the jolly thing

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO. 149 February - March

'FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY' www.steelscreek.vic.au

Ivor.

Graham Lloyd

It's amazing how a simple thought 'out of the blue' can take you back many years/decades. I was talking with friends the other day and was transported back to an 'on stage' moment back in the early 90s. I was conducting RAAF Central Band on a concert in the Melbourne Town Hall in early December. It was the annual Legacy Widows' Concert, with hundreds possibly 700+ ladies and others in the audience. On stage I'd just introduced a guest artist, Ivor Jones, to sing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". I turned to the band and was about to conduct the intro, when Ivor sidled up to me and whispered, 'I'm sorry Graham, I just can't do this...I can't sing this song...'

I first met Ivor in the lead up to the big Weary Dunlop Tribute concert held a few years earlier in the Melbourne Concert Hall. Ivor, who was an ex-POW himself with Weary working on the Burma/Thailand railway, was involved in the organization of the concert and I'd never met anyone whose admiration of another person was so complete. His admiration of Weary was total, along with so many other ex POWs who were incarcerated with Weary during the early 40s, and who saw Weary as almost a God.

During the many, many chats Ivor and I had over many months, he told me how he fondly remembered his mother taking him to concerts in the Melbourne Town Hall and his love of the then famous Australian Baritone, Peter Dawson. One of the songs Peter Dawson recorded was 'On the Road to Mandalay'. Ivor was a singer in the David Ashton Smith singers so I knew he could sing to some reasonable degree. He also said that all he'd ever wanted to do was to sing on the Melbourne Town Hall stage.

During one of our chats, I asked him how he first became a POW and he said he'd been posted to Singapore in the RAAF, in the late 1930s, as a machine gunner aboard a Wildebeest aircraft. The Wildebeest was a two-seater biplane which saw the pilot in the front seat and the machine gunner in the rear seat. ...***Continues page 4***

Steels Creek Community Centre AGM

Our last AGM was August 2019, a lot has changed since then. For most of 2020 our centre has remained closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Whilst this has been a difficult time for those groups who have been unable to gather during the closure it has however allowed for the Centre to be restumped and internally repainted.

Many Thanks to Yarra Ranges Council who financed, and project managed these works. Thanks also to Keith Montell for organising and labouring to complete the installation of a chair rail to ensure our new paint work remains pristine.

As 2020 draws to a close the centre has again reopened with a COVID-19 safety plan in place. The committee has commenced planning for some gatherings in 2021

I would like to acknowledge the many years of support and work from Christine Tomlins who retired from her position of secretary mid-year and to John Brand who stepped in to fill the void.

Despite the Centre being closed the Community Centre continues to be a resource that needs looking after. Thank you to my fellow committee and community members who all help keep the centre in tip top shape and take care of all the groups who use the space. The Steels Creek Community Centre remains the heart of our community

To our JT , Grapevine and Website team Morgan , Sal and JB , Thank you. Keeping for keeping those lines of communication open. We have needed it more than ever this year.

Tonight, I welcome our new committee members Kerry Guthrie, Peter Benda,, and Ivan Filsell and look forward to the year ahead, whatever it may bring.

Take care Screekians
Maree Rothwell

Presidents Report

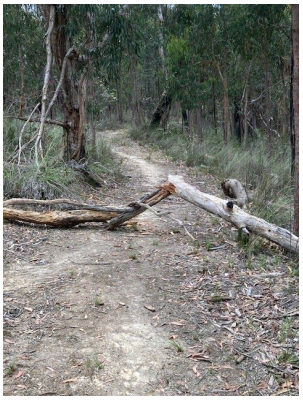
GET OUT THERE! *Exploring our local environment and nearby places with Peta Whitford.*

Walk #14 Chalmers Ridge Track, Steels Creek
Walk distance 9.4 km moderate challenge, approx. 300mtr ascent.
Walk Time approx. 4 hrs (return)
What to take water, light snacks, first aid, sunscreen, good walking shoes/ boots

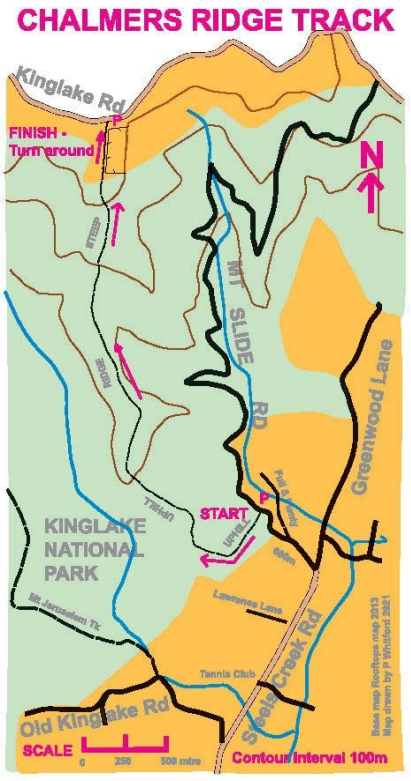
Chalmers Ridge Track
Located in the Kinglake National Park, west side of Mt Slide Rd, Chalmers Ridge Track runs south to north. It's an old 4wd track but now looks more like a single track walking path. It is infrequently maintained.

How to get there?
From Yarra Glen, take Steels Creek Rd to end of bitumen - 9 kms, turn left into Mt Slide Rd for 600 mtrs. On left is a Kinglake National Park sign and gate for start of walking track. Parking is very limited, on east side of road on 'verge'- 2 cars max.

Where to start?
This walk can be started from Steels Creek (south to north) or off the Kinglake Rd (north to south). This write-up is for the south to north walk. BTW NO Dogs/pets are allowed in the National Park.



The Walk (approx. 2hrs 15 up and 1hr 40 return)
The walk starts with a solid, rough under foot, uphill section through old antimony mining and sand diggings. The shaded track becomes a 'single track' as one reaches the first spur and ridge. There is a lot of leaf litter and a couple of fallen trees across the track. Once on the ridge there are grass trees and black silhouetted burnt tree trunks (great for photography), the views extend westwards to Mt Jerusalem across the steep Jehosaphat Creek gully. Evidence of deer in the area can be seen by roughed up bark on tree trunks. One kangaroo and a lyrebird were seen. From the ridge the track climbs to a second spur followed by another climb to the end of the forest. Here the track becomes a wide, mown, grass, easement which follows the fenceline to the gate on the Kinglake Rd. If wanting to organise a car shuffle or drop off, park on the 'verge' approx. 50 mtrs west of letter box #2993



From the intrepid local explorer! Peta Whitford

Hello! to all the new folks who have moved into Steels Creek Valley. It may appear to be a sleepy little Valley, but don't be fooled… get to know your neighbours - yep, pop on over, and their neighbours and soon you'll find a humming, and active community with vast interests and deep long history. Every neighbour looks out for the next, so don't be shy, join in or simply say ***Hi!*** If you haven't already, sign up to the Grapevine: (www.steelscreek.vic.au/publications/the-steels-creek-grapevine/) and keep and eye out for details to our long-awaited Family Night - dates are coming soon!!

Bumper Harvest. Let's get preserving!

This Summer has been a kind one. Cool, not too sunny and a little bit humid. Personally I love Summer to be like this and so do plums. We have had a bumper harvest of plums this year, even the ancient, gnarly trees have fruited well. We always preserve plums as jam every year but in a season such as this one, it's time to think about how else we can preserve the overflow. Here is a preserving idea that could tickle your fancy.

PICKLE PLUMS

Ingredients

4 pounds or 1.8 kg plums or damsons (a pippy variety)
2 cups granulated sugar
1 cup apple cider vinegar
2 star anise
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon black peppercorns
1/4 teaspoon crushed red chili flakes

Instructions

1. Prepare a boiling water bath canner and enough jars to hold 4 pints of product.
2. Cut plums in half, and cut each half into 4-6 wedges. Damsons can stay whole
3. Pile sliced plums into a low, wide pan, add the sugar and apple cider vinegar, and stir to combine.
4. Bundle the spices up in a length of cheesecloth or tuck them into a non-reactive tea ball and add them to the pan.
5. Place the pan on the stove and bring it to a boil. Cook at a vigorous bubble for 5-6 minutes, until the syrup thickens and the fruit softens (but try to stop cooking before the slices start to disintegrate).
6. Using a slotted spoon, funnel the fruit into jars and then top each jar off with the syrup, leaving about 1/2 inch of headspace.
7. Tap jars to loosen air bubbles and adjust syrup levels, as needed.
8. Wipe rims, apply lids and rings, and process jars in a boiling water bath canner for 20 minutes.
9. When time is up, remove jars from canner and place on a folded kitchen towel to cool.
10. If jars begin siphoning their syrup when you first remove them from the canning pot, pop them back into the water. Slide the pot off the hot burner and let the jars cool more gradually in the pot.
11. Once jars have had a chance to cool to room temperature on their towel, check the seals by pushing on the lids. If they are firm and without wiggle, the seals are good.
12. Sealed jars are shelf stable for at least a year.

Like all pickled fruit, this recipe works best if you start with fruit that is just slightly underripe. You want to choose fruit that has plenty of flavor and a bit of give, but still has enough robustness to retain the integrity of the slices once they've simmered for a bit.

https://foodinjars.com/recipe/pickled-italian-plums/

The Z18 has Returned.

Now that the kids are back at school, a reminder that the Z18 McKenzies school bus travels up and down Steels Creek Road around 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Please take extra care and look out for kids crossing the road during these times.

The day came when his Squadron was ordered into the air over Singapore to take on Japanese Zeros that were on their way. Ivor said that he and the pilot headed into the skies knowing they were hopelessly outgunned and flying a plane that was hopelessly underpowered and totally useless against the Zeros. Within a very short time they were attacked, and their plane was shot up. The pilot yelled into the intercom, "BAIL OUT". Ivor instantly unbuckled his seat belt and jumped out as the plane went into an uncontrollable nosedive. Being in such a hurry, he'd not had time to even remove his headset... (to be continued).

As our friendship grew and with planning for the Legacy Widows' Concert commencing, I totally surprised Ivor one day with the offer of him singing on the Melb Town Hall stage for the ladies. I knew the Legacy Widows would be a very forgiving audience if he missed or mis-pitched the odd note, and even more so if they knew beforehand that he was an ex-POW on the 'railway'. He thought it through and asked if he could sing "On the Road to Mandalay". I made a deal with him that I'd arrange it, but he had to agree to tell his 'story' before he sang. I also asked him if he'd sing 'Rudolph' given the close proximity to Christmas, to which he agreed.

I introduced Ivor to the ladies and the applause was as enthusiastic as I'd expected. Ivor told the first part of his story then completed the remainder of it. He continued, "so, I leapt out of the plane and realised, much too late, that I was still connected to plane via the 'Monkey Strap' (the monkey strap was a strap connected to an anchor point in the plane as a safety thing in case the seat belt failed). He continued: "there I was flapping against the side of the plane as it nosedived towards Singapore city, trying to unhook myself from the monkey strap. Suddenly, the pilot screamed into the headset, "I think I've got it under control, don't bail out."" So, Ivor, still flapping against the side of the plane, managed to grapple with the monkey strap in a way that saw him able to climb back on board. The plane landed safely and they, along with thousands of others, were taken prisoner.

Back on the Melbourne Town Hall stage, Ivor then sang, "On the Road to Mandalay".
After thunderous applause, I introduced 'Rudolph'. When Ivor leaned to me to say he couldn't sing 'Rudolph', and given I'd already introduced it and received the collective (and expected) 'ahhh' from the ladies in the audience, my mind worked very quickly to come up with a solution. I started the band, grabbed my mic, scurried over to Ivor who was standing wide-eyed and open-mouthed on the stage, put my arm round him and we sang 'Rudolph' as a duet.

Stories of Old Steels Creek – *On Our Selection*

In 1851 Victoria became a separate colony but another decade passed before the land in the Steels Creek area was made available for selection. Prior to this the area bordering Steels Creek was part of the 'run' of Gulf Station.
It was not until Duffy's Land Act was passed in 1862 that smaller allotments of 40 acres and changes to the lease payments provided conditions that were favourable to assisted immigrants from the United Kingdom looking for a new start.

Among the first selectors at Steels Creek in 1863 was David Friar and his sister-in-law Mary Friar.
David had arrived in Australia in May 1848 as a young boy with his parents and six siblings aboard the 'William Stewart'. They came from Buckinghamshire in England as assisted migrants. The parents, Joseph and Lucy Friar (Fryer), lived in Kangaroo Ground and their daughter married John Hill in 1860 whom she met there. At the age of 20 in 1863 David Friar (1842-1914) selected land at Steels Creek. The parish map indicates that he selected three allotments: One of 55 acres to the west of the main road and south of Pinnacle Lane, one opposite this block (40 acres) and, further to the east, another block of 119 acres.

David's older brother Samuel Friar died aged 33 in January 1863. He had married Mary Gleeson in 1854 and she was now widowed with three very young children. An 80-acre block on the south-east corner of Pinnacle Lane and Steels Creek Road was selected in her name. Later she also purchased 40 acres from Robert Charlton. This block was on the opposite corner of Pinnacle Lane to her initial block. Mary Friar married again in 1871 to George Garread.

The two daughters of Mary and Samuel initially travelled 3 miles to the Yarra Flats school. When the Dixons Creek School opened in January 1876 she moved there and the seven children of David Friar, who married Helen Ross at Yarra Flats in April 1868, also attended the Dixons Creek School.

Meanwhile the eldest son of Samuel and Mary Friar was making his own way. At the age of 22 he was recorded in the 1879 Electoral roll as a landowner. He was then 22 years old. He had selected a block of 156 acres to the east of his mother's land (in the vicinity of the current Calder property). He took full ownership of it in 1899. William received prizes at the local shows for his horticultural products including apples and potatoes. He appears to have been a resourceful young man. In May 1891 a public auction was conducted under his instruction in Yarra Glen. It was for a shop and dwelling with frontage to Bell Street plus two dwellings with a frontage to Armstrong Grove.
At the age of 47 William married 36-year old Rose Holland. They had no children but lived in Steels Creek until May 1932 when William died of pneumonia. At this time he was the oldest resident in the area and an obituary in the *Healesville Guardian* stated that he "*had gained the high respect of everyone. A disposition to help his neighbours won for him wide admiration. He was one of the first members of the Yarra Glen Horticultural Society, and took a keen interest in the society's work…He also won wide respect as a cricket umpire, in which he was considered one of the best in the earlier days."*

In August 1890 David and Helen Friar moved to a dairy farm in Tarrawarra. They hosted a farewell tea party at their Steels Creek home on the 20th July. George Fletcher, their neighbour for 23 years, proposed a toast saying they had been '…*his best neighbours, and what is more, he would never wish for better, and that during that long time there had scarcely been an angry word between them. The family…were always ready to assist in any movement to the good or the pleasure of the community*." Lilydale Express 13 Aug 1890

In 1892 David and Helen's eldest daughter Jane married Michael Hanley. He worked with the railways and they made their home in Healesville where during the next six years their four children were born. Sadly Jane died during the birth of their fourth child. A very poignant letter appeared in the *Weekly Times* a year later. This newspaper had a 'children's page' which particularly encouraged country children to write of their experiences to "Aunt Connie and Uncle Ben". The letter was from 8-year old Nellie Hanley, the eldest child of Jane and Michael:

> *Mother is Dead. – Tarrawarra, 20/11/01. – Dear Aunt Connie, - This is the first time I have written to you, and I would like to be one of your nieces. I am living with my granny. My mother died twelve months ago. I have one sister and two brothers. Their names are Daisy, Jackie, and Jimmie. My grandfather has 20 cows, 4 horses, a lot of calves, 7 young pigs, and one big one. I have a lot of cousins and seven aunties. Our crops are lovely. I go to school by the train every morning. My father is far away from me. I am in the second class. My teacher is nice…. Nellie M. Hanley. Age 8 years and 9 months.*

Nellie's grandfather of course was David Friar who it can be seen successfully made the move to Tarrawarra. David died in 1914 and his wife Helen in 1935. They are both buried at Yarra Glen.

George Fletcher (1830-1917) also had selected a number blocks and was a neighbour of each of the Friars. George had been employed at View Hill, Tarrawarra for four years prior to selecting his first block at Steels Creek. Other selectors included William Hubbard (1837-1897) who initially had 80 acres at Steels Creek and later secured a block of 320 acres. He cleared, drained and fenced his property to make it 'one of the finest in the district'. Anthony Scott (1843-1920) first selected 80 acres at the corner of Gulf and Steels Creek Road to which he later added another 800 acres which he farmed with his brother William. Their brother Jonathon also selected land at Steels Creek. Others who took up land in Steels Creek in these early times were Robert Charlton, Edward Cullis, John Cummins, James Jewson, William Little, Ewan Cameron and John Burgess Wilson.

Helen Mann - Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre, History Group

Steels Creek Art Group

Ivan Filsell

Art has returned to Steels Creek Community centre and we have had our first outing to visit the studio of Mim Kocher in Healesville. Mim is an artist and sculptor and one of her many skills is making imaginative sculptures with modelling clay. This material was new to most of us, so we had an interesting afternoon with Mim who first demonstrated some simple techniques and then let us loose to make our own small figures. The material is not real clay but is paper and adhesive based. This dries to a firm state that can be carved sanded or otherwise shaped and then painted. Small sculptures made this way are suitable for indoor use and Mim had many examples of decorated vases and whimsical scenes. After the initial demonstration in the studio, we were able to move outside under the shade of large deciduous trees and model away while sipping tea and coffee kindly supplied by Mim and husband Fred.

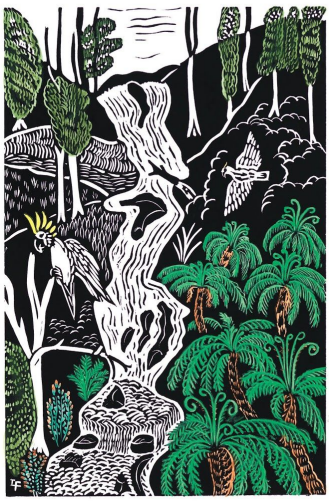
It is good to see that our local galleries are up and running again with both YAVA gallery in Healesville and Tarrawarra Museum of Art open with new exhibitions. Enjoy your Art.

Exhibitions

Ivan Filsell and Cecilia Sharply are part of a joint exhibition called **Fluid Lines and Leaf Magic** at Mira Gallery Marysville.

Opening 13 March, to 28 April.

All welcome, take a drive to Marysville and support the local economy.



Left - Ivan Filsell, Right - Cecilia Sharply

Steels Creek Observer - *Wasps*

Most of us are very well aware of the annual plague of European Wasps that are the bane of the wine industry and that spoil outdoor social gatherings from January through to May. (An aside here, be very careful before you drink anything sweet from an opened can) But there are several native wasps here in the Yarra Valley and while some of them are pretty vicious, most of them are no trouble at all and they help control many insect pests and are active pollinators.

However, the Common Paper wasp is one you need to keep clear of. These are roughly the same size as the European Wasp but slimmer and darker with a yellow diamond on the head and quite narrow yellow bands on the body and a distinctive yellow face.

They build a mushroom shaped nest of greyish "paper" cells that hangs upside down on a leaf or branch or under the eaves of the house.

All the wasps in a colony look similar. Most of them are foragers but a few are the egg layers (queens) and they spend their time standing over the paper cells defending the nest and laying eggs. At night and in cold weather all adults will cluster over the nest.

Apart from the fact that these wasps have a painful sting, they are generally helpful in the pollination of plants and they capture caterpillars and spiders to feed the larvae and the egg lying females.

You need to give these Paper Wasp colonies a wide berth when you find one, but overall they are generally good for the environment and we need to learn to live with them.

Orienteering Australia – *Hall of Fame Inductee*

PETA WHITFORD, local resident and regular contributor to The Jolly Thing (GET OUT THERE Bushwalking articles) early last year was inducted into the Orienteering Australia Hall of Fame, but due to Covid restrictions only received her honours in December 2020. The Orienteering Australia Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 2016.

Orienteering Australia is pleased to induct Peta into the Orienteering Australia Hall of Fame General Division.
Peta Whitford began orienteering in Victoria in 1971 and rapidly developed her skills as a top female competitor. She represented Australia at the World Championships in 1974, 1976 and 1978 and in 1993 travelled with the Australian World Orienteering Team as Head Coach.

She developed a major interest in elite-level coaching, and chaired the Orienteering Australia Coaching Committee for four years, also holding the title of National Coaching Director. She assisted in the conduct of the first Orienteering Australia Level 2 coaching course, held in December 1985, and was involved in developing the Level 2 and 3 coaching accreditation syllabi. She updated the current Level 1 coaching accreditation program.

Combined with elite coaching, Peta saw a need to target women in their orienteering development. As a result she was invited as the Coach-in-Residence in NSW, Queensland, Tasmania, South Aust and Western Aust, to run multi-day coaching seminars/ camps to a wide range of orienteers.

In 1994 she was awarded "The Eunice Gill" Coach Education Award by the Australian Coaching Council in recognition for her outstanding services to coach education in Australia.

At the World Orienteering Championships held in Victoria in 1985 she was the Deputy Technical Co-ordinator for 'out-of-forest' activities, and assisted in test-running legs for the WOC courses.
Another major activity in Peta's orienteering life was the conduct of an extensive schools 'Come and try it' orienteering program run on a professional basis in her capacity of Orienteering Victoria's Development Officer. That program and more recently the Sporting Schools Program continues to introduce hundreds of schoolchildren to orienteering in Victoria.

In 1976 Peta worked with orienteering marketing guru Tom Andrews to hold the first ever Australian Schools Orienteering Championships at Mt Evelyn, Victoria. From this grew the Victorian Primary and Secondary Championships. In 2004, following the start of mountain bike orienteering in Australia, she established the first Schools MTBO championships, starting with 80 riders and reaching 180 riders within a few years.

Peta was involved in junior development in her capacity of Manager and /or Coach of the Victorian schools team to the Australian Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships over 13 years. During this time, initially aided by Sue Sturges, Peta established the Southern Cross Challenge in which a New Zealand Schools Team is invited annually to compete against the Australian Schools Teams.

- Peta is a Life member of the Yarra Valley Orienteering Club
- In 1993 Peta was made an Honorary Life member of Orienteering Victoria.
- In 2000 Peta was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for Australian sporting achievement.
- In 2018 Peta retired after 27 years of dedicated work for Orienteering Victoria.

Congratulations Peta!

Steels Creek Book Group Review

Julie Riddell

December **- Bear Town** by Frederick Backman

We didn't meet during December but the library still provided us with this book to read. An ice hockey team of teenage boys shows potential to have huge success. Unfortunately, the team's adult male coaches and investors use motivational tactics such as sexist slurs, anti-gay jokes and cover-ups of bad behaviour. It takes a drunken party assault of the team manager's daughter by the star player for the entire culture to be questioned.

January **- Still waters** by Camilla Noli

It was so good meeting in person at the Steels Creek Community Centre after such a long time. This book has a shocking plot. A young mother kills her two-year-old daughter, then sets up an 'accidental' killing of her baby son by her husband. What softens the read is the realisation that the book could have done with better editing so therefore the characters aren't so convincing anyway. We ended up having a much more stimulating discussion about Bear Town.

Eastern regional Library has been very helpful and found ways of supplying us with bookgroup sets, despite the difficulties lately! SCCC bookgroup currently has no vacancies, please contact Julie - 0422 424 694 if you're interested in joining. In the meantime, all our books are available to borrow from Eastern Regional Library.

SCCC Reel Film Club Coming Soon!

DINNER at 6pm – and FILM STARTS 7.30pm

Up and running again in March! Cost is $10 per person plus $4 for the Centre. For those able to provide food it's just $4 donation for the Centre. Please let me know if you are able to supply a main course, salad or dessert. (Lindy - 5965 2202)

Steels Creek Garden Club

Jill Hess

Garden Club is back in 2021! Kicking off with a get together on February 9, so mark your diaries and listen out for more details in the Grapevine. The garden club usually gets together for outings, planning and to propagate each month. The 4th Monday of each month is dedicated to propagating plants for our community events and local fundraisers. The 2nd Tuesday is dedicated to outings and flower show planning. Please call Jill for more details - 0430108672

Steels Creek Tennis Club

Please contact club Secretary, Graham Lloyd for updates and detailed information about Tennis Club activity or Lindy Montell for Ladies Tennis information: Graham Lloyd 0430 243 442, Lindy Montell 5965 2202

Most membership fees are being reduced for the coming membership year starting 1 July 2020. Family memberships will be $90, Senior memberships will be $35, Junior memberships $20 and Social memberships still $10. The membership year runs through to June 30. To play on the courts, you must be a Family, Senior, or Junior member, except for Open Days. To have a court key, you must be a Family or Senior member. *Thank you for your continued support.* Keep up to date with the club news on:

Web site: steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/SteelsCreekTennisClub

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Family Nights are back with all the COVID safety measures in place. Keep your eyes peeled to the Grapevine and Steels Creek Community Facebook page for upcoming dates. *woot*

COVID-19 Update

Facts and statistics for posterity

- **As of 4 February 2021, one new case has been acquired locally with the total number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Victoria at 20,456.**
- There were no new deaths and the state's death toll remains at 820.
- There are 20 active cases in Victoria. 19,616 people have recovered.
- A total of 4,570,100 test results have been received.
- The DHHS website has full details in the interactive daily report.
- Visit the summary of changes to restrictions for Victoria. - The limit on the number of people gathering in a household is reduced from 30 to 15, meaning the household members plus 15 visitors (excluding children under 12 months of age). The 75 per cent 'return to work' cap for the private sector scheduled for Monday 8 February is paused and the current cap of 50 per cent will remain in place.

Face Masks

- Face masks are mandatory indoors, unless an exemption applies.
- Face masks are not required outdoors except where physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as farmers' markets and other outdoor retail. There is a requirement to carry a mask at all times.

The Weather Report by Barry Sheffield

Our rainfall in December was 14 mm below average with it being the lowest monthly total for the year. January rainfall was more prolific with it being 36 mm above average. Coldstream set a new record for the highest quantity of rain to be recorded in a single day when 30 mm was recorded on the 26th but this record was broken a few days later when 45 mm was recorded. Temperatures for December were -1.1° below average for the mean maximum for Coldstream and -0.8° below for Melbourne and -0.8 below and +0.7° above average for the mean minimums. January temperatures were -1.3° below average for the mean maximum temperature and 0.6° above average for the minimum temperatures for Coldstream and 0.8° below average for the maximum and 1.1° above average for the minimum for Melbourne.

RAINFALL – December 2020 - January 2021

Station	December 2020 (mm)	January 2021 (mm)	Yearly total for 2020 (mm)	Yearly total for 2019 (mm)
'Blackwood Hill' **Pinnacle Lane Steels Creek**	37.4	105.5	1002	635
Highlea' **Dixons Creek**	51.6	123.6	1060.6	619.2
Melbourne Water Melba Hwy, Dixons Creek	55.4	97	945	612.6
'Wandearah' **Japonica Drive Yarra Glen**	45.7	85.5	986.3	616.4

The Steels Creek Calendar is also available to view at www.steelscreek.vic.au

February 2021						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**
	1 R	**2** Stitchers	**3**	**4** Art Group Tai Chi	**5**	**6**
7	**8**	**9** Stitchers Garden Club Outing	**10**	**11** Art Group Tai Chi	**12**	**13** Market
14 *Valentines Day*	**15 R**	**16** Book Group Stitchers	**17**	**18** Art Group Tai Chi	**19**	**20**
21	**22** Growing Group	**23**	**24**	**25** Art Group Tai Chi	**26**	**27** Market
28						

**** PLEASE REFER TO THE GRAPEVINE FOR GROUP UPDATES ****

ART Ivan Filsell 0458 507 181
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.

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) admin@hewi.org.au
Environmental issues at Healesville Living and Learning Centre, P.O. Box 444 Healesville, 3777

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! ‘

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY CENTRE ONLINE BOOKINGS Or call Maree Rothwell 0414 278 649
It’s easy to check availability, fees, booking the Centre.

- Open the Steels Creek Community website 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 online booking enquiry here.’**
- Follow prompts for information, charges and to make a booking request.

March 2021						
Sun	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**
	1 R	**2** Stitchers	**3**	**4** Art Group Tai Chi	**5**	**6**
7	**8** *Labor Day*	**9** Stitchers	**10**	**11** Art Group Tai Chi	**12**	**13** Market
14	**15 R**	**16** Stitchers	**17**	**18** Art Group Tai Chi	**19**	**20**
21	**22** Growing Group	**23** Book Group Stitchers	**24**	**25** Art Group Tai Chi	**26**	**27** Market
28	**29 R**	**30** Stitchers	**31**			

**** PLEASE REFER TO THE GRAPEVINE FOR GROUP UPDATES ****

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 Yarra Glen.

STITCHERS Jane Calder 5965 2372, Nola Matthews 0412 199 129
Every Tuesday, 1.30 PM - 4.00 PM at SCCC, since 1993. Bring your own work – knit, patch, embroider, chat and friendship.

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

TENNIS Mark Newell 0411 111 839, Graham Lloyd 0430 243 442, Lindy Montell 5965 2202
Since 1911. Newsletter, competitions, 40 active and social members. Monday 9am, ladies social tennis - contact Lindy. Friday Locals Tennis for adults and kids - 5pm last Friday of the month (Unless noted in calendar). Saturdays 1-5 PM regular competitions. Sunday afternoon social tennis 2-5pm - contact Graham Lloyd
Website: www.steelscreek.vic.au/community-groups/tennis-club

WOMEN'S GROUP - Evening Friendship Group Lindy Montell 5965 2202
1st Wednesday, 6.30 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).

R – Put out your recycle bin

THE STEELS CREEK GRAPEVINE

Want to be kept up to date on local Steels Creek events and offerings? *The Grapevine* is an email only update on news and events that have missed the recent edition of The Jolly Thing. Please continue to send any content, notifications, and/or reminders to thegrapevine@steelscreek.vic.au.
Go to www.steelscreek.vic.au/publications/the-steels-creek-grapevine/ to sign up.

We'd love to hear from you

The Jolly Thing is a newsletter that captures the spirit of Steels Creeks community, it's got a long history of collecting and sharing every facet of what goes on in the valley.

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.

Local groups' submissions are the backbone of The Jolly Thing and are very welcome.

Personal stories must be submitted by the person involved.

Promotion material will be considered for local businesses if there is value to the community.

Please email all pieces to scjollything@gmail.com
Thank you

The Jolly Thing Delivery

1. **Free e-mail subscription**. If you'd like to subscribe, **please visit** www.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, Newsagent, selected cafes and elsewhere and always at the 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. www.steelscreek.vic.au

200 Print / 270 Email / 13 Nations

DEADLINE for the next *Jolly Thing* is 27 March 2021

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 72, Yarra Glen, Victoria 3775.
Management Committee: President – Maree Rothwell Treasurer – Keith Montell Secretary – Christine Tomlins Committee Members – Geoff Townsend, John Brand, Morgan Calder, Mark Newell

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We gratefully acknowledge **Peter England (Hoogies)** and **Ashleigh Skillern (Yarra Glen Auto)** for their support to the Steels Creek Community and *The Jolly Thing.*

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