

# YARRA GLEN & DISTRICT TOWNSHIP GROUP

## *Newsletter No 9*

### **HOW GREEN IS MY VALLEY?**

The rain mentioned in our last newsletter (over 50mm fell in the week in Dixons Creek) had a wonderful impact on the look of the valley and helped with a tinge of green for what was a very big weekend in our district. Considering how dry it has been before this soaking rain, you have to admire the resilience of the grasses that grow throughout the valley.

### **MELBA FESTIVAL**

The weather was not good news for all the activities of the Melba Festival, as the much anticipated balloon nightglow planned for Friday evening had to be cancelled and the street performers and classic motor vehicles adding life to Bell Street on the Saturday morning were drenched by a sudden deluge of rain! Apart from that however, the remainder of the activities appear to have received good reports and the weather of Sunday was most pleasant for the activities held that day.

I managed to have the opportunity to hear two local performers over the weekend: **Rita Van Woi** who played the oboe at **Yarra Track's** release of their Hamish's Pinot Noir 2005 and **Barbara Jeffrey** a balladist and harpist who gave a 40 minute concert of her own material and some wonderful old Irish ballads at **Miller's Dixon Creek Estate**.

The festival has now been established as a significant event in the Yarra Valley and it is hoped that it will grow from strength to strength over the next few years. Congratulations to **Marjorie Woollands** and her team of helpers.

### **YARRA VALLEY RACING CENTRE**

**Brett Shanbrook**, from the **Yarra Valley Racing Centre** was another who had mixed feelings about the rain during the week. The club had been able to irrigate to ensure that the track was in top condition for the big racing day, **The Yarra Glen Cup** on Sunday and the rain added just a bit too much water to the mix, causing mud in some areas!

Despite this the sunshine and crowd on Sunday ensured the right mix for a very successful day's racing which included for the first time **The Melba Plate**.

With the right mix of politicians, councilors and sponsors in the crowd, no doubt Brett was relieved that the meeting went so well.

Particularly as the past two **Yarra Glen Cups** have had to be cancelled (2005 due to a deluge of rain) or held elsewhere (2006 in Cranbourne due to problems with the grass)!

## **YARRA GLEN RSL SPONSORS ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE ACTIVITIES**

**Ed Bartosh**, the very active Secretary of Yarra Glen RSL sent me the following email:

On Wednesday, April 25, 2007, we are again commemorating the anniversary of ANZAC Day. The Yarra Glen RSL is planning for local events, beginning with a parade from the Yarra Glen Police Station and continuing to the Memorial Hall at the corner of ANZAC Avenue and Bell Street. This year, those who wish to join the parade at the top of the hill may do so at the alley beside Rosier Realty. There will be a remembrance ceremony at the Memorial, to be followed by a reception in the Memorial Hall. Featured speakers will be Councillor Jeanette McRae and students from the Yarra Glen and Dixons Creek Primary Schools. Members of the public who wish to place a wreath to commemorate the sacrifices of deceased veterans are welcome to participate, and they should contact the Secretary, Ed Bartosh, in advance of the day to make arrangements. The parade will start at 10:15 a.m., and the service will commence at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Also, the Yarra Glen Sub-Branch will be selling ANZAC tokens at the Yarra Glen IGA on Thursday mornings starting 5th April until ANZAC Day to raise funds for its welfare activities. Every cent collected for the tokens goes directly into our Patriotic Funds General Appeals. If you wish more information on the events or membership in the RSL, please contact Ed Bartosh at 9730 2858.

The Returned & Services League of Australia, Yarra Glen Sub-Branch holds regular meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Memorial Hall. Our mission is to support the well-being and betterment of our members, former and serving members of the ADF, and their dependants, with the provision of welfare and commemorative services and, where appropriate, contribute to the worthy needs within the community.

### **ART SHOW REMINDER**

Don't forget **The Yarra Glen Art Show** to be held at Balgownie Estate, Melba Hwy, Yarra Glen, Vic over Easter (6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2007).

Full details can be found on the website [www.virtual.net.au/~yarraglenartshow/](http://www.virtual.net.au/~yarraglenartshow/) or by contacting Christine Mullen by email: [artshow@fullandplenty.com](mailto:artshow@fullandplenty.com).

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