

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 74 – August 2020

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourt.vic.au/news

Pruning Complete for Harcourt's Scar Tree



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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.**

IN LATE JULY, Council completed pruning works on the culturally significant scar tree located on Harmony Way in Harcourt.

Aboriginal people caused trees to scar by removing bark for various purposes such as making canoes, containers and shields, and to

build shelters. The scars, which vary in size, expose the sapwood on the trunk or branch of a tree.

Council worked in partnership with Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation on the pruning of the tree.

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Harcourt Progress Association

Plan Harcourt

HPA will be responding to the Council's move to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the planning scheme. This is a result of a two year consultation process between the Shire and the Harcourt Community; a process in which HPA has been actively involved. The documentation includes plans for the town centre and land use purposes. Ideas to activate the town centre will be developed in a Town Centre Urban Design Plan which HPA had recommended as part of the feedback process earlier this year. Plan Harcourt incorporates the Shine Harcourt report which is an economic stimulus study. This was developed in consultation with the community about its aspirations to express and preserve Harcourt's unique character while allowing growth in business and the community.

Council will seek to introduce the recommended policy, zoning and overlay changes identified in Plan Harcourt. The process is expected to take around 18 months and will include a public exhibition and submissions process.

HPA has had extended consultations with Council officers from day one about Plan Harcourt and will be strongly representing the community throughout the next stages. The HPA Committee expects discussions to continue and will make representation via the submissions process.

New Website for HPA

David Foley, who joined HPA last year, has stepped up to review and revise the HPA website. The Committee reached a decision to overhaul the website by implementing a new theme and improving the content.

The benefits of the new website are:

- Easier access to fresh content.
- More recent and dynamic content published by HPA members through the improved use of the Content Management System (CMS).
- Online access and storage of information about HPA projects and subcommittees.
- Introduction of broader content categories.
- Better links to other local groups, websites and organisations.

Through its new website the HPA hopes to give the community greater insight into the Association's initiatives and provide greater transparency around its proceedings and activities.

Our thanks go to David Ling who set up the original website for HPA.

Change to Local Laws affecting Tiny Houses – General Local Law Changes 2020

HPA has responded via letter to the proposed Local Law change. The following is an extract from the letter:

"The Association absolutely supports the construction of Tiny Houses and their placement in Harcourt. We believe that Tiny Houses have an important role in providing a diverse housing mix for a vibrant and growing community. Properly implemented, Tiny Houses offer a safe, affordable, flexible, and environmentally sustainable form of accommodation.

The Committee's primary concern relates to the impact of the proposed Local Law on Tiny Houses is the way in which it



creates uncertainty around the status of Tiny Houses as a housing option in the Shire.

We support regulation of Tiny Houses and agree that they should be of a high quality, compliant with good design standards and support the health of occupants, while also not resulting in a negative impact on the environment/amenity of the locality. However, we believe balance is required in the regulatory framework. It is reasonable for a person who chooses to live in a Tiny House to have an expectation of security and continuity in their housing.

We request that the Council consider the following amendments to the current approach:

- Publish policy and guidelines which clearly state to prospective Tiny House owners what they must consider and comply with.
- Provide clear guidelines that support Council staff in consistently assessing and guiding satisfactory on-site outcomes.
- Extend the validity period for Tiny House (camping) permits and make provision for persons who want to seek multiple permits and/or to renew/extend a permit.

Playspace

HPA understands that the Council expects the construction of the Harcourt Playspace to commence in August. While Stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions are in place building and construction can still continue.

Roundabout

Recent discussions have been held between HPA and Mount Alexander Shire and Regional Roads Victoria. We expect Shire and Regional Roads representatives to continue the discussion and we are waiting on outcomes of those talks. Information will be posted on the HPA website as soon as it becomes available.

Acting President of HPA

Sha Cordingley has taken a leave of absence as President for personal reasons. She has kept a steady guiding hand on things as we've been working through some significant organisational changes. The HPA now has a stronger foundation, and we're grateful for Sha's experience, particularly in policy development and organisational process. We send our very best wishes to her and her family.

Michael Henry has stepped up from Vice-President to take her place until the AGM in November.

For any feedback to the HPA on any of these matters please contact the Secretary, Liesl Malan at lm@lmia.com.au.



Plan to relocate Signal Box from Bendigo New Clubhouse for Harcourt Lions

Despite current restrictions, the Victorian Miniature Railway is overseeing (albeit from a distance) the repair and permits necessary to move an 8-metre high signal box from Bendigo to Harcourt.

The timber signal box, known as Signal Box A, was one of four – A, B, C and D – which directed trains moving tin and out of the Bendigo Train Station. Signal Box A was located near the Thistle Street Bridge and directed trains to and from Melbourne.

It was built in 1921 and was purchased and moved to its current site in 1990 by a collector. The collector however, moved to the USA and decided not to keep it. Dane Wild, the neighbour located behind the block, bought the land with the signal box on it in 2018 in order to expand the family backyard. There was some sentiment attached as Dane’s father, who worked as a train driver, spent time in the signal boxes around the Bendigo station and still talks about his time working for the railways. Having tried to ‘live’ with the signal box, the family decided to sell it. After the sale of Signal Box A fell through, Dane, who had heard of VMR made contact with Andrew Mierisch, President of VMR and said he would donate it, if VMR would organise its removal.

Repairs are being done now, and there are high hopes at VMR that as soon as possible, Signal Box A will have a new home in Harcourt at VMR and will become the Harcourt Lions club rooms. Andrew Mierisch, VMR President said, ‘We are pulling the roof off, and it’s going to be split in the middle; its designed to split in the middle as that’s how they built them. The roof needs to come off to comply with height limits for the oversize transport. We have new solid concrete footings at Harcourt going in and we will reassemble it, restoring the roof primarily. It will stand at the north end of our carpark, then we plan to restore the rest with the Lions, and a VCAL students’ trade program.’

‘The permit from VicRoads allows the move to be done on a Sunday. The parts of the signal box will be moved on a



large flatbed oversize semi-trailer by a Bendigo operator with experience in moving oversize loads. The permit expires in three weeks, but hopefully we can get an extension of time due to COVID-19 restrictions.’

‘Originally, VMR was made aware of the signal box some two years ago. The idea was exciting and to obtain a piece of local railway history was great. Often, memorabilia and antiques are acquired and sit around gaining dust and cobwebs etc. The Harcourt Lions will have a new home and it will stand tall and proud towering over the car park. The Lions will use it as their base and store their equipment on the ground floor, and use the top level as their club rooms. With its height and the location it will feature great views from its upper floor.

‘We nearly missed out on gaining it when it went up for sale. Sam Battio, a fellow enthusiast, has been very supportive of VMR as a draftsman. He was so upset about missing out on its acquisition that he continued to leave the building plans in the permit process and, in his holidays over Christmas, he attended the signal box and did a full measure up with the intention we could build a replica. The Harcourt Lions believed they could seek material donations and the vision would continue. Then, one day, out of the blue, Dane contacted VMR and offered the signal box as a donation, as he was keen to see it survive and not be demolished. After nine months of research we were able to seek out Ian Craig of Craig’s Cranes Bendigo and a local carpenter to prepare the building while Ian gained the permits. VMR members are preparing the site and constructing the footings. On the day of the big move, everyone will be involved, and we are looking forward to restrictions being lifted, so we can achieve another important milestone for VMR at Harcourt.’

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HPA Supports Local Business

As we are all aware, many businesses are struggling with the pandemic restrictions. Over the next few months, we will be following up with them and urging the community to support our local businesses as much as possible.

Goldfields Track Restaurant

When we spoke with Donna McMahon, she was waiting to see to see what restrictions would be applied, and now we know, and now we know it's back to Take Away only and Contactless Delivery. However, it's not all bad news.

She said, 'Goldfields Track will be open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon/evenings from 5 to 8 pm. I intend to maintain 'Locals Night' on Thursday night, which will be Parma Night. On the 3 evenings we are open, our customers can look forward to the usual delicious comfort meals that we are known for.'

'Over our two cafes, we have 7 staff on Job Keeper, and without that we could not be open. This pandemic pulls us every way, emotionally, physically and financially. We had a break between lockdowns, and we were fortunate here to have two dining areas, but there was a lot of extra work sanitising everything and doing customer checks. We did have some time, when we were first closed, to undertake some renovations, which have been positively received by our clientele. We also introduced a Take Away window when we were open during the day, which was a great help in managing numbers in the cafe.'

Orders for meals from Goldfields Track can be made on Tuckerfox or call 5462 5514.

Harcourt Valley Winery

Sometimes, quiet times give business owners the opportunity to innovate. While business on site at the winery has virtually stopped, deliveries to suppliers have continued and Kye and Quinn Livingstone have successfully developed a new beverage in addition to their wines and the famous Ginger Kid. Mango Smash is set to be delivered Australia wide via Coles First Choice Liquor and Vintage Cellars in October.



Kye said, 'We believe this drink is unique. It uses 100% Australian mangoes and promises to be a refreshing alcoholic drink at any time of the year. It is also vegan and gluten free and so will have a broad appeal.'

Harcourt Valley Winery can be contacted on: www.harcourtvalleywinery.com.au or via Facebook.

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Henry of Harcourt Cidery

Michael Henry said, 'While winter is usually the quiet season for us, the Cellar Door was busy in the break between lockdowns. Once again, we are not open for tastings but can provide contactless purchase and pick up, and we are continuing with courier deliveries.'

'We have a new line of cider known as Uncle Mick's. It's a dry, pink lady cider infused with ginger. It makes a very nice sparkling mulled cider.'



Recipe for Uncle Mick's Sparkling Mulled Cider

Remove the cap from one bottle of Uncle Mick's Dry Ginger. Place in the microwave for 30 seconds on high.

Then microwave for 2 minutes 30 seconds on 50% power.

Enjoy!

Henry of Harcourt Cidery can be contacted on: info@henrycider.com or via Facebook.

The HPA will continue with this series of updates on local businesses in the next edition.

Don't miss out on Free Small Business Workshops

Small business owners in the Mount Alexander Shire have the opportunity to build skills and knowledge during August through two free workshops.

Mount Alexander Shire Council has partnered with the State Government – Small Business Victoria to deliver the workshops that support and encourage local small businesses.

Business owners are encouraged to register now to attend one of the following August sessions:

Business planning essentials:

How to build a road map to success

The two-hour session will take you through the process of identifying business opportunities and long-term goals, how to unpack key risks and limits to growth, and where to access tools, templates, support and resources to help support your continued planning processes.

When: Monday 10 August, 9.30am – 11.30am

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

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

Taking your business online: What you need to know

Find out how to get ready to launch your business online. More than ever before, it is critical to have a digital presence. Topics include managing risk, privacy and cybersecurity, how to navigate the world of websites and social media, and developing a deeper understanding about search engines and online advertising.

When: Monday 17 August, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

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

Scar Tree Pruning Complete

Continued from page 1

The scar was protected by wrapping the tree before any work commenced. The pruning was then undertaken to remove decayed timber from a section of the tree. All nesting hollows were checked beforehand and were found to be unoccupied.

The pruning will improve the tree's structure and longevity for future generations.

How did Council's team access the scar tree to undertake the pruning works?

The tree was initially assessed from the ground. Further investigation and subsequent pruning was undertaken from a travel tower.

Why protect the scar with the cloth?

Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected in Victoria under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

In accordance with the Act, Council obtained a Cultural Heritage Permit to undertake the works prior to commencement.

The Cultural Heritage Permit outlines specific conditions that must be met to ensure the protection of the scar tree, including the clause that cultural scarring on the tree must be protected for the duration of the work.

The works were carried out in accordance with cultural protocols with a representative from the Dja Dja Wurrung Clan onsite while the pruning works were undertaken.



More on the Scar Tree

There were once many scar trees in the vicinity of Stanley Park. There is a scar tree in the background of the iconic photo of Harcourt's leading orchardists taken at the inauguration of the park in 1914. This tree cannot now be found. It appears to have been located on the eastern (High Street) side of the newly created reserve.

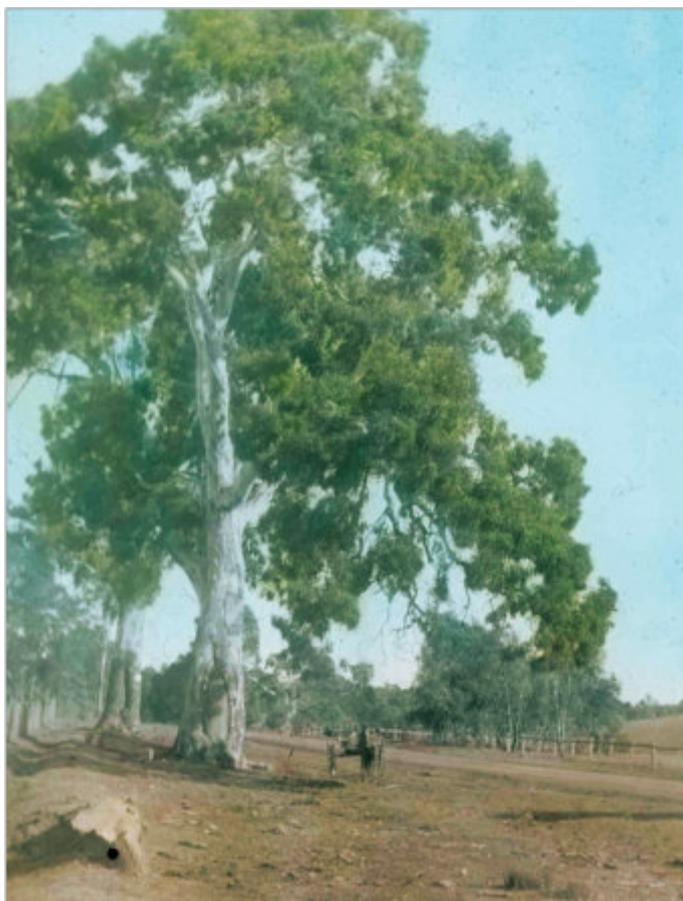
Those who attended Harcourt State School in the 1950s recall a group of eight big eucalypts, all bearing scars, on the road reserve on the northern side of Market Street opposite what is now the BP Petrol Station. These were pointed out to the school children by our Head Teacher, Mr Larter, as canoe trees.

As children, we were not told about the Dja Dja Wurrung. Little or nothing was known of them at the time that I attended school. It was only by the efforts of the late Edgar Morrison that the work of Protector Edward Stone Parker among the Dja Dja Wurrung became widely known in the late 1960s. The work of Edgar Morrison opened the floodgates in our community understanding of the dispossessed clans.

Scholars delved into the State Archives to augment and amplify the work of such pioneer anthropologists as Dermot Casey. But this scholarly effort came too late to save the eight red gums with their evidence of sustained occupation by the Dja Wurrung. The trees were all bulldozed when a powerline was put through in the late 1960s – a power pole with a transformer and switching gear now stands to mark the site of an ancient camping ground for the original inhabitants.

We may deduce that the slopes above what we know as Barkers Creek would have been a favoured camping ground. The survey and sale of Harcourt Township in 1853–1855 would have seen the removal of many such trees. Protector ES Parker, in January 1840, wrote of visiting 'a native encampment' west of Mount Alexander. Maybe it was at this site?

George Milford



An extremely rare coloured lantern slide of the scar tree in Harcourt. The date and the photographer are unknown, but the horse and jinker suggest very early days. From The Land We Love by Ian Braybrook. With kind permission.



Harcourt CWA Nostalgia

Nostalgia is a powerful feeling. It takes us back; we relive memories, emotions and experiences. During these past months of living in the time of COVID-19, I am aware that I am watching all my favourite BBC TV shows from my childhood, watching movies that I remember going to with my parents, and singing along with KLFM Bendigo's wonderful selection of music and songs from the 50s to the 70s. I am reliving the happy memories of my life.

But it's not easy living in this unprecedented time of isolation. We have all had to modify our lives, our activities, our pleasures, and I, for one, am totally fed up. Thank goodness we live where we do. If you haven't been for a walk outside recently, then do yourself a favour. Yesterday, I stood for what seemed like hours watching the bees buzzing in and out of our wattle tree and listening to the birds talk to each other in the trees down the back.

As I have mentioned on a few occasions, our Branch holds an annual concert. Along with our stall at Applefest, it is our other main fundraiser. Our concerts are well received by many, and our audiences indulge us with laughter and applause and, all in all, a wonderful day is had by all.

Well, not this year. It's not going to happen, thanks to this awful virus, but, because I am in a nostalgic mood, I have decided to relive the joy and smiles of bygone concerts with you all. Here are some pictures from our 2014 concert, 'Aladdin's Cave'. Can you imagine the time that went into creating the costumes and makeup and the fun that everyone must have had both performing and watching the performances?

Enjoy.

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA



We discovered that the cave contained a bloke in a white sports coat and a pink carnation (Melva Graham).



And Aladdin himself (Andy Graham) appeared in a puff of smoke to hand out the door prizes.



Afternoon tea is always a highlight.



Our visitors enjoyed looking at our members' own collections.



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Long-time member, Lois Grant, passed away recently. We will be devoting most of next month's article to Lois and her long involvement with the Harcourt CWA.

Female Friendly Change Rooms for Harcourt Leisure Centre

All clubs which use the Harcourt Leisure Centre will benefit from a recent State Government funding announcement. Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP, announced that the State Government will be providing \$372,131 towards the construction of new unisex player and umpire change facilities at Harcourt Recreation Reserve for the benefit of netball, football, cricket and tennis.

Maree said,

‘Congratulations to the Harcourt Football Netball Club, Harcourt Cricket Club and Harcourt Tennis Club – this boost will go a long way to support the growing number of people in Harcourt keen to get involved in local sport and recreation.’

The shared change facilities will be designed to AFL and Netball Victoria design guidelines made possible by the Victorian Government’s 2020-21 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Female Friendly Facilities and is one of 100 projects to benefit from a share in more than \$30 million.

The Government acknowledged Mount Alexander Shire Council for its commitment and financial contribution to the project.

For more information about infrastructure grant opportunities available through the Victorian Government visit www.sport.vic.gov.au

From a State Government Press Release

Good News for Female Students and their Families

Free Pads and Tampons Now Available in all Government Schools

Free pads and tampons are now available in every government school in central Victoria, and across the state – reducing the discomfort and embarrassment around periods for girls and saving families hundreds of dollars every year. Sanitary items are a necessity, not a luxury, and this initiative is supporting tens of thousands of girls and young women in schools across the state.

Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP, announced at Crusoe College with Principal, Brad Madden, that Victoria is the first state or territory in Australia to ensure all students attending government schools have access to free pads and tampons – with the initiative now in Victoria’s more than 1500 Government schools.

Maree said, ‘We’re proud to be providing free sanitary items in all Victorian government schools to ensure that students – regardless of their background or circumstances – can focus and participate fully in their education.’

Schools will play an important role in promoting a positive culture around menstrual health and build a supportive environment among the school community.

As part of this initiative, students also receive important health information about how to manage their periods.

The Government is also supporting students’ health and wellbeing through a number of other initiatives including mental health practitioners in secondary schools and the expansion of the School Breakfast Clubs program to 500 new schools.

From a State Government Press Release



Environmentalism, Terry Willis

Harcourt’s Terry Willis works at Winters Flat Primary School and is responsible for the care of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden and maintenance of the grounds. As an active Landcare member, his work reflects his concern for the health of the environment.

As a member of Harcourt Valley Landcare, he has been responsible for heading the fight against Queensland Fruit Fly in Harcourt. Such is his passion for protecting our productive crops that he has worked with the Council and assisted in developing a Shire-wide plan for dealing with an infestation.

Recently, Terry was responsible for entering the Winters Flat Primary into the State School ResourceSmart Awards. The Awards celebrate Victorian schools’ leadership in sustainability and the active role they play as champions for the environment in their wider communities, with awards presented by Sustainability Victoria. The school claimed the top honour of the ResourceSmart School of the Year award in 2015 and was the winner of the 2016 Premier’s Sustainability Award.

This year, the school was a finalist in the in the ‘Community Leadership School of the Year (Primary)’ and the ‘Curriculum Leadership School of the Year (Primary)’ categories.

Terry said, ‘To enter the awards you have to have a fantastic biodiversity project that ticks all the boxes. We created an Eltham Copper Butterfly demonstration garden designed around existing Sweet Bursaria trees. The garden was built by parents and students. The Eltham Butterfly Habitat Project redeveloped a neglected area into an inviting area of discovery with 120 native plants, recycled plastic signs and new landscaping. Students gained awareness of the special symbiotic relationship between Eltham Copper Butterfly, Sweet Bursaria and Notoncus ants through various art projects and propagating seeds.’

Winters Flat Primary School principal, Suzanne Kinnersly, congratulated all who made the latest achievements possible.

‘Thanks to Terry and our dedicated teachers, parents and students who continue to excel in their efforts to meet our ResourceSmart goals and targets in the area of sustainability year after year,’ she said.

Many thanks to Editor Lisa Dennis of the *Castlemaine Mail* who shared their recently published article and photo for this item.



Terry is pictured holding the Winters Flat Primary School Finalist Awards for ‘Community Leadership School of the Year (Primary)’ and the ‘Curriculum Leadership School of the Year (Primary)’ categories.



WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation NAIDOC Week 2020

First observed as an annual National Aborigines Day back in 1940, the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee Week has been celebrated since 1955 from the first Sunday to the second Sunday in July.

This year, owing to COVID-19 impacts and the need to protect elders and those in First Nations communities with chronic health issues, the celebrations have been postponed, the new dates being 8–15 November.

The theme for NAIDOC Week, ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE, refers to the continuous deep cultural and spiritual connection of Aboriginal and Islander people to their country's Lands and Waters. It recognises the

true history, ancient and enduring, rather than one starting with colonisation less than 250 years ago.

All Australians are encouraged to recognise, commemorate and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the First Nations – not just during NAIDOC Week but year-round. It is a call to listen deeply, and so to connect, acknowledge, learn and take action. If non-Aboriginal Australians can discover a felt sense of belonging to place, and face the pain and shame still haunting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander neighbours, healing can happen. We can become a society that is equal and respectful of everyone.

A hero we can all celebrate is William Cooper, the organiser of the 1938 Day of Mourning, which became Aborigines Day. A relentless letter-writer, Cooper was an Aboriginal activist who stood up to Hitler, Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and even King George V. He called for equal rights for Aboriginal people as human beings and citizens, and also for special rights for Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the land.

Preceding NAIDOC Week is a national poster competition to find artwork based on the NAIDOC theme. The 2020 winner was Tyrown Waigana, who named his painting Shape of Land.

Many NAIDOC Week activities are open to everyone. They often include a march alongside First Nations elders.

There are HART award ceremonies (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) that recognise initiatives by local governments and community organisations that are advancing Reconciliation around Victoria, as well as contributions by individuals.

Activities for school children might involve making craft items or listening to traditional teachings, often referred to as Dreamtime stories.

Individuals could watch films like In My Blood It Runs, Sweet Country, Ten Canoes, and Samson and Delilah. Or listen to Aboriginal or Islander musicians like Archie Roach, display the ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE poster at work, visit local Aboriginal sites of significance.

There is so much to learn about First Nations culture and affairs, to face up to the inhumane treatment, the myth of *terra nullius*, the huge Gap that remains to this day between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in health, education and standard of living.

Goldfields Libraries have an impressive set of resources on their website,:

www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/firstnations

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



Shape of Land, Tyrown Waigana.

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Renewed Confidence from Small Business Action Plan

Increased confidence and new skills are just some of the benefits emerging from Maldon & District Community Bank's small business action plan program. Nineteen businesses from around the region have graduated from the program, building their business knowledge and resilience during COVID-19 and into the future.

Harcourt-based Pauline's Real Estate, is one of the local businesses that has taken advantage of the program. Pauline Wilkinson signed up for the 7-week interactive webinar series and 1:1 mentoring to develop 'better direction and focus' for her real estate business.

The Community Bank funded the program to provide the business community with expert advice and guidance to navigate through the changed COVID-19 landscape. The program, led by Sorted.'s small-business

expert Clare Fountain, provided businesses with a 'road map' to identify new opportunities, develop effective business plans and provide practical tools and advice.

'Congratulations to all of the graduates of our small business action plan program. We're proud of them for showing their commitment to the success of both their business, and to strengthening their communities,' said Community Bank Branch Manager Adam Balzan.

'It was great to join the last webinar to "meet" the businesses, and to hear how the program has empowered them to adapt and build their businesses,' noted Adam.

For Pauline Wilkinson, confidence, connections and learning innovative ways to differentiate her business are key outcomes from the program.

Pauline has a passion for houses and renovations – which is a great



Joelene covering the Daylesford region.

match for a real estate agent. Alongside Pauline is her employee, talented sales rep. Joelene, who covers the Daylesford region and manages their social media. House and land sales, along with the rental side of the business, are keeping them busy throughout the COVID-19 period. Pauline is the agent of choice for many around the Harcourt district because of the personal service, along with the honest and regular feedback she provides.

A sense of pride is evident when chatting with Pauline, who set up her business two and half years ago.

'I am really proud of taking the leap to start my own business, so that I can give my clients the honest and regular communication that they deserve,' said Pauline.

Although the business keeps her busy, Pauline still finds time to sew and be creative, including renovations.

'We run a BnB in our renovated home and have recently purchased a large church that we are working on plans to convert into apartments,' commented Pauline.

Karly Smith
 0478 435 110



Pauline in action in Harcourt.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Students at HVPS have been back at school for two weeks now. Parent interviews have taken place over the phone as the school continues to follow COVID-19 safe procedures. The school's focus this term is on reading, and students are being encouraged to begin thinking about looking for a book and a costume for Book Week scheduled for week seven of this term. The theme this year is Curious Creatures, Wild Minds – interesting! I wonder what the students will come up with.

We have had some lovely sunny days, The students and staff are thankful that they are able to use the recently upgraded school oval, but only on alternate days – to allow the grass to continue to grow.

Prep and Grade one have been writing poetry and using alliterations. Here is a poem they would like to share with Core readers.

- Mr Blake bounced between bushes and the beach.*
- Chatty Mrs Chapman chomped on chocolate.*
- Fun Mrs Field flew fancy feathers on Fridays.*
- Mrs Hargreaves helps happy hungry horses.*
- Naughty Ms Norris napped all night.*
- Pretty Ms Parkhill put perfumed petals on pets.*
- Mrs Rice runs rapidly round rhinos.*
- Mrs Renfrey riskily rode red rattlesnakes.*
- Ms Rowlands' running rabbit really rocks.*
- Talking Mrs Turner told Tassie Devils to tally turtles*
- Mr Walter watching walking walruses.*

Lois Denham



Remote learning commences again

The Core contacted the school on Monday 3rd August to find out about the next shutdown under State 3 COVID-19 restrictions. This year school commenced with all the usual excitement of a new year. This was shortly followed by total shutdown, and then a return of the younger years followed by grades 3 to 6. To have that full cycle repeated is a blow to staff, students and their families.

Reading through the school newsletters which are on the school website, it is very apparent how difficult it has been for the Principal and staff to manage this year's situation. One immediately becomes aware of the complications involved around health and safety while students were attending, and the complex organisation required to see that students' needs are met while remote learning.

Tuesday 4th August was a Curriculum Day in order to once again plan for remote learning, as the majority of students would no longer be physically attending from Thursday 6th August.

From Wednesday 5 August at 11.59 pm all students in Victoria are learning from home remotely. Schools will remain open to children whose parents cannot work from home, vulnerable children and children with a disability.

oooOooo

While learning from home in the last shut down, students produced some wonderful artwork. Readers will be looking forward to seeing more of this creative and uplifting work.

During the first lock down, in week 3 of remote learning, the students and their families made 3D robots.





Harcourt CFA

Importance of not Losing the Focus

The Brigade has had another very quiet month for turnouts for July.

There was only one support call to Castlemaine, in which we were not required. We were then called upon to assist Castlemaine with a shed fire later in the month. This incident enabled us to use our new Breathing Apparatus Sets, new driving lights on Tanker 1 and the new hose drying rack officially for the first time for an incident.

While this very quiet autumn and early winter period is great to see, we need to ensure that complacency does not replace the sterling job everyone is doing, and we don't experience a sudden jump in turnouts.

Working smoke alarms in your house are the best way to protect you and your family. **The CFA now recommends that smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when any alarm is activated, all smoke alarms sound.** It is now law in Victoria that in any new home or home undergoing significant renovation, that where multiple smoke alarms are required, they MUST be interconnected.

Most fires that result in death start in either the lounge room or the bedroom. The minimum smoke alarm requirement, by law, is that you have smoke alarms located between each area containing bedrooms and the remainder of the home. This means that, for most homes, a smoke alarm will be placed in the hallway outside groups of bedrooms. Recent research has shown that when a fire starts in a bedroom with the door closed, the smoke alarms in the hallway do not activate. Even with the bedroom door open, the hallway smoke alarm may not activate in time to allow people in the

CFA Fire facts for the last 10 years

Residential Fires	17,000
Fatalities	400
Where did the fires start?	25% in sleeping areas
	23% in lounge areas
	15% started in kitchens

bedroom to get out. It makes sense, therefore, that the CFA recommends that smoke alarms in all bedrooms as well as the hallway.

Research also tells us that almost all children do not wake to the sound of a smoke alarm. This makes it important that adults in the home can hear the smoke alarms. In modern homes where the parent's bedroom is often in another part of the house, they may not hear the smoke alarm in the children's bedrooms.

It is the nature of modern home design and the increased use of plastics and synthetic materials, that when a fire starts, you may have less than three minutes for everyone to wake up and get out of the house.

Charging a phone or tablet

Research has revealed that 53% of children charge their phone or tablet either on their bed or under their pillow. This is extremely dangerous. The heat generated cannot dissipate,

and the charger will become hotter and hotter. The likely result is that the pillow or bed will catch fire, placing the child and everyone else in the home in great danger. Think and check on where you and your family charge your electronic devices.

Candles are still a cause of house fires, and with people working from home, there are more being used in home work areas. Make sure you never leave candles unattended and always ensure they are extinguished when you wrap up for the day.

The Brigade is still maintaining CFA protocols in regard to COVID-19 precautions. The one area that will be changing is training requirements in preparation for summer. To do this while maintaining social distancing and restricted numbers at the station, we need to start now. There is currently no seasonal outlook for the coming summer, but predictions of a good spring with above average grass growth indicates that there will be fuel to burn come summer. Now is a good time to start your planning and preparation as well.

Stay safe – review your smoke alarm requirements.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

... the increased use of plastics and synthetic materials, means that when a fire starts, you may have less than three minutes for everyone to wake up and get out of the house.




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Hearty Winter Vegetable Soup

We developed this method about 20 years ago to go gluten-free (avoiding barley). This was about the time that the paleo diet – lots of legumes – was being talked up. Lots of beans might mean flatulence, so to avoid this, a bit of bi-carb is thrown into the mix.

Ingredients

Half a cup of bacon pieces
 One onion (sliced)
 One cup any dried legumes – mixed split peas, lentils and dried beans (we have to avoid barley, so some dried soup mixes cannot be used). Soak these overnight.
 One tsp mixed herbs
 Half tsp dried rosemary
 Quarter tsp white pepper (or quarter tsp curry powder – don't be heavy handed)
 Half tsp bi-carb soda
 One tsp Masel (gluten free) stock base
 Three cups hot water
 One Leek (chopped)
 One (purple top) turnip (grated)
 One carrot (Grated)
 One parsnip (grated)
 Two sticks celery (finely chopped)



Half sweet potato (grated)

We have lots of parsley and silver beet so we generally throw in a handful, finely chopped.

Method

Brown the bacon and onion in a little oil.

In a large saucepan mix the stock base with the hot water. Add the bacon & onions.

Add the soaked legume mix, mixed herbs, rosemary, pepper and bi-carb soda (it will fizzle up a bit).

Toss in the grated or chopped vegetables, bring to the boil and then simmer till smooth, say an hour or more, topping up with a little hot water if necessary.

The soup is then ready to serve.

If starting with lamb shank or bacon bones you have to allow more time to let the liquid cool to take off the fat.

If desired, a spoonful of relish can be added. Or you can rinse the sauce bottle or the vegemite jar. You know what you normally add into the soup.

This will produce a hearty and tasty soup that will serve about six people or provide three meals for a couple.

Enjoy.

George Milford

Mulled Wine in Slow Cooker

Ingredients

1.2 litres red wine
 2 x 330ml cider
 ¼ cup castor sugar
 Cinnamon stick
 6 cloves
 2 star anise
 Juice of 2 oranges – plus the total peel of one orange
 Whole Slices of one orange and one apple with skin and core (cross sectioned).

Method

Slow cook for one hour in slow cooker or in a saucepan.

Heat over medium-high heat until the wine just *barely* reaches a simmer. (Avoid letting it bubble – you don't want to boil off the alcohol.)

Reduce heat to low, cover, and let the wine simmer for at least 15 minutes.



Successful Harcourt Volunteer Effort for Bendigo Foodshare

A regular group of volunteers from Harcourt finished their efforts supporting Bendigo Foodshare on Wednesday 22 July.

Having begun with 3 sessions of apple picking in late April, the group continued to meet every Wednesday for 13 weeks to pack apples and other produce and of course to share companionship and a good chin wag.

They achieved the following:

- 10 bins of apples picked: 6 bins picked by volunteer groups and 4 bins picked by orchard workers who gave their time. The apples were donated by Thompson's orchards
- Packed 9 bins of apples into crates = approximately 4 tonnes. (The other bin was donated to the Mount Alexander Community Pantry in Castlemaine.)
- Packed 3 tonnes of chick peas into 1 kg bags = approximately 3000 bags
- Packed 4 tonnes of lentils into 1 kg bags = approximately 4000 bags
- Over the sessions, at least 15 people gave some time to the picking and packing
- In all, over 300 volunteer hours were put into this effort to provide food via the Bendigo Foodshare network.

During the time, visits were made by representatives of the Bendigo Foodshare, including Bridget Bentley, Manager; Annie Constable, Warehouse and Logistics Manager and Cathie Steele, Chair of the Board of Bendigo Foodshare.

Many thanks go to the Board of the Harcourt Coolstore, Manager Trevor Peeler and staff who freely offered space and assistance for this project.



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Giovanni Vescovi

There is a rough granite cairn, rectangular in plan and at breast height, in bushland a short distance from the road into Henderson's quarry. Inscribed into concrete on the south face are the words 'Erected 30.11.51 by J Layton, T Ryan, Almo, T Blakely.' The cairn marks the campsite of James Layton and Amilio Giannarelli (a mason from Italy) who were in the process of opening a granite quarry on the lower north-west slope of Mount Alexander. They needed the stone to supply their masonry businesses in Melbourne. Neither were members of the then Stone Masons Association and because of this were unable to buy granite from other quarries. Layton & Giannarelli entered into a formal partnership – JAL Quarry – to work the new quarry site.

Giovanni Vescovi was recruited to work for the partners. A skilled stonemason, he had had experience in Italy setting in place the huge stone blocks of a wharf being reconstructed after World War II. During the war, Giovanni had worked at defusing bombs, gaining a knowledge of the correct use of explosives. This served him well when he worked in the quarry on Mount Alexander. He is credited with pioneering the use of 'black powder' in lieu of the traditional 'plug and feather' method for splitting the granite along 'the freeway'.

After 3 or 4 years the JAL Quarry partnership was dissolved, and the quarry lease was sold to Giovanni Vescovi. Giovanni was able to buy the business from his employers, having acquired a loan from Ferries Bros in Castlemaine, on the condition that he supply raw material only to Ferries. Operating within this condition, he was able to trade successfully and to pay off the loan by the early 1970s, providing dimensional stone for facing buildings and for cemetery monuments.

With Giovanni and Luigi Marabici working the quarry, and three or four stonemasons (among them the young David Pratt) shaping the granite into kerbs for monuments, the quarry had a steady output, keeping up with the demand from Ferries, who at that time had three erecting teams working simultaneously in cemeteries throughout Victoria.

Competition in the supply of granite became intense at this time. After the split, Giannarelli and Layton had each moved to fresh quarry sites further up the mount, Giannarelli's being adjacent to Joseph Young Drive and Layton's being



the Apex Quarry on the north-east slopes. The Apex Quarry was worked for a few years before James Layton moved his plant higher on the eastern side then, in 1980, he purchased a site near Blight's former quarry in Coopers Road, North Harcourt.

Giovanni Vescovi had arrived in Melbourne in 1951 in the wave of post-war emigration from Europe. This was the era jocularly described in the book *They're a Weird Mob* by Nino Culotta. Of course, Giovanni soon became known as 'Johnny'. Giovanni had left his wife Angelina and their six children behind in his native village of Camporovere di Roana, a municipality in the Veneto region, set amid undulating hills north-west of Venice. You can view several short films on Youtube depicting Camporovere di Roana. The scenery is that of the lower slopes of the Dolomites and, for Giovanni Vescovi, the country around Harcourt must have made him rather homesick.

Within two years of his arrival in Victoria, by hard work and sacrifice, Giovanni Vescovi had raised the £2,000 for the ship's fares to Australia to bring his wife and six children to join him in Harcourt. The children, in order of age are Marisa, Mirella, Valentino (Tino), Giuliana, Sergio and Franca. The family lived in a rented farmhouse belonging to Jack Pellas, dairy farmer and orchardist.

Their nearest neighbours, Trevor and Joan Quirk, helped the new arrivals to settle in, teaching them English and helping in all kinds of ways. It was with disbelief and excitement that they were invited to help themselves to fruit from Douglas's orchard. Fruit had been scarce and expensive in post-war Italy. In

return, the neighbours were introduced to pasta, wine and cheeses that were procured when the Vescovi family travelled to Melbourne to visit relatives. The new arrivals were also amazed at the exceptionally low price of meat. Giovanni discovered that Jack Pellas slaughtered male calves at two weeks after birth – he only kept the female calves for his dairy herd. Giovanni did a deal with Jack. For five shillings, Jack would keep a calf for an extra two weeks and then hand it over to Giovanni, who, having come from a family that owned a butcher's shop, then butchered the calf so the family had veal for a week or two.

In 1959, Giovanni purchased Harcourt's 'Coffee Palace', the century-old former Talbot Inn on the north-east corner of High and Market Streets. He demolished the weatherboard hotel and built a fine brick home in its place. Giovanni had the foresight to save two wonderful fireplaces from the original building. The main fireplace, in what had been the lounge room, was very ornate, with lots of mirrors adorning the sides. Some years later, someone from Maldon bought them; hopefully, they are adorning some place in Maldon!

Giovanni Vescovi was a keen member of the Harcourt Bowling Club and a member of the winning Pennant team on at least two occasions. He continued to work the quarry and to sell granite more widely. Giovanni sold the quarry to Trevor Henderson after Sergio died from a melanoma in November 1974. He was devastated by Sergio's death and saw no further point in keeping the quarry, which he sold soon after. In 1976–77 Giovanni and Angelina retired to Preston where Giovanni died in September 2000. Angelina died in March 2010. The Vescovi family is now one of the largest (and still growing) Italian families in Melbourne. The Henderson Quarry continues to supply Harcourt granite.

Harcourt gave a warm welcome to the Vescovi family. The story of Giovanni Vescovi provides a background understanding of the era in which Harcourt granite became famous throughout Australia.

This is another in the series of 'Thumbnail Sketches' of Harcourt identities, prepared by Harcourt Heritage Centre, with acknowledgement to the research paper "Granite Quarrying on Mount Alexander" by Christine Harris 2007 and to the reminiscences of Tino Vescovi, Franca Frederiksen and David Pratt.



Harcourt Bowling Club

Hello Harcourt bowlers and friends, we are still here although our green is in hibernation, and we are not yet able to welcome you for our friendly Friday Nights – or to our AGM!

However, buzzing away behind the scenes, our volunteers are working and preparing for the ‘turning of the tide’ and the bowling season ahead. The work being done includes the upgrading and repairing of our powerlines, moving the flag pole, repositioning some of the seats, maintaining the gardens and, of course, the green is resting.

The format of the upcoming Season is yet to unfold but there will be changes to some of the Pennant Rules – particularly for the Midweek Pennant competition.

The Club has been accredited at Level 3 Good Sports status, acknowledging the policies and practise we have in place to ensure a safe and responsible environment for members and guests.

Club members Kay Frances, Kaye Grant, John Grant, Heather Braid and Ruth Hill have also been busy regularly volunteering for Bendigo Food Share at the Harcourt Coolstore.

Members were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Brian Kidman at Kaniva. Brian was awarded Club Life Membership for his outstanding contribution to the development and advancement of the club. He and Wilma have returned each year to sponsor the popular Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament. Unfortunately, we had to cancel that tournament this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our love and thoughts are extended to Wilma and the family.

On a brighter note I have attached some bowling photos from the Grand Final wins last Season.

Stay well everyone.



Division 9 celebrating.



John Grant with Tex and Carrol



Division 3 can't believe it.



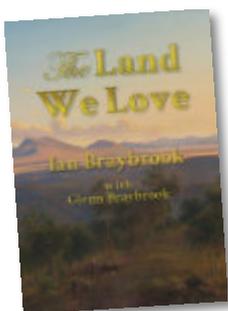
John Morris in action.

The Land We Love

‘The Land We Love’ is described as a concise account of the events and people that established the heart of Central Victoria. It is filled with photographs, many of which are rare.

Copies of ‘The Land We Love’ are available from The Harcourt Heritage Centre, Stoneman’s Bookroom, Aesop’s Attic or from the publisher on 0409 333 513. R.R.P. \$29.95

Further information: Marilyn Bennet or the author on 03 54705297 or 0409 333 513



Vale Barry Johansen

Barry was the person who originally called a meeting to form the Applefest and was President for a number of years. It was his ambition to re-model the motel and turn it into hotel and restaurant, which he succeeded in doing. Barry was also a Life Member of the Harcourt Football Club. Barry attended the Harcourt Primary school, so has been a long time Harcourt boy. Barry passed away on Monday August 3 and was buried at Harcourt on Wednesday August 5.

A spokesperson for the Applefest Committee.



Harcourt Uniting Church

I'm sure you will agree that, unfortunately, COVID 19 is dominating our lives at present and we are still not able to meet for many

activities, including church services.

In a recent online service, our COVID 19 situation was referred to as being 'in between places' – between 'pre pandemic and post pandemic' – and that we must have hope for the future when we will eventually experience some normality in our lives.

In August, we usually celebrate the Church Anniversary with a special service, and it is tradition that George Milford provides an inspiring summary of the year that has been. This year we celebrate 155 years of worship – maybe with 'virtual' celebrations?

The following information was taken from a timeline George compiled in 2015.

The Harcourt Church in Buckley Street was built in 1865 using donated granite and free cartage from the quarry and was built in 4 months. The foundation stone was laid on April 14th and the completed building was officially opened by Rev William Hill on 13th August 1865. It was reported that 400 people attended the opening. Our church is unique in that it is one of only 2 granite churches in Victoria. The adjoining hall was built in 1924 and opened with a Diamond Jubilee celebration 'back to'.

The Harcourt Uniting Church is the last remaining church in the area. Other congregations were Church of Christ, Church of England (Anglican) a Plymouth Brethren presence and the Methodist Churches at Faraday, Barker's Creek and Harcourt North. The Harcourt Methodist Church became the Harcourt Uniting Church in 1977 and continues to be a place of worship in 2020.

We offer our sympathy and love to Max Grant and family on the recent death of Lois Grant, a much loved member of Harcourt Uniting Church Fellowship who will be greatly missed. Lois was a generous and caring lady who also made beautiful sponges and was the Queen of jolly cakes!

As parents and grandparents it's important that we explain things to children in ways that they can understand and accept.

Recently our grandson Cooper celebrated his 10th birthday. He understood he wouldn't be able to have a lot of friends come to his party in these COVID times and asked if he could have pancakes, toast, eggs and bacon for breakfast, party food for lunch and home-made pizza for tea. The bonfire in the paddock had to be put on hold when it rained! As he was going to bed he hugged me and said, 'I've had a great day Nan.'

His sister Hannah is 3 and was playing with her dolls when I overheard her say: 'Oh dear, my baby is sick I'll have to take her to the doctor's – I think she has the virus!'

Jan Jenkin

These Businesses Support The Core



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Friends of CHIRP Launch Podcast Series

Paws or Wheels

The Friends of Castlemaine District Community Health (CHIRP) launched our podcast series The Story of CHIRP on the radio program Around the Wireless on MAINfm 94.9 on Wednesday 15 July.

The series has been developed as part of the Friends' campaign to lobby state government to provide the funding needed so CHIRP Community Health can restore services which have been reduced, and continue to provide community health services to the residents of the Shire of Mount Alexander. The aim of the series is to raise the profile and promote the interests of CHIRP and community health.

Community Health services across Victoria are struggling to continue to support the communities they serve because funding has not kept pace with the rising costs of providing services.

So far, four episodes have been produced for the series. Further episodes will be added as more people join the project. The series consists of interviews with people who support CHIRP, including staff, service users, volunteers and members of the Friends of Castlemaine District Community Health (CHIRP).

We invite people who have a story to tell about CHIRP and who would like to be interviewed to contact Elizabeth Scanlon, the project manager, at radiofan77@gmail.com.

You can access the podcasts by listening to MAINfm, via the podcasting platform, Podbean, fochirp.podbean.com, or by going to our Facebook page and clicking on the link.

Margaret Griffin

Convenor, Friends of Castlemaine District Community Health.

We are more than just our birth, marriage and death dates, but finding out about the real personality of one's ancestors can be problematic. If we have letters, we might find them to be opinionated on certain subjects, their writing style can be very long winded and convoluted. You might have actual items, like crafts, such as sewing and embroidery. A cup for winning at sport might indicate a passion for the sport. Then there are the photos of all the family transport or the family pets. Goodness there are lots of these.

For this article I will only deal with the last topic – wheels and paws. These two categories have a lot in common, each can be a 2 or 4 variety, each can be lavishly cleaned and manicured, each can be taken on family outings in nearly all weathers and each can be much treasured members of the family.

For you, your association with wheels started when you were in your pram, progressing to your pedal car and then that first pushbike! Likewise, your first association with a pet might be the dog that walked next to your pram on outings. Pets can have offspring that continue to live with the family. Your ancestors might have loved a certain breed. The multitude of photos of the beloved pet will show more of life and surroundings of your family, giving you more details of how your ancestors lived. If we look at dog photos, and even paintings from the past, many of these breeds are not fashionable today. How many elegant Borzoi and Old English Sheep Dogs do we see in the street today? Obviously, working dogs are still important in some families, which will include their pedigree details. Lap dogs were used in the past to keep warm when one lived in large unheated mansions. Lap dogs have turned into 'bag' dogs that one sees being carried by celebrities today.

If your ancestors bought a car at the turn of 20th century, you might only be able to travel at 20 miles an hour, as speed was a health issue. Needless to say, the photo of the proud owners is there in your collection. Maybe the first set of wheels in your family was on a farm and a horse was used, not like today when we use horsepower.

In the past no driver's license was needed, you might go to a department store to buy a car, then, like my grandfather drive it home from the showroom.

That early car took the family on picnics to visit family and friends in all weathers. I have a photo taken in the early 1920s of a car with a young man and equally young woman lounging in the grass next to a portable gramophone player. Sitting nearby is the woman's mother. You have all those small grey photos of family gatherings showing them spread out on the beach or in the countryside. Cars and bikes are often photographed in a street setting which show the details of the time. Note the lack of traffic or buildings compared to the scene today. Streetscapes in the 1960s, for example, are very different to today's scenes.

Gathering up all these photos might surprise you how many you have! Create an album or folder 'Wheels' or 'Paws' and have fun looking at images of the past from the comfort of today.

Diana

Harcourt Heritage and Museum is open on Wednesdays from 9-3 at the ANA Hall in High Street, unless COVID-19 restrictions are in force.



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Councillor Comment

Winter Colour in the Garden

Hello Garden Lovers,

Colour is an important consideration when planning a garden. Colour is particularly important at this time of year, even though days are lengthening, skies are grey and mood can be a little low. Colour in the garden is a great way to lift your spirits.

At this time of year, the white of Jonquils, the pink of Daphne, the purple of French Lavender or the yellow of Daffodils add delight and joy to the garden and our lives. These bright colours can be used as highlights in the garden, around entrances and near the front door to cheer you as you leave and arrive home. Other winter flowering favourites include some Red Hot Pokers, white Marguerite Daisies, Bergenia (Saxifrages), Camellia, Helleborus (Hellibores) and some Wattles, Grevilleas and Banksia.



Another way of introducing colour is through foliage. Colourful leaves can provide year-round colour as well, providing a backdrop for your more exciting flower colour. We can't go past the bright silvery blue of Wormwood (*Artemisia 'Powis Castle'*). This little plant has turned out to be tough, as well as compact and bright. We love it and are introducing it around the garden, intermingled with flowering plants like Lavender, Rock Rose and Salvias. Other useful foliage plants are Sacred Bamboo (*Nandina domestica 'Blush'*), (*Euonymus japonicus 'Emerald Gold'*), Cotton Lavender (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) and (*Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'*). These plants can add a boost of year-round colour and some, like the *Euonymus* (also known as Spindle Trees) and *Brunnera* are great for difficult dark, shady corners.

Another form of colour in the garden is fruit. It is easy to think that fruit trees should be separate to our ornamental gardens, but many can coexist and provide a wonderful highlight. Pomegranates and lemons are good examples. Lemons don't like competition though, so it is worthwhile keeping the area around the trunk open.

It is handy to remember that bright and light colours will pop, feel closer and make a space feel smaller. Whereas, cooler colours such as blue, mauve and pink will sit back and help make a small area feel larger.

This month we are:

- Pruning roses,
- Planting winter vegetables, and
- Covering frost tender plants.

Happy Gardening

Janyce

This is an edited version of Janyce's column which first appeared in August 2016.

Hi all,

We have been fortunate to have some fine weather of late, although I am sure many of us are looking for the next rainfall.

Many of you will have heard the news that there has been a case of COVID-19 reported at KR Castlemaine.

This is a huge blow for the local economy and, let's face it, it's too close to home. I am sure you will all join me in wishing all the workers well. And I do hope the numbers stay low. To achieve this, we all need to play our part and follow government directions and orders.

July's Council meeting went well, with all Councillors present in the Chamber; socially distanced as you would expect.

Plan Harcourt was adopted by Council and now goes to the State Planning Minister for approval. This has been a large project for our Planning team, and I acknowledge the work of our Strategic Planner, Lauren Watt. Lauren has followed this project through from start to finish, which is a great effort.

I would also like to thank all residents who contributed and commented on the plan.

Other items covered at the meeting include:

- Support for Chewton pool.
- Statutory and Discretionary Reserve Policy (controls around how Council uses reserve funds).
- Public notice of proposed TAFE lease of building.

Council meetings are streamed live and details can be obtained on the Council web site.

Council elections in October

Many of you will know that Council elections will be held in October this year. My intention is to stand for election again. I have been very happy to represent our community at Council.

Over the coming months, we will see the Stanley Park playground completed and then next year we will see the female friendly change rooms constructed at the Leisure Centre. I would like another term on Council to follow these projects through, but also to continue to work hard for an open and accountable Council that works hard for all of our community.

For those of you that don't know me very well, I would note that I am the only current member of Council born and educated locally. I believe my local experience does help, which, when combined with my work as a professional Engineer, has enabled me to make a positive contribution at Council. I do hope the local community continues to support me and we will see what the new Council looks like in October.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy
0439 742 434

Guarding Young Fruit Trees

If you've planted any fruit trees this year – well done (and thanks if you bought them from our Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery). It's a great investment for your family and your garden, but it's also a good investment for all the families who may live at your place in the future, because when well looked after, fruit trees can live for a very long time.

So, how to give them the best start in life? Firstly, make sure you protect the trunks from being eaten by the sorts of pests that like to eat bark (in Harcourt this can be rabbits, hares, kangaroos, wallabies or even sheep, goats or the odd deer that finds its way into the garden). This type of damage to the trunk can seriously stunt or disfigure your tree, and if they eat the bark all the way around it can kill the tree.

Tree guards, fencing or dogs can all be effective deterrents. If the problem is hares (common around Harcourt!) you can make an organic hare-deterrent paint by mixing animal fat with any strong smelling stuff like peppermint oil, garlic, lavender, eucalyptus, tea tree etc, and painting it on the bark. Hares are herbivores and don't like strong smells, so the combination works well to stop them eating the delicious tender bark on your baby trees. However it's not very permanent, so you'll need to re-apply it after heavy rain or heat. Your trees may need protection for the first two or three years, or until the bark has hardened enough to lose its attraction.

Tree guards are a more effective (and one-off) solution. The type of tree guard you choose will depend on the type of animal you're preventing, and also the shape of the tree. If the limbs of your tree start very close to the ground (up to knee high), a tree guard just around the trunk won't be enough to protect the tree adequately, and you'll need to look at a taller structure around the whole tree. Traditionally, old metal drums were used for the purpose, and you can often see the remnants of them around old fruit trees – which is one of the problems with this option, once the tree has grown, they're hard to remove! A mini-enclosure (i.e. fence) around each tree works well but is time-consuming and expensive to build if you have a lot of trees, and leads to the same problem of having a redundant enclosure that's hard to remove once the tree is mature.

So, what's the solution? There are three we recommend, and the one you choose will depend on your budget and dedication:

1. The first is the full 'repel all enemies' enclosure fence, built tall enough and engineered highly enough to keep out both kangaroos and rabbits. This is our dream solution; we wish we had one around the whole farm to exclude ALL the pests that like to eat fruit trees.

2. The second option is much more practical and multi-purpose, and works particularly well for single trees in the garden (as opposed to a dedicated orchard area, which lends itself to the enclosure fence option). A simple hoop structure erected over the tree using star pickets and 2-inch (6 cm) poly pipe provides an affordable framework that can be used to support frost cloth, bird netting or fruit fly exclusion netting, if that becomes necessary, and it can also be simply reinforced with a strip of chicken wire around the base for a year or two to stop the roos and rabbits from eating the bark.
3. The third option is somewhere in between; a simple tree guard made from a length of chicken wire rolled into a hoop and attached to the ground with a stake on either side.

Here are a couple of other tips to make sure your young trees get a good start in life:

- If you didn't prune them when you planted, prune now (or before spring) so they grow into a useful shape right from the get-go. We reckon a classic vase shape suits most backyard trees.
- Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch young trees. Fruit trees prefer a woody mulch like sawdust or wood chips, or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes. Once the trees are established, they're better with a 'living mulch' (or even just weeds, as long as you keep them mowed), but for the first year or two, it's better to reduce any competition for water and nutrients.
- Fruit trees don't need watering, except in very dry conditions. This year, there's plenty of soil moisture, so you don't need to water your trees yet. Make sure you've got the irrigation set up and ready to go though, because it's not unusual to get a sudden hot spell in spring. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below.

Happy fruit growing!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists, and also 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' – register at growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing. They also offer more than 50 online short courses and the Grow Great Fruit home-study Program – visit growgreatfruit.com for details.



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Covid 19

The covid is a virus which
Is causing consternation.
It only has one aim in life
To cut the population.

So when you go outside your home
There's just one thing I'd ask.
To save yourself and all your friends
Please always wear a mask.

Stay fit, stay safe and stay apart.
Now let's be realistic.
It's best to live a life like this
Than be a grim statistic.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc

Postponement of Championships

I previously advised the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association would be hosting the Country Carpet Bowls Association Championships at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in September 2020, but after discussions with the Executive, it has been decided to postpone the championships until September 2021. This of course relies totally on the situation with the Coronavirus, as many of the participants in the game of Carpet Bowls are in the older age group, so no one wants to take any chances of catching the virus.

Summer Competition a Possibility

Our winter Competition has been cancelled, but it is possible that members of our group may decide to hold a summer competition. This relies totally on the decisions of the Government and numbers allowed to gather together. If a competition is going to be run, it will be advised in the *Core*, and on notice boards around the town. It is most disappointing that we are unable to meet socially through sports events and club activities, but it is more important that we all look out for each other and follow the rules and stay home and keep safe.

Loretta Rice
Secretary
5474 2453

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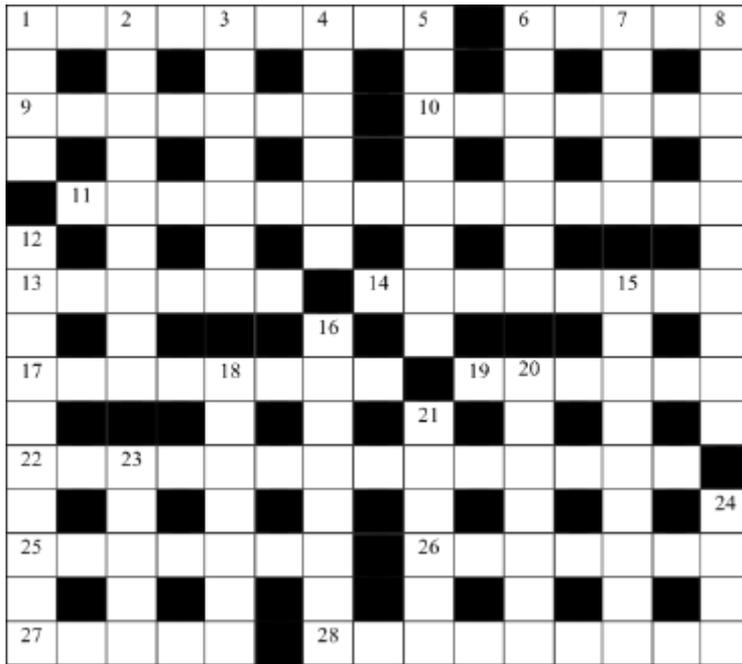
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A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: harcourt.vic.au/news
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August Xword 2020 © McW November '17



Down:

1. It cartoonishly empties parliamentary secrets? (4)
2. The garbologist pants? (9)
3. Thanks drank drunk from this, perhaps. (7)
4. One French uniform isn't... (6)
5. Runout of early bat with no 20 involved? (8)
6. Right royal suspension component. (4-3)
7. A line out to the Dog Star might discover one. (5)
8. I, Nathaniel, will obliterate my foes! (10)
12. OK, fill a few questionnaires and we'll establish which sort of trade or profession you should be in. (4,2,4)
15. Rebel kind are prevented from seeing the full picture... (9)
16. It takes a neat mind to pair-up thusly. (2,6)
18. Amphibian's walk under the intersection gives rise to polly-talk. (7)
20. Needy cc-ing to fellow paedophiles neglects this. (7)
21. Knife for crutching? (6)
23. The cap is on the jelly. (5)
24. Conman sells his camera five times... (4)

Across:

1. An illuminating moment if it were hyphenated, but this way it needs current for a similar effect. (Altho', come to think of it, it could also be hyphenated as a common noun with an adjectival component...) (5,4)
6. '50s Oz beer in competition with Coke? (5) [If my memory serves me correctly...]
9. It might anger Ra to put it this way. (7)
10. Decades before atom manqué ramps up the mental strain. (7)
11. How Judy felt in the delightful unisex toilet? (7,2,5)
13. Give programming language artillery to convey Spanish to English. (6)
14. Specialised carnivore more recent than the oh-so-filmic Carthaginian one. [Note: two solutions are acceptable as correct, differing only in the first letter.] (8)
17. Openers' manner of written expression holds the arch together. (8)
19. Rootless state a Stirling Moss cornering technique? (6)
22. Depressed, but possibly the best way to land a plane with no wheels? (4,2,1,7)
25. Forget Abbott—Eddie, PM slowed things down just as much. (7)
26. No-name brand at cringe-point... (7)
27. Spells out who is to hold the mic. (5)
28. What Christians get when gladiators win... (9)

July Xword 2020 solution © McW November '17



Down:

1. You could play on board, M¹ud. On the other hand... (4)
2. JK told mover and shaker to play the baddie. (9)
3. Boss cocky on the [rifle] range? (3,4)
4. [MS] under the TAB denotes emblems to hang on poles. (6)
5. You may have one for someone, or a curate's egg might have one in it. (4-4)
6. [I ate, not] like an acid might on metal. (3,4)
7. Hypocritical virtue-signalling response to "Who wants to be a millionaire??" [Well?]
8. Past. [Retry. See ya] (10)
12. [Poison brat] by osmosis? (10)
15. They regard rosy dawn as ominous... ["Red sky in the morning—shepherds' warning..."]
16. Sounds like the highest sort of highness, by Jove. [His Empyrean Highness...]
18. The French [le] [straw] making a mess of the family fortune. (7)
20. Irish gal is vaguely Latinic. (7)
21. The central clear-storey was a triumph for the architect. (6)
23. They come with the nameless for Len. [Cohen, song].
24. After 7, total lack of interest. [Well?]

Across:

1. Tokens of affection from teenaged vampire? [Well?]
- 6, 13. She wrote of *Sturm und Drang* in northern UK. [Well?]
9. Some 15s might get this from 22. [Well?]
10. How mariner gets to the bottom of this clue... [Well? Vtr...]
11. Ontological oxymoron? [Well? ☺...]
13. (See 6)
14. The only way to sing [*e. an adv. modifying 'sing' Vtr.*] Ludwig's 9th symphony? [Ode to Joy.]
17. Dawn [Fraser] wins thus. (3-5)
19. "X" marks inflammation, *they say*. (6)
22. Camp 15's 9? [Well? 'Red sky at night; shep...']
25. Coder's intro? [Well? sorry about not being straight about the apostrophe...]
26. Origin of spotted dogs, perhaps? [Dalmatia is part of Illyria...]
27. Adjectival knot in a computer network? (5)
28. The anagram [clues me in] on [nice mules] that sparkle so, and glow. (9)



Matt Hillman and daughters Kaylee and Amber worked on the creek side together.

An ambitious project to beautify the creekside and surrounds of Pippin Court saw members turn out on a splendid Sunday morning in late July. Working bees are enjoyable at any time, but it was wonderful to see young and old busy planting and socialising under COVID-19 conditions. Families and neighbours worked together perhaps for the first time.

Project organiser, Vanessa Chiang, said, 'The project, funded by the North Central Catchment Authority, will continue over the coming year, to complete the planting to make a healthier creek. Before we began, we consulted with the developer. Once we had approval, we letter dropped the residents in Pippin Court to let them know the plan. We were pleased that some were able to attend this first working bee.'

Harcourt Valley Landcare has been able to meet using social distancing with a teleconference hook up and Zoom, and has also continued its program of working bees.

The group welcomes new members, and any enquiries can be directed to the Secretary: Robyn Miller 0467 670 271. Find us on Facebook.



Weather and Water

In July we enjoyed some lovely days, and signs of spring began to show. Apart from the jonquils which come out as early as May, shoots of freesias and some hyacinths in pots have been blooming for at least a month. Very early on in the month, in the paddocks, the gnarled almond trees were showing blossom. One warm day, I spotted a skink basking in the sun outside our north door. I haven't seen one since; I think the frosts are keeping them in hibernation. A pair of rosellas is nesting in the large gum tree near the dam and a pair of shrike thrushes is busy nesting in a climbing fig against a wall. On cold sunny days, the birds will even venture to have a bath.

Frosts and fine days have been indicative of low rainfall and this July we only received 37 mm over 6 days of rain. The ground is drying out gradually and I'm sure we all hope for more rain to top up dams in the district. This brings our total rainfall at Reservoir Road to 406 mm to date. This is well ahead of last year where we only had 248 mm by the end of the month.



This "drain" is effectively a tributary of Picnic Gully Creek. Understorey bushes, small trees and grasses will be planted.



Neighbours, Vanessa Chiang and Ron Frankling enjoyed planting and chatting together.

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply megalitres	Current volume megalitres	Current volume % full	Volume same time last year megalitres	Volume same time last year % full
Upper Coliban	37,770	33,662	89.1%	35,148	93.1%
Lauriston	19,790	17,000	85.9%	16,200	81.9%
Malmsbury	12,034	3,129	26.0%	3,282	27.3%
Total to August 6	69,594	53,791	77.3%	54,630	78.5%
Total to July 4	69,594	50,461	72.5%	46,404	66.7%

Data from: www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels – August 6, 2020

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

The Victorian Government has extended the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic until 11.59pm on Sunday 16 August. Regional Victorians are encouraged to wear a face mask when leaving home if it is difficult to stay 1.5 metres apart from others. It is important that we don't become complacent. Please continue to follow the public health advice, maintain hand hygiene and physical distancing, and check in on your family, friends and neighbours. Be prepared for potential changes in restrictions. Stay home if you are unwell. Get tested if you are experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus by making an appointment with your local GP or at a testing centre in Bendigo, Kyneton or Maryborough. For more information visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus or call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Financial support is available

Did you know that Castlemaine Community House (CCH) offers a range of financial services? Along with a Centrelink Agency they have specialists to assist you with financial counselling, tax help and no interest

loans. All services operate by appointment only. To make an appointment contact CCH on 5472 4842.

COVID-19 support

If you have a question or need local information, support or a referral in relation to COVID-19, call our dedicated COVID-19 support number on 1800 512 446 during business hours, visit our online virtual emergency relief centre at www.connectmountalexander.com.au or email covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Crisis and suicide prevention services are available including Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 www.beyondblue.org.au and Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 www.kidshelpline.com.au.

Community Grants now open

You can now submit an application for Council's Community Grants Program. The program offers small grants up to \$3,000 and partnership grants up to \$10,000. Applications close at 4.00pm on Monday 10 August. To discuss your idea call the Community Partnerships Team on 54711700 or to apply visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants.

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

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



Wear a mask to help keep our community safe

Mount Alexander Shire Council is urging all residents aged 12 years and over to wear a face mask or covering when outside their home, in accordance with Victorian Government requirements.

Face masks or coverings are now **compulsory** for all people living in Victoria to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

People found outside their home not wearing a face mask or covering who are not exempt from the rules face a \$200 fine.

The facts about face masks and coverings:

- Children under the age of 12 years old do not need to wear a face covering.

- Infants two years or younger must not wear face coverings, as they are a choking and suffocation risk.
- A face covering needs to cover both your nose and mouth. It could be a face mask or shield.
- Even with a mask, you should keep 1.5 metres distance between you and others.
- Exceptions for not wearing a face covering include a relevant medical condition, undertaking physical activity, consuming food, drink or medication and in cases where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- You do not need to wear a face covering if you are travelling in a

vehicle by yourself or with other members of your household.

- All workers, must wear a face covering unless covered in the exceptions.

Face coverings are an additional layer of protection against coronavirus. A mask or face covering prevents droplets spreading when someone speaks, laughs, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has coronavirus but feels well.

Where to get a face mask or covering:

Local pharmacies, hardware and discount stores sell face masks and coverings.

From a Shire Media Release

Restrictions applying to Regional Victoria (Stage 3)

Regional Victoria including Mitchell Shire LGA
From 11:59 Wednesday 5th August

Note: The restrictions that apply to the area where you live follow you if you leave that area, unless the area you are entering has tighter restrictions, in which case you must observe those.

Reasons to leave your house

Change

- Stay at Home, except for four reasons: necessary goods or services; medical care or compassionate reasons; exercise, work and education if necessary.
- Exemptions include visiting a person with whom you are in an intimate personal relationship inside metropolitan Melbourne.
- Cannot enter metropolitan Melbourne for exercise or recreation.

Gatherings of people

Change

- Private: no visitors.
- Public: up to 2 people or household members only.

Employer obligations

No change

- Work from home: must not allow employees to work from workplace if reasonably practicable to work from home.

Schools

Change

- Remote learning state-wide, including Year 11 and 12s, except for vulnerable children and children of permitted workers (from Wednesday, 5 August).
- Specialist schools remain open for all children.
- Childcare and kinder remain open for all children.

Sporting activities

Change

- Community sport: closed.
- Indoor sport and recreation: closed.
- Outdoor sport: only allowed to exercise, or activities such as fishing, golf, boating, tennis, surfing with one other person or household members, provided 1.5 metre distance can be maintained.
- Outdoor sporting facilities: closed, except for facilities where public gathering and physical distancing limits can be adhered to and there is not use of shared equipment or communal facilities (e.g. tennis courts, golf courses).
- Swimming pools: closed.
- Playcentres: closed.
- Playgrounds: closed.

Shopping, retail and personal services

No change

- Restaurants and cafes: take away and delivery only.
- Pubs, bars, clubs, nightclubs: closed, bottle shop and take away only.
- Food courts: closed.

- Beauty and personal care services: closed, apart from hairdressers.
- Saunas and bathhouses: closed.
- Auction houses: operate remotely.
- Real estate auctions and inspections: operate remotely, and inspections by appointment.
- Market stalls: stalls can operate for provision of take away food and drink only.
- Markets and shopping centres: open, subject to density quotient, but people can only visit for necessary goods and services.
- Other retail: open, subject to density quotient, but people can only visit for necessary goods and services.

Entertainment

No change

- Library and community venues: only to host an essential public support service, or a wedding or funeral.
- Galleries, museums, zoos: closed.
- Outdoor amusement parks and arcades: closed.
- Arenas and stadiums: closed.
- Concert venues, theatres, auditoriums: closed.
- Casinos and gaming: closed.
- Brothels, strip clubs and sex on premise venues: closed.

Ceremonies

Change

- Religious ceremonies and private worship: broadcast only.
- Weddings: up to 5 people (couple, two witnesses and celebrant).
- Funerals: up to 10 people, plus those conducting the funeral.

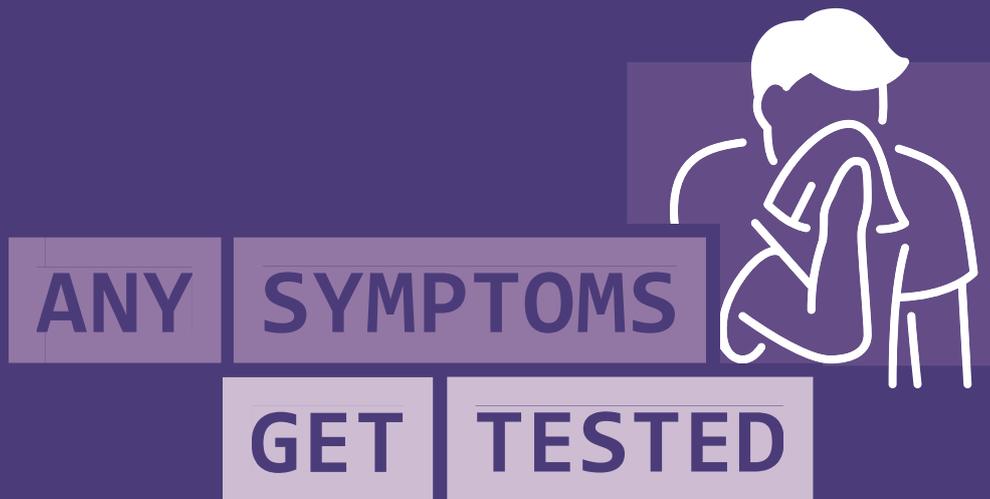
Attending a wedding or funeral is a permitted reason to leave home. Attending a funeral is a permitted reason to enter metropolitan Melbourne.

Travel

Change

- Travel within regional Victoria: allowed for work, education (if necessary), necessary goods and services and care/compassionate purposes only.
- Holiday accommodation and camping: closed except for residents, emergency accommodation, or work purposes.
- Second place of residence – You cannot visit second place of residence, with limited exceptions (e.g. emergency or maintenance, shared custody; to stay with intimate partner who does not live with you).

*Extracted from the ABC News website:
www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-02/victorias-latest-coronavirus-restrictions-explained/12516182*



It's important to get tested for coronavirus at the first sign of any symptom and stay home until you get your result. Getting tested means you keep yourself, your friends, family, workplace and your community safe.

It's not over yet.



Find out where to get tested visit
vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

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