



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 45 (October - November 2003)

FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY.

YOU'LL READ IT IN "THE JOLLY THING".

<i>Steels Creek Man Walks from here to Cairns</i>	Page 7
Red Spiders, Leopards, and Donkeys spotted in Local Bush	Page 3
SENSATIONAL LOCAL CLUB SCENE REVEALED	Page 4

Change at the Helm

This edition of The Jolly Thing has been produced by Chris Mullen, the new Editor. I am absolutely delighted that he has taken on the job and I wish him all the best for many more editions.

This newsletter started as an information sheet to keep the Steels Creek community aware of what is going on in the Valley. In a way it has been the voice of the community while the old School building has been the home. I feel sure that much of the success of our community comes from having the School building as a central meeting area, and this newsletter has contributed community glue. We are now in our 7th year of publication and there have been 44 editions. It has grown to a circulation of 220.

There are many people I wish to thank for all the help and support they have provided. First, Margaret and John Houston my greatest supporters, who have taken on the task of coordinating the distribution through a dedicated group of volunteers; Gwen and Albie, Glen, Bronwyn, Eric, Richard, Margaret, Sonia, Jane B and Judith. Thanks to Judith for providing the "Mast Head" and for finding a title in a throw away phrase of mine in the first edition of "The Jolly Thing", Thanks to Frank Hoogenraad for his annual cheque which has covered the costs of printing at the Shire. Thanks to Phil at the Post Office for allowing distribution more widely to those who do not have a letterbox. And finally, thanks to Jane for her willing proof reading and editing .

Malcolm Calder

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE CHAT = SC4 = 699 Steels Creek Road

- **Annual General Meeting**

The 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Steels Creek Community Centre Inc. was held on **Wednesday, August 27 at 8 pm** at the Community Centre. John Lowe presented his report *in absentia* (this is consistent with last year !) Office bearers elected for 2003/2004 are: President Geoff Keets, VP John Lowe, Secretary Margaret Houston, Treasurer Eric Tetlow, Committee Malcolm Calder, John Houston, Albie Leckie, Garden Club Christine Tomlins, Tennis Club Jean Lowe. The Treasurer reported a healthy position.

(Special thanks to **Hoogies of Yarra Glen** whose generous donation covers to cost of printing *The Jolly Thing*).

- **Grounds Maintenance.**

Since the last *Jolly Thing* the grass areas have been mown and several garden areas have had their biennial clean-up. Most of this work was done following one of the Saturday Markets, while grass cutting is a more frequent activity. As a community we are very lucky to have a group of members who do these jobs around the place giving both their time and machinery. **Next working bee week mid October prior to the Flower Show November 8 CALL JOHN HOUSTON TO HELP OUT: 9730 1957**

- **Saturday Markets.**

Recent Saturday Markets have been really well attended and even in mid-winter, there is fresh local produce, home cooked delights, artist's cards and great chat. Superb Devonshire teas and coffee are provided by the Steels Creek Tennis Club and always, around 10.30am, there are announcements of general interest. **The Markets are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month and start at 10am.** NB: No market 8 November due to Flower Show.

CLUB CALENDAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **MOVIE CLUB**

The new programme has been determined based upon ballots cast in previous screenings and via the internet; thanks all who have had their say. We look forward to the next round of films and suppers. Soup, bread and salad \$ 5 at 6PM followed by the show.

10 October

Flash Gordon Ch 8 **Tournament of Death**

DIAL M FOR MURDER ** (1954) 105m, dir. A. Hitchcock; Ray Milland, John Williams, Grace Kelly, Robert Cummings; An Ageing tennis champion tries to arrange the death of his wife but his complex plan goes wrong.

24 October

Flash Gordon Ch 9 **Fighting the Fire Dragon**

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS **** (1951) 113m, dir. Vincente Minnelli; Gene Kelly, Oscar Levant, written by Alan J Lerner with music by Gershwin; the production cost \$ 2,723,903 of which \$ 542,000 went on the final ballet. Many Oscars !

10 November

Flash Gordon Ch 10 **The Unseen Peril**

SHANE *** (1953) 118m, dir George Stevens; Alan Ladd, Jean Arthur, Van Heflin, Jack Palance, Ben Johnson, Elisha Cook Jr. A dramatic story of the pioneer days in the American west.

24 November

Flash Gordon Ch 11 **In the Claws of the Tigrion**

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD ** (1962) 129m, dir Robert Mulligan; Gregory Peck, Mary Badham, Frank Overton; It looks like a storybook of the old south but with a sinister undercurrent based in civil rights issues of the times. Peck received an Oscar for best actor.

CLAMBERERS Walking Club

Pink finger, waxlip, tall greenhood, leopard, donkey, and spider ORCHIDS seen in Steels Creek on 28 September 18 orchid enthusiasts followed **Jenny Barnett** on a personal tour of the Kinglake National Park near her home. We viewed at least ten different varieties of the diminutive plants. Jenny promises that this is a good year and more will be available 19th or 26th October

Next Orchid Stroll will be October 19th OR 26th, depending on flowering times. Further details at the regular Saturday markets or phone 9730 1957.

Walk Sunday 5th October

Circular route: Old Kinglake Road - Jerusalem Track

From Steels Creek picnic ground, up Old Kinglake Rd to Girraween, then up a spur to the middle of Jerusalem Track and return to picnic ground via Jerusalem Track. About 8-10 km. Except for one steep section of about 400m as we climb onto the spur (which we will take very slowly), the walk is largely gentle grades or down hill.

Meet : 11am sharp Steels Creek Picnic Ground Old Kinglake Road. Lunch at top of climb in remote part of park with views and large comfortable sitting logs. Should be some good orchid displays especially towards end of walk. Coffee in picnic ground about 3.30 on return

This is the last scheduled monthly walk, and Jenny B. will lead

GARDEN CLUB

14 OCTOBER OUTING to Donnelly Cottage and Granten Mill Cottage in Healesville; BYO picnic lunch; meet 0930 at McKenzie Reserve transport by private car.

8 November Flower Show and Sale

The Steels Creek Garden Club Inc will again present their outstanding show; a big day out for the entire family. This year features the "weird and wacky container" display, an exhibit of water wise plants and fantastic selection of locally grown plants from \$1.

TALKS (Jane Bean 5965 2431)

Nepalese Culture, Religion, and Crafts

Wednesday 26 November at 8PM in SC4, Heather Pemberton will give a talk accompanied by slides about her walking trek in Nepal. She will include aspects of the Nepalese culture and religion and bring a display of crafts to share.

Any ideas and suggestions for next year's programme are welcome; travel, flora, fauna, health ... all are welcome.

BRUSH STROKES Art Club

Most Thursday afternoons a small band of people meet at the Community Centre with their paints, pencils and paper for an afternoon of good companionship. We paint a bit, we draw a bit, we talk a bit and we share our ideas on art and painting. We are learning as we go in this very informal way and we would love to see anyone else who would like to come along. There is no formal teaching, we just do it by helping each other. Usually around 3 pm we have a cup of tea or coffee, so come and join us then.

Recently Judith Augustine and Chris Mullen donated standard lamps to assist us with better lighting and the S.C. Committee has agreed that we can purchase some lights. At present we have no one painting with oil or acrylics and there is no pastel artist. We tend to concentrate on birds and botanical subjects, but last Thursday we agreed that on the last Thursday of each month we would try some local landscapes in the Steels Creek area. If you are thinking of a visit ring Malcolm 5965 2372 on the Wednesday evening to see what the plans are.

STITCHERS DYEING WORKSHOP 15 November \$20 Jane Calder for details 5965 2372

NEW -- Women's Evening Activities and Friendship Group

At the Community Centre Annual General Meeting it was suggested that we form a women's group to meet on a regular basis in the evening, for companionship and sharing ideas and skills. Would you like to get to know other women in your community, but can't get to the current activities for whatever reason ?

An initial meeting has been called for **Monday, October 13 at 7.30 pm**. This meeting will be at the Community Centre and will discuss things like the best day of the week to hold meetings, how often to meet, what to do etc. etc.

This is an absolutely new proposal designed to help women of Steels Creek and any others interested to get together socially and have a good time. So come to this first meeting and bring along a friend and your ideas, your knitting or your U.F.O's. (unfinished objects) and get things started.

Enquiries to Pam Verhoeven, Phone 5965 2274

Man walks to Cairns from Steels Creek

Nearly every day after the post dawn commuter rush., a lone figure walks south and then north along 9.5 km of Steels Creek Road; He will walk the distance from Steels Creek to Cairns and back to Brisbane in a year and he often flies that same route in one day.

Bruce Maskiell a QANTAS pilot has been in the air since 1966 and has recently been checked out on the 737 N.G.; the latest acquisition to the fleet. In July 2001 at a routine aircrew medical he was diagnosed with a serious coronary blockage resulting in quadruple bypass surgery. He went from 93 to 70 kg in weight and took up regular walking to keep fit; though it is harder "to push a northerly wind on the way home."

Having become fit he has planted 3000 pinot noir vines. With a keen eye on the ground along Steels Creek Road he has found a "well polished half nut at pace number 3.847, a you beaut six inch chromium plated shifter, a Hunter garden sprinkler valve, a pocket knife and lots of rusty nails by the tennis courts."

His biggest concern is rubbish along the road; especially beverage cans. Observations about drivers can be obtained upon application !

The Creek that gives us our name

Steels Creek rises in the tall, damp forests of Kinglake National Park and with tributaries Jehosaphat and Full and Plenty, enters private land at the top end of Greenwood Lane. It meanders along the valley and across to the Melba Highway where it picks up the water from Dixons Creek. It then flows into the Yarra just to the east of the Yarra Glen football oval. In years gone by, the bed of the Creek has been straightened and cleared in places for flood mitigation purposes. In other areas native vegetation has been left, producing a landscape feature for the valley. The Creek has cut deeply into its bed as a consequence of land clearing and management thus providing shelter habitat for blackberries, foxes, rabbits and wombats. In recent years Melbourne Water, through its Healthy Waterways Programme, has carried out some blackberry control and engineering works to help slow down this bed erosion. But the Creek needs help.

Help the Creek 5th November 8PM at SC4

To discuss issues and perceived problems; relevant authorities and representatives will be on hand to develop an action plan with interested parties. Could we have a walking track along the length of the Creek? Could we connect with the Billabong in Yarra Glen? Is there any interest in working out an agreed landcare programme for Steels Creek?

CLEVER QUOTES

Overheard at SMB, " If people knew what we talked about they would know nothing!"

WRITE BACK

Memory lane: Why is Brock Spur so named? If any reader has an answer or other query, please advise the editor for next issue.

PAST PEEKS AT THE PAST

JUNCTION HOTEL BURNS – on the north west corner of the Steels Creek and Eltham Road Junction (where a certain vineyard now resides ...) HISTORIC BUILDING BURNT

“A very old landmark, the delicensed Junction Hotel, portion of the late Eliza Smith’s estate, was recently destroyed by fire. The old building had been standing for more than 70 years and was a popular rendezvous for travellers touring the district. It is believed that the building was insured.” From JT No 12; PP No 2 from a Yarra Glen Paper in 1935 via ET.

NEXT ISSUE

History of clubs, a review of the JT and other memorabilia; interview with Vera Adams, who are the “horse people” ; please communicate your desires; ... get on the programme !

READER COMPETITION

PRIZES GALORE !!! Ice Cream, Wine, Cake – your choice ... just write or email your tally of the various types of animals along the length of Steels Creek Road (from the Eltham Road to the end of Greenwood Lane) and send to the editor via email or the JT PO BOX 213 YG 3775 The entry with the greatest number of identified different animals gets the prize.

OWNERSHIP / CIRCULATION

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 John Lowe 5965 5594. Treasurer Eric Tetlow 9730 1445, Secretary: Margaret Houston 9730 1957.

220 Circulated free to letter boxes the post office and SC4; postal subscription is available for \$5 send or via the internet thejollything@fullandplenty.com send your details please.

Editor Chris Mullen 5965 2094; Circulation: Malcolm Calder 5965 2372

We gratefully acknowledge Frank Hoogenraad (**Hoogies of Yarra Glen**), for his support for the Steels Creek Community and *The Jolly Thing*.

DEADLINE for the next “*Jolly Thing*” is **Friday November 28**. Chris Mullen, Ed. Ph 5965 2094 and TheJollyThing@fullandplenty.com.