

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 77 – November 2020

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Bush Tucker Farm for Harcourt



Maree Edwards, MP for Bendigo West; Rodney Carter, CEO of Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation and Michael Henry of Henry's Cidery.



Jaclyn Symes, Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, received a gift of local indigenous products.

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE Jaclyn Symes visited Harcourt on Thursday November 5 to announce Nalderun as a recipient of one of the Djakitjuk Djanga grants which will be used to help Aboriginal Victorian-owned businesses expand operations and trial the commercial production of native plants for food and botanicals.

Local indigenous leaders and community members gathered to hear the official announcement. The Minister congratulated those involved and said, 'We're so proud to partner with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations to deliver the Djakitjuk Djanga grants program and support the growth of this industry.'

In a fabulous collaboration, Nalderun Aboriginal Service, supported by the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, secured the grant to establish a bush tucker farm.

Local Indigenous Elder, Aunty Julie McHale, was inspired to try for the grant as she witnessed the success of the Murnong Mummas (a local indigenous catering group) and the increasing general interest in Australian native foods.

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Aunty Julie spoke to the media prior to the official presentation.

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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





Harcourt Progress Association Update

Plan Harcourt and Tiny Houses

Plan Harcourt

For the latest update on Plan Harcourt, see page 3. HPA will be responding when the planning amendment is made public and will encourage the community to respond also.

AGM

The AGM will be held in early 2021. The application to delay the AGM has gone to Consumer Affairs which is waiving fees due to COVID-19. There will be a public update on the time and date of the AGM once we've had confirmation from Consumer Affairs.

Footpaths on old Channels?

President Michael Henry has spoken to the Shire to clarify the possibility of repurposing Coliban channels as footpaths. The Shire has stated that there is no intention of putting footpaths on private land as the overlays for channels have already been removed. There is a possibility of developers re-using channel areas for footpaths within housing developments in the future.

Playspace

The construction of the Harcourt play space will be fully complete on Friday November 6 and will be open to the public in the afternoon. The link path to the pool is complete. Council has installed irrigation in the park, so this summer we will have green grass in the centre of Harcourt.

On behalf of the Play Space Working group, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns has negotiated with a video production team to produce a short video celebrating the playground. The funding for this has been provided by Council.

Local MP Maree Edwards will officially open the play space on Friday 4th December.

Harcourt News/The Core

As the HPA website is developed there is a plan to incorporate The Core into that website as well as the Harcourt Valley website. Figures for access to The Core on the Harcourt Valley website were obtained for October. They show a slight decrease on past editions. This is due to an oversight in informing Facebook readers it was online. We'll remember to let everyone know it's available online next time! The figures

also show that readership is concentrated from 25 years and upwards. A class set goes to the Primary School each month for reading. This is one way young readers can become accustomed to viewing The Core as a source of information about their community. Other ideas on contributions for The Core relating to youth in Harcourt are welcome.

Twilight Market – Assisting Local Businesses

We are well aware that the Twilight Market is missed as a key social gathering in Harcourt. It is very difficult to operate a mixed market (not entirely a Farmers' Market) plus entertainment under current restrictions. While we wait for restrictions to ease, the committee is working on an online solution to support local business which would be an ongoing initiative.

Readers can see the HPA has a great deal on its plate. New committee members are always welcome. Contact the Secretary, Liesl Malan on lm@lmla.com.au



A Different Format for the 2021 Applefest

The way in which we experience community has changed a great deal because of the pandemic. It is inevitable that Harcourt Applefest will change too. The date of the 2021 festival is Saturday March 6th. That much is fixed. But the inherent problems of public gatherings mean that the format must change.

The whole festival will still be, first and foremost, a family-friendly event. Quality Harcourt apples will be available, of course, and so will the famous apple pies. The Harcourt Art Show will proceed as normal.

Discussions with Mount Alexander Shire Council have revolved around the need to have a COVID-safe event, observing social distancing and adequate hygiene, ensuring that attendances do not exceed the density quotient and that there be a record of all people who attend the event for contact tracing. It follows from this that Applefest will have to be a fully-ticketed event.

Preliminary discussions with a number of Harcourt business proprietors have explored the potential for the Applefest to be a multi-venue happening. Many of Harcourt's attractions have agreed to offer special deals to passport holders.

A ticket to the Applefest will be a passport to the treasures of the Harcourt Valley. One thing is certain: Harcourt Applefest 2021 will be a memorable event. Mark the date on your calendar.

George Milford



Bush Tucker Farm for Harcourt

Continued from page 1.

The grant will be used to establish a commercial native food garden, employ a manager and a part-time gardener, set up an irrigation system and purchase equipment to support sales.

The food grown will provide ingredients for the Murnong Mummas, and to Sharlee Dunolly-Lee who launched Dja Wonmuruk Teas at Harcourt Applefest this year.

It is expected that once production begins, there will be additional products for sale to restaurants and other food businesses. Michael Henry, of Henry of Harcourt Cidery has generously provided the lease of the land for free until the enterprise turns a profit.

Rodney Carter, CEO of the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, performed the welcome in language and said, 'This project has inspirational value. It challenges indigenous people to be their best to create a profitable business and show how country can be healed by indigenous farming.'

The gardener at the project, Claire Barker, has been developing her horticultural skills as an intern at Gung Hoe Growers, based at the Harcourt Organic Cooperative.

The new Manager, Harley Douglas said, 'We will have a small building with a verandah and water tanks for rain collection. It will house seeds and other materials. Our plan is to have educational field visits for young indigenous people who are part of Nalderun's programs at the Castlemaine Community House.'

The Djakitjuk Djanga program, which translates to 'Country's Food' in Dja Dja Wurrung language, provides \$2 million in grants to support thirteen Aboriginal native plant businesses to blossom.

Harcourt Bush Tucker to Feature on Gardening Australia

Tune in on Friday 13th to the ABC program Gardening Australia to see local indigenous elder Aunty Julie McHale with her bush tucker garden. Aunty Julie has made her mark on indigenous education and is a leader in promoting the use of native foods.



Restoration of Harcourt's Avenue of Honour

The Victorian Government is continuing to support veterans and their families in the Mt Alexander Shire, with the latest round of grants to support the restoration of the Harcourt Avenue of Honour.

Maree Edwards announced the funding on November 5. It includes \$25,000 for Mt Alexander Shire to restore the health and condition of the Harcourt Avenue of Honour. She said, 'Veterans have a very special place in the hearts and minds of Victorians – and their service must never be forgotten.'

She also announced the successful recipient from three separate veterans' grants programs, delivering 62 projects to support the ex-service community.

Other projects include those that will preserve their legacy for future generations, as well as ongoing support to assist ex-service organisations impacted by the global coronavirus pandemic.

For a full list of successful recipients in your area and information on other veteran grant opportunities, visit: vic.gov.au/grants-support-and-commemorate-veterans.

Council update on Plan Harcourt

Mount Alexander Shire Council has taken the next step to facilitate changes to the local planning scheme to guide the growth of Harcourt, based on the recommendations in Plan Harcourt.

Council adopted the strategic plan in July this year, providing a blueprint for land use planning, town centre design, and a number of economic development initiatives for the town.

The Harcourt Framework Plan within the document outlines the proposed planning policy, zones and overlay controls to be incorporated into the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme.

Before implementing the recommendations, Council must first seek to make an amendment to the planning scheme which must be approved by the Minister for Planning.

The process to undertake an amendment is set out in the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and can take up to two years.

Before an amendment can be prepared it must first be authorised by the Minister for Planning.

Council recently submitted the draft documentation to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to seek approval from the Minister to start the process.

The planning scheme amendment, known as C094, proposes to implement changes to local planning policy content, introduce new zones to manage future residential and commercial land uses, and overlay controls to achieve preferred design and development outcomes.

While the proposed changes flow from Plan Harcourt, the planning scheme amendment does not include any local or Council-led economic development initiatives identified in the plan.

In terms of next steps, the Minister for Planning and state government department will consider the amendment documentation before authorising the amendment. The department may request further information from Council before a decision can be made.

If authorised, Council will proceed to prepare the amendment documentation for public exhibition. This would be followed by a formal public exhibition process to give the community a chance to view the proposed changes to the planning scheme, and make a submission on the proposed changes.

For more information about the Plan Harcourt visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt.

For more information about the planning scheme amendment process see below or visit:

www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme.

At this stage the town centre design project is on hold while the planning scheme amendment work proceeds.

Next steps following public exhibition

- Council reviews the submissions and considers whether to change the amendment to satisfy the submissions received, or refer to an independent planning panel to hear the amendment, which allows for submitters to be heard.
- The planning panel prepares a report that provides a recommendation to Council as to how to proceed with the amendment (adopt, adopt with changes or abandon).
- Council considers the recommendations at a Council meeting and decides whether to adopt, adopt with changes or abandon the amendment.
- Council submits the final planning scheme amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.
- If approved, the amendment is gazetted in the Government Gazette, bringing it into effect, and the changes including the rezoning of land can be made to the local planning scheme.



Harcourt CFA

November Has Become Mowmber



The effect of La Nina on spring rainfall has resulted in prolific grass growth throughout October and into November. Mowers, slashers and whipper snippers have been getting a fair workout throughout the district and will continue for some time if forecast rains occur late into November and we receive the above average rainfall for December and January as predicted. The Australian Cancer Council's Movember fundraising campaign slogan has also become Mowmber as part of ongoing preparedness for the coming fire season.

What this means is that the fire season will have a later start this year than previous years and will have higher fuel loads in the grasslands potentially resulting in more, faster and hotter burning grass fires. So preparation now is the key.

Preparing your property means you minimise the chance of property damage during a fire, even if you plan to leave early. Fire restrictions commenced in the Shires of Mildura, Swan Hill, Yarriamblack and Gannawarra in late October and will progress south as conditions dry out. Keep an eye out for notification of the declaration of the fire danger period in our local papers, on local radio stations or check out the map and list on the CFA public website.

Flood Warnings from SES

Seasonal predicted weather is indicating more likelihood of flash flooding and storms in the months ahead as well. The SES is also advising residents to prepare before the storms occur. Securing loose items in backyards, removing damaged tree limbs and storing items not being used in sheds are some of the steps that can be taken to reduce the risk. And NEVER drive through flood water.

Brigade Activity

Brigade members have conducted mandatory pre-summer training in preparation for the coming fire season. This has been done under COVID restrictions and CFA protocols. Hopefully, when you are reading this, normal training will have resumed.

Turnouts have shown an increase to five this month. These consisted of:

- two washaway incidents, (one of these was at the Calder Freeway/Fogarty's Gap Road intersection – again);
- support to Elphinstone Brigade for a petrol jerry can on fire (brigade were not required);
- support to Ambulance Victoria with a patient lift and
- a gas BBQ fire as a result of the LPG cylinder not being correctly fitted to the regulator hose.

Always ensure there are no leaks after connecting any LPG cylinders. A spray of soapy water (dishwashing liquid is ideal) is a simple test to check any gas connection. As the BBQ was on the verandah and against the wall of a western red cedar house, quick action averted a more serious situation.

Some CFA Data To Consider

From the 1st January to the 30th June 2020, the CFA responded to:

- 5,348 fires and explosions,
- 4,214 false alarms,
- 3195 motor vehicle accidents/rescues,
- 2,844 good intent calls,
- 2,116 emergency medical responses,
- 1,809 hazardous conditions and
- 1785 service calls.

This data includes the full-time staffed stations that have moved over to the new Fire Rescue Victoria which commenced on July 1st. It will be interesting to see the data for the next six months to see what changes occur.

Open grass areas are the most likely point of origin of fires, and the kitchen/cooking area is still the most likely for house fires.

Reducing the risk is still the best option. So keep on top of that grass growth, re-check and test your fire plan and stay safe.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Maya Rose is Back



Maya Rose is back in business! Her first full-band live gig since COVID-19 lockdowns will be at The Red Hill Hotel, Chewton. Maya hasn't performed in person since March 2020 because of the shutdown of live music venues across Victoria, but instead she has been writing, recording, performing online live streams and trying to navigate the 'new normal' way of life.

In August, Maya Rose released 'Home', a self-produced song and music video on YouTube, inspired by being isolated in the worst of the pandemic. 'I turned my wardrobe into a vocal booth for recording and filmed moments spent at home to accompany the song.' She hopes the song connects with anyone who has been struggling during this strange time. Maya will be performing with her band (drums and bass) with new originals written during lockdown.

Enjoy an afternoon of soulful and heartfelt tunes in the Red Hill Hotel courtyard on Sunday 29th November at 2pm. Free Entry.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

'It's All Go' as HVPS returns for Term 4

Regional Victorian families breathed a collective sigh of relief to see children back at school at the beginning of this term. The school environment is, however, still operating under restrictions regarding drop-offs and pick-ups, visitors etc. Extra-curricular activities are restricted, and Book Week activities were delayed until Wednesday the 21st of October so children could come to school dressed up in their favourite book character relating to the theme Curious Creatures, Wild Minds. Year 2-5 student representatives have had to wait until this term to receive their badges, and the 25th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the school have been put on hold.

Fortunately, not everything has been put on hold. The preschool has impressively mushroomed and is now being wired up and fitted out. It is anticipated that it will be completed by the end of the year; the opening date is still to be set.

Another change around the school is landscaping at the front entrance of the school, overseen by Kendall Ingram, a parent of the school. Kendall is undertaking a Landscape Design course at Bendigo TAFE and is designing a landscape 'makeover' as a project for her course. She has completed a concept design for the whole front area of the school. It is anticipated that the landscaping will be completed in stages subject to budgetary and other constraints.



Kendall preparing the soil



Pre-planting layout of the garden bed

her if she would mind telling *Core* readers about the Landscaping Project and a bit about how they have found living in the old school.

Kendall said, 'I began the concept design for the front of the school earlier this year. However, COVID has meant that the implementation of the first phase of the design has been much slower than I would have liked.'

'My brief was to use native plants, and preferably those indigenous to this area and that complemented existing plantings. I submitted the design for the

the entrance and make that area more inviting to parents, children and visitors.

'Members of the Harcourt Community have supported our project. Andrew Mierisch from the Miniature Railway donated several granite boulders from their site, and I was very thankful that Brian Nunn was able to transport them to the school and position them before the planting was done.'

'The next step in the project is to tidy up to the right of this bed and replant the grasses in the triangular bed in the front of the school. Soft feathery frosty topped Lomandras will replace the Dianellas which will be moved to the bushland corner of the school. I'm not sure whether this will happen this year.'

Trent and Kendall are not the first owners of the old Harcourt Primary School. Kendall said, 'There have been two other owners since the building was sold by the Education Department in 1995. We bought the place eight and a half years ago, and I fell in love with the light that streamed through the old school classroom windows, and I still love it. It had been partially renovated, but we discovered much more work needed to be done. The building needed re-stumping, and to do this the floor boards needed to be pulled up and cracks in the plaster board fixed. Once this was completed we began renovating the kitchen and bathroom. It has been a rewarding labour of love.'

Out in the old schoolyard Trent and Kendall are undertaking major landscaping work. It is great to see this old building, which is so much part of the local history, so loved and cared for.

Back to school news. The school is preparing for the transition of year 6 students out of the school and next year's preps into the school. All the meetings and organisation for these transitions have had to be held on line with Webex – quite a challenge for all involved!

The preps will be getting their taste of school on their transition days, the 13th and 18th of November. I am sure there will be a mixture of excitement and trepidation for the students transitioning into or out of the school.

School photos will be taken on the 19th of November, a memento for this odd, different year of schooling. What a year it has been!

Lois Denham



Stage 1 Concept Design North Elevation

Kendall and her husband, Trent Gibson, own the former Harcourt Primary School on Market Street. I thought it very appropriate that Kendall has undertaken this project on the 25th anniversary of the opening of the HVPS, a link between the old and the new school. My curiosity was sparked and so I asked

approval of the School Committee earlier this year, which was given.

'The first step in the process is the planting along the school wall at the front entrance. Budget and environmental constraints have to be considered before each step of the concept design is implemented. The aim is to soften

Liesl Malan & Goodness Flour



The Core had a chat with Liesl Malan about her journey into flour milling and the recent launch of her latest business, Goodness Flour. See www.goodnessflour.com.au

In 2019 we merged LMLA (my Landscape Architectural business) with Thomson Hay Landscape Architects. A friend mentioned to me that the grAiNZ (Grains) Gathering, organised by Red Beard Bakery at Trentham, was coming up. I booked a ticket because I have always had an interest in the provenance of food and regenerative agriculture.

This was such a generous experience all about breads and baking. Even though I was gluten free at the time, I found the concept exciting.

There were over 300 people in attendance in October 2019. It was freezing weather but the welcome was warm; Auntie Julie and Uncle Rick performed the smoking ceremony to open the conference. First to speak was Dr Steven Jones from Washington University whose research includes breeding and testing wheat varieties. He spoke of the loss of genetic diversity as wheat has become mass produced. Focussing on only a few types of wheat means that the majority of the world's wheat cannot deal with climate change, or with seasonal variations, and there is also loss of a range of flavours.

On the second day, I attended a session called 'Bakenomics' where experienced bakery owners were on stage. Here the discussion was around the economics of running a bakery. They were very generous, sharing personal stories and answering questions freely.

Attendees came from all around Australia. Some brought commercial ovens plus food and cooked for the crowds. There were a number of marquees covering different topics including a demonstration tent, a speakers tent and so on. One of the demonstrations included a mill for crushing flour. The entire event was professionally recorded and is on line.

I hadn't thought about milling flour, but was inspired. I have been participating in the Harcourt Twilight Market with cards and tea towels under my LMLA brand. I thought, 'I have a little mill. I might just mill some flour and see if there is any interest in small batch flour with grains like spelt and rye,' and Goodness Flour was born.

I currently have a range of 10

'Good food comes down to what soil it is grown in, and how it is processed. Good food is grown in good soils with no weird stuff added.'

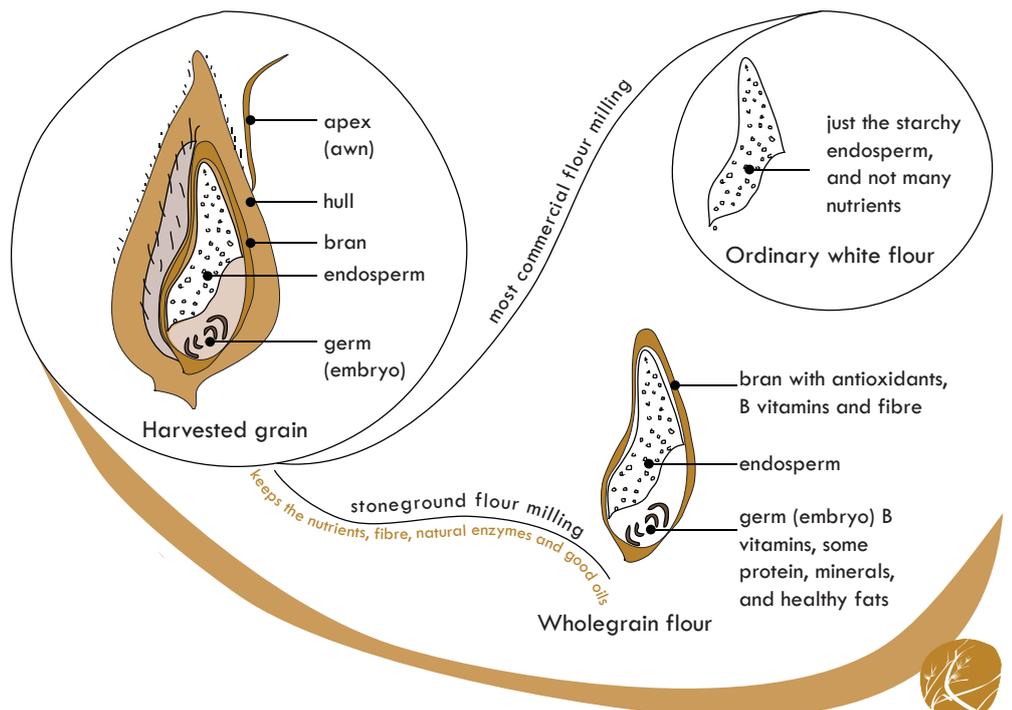


different grains – all organic and biodynamic - rye, spelt, scout, yellow peas, millet, buckwheat, brown rice, oats, emmer and barley. The range will change depending on seasonal availability. Some of the flour is gluten free but I don't guarantee it, because it's milled in a kitchen where flour with gluten is also milled.

Stone ground mills produce a different grind to commercial milling which uses steel rollers. (See the illustration below of the different processes of milling grain.) The commercial process is faster and results in a finer grain. Prior to

milling, commercial millers remove the bran and the germ because they gum up the machines. This means that just the endosperm is milled (which is the starchy bit), not the whole grain. Many of the commercial flours which are sold as wholemeal have usually just had some of the bran added back in. The enzymes which were part of the 'package' which nature put together with the bran and other components, are missing. When you break that package it's not as easy to digest. Carbohydrate values stay much the same whatever milling process is used, but stone milling retains the enzymes and nutrients, micronutrients and minerals.'

Because stone ground flour retains the good fats/oils it means that the flour has to be treated like a fresh product. The oils will go rancid if the flour is not stored appropriately or within the recommended time. Once milled, the flour should be used according to its 'Best Before date', and each flour has a different shelf life. For example, oats have very high nutrients and oil and therefore will have the shortest Best Before date. So, I package in small quantities: 250 gram is ideal for someone who wants to experiment with a particular variety of flour, and there are 500 gram and 1 kilogram packages.



GOODNESS FLOUR

THE CORE

I have been testing mail times by sending packages to friends and family interstate.

I started to learn about the different qualities of flours. I have done a lot of test baking, which saves customers from baking disasters. For example, I had never used emmer flour before. Emmer is not easy to use for bread, as it's heavy, but it is ideal for biscuits when you want crispness, flavour and low gluten – it's beautiful.

I now have a specialist mill room with storage and packaging facilities. I have a lot to learn about the craft of milling. It's a trade which has been passed on for centuries. I respect the in-depth knowledge of others. The business supports the growers who are trying to diversify the genetic pool. For home bakers who are interested, mills are affordable, and freshly milled flour is within everyone's reach.

I'm using local grains wherever possible, for example, from Powlett Hill between Newstead and Ballarat and we buy from Burrum Biodynamics, growers in the Wimmera. If I can't get the grain locally, I try to use local re-sellers as much as possible. I also sell a small range of the grains as well as the milled flour. The website has pre-tested recipes available for those not familiar with the performance of some varieties of flour.



There is a range of 10 pre-mixes which are on the website. Pre-mixes started off as my way of giving friends a helping hand in how to use the different flours. The pre-mixes are a lovely opportunity to work collaboratively with other producers. This is a way of celebrating the producer and the source of their product. I want the consumer to know where the ingredients come from.

One simple example of a pre-mix is the whole grain apple muffins. The contents include fresh local apples, scout wheat and rye flour, organic ginger and cinnamon,

flaked almonds, baking powder, baking soda, pure vanilla, and natural sea salt. Eggs and oil need to be added. And of course, all the instructions are included.'

I deliver once a week within 25 kilometres of Harcourt. After the order is received, the flour is milled and delivered within 7–10 days from the date of the order. This is because I don't buy in bulk or sell in bulk, so batches are stored for only a short time, ensuring high quality. While the pandemic is on, delivery is free.

I'm selling at the Farmer's Markets in Castlemaine. I am also involved in collaborations with two other local businesses, and we are working on the production of unique Harcourt products combining their products with Goodness Flours.

For me it's been a journey in terms of health. It has become clear to me that the quality of food matters enormously. Good food comes down to what soil it is grown in, and how it is processed. Good food is grown in good soils with no weird stuff added. That was one of the main reasons for starting the business, to support those regenerative farmers and producers who are looking after the soil and are building up soil nutrient profiles and farming a more diverse range of products.



Victoria, you know fire.

The 2020-21 fire season is coming and we're about to start an important fire safety campaign. With last season's memories so fresh, some people may find it confronting. If you have any concerns, or you or a loved one are emotionally affected by the campaign, support is available on our website, or by calling Lifeline 13 11 14.

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Harcourt Bowling Club

Annual General Meeting

Immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Harcourt Bowling Club on 4th October, President Russell Maltby conducted a friendly and informal presentation to Club Champions from last season – Carrol Frost and Steven Douglas, with Runners Up Judy Ewing and Brett Jenkinson. Eight pins were presented to Joan Bath, Chris Anderson, Ian McMillan and Seth Bird for scoring an 8 in Division 9 Weekend Pennant. Russell took the opportunity to thank members and volunteers for all their work throughout the year and to those who have undertaken maintenance and repair works in and around the Club during the break.

The Season of 2020–21 was then officially declared open, and Russell welcomed Life Members and new members to the Club.

Russell Maltby presided over the Annual General Meeting at which the annual report was presented to members and accepted. Five nominations were accepted to fill the five vacancies on the Board. Russell Maltby, Ken Tribe, Judith Ewing and Brian Buchanan were reappointed, and the new nomination from Brett Jenkinson was also elected unopposed.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board that day, Ken Tribe was elected as President, the Treasurer is Judy Ewing, Vice Presidents are Heather Braid (Ladies) and Brian Buchanan (Men). John Grant has since been co-opted onto the Board to fill the position of Secretary vacated by Chris Anderson.

Thank you to Russell Maltby for his great work and stewardship of the club during his Presidency.

A welcome sight this month is the activity at the Club and bowlers on the Green – albeit wearing masks.

Like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, the Club is slowly coming out of lockdown.

With all COVID precautions in place, the bar will again be open on Wednesday nights and the Friday night Members



Brett Jenkinson and Ken Tribe

Draw raffles are also on again. We are able to make good use of the outside deck to comply with restrictions – COVID marshalls have been nominated to ensure that correct procedures are followed.

Pennant

Midweek Pennant commenced on Monday 26th October under totally different conditions to last season.

A revision of the rules will see up to 3 men per rink able to play in the lead to third positions. This season, pennant teams will play 21 ends without a break instead of 25 ends with a half hour lunch break.

The COVID rules that apply mean that only 2 people can travel together in the same vehicle, which will have an effect on travel arrangements. Harcourt will field teams in Division 3 and Division 5.

Weekend Pennant commenced on Saturday 7th November for Divisions 2 and 5 while Division 8 will commence a week later on 14th November.

Christine Anderson

Harcourt Tennis Club Season Open

Competition tennis will begin on November 7 with teams playing Saturday afternoon with the Marong Tennis Association and Juniors playing with Castlemaine District Tennis Association.

Harcourt Social Tennis will commence on November 5 and will be happening every Thursday night at 7 pm. Anyone interested can just turn up on the night and enjoy a social hit of tennis.

Jill Atkin is available for tennis coaching at the Harcourt courts.

We are always on the lookout for new members to join our Competition teams or to be part of our Social Tennis on a Thursday night.

Interested?

For more information about any of the weekly events at the Club, please contact Sharon Blake on 0438 010 309 or Faye Hards on 0403 967 918.



Harcourt Tennis Club 1975–76 finalists. Pictured are: Steven Hill, Cliff Leversha, George Leversha, Wilma Kidman, Dianne Bertoncini (Leversha) and Lyn Allen.

Harcourt Cricket Club

On a perfect day for cricket, the season opened on October 31 with Harcourt A Reserve bowling against Newstead at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve. Unfortunately, despite a good effort, Harcourt lost to Newstead in a 40 overs a side match. Newstead scored 7/222 (cc) to Harcourt's 9/141.

The next round for A Reserve is on November 7 when it meets Barkers Creek at Barkers Creek Cricket Club Oval.

The Harcourt Women's team will step up for their first round on Friday November 6 against Muckleford at Harcourt. Michael Simmins, Treasurer of Harcourt Cricket Club, said, 'We are very pleased to have a women's team on board, as it gives the club a broader community representation, and it's great for families to become involved. I encourage any local women who would like to play to make contact with the club.' (For contact details see below.)

The Under 16s team had their first win of the season against Guildford who played away at the Harcourt Ground.

More Under 16 players needed

'We are pleased to begin the season fielding five sides: two Senior Grade teams (A Reserve and B), a Women's Team and an Under 16 and an Under 13 side, but we need more players for the Under 16 group,' said Michael.

Aspiring players can contact Tammy Simmins, Secretary, at: harcourtcricketclub@gmail.com



Luke Engi, shows great bowling style for Harcourt on October 31.



Newstead batsman, Orlando O'Sullivan faces up to Harcourt's bowling.

Harcourt Pool Expected to Open December 5

Current COVID-19 Rules for Outdoor Pools

At the moment, if everything remains the same, this is what the restrictions say about the use of outdoor pools.

Victorian COVID-19 Restrictions easing from 11:59pm 27 October 2020

Are swimming pools open?

Outdoor swimming pools and chlorinated spas will be open, including communal changing facilities, showers and toilets. Access to other indoor facilities is not permitted. Outdoor pools can open for up to 50 people per pool.

Schools using outdoor pools have an exception to this cap when they have exclusive use of the pool during their visit.

Source: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sport-and-exercise-third-step#what-outdoor-facilities-can-open-under-third-step-restrictions



Learner Drivers Back on the Road as Restrictions Ease

13 October 2020

It was all smiles this week as learners were reunited with volunteer mentors for supervised driving lessons as the TAC L2P Program resumed in the Mount Alexander area. The program is run locally through CHIRP Community Health.

The TAC L2P Program assists learners under 21 years of age, who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle, to gain the 120 hours driving experience required for them to apply for a probationary licence.

The TAC L2P Program improves road safety and safe driving practices and, for many young learners it leads to education, employment, and the sense of achievement and independence that comes with a drivers licence.

Learner drivers have been waiting for government restrictions to be lifted so they can continue their learn-to-drive journey.

New COVID-19 protocols and procedures are in place to keep learners and mentors as safe as possible. L2P Coordinator, Lisa Cavallaro says, 'Both our learners and mentors have been keen to see the restrictions ease so they can resume their driving lessons. As well as limits on their driving activities, young people have been hit hard by the social restrictions and disruption to their schooling. It's great to help them get back on track with the goal of getting their licence.'

New volunteers are always welcome, but we are especially keen to hear from young learner drivers, and places are available now.

To learn more about the program visit www.chirp.org.au.

The TAC L2P Program is funded by TAC and managed by the Department of Transport.

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Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch



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The Power of Choices

Last week MDCB (Maldon and District Community Bank) held their AGM, complete with reports, financials, and all the rest of it. Dull, right?

Well, yes, but it was also kind of amazing. This very small community-owned company reported that in the last financial year they put \$120,000 back into the community, and another \$125,000 into a fund for future grants programs. That brings the total that's gone back into the community to more than \$3.1 million dollars!

So, what did the money get spent on this year?

Helping sporting clubs to survive COVID, teaching safe driving skills to teenagers, supporting 19 small businesses to grow their businesses, scholarships for tertiary students, and funding primary school kids to come up with their own 'sparky' ideas for what will improve their school were all on the list. Harcourt Valley Primary School used the money to put up new flagpoles so they can fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags alongside the Australian flag to celebrate inclusivity at the school.

Then there were iso-breaker activities: supporting the Mount Alexander Community Pantry, business awards, ag shows, Australia Day celebrations, the Race Ya' Asthma Foundation fundraiser... the list goes on, but you get the picture.

This is my last article as a director of the bank. I resigned at the AGM after 4½ years on the board. I joined to get



Harcourt Valley Primary School used their Sparky grant to put up new flagpoles so they can fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags alongside the Australian flag to celebrate inclusivity at the school.

more skills because I'd just finished doing the Company Directors Course, but also because Harcourt had never been represented on the board. It seemed like a good chance to build a bridge between MDCB and Harcourt and start trying to get some of that community investment flowing our way!

It's been a wonderful experience, and I've had a lot of fun working with this brilliant team of passionate and

dedicated directors and staff. Along the way I've learned heaps and definitely got better at understanding things like good governance and risk, and I've even learned a bit about banking!

But the main thing I've learned is the incredible power of our choices.

You've probably heard of the concept of 'voting for change with your hip pocket' – the idea being that where you decide to spend your money can bring about the type of change you want to see in the world.

Seeing this in action up close, and really understanding the power of the choices we all make when we decide something as simple as where we bank, has been eye-opening. Just choosing to take some of your banking to MDCB has a real, tangible impact on the community where you live.

There are whispers in the wind about a new director from Harcourt joining the bank to continue to strengthen the connections with our community, but it's still too early to announce anything, so stay tuned!

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December 5th International Volunteer Day 2020

For almost four decades communities around the world have been celebrating International Volunteer Day (IVD) on December 5th. First declared by the United Nations on 17th December 1985, International Volunteer Day is the one day of the year when the work of all volunteers is acknowledged and applauded worldwide. In 2017 the economic value of volunteering around the world was estimated to be US \$1.35 trillion with over 970 million people volunteering their time.

In Australia around a third of the population over the age of 18 volunteer through organisations. However, this figure is greatly increased when informal volunteering is also included in the count. In Harcourt, many people volunteer through service clubs, community services, interest groups such as the Historical Society and VMR. Many more volunteer through sporting and recreational clubs, Landcare, schools, kindergartens, the CFA, the CWA and The Core, to mention a few. In Harcourt there is also a significant level of informal volunteering; the things you do because you are a good neighbour or friend. These everyday acts of involvement, engagement and kindness are the glue that keeps a community strong.

This year has thrown us many challenges and Harcourt can rightfully say it is a resilient community, but Harcourt needs your help. Many of the volunteer groups need new volunteers and a much-needed injection of enthusiasm if they are to continue to thrive and make Harcourt a great place in which to live.

This year's theme for IVD is 'Together We Can Through Volunteering' so if you are interested in volunteering (or in sending your partner, spouse, or children out to volunteer) there are many opportunities in Harcourt. In the meantime, a huge thanks to all the volunteers, both formal and informal, who have helped get us through this year's crises.

Sha Cordingley

Harcourt Swimming Pool Community Interest Group

Are you a member of the community who wants to play a key role in guiding the success of programs and services, while assisting in providing maximum participation at the Harcourt Swimming Pool?

We are seeking expressions of interest from members of the community to come together and form a Harcourt Swimming Pool Community Interest Group. If you're interested, or would like to learn more about this rewarding opportunity, follow the link and complete an expression of interest today – bit.ly/2HTuJOL

Facebook announcement by Bendigo YMCA and Mount Alexander Shire Council



If your group is in need of volunteers, contact *The Core* team for a place in the Volunteer Call Out at: news@harcourt.vic.au

La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Committee – New Input Wanted

Have your say about this facility which has brought many visitors to Harcourt.

Let's get fresh local representation on the LLBG committee which will have a nomination and selection process soon.

New people and new ideas are needed. The local community will benefit most from the park if decisions are informed by those who live in Harcourt.

You can read more in the December edition of the *Core* and there will be official press releases about the recruitment process which is conducted in accordance with State Government requirements.

Harcourt Heritage Centre

Are you interested in the history of where you live? Find out more as you volunteer with us.

We are looking for people (who can turn on a computer) to help catalogue the growing backlog of archives.

We invite you to come and see us and have a chat any Wednesday morning 9–1 pm. Obligation free.

Or call Diana: 0427 396 211, George: 0400 916 527, or Wendy: 0419 642 569 for more information.





Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Restless Mind and Creative Energy of CH Seelenmeyer

We can say with certainty that Charles Seelenmeyer came to Harcourt in the early eighteen-nineties, because, in December 1894, as a thin, lanky, sixteen-year-old he was a member of the Harcourt cricket team that played against Bendigo.

Charles Henry Seelenmeyer had been born at South Yarra in 1878. Regrettably, the child's father died of 'miner's disease' (phthisis) when Charles was just five months of age, and the boy's uncle, Dr Adolph Seelenmeyer, took responsibility for a large part of his upbringing. In fact, in a newspaper report it was stated that Charles was 'the nephew and adopted son of Dr Seelenmeyer'. The story of how this teenager came to our valley is the story of the extension of orchards into Harcourt North.

About 1890, pioneer Henry Ely purchased a large acreage from the Ravenswood Estate (then being liquidated to wind up the estate of the late Robert Moffat). This portion of the sheep run comprised a large part of what had formerly been Dr William Barker's homestead holding of 640 acres. Henry Ely subdivided and on-sold the land on the south side of McIvor Road to retired Victorian Government Architect Henry Bastow and his close friend Dr Adolph Seelenmeyer.

Dr Seelenmeyer conducted his medical practice at 88 Collins Street, Melbourne. He also travelled extensively to conduct gospel meetings. It is said of Henry Bastow, Dr Seelenmeyer, and their colleagues that they had an understanding of the Bible and a depth of theological teaching probably unparalleled in Christendom. Yet they lived a simple lifestyle. No building need be consecrated; a barn served as well as a basilica, and there was no ordained ministry, but men of God were moved to speak by God's Spirit. HR Bastow and Dr Seelenmeyer found many friends in Harcourt.

HR Bastow and Dr Seelenmeyer set to work on their large landholdings without delay. Four brothers, Ebenezer, Reuben, Harry, and Ben Eagle, came to Harcourt at Dr Seelenmeyer's invitation to clear the land along McIvor Road. In the winter of 1893, HR Bastow planted 15 acres of orchard while Dr Seelenmeyer had sold part of his land to the Eagle Brothers and, with their help, planted 30 acres of orchard on lower lying land on

what is now 'Harcourt Firewood', north of the Harcourt Cemetery and on the opposite side. Fifteen-year-old Charles Seelenmeyer worked alongside the Eagle brothers as they laid out what was to become Charles' own orchard.

Charles kept up his cricket. He was a member of Harcourt's premierships team in 1898/99 and was still playing in 1920/21. But it was as an innovator and leading orchardist that he came to prominence in Harcourt. A feature article on 'The Harcourt Fruit Industry' in 1907 stated that in 1906/7 the Seelenmeyer orchard yielded more than 5,000 cases of fruit, 3,300 of which found their way to the London market.

In February 1910, Charles inaugurated a new era in orchard practice in Harcourt by staging a demonstration of a mechanised spray pump. He had imported a Henningson spray pump and, at its trial run, showed that it could maintain a spray at over 200 pounds per square inch. It was agreed that such a pressure had never before been obtained by any hand pump then in use in local orchards.

Later in 1910, at the Sutton Grange church, Charles married Agnes Catherine MacRae, only daughter of the late Alexander MacRae of Breadalbane. The couple ultimately had four sons, Roy, John, Henry, and Hugh.

1914 was a busy year for Charles. He obtained a ¼ acre of land at Harcourt from the Land Board on which to build a galvanised factory (about 30 metres by 10 metres) with a concrete floor. With three employees, he started immediately to manufacture concrete pipes for orchard drainage, and concrete blocks for building and paving. The sand used in the business was taken from the adjacent creek. It was found that as much sand as might be taken from the creek during a day's work would be replaced that same night by the flow of the creek. (Other manufacturers had to import sand from NSW.) The factory was built on the creek bank directly to the west of the ANA Hall.

Before it was fitted out, the new building was the venue for a public banquet held to mark the visit of Sir Arthur Stanley the 14th Governor of Victoria, at the opening of the Fruit Growers Association State Conference. The loan of the premises by Charles Seelenmeyer was much appreciated.



The Weekly Times, October 17 1931, via Trove.

In December 1914, Charles was granted Letters Patent by the Commonwealth for the process by which concrete pipes were cured after withdrawing them from the mould, allowing the formwork to be used repeatedly while the concrete was still 'green'. A full technical description of the manufacturing processes was featured in the *Mount Alexander Mail* of 23 July 1914. The article concludes, 'Harcourt growers can well congratulate themselves on having an industry established in their midst which will be of immense convenience and advantage to them in the draining of orchard lands.' Charles donated 300 drain tiles for the drainage of Stanley Park. The drains set out in Seelenmeyer's orchard were typical of many Harcourt orchards. Throughout his orchard, Charles Seelenmeyer had installed three- and four-inch agricultural pipes 13 metres apart and a little over a metre deep.

Sensational headlines in 1917 told how little Hugh Seelenmeyer, five and a half years old, had vanished when he had gone for a walk with 12-year-old Eddie May on a Saturday morning in July. Search parties scoured the district while, unbeknown

Continued next page ...

The Restless Mind and Creative Energy of CH Seelenmeyer

Continued from the previous page

to any adult, Eddie had decided to visit friends in Melbourne. The two children slept under a bush at Elphinstone overnight and, sturdy boys that they were, tramped steadily on alongside the railway line, 'burdened only with a ferret.' It was the ferret that fooled the boys' parents, they thought the pair had gone rabbiting. On Sunday, the alarm having been given to all district police, news started to come in of the sighting of the boys at various places on the railway line. Eventually, a search party overtook the two adventurous lads tramping gamely along, at Carlsruhe, 48 kilometres from Harcourt.

Apart from his triumphs on the cricket pitch, the name of Charles Seelenmeyer did not re-appear in the press until 1924 when the concrete factory venture was floated as a company: Concrete Utilities Ltd. In October 1924, Charles Seelenmeyer sailed to America with the intention of obtaining the most up-to-date machinery for the manufacture of house blocks, tiles, and flowerpots. The cement blocks used in some Harcourt and Sutton Grange buildings would appear to have been made after this date.

Fruitgrowing was still Charles Seelenmeyer's great passion. During his visit to America he secured some cuttings of a new variety, unknown in Victoria – Golden Delicious – and successfully grafted this wood onto trees at Harcourt. An article on Seelenmeyer's Inverell orchard at Harcourt in the *Weekly Times* of 17 October 1931 describes the Golden Delicious as 'one of the best yellow-skinned apples in cultivation.' The feature article discussed the effects of various methods of increasing nitrogen in the orchard. Using the findings from forty years of orchard management, Mr Seelenmeyer advocated reduced use of nitrophoska (a mixture of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium compounds) and superphosphate and increasing reliance on the natural fixing of nitrogen by lucerne, legumes and clover. This was an early step towards the sod culture practiced in today's orchards.

Charles Seelenmeyer died aged 68 on 13 November 1946. His widow survived him by 20 years. His son Roy Seelenmeyer conducted the orchard until well into the 1960s.

CH Seelenmeyer's restless mind and creative energy brought tangible advances to Harcourt, among these advances were the mechanised spray pump, a concrete factory, the Golden Delicious and, on the cricket pitch, more than one premiership. Not a bad score for one who was left fatherless at five months of age.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers of Harcourt compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre.

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Harcourt Valley
LANDCARE

Wetland Working Bee



Members young and old turned out to check, weed and guard the young plants in the wetlands just before the roundabout in Victoria Road.

Despite the exceptionally cold day, there was an excellent turn out for the working bee held at the wetlands on Sunday 25 October.

The work involved tending to a year old planting by weeding around the plants, replacing short stakes with longer ones and installing larger wire guards.

Initially, there was concern about how many may have survived, but we were pleasantly surprised with how many had made it. Due to the high survival rate, we actually ran out of guards.

Our next Working bee is on Sunday November 22. We are joining with Barkers Creek and will be able to work under COVID restrictions in groups.

For details see the group's Facebook page.

Can You Help Compile a History of Woodbrook?

Harcourt Heritage Centre has been approached by Melbourne-based historian Ken James seeking input for a History of Woodbrook.

Ken James is a retired secondary school teacher. He has co-authored numerous books of district history, including *A History of Elphinstone* and *A History of Sutton Grange*, co-authored with Sutton Grange's Noel Davis.

The localities of Woodbrook and Walmer have attracted the Ken's attention during the lockdown. Much of his research to date has focussed on Chinaman's Creek State School (later the Woodbrook State School), the vineyards and the Laver family.

Once the restrictions are lifted, Ken intends to visit Harcourt to continue his research and to meet with those who can give him an insight into the pioneer families and the development of the district just to the west of Harcourt. He would like to hear from anyone who can help him.

Please contact Ken on 03 9889 4253 or by email at knjames47@gmail.com



Harcourt Uniting Church

Our Modest Stained Glass Windows

The recent easing of restrictions allows regional Victorian churches to hold services inside for 20 people. This is an encouraging sign that we will soon be able to meet indoors at the Harcourt Uniting Church, after being closed for more than 7 months.

- **The dove** represents the Holy Spirit 'descending on the people like a dove'. In the story of Noah's Ark, the dove returns to the ark with an olive branch – a sign that the flood was receding. The dove is also a symbol of peace and is depicted in the centre of the Uniting Church logo.



Like many older Church buildings, the Harcourt Uniting Church has 6 modest stained glass windows. The building was opened in 1865, however the stained glass windows weren't installed until 1952. No doubt cost would have been a factor.

Each window depicts a symbol of Christianity:

- **The open Bible** with the symbols Alpha and Omega – the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This represents the words of Jesus who said: 'I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'
- **The bunch of grapes** relates to the importance of grapes in the Middle Eastern lifestyle of biblical times. A symbol of being blessed, good or prosperous. Wine made from harvested grapes was considered a gift to the people and a symbol of Jesus's blood used in Communion.
- **The sheaf of wheat** is found in many stories in the Bible – the parable of the sowing of the wheat, as well as many references to the 'bread of life'. Wheat was the staff of life in biblical times, and today wheat still remains the basis of many of our foods.
- **The gold crown and palm leaves** remind us that Jesus is King – the ruler of the Kingdom – as written in the Bible. It also tells of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as 'King of the Jews' with the crowd waving palm branches and cheering.

- **The anchor** is something we can easily relate to in our world. The anchor provides safety, security, strength, hope and holds us steadfast in God's love.

Here's a problem with Windows:

Wife sends a text to her husband on a cold frosty winter's morning- 'Windows frozen won't open.'

Husband replies with text – 'Gently pour warm water over it then carefully tap the edge of it.'

Wife replies several minutes later – 'Computer really messed up now!'

Jan Jenkin



Di Selwood
Property Consultant
Castlemaine & Harcourt



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Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP



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

Maintaining Contact with Members During the Pandemic

I was looking through some old photographs recently and came across this picture of the members of Harcourt Branch CWA in 1930 about to head off to Melbourne on an excursion. I think that I have shown it to you before, but it started me thinking about the differences between the CWA in 1930 and today and wondering what they would think of how we do things these days.

In 1930 the only way in which members could communicate with each other was by landline telephones and letters. Telephones were not common on rural Victorian farms in the 1930s and so, for many, letters were the main means of keeping in touch outside of Branch meetings. The COVID-19 pandemic this year meant that we had to pause our monthly meetings, but most Branches set up systems to keep members in touch using regular phone calls, emails and newsletters. Although we have not been able to meet together, we have used modern technology to maintain the sense of community that is so important

Royal Melbourne Show Scone Fund Raiser Succeeds without the Show

One of the main fundraising events for CWA Victoria Head Office is running the Tea Room at the Royal Melbourne Show. Of course there was no Show this year but the people at Head Office used the internet and email to organise a 'Beat the Scone Record' event in October to replace it. The all-time record for the number of scones sold at the Show is 15,565 and

participating Branches baked and sold scones locally. Although we did not beat the Show record, over 13,000 scones were baked and sold which meant a healthy contribution towards meeting the costs of running Head Office.

Can you imagine trying to organise and manage an event like this in less than a month using landlines and letters?

The Central Victoria CWA Group International Day and Half-yearly Conference

The Central Victoria CWA Group International Day and Half-yearly Conference was held at the Newstead Community Hall last week. Members from Harcourt CWA attended under COVID-19 social distancing rules. This, of course, limited the number of members who could attend, but the whole day was broadcast as a Zoom meeting over the internet so members could watch the proceedings from home and feel a part of the event as it took place.

Thanks to Marie Twyford for the following report on the very successful day.

'Masks were worn on entry and exit, with some members preferring to wear them all the time whilst inside. Seating was at the required distance. Tea and coffee were available, served by one person only, no food. We were encouraged to use our own pens when writing raffle tickets. About seventeen members attended, with Zoom being offered to Branch members who were unable to be present physically.

'Group International Officer, Helen Johnstone started the morning with the

Group International Day. Members had provided an excellent display of artefacts from South Africa and Botswana (our Country of Study for this year). Helen gave an excellent report and spoke about the importance and the work of ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World), of which CWA is a member.

She congratulated branches that had been able to take part in the various activities for ACWW.

A competition was held to select the branch which had the best International Day (under very difficult conditions). Winner was Newstead Branch, with Harcourt Branch receiving a prize for 'Effort'! Helen had wrapped the prizes in appropriate Botswana-themed paper, that is, gift paper with pictures of wild animals. Next year's Country of Study will be 'Indigenous Australia'.

'The Half-yearly Conference followed. State President, Marion Dewar, joined via Zoom from Melbourne. Other branch members from throughout Central Victoria Group were also 'present' via Zoom. Group President Darryl O'Brian presided over the meeting, which was run on usual conference lines, presenting reports, general business and discussion. It was interesting to hear members offering suggestions and generally joining in the conversation via Zoom. Group President Darryl congratulated all branches for their ongoing work for the Association and especially for finding novel ways to fund-raise during these difficult times. Thank you gifts were presented to Darryl and her office-bearers at the end of the Conference.'

I have mentioned a few times throughout the year that the Victorian Country Women's Association celebrated its 90th Birthday this year in a time of change and adaptability not seen for decades. After reading Marie's report, it was obvious that the women who make up the branches of Central Victoria did themselves proud in the difficult time of COVID-19. I think that the ladies of 1930 would approve if they could see the CWA of today.

The easing of restrictions announced recently by the Victorian Government has us hopeful that we can resume our normal meetings in the not-too-distant future. I will let you know when that happens and, if you are not already a member, why not think about joining CWA?

See you again next month.

*Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer
CWA Harcourt Branch*



Harcourt Branch members in 1930.



CHIRP Walking Groups Back on Track

CHIRP Community Health walking groups have returned as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

All CHIRP exercise groups ceased to operate in March this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some groups briefly resumed in July but stopped again when the second wave of infections occurred.

With an easing of restrictions in regional Victoria, it is now possible for outdoor groups of up to 10 people to start again.

It is essential that all group participants wear a face mask or covering, use hand sanitiser and maintain physical distancing. It is also important that participants stay at home if unwell.

Castlemaine, Maldon and Harcourt walking groups have already started again with infection control precautions in place. The Castlemaine group meets on Thursday mornings at the Botanical Gardens. The Maldon group meets on Tuesday and Friday mornings at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, and the Harcourt group meets on Monday and Thursday mornings at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum.

Nordic Pole walking groups, run in partnership with Castlemaine Community House, are also resuming, but all groups are currently full.

‘These exercise groups provide an opportunity for regular gentle exercise as well as social interaction. Staying socially connected and physically active are both very important for health and wellbeing,’ CHIRP Community Health manager of Allied Health and Wellbeing Deb McCarthy said.



Harcourt walking group



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LIMERICK *by The Bard of North Harcourt*

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WALKING TOGETHER Towards Reconciliation

The Racial Discrimination Act 1975

Australia's legal system is intended to enable society to work effectively and to protect people's fundamental rights and freedoms. The system isn't perfect, in some cases laws are not enforced, and in others, a way to enforce them has not yet been found.

All persons are to be treated as equal before the law, regardless of their race, colour or national or ethnic origin, and

It is illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of their race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

So says the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA), which was passed by the Australian Parliament on 11 June 1975 during Gough Whitlam's term as Prime Minister.

It took effect on 30 October 1975, just a fortnight before Whitlam's dismissal by the then Governor-General. A number of amendments have updated the original wording.

Unpaid servitude and killings in bygone times, racial segregation, stolen children, withheld wages, disproportionate income and incarceration are just some of the injustices white people would deplore when it happened to them. Yet this is how Aboriginal women, men and children have been and are treated, to an appalling degree.

Even in mid-20th century, unwritten rules about 'knowing your place' applied to Aboriginal people waiting in a shop until any white people were served, no matter how much later they arrived.

The daily experience of many First Nations people is still of racial discrimination and racial vilification. It persists in Aussie Rules football which had its origin in a game Aborigines had been playing since long before colonisation. Brilliant footballer Adam Goodes, and before him Phil Krakouer in the 1980s and Nicky Winmar in 1993 made public statements about the hurtful racial taunts they received.

It wasn't until the 1967 Referendum that Aboriginal Australians were even counted in our census as people living in this country. The referendum also gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws for Aboriginal people. Until then each state had different and discriminatory laws regarding Aboriginal people. For instance, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were excluded from Tertiary Institutions and education until 1950 and, before that, in much of our shared history, forbidden to go to school beyond grade 3. In theory, the referendum gave them equal citizenship rights but the goal of assimilation continued until 1972 when Parliament replaced it with the policy of self-determination.

Prime Minister Rudd's 2008 Sorry Speech acknowledged the suffering, particularly of the Stolen Generations, apologising for the pain and profound grief inflicted by laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments.

Systemic racism targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people has its roots in the early days of the colonisation of this country, and it will take more than well-meaning words to overcome it.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are these days legally entitled to all the rights of Australian citizens, but many are unable to access these rights or to enjoy the benefits of full citizenship rights and Indigenous rights. Disadvantage which results in shorter lives, less education, fewer material resources and high rates of imprisonment continues, and stereotyping and prejudice still too often make life very hard.

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

NAIDOC Week

8–15 November

Showcase of Indigenous Designers at Bendigo Art Gallery

Online Events

The Piinpi: Contemporary Indigenous Fashion exhibition which opened on 17th October and is curated by First Nations Curator Shonae Hobson brings together a selection of seventy designers, artists and makers to showcase the first major survey of Indigenous Australian fashion. Including works from Tashara Roberts, Aunty Marilyn Nicholls and Rodney Carter, the exhibition also has two exciting online events during NAIDOC week.

Tuesday 10th of November at 3.00pm–4.00pm: Talking First Nations Panel Event, Live streaming.

The Talking First Nations panel will feature Shonae Hobson and Tashara Roberts facilitating, and will include guest Designers and Artists from the exhibition such as Lyn-Al Young, Lisa Waup, and Arkie Barton.

Thursday 12th of November at 6.00pm–7.00pm: An evening with the First Nations Fashion Design Artists, Live streaming.

This evening event will focus on First Nations Fashion Design Director Grace Lillian Le and Manager Teagan Cowlshaw whose works also feature in the exhibition.

Both live streaming events are free and will be accessed via the Bendigo Art Gallery Facebook page and will be advertised on the web site.

Both events will include a Welcome to Country by Aunty Marilyn Nicholls, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Cooperation.



Harcourt Preschool Nears Completion



Friday October 9: Building begins, and all sections were on site by the end of the weekend.



View from Mills Road. The building is being wired and fitted out. Completion is expected in time for the start of the 2021 school year. There will be an update from the Department of Education and Training in the December edition of the Core.

New councillors for Mount Alexander Shire Council

The following candidates were declared elected to Mount Alexander Shire Council at the election held in October 2020.

Calder Ward

CORDY, Anthony Glenn (elected unopposed)

Castlemaine Ward

ANNEAR, Rosie (1st elected)

MALTBY, Bill (2nd elected)

McCLURE, Gary William (3rd elected)

Coliban Ward

HENDERSON, Christine (elected unopposed)

Loddon River Ward

DRISCOLL, Matthew

Tarrengower Ward

GARDNER, Stephen William

The councillors will represent their community on Mount Alexander Shire Council until the next general council election in October 2024.

The Election Manager, Dean Curtis, declared the result at 6 pm on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at Council Chambers, corner Lyttleton Street and Lloyd Street, Castlemaine.

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au.

From a VEC press release, 4 November 2020.

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Sticky date pudding with caramel sauce

Menu is subject to change without notice



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Time to Thin your Fruit

What a great spring we're having this year. All this rain has been great, though it's done some damage to some of the earlier flowering varieties. It's worth it though, because the soil is fully charged, the trees are happy, and we haven't had to water at all yet. At our place, many trees have set a heavy crop, and it looks like every single plum flower (and there were a lot) has turned into a piece of fruit!

Now that flowering is pretty much done, it's definitely time to start thinning your fruit. Thinning is the process of pulling some of the tiny fruit off, and it's one of the most important jobs in spring for all deciduous fruit types except cherries (i.e. apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears).

It can be a hard job to make yourself do! It feels kind of wasteful to be throwing all that fruit on the ground, but rest assured, if you do it nice and early you won't reduce the overall size of your harvest (or not much anyway) – you'll get almost the same volume of fruit, but in fewer pieces.

Here's four excellent reasons to thin:

1. Most fruit trees have a natural biennial bearing cycle – a heavy crop one year, followed by a light crop the following year (sound familiar?). Thinning hard and early when you have a heavy crop can trick the tree into reacting as if it's having an 'off' year, so it will grow lots of fruit buds and set another full crop next year. Once you understand that, it's obvious why you have to do it every year!
2. To protect the structure of your tree and make sure no branches or laterals break from carrying too much fruit.
3. To grow larger fruit, because the tree's energy is put into fewer pieces of fruit (you get more delicious juicy flesh and less core!)
4. It helps control pests and diseases by allowing the fruit to dry faster after rain (so fungal disease has less opportunity to spread) and removing habitat for pests in the lovely dark spaces where fruit hangs in bunches.

In deciding how much fruit to remove, first assess whether the tree has a heavy, medium or light crop – the heavier the crop, the more fruit you have to remove to get the results you want. If it's a really light crop, you might not need to take any fruit off at all.

Also, consider the age of the tree (leave less fruit on young trees and none until they're out of the establishment pruning phase), how healthy the tree is, how much water you have, how long the growing season is and the ultimate size of the fruit, but as a (very rough) rule, break up all the bunches and leave fruit hanging in single pieces.

And finally, it's also definitely time to get your fruit fly traps out. Fruit fly is already well and truly out and about in Bendigo this year, and fruit fly will sting small green fruit if they don't have anything better on offer. So, if your fruit is quite advanced in size when you're thinning it's safest to gather all the fruit you're pulling off the tree and solarise it in black garbage bags before it goes into the compost. However, if the fruit is still very small (as it should be if you manage to get your thinning done early), then it's fine to drop it to the ground where it will quickly shrivel up without posing a fruit fly risk.

Happy growing!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op, and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter and register for the free 5 Key Steps to Happy, Healthy Fruit Trees webinar.

Monthly Home Garden Tips from Janyce

Hello Garden lovers,

At this time last year, the weather was hot and we were experiencing an early start to summer with fires occurring in New South Wales. This year, we are, fortunately, still enjoying spring rains and a high moisture content in the soil. As a result, many gardens are responding with lush spring growth and prolific flowering.

Rapid plant growth can result in a few issues that may require a little bit of work at this time. Sometimes, new rapid growth can result in branches or foliage that are too heavy for their structure. We have noticed that our iris are too heavy and are starting to bend. A stake and some string can solve this little problem.

Some new shoots can become so long and heavy that they snap at the branch junction. This might be noticeable on roses or maples. If you see a branch starting to bend or sag under its own weight, it can be shortened to a leaf node, tipped back or even removed. It is healthier for the plant to have a clean cut rather than a tear that could encourage infection.

Another problem is strong and rapid sucker growth. Suckers can grow from roots at the base of a plant, but they can also emerge below the graft union on a standard or standard weeping plant. Examples are roses, standard roses, grafted weeping cherries, or standard maples. Sucker growth can be identified by its location, a different leaf colour or form, or by very vertical growth. If left untreated, suckers can overtake your preferred plant, resulting in the growth of an inferior specimen. When removing unwanted growth, if it is very young and soft, you may be able to rub the shoot off by hand. If a shoot is slightly larger and harder, make a clean cut as close to the stem or roots as possible.

It is a lovely time to be in the garden. The soil is still moist so it is important to be gentle, disturb your garden beds as little as possible. The soil and air are starting to warm up and so it is a good time to add compost and to start planting your spring vegetables and flowering annuals.

This month we are:

- 🌱 Composting;
- 🌱 Infill planting;
- 🌱 Planting early spring vegetables; and
- 🌱 Covering frost tender plants and early seedlings.

Happy Gardening

Janyce

CAFÉ OPEN!

ASQ Skydancers Café has reopened and is offering a range of hot and cold drinks, delicious cakes, slices and biscuits!

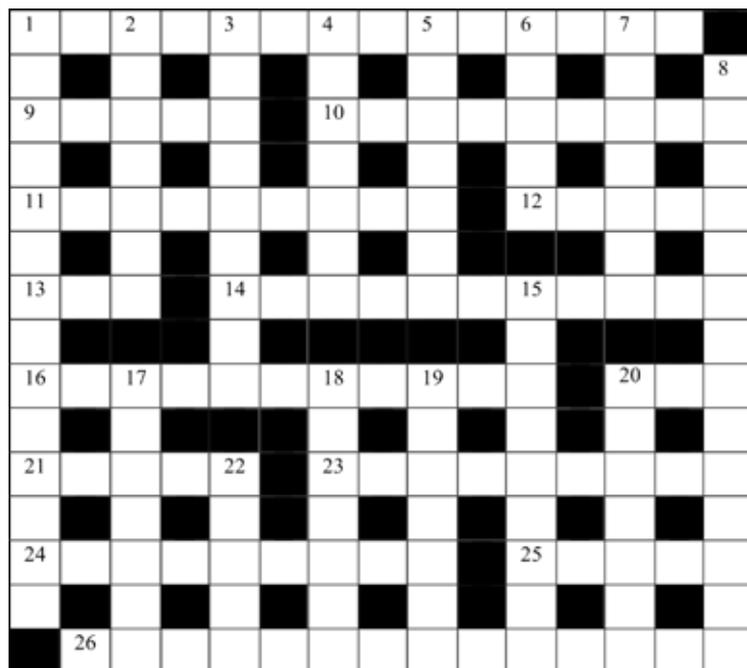
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November Xword 2020

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Down:

- Algorithm like an anaesthetist eating a Violet Crumble? (6,8)
- Cryptic clues? (2,5)
- Peroxide to clue you up? (9)
- Where the fielders are, and what they comprise... (7)
- What 16 did, metaphorically? (7)
- Pally, French, you throw your headgear up if you're a radical vocalist. (5)
- Reportedly beyond 17?? (7)
- These days of Harvey, elder harassers turn up before the show! But it was always thus... (5,9)
- Pianist telling "No!" to black, brown, beige critics. (9)
- Bombshell, pop singer, comic strip. All fair... (7)
- An opal I found on a player of note. (7)
- And Richard stepped in, quite riled. (7)
- It has an Oz air about it, but it's not... (7)
- Put off marketing device. (5)

Across:

- One obvious effect of extended question time? (5,9)
- What you turn into when the witch reaches across from the passenger seat and touches your knee? (5)
- Horny fish? (9)
- The road ahead isn't tough for amiable chaps. (4,5 or 4-5...)
- Blokes produce cracks in fissures. (5)
- They can be 25s on way to employment. (3)
- Avant-garde cruciverbalist? (5-6)
- CBD rampant, but pretty laid-out? (5,6)
- A shame left post-fire. (3)
- In kitchen of 24? (5)
- Only an ingrate would fail to appreciate this place. (9)
- 21 bark, say? (9)
- What 13s are regarded as by job agencies? (5)
- Grand Panjandrum aims to be immanent as well as apocalyptic? (2-3, 3, 3-3)

November Xword 2020

© McW December '17



Down:

- What he does, coming from the south at the crossroads, to avoid northerners... [Well?]
- Finish of listening devices ingratiate... [Well?]
- If he errs under attack, he might re-run reds or just give up. (9)
- This caliper doesn't fit, even though it's identical to the original. (7)
- What's expected if the TPP gets to swap the Toyota for a Porsche. (5,2)
- Bother** him/her, **not you?** *Not second-rate...* (5)
- Up to task by being exactly the same as it? (5,2)
- Horrors! I engage an ogreish groaner to hear singer or go for one of four... (6,8)
- Horseless cowboy *twinkles* still. [Well? *He rode 0...*]
- Does harmony of this sort involve martial arts? (7)
- Cocktail Henry used to round up outlaws? [Well? *Martini-Henry rifles used by cops in 1870-90s*]
- Messy [St] Augustine might provide gambling tips. (7)
- Phone problem on a nail bed. (3,4)
- Sane learner gets into swimming rows

Across:

- You can traverse routes on this rough map, and maybe find them. (8,6)
- Coming or going it's the same*—police will get you. [Well? *Palindromically...*]
- Globe-trotting with dolls and small furniture here? [Well? *Shakespeare...*]
- Yearned for in a thin period of busy work? (5,4)
- King measures himself against the page. [Well?]
- It's possible that queen's conveyance even sh²am⁴es⁶ those conveyed by it sometimes.
- Raison d'être* twice useful more than once? (4-7)
- If a telecom swore [promised] to have us connected and then reneged, wed be in an invidious position because there'd be no distance communication... (11)
- Kyabram is the central support system for milk producers. (3)
- Best idiocy to be had outside the city? [Well? *"Sydney or the bush" mentality in an English colony...*]
- Person who cares ponders how to be the person who shows it. (9)
- feature in sex event that is covering a large area. (9)
- '70s travel jaunts on sofas? [Well?]
- Before he sculpts a region, he might practise on lugs. (7,7)

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A time and place for people to meet up, bring along a project to work on (sewing, drawing, sculpting, darning, whatever!) and just be together as you do your thing, in a safe, supportive environment.

1pm to 3pm Tuesdays, 27th October - 15th December (7 sessions) @ Castlemaine Community House, 30 Templeton Street.

Places are limited to just 8 people, Call 5472 4842 to book!

This project is supported by the Victorian Government's Community Activation & Social Isolation Initiative and Mount Alexander Shire Council.



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

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Weather and Water

October has come ‘second’ so far in rainfall for this year with 75.5 mm. August was wetter with 82.5 mm. On October 9, our dam was ‘officially full’ as it began flowing through the run off pipes and continued to do so on and off to the end of the month. As in 2016, some plants which were planted at the base of the dam drowned and had to be removed. (Note to self: ‘Don’t plant there in future.’) Total rainfall to the end of October was 615 mm. This is nearly double last year’s count which was 321.5 mm. Many gardens have the best flower shows for many a year; grass growth has been rapid and roadsides are full of waving grass. Orchards have gone into overdrive with mowing and spraying in preparation for the next season.

The weeks fell into a pattern of warmer mid-week days with rain at the end of the week into the weekend. Temperatures fluctuated

with days of cloud; some with southerly winds and rain, the few sunny days were welcome.

Barkers Creek Reservoir overflowed through much of October; the new spillway performed well as it is much wider with baffles at the base. The feed of water to Barkers Creek is lined with large granite rocks and what looks like tough cloth to prevent the loss of soil from beneath the rocks. Once the weather settles the ‘res’ will attract more walkers and kayakers. In late October chocolate lilies were blooming en masse at the eastern end of the dam wall. This mass blooming confirmed what I have seen and what others have commented on: this season has been one of the best for wildflowers.

On October 4th, the total of the Coliban Reservoirs to the south was at 89.5 % full. Two days ago, they were brimming at 97.8% of capacity.



Sunrise, October 14. From Kathleen Gray.

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply <i>megalitres</i>	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
		<i>megalitres</i>	% full	<i>megalitres</i>	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	37,691	99.8%	36,625	97.0%
Lauriston	19,790	18,770	94.8%	18,540	93.7%
Malmsbury	12,034	11,630	96.6%	8,461	70.3%
Total to November 4	69,594	68,091	97.8%	63,626	91.4%
Total to October 4	69,594	62,319	89.5%	64,934	96.2%

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

Connect Mount Alexander

Together we thrive

Prepare now for summer

This is the time of year to prepare yourself and your property for the Fire Danger Period. Cut grass and undergrowth near buildings below 10cm; remove grass, leaf litter, shrubs and flammable items away from buildings; remove tree branches that overhang roofs; and prune shrubs away from tree branches.

For rural and rural residential allotments ensure you graze or slash a 25m area near buildings including those of your neighbours, and a 6m area along property boundaries.

Understand fire risks and create a bushfire safety plan.

For ideas visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare. Download the free VicEmergency app on your phone and set up watch zones for instant alerts. Prepare your personal emergency kit, which should include water, protective clothing, first aid kit, medications, important documents, additional face masks and hand sanitiser. Keep water and at least one woollen blanket for protection in your vehicle all summer. Work out your plan for pets or stock in advance. For ideas visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals.

Free disposal of green waste

To help residents prepare their homes and properties for the Fire Danger Period, Council is offering free green waste disposal to local residents and ratepayers for 17 days, including three weekends. Dispose of green waste for free at the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations between 24 October and 9 November. Green waste includes garden waste such as grass, sticks and branches (less than 10cm diameter). It must be free of contaminants such as rubbish and declared noxious weeds. Proof of residency is required upon entry.

Annual roadside slashing underway

Council's roadside slashing program is underway and is expected to continue until late December. Council slashes vegetation along the road shoulder of all sealed roads and rural intersections managed by Council. The program aims to prevent fires and improve sightlines and safety for road users. The team started at Baringhup, and will progress through Maldon, Newstead, Guildford, Harcourt, Sutton Grange, Metcalfe and Taradale. Please note that some areas may be too wet to slash until late November.

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

t (03) 5471 1700
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Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

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

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