

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 71 – May 2020

Produced by:
Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourt.vic.au/news

Volunteers Show the Way



VOLUNTEERS FROM HARCOURT have put their hands up to assist with apple picking and packing for Bendigo Foodshare which is experiencing a huge increase in demand due to the current health crisis.

Over two sessions of picking, six bins were picked, with an additional four bins being donated by orchard workers. Wednesday is the day for packing the fruit at the Coolstore. In a short session, one or two bins can be sorted and packed while there's a bit of friendly chat and company.

The photos top and below right show our volunteers, including overseas and interstate

family members who are enjoying their time in Harcourt but who are looking forward to resuming travel plans! At the lower left with the apple bins are Bridget Bentley, Manager, and Annie Constable, Warehouse and Logistics Manager, from Bendigo Foodshare, who have expressed much appreciation of the local effort.

Read more on page 2 in the Harcourt Progress Association Report.

Special for this month: Indigenous Plants of Harcourt – cut off the back page of *The Core* to make a trifold pamphlet to keep, and get planting! Courtesy of Harcourt Valley Landcare.

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 6th of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and community groups will be sent reminder emails. **There is no edition in January.**



Harcourt Progress Association

Volunteering: Changing Community, Changing Lives



Well here we are, another month into lockdown and hopefully embracing our new normal. A huge thanks go out to the team at *The Core* for keeping up its publication against all odds. This edition has a focus on volunteers and volunteering; a phenomenon we have in abundance in our small corner of the world.

Monday 18 May – Sunday 24 May 2020 is National Volunteer Week, the theme of which is Changing Communities: Changing Lives. I think most people who engage in volunteer work (and there are many in Harcourt) would agree that it is their own life that changes the most.

This month, contributors to *The Core* from community groups have emphasised the important roles which volunteers play within their organisations and how that contributes to the Harcourt community and beyond.

Volunteering often comes as a response to a crisis and this COVID-19 crisis is no exception. In Harcourt the opportunity has arisen to bring together local volunteers and businesses to provide a vital link to support Bendigo Foodshare. It is a textbook case study on volunteering. In this instance we have an apple grower donating produce, volunteer apple pickers and some of the paid workers donating their free time, the local Coolstore offering its facilities and volunteers packaging the

apples for distribution around the region, including Castlemaine. This is a great initiative for the Harcourt community and will be expanded in the foreseeable future into packaging of donated chick peas and possibly other fruit and vegetables. While not an initiative of HPA, we support and celebrate these efforts, as we do of all other voluntary organisations in our community.

Bendigo Foodshare delivery area stretches in the north to Pyramid Hill, to the east to Heathcote, in the south to Beaufort and in the west to St Arnaud. In 2019 they cooperated with 89 community organisations charities and schools. These groups then use the donated goods to prepare meals or put together grocery packs for needy families. This work goes on within our communities and we are often not aware of it. Residents of Castlemaine and surrounds regularly benefit from Bendigo Foodshare deliveries. The Harcourt Lions are now playing a role at the Mount Alexander Community Pantry in Castlemaine, located at the Church of Christ. This is a multi-charity group effort which has also arisen because of the pandemic. Some of the apples picked at Harcourt will find their way into meals and care packages prepared at the Community Pantry.

As part of the care we can show our neighbours we can connect them with the Mount Alexander Community Pantry with the following information: For pre-

prepared meals or food packages contact the Intake Coordinator on 0472 537 866, email: mtalexcommunitypantry@gmail.com or order online at: www.cch.org.au/communitypantry. Pick up can be organised from the Church of Christ on Blakeley Road in Castlemaine or delivered between 10 am – 1 pm the following day. Please call the central number to register before attending.

The Harcourt Progress Association, after the initial shock of the lockdown, has met a couple of times to reorganise and prioritise its work over the next few months, sadly we had to abandon the Twilight Market and Easter Egg Hunt for this year – but next year will bring many opportunities to rebuild and support our local producers, and to have public events which so many people enjoy. We are, nevertheless, excited about some of the other things that are still to happen around town and are discussed elsewhere in this edition.

We have a meeting scheduled with the Mount Alexander Shire Council CEO, Darren Fuzzard, to discuss Plan Harcourt; the planning and zoning implications for the township; and the maintenance of the roundabout at the entrance of the town. We will keep you updated in the next edition of *The Core*. In the meantime, enjoy the rain and stay safe and well.

Sha Cordingley, President



Merv Carr ~ Katie Finlay ~ Sas Allardice

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NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020
VOLUNTEER
CHANGING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES. **WEEK**

LIMERICK *by another bard.*

There was a young woman called Iris
Who avoided the Corona Virus
She maintained social distance
While giving assistance
She never fails to inspire us!

Harcourt Pre-School Play Centre Relocation Project Update

As announced by Maree Edwards, State MP for Bendigo West on Monday, February 3 2020, Harcourt Pre-School Play Centre is to have a new home at Harcourt Valley Primary School. The YMCA, the provider, will receive funding of \$812,500 in Victorian Government grant funding towards the delivery of this project from the Children's Facility Capital Program. In addition, the YMCA and Harcourt Pre-School Play Centre Parent Committee have provided co-contributions towards the project. The Department of Education and Training will support this project by providing the modular kindergarten facility, which will be a two-room (up to 66 licenced places) facility.

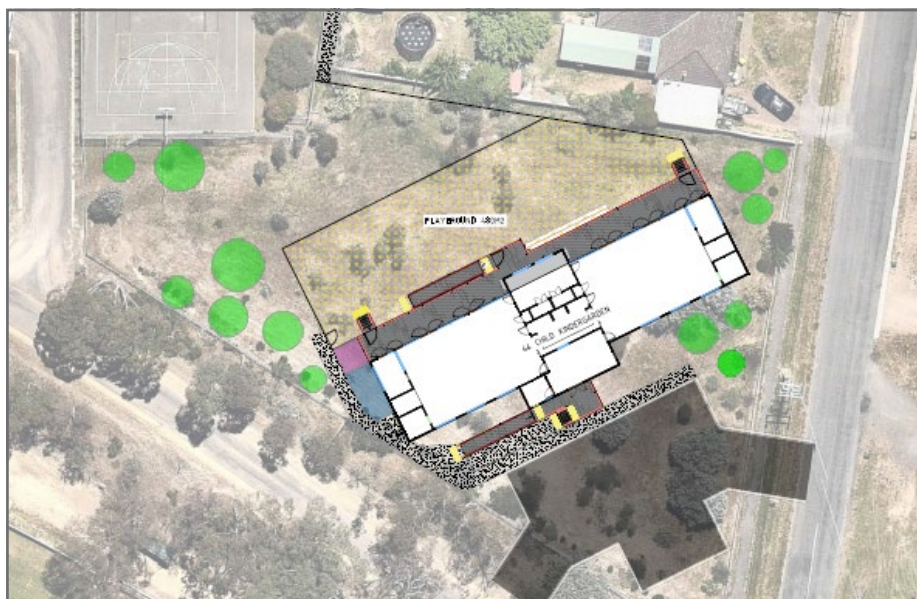
Since this announcement, the stakeholder group for Harcourt Pre-School relocation project, consisting of representatives from the primary school, Parent Committee, YMCA, Mount Alexander Shire Council and Department of Education and Training, has been meeting regularly to plan for the delivery of the kindergarten. The facility will provide the school and broader community increased access to early childhood education.

In particular, the stakeholder group has been busy identifying the best orientation of the building and playground, to best make use of the land and meet Pre-School, community and school needs. The stakeholder group has also been consulting on the design plans for the playground, which will emphasise natural materials.

The above site plan shows the proposed indicative layout for the new Harcourt Pre-School, which will be located on the corner of Mills Street and Bingham's Road.

In the coming weeks, fencing will be erected as site preparation begins for the arrival of the kindergarten, which will be delivered by the Victorian School Building Authority in partnership with Grove Group. It's a modular kindergarten facility, which is constructed offsite – minimising disruption. It is expected that the Pre-School relocation will be completed by the end of 2020.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team delivering the kindergarten will take the proper precautions necessary on site to protect the wellbeing of the Harcourt community, including nearby residents to the new site, and their own workers.



Further information on this project can be found at www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/schools/Pages/NewHarcourtEarlyLearningCentre.aspx

For more information about the relocation of the Harcourt Kindergarten contact:

Angela Lloyd, Team Leader Early Childhood Performance & Planning Adviser, Department of Education and Training

Phone: (03) 4433 7527

Email: lloyd.angela.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

December Completion for Playspace

The Shire has announced that tenders are open for the construction of Harcourt's exciting new play space. The play space has been designed with elements which reflect Harcourt's heritage. Construction is to begin in July, and it should be completed in December 2020. Council is funding the play space in partnership with the Victorian Government, which is providing a \$250,000 grant. Harcourt Progress Association has generously contributed \$6,500 courtesy of a Maldon Community Bank grant. To see the design of the play space, go to the Mount Alexander Shire website and search for "Harcourt Playspace." The information will appear with a download of the design available at the foot of the page.





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The Picnic That Wasn't

Early in February, before the pandemic restrictions changed life in Australia, half a dozen people met around a kitchen table to plan the fifth Picnic Welcoming Refugees and Newcomers. Already the date had been set for Harmony Day in March, grants applied for (of which one was successful) and bookings made (some bookings prepaid).

This report is a tribute to those hard working people. Between them all, so much preparation was already in place well before we decided regretfully to cancel the event. There were classroom resources on refugees for the schoolchildren in the district, articles in local newspapers, posters and other publicity, a raffle organised, more grants applied for, food sourced and promised, emergency procedures spelt out, people assigned to drive buses, businesses asked to provide equipment on the day, and so much more.

Key to it all was the contact with three Melbourne centres which support refugees and people seeking asylum. Eighty to one hundred refugees were really keen to come to Castlemaine Botanical Gardens for a day out in fresh country air, to enjoy the games and petting zoo and the culturally-appropriate lunch provided by the community. They would be pleasantly surprised, perhaps, by the Welcome and Smoking Ceremony. It may be the first time they encountered an event where almost all waste was recycled. But assuredly they would experience the warmth of conversation and acceptance that the local community could offer.

Sadly, because Corona virus was on the rise, we decided that the much-anticipated event could not go ahead, and the Chief Health Officer's advice the next day corroborated our decision.

One thing that did go ahead was the raffle to raise funds by ticket sales and donations, mainly at Applefest and Wesley Hill market. By the time we pulled the plug, the amount of money in the bank would have made a healthy contribution to the travel costs of our guests. We decided to send that money to the refugee support centres anyway.

Another thing we had organised was to give each visiting family a Boomerang Bag containing small gifts and snacks. Families would also have chosen children's books (second-hand from the FOCAL book sale) to add to the bags. We couldn't afford to post the books, but we did send a parcel containing ten Boomerang Bags of goodies to each of the support centres.

More than ever, refugees on temporary visas are facing a dire situation, exacerbated by Corona virus measures. Many have lost work, and are not eligible for any government support, nor covered by Medicare. Those who are stuck in detention centres are in high-risk environments for the spread of COVID-19. They continue to need our support, our advocacy and our friendship.



Although we were unable to share that friendship face to face with the families and others seeking asylum, we hope that all that we did has also led to greater awareness of the situation they are now in, in our local community.

Our thanks to everyone who prepared, helped, encouraged and donated to make the picnic a welcome to refugees and a successful community gathering.

Special thanks go to Maldon and District Community Bank (MDCB) whose grant was used to pay for two thirds of the Animals2U petting zoo. Even before MDCB knew we were unable to obtain a refund from the petting zoo, they forgave us our debt. The fee we had paid became a donation to help feed the farm animals.

Thanks also to Mount Alexander Shire Council, who awarded us a Quick Response Grant, which in the end we did not take up.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes, to MAXI IGA and IGA on Barker Street for the snacks, to Community House for their help with flyers and publicity, and to the fantastic team who willingly gave up their time to plan in positive detail everything to make the picnic a success.

Solway Nutting, Elder for Harcourt Uniting Church, member of Rural Australians for Refugees, Castlemaine.

ANZAC Day



Celebrations were quiet and mostly private for ANZAC Day in Harcourt this year. A number of residences flew flags or had displays of poppies for all to see. Others followed suggestions from Diana at the Harcourt Heritage Centre to celebrate by baking ANZAC biscuits or by reading or listening to an ANZAC story or by virtually visiting our the National War Museum or other archives.

Diana from Harcourt Heritage, along with her mum Margaret, picked up their knitting needles, while Harcourt resident Marjolein used her crochet hook to make poppies. They then went on to decorate the Cenotaph in Stanley Park.



Harcourt CWA to Celebrate 90th Anniversary in 2020

While I was thinking of something to write in this time of isolation, I was reminded of this photograph of the ladies who were the pioneers in the establishment of the CWA here in Harcourt.

Our Branch celebrates its 90th Birthday this year - that's ninety years of supporting and caring for women and their families who live in the Harcourt Valley.



Harcourt CWA in 1930.

These ladies lived in Harcourt and surrounding areas and, when help was needed by members of their community, they put on their hats and coats and offered support and friendship to those in need. When all you want is someone to talk to, or you are feeling out of sorts and have problems that seem insurmountable, nothing beats sitting at the table with a plate of freshly baked biscuits as centre piece, a hot cup of tea to drink and someone there to listen.

Well things are a bit different right now, but our Thoroughly Modern Millies at Harcourt CWA are still providing the support, friendship and care that our predecessors did so well, but in a very different way - via that wonderful invention called the Internet.

Internet, Skype, Face Time, Face Book, email, these words and what they stand for have enabled the same connection to be maintained, just as they did ninety years ago.

Our President, Helen Hand, has a regular ring around, checking in on those who live alone, having a chat and offering help where needed. Members send each other emails with jokes, funny photos, and recipes to try. Bev Orgill had a great idea recently with her Quarantine Recipe Exchange.



Some of the Harcourt 2020 Modern Millies

And Marie Twyford kept our brain cells working with this brain teaser:

"Hello friends - a chocolate for the member who answers this correctly - winners in a hat if more than one guesses the correct answer: 'Someone had three brothers called North, South and East. What is his name?'"

Took me ages to win that chocolate! It turns out that punctuation (or the lack of it) is really important.

But no, it's not the same as sitting at the kitchen table eating freshly baked biscuits and chatting with a friend, but until we are free of the Coronavirus, it's the best we can do and the ladies at Harcourt CWA are doing it well.

*Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA*

LOVE YOUR PET? SEND US A PICTURE!

Send your photos to the editor:
news@harcourt.vic.au
with a statement about
why you love your pet.

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday			
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25

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This month I'd really like to give a shout-out to the staff at our branches, who have done an amazing job of stepping up and responding to the COVID-19 challenges.

Banking is an essential service, so we've kept the Maldon branch open six days a week (as per normal hours of operation) throughout the lock-down. However, as our other two branches reduced the days they were open (they'll be returning to their regular operating days in early May), our staff spread the available work hours around to ensure everyone could keep working.

Our branch staff have also cheerfully taken on the risk of being 'frontline' workers, meeting customers face-to-face every day (albeit behind our newly installed safety screens), and we commend them for it.

They've also managed new protocols, taken on a lot of extra cleaning and sanitising, delayed leave in some cases, and patiently worked with customers – particularly elderly and those with high needs – to help them access services like online banking, the banking app and telephone banking.

The board is conscious of maintaining a safe working environment for our staff, and so has encouraged our customers to try new (for some) ways of banking, and to

ring before they come in to see if their banking can take place over phone or online.

Some customers prefer to keep coming into our bank branches, as they really value the human contact. We're proud that our staff have willingly provided the friendly face and chat that some of our customers seem to need more than ever in these times of social isolation.

Our branch and company staff are all local – if you ever pop into one of our branches, you'll probably know someone! Providing local employment is just one of the ways our community banking model (where profits are returned to the community rather than going to shareholders) puts cash back into the local community.

Our staff have coped with this very unusual situation with professionalism, calmness and creativity – even coming up with a novel way of celebrating our recent 21st birthday with a toilet roll 'cake' and giving gifts to the community.

Gifts of \$1,000 were provided to two local groups, the Mount Alexander Community Pantry and the Dunolly Primary School community, to support vulnerable community members during the pandemic.

The Mount Alexander Community Pantry food relief partnership is run by Castlemaine Community

House and supported by the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, with extra support from other local charitable organisations. For those in need in the Mount Alexander Shire, phone and email requests are taken between 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday on 0472 537 866 or mtalexcommunitypantry@gmail.com

Our message at the Maldon & District Community Bank Branch remains 'we're here to help'. There's lots we can do to help if you're experiencing financial difficulties, so please:

- get in touch with our branch if you need help on 5475 1747,
- visit our Facebook Page (Maldon and District Community Bank Branch) for regular updates,
- call Bendigo Bank's Mortgage Help Centre on 1300 652 146 (available 7 am–11 pm),
- go to the Bendigo Bank website www.bendigobank.com.au/help/coronavirus-assistance-package/,
- if you need help with your community project, funding etc, contact our executive officer Karly Smith on 0478 435 110 or executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au

Stay well, everyone!

*Katie Finlay, Director
Maldon & District Community Bank*

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Harcourt Bowling Club

Greens at the Bowls Club are in Safe Hands

Since the COVID-19 epidemic declaration all social and bowling activity at the Bowling Club has ceased for the time being.

While the green is closed it has been an opportunity for our **Greens Director** to rally his team and do some much needed maintenance of the green. It is currently covered in sand!

Ron Douglas has been taking care of our Green at the Bowling Club for many years now. It's a huge task, which he has taken on with a great deal of care and dedication, working with other members to do whatever is required to maintain our green.

Thanks go to Darrell Normington, Brett Jenkinson, Rod Harris, Iain McGibbin and Ken Tribe who spent many hours spreading sand on the green to assist with the levelling works.

Without a green you just cannot have a bowling club, so the work of Greens Keeper and the team is, paramount.

Ron is no stranger to volunteering and was awarded a Life Membership at the Club about 5 years ago.

He has, over many years held most positions of responsibility – Tournament Director, Secretary, Vice President and President – and even when not holding such a position has kept a watchful eye on all that is going on within and around the Club.

So ... while many of us are in lockdown, Ron is on the go keeping an eye on the Club and preparing the green so that we can accommodate all our teams next season.



Attached is a picture of the green and the work being done to aerate it. The green will now need to be rolled again and fertilised in preparation for its dormant stage.

Let's hope we are back to normal soon and on that beautifully prepared green bowling our best for Harcourt! Stay well everyone.

On a sad note – The Harcourt Bowling Club Board, on behalf of the members, extends our sympathy and good wishes to all our Police and Emergency Services members on the tragic loss of their four colleagues.



Harcourt Uniting Church

What a change we have been experiencing throughout the world with the COVID-19 restrictions. Those of us born since the early

1950's have not experienced World Wars or the Great Depression. Yes, many families were affected by the Vietnam War and the recent wars in the Middle East however our day to day life in Australia wasn't really been restricted to any great extent.

At Harcourt Uniting Church (and indeed all Churches in Australia) our regular services and meetings are all cancelled. The week prior to the lock down it was announced that we were allowed to hold services with less than 50 people present as long as we practised social distancing. Our Church wasn't large enough for that so we were able to meet in our hall spread around the room with a bottle of sanitiser at the door!! At Harcourt we would be very happy to be able to welcome 50 people at our regular services!!

As in many organisations, meeting face to face to socialise with the group is a very important aspect and the Church isn't any different. To try and overcome the isolation a small group of us are keeping in touch with Church members by phone, email or leaving hard copies of the Minister's service in letter boxes. Our minister has been preparing weekly services for the congregation to read in their homes. Some larger Churches such as Weeroona Uniting Church in Bendigo and Mt Waverly Uniting Church in Melbourne are conducting online services which anyone can view online. Many other denominations are doing the same.

Easter is one of the most important celebrations on the Christian calendar; however our usual Dawn Service followed by BBQ breakfast in Stanley Park was not to be. One of our older members commented that this was the first time in all her 80 plus years that she hadn't attended an Easter service.

Our Church Fellowship group has also had to be cancelled. Holding a Zoom meeting would be a little daunting for some of our older members. Our Fellowship visiting program has been modified with members keeping in touch with phone calls and cards.

It has been interesting to read in the media of the many recipe suggestions for those having to "cook their own meals" every day. One article that amused me was headed "Retro meals Grandma cooked"!! Well I must confess that I already use many of those recipes suggested so I must be a bit retro myself. Talking of food, thank you to our local businesses who are working so hard to reinvent themselves and serve our community whilst we are being reminded to "stay at home."

Quote seen online:

"The world has turned upside down – the older parents are sneaking out of the house to shop and their adult kids are yelling at them to "stay home."

Jan Jenkin





Teaching Remotely

A perspective from Mrs Hargreaves, our terrific Art teacher at HVPS

I often get asked what a normal day for a teacher looks like. My reply is usually, “there is never a normal day.” No matter how well planned, rarely does a day end up looking the same on paper as it does by the end of the actual day. There is always something unexpected that pops into your day. Sometimes it is something small or sometimes a big grenade is thrown and just like that your day veers off script and into the unexpected. Teaching keeps you on your toes. There is never a dull moment but instead your days are filled with surprise, laughter, frustrations, learning, parent conversations, relationship building, meetings, planning, emails, and of course... yard duty.

Often as teachers we refer to our students as ‘our kids’ and it’s not too far from the truth. We build relationships with our students and we celebrate every exciting milestone like losing a tooth, to the birth of a sibling. We also feel the pain that they experience, whether it is the passing of a pet or family member, to someone close to them being injured in a terrible accident. We walk alongside our students day after day and if you are a specialist teacher like me, it becomes a very important part of your life. After all, teachers spend more waking hours with the students than with their families during a school week.

In the lead up to the school holidays, it was announced that the global pandemic of COVID-19 was going to affect Australia, and that threw a huge spanner into everyone’s lives. All of a sudden school was not going to look the same. Rather, we were going to move into remote learning, social distancing and self-isolation. This announcement placed teachers into overdrive as we had to rearrange those carefully laid out plans for Term 2 and throw ourselves into a whole new world of teaching and learning. For some, like me; it meant trying to work out the new normal of family self-isolation and keeping my own children occupied whilst my husband, who is also a teacher and I got our heads around the new technologies, platforms and video conferences that we were now going to have to undertake.

Everyone’s school holidays looked different this year, but for teachers it was time for us to work like we have never worked before. Within 2 weeks, I had undertaken more self-learning, professional development and communication with colleagues than I would usually do in a year. All of this was while entertaining my own children, breaking up arguments between the two kids, trying to find new local businesses to order groceries online and of course, find a roll of toilet paper.

Before we knew it, the school ‘holidays’ were over and it was straight into school, remote learning style. For our family this meant that not only would my husband and I be teaching remotely, we would also have to care for our 4 year old daughter and teach our son who is in Grade 1. Every day has been different. What worked well for our family yesterday won’t necessarily work the next day. What kept my daughter entertained whilst I helped my son join into his daily Microsoft Teams roll call with his class, didn’t work the next day.

Term 2 has been hard for everyone but there have been many positive things that have come out of this hard time. It wasn’t until the first time I was able to see my students via Google Meets that I realised just how much I had missed their smiles, laughter and unique personalities. I appreciated their individual qualities even more than ever! Not only had I been worried about how my own two children were coping, but I

Students have been working remotely at home on their art work. The students’ work can be found in a virtual art gallery on the school’s website: www.hvps.vic.edu.au



Sienna has created a mean one eyed robot with a pet robot dog.



Amy has taken inspiration from the movie Wall-E to design her robot. She has also coloured her robot using a limited colour palette.

had also been worrying about each of the students that I teach. The frustrations of daily self-isolation life with trying to work, teach and entertain has been hard beyond measure, but being able to connect with the students has been a daily joy. It has cemented the feeling that being a teacher is a huge privilege and a reminder of how important our students are in our lives.

There have been moments when neither, my husband or I have been able to answer a question or help our two children because we’ve both been teaching other kids. This has meant that our children have been required to become more independent. One morning, the children decided after breakfast, that they were hungry and because we were both busy, they decided that helping themselves to ice-cream with chocolate topping would be a great snack. In the past I would have been quite cranky about this, but considering the circumstances, I just went with it, asked for a bowl and joined them. It is small moments of fun like this that I have been treasuring during what has been such a hard season in life.

It is so easy to dwell on the negative but in this moment of remote learning, it is so important to focus on the positive. I have learnt so much more about my own children because I’ve not had a break from seeing them for weeks. I have learnt more about my son who jumps with excitement when he sees his friends’ faces pop up on the roll call each morning. There is such a natural joy in how he sees school this term even though he is stuck at home with two teachers as parents. I have been playing Barbie dolls with my daughter like I did as a child. I have valued the family time whilst watching Lego Masters and wondering what new things we can create together with those tiny blocks of plastic.

Although there have been moments that I have felt broken with the pressures of life during this season, I am reminded that a broken crayon can colour just as beautifully as a new one. I know that one day soon, life and school will start to return to normal. What the new normal will look like is still unknown, but for now, I’m choosing to enjoy what I can and relish in the moments that make those I care about happy.



Harcourt CFA

April Busiest Month this Year

The month of April was busier for turnouts for the Brigade than January and February. We had five primary and five support callouts. Three of the primaries were to Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) including the horrific one at Ravenswood South. The other two were a trip up the Mount to the building below the big tower to an alarm operating and an unregistered burn.

Of the five supports, only one, a burn off that had got away, required our attendance. This was only a small burn but a gust of wind changed the situation suddenly. This highlights the importance of taking the utmost care when conducting your burn and remaining in attendance at all times.

Electrical Safety while Working and Schooling from Home

With a large number of people working from home and students doing schooling from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a heightened risk of electrical fires in the home.

Setting up a temporary office or study area requires basic safety procedures to be followed to ensure there is no risk of starting a fire. The need for extra power outlets and power leads does not mean you take shortcuts. Overloading power points, plugging in extra charging devices or running temporary leads around and/or across rooms will add to this risk and should be avoided. The other risk is having electronic devices laying and/or charging on top of beds. This is one of the more common causes of bedroom fires these days due to the heat they can generate. Doing a quick safety check around the home is well worth the time.

Community Education

Department Boredom Busters

The North West Area Community Education Department (which encompasses our Brigade), has been publicising weekly "Boredom Busters" on their Facebook page. Following are the first three to prompt you on a positive thing you can do during this

social isolation period.

- **No. 1 – Check your smoke alarms.**

With the end of daylight saving, your smoke alarm should have a nice new battery in it. If you have not changed it yet, then get onto it ASAP. Are you testing them monthly? When you do give it a dust and if it is older than ten years, then it needs to be replaced. The Victorian Fire Services (MFB & CFA) recommend using smoke alarms with a 10 year lithium battery. Remember – Only working smoke alarms save lives.

- **No. 2 – Kitchen and Cooking Safety.**

Check that all cooking appliances are turned off before leaving home or going to sleep. Never use water to extinguish an oil or grease fire. Always keep a clear space around your cooktop and oven. Always supervise children in the kitchen. This last point is very valid for the current situation where children are being involved in more kitchen based activities. Remember – keep looking when cooking!

- **No. 3 – Electrical Safety in the Bedroom.**

Many fires which result in death start in bedrooms. Never leave your laptop or mobile phone charging on your bed. Using damaged or overloaded power boards can result in a fire. This is important as generally power points and boards are out of sight in bedrooms so the first you may know of a problem is by smelling something burning.

And if you are looking for something else to do, you can get out your fire plan for a practice run and review. Check your fire extinguishers, fire blankets and your escape plan. Being prepared for an emergency is far better than being caught off guard as this COVID virus has definitely shown.

COVID-19 Precautions

The CFA has increased the measures taken within the organisation to limit the contact between members. Brigade activity is limited to responding to fires and incidents and Sunday morning maintenance with limited people (two only) in attendance. We have implemented a cleaning and sanitising

regime on returning to the fire station after a job.

The Brigade Management Team (Captain, Lieutenants and Secretary) conducted a phone conference call to deal with current business of the brigade.

Hose Drying Rack Update

The new hose drying rack has been built and returned from being galvanised. It is now ready for installation which is planned to occur in May.

Stay safe and hang in there.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Servo Burgled

A burglary at the Service Station at 4.15 am on Friday May 1 took only seven minutes to complete.

Three people wearing balaclavas, with one remaining in the vehicle, smashed the main door. They used angle grinders to remove a small locked roller door covering a section of the cigarette storage.

Cigarettes and money were stolen.

The question needs to be asked about how well prepared they were, as they wasted no time. Perhaps they knew exactly where to look?

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Harcourt Heritage Centre.

This is not the first challenge we have faced.

With the prohibition of meetings and events, community life has virtually ceased. We have habitually relied on informal contacts and routine happenings to keep in touch with our network of friends and acquaintances. For the time being we have to rely on phone calls, cope with a torrent of emails, enjoy a chat across the bitumen (at a social distance) when out walking and, for some of us, on electronic meetings set up on Facetime, Skype or Zoom. Some people feel at a bit of a loss without the normal comings and goings. To some it must seem that society has 'dis-integrated'. There is a certain amount of difficulty, caused by the restrictions, in keeping in touch with our personal networks.

People who move into a new area generally leave their network behind them. It takes time to build up a network, a network of people to trust, people to talk with, people to work with. When community events have ceased and everyone is under orders to stay at home, connectivity between individuals suffers by the loss of informal, day by day contact. Re-establishing networks in both of these situations is sometimes only slowly achieved. One way to do it is to take a dog for a walk. Complete strangers will stop to admire the animal and end up passing the time of day. Another way to expand (or re-build) your social connections is to join in with a community group. Where that may lead is only limited by the amount of time you can spare.

Harcourt Heritage Centre exists to build social networks, to hold things in common for the community and to do an amazing range of things.

- Many new residents of the Harcourt Valley have started building up their local network by enquiring about the history of their home. In the process, they not only learn something, they meet interesting people.
- Unemployed people have re-entered the workforce under Newstart by cataloguing and digitizing the local historical collection. This is not all hard grind; there are plenty of tea breaks along the way.
- People have acquired new skills (and made new friends) by helping to stage the annual Applefest. The warm inner glow from the success of the event is well-earned.
- Volunteers have taken up the challenge of moderating the Harcourt.vic.au website. Many a 'high-five' has been seen when another technical challenge has been met and overcome.
- Under a 'peppercorn lease' from the Shire Council, the century-old ANA Hall has been cared for, utilized and improved. We enjoy working in up-to-date, easy-to-clean facilities.

- Dedicated folk have made the ANA Hall a community 'keeping place' for photos, artefacts and those oh-so-precious letters handed down from the First World War. Families breathe a sigh of relief when they know that the precious documents are to be well cared for.
- Heritage Centre volunteers devise and conduct tours, talks and walks that have proven to be of great interest to a wide audience. Inevitably these events finish with a cup of tea and a bite to eat.
- Harcourt Heritage Centre has won awards for heritage advocacy at both Municipal and State level.
- Harcourt Heritage Centre has been able, from its vast database, to 'put flesh on the dry bones' of historical facts, to the satisfaction and delight of many enquirers; all to the accompaniment of a cup of tea.

We have had tough times in the past. In the late nineteen-nineties, when VicRoads commenced its study for the relocation of the Calder Highway. The Road Authority was required to make an assessment of the historic features of the proposed routes. A historical consultant was retained; the firm made a 'desktop study' and a 'windscreen survey'. In other words, they 'googled' Harcourt and drove up and down the local roads. The consultant then reported back to Vic Roads to the effect that, "There is nothing of significance in the history of Harcourt". The Minister for Roads kindly sent an information copy of this report to Harcourt Heritage Committee. The rest, as they say, is history. This astonishing untruth had to be exposed. A vigorous campaign, led by the late Cameron Lang, proved that the Harcourt valley is chock-a-block with unique homes, notable gardens, a variety of historic sites, some significant quarries and a wealth of important fruit production history. From that vigorous beginning to the present day, Harcourt Heritage Committee has actively pursued its objectives. As soon as it is permitted Harcourt Heritage Centre committee will resume its program and re-open the ANA Hall every Wednesday from 9.00am to 3.00 pm.

The many and varied facets of volunteering at Harcourt Heritage Centre have challenged those who take part – but they have also been rewarding, and the chief reward has been in building networks and enhancing the life of the community – over a cup of tea.

People of the Harcourt Valley may be confident that, when the current stay-at-home period ends, they may re-establish their networks by keeping in touch with Harcourt Heritage Centre.




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Harcourt Heritage Centre

Thomson Brothers in Harcourt

Some people have the rather happy problem of retiring from their lifelong career with time on their hands and money in their bank account. What are they to do? The answer, on more than one occasion has been 'Come to Harcourt'.

Robert Thompson (born 1867) was the second son of Foundry proprietors David and Bessie Thompson. Robert served an apprenticeship in the family engineering business and was admitted to the partnership in 1891, at the age of 24.

He bought two allotments opposite the foundry office on which he built a substantial home *Yaralla*. He took early retirement in 1909, leaving the firm in the hands of his uncle JSM Thompson and his older brother David Thompson (junior). Robert, who was married with a four-year old son, had 'decided to go in for agricultural pursuits' in the vicinity of Harcourt.

Robert Thompson had purchased 1340 acres belonging to Joseph Young north-east of the reservoir. 'Going in for agricultural pursuits' included showing pigs at the September 1910 Royal Agricultural Show where Robert Thompson secured two first and two second prizes.

'Going in for agriculture' involved constructing a model farm, comprising a homestead and a suite of outbuildings. Built in 1908–09, these included a vast barn, built of hardwood of lengths and quality now unobtainable, large enough to accommodate a shearing shed, stables, workshop, fruit-packing and apple house. The loft stored fodder and the empty apple boxes.

Nearby stood the meat-house, complete with upcast shaft-ventilator, a reminder that the family consumed its own mutton. Bees were kept in the loft of the meat-house. The blacksmith's forge is nearby.

All the buildings were clad in galvanised iron of a profile now unobtainable. They were all built in the same style when the enterprise commenced. The property's location, some twelve miles from Castlemaine, justified this self-sufficient layout. But, as we will later see, 'going in for agriculture' for this rich young man, who had just been paid out his share of the family business, the term really meant something a bit more lucrative.

The homestead at the model farm, named *Koongal*, is a timber residence with full-length glass window-doors opening

onto the veranda from most rooms. The style may fairly be labelled 'bungalow'. The builders, had the audacity, in an age of complex and ornamented roofs, to place a simple pyramid upon a square. The pitch of the roof permitted a wide veranda. The front door of *Koongal* faces east while the best views are from the south-facing rooms. The current owner says that all the measurements are metric, suggesting that the builders were of European extraction. It is likely that the builders were brought in from Melbourne.

Koongal was the subject of two feature articles in the *Weekly Times* in May 1910. The first article described the marvelous vegetable garden, and described the introduction of a French cabbage Chou Moellier as 'a delectable forage crop' to sustain the milking herd. The second article described the up-to-date dairy and piggery. But, despite being complimented on his shrewd agricultural policy, Robert Thompson had an even more lucrative venture in mind.

We next find Robert Thompson as the vendor of orchard blocks and grazing land on account of the Harcourt Orchards Estate, blocks well situated and above the frost area. Subdivision and sale of the land was well under way in August 1914 with the sale of 609 acres of land to Mr Bart Ford at a very satisfactory price. The Syndicate was anxious to wind up the estate as there were only a few blocks left.

Robert Thompson had moved his family to Ferntree Gully in 1912.

Samuel Douglas 'Rex' Thompson was the youngest son of David and Bessie Thompson. He was born in 1880 and, like his older brothers, served an apprenticeship in the family engineering business.

Rex Thompson married Lillian Reynolds in 1917. They had one child, Moira, born in 1918.

As the youngest son, Rex was the last Thompson to be involved in the management of the Foundry. He worked independently as a mining engineer after the reconstruction of the Thompsons Company in 1925. Rex Thompson, lived at *Rathfarnum* (7 Parker Street, Castlemaine – demolished in 1970, now the site of the flagpoles next to the foundry office) before moving to Harcourt in the early 1930s. Rex Thompson's daughter told the writer that her father bought the *Pine Lodge* property in about 1932. There was a granite house on the roadway (Reservoir

Road) where 'normal' people of that era built their homes. But Rex wanted a view and a different kind of house, one full of light, so the old house was dismantled and the new *Pine Lodge* was built further east.

That was still during the time of the Depression, and many people were wanting work, so there was no shortage of labour. It was something of a tourist attraction while being built – it was dubbed 'Rex Thompson's Folly'.

It was Rex's design based on Spanish houses that he had seen. The house, as built in the 1930s, had no internal passage. From the living area you walked across a courtyard to the bedrooms. The walls were rough cast when the 'normal' was wallpaper. The kitchen looked out at the view and front of the house. All the service areas, the cool room, laundry, etc, were separate.

Rex Thompson died in 1939 aged 59. Mrs Thompson hosted Patriotic Fund activities at *Pine Lodge*, but then sold the property to Miss Potter in 1942. Miss Potter married Douglas Mactier.

The layout of the house has since been modified. Members of the Mactier family lived at *Pine Lodge* until recently.

Two of the five Thompson brothers came to Harcourt, each for his own reasons. They left behind them two of the more distinctive dwellings to be found on the foothills of Mount Alexander.

This is another in the series of 'thumbnail sketches' of the pioneers and builders of Harcourt. It has been compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre with information from NLA Trove, T M Williams, Moira Taupin and Robyn Lewis.



Chou Moellier at Koongal (Weekly Times, May 1910. It is a huge plant of the kale family grown as forage for dairy cows.



More Family Research

The saying “we are all part of history” has never been as relevant as now. When researching historical events, we always refer firstly to the primary sources like letters and diaries. It is the photographs that can enhance our total understanding of a situation. Looking closely at a photo, especially after it has been digitized, or through a magnifying glass, can reveal even more details; the higher the resolution of a print means the closer you can see the detail. It is this detail we really want to see to uncover the stories of what the photo is telling us.

Let's now go back to your boxes/ albums/folders of photos you have been investigating; you might have found old black and white photos printed on cardboard, some might have been hand coloured, early colour prints that have turned to sepia tones and you may have up to date prints produced on personal printers.

Many you glossed over, while some caused you to pause: **but** when you **stopped**, it most likely was for a wedding portrait. Now I am not going into the meaning of weddings here, but I do want to have a look at what these images can tell us about the time they were taken.

Some of the earliest photographs of weddings would have shown the bride in her ‘Best Sunday Dress’, with the groom standing in his best suit, possibly displaying his watch chain. The veil may appear draped from the back of the head, but often there isn't one. The bouquet was usually a modest bunch of flowers, possibly picked from a nearby garden. The happy couple look emotionless into the camera lens, as the exposure was for many seconds. Moving would blur and damage the photo; this was possibly taken in the photographer's studio, possibly after the event. This event has now been publically acknowledged and captured for history. Being a public statement, no expense was to be spared on the dress and accessories. No one wanted to look as though they didn't have the money for such an event; this kind of photo was seen as a status symbol.

The coming of the Victorian era brought a new fashion: a cream/

white wedding dress, veils and larger bouquets. Large amounts of lace are in evidence along with large bouquets with the flowers representing symbolic wealth.

Queen Victoria's bouquet was a mass of scented symbols. One flower she carried was myrtle, a fragrant plant evoking the love goddesses, Aphrodite and Venus. The delicate, creamy-white blossoms are associated with beauty, fidelity, passion, and immortal, true love.

This wedding photo not only became a must for all couples, it moved out of the studio into real life situation. More attendants could be in the photo even children now appearing. The volumes of lace and embroidery cascaded over the bride while the groom sat in his dark suit, unchanged.

Post World War 1 brings liberation with dresses raised to just below the knee, veils hang from close fitting bonnets and bouquets seem to be getting bigger. To enhance the opulent look, dress fabrics are moving from lace (either handmade or machine made) to satins to reflex the light. The groom is still standing in his dress suit with a white bowtie.

The following decades bring a greater simplicity to dresses, white stockings have been discarded for clear stockings, and bouquets seem to be bigger. The dress is now a sculptured garment showing more of the bride's figure. Even the satin fabric appears to shine more. The flowers now have tails of foliage almost to the floor; attendants continue to appear and the groom is either in Morning or Evening suit. Everyone is now smiling and appears ‘natural’.

There are no photos of all those who attended this public event, not like today when the photographer will be standing on a ladder to get **everyone** in! Back in the 1930s it would be just the immediate bridal and family party. So how do we know who attended to witness this? Will we ever know who are the friends of the happy couple?

For that you we will have to wait until next month!

Happy researching

Diana
Harcourt Heritage
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Weather and Water

What a lovely autumn it has been so far with the warm days extending into early May. Of course the best feature was the plentiful rain. Here at home, we had 13 days of recorded rain with a total of 167.5 mm – surely a record for a good while. My records from 2008 to 2020, which are missing the years 2012 and 2013, show the previous maximum of 151 mm in April of 2017. In 2018 this plummeted to 18 mm for the same month. The lowest rainfall I have on record is 2008 with 12 mm. As we all remember, this was when the drought was really biting. So we should celebrate while we can, as we don't know what the rest of

this year or future years will bring.

April showers helped extend the season for some late summer flowers, and they certainly brought out the mushrooms! The photographs were all taken at home, except for the very grey photo which shows a fungus pushing its way through the solidified mud around the edge of the Harcourt Reservoir. I have shown mostly what I believe to be inedible varieties, but I am no expert. For example, there is no way I would touch the large spongy orange yellow mushroom which bruised blue-green when I touched it. I believe this is of the *Boletus* genus which includes the famous and much sort after porcini mushroom. I also found one pine mushroom, pulled it

up and gave it a good shake in the hope of spreading the spores. We found plenty of edible mushrooms but also the yellow staining type which are such good imitators and are not to be eaten. I also discovered the yellow stainers have a very sharp smell when the stem is pulled out. It was this that helped me make the decision to leave them alone. One Wikipedia reference calls it an “iodine” smell or a smell “like hospitals.” It is amazing that the spores of all these varieties of fungi have sat for so long in the soil. I don't recall seeing any of the colourful mushrooms shown here in our garden before.

Robyn Miller



Autumn colours at Harcourt Reservoir



First and Second Peoples of the Castlemaine District

A talk given to Churches in January

On January 19 this year, it was Aboriginal Sunday (the Sunday before Australia Day). It is not well publicised, but worth observing.

I want to tell you about ways in which people in the Castlemaine District are 'Walking Together as First and Second Peoples', to quote from the Uniting Church's statement of intent.

Do you know what the Aboriginal language here is called? (Dja Dja Wurrung) and the people are named for it. Their word in language for 'people' is Jaara Jaara, the Yes Yes People. About 200 Aboriginal people (not all Jaara) live in the district, according to the last census. There would be others who don't identify as Aboriginal – yet.

The territory of the Jaara people extends through the part of Victoria which includes Bendigo, Wedderburn, Boort, Heathcote and Castlemaine.

You may well have been present when Uncle Rick or his father gave a Welcome to Country, and heard the word Womin-djika, which means Welcome.

Another word in Dja Dja Wurrung is Nalderun. Do you know what it means? (All together, or Everyone together).

A group called Nalderun, or Nalderun Upper Loddon, is based in Castlemaine. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are working together, doing an enormous amount to support Aboriginal children,

young people and families living in the Shire, and to assist the broader Australian community to understand and embrace Aboriginal culture and the unalterable connection to country.

In fact, hundreds of people across the Shire and beyond are involved, through partner organisations such as the Shire Council, Castlemaine Health and CHIRP and the like, education providers and support people, volunteers, and of course, the Elders (Uncle Rick, Aunty Julie, Aunty Kerri) Kath Coff and other Aboriginal people.

- The Meeting Place is one of the most important projects, where students meet once a fortnight to learn about Culture.
- Another core project is the Murnong Mummas, who are very busy catering for all sorts of events, often run by the Council. Murnong Mummas provided some of the afternoon tea we had at our Halloween concert in Harcourt.
- There is a group called Men's Business, developing relationships - they do Landcare and other activities together. And there's a Men's Shed which I think is based in Bendigo.
- Young Aboriginal men and some other VCAL students from the Secondary College have been working on the Victorian Miniature Railway being built

in Harcourt.

There is a great deal more, centring on education and training including cross-cultural training for service providers including youth support, employment opportunities, cultural awareness development and events.

Reconciliation Week starts with Sorry Day on 26 May. The Nalderun Events Group helps with the annual exhibition in the Castlemaine Market Building during this week. We are finding more and more ways to bring the wider community to awareness of the history of Aboriginal and White relations (not a pretty story), and ways to encourage Aboriginal artists, craftspeople and writers to create and exhibit (and maybe sell) their work. If readers would like to find out more about Nalderun see their web page: nalderun.net.au

There is still so much to do to bring full acceptance and reconciliation between First and Second Australians, besides closing the Gap in health and education and dealing with the tragedies of incarceration and poverty.

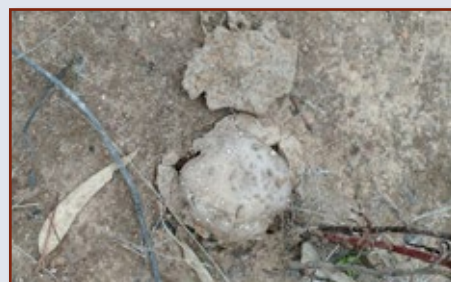
As it says in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still feel "the torment of their powerlessness". Can we in all conscience look away and do nothing?

Solway Nutting

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply megalitres	Current volume megalitres	Current volume % full	Volume same time last year megalitres	Volume same time last year % full
Upper Coliban	37,770	30,834	81.6%	23,757	62.9%
Lauriston	19,790	15,050	76.0%	15,830	80.0%
Malmsbury	12,034	1,599	13.3%	1,372	11.4%
Total to May 4	69,594	47,483	68.2%	40,959	58.9%
Total to March 6	69,594	49,330	70.9%	45,812	65.8%

Data from: www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels – May 4, 2020



Wheel Cactus Field Days Postponed ... Lone Warriors Still on the Warpath

In line with current government restrictions on group activities, the Tarrangower Cactus Control Group committee advises that our Wheel Cactus Community Field Days will be postponed until further notice. Hopefully the COVID-19 crisis will be over within a few months and we'll be able to hold a couple of field days before next summer arrives. We'll keep you posted.



In the meantime, why not become a 'Lone Warrior'? There are many thousands of Wheel Cactus plants out there still just waiting to be killed! Why not get outdoors and get some exercise while doing something positive and constructive during this time of isolation.

Please contact us with any queries via email at info@cactuswarriors.org.

Until we meet again, everyone please take care and stay active and well.

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WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation Aboriginal Land Management Prior to 1788

During his explorations in the 1830s and 40s Major Mitchell saw park-like landscapes, sparsely studded with trees, with very little under-storey scrub.

Writings, paintings and survey plans by early European explorers and settlers show more open forest and more grassland than in the same places now. What was then grassland has become eucalypt forest, as fires and harsh clearing of land led to denser growth.

Researchers believe that before 1788 people used fire to create and maintain the park-like landscapes, judiciously burning at the right time and the right intensity according to weather and need. Their cool, slow-moving fires produced grass, tubers or foliage matched to the animals (including humans) that thrived on those particular foods.

The fires reduced fuel, ensured biodiversity and abundance, regulated plant and animal populations and located vegetation predictably and conveniently. Bush adjacent to grassland provided shelter so animals could retreat if threatened, but it also enabled people to use fire to drive their prey to the waiting hunters.

The mosaic of cleared land patches in between forested areas would have taken centuries of detailed planning to set up. So it was vital that every generation understood how to maintain the pattern. It became enshrined in the Law, a meeting of ecology and religion, which ensured undeviating commitment to this very intricate management of the land.

The basic principles were used Australia-wide, whatever the fertility of the soil and natural vegetation of the land. Local conditions such as rain, wind, temperature and aspect influence the timing. There is not one rule for all!

Current burning practices emphasising only hazard reduction mean that many species are not given time to replenish before another threat arrives, whether fire, predator, pest animals spoiling feed, or logging.

Catastrophic bushfires such as happened last Spring and Summer were unknown before European settlement. Last December some properties in the Hunter Valley in NSW were saved, arguably because of previously conducted cultural burning on their land.

Hopefully controlled burns and the methods of land management in use up until less than 250 years ago will one day be used together to make a safe, abundant and sustainable environment for all – humans, plants and animals.

Nalderun is a service that supports the Aboriginal Community, led by Aboriginal people. Many people and organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire contribute to Nalderun; the name is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning "all together".

More information can be found at www.nalderun.net.au

Experiences in Médecins Sans Frontières Arua, Uganda

March 2008–February 2009

This is the first part of a diary entry about a young child, Walter, as recorded by local Judy Coram when she worked as a nurse performing Infant Mental Health Intervention in northern Uganda. The children Judy and the other workers from Médecins Sans Frontières worked with were all HIV positive. There was an explosion of HIV in Uganda at the time. This story is not a happy one as we will see in Part 2 to be published in June.

Part 1: Mournful, Woeful Walter from lost Child; absent and forgotten, to Walter's Fan Club.

Walter first came to my attention when the Children's Activity worker mentioned to me about a little boy who had been dropped off by one of the midwives to the group. She reported that Walter was a neighbour of hers and she was concerned about him as he just sat by himself all day without moving or speaking. After one day in the group, Patrick who worked with the children also reported that he was concerned about this little boy who just sat and stared with no attempt to engage or play. He sat silently and solitarily for the whole time he was in the group.

The next day Jane the midwife dropped Walter off again and when I first met him I observed the same sad vacant hopeless expression seen on the faces of so many African orphans. I sat next to Walter during the group, starting slowly to touch him, saying his name talking to him quietly about how sad he looked. He sat frozen in his solitude with these wide scared hopeless eyes. He made no attempt to reach out or move from his position. I then gently lifted him between my legs where he sat quietly while I stroked him and continued to talk to him.

After the group I went to ask Jane about his history and he allowed me to carry him in my arms and he compliantly agreed with no protest... Jane reported that his mother had died last year from HIV and that his uncle had picked him up from his village as there was no-one else to care for him. His Uncle worked at the hospital and was responsible for his care but it appeared he had little time for him. It was thought that Walter was about 2-3 years but no-one knew much about him other than he was HIV positive and under medical care at the clinic. I suggested to Jane that she leave him at the group each morning.

The next day Walter was not at the group and Jane reported that she had gone to the house he was living at and was told by the young maid caring for him that he had no clean clothes to wear. As he was living in

the hospital grounds we decided we would do a home visit. There were many children outside playing but no Walter. There was a young girl who was looking after him but he was alone and sitting inside the house. The house was dark and damp and there was mess everywhere. Walter had the same blank expression on his face and he had a strong odour from being unwashed and uncared for as we carried him from his home to the children's area.

Walter sat next to me during the group time again, not interacting or being part of the group in his own cocoon of silence blankly staring at nothing or no-one. We began to talk about the parts of the body to the children as many of them have a very poor image of their 'sick' bodies and most of them in this group do not know why they come to the hospital and take drugs everyday. We began to name the head [dri], eyes [mile], ears [si], mouth [tile], nose [omvu], hands [wi], shoulders [opidri], feet [pa], and toes [pa anzi]. After this we all sang 'heads, shoulders knees and toes, knees and toes with the actions, and continued with 'this little piggy

went to market'. They then got into twos and tried to do the actions with each other. I was so preoccupied with all the other children in the group that I completely forgot about Walter at this point. The next thing, Walter who was sitting next to me thrust his foot out at me as if to say "Where's my, 'this little piggy'?" I was surprised by this sudden initiation by Walter.

A few days later I went into the group and found Walter relaxed and stretched out between Patrick's (another nurse's) legs like a young baby being nursed. I felt that here in the group with Patrick he was receiving the closeness and contact he was so desperate for since the death of his mother.

I was not sure how to proceed with Walter over the loss of his mother but I felt that this little boy would not be able to move forward unless this painful part of his life was spoken about and acknowledged. It has always been a challenge for me in this setting to be able to work therapeutically with the children because of the problems in communication and my inability to speak Lubarra. I have tried to use gesture and sign language and drawings as a way to communicate with them, but I am often met with blank stony stares. It is often difficult using the staff to interpret as they are unable to bear the pain of the children, and as soon as the children cry they want it to stop, saying that it is upsetting them.

They find it hard to understand that this is important for the child to move forward and they often become intrusive during the therapy.

I sat next to Walter with the mother [Miandri] doll with the baby [obekua] on the back and asked him to hold her. I began to show him the baby on the back saying the mother's name and began to remove the baby tied onto the mother's back in the traditional way. I placed the baby away from the mother and said "Walter, baby sad, baby alone [odekua adule] no Miandri." I began again, saying "Miandri gone, Walter sad." At this point he squirmed and began talking for the first time, but unfortunately I could not understand what he was saying. He held the doll tightly.

The difficulty for me working therapeutically here in this setting is that there is not the time to work at the child's pace because of the overwhelming numbers of disturbed children here, especially motherless children. It seems too rushed at times to go directly to the core of the problem without enabling them to do this themselves through their play; however, it seems to be the only way for me to manage in this setting. Maybe however I am responding to my own urgency and feelings of being overwhelmed at times.

Over the next few days Walter continued to attend the group seeking close contact either with Patrick or myself.

One morning Patrick rang me to say that Walter's Uncle was sending Walter back to his village as he was unable to care for him. It was arranged that we would all meet together with Walter's uncle to discuss his future as there was great concern over this decision.

To be continued in the June edition of *The Core*.



Walter and Mama J. On this day Walter was limp and unwell and had a fever, and was refusing food. I offered him a drink but he directed me to put it down and then directly put his arms up to be lifted up. He then lay limply against me lying very quietly in my arms. I wondered if this little boy was telling me that this is what he needed, a pair of arms to comfort him since the death of his mother.



Connect
Mount
Alexander

Together we thrive

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic update

Message from our Mayor

This is a strange time for all of us. Facing a global health pandemic is something I never imagined. By now, we all know the drill. Hand washing, physical distancing, stay at home - only four reasons to go out.

It's important to stay connected at this time. Many of us can talk with family and friends via phone, text and online, or write an old-fashioned letter. It's been good to see our community rise to the challenges of social distancing. Neighbours checking on each other, dropping off home cooked meals, writing notes and sharing advice.

While the doors to the Civic Centre may be closed, we're running business as usual where possible. Our Customer Service Team is taking calls and staff are responding to service requests. We've also set up a dedicated COVID-19 telephone number and email address so please get in touch if you have any questions about services or support you need at this time.

Staff are delivering essential services like immunisations, meals on wheels and supporting our most vulnerable clients. Bin collection, planning services and road

maintenance continues. The Works Unit is grading roads after much needed rain, and you'll see the Parks and Gardens Team out as you enjoy your daily exercise.

We know it's been a difficult time and have announced some measures to provide some financial relief. We've also put a hold on our 2020/2021 budget so we can review our priorities and explore how we can best support our community and local businesses in response to COVID-19.

We're part of a creative, innovative and connected community and the inspirational work here never ceases to amaze me. It was remarkable to see a local food pantry set up by volunteers and community organisations to provide much needed food relief for residents in need.

Thank you to everyone for doing your bit. Early results show we are making gains so let's keep it up to save lives and flatten the curve. We'll get through this by working together.

Cr Christine Henderson
Mayor Mount Alexander Shire Council

Council response to pandemic

Council has a key role to play in reducing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Mount Alexander Shire. We are committed to supporting the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as the lead agency responsible for responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

We have activated our regional pandemic and business continuity plans to ensure we continue to deliver services with a focus on the health of our community, staff and volunteers. We've set up a local working group including community and health organisations, businesses networks and emergency services to coordinate our response, relief and recovery efforts.

With a number of coronavirus cases reported in the shire, we urge everyone to continue to follow the restrictions and 'stay home' to give ourselves and our community the best chance of stopping the spread.

To help and connect our community at this time we have created a dedicated COVID-19 support number and email. For assistance, information or a referral to a local community organisation or service, call us on 1800 512 446 between 8.30am and 5.00pm or email us at covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

April 2020



Ecothought – Slade and Marjolein Beard

Listed on the Tech Crunch web page in February 2020, Hive Keepers is mentioned as one of the top 6 start-up companies to watch. It is the brainchild of a team including Slade and Marjolein Beard of Ecothought Farm located in Eagles Road Harcourt.

they were supposedly traded by the Romans into Cornwall. We also have three Maremma sheep dogs which are also good for poultry care.”

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the farm is Hive Keepers. With the aim of making bee keeping more widely spread

ultimately aims to protect food security. The bees are fitted with high-tech micro-sensors that work like vehicle e-tags to monitor their movements to and from their hives. “The Bees with Backpacks program will give students hands-on experience analysing data collected



Slade and Marjolein have been in Harcourt for about eight and a half years. The business focus is to provide technology to create smart farms with the dual aim of future safe food production while reducing costs. Slade and Marjolein form an interdisciplinary team. Slade has a background in defence and national security; Marjolein has a background in health services and business management and is responsible for project management.

Having moved from Canberra to Melbourne, they decided to get out of the city. Slade said, “We were sold on the property when we saw the remnant red gum forest on the land.” Being at least two hours from the ocean doesn’t bother these SCUBA enthusiasts as they have thrown themselves into farming and the use of technologies to improve the farmer’s lot.

Ecothought Farm is a working farm where new and old breeds of animals are raised because of their useful and sometimes unique features. If you haven’t heard of the breed of chickens called Quamby, then you are not alone. This is a new breed, and Ecothought is the first place on mainland Australia to breed them. They were first bred in Tasmania and they are licensed only to Ecothought. They are good egg layers, plus the roosters make good meat birds.

The farm is also home to seventy Wiltshire Horned breeding ewes. Marjolein told *The Core*, “Wiltshire Horns are a very old breed of sheep;

to enhance food security, Hive Keepers is working with both professional bee keepers and is encouraging and supporting recreational bee keepers as well. They are in the process of developing phone apps to assist in managing hives. The app will report on the number of hives, location, and also give information about different parts of the hive. Slade said, “The biggest cost for apiarists is moving the hives, so the app assists by recording the amount of honey in the hive and gives an indication of when the bees need feeding and when they should be moved. One big problem for apiarists is the theft of hives and this app shows when they are suddenly moved and allows tracking.”

In a modest enclosure on the farm sit two bee hives, but what is unique is that these hives are wired with sensors. The hives are part of a program developed by CSIRO with a program called “Bees with backpacks.” One hive is testing the health of hives. The other hive is testing a new hive construction material called New Plas developed in Swan Hill. Slade said, “The issue here is to test how the bees react to technology placed in the hive. They are very clean and if they detect an intrusion they will cover it in propolis which is a sticky compound which they produce as part of hive building.”

Bees with backpacks is a unique project which combines hands on education for students of selected Technical schools with ground breaking science which

from Victorian bees. This will be used by Australian scientists from CSIRO who have pioneered unique tracking technology to help better understand bee behaviour.” (From the Victorian Government Education web page).

And while all this activity is happening on the farm, yet another aspect of their work is being responsible for the construction, design and integration of large computer systems. One of their more recent projects was doing just this for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre at the top of Flemington Road in Melbourne. On the drawing board is another entire factory’s computer system.

Marjolein and Slade were pleased to be interviewed by *The Core* since they have put so much work into the establishing their business they now feel they have the time to make contact with the local community. Recently Marjolein has done just that by joining in the preparatory meetings for Applefest. She also spent most of the Saturday of Applefest up to her elbows in water at the Wash Against Waste trailer. Marjolein is mentioned elsewhere in this edition as having contributed to making the poppies for ANZAC day which were displayed on the cenotaph.

It is a developing trend for people to work from home, and Slade and Marjolein are doing just that with extraordinary success and personal satisfaction in their move to Harcourt.

Prepare for Fruit Tree Planting

Resources to help Prevent Fruit Fly

As fruit fly has been found this season in Castlemaine (but thankfully NOT in Harcourt), this is just a reminder that this month we offer free resources on this topic in our Online Course Library—to download a copy go to <https://growgreatfruit.com/online-courses/>, choose 'Organic Pest and Disease Management' under Course Categories (on the RHS), and scroll down to find the QFF Resource Pack. You can also find a copy of the very excellent Queensland Fruit Fly Masterclass with the knowledgeable Andrew Jessup—definitely worth a watch if you haven't seen it before, as Andrew explains fruit fly prevention in very simple terms. If we want to keep Harcourt QFF Free (yes, we do!) it's up to all of us to become fruit fly experts!

Prepare your Soil

It's time to be thinking about what fruit trees you're going to plant this winter (because there's always room for one more, right?), and now is a great time to do some soil preparation. One of the quickest and most effective ways to improve your soil is to plant an autumn green manure crop, using a mix of a legume (to add nitrogen to the soil), a grass (to add bulk organic matter) and a few herbs (to add more nutrients). You can either buy an autumn green manure seed mix from a nursery, or buy the individual seeds to make up your own mix. We've had some beautiful rain and the weather has been relatively warm, which are the perfect conditions to go ahead and plant the seed wherever you intend to plant your fruit trees.

As we won't be planting trees until at least the start of July (right through until mid-August is OK for tree planting), there should still be enough time to get a green manure crop out of the ground and tall enough to be fit for purpose (which is solely to add organic bulk and nutrients back into the soil)—but you need to get your skates on, because the longer the crop has to grow, the better. Once it's grown, and before you plant your fruit trees, you can either dig the green manure into the soil (which is best), or just cut it down and leave it lying on the surface.

Even if you don't have time to plant a green manure crop, don't let your lack of soil preparation stop you planting trees this year. You could add some well-made compost or aged manure when you plant the trees, but if you can't manage that, it's still better to plant trees into whatever soil you have and work on the soil improvement later, than miss another year of getting your future fruit supply started.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery (one of the businesses here on our farm) is once again selling trees grown right here in Harcourt, to suit Harcourt soil and conditions. Since we opened our sales a couple of weeks ago there's been a bit of a rush on trees, but there are still plenty of cherries, apples, pears, nectarines, peaches and plums available, and we even still have a few dwarf and small trees in stock. Our range of rare and unusual heritage apple varieties has expanded again this year, as part of our aim to bring back and preserve these old varieties before they completely disappear, so please consider including one of them in your garden and adding to the community collection of heritage varieties.

On another note, if you want to try growing your own trees from scratch, now is a great time to collect some apple

and pear seed and store it over winter, to be ready to plant in spring. Choose seeds that are dark brown and plump. Granny Smith apples, or Packham pears are usually a reliable source of seed, but it's fine to use whatever you can get your hands on. The seeds will produce large seedling rootstocks that are tough and resilient, and perfect for grafting your favourite variety on to. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring.

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists, founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op, and teach organic home fruit growing. They offer a free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, regularly run a free online workshop called 'The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit', and have more than 50 fruit growing courses—visit growgreatfruit.com for details. Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is now open for orders until June 30 at www.mafg.com.au.

ASQ Plant of the Month Crazy Filbert

Crazy Filbert (also known as Contorted Filbert and Corkscrew Hazelnut) is an annual shrub with twisted branches, making it a truly unique plant!

Reaching heights of 2-3 metres, this unusual plant boasts light green, serrated leaves which turn yellow through autumn. Once the leaves fall you are left with the main feature of this plant – its beautiful bare, contorted branches. To add to its beauty, the bare branches develop yellow hanging catkins which take this plant's uniqueness to a whole new level.

Visit or call ASQ Skydancers and talk to their friendly staff about these quirky plants!



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Time to Rejuvenate your Lawn

Hello Garden lovers,

Autumn is a fantastic time to renovate your lawn. Warm-season grasses like Kikuyu, Buffalo and Couch that grow in warm weather are still active. This means that with a little attention now we can encourage growth to improve the quality, extent or durability of the home lawn.

Buffalo grows via stolons or runners which are stems that run along the top of the soil. Couch and Kikuyu spread via stolons and rhizomes which are shoots that grow under the ground. This is often why they cause a nuisance as they can creep into garden beds with ease. In a lawn, this ability promotes establishment and resilience. There are a number of ways that we can encourage stem growth:

- Coring or aerating the lawn;
- Topdressing with soil;
- Fertilising;
- Testing and amending pH; and
- Watering.

Coring or aerating a lawn involves punching or creating holes with a fork or corer. Coring helps open up compacted soil to allow water, nutrients and oxygen to enter the soil.

Topdressing is spreading a thin layer (less than 10mm) of good soil over the lawn. The soil can be raked out so that the tips of your grass are visible. Topdressing adds nutrients, corrects lawn levels and over time improves soil quality. Topdressing is most effective when combined with coring and water.

Fertilising is the addition of organic or chemical fertilisers. Chemical fertilisers such as slow release pellets can be spread by hand to feed the lawn. Organic fertilisers such as manure, seaweed products, worm tea or compost tea feed the lawn and also improve the health and richness of the soil over time. Organic fertilisers should be used in conjunction with water to avoid burning the grass and to help penetration.

Testing pH is simple using a pH kit from your local nursery. Lawns respond well with a neutral soil with a pH of between 6.0 and 7.0. If your soil is too acidic or alkaline, it can prevent grass from accessing nutrients. Acidic soil (less than 6) can be amended by adding lime, dolomite or poultry manure to raise the pH. If your soil is alkaline (higher than 7) compost, manure, leaf litter, mulch, sulphur or Iron chelates can be added to lower the pH.

Effective watering will help nutrients penetrate the soil and assist absorption. Watering in the morning for longer but less often is most effective.

This month we are:

- Renovating lawns;
- Refreshing Garden beds;
- Pruning berries;
- Watering;
- Planting autumn vegetables.

This month in the woodland:

- Grey Box is flowering.

Happy Gardening.

Janyce

Harcourt Valley Landcare Recommends Planting Now

Autumn and winter are the best seasons to get indigenous plants in the ground. We have had excellent rain, so plants put in the ground now should have a good chance of survival. Harcourt Valley Landcare's President, Bonnie Humphreys has provided the information for the indigenous plants flyer on the back pages of The Core.

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Maree Edwards MP
STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.
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contact us on 5410 2444 or
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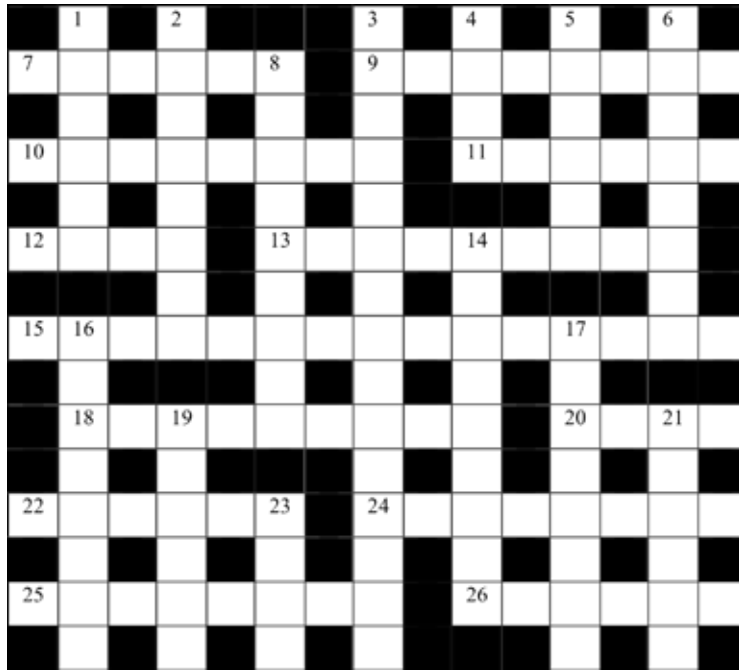
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Circulation is currently 450, and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, the Harcourt Post Office, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple and in Castlemaine: Run Rabbit Run, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital and Castlemaine Visitors' Centre plus a number of other sites.

A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: harcourt.vic.au/news

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May Xword 2020 © McW October '17



Across:

7. Arthur's foot? [6]
9. Rings Demeter's capital, replacing her second to see how far she's come. [8]
10. Why the gun lobby won't be heard as victims quietly pile up? [8]
11. Overlap French, and nice to seduce. [6]
12. On 1. [4]
13. The Lord's city? [9]
15. Fully outfitted dentist at the front? [5,2,3,5]
18. Condition of beige dweller in this loch? [9]

Down:

1. Gives 12. [6]
2. I revel in the French wake-up call. [8]
3. A dealer or a pack might well be in a winning position. [4,3,3,5]
4. It's OK to leave the owl and wander gloomily about. [4]
5. The landlord is a character! [6]
6. Ceylonese shipping container to impart set-theory, perhaps. [3-5]
8. Laid waste to, they reckon, but we're really only down ten... [9]
14. Go too far above fire. [9]
16. That which will refute tale in the opposition argument by detailing it, we hear. [8]
17. Precisely taxing. [8]
19. Having a chat at a pub might help us hook up thus. [6]
21. "No" terminals? [6]
23. Social climbing rate for most of those of an inferior-22. [4]

20. Where a street has gone? [4]
22. Those of inferior (75% of 23) 22 usually have 23 upward progress [6]
24. Way of taking up proton-loser. [8]
25. Rancid company with crab for big 'C'? [8]
26. Soft way to apply engine's coal-scuttle [3 defs! No spare words!] [6]

April Xword 2018 Xword solution © McW October '17



Across:

8. How deal with the fires of hell and raging thirst? [6] [Well?]
9. Islamic State losers could make things like hamburgers. [8]
10. Myra Fern requires his services to cross to the other side. [8]
11. April's downward trajectory goes round and round. [6]
12. It could be that by teaching computer knowledge we uncover the basic unit. [4]
13. Border-tax collection hut a little like a highwayman? [Well?]
15. Disrupt penitences under/oversight. [15]

Down:

1. a) Certainly (old) b) money, often. [6]
2. What the last bit of 17's anagram might have to do to become part of solution? [Well?]
3. How ΓΝΩΘΙ ΣΕΑΥΤΟΝ becomes "Know Thyself". [Well?]
4. How Greeks read 3? [Well?]
5. Cocktail? Put it into Austin Powers' libido [Mojo]! [6]
6. Rich apes are cheap, sir, but their smiles are beatific... [8]
8. By rights, man, this injury grants him the opportunity to scratch... [9]
14. If you rub coal in your left eye you won't have this vision, but you can rub oil in it to restore it. [9]
16. "Perv" (noun) not demonstrated to be suitable. [8]
17. A priest might attempt to banish the collywobblers, but one might prefer sex, or ice in the mix... [8]
19. Corrupt aristocratic adjective [noble] by bringing in the second-rate [B-]. [6]
21. Finally the cobbler puts tools away and shuts up shop. [Well?]
23. This info. rocks evenly in a secluded corner. [4]
18. Gay Prince delivers grave speech about crying ape, perhaps. (9)
20. Lyon backflips but once. [4]
22. Popping up for Dorothy H[ewett]? [6]
24. Cate lets a sect tale or maybe one about a steel cat into a free-to-air dissemination. [8]
25. Hoi Polloi dwell too far from them. [4-2-2]
26. How a polly might jump back? [Well?]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

A State of Emergency has been declared until 11 May to manage coronavirus (COVID-19). Staff are continuing to deliver essential services and support our community, staff and volunteers within government directives. To help and connect our community we have created a COVID-19 support number and email. For information or a referral to a community organisation or service, call us on 1800 512 446 Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm, or email covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. We are also working with local organisations to develop an online virtual relief centre and printed resource packs. Please stay at home and follow the advice to minimise the spread of COVID-19. Find health advice at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au. Look out for each other and check in on your family, friends and neighbours. Support local businesses to keep every dollar in our shire. Find a list of local takeaway food or online shopping at www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au. For Council updates visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Changes to services

Customer and Visitor Services - While the Civic Centre and Visitor Information Centres are closed to the public we are still here to help. Contact us on the details below or lodge a service request via our website.

Works and maintenance requests - We have a reduced capacity in our Works Unit and are dealing with as many requests as possible. Road hazards are the priority, followed by maintenance tasks.

Waste services - Bin collection is running as usual. Please delay non-essential visits to waste facilities. Heavy items and mattresses are not accepted at this time.

Playgrounds and community facilities - Parks and reserves remain open for essential activities such as exercise within public gathering rules. Public playgrounds, skate parks and BMX parks are closed.

Aged Care Services - Council is working hard to support the most vulnerable members of our community. We have made some alterations to services based on advice from health authorities, and are continuing to share service updates with clients, carers and families.

Maternal and Child Health Services - Key age stage visits are being held over the phone. Immunisations for children up to five years are continuing by appointment only. Speak to a nurse on 5472 1364 before visiting the centre.

Local food relief

Local volunteers, community groups and organisations have established the Mount Alexander Community Pantry to provide food relief for local residents in need. To access pre-prepared meals or food packages contact the Intake Coordinator on 0472 537 866, email mtalexcommunitypantry@gmail.com or order online at www.cch.org.au/communitypantry. The pantry is accepting financial donations to help fund the initiative.

Council's initial relief measures

Council has announced some initial relief measures to help the community and local businesses manage the impacts of COVID-19. These include a one month extension on the due date for the fourth rates instalment; establishment of a COVID-19 financial hardship policy; a temporary hold on following up unpaid animal registrations; weekly payments to suppliers; and a reduction of commercial rents in Council-owned buildings. For more information contact our Customer Service Team.

Looking after your health

CHIRP Community Health can offer support to help you get through these challenging times. Call CHIRP on 5479 1000 weekdays during business hours or visit www.chirp.org.au. For crisis support and suicide prevention services contact Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 www.beyondblue.org.au; Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 www.kidshelpline.com.au; Lifeline 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au; or QLife 1800 184 527 www qlife.org.au. If you, or someone you know are at risk or escaping family violence call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188 or visit www.safesteps.org.au. In an emergency call 000.

Help stop fruit fly

Don't forget to check your monitoring traps for Queensland fruit fly (QFF), following the first confirmed report in Castlemaine. Look for small brown flies with yellow markings. Remove unwanted fruit from trees and pick up fallen fruit off the ground. If you suspect you have QFF contact Council on 5471 1700. See photos to help identification at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly.

Council meeting and budget

Council cancelled its April meeting due to COVID-19. The next meeting will be broadcast live on YouTube from 6.30pm on Tuesday 19 May. To raise a question at the meeting write or email your question to the Governance Team at the contact details below. To watch the meeting on YouTube Search Mount Alexander Shire Council.

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Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Well it looks like winter weather has arrived with record autumn rain and the drop in temperature.

Like many of you we are not going out for much other than getting essential supplies. There is always plenty of work on the farm, so that is a break from the media coverage of COVID-19. I have had some family members picking up rocks, and that is better than being stuck inside. The rain has slowed that activity down, but you will never hear a farmer complain about the rain.

On the Council front, we are facing difficult decisions around service delivery and how we meet our obligations to the community. This is particularly challenging with our aged care services, as both our client base and some of our staff are in high risk groups.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our workers that continue to serve the community, even though it places them at increased risk.

Our weekly Council briefings have gone into online mode. While this works, there are always some technical issues which result in things not running quite as well as face-to-face meetings. A feature of our Council is the robust debate around issues, and it is not so easy to interpret what people are thinking on a small image on a screen.

Council is taking the extra time allocated to review the next year's budget. It is not business as usual with regards to delivery of capital works while a lot of things are shut down. We will make our best efforts to get the planning right but the uncertainty around COVID-19 complicates the process.

One thing we will be doing shortly is reviewing our procurement policy. We do want to support local businesses, so I am optimistic that we can do this and still achieve good value for our community. Council's annual budget is around \$32m, so the more of that spent within the Shire the better.

Another aspect of Council business that is becoming more complex is that it is difficult to conduct applicant/objector meetings relating to planning matters. Not everyone is set up for a Zoom meeting and that creates a difficult situation.

I wish everyone the very best. I do hope we will move forward with fewer restrictions soon. I do feel we are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful location. Stay well and safe.

*Best regards Tony
AG Cordy
0439742434*

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

We think we have beaten the virus.
Some folk came around to admire us.
They had a good look
Wrote notes in a book
And said they would now like to hire us.

These Businesses Support The Core



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Trees and Larger Shrubs

Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>
Lightwood	<i>Acacia implexa</i>
Black Wattle	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
Drooping Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarinia verticillata</i>
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Long-leaf Box	<i>Eucalyptus gonicalyx</i>
Yellow Box	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>
Grey Box	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>
Candlebark	<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>



Acacia implexa

Shrubs

Hedge Wattle	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>
Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>
Silver Banksia	<i>Banksia marginata</i>
Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
Hop Bush	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>
Bushy Needlewood	<i>Hakea decurrens</i>
Tree Violet	<i>Melicytus dentatus</i>



Bursaria spinosa

Smaller Shrubs

Gold-dust Wattle	<i>Acacia acinacea</i>
Rock Correa	<i>Corea glabra</i>
Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea	<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>
Austral Indigo	<i>Indigofera australis</i>
Grey Everlasting	<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>
Fairy Wax-flower	<i>Philotheca verrucosa</i>



Acacia acinacea

For Wetter Areas

Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
Tall Sedge	<i>Carex appressa</i>
Tassel Sedge	<i>Carex fascicularis</i>
Basket Sedge	<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>
Common Spike-sedge	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Yellow Box	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>
Common Tussock-grass	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>



Carex appressa

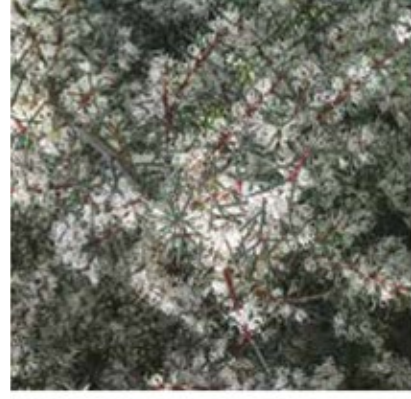
Herbs, Creepers & Tussocks

Common Everlasting	<i>Chrysoccephalum apiculatum</i>
Clustered Everlasting	<i>Chrysoccephalum semipap. posum</i>
Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis micropophylla</i>
Billy Buttons	<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>
Diggers Speedwell	<i>Derwentia perfoliata</i>
Black-anther Flax-lily	<i>Diarella admixta</i>
Late-flower Flax-lily	<i>Diarella tarda</i>
Kidney Weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
Purple Coral Pea	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
Rock Isolome	<i>Isoloma axillaris</i>
Running Postman	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>
Hoary Sunray	<i>Leucochrysium albicans</i>
Yam Daisy	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>
Austral Storks-bill	<i>Pelargonium australe</i>
Grey Tussock-grass	<i>Poa siebertiana</i>
Matted Bush-pea	<i>Putenaea pedunculata</i>
Native Raspberry	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>
Shiny Everlasting	<i>Xerochrysium viscosum</i>



Hardenbergia violacea

Indigenous Plants of Harcourt



Hakea decurrens



Pelargonium australe



Philotheca verrucosa



Banksia marginata



Indigofera australis



Leucochrysum albicans



Eucalyptus camaldulensis

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