

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 79 – February 2021

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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Dharrak Djanga Lease Signed



Irene Henry, for Henry's Cidery, and Kath Coff, CEO of Nalderun, signed the lease for Dharrak Djanga with a toast in cider from all present, including elders of the Dja Dja Wurrung – Uncle Rick, Auntie Kath, Auntie Kerri, Auntie Paulette and Auntie Julie.

ON 14 JANUARY, THE LEASE WAS SIGNED sealing the collaboration between Nalderun and Henry of Harcourt for the bush tucker farm in Harcourt.

As part of the momentous event, the bush tucker farm was given its name in language: Dharrak (valley, arm, or branch) Djanga (food). In short, Dharrak Djanga means: valley food. The site for the farm is high up on Henry's property touching the edge of the wild land on the side of Mount Alexander.

Auntie Julie McHale said, 'On behalf of all present, we wholeheartedly thank Irene and Michael Henry for making this possible. These are exciting times for Nalderun and for the local indigenous community. Manager Harley and gardener Ira will soon begin work. There are many possibilities for this enterprise to be self-sufficient and to make its mark in providing fresh bush tucker to the district. We also thank the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation which has auspiced the Dharrak Djanga project.'

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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.**



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2021

Fruit Fly is in Harcourt. See pages 6, 19, 23 & 24



Harcourt Preschool is Open

Construction of Harcourt Preschool has now finished, with the purpose-built kindergarten delivered using modular construction and ready to open for Term 1, 2021.

The modular kindergarten facility is both high quality and long lasting; and was able to be constructed in a matter of months. The kindergarten features two rooms and has a capacity of 66 licenced places. It also has an outdoor education space that blends with its natural surroundings, including a new timber quad swing, sandpit, mud kitchen and cubby house, rock maze, musical rock, tepee and a stage area for children to explore.

The final touch of sealing the carpark is underway.

The new preschool is located at the south-east corner of the Harcourt Valley Primary School. The relocation to the primary school site provides greater access to early childhood education and will support the transition between early childhood and the first years of school. This is strengthened by a communal all abilities outdoor space, which is shared by the Primary School and Harcourt Preschool.

Sarah Allen, President of the Harcourt Preschool Parent Advisory Group, commends those involved in the project, 'After years of working to achieve a kindergarten that meets modern day standards for the Harcourt Valley community, the kindergarten families are delighted that the new kindergarten will open for Term 1, 2021. The move to the primary school site will make the transition from kindergarten to primary school so much smoother, and easier for dual drop-offs. The new building and landscape architect-designed playground are amazing spaces that will be enjoyed for many years to come.'

The project team, comprising the Project Control Group (PCG), including YMCA Early Years Manager Carina O'Neill, Harcourt Valley Primary School Principal Andrew Blake, Harcourt Preschool Teacher Lisa Gray and Parent Advisory Group members Natalie McCarthy and Sarah Allen, and Mount Alexander Shire Council representatives worked diligently with the Victorian School Building Authority, Department of Education and Training and Grove Group to deliver the project on time.

The PCG and Harcourt Preschool

would like to thank the Uniting Church for hosting the preschool. 'We thank the Uniting Church for providing a home for the former kindergarten for almost 60 years, it has been a cherished space loved by so many Harcourt families,' said Sarah Allen.

Find out more about this project: www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/schools/Pages/NewHarcourtEarlyLearningCentre.aspx

State Government Invests in Early Childhood Education

Local Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards said, 'All Victorian children should have access to a great local kindergarten no matter where they live.'

'The Labor Government is investing \$1.68 billion for early childhood infrastructure to support the sector as we roll out universally funded Three-Year-Old kinder. We are also investing up to \$169.6 million to make kinder free in 2021, saving families around \$2000 for every child enrolled in a participating funded kindergarten program.'

From a Press Release



Harcourt's Story Walk

Did you see Harcourt's Story Walk? It was set up on the creek side of the path that links the playspace and the pool.

In December, Harcourt Preschool children enjoyed the short walk and viewed a beautifully illustrated book by author Auntie Faye Muir, called *Respect*.

Story walks are children's picture books located in the outdoors, and aim to get people reading together, spending more time in nature, and involved in physical activity.

Each story walk highlights a different children's book, with pages extracted from the book, laminated, and placed on wooden stakes at distanced points along an existing path or trail.

Other story walks were located in Castlemaine (the Botanic Gardens, Campbells Creek and Chewton. Mount Alexander Shire Council and the Goldfields Library partnered to create the story walks.

From a Press Release





Harcourt Progress Association

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of HPA will take place from 7 – 9 pm on Monday 19 April. Nomination forms for positions will be available on the HPA website. The forms will be available from 15th of February to 15 March 2021 here: www.harcourtprogress.org.au

No Twilight Gathering during Applefest

You may have heard that the HPA was planning to hold a Twilight Gathering during the Applefest month of celebration this March. The hope for the event was that it would provide a social occasion for the community with live music, children’s entertainment, food and drink.

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce the cancellation of this event. After careful consideration by the HPA committee, we agreed that this particular event would not be viable due to the COVIDSafe requirements and the tension between keeping the event modest and getting a critical mass to make it financially viable.

We hope to run a similar event towards the end of the year and we will continue to work on finding a sustainable path forward. To do this we need to find more financial and human resources. It would be wonderful to have community members participating and contributing their diverse talents and skills. If anyone in the community would be interested in assisting us make this event a reality please consider attending our AGM or Public Meetings. See website for more details www.harcourtprogress.org.au

New Grant Writer for HPA

We have been fortunate to secure a new member, Karena Lane, who is taking on the role of Grant Writer for the HPA. Karena’s role will be to support the objectives of HPA by sourcing relevant grant funds and administering any grant including the acquittal. Here is a short bio of Karena:

Karena is a recent resident of Harcourt, and has spent most of her life in central Victoria, finishing her schooling at Bendigo Secondary College and further education at La Trobe University. She is a qualified legal practitioner currently working with Maurice Blackburn Lawyers. She has a range of previous volunteer experience working for not-for-profit organisations including the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and at the office of Adam Bandt, Australian Federal Member of Parliament. Karena has a keen interest in other languages and cultures and speaks French and Spanish and is an avid dancer and hiker, so is enjoying exploring Mount Alexander. She is passionate about creating community connections and is looking forward to assisting the HPA.

The Roundabout

The roundabout is in very poor shape indeed. The glimmer of good news is that a Council concept plan has been forwarded to Regional Roads. HPA would have appreciated seeing this plan as well, as part of the process. We will be in touch with Council Officers again shortly to follow up on progress.

Plan Harcourt

The process for Plan Harcourt can take up to two years and, indeed, it seems to be moving as predicted – that’s slowly. It is a painstaking process, but HPA will be keeping regular tabs on the process. So, what is the story so far:

In mid-October 2020 Shire officers submitted the Plan Harcourt planning scheme amendment documentation to the Minister for Planning via DELWP (the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) to seek authorisation to proceed with a planning scheme amendment.

Feedback and advice from DELWP on the draft amendment documentation was received in late December of 2020. The feedback and advice is comprehensive and Council’s strategic planning unit is currently working through DELWP’s feedback.

Council’s strategic planning unit is meeting with DELWP in the week beginning Monday 8th February to discuss DELWP’s feedback and advice. At this meeting it is expected that any changes considered necessary by DELWP will be noted in order to finalise the planning amendment documents. After this meeting, Shire officers will provide further information to HPA on the timing of when the final version of the amendment documentation will be submitted to DELWP.

After the coming meeting with DELWP, the Shire Planning Unit intends to provide another project bulletin to inform the community of updates on the status of the Plan Harcourt Amendment.

Once the final version of the amendment documentation is submitted, the Minister for Planning and the Department (the State Government’s Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) will consider the amendment documentation (further information may be requested from Council) before authorising the amendment.

After this, council will prepare the amendment documentation for public exhibition; this means the public can view the changes proposed to the planning scheme (including rezoning of land) and make a submission to Council about this. This could be for or against the proposed changes.

There are further stages of objection, hearings, and decisions by council and ultimately the plan will lead to changes to the planning scheme for Harcourt.

HPA through its Facebook page and in *The Core* will be keeping the community informed. Keep a look out for the next Council project update. It is only very early in the entire process, but be ready for when the proposed planning changes are made public to make a submission if you have an objection.

Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552
Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550
T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736
E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au
@LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo

Our world is changing, but the joys of living in the Harcourt Valley only seem to get better. Harcourt Applefest over the last 28 years has never been static; the program always moved with the times and with peoples' interests, and the 2020 Applefest was generally recognised as the best-ever community festival in its history.

The Harcourt Applefest committee, preparing to run the 29th Harcourt Applefest, has announced a new format for the very popular local festival. In order to be able to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, the committee has restructured the event from a one-day festival to multiple events and celebrations to be held at various venues across the Harcourt valley.

This year's Applefest is planned to be a scaled-down version of the traditional festival, with several 'eventlets' instead of the one big event that we have come to expect. There are exciting new activities, some at new venues.

Here's a quick summary at the date of publication:

- ✿ The scaled-down version of the traditional Applefest market will be held in James Park, High Street, Harcourt, on Saturday March 6th.
- ✿ The popular Applefest Art Show will be held at Harcourt Heritage Centre over two weekends March 6 & 7 and March 13 & 14 – this is your chance to enjoy and/or purchase some outstanding artwork.
- ✿ A pool party will be held at the Harcourt Pool on Saturday March 6th.
- ✿ In a rare initiative, there will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative on Monday 8th March.
- ✿ As befits our location at the foot of Leanganook, a special Indigenous Stargazing night will take place on the evening of Saturday 13th March.
- ✿ Sunday March 20th will provide an opportunity to visit three of Harcourt's unique granite homes.
- ✿ The Victorian Miniature Railway will provide a display at its own hillside location overlooking the picturesque Harcourt valley.
- ✿ Noted district wineries are offering weekend afternoon happenings; watch out on social media for venue, event and booking details. These are generally popular events, likely to sell out early, so be quick! More details below.



- ✿ During March, there will also be special deals at various businesses throughout the valley.
- ✿ Don't forget to book ahead to get a table at Harcourt's Goldfields Track Café or Harcourt General Store and Produce. Harcourt will be abuzz for the whole month of March.
- ✿ And the new Playspace is always well worth a visit.
- ✿ At the time of going to press, details of extra events are not yet available. Watch out for more events that are to happen in Harcourt during the month of March.

Please visit the website: applefest.harcourt.vic.au for further information.

Ticketing and registration are required in order to monitor attendee numbers and keep accurate records of attendees. Please book in advance to avoid queues.

Buy your tickets in person at the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre in Mostyn Street, Castlemaine or type the words 'Mount Alexander Box Office' into your search engine.

Watch out for more exciting happenings at other venues up and down the Valley. Be a part of the coming together. Harcourt offers community, interest, and fun to all ages. Plan to make the upcoming month of March the time for a visit to the Harcourt valley.

For more information
George Milford 0400916527
Harcourt Applefest Committee
C/- Harcourt Heritage Centre
7 High St,
Harcourt Vic 3453

Here is detailed information on those events that have been finalised at the time of going to press:

Applefest Art Show & Market

This COVIDSafe event is a pared-down version of the traditional festival. The Applefest Market includes Harcourt apples, local produce, Fruitgrowers'

display, art show, free children's activities, music and local produce. Refreshments will be available. The Murnong Mummas, our local indigenous catering firm based at Nalderun, is working with the Phoenix Chewton CWA in preparing teas and biscuits using Bush Tucker ingredients to sell, along with their normal Morning and Afternoon Tea.

Ticketing includes Art Show entry on 7th, 13th and 14th March, so come back for a second look at the work of talented artists.

WHEN: Saturday, 6th March 2021
13th March, 14th March.
TIME: 9 am–4 pm
WHERE: James Park and ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt
PRICE: \$5 per adult, children (u-12) free.

Killiecrankie Wines Music on The Lawn

WHEN: Sunday March 7th
TIME: 12.00 pm–5.00 pm
WHERE: Killiecrankie Wines, 103 Soldier Road, Ravenswood, Vic, 3453.
PRICE: \$20 admission and BYO picnic.
For further information and bookings: killiecrankiewines.com/

Harcourt Organic Farming Co-Op Tour

This farm tour includes Sellar Farmhouse Creamery micro-dairy, Gung Hoe Growers market garden, Tellurian Fruit Gardens orchard and Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery. This is a rare chance to see what enthusiasm and hard work can achieve. This tour will be 'a must' for folk starting out in small-scale horticulture and farming. There is a limit on numbers for this event.

WHEN: Monday 8th March 2021
TIME: 10 am–12 pm
WHERE: Harcourt Organic Farm Co-operative, 68 Danns Road, Harcourt
PRICE: \$15 per adult

Harcourt Applefest Indigenous Stargazing

This is an open-air, story-telling event on the football oval. Bring your own picnic rug. An indigenous elder will tell of aboriginal use of the sky as a link to stories of long ago and as a guide to the approach of the seasons and changing food sources. Proceeds will go to Nalderun and initiatives for local indigenous youth.

(Indigenous Stargazing)

WHEN: Saturday 13th March 2021
TIME: 8 pm–10 pm
WHERE: Harcourt Recreation Reserve,
68 Bingham Rd, Harcourt.
PRICE: \$5 per adult, children (U-12) free.



Harcourt Applefest Granite Houses Tour

This tour will take us to three of the distinctive granite homes of the Harcourt Valley. These are private homes, not normally open to the public. Gain an insight into the history of the dwellings and the practical issues involved in use of local stone. Afternoon tea will be served at the Heritage Centre after the tour. There is a limit on numbers for this event.

WHEN: Sunday 21st March 2021
TIME: 1.30 pm–4.00 pm
WHERE: Assembly and finishing point is the Heritage Centre (the ANA Hall), High Street, Harcourt
PRICE: \$20 per adult (or \$35 includes a copy of *The Granite Homes of Harcourt* book.)

Harcourt Valley Vineyard

This award winning winery will offer pizza, wine and ambience on two Sundays in March.

WHEN: March 21st and March 28th
TIME: 12.00pm–4.00 pm
For further information and bookings:
www.harcourtvalley.com.au

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Don't travel to high risk areas on **Extreme Fire Danger Rating days.**

If you plan to travel through Victoria during fire season, it's important to check the Fire Danger Rating every day. If the rating is Extreme or above, avoid travelling to high risk bush or grassfire areas. It's safer to travel to cities or towns for the day.

How well do you know fire? 

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Harcourt CFA

Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021

Everyone has been looking for 2021 to arrive so that we can forget a year that disrupted our lives and our lifestyle. But there were some positives that came out of 2020, and one of these was the quieter year the brigade had.

For the year 2020, there were 50 calls received, 19 of these were for fires and nine for motor vehicle accidents. There was a turnout in November to support Castlemaine with an LPG powered vehicle leaking in Halford Street outside the old hospital. This type of operation requires the gas to be decanted and burnt off using a special burner. The Golden Square Brigade houses this equipment and they also attended. It is critical at this type of incident to secure the area and remove all potential ignition sources.

To finish off 2020, December saw us respond to the station on four occasions, (one primary and three support calls), but ultimately we were not required to attend the support calls. The primary call was for a small fire on the median strip on the Calder Freeway which had been extinguished by passing travellers, so it only required a quick mop up to ensure it was out properly.★

★ It is so important that all fires are properly extinguished as re-ignition of fires has led to more substantial property losses due to the weather conditions at the time. Re-ignition will commonly occur during hotter and windier times of the day.

This year, to January 25, we have responded to three incidents. A car accident near Ford's Road resulted in the vehicle catching fire which then started a grass fire. We supported Taradale for a grass fire on the Calder Freeway and we were called to support Elphinstone for another car accident but ultimately we did not need to attend.

Summer challenges

Brigades in our district experienced some fast running grass fires during the cool and windy conditions prior to mid-January. This highlights the fact that serious fires don't necessarily require hot temperatures, especially once grasses dry off. Two other major concerns at the moment are the number of abandoned campfires that have not been properly extinguished, and the number of callouts to children and pets left in cars. Modern cars heat up very quickly, and a child or animal can suffer serious harm or death in minutes. If you see such a situation, ring 000 immediately.

This year, Emergency Management Victoria has dealt with a spike in the number of drownings at beaches and in the

waterways of Victoria. At all times, please take extra care around water, and swim between the flags at a patrolled beach whenever possible.

Check your fire plan

Now is a good time to check your fire plan to ensure it is current and that it works. The PLAN, DO, CHECK, ACT cycle is a good tool to remind us that fire preparedness and prevention is always ongoing and, just like a car, it requires regular attention.

If you do not have a plan or you think that your plan requires attention, visit cfa.vic.gov.au for more information. I suggest that you add it to your favourites, as it has lots of information, including current incidents and warnings, local information including the Fire Danger Rating forecast, and activities that are occurring in your area. (Note that COVID has restricted some types of activity, but there is some lessening of the restrictions occurring).

Stay safe, stay cool and be prepared.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Hello Harcourt Community

You may have heard that the HPA was planning to hold a Twilight Gathering during the Applefest month of celebration this March. The hope for the event was that it would provide a social occasion for the community with live music, children's entertainment, food and drink.

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We hope to run a similar event towards the end of the year and we will continue to work on finding a sustainable path forward. To do this we need to find more financial and human resources. It would be wonderful to have community members participating and contributing their diverse talents and skills. If anyone in the community would be interested in assisting us to make this event a reality please consider attending our AGM or Public Meetings. See website for more details <https://www.harcourtprogress.org.au>.

We look forward to celebrating this wonderful community with you in the near future.

After very careful consideration, we are sad to announce that we won't be able to proceed with the Twilight Gathering in March 2021.

Happily the Applefest Market, the Stargazing Evening and a range of other events in March will be proceeding.

Thank you to the wonderful Applefest Committee for the incredible contribution you all make to our community!

Some Time Ago

NARROW ESCAPE.—A night or two ago, Miss Roberts, residing with her sister at Hillstone farm, Harcourt, had occasion to rise from her bed to call the boys who milk the cows. By the moonlight she observed a snake coiling itself up just at the spot where her foot would touch the ground. An alarm was raised, and it was found to be one of the black species, measuring three feet six inches.

Mount Alexander Mail, 24 March 1864. Via Trove

Fruit Fly is in Harcourt

Fruit Fly has been found in at least four locations in Harcourt. It is imperative that if you have fruit trees on your property that you do the following:

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

1. **Pick** – pick fruit as soon as it's ripe.
2. **Don't leave fallen fruit on the ground.** Collect it and solarise it – put it in a plastic bag in the sun for a number of days, until they are well 'cooked' and then put the bag in the rubbish bin. You can't put fruit which has been attacked by fruit fly in the compost.
3. **Prune** – keep trees to a manageable height so you can pick, net and check fruit.
4. **Protect** – monitor for fruit fly using traps (check weekly).
5. **Install white netting** which is a deterrent to fruit fly.

For more help in protecting your garden, follow the steps in the calendar on page 24. It breaks down jobs by season and month.

Make or Buy a Fruit Fly Monitoring Trap

You can make one yourself – see page 23. The only drawback with these is that sometimes you will trap and kill other insects which are possibly beneficial.

You can buy BioTraps at Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware, Macdonald's Nursery and Bendigo Wholefoods - call ahead to check for stock availability.

How to set up a BioTrap:

- Open the small packet and place the wafer or gel attractant 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.

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 to the Fruit Fly Emergency Outbreak Plan page and follow the steps.

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

If you are interested in organic methods of controlling fruit fly please see Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op article on page 19, or see their website.

*Harcourt Valley Landcare
Robyn Miller, Secretary, 0467 670 271*

Playspace Thrills Visitors

'We don't have anything like this!'

On a recent Sunday I visited the playspace in Stanley Park North to have a chat to some visitors to Harcourt. Both families I spoke with live in Bendigo and were very impressed with the equipment and the setting.

Grandfather Ken said he had been working in Harcourt and watching the developments around the town, and thought the rest of the family would like to have a look around.

'The park is really good. All the slides near us are small; especially compared to this one, so I took a photo for our mother's group,' said Jess, mother of prep-student Ivy and Lily who has just begun 3-year-old-kinder.

Another visitor commented, 'You need something like this in all the small towns.' His partner added, 'The design of the park is attractive.'



Grandparents Ken and Carol, parents Jess and Adam and children Ivy and Lily enjoyed their time at the playspace.

Of the three children in this family, Nathan, who is in Year 8 at Crusoe College said, 'It's pretty cool, better than most. There's some equipment here which I can use.'

Both families were unaware that the swimming pool was a short distance away via the connecting path and the suggestion was made that a sign to the pool and public toilet would be really handy.



Lily (Grade 6), Nathan (Year 8), and Tilley (kinder) took some time out to sit in the shade.

Australia Day/Survival Day

Dja Dja Wurrung Elder Uncle Rick Nelson began the morning of January 26 with an historic and moving Survival Day dawn smoking ceremony at Leanganook (Mount Alexander, see photo right), which was livestreamed on Council's YouTube channel. It is available to watch online, along with coverage of the Shire community event held in Victory Park.

'The dawn ceremony was an opportunity for education and healing, and also allowed our broader community to be part of the Dja Dja Wurrung culture. By working in partnership with our local First Nations community, we hope the day provided an opportunity for unity rather than division within the community,' said Mayor Tony Cordy.

If you missed the live broadcast of the Australia Day/Survival Day events you can see them on YouTube:

Dawn Survival Day smoking ceremony:
bit.ly/AusDaySurvivalDayDawn

Community event:
bit.ly/AusDaySurvivalDayEvent

As part of the smoking ceremony on Mount Alexander Uncle Rick Nelson read *Nightfall on the Central Highlands*. The poem is by an unknown poet and was published in a Daylesford newspaper in the late 1800s.

From a Press Release



Once, I in fancy walked along
Beside a dark Jajowurrong
Who, on a summer evening cool,
Strode on to Lar-ne-barramul.
There to the mountain-tops he took
To Moorootah and Lalgambook,
Where to the west his eyes took wing
To Kobratang (or Koorootyng.)
Still further west, he saw the while,
The rounded dome of Moorookyle –
Then northward where blue ranges tower
Surmounted by bold Tarrengower
Northeastward over hill and brook
He could descry Leanganook
(Which Mitchell to his lasting shame,
Called by a Grecian monarch's name).
He saw the heights of Terrawait
Through eastern ranges penetrate;
He saw the darkening forest throng
The lifted head of Myrniong.
By faith alone, beyond the gloom,
He saw two other mountains loom.
Bold Buningyong lay there asleep
Watched by the mighty Warrenheip.
The darkness blotted out the view
Until the day should dawn anew.
But hidden by eternal night
Our dusky friend goes out of sight
His people long have ceased to roam
The forest of their inland home.
And those who came for wealth and fame,
Too often scorned the native name.
Will those who cherish things of yore
Those ancient names again restore?
Lest all forget, will YOU make sure
That their rich cadences endure?

by Unknown



Harcourt Uniting Church

Services Resume – but don't forget your mask!

Well what a year 2020 was. A belated Happy New Year to everyone. We certainly won't forget all the restrictions enforced on us for COVID-19, including Churches being closed for nearly 8 months. We have enjoyed being able to meet for services again whilst observing a COVID safe plan. Masks still to be worn when singing!!

On January 10th we welcomed our Minister Rev Sarah back from Maternity Leave at a special combined Church Service in Castlemaine. Her 11-month-old daughter, Susanna, didn't seem to approve of her mother's sermon and Dad Alex had the task of calming her down during the service.

The Preschool has moved from our Church building after more than 60 years of children attending that site. The new purpose-built centre on the corner of Bingham's Road and Mills Road is built on part of the Harcourt Valley Primary School property. The playground looks very inviting with lots of interesting places to play.

Grace Church is now renting the Preschool room at our Church and they will meet each Sunday. The Harcourt Playgroup plans to continue meeting in the Church Hall weekly in 2021.

A reminder that the Harcourt Uniting Church meets 9 am each Sunday and we welcome everyone to join us.

The children at a Christian School were lined up in the canteen for lunch. At one end of the table was a large bowl of apples with a sign:

'Take only one apple each. God is watching.'

At the other end of the table was a large tray of chocolate biscuits and one of the children had scribbled:

'Take all you want. God is watching the apples!'

Jan Jenkin



New funding set to protect the Oaks campground

The popular Oaks Campground at La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park has attracted a \$200,000 grant as part of the Victorian Government's Great Outdoors program.

The funds will be used to help improve the visitor experience for campers, day-trippers and picnickers by protecting the park and surrounding environment.



La Larr Ba Gauwa Committee of Management Chair Jason Tolland said: "This is great news for everyone who uses the park. La Larr Ba Gauwa and The Oaks have become one of the region's main tourism attractions and we're seeing more visitors here every year. These funds will help make sure that visitor growth is sustainable and managed in a way that protects this very special area for everyone to enjoy."

The grant funding will be used to protect the natural environment and better manage the campground, which has been impacted by increased numbers of visitors over the last few years. The focus will be on protecting areas such as the much-loved Oaks forest and Picnic Gully, as well as ageing trees and special vegetation areas around the campsite.

Jason Tolland said: "Environmental protection is a priority. We want defined boundaries in place that protect special vegetation areas from campers collecting firewood, which is really difficult to do right now."

The project will use local waste granite for landscaping and indigenous plants significant to the Dja Dja Wurrung. Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (Djandak) have been appointed and will work with the Committee to deliver the project. The Dja Dja Wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of the country where the Park is located. La Larr Ba Gauwa means 'stones and mountain' in Dja Dja Wurrung language.

Access to the park and campground will be a core consideration throughout the process. Work is expected to commence in the next few months.

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Brian Nunn
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Possible Rejuvenation Of 1st Harcourt Scout Group

Scouts Victoria is willing to re-start 1st Harcourt Scout Group, if we can show sufficient community interest.

Scouting in Australia provides one developmental program for boys and girls aged 5 to 25. To ensure this program is suited to each developmental stage of the child, adolescent and young adult, it is structured as one continuous journey over five sections. (Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts)

There is a building in Eagles Road Harcourt, which, if it could speak, would likely tell many stories of local children's happy adventures in scouting and guiding.

The first local community interest in scouting started at the Harcourt Primary School in 1932. Following its commencement, 1st Harcourt Scout Group operated successfully for over seventy years. During this time, many young people passed through the various sections, Cubs to Rovers, meeting new friends, developing social skills and self-confidence, whilst enjoying many exciting adventures with ropes and knots, outdoor skills, camping, craft nights, excursions, games, cooking, sleepovers, learning about the environment and other cultures, etc.

Thanks to the Harcourt Heritage Centre for the following historical information:

A public meeting was called on Monday 25th September 1932 for the purpose of forming a Troop of Harcourt Boy Scouts. It was unanimously decided to form a Troop.

SCOUTMASTER: Mr L R Dalrymple (Head Teacher at Harcourt)

CUB MISTRESS: Miss Alice Kelly (Assistant Teacher at Harcourt)

GENERAL COMMITTEE: Mr and Mrs Brooks, Miss Kelly, Messrs WI Williams, P Bertuch, L Dalrymple, A Holt, V Wilson.

Maybe you would like to help us, by becoming a Leader of Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Group Leader, Treasurer, Adult Support, Parent Helper, or assist with fundraising and maintenance.

We look forward to hearing from interested community members.

Ross Swinton
Email: rossparinga@gmail.com
M: 0488 109 353



The Scout Hall in Eagles Road, just north of the swimming pool and the new bridge under construction.



Harcourt Bowling Club

Celebrations

It has been great to welcome members and friends back at the Club in 2021 after a disrupted year in 2020.

Since our last report in December Club Championships have been finalised; the Club held it's Christmas party; Pennant has resumed and we are all enjoying a COVID safe Club life. Preparations are also underway for our first tournaments of the season; Sponsors' Challenge and for the continuation of barefoot social bowls.

Immediately after their last games in December, Midweek Pennant teams celebrated the upcoming break with some bubbles at the club. A further surprise celebration was had as Sheila Oxley presented Vinka Maltby with a belated ice-cream Birthday cake to an enthusiastic rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. Vinka's celebration originally organised for last March had to be cancelled due to the COVID lockdown.



The Christmas party on 16th December was well attended and provided a long-awaited opportunity for members and their partners to get together socially and to share the delicious food provided.

Pennant

The Weekend and Midweek pennant teams have played well and it seems possible that Harcourt will have a team in the finals again this season. As we go to print, ladder positions are as follows: Weekend Pennant Division 2: 3rd; Division 5: 7th; Division 8: 4th; Midweek Pennant Division 3: 6th; Division 5: 7th.

The introduced changes to pennant – playing 21 ends without the 30 minute break – has been mostly well received and will likely continue into the future. Bowlers are still able to take a 10 minute break and to have some food if they choose to.

The projected changes by Bowls Victoria to the country divisions are still in contention with the Bendigo Bowls Division clubs strongly opposed to the proposed move.

Successful Grant Applications

In January we learnt of successful applications for two grants which the club applied for. A grant was received from the 2020 supplementary Volunteer Grants Program to purchase a much needed new line marking machine. The machine is already in use by green keepers.



We are also now able to purchase new folding dining tables with a Grant supported by the Mount Alexander Shire Council's Round 2 Community Grants Program



Thanks to Russell Timmins and his support for all the work that goes into applying for these Grants.

BBQ & Barefoot Bowls

On Tuesday 19th January the long-awaited barbeque and barefoot bowls commenced. With a good crowd of locals and their guests joining in it was a successful and enjoyable night. Members were pleased to see the return of John Starbuck who showed he still has the skills, being in the winning team with Joy and Mike. President Ken Tribe awarded the consolation prize to Astrid, Fran and



Callum and the 'Incentive' prize to Noah, Brad and Buzz

The next of these nights is scheduled for Tuesday 16th February with another on Tuesday 16th March

Commencement time is 6 pm for bowls and will be followed by a BBQ (complying with the COVID rules applicable at the time).

To assist with catering please ensure that you have your names, and your guests names, on the list on the notice board by the Monday prior to the night.

Members are asked to take the opportunity to invite your friends and neighbours to introduce them to a friendly night out.

Continued next page ...



Harcourt Bowling Club

Continued

Junior Provincial Championships

Harcourt Junior Bowler Seth Bird was selected to play with Bendigo Dragons in the Annual Junior Provincial Championships at Daylesford on January 20th. The Teams participating from Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Metro and Melbourne played 3 games of 2-bowl Triples which provided a great opportunity for juniors to hone their skills with and against their peers. Seth did well in his debut as a Skip for his team, which won one game but lost the other two. Grandparents, Russell and Vinka, both claim he learnt his skills from them!



Singles Champions

Heather Braid and Rod Harris represented Harcourt in the Champion of Champions district play off at Bendigo East on January 17th. Both put in a good effort against strong competition however were unable to get through to the second round.

COMING UP

Friday Social Nights

Friday evenings with raffles and members draw at 6.30pm – all welcome.

Barbeque/ Barefoot Bowls – all welcome

- Tuesday 16th February
- Tuesday 16th March

Sponsors Nights

Tuesday 2nd February will be the first of 2 annual social bowls nights the Harcourt Bowls Club holds for their Sponsors. Businesses are encouraged to enter a team on each night to have a game in a social environment and compete for the Chappies Shield. The second night will be held on Tuesday 2nd March.

Tournaments

- **Men's Fours Tournament** Sunday February 7th
- **Ladies' Fours Tournament** Thursday February 18th
- **Kidman Fours Invitation Tournament** Sunday March 21st
- **Grant Pairs Tournament** Sunday March 28th
- **Rice Triples Tournament** April 24th

Smiling Sun Yoga

Hello Harcourt friends!

My name is Julia Quirk and I am a Yoga Teacher. I have recently moved back to Harcourt. I would like to put the feelers out to see if anyone would be interested in a weekly or bi-weekly Yoga class. The class would be held at the Harcourt North Hall (McIvor Road). We would need at least 4 participants to make the class worthwhile.

I teach a breath-centered Yoga class which is adaptable for adults of all abilities. Yoga is a wonderful tool to help lower stress levels and bring movement into the body.

Proposed times (within school terms):

Monday mornings at 6.30 am- 7.30 am

Thursday evenings 7 pm - 8 pm.

Online classes via Zoom are also available. (Please email me if you would like further details.)

If you are interested or have any questions please email me at smilingsunyoga.julia@gmail.com



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Welcoming Liesl to the Community Bank Board

Passion, commitment to community and curiosity are just some of the assets Liesl Malan brings to the Maldon & District Community Bank board as its newest director.

'We're thrilled to welcome Liesl to the board. Her connection to the Harcourt-community as well as her experience in governance and stakeholder engagement will strengthen our local Community Bank board,' said board Chair Ross Egleton.

Liesl was a landscape architect for over twenty years. Her practice focused on working with regional communities. They designed public spaces, masterplans and developed long-term strategies. She is currently the secretary of the Harcourt Progress Association. She will also be a familiar face to many at farmers markets around the region, through her growing business Goodness Flour.

'I am looking forward to being a part of the board, and the opportunity to contribute my professional skills and experience, to learn from others and to explore new possibilities together,' said Liesl.

'I've been a long-term customer of Bendigo Bank, but only learnt about the Community Bank recently. I love a 'win-win' solution and think that the model of using a commercial bank business to generate profits which are invested back into the community makes excellent sense – economically and socially.'

Harcourt is a special place for Liesl and her husband Paul, having moved here 15 years ago. Their home has beautiful views of Leanganook (Mount Alexander) to the east and Bald Hills to the west.

'The property was once an orchard and although the trees are long since gone, our studio and Paul's music room are in the old apple packing shed. We can see Leanganook from the kitchen window, the studio and the courtyard. It's a constant presence in our lives. We're surrounded by neighbours and friends, so we both feel incredibly fortunate to live here,' said Liesl.

'I'm genuinely excited by the growth of small-scale producers in our region, the focus on food, wine and cider and the growing awareness and respect for Indigenous culture.'

When not working hard in her new business, she is busy making things - everything from cooking to sewing, quilting and cutting up bits of paper.

The board is looking forward to Liesl's contribution and continuing to grow our presence and impact in the Harcourt region.



Liesl in the milling room of Goodness Flour, with one of the flour mills.

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Harcourt Valley Primary School 2020 Graduation

Grade 6 students of Harcourt Valley Primary School celebrated their graduation with teachers, grandparents and friends on December 14 last year. The graduation had two phases: an afternoon gathering, followed by a Graduation Dinner in the evening.

At the afternoon proceedings, Principal Andrew Blake said, 'I congratulate the teaching and support staff for their extraordinary work in what has been a difficult year for everyone. Teachers have focused on academic, social and emotional success and most of our students have thrived. I want to thank teaching staff who quickly and professionally adjusted their teaching programs when COVID restrictions came in.'

Veronica Budnikas, President of the School Council followed and congratulated the students and spoke of the challenges they face for 2021. She reminded them, 'To take all the strengths you have developed at Harcourt Valley Primary forward with you so you will be good students, good friends and good citizens. Years from now you may be nostalgic for moments like these, so look around and enjoy your moment. We will think of you and be interested to see the productive people you will become.'

Graduating students were:

Jordan Ball	Fraser McAinch
Abi Beckwood	Angus McLoughlan
Stellar Booker	Hamish McLoughlan
Soren Budnikas Ling	Isla O'Connor
Shayla Daffy	Freyja Rudd
Julie Haebich	Eve Steptowe
Sienna Le Lievre	

Prior to the students receiving their graduation certificates, Ms Rowland, their Grade 6 teacher said, 'Well done; you made it! Thank you for your support in a year that's been challenging in many ways. In a year full of ups and downs you took on challenges head on and came out stronger, independent and more developed young people. Congratulations on everything you have achieved in your primary school journey, the steps you take today are only the beginning of an eventful, exciting

journey where you can make anything of yourself. I trust you will take on all experiences, to learn and grow from them, especially the challenging ones. Have fun, be kind and spend time with the people who matter most; we are all so proud of how far you have come and wish you the best of luck.'

Ms Rowlands introduced each student as they presented a slide show about themselves accompanied by their choice of music and then delivered a prepared a speech. Some spoke confidently, others with shyness read out their thoughts about their times at Harcourt Valley Primary.

Awards

Two awards were presented from the CWA to Eve Steptowe and Hamish McLoughlin.

The Castlemaine Evening VIEW Club presented the Learning for Life Award in honour of Colleen Smith who passed away in 2020. The award was given to Sienna Le Lievre and is for the student who demonstrates commitment to and is a role model in upholding the school's values. The VIEW club is part of the Smith Family Charity and is currently supporting six students. The club presents an award at one of the schools in the Shire each year.



Hamish McLoughlin and Eve Steptowe each received an award from the CWA

Nalderun at HVPS

I am working closely with Harcourt Primary School on a couple of projects. The first one has been organized with Dja Dja Wurrung Elder Aunty Kerri Douglas and Dja Dja Wurrung man Glenn Braybrook. It involves the erection of a Reconciliation Stone in the school's yard. The stone which is a replica of a traditional grinding stone has been selected and is being prepared by Glenn who is a stone-mason. It will be along the lines of the beautiful one he created outside the Civic Centre in Castlemaine.

The other activity is having the grades 5/6 out to Yapeen to look at some aspects of Culture. At HVPS they have a program where the grade 6'ers become leaders within the school. When they come to Yapeen they will be taught how to teach the younger classes. In due course, the whole school will come to Yapeen and the grade 6'ers will lead the activities with the assistance of the grade 5'ers being group leaders.

Aunty Julie McHale.



HVPS will soon have a reconciliation stone placed in the grounds. It will be similar to the one shown here which was unveiled by Local elder Uncle Rick Nelson in May 2017. This stone was crafted by local artist and Dja Dja Wurrung man, Glenn Braybrook, as will the one to be placed at the Harcourt Valley Primary.



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Better Country Further Out

The Schier Family

William (age 12), Mary (9) and John (8) Schier came to Harcourt with their parents in 1858. The family lived in a wattle and daub house at the south west corner of Blackjack and Faraday Roads while their father William built a solid granite home. After the children's father was naturalised, he purchased 83 acres and conducted an orchard and dairy farm. The three Schier children attended the newly opened school at Harcourt until they were 14 years of age. They were then expected to help with farm work. In their teens, both William and John were called on as interpreters in a court case involving a German from Barkers Creek. This proved a difficulty to John, as he was so young when he left his native Germany that he had forgotten his native language.

The children's father was an excellent farmer and a man greatly admired. At one time he had upwards of fifty cows and supplied many locals with milk, cream, and butter for 15 years. The orchard of nine acres and a vineyard of half an acre were described in the 'Mount Alexander Mail' as having been weed-free, such was the painstaking attention paid to it.

In April 1869, in a Schier family double wedding, William Schier married Sarah Jane Thacker while his sister Mary married George Symes. This was quite an occasion. The wedding took place at a granite-walled, thatched-roof cottage newly built by George Symes. By 1870 William Schier held 59 acres under lease where he established an acre of fruit trees, six acres of wheat and five hundred strawberry plants.

In the meantime, John Schier had set up a blacksmith and wheelwright's shop close to the road at his parent's farm and was taking in work from other farmers. He soon found that he was spending more time at the forge than tending the farm. In October 1874 John Schier married Pauline Gaasch.

Early in 1875 William Schier, accompanied by some of his Harcourt friends, rode to the Echuca area at the suggestion of his father-in-law, to appraise land that was being thrown open for selection on the Broken Creek, east of Barmah. William was very taken with the land and immediately took up 261 acres near Narioka. He then constructed a slab dwelling, returned to Harcourt and, using only horse and dray, relocated his wife and three small daughters to their new home at Narioka. Another seven daughters and three sons were born at Narioka. In the 1875 move, a young Harcourt lad, Will Lubke, went with the Schiers as a drover, to walk the cows from Harcourt to Narioka. In due course, Will's father Henry Lubke selected a farm next to that of William Schier, later to be followed by Hugh Ormond, John & Mary Ann Scouller, August Dohnt and Charles Thacker. By this means a large area in the northern Victorian parish of Narioka became an outpost of Harcourt.

The Narioka selectors put their cattle into the Barmah Forest in early summer each year and then brought them home, fat, and shiny, in the autumn. William Schier had been one of the earliest settlers along the Broken Creek. One of the original squatters (who resented the intrusion of the selectors onto 'his' land) bemoaned the fact that he had planted apple trees, but that they would not bear fruit. William observed that there were no bees in the district, brought in some hives and next season the apple trees produced a fine crop of fruit. William Schier was man of great drive who established creameries

(butter factories) at Barmah and Narioka. He was the first in the district to own a separator. His wife made all the butter which was then delivered in a spring cart (the load being covered with wet bags to keep the butter cool) as far afield as Deniliquin and Hay (NSW).

In 1885 John Schier left Harcourt to live at Nathalia to be near his brother. From 1885 to 1897 he conducted a blacksmith and wheelwright shop in Nathalia. The family grew to include four sons and two daughters.

Visits between Narioka, Nathalia and Harcourt were regular. My father, Les Milford, recalled visits by his cousin Will Schier (the younger) son of William and Sarah Schier, to the Milford home in Harcourt. Will Schier (the younger) had a wooden arm. This was the result of having been savaged by a sow when young Will picked up one of its piglets. The arm was so badly mauled that it had to be amputated. The wooden arm was made by the boy's uncle, John Schier the wheelwright.

William and John Schier's sister, Mary, continued to live at Harcourt. In 1893 Mary and George Symes built a new weatherboard home opposite their original cottage. George Symes was manager of the slate quarry at Specimen Gully, also a leading orchardist and a shire councillor. George Symes died of influenza in 1899 aged 57 years. Mary Symes, nee Schier, died in 1933. Another reason for routine visits was the marriage of William Schier's daughter Edith May, to Arthur Symes of Harcourt. The couple lived on an orchard on Symes Rd, Harcourt, the site of which was taken over by the re-aligned Calder Freeway. The links between Harcourt and Narioka were strong, formed as they were of complex relationships typical of the era of large families.

With the passage of the years the close ties between Harcourt and Narioka have loosened. But, from 1875 until well into the 1930s, the principal citizens of the district east of Echuca recalled Harcourt with fondness as the cradle of their careers and the home of their parents. In seeking and settling 'better country, further out', William Schier and his companions demonstrated the drive, energy, and horticultural skills that they learnt at Harcourt.

This thumbnail sketch was compiled for *The Core* by George Milford from the files of the CH James Collection, Harcourt Heritage Centre, with acknowledgement to Maree Hogan and Judy Ormond's *The Schier Family 1812-1982*.



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Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Friendship Day launches CWA for 2021

Well, here we are back together again and if our first meeting (which is called our Friendship Day meeting each year) is anything to go by, we have lots to look forward to in 2021.

As from February we will be back at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm. We would love 2021 to be the year when new members are welcomed into our friendly Branch so, if you have been thinking of joining this 90-year old Branch, now is the time. Give me a call or email me if you would like any information on what we do throughout the year.

We held Friendship Day this year at the Goldfields Track Cafe and it was a wonderful way to start off 2021 in style.

*Lyn Rule
Harcourt CWA
Publicity Officer.
0418 994 067
harcourtwa@gmail.com*



Here's to a better 2021



Friends

Neil Charter an outstanding Harcourt Volunteer

Neil has moved into retirement at the age of 84 after an enviable record of service to the Harcourt Community. He was Chairman and Chief Warden of the Applefest up to 2020 where his practical skills were invaluable. His army and work experience as an engineer meant he was often the chief go-to person for a range of community events. He had a key role at the Heritage Centre for 15 years where his leadership was vital in a number of significant projects.



Vietnam Veteran Neil Charter had been a Captain in the CMF (Citizen's Military Forces) before he was sent to Vietnam where he was a Captain in the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). His medals include: one Reserve Forces Medal, two Vietnam medals, one National medal, one Efficiency Decoration (for officers) and the National Service Medal. Neil was a stalwart of the annual ANZAC Day Ceremony.

Neil joined Harcourt Valley Landcare in 2013 and was a regular at working bees and a thoughtful contributor to the group. Neil was concerned about the wetland on his property and a successful project funded by the NCCMA commenced in 2017, and work has continued to date. The site was used as a successful environmental education project with Harcourt Valley Primary School in 2018 and 2019. The Landcare group is grateful for Neil's generosity and contributions.

Once the Victorian Miniature Railway began construction Neil was often to be found there. When the students from the Castlemaine Secondary College VCAL stream were on site, Neil's knowledge of machinery was invaluable and he would supervise and advise the students as they worked.

Our community will miss Neil and we wish him well in his retirement.

Robyn Miller

Part of the text of this article, which was contributed by George Milford, appeared in *The Mail* on January 15, 2021.



WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Reconciliation

Early Aboriginal Activists

Colonisation utterly changed the lives of every generation of the First Nations. Although initially hospitable towards the new arrivals, they soon realised that degradation of their hunting grounds, being locked out of their home place, rifle power and dehumanising attitudes were here to stay.

Some of the leaders objecting to invasion and injustice:

Pemulwuy was a very early resistance fighter, leading a guerrilla war against the British settlement at Sydney Cove, from soon after the arrival of the First Fleet until 1802 when he was captured and killed. Known amongst his people as having supernatural powers, he saw and deplored the damage the Whites were doing to Aboriginal society, rather than befriend the colonisers as others such as Bennelong or Nanbaree did.

Tedbury, son of Pemulwuy, was involved in an uprising against colonial settlement in the fertile Salt Pan Creek area south of Sydney. Much later, in the 1920s and 30s, Aboriginal families dispossessed from their traditional lands or escaping the Aboriginal Protection Board camped at the creek.

Yagan, born in the area of what is now Perth, was a courageous leader of the Noongar people resisting the British in the Swan River Colony from 1829. Appreciated by the Europeans for his charisma and the little black dog that walked with him everywhere, he was also feared for his daring and opposition to what tribal law defined as injustice.

Truganini, born on Bruny Island about 1812, was one of about 100 Tasmanian Aboriginals moved to Flinders Island by the Chief Protector of Aborigines George Augustus Robinson in 1830. By then she and at least four of her close relatives had been shot or abused by Whites. In an attempt to protect her people she assisted the European settlers, but later joined a band of Tasmanian Aboriginals in Victoria retaliating against the colonists.

Munangabum, a spiritual leader of the Dja Dja Wurrung people, was influential in shaping his people's response to European settlement in the 1830s and 40s. When he was

gaoled in Melbourne, Dja Dja Wurrung people went to plead for his release. They feared he had the power to bring about a plague on Blacks and Whites alike. He subsequently acted as an envoy for Edward Stone Parker, the Assistant Protector of Aborigines. He died in 1846 or 47.

A 21st Century activist

Djujan Hoosan at the tender age of 12, addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council on the subject of Australia's detention of children as young as 10. He is a traditional healer and speaks out about the importance of learning traditional languages and spending time out on country.

He is calling for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to support an Indigenous-led education model to help reduce incarceration rates of Aboriginal youths.

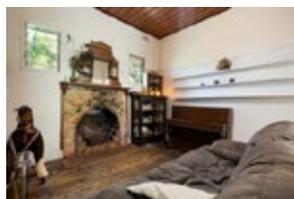
Nalderun is a service that supports the Aboriginal Community, led by Aboriginal people. Many people and organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire contribute to Nalderun; the name is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.

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

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Lions Recruiting for 2021 – Ready to Roar!

The Harcourt Football Netball Club (HFNC) is ready for action and looking ahead to the 2021 Season.

Football and netball are an essential platform for the Harcourt community, providing many sporting options for younger people especially for younger footballers (boys and girls) and young netballers.

Pre-season training has started and junior footballers are welcomed. HFNC fields teams in under 11 ½, under 14 ½ and under 17 ½'s. If all three teams get up this Season it would fulfill a long held Club goal in 2021. Key to this objective is the recruitment of a Junior Football Coach. Please refer to information below if you are interested. The Club would love to hear from you.

HFNC Lionesses, the Senior Netball team, continue to be an asset of the club and are well placed to make their mark on season 2021. A 10 week pre-season comp has been played and the official pre-season gets underway shortly with practice matches and tournaments in the pipeline.

The Harcourt Lions recognise that there are many newcomers to the Harcourt district. This is the time to consider the sporting options offered through HFNC for your children. The Club welcomes all families and those who wish to participate in The Harcourt Lions 21 Season, whether that is in football, netball or the many roles which make all teams viable through a range of support roles.

We welcome entire families to participate in our Club. Family membership rates will be available closer to season start. The Harcourt Lions home-ground and clubrooms pride themselves on their family-friendly atmosphere.

The senior footy pre-season is well underway with Senior and Reserve coaches Alex Code and Heath Waddington respectively. It's early days yet but player lists appear to be improved, with some handy recruits bolstering a near complete return from when they played last. Training at the Lion's Den is underway on 6 pm Mondays and some Wednesdays – contact Alex 0417307078 or Heath 0427589080.

Hope to see you at the Lions' Den!

Contacts:

Junior Football – Amy 0407314378
Junior Netball – Kirrily 0421353710
harcourtfncl.com



Junior Coaching Roles:

Another fantastic opportunity at the Den in 2021

We are looking for expressions of interest to fill JUNIOR COACHING ROLES for each age group. You may be a current senior player, a parent of a player or someone who wants to start their coaching career at a junior level.

You will have lots of support from parents and helpers, but we need a head coach for each age group to run things smoothly.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Football: U11.5, U14.5, U17.5
Netball: U17

Please contact HFNC for more information



Harcourt Football Netball Club Annual General Meeting

All are welcome to attend the AGM meeting on Wednesday February 10.

The committee has many enjoyable roles. The work you can put in behind the scenes will be very rewarding and beneficial to those at the club.

From junior to seniors, netball to football, there may be a position for you.

With all of the valuable support from current members, this is the perfect time to join and fill a role.

If you would like to be involved, please attend.

Big things are happening at the Den...Be involved!

www.facebook.com/HarcourtFootballNetballClub

VMR Update

New Home for Harcourt Lions at VMR

After much preparation, Signal Box A which was originally located near the Thistle Street Bridge in Bendigo and directed trains to and from Melbourne has come to Harcourt – albeit in two pieces.

The transporting of the two halves was carried out on Sunday 17 January with an early morning start. Andrew Mierisch, VMR President said, ‘The timber building while apparently fragile was designed to split in the middle as that’s how they built them. We have pulled the roof off, to comply with height limits for the oversize transport. We have prepared solid concrete footings at Harcourt and we will reassemble it, and then restore the roof. It will stand at the north end of our carpark, and then working with the Lions, we plan to restore the rest.’

The signal box was built in 1921 and was one of four which directed trains moving in and out of the Bendigo Train Station. When the signal box became redundant it was bought by the Wild family in Bendigo. After trying to sell it and then adapt it for family use, Dane Wild contacted Andrew Mierisch, President of VMR and said he would donate it, if VMR would organise its removal.

‘Originally, VMR was made aware of the signal box over 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. This is another important milestone for VMR at Harcourt.’



A section of the signal box waits to be lifted off by crane.



The signal box was prepared for removal in late 2020.



Part of the signal box is lifted off the truck at VMR.

Weather and Water



At Reservoir Road the rainfall for December was 29 mm and the total for 2020 was 678 mm. This is the highest rainfall since 2011 when we received over 700 mm. January 2021 rainfall was 81 mm which is high, but it will be difficult to ever beat the 231 mm we received in January 2011. The rainfall that year caused devastating floods at Charlton - twice. A flood warning was issued for Charlton at the end of January just gone, but it did not breach the banks.

My notes about the weather confirm what we all know. It was a cool December; we even lit the open fire in one chilly week. I’ve not worn a cardigan and long pants so much in a summer that I can remember. It was a beautiful day and evening on Christmas Eve after a run of mild sunny and still days. Early January saw strong southerly winds and we lit the fire again.

Two weeks of hot weather made us all feel as if summer was really here, but it has backed off again and it looks as if until mid-February the weather will be mild.

The summer crops have been slower to ripen and I stripped the peach tree after one lot of rain as the fruit was beginning to get brown marks. The nectarines are still not ripe. Many people commented that it was a wonderful year for mulberries. I have concluded that if we experience a dry winter, we should be watering our fruit trees and vines, during cold weather. The fruit this year, seems larger and the leaf growth more abundant.

Coliban storages are 85.2% which is reassuringly high for summer and will stand us in good stead for 2021. The weather bureau outlook until April is for average or above average rainfall in eastern Australia due to the influence of La Niña, which is past its peak but still of influence.

Tips for Summer Fruit Success Including Treatment of Fruit Fly

Happy New Year Everyone

We hope you've enjoyed a productive 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 so well.

As much as we wish it didn't, nature keeps happening to our fruit. Birds, earwigs, beetles, possums, kangaroos—and now with the added threat of fruit fly, sometimes we end up sharing our crop.

On the fruit fly front, we have to bring you the sad news that we've found fruit fly on our farm. It's a day we hoped wouldn't come, but it has. Thanks to Terry Willis from the Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group, who immediately supplied us with an emergency action kit to help us spring into action.

The fruit where we first found larvae has all been collected and bagged, and Ant's set up a trap grid on the farm to try to isolate the source of the outbreak. Luckily there's an organic spray that we can use (based on a naturally occurring soil bacterium), which will be part of the farm regime from now on. Cold-storage is another key part of the management protocol, and luckily all fruit already goes through our cool-room. We're hopeful that we can quickly learn how to manage it and develop an effective protocol (many other organic farms have solved this problem before us), but we're very sad that we need to.

How can you help?

The first (and most important) thing you can do is to put your traps out and start monitoring, if you haven't already been doing this. The "Biotrap" is the sort of trap that's recommended for the monitoring phase of fruit fly defence (you can buy them from Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware in Campbells Creek, or online).

Secondly, please let Ant know if you buy any fruit from him that's been affected. He's going to great lengths to avoid this happening, but as we quickly work to figure out our farm protocol, it will be very helpful for him in controlling the outbreak if you let him know if anything slips through.

It's probably also a good time for everyone to revisit our online Fruit Fly Masterclass (presented by expert Andrew Jessup), which you can access from our website. We also have a free Fruit Fly Resource Pack that you can download from the website.

On a more cheery note, here are our top 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. Now that fruit fly is a real threat, consider

using nets that also exclude fruit fly, as this is the most effective prevention technique for backyard trees.

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. It's important at this time of year to be closely monitoring your trees. 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. It also 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.

Happy harvests!
Hugh and Katie

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of the free online workshops.

New Picnic Tables and Play Area for Stanley Park

Council is working with local businesses and associations to identify sites for temporary outdoor dining and entertainment experiences.

Two picnic tables have been placed in Stanley Park opposite the service station. Many people park near here for a break and a quick bite to eat.

An effort has been made by council to recompense for the playground which was removed by installing some climbing/play logs. The logs came from trees which had to be removed in Barker Street, so they haven't travelled far.

The picnic tables are made from plantation timber and were constructed by members of the Newstead Men's Shed.

'We wish to express our thanks to the Newstead Men's Shed for their craftsmanship and enthusiasm for this initiative,' said David Leathem, Manager Economy and Culture, MASC.

Council is supporting local business through a new application process for hospitality businesses that are interested in introducing or expanding their outdoor dining space, following approval of a temporary permit in consultation with Council.

"There is no cost for the temporary permit and we have waived outdoor dining fees for this financial year."

Abridged from a Press Release.



The new play area with climbing logs and picnic table.

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Together we thrive

Australia Day winners

Congratulations to the winners and nominees of the Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day Awards, which were announced at a community event on Australia Day. This year Council also held a virtual dawn ceremony in partnership with First Nations people to mark Survival Day. Watch a video of the dawn ceremony and community event, and find information on award winners and new citizens at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay.

Apply for a council grant

If you have a brilliant idea for an event or a community or creative project make sure you apply for the next round of Council grants. Our Community Grants and Get Lost Activation Grants are open until Monday 15 February. Events Grants will open from Monday 15 February until Monday 8 March. For more information visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants or call 5471 1700 and ask to speak to a member of our team.

Cool off at the pool

There are only a few more weeks left of pool season! Enjoy a summer swim in our pools at Castlemaine, Maldon, Newstead and Harcourt before 8 March. For more details on opening hours, fees, activities and more, visit www.mountalexanderpools.com.au.

Mental health resource

A handy new wallet card is available from local businesses and community hubs to support local residents to stay mentally well. The resource includes tips on how to look after your mental health and wellbeing, and where to seek help if you or someone else you know needs it. Pick up your card from the Civic Centre, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Community House, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, Newstead Rural and Regional Transaction Centre, general stores and post offices. Download an e-version from www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CASI.

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

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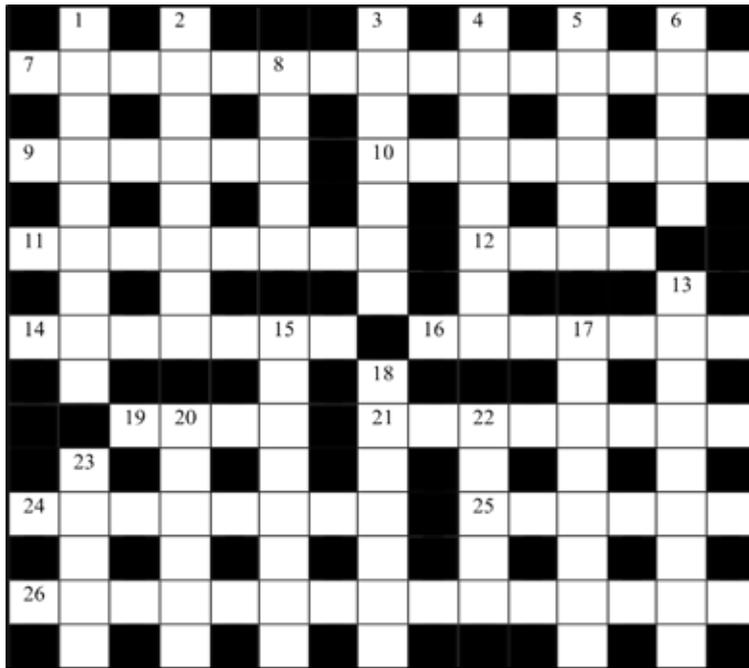
STAY OPEN

For testing locations visit CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



February 2021 Xword ©McW December '17



Down:

1. Find image easier this way? (9)
2. We see and hear like sailors these warlike forays... (8)
3. Swarthy rogue drops end off, gets beef cut and foils big-time! (7)
4. Controlling storage in branches? (8)
5. Recce turns up nothing to force someone to do something. (6)
6. They come up with what should be the past tense of what a nettle does (but isn't), and some of them do it too... (5)
8. Search, or see for yourself, a former mode of transport. (5)
13. The French back into daily bread for kin. (9)
15. Short sighting made healthy again but rendered opaque? (8)
17. Fond of an alternation... (2,3,3)
18. Try that tempting thing whilst dropping it.. (7)
20. Dismay after the event loses the right to become birds. (6)
22. If pigs might fly, surely something bigger can be envisaged? (5)
23. Chose to choose top journo... (5)

Across:

7. Nuts! Rash pot-head can collect thus with what's on it. (4,3,3,5)
9. Jollity is compromised, and the atmosphere reeks of injustice... (6)
10. Indirectly, current clergyman can still be exact. (8)
11. Well-off, but sounding a bit crappy? (8)
12. Widow's mite can be a thing as real as any other. (4)
14. Boarding-house for aged, disabled, etc. (7)
16. Wanted to reign, but blew it with an overdose, so was disregarded. (7)
19. We hear this ability might make it practicable—as long as people pay them! (4)
21. Tourists come to a halt. A jam in the traffic to iconic building makes it clear. (3,5)
24. Could a rat hole up with a rupee, in camera? (8)
25. Real good footy place in Europe? (6)
26. If you're hot, fearing power of the storm, you might appreciate this! (15)

December 2020 Xword solution ©McW December '17



Down:

1. It's only anger but we won't put up with it like this! (3,6)
2. In some musicals, they may be part of the 12. [Well?]
3. The most indistinct New Wave way. (7)
4. Misdemeanours, major or minor, to do with barriers? (8)
5. What caused the girl from New Natchez to tear her skirt? [There once was a girl from New Natchez Whose garments were always in patches When quizzed about this, she said with a hiss: 'Whenever I itches I scratches!']
6. Avian justification for US writer sticking his neck out? (5)
8. K-salt found up in powder er-tin. (5)
13. Dress, less parts. (9)
15. To entice is to employ subtleties. (8)
17. Said to 23 one's scope, or increase one's 22 if a silent replacement [P] for the lead were made. (8)
18. Deliver kid, parcels, maybe a bomb, and go to sleep... [Well?]
20. Indigenous negotiators might approach this a la 25... (6)
22. Jack of a certain persuasion [Well? Same colour suit...], or a different bird from 6. (5)
23. (See 17) (5)
21. Yankee bum [butt] breaks apart genuine argument to give the lie to it. (8)
24. When a pest dies, tip seeds on it to get around. (4-4)
25. (See 12.)
26. After a shower, etc., few creators hate the news ending. (7,8)

Across:

7. Soon rearrange neat furniture, eh? (2,3,4,6)
9. Cartel skews market in red. (6)
10. Lost the bird, [polly...] we hear, but still used in plastics. (8)
11. Required for black balls? [Well?]
- 12, 25. What the mindful angler might do? [Well?]
14. Writer's style-cover early in alphabetical line-up? [Well?]
16. Single out weak apology for my tardiness. (7)
19. Pointless Stoic jumble: hear hear! (4)

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Mobile: 0488 148 358 148-152 High Street
 Phone: 03 5474 2807 Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555
 Fax: 03 8677 9033
 Email: di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au

Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

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

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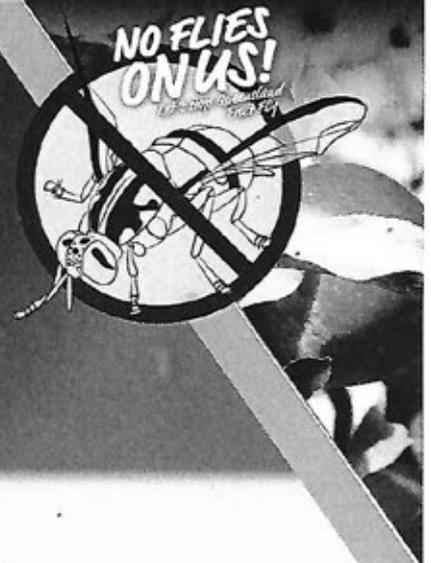
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A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: harcourt.vic.au/news

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MAKE YOUR OWN QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY TRAP



ACTIVITY 1

Ingredients (for 3 traps)

-  1 tablespoon of Vegemite
-  1/2 cup of cold water
-  1/4 cup of brown sugar
-  1 finely chopped banana peel

What you need

-  3 x 1.25 litre plastic bottles
-  Scissors
-  String

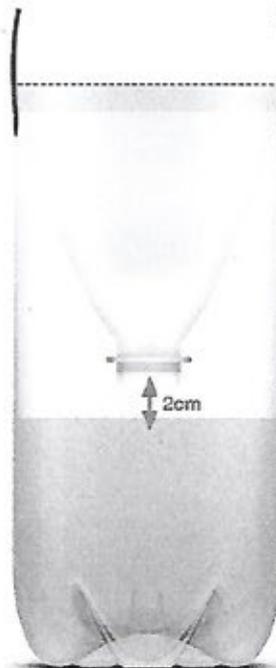
How

1. Combine ingredients in mixing bowl.
2. Pierce two holes in neck of each 1.25 litre plastic bottle as shown in diagram.
3. Remove lid and pour 1/3 of mixture into the plastic bottle.
4. Top up with cold water until the bottle is half full.
5. Replace lid.
6. Attach string under lip of lid to prevent string slipping off.
7. Hang securely in vulnerable trees and garden beds.

ACTIVITY 2

Ingredients (for 3 traps)

-  1 teaspoon of vanilla essence
-  2 teaspoons of cloudy ammonia
-  1/2 cup of sugar
-  2 litres of water
-  1 finely chopped apple



What you need

-  3 x 1.25 litre plastic bottles
-  Scissors
-  String
-  Sticky Tape

How

1. Combine ingredients in mixing bowl.
2. Cut off the top 1/3 of each bottle.
3. Remove the cap, turn the top third upside down and place inside bottom 2/3 of bottle.
4. Secure the two pieces of bottle together with sticky tape.
5. Pierce two holes one either side, close to the top of the bottle.
6. Insert the string through the holes as indicated in diagram.
7. Pour 1/3 of the mixture into each bottle 2cm below the bottle neck opening.
8. Hang securely in vulnerable trees and garden beds.

QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

SEASON CALENDAR OF BACKYARD JOBS



❄️ WINTER

JUNE

- Prune fruit trees to a manageable height for ease of fruit picking and netting

JULY

- Replace unwanted QFF host trees with non-host plants
- Pick up fallen fruit

AUGUST

Remember: In winter the risk of QFF fly is lower but winter fruits can provide a food source for overwintering fruit flies. These include apples, pears, quinces and pomegranates left hanging on trees and ripe winter citrus such as oranges, mandarins and grapefruit

🌸 SPRING

SEPTEMBER

- Remove QFF host plants if you are not going to control QFF in your garden
- Design your vegetable garden layout and cropping cycles so that QFF populations don't build up
- Set up traps to monitor for QFF and check traps weekly

OCTOBER

- Pick and dispose of any excess ripe citrus especially grapefruit and late season oranges
- Pick up and dispose of any fallen loquats
- Spray high risk fruit if appropriate and always follow label instructions

NOVEMBER

Remember: In spring high risk fruits are late season citrus such as grapefruit and early ripening hosts such as loquats

☀️ SUMMER

DECEMBER

- Net your vegetable garden or bag individual fruit
- Pick up fallen fruit everyday
- Check tomatoes for sting marks
- Heat treat fallen and infested fruit and vegetables to kill QFF maggots

JANUARY

- Trap and monitor QFF population levels weekly
- Spray high risk fruit if appropriate and always follow label instructions

FEBRUARY

Remember: In summer high risk fruits are stonefruit such as cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines and plums. High risk vegetables are tomatoes, capsicums and chillies

🍁 AUTUMN

MARCH

- Pick up any fallen fruit to break the QFF lifecycle
- Heat treat fallen and infested fruit to kill QFF maggots

APRIL

- Continue to monitor for QFF and check traps weekly
- Continue to spray high risk fruit if appropriate and always follow label instructions

MAY

Remember: In autumn high risk fruits are pomefruit such as apples, pears and quinces, early citrus such as mandarins, also other fruit such as pomegranates and ornamental fruiting plants such as feijoa (pineapple guava)



Funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program.

[gmv-qldfruitfly](https://www.facebook.com/gmv-qldfruitfly)

www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au