

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 83 – June 2021

Produced by:
Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news
harcourt.vic.au/news

Opportunity Does Knock Twice



ON MAY 31, in an official announcement from Maree Edwards, Member for Bendigo West, the project for the refurbishment of the Harcourt Railway Station has been revived.

In October 2016, *The Core* featured a story on the Harcourt Railway Station building possibly becoming available as a community resource. Jacinta Allan (Minister of Transport at the time)

and Maree Edwards gave support, and VicTrack (the body responsible for railway land, assets and infrastructure in Victoria) led the project, working with Mount Alexander Shire and the Harcourt Progress Association. Then in September 2018, Bendigo Metro was announced and the project for Harcourt was put on the back burner. Happily the project lives again – read more on page 3.

When you read *The Core* online, the links are live! Click to go to the website.
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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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



Harcourt Progress Association

Newly Elected HPA Committee Members

This month we introduce another three members of the new Harcourt Progress Association Committee.



Pauline Wilkinson

HPA Treasurer

Member 18 Months; Committee 12 months



The logistics of running businesses in New Zealand and in Harcourt simultaneously has been a challenge for Pauline and husband Roger during the COVID pandemic.

The recent travel bubble has made it much easier to reunite with their four children and eight grandkids scattered around NSW and NZ.

Pauline and Roger settled in Harcourt in 2014, purchasing a 20-acre lifestyle property which Pauline says they share with about 150 kangaroos, 300 rabbits and their two dogs.

Pauline has used over 20 years' experience in real estate to establish Pauline's Real Estate agency about two and a half years ago.

Pauline got involved with the HPA via her neighbour, Liesl Malan and got 'roped in' to support the Treasurer before taking on the role fully during 2020.

Systems and Process are a particular passion she has applied to her career and she expects to have established a professional HPA platform to hand on to the next treasurer when her tenure ends.

Pauline hopes that her HPA contribution leads to programs for people, particularly new arrivals being welcomed and feeling part of the community as quickly as possible.

Robyn Miller

HPA Secretary; Editor, *The Core*

Founding HPA Member; Committee 7 years; Former HPA Chair



After moving from Melbourne to Maldon in 1976 and then to Campbells Creek, Robyn eventually met husband Nick through the Castlemaine Musical Theatre Group.

They have been married for 37 years and live in the same house that Nick grew up in which was built by his father, a local stonemason.

Over the years, Robyn has observed the upset in the community through the process of the construction of the freeway and witnessed the work done by other locals to ensure we had a primary school and was aware of the *After the Bypass* group led by Michael Henry which aimed to ensure Harcourt's future prosperity.

Recognising the consequences that the Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan would mean for Harcourt, Robyn volunteered for the inaugural HPA committee which had the aim of establishing a clear point of contact and communication for and with council.

Providing continuity, history and insight for the HPA, Robyn hopes the HPA can overcome the occasional controversy, antipathy and apathy to win the respect of the community and ensure an ongoing, healthy, productive HPA mirrors the community it represents.

Jenny Chin

HPA Project Coordinator

Member 01 Month

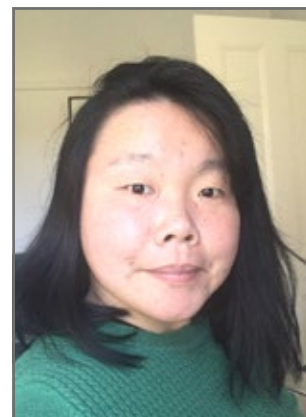
Arguably Harcourt's newest residents (mid-April), Jenny, husband Jay and their 2 Schnauzers hadn't even unpacked on their 4-acre property before attending their first HPA meeting.

Having moved to Castlemaine a year ago for Jay's work, they had looked at several homes in Castlemaine that they felt were too 'suburban' and, on a whim in December 2020, took a drive to see a property in Harcourt which, following a theme of many new HPA members, they bought the same week.

It makes for a short commute to her role at the Centre for Non-Violence in Bendigo.

She was attracted to the HPA after seeing Paul Mizzi's post in *Hardcore Harcourt* about the HPA needing members with diverse skills to ensure Harcourt did not become just a dormitory or transit suburb.

Keep in touch with the HPA via its Facebook and Web pages.



Harcourt Station and Newstead Goods Shed Restoration Projects

Continued from page 1.

Tenders have opened for restoration works on both the historic Harcourt Station building and the Newstead Station goods shed, which are set to be transformed into new spaces for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Works to restore the buildings will be carried out through the Andrews Labor Government's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program, which involves refurbishing vacant station buildings across the state so they can re-open and be used by local communities.

Maree Edwards said, 'The restoration of the Harcourt Station building will give local people much needed spaces to meet, work and learn and will also bring the beautiful historic building back to its former glory.'

The works on the Harcourt Station building will include carrying out structural repairs and refurbishment, as well as installing a kitchenette and accessible toilet so the building can be used for community events and meetings.

Mount Alexander Shire Council will be the head tenant at the Harcourt Station building and it will be managed by the Harcourt Progress Association as a community neighbourhood house with meeting, training, office and performance spaces. HPA President David Foley welcomed the announcement and commented that a working group is in the process of being planned and established to steward the post-construction project and ensure that all interested groups and the wider Harcourt community has input. The works are scheduled to get underway late this year.

The projects will be delivered in conjunction with an expert

heritage architect, to ensure both restorations are sympathetic to the historic values of the buildings.

Local contractors interested in carrying out the works are encouraged to apply, and should visit the Buying for Victoria website tenders.vic.gov.au

From a Press Release



The Harcourt Railway Station building contained a residence and garden.

FSA/DET0020-01



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A Little Extra Time to Pay Your Rates

Ratepayers of Mount Alexander Shire have some extra time to pay their rates before interest starts to accrue, given COVID-19 restrictions have kept people at home over the past week.

The fourth 2020/2021 rate instalment was due on Monday 31 May. However, Mount Alexander Shire Council is extending the interest-free period until Monday 14 June, due to the 7 Day Circuit Breaker restrictions.

This will give people some extra time to pay the final rates instalment for this financial year.

'We know that many people in our community still like to pay their rates in person at a local Post Office or at our Customer Service Centre, while other people may be having difficulty paying their rates at this time,' said Carolyn Ross, Executive Manager Corporate Services.

'There are still a range of options available to pay your rates but we're offering two weeks interest free to give people a bit more time to get their payments organised,' she said.

Even under lockdown there will still many choices available to pay your rates.

Payments can be made via BPAY or BPAY View (internet banking), Council's website, or by calling Customer Service during business hours. Australia Post offices have been open for essential business.

As restrictions in Regional Victoria start to ease, Council's Customer Service Centre will reopen to customers on Friday 4 June for limited face-to-face services such as payments and animal registrations, under COVIDSafe conditions.

You can also elect to have regular direct payments deducted from your bank account to cover rates instalments.

If you are having trouble paying your rates please call us to discuss your options.

For more information contact Council's Rates Team on 5471 1700 or visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/rates.

From a Shire press release



Welcome baby! Castlemaine Health has its first arrival under the new maternity model of care

It's an exciting week at Castlemaine Health as we welcome the first baby born under the new Midwifery Group Practice model of care.

The healthy baby boy arrived on Sunday 30 May. Mother and baby are doing well and are now settling in at home.

'Arrival of the first baby for the service is wonderful news and we send our heartfelt congratulations to the family,' says Castlemaine Health CEO, Sue Race.

'News of the birth has spread quickly through the service and the community and has been greeted with much excitement.'

Maternity Services at Castlemaine Health became fully operational on Monday 3 May 2021 after a nearly year long suspension, re-opening under a new model of care.

The revitalised service now offers the 'gold standard' of midwifery-led care; the continuity of care model, where women see the same midwife throughout their pregnancy, labour and birth and early parenting, building a deep and trusting relationship.

Research shows that women who receive continuity of care from a midwife they know and trust are more likely to have a positive experience during pregnancy and birth.

Castlemaine Health Midwifery Group Practice midwives are on on-call and available 24 hours a day for labour and birth and to help women with urgent concerns. They work closely with a team of local general practitioner obstetricians and the regional health service Bendigo Health.

'Our commitment to maintaining a locally based maternity service has never waived,' says Sue. 'This is a significant moment for Castlemaine Health, for the community and for regional health services. We look forward to many more days like this in the future.'

For more information please contact Castlemaine Health.

From a Media Release

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Grace Church

The highlight for the month of May for our fellowship was undoubtedly the visit of Rob and Liz Bailey for our Holy Spirit Encounter weekend. Rob is recognized within the Body of Christ as a Prophet whilst his wife Liz is a gifted teacher. We welcomed folk from as far away as Rushworth to hear them minister.

In 2 Kings 4 we read the story about the Prophet Elisha who stayed in a small room atop a home owned by a couple who lived in Shunem. The idea was that they provided him with lodgings and hospitality whenever he was ministering in that area. Rob and Liz today also occupy a small room, the difference being that in this case their 'small room' is on wheels – a fifth wheeler no less.

They spend eight months of the year 'on the road' ministering encouragement in country churches in all states – a remarkable present-day example of the itinerant ministry of the Prophet of old.

As a church we have purchased a suite of their books for our library which will serve as a legacy of their visit. Liz has authored booklets including 'Discover Your Motivational Gifts,' 'He Came to Heal the Broken-Hearted,' and 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit.' Rob's book is entitled 'Everyday Miracles.'

Moving forward I have been teaching a series over recent months based upon Luke's gospel majoring on the healing miracles. We believe in the bible verse that says 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Prayers are offered for healing each Sunday, and we are beginning to see results. As the old hymn says 'To God be the glory great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.'

Till next time, God bless!

Roger Thurect
Pastor

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

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

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Harcourt's Avenue of Honour to be Protected and Preserved

Parking under the trees to be clearly defined



Mount Alexander Shire Council will undertake works next month to improve the health, condition and longevity of trees along Harcourt's historically significant Avenue of Honour.

In 2019, Council undertook a tree assessment analysis at the site which identified the need to address the issue of soil compaction due to car parking. Tree works are due to start in June, weather permitting, and will include pruning, soil aeration, mulching and protection. Bollards will be positioned to clearly define car parking areas and one tree, which is at the end of its life, will be removed and replaced. Replacement tree planting will occur in 2022.

Tony Cordy, Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire said 'The Avenue of Honour is a significant Australian War Memorial, as well as a beautiful feature of Harcourt. As a local resident, I've noticed the slow decline of trees in the Avenue, so it's exciting that through these works we'll be able to improve their general health and condition.'

HPA President David Foley said that he was delighted that work was being done to conserve and protect the trees for future generations. Mr Foley noted however that the resulting changes to parking underscored the challenge of adequate and safe parking facilities within the town centre.

The history of Harcourt's Avenue of Honour begins in 1919, when the community gathered at a public meeting and decided to plant 26 Cedar trees to honour locals who had enlisted in WWI. As well as commemorating serving locals, the community also wanted to acknowledge those who had stayed home and maintained the apple orchards of serving locals.

'Following Council's improvement works, we hope that the Avenue of Honour will continue to remain a significant site remembering those who fought in WWI – a place that is more than merely trees, but a site that symbolises honour and sacrifice,' said Mayor Cordy.

Council is undertaking the works following a \$25,000 grant from the Victorian Government. The project is supported by the RSL Castlemaine Sub-Branch.



This undated photo, taken from the corner of High and Market Streets, is from the Harcourt Heritage Centre database. It shows the avenue of cedars planted to honour the servicemen of WWI. On the right is the home of GM McLean who conducted the post office from here from 1915 to 1943. It is now the site of Tread Motel and Goldfields Track Cafe.



Harcourt CWA Women Walk the World

It was a perfect autumn day at the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens when members from Harcourt, Newstead, Maryborough and Phoenix Chewton CWA Branches enjoyed a lunch and then set off to walk around the Gardens with their Women Walk the World banner. We enjoyed telling the many visitors the significance of the banner and we were delighted with the interest shown and the generous donations we received.

Many thousands of women and young girls in developing countries have to collect water for their family needs every day. This often means walking many miles in hostile, unsafe areas to a water source where water is collected in containers and then must be carried back to the village. Women and girls are often assaulted, raped and sometimes killed and the weight of the containers can have an adverse effect on their bodies - particularly on the young girls.

A 'Women Walk the World' event is held by the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) on April 29 each year all around the world to raise funds for village water supplies - one of its major projects. The ACWW amplify the voices of these women and girls so that the problems they face are heard and acknowledged by international policy-makers and legislators.

The ACWW has a membership of rural organisations for women across 84 countries and the CWA is one of these organisations within Australia.



CWA Members promote the 'Women Walk the World' campaign.

International Day

Our Country of Study this year is Indigenous Australia and our International Officer, Marie Twyford, invited Carole Ingersoll to be the guest speaker at our Branch International Day.

Carole has lived and worked in the Castlemaine/Harcourt area for some years and has a Degree in Early Childhood Development and Disability Studies with involvement in Early Intervention Teams. She holds a Master of Education; her thesis being on the Relationship between Indigenous Women and Missionary Wives and Teachers.

Carole spoke of her many years as a volunteer in Aboriginal Communities. Her PowerPoint presentation showed images of the magnificent countryside, the artists at work at the Warlukurlanga Artists Aboriginal Corporation at Yuendumu, 33 km northwest of Alice Springs, and gave us an insight into living in a Central Australian remote community. Carole is



Carole Ingersoll shows Marie Twyford and Ayron Teed one of the items in her collection.

hoping to return to Neutral Junction, another community in Central Australia, later this year to continue with her work as a volunteer with the READ Programme

The afternoon concluded with a wonderful assortment of sweets and savouries prepared by our members and containing ingredients not often used or seen in our CWA afternoon teas: Lemon Myrtle, Aniseed Myrtle, Pepperberries, Munthari and Wattleseed - all of which added new flavours to cakes and scones.

Harcourt CWA meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham Road. Please come and join us, you would be most welcome.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA Branch



Harcourt members enjoy afternoon tea featuring indigenous flavours.



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Tractor Trek Visits VMR

The Victorian Miniature Railway always attracts a lot of interest from locals, but knowledge of their project has spread much further. On 16 May, members of Tractor Trek from various groups in Central Victoria made the trip to Harcourt. And since it's all about getting out and about and displaying their tractors, they gathered at the Harcourt industrial estate, offloaded their tractors and drove them along Harmony Way – their destination being the Produce Store



This grey and gold FE 35 is owned by Gordon Smith of Bealiba. He purchased it in Bendigo, restored and refurbished it.

which was followed by a visit to VMR.

Colin Mierisch of VMR had, in preparation, laid out the plans for VMR on the large communal table in the club rooms and explained the progress of the project which is now into its sixth year. After welcoming the visitors he said, 'The major success so far at VMR has been the construction of the station building which was an innovative project in partnership with the Harcourt Lions Club and included building and construction training for VCAL students from Castlemaine Secondary College. Plans are for two covered platforms at the station, two kilometres of track with northern and southern loops, a car park of 100 cars and the capacity to hold public



The line-up of tractors for the visit to VMR, part of the 8th National Historical Machinery Association Tractor Trek

events. We have been set back by having to remove 260 tonnes of granite, which our test drilling gave very little indication of. While all of this won't be achieved in its entirety by the end on this year, Colin announced, 'We hope that VMR will open to the public at the end of 2021'.

Tractor Trek gathers like-minded people together over the subject of old tractors. The tractors and their owners don't just sit in their various sheds, however. Tractor Trek is all about getting out and visiting others with similar interests and it often involves raising funds for charity. There are groups all around Australia.

The 8th National Historical Machinery Association Tractor Trek in 2021 will be run in Wedderburn by the Webberburn Historical Engine and Machinery Society Inc.

When: Thursday, 30 September 2021 to Sunday, 03 October 2021.

Location: Engine Park, Cnr Racecourse Road and Calder Hwy, Wedderburn 3518

More info: wedderburnengineclub.com.au/wectrek.htm



Piece of History to Become Lions Club New Clubrooms at VMR

Approximately four years ago the Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR) began negotiations to acquire an original Railway Signal Box for the miniature railway site in Harcourt. The 8 m high timber signal box from Bendigo was built in 1921. Patience and perseverance over three years and through COVID-19 has seen the 100 year old, two storey Signal Box carefully dismantled and transported to the VMR site this year. VMR has already spent more than \$20,000 on transporting and relocating this piece of history to Harcourt. Considerable time, money and materials now need to be put into fully restore this iconic piece of railway history. It is anticipated that a further \$30,000 will need to be raised to complete the restoration.

VMR and the Harcourt Lions Club are now awaiting final building permit approvals to prepare the foundations and to begin the building reconstruction and restoration works.

The Signal Box will become a feature of the Victorian Miniature Railway and the new Club rooms for the Harcourt & District Lions Club.

Are you able to donate your skills, time, money or materials?

We are asking for assistance from the Community to complete this amazing project. We welcome any donation of labour, money or materials to help weatherproof and restore the building. Please contact Grant Victor-Gordon at the Harcourt & District Lions Club on 0410 261 338 or visit the VMR Facebook page and leave a message <https://www.facebook.com/VictorianMiniatureRailway/> if you can help.

We are hoping to arrange a Working Bee on one Saturday and one Sunday each month for the remainder of the year, from 10 am – 3 pm. Once the dates are finalised

the details of a monthly Working Bees will be posted on the Harcourt & District Lions Club Website: <https://harcourt.vic.lions.org.au/> and the VMR Facebook page for anyone wishing to volunteer some time to assist with the restoration.

Grant Victor-Gordon
Harcourt & District Lions Club
M: 0410 261 338



The signal box as it was before it was moved from Bendigo

Outstanding Volunteers – John and Jan Jenkin

This month *The Core* chatted to John and Jan Jenkin both of whom grew up with parents who volunteered in their communities. The couple has followed their parents' example and have had a number of significant volunteer roles in Harcourt over many years. Having come from rural backgrounds they have demonstrated the 'can do' attitude combined with the practical skills necessary to see projects achieved.

Jan said, 'My family lived on a soldier settlement block in Numurkah. It was a dairy farm of 40 acres which was increased to 100 acres with the purchase of a neighbour's property. I went to Teachers' College in Bendigo and trained as a Primary School Teacher. My first year of teaching was at Natimuk and after that at Horsham followed by Barkers Creek, where I taught Prep 1 and 2. When I was 44, I went back to University to do a two-year Bridging Course designed for Primary teachers wanting to obtain an Early Childhood Degree. I was the Pre-School teacher at Harcourt from 1996 to 2009, employed for 2½ days, but it often involved more work outside of hours. John was a great support – his other name is 'Mr Fix It' – and he built the outdoor picnic tables, repaired play equipment and any other maintenance. I majored in music but was never designated as a music teacher, however, I was able to use those skills throughout my teaching and I taught music as a volunteer at Harcourt Valley Primary in 1983 and 84. We both helped at the school working bees and John was a Council member at the school while our children were students there.'

This year at the Applefest, the Harcourt Valley Primary School choir sang the school song, which was written by Jan in one of her stints at the school. She said, 'I was teaching music at Harcourt Valley Primary School when we had the official opening on 6 October 1995. It was suggested we should write a song for the occasion so I worked with the Grade 5 and 6 class to compose some words.'

It was obvious that the children enjoyed singing the song as it involves some movement and finishes with a rousing shout of 'Harcourt Valley'.

John said, 'I was born in Castlemaine and lived in North Harcourt until 1954. The family then moved to Station Street. I remember the day very clearly as it was the same day that the Queen went through Harcourt on the train to Bendigo.'

John and Jan were married on 18 May 1974. John said, 'On our wedding day, the



floods peaked at Numurkah. The broken Creek, which comes from the Goulburn, broke its banks and sandbagging was going on during the wedding. My family had to go into New South Wales and back into Victoria to avoid the floods.' John and Jan had to cancel their honeymoon to Bright. 'It seems we attract bad weather, as we had decided to honeymoon in Darwin later that year, but Cyclone Tracy cancelled that!'

John and Jan have three children, Narelle, who has an intellectual disability and lives at home, Kathryn, a nurse and David, a draftsman.

John said, 'I worked at Thompsons Foundry for 44½ years. I trained as an apprentice fitter and machinist, which was a four year course at the Castlemaine Technical School. As a young apprentice I didn't have a driver's licence, so I used to travel home with George Milford who drove a Mini Minor.'

'When I turned 60 they offered redundancies and, as my heavy machining section was being closed, I accepted.'

Both John and Jan were involved with the building of the Leisure Centre. John said, 'This was a true community event with several families still involved on the committee.'

'During construction, the Leisure Centre ran out of money due to a change of Federal Government when the Hawke/Keating government replaced the Liberal government of Fraser/Andrews. George Milford took a deputation to Canberra to see Graham Richardson. They were successful in getting the funds. Bob

Morrow was the builder until the money stopped. He built the frame and bricked in the walls, but, after that, we had to take over to complete the project.'

Jan said, 'John, with his practical mind became the works supervisor/builder and provider of all electrical and hand-held tools and the motivator. The group laid the stumps, laid the wooden floors, put on the roof and tiled and designed and painted the kitchen.'

John continued, 'Once the roof was on, the challenge was to complete the inside. The kids painted the toilets halfway up the wall and the adults finished the rest. Then we had the challenge of completing the floor, which is the size of a basketball court. Jack Merlo donated the decking for the floor in memory of his daughter and son; there is a plaque in the centre marking this donation.'

'Even after it was built, the group continued to do lots of fundraising at markets, tea dances, several weddings and funerals. While it is now a council-owned building, I still take the bookings for the hall and do minor maintenance.'

John plays in the Carpet Bowls Team which uses the Leisure Centre during the winter. John said, 'This year the carpet bowls is looking good as we have four new members. It was always Charlie Rice's ambition to build the Leisure Centre to run the State Carpet Bowls Championships. In 1998 we held the State Championships here and this will happen again this September with 13 teams competing.'

John has held office several times and

John and Jan Jenkin

Continued from the previous page

helped organise the State Championships in the past.

Jan has been the organist at the Uniting Church for 40 years. 'I used to play two hymns for the Anglican Church and then run across the road in time to play for the Uniting Church service. John sometimes played the organ at the Anglican Church in his youth. I am currently Secretary of the Church and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship. Again, John assists with some repairs at the Church.'

John joined the Harcourt Fire Brigade after the 1969 fires and, over his record 52 years of service, has had many roles in the brigade, including being the Secretary for 12 years. He is now a Lieutenant. 'I used to run in demonstrations and then I helped organise State Demonstrations. These have since turned into competitions which improve our training and efficiency. I have been to New South Wales several times on strike teams. I was very proud to receive the 50 years Long Service Medal and the National Medal.'

John and Jan have both received life

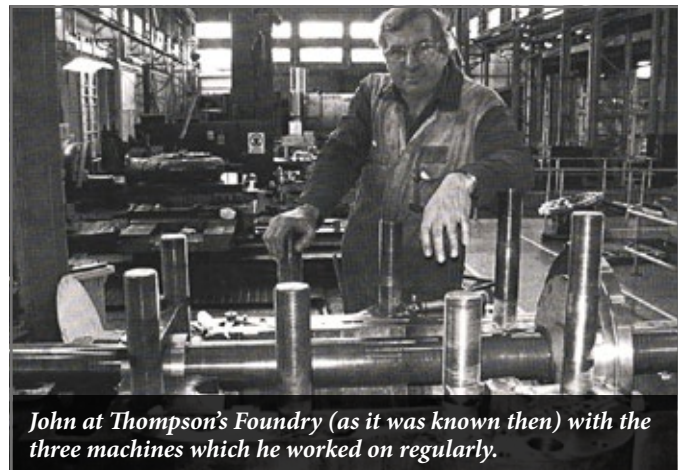
memberships of the CFA. Jan was a member of the Inaugural Ladies Auxiliary and catered to the fires many times.

Jan said, 'We were involved in the establishment of the respite house in Castlemaine. The house provides respite care and emergency accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities. It is leased by Amicus Bendigo which provides the support service for clients. I have been the Treasurer of the Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group (MASARG) since we began planning and fundraising in 2009. John

has again been Mr Fix-It for the respite house along with Ian Blunk, who, sad to say, died recently. Their repair work has saved us many dollars. MASARG owns the Respite house, and our committee is responsible for maintaining the house.'

John and Jan approach life with good humour and practicality. They have worked tirelessly and have yet again demonstrated that within our community we have role models who give outstanding volunteer service to Harcourt and the wider community.

Robyn Miller



John at Thompson's Foundry (as it was known then) with the three machines which he worked on regularly.



Harcourt Valley Primary School A Busy and 'Normal' Year So Far

What a difference a month makes! Last month I wrote about the school returning to 'near normal' but as I complete this month's article, we are having our first day of a seven-day Lock Down. 'Here we go again,' say parents and most community members. It is just so hard to contain this virus and its many mutations.

I spoke to Andrew Blake, the principal, on this, the first day of the school returning to its Flexible Learning Program. He told me that teachers had so much practice with the program last year that they have just slipped back into on-line teaching as if it was a well-fitted glove. 'With all the sudden changes in arrangements that parents need to make to accommodate this, I am sure it has been much more of a challenge for them! We do feel for parents and hope you are able to get the support you need to manage this round of home-schooling and that it does actually only last for a week.'

Since last month the HVPS has had much to celebrate. The Scholastic Book Fair held at the school earlier this month was able to go ahead, and Grade 6 students who are likely to be attending Castlemaine Secondary School next year were able to complete their visit to the school, in person, not virtually as was the case last year. Of the students who competed in the Bendigo Cross Country races held earlier this month, there were a small number of HVPS students who did exceptionally well and are now through to the next level of competition. They will be competing in more challenging races to be held at St Arnaud next term.

Andrew reported that the grade 3/4 camp at Anglesea from May 19 to May 21 was a great success. The most enjoyable activity for the students was the visit to the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre in Queenscliff. Students immersed themselves in the various learning activities on offer there and were delighted

to be able to engage with the different creatures and plants in the underwater touch and experience area. Other favoured activities were those on the beach: rock climbing and learning about the local Wadawurrung history and culture. How fortunate it was that the camp was scheduled before lockdown.

The school has continued with its community engagement programmes this term, the first of which was the Mothers' (and Grandmothers') Day Breakfast which was held on May 7. It was well attended, and children and adults enjoyed a breakfast of pancakes which the teachers helped to cook and serve. Parent Forums which took place on Monday May 4 were well attended. Andrew said the staff appreciated hearing from parents about what they thought the strengths of the school were and their thoughts and ideas about future directions for the school.

Education Week was held in the week beginning Monday May 24. The school held its Annual Open Day on the Wednesday from 9 am to 11 am. Grade 6 students acted as tour guides. Unfortunately, the Prep to Year 2 class was not able to attend the Interschool Tabloid Sports Day which was to be held at Wesley Hill Reserve on Friday May 28. Other events which have had to be postponed until next term, which were to coincide with Reconciliation Week, are the official 'opening' of the Reconciliation Stone, and the associated workshop that the students were to have. How disappointing! These events have been rescheduled for sometime in Term 3. Let's hope that they can go ahead then and that school can return to onsite learning soon.

Read more about Tabloid Sports Carnivals:

www.educationalsportscarnivals.com.au/programs/tabloid-sports-carnivals

Lois Denham



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Samuel Hawkings of the Porcupine Inn

Samuel Hawkings was thirty when he set up the Porcupine Inn in 1846. He brought his wife Mary, 28 years old, and three infant children with him when he built the wattle and daub hostelry in comparatively remote country. The site was next to the Bullock Creek on the bush track leading to Melbourne from the three immense sheep runs in the area.

The hotel was one of the earliest buildings hereabouts. Its location was on the southern edge of Messrs Heape and Grice's squatting run at Ravenswood, the north-west corner of Dr Barker's 'Mount Alexander' sheep run and the most easterly point of Bryant's 'Cairn Curran'.

The boundaries of these sheep runs were defined by marked trees and ploughed furrows. When the colonial government resolved to formalise the squatters' leaseholds by survey, the chain-men began the measurements on the north, east and west sides of the Porcupine Inn. There was no better landmark for miles around.

Samuel Hawkings had selected the site for his Inn during patrols around the squatting runs from his base in Gisborne. In his capacity as sergeant major of the Border Police, Hawkings had command of a squad of troopers whose main duties were to attend to incidents involving convicts assigned to the squatters.

As there was no 'border' of Victoria at that time, we understand that the troopers were to enforce the law on the borders of known settlement. It was during one of the squad's long patrols on the fringes of society that Hawkings picked out the site, set to work to build a dwelling and outbuildings and then, after four years as sergeant major, resigned his government post. A paragraph in the Melbourne *Argus* stated:

'Mr Hawkins, who was for three years a Sergeant of the 22nd Regiment, and five years a Sergeant of the 28th Regiment and subsequently for four years Sergeant Major of the Border Police has resigned the sword and commenced business as an innkeeper, having opened the Porcupine Inn at Mount Alexander. From the well-known civility of Mr Hawkins in his military capacity, combined with the convenience of his establishment, there can be no doubt he will receive a due share of public patronage and support.'

Hawkings was born in Cornwall, the youngest in a family of nine. In his teen years he trained as a shoemaker. Enlisting at age 18, he rose through the ranks to become corporal in a regiment assigned to guard 310 male convicts on the long voyage to

Van Diemen's Land. In New South Wales he became a regimental sergeant major.

In the absence of a photograph, we are fortunate to have a description. At enlistment, Samuel was of fresh complexion, with grey eyes, brown hair and standing 5 feet 9½ inches tall. Long years in the military left its mark in his bearing. Sergeant major Hawkings would have been well suited to controlling the crowd in the bar room.

It was no mean feat to open a hotel remote from any township. Neither Castlemaine nor Bendigo was in existence at the time, and Hawkings' inn would have been remarkably self-sufficient, only drawing supplies, at long intervals, from Gisborne or Melbourne. Liquor and mutton would have been the main items on the menu. Water came from the creek, and firewood from the surrounding hillsides. Domestic animals and poultry were a necessity.

In 1848 the Porcupine Inn became the district's first post office. Also in 1848, Hawkings was fined for allowing cards to be played on the premises. Reports of the alleged incident suggest that this was a case of police entrapment, as one of those playing cards was a Mount Macedon constable. Maybe someone was settling a score against his former sergeant major.

In January 1850, after just three years as a publican, Hawkings transferred his licence for the Porcupine Inn to Alexander Walker. This seems an unfortunate business decision. Eighteen months later it was learned that gold had been found at Specimen Gully and, at the height of the gold rush, the next licensee was reputed to have made a fortune and the Porcupine Inn, the only licensed premises within a 25 mile radius, was dubbed 'one of the richest claims in the country'.

By this time Samuel Hawkings was employed by Alexander Walker to manage

Dalyenong Station – a 35,000 acre squatting run near Avoca. Now his chief occupation was as a sheep farmer.

Mary and Samuel Hawkings had seven children; a daughter born in 1848 and three more children born after the family left the Porcupine Inn. Mary Hawkings died in 1857 in wretched circumstances at the age of 38. She had fatally wounded herself in a fall while arguing with her husband and her servants while intoxicated. Samuel Hawkings lived at Dalyenong until he died in 1867 at the age of 52. His death was due to the effect of tuberculosis on his heart. Both Samuel and Mary Hawkings were buried in the Avoca cemetery.

The original Porcupine Inn was destroyed by fire in 1852, after Hawkings had moved to Avoca. The buildings were then rebuilt in brick. These later buildings were in turn demolished in 1972. The inn was beside the creek to the west of the former highway, about four kilometres north of Harcourt at a spot about 200 metres north of the once-notorious Porcupine Hill S-bend involving a road-over-rail bridge. There are now no signs of what was an important stopping place on the journey into the interior.

In settling at the Porcupine, Samuel Hawkings chose a new career. In doing so he faced a harsh and simple option, either adapt to the virgin environment or lose everything. When we think back to the sparsely settled region of the pre-gold rush era we appreciate the ambition and accomplishments of this pioneer.

This is another 'thumbnail sketch' of the pioneers compiled for *The Core* by Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre, with acknowledgments to 'The Ballad of Samuel Hawkings' by Anne L McKenzie and 'The Porcupine Inn' report to Vic Roads by Dr Vincent Clark & Associates.



The Porcupine Inn just before demolition in 1972.

Harcourt Valley Landcare – 25th Anniversary 2022

Are you a past member? Do you have any photos of Landcare activities prior to 2010?

As part of the planning process for the future, Harcourt Valley Landcare has looked to past achievements for inspiration and in so doing we have discovered that 2020 is the group's 25th Anniversary. It is with high hopes that we intend to apply for a grant for



grant to control feral apple trees and in their place to improve native vegetation and biodiversity, by planting the late flowering flax lily. This project was completed over two years and also included removal of



Left: McIvor Road with feral fruit trees before removal. Right: The same area after removal of feral fruit trees. 300 late flowering flax lilies were planted on the roadside of McIvor Road to enhance biodiversity as these plants attract the blue banded bee.

a bumper celebration. This year we intend to achieve getting our new website established which will contain much of the group's history including photos. This will support our popular Facebook site and it will also contain our planning document for the next few years, which will be available for download.

Terry Willis has recently completed a successful report for the \$20,000 Federal

feral fruit trees which can harbour fruit flies.

Our June working bee will be held on Sunday June 27 from 10 am to 12 midday. The location for this will be determined at our meeting on June 10. For up to date information, check our Facebook page.

Landcare Grants

The 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants are open until Wednesday, June 16. Groups and

networks can apply for up to \$30,000 for projects that protect, enhance, and restore Victoria's land and environment. Support grants of up to \$500 are available to help with administration and running costs. For more information see: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants>

Upcoming Events Dates

2021 Victorian Landcare Awards
Nominate now!

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning through the Victorian Landcare Program coordinates the Victorian Landcare Awards ceremony.

Landcare Australia advises that the Victorian nomination period is as follows:

- Opens Apr 26, 2021
- Closes Jun 30, 2021.

Nominate yourself or another Landcarer or group today!

July

- Plastic Free July
- NAIDOC Week 4–11 July
- Schools Tree Day 30 July
- World Ranger Day 31 July

August

- National Tree Day 1 August
- Landcare week 4–6 August
- National Science Week 14–22 August
- Keep Australia Beautiful Week 16–22 August

Note: information on grants, dates and awards was sourced from the NCCMA North Central Chat which is produced monthly and sent to Landcare members.



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well. At this stage we are back in lockdown. I understand this is inconvenient but we do need this to halt community transmission of COVID 19. We got the jab at Bendigo a few weeks ago. It was very efficient and well managed. I am sure the other sites are working well too.

Last week we heard submissions to the Council budget. It is a sound budget with substantial investment in community services as well as capital works.

There is a push to get into the design stage of the Camp Reserve upgrade. We need to progress the design so we can try to attract infrastructure funds.

Council has been trying to get black spot funding for Fogartys Gap Road and we have not been successful. We will explore other funding methods to improve the safety of this road.

The recent announcement of funding for three small town streetscapes and the Campbells Creek trail by the State Government was well received. This will assist our budget and free up funds for other projects.

Council will adopt the budget at this month's Council meeting.

Best regards to all. Tony

AG Cordy
0439742434

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Harcourt Bowling Club

AGM Report

At the Harcourt Bowling Club Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 23rd May, President Ken Tribe presented the Annual Report and audited financial statements. He noted that bearing in mind the difficulty of achieving all our aims because of COVID restrictions it was overall a very good year. He noted that the club was able to function well both on and off the field.

Judy Ewing presented the Treasurer's Report noting that the minor loss indicated was to be expected with the limitations of trading for 6 months due to the pandemic. She stated that the club is still in a good position financially assisted by a couple of successful grant applications by Russell Timmins.

The members appointed to fill the 5 vacancies on the Board for bowling Seasons 21-22 to 22-23 were Wendy Chaplin and Russell Timmins (previous members); Graeme Blease, Ron Douglas and Gary Maddern. They will join with ongoing Board directors Brian Buchanan, Judy Ewing, Russell Maltby and Ken Tribe for the overall management of the Club.



Outgoing Board directors Heather Braid, Kay Francis and John Grant were thanked for their work on the Board and dedication and commitment to the club.

Ken Tribe welcomed the new members and thanked all members of the Board personally for their tireless dedication and work for the club.

Immediately following the AGM the newly elected Board met to vote on Executive positions and to finalise committee memberships for the upcoming season. The results were:

President. Ken Tribe
Vice President (women) Judy Ewing
Vice President (men) Brian Buchanan
Treasurer. Judy Ewing
Secretary/Public Officer to be appointed

Bowling with Babies

The club committed to a 6 weeks trial of this new initiative which started off slowly and had great attendances during the school holidays. The numbers dropped off again as the cooler weather came in.

A number of Dads also turned up during the school holidays, and we understand some came back for a social bowl. Some of the Mums said they would like to continue but felt the winter months a little cold to be bringing the little ones out.

The Board extends their thanks to the co-ordinators of this new program Jean Pogue and Ruth Hay; and to Myra Frankling;



and John and Kaye Grant for their support over the 6 weeks. By any sensible measure this was deemed a very successful program and with more input from Club members (for only 2 to 3 hours a week) Jean would be prepared to repeat the Bowling with Babies when the weather gets warmer.

Coming Up ...

Friday Social Nights

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

WHEEL CACTUS FIELD DAY 30 JUNE 2021

The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group is back in action! Our field days will be held on the last Sunday of every month till October, starting at 10.30 am and ending at 12.30 pm with a sociable cuppa and a sausage sizzle.



This month's location is in Bells Lane, Eastville, 15 km from Maldon. Just follow the Bridgewater Road, turn right into Murphys Road and follow the signage.

For further information and a map, go to our website: www.cactuswarriors.org

See you there!



Harcourt FNC – Lioness Update

Round 5

Harcourt vs Maryborough Rovers

In the C-Grade match up, the girls took to the court without their key defender Chris Curtis due to injury.

This didn't seem to stop them as they were determined to continue their winning streak. Goalers Suzie Rinaldi and Rhylee Elliott were extremely accurate under the post, and Tara Chapman stepped into the defensive circle in style, gaining many possessions for the Lions. Abby Williams took intercept after intercept in the fourth quarter allowing the Lions to build on their lead.

B-Grade got off to a quick start with Kate Blake proving she can be a very strong target in the goal ring. Bec Elliott was again strong for the Lions.

The second half showed a lull in the Lion's line-up, there were many scoring opportunities, thanks to the defensive efforts of Shae Denahy and Kirrily McKay who had a strong connection with Tara Chapman to bring the ball down court. Tamara Farr put in a solid effort for the Lions, but they will need to build on their second-half performance to taste success this season.

A-grade got off to a poor start, with the first quarter moving goal for goal between the Lions and the Rovers. Finally, in the last few minutes of the game, the girls finally clicked into gear, and the amazing efforts of defenders Jess Lord, Bridie Semmens and Carly Chaplin gained some much needed ball in the dying minutes. Chloe and Bri converted goals confidently when the pressure was on to win by seven goals.

Volunteer Week

Shout-Out

A huge thank you to our wonderful and appreciated volunteers for Volunteer's Week, especially our netball umpires!

Many people from our local community make every game day happen, from manning the entry gate, hours in the canteen, coaching juniors and senior sides and so ensuring everyone the opportunity to get involved with local sport.

This week's shout-out goes to volunteer Tamara Farr, who plays a huge part in the game-day operations at HFNC. She is a mentor to our up and coming umpires. With years of umpiring experience, Tamara is a regular on game day, umpiring, playing and often umpiring some more! She is a key part of the Harcourt B-grade side and offers a helping hand with our future netball stars. On behalf of the club, Tamara, we can't thank you enough!



Tamara Farr.

Round 6

Harcourt vs Newstead

It was a big day at our home court after a few weeks away, and the crowd was fantastic for both football and netball. Thanks to all the locals who helped get us over the line.

The round-6 match-up gave the Harcourt netballers reassurance that they are on the right track. With both the C-grade and A-grade seeming to click and coming away with convincing wins.

They know they still have a lot of work to do, but the attention they've been giving to their offense in previous weeks is starting to pay off.

The B-grade team is proving to be a defensive force and is still learning to capitalise in the ring getting off to a great start but appearing to ease off as the game goes on.



The U-15s in action.

The Lions welcomed the challenges this week promised and they looked to continue their winning streak knowing they would have to dig deep to come away with three more wins.

A-grade ended the day defeating Newstead 37-63, with everyone contributing to the win.

In the junior grades, the Lion's cubs showed promising signs for the future, with the under 11s winning 26-5, the under 13s winning by 21 goals and the very talented under 15s dominating 49-12.

The U-17s didn't give up all day and continued to show accuracy under the post, but Newstead were very strong and had more scoring opportunities.

Lauren Peeler

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Lions Football Results for May

8 May

Round 4 Dunolly vs Harcourt

The trip to Dunolly delivered good results for most Lion's footy teams.

The Harcourt Reserves struggled for numbers with a few out. The team managed okay without their coach Heath – congratulations to Heath and Mel on their new arrival!

The team kept its focus against a determined opposition and came away with a good win. James Gale kept up his recent goal kicking form, adding 7. Small forward, Mick McMurtrie, contributed 6. Ryan Dzioba was named best. The final score was: Harcourt: 36.22-238; Dunolly: 1.0-6.

The Senior team also had a few out but the dominant performances in this round will make coming weeks' selection interesting. The team played a strong game across all lines resulting in a big win against a side that never gave up. Coach Al was pleased with us running the game out and efforts to play 'Harcourt footy'. Zac Denahey bagged 6 (before an injury sidelined him) and Alex Code long bombed 6, too. Best, in a solid effort across the team were Benny Leech and Tom Walters. The final score was: Harcourt: 40.21-261; Dunolly: 4.6-30.

Other Scores:

Under 14½: Harcourt: 3.0-18; Lexton: 10.11-71.

Under 11½: Harcourt: 15.8-998; Dunolly: 3.2-20.

15 May – Round 5:

Back to the Lion's Den against Rovers.

It was a cold clear day (perfect footy weather) at the Den which saw the Lions come away with 3 out of 4 wins.

U-11½ had a big win sharing the goal kicking around. Best were

Zane Davidge and Levi Dunlop. Final Score: Harcourt: 10.4-64; Maryborough Rovers: 1.2-8.

U-14½ were unable to get over the line and went down by 3 points in a closely fought contest. Award winners were Riley Burns and, on debut, Will McInerny. Final Score: Harcourt: 3.6-24; Maryborough Rovers: 3.9-27.

A strong Reserves side put the opposition on the back foot early and played the game out to have a big win. Contributions were made by all players, with the best being James Gale and Joel Maddern. Gale was happier with the ones he gave away because he bagged 13 goals, Gibbo got 6 majors. Final Score: Harcourt: 41.24-230; Maryborough Rovers: 3.0-18

The senior team played against a weakened Rovers, with them missing a few players and some having to double up. A strong defensive effort didn't allow a score while there was plenty of forward pressure, which showed on the scoreboard. Major goal contributors were Zac Denahey with 13 and Benny Leech with 10. Best on the ground were Leech and Darby Semmens. Final Score: Harcourt: 47.20-302; Maryborough Rovers: 0

22 May Round 6:

Harcourt vs Newstead at Home.

It was sponsors day and with two local teams playing there was a big turn up of followers.

Seniors: Final Score: Harcourt: 20.18-138; Newstead: 2.3-15.

Reserves: Final Score: Harcourt: 18.9-117; Newstead: 0.6-6.

Under 14½: Final Score: Harcourt: 10.7-67; Newstead: 4.0-24.

Under 11½: Final Score: Harcourt: 6.4-40; Newstead: 1.2-8.

29 May Round 7 – Results not available at time of production.

Daryl Gale



Come and chat to reconnect

Are you or someone you know feeling lonely or isolated as a result of COVID-19? Want to feel more socially connected locally?

Council is running casual drop-in sessions at a community hall near you. Turn up, enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with our community connectors who can link you into local services or activities.

- **Tuesday 8 June** - 10.00am-12noon, Castlemaine
- **Thursday 10 June** - 10.00am-12noon, Maldon
- **Tuesday 15 June** - 10.00am-12noon, Harcourt
- **Thursday 17 June** - 1.00pm-3.00pm, Newstead
- **Friday 18 June** - 1.00pm-3.00pm, Guildford
- **Tuesday 22 June** - 10.00am-12noon, Chewton
- **Thursday 24 June** - 1.00pm-3.00pm, Taradale
- **Friday 25 June** - 10.00am-12noon, Castlemaine

For more information or details on drop-in locations, call 5471 1700 or visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CASI.

Proposed Budget 2021/2022

Submissions on Council's Proposed Budget 2021/2022 have recently closed.

The \$39.61 million budget outlines the resources necessary to maintain and improve infrastructure, and deliver projects and services which are valued by our community.

Councillors will prepare to adopt the final budget at the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 15 June at 6.30pm.

View the budget at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget.

Thank you for your input

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback with us during the first phase of consultation of the Your Community, Your Vision project.

We'll be reporting back soon to show you the results of what you have told us so far.

Keep in touch with the project and find out more about the next stage via shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

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Harcourt Uniting Church

Closing a Church is always a difficult time full of emotions. No it's not happening at Harcourt! Even though we say the Church is not just the building but the people who belong there, people who have worshipped in the same building all their life have a strong connection to their Church.

Recently we came together at the Castlemaine Church to celebrate the life of the Yandoit Uniting Church and their congregation. Yandoit is part of the Castlemaine and District Uniting Church Parish. Recently a service to 'close the doors' was held at Yandoit. The Church at Yandoit has been serving its community since 1859, with the present brick building being built in 1875. The Morrison family have had a strong connection to the community for six generations. James Morrison was one of the founding members of the Yandoit Church and to the present day the Morrisons are 'Yandoit'.

Members of our Harcourt congregation have enjoyed travelling to Yandoit for their famous annual huge bonfire nights celebrating Pentecost. With flames leaping high, the group would move back as the heat increased and the children always had fun lighting their own small fires nearby to toast marshmallows. The night would begin with an informal service of worship around the bonfire followed by a traditional Aussie BBQ complete with a steel plate over an open fire to cook the sausages.

We have welcomed Steve O'Connor from Yandoit (a Morrison son in law) into our Harcourt congregation.

At a recent Fellowship meeting in Bendigo we were reminded of the wonderful work of Bush Chaplains working for Frontier Services. I have written about their work in previous articles. Bush Chaplains are 'the Church in the Outback.' Their day might involve driving many hours to visit a Station to conduct a wedding, baptism or a funeral. With the extra stress of drought, floods, fires and COVID, many Station people are in need of someone prepared to just sit with a cuppa and talk. As the Chaplains say – they are there to talk with people rather than 'preach' religion to them.

Another interesting area of Frontier Services is Outback Links. People willing to volunteer their skills are matched with Station families needing some assistance for a week or two. It might be repairs to a shed, building a fence, general farm work, repairing machinery, plumbing, painting, maintenance, helping in the house, being an extra hand with children's schooling – in other words helping where it's needed. Volunteers bring hope to Station owners by showing up and showing that they care. You can Google Frontier services for more information.

A minister buys a lawn mower at a garage sale. Back home he pulls and pulls but can't start it. He storms back to the garage sale and says: 'I can't start this mower'

'That's because you have to swear at it as you pull' replies the seller. 'But I'm a minister, I don't remember how to swear' You just keep pulling and pulling - it will come back to you!'

Jan Jenkin

Forty years of Community Radio in Central Victoria

If you were involved, tell your story

Ian Braybrook and Marilyn Bennet have embarked on an ambitious project to record 40 years of community radio history in Central Victoria.

On April 25th, Anzac Day 1982, the first official FM radio broadcast outside of Melbourne took place in Mount Alexander Shire as 3CCCfm hit the airwaves from the former Harcourt railway station building.

April 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of this historic event and Ian and Marilyn have chosen this date to launch a book recording the history of Community Radio in Central Victoria. Today four community radio stations operate in the Bendigo region: Phoenix fm, KLFM, Freshfm and Mainfm. (The latter began life in Castlemaine as WMAfm in 2006).



Community Radio artefacts are needed for the new history book. The photo shows a cover of Radio Waves, the 3CCC magazine. This was the March/April edition of 1986

They need your help!

This book is about all the people who have been and continue to be involved in Community Radio in the Bendigo region.

Marilyn says, 'We are seeking input from any of the hundreds of people who had a role in any of the stations along the way. We want to gather facts, anecdotes and photos for inclusion in the book. We want it to reflect the human side of the story - not just facts and figures. We ask people to write short pieces, say 400 to 600 words, to forward to us. In fact, we are depending on this to make the book interesting!'

Without these contributions the book will not achieve its aim – to have real people tell the story; the human history of a The Wonderful Wireless (community) in Central Victoria.

Contact details and contributions:

Facebook: Community Radio in Central Victoria

Email: ianandmazza@gmail.com

Phone: 0409 333 513 or 0457 676 327

Post: Ian Braybrook
Box 677 Castlemaine 3450

Dropbox: www.dropbox.com/sh/4i72r1v868jajv8/AAAjqicVNbJC_cmLSxtQYrgia?dl=0



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The Maldon & District Community Grants Program is a management account of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. 1409006-1409008 OUT_2064471

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Community Bank Grants

Are you part of a community based group or organisation based in (or servicing) Maldon, Dunolly, Harcourt, Newstead or the Mount Alexander region?

Community Bank Maldon & District is looking at running one of their biggest ever community grants programs in 2021! The Community Grants Program is designed to make targeted use of funds that are responsive to community needs in order to create a sustainable, resilient and thriving society.

The launch of the program was held as an information night where past participants spoke about their experience applying for and receiving funds through the program. The forum was held at the Maldon Golf Club on Wednesday 26 May 2021 but they also ran a Facebook live stream for those that couldn't attend in person – this is still available to view on the Community Bank Maldon and District's Facebook page.

Branch Manager Adam Balzan regards this program as one of the diamonds in the crown of Community Banks. 'This is a great opportunity for organisations and not-for-profits to get that project off the ground that they might've been dreaming of – these funds could be just what they need to make things happen.'

Community Bank Board Director Liesl Malan explained, 'In the Community Bank's last grant round (2019) the Harcourt Progress Association was successful at obtaining funds to help support the application for the new playground. The contribution of the Community Bank grant enabled the HPA to enhance the all-abilities all-ages play space with a new BBQ.'

Applications for the 2021 round will be open from 1 June - 9 July and can be made at bendigobank.com.au/foundation

Any queries please contact Shannon Burdeu on 0478 435 110 or email her at: executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au



Harcourt Heritage Centre Resumes its Program of Tours and Talks

This much missed program has been in recess during the pandemic, and will return on the second Sunday of each month.

Sunday June 20: 'What were we told?' Fireside Chats

This event marks the return of the ever popular Fireside Chats. Come and enjoy the warmth of an open fire and listen to 'What were we told?' This talk reflects on the way we came to our present understanding of local indigenous history. This was a subject that we were never taught at primary school!

Please mark the dates on your calendars: second-last Sunday of each month, 1.30 pm at the Harcourt Heritage Centre.



vec.vic.gov.au

Non-Voters Urged to Act on Penalty Reminder Notice or Risk Further Action

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is urging Victorians who have outstanding non-voting fines to take action before the matter is referred to Fines Victoria.

Only a small number of Victorians who failed to vote in the 2020 local council elections will be receiving a Penalty Reminder Notice from this week, which carries an additional fee of \$25.80.

Electoral Commissioner, Warwick Gately, advised recipients of a Penalty Reminder Notice to act as soon as possible.

'If you receive a Penalty Reminder Notice in the mail you need to take action,' Mr Gately said.

'Do not ignore the notice, or your details will be provided to the Director of Fines Victoria for further enforcement action.'

Non-voters have 28 days to respond to the Penalty Reminder Notice. The VEC encourages people who are unsure what to do, to call 1300 551 575 or visit vec.vic.gov.au/voting/fines-and-reviews.



LOCAL AGENT

Di Selwood

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Harcourt CFA Another Quiet Month

May has been another quiet month for the brigade with only two turnouts. The first was to Mt Alexander at approximately 9.30 pm when there was a glow of a fire visible when viewed from afar. It turned out to be a false alarm as some people camping at one of the old quarries had thrown some extra fuel on their campfire. It was pointed out to them by our Captain that every house light that they could see in the Harcourt valley would likewise be able to see their fire. A simple phone call to register the large campfire would have short-circuited our callout. The second was an escalation call to support Castlemaine to a gas leak but we were not required to attend in the end.

We were fortunate enough to be able to participate in live hot fire training at the Castlemaine fire station on two occasions. The CFA have built mobile props that are dropped off at specific locations for brigades to train on. This prop was the brand new commercial kitchen prop which consists of an oven, hotplates and deep fryer which have gas burners that simulate the fire. Crews can then practise putting the fire out with hose lines from the tanker. There are a variety of fire fighting skills that can be learnt or honed, especially when participating with other brigades which we did on the second occasion.

More Product Recalls

Products of all sorts continue to be recalled and there have been quite a few recently that have the potential to catch fire. Some of these involved motor vehicles. The Toyota HiLux Rogue recall affects 683 vehicles. The reason for the recall is that the electrical power wiring for the cargo roller cover

may abrade against the battery clamp post which could lead to a short circuit which then may cause a fire. Previously two popular Kia vehicles, the Kia QL Sportage and the CK Stinger were recalled, which involved 57,851 vehicles, over fears they could burst into flames even when the engine was switched off.

One concerning issue with vehicle recalls is that when the vehicle is resold, the new owner's details may not be updated with the vehicle manufacturer and therefore the new owner does not receive notification of the recall.

The Chills of Winter and Safety in the Home

Winter time is when there is a greater focus on the risk of fires starting in the home. Wood, gas and electrical heating used to keep those winter chills away have the potential to cause a fire if not used correctly, are poorly maintained or combustibles are placed too close to the heat source. Drying wet washing is one such example as mentioned in last month's article. It is worth doing a walk around your house checking and identifying possible hazards and risks and then taking steps to remove those risks. Statistics tell us how many fires CFA attend in a given period, but we never know how many fires do not occur due to actions taken that removed that risk.

The only measure we have that home owners are maintaining safe fire practices is against previous records, so if the brigade continues to have quiet months, then you must be doing the right thing.

Keep up the good work and we will all remain safe.

Tyrone Rice, Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Welcome to Winter!

Fruit trees are becoming dormant, and with another lockdown in our midst, it can feel like we're going a bit dormant too! The good news is that there's plenty to be doing in the garden and this is the best time of year to be planting fruit trees.

Growing fruit trees to suit your circumstances

There are a couple of factors to consider before you plant new trees. One of the benefits of living in the country (and one of the reasons many people who move here make the 'tree change') is because there's so much space for a decent-sized garden. But even if you have a large garden, it often makes sense to keep your fruit trees together in one space in the garden, rather than spreading them out.

There are a couple of reasons that grouping fruit trees together is a good idea, the first being that it can be easier to net a group of trees, rather than having to create a separate structure for each tree. Having said that, the hoop structure that is commonly used to protect a single fruit tree is pretty easy to construct from star pickets and poly pipe and so it's not imperative to plant fruit trees as a group. The other reason it can be easier to create an 'orchard' in your garden is because it's easier to set up a simple but effective irrigation system if all the trees with similar needs are in one place. Again, it's not that hard to irrigate individual trees that are scattered around your garden, it just might take multiple pipes and offshoots to reach them all.

If you don't have a lot of space available, a clever way to maximise your fruit growing potential with less trees is with a multigraft tree. This is a single tree that has more than one variety grafted onto

the same rootstock, e.g. Bramley, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Jonathan apples. Another variation is a 'fruit salad' tree that has fruit of different types on the same rootstock (e.g. Trevatt apricot, Autumn Giant plum, and Mariposa blood plum). A third way to get the most variety of fruit from the least space is to put two trees in the same hole. This not only provides a wider range of fruit in a compact space, but also takes care of pollination if you choose compatible varieties.

The disadvantage of all these arrangements is that one variety may be more dominant than another, but that can usually be managed by planting the trees with the weaker variety to the north so it gets more sun, and some detailed pruning will help control the dominant tree.

Diversity Protects

Now is also a good time to reflect on other ways of improving the health of your garden. As a guiding principle, try to add more diversity each year—different varieties of fruit trees, different understorey plants around and near your fruit trees (e.g., herbs, vegetables or shrubs—or even just weeds!), and even different microbes in your soil. Believe it or not, biodiversity is one of your best defences against the risks you face from pests and diseases, and even the weather!

Wondering how that works? Well, the more varieties of fruit trees you have, the more likely you are to harvest at least something every year. A particularly wet spring, for example, may lead to disease in the stone fruit but the apples and pears will thrive.

Having a diverse collection of plants in your garden (especially flowering plants, and yes—even weeds) provides good habitat to attract lots of beneficial

insects that will do at least half your work of cleaning up the pests. There's a lot of science emerging about the incredible impact that multiple plants growing in the same soil can have on each other. It's kind of an extension of the old idea of companion planting, but we now know that plants communicate with each other, they swap nutrients and microbes, and they help to make each other healthier.

And as mentioned at the beginning, adding more diversity to your collection doesn't have to mean planting more trees. It's also easy (and lots of fun) to graft new varieties onto existing trees, which is a great solution if you've run out of good places to put new trees. It's also a great way of turning a useless tree (e.g., a seedling or sucker that has come up, a cherry plum, or a huge tree that produces a glut of fruit that you can't use) into a useful tree that is earning its place in your garden.

Grafting is a late winter/early spring job, but over winter (once the trees are completely dormant), you need to collect the grafting wood—we'll have more details about how to do this in next month's Core.

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than 20 years, and offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips. They have more than 50 online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to www.growgreatfruit.com for details. They also run free online workshops - sign up at growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is now OPEN FOR ORDERS at openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop.

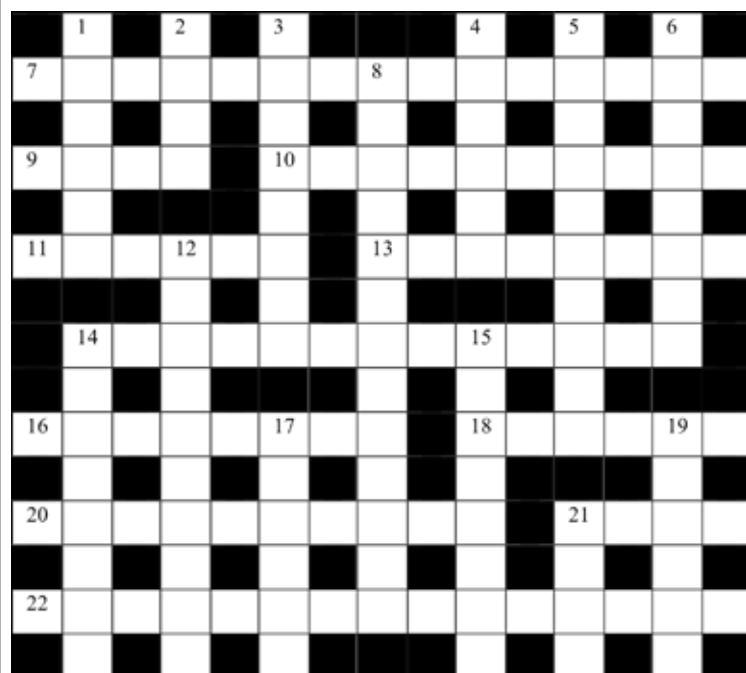
Orders taken until June 30 and trees will be available to pick up from the farm Open Days on the 3rd, 4th, 11th, and 12th July from 10 am to 4 pm.

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
	megalitres	megalitres	% full	megalitres	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	29,054	76.9%	30,692	81.3%
Lauriston	19,790	18,560	93.8%	16,090	81.3%
Malmsbury	12,034	2,777	23.1%	1,910	15.9%
Total to June 5	69,594	50,391	72.4%	48,692	70.0%
Total to May 5	69,594	50,928	73.2%	47,490	68.2%

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

June 2021 Xword ©McW Feb '18



Down:

1. Flashing light invites you to cheat people slyly! (6)
2. Each-way engineering or conducting German. (4)
3. The first beer? (5,3)
4. Stop the car! What you need to do with the hose to get your act together... (4,2)
5. Prettiness can be a quality that lasts and lasts... (10)
6. Sort dispatched shortly for great speakers. (8)
8. 1080 might warrant bribes to be effective here. (6,7)
12. Is the question asked disingenuously, or in a way free from moral wrong? (10)
14. Read instructions for (i.e., menu re) applying BTUs to bivalves. (8)
15. Rise, Tern, and put your beak back in the first hole! (2-6)
17. Replace last letter (same as the first) with the one that comes after it and make fabric of religion. (6)
19. Possibly a strip of 17, or, if blue, a safe place to sit... (6)
21. Composer never dog-like with wrong trees... (4)

Across:

7. Strong disagreements around the campfire? (6,9)
9. Removing bat's place shows how it's found... (4)
10. Big lions I'm getting ready for engagement. (10)
11. Delete an oriental aspect from a solitary thought for American Indian people in N.Y. (6)
13. Oops! Trim that beard or people will see you're not the real McCoy. (8)
14. The glum wren lazes among the vulgar beets... (6-7)
16. Instrumental for damsel? (8)
18. Fashionable bird is new to the hospital. (6)
20. Those who actually are the onlookers have a right to be heard. (10)
21. Ruthless pig—or pigless Ruth? (4)
22. Shoot the Makita trainer? (5,10)

May 2021 Xword solution ©McW Feb '18



Down:

1. It **ap**pears she's not, but *sans* the **ap**. she's OK, and shouldn't be compared with them! (6)
2. Handy, held on by this? [Well?]
3. **One who finishes** under the right side of the wicket [LOOKED AT FROM THE CREASE...THE "OFF" (Note the right-hand Chauvinism in this clue...)] might still end up in gaol.
4. Total of a large hill is the sum in the bank. (6)
5. I'm smarting still after the mix-up, when I said they leave [i.e. **emigrants**], but they really come here.
6. Requiring protection in Northern Ireland, esp. 1970s. [Well?]
8. [Copiers highly] value these virtually inscrutable marks. (13)
12. This clue puts ya into the trees! (10)
14. [Our names] are what make us fall in love. (8)
15. Roman hat? Oh man! Art of staying the distance. (8)
17. Plural of 4? [Well? See clue 4 dn]
19. Pay back about [re...] a stock of money set aside for the purpose. (6)
21. My ceremony sounds more correct than yours! [Well?]

Across:

7. Current prick might make hasty decisions? [Well?]
9. Not ours, but all **yours**, friend. [4]
10. Lo, the suits at Elon Musk's offices—will their E.V. excite us? [10]
11. Climb up on what Americans might crudely describe as the rear of the vehicle. [6]
13. Sudden general occurrence of measles, say, could mark the start of the Great Escape... [8]
14. Wagons at a ute-muster? [Well?]
16. Mesa's *not beaut* to dance on, *they* say [**butte**], but OK for dinner, or for a card game... [5-3]
18. Categorise again at the Bali hotel. [Well?]
20. Possibly a **red** fellow-traveller versus the [**PATRIOT**] Blue mob at rallies? [Well?]
21. Miser that he was, two-thirds of his **thrif**t brought about a major break in their relationship. [4]
22. Perhaps a great difficulty applying the rifle (7,8) to problem-solving (7-8)? [Well?]



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Weather & Water

The month of May saw a gradual decline in temperatures, but with some lovely sunny days interspersed with seven recorded rainy days. Rainfall was 54 mm which was a relief after the very low reading of 8 mm for April. This year so far rainfall is tracking favourably with last year. Total rainfall to date is 246 mm and in 2020 it was 262.

In the Bureau of Meteorology Climate Outlook Overview for winter 2021, it is stated that for eastern Australia rainfall is expected to be higher than average, maximum temperatures are also expected to be higher than average in the south east while minimum temperatures are expected to be above average for most parts of Australia. The El Niño – Southern Oscillation continues to be neutral and because large parts of the East Indian Ocean are warmer than average, there is a possibility of above average rainfall for parts of Australia. More detail can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead



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Community Diary Dates

Thursday 10 June: 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 20 June: 1.30 pm 'What were we told?' Enjoy the first Fireside Chat of winter 2021. Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 20 June: 4 – 8 pm, Harcourt Winter Solstice Bonfire at Harcourt Valley Vineyard – see back page.

Sunday 27 June: 10 am to 12 pm, Working Bee, Harcourt Valley Landcare. Location will be published on the group's Facebook page. Enquiries: Robyn Miller, Secretary 0467 670 271.

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 12.

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.

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

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

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

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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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:

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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

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☐ 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.

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Presented by Shedshaker Brewing and Harcourt Valley Vineyards. Photo: Richard Baxter

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