

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 89 – December 2021

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HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



## Harcourt Businesses Top the Shire Business Awards



Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative was the overall winner of the Mount Alexander Shire Business Awards and also won the Agribusiness of the Year.

Back row: Hugh Finlay (Grow Great Fruit); Tessa Sellar (Sellar's Farmhouse Creamery); Merv Carr, Katie Finlay and Liz Carr (Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery); Alex Kelly (The Orchard Keepers). Front row: Mel Willard (Gung Hoe Growers); Ingrid Phyland, (The Orchard Keepers) and Ant Wilson (previously of Tellurian Fruit Gardens at the Co-op)

HARCOURT BUSINESSES HAVE again demonstrated best practice in their fields. The Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative was named Business of the Year, winning from a field of ten businesses which topped the award categories. Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative impressed the judges

with their farming model of low food miles, sustainability, scalability and collaboration, to take out the coveted Business of the Year title and \$2000 in prize money.

Full story on page 4.

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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.**

# HPA AGM 2021–2022

## President's Report

In my experience the pandemic has distorted time as well as our lives. Nevertheless, I believe this HPA committee has made a success of its seven month term and has generated superb momentum around its initiatives, despite the challenges. (Due to the pandemic, HPA had a postponed AGM in April 2021 for 2019–2020 and the 2021–2022 AGM in November 2021.)

At the start of our term, the committee quickly identified three key areas on which to focus the HPA's efforts: Renovation of the Harcourt Roundabout, The opening of the Harcourt Railway Station and advancing the cause of the vision articulated by the Shine Harcourt process.

**The Roundabout sub-committee** has been participating in a working group whose purpose is to produce a new design for the Harcourt Roundabout. The working group is composed of representatives from Regional Roads Victoria, Mount Alexander Shire Council, the HPA and the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation. Andrea Proctor is chairing the working group and is the primary Landscape Architect responsible for the design.

Over the past few months, the working group has given consideration to the inherent technical challenges a design must overcome, road safety requirements, maintenance provision, and how the design serves the community. All the way through, HPA members have been advocating for a safe, sustainable design which heeds the lessons of the previous design, acknowledges the town's identity, functions as an attractive, welcoming gateway to the town and is respectful of the natural, environmental and cultural context. Andrea Proctor is about to produce a draft design, and a community consultation process will hopefully begin in the coming months. The HPA has been advocating for works and planting to commence in autumn 2022.

This represents substantial progress in regard to this project. Thanks to the previous committee the financial resources and commitments from the requisite government bodies were secured. This committee has done a good job of representing the community's needs, and a design process, which by

all predictions is capable of delivering a good result, is at an advanced stage. Approving the design, the tender process and final works are all that remain.

**The Harcourt Railway Station project** has been revived after being suspended in 2018. VicTrack, the owners of the building, have allocated a budget to renovate the building and make it available to the community for a 'Community Neighbourhood House' use. The works to be carried out will be those which were agreed upon in the 2018 plan. While the contract has not yet been put out to tender, VicTrack's aim is to complete the works by June 2022.

In May, the committee immediately began engaging with VicTrack and Mount Alexander Shire Council to start the work of identifying an activity and governance structure for the new facility. This has been slow at times; however there is now agreement on the process which the Council and HPA intend to embark upon and there is confidence the process will have concluded in time for an opening in the latter part of 2022. The HPA is of the view that the renovated Railway Station will be a fantastic asset for the community and will be fundamental to realising many of the aspirations outlined in the Shine Harcourt vision.

Of course, pursuing the vision articulated by the **Shine Harcourt process** is the HPA's fundamental mission. Every time we meet, every initiative we pursue, every representative we speak with, the first item on the agenda is Shine Harcourt. The exception being when we meet with planning professionals, then we talk about **Plan Harcourt**, the planning scheme amendments which are the foundation on which Harcourt will grow.

To this end, we have been in regular conversation with various departments in Mount Alexander Shire Council. We have been making representations regarding amendments to Plan Harcourt,



*Sarah Noble, David Foley, Rob Fowler, David Hale and Alison Curtis enjoyed the social opportunity provided by the Bowls Club at the Harcourt Progress Association AGM on November 16.*

we are looking at how Harcourt may be able to get an Urban Design done for the town centre, we have been creating a process to enlist the Railway Station project and we are trying to elevate the status of Shine Harcourt so that we may be able to attract more resources.

We have also begun to seek grant funding to increase the capacity available within the HPA. We were recently successful and received money from the Maldon District Community Bank. Where this will be deployed is being finalised, however our efforts related to Shine Harcourt will be the main beneficiary.

Shine Harcourt is a big project and no one organisation will deliver it. That is why our strategy over the next term will be to attract as many organisations, volunteers and resources as possible, in the hope of catalysing the realisation of Shine Harcourt's vision.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the contribution that the the members of the committee have made to the HPA and the community. Without their volunteerism, the HPA would not exist, and important work that the HPA is charged with would be left undone.



*David Foley  
HPA President*





# Gather Harcourt

James Park, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 4 - 7pm

## Saturday 11th December

Gather with us and celebrate our wonderful community while we enjoy live music, great local food, superb wine, cider, beer and maybe some shopping at our market stalls.

### On stage we'll have:

- Mandy Connell
- Peter Chaffey
- Blue Lucas

### Amongst the abundance of food vendors will be:

- Duang Tentirrat
- Icecream Social
- Geeza & Co
- Long Paddock Cheese
- Vegan Food Heaven

### On the market stalls, you might find:

- Goodness Flour
- Castlemaine Seedlings
- Mt Alexander Winery
- Sutton Grange Small Farm,
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Made in Yandoit
- Gung Hoe Growers and Orchard Keepers (Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op),
- Campo Verde Alpacas
- Quartz Valley Quail
- Hepburn Distillery
- Oakwood Meats

### Serving at the HPA Bar, we'll have:

- Harcourt Cider
- Maison Lapalus
- Henry of Harcourt
- Loveshack Brewery
- Hepburn Distillery
- Boomtown Winemakers Cooperative
- Shedshaker Brewing
- Coliban Valley Wines
- Mt Alexander Winery

See [www.harcourtprogress.org.au](http://www.harcourtprogress.org.au) for further information.



## 2022 Applefest Update

On behalf of the Applefest Committee, Diana Cork reported to The Core that the November meeting of the Committee made some significant steps in preparation for the 12 March 2022 Applefest.

She said, 'In the past the lack of shade in James Park has proven a drawback. To remedy this, the committee has hired twenty umbrellas to improve conditions for those watching the on-stage entertainment. In addition, unique apple products are being developed to tempt patrons' taste buds. Local craft beer, wine and cider will feature in the wide range of local produce on sale at the Applefest.'

'The latest COVID-Safe settings have relaxed the very careful conditions that prevented the spread of the virus at the 2021 event. Next March, all patrons over the age of 16 will have to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination status as a condition of entry. The Regional Community Events Fund has invited the committee to apply for funding assistance and we intend to take up this opportunity.'

### Applefest Registered with Centrelink for Jobseekers

Diana continued, 'The committee is, of course, seeking assistance by way of person-power. In an innovative move, the committee has registered with Centrelink as an 'Approved Organisation' for job seekers undertaking voluntary work as part of their mutual obligation requirements. If you are a jobseeker willing to perform administrative, marketing or set-up work in the first quarter of 2022 the Committee would like to hear from you.'

'If you are a new resident of Harcourt you may care to put your hand up for one of the volunteer roles by contacting committee members, who are generally to be found at Harcourt Heritage Centre any Wednesday between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm. Applefest 2022 promises to be a great day out, with up-beat entertainment, scrumptious local produce and the once-a-year opportunity to meet your fellow Harcourt residents.'

### Next Applefest Meeting.

The next Applefest Committee meeting is to be held on Monday 13th December at 7.00 pm at the Harcourt Heritage Centre.



**Harcourt Post Office**  
Now Open Saturday Mornings:  
10 am - 12 pm

Due to the overwhelming volume of parcels being received prior to Christmas, Harcourt Post Office will be open on Saturday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm (until the 18th December).

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# Harcourt Businesses Top the Shire Business Awards

*Continued from page 1.*

The cooperative's collaboration with the local Indigenous business Murnong Mamas in a trial bush foods plot and a leaning towards traditional, sustainable and profitable farming methods also impressed the judges who said it was clear that the co-op team had no wish to conquer the world, but endeavoured to make it a better place.

The Co-op also won Agribusiness of the Year, Goodness Flour carried off the Micro-Business Award and Bress Wines was a finalist in the Agribusiness of the Year.



*Merv Carr and Ant Wilson accept a cheque on the Cooperative's behalf.*

In accepting the \$2,000 winner's cheque, Merv Carr, senior member of the Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative said, 'I have seen so much change since I started growing apples years ago. I am amazed what a small farm can do to be so innovative and to involve so many people with different businesses. The Co-op is a group of people with the goal of pursuing organic and regenerative principals in the growing of food; it has also become a place to share a career with other life interests.'

Liesl Malan, proprietor of Goodness



*Goodness Flour won the Micro Business Award. From the left are: Lyn Malan, Liesl's mother, holding the framed certificate; Liesl Malan owner of Goodness Flour, holding the trophy; Paul Mahoney, Liesl's husband; and Matthew Driscoll, Chair of the Board of Workspace Australia, sponsor of the Micro Business Award.*

Flour acknowledged the grains community which is doing its utmost to grow high quality product for the market. She said, 'The connections I have been able to make with growers and buyers of my product are so rewarding. If nothing else, the pandemic has taught us that a stronger local food economy is important.'

Tim Robertson of Bress Wines said, 'We were in very good company with the other Harcourt businesses. For Harcourt to have that number of finalists is a testament to what growers are aiming for here. I

hope it helps people understand that, while Harcourt is a small place, we are really getting the message out about sustainability. It is excellent to see the Council supporting business based on farming and agriculture.'

Of the more than 1700 businesses in the Shire, there were 295 nominations for the 2021 Mount Alexander Business Awards, 27 finalists made it through the selection process to be able to attend a night of celebration at the Castlemaine Town Hall on December 2.

In his welcome speech, Mayor Bill Maltby said, 'I am amazed by the diversity, acumen, and resilience of local businesses. Thank you to the community for supporting local businesses during the pandemic and also for getting behind local businesses and nominating them for these awards. The calibre of the entries has been impressive and I know the judges have had difficulty

making the final decisions. Thank you to the judges who have given their time to this challenging process. The Council-organised-and-managed awards reflect Council's commitment to supporting business growth and local employment. This year the awards focused on environmental sustainability and accessibility for all, which Council is also committed to supporting. One of our major aims in our recently adopted Council Plan 2021-2025 is to build a resilient and growing local economy.'

## *The awards and the winners:*

- **Business of the Year**  
Harcourt Organic Farming Co-operative
- **Agribusiness Award**  
Harcourt Organic Farming Co-operative
- **Professional Services Award**  
Vegetation Link
- **Micro Business Award**  
Goodness Flour
- **Manufacturing, Construction and Trade Award**  
Shedshaker Brewing Company
- **Health and Welbeing Award**  
Castlemaine Physiotherapy
- **Creative Industries Award**  
Movement Zone
- **Tourism and Events Award**  
Big 4 Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park and The Taproom – Shedshaker Brewing Company
- **Retail and Hospitality Award**  
Big 4 Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park
- **Accessibility Award**  
Movement Zone
- **COVID-19 Business Resilience Award**  
Award went to the Castlemaine Farmers Market for adapting so well and professionally in the pandemic. (This was a special and extra award announced on the night).

Sponsors for the evening were:

Gold sponsor: Don Smallgoods and media partner Castlemaine Mail /Midland Express. The awards were also supported by Business Mount Alexander, Maldon Inc., Maldon & District Community Bank, MASDAG, Regional Development Australia, Vossloh Cogifer and Workspace Australia.

For more information about Mount Alexander Business Award winners and finalists, visit [www.mountalexanderbusinessawards.com.au](http://www.mountalexanderbusinessawards.com.au).

*Some content of this article was sourced from a Press Release*



*Tim and Di Robertson of Bress Wines which was a finalist in the Agribusiness Award*





Lions International has just celebrated 103 years of our members serving our Communities. Our motto continues to be WE SERVE.

Lions International has continued to focus fund raising efforts and service projects in relation to DIABETES, CHILDHOOD CANCER, HUNGER, VISION and the ENVIRONMENT.

Harcourt & District Lions Club has a proud history of serving our Community and we reaffirm our commitment to continuing this important work in 2022.

## What's Happening in Harcourt?

### Christmas Day

Santa will be making a very special stop on Christmas Day in Stanley Park Harcourt between 9 am and 10am to share some joy with the children. Look for the big red fire truck and drop by with the children/grandchildren to receive a treat from Santa and to show your support for the Harcourt CFA and the Harcourt Lions. A

special thanks to Maxi IGA Castlemaine for supporting this community event.

### Changes to Australia Day

Moving forward the Harcourt Lions club will no longer be hosting the Australia Day breakfast at Stanley Park. After careful consideration of community views and much deliberation, the Harcourt Lions have decided to move our Community Service Awards to align with Harcourt Applefest. The public BBQ facilities provided by the Lions Club will of course be available for public use on the day and the main event will continue to be hosted by Mt Alexander Shire Council in Castlemaine at Victory Park.

### Community Service Awards

In January 2022 the Harcourt Lions Club will be calling for Community Service Award nominations. The awards will be presented to the chosen candidates during the Harcourt Applefest instead of Australia Day. This is to really embrace what these

awards are about, acknowledging the outstanding Community Service provided by some in Harcourt to all Harcourtian's and doing so at the most significant community event in Harcourt! We will announce details of the nomination process early in the new year.

### Club Rooms

Lions are looking at the next steps with the renovations to the Victorian era two storey Railway Signal Box at the Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR). Work on the site had stalled due to the pandemic, weather, permits and resources. Members are now eager to dig in and get going again. Over the coming months we be working with the Lions Club and VMR members to clean up the exterior, prime and repaint it ready for final reassembly prior to the interior fit out. This will become the new Harcourt Lions clubrooms when it is completed. In the meantime, we would encourage anybody keen to find out more about the Harcourt Lions or to volunteer some time to help out, to contact the Club Secretary Katrina Victor-Gordon on 0407 835 705 or email [harcourt@lions201v1-4.org.au](mailto:harcourt@lions201v1-4.org.au)

**Thankyou everyone for helping each other to get through this challenging year. We wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again (in person) in the New Year!**



## Did you know bushfires kill from 200m away?

The flames of bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from 200 metres away. Planning for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [vic.gov.au/knowfire](https://vic.gov.au/knowfire)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# Have Your say about Parking and Pedestrian Safety at Expedition Pass Reservoir

Mount Alexander Shire Council is continuing to work on a number of measures to improve safety for visitors to the popular swimming and recreation spot, Expedition Pass Reservoir.

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.

Earlier this year, Council called for community input on parking and traffic management at the site, asking for feedback regarding current parking and traffic issues and suggestions for improvements.

Community feedback provided has been incorporated into a Preliminary Concept Design document for the site, which outlines some short-term and long-term recommendations to improve safety in the area.

The draft concept design document has also been informed by crash data for the area, and traffic volume data.

Council is working in partnership with Parks Victoria, Regional Roads Victoria and Traditional Owners on the development of the proposed concept design, as well as consulting with local stakeholders such as Golden Point Landcare and the community group, Friends of the Res.

Council is inviting the community to review the document over the summer period, and provide further feedback on the proposed short-term and long-term measures.

'During busy periods at the reservoir, we've seen examples of driver behaviour that's not only highly unsafe, but also illegal,' said Michael Annear, Director of Infrastructure and Development at Mount Alexander Shire Council.

'People park opposite double lines and block traffic, which is unsafe and



unacceptable.

'We know how important the reservoir is to local residents and visitors to the shire and that's why we're taking steps to ensure it's safe so everyone can enjoy it,' said Mr Annear.

Proposed short-term measures to increase safety in the area, as outlined in the draft plan, include increased signage that identifies safe areas for vehicles to park.

Proposed long-term measures include:

- A new car-park off Llewellyn Road
- Development of a new pedestrian walkway along Golden Point Road to the 'beach' (the most commonly used access point into the reservoir for swimming).
- Installation of a guard rail at the beach
- Drop-off parking at the beach only.

## Have your say at information sessions:

Council will hold two information sessions for community members to discuss the concept designs and share ideas.

These will be held on Wednesday 15 December and will be ...

Session one: 10.30am to 12.30pm at Expedition Pass Reservoir, Golden Point Road, Golden Point.

Session two: 6.00pm to 7.30pm online. The link to the meeting is available at [www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/expeditionpassreservoir](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/expeditionpassreservoir).

View the Expedition Pass Reservoir – Preliminary Concept Design online and provide your feedback at [www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/expeditionpassreservoir](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/expeditionpassreservoir).

Hard copies are also available at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

## Feedback closes on 15 January 2022.

Council will incorporate community feedback and additional traffic data into a final design document, which will be shared with the community in 2022.

Additional safety measures being implemented at the site include the seasonal speed limit reduction from 80 km/hr to 40 km/hr along a one kilometre stretch of Golden Point Road, near Expedition Pass Reservoir. The seasonal speed limit reduction from 80 km/hr to 40 km/hr is in place each year from 1 December to 1 April.

In December 2020, Council worked with the Department of Transport to introduce the speed limit reduction, which has been received favourably by locals and visitors.


Expedition Pass Reservoir is situated in the Castlemaine Diggings Heritage Park, and is managed by Parks Victoria.


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

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# Remembrance Day

In the week leading to the eleventh of November, the Heritage Centre decorated the cenotaph with knitted poppies. They were a vivid visual reminder of the service and sacrifice by members of the Harcourt community in the two World Wars. The Henderson Family once again organised the Remembrance Day/Armistice Day Service, and the crowd gathered just before 11 am. The Last Post marked the start of the minute's silence, and afterwards, Reveille was played and the National Anthem sung.

Pam Henderson told *The Core* about each of the photos on the wreath which she laid and the significance of the photo of Ernest Harcourt Ely.



*Ernest Harcourt Ely, killed in action. His name appears on the Harcourt cenotaph.*

Edward John Legg and Arthur Gordon Legg were brothers. Their father, William Thomas Legg, was born in Bendigo on the goldfields in 1858.

She said, 'Edward John Legg was my great-uncle. Edward was in England, when war broke out in July 1914, and he joined the English army straight away. He was in the rifle brigade under Field Marshal Kitchener. Edward fought at the Somme and was in



*This wreath with photos of relatives of the Henderson family was laid at the cenotaph. Top centre: Arthur Gordon Legg; bottom centre: Edward John Legg; centre right: Wallace Peter Beckman; centre left: Gordon Beckman.*

the front lines in 1916. Prior to this, he was wounded a number of times and was once sent to England to recuperate. This was 'normal' for wounded soldiers, they would be hospitalised, then sent back to the fighting once they were well enough. Edward was made a Lance Corporal while on the field of war. One of the big clashes in the battle of the Somme was located in the Meteorological Trenches, which were named after weather terms. Edward was in the Misty Trench close to a town called Gueudecourt and it was there that he was killed. He is still listed as missing, presumed dead.'

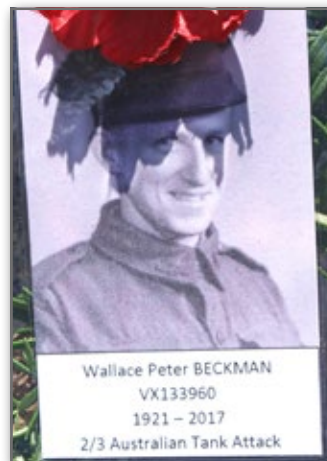
'Our family visited the battlefields in France in 2018 for the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. We concentrated our visit around the Somme because of Edward, whose name is on the Thiepval memorial which lists the missing at the Somme. After the official ceremony

marking the anniversary, I was able to place a crocheted poppy next to a wreath laid by Prince Charles. At a cafe near Albert, we saw a small memorial to Ernest Harcourt Ely; there was a photo from him and a letter from his parents.'

'My grandfather, Arthur Gordon Legg, served in Egypt. At the time he signed up, it wasn't known that he had a heart problem. After this was discovered, he was sent to London where he was a driver for a senior officer in the English army. He was sent home to Melbourne because of his heart issues and while he was in hospital, he met and ultimately married his nurse, my grandmother. During World War II, he was an air-raid warden in Williamstown and did first-aid.'

'My father, Wallace Beckman, was in transport in the Australian army and was involved in the war in the Pacific. Despite being a marksman, he was attached to the tank division with the US army on Tarakan Island near Borneo. Tarakan was small but had oil fields, oil wells and an airfield, which made it a desirable asset, and it was taken by the Japanese in 1942. The battle of Tarakan in 1945 is a little known part of WWII – 240 Australian soldiers died fighting with US forces against the Japanese in a successful attack on the island. My father was in a truck blown up by the Japanese, but survived, and after the war suffered as a result of his experiences while on Tarakan.'

'My uncle, Gordon Beckman, was in the Coastal Watch in New Guinea. At some time during the war, my father and his brother Gordon met up on one of the Pacific islands. There is a photo in the Australian War Memorial taken at Finschhafen on the Huon Peninsula in New Guinea showing Gordon holding a Japanese flag with a US soldier sitting beside him. The photo was taken in February 1944, after the Battle of Finschhafen (from 22 September to 24 October 1943) where United States and Australian forces successfully took Finschhafen from the Japanese.



## MDCB Letter to the community

### Bank invests over \$400,000 into Local Communities

As Chair of our local company that runs our Community Bank Maldon & District, I am proud to announce the bank invested over \$400,000 into our communities during the 2021 calendar year. This is one of our largest contributions ever and it simply could not have happened without our amazing supporters, customers, members and staff – thank you, thank you, thank you!

Over \$110,000 has been invested in 55 community projects through our community partnership (sponsorship) program which includes local sporting groups, community organisations, our Small Business Action plan, Driver Education Program, Scholarship Program and provision of 12 AED defibrillators to local schools across the Mount Alexander and Loddon shires, including one provided to Harcourt Valley primary school.

In September 2021 we gave away over \$200,000 in one evening for community organisation needs, including infrastructure. An additional \$100,000 was invested into our community grants fund ready for a future large community grant round. Our community grants program usually will be held every 18 months - 2 years.

We are annual sponsors of the Harcourt Football Netball Club, have donated a defibrillator to the Harcourt Valley Primary School, award sponsor with the Mount Alexander Business Awards, major sponsor of Castlemaine District Cricket Association 20/20 Competition, and Harcourt residents have participated in our Driver Education program and our Small Business Action program in 2021.

We sponsor the Harcourt Core through advertising each year, outlining our ongoing commitment to the local community and understanding the importance of a paper being able to provide relevant and timely local information regarding events and activities in the community.

Despite the rolling lockdowns, it has been a big year in Harcourt and surrounds!

Thank you to all our current customers as you play a vital role to the prosperity



*Ross Egleton, MDCB Chair*

of our community. Please consider talking to our branch staff about products and services on offer because the more connected our customers are to our branch, the more profit we can distribute back to the community. This is our foundation model that employs local people and is locally owned and operated.

You don't need to live or work in our community to bank with us. Once you have your accounts or insurances with one of our three Community Bank branches, you can bank anywhere within the Bendigo Bank and Community Bank network—online, in any branch or via telephone banking.

You can help by doing your banking with one of our branches at Newstead, Maldon or Dunolly:

- Opening accounts or moving your accounts to our branches
- Establishing or refinancing a home loan and/ or personal loan
- Taking up insurance, investment, superannuation, and/ or financial planning
- Talking to us about our business banking if you own a business or are thinking of starting a business.

Every account that you open, every loan you take out, every insurance policy or other product you purchase from the Maldon & District Community Bank

contributes to the accumulation of funds. We can then redistribute funds to community projects via our community partnership or grants program. So there's a simple reason to bank at the Maldon & District Community Bank – because it means you get great local banking service and that you play your part in strengthening your community.

Even though the Community Bank has been around for over twenty-one years, how our model works is still unknown to many and there are still myths and unknowns – so let's debunk these.

• The Community Bank is locally run by a board of directors: all of whom are professional, passionate and committed to the local community. There is support for the board from our Executive Officer, Shannon Burdeu, and Communications Officer, Nicki Renfrey. This dynamic duo is the engine room for our community support and communications.

Shannon commenced in March 2021, has hit the ground running and loves assisting community groups to strengthen their budgets and achieve their project targets. Nicki's enthusiasm, skill and 'get it done' attitude is infectious and our communications are making great inroads into social media, our online newsletter, print and radio. Please connect where you can and interact (like and comment on our socials!) to support our messaging to others not aware of the model.

Our ownership is made up of local members who get a return on investment.

• The branch staff maintain absolute confidentiality at all times: Customer details and activities are never discussed or shared with

*Continued next page ...*



## Success at CNAV Awards



From left: Liz Ward with a recent copy of *The Core*, Bernie Schultz and Robyn Miller, Editor of *The Core*, holding the certificate awarded as a Finalist in CNAV's Best Newspaper of the Year.

The team at *The Core* is proud to announce that this year *The Core* was a Finalist in Best Newspaper of the Year in the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria Awards. We have come a long way since the tentative first issues where we experimented with layout, text style and photos. In time, the number of pages has grown thanks to our contributors who faithfully write each month and our advertisers who give the necessary financial support.

### 100 Issues of *The Core*

In December 2022, we will have produced and distributed 100 issues of

*The Core*! In twelve months' time we plan to celebrate with our volunteers and contributors. With this in view we are looking to ensure the future of *The Core* well past the 100th issue.

Thanks to our loyal Editorial Committee of Bernie Schultz (Designer), Lois Denham (Contributor), and Sha Cordingley (Policy Expert), I have been supported in the many decisions

which an Editor has to make. We also thank our Folding and Distribution Team: Liz Bini, Liz Rowe, Liz Ward and Moira McLennan and, of course, our contributors who give us so much content each month. It's been a difficult two years for many, however, the news and articles from our contributors kept coming in regardless. We also thank our readers who give us important feedback.

Success does not necessarily last if you continue to do things the same way, and the Editorial Committee will be conducting a survey to get readers' views on the content of *The Core*. This will take place after Applefest 2022, and

the survey will be available on paper and on line.

### Succession

As with many organisations, succession can be an issue. We have a wonderful team and, at the moment, it's all hanging together very well, however, I am hoping that within our ever-expanding community there is someone, or even more than one, who would like to work on the reporting/writing/editorial side of the paper. This shared responsibility would give *The Core* some guarantee of longevity.

The Editor/Reporter role has to keep abreast of changes and events as they happen. Basically you have to be inquisitive and enjoy meeting people of all ages and interests. An interest in writing and taking photos is also necessary. If this role appeals to you, please contact me.

Another possible role to be filled is an administrative role relating to the printer/photocopier: ordering stock for the printer, ordering paper, and assisting with the printing. There is some petty cash handling and mailing as well.

If you are interested in assisting *The Core* in any way, please contact me. The Editorial Committee meets once a month, and you are most welcome to attend and find out more.

Robyn Miller  
0467 670 271

## MDCB Letter to the community

*Continued*

non-branch staff or the board. There is a very distinct line between the operations in the branch and the work of the board, so you can be rest assured that your banking details remain confidential.

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I hope that settles any queries. To our customers and supporters, thank you to all for your investment in our local Community Bank, for your ongoing contribution and support, tireless advocacy and continued commitment to building strong local communities.

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For support of your community group or membership queries, please call our Executive Officer, Shannon Burdeu on 0478 435 110.

Thanks again and we look forward to a prosperous 2022.

Ross Egleton, MDCB Chair



# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Full on Fourth Term at HVPS

After two years of many months of lockdowns, home schooling and remote learning this month HVPS has a number of good news items to share with Core readers.

Remember that in last month's Core mention was made of the schools virtual engagement with Bendigo Tech/ Latrobe University's Science and Technology Department during Science week? Well Grade5/6 students subsequently continued their association with this Department through entering into their Unboxy Competition. Much to their delight and surprise they were judged to be the winners of the Design, Engineering and Technology and the Creativity/Visual arts sections they entered. As well as this they were declared the overall winners of the competition and for this they won \$1,000 for the school. What an achievement and congratulations to all the students and staff who were involved in this project.

This competition was designed to increase students' engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) in primary schools in the Bendigo Region. To find out more about what was involved with this project I recently chatted by phone with Ms Rowlands the grade 5/6 class teacher.

Firstly, the students had to enter the competition. To do so they had to submit a design pitch to the Department which needed to be accepted. Ms Rowlands told me that she was able to attend a PD at the Science and Technology Centre which provided information about the project and how best to support student's engagement with the project. She said this was very helpful in providing students with support and information about the submission and engagement process. Students then chose what sections of the competition they wanted to enter and how they would pitch the application. One of the things they chose to do to reinforce the value of engaging in such a project was to make a 'promotional' video.

Once their entry was accepted, they were supplied with construction kits and instructions. Remember the photos of the diamond shaped card board sheets of paper that appeared in last month's Core? These shapes formed the bases for their constructions. The students involved in the Science and Technology project were instructed to build a tower as tall as they possibly could that would support the weight of a basketball whereas the 'arts' students could do whatever they wanted. They chose to construct a pineapple.

Ms Rowlands said, 'I was delighted with how well the students engaged with the

project and used their problem-solving skills when their constructions fell apart. An unintended consequence of the project was the development of team working skills and reconnecting with fellow class mates after months of separation. As a result of their success the school was given two STEM kits for use in the classroom next year and an overall STEM resource prize voucher prize worth \$1000.'

For students, staff, family and volunteers the best news of all is that now fully vaccinated adults are 'allowed' back in the school grounds and buildings however all must check in using the QR code or sign in sheet at the office. This also has meant that the rescheduled Book Week Dress up parade with the theme 'Old Worlds New and Other Worlds' was finally able to go ahead on 9 November cleverly to coincide with the Book Fair held on 9 and 10 November. This year's fair raised \$604.50 which will be spent on literacy resources.

Next year's Foundation (Prep) students began their first one hour of transition to school on Tuesday 16 November from 9 am to 10 am. Whilst they were doing this, the Principal Andrew Blake met with parents and guardians to provide information about the school and answer enquiries. Gradually over the next three Tuesdays the time Foundation students spend at school each Tuesday will increase to three hours. The last transition day is on 7 December when students spend a full morning at the school. Parents and guardians have also been able to attend an information evening at the school on the 24 November. At this stage it looks as if enrolments into Foundation will be in the high teens much the same as last year. This means that Foundation and the Grade One class will be able to exist independently whereas all others classes will be joint ones. On Tuesday 7 December all students will spend some time 'transitioning' into their 2022 classes with their 2022 class teachers.

There is also good news for this year's Sixth Grade graduates. Parents and care givers will be able to attend their graduation ceremony at school on the December 13 and will be able to have a graduation celebration with the school teachers at the Goldfields Track Café on the evening of 13 December. With their class teachers they are having a Big Day out in Bendigo on the 10 December, with the program yet to be

finalised. They have also been able to engage fully with their transition to High School programs.

Other school activities which have been much missed have now returned. These include the Friday morning school breakfasts and the Foundation, Grade1/2 parent/caregivers' reading programs. However, parent/teacher interviews will be conducted by phone and this year's concert will be a virtual one. The theme of the concert is 'Step back in Time'. Filming of the concert will take place at the school on 6 December. All classes will be performing a song which they have been practicing for the occasion.

Two other significant events for the school have been an ASQ Community Award worth \$1,190 and a successful Department Outdoor Learning Space grant. Representatives from ASQ were able to attend the school to present 'a cheque' to student reps. Student council representatives will consult with the students to determine how the money will be spent. The Outdoor Learning Space grant will provide money for more shade sails to be installed so outdoor spaces can be utilised more effectively all year round.

Andrew asked me to share with Core readers an initiative that the school has undertaken this year which has already been very successful. This is the introduction of a 'School Wide Positive Learning Program. We'll find out more about this next year.

And don't forget the Slime Spectacular on December 9 to support the school in its efforts to raise funds for improvements to the oval. The target is \$5,000. The Slime Spectacular is for the school community and the wider Harcourt community and all are warmly invited.

*Lois Denham*



*Garry Sobey of ASQ Skydancers presents the ASQ Community Award to Andrew Blake, Principal and Student Council representatives.*



## Exhibition pays Tribute to Barkers Creek World War I Servicemen

On Remembrance Day, club members, community members and families of World War I servicemen gathered at the Barkers Creek Cricket Club to pay tribute to the war time service given by men of the Barkers Creek community, a number of which were members of the club.

The proceedings began with a performance by the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band which gave a rousing performance of well-known tunes. President of the Club, Rebecca Henderson and organiser of the event Dr Geoff Courtis, welcomed all present including the Guest Speaker, the Hon Steve Bracks AC.

Steve Bracks said, 'The First World War which raged from 1914 to 1918 remains Australia's deadliest conflict. World War 1 profoundly affected the community of Barkers Creek. 38 locals served country and empire. Sadly 9 were killed in action, never to return to Australia and reap the benefits of their selfless sacrifice. An honour board created in 1919 lists those 38 servicemen and is part of the permanent exhibition here at the club. Today we honour and commemorate the selfless sacrifice of Barkers Creek -residents and cricketers in WW 1.'



Geoff Courtis, Maree Edwards MP and Steve Bracks AC standing in front of the history panels now on display at the Barkers Creek Cricket Club.

He continued, 'I want to say a few words about the wonderful Dr Geoff Courtis. Geoff is the driving force behind the exhibition we are about to see. Geoff has lived a life of service, as a doctor, and has been an active member of the local community. On behalf of everyone here, I want to say a big thank you and congratulations.'



The formal part of the afternoon having concluded, those present moved into the clubhouse to view the exhibition and to enjoy a very social afternoon tea.

Marg Grant, local resident approached The Core about her father-in-law Alec Grant whose daughter Beth Medbury passed away recently. Marg had a collection of Alec's war records and photos which I was grateful to be able to read. One of the photos is reproduced here.

**This is Alec Grant's WWI experience as told on one of the new Honour Boards in the Barkers Creek Cricket Grounds:**

Alec enlisted on 28 July 1915, in response to Government requests for urgent reinforcements for Allied forces, especially after significant losses at Gallipoli. A number of other locals including Tom Comini, Frank Barnes, Alex Guthrie, John Jennings, Frank Pellas and Stan Warren, all from Harcourt, enlisted on the same day. After three months of drill and weapons training, they embarked for Egypt on HMAT Demosthenes, on 29



December 1915. Within two months, his battalion sailed for Marseilles, and then via train to northern France. After exhausting route marches with heavy equipment, Alec was soon at the front line.

As a member of the 1st Pioneer Battalion, he was involved in trench digging, clearing and repairing roads and building command bunkers, in wretched conditions, at Villers-Bretonneux. The risk of imminent death was a constant fear. Alec recalled the horrific conditions in a rare discussion with his daughter Beth Medbury. He didn't like discussing the brutality and squalor of war. 'The trenches were full of water like irrigation channels, but with bodies and body parts floating along.'

Alec was evacuated to hospital in the UK after sustaining knee injuries in the course of his duties, and in his absence, many comrades and close friends were killed in action near Pozieres.

At war's end, Alec became the first Barkers Creek cricketer to play at Lords, in a servicemen's game. On return to Australia, he captained the Barkers Creek Premiers team of 1920-21.

Alec was admired as a hard-working, honest, devoted family man who managed local quarries and worked on the orchards. He simply loved cricket and even on the day of his wedding he represented Barkers Creek, scoring a century before the ceremony took place.

*This details of Alec's story were collected and compiled by Dr Geoff Courtis*



# WALKING TOGETHER

## Towards Reconciliation

### Reconciliation – Are We Any Closer?

The 'Yes' vote in the 1967 referendum changed the Constitution to allow the Federal Government to legislate for Indigenous Australians; previously, First Australians in each State and Territory lived under quite different law regimes.

Significant events followed: these include the hand-back of land to the Gurindji (1975); 20,000 Aboriginal people marching in Sydney to demonstrate their survival in response to the 1988 Bicentennial commemoration of the arrival of the First Fleet; the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991); the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (1991); Keating's Redfern Speech (1992); the Mabo Judgment (1992) and subsequent Native Title Act; the Wik decision (1996); and the Bringing Them Home Report (1997).

In the lead up to the 2001 centenary of Federation, the Council for Reconciliation organised Corroboree 2000 – a meeting of dozens of high-profile Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders on Sorry Day, and the Walk for Reconciliation across Sydney Harbour Bridge next day.

At the Corroboree meeting, the Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation was presented. It concluded with 'Our hope is for a united Australia that respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all'.

So what does Reconciliation mean?

Dictionary definition:  
restoration of friendly relations,  
process of two people or groups  
in a conflict agreeing to make  
amends or come to a truce.

Reconciliation can be seen *in action* in

some relatively recent events. However there continue to be appalling breaches of what Reconciliation should mean more centrally in our shared Australia.

The Corroboree walks saw 250,000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people streaming across the Harbour Bridge the day after Sorry Day 2000; Brisbane's silent march was held a week later with 60,000 participants; Melbourne's Walk for Reconciliation was attended by 300,000 people on 3 December 2000. Scores of smaller walks were held in other state capitals and regional towns.

These peaceful demonstrations, symbolic of moving from the injustices of the past to a new togetherness, illustrated shifts in public mood and the growing awareness of the importance of reconciliation and the need for a national apology.

In the same year, Cathy Freeman's win at the Sydney Olympics united Australians, but later the energy of the Bridge walks was challenged, in part due to the political stance of the government of the time. Practical as well as symbolic action was needed, and some significant actions were a long time coming.

In 2001 the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation was replaced by a new, independent body, Reconciliation Australia. According to Reconciliation Australia, the ultimate goal is to build strong and trusting relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians as a foundation for success in the goals of closing the gaps and sharing a sense of fairness and justice.

Since 2000, significant actions include the Close the Gap campaign for Indigenous equality in health, education etc (2006); the Emergency Response

in the Northern Territory (2007); the Apology on behalf of the Nation (2008); the Recognise campaign to amend the Constitution (2012); and the Uluru Statement from the Heart (2017), unfortunately rejected by the Turnbull government.

Victoria was the first Australian state to pass Treaty legislation (2018); the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape was given World Heritage status (2019). In 2020 the Black Lives Matter marches protested Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody and were attended by tens of thousands of Australians.

That same year, mining company Rio Tinto destroyed two 46,000-year-old sites in the Juukan Gorge, Pilbara, illustrating the need for protective legislation of important traditional sites. It is yet to be passed.

In Castlemaine, in partnership between the Shire Council, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the broader community a Sorry Day commemoration has been held each year since 1998 and a Reconciliation Week exhibition mounted annually since 2000.

This year, the Victorian Government is setting up the Yoo-rrook justice commission to investigate both historical and ongoing injustices against Aboriginal people, as part of the truth-telling process called for by the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

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

More information can be found at [www.nalderun.net.au](http://www.nalderun.net.au)

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# Harcourt Bowling Club

## Competition & Social Bowls in Full Swing

### *Pennant*

The Weekend (Saturday) and Midweek (Monday) Pennant teams have started the season well and show promise for a good result this year.

We have been pleased to welcome new bowlers to Harcourt this year: Malcolm Muir; Alf Manallack; Rob Lynas; Barry Marsh; Diane Marsh and Libby Harris, who have all settled in well and are making significant contributions to our team line-ups.

There will be more about Pennant results in the February *Core*.

### *Club Championships*

The Men's and Women's Singles Championships and 100Up draws have commenced, and we are seeing some keen competition already. The finals of the Singles Championship will be completed before Christmas with the Club Champion eligible to compete in Division Championships in January. The winners of these Division Championships then go on to compete in the State finals.

### *State Championships*

Two teams from Harcourt have entered the Women's State Triples Championships to be played on 12th December at a Club in Bendigo yet to be advised. The Triples teams are Carrol Frost, Chris Anderson and Wendy Chaplin; and Judi Miles, Mary-Anne Doyle and Di Marsh.

On December 8th and 9th, the team of Phil Clarke and Darrell Normington will compete in the State Over 60s Men's Pairs Championship.

It is great to see Harcourt represented in these Championships. We wish them all good luck and good Bowling.

### *Wednesday Afternoon Social Bowls*

What started as pennant practice has morphed into a regular Wednesday afternoon of Social Bowls. Commencing at 12.30, teams play 3 games of 8 ends depending on the weather. Names on the Board before 12.00 pm, \$5 per game, and there will be prizes. The make-up of the teams will be determined by the numbers.

### *Friday Social Nights*

It is so good to have our Friday Social Nights back. The bar is open from 4.30 pm, ideal for that after-work drink and catch-up at the end of the week.

There are, of course, the usual raffles offering around nine worthwhile prizes which will be drawn after the Members' Draw at 6.30 pm.

Visitors will be made most welcome at the Club, with the usual requirement of QR Code/sign in and double COVID vaccination.

### *Christmas Breakup*

Plans are well underway for the Christmas Break-up on Saturday 18th December. If last year is an indication – it will be a great night.

### *Merry Christmas to our Community*

The President and Board Members extend warm Christmas greetings to members and the extended Harcourt community, with a wish for a safe, happy and healthy (and COVID-free) New Year.

**Special Greetings and thanks to the editor and all at *The Core* for their support throughout the year.**

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## Carpet Bowls – Summer Competition Begins

### *Summer Competition*

The Summer Carpet Bowls Competition commenced on Wednesday 24 November. If you are interested in joining the Competition, please feel free to come to the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start on Wednesdays. All players from 8 years up will be made most welcome. Play will finish up before Christmas, and the summer competition will begin again in mid-January.

### *Winter Finals*

The Harcourt Carpet Bowls Winter Season competition concluded in November. Due to COVID, this was two months later than we would normally finish.

Heroes, Rebels, Castle and Main Four competed in the semi-finals on Wednesday 10 November, and the finals were played on 17 November between Main Four and Rebels with Main Four winning. The Lions Club Shield was presented by Loretta Rice in her role as a member of the Harcourt District Lions Club to the Premiership team of Main Four: Peter Henderson, John Rouse, Des Rice and Raymond Rice. The evening wrapped up with supper.

### **Victorian Country Championships held over until 2022**

Unfortunately the Victorian Country Championships which were to be held at Harcourt in 2021 have once again been postponed with the hope that they will be held in 2022.

**For further information, contact Loretta: 5474 2453  
or Peter: 0408 305 325**



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](mailto:Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au)  
Twitter: @LMChesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo

# 40th Anniversary of Castlemaine Artists Co-op's First Exhibition at the Brickworks

Harcourt local Katherine Seppings has been collecting, archiving and writing the history of the arts scene in Castlemaine for some years. Her work is titled the History of Castlemaine Arts 1960-1990. One of the important sites for artists and exhibitions in Castlemaine from the 60s to the present day is The Brickworks. The 40th anniversary of the first exhibition held at 'The Bricky' will be celebrated with a 'Historical Show' at the Castlemaine Brickworks Gallery this December. Katherine has curated the show which she and Gallery Director Doryan Gowty will open.

Of the twenty artists selected from Castlemaine Artists Co-Op/Inc (1980-1992) many are recognised nationally and internationally – Michael-Francis Cartwright, Paul Cavell, Graeme Dawes, Juliana Hilton, Ann Langdon, Bruno Leepin, Paul E Mason, Shona Nunan, Vicky Taylor, Diane Thompson, Leslie Thornton, Barry Singleton and more. As curator, Katherine has chosen a stunning range of paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics and sculptures which will be for sale at what will be a memorable local event.

Castlemaine Artists Co-Operative was a group of 30 artists and craftspeople who came to the district in the 1960s and 70s. They had their first State Festival exhibition at The Quarry Show, Barkers Creek, in 1980, and held their shows at 'The Bricky' in 1981, 82 and 83. In 1986, with more artists in the area, the group became Castlemaine Artists Incorporated. In 1992 the group folded and merged into the fledgling Castlemaine Fringe.

Art teacher and potter George Butcher, owner of 'The Bricky', was one of the founders of the Co-Op. He and John Gowty bought the old brickworks from Jack Harrison in 1972. They built their homes, joined by a common wall, on the footprint of the old factory. George opened his home to Castlemaine Artists Co-Op and Inc members for exhibitions, meetings, talks, fundraisers and parties from 1981 to 2019.

Doryan Gowty who grew up at the Brickworks, purchased George's half following his death in 2020 and with business partner Andy Pye opened the Castlemaine Brickworks Gallery during this year's State Festival.



## Opening of the Exhibition

The exhibition will be opened by Katherine Seppings and Gallery Director Doryan Gowty

At 2 pm Saturday 11 December, 15 Galloway St, Castlemaine.


For more information: [thebrickworksgallery.com.au](http://thebrickworksgallery.com.au)

The 'Historical Show' will be open on the weekends of December 11 and 12 and December 18 and 19.

Opening hours: 11 am–5 pm (or by appointment)



Christmas decorations in Market Street.



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## Harcourt Heritage Centre

### The 'Collision' at Mount Alexander

There was a 'collision' on Mount Alexander on the morning of Sunday 26 January 1840. Readers of *The Core* will understand that no mechanised vehicles were involved. There were at least two fatalities. 'Collision' was the euphemistic term used in the historical record to describe this conflict between landed white gentry and their employees and the indigenous clans in the area.

It was a hot dry summer. Aboriginal people of two language groups were planning a ceremony, probably a male initiation, in the vicinity of Mount Alexander. This was an important occasion, and the clan heads of the Liarga Balug and the Look Willam were both present.

At the time, Henry Monro, squatter, of 'Campaspe Plains' (near present-day Heathcote) was keen to find new pasture for his sheep. He sent shepherds and hutkeepers from the head station to two remote huts near Mount Alexander, each with a flock of sheep.

The men were assigned convicts, some serving life sentences. They were truly isolated, far from other white men. Tribal men roaming the countryside on hunting trips would, on occasion, visit the huts and sometimes take food. The men felt menaced by the indigenous warriors and, after one incident in which their flock had gone missing, they walked back to the head station to report that sheep had been driven away and food stolen from their hut.

This story of wholesale theft was concocted as a cover up. The sheep had wandered off while the shepherd was dozing. A few sheep had been taken, but most of the flock was subsequently found. However, when the shepherds reported back to Henry Monro, he vowed retribution. Because he had been speared once before, Monro feared for his life.

Two officials from Melbourne came on the scene at this point. Chief Protector George Augustus Robinson had been ordered by Superintendent La Trobe to investigate 'outrages' that had occurred on the remote fringes of the Port Philip settlement. Robinson was accompanied by Assistant Protector Edward Stone Parker. On the way, they had come across the main camp of the Liarga Balug about 8 kilometres west of Mount Alexander. There were women, children, and old men at the camp, but no young men. During their circuit, Robinson and Parker also met up with bands of warriors and teenage boys who seemed to be hanging about on the mountain. The Europeans were not able to find out why the men were there as, of course, they were engaged on secret men's

business. Hysteria was running high when the protectors arrived at Monro's station.

Robinson kept a very detailed diary and can be read today – Robinson's appalling handwriting has been transcribed, and, with his sketches, published in multiple volumes. Robinson was a keen observer of the Aboriginal peoples, and his diaries provide a record of indigenous life at the time of European settlement. But, at Monro's station, Robinson seems to have accepted Monro's mindset, along with Monro's hospitality. His biographer concludes that, on the day of the confrontation, Robinson was a coward. Not so Parker.

It is clear that Parker was coming to grips with the daily difficulties and dangers of his role. He had been sent out from England to care for people who were liable to be harassed and driven off their land.

Early on January 26, Parker heard movement in the squatter's yard. He realised that Monro was about to lead a posse to hunt down the supposed 'sheep stealers'. Parker dressed quickly and saddled his horse to pursue the armed squatter and his men.

When the posse caught up with the indigenous men near the mountain, they opened fire – an action that Parker later wrote was 'cruel and unnecessary'. Seeing a man about to be shot, Parker intervened to save the man's life. To do this, out in the bush, when guns were being fired and, amid much confusion, to leap down from his horse to prevent a murder shows great courage on his part. The man whose life he saved was Munangabum, the chief clan leader of the Dja Dja Wurrung. One of Munangabum's companions, a fine young man, who had been shot, died later in the day. Still hell-bent on driving off any threat to his sheep or his life, Monro's men then went in pursuit of more of the Aboriginal men. They came upon a group of about fifty men armed with spears. Shots were fired, and it was later established that at least one man was killed.

Meanwhile, Munangabum was taken into custody on a charge of sheep stealing and held in gaol in Melbourne. With some surprise, the Chief Protector learned of Munangabum's status among the indigenous. They thought highly of him and sent their leaders to implore Robinson to have him released. Again, it was Assistant Protector Parker who, by courageous and persistent efforts, had Munangabum released from custody.

There were many similar incidents throughout Australia in the era of pastoral settlement. Most of them were hushed up and went unreported. The account



*Edward Stone Parker.*

of the 'collision' at Mount Alexander reminds us of the violent displacement of the traditional owners and the tragic disruption of Aboriginal life.

That this particular story is on the official record at all is due to Parker's insistence on due process for all of Her Majesty's subjects. This did not proceed smoothly. There were hot words and recriminations at Monro's head station the following day. The Victorian State archives contain many pages of witness statements, diary entries, letters and official reports pertaining to this conflict. Of course, the files omit the views and testimony of the traditional owners.

The 'extraordinarily rich historical record' has been carefully studied by many historians over the past forty years. This thumbnail sketch is a very much abbreviated version of the event. May it serve to remind future generations of a significant era in the district's history. It is a story, set against a dark backdrop, of heroic Assistant Protector Parker and the charismatic and respected Munangabum. Two great men met on 26 January 1840, at the scene of this massacre at Mount Alexander.

**This thumbnail sketch is part of a series written by Harcourt Heritage Centre for readers of *The Core*. It comes from a talk given to the Harcourt Lions Club in about 1981, soon after Gary Presland published his transcript of GA Robinson's 'Journal' covering the Protector's official 1840 tour of this district. Many books have since included this incident. Readers seeking a detailed understanding of the collision at Mount Alexander should contact [heritage@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:heritage@harcourt.vic.au) to obtain a full reading list.**



## Dual Naming of Mount Alexander

Harcourt Heritage Centre has, in its collection, documents which demonstrate that Mount Alexander was alternately described as 'Leanganook' as far back as 1977. It seems that most local residents would be aware of this original name.

A dual naming proposal would not come as a surprise. However, we note that the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation has used alternative spellings for Leanganook, such as Liyanyanuk.

The Office of Geographic Names has published Naming Rules for Places in Victoria. According to those rules, if dual naming was to take place, the mountain would be known as (for example)

Liyanyanuk/Mount Alexander

or

Mount Alexander/Liyanyanuk

It is understood that there needs to be general agreement on the name and the preferred spelling of the Indigenous name before dual naming can be adopted.

Harley Dunolly, speaking on behalf of the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation, has advised Harcourt Heritage Centre that a research paper is being compiled as to the alternate names of the mountain.

At the time of European settlement, Mount Alexander was part of the traditional boundary between the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taung Wurrung (i.e. the Loddon and the Goulburn language groups) so, it is to be expected that there may be alternative names for the mountain.

Harley said, 'Place naming proposals have to go through a process, and we all know that processes take time.'

It is long overdue for Mount Alexander to be given its Aboriginal name.

*George Milford*

## The Blue Books: Harcourt Families' Histories

The collection at Harcourt Heritage Centre includes a series of 'Blue Books' which provide carefully compiled family history information relating to the pioneers and early residents of Harcourt, Barkers Creek, Faraday and Woodbrook.

This collection started in the days before family history was popular. The late Hedley James was related to most Harcourt residents and may have started the listings to work out precisely where everybody fitted in to the various family trees of his mother, father and his four grandparents.

The files have grown significantly since those days. They came into the Heritage Centre collection as loose-leaf sheets in an alphabetical concertina file. Each family has now been allocated its own 'Blue Book'. In the years 2014-2018, the war service records of local servicemen and women were added to relevant family files. During the stay-at-home period of the past twenty months, several family history researchers spent the lockdown fleshing out their family trees. Many kind donations of this material have recently been shared with Harcourt Heritage Centre and have now been added to the 'Blue Books'.

This family history collection has proved to be of interest to visitors keen to find out more about a remote ancestor who once lived in Harcourt. The Blue Books have also provided much original material for the 'Thumbnail Sketches' published in *The Core*.

**There is always something new to be discovered at Harcourt Heritage Centre. Drop in and search the collections, view the recently refreshed displays and stop for a chat. Visitors are most welcome each Wednesday between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm.**

*George Milford*



## Harcourt Uniting Church

Christmas seems to have crept up on us this year, what with COVID lockdowns and restrictions changing our lives dramatically.

As Christmas approaches, people often greet each other with, 'What are you doing for Christmas?' Or, 'Have you finished your Christmas shopping?' or children being asked, 'What do you want for Christmas?'

In the Christian Church, Christmas is the very special time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The four weeks leading up to Christmas day are known as Advent. Advent means 'coming' so we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming as a baby in Bethlehem.

At Harcourt Uniting Church, an Advent Wreath will be the centrepiece of our worship. Every week we will light a candle representing Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. On Christmas day the centre candle will also be lit – the Christ candle.

We will hold 'Carols in the Park' in Stanley Park (opposite the Service Station) on Sunday 19 December at 7.00 pm. Everyone is invited to join in singing carols, with the Thompson's Foundry Band providing the music. BYO chair, rug, family, friends and Aerogard.

Christmas Day at Harcourt Uniting Church will be celebrated at 8.30 am on 25 December – nice and early so you can be home to put on the roast or open presents with the family.

In recent years we have packed Christmas presents and hampers to help families finding Christmas a difficult time. This year we are collecting monetary donations to purchase vouchers for families to spend in our local supermarkets. Our Fellowship group also donated non-perishable foods for hampers prepared by St Vinnies.

It is so easy to be caught up in the rush of Christmas preparations that we tend to forget that it is a time of sharing in the love of family and friends as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

May your Christmas be a time of Hope, Peace Joy and Love.

**The Kindergarten nativity play was going well. Joseph and Mary were going from door to door asking: 'Is there any room in your Inn?' The answer kept coming back: 'No room! No Room here.' Then from the audience came a child's voice: 'You should have booked!'**

**A small boy was in a Christmas play and had only one line to say, 'Behold I bring you good tidings.' He asked his mother what tidings meant and she told him it meant news. On the night of the play the boy was stage struck and forgot his line. Finally he yelled out: 'Hey I've got great news for you!'**

**A small child climbed onto Santa's knee and Santa asked: 'What would you like for Christmas?' The child stared at him for a minute in disbelief, and then said: 'Didn't you get my email?'**

*Jan Jenkin*

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## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well.

With the good rains we have had there is a lot of grass around, so it is a good time to clean up in preparation for the fire season.

It is great to see the new change rooms at the Harcourt oval nearing completion. This has been another excellent project for our community. There are a few more on the list so we will keep the ball rolling.

At the November meeting, Council elected Bill Maltby as the Mayor and Rosie Annear as Deputy. I am sure they will do a good job.

On Thursday December 2, the Shire Business Awards were held (see pages 1 and 4). Many small businesses have done it tough during COVID, so this was a good opportunity to catch up with them. Hopefully we will all have a better year next year.

As expected, Council overturned its previous decision to refuse planning approval for a contractor's shed at Muckleford. This will now come back to our December Council meeting. I am not sure how that will go, but I think we have all learnt a lot from this. The main thing is, it is much better for all concerned if you get planning approval before building!

**The next big item for Council is to start work on next year's budget. Let me know if you have any bright ideas for our community. Feedback needs to be with Council by Tuesday 11 January, 2022 (See page 27).**

For more information visit:

[www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget-2022-23](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget-2022-23)  
or call 5471 1700

Stay safe and have a good Christmas.

Best regards to all,

Tony  
AG Cordy

**Christmas Carols  
at Stanley Park**

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

**7 PM DECEMBER 19**

**THOMPSON'S FOUNDRY BAND**

**BRING A CHAIR AND/OR A RUG**

A feature of the programme will be items by Kerry Maguire, singer of traditional Celtic folk songs and a member of the inter-generational folk trio 'Velvet Sledgehammer'.

**ALL WELCOME**

## Harcourt Tennis Club

We were washed out in the first game against Lockwood winning 12 sets to 3 until it rained. The following week we won against Newbridge with 3 sets being won on a tie breaker.

We had ten-year-old Willow Kelly play her first A-Grade match for us, and young Bella Trethowan also played her first game. These are very exciting times for our club with such young ones playing for us. They will only get better as they play more senior tennis.

Willow (pictured), who will be eleven in December, recently accepted an offer to train with the Bendigo Academy of Sport in their tennis program in 2022.

She will be representing the Loddon-Campaspe region for the 12/u Alicia Molik Cup played at Kooyong on the weekend of 4-5th December. Teams will be from across country Victoria and the Melbourne Metropolitan area. We wish Willow every success in the Cup.

Contact Sharon Blake 0438 010 309 or Faye Hards 0403 967 918 or [hardsfamily4@bigpond.com.au](mailto:hardsfamily4@bigpond.com.au)

*Faye Hards*



## The Early Days of Community Radio

Were you involved in Community Radio in its Early Days?

A book for recording the events and people involved in establishing and maintaining community radio in Central Victoria is underway. Radio veterans Ian Braybrook and Marilyn Bennet are gathering material from as many individuals as possible for inclusion in the story.

Ian said, 'There are still a few people to come forward and then we can get stuck into the final product. Is there anyone you know who should be included? Tell 'em to send stuff pronto!'

'If you have anything you would like to add to the book contents, please send it or contact us right away. We are particularly keen to hear from those at **Freshfm** as response from their corner is thin on the ground.'

### Roll of Honour

Marilyn said, 'We are including a list of those who have died so, if you know of anyone, please send their name to us. We will keep you informed as we progress.'

The book is scheduled for release on 25 April 2022 – Anzac Day, the 40th anniversary of the first official broadcast in Central Victoria by 3CCC at Harcourt in 1982. Today there are four community broadcasters in the region: Freshfm, KLFM, Phoenix and Mainfm (formerly WMAfm).

**For contributions or questions please contact:**

**Ian Braybrook & Marilyn Bennet**  
PO Box 677  
Castlemaine Victoria 3450  
0409 333 513 / 0457 676 327

## Harcourt Cricket Club New Uniforms

At the end of November the Harcourt Cricket Club received new shirts for its players. Blue and yellow combinations have by custom become the colours of Harcourt sporting teams. Harcourt Primary School students also wear a blue and yellow uniform.

For readers of the black and white copy of *The Core*, the men's shirts have yellow and blue flashes on a white background.

The Women's Team has a blue shirt with yellow flashes. Shown here is the team after its first win for the year against Maiden Gully.



### Castlemaine & District Cricket Association Scores Harcourt Men

Rd	Date	Result
<b>A Reserve</b>		
4	4 Dec.	Castlemaine United v Harcourt
3	27 Nov.	Harcourt 115 defeated Newstead 122
2	20 Nov.	Harcourt 139 defeated by Muckleford 175
1	13 Nov.	Harcourt 117 defeated by Maiden Gully 114
<b>B Reserve</b>		
4	4 Dec.	Harcourt 8/133 defeated Hepburn 9/152
3	27 Nov.	Guildford 36 defeated by Harcourt 210
2	20 Nov.	BYE
1	13 Nov.	Maiden Gully 4/194 defeated Harcourt 6/167
<b>C Grade Junior Under 16</b>		
2	20 Nov.	BYE
1	13 Nov.	Newstead 71 defeated by Harcourt 4/152
<b>Under 13</b>		
3	1 Dec.	Harcourt 1/113
2	24 Nov.	Newstead 10/27 defeated by Harcourt 3/63
1	17 Nov.	Harcourt 120 (11 wickets) defeated Muckleford Gold 98 (11 wickets)
<b>Scores Harcourt Women</b>		
2	3 Dec.	Castlemaine United Gold 7/61 defeated by Harcourt 7/89
1	19 Nov.	Harcourt 1/49 defeated Maiden Gully 3/41

## COVID and Volunteering – A Roadmap Webinar

*Are you part of an organisation coordinating volunteers, or perhaps you are a volunteer yourself?*

Volunteering Victoria hosted a COVID and Volunteering Webinar: State Government Discuss the Vaccine Mandate and Roadmap on November 24 which provided a great deal of insight and clarity into policies, guidance and vaccination mandate requirements for volunteer based organisations.

Clear guidance and Q&A sessions were provided directly by Lucy Percival, (Director) Directions Policy, Public Health Policy Strategy, COVID-19 response – Department of Health.

You can re-watch the hour-long webinar and access the slides via: COVID-19 For Volunteers – Volunteering Victoria: [www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/covid19-forvolunteers](http://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/covid19-forvolunteers)

The information was updated on December 2, 2021.

## Pool Season Began on December 4



Harcourt Pool will be open from December 4, subject to weather restrictions.

Safety measures will be in place including supervision of children and admittance based on vaccination status.

VICSWIM lessons are on offer and YMCA Victoria can arrange lap swimming, aqua aerobics, junior lifeguard programs and aqua playgroups where there is demand.

The pool will be closed for declared Code Red Days and on Christmas Day.

### Safety Measures

Adult supervision of children is compulsory at all public pools. One adult can supervise up to two children aged less than five

**Patrons aged 12 years and 2 months or more will need to check in via the QR code and show their digital vaccination certificate. Exemptions may apply for VICSWIM lessons. Check with the pool.**

The pool will not open on days when the temperature, forecast for Castlemaine on the Bureau of Meteorology website at 6.00 pm the previous day, is lower than 23°C.

The pool will be closed for declared Code Red Days and on Christmas Day.

The season ends at the end of the long weekend in March 2022.

**For more information on pools including opening times, entry fees and season passes, visit [www.mountalexanderpools.com.au](http://www.mountalexanderpools.com.au) or follow Mount Alexander Pools on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/mountalexanderpools](https://www.facebook.com/mountalexanderpools)**

*From a Press Release*



## VMR Acquires new Lathe



Andrew Mierisch President of Victorian Miniature Railways was delighted to tell The Core that they have received a gift of a specialist lathe, from long time rail enthusiast Errol Sullivan. 'This lathe will give us the capacity for machining train wheels and all the bits of motion gear for our trains. To have this ability on the spot means a great deal. The lathe is Australian made and was manufactured during the period of WWII.'

The donor, Errol Sullivan has been involved in railways big and small for many years; his involvement with small trains began in 1965. Errol has built three miniature steam locomotives: Rob Roy, Speedy and a Sweet Creek (An American model train shown below).

Errol has worked on bigger steam locos at the Belmont Common which became the Bellarine Peninsula Railway. This now operates on a 16 km section of a formerly disused branch line on the Bellarine Peninsula and runs between Drysdale to Queenscliff. In his career he also drove trains for the Victorian Railways driving steam and diesel locomotives in North Melbourne and Warragul. He has driven various classes of trains including D3 steam locomotives as well as the more modern L-class locomotives moving both passenger and coal.



Errol has decided that it's time to clear out some of his equipment and engines and VMR Harcourt has become the fortunate recipient of the Sheraton Defiance Lathe. Andrew thanked Errol saying, 'VMR can't thank Errol enough. This is a very important piece of equipment which we have been lacking. It has been a really interesting experience getting to know Errol and his history with trains of all sizes.'

## Faraday Frolics



Before Christmas each year, the Faraday community gets together to Frolic. The Frolics this year had the biggest turn out yet at Dunstons Flat in Faraday.

Christine Brooke, Secretary of the Association said, 'At least half of those present are new to the area. The committee is very pleased that our letterbox drop was obviously well received; this is a great opportunity for neighbours to get together.'

Peter McCarthy a founding member of the group, said, 'Dunstons Flat was the area used by the one room Faraday School which opened in 1873 and closed in 1976. The Flat was used for school excursions, picnics and sports. Members of the Faraday Community Association began to meet in 2008 and we incorporated in 2009.'

He continued, 'We meet on Australia Day and in May we get together for the traditional Bonfire Night, the 24th May which was Queen Victoria's birthday. We usually have a couple of walks a year. COVID put paid to most activities for the last couple of years, and we are looking forward to getting together as usual this year.'

The Faraday Community Association publishes the Faraday Farrago four times a year. The Farrago features profiles of members, historical stories and has listings of local trades and businesses.'



*On Sunday December 5, local band Friends of Wendy Cotton played at the Sutton Grange Christmas party at the Sutton Grange Hall.*



## Tai Chi Group for Harcourt? Volunteers Needed



CHIRP Community Health is looking for expressions of interest from potential volunteers to support their planned expansion of Tai Chi groups in 2022. A Tai Chi group would be a great addition to the range of healthy activities available in Harcourt.

Janine Truscott is the Physiotherapist at CHIRP who started the Tai Chi program in 1998.

'Over the years we have delivered volunteer led Tai Chi groups in various locations in Mount Alexander Shire, and we have now recommenced a group in Newstead. Beginners and more experienced students are all welcome to attend our Tai Chi group on Thursdays from 9.30 am to 10.30 am at the Newstead Community Centre.'

'Our Tai Chi groups are very popular and provide enormous health benefits to participants. We currently run Tai Chi groups in Castlemaine, Maldon, Guildford and Newstead, but are hoping to extend groups to other locations,' said Janine.

'Our Tai Chi volunteers are provided with full training and are supported by me and some of our more experienced volunteers. We are planning to run the volunteer training early in 2022.'

'Suitable applicants should have the confidence and dedication to lead weekly groups. Experience with Tai Chi is not necessary but would be an advantage.'

The expansion of Tai Chi groups is funded by Healthy Heart of Victoria and the Victorian State Government and supported by Mount Alexander Shire Council.

**For further information, please call Liza Shaw or Janine Truscott at CHIRP Community Health on 5479 1000.**



### LOVE YOUR PET?

Send a picture of your pet to the editor:

[news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au)

and tell us why you love your pet.

## Grace Church

Christmas is upon us once again, the time when we traditionally exchange gifts to celebrate the gift God the Father made to the world in sending us His Son, the Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord, as a babe. This year I would like to introduce you to another avenue of gift giving, in addition to your family and friends, if by chance you would be so kind.

The 'Voice of the Martyrs' (VOM) is a Christian organisation that has been serving persecuted Christians for more than fifty years. Grace Church has been associated with them for at least the last 15 years and we can vouch for their integrity.

This year VOM is arranging Christmas Care packs for children in Nigeria, the Philippines, Malaysia, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Myanmar, Egypt, Cameroon, Palestine and Vietnam. Each child will receive a children's Bible or storybook, school supplies and other items tailored to their specific country (including food, a toy, education costs and clothing). Contents are sourced locally thus helping the economies in those countries.

Children of persecuted families can be particularly vulnerable to discrimination, harassment and bullying. In restricted nations persecution often brings poverty and hardship, so parents of persecuted children are unable to provide gifts at this special time of year.

You can bless a persecuted child this Christmas by gifting \$30 (or lesser amount) for a Christmas Care Pack. If you would like to do so, please go to [vom.com.au/christmascare](http://vom.com.au/christmascare). Donations can also be made by phone on (02) 4759 7000, by bank transfer to Westpac BSB 032 271 Account No. 251377, or by cheque posted to PO Box 250, Lawson, NSW 2783.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews wrote, 'Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering, as though you were suffering as they are.'

God bless!







# Harcourt CFA

## Fire Restrictions Dates Declared

Mount Alexander Shire along with Central Goldfields Shire will commence fire restrictions on Monday the 13 of December at 1.00 am. The date for the commencement of fire restrictions for the Greater City of Bendigo has been set for 1.00 am on Monday the 6 of December. Macedon Ranges Shire has not been announced at the time of writing. These dates are quite a bit later than the average over recent years but are logical given the unusual weather patterns of November. The effects of La Nina have resulted in a longer grass growing season and this means that the lawn mower will continue to get a work out for some weeks yet. Restrictions in other shires are listed on the CFA website, so if you are journeying around the state with the easing of COVID regulations, ensure you check beforehand.

### Brigade Turnouts and Activity

In November there were four turnouts. Three turnouts were to motor vehicle accidents, two in our brigade area and one support to Elphinstone. The most dramatic was a truck rollover on the Calder Freeway between the main Harcourt entrance/exit ramps and Gaaschs Road. The other incident we responded to was a burning pile of vegetation which was not logged in the burn register system. Because this fire was in a hollow, only the smoke could be seen. This resulted in a concerned person reporting this incident.

Ongoing training at brigade level has included honing skills on simulated grass fire attack in preparation for summer, as well as some brigade members upskilling in CFA conducted courses including Breathing Apparatus (external attack)

and Structural Fire Fighter. This is an advanced course involving learning how to carry out an aggressive internal attack and supplementary skills. These skills can only be useful in the early stages of a structural fire, therefore early detection and notification is vital to enable a chance of limiting the spread of fire. One important step if time allows in evacuating a building is to shut doors behind you. This will help impede the spread of the fire and give extra precious minutes before the house becomes fully involved.

When this happens, it is then vital that surrounding structure (known as exposures) do not catch fire from the flames and radiant heat.

### Fire Safety Reminders

- **Summer is BBQ season** and it is very important to adhere to all the safety advice around the use of BBQs. Most importantly is to have an adult in attendance at all times. If no one is watching, no one is there when things go wrong. I am unaware of any BBQ App that takes care of your BBQ and monitors the cooking. I am sure one day in the future this will probably happen, but until then it is your responsibility to ensure that the only burning is of the meat and not the BBQ surrounds.
- With the wetter spring, **haystacks** are another area of concern for the CFA and some brigades in farming areas to our north have already attended some large haystack fires. If you have stored hay on your property, ensure you monitor it regularly to ensure it is not heating up as this can lead to self-combustion.

- **Christmas lights and decorations** are the final thing I would like to mention. These items are packed up for most of the year. As you unravel them check that they are safe to use. Check all electrical plugs, cords and light sockets for damage, cracks or exposed wiring. Do not place Christmas lights against decorations and do not overload power points and power boards.

### Burn off Notifications

There is a short time left for a legal burn off on your property. As mentioned above, Fire Bans will be in place from December 13 at 1.00 pm in Mount Alexander Shire.

To register a burn off call: 1800 668 511. Calling this number avoids unnecessary calls to the nearest brigade.

The Harcourt Brigade wishes you the best for the coming summer period and the festive/holiday season and trust that you will not need to call on us. Keep up to date with your fire safety preparation and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*

*Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*





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# Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Hi everyone

What a year! As we come to the end of 2021, we've been reflecting on changes in the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op community on our farm. It's been sad saying goodbye to Ant, but fun welcoming the Orchard Keepers to the farm and working with them as they learn how to grow organic fruit on a commercial scale. Sas, one of the founding co-op members, will also be leaving in the New Year. Sas has been key in establishing the amazing Gung Hoe Growers market garden as well as the co-op, and we're going to miss her enormously.

Our online teaching business, Grow Great Fruit, has continued to expand this year as the trend towards growing your own fruit and veg keeps exploding. With the pandemic still ongoing, it seems that lots of people are finding refuge in their gardens. Focusing on fruit trees, vegie gardens, and growing your own food has loads of proven benefits for mental and physical health, so it intuitively feels like a very appropriate COVID-response! We'd like to thank the CORE for providing the opportunity to have a chat with our friends and neighbours each month about fruit trees. Our aim is to make abundant, home-grown organic fruit a reality for all, so it's been a great joy for us to be able to help many more people with their fruit trees this year.

## Curly Leaves and Spotty Fruit?

It's been another very wet spring, with a wet summer predicted, so one of the things we're hearing a lot about this season is curly leaves and spotty fruit on fruit trees. Most pests and diseases have LOVED the conditions this spring.

*We've been inundated with questions about them, so we now run a dedicated organic pest and disease control workshop. You can register here: [growgreatfruit.com/pest-and-disease-webinar](https://growgreatfruit.com/pest-and-disease-webinar).*

As well as the leaf curl on peach and nectarine trees this year (which is caused by a specific fungal disease), a lot of people are noticing curly leaves on other trees as well. The time to prevent leaf curl was back in late winter, so if your trees are affected now there's nothing you can do about it but wait – once the weather starts to warm up the trees usually grow out of it by themselves. Curly leaves on other trees (not peaches and nectarines) are more likely to be caused by aphids. Have a look inside the leaves to see whether you can spot them.

Many people are reporting a small crop (or none) on their apricot trees, particularly

## If you've got fruit trees that you can't look after, then it's best to remove them.

early varieties. That's because it rained pretty much every day when the early varieties of apricot were flowering, so even if you were really on the ball with your spraying, there's still a good chance your trees got Blossom blight. It's a nasty fungal disease that makes the flowers rot on the tree. If you have later varieties (like Rival, Goldrich, Trevatt or Moorpark) you might be a bit luckier. The weather had cleared up a bit by then, and those varieties generally have a much better crop on them this year.

The numbers of diseases around this year show why it's such a good idea to have multiple fruit varieties in your garden, even within the one tree type. Each variety reaches budswell and flowers at a different time, so will be differently affected by the same weather event (like when it rains for a solid week). The more different types of fruit you grow, the more likely it is you'll have a good crop on at least some of your trees.

Another thing you may be noticing on your trees is various kinds of spots on your fruit. There's lots of freckle on the apricots this year, a bit of brown rot is showing up in the stone fruit, and lots of apples and pears have black spot. If your fruit is spotty don't panic, there's still something you can do to stop things getting worse. Though the main danger period has passed, your fruit trees are still vulnerable to some diseases at this time of year, so keep a close eye on them. Visit them once a week or so, so you notice any problems that appear and aim to keep a 'cover spray' of wettable sulphur on your trees.

## Fruit fly update – a Whole of Community Issue

Fruit fly has again emerged very early in Bendigo this year, and there's been a sighting or two in Castlemaine. If you have fruit trees, it's a really good idea to have at least one fruit fly monitoring trap out in your garden by now. The best type at this time of year is one that attracts male fruit flies, e.g. the Biotrap. It contains a male pheromone that is specific to Queensland Fruit Flies, so there's a bigger chance that anything you catch in the trap will be a QFF. You can buy new traps, or re-use last year's traps and just buy new inserts and lures for them (you can get them at Mt Alexander Hardware in Castlemaine).

You can also make your own traps, but they're not nearly as good. The bait tends to go off really quickly and need replacing, and they also attract lots of different types of insects, with the result that it is much harder to know for sure whether you've actually caught a fruit fly, as they can be tricky to identify. If you do think you've caught a QFF, try to get a positive ID. Get in touch with council at [mountalexanderfruitfly@gmail.com](mailto:mountalexanderfruitfly@gmail.com) and they'll be able to help you with the identification process. If you get a positive identification, that will then trigger the Fruit Fly Emergency Response – there's more information about it on the Council's fruit fly page – <https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly>. If you need a fruit fly refresher, we have a whole list of fruit fly videos and resources at the end of our Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, or you can download a free Fruit Fly Resource Pack from our website: <https://growgreatfruit.com/product-category/free-stuff/>.

If you're planning to net your fruit trees then the sooner the better. As soon as you've finished fruit thinning the nets can go on. Surprisingly, white bird nets can help provide some protection against fruit fly (even if the holes are big enough to let flies through), but it's not foolproof, so you do need to trap as well. If you're netting your trees, note that it's now compulsory for households to use net with holes of 5mm or less (farms are still allowed to use netting with larger holes).

Fruit fly is a whole-of-community issue, so help to prevent it getting into our community by learning about it, talking

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## Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

*continued ...*



about it, and taking action. If you've got fruit trees that you can't look after, then it's best to remove them. The most important thing we can all do (and luckily also the easiest) is don't bring fruit to Harcourt from other areas, particularly places like Bendigo, or Maldon where fruit fly is more established. If you can't stop well-meaning friends from bringing you fruit or vegies from their garden, check it carefully, and if there's ANY doubt about whether it might have larvae in it, don't dispose of whole fruit that you don't eat, or scraps, in the compost or the rubbish. It's really important to make sure any larvae have been killed before the fruit is disposed of. Putting it in a black garbage bag in the sun for a few days will easily do the trick.

Also watch out for pear and cherry slug this month. If you notice them as soon as they appear on your trees it's relatively easy to kill them by folding the leaf in half and squashing them (without pulling the leaf off the tree). They normally go through two or three generations each season, so the more you can get rid of early on, the easier it is to interrupt their normal life cycle.

So many pests and diseases to watch out for! We've tried to make it less overwhelming to manage in our pest and disease workshop by summing it up with something called the Grow Great Fruit technique which applies to all pests and disease. It makes it easier to plan an action of attack.

**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](http://growgreatfruit.com) to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of the free online workshops.**



*The map shows the entrance to the site for the Christmas barbecue.*

## End of Year BBQ at the Picnic Ground

As we come to the end of the year members, families and friends are looking forward to the Landcare Christmas get together at the picnic ground beside Barkers Creek. (The entrance is shown on the map on the left below). So come along on December 16 at 6 pm for a barbecue and a relaxed evening. Bring something for the BBQ and a salad or sweet to share, and a rug or a chair.

At the end of November we worked at the Wetlands site in Victoria Road. Trees were cleared of weeds and it was very pleasing to see that since the tall wire guards have been installed many trees are thriving. The guards have stopped the kangaroos eating the tops out of the trees which give the trees a real boost. We worked in groups as the grass was extremely dense and tall and there was a strong sense that we were in snake territory. Fortunately no snakes were seen; we are a rowdy lot so we probably moved them on for the morning at least.

## 25th Anniversary Sunday September 4, 2022

Harcourt Valley Landcare will celebrate its 25th Anniversary next year. Plans include a visit to one of our work sites, a plant giveaway, gift vouchers for new members, recognition of life members and afternoon tea.

The group will meet again in February and begin our program for the year, which includes our regular meetings every second Thursday of the month and working bees on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Keep up with our news on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/HarcourtValleyLandcare](https://www.facebook.com/HarcourtValleyLandcare)

Or contact the Secretary, Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271.



*Morning tea is always a great way to catch up after a working bee.*

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# Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

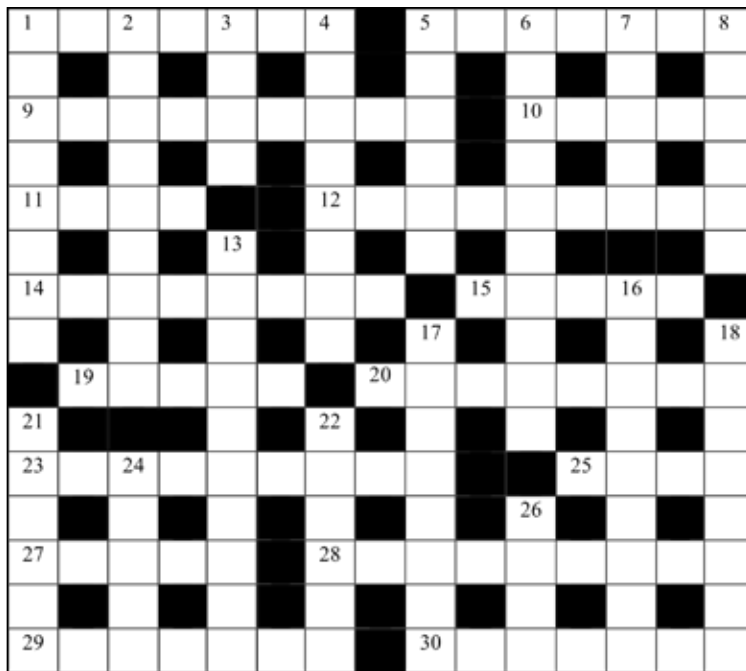
Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.  
My office is still available for assistance, please  
contact us on 5410 2444 or  
[maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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## December Xwd 2021 © McW April '18



### Down:

1. I tug five blankets off the old trailer and uncover the runaway. (8)
2. These days, some idiot with not a neuron can become an ABC disc jockey! (9)
3. God! He thounds like heeth hurting! (4)
4. Seeing the same facial feature twice cheers the drinkers in a Parisian bar. (4-4)
5. Degree of one bachelor not prim in order to scrape together the means to live. (6)
6. Footman makes cupid resit to deal with them. (10)
7. Top group backed into the tilers. (5)
8. Salty state queue. (6)
13. Perhaps it's this type of conditioning that makes for a misogynist force? (4,2,4)
16. Be brilliant, and French back off for just a spark. (9)
17. Filthy lucre, Tia Maria and sex crime renders up a Roman legend. (8)
18. Features lit up on the main date. (8)
21. Vary unnatural breeding program for the birds. (6)
22. Run and then drive all day here. (2,4)
24. Annoying computer come-on that should be pronounced as the two words that it is... (5)
26. What the Usher of the Black Rod does back in the boxing troupe? (4)

### Across:

1. How could a fan crit. me in such an agitated manner? (7)
5. Engineers spear postscript. (7)
9. One-armed oarsman? (9)
10. Excavate sick doctor. (5)
11. Fish has no right to solicit. (4)
12. Turn up immaculate and spill the beans? (4,5)
- 14 and 15. Gong to make the old queen angry? (8,5)
19. Speedy way to sign up an insurance client when the chance of losing money is only the second alternative? (5)
20. Should be plural if used as revision tool... (8)
23. Official designation of a guinea-pig during nuclear testing in Stalin's day? (9)
25. Minuscule male cat? (4)
27. Previous NZ PM from first to last one of the Cherubim. (5)
28. Cruise control on plane might get the tail up too high. (4-5)
29. One could seek nay-sayers watching baseballers from behind the stand. (7)
30. Blitz the air out of arid formation and put it first. (3-4)

## November Xwd 2021 solution © McW April '18



### Down:

1. [By odd, yet] quite understandable steps, bear-toting lad becomes a thug. (5-3)
2. [This claim] has a ceiling! (4,5)
3. (See 26)
4. Translator [ran dogma] in Garamond font. (8)
5. Frugal plant? [Well?]
6. Present nags invite no dental inspection. [Well? "Present" equivocation...]
7. The French worker so inclined [V.int.]... (5)
8. Dances like rides at a cracking pace for bipeds? (6)
13. The [coffee she's] made annoys so... (7,3)
16. Nothing convinced Molly to [cut down on] these shows. (9)
17. With this sort of attractiveness you could [get manic]. (8)
18. Journo to dob in the queen [ER]? (8)
21. Could be a place to be put up, or, if sweet [-doux], a letter. (6)
22. Nothing like a distant shout. (3,3)
24. Old- two- egg- could fit in front of it. [Well?]
26. Cleaning lady 3. tells fibs about sheilas in total i.e. as one word. (4,4 or 8?)

### Across:

1. We laughed at the bloodsucker in front because of what it did to our ... ["our" fancy]
5. To call them a [gaga lot] would show disrespect for Filipinos. (7)
9. We [despair] of the [IR] system's ramshackle state. (9)
10. Because of her fragile state, she needs to stay out of [railway] carriages. (5)
11. [Shout] "+Ow!" for colour. (4)
- 12, 14. Without doing any serious research, I'd say it was that [famed photo of "Hefty"] being tossed about on the waves. (3,3,3,2,2,4)
15. Darling daughter might make a note. [Well?]
19. What ex-bull couldn't do when given the wheel? (5)
20. Silent bloke has rocket for alternative dog-spell(ing) (8)
23. For the most part, [the inn I am] patronising is fair enough, but I could be all at sea! (2,3,4)
25. Conductor and emperor [to] come and go... (4)
27. In-between state of being legless? [0 limb...]
28. Fierce competition shaves profit margins... (9, or 3-6)
29. Rather tight attitude causes major breach [rift] in [thy] finances. (7)
30. Bing [crooner] rearranged for the inquest?



# Tap into EPA's Bigger Air Monitoring Network and Daily Forecasts

EPA Victoria is approaching the bushfire season with its biggest ever network of air quality monitors across the state, twice daily forecasts on Twitter, and the **AirWatch website** offering live data 24 hours a day.

With the recent addition of 49 new regionally based air quality sensors, EPA's Chief Environmental Scientist Mark Patrick Taylor says AirWatch now offers live air quality data from 90 stations in Melbourne, Geelong, the Latrobe Valley and broader Victoria, including these in the North West region:

- Bendigo
- Broadford
- Castlemaine
- Daylesford–Hepburn Springs
- Echuca
- Gisborne
- Heathcote
- Kerang
- Kyneton
- Lancefield
- Macedon
- Mildura
- Ouyen
- Swan Hill
- Wallan

'Each summer carries with it the risk of bushfires and AirWatch is designed to equip Victorians to take action to protect their health,' Prof Taylor said.

'AirWatch tweets twice daily forecasts for each region, and offers actions you can take to reduce the effects of smoke on your home, your health and your family,' he said.

AirWatch is at [epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch](http://epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch) - search on your location or scroll down and click on the map.

The AirWatch website has links that advise on how to protect your health and the best type of indoor air filters to use to remove smoke, dust and other particulates from the air in your home.

There's advice on smoke and your health on the EPA website here:

[epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke/smoke-your-health](http://epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke/smoke-your-health)

You can find advice on indoor air filters including HEPA filters, here:

[epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1809](http://epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1809)

From an EPA Press Release



## Weather & Water

The middle of November was unseasonably cold. I have a note in my diary to indicate that we had the wood stove re-lit from 10 November to 22 November. Since then the day time temperatures have been moderate with a couple of warmer days at the end of November. Night time temperatures have been predominantly cool.

Rainfall for November was 55 mm over 6 days from November 1 to 15. The cold days and the wet year to date appears to have affected some home growers' vegetables with seeds very slow to strike and plants displaying tardy growth. The total rainfall for 2021 to the end of November is 638 mm which is only 15.5 mm less than last year.

The Upper Coliban catchments are hovering around the 100% mark: Upper Coliban: 97%; Lauriston: 98.7% and Malsbury 98.9%.

The Bureau of Meteorology climate outlook summary says that La Niña is expected to be active until late summer which means eastern Australia and northern Australia may have a wetter than normal summer, this is enforced by other indicators with a similar outlook. Maximum and minimum summer temperatures are expected to be higher over much of Australia except eastern Queensland, NSW and eastern Victoria. As mentioned above, these areas are also expected to have higher than usual rainfall.



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# Community Diary Dates

**Thursday 9 December:** HVPS Slime Spectacular Fun Run fundraiser, check school for time and location.

**Saturday 11 December:** 2 pm Opening of Brickworks Exhibition, see page 14

**Saturday 11 December:** 4 – 7 pm Gather Harcourt, James Park

**Monday 13 December:** 7 pm Applefest Meeting at the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

**Thursday 16 December:** 6 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare BBQ, Picnic Ground See page 23

**Sunday 19 December:** 7 pm Christmas Carols with Thompsons Foundry Band at Stanley Park.

**Saturday 25 December:** 8.30 am Christmas Service at the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt

**Saturday 25 December:** 9 – 10 am Santa Claus visits Stanley Park courtesy Harcourt CFA and Harcourt Lions.

**Tuesday 11 January:** Feedback closes on the Shire budget for 2022-2023 See page 27.

**Saturday 15 January:** Feedback closes on parking and pedestrian safety at Expedition Pass Reservoir. See page 6.

**CFA:** Brigade meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 8.00 pm. Sunday morning equipment check and maintenance run at 9.00 am. Siren tested at 9.15am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for details 0428 387 339. CFA is in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

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

**Grace Church:** Sundays 11 am, 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt.

**Harcourt Bowling Club:** See page 13.

**Harcourt Lions Club:** Meetings every third Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way.

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

**Pony Club:** Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 924 000. Pony Club is next to the swimming pool.

**Uniting Church:** Sundays at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street, Harcourt. The service is followed by morning tea. All welcome. Donations of food and other household needs for St Vinnies can be left at the Church door on Sunday mornings 9–10 am or contact, Jan: 5474 2226, to arrange for collection.

**Walking Group:** Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am. Meet at the ANA Hall. The one hour leisurely walk is usually followed by morning tea and new members are always welcome.

## Harcourt's Little Library

For some years now, Harcourt's Little Library has been inside the ANA Hall and only available when the Hall was open. Now, the Little Library has grown up, so to speak, and moved outside, into a repurposed office locker. And it's available any time.

### Leave, Borrow or Take a Book



## Harcourt News/The Core is published monthly by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc

For inclusion in *Harcourt News/The Core* contact the Editor Robyn Miller on [news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au) or 0467 670 271. Contributions of news items, articles, photos, stories, poems and letters are welcome, as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

For placement of advertising please contact Pauline Wilkinson via email at: [advertising@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:advertising@harcourt.vic.au)

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A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Progress Association website and readers can receive a free copy by subscription at: [harcourtprogress.org.au/news/sub](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/news/sub) The Core is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: [harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)

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3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

## 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



## New Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Congratulations to Cr Bill Maltby who was elected as Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire at the November meeting of Council. Cr Rosie Annear was elected Deputy Mayor.

A big thank you to Cr Tony Cordy for his leadership and contribution in the role as Mayor over the last year.

## Seasonal speed limit in place

Visitors to Expedition Pass Reservoir, or 'The Res' in Golden Point are reminded that the new seasonal speed limit is now in place.

From Wednesday 1 December, the speed limit will reduce from 80km/h to 40km/h along a one kilometre stretch of road near the reservoir to help improve safety. Last year we worked with the Department of Transport to introduce the reduced speed limit, which is in place from December to April each year.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details on other safety measures we're looking at for the area.

## Head to the pool this summer

Grab your towel, sunscreen and togs and take a dip at one of our outdoor swimming pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead. The pool season starts on Saturday 4 December and runs until the end of the Labor Day weekend in March 2022. For details visit [mountalexanderpools.com.au](http://mountalexanderpools.com.au).

## Go local first for Christmas

Help support our local businesses this Christmas and shop local. By shopping local, you'll help keep businesses going and provide a much-needed boost to economic recovery in our shire.

## Services over holiday period

Council offices will close at 3.00pm on Friday 24 December and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 4 January 2022. For emergencies regarding roads and drains, maternal and child health or stock and animal control (excluding wildlife) call 5471 1700 and follow the prompts.

**We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period.**

Civic Centre

Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd Sts

P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700

e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)

w [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au)



MOUNT ALEXANDER  
SHIRE COUNCIL

## Have your say on the Shire 2022-2023 budget

Mount Alexander Shire Council is planning the 2022-2023 budget and is inviting the community to help guide priorities for allocating that expenditure.

Mayor Bill Maltby said budget funds are already committed to ensuring continuity of ongoing operations and to delivering regular services and existing projects.

'Beyond these and other constraints, community input will help shape and prioritise projects to reach our community's vision of a healthy, connected shire,' said Mayor Maltby.

'In choosing exactly what to fund, we want to hear what our community wants us to prioritise,' he said.

'We asked for help recently in determining our 10-year Community Vision and setting our objectives for the next four years as part of our Council Plan for 2021-2025.

'Now we want to set our first budget in line with those objectives, and would value the community's input into which of these objectives to focus our spending on in 2022-2023.'

To share your priorities, visit our online engagement tool, [www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget-2022-23](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget-2022-23).



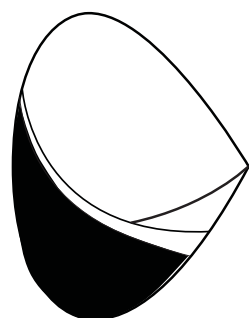
Feedback on priorities can be provided through a short budget survey and a budgeting allocation tool, which enables people to prioritise areas of expenditure based on 13 Council objectives.

'The online budgeting tool is a great opportunity for ratepayers to understand more about how Council determines its spending priorities, as well as juggling competing demands,' said Mayor Maltby.

All community input received will be collated and provided to Councillors for their review and consideration during the budget process.

**Have your say before Tuesday 11  
January 2022.**

For more information visit [www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget-2022-23](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget-2022-23) or call 5471 1700



# *Gather* Harcourt

James Park, next to the ANA Hall  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 4 - 7pm

Come and join a celebration of our region  
Live Music, Food, Cider, Wine & Market Stalls

Find out more

[www.harcourtprogress.org.au](http://www.harcourtprogress.org.au)

