyer with a wife and 12 children needed to move because his rental agreement was terminated by the owner, who wanted to reoccupy the home. He was having a lot of difficulty finding a new house, when he said that he had 12 children no one would rent a home to him, because they felt that the children would destroy the place.

He couldn't say that he had no children, because he couldn't lie so he sent his wife for a walk to the cemetery with 11 of their kids. He took the remaining one with him to see rental homes with the real estate agent.

He loved one of the homes and the price was right -- the agent asked: "How many children do you have?

He answered: "Twelve."

The agent asked, "Where are the others?"

The lawyer, with his best courtroom sad look answered, "They're in the cemetery with their mother."

Ponderings on nature

"Are these Australian trees "asked the Prague visitor in Yarra Glen

"Unfortunately no" I said, "and I cringe every time I drive down the Yarra Glen main street, lined as it is with European trees all neatly spaced, but so unnatural".

Thirty years ago when my family first arrived in this area there were eucalypts lining the main street, appropriately linked with Australiana at Gulf Station. But now you need to go to Eltham or Diamond Creek for a more Australian streetscape.

In my opinion the Yarra Valley is steadily losing its unique Australian character as more and more exotic vegetation springs up along major roadways like The Melba and the Yarra Glen /Healesville Road. And many new residents in The Valley snub what nature gave us in this area.

As a tourist destination Yarra Glen has an opportunity to showcase distinctive indigenous and native Australian vegetation. That is certainly what overseas visitors want to see. Australia has a wonderful variety of plants and trees that are not readily available in other countries.

I believe we should be sensitive to our natural heritage and proud to live and work in a very special place with its own natural beauty

Ian Whitford

A local Gardener shares

My name is Dale Perkins, I am a passionate edible gardener who is always keen to swap, share produce, tips, wine and good conversation! I work up at Yarra Valley Estate as the edible gardener.
We have a 1 acre edible forest and an additional 16 beds in which we grow as much of our produce for our guests. We don't use sprays, instead we have adopted the permaculture principles for growing the best quality of food we can. Through good mulching and improving our soil quality, we try and show people that anyone can achieve successful gardening results at any level without the chemicals.
At the moment in the vegie patch, we have planted out our tomatoes, capsicums, chillis, eggplant, basil, cucumber and some leafy greens. I have some radishes that went to seed, and we are harvesting these seed pods to brighten up our salads - they have a vibrant purple colour and taste exactly like a radish! The tomatoes are thriving from the rainfall and hot conditions we have had recently, we may even be harvesting before Christmas!
I have also been busy making pesto with the garlic scapes - these are the flower heads that grow form the centre of the leaves on the garlic plant, quite often shooting up and curling around on themselves. We harvest these so that the plant doesn't put its energy into producing a flower seed head, instead puts its energy back into growing a bigger garlic bulb. The scapes have a delicate flavour, and when combined with parsley, make an amazing pesto worthy of any gourmet pizza, pasta or potato dish! They can also be pickled or turned into a beautiful garlic scapes butter.
The edible forest has seen a bumper yield of juneberries, mulberries and strawberries, though I have to be honest and say that they never all make it up to the kitchen!
Our cherries are about a day or say from being harvested, and since netting our orchard earlier in the year, this will be the first time we have enjoyed any of the fruit from these trees!
I hope that some of you might find the time to get outside, enrich your soul and fill your fingernails with dirt!

Garlic scapes butter
2 - 3 scapes finely chopped
1 large stick salted butter (cubed)
1/2 cup or 1 small bunch curly parsley finely chopped
Pinch of cayenne pepper

Add all ingredients to a bowl, blend with an egg beater until it takes on a whipped appearance, spoon onto some glad wrap and roll into a log. Pop it in your freezer and slice it off as you need it. My kids love it on steak, schnitzels, chicken - well just about everything really!

STEELS CREEK GARDEN CLUB

The annual Steels Creek Flower Show and Plant Sale held in November was once again well supported despite the heat on the day.
Thank you to everyone involved who help make the show a success, from the 'growers' that start in February making cuttings, the committee, all the people who donate plants and volunteer to help at the show as well as the people who purchase plants on the day.
Growing Group will start up again on the last Tuesday in February.
May you have a safe and enjoyable festive season and your gardens survive the heat.

Robyn H

WEATHER REPORT

Rainfall for October was 3 mm below average with November being 2 mm below average but was very dry for the first half with 2/3rds of the monthly total coming from two thunderstorms in the second half of the month. One observer reported 33.8 mm in 30 minutes on the 24th.
Temperature wise for October the Melbourne area experienced "both daytime and overnight temperatures very much above average" (quote from BOM website).
Melbourne Airport's mean maximum was 2.2° above average & Essendon Airport's mean minimum was 1.4° above average.
Coldstream's mean maximum was 1.6° above average & mean minimum 0.8° above.
For November one Steels Creek observer reported a slight frost on the 4th but following that Melbourne has experienced a record number of days above 30° & the BOM website is indicating a mean daily maximum of 3.6° above average.
The Bureau (BOM) is predicting significant rainfall for the first 3 days of December.

Barry Sheffield

RAINFALL – OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Station	October 2017 (mm)	November 2017 (mm)	Total to the end of November 2017 (mm)	Total to the end of November 2016 (mm)
'Blackwood Hill' Pinnacle Lane Steels Creek	64.9	65.3	598.8	761.8
Highlea' Dixons Creek	62.2	85	680	864.6
Melbourne Water Melba Hwy, Dixons Creek	77.8	49.4	590.4	707.6
'Wandearah' Japonica Drive Yarra Glen	73.7	66	606.9	727.5

A pink rainbow seen over Steels creek on Saturday evening 25th November

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 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*
Thank you

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).
- 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. **Free e-mail subscription**. If you do not already subscribe, **please visit** steelscreek.vic.au **to register your details**, or **use the link at the bottom of the email** 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.

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/ .

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: President – Maree Rothwell
Treasurer – Keith Montell
Secretary – Christine Tomlins
Ordinary committee members – Geoff Townsend, Mike Hardy-Dobney John Brand

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 or send to:

Editor: **Angie Lloyd - 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
OF YARRA GLEN

No worries!

Steels Creek Calendar available to view at steelscreek.vic.au

Dec 2017						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**
			.		**1**	**2**
3	**4** Women's Group	**5** Stitchers	**6**	**7** Art Social Tennis	**8**	**9** Last Market and Community Xmas get together
10 YG&DHS (Yarra Glen)	**11 R**	**12** Stitchers Garden Club	**13** .	**14** Tai Chi. Art Social Tennis	**15**	**16** Tennis Comp.
17	**18**	**19** Stitchers Book club	**20** .	**21** Art Social Tennis	**22**	**23**
24	**25 R** **Merry Xmas and peace and goodwill to all**	**26**	**27**	**28** Art Social Tennis SMB	**29**	**30** Tennis Comp
31						

ART Malcolm Calder 5965 2372
Thursdays 1:30 PM – 4.30 PM SCCC - Bring your paints; discuss your art and share skills.

BOOK GROUP Julie Riddell 0422 424 694.
3rd Tuesday – 7.30 PM; 10 members – limited by library book resources. Lively discussions at SCCC. New Members welcome.

FRIENDS OF YARRA FLATS BILLABONGS Kevin Heeley 9730 1704 kevinheeley@bigpond.com
Development of wetlands adjacent to Yarra Glen.

GARDEN CLUB at SCCC Jill Hess 9730 1960
Newsletter, outings 2nd Tuesdays, 60 members. Fourth Monday Growing Group, 9.30 am at SCCC– all welcome.

HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch Inc) Maureen Bond 5962 1224 hewisec@bigpond.com.
Environmental issues at Healesville Living and Learning Centre, 1 Badger Creek Road.

HISTORY Helen Mann 9730 1875 http://www.yarraglenhistorical.websyte.com.au
The Yarra Glen & District Historical Society meets 2nd Sundays at 1:30 pm Yarra Glen Memorial Hall:

LANDCARE GROUP Angie Lloyd 0412 343 242, steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com
Ongoing projects and a great opportunity to obtain information and advice about tackling Landcare issues of significance to YOU! '

HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE Christine Tomlins 5965 2080
To arrange hire of the SCCC and/or any equipment please contact

Jan 2018						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**
	1	**2**	**3**	**4** Social Tennis	**5** .	**6** Tennis Comp.
7	**8R** Art Class	**9** Stitchers. Garden Club.	**10**	**11** Art. Social Tennis.	**12**	**13** Market Tennis Comp.
14	**15** Art Class.	**16** Stitchers. Book Group.	**17** .	**18** Art. Social Tennis.	**19**	**20** .Tennis Comp.
21	**22R** Growing Group Art Class.	**23** Stitchers.	**24**	**25** Art SMB. Social Tennis	**26** .	**27** Market Tennis Comp.
28	**29**	**30** .	**31**			

R – put out your recycle bin

MARKET Malcolm Calder 5965 2372
2nd and 4th Saturdays at SCCC, 10.00 AM Sharp! Community announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods.

MOVIES Keith Montell 5965 2202
2nd or 3rd Friday - March to November – 6.00 PM classy food followed by classic movies at SCCC.

SMB (really just a coffee and a chat, football and opera and anything in between!) Gordon Brown 9730 1937
Last Thursday 10.30 AM – 11.30 AM. Men's morning tea at Anita's Yarra Glen.

STITCHERS Jane Calder 5965 2372, Nola Matthews 0412 199 129
Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SCCC, since 1993. 24 members, 12 regulars. Workshops plus, bring own work – knit, patch, embroider.

TAI CHI
Every Thursday in School Term time at SCCC. Hannah Sky 5965 2211

TENNIS Alby Leckie 5965 2354, Ed Bartosh 9739 1879
Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 60 active and social members. Wednesday 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.
***Night tennis under the lights. Website:** steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club

WOMEN'S GROUP - Evening Friendship Group Lindy Montell 5965 2202
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).

DEADLINE for the next *Jolly Thing* is 27th Jan 2018