

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 98 – October 2022

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: [harcourtprogress.org.au/news](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/news)

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

## Look for the Red Balloon



**S**USANNAH ENNIS (far right), who has recently settled in Harcourt, has been utilising Facebook to gather newcomers to Harcourt to meet, chat and share experiences. This happy bunch met at the table with the red balloon at The Produce Store in early October. There were some new, relatively new, and established Harcourt locals in the group.

*The Core* asked those present why they had moved to the area. One important factor is the ideal location of Harcourt in relation to Melbourne and family members who live in Melbourne or between Melbourne and Harcourt. The attraction of country living was a given, but one couple had come because they required a large block for the care and breeding of their dogs.

In August, Susannah was at Gather Harcourt and used a red balloon to identify where new arrivals to Harcourt

could meet. Several newcomers stopped and chatted and received some new resident information\* and a copy of *The Core*. There was soon a trail of children asking to get a red balloon for themselves, which was an unexpected, but delightful, outcome.

Susannah will be holding another get-together next month. Keep a lookout for details on the [Hardcore Harcourt Facebook](#) page.

**\*The New Residents' Pack has been put together by Diana Cork from the Heritage Society and it is available from the Post Office and the Heritage Centre (opposite the Post Office and open on Wednesdays). The pack will also be available at future Gather Harcourt events.**

### INSIDE

- 100 Editions of *The Core*-2
- HPA-3
- Nalderun-4
- Harcourt CWA-6
- Harcourt CFA-7
- Weather & Water-7
- HVPS-8
- Mirawara-9
- Harcourt Uniting Church-10
- Castlemaine Community House-11
- Councillor Comment-11
- Harcourt Valley Landcare-12
- Pioneers of Harcourt-14
- Harcourt Carpet Bowls-15
- Harcourt Bowling Club-16
- HFNC-17
- Harcourt Tennis Club-17
- Grace Church-18
- Shire News-19
- Gardening-20
- Crossword-22
- Community Diary-23

### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

**MEMBER 2022**

# Celebrate with us – 100 Editions of The Core December 8

*Harcourt News/The Core* invites our contributors, readers and interested community members to mark the 100th edition of *The Core* which will be produced in December. *The Core* was established as a result of the Harcourt Community Plan which identified a need for better communication within our community.

The 'first' edition of *The Core* in its current format was called a 'trial edition' and was published in December 2013. Join us on Thursday December 8 at the Harcourt Bowls Club to mark the 100th edition of *Harcourt News/The Core*. Commencing at 5 pm, there will be presentations, a display, and pre-dinner refreshments. RSVP to [harcourtcore@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtcore@gmail.com) by Friday December 2.

There were a few editions of an earlier newsletter created by Kelly Aitken and JP Frappier. If you have any copies of these, please bring them along. And before that there had been a newsletter produced by Barry Constable. Copies of those would be of interest, too.

## **The Core Production Committee**

*The Core* Production Committee is now 'turbo-charged' with new members and improved processes. To ensure continuity of *The Core*, the committee meets every month, pre-publication, to discuss the contents and to identify lead stories. Tasks are divided between members, and now



*The Core Production Committee: Back row: Michele O'Brien, Secretary and proofreader; Bernie Schultz, Design; Robyn Miller, Editor; Vera Hemkes, writer and sub-editor; Front Row: Lois Denham, School reporter and writer; and Bronnie Dean, proofreader. Absent are Sha Cordingley, sub-editor and Alison Curtis, administration.*

with sub-editors and a great proofreading team, the monthly production rests with a greater number of people.

New arrangements for proofing and editing have greatly relieved the work of the editor, Robyn Miller. In fact, the task of editing the entire paper is not only being shared but, from time to time, can be handed between the editor and sub-editors, thus giving Robyn the month off! Our designer, Bernie Schultz, as always, says he is happy to continue with the important responsibility of displaying every story and photo. Bernie has developed new processes for the electronic production of *The Core*. For example, all web links in the online edition of *The Core* are live. Bernie is in the process of documenting his methodology, using videos to record the production processes.

With 100 editions under our collective belt in December, the committee wants to ensure the ongoing viability of *Harcourt News/The Core* to record the life of Harcourt and its residents past and present.

*The Core* Production Committee is a sub-committee of the Harcourt Progress Association.

## **Distributors of Harcourt News/The Core**

Our other very important team is the Distribution Team. Most members of this group have been distributing *The Core* since the early days. Team members are: Liz Bini, Liz Rowe, Moira McLennan and Sha Cordingley.

We are missing Liz Ward who has moved to Castlemaine. As soon as *The Core* was printed, Liz was on the streets with her trolley, delivering to all the main outlets in Harcourt. We wish Liz and Peter all the best in their new home.

If you would like to join the printing and distribution team, please contact the Editor, Robyn Miller, on 0467 670 271.

## **The CNAV Conference and Awards**

Three members of the Production Committee will be attending the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria conference and awards, to be held in Mount Macedon on Saturday October 15.

The keynote speaker will be Christine Nixon AO, APM. Christine Nixon was the first female Chief Commissioner of Police in Australia and led Victoria Police from 2001–2009. Ms Nixon was in this role at a critical time of policing in Victoria. She will address the subject of community resilience.

Three professional development workshops will be held on the day: writing local history, facilitation of exchange of information and discussion between papers, and how to safely communicate about mental health and suicide in local communities.

This year *The Core* has entered every category of the CNAV Awards. Previously we have been runner-up in a number of awards. Our highest award was received in 2021 which was runner-up in the Best Newspaper category.

Judging takes place in the following:

- Best feature story
- Best editorial comment
- Best history story
- Best photograph
- Best sports reporting
- Best article by a person 18 years or younger
- Best community content
- Best newspaper

***Please join us at 5 pm on Thursday December 8 to mark the important community milestone of 100 editions of Harcourt News/The Core. RSVP to [harcourtcore@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtcore@gmail.com) by Friday December 2.***

*Robyn Miller, Editor The Core.*



**THE CORE**



# Harcourt Progress Association

Hello, this month I'm standing in for David who is taking a much-needed break. Who would work full-time, build your own house, farm your land and volunteer without needing an occasional break?

Harcourt Progress Association has also been very busy over the past month with several issues back on the agenda. As reported in last month's *Core*, the HPA, Mount Alexander Shire and VicTrack continue to work on leasing agreements in preparation for a handover of the railway station building. Once this is completed, work will begin on creating a community house that meets the needs of the Harcourt community. A number of issues will need to be resolved before we can finally take over the tenancy, but at this stage none of them is insurmountable. Over the coming weeks and months, we will be consulting with the community and hopefully recruiting interested committee members, volunteers, and session leaders. We already have a few ideas but are vitally interested in what may be of interest to you. If you are interested, have any good ideas or can provide sessions please register your interest on the HPA website.

Our perennial discussion about the roundabout is about to ramp up again. Unfortunately, the roundabout does not appear on the Regional Roads Victoria map of projects, despite assurances that the upgrade would take place. Councillor Tony Cordy has been approached to advocate on behalf of the Harcourt community and he has kindly agreed to follow up. Surely we deserve a decent gateway to our small town?

Several members of the recently formed editorial sub-committee of *The Core* will be attending the CNAV conference in Mount Macedon on 15 October with our editor, Robyn Miller. The conference provides the opportunity of networking and sharing information with other community paper representatives. We are looking forward to building our knowledge so we can better support the newsletter and, of course, Robyn.

The AGM will be called over the next month or so, but we will keep you fully updated. Anyone interested in joining the HPA committee but who needs more information can contact any one of the existing committee members for a chat. Keep an eye on the HPA website for updates: [www.harcourtprogress.org.au](http://www.harcourtprogress.org.au)

Finally, after the success of the last Gather Harcourt, we are hopeful that we can run another event before the end of the year. The park and ANA Hall are currently undergoing upgrades so we may soon have a much better space from which to provide live music. The park itself is ideal, with some lovely shade trees and amenities so close to hand. What a better way to end the year than stocking up on Christmas gifts from local producers, listening to some delightful live music and catching up with friends and neighbours with some delicious food or drink in hand.

*Sha Cordingley*  
Vice President, Harcourt Progress Association

**All Things ART**

Join us and delight in a showcase of works created by the Harcourt CWA Artists.

Including: Paintings, Drawings, Sculpture, Photography, Textiles and Art Glass

by

Melva Graham, Judi Kent, Joy Robertson, Lyn Rule, Jenny Steiner and Robyn Yeoward

Enjoy our Delicious Devonshire Tea, Raffle, & Trading Table

October 20th 2022

Drop in from 1.30pm till 4.00pm  
Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt.

\$10 Entry

RSVP 10th October Mrs Helen Hand - 0448 510 996  
Email - [harcourtewa@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtewa@gmail.com)




The *Core* online has live links to the website or to open your email software. QR codes can be scanned using your phone.



# WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

*Makarrata is 'coming together after a struggle, facing the facts of wrongs and living again in peace.'*

## A Voice to Parliament

Australia doesn't have an advisory body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to speak to Federal Parliament about laws and policies that impact them – yet. Current proposals are for a separately elected body (a First Nations Voice to Parliament) to be enshrined in the Constitution of Australia. Together with structural reform, this would empower First Nations people to take a rightful place in their own country.

The Government has committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart recommendations, and intends to hold a referendum on this matter. At the Garma Festival this year, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described a draft proposal of three sentences that could be added to the Constitution:

- There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to Parliament and the Executive Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to the composition, functions, powers and procedures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

During a Q&A with an all-Indigenous panel, members expressed several different viewpoints about a Voice, bringing up important issues about bureaucracies, power dynamics, clarity, and the consequences that an enshrined Voice will inevitably have on First Nations peoples.

Other forms of self-determination between government and Indigenous people are certainly possible. Many policies and programs are already in place, such as justice reinvestment (improving the criminal system), Indigenous rangers, respecting homelands and National Partnership agreements. There are now eleven Indigenous MPs in Parliament.

The Victorian government is open to negotiating with the First Peoples' Assembly to develop a treaty, one option being: reserved seats in State Parliament to give Indigenous people a say in the cabinet process where ministers decide on policy. If Victoria establishes a permanent Indigenous voice, it will be the first Australian jurisdiction to do so.

Already in Victoria, an independent formal 'truth-telling' process the Yoorook Justice Commission, has been established, in response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for Voice. Treaty. Truth.

In politics, new governments don't necessarily continue with procedures set up previously. Some do not engage in genuine consultation with First Nations, as the tragedies of the Stolen Generations and the destruction of the Juukan Caves attest. Fulfilment of promises, commitments and initiatives are delayed, as with the recommendations of the Royal Commission Into Aboriginal Deaths In Custody

and the Bringing Them Home Report. Few of the goals of Closing the Gap are on target.

Without an Indigenous representative body, first Nations people are in the same position they were in the 1960s, unable to have their voices heard and interests considered in the processes of government. Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney says, '... a Voice to Parliament will make our nation whole, because it speaks to the values that we all share and honour – fairness, respect, decency.'

The Commonwealth of Australia was founded on the Australian Constitution, which set out the powers between the states (previously colonies) and the new Federal government. The Constitution was silent about the First Nations and the dispossession of their lands.

In the highest Yes vote ever recorded in a federal referendum, 90% of voters were in favour of the 1967 'Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals)' on including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the census and making the Federal Government responsible for policies specific to First Nations.

In the coming referendum the question may be "Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?" Voters are being asked to approve the body's basic purpose and function. Other details can be filled in later by parliament.

In order to achieve a Yes vote, the referendum will need a double majority of both the national vote and at least four states in favour.

There will be debate for and against. It would be wise to do one's own research, learning from genuine sources, not social media posts. Two important questions will help clarify the principles:

- What are the motives behind the opinions being expressed?
- What value do they bring to the people who express them?

**Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation 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 [nalderun.net.au](http://nalderun.net.au)

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Chesters MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER  
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5443 9055  
[lisachesters.org](http://lisachesters.org)

Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP  
16 Myers St, Bendigo



Labor



## Heritage Centre

### “Built to Endure”

This month's Heritage Centre tour will examine some of the ways Harcourt Granite has been put to use in the valley.

Included in the tour will be a visit to Harcourt's most recently completed granite home.

The tour will be by car convoy, beginning and ending at the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Meet at the Harcourt Heritage Centre (ANA Hall),  
7 High St, Harcourt.  
1.30 pm, Sunday 23rd October 2022.

Please bring a plate to share at afternoon tea.

Cost is \$5 per adult, proceeds to Harcourt Heritage Centre.

## Maldon & District Financial Services Ltd (MDFSL) (trading as Maldon & District Community Bank)

### Annual General Meeting

5.30pm for a 6 pm start  
Wednesday 26 October 2022  
Maldon Community Centre,  
Francis St Maldon

Annual report and Agenda for AGM  
available in branch and at  
[www.maldoncb.com.au](http://www.maldoncb.com.au) from Monday  
3 October

Contact Shannon Burdeu,  
Company Secretary, 0478 435 110,  
[executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au](mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au)

Community Bank  
Maldon & District  
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# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Our dear friend and Harcourt CWA member, Ayrton Teed, is leaving us and heading off to explore new adventures in the beautiful King Valley region of Victoria. We are going to miss this lovely lady.

When Ayrton joined our Branch nineteen years ago, she wasted no time in endearing herself to us all and was a regular participant in our concerts and the various social activities which the Branch held throughout the year. Ayrton was Branch Secretary from 2009-2011, and, in 2010 at the State Conference in Ballarat, was presented with the coveted Book of Honour, awarded for the best Secretary's report in all Branches in the whole State of Victoria.



*Ayrton and her Malaysian family at Applefest.*

or when she was the State ACWW and Community Support Chairman, or her years as Central Victoria Group International Officer, it was Ayrton's ability to 'look outside the box' which resulted in innovations such as a night time Branch being established at Heathcote, a rest room for mums and babies at Applefest, and a family from the Malaysian High Commission being invited to join the Central Victoria CWA Branches at this year's Applefest. With Malaysia being our county of study this year, only Ayrton would have the courage to contact the High Commission in Canberra to get the ball rolling.

We had a farewell afternoon tea



*Saying Adieu.*

recently in which we remembered her many achievements and wished her well. Ayrton, you will be greatly missed by us all.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, but on the third Thursday of each month we have Craft Day. Last week our Craft Leader, Lynette Carter, asked everyone to bring a basket from home which they would embellish with a decorative Christmas handle. Don't these baskets look lovely? You too can come and join in our Craft Days. On some Craft Days nothing is planned and you can bring your own handiwork, or just bring yourself and enjoy the company and a cuppa.



*Decorated Christmas baskets.*

As I mentioned last month, our annual fundraiser, All Things Art, is being held at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on Thursday October 20. Please come along between 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm to see the many art works created by our talented members, and then sit with friends and enjoy a Devonshire Tea. Entry is \$10 which includes your Devonshire Tea. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Lyn Rule*

*Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer.*



*Ayrton promoting CWA*

I think that Ayrton's enthusiasm for all things was one of her most endearing qualities. Whether it was when she was the Central Victoria Group President

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# Harcourt CFA Recruiting Now!

The brigade is currently looking for residents of the Harcourt community to come and join the brigade as firefighters.

Fire brigades are an important part of local communities, providing assistance with a wide range of emergencies at any time of the day. You do not need to have any experience to become a volunteer fire fighter. CFA volunteers attend nationally recognised and accredited training courses to ensure you are ready for the task. If you are 16 years of age or older and it is something that interests you, please visit the CFA website: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa> and enter an expression of interest to join the Harcourt Fire Brigade. For further information you can email the brigade at [harcourtfb@hotmail.com](mailto:harcourtfb@hotmail.com) or call in at the fire station at 56 High Street Harcourt on a Sunday morning.



## BBQ Season Safety

As the weather warms up and the rain eases, BBQs are brought out of hibernation. Before using your BBQ, take the time to do a few quick safety checks. This could save your home and family from an unexpected fire. Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, CFA responded to more than 190 BBQ fires within CFA's response area across Victoria.

Checking the connection on a gas BBQ is simple. Spray the hose and regulator connections with soapy water before lighting the BBQ. If gas is escaping, soap bubbles will appear. If this occurs, turn off the gas and correct or replace the leaking connection.

Also check the condition of the gas cylinder, hoses, regulator and connection O-rings. Ensure that the BBQ is clean and remove any build-up of fat residue. Do not use your BBQ indoors or in a confined space and ensure there is adequate clearance from walls, fences and other structures. Also, it is important to understand the risk of gas burners blowing out in windy conditions and leading to gas leakage. This is one of the reasons why it is important to be in attendance at all times and ensure everything is turned off when you are finished. Do you have a fire blanket handy to your BBQ?

If a fire does occur, turn off the gas/power if safe to do so. In most cases this

should allow the fire to self-extinguish. If this is not the case, then call Triple Zero (000).

## Flooding Awareness

With all the recent rain there has been some minor flooding occurring throughout Victoria as well as major flooding in other states of Australia. The constant safety message is: **Do Not Drive through Floodwaters**. The risks are too great and are not worth it.

## Road Safety

September saw the brigade attend three calls. All three were to Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs). Two of these were at the notorious Fogartys Gap Road/ Calder Freeway intersection and the third was a bit further north on the Calder Highway at Hokins Road in Ravenswood South.

There are many contributing factors to road accidents, some of which we can control. Just like fire prevention, any action we can take to reduce the risk will assist in the safety of your family, yourself and others.

Stay safe and continue preparing for the coming fire season.

*Tyrone Rice*  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



## Weather & Water

The Bureau of Meteorology was giving a mixed message at the end of June saying that El Niño was finished, but warned that another was possible. A check on the Bureau's website at the time of writing confirms that all climate indicators predict higher than average rainfall for most of eastern Australia. The rainfall figures below bear this out: another El Niño will dominate the spring and early summer weather.

Here at Reservoir Road, the total rain at the end of June 2022 was 360 mm which was slightly higher than the previous two years. At the end of September, the rainfall total was 618.5 mm which is 98.5 mm above last year's total at the same time, and 79 mm above the September 30 total for 2020.

Through early September there were days of low clouds on the Mount accompanied by misty rain. The downpour of 47 mm over 7 and 8 September got the month off to a wet start. The total rain for the month was 119 mm which is the highest total since 2016 when we received 196.5 mm.

The Barkers Creek Reservoir has been overflowing and all creeks and soaks are full and running.

As at October 5, Coliban Water indicates that all reservoirs feeding our water supply at Malmsbury are at or near 100% capacity.

The following notice is on Coliban Water's website on October 5, 2022



### On-water recreation not permitted

Upper Coliban Reservoir, Barkers Creek Reservoir and Malmsbury Reservoir are closed to on-water recreation while the reservoirs are at capacity and spilling. We expect these reservoirs to remain closed for the coming months. Lauriston Reservoir is currently open to on-water recreation, however may close at short notice when we experience high inflows. We will endeavour to keep Lauriston open whenever safe to do so. We urge visitors to check our website prior to making the journey to the reservoirs.



# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Term 3 Memorable Events

As I write this article, the spring School Holidays are in full swing and students, and teachers are enjoying a break from school. Just before the holidays began, I had a chance to have a chat to Head Teacher Andrew Blake about his reflections on the school term. He reported that during the term there were some memorable events for both staff and students that he thought readers of the *Core* would like to know about.

Three of these events were associated with excursions which were mentioned in last month's *Core*. He said that the Years 5 and 6 had a terrific day when they visited the Victorian Space Education Centre on 31 August. They successfully and proudly launched their 'space ship' on its Mission to Mars. I am not sure what this involved, but it sounds impressive!

On 8 August, Andrew went with students from Years 4 to 6 to the Castlemaine Library for the launch of the book 'August and Jones'. There he observed students appreciating the opportunity to interact with author Pip Henry and the subjects of her book, Jarrah and Matilde. He said he was impressed with the number of very thoughtful and pertinent questions students asked.

Andrew also commended the Year 6 students for their thoroughly researched and meticulously designed itinerary for the school's visit to Sovereign Hill on 19 August which ensured that the excursion achieved its goals and ran smoothly.

The Father's Day breakfast, also mentioned in last month's *Core*, was well attended. Staff and volunteers did a great job preparing bacon and egg rolls for dads, grandads and friends of the students.

Volunteers also did a great job supporting the 'Pie and Slice' drive run by the School Council last term. Approximately \$1,500 was raised for new student readers.

Andrew also wanted to thank all the volunteers who, on Friday mornings throughout this term, have ensured that the school's breakfast program has been a great success.

If you have visited the school in the past few weeks, you will have noticed that the garden beds in the front entrance have been replanted. This was undertaken by a team of parents who turned up for a working bee on 11 September. The planting and maintenance work is part of the long term plan the School Council has to upgrade and enhance the school grounds.

The school conducted a Learning Expo

on the afternoon of 14 September. Parents, carers and friends of students visited the school to see selected students' work and chat to their teachers. As a friend of the school and of several students I was invited to attend. I have friends in Years 1 and 3 and was delighted to be able to chat to them about their work. Ada, my friend in Year 3, answered all my questions about her work patiently and precisely.

What she really wanted to tell me about though were her experiences at the Years 3 and 4 camp at Billabong Ranch in Echuca from 5-7 September. Ms Stearne, her class teacher, had a display of photos taken at the camp on a large screen in the classroom, so I was able to see many of the activities Ada and her classmates had participated in. Ada particularly liked the activities associated with horseriding, especially grooming them and, of course, riding them.

Ms Stearne told me that this was the first time a school camp had been held at Billabong and that she was impressed with their organisation and the range of activities on offer. The fact that it didn't rain during their three days at Billabong Ranch also helped their enjoyment.

Not so fortunate with the weather were a couple of other events planned for last month. The Years 4, 5 and 6 AFL and Netball Day at Wesley Hill on September 9, and the Years 5 and 6 ride to the Oak Forest on the last day of school had to be cancelled due to wet weather. Prep to Year 2 students, however, were able to participate in their Tabloid Sports Day at Wesley Hill Oval on 2 September.

Early in September, if you happen to live on the south side of Victoria Road you may have seen a number of students riding their bicycles in that area under adult supervision. Students from Year 2 and above were learning road rules, bicycle management and bike safety as part of the schools Traffic Safety program conducted from 5 to 7 September. Younger students were involved in a scooter management and safety program.

The several times I saw them they seemed to be enjoying the opportunity to learn some life skills outside of the school environment.

During my chat with Andrew, he gave me an

update on the school's roll-out of the School-wide Positive Behaviour Program. He said that students have responded well to the program. Once

they have sufficient points awarded by staff for their positive behaviours, they can trade points at the school's 'trade shop'. For 300 points they can choose a friend to sit next to them for a day; for 200 points they can 'buy' a VIP seat at assembly (ie a seat at the back of the hall with parents); 100 points will allow them to sit on a special chair in their classroom for a day. Apparently, this 'trading scheme' has been very popular with students and a great incentive for students to earn their points.

On Thursday 15 September, students celebrated the end of Term 3 by having a casual dress day.

From the beginning of next term, if you happen to be popping into the school office, you will notice that Mrs Alison Quick is no longer at the front desk of the school. The school is sorry she is leaving. Her replacement as the school's Business Manager is Ms Simpson.

To start term 4, students returned to school on 4 October. On 3 October, the staff participated in a Curriculum Development Day. Before we know it, it will be the end of the school year!

**NB: From September until the end of first term every year, it is departmental policy that students wear a hat and sunscreen when they are outdoors. It is also a reminder for all of us to protect our skin from the damaging rays of the sun as the days become longer and hotter.**

*Lois Denham*



*Grade 3/4 learn to ride a horse at Billabong Ranch*



Mirawara is a not-for-profit, social enterprise located within the goldfields of Central Victoria

in Box-Ironbark country. We are a bunch of passionate outdoor and environmental educators who want to promote connections and the creation of stories/culture between young people and nature through outdoor education activities such as rock-climbing, bushwalking, canoeing, bush skills, nature studies and much more. Our organisation is focused on community engagement, resilience building and creating a community that works together to nurture a sense of care and love for nature.

Mirawara was founded in 2015 by Emmanuelle Dubuc after she graduated from Latrobe University in 2014 with a degree in Environmental and Outdoor Education. Mirawara won second place, in 2018 under the State Government funding initiative Pick My Project and were able to run cultural, environmental, and outdoor education programs for our local youth for a year. We are currently working on funding applications to run a similar program called Youth for Future. This program will be providing opportunities for our local youth to enjoy thrilling outdoor adventures, such as rock-climbing, abseiling, bushwalking, survival skills and bushcraft as well as learning about our local environment. To keep up to date with this initiative, you can subscribe to our mailing list at [mirawara.org](http://mirawara.org)

Our spring program is now open for booking. Upcoming activities include a basket weaving workshop with Dja Dja Wurrung elder Aunty Marilynne Nicholls, a survival skills day with survivalist expert Leafy at Mt Alexander (Leanganook), and a rock-climbing day at Dog Rocks. For more info, visit our website at [mirawara.org](http://mirawara.org)



**Rewilding workshop with Leafy Adventures**

- foraging and bushtucker
- reading the landscape
- tracking
- string-making
- fire-by-friction

Leanganook campground, 13<sup>th</sup> Nov  
bookings: [mirawara.org](http://mirawara.org)  
0437 172 786

**The rock journey**

**Rock-climbing course at Leanganook**

Mt Alexander	\$85 concession (per class)
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> October	\$95 full (per class)
6, 12, 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022	\$400 (full course)

bookings: [mirawara.org](http://mirawara.org)

**Basket weaving**

with Dja Dja Wurrung elder  
Aunty Marilynne Nicholls

Our cultural event will include

- Welcome to Country
- Cultural walk
- Basket weaving
- vegan and gluten free lunch
- story-telling

\$225 full  
\$195 conc.

For bookings and information, visit our website or call Emmanuelle 0437 172 786 [mirawara.org](http://mirawara.org)



# Harcourt Uniting Church

Because our pets have such an important place in our families we recently acknowledged them in the Blessing of the Animals at our weekly service. We were invited to bring along our pets to be blessed by Reverend Sarah during the service. We had three very well-behaved dogs: Charlie, Heidi and Trino.

There were photos of a horse – it was just a little large to bring along, two budgies who love to whistle very loudly when music is played, two cats that weren't so keen to come and some goats – now that could have been interesting! The wild birds outside also joined in the service from a distance. Just before the service started, a kangaroo hopped down the Church drive and headed south – it was just a little early for the blessing.

Almost 800 years ago, St Francis of Assisi started this celebration in recognition of human/animal interdependence. St Francis believed that humans are only one of many of God's creatures, and all are blessed in God's eyes.

During the service we heard bible readings of the familiar story of Noah and the Ark which was so appropriate, not only for the Blessing of the Animals,

but also remembering the many people in the world who are experiencing severe floods at present.

In the September *Core*, I mentioned the Blume's Fashion Day which was to be held at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. This has had to be cancelled as the Blume's company has closed down.

Recently, we decided to clear out some unused furniture including some church pews which are always a popular buy at auctions. Maine Secondhand and Auction Rooms will be auctioning the furniture with an online, timed auction, giving buyers from across Australia the chance to bid. The auction is scheduled for 10-18 October. See: [www.maine2secondhand.com.au](http://www.maine2secondhand.com.au)

**When a wealthy gentleman visiting a small outback town lost his valuable dog, he asked to have a notice printed in the local evening newspaper offering a \$1,000 reward for its return. The evening came but no paper appeared. He waited some time then went to the newspaper office to find no one but the security guard there. 'Isn't the paper coming out tonight?' he asked. 'I doubt it, sir the entire staff is out looking for a lost dog.'**

*Jan Jenkin*

## Chester the Plaster Horse – A True Story

For many years near where I live there was an equestrian supplies shop. To drum up some extra business, the owner decided to place one of their life size and very realistic plaster horses outside the shop. A white plaster horse they called 'Chester' was chosen from their others as he would stand out the most.

Not long after Chester was placed out the front, the phone started ringing. The call often went something like this: 'I've just driven past your shop and there's an untethered horse standing outside. You should tether him to something before he gets into the traffic and causes a bad accident.'

The shop owner would reply, 'We don't tether him to anything because he's made out of plaster.'

Nevertheless, the calls kept coming, so it was decided to put a bridle on Chester and tether him to the nearby No Standing sign.

Summer arrived and the calls started again. 'I've just driven past your shop

and there's a horse standing outside tethered to a No Standing sign. It's a really hot day, and you should leave water out for him.'

The shop owner would always reply, 'We don't leave water out for him because he's made out of plaster.'

The calls kept coming and so every morning Chester would be tethered to the No Standing sign with a large bucket of water in front of him. The calls stopped.

Winter arrived and the calls started again. 'I've just driven past your shop and there's a horse outside tethered to a No Standing sign. There's a freezing wind and he'll catch a chill. You should put one of your horse rugs on him.'

The shop owner would always reply, 'We don't put a rug on him because he's made out of plaster.'

The caller would then always ask, 'If he's made out of plaster, why do you leave a bucket of water out for him?'

Chester was moved back into the shop's window.



**41st ANNUAL BEEKEEPING FIELD DAY**  
**Sunday 9 October 2022**  
**9.30-3.30**  
**Harcourt Leisure Centre**  
 63 Bingham's Road Harcourt

Open Hive Demonstrations  
 Hobbyists/Beginners Area  
 All-day Refreshments including breakfast & Lunch

**ALL WELCOME**

Adults: \$15 (\$10 Concession)  
 Children under 16: Free

Enquiries to Carol  
[secretarybendigobranchvaa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybendigobranchvaa@gmail.com)  
[www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/BendigoBranch](http://www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/BendigoBranch)



PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

## CARER'S WEEK Castlemaine Community Lunch FREE for carers

**When:** 12:30pm Tuesday 18th October 2022

**Where:** Castlemaine Town Hall,  
25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Too busy to eat in? You can take away your lunch!

### Morning Tea in the Park

**When:** 10am–12pm Wednesday 19th October 2022

**Where:** Tea Room, Botanical Gardens,  
Downes Rd, Castlemaine

Please scan the QR code to Register  
for the morning tea today!



# Carers' Week Celebrations in Mount Alexander Shire

National Carers Week is the official awareness raising week to highlight the valuable contribution carers make to the community.

To thank the more than 2000 unpaid carers in the Mount Alexander Shire for their efforts, Castlemaine Community House has partnered with the Rights, Information and Advocacy Centre to schedule events that celebrate carers and their role in our community.

This year, Carers Week is 17–22 October.

Carers are special people who work to ensure quality of life for the person they care for, despite the many challenges inherent in their caring role.

### Community Lunch – Carers eat free

12.30pm, Tuesday, 18 October, 2022 at the Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

A mini expo during the lunch will give carers the opportunity to learn about local services and ask questions of service providers.

### Morning Tea in the Park

10am–12 noon, Wednesday, 19 October, 2022 at the Tea Room in the Botanical Gardens, Downes Road, Castlemaine

This event is based on the theme of 'self-care', with relaxation hubs for carers to try out some self-care ideas.



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Another month has passed and still no action from VicRoads on the reduced speed on the freeway in the vicinity of Harcourt. I moved a notice of motion at the September meeting of Council in relation to Council contacting Regional Roads Victoria questioning the timeline for action. This was supported by Councillors.

My frustration stems from the time it takes some organisations to get things done. From memory it took VicRoads ten years to fix the potholes at Woodend. To make

things worse traffic travelling South from Bendigo is slowed to 60 kph and one lane. On the ABC radio they were saying 25% of Victoria's population live in the regions yet only 5% of infrastructure is spent there.

Meanwhile our State political leaders get into bidding wars over what is the next project for Melbourne.

On a brighter note the sun is shining, the grass is growing and we press on.

Our Council still operates effectively and is well managed. As you would expect there is robust debate on many issues but when the decision is made we move on together and everyone is still talking. When I meet

Councillors from other areas this is not always the case.

A reminder that the annual MAVEC vintage tractor pull is on Sunday October 30. At the Dave Bennett Reserve, Muckleford, next to the Muckleford Railway Station. It's free for kids under 15. So, come along and see the old relics in action. PS I got bogged on the tractor pull track a few weeks ago so those of you that like a good bogging are welcome to attend.

Best regards to all, Tony  
AG Cordy 0439 742 434

Supporting your community

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MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

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- 2021 Brides Choice Awards winner

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Bookings please call Marie on 0431 996 515

Harcourt Valley Vineyards

3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt, Vic 3453

P: 03 5474 2223



# Celebration of 25 Years of Landcare in Harcourt



Harcourt Valley Landcare members, past members, family, friends and members of adjoining Landcare groups joined together on Sunday 25 September to mark 25 years of environmental protection and promotion. Special guest on the day was Hadley Cole, Mount Alexander Region Landcare Facilitator.

Certificates were presented to those who had served ten years or more as volunteers, with one certificate for outstanding service also being presented. There were a number of absentees who were also awarded certificates. Thank you to designer and book publisher, Bernie Schultz for the design of the award certificates.

## Certificate recipients:

- Bill O’Neill and Melissa Pollock
- Bonnie Humphreys and Richie Powney
- Carmel and Bruce Berry
- Carole Ingersoll
- David Heath
- George and Josie Milford
- Jarrod Coote and Rebecca Edwards
- John and Jan Baldock
- Loretta and Ray Rice
- Lyn and Ivan Gilbert
- Moira McLennan
- Neil and Rona Charter
- Robyn and Harry Fleury
- Robyn Miller and Nick Quirk
- Shelley and Bruce Fiddes
- Terry and Bron Willis
- Trevor and Rhonda McKay
- Trevor and Wendy Barron

Our happy get-together began with everyone outside in the sunshine, catching up with friends, neighbours and past members. Vice President of the group, Matt Hillman was emcee for the

occasion. Bonnie Humphreys, President, presented the certificates and cut the magnificent anniversary cake made by her mother Helen Grundy; thank you Helen. Secretary, Robyn Miller was thanked with a gift for organising the event. The new membership brochures and Action Plan were available to be taken away and a colourful photographic display was on show. The Action Plan and brochure will soon be on the website: [www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org](http://www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org)

## *Banksia, Ballantinia and Blue Banded Bees*

George Milford, Treasurer for Landcare, scoured the past minutes and other records to discover that in 25 years the group has worked on fifty projects. He said, ‘Melissa Pollock recalls that it was Councillor Stephen Carthew who convened the meeting at which it was resolved to form a Landcare Group in Harcourt. The name of the group was to be Harcourt Valley Landcare Group or

HVLCG formed under The Farm Tree and Landcare Association, which has since become Landcare Victoria.

‘For the first ten years of its existence, HVLCG engaged with “Clean Up Australia” to collect litter along the Midland Highway Road reserve. Roadside rubbish removal has not featured in the group’s list of activities since the opening of the Calder Freeway when the highway was taken away from the centre of Harcourt.

‘Banksia, Ballantinia and blue banded bees can all be found in Harcourt, but perhaps not in the quantities that we would like to see. The protection and encouragement of threatened species is one major goal of Harcourt Valley Landcare.

‘The silver banksia (*banksia marginata*) is a widespread tree in south-east Australia; however, in Harcourt the species has nearly disappeared. All recent plantings by the group include examples of the silver banksia. Realising the significance of this tree to our



Pictures from the left: Friends Carole Ingersoll and Moira McLennan were early members of Harcourt Valley Landcare. Moira, our longest serving volunteer and past President was delighted to see so many in attendance. George and Josie Milford with Rebecca Edwards (left). Bonnie Humphreys (left), and Vera Hemkes.

## Celebration of 25 Years of Landcare in Harcourt

Continued from page 12

environment, President Bonnie brought experts and the community together to understand better how to preserve this important local tree. The only site in the world where *Ballantinia antipoda* grows is Mount Alexander. Landcare has been involved in studies of this tiny and vulnerable plant. Working with ecologist Paul Foreman, members have measured and recorded the areas where this plant can be found. We have participated in plantings of the matted flax lily, which occurs naturally in Harcourt, especially along roadsides and undisturbed land. This lily has strappy leaves and bright blue flowers which attract the blue banded bee, which is a buzz pollinator. You can't find a better pollinator for your tomatoes! Landcare member Terry Willis was the instigator of this project.

'One of the early undertakings of HVLcG was funded by the Australian Government Envirofund. This was the beautification and planting of native shrubs at the western end of the Primary School grounds, under the leadership of Bill O'Neil and Michael Blake.

'The longest running project has been the 21-year effort to clean up and revegetate Barkers Creek. Other creek and wetland areas weeded, planted and maintained over time, include Picnic Gully Creek near the new bridge in Eagles Road, and in the Oak Forest, the small creek behind Pippin Court which flows into Picnic Gully Creek and the wetland on Victoria Road. Funding from the North Central Catchment Management Authority created the opportunity for a partnership between Harcourt Valley Primary School and Harcourt Valley Landcare. Led by educational specialists, students participated in planting and water studies and increased their understanding of indigenous stories. Trent Gibson supervised this project.

'A further project in partnership with the school was the placing of nesting boxes in the Harcourt Flora Reserve. This is a place of abundant wild flowers in season, but which has been neglected and undervalued. The group has removed trailer loads of rubbish from the reserve as well as conducting weed removal and wildflower walks. The latter have been led by Aunty Julie McHale and Bonnie Humphreys, our President.

"Beautiful Barkers Creek" was a three year project on Barkers Creek which was undertaken between Harcourt Valley

Landcare, Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group, and North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare group. Led by Janice McMurtrie, we partnered with land holders living along the creek to eliminate weeds and to fence off the creek to protect the riparian zone.

'A very significant project was the "Wildlife Survey of the Mount Alexander Summit" undertaken in 2004. This involved collaboration between Landcare, Parks Victoria and the Southern Cross Television Network. This project not only collected vital ecological information about the Mount, but determined where the Southern Cross TV Tower was to be placed so as to do the least damage. The survey contains baseline information about fauna, mammals, bats, reptiles and birds including threatened species and is a valuable record for future study. Moira McLennan was President of the group and the driving force behind this project.

'Work in and around the Oak Forest has in the past involved the nearly impossible feat of restoring the depleted pine plantation at the foot of Mount Alexander. Jarrod Coote drew on his extensive environmental experience, and organised ripping with a bulldozer followed by aerial seeding. That area is now occupied by the Mountain Bike Park. Jarrod was also a lead organiser for a massive one day planting of 40,000 trees on private properties to the north of Harcourt. People came from everywhere, including Melbourne, to plant seedlings, and despite very heavy rain, enjoyed a successful day.

'The group's enthusiasm to kill wild pine trees on the Mount led to Connecting Country becoming involved and the 'pine assassins' were born. At Camp Out on the Mount, organised by Connecting Country, groups were dispatched to clear up areas of pines by cutting and pasting, or drilling and filling, pine trees with poison. One area on the mount, cleared and replanted is the area around the sericulture ruins. We assisted in a project at the ruins which was begun by Little Habitat Heroes, that was a group of young mothers who wanted their children to appreciate the value of trees from an early age.

'At the Oak Forest, the group constructed picnic tables, barbecues and signage. The



**Harcourt Valley  
LANDCARE**

### Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Thursday October 13, 2022  
Harcourt North Hall  
McIvor Road, North Harcourt

Members please bring supper to share  
New members welcome!  
Enquiries to the Secretary: 0467 670 271

construction of the picnic tables and signage at the Oak Forest and at Toll Gate Park (opposite the CFA) were organised by Trevor McKay. Trevor also created the group's logo. The stone circle at the Oak Forest, which is in constant use, was created at a working bee with stone donated by Ard van Dyk and Troy West. They even arrived with a tractor with a large bucket to assist in manoeuvring the stones!

'Weeds, weeds, weeds – there's no end to them! Harcourt Valley Landcare has worked with the Shire to assist in identifying key roadsides where weeds, including feral apple trees, are a problem. Abandoned orchards and feral fruit trees have the potential to harbour Queensland Fruit Fly. We thank Terry Willis, for initiating the education program on fruit fly in Harcourt and for liaising with Agriculture Victoria and the Shire. As a result the Shire has a fruit fly prevention and notification system.

'I may not have mentioned all our projects, remember there have been fifty of them! We thank all past office bearers and members, and also recognise the assistance of Landcare Victoria and Connecting Country Castlemaine and we look forward to continuing Landcare work in and around the Harcourt Valley.'



Past members of Harcourt Valley Landcare: Kay Francis, Harry Fleury, Robyn Fleury and Rhonda McKay.



# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## Robert Blair, the trapper.

In October 1909, a railway employee working at Elphinstone Railway Station submitted the following report to the *Mount Alexander Mail*.

‘A well-known person in the Harcourt district named Robert Blair turned up here at Elphinstone at 7.00 am on Wednesday with 19 pairs of full-grown rabbits weighing about 150 pounds [68 kg] to catch the express. He is trapping on the Breadalbane Station, and is camped at Sutton Grange, about six miles from here. Having no horse, he has made a wheelbarrow, the handles being a portion of a single-furrow plough with which, he says with pride, he has taken two first prizes at ploughing matches in years gone by. He has light battens for the legs of the barrow and a rope for his shoulders. He plods the six and a half miles [10 km] with his load, the occupied time being about three hours. He says he is only coming in every other day until the weather gets too hot to keep the rabbits, when he will have to come in every day. As Bob is verging on to 60 years, it is a wonderful performance, as he is using 60 to 70 traps and he has to set them and go round them at sundown, and again at 9.00 pm to release, bleed, kill and clean the rabbits, and then again go around the traps in the morning. He is ready to start shortly after 4.00 am. It shows he is a man who will never growl at his lot, and also proves the old saying that “Necessity is the mother of invention.” If a lot of our young men would follow old Bob’s footsteps and learn to launch out for themselves instead of growling at the Labour Party, Liberal Party or any other party, things would go on more smoothly. However, old Bob says it is better than working for a “cocky,” as he is his own boss. When bunnies are scarce, he takes anything that comes his way, from bullock punching to wood chopping.’

But ‘bunnie’ was never scarce, not in Robert Blair’s lifetime. The rabbit was intent on expanding its territory. Essayist Walter Murdoch described a rabbit’s attitude to life:

‘His supreme motive is the expansion of the rabbit family. He dreams of the day when the rabbit family shall inherit the earth from pole to pole. He is careless of the single life. The individual is nothing to him, the species is all. “Do what you will with me,” he says. “Trap me, poison me, skin me, chill me in your refrigerators, pack me tight in tins, make my fur into a hat and my carcass into a pie – what does it all matter as long as my species endures and spreads and burrows its way across kingdoms, until the earth is one huge rabbit warren?”’

There were no wild rabbits in Victoria when Robert Blair arrived from England as a toddler. In 1860, Robert’s father died unexpectedly when the boy was ten years old. Wild rabbits had just then (1859) been set free at a farm near Geelong. This event had disastrous results for agriculture and the economy. Eventually, it would shape Robert Blair’s life.

It comes as a surprise to learn, in August 2022, that geneticists have discovered that Australia’s most devastating biological invasion was entirely achieved by the descendants of just 24 wild rabbits. DNA analysis has identified that the 1859 release of rabbits by Thomas Austin was the origin of the rabbit plagues that spread across the continent with disastrous effectiveness. There had been numerous introductions of rabbits across Australia, but these were generally tame, multi-coloured, floppy-eared rabbits. DNA researchers have stated that it was only the batch of wild rabbits brought here by Thomas Austin that adapted quickly to local conditions and bred rapidly. Soon the ‘grey blanket’ was spreading at the rate of 100 kilometres per year.

The Blair landholding was rather small and, as he grew, Robert often had to seek work away from the farm. He must have led a blameless life as, despite being well known in the Harcourt district, his name almost never appeared in the local newspaper. For some time, he worked with his stepfather, James Cox. By the time his mother died when Robert was 38, he had spent very little time on the farm. It was being worked by his unmarried sister.

Robert Blair’s life paralleled the growth of the rabbit population in Victoria. By 1900 rabbits were a serious pest in central

Victoria. Rabbit inspectors were appointed to patrol farms, to initiate the laying of poison wheat, enforcing the digging out of rabbit warrens and the installation of wire netting fences, even at creek crossings and gateways.

But the rabbits kept on breeding. In 1903 it was reported that local railway stations were scenes of commotion and activity, with Harcourt station busy loading a daily output of fruit, granite, and rabbits. It was reported that at Elphinstone station large numbers of rabbit skins were being sent daily to Melbourne, to be used in hats and coats, while millions of frozen rabbits were in demand in Melbourne, including some destined for export.

The *Kyneton Guardian* stated that there were twenty-five rabbit trappers in the vicinity of Elphinstone. Among them was Robert Blair. The Elphinstone correspondent of the *Mail* referred to old Bob as living in camp, but it is more likely that he was living in the shearer’s quarters or in a single man’s hut on Breadalbane Station at Sutton Grange. The graziers of Sutton Grange were seeing their pastures ruined by rabbits, and actively sought trappers to help them control the menace.

Robert Blair of Harcourt, died in Bendigo in 1912 aged 63. In his probate papers he was described as a trapper. We are indebted to the Elphinstone correspondent of the *Mount Alexander Mail* for a colourful insight into what it meant to live by trapping rabbits. The pressures exerted by this agricultural pest continued until the 1950s when the myxoma virus was released to control the rabbit population.

The quaintly worded snapshot of the events one particular morning at Elphinstone station, tells us much about a Harcourt man’s involvement in what was, a century ago, a widespread and seemingly uncontrollable agricultural catastrophe. And it comes as a surprise to read that, after apples and granite, rabbits were the third-most traded goods at the Harcourt railway station.

**This Thumbnail Sketch has been compiled for the Core from the CH James collection at Harcourt valley Heritage Centre. The quotation from Walter Murdoch was taken from his essay *On Rabbits and Morality* published in 1941. The geneticist’s discovery was reported in the *Bendigo Advertiser* of 27 August 2022.**

# Successful Country Carpet Bowls Championships.

After two previous attempts in 2020 and 2021, both thwarted by COVID 19, we were able to hold a very successful Country Carpet Bowls Championships at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on Saturday 17 September, 2022. It was pleasing to have bowls teams from: Horsham (five teams), Geelong (two teams), Kyabram, Gigarre and Harcourt (one team of four each), making a total of 40 players attending.

Thank you to Kevin Earl who kept pushing to get Harcourt to hold the championships and Rebecca Mandersloot, Secretary, Victorian Country Carpet Bowls Association for contacting teams around the state to organise the championships on our behalf.

Many teams from around Victoria (including Bendigo and district) have disbanded over the last two years. Geelong have indicated that this was to be the last year of their association – due to COVID, the age of players, and the lack of younger people playing the game. This trend also appears to be affecting many other sports.

On the day, a round robin of three games was held, with teams playing two games of 16 ends before afternoon tea, and then the final game of 16 ends to finish the round. The winning team was Horsham 3, with the Kyabram and Harcourt teams being equal runners-up. Instead of a trophy, the winners were presented with a gift card of \$50.00 each and runners up were presented with cards of \$30.00 each. Gigarre was presented with the booby prize.

A great effort was put in by Tyrone Rice who sat at the table recording the scores from each team to establish the final winners on the day.

All players agreed it was a very enjoyable day and voted to hold another event the same time next year, with the possibility of the event being held in Harcourt, because it was felt that the Harcourt Leisure Centre was an excellent venue.



Our thanks go to Jan Jenkin for organising the food for the canteen, and together with Barbara Templer and Jan's daughter Narelle, for working all day in the canteen and cleaning up to ensure all attending had lunch and afternoon tea to keep them on top of their game. Thank you also to those who supplied cakes and slices, and to those who set up the hall and packed up afterwards. It was a long day, but most enjoyable, and it was great to be able to get together after so many lockdowns.

## Winter Competition

Our Winter Competition has now ended with final games played between Maine Four and New Breed – New Breed won 17 to 12. The Grand Final was played between Rebels and New Breed – Rebels won by one point 16 to 15. The wind-up dinner will be held at the Cumberland Hotel to complete our Winter Season.

## Summer Competition

This year is the 70th year of continuous Carpet Bowls in Harcourt, having formed in 1952 (the 2020 Competition had to be abandoned), and we hope to continue for many more.

So, come and join us for the start of our Summer Competition on Wednesday 2 November 2022 at the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Registration: Adults \$6.00, Game Fee: \$5.00 per night. All will be most welcome.

## Require Further information?

Loretta: 5474 2453,  
John: 5474 2226  
or Summer Competition:  
Peter: 0408 305 325

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# Harcourt Bowling Club

## Bowls Season Opens

### President's Day Re-scheduled

Unfortunately, the scheduled Opening/President's Day on Sunday 18 September had to be cancelled due to the weather. It was reset to Saturday 1 October. News of the day will be in the November *Core*.

### Midweek Pennant

Practice commenced on Wednesday mornings during September and has been well attended. Under Carrol's tuition, we have refined our skills on how to bowl in the wet, how to judge the distance our bowl finishes from the jack and other finer points in bowling. We commence the season on Monday 10 October with renewed enthusiasm after the winter break.

### Jackpot Pairs

Jackpot Pairs commenced on Wednesday 28 September and will continue weekly. This is open to all bowlers. Games will commence at 12.30 pm – names in by 12.00 pm (on the sheet on the notice board). All welcome.

### Social

A footy grand final night was held at the club on the eve of the AFL Grand Final. Members were encouraged to wear their favourite team gear and were treated to the usual football fare of hotdogs and meat pies. It was a lot of fun with many joining in the spirit. Geelong and Sydney supporters and others were keen to show their colours. In full umpire whites and flags, Carrol Frost was judged as wearing the best outfit.



### State Championships

Harcourt junior bowler, Seth Bird has had a very successful start to his bowling season competing with the Bendigo Dragons Under 18 Bowls Squad recently.

The team of Nick Rowley, Brock Keenan, Seth Bird and Lachie Robertson were undefeated in all games in the Doug Kneebone Under 18 Tournament at Sunbury. They defeated Moama, Geelong, Bendigo, Goulburn Valley and Gippsland, coming out overall winners on the day. Congratulations to Seth and the team.



*The squad – Seth is on the right.*

### COMING UP IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

#### *Come and Try Bowls Day*

Sunday 16th October 1.00pm – 3.00pm

#### *Kidman Invitation Mixed Fours Tournament*

Sunday 23rd October

#### *Ladies' Invitation Triples Tournament*

Wednesday 16th November

#### *Sponsors Night (1 of 2)*

Tuesday 22nd November

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# Football and Netball Finals

## Senior Football Team's First Flag Since 2007

To put it mildly, for a team to be in premiership contention is the end of a hard road. Nearly all grades of football and netball at the Harcourt Football Netball Club were listed to play in the preliminary finals, which was a fantastic achievement.

Three teams made it through to the 'big dance' – the Grand Final. The netballers were in the C Grade and the 15 and Under grade. The senior football team brought home the flag, the first one since 2007.

What a mighty achievement! The C Grade netball girls fell just short, but the U15 side had a dominant win.

The finals were a fitting reward for all our tireless volunteers, the committee, sponsors and coaches. Alex Code, senior coach, also included the Harcourt community in his acceptance speech. The community was well represented on the day and at the long running celebrations.

We enjoy and benefit from the two-way support between the two biggest Harcourt sports clubs – the Football Netball Club

and the Bowls Club. This backing of each club by the other is a great model and demonstrates how our sporting community is strengthened.

So, with our Harcourt region looking to be a Shire population centre in the coming years, we thank community members (and *The Core*) and invite all to join in supporting the future of our sporting club – LIONS ROAR!

*Daryl Gale*



The Harcourt Football Netball Club has changed its Facebook banner photo, with this great shot of the Seniors Footy Team which won the Grand Final this year.



Unfortunately, the U13 netball team weren't able to come away with the win, in early September, but they've had a fantastic season and played a great game. They will be back ready and roaring next year! Well done on a great season lionesses! You have done HFNC proud!



The photo shows the 15 & Under team after their win in the preliminary final on September 10. In the final against Maldon, Harcourt - 33 defeated Maldon 10. Congratulations to Tegan McKay (back row, right) for winning the best player of the final.

### Football Results Seniors

Grand Final – 17 September 2022	
Harcourt Seniors	9.4 - 58
Carisbrook Seniors	7.8 - 50

### Netball Results 15 and Under

Grand Final – 17 September 2022	
Harcourt vs Maldon ...	33 : 10
<b>C Grade</b>	
Grand Final – 17 September 2022	
Harcourt vs Avoca ...	30 : 36

## Harcourt Tennis Club Season 2022

Tennis commences in the Marong District Tennis Association competition on 22 October. The combined A and B grade team will play at home against Derby. The game may be held on Friday 21 October. We welcome new players. For information about playing in the senior team and latest updates, see the contact details below.

The Juniors Section 3 team participates in the competition organised by the

Castlemaine District Tennis Association. This competition begins on Saturday 8 October. Kari Aldridge is organising that team, but for any enquiries see the details below.

**If anyone is interest in playing seniors or juniors tennis, please contact us through Facebook or my phone number 0403 967 918.**

*Faye Hards*

## Castlemaine Cycling Club 2022 Road Season

Date	Location	Event (Course)
<b>October</b>		
8	Harcourt	Handicap (Med. Loop)
15	Harcourt	Scratch (Block)
22	Harcourt	Handicap (Harmony Way)
29	Harcourt	<b>Club Championships</b>

Note: CCC reserve the right to change course, race and event type on the grounds of rider safety and numbers.

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## Some Time Ago

### HARCOURT PATRIOTIC FAIR

A LARGE GATHERING.

RECEIPTS TOTAL £100.

WELCOME TO RETURNED SOLDIER.

Saturday was a red letter day in the history of Harcourt, the occasion being a Patriotic Fair in aid of the Red Cross (writes our correspondent). The attendance was exceedingly large, and the day's receipts amounted to £100, which was beyond expectation. The fancy dress football match was the chief attraction, and it was played in a paddock that had some crop in it. The players, who wore varied costumes, entered into the game with plenty of vim, especially at the start, and at one time carried the umpire (Mr. Stewart) off the field, and finally they fell in a heap on the ball, and burst it. Mr. Stewart was an efficient umpire, and the players were: H. McLean (Navy), W. Smith (Chinese), H. McDougall (Sandy), T. Warren (clown), J. Comini (Charlie Chaplin), C. Hill (clown), H. Hill (lady), J. Ely (crinoline), A. E. Gartside (Miss Ever Blooming), V. Ely (costume), D. Eagle (clown), J. Armstrong (Stringy Bark Bill), W. Leversha (Johnny Walker), W. M. Leversha (Stars and Stripes), W. Wilson (Lassie), L. Jones (broken down toff), C. Warren (lady), C. Heaslip (cowboy), H. Franklins (patches), P. Gaasch (Stars and Stripes).

The numerous boys' and girls' races and skipping competition were all well contested.

Mount Alexander Mail, 15 May 1917 via Trove

## Grace Church

### The Rich Young Ruler

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good – except God alone.' You know the commandments: Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honour your father and mother.' 'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these I have kept since I was a boy.' Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ... It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, 'Who then can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'

The rich young ruler's problem was that he was in love with his wealth – it had become his god, and that is why Jesus asked him to give it up. Later in the New Testament the Apostle Paul teaches that it is the love of money that is a root of all kinds of evil, not money itself. It's all right for a Christian to have money, so long as the money doesn't have us!

*Ps Roger Thurecht*

## Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday

All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht

0422 605 897

[gracecastlemaine.org.au](http://gracecastlemaine.org.au)

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

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## Help protect our livestock

Whether on a farm or kept as a pet, emergency animal diseases like foot-and-mouth disease pose a significant threat to our animals, industries, and environment.

Here's how you can keep your livestock safe:

- Ensure your Property Identification Code (PIC) details are up to date.
- Have an up-to-date biosecurity plan in place for your property.
- Check if your potential visitors have been to a country where foot-and-mouth disease is present.

To find out more call  
Agriculture Victoria  
on 136 186 or visit  
[agriculture.vic.gov.au/fmd](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/fmd)

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



# Council news

## Spread the Christmas cheer!

The Mount Alexander Shire community always puts on a great show to celebrate Christmas, and we want to support our small towns in spreading this season's cheer. This is why we're offering Small Town Christmas Celebration Grants.

We're offering grants of up to \$1,000 per township to put towards outdoor decorations, community events and other celebrations you have in mind.

The application form is available at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants), along with guidelines and more details. To speak to a member of Council call 5471 1700 or email [grants@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:grants@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

Grant applications close Monday 24 October.

## Working together for a healthy, connected shire

[mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au) (03) 5471 1700

## Australia Day Awards 2023

Is there someone in your community who's made a positive difference to the lives of others? Nominate them now for the 2023 Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day Awards.

Find forms and more information at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay).

Nominations close on Friday 2 December.

## Join the Seniors Festival

Come along to the free Country Concert featuring Broderick Smith, at 2.00pm on Friday 7 October at Castlemaine Town Hall.

For more Victorian Seniors Festival events visit [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au](http://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au).



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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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# Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

## Fruit Tree Care in Spring



### *A wet spring can damage fruit trees*

Hi everyone, how are you feeling about this rainy spring? You may not realise it, but this year's rainfall is looking very similar to the flood year of 2010. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has just announced another La Niña, which means we're in for a wet summer. We've got fingers, toes and everything else crossed that it doesn't keep tracking as wet as the 2010/11 season when dam banks broke, trees fell over, our cherry orchard died and our house flooded (numerous times)!

A wet spring often translates into a poor crop, particularly in apricot and stone fruit trees. If there's no fruit on your apricot tree this year, it's probably because the early spring rain has resulted in a blossom blight outbreak. Depending on the variety, most of the flowers should have fallen off by now to reveal tiny cute apricots. If instead you're seeing shrivelled flowers that have stuck on the tree, and possibly even some dead shoots, then you can be fairly sure of the culprit.

If you're seeing a lot of dead shoots in your trees, it's quite important to prune these out and get rid of them. They can go into a hot compost pile, or you can burn them, or just pile them well away from your fruit trees and let them break down. The main thing is to get them away from your trees, because the same disease that causes blossom blight can also cause brown rot in your fruit later in the season. A wet spring and summer will increase the risk of brown rot throughout the season. Regular sprays of wettable sulphur and cleaning up infected or fallen fruit will help to control it.

### *The value of weeds*

Meanwhile, the ground is warming up and weeds have started growing. To decide how to manage weeds around your fruit trees, you first need to think about the cost/benefit analysis. The 'cost' of weeds is that they can look messy; they can make it harder to work around your tree, and they can provide a 'ladder' into the tree for annoying, fruit-eating insects like earwigs. Tall grasses (like paspalum) can also be quite competitive with the tree for water and even nutrients.

### *Soil science*

However, lots of other plants under your fruit trees are actually beneficial. It turns out that the common idea that weeds compete with your fruit trees for water and nutrients is mostly just wrong and, in fact, the benefits of plants growing under your trees are huge. This is still a challenging concept for many people (as well as offending those who have the tidy gene). If you'd like to learn more about it from an expert, we recommend you have a look at one of the master classes we ran with Dr Christine Jones, a respected soil scientist. She does an excellent job of explaining why understory plants under fruit trees bring so many benefits to the soil. Just head to the 'courses' tab on our website and type Dr Jones into the search bar.

The simple message is that bare soil is bad! It heats up (to at least 60°C in summer), loses moisture, loses carbon, and your precious soil microbes die – in short, it can become a sterile desert very quickly. The idea that weeds under fruit trees take moisture away from our fruit trees is a myth. The soil needs total ground cover all the time to stay healthy - a tall order in our climate but, in fact, there's lots of evidence showing that's what the environment was like pre-European settlement.

We've known for a long time that healthy microbes (bacteria, fungi etc) are needed in the soil to convert nutrients into a plant-available form - it's called the Natural Fertility System (NFS). The latest science is showing that the microbes actually live inside the plants for part of their lifecycle, so they are even more important than we realised.

Weeds help to increase the amount of carbon in your soil; they increase the amount of water your soil can hold; they provide habitat for the all-important microbes; they keep the soil cool in summer (which conserves water) and they provide food for worms and other lovely underground garden helpers.

### *Weeds vs companion plants under fruit trees*

And, of course, you don't have to grow any old weeds; you can choose the plants you'd like to grow around your fruit

trees. There are lots of herbs, veggies and flowers that make really good companions, and if they're also edible all the better. Most of us have diets that are way too simple. Apparently, we should be aiming to eat at least 30 different vegetables, herbs and fruits in our diet every week, which is quite a lot. The more varieties of edible plants you grow that you can throw into a salad the better, because even small amounts can make a big difference.

Some weeds are also very good at 'mining' the soil for nutrients and making them available to your fruit trees, particularly the ones with a deep tap-root. Flowering weeds also provide important habitat for insects in the garden (particularly yellow and white flowering plants).

### *Living mulch vs added mulch*

Can you tell we like weeds? For all but the very youngest fruit trees, we reckon the balance is firmly in favour of having 'living mulch' under your fruit trees. However, they still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are: (1) mow them occasionally, (2) plant the things you want to grow there, like flowers, herbs, or vegetables, and (3) use animals (geese, sheep, chooks, guinea pigs...) to mow them for you.

Mulching is also popular, and while it's better than bare soil, plants are 5 – 30 times better at building soil carbon than mulch. Living plants win! If you do decide to mulch, be aware that it can be just as effective at stopping water soaking into the soil as preventing evaporation. It's also a great idea to put some compost or worm castings underneath your mulch before you lay it, to help kick start the biology in your soil. And a word of warning: don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed!

**Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and teach the Grow Great Fruit organic 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 their free online workshops.**



# Gung Hoe Growers



**W**HERE AT GUNG HOE GROWERS are about to start our second year of 12-month veggie box subscriptions in November and I can't believe just how quickly the time has gone! All our veg box members feel like family, but there's something even closer with those that we've been growing with for 12 months. We see most of them every week with pickups at the Wednesday Farmers Market in Castlemaine or at the farm on Fridays; we write emails and send pictures of 'what's in the box' and 'what's happening on the farm' each week and, in return, we see kids growing up, get to know our members, learn how people cook different things, gather recipes, and honestly feel like you've got extended family that have your back.

I'm (Mel) super excited about the 21/22 Zine that is being put together from the last season; made up of recipes, songs,

poems and drawings from our CSA (community supported agriculture) veg members, as well as the restaurants Gung Hoe Growers work with. With the aim of being able to get creative and scrappy, and to give anyone else who is similarly inclined the opportunity, there are some absolute gems coming in!

It's a real responsibility growing food for our community and not something that we take lightly. We try our hardest each week to bring forth a box of diverse and interesting produce and, in turn, members get to see the true seasonality of Harcourt and taste delicious, fresh, organic produce. (We collaborate with other growers in the area too to provide berries, mushrooms and other produce we may not have, like carrots!)

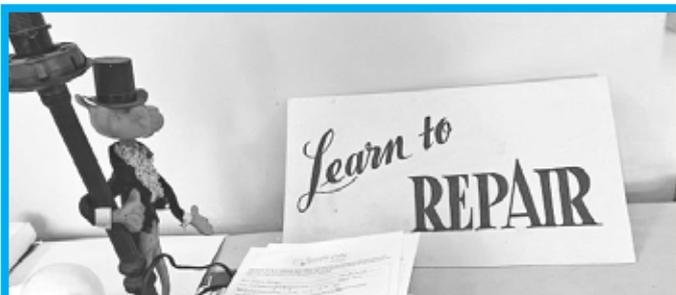
We offer opportunities to come and work and learn with us on the farm if you'd like, and Duang (local Chewton legend) hosts a free cooking workshop – looking at vegetables from the root to the tip and how to cook them for all Gung Hoe Growers veg box subscribers.

Our lists are filling up, but we have a few spots in the 12 months and the seasonal box sign ups and, as Harcourt is our direct local community, we wanted you to know the details!

Get in touch if you're interested in sharing your food journey with us this season. Write to [gunghoegrowers@gmail.com](mailto:gunghoegrowers@gmail.com) for all the details.

Cheers!

*Mel, Clauds, Pip, Will & Quince & Scallywag*



## Castlemaine and Surrounds Repair Cafe

30 October, 10am–1pm.

— Last Sunday of the month —  
(February to November)

Castlemaine Community House  
30 Templeton Street (behind the Town Hall)  
Enter via the back door from the car park.

Participate as a volunteer or join a workshop.  
Come along for the day and see what we're all about!

Website: [castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com](http://castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com)

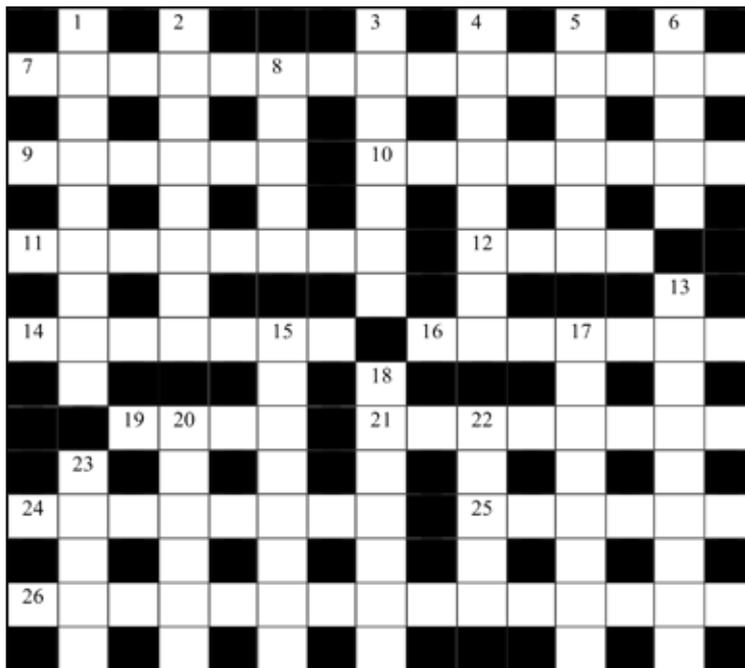
**mainFM** is an award winning radio station based in Castlemaine, broadcasting music, community news, talks and specialist programs and events throughout a large area of Central Victoria, serving our community.

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**94.9**  
**main**  
**FM**  
LISTEN LOCAL

# October 2022 Xwd

© McW Aug '18



### Down:

1. Thin out to say you had a late breakfast. (9)
2. Stops (i.e. with nothing added) the different forms of the element. (8)
3. For as used to indicate reason it admonishes God to initiate everything. (7)
4. Just to breathe induces snake anger... (8)
5. All who come into the church (or us) help make up the choir. (6)
6. Old Greek water man dropped the first element for stories. (5)
8. Early alphabetical CEO under sheep station. (5)
13. Two-legs good for Greek plane figure? (9)
15. Yen to exhaust the learner mixes absolutely. (8)
17. Musically diss the briars? (3,5)
18. Low art suggests obvious answer: scratch it! (7)
20. Almost beyond Hal's dumb reach to go into it another time... (6)
22. Regale louts by chopping tail and backing into their favourite tipple. (5)
23. C'mon, Bruce, the info yer missing to correctly identify and name the entrance, or vestibule, or sort-of hall, or front room, or whatever, is in there somewhere, okay? (5)

### Across:

7. Atheist asserted: "Godlessness is way out in front!" (3,7,5)
9. Gibson the heavyweight in outer Melbourne... (6)
10. Birds arise via inner space here. (8)
11. Golden piquant qualities of patronage? (8)
12. Not that special, so it takes in as well. (4)
14. Sad Seth had sets of them, but they've been put away in a safe place... (7)
16. Scots river nuisance is also the most unfathomable. (7)
19. Next to a demurrals? (4)
21. Spare Scots dam for putative state of dole-bludgers? (8)
24. It makes for rage if so many snouts in the trough don't allow fair goes at the starters. (4,4)
25. Beginner pilot gets shakily over the ridge in this... (6)
26. Help saner prince in order to supply blade for writer. (6,9)

# September 2022 Xwd solution

© McW Aug '18



### Down:

1. Optical torrents! [Well?]
2. [I clear TV] by changing the hold. (8)
3. Doesn't remember the last cold snap (e.g. frost). (7)
4. [Do whores] traduce Marian here? (8)
5. Interrogates chops, steaks, etc. in the '60s and '70s. (6)
6. Poor Grassby—his corpulence proved terminal. [Well?]
8. Penny's maker hits one out of the stands.
13. It [is, if sated]... (9)
15. Alternate jam [=conserve]? (8)
17. Fashionable [in...] Miss America/Miss Universe etc. look into murky deaths. (8)
18. Second taken out [by an STD]? (5-2 or 7)
20. What the ISIS man might have in his carpet roll to get things under way?
22. Taxing circular reef? [Well?]
23. Third ray (gamma) mixed in volcanic product. (5)

### Across:

7. [Weary of the cheat] I turn a blind eye to his shenanigans. (4,3,5,3)
9. Plucky little chook in move to no-platform O'Shanter. (6)
10. It's [all go, sir]—there was a [girl also] in the mist with them... (8)
11. Not a [cab—a car] you'll be taking to the casino to pick up your winnings here. (8)
12. Kick the first half out from the muddled [south]. (4)
14. More peremptory than Romans, but often on the same page... [Well?]
16. Pommy Viscount could not be highly regarded [admirable], could he? (7)
19. Address writer with sesame. (1,3?)
21. [NRA quilt] recomposed without a ripple? (8)
24. You can't get more [open than] a building dedicated to all the deities. (8)
25. Unique cover drive? [Well?]
26. [Optimise bliss] I promise nirvana, I say I will deliver your eternal happiness. I offer you these... (15)

**Harcourt News/The Core  
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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 *The Core* 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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		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

**Community Diary Dates**

**Monday October 10:** Mid-week bowls gets under way.

**Thursday October 13:** 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare AGM, North Harcourt Hall; contact the Secretary, 0467 6870 271 for information.

**Thursday October 20:** 1.30 pm-4 pm: All Things Art, Harcourt CWA. Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

**Saturday October 22:** Weekend pennant bowls gets under way.

**Sunday October 23:** 1.30 pm Heritage Tour, 'Built to Endure' - The uses of granite in the valley. Meet at the Heritage Centre, (ANA Hall), 7 High Street, Harcourt (see notice page 5).

**Wednesday November 2:** 7.15 pm Carpet Bowls Summer Competition, Harcourt Leisure Centre, contact Peter on 0408 305 325.

**Thursday December 8:** 5 pm, Celebrate 100 editions of *The Core*. All volunteers and friends are invited. More details to come.

**Carpet Bowls:** 7 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

**CFA:** Brigade meeting night is the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; Siren is tested at 9.15am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

**CWA:** First Thursday of the month, 1.00 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

**Grace Church:** Tuesdays at 10.30 am: Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm Zoom Bible Study, A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link: [pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au](mailto:pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au).

**Harcourt Bowls Club:** See page 16.

**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. The Pony Club is located 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**

Harcourt's Little Library is outside the ANA Hall  
It's available any time.



# HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member-based organisation which encourages active participation and contribution and conducts regular public meetings to further a variety of goals and projects. Members are able to join working groups and sub-committees and pursue specific areas of interest or initiate projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

- Support and encourage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Strengthen community connections by promoting local sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities.
- Encourage, support and acknowledge the role and contribution of volunteers within Harcourt.

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners in Harcourt and the surrounding areas of Barkers Creek, Ravenswood, Faraday, and Sutton Grange – some exceptions apply, do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the Committee. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year. Any renewals or new memberships paid in 2021 will be valid until the end of June 2022.



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become or renew my membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. (please circle one). I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

Financial member: full fee \$20    Financial member: concession fee \$10    Non-financial member: no charge

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

TELEPHONE: ..... EMAIL: .....

SIGNED: ..... DATED: .....

I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 concession for Annual Membership

Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 135, HARCOURT, VIC 3453

OR

I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.

Please indicate your name and state 'Membership' when paying online.

*This application will be submitted for determination by the Harcourt Progress Association Committee and the applicant will be advised of the outcome of their application pursuant to the Rules of the Association.*