

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 80 – March 2021

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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harcourt.vic.au/news

Dani Shaves for Cancer Research



DANIELLE KENT HAD SHORT HAIR 24 years ago but at the Applefest her metre long hair was cut and shaved to raise money for the Cancer Council of Victoria. Hairdresser Priscilla Delahunty from Xtendit Hair Extensions Bendigo made short work of removing Dani's plaits and her remaining hair. Dani said 'My goal to raise funds for cancer research was \$500. I promised to go completely bald if we raised over \$500 before 3 pm today, we made

it and now I'm hoping to raise more. At least now I won't burn out a hair dryer every two months!' Her son Michael also had his hair shaved in the fund raiser. You can support Dani and others with cancer by donating to the Victorian Cancer Council: fundraising.cancervic.org.au/fundraisers/daniellekent. Dani's plaits will be donated and will be used to make wigs for children with cancer. Read Dani's story inside on page 3.

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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





Harcourt Progress Association

Plan Harcourt

The Shire has responded to our regular requests for updates about the progress of Plan Harcourt. The official communication on the progress of Plan Harcourt is on page 5. We are not privy to the proposed changes to the planning scheme or to the feedback received from DELWP. While the process is bureaucratic and drawn out, HPA is working in the background to obtain more information if possible.

Some of the proposed changes will definitely affect the lives of many who live in Harcourt and the lives of those who wish to live here in the future. Questions arise such as: will these changes alter the perception of Harcourt as village in a rural setting? Can we have development that contributes to aesthetics and thus well-being? Will the nature of Harcourt be changed so it loses its beauty and unique feel? Will rural land come under pressure to be sub-divided so it becomes useless for agriculture and farming? What is the point of having a rural water supply if we don't have rural industries? Is Harcourt being viewed as an opportunity by developers who have no interest in the fabric of our township and surrounds, other than to make money?

Mid-April has been the suggested time for the final documentation to be submitted by Council. There may

be some delays before it is approved and ready for public exhibition, but that should happen later this year and the community needs to be prepared to respond.

HPA AGM Dates

Due to COVID in 2020 the AGM was postponed. The date for the 2020 AGM is Monday 19 April. Nominations for positions are available on the HPA website and close on March 15. Details of time and venue will be available on the HPA website, Facebook and in The Core.

The 2021 AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 17 November, 2021.

Roundabout Progress

HPA is pleased to announce progress in the new plans for the Roundabout and thanks the Shire Officers involved for keeping us informed.

Shire officers provided a preliminary concept to Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) with a list of suggested trees and shrubs which reflect the indigenous plants in the area as well as the current plantings in Harcourt maintained by the shire. A grass collar was proposed on the roundabout to simplify maintenance; an effort will be made to retain the large granite rocks moved to the roundabout by volunteers. A request has gone to RRV for strategically placed boulders or logs to stop "hoons" short cutting across the roundabout – this has to be done in a manner which is both safe and preventative. The need for a stone plinth or similar with the name Harcourt denoting the entry to the town is also under consideration.

RRV has reviewed the plan from a maintenance, environment and road safety perspective and they are in the process of engaging a landscape designer to develop a concept which can be shared with the community and the HPA for feedback. HPA will organise with the Shire for a public meeting to be held when the plan is available. There may be other opportunities for feedback via survey etc, but any extra feedback methods are yet to be determined.

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The 2021 Applefest Continues...

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 stories of the use of the sky as a living clock 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.

CANCELLED

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 ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt
PRICE: \$20 per adult (or \$35 including Granite Homes 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: 12.00 to 4.00 pm
 For more information and bookings: www.harcourtvalley.com.au/

Dani's Story

Continued from page 1.

My name is Danielle Kent. For my 40th birthday in 2020 I planned to shave my hair as a fundraiser for cancer research because of the prevalence of cancer in my family. Three of four of my grandparents died of cancer, my mother had a skin cancer removed and my father had prostate cancer. I have previously taken part in fundraising for cancer because of our family history.

Last year my plan to send donations to the Victorian Cancer Council, were foiled due to the COVID lockdown in Victoria which began the week before my birthday.

Then in November I felt an odd spot on my neck – I thought it was an ingrown hair. Dad sent me to my doctor, who said, 'I don't like the look of that, let's remove it.'

It turned out to be a malignant melanoma.

So now I'm part of the group that needs the research done for their own health, and I would be grateful

for any donations you can give to help many others like me who face the challenge of cancer.

I began my fundraising this year in mid-January and by the end of March I hope to have a substantial donation made in my name. My wonderful CWA branch at Newstead has also added this as a fundraising event to the group's schedule.

On March 9th at 4 pm, I had raised \$771.35. We will be collecting at Newstead Market on March 20 and at Newstead Community Centre on March 30 at a CWA fashion show.

Every year more than 35,000 Victorians hear the words, 'You have cancer'. Thanks in part to generous Victorians, 7 in 10 of them will survive five years after a cancer diagnosis, but there's still so much work to be done.

Donations for Dani to: <https://fundraising.cancervic.org.au/fundraisers/daniellekent>

The final day for donations is March 31.



Dani brushes out her son's hair before the shave.



Post shave – Michael and Dani with their 'new look'.



Smiling Sun Yoga
 Breath Centred/All Abilities
 Classes at Harcourt North Hall

Contact: Julia Quirk
smilingsunyoga.julia@gmail.com

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David Jeffries: 0414 262 488



Harcourt CWA at Applefest

Since chatting with you last, it has been all go with our Annual CWA Group Conference being held last month in Newstead and our combined Central Group CWA effort at Applefest this month.

The Conference was run by the Maryborough Branch and congratulations goes to that Branch for providing a COVID-safe venue and the opportunity for us to be together again for the first time in 12 months.



Dallas Giles (Phoenix) Incoming President.



Ayrton Teed (Harcourt) Group International Officer for 2021.

Applefest has always been a major event in the Harcourt CWA Calendar each year but our Branch decided not to run a stall at this year's festival. The CWA flag was, however, kept proudly flying at Applefest 2021 with several members running displays, the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) showing the good work being done by that organisation and Phoenix Chewton Branch running a very successful Tea Room.

Under the general umbrella of the Central Group, several members mounted displays showing the work done by the CWA in Central Victoria and the many benefits of membership.

The ACWW is the international arm of the Country Women's Association and is involved in projects around the world, working together to empower women and improve their rights. Newstead Branch

members Darryl O'Bryan and Helen Johnstone's stall provided information about the ACWW and showed how the organisation is changing lives and improving rights of rural women across the globe.



ACWW stall.

Congratulations to Phoenix Chewton CWA for their COVID-safe Tea Room, which provided tea or coffee and sandwiches or scones with jam and cream to the continuous line of hungry visitors. How I enjoyed your curried egg sandwiches.



Phoenix Chewton Tea Room.

Every year CWA Victoria suggests countries for study and we vote for the country that all Branches will study in that year. This year it is our own Indigenous Australia and, with this in mind, Vic Say, the guest speaker at our Central Group Conference and well-known Castlemaine Aboriginal Historian, was invited to set up his Listening Tree at Applefest



Aboriginal Historian Vic Say.

2021. Vic was kept busy all afternoon with a continuous stream of visitors all interested in his stories of Central Victorian indigenous heritage.

Our own CWA Central Group International Officer Ayrton Teed's stall was something very different. A stall filled with free apples, grapes, rhubarb, bulbs and magazines, and with all of the donations going to the Aboriginal bush tucker group, The Murnong Mamas. By the end of the day Ayrton's stall was empty and her donation jar full.



Ayrton Teed and Melva Graham show off Ayrton's Cooking Awards

For the past several months, Dani Kent from the Newstead CWA has been raising funds for cancer research by promising to shave her hair if \$500 was raised by March 6, with the money to be donated to the Victorian Cancer Council. Dani recently discovered that she had a melanoma which required immediate removal and so the campaign became a much more personal matter for her. Four weeks ago Dani underwent successful surgery and she promoted the importance of using sun screen and finding a cure for all forms of cancer by



Melva Graham and her painting.

Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Continued from previous page

having her long hair shaved off in front of the main stage at Applefest. And Dani's son Mickey supported his mum all the way. In addition to the funds raised, Dani and Mickey's hair was also donated to make wigs for children undergoing cancer treatment. (See photos on pages 1 and 3.)

Members' success at Art Show

Of course, we all know how talented our ladies are, and pictured here are three of our artists with their entries in the Applefest Art Show.



Joy Robertson and her entry.



Judi Kent with her Harcourt Viaduct painting.

I am looking forward to talking with you again next month. Don't forget that the Harcourt Branch meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham Road, Harcourt and we always welcome new members.

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA

Thank you to Mike Rule who provided photos for this and other articles in this month's Core.



Update on Plan Harcourt

Plan Harcourt is a strategic plan that aims to guide the future growth of Harcourt. The plan was adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 21 July 2020.

In November 2020, Council provided an update to the community on the progress of implementing Plan Harcourt. This involves a planning scheme amendment that must be approved by the Minister for Planning.

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

In November 2020 Council submitted the draft documentation to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to seek approval from the Minister to start the process.

Detailed feedback has since been received from DELWP, which Council officers are considering and addressing in finalising the documentation for authorisation.

This includes a request for further information to support proposed changes, advice regarding the new Planning Practice Note 91 (Reforms to the Residential Zones) and identification of formatting improvements to comply with State requirements.

Council officers are aiming to submit the final documentation to seek authorisation for the amendment by mid-April 2021, however authorisation may be delayed as a result of the current State Government planning system reform program called the Smart Planning Program.

Next steps

The Minister for Planning and DELWP will consider the amendment documentation before authorising the amendment. The department may request further information from Council before a decision can be made.

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

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

For more information about the planning scheme amendment process visit: www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme

For more information about Smart Planning visit www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/smart-planning-program.

From a Shire Press Release

Reminder: Victorians asked to explain why they didn't vote



The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is urging Victorians who were sent an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice to respond by the 28-day deadline with a detailed explanation.

The notice – which is not a fine – asks apparent non-voters for a reason for why they appear not to have voted in the 2020 local council elections.

A detailed response with supporting documentation, where possible, will help to determine if the excuse is considered sufficient, while ignoring the notice, or not providing a sufficient reason for not voting, may result in an infringement notice and a penalty of \$83.

Electoral Commissioner, Warwick Gately, said that recipients should

contact the VEC for assistance if unsure what to do, rather than ignore the notice.

'If you need help understanding what the notice means and what you need to do, you can call us on 1300 551 575 or visit our website at vec.vic.gov.au. We are seeking from you a reason why you appear not to have voted,' Mr Gately said.

'I also encourage you to sign up to our VoterAlert service, to make sure you're notified whenever there's a State or local council election happening.'

People can sign up at vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert to receive important reminders about upcoming State and local council elections.



Harcourt CFA

The Importance of Zeros

Where has summer gone? It is very obvious that we have not had a normal summer and this fortunately has been reflected in the brigade experiencing a very quiet season. Currently we have had NO turnouts for the month of February which is fantastic. While we can associate some of this to the cooler weather, it also relies on residents and visitors to our area doing the right thing. So take a bow and keep up the good work. Fire restrictions are still in force so we need to keep up our guard and always take the necessary precautions. Zero numbers (doughnut days) are something that we look for with the COVID virus and so it is with the brigade that we too enjoy zero figures.

Speaking of zero, do you know **what happens when you dial 000?**

The emergency number 000 (also known as Triple Zero or Triple 0) is the primary national emergency telephone number in Australia. The emergency call service is operated by Telstra and overseen by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and is intended only for use in life threatening or time critical emergencies.

In Victoria when you dial 000 you are connected to a Telstra operator who will ask you which emergency service you require by saying: 'Emergency - Police, Fire or Ambulance' along with asking you for your location (which state) if not calling from a phone with a fixed location (ie landline). I believe that in other states of Australia the message, 'You have dialled emergency Triple Zero, your call is being connected' precedes the Telstra operator answering. You will then be connected to whichever service you requested.

Note that 112 is the emergency number allocated for GSM mobile and satellite phones which will still be answered by a Telstra 000 operator and this service operates even if the phone is locked, has no SIM card or does not have a signal from your designated carrier but has service from any other provider.

Your call will be answered by a dedicated call taker based in an ESTA (Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority) facility. The one that looks after our area is based at Mt Helen (Ballarat). They will then ask you: 'Where is your emergency?', 'What is your emergency?' Once it is established that this is a fire emergency, an ESTA dispatcher, working at a different desk, using a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system, will forward this information to the relevant fire brigade for your location which is found from predetermined response tables. These response tables are provided and updated as required by the brigade whose assignment area the fire or incident is in. The Service Delivery Standards of ESTA requires this to be done within 45 seconds. It is therefore important that you remain on the line as the call taker will seek additional information to determine what other resources or services are required as well as additional information to give a clearer picture for the responding emergency services. This additional information will be forwarded to the CFA via our pager network or via radio if we have already turned out. The call taker will tell you when you can hang up.

ESTA is also responsible for Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) call taking and dispatch. The number used for SES is 132 500 as these calls are not considered to be life threatening



and therefore do not utilise the 000 service. Note that Victorian Police is the controlling agency for Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) and the SES are used as a support agency. They will be requested by ESTA along with all other services as determined by ESTA from the calls received.

This may seem like a lot of work for an emergency call that you make but to put it in perspective, in 2019-20 ESTA answered more than 2.7 million calls for assistance which represents a call every 11 seconds or an average of 7,600 a day and dispatched more than 2.2 million events at an average of more than 6100 per day. This is why the system has to work and be able to meet the high demand spikes that occur due to significant

whether events or major disasters.

I hope that you find this information of value. The most important thing to remember is make the call if you need to, remain as calm as possible and provide the best information that you can under whatever circumstances you find yourself in and DO NOT hang up until told to do so.

Take care and stay safe

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Footnote: The information provided is what we have been informed happens and is correct to the best of the information provided. It has been some time since I have had to dial 000 and there may have been some minor changes.



CASTLEMAINE GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

TERM 1 TIMETABLE

Castlemaine Scout Hall
16 Reckleben Street

Mandy 0409 866 279

TUESDAY
9:15AM POWERBAR
WEDNESDAY
6:15AM POWERBAR
9:15AM BODY BALANCE
THURSDAY
9:15AM POWERBAR
SATURDAY
8:40AM TABATA
9:15AM POWERBAR

Power Bar - Barbell weights class to music (60mins)
Body Balance - Elements of Tai Chi, Yoga and Pilates (60mins)
Tabata - Cardio interval training (30mins)



Survey to Learn from Local Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Local residents' experiences during COVID-19 are being harnessed to understand the impact of the many and varied support systems that arose out of the pandemic and use this to inform future responses.

To learn from the community's experiences during this time and to understand more about how support systems are perceived by the broader community, local organisations have contributed to the development of a 'Community experiences during COVID-19' survey ('the survey').

Local community groups and organisations worked hard to connect and protect the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these initiatives include developing a food pantry system, targeted distribution of mental health resource packs and increasing digital connection of older residents. Additionally, there are many informal or very local support systems that have popped up in communities, focused primarily on increasing community connection and supporting food security and other material aid.

The survey is looking to engage whole of community and will be available online and via hardcopy upon request. We want to ensure that isolated community members and those that are not digitally connected are able to engage so encourage organisations, community groups, friends and neighbours to support those around them to access the survey. This survey is one way to engage with community members across the lifespan and to utilise lived experiences to inform future emergency responses.

All survey participants can go into the draw to win one of two \$100 supermarket vouchers.

The survey is now open and can be accessed at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/communitycovidsurvey

For further information or for a hardcopy to be sent to you, please contact Rhani Dean-Talbot on 5472 5333 or projects@centralvicpcp.com.au.

Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership is an established network of local health and human service organisations working together to find smarter ways of making the service system work better, so that the health and wellbeing of our communities is improved. They cover the Shires of Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Macedon Ranges and their partners include each of the hospitals, community health services, Councils and a range of additional health/wellbeing organisations.

And thanks go to ...

On behalf of the Harcourt Heritage Centre, which forms the Applefest Committee, George Milford wishes to thank the following for their contribution to the 2021 Applefest:

Harcourt Progress Association
Harcourt Valley Primary School (art display)
Harcourt Lions Club (erection of the Apple Growers tent)
Harcourt CWA
Harcourt District leisure Centre (equipment loan)
Harcourt Fruitgrowers (display)
Katie and Hugh Finlay
Chewton Phoenix CWA
Central Vic Group of CWA
Vic Say (Indigenous display)
Denis Kent (Bins)
Danni and Michael Kent (Shave for Cancer)
Megan Kelsey (Market set up)
Mount Alexander Shire (Parks staff) (Events staff)
Thompsons Foundry Band (with new conductor)
Paul Mizzi (arranging musical program)
Kashmiri Dancers
Castlemaine Rotary Club (Loan of stage and donation)
Deborah Lea of Dove Cafe (Pies)
Henry of Harcourt (storing equipment)
Elliott Midland News
The Harcourt Core (Robyn Miller and Bernie Schultz)
Harcourt Organic Farming Coop (for staging an event)
Killiecrankie Wines (Ditto)
Harcourt Valley Vineyard (Ditto)
Black jack Wines (Sponsorship)
Mt Alexander Vintage Engine Club (Display)
King Jonathon and Lady William (Dean and Alison Curtis)
Granny Smith (Kay Francis)
Quirky Tales (Narelle Stone, storyteller) and Kaori and daughter (face painters)
The talented artists of central Victoria
Sandra Knox, Diane Dooley and Dick Turner, (for their work on the Art Show)
St John's Ambulance Service
ASQ Skydancers
Stallholders willing to have a go
Granite Home owners (willing to take part)
Volunteer set up/pack up platoon led by David Foley

The committee especially acknowledges Joan Lienhop's work as secretary.

So many people!
Great Day!
COVID Safe!



Bobcat - Tipper - Mini Excavator
Sand, Soil, Gravel, Post Holes
House & Shed Sites, Rubbish Removed
Driveways, Ditch Witch



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Harcourt Uniting Church

Noah and the Ark

If Noah had lived in Australia, the Lord would have said to Noah:

'In one year I'm going to make it rain and flood the whole earth. I want you to build an Ark and take two of every living thing on earth into your Ark.' God then supplied the detailed specifications for the Ark

Exactly one year later fierce storms brought heavy rain and God shouted to Noah: 'Where is the Ark?'

Noah replied: 'I have done my best but there were big problems. First I had to get a permit for construction and your plans didn't comply. I had to hire an engineering firm to redraw the plans. Then OH&S said I needed to use certified scaffolding, install a sprinkler system and provide flotation devices. The neighbours complained about me building the Ark in my front yard so I had to apply for a rezoning application.

I had problems getting enough wood because there was a ban on cutting down trees. The carpenters went on strike so I had to negotiate a new award.

When I started rounding up the animals the RSPCA objected to me only taking two of each kind and the E.P.A. notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark until I sent them a map of the proposed flood – so I sent them a complete set of Melways, UBD's and a link to the B.O.M.

The Taxation Department has seized my assets claiming that I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country avoiding paying taxes. I also have to register my ABN for the GST and was told I needed to do my quarterly B.A.S.

Then I received a notice to say I need to register the Ark as a recreational water craft, have proof of a 'Compliance Certificate' and gain my boat licence.

I have had continual visits from many government Departments all wanting to know what's going on. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the universe.

Finally, the Council of Civil Liberties issued an injunction against further instruction of the Ark, saying that since God is flooding the earth, it's a religious event therefore unconstitutional.

I really don't think I can finish the Ark for at least 5 or 6 years and I certainly won't have my Certificate of Occupancy before the flood comes.'

With that the sky began to clear, the sun began to shine and the seas calmed. A rainbow appeared and Noah looked up and said: 'You mean you're not going to destroy the earth Lord?' 'No' said the Lord, 'I don't have to. It appears that your Australian bureaucracies have beaten me to it... but perhaps I could send a drought instead.'

*Author of the original version unknown
Jan Jenkin*

Have your say on parking and traffic at Expedition Pass Reservoir

Mount Alexander Shire Council is encouraging the community to have their say on parking and traffic management at the popular swimming and recreation spot, Expedition Pass Reservoir.

The reservoir is situated in the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, and is managed by Parks Victoria.



Affectionately known by locals as 'the Res', the site attracts a high number of visitors to the region each year, but particularly during the warmer months.

Community feedback will be used to inform an analysis of parking and traffic at the site, with the aim to better understand the reservoir's parking and traffic requirements, and increase safety.

Currently there is one access point to the reservoir from the road. Due to a lack of formalised parking at the site, there are safety concerns regarding pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle access.

"We know there are concerns with parking and road safety in this area, so we're encouraging people to provide their input," said Tanya Goddard, Executive Manager Infrastructure, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"We're asking for feedback on how you access the reservoir, and some of the challenges and opportunities you see for parking and traffic at the site.

"The hope is that through this consultation we'll be able to improve our understanding of the parking and road safety issues, so that together with Parks Victoria we can plan an informed response," said Ms Goddard.

In December 2020, Council introduced a seasonal speed limit along a one kilometre stretch of Golden Point Road near Expedition Pass Reservoir, which will be in place from December until April each year.

Council worked with the Department of Transport to introduce the speed limit, which has been reduced from 80km/hr to 40km/hr to improve safety for pedestrians and motorists over the warmer months.

"Lowering the speed limit along a section of Golden Point Road is one measure that we've taken to help increase safety, and we're really looking forward to hearing from residents about other steps we can take to increase safety in the area," said Ms Goddard.

The community is invited to provide feedback on parking and traffic at Expedition Pass Reservoir by completing an online survey by 5.00pm on Friday 26 March 2021.

Complete the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheRes.

For more information contact Kerrie Eldridge, Project Engineer, Mount Alexander Shire Council on 5471 1756 or via email on k.eldridge@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

This project is funded by the 2020 TAC Local Government Grant Program.

From a Shire Press Release

Shaping the Future of Community Health – What We Heard

Feedback from staff and community members has encouraged the Boards of CHIRP Community Health and Castlemaine Health to continue development of a plan for the integration of community services.

The priority of the Boards is to ensure the continued provision of accessible and responsive community health services for local communities. To support this, the Boards have invited wide community input.

Last year, Castlemaine Health and CHIRP Community Health sought feedback from staff and community members across Mount Alexander Shire on the future of local community health and services and the possible integration of their programs and services.

Some of the key points of the initial feedback include:

- The importance of retaining all local community health services and programs;
- The need to ensure that services and programs are easily accessible for all (in terms of physical access, clear information being available, and a warm and welcoming environment); and
- Staff and community would like to have more opportunities to stay involved in designing future community health services and programs.

The full engagement report can be found on the CHIRP and Castlemaine Health websites.

Using feedback provided by staff and community members,



In a cooperative venture in September 2020 Castlemaine Health and CHIRP opened the drive through COVID Testing Clinic at CHIRP.

a detailed plan for integration is now being developed. It will consider the governance, financial, service, human resource and legal aspects.

CHIRP and Castlemaine Health would like to thank everyone who has shared their views so far and look forward to continuing to work with staff and the community to develop the best possible integrated services for the community.

For more information visit www.castlemainehealth.org.au or www.chirp.org.au.

The Clinic continues to operate every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.30am to 11.30am. If you have symptoms or require a test please call 5479 1000 to make an appointment. Alternatively, the DHHS website lists other testing clinics: dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19

Barkers Creek to challenge Harcourt for Women's Cricket 2021 Final

The Castlemaine District Cricket Association Social Women's Grand Final will be played Friday next week (12th March) at Harcourt Recreation Reserve.

Harcourt have finished on top of the ladder this season and will play Barkers Creek in the Grand Final. Everyone is welcome to come along to watch from 6pm. Harcourt Cricket Club will be running a BBQ and the bar will be open.

New teams joining the comp

This will see the close of the second season of women's cricket in the area, and this season we welcomed Maiden Gully and Guildford Cricket Clubs into the women's competition. The feedback from players has been really positive and everyone is looking forward to doing it all again next season with the addition of another team as Newstead joins the competition for the 2021/22 season.

If you are interested in getting involved in the social women's cricket competition (no experience or skills required), contact your local cricket club via their Facebook page or speak to the CDCA women's representative Jo Martin on 0407 844 093.



Harcourt's Tammy Simmins and Barkers Creek's Jo Martin with the Castlemaine District Cricket Association Women's Premiership cup



Harcourt Bowling Club

Pennant

Unfortunately Midweek Pennant teams were not able to play out their last round due to the COVID lockdown. Both Divisions 3 and 5 equipped themselves well this year finishing in 6th and 7th ladder positions respectively.

The last of the home and away rounds for Weekend Pennant had not been played when we went to press although sitting at 3rd ladder position it looks like Division 2 will be in the finals mix – this is the team that won last season Division 3 premiership – so they are tracking really well. Divisions 5 and 8 have competed well this year but will not feature in finals.

Other Tournaments

A Harcourt team of Fran Corstorphan, Sheila Oxley, Kathy Harding and Mary-Anne Doyle were Runners Up at the Calivil Ladies' Tournament on February 3rd just missing the big one by 1 point.



BBQ & Barefoot Bowls

Because of the COVID lockdown we had to cancel the planned BBQ & barefoot bowls evening on Tuesday 16th February however we are planning another on **Tuesday 16th March**. Commencement time is 6pm 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.

Sponsors Challenge

On Tuesday 2nd February evening the first of the Sponsors nights was held with 12 teams playing 2 games finishing with a barbeque. All enjoyed the hospitality and

food provided. Thanks to the volunteers who prepared food and arranged the night. Harcourt Bowling Club greatly values the support of our sponsors and it is good to have them enjoying some social time at the club.

Most successful team on the night was Brian Nunn and his crew.

The second round of the Sponsors' challenge will be held next Tuesday evening 2nd March we look forward to another fun evening with our sponsors and their staff.

Men's Fours Tournament

A very successful Men's Fours tournament was held on Sunday 7th February with 2 fills each of 12 teams competing over 3 games of 2x8 ends then 1x10 ends. The ladies excelled in delivering beautiful food under COVID conditions. Harcourt Bowling Club is grateful to both Kosmac and Clemens and Maxi IGA who have continued their sponsorship [at short notice] for this tournament.

The results are:

1st fill Winners on a count back was the Daylesford team of K Gibson, S Topavski, N Bothius, K Marshall. Runners Up was the Marong team of Allen Corry, Risto, Gary Place, Jim Balkin



2nd fill Winners of all 3 games was the South Bendigo Clohesy family team of Rob, Liam, Dylan and Ron.



Runners Up was the Talbot mixed team of Darrell Normington, Allan Nicholls, Billy Briggs and Matt Vernon.

The Ladies' Fours Tournament

Luckily we were out of lockdown in time to hold the Ladies Fours Tournament on Thursday 18th with a few modifications to comply with COVID restrictions.

Thanks to the continued sponsorship by Mount Alexander Funerals we had a popular and successful Ladies' Tournament – Brian Leidle attended to present the prizes.

Winners of the day, winning all 3 games, was the Eaglehawk team of Kay Tranter, Pam Hughes, Marg Crapper and Pam Fry.

A very surprised Campbells Creek team of Belinda Vanderhorst, Helen Wilson, Jill Harding, and Meryl Holland were Runners Up.



Ditch to Ditch winners were: Leads - Joan Bath Woodbury; Seconds – Judy Whatley Castlemaine; Thirds - Glenda Jones White Hills; Skips – Sharon Bryan South Bendigo.

Thanks to Ruth and Phil Hay who donated the beautiful Proteas for the day. One lucky person from each table took home table decorations of Proteas.

COMING UP ...

Friday Social Nights

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

Barbeque/ Barefoot Bowls

Tuesday 16th March – all welcome

Harcourt Bowling Club Tournaments

Kidman Fours Invitation Tournament
Sunday March 21st

Grant Pairs Tournament Sunday
March 28th

Rice Triples Tournament April 24th

Harcourt Bowling Club

continued ...

Local Sporting Clubs Enrich the Community

Over the past couple of years Harcourt Football and Netball club has offered a joint membership to Harcourt Bowling club members. This initiative, the brainchild of Daryl Gale and others, is to promote collaboration and camaraderie between the clubs to enhance the sense of community, while increasing memberships. To date it has been very successful with an increased number of bowling members being seen at the footy and enjoying the half time hospitality at the Den. Anyone wishing to join is to contact Daryl Gale.

Many of the players and their families recently had a fun social game of bowls after a training run and enjoyed a barbeque at Harcourt Bowling Club. They were joined by the newly elected Football/Netball club President Diane Baig as well as members of the bowling club. All agreed this was a successful evening which will be repeated in the future.



Pool season ends – feedback wanted

With the end of the March long weekend and the approaching cooler weather, outdoor pools in Castlemaine, Maldon, Newstead and Harcourt are now closed.

“Hopefully you were able to make the most of your local pool over summer, with inflatable fun, swimming lessons, and live music events just a few of the highlights over the last couple of months,” said Cath Olive, Manager Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

“Thank you to YMCA Victoria for managing our four outdoor pools, and to the many community members who played an important role in organising activities over summer,” said Ms Olive.

“We had good patronage throughout the season, particularly warmer days, and we appreciate everyone’s effort in complying with COVIDSafe practices,” she said.

Council operates four outdoor pools in the shire, and provides funding for the Chewton Pool, which is managed by the community.

“If you have used our pools over summer we’re keen to hear your feedback on the season, activities and facilities,” said Ms Olive.

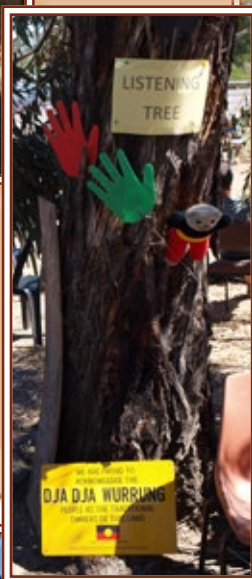
“If you didn’t manage to pick up a survey from pool kiosks, you can also complete it on Council’s website.

“We’d love to hear feedback from pool users of all ages, so please take a few minutes to let us know what you liked and any improvement ideas you would suggest for next summer.”

To complete the survey visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay. The survey will remain open throughout March.



HARCOURT APPLEFEST 2021



APPLEFEST ART SHOW 2021 AWARDS

Best in Show

Chairman's Award — \$300

Artist: Ian Alden Title: Halls Gap

Highly Commended Oil/Acrylic

ASQ voucher — \$25

Artist: Kristina Browning Title: Bee-uitful

Best Oil/Acrylic

Cameron Lang Memorial Award — \$150

Artist: Winsome Moffat Title: Harcourt Valley

Highly Commended Watercolour

ASQ voucher — \$25

Artist: Carolyn Marrone Title: Riding with Nonno

Best Watercolour

Shirley Stewart Memorial Award — \$150

Artist: Chris Moule Title: The Three Amigos

Highly Commended Other Medium

ASQ voucher — \$25

Artist: Leonie Auhl Title: Adam's Apple?

Best Other Medium

\$150

Artist: Linda Newton Title: Robins in Nest

Highly Commended Local Subject

ASQ voucher — \$25

Artist: Melva Graham Title: Strawberry Susie

Best Local Subject

\$150

Artist: Brian Harding Title: Vaughan Springs

STUDENT AWARDS

Highly Commended Junior 12 years & under

\$20

Artist: Joseph McGrath Title: The Mountain and the Fox

Best Junior 12 years & under

\$40

Artist: Marcus White Title: Patterns

Highly Commended Senior 13 to 18 years

\$30

Artist: Steph Baker Title: Self Growth

Best Senior 13 to 18 years

\$60

Artist: Not awarded, insufficient entries.

Applefest Art Show



When George Milford opened the Art Show he was greeted with cheers and clapping after he outlined the bumpy road to the establishment of the year's festival. He suggested that the Moomba festival had followed the Applefest's lead and proceeded with a changed program to suit pandemic conditions.

Over 60 people gathered for the opening which took place in the Apple Growers tent which was set up for the next day's festival. Excitement was evident as people gathered; the need for a convivial public event was finally satisfied.

George thanked members of the Heritage Committee who had contributed many hours of their time in preparation for the Applefest which will continue throughout March.

The winners were announced. Prizes were awarded by judge Dick Turner and presented by the Mayor, Tony Cordy. The crowd then proceeded to the ANA Hall to view the art, which was at its usual high standard. Inside the museum, Harcourt Valley Primary School has a display of art celebrating the school's 25th Anniversary



which took place in October last year. The museum has displayed items from the past amongst the student's art. These include the clock from the Faraday School and certificates awarded for apple packing at the time when apple growing was the major agricultural activity in Harcourt.

The Applefest Art Show will continue over the weekend of the 13th and 14th March.



Farewell to Community Bank's Executive Officer

After eight years in the role, Executive Officer Karly Smith has bid farewell to the Maldon & District Community Bank, taking on a new role as the Grants Program Manager for Victoria at the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

'I am really excited by the opportunity to join FRRR, and to continue working in community strengthening and capacity building endeavours,' said Karly.

FRRR is a national not-for-profit organisation based in Bendigo. It provides funding and capacity building support to rural, regional and remote communities around Australia, creating grants and also connecting funding from government, business and philanthropy to address local needs and projects.

Although sad about leaving the Community Bank, Karly noted that her departure creates the opportunity for someone to step into the Executive Officer (EO) role; bringing new ideas and ways of doing things, to grow the organisation even further.

'Thank you to all of the marvellous staff at our branches in Maldon, Newstead and Dunolly, the company directors, and the wider community. It's been a wonderful job, and I have loved playing a part in contributing to the communities in this region,' Karly said.



Karly Smith departing as EO at the end of February.



Adam, Narelle, Lara and Wendy farewelling Karly

According to Board Chair Ross Eggleton, 'Karly has been a catalyst to why our small company achieves great impact in our local community. She has been an integral part of our company, strengthening our operations and generating impactful work in the community. The EO role is vital to the efficient functioning of our board and community activities, particularly granting and partnerships.'

'Karly leaves a strong legacy as a friendly, professional and efficient member of our team, with an ongoing improvement approach. Although we will miss her great skills, the board and staff are delighted that she will be tackling fresh challenges in her new role in a national organisation - FRRR,' said Ross.

Karly formally stepped down as Executive Officer at the end of February, but will remain as a Board director until the company's AGM in October 2021.

(photos courtesy of Tarrangower Times)

Supporting your community

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Maldon & District**

 **Bendigo Bank**

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MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

School's Back

School is now back in full swing for year after the 3 days of remote learning, (due to the COVID lockdown) that occurred the third week of this term. Let's hope that is the only one for this year! The eighteen Prep students enrolled this year had only just eight days to get used to a school routine when the latest lockdown caused all schools in NSW to return to remote learning. To help them adjust to school, for the first 4 weeks of the term, they have had a day off on Wednesdays. We hope the lockdown was not too disruptive for them and their families. On some Wednesdays in February individual Prep students will have attended school for an hour or so to do a literacy and numeracy test so that their teacher can best assess their level of skill in these areas and adjust their learning goals accordingly.

Meanwhile the rest of the school is gearing up for the year ahead. A school swimming programme has recommenced and Grade 1 & 2 students will be going to Axedale for a school camp later this month. Grade 2 to 6 students who wish to nominate for a position of the Junior School Council have written short letters to support their nomination. Grade 6 students who wish to become school, house captains or a student representative council member have given, according to Andrew, impressive speeches to persuade teachers and fellow students of their suitability for the positions for which they have nominated. Successful candidates were announced in the school newsletter on Friday. They will work with Andrew to provide input on school projects, flexible learning and curriculum.

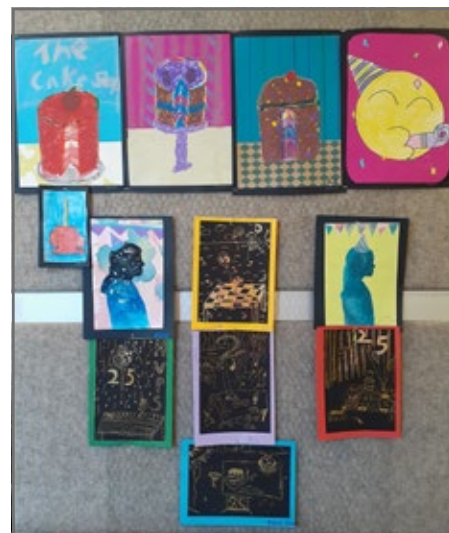
For COVID safe reasons this year teachers are encouraging parents where ever possible to participate in phone or teleconference information sharing sessions so parents can share with their child's teacher information about their

child's learning and developmental needs. Ongoing COVID protocols have also meant that staff and parents presently have to wear masks when inside the school building. The latest COVID lockdown also meant that the Family Welcome Back to school picnic which, has scheduled for the 18th of February had to be postponed. Families however can catch up at the Goldfields Track Café on Thursday mornings.

Mrs Hargraves is encouraging all students to complete a piece of art work on the theme of 'Celebrating 25 years of Harcourt Valley Primary School' (the school was officially opened 25 years ago last October). Their art work will be on display at the ANA hall from the 6th of October and will be part of the Apple Fest Art Show. School children will also be performing songs at the opening of the Applefest at noon at the ANA hall on the 6th March. Be sure to come along and hear them and see the children's art work.

Andrew informed me that the lunch time School Gardening Club has been very active this year. They have weeded the vegie boxes and placed the soft fall, which was delivered at the beginning of the year, around play ground equipment. Well done school students.

The School Council is having its AGM on the 24th March. Its president, Veronica



Student art is on display at the ANA Hall.

Budnikas, and another hard-working member Natalie Broad are stepping down consequently there are two parent vacancies on the council. On behalf of the Harcourt Community, *The Core* would like to thank Veronica and Natalie for their contributions to the HVPS and therefore the local community.

In previous years a group of dedicated parent volunteers has baked hundreds of delicious apple tarts for the Applefest to raise money for the school. Sadly, but understandably, the school council has decided not to do so this year. Never fear, the Council has promised that an Apple Pie fundraiser will be held sometime later this year. So, watch this space!

Lois Denham



Those were the days. School children competed to pack and display apples in wooden apple boxes. This certificate is on display at the ANA Hall.

Lmct:10769

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WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Reconciliation

The Freedom Rides

By the early 1930s, Aboriginal people in NSW and Victoria were starting to use mainstream media – film, newspapers, deputations and petitions - to express their objections to harsh policies and brutal treatment. Political organisations – Aborigines Progressive Association, Australian Aborigines League - were formed, led by charismatic men and women, such as William Cooper, Marge Tucker, Jack Patten, Pearl Gibbs and many others.

The Cummeragunja Walk Off in 1939 was the culmination of years of discriminatory treatment by both Victorian and NSW authorities. Other strikes were organised in the mid- to late-1940s, one in the Pilbara area of West Australia where most of the Aboriginal stockworkers were receiving no cash wages. The strikers were supported by people in other parts of the country including Bill Onus.

A strike in Darwin in 1950, organised by Aboriginal workers, led to the two leaders being arrested and gaoled, as Native Affairs Department officials claimed it was 'Communist' inspired.

In February 1958, representatives of several groups met in Adelaide and formed the first national Aboriginal organisation, the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement (FCAA). Three of those at the meeting were Aboriginal people: Bert Groves, Doug Nicholls and Jeff Barnes. The broad aim was to work for 'equal citizenship rights'.

This was by no means the first time Whites had spoken up on behalf of First Nations. The new national organisation gathered strength and influence with the non-Indigenous population, and lasted about twenty years, by which time other bodies, both government and Aboriginal and Islander grass-roots organisations, had come into existence.

In February 1965, Sydney University student Charles Perkins teamed with Rev Fred Noffs of the Wayside Chapel to set up a 'Freedom Ride' similar to the awareness-raising freedom rides happening in America. It combined fact-finding with protest against racial segregation. About thirty White members of Student Action for Aborigines (SAFA), including Pat Healy who was later to become a Chewton resident, and Aboriginal men Charles Perkins and Gerry Mason, went on a two-week bus ride around some of NSW's most flagrantly racist towns. Amongst them was a cadet reporter whose headlines in the Sydney Morning Herald aroused international attention.

In some towns, when the university students questioned locals on their attitudes to Aboriginal people, answers confirmed that discrimination was pretty extreme in rural areas. In Walgett the locals were extremely hostile to the Freedom Riders protesting outside the RSL against segregation and terrible living conditions. One protest banner read 'Educate the Whites'. When the protesters were leaving that night, a convoy of cars followed them out of town and a truck forced the bus to go off the road.

Aboriginal children, banned from Moree's artesian-fed swimming pool, began their own protest and were joined by the Sydney students. Charles Perkins tried to get tickets for ten youngsters, and was refused by the pool manager. A hate-filled crowd rapidly gathered. In spite of the barrage of rotten tomatoes, eggs and worse, and in spite of a police request to move on, the group held their ground until the mayor agreed to remove the ban. The children had their swim, for the first time in the history of Moree. The action became the top item on the radio news.

Bowraville was visited near the end of the trip, and struck the group as having the worst segregation they had encountered, as well as run-down, overcrowded housing and extreme lack of

employment opportunities. There was almost complete separation in pubs, cafes and in the picture theatre.

By highlighting endemic racism in Australia, the February 1965 Freedom Ride and subsequent Rides contributed to the passage of the 1967 Referendum. It also encouraged First Nations activists to challenge the status quo of segregation and discrimination.

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



Weather and Water

While the Coliban Reservoirs have dropped 10% of volume since December, the sudden decrease in rain from January to February, may be an early indicator that La Nina is on the way out.

Rainfall received for January was 80 mm, the same as in 2016, but other recent years have been much lower. Of course the outstanding exception was 2011 with 231 mm. In February we received 14 mm. Past years show zero or low totals which are to be expected in the last month of summer. So is La Nina gone or is this a blip in the pattern we have been experiencing?

The other main topic around the weather this summer has been the lower than average temperatures. On the TV last week, the 2020-21 summer was dubbed 'the coolest for 16 years.'

The vegie garden has suffered a bit. The early corn ripened, but the second batch was very slow. An attempt at growing water melons was a failure – it simply wasn't warm enough for them. A good batch of early beans was followed by a poor one. The zucchini's have been quite productive as have the tomatoes.

Most of the fruit trees have had reasonable crops, but the figs are slow which is great if you want a constant supply for eating. But I am looking for a good 3 kgs in one pick to make jam.

The oddities of the season included mushrooms in mid-February. The apple harvest in local orchards has been brought forward by the early autumn and varieties are becoming ripe very close together which puts pressure on the growers to get the fruit off quickly. I have noticed golden ash trees along the railway line in Castlemaine which have turned gold already which is a sign of the cold nights we have been experiencing.



Signs of an early autumn: Medlars and hawthorn berries bloom together in late February.

Harcourt Football Netball Club

Junior football

Competitive Junior Football at HFNC made a comeback in 2017, after many years of building interest through a successful Auskick program.

We scraped together an under 11.5 team of 11 players for the best part of 2017. This number grew substantially over the next two seasons, with 2019 seeing us field both an under 11.5 and under 14.5 team with over 30 players collectively.

Our next goal we are working toward is that of an under 17.5 team.

Season 2021 is already off to an exciting start with good numbers turning out for our first training session on Monday Feb 22nd.

HFNC would like to extend a warm welcome to players aged 5 years - 17.5 years interested in joining one of our Auskick under 11.5, under 14.5 or under 17.5 teams to come down and meet the coaching staff and players.



Pre season training Monday nights

u11.5 & u14.5 @ 5 - 6pm

u17.5 @ 6 - 7pm



Being part of Harcourt Football Netball Club for 6 years with the past 5 as the AFL Auskick coordinator, I am now ready to assist our junior football stars in their next steps.

My passion is for helping kids of all ages and abilities. The Club enables children to

thrive through sport in a fun and safe environment.

We focus on team and confidence building and I look forward to helping our juniors grow.

Mark Dorian

Junior Football Coach

0409 011 104

When word was going around back in 2016 that junior football could be making a comeback at HFNC for 2017, my interest was sparked. My son was participating in Auskick at the time, and to play juniors would be the natural progression.

2018 I took on the responsibility of Junior Football Coordinator. This is a role which I feel is as much about making football accessible and enjoyable for the children, as it is maintaining a relationship with their families.

It is important to me that they feel a sense of satisfaction and inclusivity from being a part of The HFNC.

Junior sport is heavily reliant on volunteers. I'm not one to shy away from putting my hand up, after all without it we can't get the joy and satisfaction from watching our children grow, achieve and have fun.

I am very passionate about football (sport in general really) and love the opportunity to help out. Watching the kids grow and mature as part of a team is really something special.

Amy Simmons

Junior Football Coordinator

0407 314 378



IGNITE A PASSION FOR THE GAME!

Harcourt FNC

Harcourt Recreation Reserve

Starts Thursday 22 April 4pm

Mark Dorian

0409011104

play.afl/auskick

Share your NDIS experience

Council is carrying out a feasibility study into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) within our shire. We want to understand and receive feedback from people living with a disability, and their carers, about how they have found the NDIS, the availability of services and information. The study will inform Council's decision regarding the potential to provide NDIS services in future. Complete a survey about your experience with the NDIS via www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay by Wednesday 17 March. Printed surveys are available from the Castlemaine Library and Civic Centre. You can also call our Community Wellbeing team to have a survey posted to you. To speak directly to the person leading this project, arrange a time to chat by phoning the Community Wellbeing Team on 5471 1766.

Apply for an events grant

Our Event Grants are open until Monday 8 March. Apply at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants or call 5471 1700 to speak to a member of our Venues and Events Team.

Bin collection over Easter

Kerbside bin collection is operating as usual with some changes over Easter. There will be no kerbside waste or recycling collection on Good Friday - Friday 2 April. Bins will be collected the following day - Saturday 3 April, and as usual on Easter Monday - Monday 5 April. Bin collection on the Labour Day public holiday on Monday 8 March will be as usual.

Pools close soon

Council's outdoor pools at Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead will close for the season at 6.00pm on Monday 8 March. Thank you to YMCA Victoria for managing the pools over summer and to community members for your hard work throughout the season. If you would like to provide feedback on the pool season, activities and facilities please complete a survey by the end of March. Surveys are available at pool kiosks and on our website at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay.

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

t (03) 5471 1700
e info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au



New bridge open in Harcourt

The new bridge on Eagles Road is now open, providing safer access for pedestrians and motorists as they travel within Harcourt. The 20 tonne load limit has also been removed from the bridge.

The new bridge includes a pedestrian footpath on the eastern side, extended guard rails and crash terminals. Rock beaching was added to prevent erosion and the waterway was widened slightly to increase water flow under the bridge and reduce the risk of flooding.

"We are seeing more and more growth in Harcourt, so this bridge will ensure safe access between the centre of Harcourt and the northern parts of the town," said Jess Howard, Director Infrastructure and Development, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"The new bridge will more than adequately cater for an increase in traffic as the town's population grows," said Ms Howard.

"Thank you to residents and motorists for your patience throughout this project. We are pleased to see this bridge now open and being used by the community".

From a Shire Press Release



Before



After

Fruit Fly – Maintain the Vigilance

Hi everyone

What a refreshingly mild summer we've had so far. Fruit has mostly been abundant, with the exception of some of the more fungal-prone types like apricots. The cooler evenings we've been having are pretty much exactly what's needed to help the pink apples colour up nicely before harvest.

Maintain vigilance for fruit fly

You're probably sick of us and others banging on about Fruit Fly, but the danger period is a long way from being over. So, if you have a fruit tree in your garden which still has fruit on it, there's some important things we'd like to ask you to do:

1. Put your traps out if you haven't already - "Biotrap" is one that's recommended for monitoring (you can buy them from Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware in Campbells Creek, or online at biotrap.com.au)
2. Monitor your traps at least every week
3. Let Terry Willis from the Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group know if you find flies in your trap, or infected fruit.
4. Continue to practise excellent hygiene by picking all your fruit, including picking up all the fruit from the ground

On our farm, fruit grower Ant has done a fantastic job of responding and adapting to the new situation we find ourselves in. He's pretty well managed to control the outbreak and is confident no infected fruit has left the farm, however if you're one of his customers it will continue to be very helpful for him if you could let him know if anything slips through.

Summer Pruning

Now's the time to start thinking about summer pruning of apricots and cherries. These trees are particularly prone to fungal

disease, and it can minimise the risk of disease by pruning them in the warm, still weather of late summer/autumn rather than waiting until the cold, wet weather of winter (when most other fruit trees are pruned).

Before you start any pruning, make sure your secateurs are very sharp and clean, particularly if they've been used on diseased trees. It's easy to clean them in a 1:10 solution of bleach, or wipe the blades with eucalyptus oil. Some gardening experts recommend painting the pruning cuts, but we prefer just to let the cuts dry naturally. Therefore it's always best to avoid pruning if there's a threat of rain.

Here are our top three tips for successful fruit growing in March:

1. If you've drape netted your trees, remove the nets as soon as you've picked the fruit. The heavy nets can weigh down the growing tips of your trees, and make it harder to prune them into a good shape, and it's also easier to get the nets off while there are still some leaves on the tree.
2. If you want to try growing your own peach trees this year (and save yourself the expense of buying trees), save the seeds from any peaches or nectarines that you eat. We usually use clingstone peaches, but any peach or nectarine will do. At this stage all you need to do is save the seed every time you eat one and just let the flesh rot off them. Then store the seeds in damp sand, keep them moist over winter, and they'll be ready to plant out next spring to grow your own rootstocks (which you can then graft).
3. Pears are one of the few fruit that need to be picked before they're ripe, and allowed to ripen off the tree (some varieties can go floury if you ripen them on the tree). However, you still need to



The net had been removed for 24 hours when this photo was taken. The branches are not yet unfurled from the net. Taking the nets off straight after picking helps trees recover their form.

make sure they're mature before you pick them. A great way to tell is to cut one open and look at the seeds – they should be dark brown and plump.

Handover at Tellurian Fruit Gardens

And finally, we've finished our search for the new orchard lessee that will take over from Ant when his lease winds up in June, and hope to be able to introduce them to you soon.

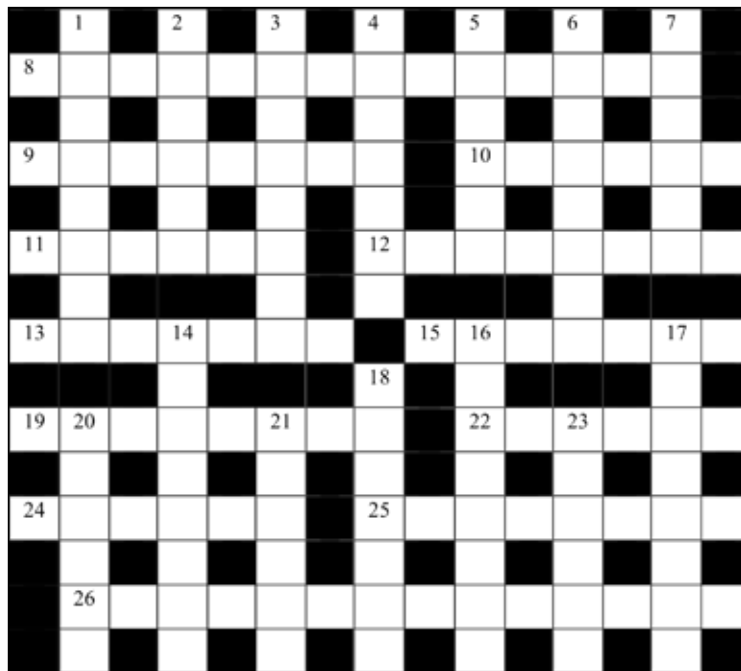
Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their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

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply megalitres	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
		megalitres	% full	megalitres	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	35,533	94.1%	32,615	86.4%
Lauriston	19,790	16,850	85.1%	14,810	74.8%
Malmsbury	12,034	3,592	29.8%	1,684	14.0%
Total to March 10	69,594	55,975	80.4%	49,109	70.6%
Total to February 5	69,594	59,308	85.2%	51,322	73.7%

Data from: www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels – 10 March 2021

March 2021 Xword ©McW Feb '18



Down:

1. Winton splashed around in these early in his career. (8)
2. Limit of expectations having achieved the ideal? (2,4)
3. Size of Rhodes Scholar's achievement? (8)
4. From whence came lupus onto sheep enclosure? (7)
5. Get river from app. (6)
6. Old lag discovered something to perplex and confuse... (8)
7. Vary pronunciation of query identifying Nelson on phone? (6)
14. Gets her label off a plant. (8)
16. Lieutenant messing in the avenue by and by... (8)
17. Teen vamp a sidewalk show. (8)
18. (See 11)
20. Threaten blokes 15/love first serve. (6)
21. Paddle-boat direction provides safety margin. (6)
23. One of JRR's nasties secreted in flower. (6)

Across:

8. Emma and her Strine cousin ask the obvious question about turning witches to toads... (4,4,2,4)
9. Glory be! Beer as well in layered tale. (8)
10. You may convince yourself of settled opinions on art, Bogans, chardonnay, etc., but, after yours, oddly limp-wristed and a bit tired... (6)
11. Davy's outer wear is... a bit like his hat, courtesy of 18. (6)
12. Transport supremo's boast has short and long feet. (8)
13. Blacktop snake holdup? (7)
15. Cope again by scattering the parade before coming to the road junction. (7, or 2-5)
19. Rum label off covering device. (8)
22. Remove the roller from Beatles album to grow more complex with time. (6)
24. Why nebula won't do—it can't. (6)
25. Give a hirsute feline a means of taming it underground. (8)
26. Local abortions tax local brains, too, so colonial brat is involved with other players in them. (14)

February 2021 Xword solution ©McW December '17



Down:

1. Find image easier this way? (9)
2. We see and hear like sailors these warlike forays... [Well? A bit poetic, perhaps?]
3. Swarthy rogue drops end off, gets beef cut [T] and foils big-time! (7)
4. Controlling storage in branches? [Well? ALP...]
5. Recce turns up n[o]thing to force someone to do something. (6)
6. They come back with what should be the past tense of what a nettle does (but isn't), and some of them do it too... [Well?]
8. Search, or see for yourself, a former mode of transport. (5)
13. The [le] French back into daily bread for kin. (9)
15. Short sighting [obs.] made healthy again but rendered opaque? (8)
17. Fond of an alternation... [Well? I like this one!]
18. Try that tempt[ing] 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? [Well?]
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 [= fun] is compromised, and the atmosphere reeks of injustice... (6)
10. Indirectly, current [=AC] 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. [Fr.]
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? [Could be an opening for a young rat...]
25. Real good footy place in Europe? [6]
26. If you're hot, fearing power of the storm, you might appreciate this! [15]

Hands off Local Landcare Planting Sites



Both Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife group have experienced thefts from revegetation sites.

These regeneration sites are often out of sight which makes them targets for unscrupulous people. The theft of plants and guards is also an act of vandalism which sets back the efforts of hardworking volunteers many of whom have worked for years in Harcourt and Barkers Creek to improve the local environment.

If you see or know anything about these thefts please report the incident/s to the Castlemaine Police Station.

Harcourt Valley Landcare Planning Sessions

Harcourt Valley Landcare has begun 2020 with a successful grant which will assist the group to get its 5 year plan into an appealing brochure which will be available on the new website which is currently under development. The group has always worked from a 5 year plan, but until this year it has remained an internal document. Now the group hopes that the plan in a new colourful format can be used as a promotional document to inform the community and also to recruit new members.

Members met in late February and will meet again in late March to confirm intentions and to make the next step which is to appoint a writer to put the group's aspirations into engaging language.

After March the group will begin working on the ideas raised in the plan which is likely to focus on work to preserve and support particular species of plants and animals. Stay tuned!

Enquiries: Secretary Robyn Miller: 0467 670 271

Barkers Creek Landcare

Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife group are urging residents of Barkers Creek and Harcourt to be on the look out for people who are acting suspiciously around environmental planting or are looking like they are carting/dumping rubbish onto rehabilitation sites and report them to Castlemaine police. This is because in the past four months the Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group have had at a couple to its rehabilitation sites damaged and rubbish dumped at one of its sites.

For the past six years the group has been working with grant assistance and support from the Mount Alexander Shire Council to rehabilitate the Harcourt old tip site – Peelers Road, Barkers Creek.

Exposed rubbish has been removed from the site. It is weeded several times a year and native trees and shrubs have been planted around the edge of the site. A 'Partnership Agreement' with the Mt Alexander City Council, now in its third year, has meant that the group has been provided with some monies to assist with the costs involved in rehabilitating the cap of the tip with local grasses. Up until recently locals and Landcare members had been pleased with the progress on the site.



This progress was marred during late October-November last year when one of the group's members, who lives near the old tip site, on several of his bushwalks, noticed that Tristar and wooden stakes, wire, and some plants had been removed from the site. Several weeks later it was observed that stakes and guards had been stolen from an Adams Rd rehabilitation site as well.

In mid-January this year, the same member observed that trailer loads of rubbish had been dumped around the old tip site. On closer inspection, which was confirmed by local police, it appeared that this rubbish was related to drug cultivation. A somewhat disheartened group of Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife members met at the tip on Sunday the 20th of February to remove the rubbish and replace the wire and Tristar stakes that had been taken from the pods where the grasses had been sewn. Replacing the plants, guards and wooden stakes will have to wait until we get the winter rains and will now need to be paid for by the groups limited funds.

Importantly, all other Landcare Groups in the area reported that they have not had similar experiences.

The Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group has been working to restore our local environment for 25 years. We are hopeful that these unfortunate events do not continue however we would like all local residents to be aware of these incidents, report any further suspicious behaviour around restoration sites, and help us to ensure our restored sites remain intact.

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Community Diary Dates

Monday 15th March: Nominations close for committee positions with the Harcourt Progress Association. See the HPA Website for nomination forms.

Tuesday 16 March : BBQ & Barefoot Bowls. 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.

Wednesday 24th March: School Council AGM.

Saturday 27th March: 10 am – 12 pm, Planning Session Harcourt Valley Landcare. Enquiries: 0467 670 271.

Wednesday 31st March: Final day to make donations to support Dani Kent in her fund raising efforts for the Victorian Cancer Council. Donate at – fundraising.cancervic.org.au/fundraisers/daniellekent

Monday 19th April: AGM Harcourt Progress Association.

Applefest Continues: See page 3 of this edition for further events in March.

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

Harcourt Football and Netball Club: Juniors Pre-Season Training Monday nights. See page 17 for details.

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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

Advertisement

Your local Intimo Specialist

Hi my name is Alysha and I am a bra fit specialist with Intimo lingerie, we are an Australian company based in Port Melbourne and I have been working my Intimo business for 2 years, as a side job to working part time at Castlemaine Hospital.

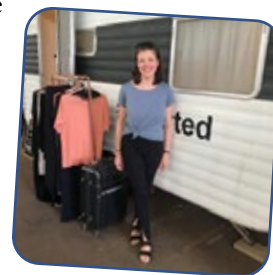
I have been wearing Intimo for 6 years and fell in love with the brand instantly from the comfort, design and fit.

I started this journey for something new, and exciting, some extra income and to meet new people. I love providing women with my complimentary service, to make women feel good and fit them in a well fitted bra, for women to love the skin they are in and it is a very rewarding job when I can help women find their feel-good fit!

I am very proud to work with a company that empowers women every day and is more than just selling bras, Intimo are partnered with the Uplift project and send unwanted/old bras to countries such as Papa New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji.

We also promote breast health and with every bra comes a self-check card, every October we fundraise and donate money towards breast cancer research.

Ethically made, sustainable clothing and lingerie, I can come to you or you can come to me for a personal fitting, I can also fit you and a few friends/family. Since Covid I have also been doing virtual fittings.



Alysha Hepburn

Your local Intimo Bra Fit Specialist

Lingerie & Loungewear
Cup size 30A-46G & sizes 6-24

By appointment only: 0435 411 641
alysha.hepburn@intimo.com.au



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