

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 68 – February 2020

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: [harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)



## New Pre-School for Harcourt



Success! Andrew Blake, Harcourt Valley Primary School Principal; Maree Edwards, MP; Natalie McCarthy, President of the Pre-School Parents' Committee and Carrie O'Neill, YMCA Children's Services Manager, Western Victoria, at the announcement of a new Pre-School for Harcourt.

HARCOURT PRE-SCHOOL, which for 70 years has operated from a Uniting Church owned building in Buckley Street is to have a new home at the Primary School.

On Monday February 3rd, Maree Edwards, State MP for Bendigo West announced the YMCA would receive a \$550,000 grant to build a new early learning facility in Harcourt. The intention

is that Harcourt families will have access to kindergarten programs and family services under the same roof.

Maree Edwards said, "I am so pleased to be here to make this announcement; there has been a long process for all involved in getting to this point and I congratulate the YMCA for being successful with its funding application. This is a very important contribution to families and the community in Harcourt.

The new pre-School building will be located in the south-east corner of the Harcourt Primary School. The Principal Andrew Blake said, "There are a number of opportunities which arise including ease of transition for pre-school students into Prep grade, collaboration between the kindergarten primary school staff in professional development, and of course there is the opportunity of before and after school and pre-school care. Most importantly there will be better learning and social outcomes for the students."

The new pre-school is expected to be finished by the end of 2020.

See Response from the Uniting Church on page 4.



The blue area indicates the approximate location of the new pre-school in Harcourt.

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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 Applefest 2020

## Bigger and Better

### *It's time to add the 'Harcourt Applefest' on 7th March to your calendar*

Once again the community is getting behind the committee's goal of making Applefest bigger and better than ever. Widely-attended committee meetings have shown strong support for this year's big day. We are all familiar with the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child'. In the case of the Annual Harcourt Applefest it takes the help of the entire citizenry to make the festival a success, providing visitors with lots of things to see and do while giving local businesses and community groups an opportunity to showcase their produce, their wares and their activities.

Harcourt is an energetic place with enterprising on-farm and home-based businesses, as well as cafés and fresh produce outlets. A lot of this energy is being channelled into the program for this year's festival, in Harcourt's Stanley Park and James Park.

### *A new inclusion: 'Welcome to Leanganook'*

A new element in this year's program is a 'Welcome to Leanganook' area with indigenous bush-tucker displays, stalls and a small, interactive stage presenting cooking demonstrations and storytelling sessions. Applefest visitors will be able to gain first-hand knowledge of bush-tucker plants, foods and dishes. The 'Welcome to Leanganook' area has been devised in response to a clearly expressed desire for an emphasis on indigenous connection which was captured in the SHINE Harcourt community consultation.

### *Up-beat and affordable*

A full musical program has been put together, and visitors who come to sample the food and beverages will be treated to an entertaining series of performances from 9 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The popular street market will see High Street transformed with stalls and displays. The well-liked animal displays will again be on hand.

James Park will be occupied with children's activities that are sure to engage kids from pre-schoolers to teenagers. Multiple supervised sports/activities will run for the entire day for people to come and try. Kids will enjoy testing their skills. With family budgets in mind the committee has resolved that the children's activities will be much more affordable at this year's Applefest.

There is fierce competition among the region's cooks to see who can produce the best Apple Pie, Apple Muffin or Apple Cake. This year there is a new class for the cooks to enter – bring along a jar of your Apple Chutney, you may win a prize.

While the children are 'having a go' in James Park, their parents can enjoy the CWA tearoom and the artwork on display at the Applefest Art Show. A full range of food and drink will also be available in the food and entertainment precinct in Stanley Park.

### *The challenge: A waste-free event*

The committee is also responding to the current crisis in municipal waste management. Harcourt Applefest aims to be a waste-wise event.

Everyone can play their part. Visitors are encouraged to bring (or purchase) their own 'keep cup' for coffee. Such cups will be available for purchase on the day. Boomerang cups will be available, real crockery and cutlery will be provided via the food vendors. Crockery and cutlery will be provided by the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group through its Wash Against Waste trailer.

The committee is keen to put this 'waste-wise' philosophy into effect and has spent a considerable amount of time thinking about the logistics. After you have eaten, please return the plates and cutlery to a nearby Wash Against Waste

collection point.

We can all do our bit to eliminate waste. Fewer bins-full of rubbish means less stress on the (finite) landfill resources of the Shire.

### *Your chance to get involved*

Harcourt Applefest committee really needs helpers! Set-up on Friday 6th March and bump-out on Saturday evening are two activities that really need extra arms and legs. A couple of hours of your time would be greatly appreciated

On the actual day, the Wash against Waste folk are in need of some 'fetch and carry' people to collect dishes in the busy time, just for an hour or so.

Then there is the roster for the 'meet and greet' tent at the entry. This is a vital service giving out information to visitors. If you can provide just a little of your time it would be helpful.

Contact Joan on 5474 2321 if you can help.

### *A great day out*

A visit to Harcourt Applefest on March 7th will be a great day out. Festival-goers will experience good music, great art, kid's activities, local produce, entertainment galore and a chance to catch up with the locals. The learnings from the Dja Dja Wurrung 'Welcome to Leanganook' area will be a memorable part of the day. Applefest patrons will also have the satisfaction of being part of a significant movement reducing our impact on the planet.

Come to Harcourt on March 7th. Be early, allow plenty of time and you will have lots to see, hear, sample and take home.

For more information, visit our website: [applefest.harcourt.vic.au](http://applefest.harcourt.vic.au)

**Enquiries, George Milford:  
Phone 5474 2426**

*Below: scenes from last year's Harcourt Applefest*



# Art Show News



This March, Harcourt's ANA Hall will again be transformed into an exciting pop-up exhibition of reasonably priced artwork by the best of the region's creative community.

The Art Show will open with a celebration and awards on Thursday 5th March at 7.30 pm and will be open for four days, including the Saturday of the Applefest and the remainder of the March Labour Day Weekend. For a detailed schedule see the last section of this article.

Anyone who has taken up a brush or pencil is invited to submit paintings (in any medium) as long as they are within the size limits. Art works are to be no larger than 40 cm by 40 cm, frame included, and final submissions are to be received by 21st February.

Prize money will be awarded for Best in Show in oils/acrylic or watercolour, as well as for Best Local Subject. 'Local' means what it says – the most popular art is that which depicts a Harcourt-related scene, object or activity.

To enter, please visit: [applefest.harcourt.vic.au/art-show/info](http://applefest.harcourt.vic.au/art-show/info) to find the entry form and conditions.

## *Indigenous theme for art submitted by Harcourt Primary School Students*

A number of awards are also on offer for student art. We have been assured that there will be plenty of entries from students aged six to 17 years.

The Art Show will be complemented by a display from the children of Harcourt Valley Primary School. It will be exciting to see the children's interpretation of the indigenous theme that is to be a feature of the Harcourt Applefest 2020. We have been told that the children are producing some truly creative art work for this year's show.

The Applefest Art Show will be run in the Heritage Centre alongside the Children's Carnival and the CWA Tea Rooms. It promises a satisfying hour or two for those who attend, or compete in the Art Show at the March 7th Applefest.

## *Harcourt Applefest 2020 Art Show Schedule*

**Entries close: Friday 21 February**

**Official opening & Presentation of Awards:**

Thursday 5 March ~ 7.30pm to 9.00pm

**Open to the public:**

Friday 6 March ~ 10.00am–4.00pm

Saturday 7 March ~ 9.00am–4.00pm

Sunday 8 March ~ 10.00am–4.00pm

Monday 9 March ~ 10.00am–2.00pm



## Harcourt Progress Association Special General Meeting

6:30pm Wednesday 26th February

ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt

To vote on proposed change to the Rules of Association

Followed by a public meeting

To Inform and Update the Community on HPA projects

All Welcome

Enquiries: Secretary Liesl Milan: 0427 132 601

Lmct:10769

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## Response from the Uniting Church

The Harcourt Uniting Church congregation has been pleased to provide a home, rent-free, to the Harcourt Pre-school Centre for the past seventy years. The Pre-school Centre was auspiced by the church in about 1950 and our members have been closely connected with the life of the Pre-school ever since.

The congregation has admired the immense effort devoted to administering and maintaining the Kindergarten by generations of parents of Harcourt's pre-schoolers.

Harcourt families, and the wider community, have given tremendous grass-roots support to our home-grown pre-school centre so as to ensure a reasonably-priced, high-quality educational foundation for district kids. We hope that that involvement will continue in the next phase of the Pre-school's existence.

We rejoice in the prospect of new and improved Kindergarten facilities for our expanding township. Harcourt is definitely a growing area, and Harcourt families are worthy of the very best educational outcomes for the next generation.

### Contact Details

Brenda Warner, Chairman of congregation: 5472 3013

Jan Jenkin, Secretary: 5474 2226

George Milford, Treasurer: 5474 2426



## From Maree Edwards on Hardcore Harcourt, Facebook

Update 5th February, 2020

The first day of preschool at Harcourt was an exciting day all round as I announced the preschool will be relocating to the Harcourt PS site! A new modular 2-classroom building will be constructed at the site. This is great news for families and students in Harcourt and will accommodate growing enrolments in 4-year-old kinder and the free 15 hrs for 3-year-old kinder starting in 2022. This was a wonderful collaborative effort by the YMCA, the preschool committee and the the Shire of Mt Alexander which has come to fruition with a successful grant from the State Government of \$550,000. This is a great start to the 2020 school year!

Please note: On the day of the announcement Maree also said that the new building will accommodate an extra 43 children.



**A single ember can spread bushfires as far as 40km.**

Burning embers from bushfires can travel up to 40km, starting new fires in seconds, destroying homes and making escape impossible. If the Fire Danger Rating is ever extreme or above, don't hesitate. Leave early.

**How well do you know fire?** 

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State Government



# The Harcourt Heritage Centre

## The Big Picture

Australia is served by some 1200 community history and heritage societies, operating in every electorate and local government area across the nation. *Harcourt Heritage & Museum* is part of this amazing network.

Collectively these groups harness the skills and energy of approximately 100,000 members and volunteers who contribute hundreds of thousands of hours of work, which the Federation of Australian Historical Societies conservatively values at \$144 million per annum.

They add incalculable social value through:

- Building safer, stronger communities, bonded by a shared understanding of local history and heritage and an exchange of knowledge.
- Contributing to lifelong learning, from providing history education to school students, and scholars of all ages.
- Creating enriching visitor experiences, especially in regional Victoria where cultural tourism is a major source of revenue.
- Supporting the health, mental health and well-being of Australians, providing active ageing activities and skills that contribute to society, and continue to be valued in the senior years.

Residents and researchers are always encouraged to open the door of the ANA Hall to also experience this.

### *Foster Volunteering*

For enhanced social cohesion, inclusion and wellbeing. The social, cultural and mental health benefits of volunteering are well known. *Harcourt Heritage* contributes significantly to our local communities through the opportunities it offers for voluntary work.

### *Exhibition & Museum*

*Harcourt Heritage* continually mounts small exhibitions, to accompany the permanent museum collection housed at the ANA Hall.

### *Defend*

Increasingly, *Harcourt Heritage* has become active in the defence of built and social heritage, and in advocating for the preservation of heritage sites in the face of inappropriate development.

### *Share*

*Harcourt Heritage* is a major publisher of local history both hard copy and digital. Through *Fireside Chats* and other accessible formats we promote knowledge of and interest in local history and heritage. Visits from schools, educate our

young people in our history and heritage. Tertiary students use our collection for research.

### *Collect & Preserve*

*Harcourt Heritage* has collected and preserved thousands of items which tell the story of Harcourt Valley cultural heritage. Increasingly our images, documents and artifacts are being digitized and made available, often through the Commonwealth-funded National Library of Australia Trove platform.

### *Research*

*Harcourt Heritage* volunteers undertake research both as part of the work of our society and in responding to queries from members of the public.

### *Online & Social Media*

Through our websites [www.harcourt.net.au](http://www.harcourt.net.au) and social media presence, we are using modern digital technologies to publicise our presence, to increase our outreach, to make our collections widely available and to advocate for local history and heritage.

**We acknowledge the Federation of Australian Historical Societies for the above information.**

*Diana Cork*

## Exhibition at Produce Store

A very successful exhibition of delightful paintings by Sarah Thorne is now on show at the Harcourt Produce and General Store. The exhibition will run for another three weeks and the paintings which are full of light and gentle colours have sold well. Four were sold in the first week and eleven have sold to date.

Sarah has a background in education and design; she has been drawing, painting and making art for thirty years. She says, "Having been a visual arts teacher, I love to pass on my knowledge and experience to budding artists." Sarah now works as an artist in north central Victoria.



*Red Harvest (detail)*



*Afternoon on the Dunes (detail)*



*Pears from Heaven (detail)*

# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Grade 6 Graduation

A new school year has begun. This year there are 100 students enrolled at HVPS. There are five classes and eight teachers. Last year, fourteen students graduated from Harcourt Valley's PS grade 6 class (twelve boys and two girls). By the time this edition of the *Core* is printed these students will be beginning their secondary school education. This year there are thirteen students in Grade 6 and six Prep students.

A graduation ceremony for the fourteen grade sixes was held at the school on December the 16th at 2pm. Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends attended the ceremony. Ms Rowlands and Ms Ferguson, grade 5/6 teachers, produced an interesting and amusing visual presentation of the class highlights and of individual students. Each student gave a short speech in which they talked about the highlights of the year for them, their interests and what career path they hoped to follow. Some of the students had been at the school since Prep and others had arrived in the school in the past few years. All spoke of how much they enjoyed attending the school. The students will be attending various local Secondary Schools within the district.

Two representatives of the local CWA presented their annual Encouragement Awards to Lucas McCallum and Koby Simmons. Six families left the school community last year, and both the Principal, Andrew Blake, and Student Council representatives spoke of the contribution that these families had made to the school which was acknowledged with a small gift. At the end of the ceremony all present were wished a safe happy holiday, and afternoon tea was provided.

On Monday night, following the graduation ceremony, grade six parents, graduates and teachers attended a graduation dinner in the school's Open Learning Space. It was a great success, in no part due to the large number of Prep to Grade 5 female family and student helpers who volunteered their time to ensure the smooth running of the evening. A good team effort HVPS!

The *Core* wishes all past and present HVPS students and teachers a successful happy year.

*Lois Denham*



## Choir Excursion

On Monday December 9th, the students from the Harcourt Valley Primary School Auditioned Choir visited a few of the Aged Care Hostels at Castlemaine Hospital. Throughout fourth term, they learnt 'old time' songs such as Chatanooga Choo Choo, Red Red Robin and Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines. The residents loved hearing songs that they were familiar with, and many sang along, tapped their toes and enjoyed the memories that the songs brought back.



I was so proud of how well the students conducted themselves as they sang and then talked to the residents. They were kind, respectful and resilient as they faced some challenging conversations as well as some funny and interesting ones. Fletcher found a friend of his grandmother's and Mason had many interesting conversations with the residents. All students should be proud of themselves for taking risks, supporting each other and bringing so much joy to those who we met.

A big thank you to Cath Scott and Veronica Budnikas for spending the day with us, Angela and Andrew Denahy for popping in and spending a couple of hours with us and Jennifer Curtis for enjoying the day with us and being prepared for any emergency.

Well done kids!

*Katrina Hood*

## Molly Drive – Mount View Estate

Harcourt will soon be welcoming new residents to Molly Drive, and no doubt there will be much interest as construction of the houses begins.

Some of the older residents of Harcourt may remember Molly Mitchell who was the telephonist at the Harcourt Telephone Exchange. The *Core* interviewed local developer Bill O'Neill about the history of the name for the road in the final stage of Mount View Estate.

Bill said, 'It was suggested by Lorraine Peeler who worked at the Swan Hill Exchange, before she moved to Harcourt. She knew of Molly who used to live on the land occupied by the subdivision. It seemed like a fitting name. We tried Molly Mitchell Drive, which was suggested by the Heritage Association, but council said that name was too long. So we settled for Molly Drive.'

Bill assures everyone that trees for that area will arrive soon. 'As soon as the autumn break arrives 21 trees will be planted in the road reserve.'

'The blocks have sold well, there are only two left. We are pleased with the connections of footpaths from Molly Drive to



Pippin Court, which then lead to the dedicated laneway giving access to the pool and town centre.

'The drainage system and the retardation basin have proved to be working well in recent downpours. The retardation basin is designed to collect and filter storm water before it enters Picnic Gully Creek. It has carefully selected feature plants and specifically constructed sub-soil to aid the filtering.'

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*The Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group would like to gratefully acknowledge that this initiative is funded by a \$500 grant from the Maldon and District Community Bank.*

Hi everyone,

It's been great to see some funding from the Maldon and District Community Bank (MDCB) flowing directly into our community here in Harcourt lately.

The Harcourt Uniting Church have received some funding towards their community picnic for refugees, and the primary school is once again receiving a "Spark" grant of \$1,000 (\$500 for student-led projects and \$500 for school council projects).

For students heading off to TAFE or Uni soon, the MDCB students' scholarship is also open for applications (they close on January 31, so you need to get in soon). Two scholarships (\$2,000 and \$1,000) are available – here's the link to have a look and apply: [www.maldoncb.com.au/tertiary-scholarship](http://www.maldoncb.com.au/tertiary-scholarship).

I'd really like to encourage everyone to think of the bank as a potential partner for their community activities—it's a wonderful resource whose very purpose is to help build community.

And at the same time, please have a chat to MDCB if you want a home loan, are leasing equipment, buying insurance, getting super etc., because the more business they get from community members, the more they can help us in return.

On a larger front, our franchise partner Bendigo Bank also has a history of being well connected to the community. So it's not surprising that within days of the terrible bushfires that have been raging this summer, the bank launched a Bushfire Disaster Appeal, in partnership with various organisations and government.

The fund is being managed by the Community Enterprise Foundation

(CEF), the charitable arm of the bank. You can find out more about the appeal and donate online here: [communityenterprise.foundation.com.au](http://communityenterprise.foundation.com.au) and click the 'Donate now' button.

You'll notice when you go online that you can choose where your donation goes, for example to the Victorian Bushfire appeal, the National Bushfire Disaster Appeal, or the Rotary Clubs of Australia Drought Appeal.

You can come also into any of the branches of Maldon and District Community Bank (Maldon, Newstead or Dunolly), or any other branch of the Bendigo Bank, to make your donation. All donations to the Appeal of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

The appeals are focusing on both immediate relief and long-term recovery - to meet specific needs as they change. This includes funds to purchase feed for livestock, vital infrastructure and generators for essential power.

Funds are hitting the ground in bushfire affected areas already, for example, families and businesses on Kangaroo Island have received generators to help them get back on their feet. The generators were purchased locally, to keep the investment in the local economy.

As well as the Bushfire Disaster Appeal, the Bendigo Bank is also offering a dedicated bushfire financial assistance package. It includes discounted interest rates, fee waivers and other concessions, and is available for all Bendigo and Adelaide Bank customers across Australia. You can find out more about the package here: [www.bendigobank.com.au/media-centre/important-information-for-all-customers-](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/media-centre/important-information-for-all-customers-)

affected-by-the-current-bushfire-emergency.

Other assistance for people affected by fire includes:

- Bendigo Bank Insurance customers with a damaged home, rental building, car or other property can also claim assistance or advice (ring 13 24 80).
- Rural Bank (the Bank's agribusiness arm) has a range of disaster assistance measures to support affected farmers as they begin the long road to recovery.

Here in Harcourt and surrounds we've been lucky so far this fire season, but even when you're not directly affected, the fires and other impacts of climate change still affect us all.

It might seem strange to think of banking as part of the solution, but it really can be! Not only does the Bendigo Bank not invest in fossil fuel industries, but we also have a uniquely strong and direct relationship to the communities that bank with us which means we can be of genuine service in disasters like the one we've seen unfold this summer.

With a view to a future where disasters happen more frequently, we're developing a local emergency fund to be ready for emergencies in our region. We've kicked it off with a commitment of \$5000. The terms and policies of how the fund will actually work are still under development, but we'll keep you posted.

*Katie Finlay  
Director,*

*Maldon and District Community Bank*

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# Friendship Lunch begins CWA's Year Chatting with Harcourt CWA

It's good to be back at the start of a brand new year, and the Goldfields Track Cafe provided the perfect venue for our January get-together known as Friendship Day. We had a full house and Donna was run off her feet bringing us scrumptious selections from the menu.



*Harcourt CWA members enjoy their Friendship Day meeting.*

February will be a busy month as we prepare for our Applefest Stall. We are so lucky to have such amazing talent when it comes to preserves and muffins, and this year will be even bigger and better.

In the December issue of the *Core* I mentioned a newcomer

to the Apple Pie Baking Competition. For the first time in Applefest history, you can now bring Apple Chutney to the Apple Growers tent for judging by our well-known judge Ann Marston. So let's keep Ann busy on the day with lots of jars of Apple Chutney as well as your Apple Pies, Cakes and Muffins.

Download your entry form and join in the fun:

[applefest.harcourt.vic.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/Applefest-Baking\\_2020.pdf](http://applefest.harcourt.vic.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/Applefest-Baking_2020.pdf)

For those entering Apple Chutney please use this same form.

What do you know about Botswana? I know very little but by the end of this year I will know a lot more. Why is that, you are thinking? Well, this year our Country of Study is Botswana, and our International Officer, Marie Twyford will be providing many opportunities for us to learn about this fascinating country. Perhaps there is one of you reading this who has been to Botswana. If so, and if you would like to share your adventure, please let us know.

It's going to be another fun-packed year at Harcourt CWA and we look forward to meeting new friends, so please come along to one of our meetings and check us out. You can find us on the first Thursday of the month at 1.00pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham Road.

*Lyn Rule  
Harcourt CWA  
Publicity Officer*

## What's the Secret?

### Apple Pie Judge Ann Marston's Extensive Career

Ann Marston will be coming to the Applefest on March 7, to judge apple pies and apple chutney. What makes someone qualified to judge our baking and preserves? Ann tells her story below:

I began competing at the Royal Melbourne Show in 1985 and did quite well. I was so encouraged by this that until 1991 I entered competitions on a regular basis in both preserves and cookery.

As a member of CWA, I sat my judge's exam successfully in the late 1980s. Over the years since then, I have judged at many CWA group and State exhibitions, conducted judges' schools, up-date schools and cookery and preserves schools. At the same time I was competing at group and State level.



*Ann is shown here judging a very impressive display of preserves.*

In 1993, I received an invitation to judge both preserves and cookery at the Royal Melbourne Show. At that time the No.2 Pavilion was still standing; it burnt down some years later. This pavilion was very old, probably one of the original ones. Many changes at the Royal Show site have taken place since then. The best change for us has been in the display of the preserves and cookery, which is now behind glass in cabinets. In the old No. 2, preserves were just on shelves and the cookery on timber shelves behind glass. The no. 2 pavilion also housed dressmaking and other arts and crafts as does the new pavilion.

As well as the Royal, I have judged at many other major country shows including, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and many other smaller shows, plus of course the Applefest. I remember when I first started John Brumby was my co-judge and the judging was watched by the public. I'm sure John was a bit of a draw card. In the years I have judged the Applefest it has been pleasing to see how much the Festival has grown.

To become a judge one attends a comprehensive Judges' School before sitting the actual Judges' Exam. But to start with it is best if you have knowledge of cookery and preserving. The last few years I have been assisted by a very capable new judge, Anne Marie Primmer. Anne has been competing very successfully at the Royal Show for many years and is keen to gain more experience in judging.



# Harcourt Uniting Church

Christmas seems so long ago and even wishing you a Happy New Year seems slightly out of date.

The New Year has been challenging for many areas of Victoria and NSW with the bushfires that have raged through their communities.

The Uniting Church in Australia and in particular the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has been supporting those affected by the fires in many ways that often don't make the headlines in the media. Support in providing emergency accommodation for evacuees, sending goods to the Op Shop in Sale after they sold out, locating and helping evacuees who had come to Wodonga from the Corryong fires, providing fuel and food vouchers and, most importantly, trauma counselling for families who have lost everything and often don't know where to start. Many Churches in these areas have been working 'on the ground' to help people in practical ways with needs that are ever changing.

One Uniting Church member in the Gippsland fire area summed it up by saying: 'Looking after your neighbour in the country begins in your own backyard.'

The best support that anyone can provide now is to donate money. Last Sunday we had a special offering at Harcourt Uniting Church with all money going to a special Uniting Church fund which will assist in providing ongoing care for all people in the fire-affected areas.

Our minister, Reverend Sarah, is on maternity leave at present as she and her husband Alex await the birth of their first child in the next few weeks. We look forward to having Reverend Sarah back with us later in the year. Our Parish is very fortunate to have several retired ministers and lay preachers who are willing to lead worship during this time.

Harcourt Uniting Church congregation meets every Sunday at 9am at our Church in Buckley St Harcourt and you are most welcome to join us anytime.

Just to confuse things – when there is a fifth Sunday in the month we gather for a combined service, usually held in Castlemaine Uniting Church.

A notice which appeared on the board outside a Church read:

*This weeks' Special offer – 10% off the length of the sermon.  
Jan Jenkin*

## Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes



**Come and join us at the Scout Hall on Reckleben Street**

**Affordable – Relaxed – Friendly**

**Tuesday 9:15am Power Bar**

**Thursday 6:15am Power Bar**

**Saturday 8:50am Tabata  
9:30am Power Bar**

**\$12 Power Bar - 60 minutes**

**\$8 Tabata - 30 minutes**

**\$15 Saturday Duo (both Tabata and PowerBar)**

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## Harcourt Football Netball Club

Netball is a great opportunity for young people to be physically active in a social, team building atmosphere. Harcourt Football Netball Club is looking for keen under 11 and under 17 netballers to fill spots for the 2020 season. Bring your friends along, tell your family and be a part of something exciting at the Lions!

Anyone interested can contact:

Kirrily McKay on 0421 353 710 for more information.

Juniors will begin training in March. #Den20

# Harcourt CFA



## Have Wheels, Will Travel

The saying, 'Have wheels, will travel', probably best sums up the fire fighting activity of the Brigade for December and January.

This year's horrific fire season that started in NSW and Queensland in October and November, and began in the Southern states in December, resulted in large running bushfires and grassfires which we are all now well aware of.

Since its return from NSW, with a few battle scars, Harcourt Tanker 1 with brigade members has travelled to Amphitheatre, Huntly and Tallangatta to assist with fire suppression. Members have also assisted other brigades with crewing for fires at Big Hill and Mallacoota, as well as being on standby for other fire events.

Locally it has been reasonably quiet with primary and support callouts to a few small grass fires, a gas leak and the truck which was carrying hay and hit the railway bridge in Victoria Street.

With the earlier appearance of these larger fires, what does February and March look like? The recent cool spell and rain does NOT mean summer is over, and the risk of fire has NOT abated. It can be quite the opposite. While there will be some small amount of grass regrowth, this will likely die off again just adding to the current fuel loads. The forest areas are still dry and ready to burn.

Have a look around your property to see what further preparation you can do to make your home safer from the threat of fire. And just a reminder that even though it may be a cool day and raining, fire restrictions remain in force until such time it is safe for them to be lifted.

With the large fires that have occurred around the country, the 'Australian Mateship' ethos of helping out a neighbour in trouble has been overwhelming and pleasing to see. (This was the basis of country fire brigades prior to the formation of the CFA). Unfortunately, this is also a time when the criminal element sneaks in. So we remind you to be aware of scammers and crooks seizing on the opportunity to make a quick buck. If you have donated, or you are thinking of donating to support those impacted by these fires, do not be afraid to ask: 'Where is the money going?' and 'What is it going to be used for?' Donating to reputable charities and causes is generally the safer option, but some do use a portion for administration costs.

### Brigade Community Meeting

The brigade held a very successful community meeting with 35 residents in attendance. It was pleasing to see so many turn up and a few extra chairs were needed. Our CFA presenter, Paige Mounsey, did a great job and was well received.

Brigades across the state are seeing good numbers attending these meetings, which may be a reflection of recent events but, nonetheless, these meetings are the perfect opportunity for residents to get the information they need to make those important decisions when confronted with the threat of a fire.

### VESEP Funding Success

The brigade received a nice Christmas present when the results of VESEP funding grants were announced. We have been successful in getting support for the replacement of the brigade-owned Tanker 2. In due course, this tanker will be replaced with a new twin cab medium tanker. This tanker will be a little bit smaller than our current one but will be a good fit for the needs of the brigade.

There have been numerous questions and comments about funding of CFA brigades. While CFA provides stations, vehicles

and equipment relative to the brigade's risk profile and also covers running costs, any 'extras' the brigade wish to have are purchased from brigade's own funds. With VESEP grants (which were set up to support brigades in these types of purchases), the costs are shared, using a set formula, between the state government, CFA and the brigade. This substantially reduces the final cost to the brigade.

It is a good time to recheck any fire fighting equipment you have to ensure it is still ready to use. Be prepared and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*

*Brigade Community Safety Coordinator.*

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# Fundraising for Harcourt CFA and Bush Fire Relief

Harcourt community groups are responding to the recent Harcourt bushfire disaster and have made decisions to support needs from afar and needs which are close to home. If your organisation is fund raising for Bush Fire Relief or our local CFA, please let The Core know and we will gladly report your progress.

To our knowledge:

- The **Harcourt Bowling Club** Board has decided to donate all green fees collected for the first week of Pennant after the Christmas break, to Bushfire Relief.
- The Harcourt Produce Store will be presenting a substantial amount to Harcourt CFA in the near future.

- There is a **donation box at the ANA Hall** which is open on Wednesdays.
- Our **CFA** requires new drying racks for their hoses.
  - ▶ Congratulations to, **Harcourt's BP Servo** which raised \$2,000 from their sausage sizzle on Australia Day to go towards the racks.
  - ▶ **HPA** is in the process of raising funds for the drying racks at the Twilight Markets and the donation will be made after the February market.
  - ▶ **Harcourt Uniting Church** has taken up a collection with all money going to a special Uniting Church fund which will assist in providing ongoing care for all people in the fire-affected areas.



Harcourt BP employee Aleesha, supported by CFA members Des Rice and John Jenkins, is ready and waiting for customers to buy a sausage and support our local CFA.



HPA President, Sha Cordingley and HPA Committee Member Liz Rowe were at the January Twilight Market where HPA collected donations for the local CFA's drying racks.

## Luscious Local Bushfire Dinner Fundraiser Gung Hoe Growers, Saturday February 29, 6–9pm

Sas and Mel of Gung Hoe from the Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative have decided to support farmers, wildlife and the local CFA with their dinner event.

They said, "The bushfires across the country have been devastating to so many people and places on so many levels. We have been wondering as farmers what we can do to contribute in the aftermath. We are choosing to bring people together to share a meal, grown here on this land, in solidarity with all the people, animals and land that have been affected by the fires. This time, we were lucky. Next time, it might be us."

A wonderful team of four local chefs is donating their time and creativity to whip up a feast from the abundance of local produce and products that have been donated by many generous local businesses. There will also be a bar of local wines and beers on the night.

One hundred per cent of funds raised are going to bushfire recovery. 'Rather than choose one Bushfire Appeal to donate to we've decided on three.' Half of total dollars raised will go to ORICoop. The Organic Farmers Bushfire Appeal is coordinated by ORICoop (Organic & Regenerative Investment Co-operative). One hundred per cent of Appeal funds will directly assist farmers to restore, rejuvenate and regenerate themselves and their farmland. The remaining half of funds raised will go to Wildlife Victoria and the local CFA branch.

What a fabulous night it promises to be! By attending you can make a positive contribution while enjoying delicious local food and beverages.

**You can read more about ORICoop here:**

[organicinvestmentcooperative.com.au/opportunities/  
organic-farmers-bushfire-appeal](http://organicinvestmentcooperative.com.au/opportunities/organic-farmers-bushfire-appeal)

**The event tickets and all the info are here:**

Buy your tickets and place extra donations here:  
[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/luscious-local-bushfire-fundraiser-  
tickets-90740622645](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/luscious-local-bushfire-fundraiser-tickets-90740622645)



## Australia Day 2020

Celebrations in Harcourt for Australia Day were a little quieter than usual this year because there were no nominations for Community Member of the Year, or Youth of the Year.

For 2020 the younger cohort was represented by Rhian Selwood who read the Acknowledgement of Country at the start of official proceedings. Gary Selwood, President of the Lions of Harcourt urged everyone present to consider nominating a worthy person for 2021.

The Lions served a delicious breakfast before the speeches. Some members of the Lions were absent due to commitments around the bushfire crisis. Grant and Katrina Victor-Gordon spent much of January as part of Lions catering teams whose job it was to feed Blaze Aid volunteers. Scott Victor-Gordon was away organising DEWLP firefighting team camps.

George Milford gave the Australia Day address, mentioning the grief and stress suffered by people in the current crisis which he described as a “Searing experience likely to result in PTSD.” He spoke of the Aboriginal practice of cool burns which helped protect against fire and resulted in the grasslands described by Major Mitchell. “There are four such areas identified on Mount Alexander, they are rare on the mount because of the difficult terrain.” He recommended that people read “The Biggest Estate on Earth”, by Professor Bill Gammage which describes early Aboriginal practices that protected and preserved the fragile Australian soils and environmental systems.

George touched on the difficulties surrounding the date of January 26 and said, “We need to address the injustices suffered by Indigenous people in the present.”

He concluded the formalities with a prayer.



*Gary Selwood, Rhian Selwood and George Milford at the close of the Australia Day Breakfast.*



*The CFA was well represented at the breakfast.*

## Judy Coram—An Adventurous Life

Judy Coram came to Harcourt to support her daughter and family. She has thrown herself into volunteering in both Castlemaine and Harcourt. Widely travelled and highly trained, Judy is a nurse whose skills have taken her around the world.

Judy was first trained in Midwifery and worked in Maternal and Child Health for 20 years. Her interests in children’s development took her into the field of psychiatric studies which was capped with a Masters in Infant Mental Health. She enjoys writing and the *Core* hopes to share some of her experiences with readers.

Her work in Aboriginal Health in the remote central desert of Western Australia prepared her well for being accepted, in 2007, to join Medicins Sans Frontiers. Although the uniform is a plain T-shirt over pants or skirt, there is nothing plain or simple about the work this organisation does. Her efforts in children’s mental health have taken her all over the world from Thailand, Uganda, Georgia, Armenia, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea which was her final posting. Each contract was for about a year with a break in between for rest and recovery. Judy said, ‘The work was inspiring and emotionally and physically harrowing at times, but we also had moments of jubilant success and sheer enjoyment of cultures and their young people.’ In her work, Judy dealt with children and families affected by TB, HIV and sexual violence, and she trained local staff in children’s counselling.

We will have more detail next month, but what follows is a diary entry of her end of mission holiday in Uganda.

### ***Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park***

**Diary entry of Judy Coram - Holiday End of Mission with Medicins Sans Frontiers - Uganda**

It was very challenging slashing the way through the forest for hours and we were all very exhausted. Was it worth it at

the end though! I have to say there have been few times on all my travels that I have been so overcome by being there that it brings tears to my eyes! The Great Wall of China was one of these, and The Gobi desert in Mongolia, and this was another of those times. I’m very glad I was not a cheapskate or I would have missed out on this experience and this is definitely one to be recommended.

There was something special about seeing these wonderful animals in the wild. The silverback was huge, and I would not like to get on the wrong side of him. The babies were quite unafraid, and when they came too close to us the silverback became a little twitchy, and we were told to back up. Not sure where to, though!

We had about an hour just watching them, and then we had to fight our way out of the forest again.





# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## Lawrie Dann:

### Scientific improvement in orchard practice

Lawrie Dann was twenty-six years of age and weighed just five stone (32kg) when he was liberated from a Japanese Prisoner of War camp in 1945. Along with other Allied ex-prisoners of war Lawrie was taken on board the hospital ship USS *Haven* and remained on board for four months' recuperation as the 800-bed hospital ship steamed across the Pacific Ocean, eventually returning Lawrie to his homeland.

During the 1920s Lawrie's father, Richard Dann, had purchased land at the southern end of what is now Danns Road, Harcourt. The land was worked by Richard's nephew Gilbert Blake. After Lawrie was discharged from the Army in 1946 he married Thelma Duggan, built a home on the Harcourt land and laid out an orchard. The orchard eventually extended over fifty-two acres, which was a large holding for a private orchard.

Workers on the orchard included members of the Blake family, along with Gordon Grant and Len Code. The orchard was predominantly planted with apple trees, spaced six-metres apart. The first tractor on the orchard was an Australian-made Howard DH22, a rugged tractor which came with an attached rotary cultivator. With its steel-spiked wheels the Howard was rough to drive and was fitted with a hand-crank only. Later tractors on the orchard were a David Brown and a Fiat, but the Howard was useful if the newer tractors became bogged.

The orchard was ploughed, annually, fence to fence, in the traditional manner. After ploughing, a single furrow was ploughed alongside each row of trees for the purpose of irrigating the fruit trees. The Harcourt Gardens water channel ran through the upper eastern edge of the property.

A cool store was built as an extension to the original shed. Fruit was stored, and sold, in bushel cases, with most of Dann's apples sent by road transport to the Newcastle, Sydney and Brisbane markets.

Lawrie Dann was a pioneer in three aspects of fruit-growing in the Harcourt valley: Firstly in his practice of sod-culture rather than ploughing, secondly by making tentative steps towards the irrigation practices now universally adopted in local orchards and, thirdly, in his attempts at introducing bulk-handling of fruit.

In the 1960s Lawrie Dann ceased ploughing his orchard and just slashed the grass between the trees. In doing so he was responding to the discovery that regular ploughing of the orchard over the years would lead to a decline in the organic matter in the soil and a deterioration in the microbial and fungal activity which is vital for good soil structure. It is one thing to read about research into soil structure in an industry magazine, but it is quite another to put the advice into practice. Lawrie's fellow-orchardists were sceptical about abandoning the age-old practice of ploughing. However, in the Harcourt valley of the 21st century, all orchardists slash between the rows.

In lieu of furrow irrigation, Lawrie Dann set up a network of four-inch aluminium pipes with risers (vertical pipe). At the top of each riser was a sprinkler. He constructed a large dam just below the water race and, using a pump, irrigated the orchard using the overhead sprinklers. This system was unsatisfactory and, in the mid-1960s, it was replaced by a network of one-inch poly pipes each set to trickle across two rows of fruit trees. Things have moved on a bit since the mid nineteen-sixties.

The next innovation was microtubes (rather than 25mm pipes) delivering water to each tree on an as-needed basis, and these have, in turn, been replaced in modern orchards by irrigation lines with in-built pressure-compensating drippers at regular intervals.

Lawrie's was ahead of his time in the use of bulk bins. The problem with bulk bins of apples was that the cool store doorways were only wide enough to allow storage of fruit in bushel cases. The cost of modifying a cool store proved to be a hurdle to established orchards.

Thelma Dann was the Harcourt 'Akela' cubs' mistress, and many locals will remember her upbeat challenges to the boys –and the knots she taught – with great respect and affection. Thelma and Lawrie had three children Ian, Beryl and Peter. Lawrie Dann's interest in scientific improvement was passed on to Ian who studied plant pathology at Tatura and later operated a commercial walnut grove at Ardmona.

It was a great loss to Harcourt when, in 1977, Lawrie and Thelma Dann were accidentally killed on the Midland

Highway when their car was struck by a vehicle driven by a drunk driver. Lawrie had scaled back his orchard to just a third of its original extent by then.

The orchard in Danns Road is now owned and operated by Geoffrey Thompson Orchards Pty Ltd and their practices include the techniques pioneered by Lawrie Dann – slashing between the rows, networked scientific irrigation and handling of fruit in big red plastic bulk bins. The original dam has been deepened and enlarged and now supplies irrigation to a vast acreage.

Lawrence Dann had enlisted at age 22 in Australia's 8th Division (Signals). The story of his war experiences, which is outside the scope of this 'thumbnail sketch', can be found in *'Slaves of the Son of Heaven - the personal story of an Australian Prisoner of the Japanese during the years 1942-1945'* by Roy H Whitecross. Lawrie Dann returned from his harrowing war service with what was then called 'nerves' but would now be recognized as PTSD.

It is a credit to Lawrie that he was awake to the findings of the latest research and channeled his energy into experimentation towards what are now universally adopted orchard practices.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of Harcourt pioneers, compiled by Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre from the CH James collection and with information kindly supplied by family members.

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# Harcourt Bowling Club

The Club held a very successful Christmas party for members and their partners in December. The food

was excellent and so was the music. Many strutted their stuff on the dance floor.

During the Christmas break as usual our volunteers were busy. Visitors to the club will notice our new sign of Welcome.

Since the return to Pennant the Midweek and Weekend teams have had mixed success but all have represent their Club well and with good spirit. We are hoping that at least one of the Weekend teams will compete in finals as Divisions 3 and 9 are in good ladder positions. Unfortunately Midweek teams are very much an outside chance.



*This week junior Bowler Seth Bird played his first game in Division 5, usually he is in Division 9, and equipped himself very well!*

## Barefoot Bowls

Barefoot Bowls made a welcome return on Tuesday 21st January. We were very pleased to see some new faces at the Club and by all accounts it was a successful night. The dates have been set at least until April and they are:- Tuesdays – February 4th and 25th; March 3rd, 17th and 31st. All subject to the weather of course.

ALL WELCOME for a social game of bowls followed by Delicious BBQ for just \$10. Turn up at 5.30pm – we start at 6.00pm – to assist with catering names to the club by Monday please, either on the notice board at the club or by email: [harcourtbowls@outlook.com](mailto:harcourtbowls@outlook.com) Bowls provided – an opportunity to have fun, try your hand at bowls, meet other locals.

The Club is keen to welcome junior bowlers to join – we welcome people of all ages – and encourage any interested bowlers to contact President Russell Maltby on 0407 301 811.

Applications for Membership are available at the Club or on this Link [www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au/registrationmembership-forms](http://www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au/registrationmembership-forms)

## Club Champions

The Ladies' Singles Club Championship played on Friday 13th was a thrilling game between Carrol Frost and Judy Ewing.

The lead changed constantly throughout the match with both players treating the gallery to a fine display of bowling.

The winner was Carrol Frost on 25 to Judy Ewing on 22.



*Ladies Single Club Champion Carrol Frost (r) with runner-up Judy Ewing.*

The Men's Singles Championship between Steven Douglas and Brett Jenkinson was played last Monday afternoon to a packed gallery of supporters. After a close game, Steve came out winner at 25 to Brett's 19. This will give him another pin to add to his win in the 2014/2015 season.

As the Men's Club Champion, Steven Douglas represented the Harcourt Bowling Club in the Champion of Champions played out at Bendigo Bowling Club, winning his first round against the Kangaroo Flat champion. The Club was well represented to support Steve who played with confidence. He was not able to get on top of the Bendigo



*Mens Singles Club Champion Steve Douglas (r) with runner-up Brett Jenkinson.*

champion in the second round however, despite some very fine bowling. Well done Steven.

Unfortunately a disappointed Ladies Champion Carrol Frost was unable to compete due to an injury. We wish Carrol a speedy recovery.

## Sponsors Night February 18th

The last round of the Sponsors Challenge will be on Tuesday 18th February and we are hoping for some keen competition to challenge the ASQ team. The team with the overall highest score after Round two will be declared winner of the Chappies Challenge, named after Rob Chaplin former bowler, Board member and Sponsor.

## Tournaments (Mens & Ladies)

The Annual Men's Fours tournament is to be held on Sunday 2nd February. This Tournament attracts many bowlers from around the State, such that we have two fills. The results will be in the March Core.

The Annual Ladies' Fours Tournament will be on Thursday 13th February, it too is well attended each year. Results will be in March Core.

## What's On in February

*(as well as weekly Friday Nights)*

**Sunday 2nd February** – Men's Fours Tournament (all day)

**Tuesday 4th** – Barefoot Bowls (night)

**Tuesday 18th** – Sponsors Night

**Thursday 13th** – Ladies' Fours Tournament (all day)

**Friday 14th** – Friendly Friday Foodies

**Tuesday 25th** – Barefoot Bowls (night)

**Friday 28th** – Friendly Friday Foodies

**March 3rd** – Barefoot Bowls (night)

## Friendly Friday Foodies Fortnightly

Enjoy a meal in a relaxed, casual environment for just \$12.50

Bookings and your choice from the nominated Menu will need to be on the list at the Club on the Wednesday prior.

Menu for Friday Foodies on February 14th is a choice of Beef Burger with Chips OR Chicken & Vegies in Asian Style Sauce on Rice Noodles.

## HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

7.30pm Wednesday 25th March 2020

Harcourt District Leisure Centre

Binghams Road, Harcourt (kitchen/meeting room)

After a very successful 2019, Harcourt Carpet Bowls has a big year ahead in 2020.

We will be hosting the Victorian Country Carpet Bowls Association Championships to be held on Saturday September 19th. Come and join us to be part of this exciting event.

All past players (bring a friend) and any new people who are interested in playing carpet bowls are most welcome to attend the AGM.

If you are interested in learning more about the game but are unable to attend the AGM, you will be most welcome to come join a team on games night.

No previous experience is needed.

Families are most welcome.

Players are aged from 8 years old up.

Interested or need further information?

Attend the AGM or contact:

Loretta: 5474 2453, John: 5474 2226 or Tyrone: 5474 2126

The starting date for Harcourt Carpet Bowls will be published in the April *Core*.



## WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation The Cummeragunja Walk-off

The country around the Murray and Goulburn Rivers is home to the Yorta Yorta people. In the 1880s many Yorta Yorta arrived at Cummeragunja, a station on the NSW banks of the Murray, having fled unbearable conditions elsewhere.

Cummeragunja means 'Our Home'. For a while the residents farmed the land productively, until the Aborigines Protection Board of New South Wales took control of their lives around 1909.

By the 1930s, living conditions at the station were terrible. TB, other illnesses and deaths resulted from unhygienic housing, minimal food rations and contaminated water. The residents were intimidated by the manager, who either ignored complaints or punished the complainants. For decades they had endured restricted movement and removal of their children.

The protests by Cummeragunja people were getting nowhere, and when they found that the land they lived on did not belong to them, it was the last straw.

Jack Patten, an aboriginal activist, was called back to his birthplace to rally the protesters.

On 4 February 1939 Patten addressed a large crowd about deteriorating conditions. He was arrested for 'inciting Aborigines', and removed. But he had convinced a majority of the residents to leave, and they packed up their belongings, crossed the River Murray to Victoria (in contravention of the rules set by the Protection Board) and set up camp near present-day Barmah.

The strike camp lasted 9 months. The mission manager was transferred, but many of the Yorta Yorta preferred to remain in Victoria.

Their heroic walk-off eventually led to the Aborigines Advancement League, Aboriginal health services and the right to vote.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Yorta Yorta is that they have survived.

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](http://www.nalderun.net.au)

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# If You Have a Fruit Fly Monitoring Trap

Hello everybody who participated in our Fruit Fly Trap Giveaways in Castlemaine, Maldon and Harcourt. The Fruit Fly Action Group sends a big thank you to all who stopped by and collected a trap or asked for information.

Remember, the traps given out are **monitoring traps**. If you find a suspected fruit fly stuck in your trap you should go to the Shire website: Mount Alexander Fruit fly and then follow the link on this page: [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly) to the Fruit Fly Emergency Outbreak Plan page and follow the steps.

- Firstly, here is a quick reminder on how to set up your trap:
  - ▶ Simply open the small packet and place the wafer in the yellow base.
  - ▶ Remove the film from the white disc and place it facing sticky side up in the trap; it should fit comfortably inside the shape of the yellow base.
  - ▶ Attach the clear cover onto the base and write the date on the side of the trap.
  - ▶ Hang the trap on the eastern side of your trees, in an area that gets the morning sun.
- After 3-4 months the wafer and the sticky pad will need to be changed, you can buy replacements for BioTraps at Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware, Macdonald's Nursery and Bendigo Wholefoods. Call ahead to check for stock availability.

Follow these basic steps to maintain your fruit trees and look for fruit fly.

1. Pick – pick fruit as soon as it's ripe. Don't leave fallen fruit on the ground.
2. Prune – keep trees to a manageable height so you can pick, net and check fruit.
3. Protect – monitor for fruit fly using traps (check weekly).
4. Install white netting.

For more local information you can join a Facebook group:

Mount Alexander Fruit Fly, Bendigo Region Fruit Fly or Harcourt Valley Landcare and check the Mount Alexander Shire Council website at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly)

## Help Map Fruit Fly Traps in Harcourt

If you would like to further assist us you could help us create a map of where some of our traps have been deployed. Below is the link to a survey that consists of only one question and should take no more than a minute to complete. The only information that will be collected is an approximate address. [www.surveymonkey.com/r/C75HRK8](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C75HRK8)

Ross Watson  
Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group

## Good levels at Reservoirs after Recent Rain

Storage	Capacity at full supply <i>megalitres</i>	Current volume <i>megalitres</i>	Current volume <i>% full</i>	Volume same time last year <i>megalitres</i>	Volume same time last year <i>% full</i>
Upper Coliban	37,770	33,700	89.2%	30,621	81.1%
Lauriston	19,790	15,180	76.7%	16,350	82.6%
Malmsbury	12,034	2,448	20.3%	1,543	12.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	69,594	51,328	73.8%	48,514	69.7%

Data from: <https://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels> – February 7, 2020

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

## Love your pet? Send us a picture!

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with a statement about why you love your pet.



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### Apply for a Council grant

Round two of our 2019/2020 Events and Community Grants are now open and will close at 4.00pm on Tuesday 18 February. The grants provide financial support for events, projects and activities. Please note the event grants are intended for those held between July and December. Find more information at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants) or contact Council on 5471 1700.

### Apply for Land Management Rate

Farmers and landholders are reminded to apply for the Land Management Rate by Friday 14 February to receive a 20 percent reduction off the general property rate for the next financial year. To find out more or to apply visit [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/LMR](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/LMR) or phone Kylie Stafford, Natural Resources Officer, on 5471 1700. Conditions apply.

### Roadworks underway

Works are underway to upgrade three sections of the Bendigo – Sutton Grange Road. The works are expected to be completed by April, weather permitting. Motorists can expect traffic delays. Apologies for any inconvenience. The project is jointly funded through Regional Roads Victoria's Fixing Country Roads Program and the Federal Roads to Recovery Program.

### At Home residency

Applications for the 2020/2021 At Home residency program at the Phee Broadway Theatre are now open. Each residency offers free use of the theatre for three weeks with support to take a new work to audiences. Expressions of interest close at midnight on Monday 24 February. Find more information at [www.pheebroadwaytheatre.com.au](http://www.pheebroadwaytheatre.com.au) or contact Vicki Anderson, Cultural Development Officer, on 5471 1700.

Civic Centre  
Corner Littleton and Lloyd Streets  
P.O Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700  
e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)  
w [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au)

## Keep up your good recycling habits

Council is urging everyone to continue to their good recycling habits while its waste contractor Veolia Environmental Services has temporarily suspended the processing of recyclables until further notice.

- Household bin collection will continue as usual, including the fortnightly collection of yellow-lidded bins.
- Residents are encouraged to continue to reduce, reuse and recycle to help reduce the amount of waste produced in the first instance.
- Residents are also encouraged to wait until recycling bins are full before putting them out as commingled materials will be sent to landfill in the short-term.
- Residents can also drop off sorted recyclables like paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and steel and aluminium based materials such as tins, cans and empty aerosol containers at transfer stations in Castlemaine and Maldon for recycling for free.
- Commingled recyclables from Mount Alexander Shire are usually transported to the materials recovery facility in Echuca for sorting and processing.
- We understand Veolia's decision to suspend processing is based on a reduction in demand for mixed paper, due to market forces linked to the recent bushfires.
- Paper and cardboard comprise a large percentage of the

recyclable product at the site. There also are safety and regulatory issues associated with stockpiling.

- Council is committed to responsible waste management and will continue to work with Veolia to investigate alternatives.
- There are complex challenges associated with recycling and the lack of economic markets available to sustain resource recovery.
- Council is hoping the state government's circular economy policy and action plan, due for release, will help developing some solutions on this issue.

*From a Mount Alexander Shire Press Release*



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# Top Fruit Tips for January from Katie Finlay

Happy New Year Everyone!

What a wild summer we've had so far with bushfires (luckily none in Harcourt this year), dust storms, and full-on wind. Despite it all, we hope you've had a great harvest of summer fruit like apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines and plums, with loads of apples and pears still to come.

Unfortunately, as we know only too well, it doesn't always work out as we hope. As much as we wish it didn't, nature 'keeps happening' to our fruit. Fruit can be attacked by birds, earwigs, beetles, possums, kangaroos and now we have the possibility of fruit fly.

On the fruit fly front, the Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group has been giving away free traps to members of the community – hopefully you managed to pick one up at the Twilight Market. If not, contact Harcourt Valley Landcare Fruit Fly Group via their Facebook page to see if there are any left, or to register your interest in case they manage to get more funding. In the meantime, you can buy the 'Biotraps' from Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware in Campbells Creek, or online, and they're the sort of trap that's recommended for the monitoring phase of our fruit fly defence.

This year we've seen the return to the district of a few dreaded (though admittedly beautiful) musk lorikeets, which can cause rapid destruction to any fruit crop. They're not a natural fruit eater, so their appearance is always a sign of drought in their native feeding grounds, and the bushfires may have reduced their normal food source even more.

It's a great time of year to be closely monitoring your trees, so try to visit them at least once a week to say g'day. You'll notice whether they're getting enough water and whether the fruit's almost ripe, and it gives you a better chance of catching the culprit if something's having a nibble on the fruit, which will help you figure out how to prevent it!

Here are our top three tips for January:

1. **If you still have fruit on your trees, it's not too late to net, and even a simple drape net provides at least some protection from hail damage and can really help prevent damage from birds, particularly cockies. Smaller and more persistent birds like musk lorikeets and other parrots may need a net that goes all the way to the ground and is secured.**
2. **Keep a close eye on how much water your fruit trees are getting, particularly in the 6-8 weeks before the fruit is ready, and be prepared to water a bit more often than usual in hot, windy conditions. Once a tree has been harvested, you can cut back the amount you're watering it to about half. Most of its work is done for the year, though early fruiting trees should keep growing for a while after the fruit has been picked, so don't cut off the water completely if you have enough to spare.**
3. **Be fruit fly aware: put out traps, check them regularly, and pick up any fruit from the ground under your trees, and if you think you need to learn more about it, please sign up to the upcoming Fruit Fly Masterclass.**

It's sobering to remember that this time a couple of years ago we had a fire on the farm which burned a few hundred trees, but it was rapidly brought under control by our wonderful CFA. With the devastating bushfires happening this year we're very appreciative that we got out of it so lightly.

*Happy Harvests*

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists, members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op and teach organic home fruit growing. They offer a free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and a free online workshop called 'The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit' - sign up at [growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing](http://growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing). They also offer more than 50 online short courses and the year-long Grow Great Fruit Home-study Program - visit [growgreatfruit.com](http://growgreatfruit.com) for details.

## LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

A man had a bee in his bonnet  
About writing a play or a sonnet.  
But after two years  
They found him in tears  
With his paper with nought written on it.



Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552

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[@LMChesters](https://www.instagram.com/LMChesters) • [/LisaChestersBendigo](https://www.facebook.com/LisaChestersBendigo)



## ASQ Plant of the Month Crepe Myrtles

The crepe myrtle is a hardy tree which blooms throughout summer and autumn.

Available as trees or shrubs with colours from deep reds to hot pinks, there is a crepe myrtle to suit almost any garden and style.

Visit Skydancers to see our range of crepe myrtles this month.



### ASQ Skydancers - Garden, Gift & Café



[www.asq.net.au](http://www.asq.net.au)

a Cnr Blackjack Rd & Midland Hwy, Harcourt

p 03 5474 3800 | e [skydancers@asq.net.au](mailto:skydancers@asq.net.au) |

## Gardening With Success and Good Company

Do you enjoy gardening but find the enormity of the tasks before you just a little daunting? Do you enjoy working with others in the garden with a sense of team spirit?

Why not put together a Gardening Group of like-minded people who enjoy getting out in the garden and getting the job done in a reasonable time?

About one and a half years ago, I asked some friends if they'd like to form a group to garden together in each other's gardens. We meet once a week for two hours to help each other out with weeding, planting, mulching and other odd jobs. We have six members, which is probably about the limit for a group, if you think in terms of the turn-around. So if you think that out logically, that means six people working two hours equals 12 hours of labour. Of course, not all members are available to come each week, but it doesn't seem to matter. It is a great way to get jobs done, learn about new gardening techniques and enjoy a cup of tea at the end.

Most of the group members are single women with reasonably large gardens. Each of our gardens is quite different and unique. So, for example, I have a half acre block with reasonably good soil, a lot of fruit trees and a veggie patch and an awful lot of weeds. I usually have the Gardening Group do some weeding or mulching, which, on my own, can be a big job. But with good company and quick results, I've derived great satisfaction in getting through some of the tasks. Over time, I've had a large portion of the garden mulched, and planting done. I've also found weeding a lot easier with the help of my fellow gardeners.

We are a very diverse group and bring different skills to the group. We always stop for a cuppa when we've finished, and there's always a cake to share, or some other nibbles. Everyone brings a sense of fun to the group. The level of skill varies. Some of our members are quite new to gardening while others have very successful gardens. Altogether it's a very convivial group.

I've learnt such a lot from this experience. So if you feel overwhelmed by your gardening jobs, why not get a group together to work with you. It's a lot of fun. We usually start reasonably early in the morning and stop for morning tea.

The idea originally came from Gwen Ford, who had a three acre native garden that she couldn't manage on her own after her husband died. She gathered together a bunch of like-minded women who together managed to keep Gwen's garden in great shape. And good friendships were formed.

If you would like to learn more about our garden group, you can get in touch with me through the *Core*.

Vera Hemkes

## Rabbit Buster Workshop with Agriculture Victoria

February 16, 2020

Barkers Creek Landcare Group is holding a workshop and demonstration day as part of the annual Rabbit Buster month campaign.

Best practice rabbit management - presented by Agriculture Victoria's Leading Biosecurity Officer, Jessica Seidel

**Where:** "Haven on Barkers"

8867 Midland Highway, Barkers Creek

**When:** Sunday February 16, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

**Cost:** Free with light refreshments provided

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to Jessica Seidel

email: [Jessica.Seidel@agriculture.vic.au](mailto:Jessica.Seidel@agriculture.vic.au)

Phone: 0419 577 324

Please note Jessica's working days are:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



Phil Carlyle

0408 128 313

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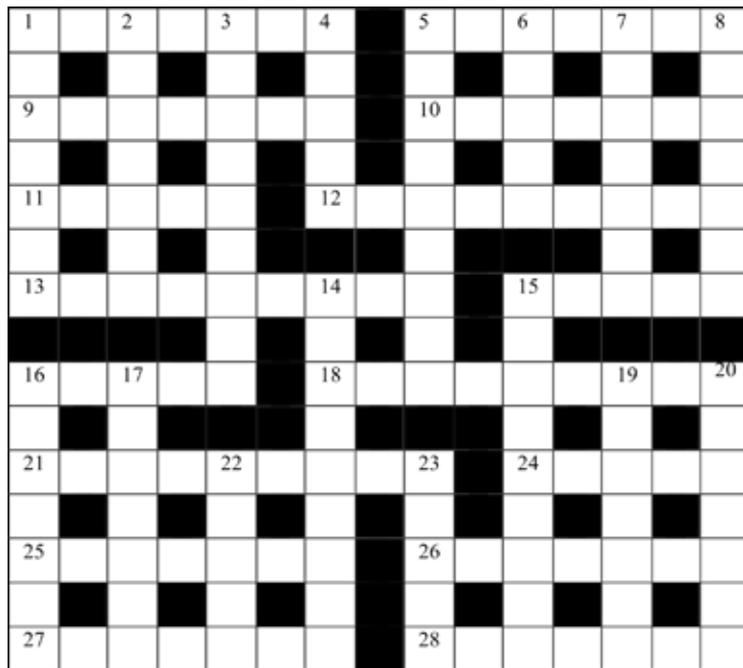
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PO Box 121

Castlemaine Vic 3450

# February 2020 Xword © McW September '17



**Down:**

1. Observed footnoting protocol, we hear. (7)
2. I know it's a nag, but it's not for you lot. (7)
3. My treason makes for a mean story about why I had to leave the pious boys' dorm... (9)
4. Haggard equestrian? (5)
5. Petits-fours might be iced, but you could drop Galafours in the coffee. (4-5)
6. Moi? Mr Knight, I am so-o-o tight. (5)
7. Pick an atom you choose out of it—all part of the body science. (7)
8. I lac over rill, partly, may cause germination and this questing forth! (7)
14. He can ride in the car Daddy left him. (9)
15. Glories in various ways of making sense of fate... (9)
16. Go forth and accept the profit. (7)
17. Let Eric reconstruct Bob? (7)
19. "N" at the start replaces "th" in grounding, coming closer... (7)
20. Seuss, in at least one of his kids' books, got up your nose, yes? (7)
22. Hey! Drat! You're back late again! (5)
23. Cut verse off... (5)

**Across:**

1. Big hitter's in gaol. (7)
5. Blast Ma, good and proper! (7)
9. Low-GI bread or wood not fashionably wired-in. (7)
10. For sailor to clean up his indelible mess, he might have to do this for a bit... (7)
11. Joint finishes in having a propensity. (5)
12. Rise, Rover, and into the dam! (9)
13. Nigh, tired, and not making a decision. (9)
- 15, 28. Nazi-sympathiser steps down for a commoner? (5,7)
16. Bruce can be small-minded at times. (5)
18. Tough titty if shire land is sold to developers... (4,5)
21. How he spills the dice-shaker by having too many goes? (9)
24. Substance of 9. (5)
25. "...nothing I would more gladly part withal, except my life... except..." Hamlet pushes a right into this small part of Hamlet. (7)
26. Musical ways of cooking the books? (7)
27. Hold back news boss and everything is held back. (7)
28. (See 15)

# December Xword 2019 solution © McW September '17



**Down:**

1. Rent [hire] in a mess carries bowling target [jack] for one who takes over the vehicle. (8)
2. [Lug] a small amount [a gram...] of salt over shoulder in this Soviet hell... (Salt mines...)
3. Can [pimp's bugle] clean dirty holds? (5,5)
4. Taken from prompter, used on table... [Well?]
5. Not all this nor wit can reverse fate... [Well?]
6. Do female bodies [...of the Mexican insects] make food blush?
7. They [slid so] sloppily into wearer's diet. (6)
10. A 1950s kangaroo? [Well?]
13. Young Turks shoot logos? [Well?]
15. Cleric, monkeys and pigeons in dregs of milky coffees? [Well?]
16. To take over extension by adding a letter... (!!!)
17. [Brazen klaxon] without Clint's chopper on made cars. (4,4)
19. '80s white sliced is peak of landfill... [Well?]
21. Text you [in] cesspool [sump] to total.
23. Heavily ironic coffee? [Well?]
24. [At 10] am, avoid what the Sergeant Major shouts... (4)
14. Speak with divorced partner to disallow bread-breaking or wine-drinking. (13)
18. [Aha! Plan repair] of all this clobber. (13)
20. Contents of luggage just on the off-chance? (2,4) [Well?]
22. Fraser substitute situated centrally? [Well?]
25. Dolomite before Argentinian [ant...] makes winner ebullient. (10)
26. It's possible not to [care] how much land there is. (4)
27. Dad [Pop] mixed with Mick's mob [Stones] puts it off. (9)
28. Musically liven-up? [Well? 'to jazz' (v. int.), often followed by 'up'...]

**Across:**

1. Stoner's position? [Well?]
3. Anti-aircraft placements and petrol [BP] carry travellers' effects. (4-5)
8. [Vegemite] and [jam] transposed for starters might electrify things on a rough road. (4)
9. [Be nice: pull] apart the writer's errors with its judicious application. (4,6)
11. Small part of gearbox [cog] without blokes for the likes of Biggus Dickus? [Well?]
12. [Dairy] and 007 boss [M] scatter 10 grand, some think. (6)

# Community Diary Dates

**Thursday 13 February:** 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall.

**Monday 17th February:** 7.30 pm Applefest Organising Committee, ANA Hall.

**Friday 21 February:** Applefest Art Show entries close. Application forms on Applefest website.

**Wednesday 26 February:** 6.30 – 8.30 pm HPA Public Meeting, ANA Hall.

**Saturday 22 February:** 4 – 8 pm, Twilight Market, James Park, High Street Harcourt.

**Thursday 5 March:** 7.30 pm, Opening of the Applefest Art Show, ANA Hall, High Street Harcourt.

**Saturday 7 March:** 10 am – 4 pm, Applefest – Stanley Park, Memorial Park and James Park.

**Bowling Club Dates:** See page 14.

**Harcourt Tennis Club:** Thursday 7 pm Social night tennis at the Leisure Centre courts. Cost is \$2 per person.

**Heritage Centre:** Open every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9 am–3 pm or by appointment. Call : 0400 916 527.

**Pony Club:** Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30 am–12 midday. Next to swimming pool.

**Walking Group:** Every Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am. Meet at the ANA Hall.

**Uniting Church:** Every Sunday at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

**CWA:** First Thursday of the month, 1.30 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre.

**Harcourt Lions Club:** Meetings every third Friday of the month at 7.30pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way. For further information, contact Di Selwood 0488 148 358.

## Seen at recent Twilight Markets



**Maree Edwards MP**  
State Member for Bendigo West

*Putting Community First*

If you have any State or Local Government issue  
please contact my office for assistance

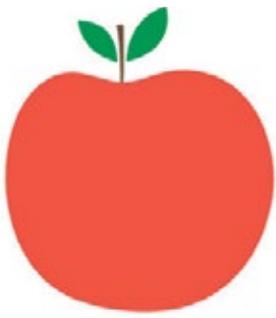
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A full colour version of *Harcourt News: The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: <http://harcourt.vic.au/news>  
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# Applefest 2020

## Apple Pie Baking Competition

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**Please complete this entry form and present at  
the Fruit Growers' tent on  
March 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, by 10.30am**

### Conditions of Entry:

#### Apple Pies

1. Must be baked in 20cm pie dish
2. Must have a bottom and a top crust
3. Pie top must be complete, i.e. no lattice.
4. Pastry of own choice but no commercial mix or bought pastry.
5. Do not add other fruit to the apple.
6. Presentation:
  - Appealing to the eye and appetite
  - May be glazed
  - Presented on the dish in which it was baked

#### Apple Muffins and Cakes

1. Must be made from scratch. No packet mixes.
2. Judged on evenness of baking, moisture, texture and appearance.
3. Four muffins must be provided for judging.

**Judging will begin at 11.00 am.**

**Prize Winners will be announced at 1.00 pm**

Name:.....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

#### What are you entering? (Tick all that apply):

**Apple Pie:** Open  or Junior under 15

**Apple Muffins:** Open  or Junior under 15

**Apple cake:** Open

**For more information contact Lyn Rule, Harcourt CWA on 0418 994 067**

# HARCOURT TWILIGHT MARKET

James Park, High Street Harcourt  
Saturdays from 4pm to 8pm

February 22 2020

## Councillor Comment



Hi All,

Isn't it great to have had some rain? The last 12 months has been so dry it is taking its toll on the whole community. A big thank you goes to our outdoor team for keeping the gardens looking so good in tough times. We desperately need more rain in the areas affected by bushfire.

Thinking about our community, there is so much more we can do to make our homes and towns more defensible in the event



Seen at the Twilight Market: Tony Cordy and his wife Jo, with friends John and Val Blake (right) of Harcourt.

of fire in our region. There is still time to get busy and reduce fuel loads around the property. Thanks to all our fire fighters who continue to give so much of their time.

As you will see in the Core photo, we have been enjoying the local twilight markets. It is a great place to catch up with family and friends. We get to most of them, so feel free to chat to me about Council issues when you see me there.

At Council we will be working on the next financial year's budget over the coming weeks. Please let me know if there are any projects that you would like to see included.

One of the big issues facing Council is the handling of waste and recycling. Council does the best it can to deal with waste in an environmentally sound manner and in the most economical way possible. As you will know Council's contractors deal with what we put in the bins. At the household level we can assist the process by reducing waste where possible. Imagine the collective impact if we all cut back on purchasing products that have too much plastic packaging and goods that we may not really need.

Late last night we came across the scene of another serious accident on Fogarty's Gap Road. It is the third serious accident there in the last twelve months or so. We will be discussing this again at Council to work out what we can do to make this area safer. The accidents at that site have all been local people and we all need to be more careful and drive or ride to the conditions. I know we can do more to be more proactive where safety is concerned.

Best regards to all,  
AG (Tony) Cordy 0439 742 434



Join us at  
Applefest 2020

