

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

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Urgent Need for Town Centre Design



HIGH STREET IN HARCOURT is an attractive street because of its Avenue of Honour. The Memorial Park, the landscaping around the motel and Goldfields Track Café, the extension into Bridge Street with Stanley Park North and the play space – all add to the beauty of our township.

The new bollards in High Street will preserve and make safe the beautiful trees that line the west side of the street. Without those trees High Street would be very bland and much hotter in the summer.

‘But, what about parking?’ I hear you say. It is true that a significant number of parking places have been lost. Another road where parking spaces will be lost is Harmony Way where driveways will give access for new houses under construction.

Business owners in the area are concerned because of the loss of parking spaces and the inappropriate use of private business car parking areas. Residents are concerned that driveways will be blocked on busy weekends.

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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



MEMBER 2021

Harcourt Progress Association

Newly Elected HPA Committee Members



This month we introduce two more members of the new Harcourt Progress Association Committee.

Michael Henry

HPA Deputy Council Liaison: Deputy Community Engagement Officer; Joint Chair, Roundabout Sub-Committee

Member 33 months; Former Acting HPA President



This year is the 21st anniversary for Henry of Harcourt, started by Michael and his parents from an apple orchard purchased in 1997. Since then, it has grown capacity to include a stock of over 45 cider apple varieties and a handful of eating quality apple

and pear varieties.

Michael has used the insight of building a business from scratch to support the development of Harcourt and to balance his self-interest with the need to grow opportunity for other businesses and the community itself.

This included forming *After the Bypass* in 2012 and he admits to being surprised that Harcourt has thrived after such a huge change.

The amalgamation of the HPA with the Harcourt Fruitgrowers Association in 2018 brought him to the HPA and he wants it to be equally responsive to the needs of the agricultural, business and residential sectors. He believes that our diverse sectors can fit together for mutual benefit.

Michael remains optimistic about Harcourt's future but believes it can only be secure if we work together against any plan that could see us relegated to a dormitory suburb.

He believes the HPA can become an effective local resource, lending skills and help to those 'having a go'. Michael also hopes to find practical support to build a Community Chest style of program to advance business and community projects like a community house at the old railway station.

Megan Kelsey

HPA Committee Member; Chair, Railway Station Implementation Sub-Committee
Member 3 Months

Megan's family has a lifelong connection to Central Victoria.

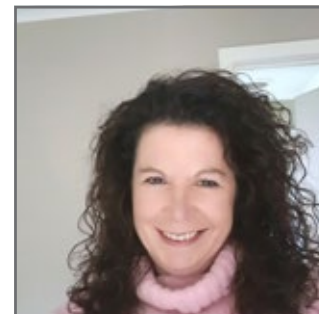
'I remember the family holidays-from-hell in the old Kingswood from Queensland every holiday with five kids in the back!' she commented. Megan visited more regularly about nine years ago when her mother bought a weekender in

Castlemaine. Eventually, her mother, brother and aunt have moved permanently to the shire.

She is a pioneer of remote working, continuing to work for her Melbourne-based building surveyor after moving to Harcourt with her two children and three dogs about five years ago, buying a property close to the railway station.

Megan has been the Applefest market coordinator for the past couple of years and got interested in the HPA through her association with Paul Mizzi.

She is passionate about the fate of the old railway station, hoping to see the building and the fruit garden restored and preserved. She would like to use her time on the committee to focus on railway related issues. She hopes this may include looking at how the community can eventually access and take advantage of the fruit garden including schools and kindergarten programs.



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HPA Public Meeting Going Ahead on 24 August

Planning for The HPA Public Meeting is proceeding in the hopes that COVID-19 restrictions are not reinstated by 24 August. The meeting is expected to start at 7.00 pm at the Harcourt Bowls Club.

HPA President David Foley was keen for the meeting to go ahead, 'It has been two years since we have had a chance to gather together to talk about our town's future,' he remarked.

The last HPA public meeting discussed and developed the community's response to council about the issues important to the residents and businesses in the community. That response was the development of Shine Harcourt and promotion of that resource was impacted by COVID-19.

David also explained that a number of personnel changes at MASC and at state government level have seen stop-then-start progress while we have been locked down, but recently a number of key issues have suddenly resurfaced. David said, 'The community needs to be brought up to speed so that the HPA can move quickly to ensure Harcourt's interests are heard'.

In explaining the importance of the public meeting, David commented, 'A number of key issues are being planned or started by Council and by the state government, and they have

long term implications for Harcourt. If we don't ensure we understand what our community wants in regard to several of these, it will be too late for us to have any impact. For example, on Council's Plan Harcourt, where we want to ensure Harcourt does not become a dormitory suburb.'

The public meeting will also be an opportunity to hear about where important work has been achieved in relation to the Harcourt Roundabout and development plans for the old railway station.

David hoped for a good turnout of new and old community leaders at the Public Meeting.

'The Harcourt Shine project recognized a number of key issues about the future of Harcourt that were strongly supported by the community. We need to check in with the community and see that these remain important, but also see what the last two years has uncovered in terms of new issues and what new community members might think,' he said.

See the notice on page 24 about registering for this important event. Please note that the link for registration is live in the online version of The Core

Plan Harcourt – Where are we now?

Harcourt Progress Association made a submission on Plan Harcourt to Council in February 2020 and also wrote to the CEO about Plan Harcourt amongst other matters in April 2020.

While there are many good aspects to Plan Harcourt as first proposed, there were a number of issues which HPA highlighted for attention, including: the need for a comprehensive urban design plan for the centre of town, the need for Plan Harcourt to be clear that it allows for a range of facilities and services in Harcourt which add to its liveability – that it fully becomes a place to live, not just a place to sleep; the need for the allocation of land for appropriate commercial development to ensure liveability, and to include an approach to exploring positive, creative, economic, social and environmental outcomes together with the community.

In the interim, while the Council and the community wait to see whether the Planning Scheme Amendment put forward by Council is accepted by DELWP, the community needs to discuss and confirm what it wants to see in Plan Harcourt so that feedback can be provided to Council, before Plan Harcourt becomes the final working document for township planning in Harcourt.

Further discussion on Plan Harcourt and Shine Harcourt will take place at the public meeting called by HPA on Tuesday 24 August. For details and for booking please see the back page.



Communication from Council

Council has provided the following information in an email to those who have made submissions to council or who are seen as stakeholders in the process. The diagram above is sourced from the Council web site using the link at the foot of this article.

Council submitted an application to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) seeking authorisation from the Minister of Planning for the planning scheme amendment in June 2021. The Minister for Planning and DELWP will now consider Council's application before authorising the amendment. A formal public exhibition process will take place following the authorisation of the amendment, to give the community an opportunity to view the proposed changes to the planning scheme and make a submission.

Since the Plan was adopted by Council in July 2020, Council officers have sought

advice from DELWP on the proposed changes. This includes ensuring that the amendment has regard to:

- Planning Practice Note 91 (Reforms to the Residential Zones).
- The updated Planning Policy Framework of the planning scheme. This was introduced in May 2021 through the State Government's planning system reform program.
- Land supply and demand at a municipal level.

For more information about the planning scheme amendment process, please visit:

www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme.

For more information about the Plan Harcourt project (including accessing a copy of the final, adopted Plan), please visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt.



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well. I got my second AstraZeneca jab yesterday. I feel that I am in a high risk group for COVID, so I am extremely thankful to get the vaccine.

We have been watching the Olympics over the last week. It is a great event, but it is unfortunate that Tokyo is struggling with COVID at the same time.

At the council's most recent meeting one of the main items was the planning permit for the supermarket for Castlemaine. The matter has been referred to VCAT which will make the final decision. At the meeting, councillors voted against the permit application, as a range of matters need to be resolved.

Key issues include parking, traffic management and the planned use of the south end of Urquhart Street. All things considered, it will be some months before the matter is resolved.

It is noted that there is a planning permit in place for a

smaller supermarket if the developer wanted to progress with that. This matter is an important decision for Castlemaine, and there has been huge community interest.

During question time, a number of questions related to the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group's waste-to-energy plant proposed for the KR Castlemaine site. This is not a Council project, and at this point Council has not received a planning application for the proposed facility. The other point to make is that Council has not put any funds into the feasibility study. The proposal has attracted a lot of community interest, so watch this space.

But, while I have the opportunity, I want to give a big shout out to all of the team at KR. As our largest employer they provide major benefits to our local economy and community.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy
0439742534

Urgent Need for Town Centre Design

Continued from page 1

In the photos on the front page, the changes to High Street are shown, and it's possible to see the beginning of parallel parking on both sides of the Street. Drivers with passengers who park on the west side will need to neatly position their car so that the passenger car door opens between, and not onto the bollards. There will be safety issues for all drivers getting out of their cars on a busy weekend morning.

The service station is a truck stop. Access and egress may be severely limited for extra-large vehicles. I witnessed the petrol tanker leaving via the southern exit of the station. Its turning circle took up the entire road, right up to the bollards on the motel side of the road – how would the tanker have exited if cars were parked on the western/motel side against the bollards?

The main tool for planning in Harcourt is Plan Harcourt which focuses on land use planning and rezoning land to allow development in appropriate areas. It is also concerned with Urban Design. A Council Bulletin on Plan Harcourt in May 2020 indicated the following encouraging information:

'Community feedback and further internal deliberation has highlighted the need for the list of urban design/place activation projects to be further explored and brought together in a new town centre urban design plan. This should focus on details relating to movement and access, landscaping and the public realm, and help to coordinate future capital works programming and grant opportunities.'

The process to set up an urban design for Harcourt, which included a community reference group, was expected to begin during 2020. However, in October 2020, Harcourt Progress Association was told that the Town Centre Design planning process was on hold due to town centre projects in other towns and internal resourcing constraints. This has resulted in Harcourt bearing the brunt of a disjointed planning process where anomalies can occur.

The HPA will be advocating for a professional town centre design to be put back on the table. The design has to address the fragmentation in central Harcourt that has occurred over many

years, and it must plan for pedestrian and cyclist links to reduce the car dominance of the old highway.

A key part of this action will be to actively look for opportunities to create shaded, well-designed, off-street car parks within or near the town centre.

If you are concerned about this issue, come along to the Public Meeting on August 24 at the Bowls Club at 7 pm or contact the HPA on its Facebook or Web Page.



Grace Church

I Thank God for the Development of Vaccines

CORONAVIRUS 19 is just that, a virus. Polio was another viral disease. By the year 2000, Australia was declared polio free, thanks to a successful immunisation program. Many older readers may remember photographs of people in iron lungs – the predecessors of today's ventilators. Think COVID-19.

I went to school with a lad who had contracted polio as a child. He was tremendously powerful in his torso and biceps. He had compensated for his lower limbs which were weak. One leg in particular was severely atrophied and functioned only because it was braced with iron calipers.

The prophet Daniel in the Old Testament said that knowledge would increase. Never was a truer word spoken, and all the more so when it comes to science and medicine. I thank God for the Salk vaccine that ultimately eradicated polio. And I expect that one day we shall thank God for the current crop of vaccines which should ultimately chase COVID-19 from our shores.

As Christians living in a democracy, we cannot insist upon vaccination – it cannot be made compulsory. God created each of us with free will. Jesus is quoted in the gospels as saying that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength. To my way of thinking loving the Lord our God with all of our minds means that we should take advantage of vaccines.

Some are conscientious objectors when it comes to getting vaccinated. The bible says in First Corinthians chapter thirteen that God's kind of love does not insist upon its own way. Therefore we cannot mandate vaccination. But we can pray that sufficient numbers of the population will accept vaccination so that we reach that point of herd immunity – and everybody is protected.

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897
gracecastlemaine.org.au

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Brian Nunn
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ABN 98 370 744 852

Spot the Difference

Pre-restoration work at Harcourt Railway Station



The restoration of the Harcourt Railway Station will be carried out under VicTrack's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings program. Vic Track's website says that this program has 'the double benefit of bringing the station buildings back to life while providing the community with new spaces for them to enjoy. The restored buildings also provide a boost to the regional economy, by attracting tourists and visitors to rural towns.'

The main structural works to be done under the program at Harcourt have not yet commenced but, prior to VicTrack closing the tenders, some preparatory safety work was completed. The sprinter trains run on a single track through the old station site and pass close to the platform at high speed. During the last Victorian school holidays, trains were replaced by buses on the Melbourne line.

The absence of trains ensured safety for the workers and enabled some restoration on the track-side face of the building and the platform. The platform was re-surfaced and a new safety barrier was erected. This fence is required because there are doors in the building which could potentially be opened to the platform. The verandah posts and corrugated iron verandah were painted and detailed and a tree that was too close to the wall was removed.

Council will be the head lessee of the building, and the Harcourt Progress Association will be the lead tenant. Proposed negotiations with Council for a Community Reference Group (similar to that used successfully for the new play space in Stanley Park) are under way. Meetings will also include representatives of VicTrack.



Harcourt CWA Association Day

Once again we have all had to cope with events and celebrations being cancelled due to COVID. As I write this, it is still uncertain what is in store for us all but, fingers crossed, by the time you read this we will be back to what passes for normal these days.

It was this time last year that we had to cancel our 2020 Association Day due to COVID, and I don't think any of us thought that twelve months later we could possibly be faced with having to make the same decision again. So, on a more positive note, Harcourt CWA would be very pleased if you could join them on their annual Association Day fundraiser for 2021.

Last year, well-known Harcourt

local Jenny Steiner had agreed to be our guest speaker, and I am delighted to say that Jenny will finally be able to entertain us at this year's Association Day.

Jenny creates large sculptural works for public spaces. She has created works for many clients including local government, RSL, schools, architects, cemeteries and the Catholic church.

Jenny will tell us about her journey from working in graphic art design and as a muralist to the established artist that she is today. Jenny has her art installed in over fifty public places and you don't have to go far to see one of her best known works in Central Victoria – the statue of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo.

So, please come along on Thursday 16 September at 1.30 pm to the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham Road and listen to what Jenny has to

tell us about her journey and then enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and catch up with friends.

There will also be a Trading Table, a Raffle and a Lucky Door Prize for you to enjoy, and it will all cost you just \$8.00.

RSVP: September 9

Lynette Carter 0476 527 911

Helen Hand 0418 510 996

Harcourt CWA meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1.30 pm. New members are always welcome, so please pop in and join us for a cuppa.

Lyn Rule

Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer.



Jenny with her bust of Brother Ambrose Treacy



Winds of Providence, Parade College Bundoora



St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

Events and Successes Celebrated Despite COVID

HVPS was one of many places where things were getting back to 'near normal' when BAM, four days into the term the school was back to having most of its students at home doing remote learning.

Spare a thought for all the teachers needing to adjust again to online teaching, and parents with children at home trying to do their online learning on those cold wet winter days we have been experiencing.

As I am about to submit this article, there is good news that restrictions are easing across Victoria and as of 28 July, all students will be returning to school. What a relief.

At the beginning of the term, parents were able to enter the school building to drop off and pick up their children, checking in via a QR code that had been installed. Face masks had to be worn and hands sanitised. Now, it's back to only essential visitors being allowed onsite checking in as above and teachers needing

to wear face masks in the classroom except when giving one-to-one instruction.

Parent interviews were completed before the end of last term and, fortunately, the school did not have to postpone school photos this year. School photos were taken on Thursday 15 July. What a relief for parents and teachers to sneak this in before lockdown.

It was unfortunate that the planned opening of the Reconciliation Stone, which was due to take place on July 16, had to be postponed – for the second time. A future date is yet to be set for this important event.

Andrew Blake, the school principal reported that the school had had a great second term. In the last week of the term, the Junior School Council oversaw a Pyjama Day to raise money for the State School Relief Fund. Records show that one in ten students access this fund. Their efforts raised \$68 for the fund. What a great effort.

The school has received news that a defibrillator is being donated by the Maldon and District Bendigo Bank. As yet the school has not received it as the presentation could not take place due to restrictions.

In the second-last week of last term, when things were 'near normal', students Katie and Talise participated in the regional cross country competition at St Arnaud. They both did themselves and the school proud, Katie particularly so. She was the first to complete the course and will now represent the school in the state championships in Melbourne later this year. Well done Katie. We hope that by the time the state championships are held there are no COVID restrictions and you will be able to compete in them.

And ... I am sure we are all hoping that we don't have any more lockdowns this year.

Lois Denham

Game Changer to Boost Women's Sport at Harcourt

Council is 'changing the game' at recreation reserves across the shire as the roof of the shire's second female-friendly/gender neutral facilities is installed at Harcourt.

Works have continued throughout lockdown to construct new change facilities for players and umpires at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve.

The works include two change room areas with toilets and showers in cubicles for privacy and a separate umpires' change area, also with toilets and showers.

Council's Parks Recreation and Facilities Acting Manager Troy Lyons said the works were on track to be completed by November despite COVID lockdowns delaying delivery of materials.

"To date we've demolished the old toilet block, cleared the old foundations, poured a new floor slab, erected the structural steel frame and the roof will go up this week," said Mr Lyons.

"The framing of the umpire rooms is also complete. It's really starting to look like a building now."

The \$1 million-plus joint project includes \$5,000 from the Harcourt Football Netball

Club and \$3,000 from the Harcourt and District Leisure Centre Inc. Council provided \$705,198 and successfully bid

for \$372,131 from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Female Friendly Facilities Stream which is working to level the playing field for women and girls in sport and recreation. One way it does this is to deliver female-friendly environments and provide equitable usage.

The Harcourt Football Netball Club is a great example of a local community club that provides participation opportunities for all ages and genders. The club fields seven netball teams and four football teams in the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football and Netball League.

Mr Lyons said most sporting pavilions across the shire were built 30 to 40 years ago when sports such as football and cricket did not cater for female participation.

"Many lack suitable change facilities for females. The existing change rooms have urinals and open showers which don't meet current needs."

The pavilion redevelopment at the Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve was



the first recreation reserve site Council upgraded to include female-friendly/gender neutral facilities.

Council is also working on designs for improved female-friendly facilities/gender neutral at the Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve in Maldon, with a pavilion redevelopment also in the planning at Camp Reserve, Castlemaine. A design process will commence at Camp Reserve this financial year.

For more information, visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/MajorProjects.

From a Shire Press Release



Harcourt Heritage Centre

William Sanders – Eyewitness to History

Sometime early in 1860, William and Sarah Sanders, their son William (junior) and daughter Mabel, moved from a farm on the Bolingbroke Estate about a mile or so west of the Stockade (as Pentridge was then known) to take up a selection at Harcourt.

William (senior) had purchased about 120 acres of good farming land abutting Mount Alexander, which was then a Farmers' Common of about 4,000 acres. William Sanders (junior) stated,

'The land selected was a famous and well-known place for teamsters to give rest to their bullock teams and to give them a few weeks spell, seeing that there was plenty of grass and an abundance of springs.'

Another word picture of the countryside at that time was given by travel writer William Kelly in his 1858 *Life in Victoria* (page 183):

'From Harcourt into Sandhurst the country is like one stupendous park, superbly diversified with every variety of scenery, grassy hills of a most pleasing configuration, and wooded ranges abounding all over with excellent sheep pasture. In places, too, expansive opens occur, disclosing beautiful glades and basins of most superior soil.'

The land selected was Allotments 13, 14 and 24 Section III parish of Harcourt. William (senior) acquired

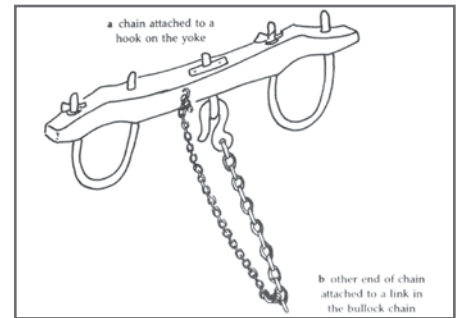
his property under a mortgage of £150, on 2 June 1860. He paid about £60 for each of the three blocks. The allotments, located side by side, made one property on the east side of Reservoir Road called 'Hillside Gardens'. The land has since been divided into two properties: 'Hillside Acres' and 'Warrawing'.

As the railway had not yet reached Castlemaine, the family loaded their goods and chattels on a dray and spring cart and headed for their destination. We presume that William (senior) drove the dray and William (junior), then aged eighteen, took the reins of the spring cart. They entrusted their cattle to a man who took a route east of Mount Macedon, to avoid the Black Forest with its notoriously boggy road and threat of bushrangers.

The family lived in a tent until the two men of the family put up a slab hut. After clearing and fencing the land, they started farming and producing dairy products and vegetables. The farming was very profitable as there was a good demand for their produce in Castlemaine. The Chinese were very good customers for pigs, fowls, eggs and vegetables, as they were doing well with their puddling machines.

Once the farm was a paying proposition, the two men built a proper house of granite on the lower slope of Mount Alexander which made it clearly visible from the railway line.

William (junior) wrote that the railway workers had their camp almost in the



centre of the town, near the present-day Harcourt Valley Primary School. It was simply a collection of hovels. After the railway was extended to Sandhurst, as Bendigo was then known, the Burke & Wills Committee in Melbourne decided to have a rough-hewn block of granite weighing 36 tons brought to Melbourne and placed on the grave of the explorers in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

The Sanders family lived just a few hundred yards south of the granite quarry and father and son regularly carted blocks of granite, including the stone for erecting the Burke and Wills monuments. There was much jealousy between the Castlemaine and Melbourne memorial committees. The first of the



The Burke and Wills monument in the Melbourne General Cemetery.



The caption on this lithograph by Samuel Calvert is: 'Burke and Wills Monolith passing through Collins-street, Melbourne, September, 1864.'

William Sanders – Eyewitness to History

continued ...

memorials was built in 1862 overlooking Castlemaine from the eastern side and can be accessed from the eastern end of Lyttleton Street. The monument at Melbourne General Cemetery was erected in 1864.

William Sanders (junior) told how Mr Blight, owner of the quarries, mustered up thirty or forty bullocks to take the immense block of granite on a bogie wagon one and a half miles to the Harcourt Railway Station. With the bullocks yoked and chained to the great wagon a start was made. The bullock team, with the massive weight dragging behind, brought the wagon down from the quarry all right, but as soon as an effort was made to pull it up the hill, the yokes split, the chains snapped, and it remained stationary.



The 36 ton granite block for Melbourne's Burke and Wills monument waits to be loaded at the Harcourt Railway Station.

Mr Blight got rope and tackle, and, as there were plenty of trees along the route, they served as anchors to attach the ropes, then with extra help from Sanders' four bullocks, and Mr White's, they, after a month's work, pulled it up to the station at a snail's pace.

William Sanders wrote of what he *observed*, but he did not recount what he had *heard*. We can quite believe Joseph Blight, who later recalled that,

'The hills between the quarry and the railway station drew forth innumerable blasphemies from the teamsters.'

Shortly after this, William Sanders, father and son, and Jimmy Douglas, a Sunday school teacher, shipped aboard the *Lightning* for the New Zealand goldfields.

They must have left Mrs Sanders, her daughter, and presumably the hired help, to look after the farm. We do not know how long they were away. The next reference that William (junior) makes is that pleuropneumonia broke out in the herd, and they had to kill about thirty head of cattle.

When twenty-three-year-old William decided to become a teacher, Mr Henry Hayden, the head teacher at Harcourt, coached him and his son, Edward Hayden, in order to pass the entrance examination for the Trained Teacher's College.

With the examination passed, William was posted to Eaglehawk as assistant master, and Edward

Hayden was posted to Chewton. Later, William was sent to Huntly as head teacher. His sister Mabel kept house for him at Huntly until he married.

On leaving Harcourt, William was given a Bible with the inscription:

'To William Sanders, Harcourt Sunday School Presentation, on the occasion of his leaving the district, January 1865, signed Henry Homan, Superintendent, Geo. Dean, Secretary.'

On 26 August 1868, William Sanders (senior) sold his property to Martin Penhallurick, who, in turn, sold the property to Phillip Trevean on 14 July 1881. William (senior) left Harcourt and returned to Melbourne. He worked as a gardener and died in 1910.

The next reference we have is that on 3 December 1868, when he was 27, William Sanders of Huntly married Mary Ann Dainty at her father's home at Faraday. That is the last mention of Harcourt or Faraday in William's memoir. After a long teaching career he died, at age 84, in 1924.

We are indebted to William Sanders for his eyewitness record of Harcourt as it was in the first years of European settlement, and for his firsthand account of the near-disaster when 'the yokes split, and the chains snapped'.

This is another in a series of **Thumbnail Sketches** compiled from the CH James collection of Harcourt Heritage Centre. Excerpts from the memoir of William Sanders were provided to Hedley James in 1978 by Fred Steele, grandson of William Sanders.

Harcourt's Little Library

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

Leave, Borrow or Take a Book



Fireside Chat



Sunday August 22 at the ANA Hall at 1.30 pm

Topic: The Thumbnail Sketch

Afternoon tea, a warm room and a bit of a get-together is promised.

History is not the preserve of the special few. In compiling the Thumbnail Sketches of local worthies, Harcourt Heritage has attempted to be consultative and democratic. In adopting this approach Harcourt Heritage Centre has discovered that new facts emerge, new evidence is revealed of the factors that motivated the behaviour of our pioneers. Our community's valuable background information as to who, how, what, when and why the community is what it is will be disseminated and, hopefully, remembered.



La Larr Ba Gauwa Update

Progress is underway on the \$200,000 improvement project for the Oaks Campground at La Larr Ba Gauwa. The volunteer Committee of Management secured the grant funding earlier in the year to help protect the park and surrounding environment and improve the visitor experience for campers, day-trippers and picnickers.

La Larr Ba Gauwa Committee of Management Chair, Jason Tolland, said: 'The funds will help us manage the growth in visitors to ensure this very special area is protected for everyone to enjoy.'

The Committee of Management have engaged Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (Djandak) to help deliver the project. The local team, along with 3 Acres Landscape Architecture, have developed a scheme that makes environmental protection a priority.

The focus will be on safeguarding the much-loved Oak Forest and Picnic Gully, as well as ageing trees and special vegetation areas around the campsite. The scheme introduces well-defined boundaries for special vegetation areas to prevent firewood collection and to protect the root base of significant trees in the campground and surrounds.

Progress has been hampered by COVID-19 restrictions but current timelines will see the project completed before the new year.

COVID-19 restrictions in the park

Directives from governments and councils have resulted in many recreational places being closed to limit the spread of COVID-19 and remove access to public spaces where



(L to R): At the Harcourt North Hall reviewing the plans are Paul Waddell, Director 3 Acres Landscape Architecture, Andrew Nicholas (COM Member), Jason Tolland (COM Chair), Janine McCarthy (COM Member), Michael Scott (COM Member).

people congregate. Camping at La Larr Ba Gauwa park has been suspended periodically this year, in line with health protocols set down by the Victorian State Government. However, riders can still access the trails.


To our local cycling community, we're asking people to take care if you go out on the trails. Governments are recommending that people continue to be active, and it's never been more important to look after your physical and mental health.

Bike riding is one of the best ways to still get the exercise you need each day. If you're riding solo, make sure someone knows where you are, where you're going and when you expect to be back home. If you're riding with your household, take


care of one another. No matter where or who you riding with, ride well within your comfort zone.

When you return from a ride, wash your hands thoroughly and wipe down your bike, helmet and any gear. Keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres from others you see while out on your bike. If you're self-isolating and feeling well, set up a stationary bike with an indoor trainer if you've got one.

With all the rain we've had lately, keep in mind that riding can damage trails if they're too wet. How do you know when they're okay to ride? Keep an eye on the La Larr Ba Gauwa social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram for advice and updates on trail conditions.



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Harcourt Bowling Club

As I write this the Club is experiencing the fifth Victorian COVID-19 lockdown.

Welcome to our New Secretary Libby Harris

The Board are pleased to announce that Libby Harris has accepted the position of Secretary and has been seconded onto the Board. Being new to the role Libby will be ably assisted by other Board members. Congratulations Libby and thank you for taking on this pivotal role at the Club.

Getting Crafty with Carrol

Although the July get together to make cards was not as well attended as hoped, Carrol noted that those who did attend had a great time and made some beautiful cards.



Undeterred, Carrol is planning another session of card making at a future date when it is safe to do so. Anyone interested should keep an eye open for the notices regarding this.

Christine Anderson

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VMR Update

The Core spoke with Andrew Mierisch who has been leading the team through the recent weeks of lockdown and bad weather. He said, "Works have been continuing at VMR. The two 80 metre platform footings were poured just in time before the heavy rains came. Drainage is being installed and the grounds are slowly taking shape. When the heavy rains set in, the outdoor works were halted. Efforts were turned to our primary carriage storage by installing six tracks under the building."



The concrete footings of the Platform 1 nearest the station can be seen amongst the mud which has plagued the volunteers this winter.



Space has been excavated below the Railway station for the storage of engines and the laying of six sets of tracks has commenced.



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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Remembering the Polio Epidemic

A Frightening Virus Eliminated by Vaccination

In these uncertain COVID times perhaps we can gain some strength thinking about how people have coped in other times like these. Can anyone remember when schools were last closed because of a virus pre-COVID? The answer is the 1950s when polio epidemics swept across Australia. I was already doing some research into polio epidemics and, encouraged by our editor Robyn, I thought I would share some of my findings with *Core* readers.

Records show that poliomyelitis, polio for short, was first described by the British doctor Michael Underwood in 1789. Evidence from ancient Egypt has led archaeologists to believe that the virus has been around for thousands of years.

It was not until 1908 that two Austrian doctors made the discovery that polio was caused by a virus, but they did not know how it was spread. We now know that it is caused by a gastrointestinal virus which is spread by faecal-oral contact, sneezing or coughing.

There are three types of poliovirus varying in severity from the mild one, then the non-paralytic one and, worst of all, the paralytic one which attacks the central nervous system, including the nerves that control breathing.

Rapid spread through communities

Often, people had the virus but had no symptoms or, at worst, they had flu-like symptoms. The problem was that while they were infected they shed the virus which then rapidly spread throughout the community. Unfortunately, in about one per cent of people the virus spread to the central nervous system, and of that one per cent, five to ten per cent died.

Thousands of people could unwittingly be infected with the virus, depending on the level of sanitation where they lived, before one case of central nervous system infection and paralysis emerged.

Polio was first recognised in Australia and the United States in the late 19th century. It was not until the early 20th century that polio was described in the western world as 'blooming'; previously it had been relatively rare.

From my limited research, it appears that the worst epidemics in Australia began in the late 1930s. Tasmania was particularly hard hit. From 1937 to 1938 one thousand children in Tasmania were infected. This was one of the highest

numbers of infections known around the world, second only to Iceland.

Fears grew as cases increased, it was not understood how it was spread and there was no safe treatment for it. An injected vaccination was trialled in the USA in the 1930s, but as some children died from the side effects of the vaccination, it was not continued.

Polio was a worry for parents because the virus mainly affected children under five. Like the current COVID, it often initially presented with flu-like symptoms – headaches, fever and muscular weakness, and sometimes a cough which could disappear over time. For some the symptoms were more severe, with the virus affecting the lungs and the motor neurons, causing paralysis of the limbs.

From the late 1930s to the mid-1950s, epidemics ravaged many countries, including Australia, and it is estimated that over 4 million Australians were infected with the virus, about 2,000 people died and more than 40,000 people, mostly children, were paralysed.

Borders, schools, businesses closed

At the height of the epidemics, state borders, schools, pools and theatres were closed, and quarantine and travel restrictions were introduced. The government of the day told people to avoid others, not to shake hands or touch others and to wash their hands frequently.

None of my older siblings could recall whether their school in the Barossa Valley was closed, even though a cousin of mine who attended their school was severely affected with polio and spent weeks in an iron lung. I am uncertain whether any local schools in Harcourt or Castlemaine were closed or whether there were any other local closures at that

time. As people did not travel as much as they do now, the outbreaks were often very localised.

As more and more people became infected, theories of how infection was spread increased. One interesting and incorrect theory that gained traction in the late '40s and early '50s in Australia and America, was that it was related to the consumption of ice-cream. It was observed that polio cases increased in summer when the consumption of ice-cream and other cold foods increased. The consumption of cold food became correlated with the increase in polio cases. Consequently, the sale of ice-cream was banned for a time.

Governments encouraged research into the disease in a bid to find a cure or a vaccine against it and to put a stop to the rumours about it.

Our local historian, George Milford, sent me this example of how this belief impacted our local population and the sale of ice-cream in Harcourt.

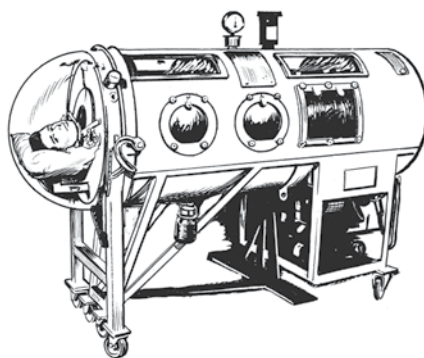
'In the history of the Harcourt Methodist Church, the story is told of the fundraising efforts of the Methodist ladies on behalf of the Kindergarten. Each year they held a bazaar. The minute book shows that in September 1949 they raised £120/18s, so the bazaar must have gone ahead although there was to be "no ice-cream at the bazaar in view of the polio epidemic".

A dear friend, the late Elise Padreny, on hearing of this in the 1990s, told of a ditty of the time, sung to the tune *La donna e mobile*:

"My name is Antonio
I sell ice-creamio,
And I am broke-io
Because of this polio."

Vaccine developed 1956

The last polio epidemic in Australia was in 1956. The peak 1950s epidemic was in 1952–53. By 1956 more was understood about the disease, and by then a vaccine had been developed. An American doctor, Jonas Salk, began developing, what became known as the Salk vaccine in 1949, but it was not until April 1955 that it was approved for general release to the public. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories in Australia began its manufacture in late 1955.



A man (possibly inflicted by Polio) lying inside an iron lung to help him breathe.

The vaccine was administered by injection, but it required regular booster shots to remain effective.

In 1966, the Sabin vaccine, developed by another American, Albert Sabin, was released. This could be administered orally. It was much more effective than the Salk vaccine, and it remains the vaccine that is in use today.

Many older residents will remember lining up at our local halls to receive our polio jab, sometime from late 1955 onwards. I received my booster Sabin in the early 1960s – a pink fluid on a teaspoon – and another one some years later.

There are also recollections of community members and classmates who spent months in an iron lung and who had to have ongoing treatment for their affected limbs. Many ended up having to wear callipers fitted to their footwear to enable them to walk, and now many of these people have recurring symptoms, known as post-polio syndrome.

George has another polio-related memory to share with readers:

'In March 1954, the royal train was not permitted to stop at Harcourt or Chewton because of the polio epidemic. I believe the train stopped at Castlemaine, but Queen Elizabeth did not step off the train's observation deck.

There were definitely cases of polio in the district, but it did not hinder the staging of a huge children's welcome at the Upper Reserve (QEO) in Bendigo. My sister (11), brother (9) and I (aged 7) were taken to the QEO, and I recall sitting in the front row on the oval.

Meanwhile, Mother, Father, older sister (17) and grandmother (70) stood by the railway line near the Harcourt Railway Station to see and wave to Her Majesty (who definitely did not contract polio, despite her contact, however fleeting, with so many Aussies.)'

I can't help wondering if there are more than a few *Core* readers, who also have some memories of this time that they would like to share with us? If so, please send your information to:

news@harcourt.vic.au

or call the Editor on 0467 670 271.6

Some research to do in this cold wet winter lockdown?

For those who are interested in researching more information about polio and its various epidemics in Australia and overseas, there is a wealth of information on the internet. Most of my sources in this article have been obtained from Google.

I hope my potted history is of some interest to readers. You may also enjoy reading the book, *I Can Jump Puddles*, in which the Australian author, Alan Marshall's recounts his experience of contracting polio.

Lois Denham

The Queen's Visit by Train to Castlemaine During the Polio Epidemic As recalled by Ken McDougall

I was a young lad of around 15 years old at the time I went to the station to see the train on its stopover in Castlemaine. The station was set up for the train to stop and for the Queen to walk to a rostrum at the front of the station to address her 'subjects'.

The wall of the business formally the Video Store, now the Over the Moon Studio, near the station end of Templeton Street had been painted with 'QEII' to mark her visit. There was a vacant block in front of the painted wall where two houses have since been built, so the sign would have been clearly visible from the front of the station. She never got to see the sign on the building, as the decision had been made that she should not leave the train. This was because someone in

Castlemaine had been with diagnosed with polio the night before.

I arrived at the station expecting to be able to get onto the platform to see the Queen, but that was wishful thinking because there was a large crowd already there.

I was looking for a vantage point to see the Queen and went down toward the subway and noticed a few kids on a big billboard at the end of the station building. I think the signboard must have been 10 feet or a little higher. I climbed up on it and was directly opposite the rear of the train where the Queen stood on the little 'balcony' or platform on the train. I had the opportunity to get a photo of Her Majesty with my little Box Brownie camera before we were hunted off the billboard by someone.

Thinking back as an adult now, with the number of kids on the signboard, it was pretty dangerous. If it had fallen, with the weight on it, it would have taken out a lot of people on the platform. Though I don't think it would have reached the side of the train where the Queen had been standing.

Edna McDougall's Recollections

I was living in the little settlement of Cravensville, about 30 km from Tallangatta. We wanted to catch sight of the Queen at Benalla where she was to be



One of the flags Edna McDougall was given to wave when the Queen visited Benalla.

driven down the main street in an open car. I was about 13 years old at the time. We lived on a farm, so my mother got up at about 3 am to milk the cows first before we drove to Tallangatta to catch the train to Benalla.

I was in the front row of the crowd and had a good view of the Queen as she drove past. Flags were distributed to the crowd to wave as the Queen went by. I still have two of these as mementos.

The State Library of Victoria notes that the 1954 visit by Queen Elizabeth was the first visit to Australia by a reigning monarch. Since then the Queen has visited Australia another 15 times. For those who are interested, the State Library holds an extensive library of photos and ephemera such as Edna's flag. See: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/1954-royal-tour-queen-elizabeth-ii



*Her Majesty on the Royal Train at Castlemaine Railway Station, 5 March 1954.
Photo by Ken McDougall.*



Be part of shaping new Council Plan

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the 'Your Community, Your Vision' engagement project earlier this year.

We received nearly five hundred incredible contributions from residents in the shire.

We're now taking all the information you shared with us and exploring how we can incorporate this into our new 2021-2025 Council Plan.

Join one of our online community forums and let's continue the conversation about your priorities for the future of our shire.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, forums will be held via Zoom. Participants will be sent a link via email prior to the event.

Forum 1 - Monday 2 August, 6.00pm

Forum 2 - Wednesday 4 August, 6.00pm

For more details, or to register your interest, see shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/vision or call 5471 1700.

Apply for a community or event grant

If you have a brilliant idea for an event, a community project or creative endeavour make sure you apply for the next round of Council grants.

Council offers a number of funding opportunities for community groups and organisations that want to undertake projects and events that align with Council's plans and strategies.

Our Community Grants program is now open, and will close on Monday 9 August.

There are two funding streams available - small grants up to \$3,000 and partnership grants up to \$10,000.

The next round of our Events Grants program will open on Monday 9 August, and close on Monday 30 August.

The program offers support for established and new events, with \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000 grants available.

For more information, visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants or call 5471 1700.

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Harcourt Football Netball Club

July Lions Football Report

Round 7 July 3

Lexton 4 . 7 - 31
Harcourt 17 . 9 - 111

You don't get more wintry footy conditions than our last game at Lexton – it was a good challenge for the Lions.

The youngest Lions, the U-11.5's contributed a few players to Lexton to get the game underway and then came away with a good win. Award winners were Jack Archer and Jack Dorian.

The U-14.5 team struggled against a more talented opposition so, there's more to do on the training track. However, heads remain held high as progress in skills is being made. Awards went to Will McNerny and Edward Teed.

The undefeated Reserves were up against another undefeated side and came away with a strong win. This is exactly what was asked for by the coaching staff, building through the year to an assault on the finals. When a good opponent scores only 3 goals, that indicates good tackling pressure and strong defensive effort.

Goalkickers included Jeff McMurtrie with 4 and Dylan Gibson with 2. Among the best were Jeff McMurtrie and Lenny McNamara.

In cold, wet conditions, the Senior team was following up an impressive win the previous week and came away with an acceptable away result against some strong players. Once again, loose ball pressure and an organised defensive unit kept Lexton goalless till three-quarter time. Perhaps a lift in fitness might be a focus at training after a second slow-down in the second half. All things considered, it was a strong winter footy effort.

Sam Gale kicked 5 goals. The named best were Kyle Hamilton and 'The Butcher' Nick Holden.

Round 8 July 10

Carisbrook 9 . 14 - 68
Harcourt 11 . 10 - 76

The footy teams had some good wins against the strong Carisbrook club. One each to the Lion Cubs (U-11.5 and U-14.5), a big win to the still undefeated Reserves, and a come-from-behind win for the Seniors who are also still undefeated.

Sam Gale had a hand in the win with two late goals. Best were Pilcher and Davidson. Denahy kicked four goals.

By all reports, netball wins were shared.

The following week (July 17), the Lions were up against final aspirants Trentham at the Lions Den – it should have been a big day. But, of course, it wasn't - COVID lockdown won the day. Who knows when we'll be back on the footy ground and the netball court?

A Footy Tragic

Steve Tonzing admits to being a footy tragic. He has always had a deep interest in football at all levels of the game and has followed Richmond in the AFL for as long as he can remember. He said, 'The Aussie Rules bug bit me early on mostly because of my Grandma who was brought up in Richmond.'

Just before our most recent COVID lockdown, Steve was riding on a high and looking forward to a 50-year reunion at the Harcourt Football Club. Steve's father was Captain-Coach of the club when they won the Premiership Flag in 1971. In honour of his father, who has passed away, Steve has written the *Harcourt Football Club 1971 Yearbook*.

Steve said, 'I was seven years old when the club won the premiership, and I remember it as the pinnacle of my father's career. He played in three of the four premiership teams. Unfortunately, the reunion celebration has been postponed. There are 16 out of the 20 from the 1971 team left, and people were prepared to travel from Melbourne and interstate.'

Steve enjoys researching football and has previously written two books for the North Bendigo Club. 'I am fascinated with country football history and memorabilia. Often the clubs don't preserve their history well. I spend hours in the library reading newspapers and I enjoy hunting for old footy photos. Harcourt is a great club and Norm Jenkin has been a vital support as I researched the 1971 year and premiership win. The Harcourt Heritage Centre people have been really helpful as well. This book has been the easiest to put together because of the help from Harcourt locals.'

Readers can see more football memories on Facebook at Bendigo and District Football Memories. The page is administered by Steve's brother, and Steve has collected most of the items displayed.



Steve's shed is a museum of Richmond memorabilia (top), and one wall is devoted to his dad, Trevor Tonzing (bottom).

Supporting your community

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Hand sanitising stations available

The Community Bank Maldon & District has recently purchased hand sanitising stations that are available to be lent to community groups for their own use.

The stands can suit various sizes of hand sanitiser bottles, have cable ties for security and are constructed from high quality 1.5 mm powder-coated steel. The dimensions are 400 mm W x 300 mm D x 1375 mm H.

Executive officer, Shannon Burdeu, said the Bank was very pleased with the community response to the stations. 'We now have a few placed in Newstead and it's great that people who bank locally can see their profits being returned to the community on things that are needed.'

If you are interested in borrowing one for your next event, please call into the Maldon, Newstead or Dunolly Community Bank branches where the team will be able to help you.

Does your community group or not-for-profit need a hand-sanitising station?



Harcourt Uniting Church

156 Years of Worship

The Harcourt Uniting Church building has a long history as a place of worship in the Harcourt district. The present building was erected at a cost of £429 and was opened by the Rev William Hill on 13 August 1865.

In 1902, the Wesleyan, Bible Christian and Primitive Methodists united to become the Methodist Church.

In a time-line prepared by George Milford, it was noted that Kauri pews replaced bench seating in 1911. I believe these are still the seats we use today. There are plans to replace some with more comfortable chairs at some stage.

In 1977, the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches combined to become the Uniting Church. In Harcourt, there was only a Methodist Church before becoming the Uniting Church, so it was, 'same building, same congregation, just a new name.'

George tells us that 350 people attended two days of celebrations for the centenary of the Church in 1965.

In 2005, 140 years were celebrated with a service in the hall. A special cake was cut by Glad Iskov, Olive Milford and Dave Chaplin – 3 very loyal members of our congregation who have since passed away.

In August 2021, we celebrate the 156th Anniversary of continual worship in Harcourt in the same building that was opened in 1865. We look forward to George providing us with a summary of life in our Church over the last year, despite the many lockdowns interrupting our Church worship.

There is always a warm welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am in Buckley Street Harcourt.

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Seamus, were stumbling home late at night after calling into the pub after Mass. They found themselves in the cemetery.

'Look here,' says Paddy. 'It's Michael O'Grady's grave – bless his soul he was 87.'

'That's nothing,' says Sean. 'Here's Patrick O'Toole's he was 95.'

Just then Seamus yells: 'Good heavens, here's a fella who was 145!'

'What's his name?' asks Paddy.

Seamus shuffles over and exclaims: 'Miles, from Dublin!'

Jan Jenkin



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Harcourt CFA

The risk of dying from fire is greatest at night when you are asleep

The following important information has been taken from a recent MyCFA email.

MyCFA is a public information platform provided through free registration. The site can be viewed on the CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa and it is also where you can register.

Information is provided on a number of topics including how to Plan & Prepare for Fire.

Most fires are preventable

Of the 3000 house fires in Victoria each year, most could be prevented by taking simple precautions.

Forty per cent of house fires start in the kitchen and most are caused by leaving cooking unattended. It happens when people are distracted and forget about the pot on the stove or leave something in the oven while they run a quick errand.

Always stay close to the stove when you're cooking. Turn off the elements when you are finished.

Fires can be fatal

Most fires that end in death or serious injury start in bedrooms and living areas. Most of these happen overnight while the household is asleep, and are caused by problems with heating systems, appliances and equipment.

Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended.

Check your smoke alarms

More fatal fires start when you or others are sleeping, but a working smoke alarm gives you an early warning to wake up and get the family out of the house.

CFA recommends interconnected smoke alarms

Not everyone wakes up to a smoke alarm. Research shows that up to 94 per cent of children can sleep through an activated smoke alarm. Installing interconnected smoke alarms means that, if a fire starts in one room, all other interconnected smoke alarms will sound.

Smoke alarms should be installed in all sleeping and living areas.

Tips for staying safe this winter

By following some simple tips, you can do your part to reduce the risk in your home and help keep yourself, your friends and your loved ones safe.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep the stove top, griller, oven, range hood and cooking areas free from build-up of grease, dust and oil.
- Keep tea towels and paper towels away from cooking and heating sources.
- Always supervise children in the kitchen. Keep them away from the stove and oven.
- Never leave electrical appliances on bedding or soft surfaces.
- Turn electric blankets on 30 minutes before getting into bed and turn them off as you get into bed.
- Keep electric blankets flat, with controls at the side of the bed. Regularly check for broken or worn wiring.
- Drying clothes and other items must be kept at least one metre from all heating.
- Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer regularly
- Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire.

Go to the CFA website for further information and tips.

Danger: a gas stove in a tent

Risks to your safety come in different forms and places. Modern tents that are designed for more extreme conditions tend to be not only waterproof but also nearly airtight.

There are reports from around the world of campers being asphyxiated inside their tent when using gas or fuel-type stoves and heaters; this is because the oxygen inside the tent is replaced with carbon dioxide.

Retail recalls happen all the time

Kids clothing (and toys) regularly appear on the recall lists. Often the clothing does not carry the mandatory fire hazard information label, or the risk of catching fire has not been noted correctly.

A recent example was a 'Barbie'™ Organic Playsuit Size 2, sold through BIG W from 30 November 2020 to 2 June 2021.

The size 2 garments did not carry the required labelling for Children's Nightwear and Limited Daywear. It is worth spending the time to read those labels.

Brigade activity

While lockdown restrictions prevented the brigade from meeting and training together, the tankers still saw some action in July.

There were two support calls, however, both were called off before arriving on the scene. One was to the Castlemaine brigade for a burst hot water service that had set off a fire alarm, and the other to the Elphinstone brigade, to a registered burn that was reported as a house fire.

We also had two primary callouts. The first was for a wash-away to clear leaking petrol from a vehicle on the Calder Freeway, and the second was to a motor vehicle accident. This reported accident had actually occurred the day before and therefore we were not required.

There was also a callout on 30 June (after last month's report in the *Core*) to another car accident on the Calder Freeway – one vehicle had run into the back of a slower moving vehicle.

While fatigue, lack of attention or being distracted may have contributed to this type of accident, it highlights the importance of maintaining 100 per cent concentration while driving.

Awareness of dangers and risks is so important. Take the time to stay safe and be prepared.

*Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety
Coordinator*



Protecting Young Fruit Trees

Hi everyone,

If you've planted any fruit trees this year – well done! When properly looked after, fruit trees can live for a very long time, so it's a great legacy to create for your family, and the families that will eventually inherit your fruit trees in years to come. (If you bought your trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU, we love our local customers.)

So, how to give them the best start in life? Firstly, make sure you protect the trunks from being eaten by the sorts of pests that like to eat bark. In Harcourt this can be rabbits, hares, kangaroos, wallabies or even sheep, goats or the odd deer that finds its way into the garden.

This type of damage to the trunk can seriously stunt or disfigure your tree, and if the pests eat the bark all the way around, it can kill the tree.

Your trees may need protection for the first two or three years, or until the bark has hardened enough to lose its attraction, though even old bark can still be attractive to sheep and goats.

Tree guards, fencing or dogs can all be effective deterrents. If the problem is hares (common around Harcourt!), you can make an organic hare-deterrent paint by mixing animal fat with any strong smelling stuff like peppermint oil, garlic, lavender, eucalyptus, tea tree

oil, etc, and paint it on the bark. Hares are herbivores and don't like strong smells, so the combination works well to stop them eating the tender bark on your baby trees. However, it's not very permanent so you'll need to re-apply it after heavy rain or heat.

This year, spring is shaping up to be quite wet, tree guards are going to be a more effective, and a one-off, solution.

The type of tree guard you choose will depend on the type of animal you're preventing, and also the shape of the tree. If the limbs of your tree start very close to the ground (up to knee height), a tree guard just around the trunk won't be enough to adequately protect the tree, and you'll need to look at a taller structure around the whole tree. Traditionally, old metal drums were used for the purpose, and you can often see the remnants of them around old fruit trees – which is one of the problems with this option! Once the tree has grown, the drums are difficult to remove.

A mini-enclosure (i.e. a fence) around each tree works well but is time-consuming and expensive to build if you have a lot of trees, and leads to the same problem of having a redundant enclosure that's hard to remove once the tree is mature.

So, what's the solution? There are four solutions we recommend, and the one you choose will depend on your budget and dedication. The first is the full 'repel all enemies' enclosure fence around your property, built tall enough and engineered highly enough to keep out both kangaroos and rabbits. This is the dream solution - we wish we had one around the whole farm to exclude all the pests that like to eat fruit trees.

The second option is much more practical and multi-purpose, and works particularly well for single trees in the garden, or short rows of trees. A simple hoop structure erected over the tree using star pickets and 2-inch (50 mm) poly pipe provides an affordable framework that can be used to support frost cloth, bird netting or fruit fly exclusion netting. It can also be simply reinforced with a strip of chicken wire around the base for a year or two to stop the 'roos and rabbits from eating the bark.

The third option is somewhere in between – a simple tree guard made from a length of chicken wire rolled into a hoop

and attached to the ground with a stake on either side.

The fourth and final option is to use three wooden pallets to form a triangle around the tree. Simply wire the pallets together, and then wire them to at least one stake to hold them in place and stop the structure from falling over.

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

- If you didn't prune them when you planted them, prune them now (or before spring) so they grow into a useful shape right from the get-go. We reckon a classic vase shape suits most backyard trees.
- Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch young trees, or plant a living understorey.

Fruit trees prefer a woody mulch like sawdust or wood chips, or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes.

Once the trees are established, they're better with a 'living mulch' or even just weeds, as long as you mow them regularly. For the first year or two it's definitely better to reduce competition from grassy weeds, so it's okay to use mulch while you get the understorey plants established.

- Fruit trees don't need watering in when you plant them, except in very dry conditions. This year there's plenty of soil moisture, so you don't need to water your trees yet. However, make sure you've got the irrigation set up and ready to go, because it's not unusual to get a sudden hot spell in spring.

If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below.

Happy fruit growing!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and 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 to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their free online workshops.

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Early Notice:

The All Seasons Harvest Garden Workshop – Summer 2022

Well, the season has turned. I started to notice it about two weeks ago. Something was different: the plants looked a very different shade of green – a very alive kind of green. Plants such as coriander, rocket and mustard began popping their heads up out of the cold ground. After a week, the lettuce seemed to grow a bit rather than standing still, and the silver beet was getting new leaves. Then, last week, the winds came. Remember we had a few mad days in Harcourt when it was sun, and then gale force winds, then sun, then hail, then sun, then rain, then frost – all in twelve hours?

The wind, and seeing the life-force moving in the plants again, told me that the season had changed. In the Dja Wurrung calendar there are six seasons and August is one all of its own – called Guling.

It's always super windy in spring and having that day last week with the odd easterly spun me right round and reminded me that soon it will be dry and hot, and we will be thanking the CFA members on an almost daily basis. Seriously, it'll happen in the blink of an eye.

It's about this time of year that I get 'the panic'. Due to the kind of seasons we have here, growing productively is all about timing. I'm not very good at my personal time management – anyone who knows me knows this. So, this year I am attempting to slow it down a bit (hopefully not too much) and panic less and still get all the seeds in, the plants planted, the food picked, the crops watered and weeded and allow a few siestas and laughs in there too, plus a gawk at the magical sunrises and sunsets.

Amongst all of this, Sas and I are stoked to be able to offer our first round of workshops on the farm at Gung Hoe Growers. We are offering a year-long workshop – The All Seasons Harvest Garden, where you can join us on a year-long journey of intensive food growing in the home garden.

Over the course of a year, come along to four separate, day long, season-specific workshops which build upon each other leaving you with skills, seeds, and knowledge to plan, propagate and grow your organic home garden from the soil to the saucepan. It is suitable for beginner growers and seasoned green thumbs alike.

We are giving you heaps of notice. The Workshops will commence in January 2022.

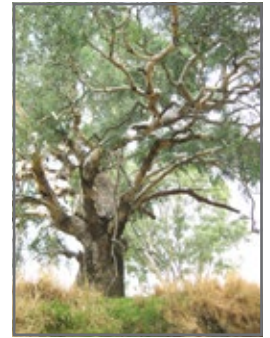
Mel Willard and Sass Allardice



Map a Hero Tree on Your Property

August will see the group have its regular meeting where we are continuing the discussion about the new Action Plan to go on our new website. The monthly working bee will be held at Pippin Court from 9 am–12 noon on Sunday August 22.

Plans are proceeding for the 25-year celebration of Harcourt Valley Landcare. If you have any photos or memorabilia please contact the Secretary (see details below).



The protection of significant trees

This topic arose at our most recent meeting. The group would like to see significant trees in the valley noted and therefore protected for their environmental role in the landscape and for their beauty. Members found two possible sources of information (although there may be others) which are available to anyone who thinks they may have an important tree on their property.

National Trust

Tree Protection in Australia

A document which gives a brief guide to the state and local government legislation that protects heritage trees in each state and territory.

Practical stewardship of trees

A practical guide for the care and maintenance of heritage trees, including tips on soil health, mulch, pests and pruning

Significant Tree Register

Do you think you have a tree which should be included in the Significant Tree Register? Tips for nominating a tree are included.

www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/significant-tree-register



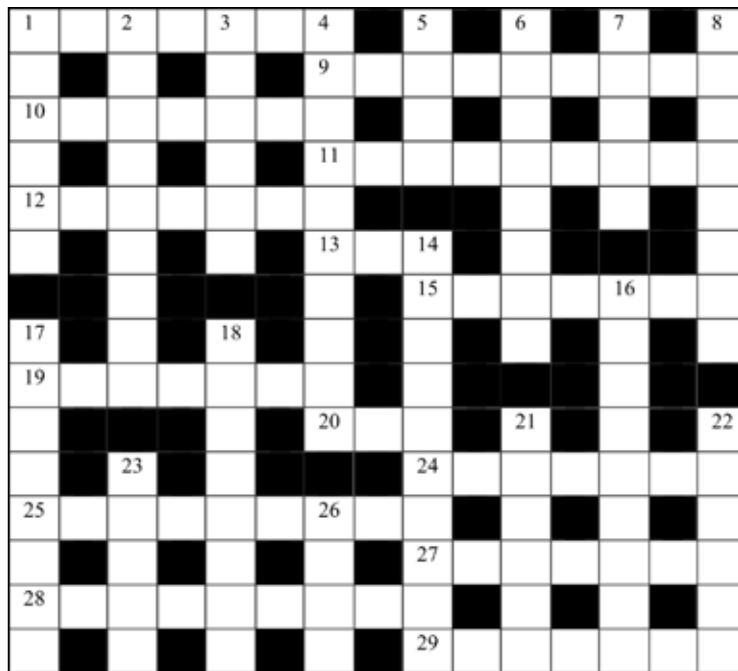
The BioLinks Project: biolinksalliance.org.au/hero-tree

This project is based in Heathcote but states that it is for all of Central Victoria. This is a great project aiming to protect the wonderful old trees that have managed to survive.

If you have old trees of significant size and would like to participate in the Central Victorian BioLinks project which records the location of these trees, then please follow the link above. BioLinks are interested in the location of the trees in Central Victoria, not just the Heathcote area; there is provision on the link to vary the location. You can map where your tree/s are or you can provide the information by email, details on the attached link.

For Harcourt Valley Landcare enquiries:
Secretary – Robyn Miller 0467 670 271

August Xword 2021 © McW March '18



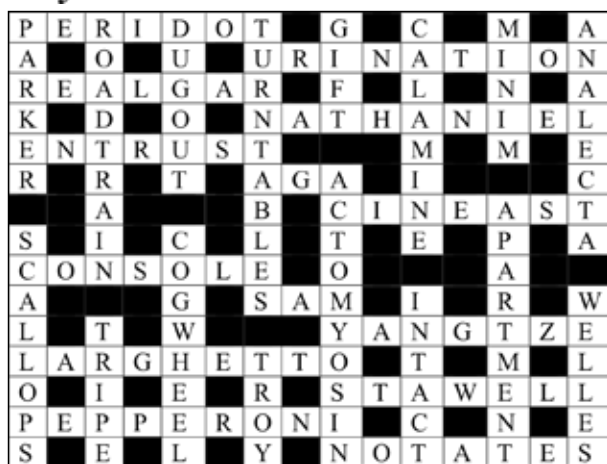
Down:

1. It could be super-useful to examine it thoroughly... (6)
2. Only a rare count could earn court approval for his speaking ability. (9)
3. Get protective wear from infertile pack animal in extremes of adroit cruciverbing. (6)
4. Teeny realm in starting school. (10)
5. Take nothing out of regarding to get next door. (4)
6. Doorway over Cornish saint files lots. (8)
7. 18-substitute after abashed reform? (5)
8. They can be a sad curse on the lot sometimes! (4,4)
14. It was an art trick to make a carriageway. (5,5)
16. Gear takes umpteen IQ to sort. (9)
17. Inuit band? Ouch! I see... (3-5)
18. I... I am a rat to give coffee drink to little kids. (3,5)
21. Text you in slime backflip for brekky. (6)
22. Deal with presently? (6)
23. Obviously not a wolf-whistle! (5)
26. One of the birds that should have eaten Claudius? (4)

Across:

1. Permeate to deprave. (7)
9. ALP promissory notes prove pedestrian and not very fluent. (9)
10. Cave-dweller about deviant hints? (7)
11. What equal forest might be smashed to? (9)
12. A way to get the suds off after Christ must be fair dinkum. (7)
13. God in shell? (3)
15. Erode Her Maj? Silly to think Santa would consider one... (3-4)
19. Typhoid Mary big on the ocean. (7)
20. A ring-less longing for currency. (3)
24. Headless old pro left with something to blow... (7)
25. Spooner's hard-work wanker a cause of ocean pollution? (3-6)
27. Life of the Amish in Oz ere long? (7)
28. Actual number of road accidents per calendar year—'tis static bananas. (9)
29. Produced top for kid in tent. (7)

July Xwd 2021 Solution © McW March '18



Down:

1. If you'd had to wait while she came back in [-to the parking spot], you'd never reduce her to a Dot... [Well?]
2. Its driver might listen to a radio rant in the territory. (4-5)
3. Possible burial chamber after accurate enemy strike, and how it was made? (6)
4. Vinyl needs [noun*] bouleversement. [Well?] [*as in 'requirements'...]
5. (See 27)
6. I manacle you with unguent when burnt. (8)
7. No hesitation [minimum] in giving the least drop.
8. English waterway [= canal] consumed [ate] old Chinese dicta. [Well? The Latin should've given you a clue...]
14. I'm nosy, Cato about complex protein. [Sorry]
16. Separate [= apart] blokes over last flap.
17. Fried spuds in shells, depending on which state... [Well? They're called potato cakes in Vic...]
18. Because of his propensity to chew Lego the boy may mangle a part of the gearbox. (3-5)
21. Misp[ri]nt actually preserved with no damage after losing five a side. (6)
22. Perhaps if HG [Wells] had an E, they'd say he was awesome? [Well? Awesome Welles...]
23. Offal mature under steak. (5)
26. Conservative [Tory] gets guts churned in Odysseus' turning-point.

Across:

1. The nearest little Dorothy [= Dot] gets to a green stone. (7)
9. Often a relief when it occurs! [Well?]
10. Dust of the cave for squibs?—genuine [= real] duster [= rag] back. (7)
11. Will [Shakespeare]'s gross curate produces more of a lie than an anagram... (9)
12. Oxidation [= rust] after JRR's tree being to have faith you'll look after what I leave with you. (7)
13. What the Imam cooks on? [Well?]
15. John Flaus facin' east? (7)
19. Comfort control-panel and take in [= con] Pommy flounder [= sole]. (7)
20. Yank poster-boy yearns for you! [Well?]
24. You could get zany planting rice downstream. (7)
25. Fairly slow-moving big [large] hot [T]junction re-joined. (9)
27. 5dn. [Well, fat gits] will not take the prize here, although a few still tag along... (7,4)
28. Black stuff ground on [me as subject = T] of sausage. (9)
29. Writes a set of symbols, but with neither the modern nor the 1897 [Tate] gallery, apparently.



Do you have land to sell?

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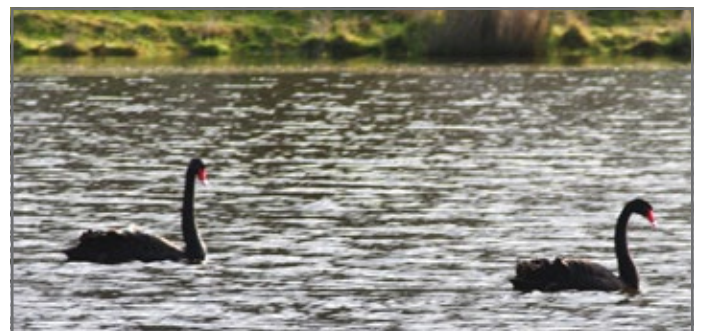


Weather & Water

As at August 5th, the Coliban reservoirs near Malmsbury were at 100.4% capacity compared to 77.2% last year. Irrigators in Harcourt have already been assured of 100% supply in the coming season, but the slightly overfull measure gives added confidence to us all for water supply in the warmer weather to come.

The total rainfall for the month was 92.5 mm, bringing the total for the year to 415.5 mm, which exceeds last year's count to the same date. Nearly half the days in July were rain days and we saw many cloudy days of light rain and fog and others where the rain was constant over consecutive days. Then, on the last weekend of the month, we had two days which were fine and sunny. Last year's solid count was ensured by good rains in the following months including in November and December. Will we be as fortunate this year?

The Bureau of Meteorology, in its Climate Outlook Overview, suggests that we can expect above-median winter and spring rainfall for the eastern two thirds of Australia. Both measures: the Indian Ocean Dipole and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation Index point toward wetter weather in our part of the world. We can also expect above-median temperatures for all of Australia, except southern WA. See: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary for complete details.



A pair of Australian native swans has been sighted on a local dam and at the Barkers Creek Reservoir. When sighted at the reservoir, they were at the far north end. The breeding season for swans in the southern areas of Australia is June to September, so it is advisable to stay well away from these birds so they can potentially rear their young.

Below is a summary of storage levels and rainfall for our three major catchment storages near Kyneton. These storages are required to supply the townships and areas of Castlemaine and Kyneton, and to supplement supply to Bendigo.

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply megalitres	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
		megalitres	% full	megalitres	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	38,209	101.2%	33,587	88.9%
Lauriston	19,790	18,770	94.8%	17,040	86.1%
Malmsbury	12,034	12,893	107.1%	3,083	25.6%
Total to August 5	69,594	69,872	100.4%	53,710	77.2%
Total to July 5	69,594	58,215	83.6%	50,645	72.8%

Data from: www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels – 5 August 2021.

Community Diary Dates

Thursday 12 August: 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 22 August: 9 am to 12 pm, Working Bee, Harcourt Valley Landcare at Pippin Court. Enquiries: Robyn Miller, Secretary 0467 670 271.

Sunday 22 August: 1.30 pm Fireside Chat: Thumbnail Sketches: background and discoveries. (The Thumbnail Sketches appear in The Core each month). Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Tuesday 24 August: 7.00 pm HPA meeting, Bowls Club. See back page for details.

Thursday 16 September: 1.30 pm CWA Association Day; Guest Speaker: Sculptor Jenny Steiner, Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

RSVP 9th September: Lynette Carter 0476 527 911, Helen Hand: 0418 510 996.

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

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

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

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

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 11.

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

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

Pony Club: Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 924 000. Pony Club is 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.



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For placement of advertising please contact Pauline Wilkinson via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au

Circulation is currently 350 and hard copies can be obtained at the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Post Office, Goldfields Track Café, Harcourt Produce Store, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple, and various outlets in Castlemaine.

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 The Core is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: harcourt.vic.au/news

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

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35

From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday

Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25

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 Steering 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.

HPA Public Meeting



7.00 pm Tuesday 24 August 2021 : Harcourt Bowls Club

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HARCOURT'S FUTURE

- ▶ Have your say on issues that are important to you:
Public Transport – Housing Development – Parking
Commercial and Retail Development – Cycle Paths
Medical Services – Railway Station – Roundabout
Council Planning and Permits – Rates – Roads.
- ▶ Hear the latest news about the Harcourt Railway Station,
the Roundabout and Council's planning for our community.
- ▶ Meet the new HPA Committee.
Let them know what you and your family or your business need
in Harcourt's future.

Drinks available for purchase at the bar. Other refreshments will be provided.

PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND

As COVID-19 restrictions may limit venue numbers,
please let us know beforehand if you can attend.

Visit harcourtprogress.org.au/publicmeeting for registration and further information.
or use the QR Code

