

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 73 – July 2020

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourt.vic.au/news

Landcare Abuzz for the Blue-banded Bee



DRIVE along Harcourt's McIvor Road in 20 years and you might find yourself putting on the brakes as your eye is caught by a vibrant ecosystem busy with birdlife, insects and native wildlife. That's the vision of Harcourt resident Matt Hillman, one of ten Harcourt Valley Landcare members who came together in late June to plant 300 Late-flowered Flax Lilies on the much-loved local road.

"When you encourage the plants, that brings the insects, the insects bring the birdlife, and an entire ecosystem flourishes – one where people can slow down and enjoy what's been conceived here today," says Matt, Harcourt Valley Landcare Vice President.

You'd need to do more than slow down,

however, to fully appreciate the fruits of the volunteers' labour: if all goes to plan, in far less than 20 years time, you could get out of your car, listen carefully – and hear the unusually loud buzzing noise of the Blue-banded Bee, a striking indigenous bee that is at home in plants like the Late-flowered Flax Lily.

"The Blue-banded Bee is a lovely, blue/grey-coloured indigenous bee," says Bonnie Humphreys, a plant expert and President of the Landcare group.

While many of us are familiar with the European Honey Bee, fewer are aware of the hundreds of native Australian bee species that play an important role in our local ecosystems.

Continued on page 5 ...

INSIDE

- Tiny House-Big Project – 2
- HPA – 4
- Harcourt Valley Landcare – 5
- Harcourt CWA – 6
- Heritage Centre News – 7
- HVPS – 8
- Harcourt CFA – 9
- CHIRP – 9
- Community Bank – 10
- Nalderun – 11
- Councillor Comment – 12
- Shire Notes – 12
- Harcourt Pioneers – 13
- Ducati Owners Club – 14
- EPA Winter Advice – 14
- Harcourt Uniting Church – 15
- Bendigo Food Share – 16
- Gardening – 17
- Crosswords – 20
- Weather and Water – 21
- Shire News – 22
- Judy Coram's Diary – 23

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.**



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2020

Tiny House – Big Project

Verity Permaculture Farm Harcourt

How does a tiny house on a permaculture farm sound to you? But wait (as they say) that's not all! Eventually, new and enthusiastic young arrivals to town, David Foley and Lana Lee will build a bigger house, but before they do they hope to transform a mostly bare paddock by revegetating 14% of it with native vegetation and then to set about establishing the different elements of a permaculture farm which include vegies, herbs, orchard, and a food forest. As David wrote in the couple's planning application to Council:

"The first ethic of permaculture is based on care of the earth to rebuild nature's capital. Thriving native vegetation, biodiversity and a healthy local environment benefit everyone and everything."

David was born in Ireland, and Lana grew up in Sydney. Why have they chosen Harcourt for what will be a life-long project? They both agree that for them, after much searching, Harcourt offers it all. David said, "I hadn't quite completed my university degree in Ireland. I was studying Computer Science but decided to travel for a year and I met Lana in Sydney. I went back and finished my degree and returned to Australia in 2011. We travelled and lived overseas for over six years, in Ireland, New York and New Zealand and as wonderful as these places are, they weren't what we were looking for."

Lana, who was brought up in Sydney, said, "In between meeting David and our travels I completed a Masters in Education in Primary Teaching, but I knew that Sydney was never going to be my home forever. David was the impetus to leave. All our searching for somewhere to live led us to Victoria."

"We explored options in New South Wales and Queensland before we looked at Victoria," said David. "We narrowed our search to Central Victoria and decided that Harcourt was the best choice. We weren't expecting it to be easy to find land in Harcourt. There were two blocks for sale, and we were surprised and delighted that when we put in an offer for one that it was accepted. The land was first owned by the Eagle family and then by the Frankling family who grew pears on the block. Our long-term plan is to establish the farm, but we have to have somewhere to live first! This is when we decided to construct a tiny house, so we could start farming as soon as possible. We are also working on a barn for storage. This is a really good community and the focus on food in Central Victoria and the classification of Bendigo as a United Nation's City of Gastronomy was also great encouragement. We secured the land and obtained a permit from council for the farm; since then it's been a full-time effort to get the project to this point."

The barn and tiny house began with help from David's family who came here in November 2019 to assist with the first steps. At that time, concrete was poured, tree roots were removed, the barn was raised and a large water tank installed. David's father, Richard, has continued to help, because he has been unable to return to Ireland due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We envisage three stages of the farm: remedial and preparatory work, establishing agriculture and then growth. We were planning to be in the tiny house by February or March, but we haven't done this part of the project sequentially. Clearly we are in the preparatory stage, but it's all been done in parallel: slab laying, tiny house, barn, and water and electricity connections."

David is the project manager, Lana looks after the aesthetics inside and out and Richard is on hand to assist with all or any tasks.

"Our Tiny House is built on passive solar house design

principles including insulation, double-glazed windows, and it will be airtight. We will be using infrared heating panels in the ceiling hooked up to a thermostat to maintain a stable temperature. The design includes kitchen, bathroom, stairs, breakfast bar and two bedrooms, one of which includes a study. We have some special features such as an octagonal-shaped window and a porthole which was reclaimed from a ship. The porthole will go in the shower. We have a split barn-style door which was made in Bendigo. There are great tradesmen in the area who will work with unusual requests and who do the work quickly," said David.

A tiny house is, by definition, no higher than 4.3 metres and no wider than 2.5 metres. The length can be up to 12.5 metres. To tow it legally, it should be less than 4.5 tonnes. David said, "Some people have all internal fittings built as removable to keep the weight down for towing. When moving house, the contents are put in a truck and the house is towed. "Our house will stay on its slab and will become accommodation for family and friends and for visitor accommodation. I think we will finish the outside in two weeks and it will take another six to eight weeks for the internal fit out."

"Buying a tractor has been the most exciting purchase so far. It will help us in everything we do especially in developing the shape of the farm. Using the principles of the Keyline system developed by Percival Yeomans which focus on conservation of water, we will make swales to trap and redirect water. For simply moving large items like hay bales, the tractor is invaluable."

Lana has set about establishing vegie patches. She said, "I have been looking for new varieties of potatoes; even though we are in the midst of building, it seemed a shame to miss the winter growing season. So I have started with some potatoes and peas and other winter vegetables."

David said, "Having a well-defined vision for our land has been very important. Permaculture provides a design framework for land use and the size of our land suits small intensive agriculture which has lower set up costs. With plenty of water from the Coliban system, we look forward to establishing a farm that allows us to follow our principles and also to provide a living. We look forward to running workshops and having visitors on the farm."

Continued next page ...



Tiny House – Big Project

Continued ...

“I develop software and infrastructure such as servers, so I am fortunate to be able to manage my business in a way that allows me time to work on the set up of the farm.”

“My teaching career is also on hold while we throw ourselves into developing our dream,” added Lana.

Of course the introduction to country life has some surprises – like snakes. Lana said, “Neither of us had much experience with snakes, but we have seen a couple of brown snakes over summer. They seem attracted to the building materials. We warned David’s family to be careful. David’s brother George nearly jumped out of his skin when one appeared in the barn. I was able to say: ‘I told you so!’”



Richard Foley, David Foley and Lana Lee outside the tiny house.

Lana grew up in the inner west of Sydney in Newtown. “We had plenty of beach holidays, but I never really took to the water, so I’m happy to be inland,” she said with a smile, “but I do like swimming at Golden Point.” David is still slightly amazed at being in Australia and at being a resident of Australia. “I was raised in Wexford on the Hook Peninsula and as a young boy I had no real awareness of Australia other than watching Home and Away and Neighbours. Australia seemed like another world; it was so far away. The odd thing was that we studied the Murray Darling Basin – the agriculture marvel! I still find it bizarre to think about the absence of Australia in my early life, and now I live here!”

The Core looks forward to following David and Lana’s story in Harcourt and sharing their farming experiences at Verity Permaculture Farm.

Robyn Miller



Stanley Park North – Plan for Irrigation

The first steps towards irrigating the entire area of Stanley Park North have been taken. The designs for the Play Space include a water connection and a drinking fountain, both of which will be provided by Coliban Water. Irrigation lines for the Play Space will be laid and the Play Space will be irrigated.

Council officers acknowledge the commitment of the community for having the entire area of Stanley Park North irrigated. This was mooted by David Heath, HPA’s first Chair. He could foretell the impact of permanent irrigation. His dream was for an inviting and green central space in Harcourt which residents and visitors could enjoy. The money committed from the State Government (DELWP) in the announcement by Maree Edwards at the end of May, will allow for a path extending from the Play Space to the Pool, Public Amenities and the BMX track. The design scheme for the Play Space includes a second stage for the park areas outside the Play Space and shows designated parking alongside the park in High Street and a path extending south towards the Memorial Park (Stanley Park proper).

The second stage will require that further funding is pursued and Council Officers have given a commitment to follow up on where irrigation is to be laid as part of this stage. The Community Working Group expects confirmation of this shortly.

Community members of the working group feel it is vital to have involvement of students from the school and the kindergarten at the opening. Ideas are being suggested for a celebration that will ensure our young people not only participate but are involved in its preparation.

Strong tender responses have been received for the construction of the Play Space and while work is now set to begin in August, the completion date is still expected to be in December.



Di Selwood
Property Consultant
Castlemaine & Harcourt



Mobile: 0488 148 358

Phone: 03 5474 2807

Fax: 03 8677 9033

Email: di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au

148-152 High Street

Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555





Harcourt Progress Association



I have a quick update this month as the Progress Association hasn't had a full meeting for a little while. The sub-committees, however, been busy following up with some of the outstanding items of business on HPA's agenda; the roundabout being one case in point.

We were very pleased to accept an invitation to meet with Mount Alexander Shire Council (MASC) and Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) a couple of weeks ago. The meeting very much focussed on how maintenance of the roundabout will be handled in the future, rather than on past failings; although all agreed that it is in a sorry state of repair at the moment. It was acknowledged that the Harcourt roundabout is the responsibility of RRV, but that responsibility is to maintain safety standards eg clear lines of sight, rather than an aesthetic standard. There are a number of partnership models in the State, however, where the local council is 'contracted' by RRV for the maintenance. The new roundabouts at Gisborne were mentioned as pleasing designs and ideal for easy upkeep.

MASC and RRV agreed to continue discussing the roundabout and the details of the model. One major decision was that the design of the roundabout needs modifying and there was unanimous agreement that it would be better to put resources towards this rather than a quick fix now. We will keep you posted of next developments.

Sha Cordingley
HPA Chair

IT Development at HPA

The Harcourt Progress Assoc. has undertaken to improve its record keeping and streamline the manner in which collaborative documents and projects are managed. To that end it is moving to cloud based storage and software, which will allow committee members to more easily share document and collaboratively work on projects. It will also assist when we replace office bearers as all the pertinent information that is needed to be passed on to the new bearer will be stored in the cloud rather than on reams of paper that can be misplaced.

Alongside this the HPA has started work on a redesign of our website, which will be integrated into the new online systems, leading to a more dynamic site that is easier to keep up to date and fresh.

With this move towards a complete online system and an ever increasing trend toward social media, the HPA have also recently created a social media policy that outlines acceptable public discourse on our social media forums.

Some Time Ago

This is a short extract from an article offering advice and information to new diggers on the goldfields.

New arrivals will not blame us for bestowing a few words on the surpassing loveliness of the scenery on the creek, from Harcourt to Castlemaine. The uniform and sombre tint of the woods is at present beautifully relieved by the verdure of the grass, and the brilliant yellow of the wattle blossoms, which perfume the air for miles. In some parts of the creek the water runs clear and sparkling, like an English brook, and there is a general aspect of freshness and beauty here that strongly invite to summer dwelling, provided always that in addition to so charming a prospect there is a prospect of making wages.

Mount Alexander Times, 7 September, 1855. Via Trove.

Council endorses Reconciliation Plan

Mount Alexander Shire Council has adopted a Reconciliation Plan 2020-2023 that outlines the ways it will continue to work in partnership with the local Indigenous community and representative organisations to promote reconciliation.

The plan has three themes of partnership, recognition and empowerment with 35 actions such as continuing to host the Indigenous Roundtable, exploring opportunities for Indigenous burning practices to be incorporated into fire prevention strategies and supporting the development and installation of a local Indigenous mud map for Victory Park.

Council's Inclusive Communities Coordinator Shana Cropley said the

plan has a vision to 'Walk together with courage and purpose'.

"This vision has taken shape over time through reflection and discussion with our local Elders," said Ms Cropley.

"It is a statement that we collectively believe captures the spirit in which we work – in partnership, facing the challenges unique to our own perspective, but always driven by a shared goal," she said.

Council developed the plan in consultation with members of the local First Nations community. It reflects the achievements of Council and the community to date, and identifies opportunities to strengthen the initiatives and progress already made towards reconciliation.

It also incorporates Council's responsibilities under the Recognition and Settlement Agreements in place with the Registered Aboriginal Parties representing Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung peoples.

Ms Cropley said Council will now engage a local Indigenous artist to help bring the plan to life, and will officially launch it at an event later in the year.

"Everyone has a part to play in reconciliation and we are seeing the importance of this work resonating in many ways at this time," she said.

"We are proud to be working with our Indigenous community and look forward to sharing the plan with the community."

From a Shire Press Release

Continued from page 1.

“Indigenous insects have an intimate relationship with local species,” says Bonnie. “They’re meant to be here, which means that they’re not displacing any other species.”

“The Blue-banded bee is also an important pollinator species that uses a special technique to disperse pollen, called buzz pollination,” says Bonnie.

Buzz pollinators vibrate or shake their bodies against flowers, causing pollen to dislodge and later be collected by another bee that will move on to other plants, spreading the pollen. This is the way that Blue-banded Bees pollinate plants like the Late-flowered Flax-lily, a vulnerable plant species that was once widespread in Harcourt.

A key threat for the vulnerable Flax-lily is having to compete with



introduced species, such as the many wild fruit trees that grow along McIvor Road in particularly high numbers – a legacy of Harcourt’s proud fruit-growing history. Removal of these fruit trees is the second part of the Blue-banded Bee project and is due to begin in Spring.

“Harcourt is rightfully proud of its history as an apple and pear growing region,” says Terry Willis, a Harcourt local who attended the planting. “But the neglected fruit trees on our roadsides outcompete native plant species.”

Wild fruit trees are also a perfect habitat for the Queensland Fruit Fly.

“These trees are a threat to the fruit-growing lifestyle many Harcourtians know and love,” says Terry. “They spread easily and can become a host for fruit fly when unmanaged. Those on McIvor Road and other roads nearby are particularly concerning because they grow in great numbers, very close to commercial orchards and other growers.”

For the Landcarers who attended, the planting was also a welcome opportunity to get out into a chilly but stunning, blue-sky June day with like-minded Harcourtians. The group meets monthly on Sundays to weed, plant and generally care for local native ecosystems.

“The working bees are a wonderful social event,” says Matt Hillman, who attends most of them with partner



Blue-banded bee. Picture by Chiswick Chap, via Wikipedia.

Vanessa Chiang, often bringing his children. “It’s also an opportunity to set a good example for my kids – to show them that as they grow up they will have a responsibility to the land around them too.”

Matt looks forward to watching the McIvor Road planting flourish.

“It would be great to be able to drive past in years to come and point to our kids or even grandkids and say ‘we were part of that’.”

Harcourt Valley Landcare thanks the Australian Government for funding this project under a Communities Environment Program grant, and the Mount Alexander Shire Council and Lisa Chesters MP for their support.

Bron Willis

Small business Bus set to roll into the Shire

Small business owners will be able to access free advice, support and business expertise as the Small Business Bus visits Castlemaine and Maldon on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 July.

The mobile bus service is an initiative of the Victorian Government, and offers small business owners free advice from business mentoring specialists skilled in marketing, finance, human resources and sales.

“We know coronavirus has impacted our business community deeply, and we are here to help get you back on track,” said Eva Parkin, Economic Development Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

“This is a great opportunity to seek advice from visiting business experts. Each one-on-one session can help you clarify your direction in business, talk through key issues and priorities, and develop an action plan to help you move forward.

“Whether you’re planning, starting or growing your business, the Small Business Bus can help you to explore new ideas and possibilities,” said Ms Parkin.

Local business owners are encouraged to book a free 45 minute session between 10.00am and 4.00pm during the visit.

The Small Business Bus is equipped with hand sanitiser,

barrier screen protection and an increased cleaning schedule between clients to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you are feeling unwell or experiencing signs of COVID-19 please reschedule your appointment for another day to keep everyone safe.

Event details:

When: Wednesday 15 July, between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Where: Outside Market Building, 44 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine

Cost: Free

Book: Via www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources

When: Thursday 16 July, between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Where: Outside the Kangaroo Hotel, 89 High Street, Maldon

Cost: Free

Book: Via www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources

From a Shire Press Release



Harcourt CWA

Recipes for Isolation

Throughout these past months of isolation, the Country Women's Association of Victoria has posted some lovely recipes on its Facebook page.

Here is a quick and simple casserole the whole family will love, complete with cornbread. There is nothing better on a cold winter night.

Beef and Bean Casserole

Mince is a very useful and economical cut of meat whether it's minced beef, lamb, chicken or pork.

This recipe is from our little book called Mince Matters. It was written during what became known as the "10 year drought" to provide families with tasty, nutritious and economical family meal ideas. In this recipe, the mince beef is extended further with the addition of pasta and baked beans. This is also very quick and easy to "throw" together as a quick meal when everyone is hungry. Yum!

Ingredients

2 tbsp butter
750gm minced beef
1 onion finely chopped
425gm can tomatoes drained and chopped
125gm pasta shells
1 cup hot beef stock
2 teasp worcestershire sauce
½ teasp dried mixed herbs
1 teasp chilli powder
freshly ground black pepper
225gm can baked beans
chopped parsley to garnish

Method

Melt butter in a saucepan then brown the mince and onion. Stir in all the remaining ingredients (except baked beans and parsley). Mix well together and simmer gently for about 30-40 minutes. When mince is cooked and pasta is tender, stir in baked beans and heat through. Serve sprinkled with chopped parsley.

To help mop up any juices, serve with Cornbread.

Cornbread

Ingredients

1½ cups plain flour
1 tbsp baking powder
3 teasp caster sugar
1 teasp salt
1½ cups polenta (corn meal)
2 eggs
1¼ cups milk
90gm butter melted and cooled

Method

Sift flour and baking powder into a bowl. Add caster sugar, salt and polenta. Mix well.

Beat eggs with milk, add cooled melted butter. Add wet to dry ingredients and stir well to combine.

Grease an 18x28cm lamington tin with butter, and

spread batter evenly in the pan. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes until bread shrinks from the side of the tin.

Cut into squares and serve



Now let's talk about scones. It was recently National Scone Day, and who doesn't love a scone hot from the oven with butter melting and dripping down your chin when you bite into it. Scones provide comfort when offering a listening ear to a friend, and are very quick to put together and cook if you have unexpected visitors.

The CWA is famous for its scones. A visit to the Royal Melbourne Show just wouldn't be the same without a cuppa and a scone at the CWA Pavilion. This is the recipe that the CWA ladies make all day and every day at the Royal Melbourne Show. Enjoy.

Scones

Preheat your oven to HOT.

Ingredients

4 Cups self-raising flour
300 ml cream
300 ml milk
1 teasp sugar
Pinch salt

Method

Sift flour (very important), add other dry ingredients, add cream and milk to dry ingredients and mix to make a soft dough. Place on a lightly floured board and pat out to a thickness of about 2.5cm. Cut with a floured scone cutter. Re-roll and cut dough until it is all used.

Place on tray and bake in a hot oven for about 12- 15 minutes.

Hints

1. Adding 1 tbsp cornflour to each cup of self-raising flour makes scones lighter.
2. Don't twist the cutter when cutting the scones or you will get "leaning towers of Pisa"
3. Brush off any raw flour left on the cooked scones as the taste of raw flour is unpleasant.
4. Scones have many variations —fruit (add sultanas, chopped dates, or chopped dried apricots), -savoury (grated cheese, finely chopped parsley and or chives, chopped ham)

Continued next page ...



Family Research Past and Present

By now you have manicured the garden to such a point it will be in the Castlemaine Garden Festival next year! Every cupboard has been cleaned, so that when you open the door it sparkles. You have even discovered a new space in the garage that had been hidden by boxes, all of which have been sorted! The restrictions might be lifted but winter is drawing in, and inside activities seem more inviting than outside.

Remember those photos you looked at, had a laugh at, or that even made you cry, and that maybe you talked to other family members about? The photos that probably elicited the most comments might have been the family group.

Were they your parents or even grandparents, maybe family friends? You might be lucky and be able to recall a few of these events, but despite the low number of photos, you get the idea of what was going on. On the next page of the album, there will be another event or portrait. You get to the end of the album, or close the box of photos. You know where they are and can now easily access them.

Moving to the present day, CAN YOU SAY THE SAME ABOUT THE PHOTOS YOU TAKE NOW? Yes, you know where they are – on your phone/tablet, maybe in a folder in 'the Cloud' or on your computer. Certainly not in an album, as there are far too many. Maybe we should look to the past for a lead; taking 200 photos of an event, might be a little too many, especially if you want to share them with willing friends. If you

edit your numbers down to a manageable quantity, your enthusiastic viewers may not fall asleep.

In the past, the cost of film was expensive, even into the 1970s and 1980s, pre-digital rolls of 12, 24 and 36 colour films cost \$10-\$20 to print. Cost, obviously, is not an issue now, so this is where your discerning 'eye' will need to be used. You do not have to save ALL the shots you take, 80% can be deleted! Yes, use the Delete button before you catalogue (label). Those blurred pictures can go. Those distant shots of landscape that look boring can go. The unflattering photos too. The embarrassing photos ... you can choose! Yes, many photos can be edited on screen now, but again, unless you have the time, those pictures that are too dark can also go.

The thought of looking at thousands of holiday snaps is daunting, so the photos may never be looked at again. BUT, if you were to reduce the number, you might like to make a photo album online or even show a friend.

Backing up your photos will ensure people in the future might have the joy of looking at the events that you were part of.

Happy Deleting

Diana

heritage@harcourt.vic.au

ANA HALL – Open Wednesdays 9am–3pm

Scone hints, continued ...


5. Children love cheese and vegemite scrolls, Roll out the scone dough quite thinly, spread with vegemite, sprinkle with grated cheese and roll up like a sponge roll before cutting into slices to bake cut side up on a tray.
6. Fruity jam scrolls. Roll out the scone dough, spread with jam of any flavour, sprinkle on a mixture of sultanas and currants, roll up like a sponge roll, cut into slices, place cut side up in a round cake tin and bake in a hot oven.
7. Variations are only limited by your imagination.

We are hoping to resume our normal monthly CWA meetings in August. We have missed out on so many meetings, luncheons and outings, but, at this stage, our 90th Birthday Bash in October is still going ahead, which will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with everyone again.

We hope to see you there.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA



PLUMBER

Bruce A. Rae

Covering all Aspects of Plumbing

Mobile: 0408 371 885

Email: brucerae3@bigpond.com



solar power | battery storage | hot water |
heat pump technology for heating and cooling |
insulation | paints and oils | EV charging

49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues to Sat from 10am
t: 5472 4160 e: newstead@enviroshop.com.au
www.enviroshop.com.au



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Back to School in June

All children have been back at school for just on two weeks now, much to the relief of many children and teachers who have missed their friends, and the face-to-face contact with each other.

Office staff are relieved to be back at school too after several months of keeping the administrative side of things going from their home offices. Nikki (one of the school receptionists/office staff) said she, like many people I know who are working from home, had days where she felt quite 'Zoomed out' and isolated. She also had missed the ease of interaction that occurs between the staff and the students at HVPS. All those incidental things that can easily be fixed when one is at school took much longer by phone or internet and was so much more exhausting!

All staff have had to put in a massive effort to ensure educational goals have been met and the school keeps on functioning as well as it possibly can. A BIG THANK YOU goes to you all on behalf of the Harcourt Valley community.

Although school is back it is not 'business as usual'. There are no volunteers to hear children read or do other tasks. So, it is full-on teaching for the teachers at this time of the year, as well as their classroom duties to manage and prepare for, they have student reports to complete by the end of this term! Additionally, they are providing feedback to students on how they were seen to manage and adjust to remote and flexible learning. Then there are parent interviews to arrange which will be

conducted by phone at the beginning of next term. WOW!

Students and parents have had to make adjustments to their usual behaviours too. Parents are required to leave students at the school gate and only enter the school grounds if it is essential. Students cannot use the oval until term 3 when the new seeded grasses should be well enough established. They have been able to access the Harcourt Recreation Reserve Oval some of the time. Preps completed their nurse Health Screens this Monday and Grade 6 students are considering options for Year 7 and making applications for High School places.

Certain activities have been post-poned such as school camps, sport and school photos. Then there is always a need to consider changes that maybe required to deal with COVID-19 outbreaks or easing of restrictions. It was good news to hear that the Casual Clothes Day on the 24th June is going ahead.

In conclusion, all the parents I have spoken to have said the upside of home schooling has been that they have become more aware of what and how their children are learning. They have appreciated the efforts teachers have made to facilitate online learning for their students. Teachers enjoy your well-deserved break. Hopefully next term will be a more ordinary one.

Readers don't forget to check out HVPS art work in the school's virtual gallery: sites.google.com/education.vic.gov.au/harcourt-valley-p-s/home

Lois Denham with input from Andrew Blake



Hand Puppet 1



Hand Puppet 2



Above: Bird. Below: Flowers.

Junior Art Works

Since the juniors returned to school they have been creating hand puppets and using watercolour pencils to draw plants, flowers and birds.

Art projects didn't stop while the students were learning at a distance. Projects undertaken at different grade levels included robots, masks, and items for Mother's Day, including flowers made of paper and collage work on paper and in the garden.





Harcourt CFA

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly?

It seems that there is mainly bad news, even some ugly news, with a sprinkling of good news as we all continue through this ongoing period of living with the threat of the coronavirus. I intend using these themes (mainly good news) in reflecting the last month of events of the Brigade.

The fire station has some new colorbond fencing, completing the north side and replacing the back fence which has been just hanging in there for some time. These works were undertaken with money from the CFA's maintenance budget that needed to be spent prior to the end of the financial year. Unfortunately there was no checking with the existing colour palette so we now have a change of colour from the existing grey to the new cream.

June has been an extremely quiet month with no primary callouts within our brigade area and only two support calls which were of a minor nature. One of these was to support Elphinstone, which attended a burn-off that was not registered, and the second was to Castlemaine for a

smoke alarm in an unoccupied house. There was no fire, and on closer investigation, it was the smoke detector that was faulty. It was noted that the detector was over 16 years old, out of date and needed to be replaced. Smoke detectors have a ten-year life span.

The formation of Fire Rescue Victoria which is the combination of the MFB and the paid firefighters of the CFA commenced on July 1st. It is unfortunate that there has been a lack of consultation with both volunteers and the paid firefighters. This has culminated in the resignation of our Chief Officer, Steve Warrington, towards the end of June. The CFA (and volunteers) have endured many challenges and changes in the 75 years of the its existence and no doubt we will work through the situation we are now in. It is fortunate that this has occurred in the middle of winter, but the restrictions due to the coronavirus have put an extra level of difficulty in negotiating the processes.

The Harcourt Valley has been fortunate to receive some good rainfall, and the results can be seen in

the dams and creeks. The rain has also replenished the soil moisture content. The large granite rocks protruding from the ground are also shimmering in the sunshine with the oozing of moisture.

There have been some major building fires throughout Victoria and some loss of life. This is a timely reminder (as with the coronavirus) that we cannot become complacent and drop our guard in regard to taking all precautions to keep our homes safe from the threat of a fire.

- If you are a smoker – Stick it, don't flick it.
- If drying clothes by a heater or fire – Keep it a metre from the heater.
- If using candles – Blow them out when you go out.
- In your home – Check how fast you can exit as per your plan.
- If you have a clothes dryer – Clean the lint filter of the drier, before it catches fire.
- And if it is electric – Be safe and check it.

The shortest day has now passed, so summer is coming. Keep warm but also keep safe

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



CHIRP Walking Groups Slowly Restart

As COVID-19 restrictions ease CHIRP Community Health is slowly resuming some outdoor exercise groups, including Walking and Nordic Pole Walking groups.

"CHIRP exercise groups are important, particularly for older community members. Gentle exercise helps keep participants healthy, as does social connection with others in the group" says Allied Health & Wellbeing Manager Deb McCarthy at CHIRP Community Health.

All CHIRP exercise groups were suspended in March. The gradual resumption of group physical activities will occur with the recommended infection control measures in place, including use of hand sanitiser and

maintaining physical distancing. Participants will be asked to stay home if unwell and there will be no morning tea at the end of the group.

"Maldon And Harcourt walking groups have already started, and the Castlemaine walking group will return on Thursday 16th July. Nordic Pole Walking groups, run in partnership with Castlemaine Community House, are resuming over the next couple of weeks. We are also working closely with Maldon Hospital and Maldon Neighbourhood Centre to start a new walking group in Maldon on Monday mornings," says Deb.

Find out more about CHIRP Community Health exercise groups by calling reception on 5479 1000.

Grow Great Fruit

More than 50 Ways to Take the "Bad Luck" Out of Your Organic Fruit Growing



growgreatfruit.com

FREE RESOURCES

Webinar

"5 Key Steps to Quick Success with Fruit Trees"
growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/

Newsletter

Weekly Fruit Tips (sign up on website)

READY FOR NEW SKILLS?

50+ short courses
Grow Great Fruit Home-study Program

For all your banking needs

Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**
03 5475 1747

Supporting local businesses to recover and rebound

Maldon & District Community Bank's newest program, the Small Business Action Plan Program, has got off to a flying start.

The Community Bank is partnering with small business consultants Sorted. to present the program. Clare Fountain from Sorted. is delivering the program via online interactive sessions, combined with 1:1 mentoring to guide and inspire to help their businesses grow during and post-Covid-19.

Twenty small business from around the region are enrolled, including three from Harcourt.

"Congratulations to the local businesses for committing to growing and working ON their business, and not just in it," said Community Bank Branch Manager Adam Balzan.

"We are thrilled with the take-up of the program. We originally planned for 16 businesses to join the program, but expanded it to 20 due to demand."

The Community Bank initiated the program in response to the economic impact of the pandemic, to support local businesses to revitalise and rebound. Participants will come away from the program with a clear plan of action and confidence to relaunch their business as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Blumes Historic Bakery is one of the Harcourt businesses that has signed up for the program to strengthen their business. The wood fired bakery is building a strong customer base from the local and the wider region.

"Whilst we bought this property with the idea of a quiet tree-change, we had no idea of the opportunities that were blossoming in Harcourt. This made us think that the restoration of a historic bakery in the centre of town would add to a growing community. We are particularly



Clare leading an interactive webinar for local businesses

passionate about using good quality ingredients and making things from scratch," explained co-owner Jodie Pillinger.

"Word is spreading, and whilst it has been quieter than usual with COVID-19 restrictions, we are now starting to see many new faces who have been wanting to visit the restored bakery."

"Our hand made products, along with the beauty of the property, draws people in. I am extremely proud of restoring a piece of Harcourt's history. It's been amazing to share this journey with so many wonderful people," Jodie continued.

"I hope that with the help of the Community Bank/Sorted. business program that I can really sharpen my business sense to further develop what has so far been an amazing start to a new venture; and also to meet other local businesses that I can collaborate with," noted Jodie.

Harcourt businesses Pauline's Real Estate and Goodness Flour have also joined the business program. Participants connect through the interactive webinars, and are building networks that extend beyond the program.

"The businesses are keen to learn more about how to strengthen their small business. The participants have also welcomed the opportunity to connect with other small businesses in their region, with collaboration and mutual support ideas already flowing," said Clare Fountain.

The program will provide a boost beyond the small businesses involved – contributing to stronger local economies throughout the district.

As Clare noted, "the participants are all inspiring. They are committed to learning and being the best they can be. I can't wait to see the ripple across our communities as their business plans are implemented!"

Karly Smith

0478 435 110



Jodie and Dave Pillinger at Blumes Bakery



WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation The Northern Territory Intervention

Many serious social problems affecting Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory were put forward as justification for a draconian new regime, The NT Intervention, launched by the Howard government on 21 June 2007, a response to the “Little Children are Sacred” report.

The intention was to reduce alcohol-related harm, family violence, and incarceration. (The claim of paedophile rings was later refuted.)

Many of these measures were continued under the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory policy (2012) and subsequent programs, alongside the national Closing the Gap Campaign begun in 2008.

The Intervention was widely criticised because it also legislated to remove the permit system for access to Aboriginal Land, abolish the Community Development Employment Projects, quarantine 50% of welfare payments, compulsorily acquire Aboriginal Land and subject Aboriginal children to mandatory health checks.

Amongst other controls introduced were a Basics Card (for certain Centrelink recipients), surveillance in communities, re-

moval of children, and prohibitions on alcohol and pornography. Budgets for law enforcement, child protection, housing and health services were hugely increased.

Politicians in Canberra and Darwin expected these arrangements to create order and peacefulness in the communities.

For Aboriginal people, the policies were racist, oppressive and totally out of keeping with their culture.

Mass unemployment followed the abolition of the Community Development Employment Projects. Income Management, always racially discriminatory, made life much harder for many, (including obliterating choice of where or what supplies they could access).

Despite billions of dollars spent over the last thirteen years, many of the social problems experienced in communities have increased, rather than reduced.

Self-harm, youth suicide, and incarceration are higher than before. Aboriginal people in prison, particularly youths, far outnumber non-Aboriginal.

Even with the recent National School Reform Agreement, average school attendance has not grown.

Overcrowding continues in spite

of hundreds of new houses provided.

Alcohol bans have not reduced harmful drinking (except where community Elders exert their authority).

Extreme rates of family violence have barely changed, and communities are no safer.

Perhaps most distressing of all, even more children are being removed from family and community to out-of-home care.

After 230 years of attempts to Westernise the lives and culture of Aboriginal people, it has to be concluded that intervention to make them ‘more like us’ is not going to work.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart shows the way Aboriginal people can set things right. They are the experts in matters concerning themselves. They have the right to their Law/LORE. The Government must listen and adhere to the recommendations in the Statement from the Heart.

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

For all your banking needs
**Maldon & District
Community Bank® Branch**
 **Bendigo Bank**
03 5475 1747
Maldon | Newstead | Dunolly

Lmct:10769


EST 1955

WRECKING ALL MAKES & MODELS

We buy most cars and utes
Free old car removal

 **5474 2432**  **HARCOURTAUTO.COM**



Councillor Comment

Council Adopts COVID-19 Hardship Policy and Budget Submissions Open

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the rain and the sunshine.

It seemed like things were improving then the latest spike in COVID-19 cases in Melbourne makes us realise how far we have to go. At Council our staff are working very hard to deliver services. We all have to consider changes in the way our lives are carried out. We talk about getting back to normal but we are not really sure what the new normal will look like. When we watch the news and see what is happening around the world it makes me think how fortunate we are.

As mentioned last month our draft budget is now out for public comment. I have had a few enquiries about this so if you need to know about some aspect please feel free to call me. It should be remembered that the budget is our plan and things do change over time. All successful organisations plan for the future. We look forward to receiving feedback on the budget and this will be considered at a special meeting of Council before the final budget is adopted. See the information on this page on how to make a submission.

Our formal Council meeting in June was held with all Councillors in the chamber. I find this much better than on-line meetings which have been the norm of late. Cr Lesser and I usually attend the online meetings at the Council building. I find the internet at the council building more reliable than the service at home.

Our COVID-19 hardship policy was adopted at the meeting. It sets out how Council will assist people who can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. For information on this see the Council's website page: News – Community Update - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Response or call the Council Offices which are now open, on: 5471 1700.

There are usually some complex planning matters considered by Council. In recent times we have been having applicant objector meetings in advance of the actual Council meeting. If you watch the live stream of the meetings you will see there is robust debate on many of these issues. Councillors are required to consider all of the available information as well as listen to the debate before making a final decision on these matters. Councillors do not know in advance of the meeting how the decision will go. Like all aspects of life things don't always go how you think they might!

For the record I feel very fortunate to represent my community as a Councillor. There are many challenges for our Council which always does the very best it can for our community.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy
0439 742434

Shire's Online Grant Tool

Tap into COVID-19 Grant Opportunities

Did you know Mount Alexander Shire Council has an online tool to help community groups, not-for-profits and local businesses tap into grant funding and coronavirus (COVID-19) support initiatives?

Mount Alexander Grant Connect provides a comprehensive list of grants and funding opportunities available Australia-wide to suit your project.

The online tool provides information on how grants work, who can receive them and how to get started with tips for grant writing. Simply sign up to receive the free service which has been recently updated to include a quick list of coronavirus funding available to Victorians.

"We know many people in our community are always looking at ways to make a project happen or how to take that business idea to the next level," said Karen Evennett, Grants Coordinator, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"Grants Connect will benefit community groups, sports clubs and creatives, as well as a variety of businesses from sole traders, small start-ups and larger manufacturing or agricultural businesses," said Ms Evennett.

"The impact of COVID-19 has put even more financial pressure on everyone and the website now includes a good summary of financial support available for individuals too."

All you need to do is register and start searching. Set up your favourites and sign up for email alerts to receive relevant grant opportunities straight to your inbox.

The register includes a difficulty rating for each type of grant, and a network of service providers who can help with your grant application if needed.

To register and check out grants available visit:

mountalexander.grantguru.com.au or
www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CommunityGrants.

From a Shire Press Release

Mount Alexander Shire 2020/2021 Proposed Budget Submissions Open

Council has released its Proposed Budget for 2020/2021.

The \$45.9 million budget outlines the resources necessary to maintain and improve infrastructure, and deliver projects and services which are valued by our community. This year we have incorporated a range of projects to specifically help respond to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The budget is now open for public submissions.

Printed copies will be available for public inspection during office hours at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine from Monday 29 June or on weekends at the Market Building in Castlemaine. Precautions will be in place to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Submissions must be in writing and be lodged by 5.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020.

Please forward your submission entitled

Proposed Budget submission

to the Chief Executive Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine 3450 VIC



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Claude Wilson

In the year 1912, twenty-seven year-old H.V.C. (Claude) Wilson came to Harcourt from Kerang with his wife Meta and one-year-old son Vin. A daughter, Melva, was born in 1918.

A paragraph in the *Kerang New Times* of 30 July 1912 reported that Claude Wilson, late in the employ of Hawthorne Bros, but now of Harcourt, had been presented with a silver-mounted cigar holder and a box of cigars by his Kerang friends as a token of esteem. Claude had played football for Macorna, and was a member of the Rechabite Lodge 'Matthew Barnett Tent' Kerang.

Claude and his friend, Bill Quirk, had come to Harcourt to work in W Baldwin's General Store, then situated across the paddock beside the ANA hall and across Victoria Road from the Harcourt Fruit-Drying Cooperative factory (later Blume's Bakery). WE Baldwin, later sold the business to Claude Wilson.

A rival store, conducted by Harold McDougall, was about 100 metres away on the east side of High Street (now 12 High St). In about 1920, the rival store and stone dwelling were acquired by Claude Wilson, who promptly closed and demolished the High Street shop and made the granite house his residence. In the fashion of the times, Meta and Claude named the house "Melvyn". Claude Wilson let his other grocery shop to WJ Quirk, who in due course sold the business to JH 'Hop' and Alec Walter. Claude Wilson sold the freehold of his former General Store in 1921 to JH Walter for £900 and took up the role of manager of the Harcourt Fruit Supply.

Claude Wilson and, later, his son Vin Wilson, were managers of Harcourt Fruit Supply Society Limited during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The company was a major employer. The business served the many needs of a flourishing orchard district, selling orchard requisites, sawing timber, making fruit boxes and sorting and packing fruit. It operated from premises on leased railway land sited diagonally opposite the Cooperative Cool Stores. (A rival enterprise, the Harcourt Fruitgrowers Association, conducted its business next door to the Cool Stores and abutting the Football Ground.)

The Harcourt Fruit Supply Society took a leading role in marketing the annual fruit crop. Hundreds of thousands of cases of Harcourt apples and pears were taken to the adjacent railway siding, to be loaded



into louvered vans destined for domestic, interstate and overseas markets. In those days, the shriek of Harcourt Fruit Supply's circular saws and the hammering of the case-makers could be heard all over the town. Photographs taken at the Fruit Supply depict large numbers of employees. One group photo shows manager Claude Wilson seated in the centre front row of 37 employees (all male).

It was through the efforts of the Harcourt Fruit Supply that Harcourt apples were exported to England in huge quantities. Harcourt Fruit Supply had its own colourful labels – the "Doctor Apple" and "Doctor Pear" label. These colourful paper labels were pasted onto the end of the wooden boxes, which were also branded or impressed using metal stencils and black paint.

In a competitive market it was important to establish a 'brand'. The Harcourt Fruit Supply Society Ltd exported fruit to the UK and Europe under the "Doctor Apple" brand from 1923 to 1937. An indication of the great reputation enjoyed by the Fruit Supply is given in a letter received in 1931 from its London agent.:

"We worked all out to work up the 'Doctor Apple' brand, and having the Harcourt district behind us with the general consistency of grading. Buyers under these circumstances will pay a shilling more for fruit they can rely on. They can purchase ('Doctor Apple' branded apples) without coming to London from the suburban towns to inspect, than when they do not know the brand or are doubtful of it."

The Harcourt Fruit Supply Society Ltd served a wide area. In gratitude for his help with the sale of their fruit the

Chinese apple growers of Barkers Creek presented Claude with two large brass trays in the late 1920s.

In addition to his role as Manager of Harcourt Fruit Supply, Claude Wilson was a director of the Fruit Packers Association and a Justice of the Peace.

While living in High Street, Claude Wilson acquired land on Gaasch's Road, planting an orchard of 18 acres. You might say that Claude, not content with providing services to the apple growers, had 'skin in the game'. This orchard was later conducted by Vin Wilson.

Claude Wilson retired in the mid-nineteen forties and was succeeded as Manager of the Fruit Supply by his son Vin. Up to that time, all fruit had to be transported to market by rail. Sales returns to Harcourt's orchardists suffered by the rough handling of Harcourt Fruit when trans-shipped due to the change of gauge at each state border in the course of being freighted interstate. It was Vin Wilson's initiative to eliminate multiple handling by asking JJ Leech in 1948 to cart Harcourt Fruit by road to Brisbane.

Under Wilson's leadership at the Fruit Supply, Harcourt fruit gained a great reputation. The local producers enjoyed good returns on the sale of apples and pears. It was a time of great prosperity for the Harcourt valley. This era ended when the UK joined the European Economic Community in the 1960s. Claude Wilson did not live to see this decline in the valley's fortunes, he had died in 1950 at the age of 65.

Roadworks in 1975 resulted in the demolition of the Harcourt General Store. Its location is under bitumen approximately at the intersection of Harmony Way and Victoria Road. The Harcourt Railway Station lies derelict and overgrown. The site of the Harcourt Fruit Supply buildings is now vacant land within the over-large railway reserve.

International events played their part in the disappearance of a thriving industrial complex. But Harcourt still grows the world's best apples. It just takes them to market in a different way than was the norm in the lifetime of Claude Wilson.

This is another in a series of 'thumbnail sketches' of prominent or pioneering citizens of Harcourt compiled for The Core by Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Ducati Owners Club of Victoria pops in for Lunch.

If you happen to be passing through the centre of Harcourt you will often see rows of cars with bike racks and people setting off for the mountain bike park. And now that the cafes are open, as well as the service station, people are going in all directions to get their food and drink of choice. Along with the biking groups, we have also had visits from a number of car clubs, including the Porsche Club of Victoria (sorry we missed that one, but I was told they were here).

In mid-June, just after the restrictions were lifted, the Ducati Owners Club of Victoria called in for lunch at the Produce Store. The line-up of beautiful Ducati bikes was impressive. We spoke with Mark Slater from

Eaglehawk who was responsible for organising the trip of the day. He said, "Many of the group came from Melbourne. Club members met at Bulla, drove to Mount Macedon and proceeded on the eastern side to Redesdale, then on to Harcourt with the planned finish at Gisborne later in the day."



The Produce Store makes an excellent background for the fine array of Ducati bikes, and their proud owners.



Some of the members of the Ducati Club share a joke.

EPA Advice on Wood Heaters and Smoke

It's cold outside and for many Victorians that means a trip to the wood yard and firing up the wood burning heater. Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has some simple steps to minimise how smoke can impact your health.

It's important to understand how your heater operates and to use the appropriate fuel, which will be specified in the heater's operating manual. By using the correct fuel, your heater will run more efficiently.

Have your flue professionally checked and cleaned to ensure it's clean and free from obstructions. This will help prevent flue fires, unnecessary smoke, and ensure the heater operates correctly.

Never burn household rubbish, driftwood, treated wood or painted wood. It will pollute the air and can produce toxic gases.

Though the impact of a single wood heater is small – the cumulative impact on air quality is significant – but many air pollution problems can be minimised or prevented by using your heater correctly.

Tips on reducing smoke pollution

- Only purchase a wood heater that is certified to the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4013:1999.
- Ensure your heater is installed by a licensed person in accordance with the Building Act 1993.
- Have your flue professionally checked and cleaned.
- Refer to the manufacturer's operation manual for instructions specific to your wood heater model.
- Burn only dry, seasoned, good burning, untreated wood.
- Get a hot fire going quickly with plenty of paper and small kindling.

- Keep the air controls set high enough to keep the fire burning brightly.
- Never overload your wood heater with too much wood.
- Never leave your heater to smoulder overnight. This starves the fire of oxygen, producing more smoke and air pollution.
- Go outside and check the chimney occasionally for smoke emissions.
- Consider the wellbeing of your neighbours.
- If you are concerned about the impact of smoke on air quality, consider using other forms of energy that produce less smoke, such as energy efficient gas or electric heaters.

Tips on buying firewood

- If buying wood to use immediately, always buy dry, seasoned, good burning, untreated wood, preferably hard wood.
- Refer to your heater manufacturer's operation manual to identify the correct fuel to purchase.
- Unseasoned wood has a high moisture content and is hard to ignite, slow to burn and produces more smoke and less heat and can cause your heater flue to clog up more quickly.
- Save money by purchasing unseasoned firewood in early spring and storing it in a well-ventilated shed or other covered area until winter. Freshly cut wood should be stored for at least 8 to 12 months prior to use. It is best to stack wood in a crisscross pattern to allow air flow.

To read more about how smoke can affect your health, go to epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/air-quality/wood-smoke-air-quality/wood-smoke-pollution

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

I went for a trip on the Seine
When it suddenly started to rain.
I said "Sacré Bleu"
And then "Oh Mon Dieu"
I'll never do this trip again"

These Businesses Support The Core



Got a property that you are looking to rent out?

I have recently successfully leased this immaculate property in Harcourt and have other potential tenants looking for somewhere to call home in the area



Call me today to discuss how I can help you lease & manage your property



PO Box 60, Harcourt, VIC 3453
sales@paulinesrealestate.com.au
www.paulinesrealestate.com.au

Pauline Wilkinson
0468 543 589

ABN 96 020 02070
Real Estate Agent's Licence 177878

Level Heading

Proofreading • Copy Editing • Book Layout

*memoirs, family history, oral history
novels, short stories, anthologies, e-books
negotiable prices*

Bernie Schultz
p: 03 5472 3952
m: 0409 52 43 54

e: bernsch@gmail.com
w: levelheading.com.au



Harcourt Uniting Church

A Birthday is a great time to invite friends to your party with balloons, presents, party food and a cake to share.

The Uniting Church in Australia had its 43rd birthday on June 22nd this year, but there was no birthday cake or celebrations due to the COVID-19 restrictions preventing us from holding Church services. Harcourt Uniting Church members usually celebrate this day with a special morning tea and of course a birthday cake!

The Uniting Church was formed when the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches came together to become the Uniting Church in 1977. In Castlemaine, the Presbyterian Church in Lyttleton Street became the Uniting Church, the Methodist Church on the corner of Campbell Street and Barker Street became the 7th Day Adventist Church and the Congregational Church in Lyttleton Street is now used by those in the Presbyterian congregation who chose not to become members of the Uniting Church.

At Harcourt, we only had the two Methodist Church buildings – Harcourt and Harcourt North – so we eventually sold the Harcourt North building and continue to meet in the Harcourt Church.

Like many organisations we are still waiting to see when we will be able to resume Church Services in Harcourt. In the meantime, we are keeping in touch with all members with phone calls, emails, old fashioned letter writing and an occasional chat in the street while practising social distancing. 2020 will certainly be remembered as a challenging year, especially in Australia, with drought, bushfire and COVID-19.

Father Patrick was known to sneak off for a quick game of golf before the Sunday Service. One morning at the crack of dawn he was spotted on the golf course by an angel. The angel said to God: "Father Patrick should be punished for playing golf on a Sunday" "And so he will be" said God. "Just watch this!" Father Patrick hits off on the par 5 hole and it flies through the air and goes straight in the hole. The angel turns to God and says: "I thought you were going to punish him but you've given him the golfers' dream of a hole in one on the longest hole on the course." God smiles and says: "I have punished him – who is he going to tell?"

Jan Jenkin



Vicki Polglase

Registered Marriage Celebrant

Weddings | End of Life Ceremonies | Special Events

Based in Harcourt,
Central Victoria

0414 716 365
vicki@thiscelebrant.com.au

Servicing wherever love leads

Apples, Chick Peas and...Lentils (tonnes of them)

Harcourt volunteers have donated their time to support Bendigo Food Share on a weekly basis since the end of April. Assistance began with a couple of hefty sessions of apple picking. End of season Striped Fuji and Pink Lady apples were picked and then stored at Harcourt Cool Store.

Every week since then the volunteers have been swapping stories, chatting and laughing, while packing apples, chick peas and of late, lentils.

The lentils are probably the most challenging to pack, but assisted by Trevor Peeler, Manager of the Cool Store, the packing goes smoothly. The lentils when packed weigh about 1 kg per labelled plastic bag. Over the two lentil packing sessions so far, about

2,000 bags have been filled and sealed! On July 1 the Manager of Bendigo Food Share, Bridget Bentley, visited and took a photo for the Food Share Facebook Page. Bridget and Food Share Warehouse and Logistics Manager, Annie Constable also brought down a number of volunteers for the last apple picking session which concluded with a get-together - all within the current COVID-19 restrictions of course.

If you have a couple of hours to spare on a Wednesday afternoon, you will be most welcome to join this friendly group of locals in helping our surrounding community. All volunteers are signed up to Bendigo Food Share and are covered by

insurance and receive a copy of the Food Share Volunteer magazine by email.

Contact:

Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271 or

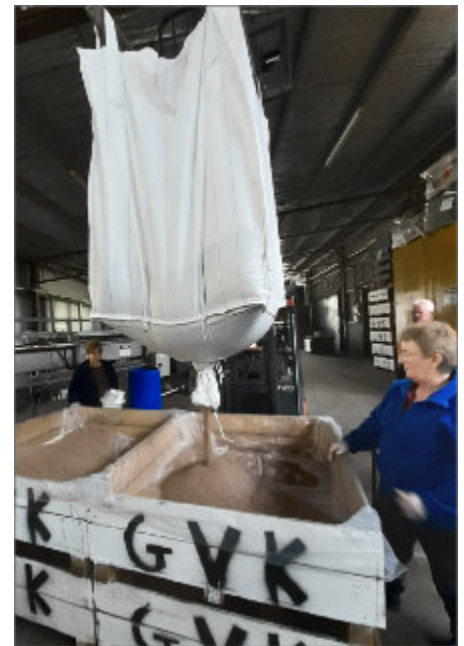
email: rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com



Nick, Ian and Kay were happy to see the bottom of a bin of chick peas – a job well done.



This happy bunch tried their hand at lentil packing.



Heather Braid prepares to untie the string which, when pulled, allows the lentils to stream into the bins.

Phil Carlyle

0408 128 313
phil@thefoliagefellers.com.au

The Foliage Fellers
 Keeping your gardens looking good all year round

Covering all aspects of garden maintenance
 and fire hazard reduction

Fully insured ABN 46 398 638 178



Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552
 Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550

T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736
 E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au

 @LMChesters •  /LisaChestersBendigo



Have your say on Proposed Local Law

Mount Alexander Shire Council is inviting the community to have a say on a draft General Local Law by making a submission or completing a survey.

It is proposed the single law will replace the existing Local Laws No. 2 to 6 and the Local Law Procedures Manual, which are due to expire in November 2020.

The draft General Local Law covers laws that relate to amenity on private property and in public places, animal and waste management, the protection of infrastructure and assets, permits, administration and enforcement.

"Local laws are a regulatory instrument used by local governments to regulate a broad range of issues to protect public health, safety and amenity in the community," said Jess Howard, Director Infrastructure and Development, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"They are designed to complement our responsibilities under state and federal laws.

"We want to build a greater understanding and support for our local laws to increase quality of life and liveability in our shire," she said.

Council has reviewed the local law to make it easier to understand, remove anomalies, and bring it into line with best practice guidelines and other legislation, where relevant. It has also been updated to address needs relating to shire's urban-rural demographic.

Following a review and consultation with staff and councillors, Council is now inviting the community to have a say on the draft General Local Law. The main changes are summarised in a Community Impact Statement and a summary document outlining the changes to specific clauses.

Community members are invited to complete a simple survey or make a submission to provide their feedback on the proposed changes and what they would like to see included. Visit the Have your say section of Council's website for a copy of the survey and key documents or pick up a copy from Civic Centre on Lyttleton Street in Castlemaine.

Please send your submission titled Local Law Review to Mr Jeffrey Amy, Coordinator Community Safety and Amenity, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine VIC 3450 or by email to info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Submissions close at 5.00pm on Friday 31 July 2020. If you want to be heard in person at a Council Meeting please request this in your submission.

Council will consider community submissions at a future Council Meeting, before it considers adopting the final General Local Law 2020 later this year. Once endorsed, the Local Law must be published in the Government Gazette before it comes into effect.

The Local Government Act 2020 provides Councils with the legislative basis for the operation of local laws, or by-laws to exercise powers in the shire. Local Law No. 1 Meeting Procedures 2018 is excluded from the current review process.

For more information contact Mr Jeffrey Amy on (03) 5471 1764.

From a Shire Press Release

LOVE YOUR PET?

Send a picture of your pet to the editor:
news@harcourt.vic.au
and tell us why you love your pet.

Rose Pruning Tips

Janyce McMurtrie's repeat series of gardening tips holds many insights for new and experienced gardeners alike.

Hello Garden lovers,

This month's cold and frosty weather makes gardening a little difficult. But when the sun comes out it is a pleasure to get outside to do a little pruning, deadheading or planting. Winter is the perfect time to prune roses. So with a little courage, clean sharp secateurs and some strong gloves we can tackle our roses.

Rose pruning can seem daunting but roses are tough and can generally be pruned quite hard. Always prune your roses with clean secateurs to avoid transfer of infection.

Firstly, remove all deadwood and then weak and straggly growth back to the stem. This will make the next part easier. For bush roses, remove all inward facing growth. Then shorten older growth by one third (or half if you are more courageous). Make cuts just above fat, healthy outward-facing buds to promote good shape. Make cuts angled to help water run-off rather than sit on stems.

If you can identify new fresh, long growth (known as water shoots) just lightly prune these as they will provide new growth and flowers next year.

Any growth coming from below the graft should be removed. These are suckers and are a different variety than your chosen rose. Remove these with a clean cut below ground level and down to the root if possible. If left, they can out-compete your roses.

When you have finished, dispose of your prunings in a plastic bag in the rubbish or by burning to avoid spread of disease.

Winter is also a good time to divide perennials. Some of ours have established well enough that we can divide some for transplanting. Some are still flowering and adding some colour, so a light prune is all they need for the moment.

This month we are:

- Planting new garden beds;
- Dividing perennials;
- Covering frost tender plants;

This month in the woodland:

- Chocolate Lilies are shooting.

Happy Gardening

Janyce



SJK EXCAVATIONS

Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks

Stuart King
Owner/Operator
sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au

0407 514 797

ABN: 63708909386

Growing Great Fruit Trees with Katie Finlay

Give Grafting a Go – It's Time to Collect Scion Wood

Last month we talked about how enjoyable and easy it is to graft your fruit trees, to grow your own trees for free, increase the diversity in your garden, and create multi-graft fruit trees.

This month is your reminder that the time to collect grafting wood (called scions) is while the trees are dormant - i.e., any time now. The time between when last year's leaves fall off and next year's buds start swelling seems to get shorter every year, but it's better to collect the wood earlier rather than later, even if the leaves haven't completely fallen off, rather than risk waiting too long and collecting the wood when the buds have already started to swell.

Once collected, you need to store the grafting wood in the fridge until the sap starts moving in your fruit trees in early spring, which is the time when we do the actual grafting. It takes a bit of planning, but it's worth it.

Grafting is a fantastic way to turn a seedling or a sucker into a useful fruiting tree, and plum seedlings are one of the most useful, as they make a good rootstock for both plums and apricots. You can even graft peaches and nectarines onto plum rootstock, though it tends to be less successful (and needs to be done in summer, using the summer grafting technique known as 'budding').

Here's how to successfully collect scion wood:

1. First choose the new variety you want to grow. Try asking around your neighbours to find out their favourite and most successful varieties. That way you'll be growing something that you already know will grow well in our district.
2. Try to wait to collect the grafting wood until the trees are completely dormant (no leaves).
3. Collect strong, healthy pieces of one year old wood, i.e., the shoots that grew last summer. It's not hard to spot them—just start at the end of any shoot, and go back to where you can see an obvious join to the older wood that grew the year before.
4. Cut a few pieces, wrap them in plastic wrap or seal in a plastic bag. They don't have to be airtight, but it's important to make sure the wood won't dry out.
5. Here's the really important bit—label it!
6. Then just store it somewhere cool like a cellar, or the fridge, until spring.

Care for your Worm Farm in the Cold Weather

On another topic, here's a tip for looking after your worm farm over winter. Worms don't like to be cold, so add an extra layer of insulation by covering your worm farm with underfelt or old carpet, or if you only have a small worm farm, move it into a shed or the laundry to provide some extra protection from the elements. It's important to look after them or the worms will either die or escape if conditions get too dire!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and also teach organic home fruit growing. They offer more than 50 online short courses as well as the multi-level Grow Great Fruit Program - visit growgreatfruit.com for details. With Katie's dad Merv they grow and sell fruit trees as Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery.

Last Few Trees Available Now Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

Now is the time to be buying any new fruit trees you want to plant this year, and getting them into the ground. Thanks to everyone who bought trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery this year. Sales through the website have now finished, but we've done a final stocktake and have put the last few trees for sale on the Open Food Network - they'll be available for the next couple of weeks.

Here's how to order:

1. Go to the Open Food Network:
openfoodnetwork.org.au/harcourt-coop/shop#/shop
2. In the red box that says "Choose when you want your order" choose (July) Farm Fruit Tree Pick-up
3. Order and pay for the trees you want
4. Come to the farm on our Open Days to pick them up. (Located in Dann's Road, Harcourt)

THREE FOR FREE

Purchase over 3 cubic metres of landscaping materials and receive free delivery within 30 kilometres of your closest ASQ Garden & Landscape site!



ORDER OVER
3 M³



DELIVERED WITHIN
30 KM



RECEIVE IN UNDER
3 DAYS

Terms and conditions apply. Visit asq.net.au for more information.



www.asq.net.au | Where your great outdoors begin!
a Corner Langslow and Martin Streets, Castlemaine
p 03 5472 4053 | e castlemaine@asq.net.au |

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

Maree Edwards States the Case for Castlemaine Maternity Services

On July 1, Maree Edwards, State Member for Bendigo West announced the following: "The safety and well-being of mothers and babies at Castlemaine Health is my priority.

"I have been advised that the Castlemaine Health Board adopted the final report of the review into maternity services at their meeting on Monday night and will implement all the recommendations from an independent review.

"I will continue to work closely with Castlemaine Health to ensure local women can get the very best maternity care close to home.

Castlemaine Health made the decision to temporarily divert maternity services to Bendigo Health after safety concerns were raised, and while a detailed independent review of systems and practices was undertaken.

The Department of Health & Human Services, Safer Care Victoria and Bendigo Health are working closely with Castlemaine Health on implementing the recommendations from the review.

This includes strengthening communication between Bendigo Health and Castlemaine Health by exchanging clinical skills, mentoring and developing specialist links.

The Victorian Government is providing \$100,000 to establish two new positions, including a Director of Maternity Services and a project manager to help the Board work towards resuming birthing services as soon as possible. A governance committee is also being

established to oversee the implementation of the recommendations

The Government will also fund a \$180,000 cardiotocography (CTG) electronic foetal monitoring system remotely linked to Bendigo Health to ensure extra oversight and support.

With collaboration, co-operation and additional resources the new model of care can be delivered in a timely manner and maternity services at Castlemaine Health can be reinstated as soon as possible.

I want to thank the many people who have contacted me and are very passionate about this important service. Their support for the maternity service is greatly appreciated. It is important to reiterate that the implemented changes will deliver a great outcome for many women and their babies into the future.

I understand that every effort is being made to support the women who are due to give birth during the time it will take to establish the new model of care.

I also want to thank the Midwives, GP's and Obstetricians who continue to strive for the very best patient care for the many women and families they care for.

Finally I want to make it very clear that this is a temporary pause in maternity services at Castlemaine Health and that everything is and will be done to ensure a return of the service as soon as possible."

From a Press Release

ADVERTISEMENT

Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.
My office is still available for assistance, please
contact us on 5410 2444 or
maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au

Address: 16 Lockwood Road (PO Box 1238), Kangaroo Flat, Vic 3555
www.mareeedwards.com.au
Funded from Parliamentary Budget



The Harcourt News/The Core is Published by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc.

For inclusion in *Harcourt News/The Core* contact the Editor Robyn Miller 0467 670 271 or email: news@harcourt.vic.au. Contributions of news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome, as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

For placement of advertising please contact Pauline Wilkinson via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au.

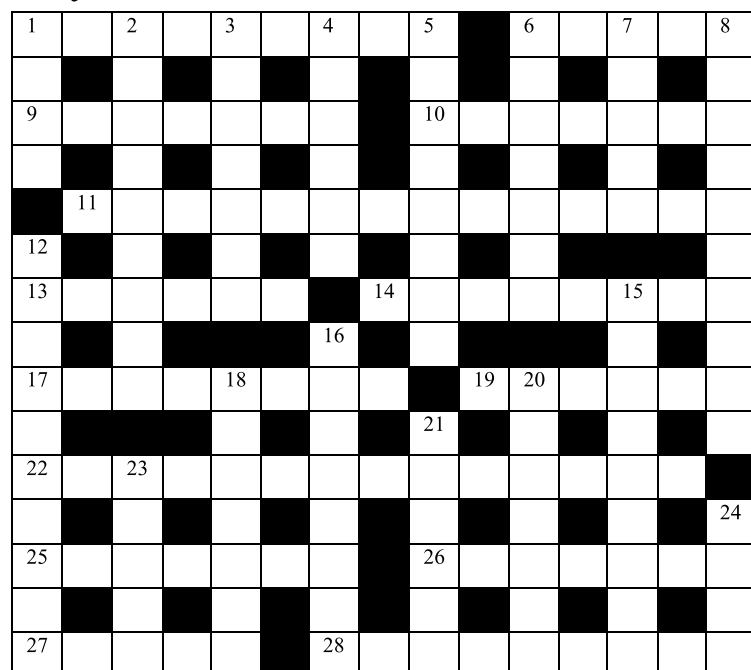
Circulation is currently 450, and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, the Harcourt Post Office, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple and in Castlemaine: Run Rabbit Run, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital and Castlemaine 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

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

July Xword 2020

© McW November '17



Down

- You could play on board, M'lud. On the other hand... (4)
- JK told mover and shaker to play the baddie. (9)
- Boss cocky on the range? (3,4)
- Manuscript under the TAB denotes emblems to hang on poles. (6)
- You may have one for someone, or a curate's egg might have one in it. (4,4)
- I ate, not like an acid might on metal. (3,4)
- Hypocritical virtue-signalling response to "Who wants to be a millionaire?". (1,4)
- Past. Retry. See ya! (10)
- Poison brat by osmosis? (10)
- They regard a rosy dawn as ominous... (9)
- Sounds like the highest sort of highness, by Jove. (8)
- The French straw making a mess of the family fortune. (7)
- Irish gal is vaguely Latinic. (7)
- The central clear-storey was a triumph for the architect. (6)
- They come with the nameless for Len. (5)
- After 7, total lack of interest. (4)

Across:

- Tokens of affection from teenaged vampire? (4-5)
- 6, 13. She wrote of Sturm und Drang in northern UK. (5,6)
- Some 15s might get this from 22. (7)
- How mariner gets to the bottom of this clue... (7)
- Ontological oxymoron? (2,3,4,3,2)
- (See 6)
- The only way to sing Ludwig's last symphony? (8)
- Dawn wins thus. (3-5)
- "X" marks inflammation, they say. (6)
22. Camp 15s' 9? (4,3,2,5)
25. Coder's intro? (2,5)
26. Origin of spotted dogs, perhaps? (7)
27. Adjectival knot in a computer network? (5)
28. The anagram clues me in on nice mules That sparkle so, and glow. (9)

June Xword 2020 solution

© McW November '17



Down

- Trollop needs to spend less time in bed if she's to ever be among these! (7)
- A foot ruler is 13" in India? [Well? 'Grand ruler' or 'Great ruler'...] (7)
- Restrained prior to mating. [Well?] (7)
- Possibility that Trump will nuke lily-livered Republicans? (We hope...) (8)
- What miser does sounds like lots of Goths or Vandals. (6)
- What could ail star of the rodeo if he gets his ropes in a knot? (7)
- With its fellows, could be gingerly walked through... possibly with me. [Well? Tiny Tim!] (7)
- Hair has ebbed, say, for a rejuvenated lawn. [Well? 're-seeded'...] (7)
- Robin's maturity? [Well?] (7)
- Chaucerian dam? [Well?] (7)
- Spots the same mix over the French plural. (7)
- Severe demotion you appropriately have coming (without the remorse). (7)
- Had same red-faced mess. (7)
- Account to hang for Bishop? [Well? Bronwyn "hang the expense—get me a helicopter" Bishop] (7)
- Breast over 17's underling for noble monikers. [Well?] (7)
- In Bishop's carpentry box? [Well? not Bronnie this time...] (7)

Across:

- Fawning in Walter Elias [Disney]'s dumB ambition. (5)
- Opposed to pure sloth, the poet hurls himself into the task, proceeding to cover the chair, or at least most thereof... (9)
- Is the dentist's conduct moral—if he still uses ether? [Well? Grounds for appeal?] (9)
- Paint fake wool? [Well?] (7)
- Mob of Lords [peers] raggedly on a bender. (7)
- Part of what seems seven tons of things made by him. (9)
- 13 and 17. Another part of the seven tons output, even making sense on TV! (2,6/2,4)
- (See 19)
- (See 13)
- 19 and 14. (8—See 28; 6—See 28)
- The owning-up of a quest to market? [Well?] (7)
- When he put in a back-flip, she became overwrought... (3-2)
- Not a figurative sea-shore, but an aural one, perhaps... (as in "littoral") (7)
- Parody of a polly [MP] getting stuck into a Great Northern Diver [loon]. (7)
- Spelt differently from Rocket-man [i.e. George Stephenson, not Trump's opposite number], he wrote 19a 14a. (9)
- Avoid car-town! [Well? the city...] (7)



Weather and Water

While we grumble about the cold and wet, we need to think about the alternative which last year led to a difficult summer. The photos, all taken on

Mount Alexander, show that there is enough moisture to get the mosses and fungi growing.

Plentiful rainfall has been received down south at the reservoirs that supply Castlemaine and surrounds and Harcourt. As a result, there is a 100% allocation for the irrigation season for Harcourt users for 2020–21. I was surprised to see the Barkers Creek Reservoir still looking low at the northern end – there is quite a bit of soil exposed, which I thought would be under water by now.

Here at Reservoir Road, we received 50.5 mm in June bringing the total rainfall received to 369 mm. This compares well with 2019 when a total of 213 mm had been received. A check of our rainfall charts shows that this is the wettest year to date for 6 years.



Coliban Announces Full Allocation of Water for Rural Customers

Coliban Water announced today that allocations for the 2020/21 rural season will open at 100 per cent.

Executive General Manager Climate and Population Adaptation Steve Healy said the announcement means that Coliban Water's 1,366 rural customers will have access to their full licence volume when the season opens in the late spring.

"Our three catchment storages on the Coliban River near Kyneton are in a strong position after above-average autumn rainfall. They are currently at 73 per cent, holding 50,468 megalitres.

"Our annual inflow for 2019/20 was approximately 35,000 megalitres, which is just over 10,000 megalitres more than last year. Rural water usage last season was around 4,400 megalitres.

"Our catchment storages are the only source of supply for towns in our Coliban Southern system, which includes Castlemaine and Kyneton.

Full text see: www.coliban.com.au/coliban-water-rural-season-open-100-cent-allocation-1



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	31,588	83.6%	27,951	74%
Lauriston	19,790	16,600	83.9%	16,070	81.2%
Malmsbury	12,034	2,273	18.9%	2,383	19.8%
Total to July 4	69,594	50,461	72.5%	46,404	66.7%
Total to June 6	69,594	48,712	70.0%	41,203	59.2%

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

**HOUSE
PAINTING
PLUS**



**HELPING CREATE BEAUTIFUL HOMES
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR**

David Jeffries: **0414 262 488**



• Residential • Industrial • Commercial

Ryan Everett

0419 875 664

ryaneverett@bigpond.com

Licence no: 47827



Connect Mount Alexander

Together we thrive

Proposed Budget 2020/2021

Council has prepared a Proposed Budget for 2020/2021. Community members are encouraged to review the draft and make a submission. Copies of the document and a budget summary are available at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay. Printed copies may be viewed at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine from Monday 29 June or on weekends at the Market Building in Castlemaine. Precautions will be in place to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Submissions must be in writing and be lodged by 5.00pm on Wednesday 15 July.

Please address submissions entitled 2020/2021 Proposed Budget to the Chief Executive Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine, VIC 3450 or email to info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Please indicate on your submission whether you would like to be heard at a Council Meeting at 5.30pm on Tuesday 28 July.

Council will consider the budget at a Council Meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18 August. Both meetings will be broadcast live to the internet via YouTube. Search Mount Alexander Shire Council.

For more information contact Carolyn Ross, Executive Manager Business Performance, on 54711700.

COVID-19 support

To help and connect our community at this time we have created a dedicated COVID-19 support number, email and an online virtual emergency relief centre (VERC). For local information or a referral to a community organisation or service, call us on 1800 512 446 between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday, email covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or visit www.connectmountalexander.com.au.

The VERC includes information and links to service providers to help residents and businesses deal with the impacts of coronavirus on the road to recovery. Local community and health organisations have collaborated to produce a printed resource pack for people who do not have access to the internet. Pick up a copy from your local post office or call 1800 512446 to request a copy in the post.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

The Victorian Government has announced the State of Emergency will be extended until 11.59pm on 19 July 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information call the hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Council services update

We have reopened our customer service desk at the Civic Centre following three months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. Precautions are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have reopened play spaces and are working with community and sporting groups to safely reopen community halls and sports facilities. Find further details on service updates at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Local laws animal survey

Council invites the community to complete a survey to provide feedback on the control of cats and dogs, as part of a review of local animal controls. The results will be used to develop a new law known as an Order of Council, for the sensible control of cats and dogs in the shire. The survey closes on Friday 17 July and is available at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay. For more information contact Jeffery Amy, Coordinator Community Safety and Amenity, on 54711700.

Complete an energy survey

Council is working with Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG) on a project to co-design a masterplan with the community to reduce the shire's carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Complete an online survey about how you use your home, energy and water to help form a baseline assessment of the shire's carbon and water footprint. Visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay to complete the survey.

Employment opportunities

Council is recruiting for a number of temporary roles through the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative. Applicants need to register with Working for Victoria and sign up to the Sidekicker online platform at www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria.

Civic Centre
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd Sts
P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 54711700
e info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au



Experiences in Médecins Sans Frontières

TB Clinic Mae Sot Thailand, January – December 2007



Ayeshere's home for months as caregiver to her dying mother.

The first time I visited the TB Clinic in Mae Sot it struck me how invisible all the patients appeared to be in their little concrete caves, staring out of these sad, hopeless eyes with so little animation. In contrast to this was 'Mute', as she was called and had been called all her life. She was 12 years old, deaf and mute and was the main carer for her dying mother Noja who had HIV/AIDS. Noja was a small dejected sad woman who lay on the floor in her crumpled dirty blankets staring out with vacant hollow eyes with so little hope. Over the months her physical condition deteriorated to the point where she was completely unable to care for herself, unable to wash or feed herself. These tasks were undertaken by 'Mute' and when I arrived she would bounce up to me smiling and excited; she seemed to be the 'lifeblood' of this lifeless' place.

She relished any attention paid to her and loved having crayons to draw and making collages and other activities. Her collages made from pictures from girly magazines were often of fashionable girls, cars and clothing – a life so alien to her circumstances of poverty and squalor. Having never attended school she took to these activities very enthusiastically. She would bring her art work excitedly to show me and through her grunts and gestures we were able to communicate together. She would often show me through her drawings how angry she felt that her mother was so sick and dying. I was able to use the different faces for her to tell me how she was feeling about her situation. She was able to tell me that her name was Ayeshere and she had come from Burma and that she had

two other brothers who were somewhere in Thailand. Later it was found that they had been sold to a factory for child labour.

After several months, a few weeks before Noja died, Ayeshere became very reactive with her mother and would suddenly disappear for several days and there was great concern for her wellbeing. When she finally returned, during our sessions she was able to 'tell' me through her drawings and gesture how scared she was feeling about losing her mother but also how angry she felt with her for their situation. It was noticeable that Ayeshere became softer and kinder to her mother following this becoming more attentive to her needs.



Ayeshere's move to the Mae La Refugee Camp Thailand.

Following the death of Noja, Ayeshere was able to use me in her grief by breaking down and sobbing. Her future was very uncertain as she was illegally living in Thailand and there were no organisations which could assist her. We were finally able to locate an uncle, the oldest brother of Noja who was living in the large Mae La camp with 55,000 refugees. He was initially reluctant to take Ayeshere as they had applied for resettlement to the USA and was concerned it would affect their application. However after many official visits to the many different organisations involved and pulling a few strings it was possible to have Ayeshere included with the family. When I took Ayeshere into the camp to meet her Uncle it was difficult leaving her there as she cried and clung onto me. I was concerned as the family did not seem to know how to relate to her and were not responsive to her. I left her with a photo of me and a phone number to contact me if she needed to. I was concerned that

she would be open to many forms of abuse within the camp setting but felt happy that if she made it to America that there she could get some interventions.



The Reunion, Mae La Camp.

Several months later I returned to the camp with a photo of her mother I had found in the medical history and a map of America. Ayeshere saw me through the chaos of the camp with its muddy, dirty paths and through a throng of people she ran towards me throwing her arms around me not wanting to let go.

We talked about her life with her uncle in the camp and her prospective journey to America flying in an aeroplane, which she seemed excited about and where she could get some help with her communication and schooling.

Did Ayeshere settle in the USA?

Now that I am back in Australia I do often think about Ayeshere and what her future will be and hope that one day I will get a letter from her from America telling me about her new life. Is it a fantasy to think that she will be better off in a strange country so different from her own? However her future in the camp is bleak with no prospects of any interventions or assistance for a deaf, mute girl born into her circumstances. What life would there be for her if left in this situation? I wondered if her collages would become real for her...

Note: In Ayeshere's case (as in many others), Judy has never found out the final outcome. Ayeshere may have arrived safely in the US or it is possible she is still in the refugee camp.

Diary Entries from Judy Coram

KEEPING OUR
LOVED ONES SAFE
KEEPS US
TOGETHER

It's up to all of us to keep our friends and families safe.

- No more than 5 visitors at your home.
- Outside the home, families and friends can meet in groups of up to 10.
- If you do have to see people, keep your distance. No handshakes or hugs. Maintain good hygiene. Don't share food or drinks.
- If you're feeling unwell - you must stay home. Don't visit friends and family. Don't go on holiday. Don't go to work. Stay home.

And if you have symptoms - get tested.

This is a wake up call. We cannot be complacent.

The only thing between us and a second wave is what we do next.

STAYING
APART KEEPS
US TOGETHER

For details go to vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne