



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 47 (February - March, 2004)  
FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VALLEY.

YOU'LL READ IT IN "THE JOLLY THING"

**Peta Pedals For Six Days Page 3**

**5C, 4C, W4C, SC2, C3 Pages 4,6,7**

**Clean Up for a FREE LUNCH Page 7**

## ***“ Community group of the year ”***

***Shire of Yarra Ranges Australia Day Awards***

By **Malcolm Calder**, Member, Steels Creek Community Centre Inc. 26/01/04

On behalf of the Steels Creek Community I thank the Shire of Yarra Ranges for presenting to Steels Creek this Australia Day award.

In preparing a response I have had the opportunity to reflect on the **significance of Australia Day**, and on the **nature of Community**.

Australia Day commemorates the foundation of the nation state - Australia - a large community, united by shared values and shared aspirations.

When I think of the Steels Creek Community I can say that we also have the same shared values and aspirations, which at the simplest level come down to FRIENDSHIP (MATESHIP), MUTUAL TRUST, RESPECT, and SUPPORT; TOLERANCE, COOPERATION, COMMUNICATION, and PARTICIPATION.

All these elements are found in our community in Steels Creek, as I'm sure they are in many others. In particular, there are two components of our community that have contributed more to our coherence than we could ever have predicted.

Cont. p. 2

**“ Community group of the year ”** cont.

First, we have a “home” where many of our activities take place. We negotiated through the Shire for the conversion of the former Steels Creek Primary School to the Steels Creek Community Centre which we manage and maintain. We thank the Shire and our local representatives for responding to our persistent requests to retain this property in the early 90’s.

Secondly, we have published every second month, a community newsletter, which keeps everyone informed on activities and developments in the community. People know what is going on.

Governments at all levels are now promoting communities. We strongly support policies and programmes of the Shire of Yarra Ranges which encourage the support and development of communities. If we have been successful in Steels Creek it’s because we simply went ahead and did it.

**NB: Front Page colour photos in the *Mountain Views Mail* 27 January 2004**

### **WWW > eddW**

At the end of last year we had major problems with internet access speed, (2000 bits if lucky). This happened suddenly and whilst investigating our server and Telstra’s lines we were continually being fobbed off by Telstra but courted by competitors. As Telstra operate the lines we thought it was up to them to assist. Following calls to the telephone ombudsman, and local federal member it was Fran Bailey’s office which put us in contact with Telstra’s local co-ordinator, she followed up the issue and the faults on our line were detected and fixed. Now we are back to 31000 bits as good as we have ever had.

So if you have problems and you are on split lines, as we were, and you have lost internet line speed making your system inoperable try

Mandy.small@team.telstra.com and see how you go. Federal Gov will still want to sell Telstra so they are keen to placate bushies.

By **edd williams**

**<http://www.yarraranges.communityguide.com.au/>**

Just type in or click on Steels Creek from this page – AMAZING

**JeT** (Jolly electronic Thing) goes out to six international countries **and** Texas

**[thejollything@fullandplenty.com](mailto:thejollything@fullandplenty.com)**

## **PETA PEDALS Tallangatta to Corryong in six days !**

The legs keep turning, the wheels purr along the road: I am enjoying that wonderful freedom of self sufficiency – riding a 6 day bike ride with a friend. We started at Tallangatta (south side of Lake Hume) headed south to Mitta Mitta over Mt Wills to Anglers Rest. Omeo and then north to Corryong. This was the area severely burnt in the bushfires in January 2003. Both of us had been riding at that time in the area between Mt Hotham, Benambra, Gelantipy and Bruthen – so a return visit was a must.

Dinner at Mitta Mitta Pub was full of stories and photos of how close the fires had come. Day 2 saw us head along the Omeo Hwy to see for ourselves. Generally, cycling through the Australian Bush means thick vegetation, blackberries lining the roadsides and cherished views every now and again. What a change this ride was! The bush had been burnt badly; in places there was not a blade of grass or budding tree to break the stark landscape. What was beautiful were the extended views, thru the trees down to the Mitta Mitta River, we could see it throughout its journey to Omeo! There were magnificent rocky outcrops sited on exposed spurs of land above the winding river with its many rapids, Looking into the distance was the Koscuisko N.P. in NSW. To our right (west) the High Plains with glimpses of Bogong.

After a solid climb of 17kms and 1300m climb we rested near the top of Mt Wills and marvelled at the vistas. Our thoughts also turned to the great downhill ride before us!! About 10 km before Anglers Rest we were caught in a downpour. Looking uphill towards Bogong we sited a wall of water pushing down the head of the gully above us, it was full of grey and brown matter and with no vegetation to impede its route it hurtled down. Fortunately it was channelled under the huge road culvert and zoomed down to the Mitta Mitta River where it formed a huge wave (tsunami like). I felt privileged to have seen such a wonder.

Altho we are good riders our pace is slower than by car and the benefits of meeting the locals is great. As we rode from Anglers Rest to Omeo and onto Benambra many of the farmers were out mending fences and clearing fallen trees. We all liked to stop for chats! We listened to tales of woe, of near misses, to blaming the government for all the ills of the land and people just grateful they were still alive and with a house to live in.

A side trip to see the partly burnt bridge at Bingo Mungie North was made, it made us realise just how close this community came to being cut off. A steep climb (and bike push) over Mt Blowhard gave us a view of Omeo Lake.... Not far to our bed for the night with friends at Benambra, who survived the fires...the husband had spent much time in 'Elvis' identifying the locations of the fires for the fire fighters and for Elvis' water drops. Cont. p. 6

FEBRUARY 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	7 Tennis Womens	10 Tennis Stitchers Garden BBQ		ART 7 Tennis		Tennis
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	Recycle L.lunch Tennis	10 Tennis		Art. 7 Tennis		10 Market Tennis
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
	7 Tennis	10 Tennis. Stitchers. Book Club		ART 7 Tennis		Tennis
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
	Recycle L.lunch 7 Tennis	10 Tennis		1030 S.M.B. 7 Tennis	MOVIE	10 Market. Tennis

29<sup>th</sup> Leap Year

**SMB** Men's Morning Tea Gordon Brown 9730 1937  
Last Thursday 10:30 at Cheese Freaks Café and Store Yarra Glen

**STITCHERS** Jane Calder 5965 2372 Christine Tomlins 5965 2080

1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1:30 – 4 at SC4

24 members, 10 regulars; work on community effort for afternoon tea raffle in May (anti cancer tea + raffle = \$ 1700) plus own work: crochet, knit, patch, embroidery, since 1993. **March 2<sup>nd</sup> Joy Webb quilter from Lilydale.**

**TALKS** SC4 Committee

Anyone with ideas and suggestions regarding topics and presenters please bring forward suggestions. Travel, flora, fauna, health, all of interest !

**TENNIS** Albie Leckie 5965 2354 Lindy Montell 5965 2202

Since 1911 Newsletter, Competitions, 80 active and social members

2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 11am Ladies Social Lunch, Monday 7pm Social Tennis, Tuesday 10am Mid Week Ladies Competition, Thursday 7pm Hard Hitting Men, Saturday 1-6 Regular Competitions.

**CLAMBERERS** Margaret Houston 9730 1957

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday April – October

Since 1993; the walking group hikes over local tracks to explore the flora and fauna of the valley and surrounding areas. Walks announced at SC4 Market beforehand or ring Margaret.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:30 SC4— Bring good ideas, time to start on Christmas Heirloom projects for next year ... **only 332 days until Christmas !!** Come for Company, Crafts, and Coffee ... **W4C.**

THANKS TO **ERIC TETLOW** FOR IMPROVING THE CALENDAR LAYOUT

**SC4 = Steels Creek Community and Cultural Centre**

MARCH 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Tennis Womens	Stitchers Tennis		Art Tennis		Market Tennis
7 10 CLEAN UP Australia Day BBQ	8 Recycle L.Lunch Tennis	9 Garden outing. Tennis	10	11 Art. Tennis	12 MOVIE	13 Tennis
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Tennis	Stitchers. Tennis Book Club		Tennis		Market. Tennis.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Recycle LLunch Tennis	Tennis		1030 SMB Tennis	MOVIE	
28	29	30	31			
		Tennis				

**ART** Malcolm Calder 5965 2372  
Thursday 1:30 – 4:30 SC4 Bring your paints, discuss your art and share skills. Last month's watercolour workshop by Louise Foletta + 10 regulars and international artists a great success.

**BOOK GROUP** Les Tomlins 5965 2080  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 15 Members Limited by CAE resources and lively discussions in member's homes. Luncheon meetings June, July August **One space remaining February 2004.**

**GARDEN** Christine Tomlins 5965 2080 Gillian Poulton 5797 8266  
Newsletter, Outings, November Flower Show Since 1992, 63 members  
Fourth Monday Growing Group 9am SC4 all welcome.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Outings and talks resume in March  
3 Feb 6PM Launch & Farewell 169 Hunts Lane BYO everything; salad to share; BBQ available

**MARKET** Jean Lowe 5965 2294  
2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday SC4 10 am sharp; community announcements, local fresh produce, preserves, baked goods, home made scones, coffee and tea. **Bring used jam jars to trade with the makers ...'tis the fruiting season.**

**MOVIE** Jean Lowe 5965 2294 Chris Mullen 5965 2094  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 6:00 Supper followed by screenings 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Friday SC4 Classic Films with classy food from 6pm.  
Contribution \$5 for food and donation for film. Email reminder available via [chris@fullandplenty.com](mailto:chris@fullandplenty.com)

## Peta Pedals

Cont. from P. 3

Days 4 and 5 had us heading north to Corryong. This road is all gravel and with 27 km of uphill to Mt Sassafras it was a huge challenge. Timber jinkers passed on cue every twenty minutes, meaning we had to move over to let them pass. The weather deteriorated with constant rain and sleet. My gear cable became clogged with muck and I couldn't engage the bottom gear so my legs had to work extra hard to get me to the top! The fires had obviously gone thru this area along fingers of bush. Some was burnt clear other areas not touched. One farmer, out fencing, had a beautiful hand built log cabin. His house and land untouched ....But ...three weeks ago a mini tornado hit his river paddock tearing down his 5 prized shade gum trees and damaging his fences (and there was no insurance for this!).

After a cold camp out at Skenes Bridge we treated ourselves to a cabin in Corryong. The final day dawned - Corryong to Tallangatta- only 80 km today. Well, from the first pedal we knew this was going to be a tough day! A headwind blew hard. Our anticipated average rate of 20 km/hr would not be achieved. In fact the first 3 hours we averaged 9km/hr! From Corryong the other fire areas around Mt Mitta matite could be seen. From a distance there looked to be no fire damage. However, when you get the chance to get up close you get the full picture. This is just what we had achieved over the past 6 days, riding, breathing and seeing for ourselves some of Victoria's marvellous country.

Submitted by **Peta Whitford**

In issue, # 45, of "THE JOLLY THING", the question was asked "***How did Brocks Spur get its name ?***"

The answer may be in the Yarra Glen Cemetery : 1899. John Brock, buried, aged 53. The 1903 Electoral Roll lists John & Johanna Brock as residents of Steels Creek. John & James Brock are listed as miners at St.Andrews/Queenstown, 1873 - 79. So it would seem that the Brock family had a long association with this district and it is highly probable that Brocks Spur is named after a member of the clan. By **Eric Tetlow**

Brock Spur is a popular walking destination for the **Clamberers**.

## ***CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS CAROLS CHRISTEN CHAIRS 5C***

Several banks of fold down theatre style seats appeared at SC4 in time for more than 50 carollers. Special thanks to **Pam Verhoven**

Would a games club be a go? Board Games, Card Games, Charades???
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## **Beat the Weeds and the Rain – Go Native**

I would like to invite people to put in their orders for native plants with Chris and Steve Fletcher, purveyors of fine indigenous species, including trees, shrubs and grasses. Large orders attract good discounts, as low as \$1.00 per plant. Perhaps some people might like to be part of a "bulk order" that I am putting together with other residents. If so, they are welcome to contact me on 5965 2535. I hope to put the order in by mid-Feb so that we can be ready for the autumn rain. Thanks **Rob Fallon**

## **CLEAN UP OUR DRIVEWAY and FREE LUNCH 7 March**

Many travellers through Steels Creek comment on the beauty and lovely surroundings; some never finding the correct address as they are so distracted by the scenery. Lurking beneath the shrubbery are countless discards and rubbish – enough to fill a tip last year. Join the crew again this season for a rousing romp through the verge followed by a sausage at SC4 ... Meet at 916 Steels Creek Road or at the cemetery at 10 AM with gloves; bags provided, trailers helpful, walk toward SC4 and a sausage sizzle provided by the Tennis Club. Clean Up Australia Day – the celebration continues!

Contacts: Yarra Valley Tree Group **Jackie Hamlet** 9730 1268; Steels Creek Community **Chris Mullen** 5965 2094  
[www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au)

## **MOVIE CLUB – FLASH GORDON RETURNS TO EARTH ... finally !**

Light supper at 6PM for \$ 5 followed by the show. SC4

### **27-February**

Flash Gordon Ch.12 **Trapped in the Turret**

**The Third Man** \*\*\*\* (1949) 104m, story Graham Greene; with: Joseph Cotton Orson Welles, Trevor Howard; British *noir* set in post-war Vienna. Harry Lime's memorable comments on the Swiss make for a classic thriller.

### **12-March**

Flash Gordon Ch.13 **Rocketing to Earth** at last! The end of the series ...

**Top Hat** \*\*\*\* (1935) 101m, songs by Irving Berlin; with: Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Edward Everett Horton, Eric Blore; "Isn't This a Lovely Day?, Cheek to Cheek" song and dance the way through mistaken identity comedy amid stunning *Art Deco* set designs.

### **26-March**

Buster Keaton (1920) **The Blacksmith** by request ... early silent comedy.

**The Scarlet Pimpernel** \*\*\* (1934) 98m, prod Alexander Korda; with Leslie Howard, Merle Oberon, Raymond Massey, Joan Gardner; a good humoured adventure set during the French revolution.

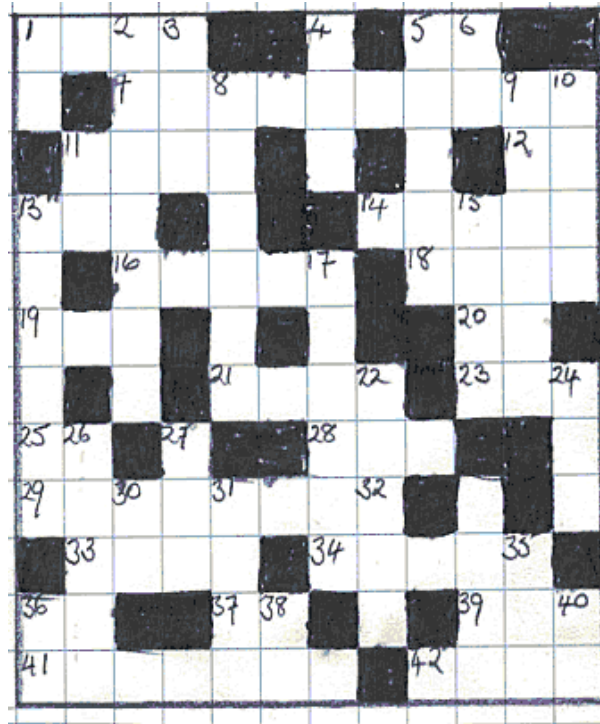
ACROSS

1. Flinders' mate (4)
5. High --- Silver (2)
7. Large black birds (10)
11. Acres or Hectares? (4)
12. Thor Heyerdahl's 2<sup>nd</sup> raft (2)
13. Past of eat (3)
14. Biblical "born to" (5)
16. The scourge of every gardener (5)
18. ....because nothing will ---the Governor-General (4)
19. Herb of Grace (3)
20. Abbreviated American eastern seaboard State (2)
21. Narrow headland (4)
23. Arafat's mob (3)
25. ---pipes (2)
28. .... who will ---me of this turbulent priest? (3)
29. important source of recycled aluminium (5,3)
33. Not for (4)
34. No such crossings in Steels Creek (5)
36. ---Shop (2)
37. ---Tree Oil (2)
39. Mohammedan chief (3)
41. Heavy (7)
42. ---All Hours (4)

DOWN

1. University degree (2)
2. Stronger than nailed (7)
3. Prosecute (3)
4. Steve Waugh's good with this (3)
5. Limited use during water restrictions (5)
6. ---Golden Pond (2)
8. The Tower of London's birds (6)
9. Windscreen breaker (6)
10. Satisfy (4)
11. Breakfast --- Tiffany's (2)
13. Overseas (6)
15. Old umbrella (4)
16. Married (3)
17. Late grape (6)
22. Prongs (5)
24. Mineral aggregate
26. 17 down (5)
27. Bull --- (3)
30. --- God We Trust (3)
31. --- and kin (4)
32. Two wheeled horse drawn vehicle (4)
35. Melbourne's broadsheet newspaper (3)
36. Ouch (2)
38. Computer science (2)
40. Definite article (2)

CROSS CREEK © J&J wordsmiths



**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 2294. Treasurer: Eric Tetlow 9730 1445, Secretary: Margaret Houston 9730 1957.

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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 **Wednesday March 31, 2004.**