

Upgrade for James Park



Members of the Heritage Centre: George Milford, Diana Cork, Ruth and Phil Hay were delighted to hear the news of a Tiny Towns Grant announced by MP Maree Edwards in May.

Happiness is...

In May, Heritage Centre members were very happy to hear that they were successful in securing a Tiny Towns Grant, of \$50,000 which among other things, will be used to remove the dangerous and

unsightly drain in James Park.

The grant was announced by Maree Edwards MP on May 9. She said, 'Our smallest communities are the beating heart of this region, and I know how important this funding is to complete projects that make a real difference.'

George Milford said, 'The grant will be used not only to remove the drain and level that area, but also includes another safety measure: the installation of power bollards which will reduce the

number of trailing power leads and increase the amenity of the space for stalls. The added advantage of removing the drain is that there will be more accessible space for any activity held in the park.'

Maree added that 'Victoria's Labor Government has supported nearly 350 projects over two rounds, via the Tiny Towns Grant.' The work for this grant will be carried out by the Shire.

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish online 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.



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COMMUNITY DIARY

Wednesdays 11 & 18 June: 10 am – 12 pm, complete your Active Living Census at Harcourt Community House, 23 Station Street, Harcourt.

Saturday June 14: 1 – 5 pm, BSL (Buy, Swap, Leave) Book Bazaar and Open Day, Harcourt Community House. See page 11 for details.

Thursday June 19: 6.00 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare with guest speaker, Heritage Centre.

Sunday 22nd June: 1:30 pm, Harcourt Heritage Centre – Fireside Chat.

Carpet Bowls: 7.30 pm Wednesdays, Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt.

CFA: Brigade meeting night is the third Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; siren is tested on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15 am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located at 56 High Street, Harcourt.

Community House: See page 11 for June activities. Open each Wednesday from 10 am until 2 pm, closed in school holidays.

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

Grace Church: Tuesdays at 10.30 am – Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11.00 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm – Zoom Bible Study: A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link: pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au

Harcourt Bowls Club: See page 14

www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

Harcourt Lions Club: Third Monday of the month at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way at 6.30 pm. Gathering for dinner (something to share) followed at 7.30 pm by general planning and discussion.

Heritage Centre: Every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm or by appointment: 0400 916 527.

Pony Club: Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 902 400. The Pony Club is located next to the swimming pool.

Repair Café: Last Sunday of the month from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. See ad on page 23 for more information.

Uniting Church: Sundays at 9.00 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 9.00–10.00 am or contact Jan on 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.



HPA Update

Greetings from the Harcourt Progress Association in the first month of Winter. We hope you stay warm and cosy in the months ahead.

The HPA committee recently got out and about on a chilly May day to raise funds at a Bunnings sausage sizzle in Kangaroo Flat. Our thanks to the Harcourt residents that dropped in to buy a snag or two to support HPA.

A huge thanks is extended to businesses and organisations that supported us with donations, discounted items, volunteered their time or lent items needed. In alphabetical order, thank you to; Baker's Delight Castlemaine, Campbells Creek Primary School, Castlemaine Salvation Army, Coolstore Cafe, IGA Maxi Castlemaine and Woolworths.

The Mount Alexander Shire Community Grants will soon be open (14 July-4 August). Are you a local community group that is NOT incorporated? The HPA can auspice you to apply for a community grant. Please contact us on treasurerhpa3453@gmail.com to let us know about your project and we can start a conversation about helping your group.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank VicTrack for the \$4,844 grant which we received earlier this year and recently spent on custom-made blinds throughout the community house, and the installation of a fan in the multipurpose room. These items will significantly increase the heating and cooling efficiencies within the building, making it more comfortable for everyone and reducing power costs. Thanks, VicTrack!

We invite you to pop in and have a look at the Harcourt Valley Community House (HVCH) at 23 Station Street, Harcourt at the Open Day and Book Bazaar on Saturday 14 June from 1-5pm. Drop in, buy a book, swap a book, stay for afternoon tea or have a guided tour to see this great community facility. Tell us your ideas about what you would like to see happen at the community house. More details can be found on the HVCH report on page 11 in this edition of *The Core*.

*Cheers for now,
Alison Curtis, Chairperson, HPA.*

Upgrade for James Park

Continued from page 1.

In Mount Alexander Shire six towns received money in the recent round.

The Heritage Centre as most will be aware, runs the Applefest and related Art Show and has taken on the oversight of Gather Harcourt events. The ANZAC day commemoration is also organised by the centre. The Shire has provided a grant in its most recent budget for fencing of the park due to its regular use for events. While the Applefest has moved to the Leisure Centre, the Shire's aim is to create the only outdoor concert venue in the Shire at Harcourt. Phil Hay noted that the Shire is working on plans for a

permanent stage/sound shell in James Park.

Committee members expressed their thanks to the Shire for its recent proactive support. In particular, they mentioned Michael Annear, Director of Infrastructure and Development and Karen Evenett from the same department. Diana Cork explained: 'Before Applefest the Shire organised to fix a broken drain cover and to move the history story boards near the ANA Hall. These two actions improved safety and access to the site. The story boards were also given a facelift. Importantly, in time for ANZAC Day, council responded to the request to provide a bench seat near the cenotaph in Stanley Park.'

The Core Needs Designers

The Core is the creation of volunteers – contributors, distributors, editors, photographers, reporters, writers, designers and advertising wranglers – all volunteers.

The Core is always in need of more volunteers, and it really needs someone who can step in and assist with the layout. Maybe you, or someone you know, would like to learn the ins and outs of laying out a community newsletter. There is no



restriction on who can apply. There are no prerequisites – except a bit of computer knowledge – you will be trained in all aspects of the role. Once trained, you will be able to help lay out *The Core*, design advertisements, business cards, reports, books ... who knows, maybe it could lead to an income stream.

The Core waits with optimism to hear from you at news@harcourt.vic.au

What is the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund?

The Victorian State Government has announced that from 1 July 2025, the existing Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).

According to the information provided on the Department of Treasury and Finance's website the levy is intended to "support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV)."

Department information goes on

to say, "Increasing frequency of fires, floods and storms continues to be a reality of life in Victoria. The new ESVF will make sure all our emergency services have the tools and resources they need to help keep Victorians safe. Every dollar raised will go towards vital life-saving equipment, vehicles, staff, training for volunteers, community education, and recovery support to help Victorians when they need it most."

For more information on how the levy will be calculated and collected and who it affects go to the Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria website dtf.vic.gov.au/what-we-do



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Scrap the tax!
Scrap the tax!
Scrap the tax!

It is almost two weeks since I attended a protest rally about the unfair Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy. At that rally I saw volunteer fire fighters (CFA) professional fire fighters (MFB) and farmers come together to protest the unfairness of the new tax introduced by the Victorian State Government.

Despite the spin, it is not the Andrews Government or the Allan Government that has done this. It is our State Government.

What do you do if you have bad government that won't listen to the community? You throw them out.

No-one has been able to explain to me why farmers are being unfairly treated in this way. It is the farmers and our country volunteers that crew most of our rural fire brigades. My question is, why unfairly penalise our farmers? Our farmers – the food army – produce our food. Where will the city get food when all the farmers are gone? Maybe it will be like the 50s when people used to hunt rabbits to feed the family. The farming community is hurting as a result of this tax. We have long memories, our children and their children will know the pain we are experiencing. This tax is a kick in the guts for decent hard-working people who produce the food we eat. Who implements an unfair tax on farmers on top of the severe drought we are experiencing?

On the local scene, we have squeezed a few more things into the council budget. I know our community will be happy.

Best regards to all, regards Tony.
PS Pray for rain!



Harcourt Lions Club

CHANGE IS COMING

Harcourt District Lions Club is changing its meeting night from the regular third Thursday of the month meeting to the third Monday of each month to accommodate the young working members.

The format will be the same – meeting at VMR at 6.30pm for a shared meal followed by a general discussion to organise any coming events and general business of the club. Our June get-together will be held on Monday 19 June 2025 at VMR Victorian Miniature Railway - The Green Shed - commencing with a shared meal at 6.30pm followed by a general discussion at 7.30pm. We generally like to be finished by 8.30pm so, not a late night.

Maybe this will suit you to become a member of the Harcourt District Lions Club. If you are interested in becoming a member of a great community-orientated club by all means make contact with club members out and about, or make an application to Harcourt District Lions Club at PO Box 100, Harcourt 3453.

Good news came with the announcement that potentially the long awaited opening of the Victorian Miniature Railway may not be too far away with the completion of all major works. Something greatly anticipated for so long by so many. Congratulations to all VMR members and helpers. This will be a great attraction for Harcourt.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls

We have started our Winter Competition where it's on for young and old.

We arrive at the Harcourt Leisure Centre which, on a cold night, is usually already heated, at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Mats and bowls are put out by bowlers ready to start playing and everyone helps put everything away and floors are swept by whichever team is on cleaning duty each night.

We have at present four teams of four or five players, everyone gets to play depending on how many come on the night. We play 20 ends changing after ten ends. Changing ends can make quite a difference to the game score so the outcome is not definite until the end. There are four teams: New Breed, Rebels, Maine Four and RSL.

- ▶ **7 May:** Rebels 21 def Maine Four 14 / New Breed 24 def RSL 13
- ▶ **14 May:** New Breed 17 def Maine Four 13 / Rebels 16 def RSL 15
- ▶ **21 May:** New Breed 21 def Rebels 19 / RSL 16 def Maine Four 15

Regardless of the score, everyone has a good night playing bowls, and a bit of good-natured banter makes for a fun night. Games are mostly completed by 9.00 pm.

Cost is \$5.00 Registration Adults and \$2.50 U/17. Games night we pay \$5.00 or \$2.50 U/17. Payments cover insurance and hall hire. There is always room for more players so if you would like to join in and play carpet bowls (a non-contact sport) come along on Wednesday night and you will be made most welcome – no previous experience needed; learn as you play.

Further information contact: President John on 5474 2226 / Secretary Loretta on 5474 2453

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Harcourt CFA Unseasonal Fire Risk

Current conditions for burn-offs due to the unseasonal weather has resulted in the CFA running an information campaign to remind the public of the potential heightened risks of burn-offs escaping and threatening nearby properties.

Since restrictions have been lifted, many brigades across the state have been called out to escaped burns, some spreading to nearby sheds, haystacks or neighbouring properties.

The drought conditions and gusty winds mean that conditions on many days are unsuitable for undertaking a burn-off. This is why proper planning and preparedness should be carried out before considering any burn-off. This will help in reducing the number of unnecessary callouts brigades are currently experiencing. Also, while not foolproof, registering your burn on 1800 688 511 should avoid the brigade being called out by mistake.

More information on preparing and burning off safely can be found at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/burning-off> or visit

the Harcourt Fire Brigade's Facebook page.

Brigade Elections

This year's brigade's April meeting was the biennial cycle for our brigade elections. Some positions were filled by some of our newer members as well as some existing officers filling the other spots. These will take effect from the first of July.

- ▶ Captain: Andrew Wilson
- ▶ 1st Lieutenant: Tyrone Rice
- ▶ 2nd Lieutenant: Nathaniel Polhe
- ▶ 3rd Lieutenant: Sue Bray
- ▶ 4th Lieutenant: John Bell
- ▶ Communication Officer: Raewyn Rice
- ▶ Secretary/Treasurer: Lynda Wilson

Busy Month for Callouts

May has been a busy month resulting in 13 callouts so far. This is well above the average. There have been seven primary and six support calls to a variety of fires and incidents. There have been grass

fires, unregistered burning, alarms, a truck fire, vehicle accidents, assisting Ambulance Victoria with a patient lift, a flue/ceiling fire, a compost fire and a smell of gas.

As you can see, we can be called out to all sorts of emergencies, and this highlights the importance of maintaining our training skills across the full spectrum of possibilities. One interesting statistic is the number of calls we have that are on or near the Calder Freeway this year, including another four for May.

Winter Fire Risks

Winter is the traditional time for an increase in the number of house fires. Already there has been an increase in the number of chimney/flue fires as a result of them not being cleaned before they're used for the first time this year.

There are precautions that you can take to reduce the risk of house fires that are simple and easy to carry out. Also, the importance of having a home emergency plan cannot be overstated, and it needs to be current and reviewed each year. If you do not have one, or have not done a review, then make it a June priority. Stay safe and warm.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

History Matters Exhibition

Local historical groups in Mount Alexander Shire have come together to present an exhibition called History Matters. The exhibition will be in Castlemaine's Historic Market Building from Friday 6 June until Sunday 15 June, including throughout the King's Birthday long weekend.

The exhibition features photographs, information and items that tell some of the many stories that make our region what it is. The theme 'History Matters' is a reminder to us all of the importance of knowing, understanding, sharing and protecting our history.

Some highlights will be goldmining in Maldon, photographs over the years at Newstead's Butter Factory, aerial photographs of Castlemaine across the decades, images of the historical Forest Street flood, an historic Monster Meeting flag, tales of surveyor and Taradale resident, William Swan Urquhart, and train transportation of Harcourt's apples.

Groups involved include: Castlemaine Historical Society, Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents, Chewton Domain Society, Harcourt Heritage, Maldon Museum and Archives, Newstead Historical

Society and Taradale Historical Group.

Each of these groups holds specialist material that relates to the events, places and people who have gone before in their area. The groups are volunteer-based, and always keen to welcome new volunteers with an interest or passion for the local history.

"Our local historical groups hold fascinating and important stories of our towns," said Donna Fearn, Mount Alexander Shire Council's Heritage Officer.



"This new exhibition format will be a wonderful showcase for locals and visitors to the area. It will offer a snapshot of the Shire's history and a valuable way for our local historical groups to work together."

The Market Building is at 44 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine. The exhibition is free admission and on from 9am – 5pm each day. For more information, contact the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre 1800 171 888.



Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Kitchen Table

Victorian Governor, The Hon Alex Chernov AC KC, visited Harcourt Heritage Centre in August 2012. During his tour of the museum the Governor lingered over many of the exhibits, worrying his Aide-de-Camp, who was concerned that the Governor was going to be late for his next appointment. But, not to be hurried, the Governor paused in the meeting room to say to the committee: "Look after those two Laminex-topped tables. Do you know how much such tables fetch in auction rooms in Melbourne? They are becoming a real curiosity."

Harcourt's Heritage Committee has never thought of these tables as a museum exhibit, but they do stir memories of a different lifestyle and changing fashions.

Those who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s will recall that every kitchen had a Laminex table with matching chairs. Only our grandparents had wooden tables with a linoleum or oil cloth top. Meals were always eaten at the kitchen table. One of the kids was asked to set the table. A check gingham or linen cloth was spread out with cutlery for every member of the family. In those days, before sliced bread came into the shops, there was always the bread-board and bread knife next to father's place at the table. At the end of the meal the kids asked permission to leave the table: "Can I leave the table?" was generally met with: "Please MAY I leave the table?" The last child left at the end of the meal had to clear the table, pick up the tablecloth carefully, take it to the back door and shake off all the bread crumbs for the waiting sparrows. (Yes, there were plenty of sparrows in those days.)

In his book "Australian Houses of the Forties and Fifties" Peter Cuffley tells us that: "Plastic laminates under the trade names 'Laminex' and 'Formica' came to symbolise the post war era. They were bright, easy-care materials, epitomising modernity." These new laminates were advertised in 'Home Beautiful' from July 1947. But it was in the mid-1950s that both Laminex and Formica became generally available in multiple patterns and colours.

Last week we upturned the two Laminex tables at the Heritage Centre but could find no maker's brand. It is probable that many factories set out to meet the growing demand. The name 'Namco' comes to mind. Sixty years

ago, the production of both Formica and Laminex sheet was going gangbusters. Our house proudly boasts a Laminex-topped coffee table made as a high school woodwork project in 1960 or 1961. The main piece of furniture in our lounge is my wife's woodgrain Laminex buffet; a 21st birthday gift. A nest of three occasional tables features the same woodgrain patterned Laminex. Across Australia in the 1960s the Laminex glass-fronted buffet replaced the crystal cabinet as the place to show off pretty cups and saucers and the family crystal. As the 1960s progressed, the kitchen table gradually faded from preferred kitchen designs, to be replaced by curved dining counters (Laminex topped, of course). There would be few kitchens in the nation that do not feature Laminex benchtops.

In the course of my employment, during 1987 and 1988, I met a man named Andee Sellman, corporate whiz-kid and right-hand man to famous businessman Alan Jackson. This was at the time when my employer's parent company was BTR Nylex, a big conglomerate. Andee Sellman worked at a frantic pace. I recall his nervous energy during the periodic sessions when the finances of TKL were under review. Andee had devised a very strict system of financial reporting and profit planning. If memory serves me correctly, BTR Nylex had just acquired Laminex Industries for about \$1 billion. In due course Andee was appointed Managing Director of Laminex Industries. But this was a poisoned chalice, because BTR Nylex had paid far too much for Laminex and furniture fashions were changing. The new Managing Director had no success in managing a crippling debt. Andee Sellman's website tells us: "After experiencing the highs, lows, stresses and strains of the corporate world Andee went on the search for a better way of doing business and life. He transformed his personal and business life by developing and living his unique rest and rhythm philosophy." This philosophy requires Andee to walk 80 kilometres a week. I hope that Andee can rest a while at his kitchen table from time to time. But I will wager that Andee's table is not a Laminex-topped table, because it would hold painful memories of his struggles in the corporate world.



Every visitor to Harcourt Heritage Centre finds some item that stirs up recollections of the past. Who would have thought that such an exalted person as the State Governor would take an interest in the Laminex tables in the meeting room?

George Milford

History Matters Exhibition

@

The Market Building

7-10 June

Come and uncover the treasures of the historical societies of Mount Alexander Shire



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello again, from Harcourt CWA

Well, I know we say it almost every month, but ... May has been a very busy time for us. Our much-publicised annual CWA Association Day featuring ex-Faraday local Robyn Howarth was a great success. It was all that we had hoped for and more.

Robyn, ably assisted by partner David, spoke movingly about her family and their happy life as farmers in Faraday. Then, she touched on the awful events of 1972 when she and five other pupils and their teacher were kidnapped and held for ransom. Without going into the gory details of it all, Robyn was still able to conjure up the devastating effect it had on the Faraday community and everyone else involved.

It is a testament to her resilience that Robyn can now share her story. It was the loving way in which she recreated the vibrancy and the fellowship of the Faraday-Harcourt community at that time that struck a chord when we realised how socially important the Faraday School was to locals at the time.

Well supported by the local community at Harcourt CWA, another "good day was had by all!" Credit must be given to all who helped: from the CWA ladies who made and served the delicious afternoon tea, to Joy R and Angela who co-ordinated the wonderful display of Books Related stuff, to our friend and supporter Val Blake for her beautiful flowers that made the hall look so welcoming, to all who bought books and other items from the trading table, to the non-

CWA members such as Mike R, Jan and John J, Philip O and Bob T for their AV and set-up support. A very special thank you goes to President Robyn's son, David McC of Gunn and McConville Pharmacy in Balwyn, for his generous gift of the lovely raffle first prize hamper and to Robyn Howarth herself for donating the Lucky Door prize. Thank you, everyone!

We meet on the first Thursday each month at 1:30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road and, as always, a warm welcome is extended to anyone who wants to join us. For more information contact Secretary Helen H on 0448 510996

So ...til next month when I'll be back with more Harcourt CWA news...

Beverley Orgill, on behalf of the Harcourt CWA



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professionalism, energy, and creative approach, Pauline is known for her dedication to getting deals done, no matter the time of day. Pauline has recently returned home to Harcourt.

Sarah Noble



Sarah embarked on a fulfilling and life-changing career journey from nursing to the residential real estate sector from 2019 to 2021, working with Andrew Pearce. This experience provided her with valuable insights into the world of real estate and the importance of finding the perfect place to call home, which for her, is in Harcourt. In 2021, she expanded

her horizons and ventured into the dynamic world of Commercial real estate with Colliers International.

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Harcourt Uniting Church

In January this year I was talking with our granddaughter about the family birthdays for the year when she said, "I'm nearly nine, Nan." Well, her birthday isn't until late August, but she was planning ideas for a party anyway!

The Uniting Church of Australia has a birthday in June. Forty-eight years ago, members of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches came together to form the Uniting Church in Australia. In Harcourt, we only had the two Methodist churches, one at Harcourt and the other at Harcourt North, so things didn't really change for us. Later on, these two congregations became one in our present building.

Speaking of celebrations, we would like to invite members of the community to join us at a "party" to celebrate the beautiful new extension to our Church in Buckley Street, Harcourt. After many years of washing dishes in a plastic bowl, boiling the urn for cuppas, storing perishables in an esky and not even having an accessible toilet, we now have a sink, hot water on tap, a refrigerator, an accessible indoor toilet, plus much more. We thank our builder Marc

Roberts (Maine Design & Construction) for being so easy to work with and for his "eye for detail" which shows in the beautiful room he built for us.

You are invited to join us at Harcourt Uniting Church at 2pm on Sunday 15 June for the cutting of the ribbon followed by afternoon tea and a chat.

Alma Chaplin

One of the most faithful members of our Harcourt Church, Alma Chaplin, passed away recently at the wonderful age of ninety-five. Alma was still driving, was able to use her iPad and mobile phone to communicate with family and friends (even though she had to call on daughter Joyce to fix things when she'd pressed the wrong button), had an amazing mind and was dearly loved by us all. She was the most positive, encouraging, thoughtful caring person with a deep faith in God.

Alma was the youngest of six children. She grew up on a farm at Faraday and attended the Faraday school. Alma's jobs at home were to help with the cows, clean all the shoes on Saturday ready for church on Sunday and to help pick the fruit in their

orchard. She would always say: "I'm never going to marry an orchardist!" Well, she met a good-looking bloke (Dave Chaplin) at the Hospital Ball in Castlemaine and married that orchardist.

Alma lived life to the best, was involved in many local organisations, was a beautiful cook, enjoyed craft work and flower arranging, loved a chat and a laugh (even if it was sometimes at her expense) and was always so grateful for her health, her caring family and her long life.

Alma's goodbyes were always, "Toodle loo".

We will all miss you Alma, but we have fond memories of you, our amazing friend.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant" Matthew 25 verse 21.

Here's a conversation I had with Alma one day while I was watching her arranging flowers for a special church service.

I said "You make it look so easy arranging those flowers, Alma." To which she replied, "It's easy Jan, you could do it."

My reply was, "Okay, next Sunday I'll arrange the flowers, and you can play the organ!" "Oh no!" was Alma's definite answer.

Jan Jenkin



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Session1: Site Selection

- Climate
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- Sun & shade
- Enclosures & netting
- Frost

Thursday June 12

7:00-8:30 pm

Session2: Tree Selection

- Harvest dates
- Flowering dates
- Pollination
- How many trees do you need?
- Variety selection
- Spreading the harvest

Sunday June 15

4:00-6:pm

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Fireside Chat

The Grandest Building in the Southern Hemisphere – and its Harcourt Connection

1.30 pm Sunday 22nd June 2025.

At Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Afternoon tea.

Please bring a plate. All welcome.

Word of the Month:

Sesquipedalianism

A literary term for the extravagant use of exceedingly long words. "Sesquipedalian" literally means "words that are a foot and a half long." It is a form of self-referential language joke, as the word "sesquipedalianism" is itself a very long word. But, as we say, why use a short word when a diminutive one will do?



Live in Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Loddon, Macedon Ranges or Mount Alexander Shire?
We're calling on **YOU** to have your say!

What is the Active Living Census?

The ALC is a community survey that asks about:

- ✓ Physical activity participation
- ✓ Fruit and vegetable consumption
- ✓ Barriers to being healthy and active

Why does your voice matter?

Your input will help guide decisions about programs, recreation spaces, and services in your community. Whether you're active or not, it's your chance to shape the health and wellbeing of your community – and it only takes 15-20 minutes.

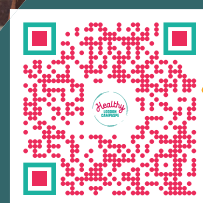
Participate, don't wait!

- ✓ Quick and confidential
- ✓ WIN your share of \$10,000 in prizes!
- ✓ Open to everyone! No matter your health or activity level, we want to hear from you

Help shape a healthier tomorrow,
one answer at a time!

Opens
**MONDAY
MAY 26**

Scan here!



Complete the census at go.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc



The Healthy Loddon-Campaspe Initiative is supported by the Victorian State Government



KNIGHTMOVES
R n B – 4 Piece Band
60s 70s 80s +

BOOKINGS
Trev: 0421 957 168
Tony: 0439 742 434
Lou: 0416 146 417
knightmovesband@gmail.com

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD

Visit Bendigo's Most Awarded Winery

- Weddings, events and functions
- 2021 Brides Choice Awards winner

Open Sunday 12–4 pm or by appointment only

Bookings please call Marie on 0431 996 515

Harcourt Valley Vineyards

3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt, Vic 3453

P: 03 5474 2223



HARCOURT VALLEY
VINEYARDS

Harcourt Valley Community House



BSL Book Bazaar & Open Day - Sat 14th June (1 pm - 5 pm)

Come along to the Harcourt Valley Community House (23 Station St, Harcourt) on Sat 14th June from 1 pm to BUY a book, SWAP a book or LEAVE a book! Tea, coffee and a light afternoon tea will be available while you browse the collection of donated books.

We would also love to use this opportunity to give guided tours of the building so the community can see what a fabulous facility we have here. We would love to hear your ideas about how we can better utilise it.

Books will be for sale @ \$1 each or the bargain bulk buy of 3 for \$2! We would like to sincerely thank the Harcourt Bowling Club for the donation of books and we would gratefully accept donations of your pre-loved books in the next couple of weeks. Drop them off during our open hours of 10 am - 12 noon on Wednesdays (4th or 11th). If you can't drop them off at that time, they can be left on the platform side of the station, under cover (tuck them into the corner nearest the old station master's viewing platform).

The Active Living Census (ALC)

The HVCH is available to assist anyone go online on Wednesdays 11 and 18 June during the period the survey is open. Drop in to HVCH at 23 Station St, Harcourt 10 am - 12 noon on any of these dates if you would like to use our public access computers or if you require support to go online.

Visit go.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc to complete the ALC online today!

Seeking your opinion ...

We have another online survey attached to this article, a bit less detailed than the previous so should take about five minutes of your time. We really need to know

WHAT you want to see happen here and more importantly WHEN you want it. We will join these results to surveys collected previously.

Link to survey here: forms.gle/9SuPGCEtwUuQXmMG9



Seeking interest...

Community Choir/Singing Group

Please email your interest in participating to: harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or leave a message on 4417 8742

Paper craft

Have you ever wanted to make your own gift or greeting cards? We have a local lady who has all the gear (papers, dye cast shapes, etc) who would love to teach people how to do this creative craft. Materials will be provided and built into the fee for the workshop at \$10 per person. Just let us know your interest and the best time for you.

Weekdays (except Mondays) are preferred by our tutor, but we can decide the final time based on responses from your interest. Again, please email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or leave a message on 4417 8742

Printing & IT Services

We can offer printing, scanning and email services here at HVCH during our regular opening hours (Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon).

Printing Fees

- ▶ A4 black & white @ 10c per page, colour @ 20c per page
- ▶ A3 black & white @ 30c per page, colour @ 60c per page

Lamination

Lamination of your documents is also available, an extra 20c for A4 or 50c for A3 sized documents.

Scanning and Email

Do you need to scan and email a document? Cost is 10c per page or we can negotiate a price for a large (multi-page) document.

Public Access to Computers

Two public access computers are available at HVCH. Do you need to access your email? Do some research? This is available for free during opening hours (Wed 10 am - 12 noon). Donation is welcome.

Office Sharing Space

Do you need a comfortable, secure office space on a casual, temporary or semi-permanent basis? We are offering co-share office space @ \$5/hour casual rate but we can negotiate

half day, daily, weekly or monthly rates based on your needs. We can offer you independent (security coded) access to the building and desk space, heating, cooling, Wi-Fi, kitchen amenities and ample car parking space. Call or email Jeanette to discuss your needs or book a tour of the facility.

Thanks VicTrack

The HVCH premises is owned by VicTrack and we are very fortunate to have access to this magnificent building. VicTrack also provide grant opportunities for their tenants to enhance the facilities and we are very grateful for a recent grant of \$4,844 to install a fan in the multipurpose room and custom made blinds on all the windows. This will make a huge difference to heating and cooling efficiencies in the building.

In the coming weeks, a second VicTrack Grant will also be completed, namely fencing to the north of the existing platform which will make it safer for visitors (especially parents with little children) to the HVCH as there will not be access to the edge of the platform. Pictures will be published in a future Core when this job is done.

Speaking of thank-yous...

We would like to thank Shedshaker Brewing Company (Castlemaine) for the recent donation of 28 chairs to the Harcourt Valley Community House. Thanks Jacqui and the team at Shedshaker!

Bottles and Cans Recycling

Please keep your 10c eligible bottles and cans coming; this is our only source of regular income, and it is greatly appreciated. If you have a large quantity or it is just too hard for you to get to the HVCH to leave in the bins provided, give us a call and we can arrange a pick-up. Email us on harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or leave a message on 4417 8742.

Closed in the July School Holidays

The HVCH will be closed on 9 and 16 July (July school holidays), reopening at 10 am on Wed 23rd July.

That's all the news from the Operational Team at HVCH for this month. If you would like to join us as a volunteer, we would love to hear from you.

Cheers for now,
Ingrid, Jess, Rena and Jeanette
The H. Team.



Health Services Plan

Engage Victoria Survey

Local communities, patients, families and carers are invited to share your experiences of healthcare in Victoria through an online survey.

Your views will inform how care is delivered within Local Health Service Networks. Networks will be established across Victoria from July 2025.

Hospitals within these Networks, including Dhelkaya Health, will be responsible for supporting coordinated care to the Victorian community.

The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. It is open until 8 June 2025.

The survey being conducted by the Victorian Department of Health.

The survey is available online at: engage.vic.gov.au/your-health-experience

Programs & Services

Falls and Balance Service

With nearly one in three people over 65 experiencing at least one fall each year, fall prevention is critical.

Fall risks increase with age, and many falls result in injury or hospital stay. However, with the proper intervention, these risks can be significantly reduced, allowing people to maintain their independence and confidence.

Dhelkaya Health has a specialised outpatient Falls and Balance Service in the local community, empowering our locals to live safely and confidently.

Appointments are available at both our Castlemaine and Maldon campuses.

T. 5471 3575

Opportunities

Volunteer Patient Transport Driver

Dhelkaya Health's Patient Transport Service operates five days a week, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

It provides vital transport for eligible patients attending medical appointments.

The service is supported by volunteer drivers, and the service is now looking for more drivers to join the team.

A vehicle is provided, so new drivers need only complete a short induction before being welcomed to the team.

If you have a current driver's licence and a little time to give, we'd love to hear from you.

T. 5471 3566

dhelkayahealth.org.au | (03) 5471 3555

Dhelkaya Health Patient Transport Service returns to five days a week

Dhelkaya Health is pleased to announce that its Volunteer Patient Transport Service has returned to operating five days a week—Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.00pm—thanks to increased staffing behind the scenes.

The service, which provides vital transport for eligible patients attending medical appointments, had been temporarily running three days a week during a recent review period. With the appointment of a new dedicated staff member, Jasmine Forte, to oversee the service, Dhelkaya Health is now in a strong position to meet growing community needs.

"We're delighted to have Jasmine on board and to be able to return to a full five-day schedule," said Sue Race, Dhelkaya Health CEO. "This service is a lifeline for many in our community who would otherwise struggle to attend essential appointments."

The Volunteer Patient Transport Service is supported by a team of generous and committed volunteer drivers, and Dhelkaya Health is now actively seeking more volunteers to join this important program. Dhelkaya Health provides a safe and reliable vehicle for all patient trips, so new drivers need only complete a short induction before being welcomed to the team.

"If you have a current driver's licence and a little time to give each week, we'd love to hear from you," said Jasmine Forte, Service Coordinator. "Our volunteers make a real difference every day."

To express your interest in becoming a volunteer patient transport driver, please contact vService@castlemainehealth.org.au

Dhelkaya Health extends its sincere thanks to all current and past volunteer drivers whose support makes this vital service possible.

Linda Newton



Wren

PARTNERSHIP TO BRING ART MUSEUM INTO A NEW ERA



The project to bring the iconic Castlemaine Art Museum building into a new era has taken a step forward. Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards today joined Mount Alexander Shire Council CEO Darren Fuzzard and Castlemaine Art Museum Acting Chair Mark Sheppard to announce that Council will lead the delivery of the redevelopment in partnership with the Museum and the Allan Labor Government.

The Labor Government has provided \$6 million to support the redevelopment of the heritage-listed 1931 building, including improved all-abilities access to the entrance, safeguarding of sensitive heritage elements and critical building improvements. This partnership will draw on Council's infrastructure expertise to lead the redevelopment.

With the Shire team now on board to manage the project, the timeline will be finalised and announcements on the next steps will follow in the months ahead.

Originally known as the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, the Gallery was founded in 1913 and moved into its purpose-built venue in 1931. It has one of the most important regional Victorian art collections including major and significant works from the 19th and 20th centuries, along with work by more recent modern and contemporary artists.

The museum also plays a significant role caring for cultural objects on behalf of the local Djaara and Dja Dja Wurrung community. The operations of the museum are also supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Castlemaine Art Museum is open Thursday – Sunday, entry is free. To find out more and see what's on, visit castlemaineartmuseum.org.au

From a Maree Edwards media release

Joseph Young Drive: Potholes no more Thank you Parks Victoria



The Parks Victoria sign – Chris Thornhill

Three home-grown papers, including the *Faraday Farrago*, the *Chewton Chat* and *The Core* had recently highlighted the dangerous state of the road which runs north/south over Mount Alexander. The nub of the problem has been that no one government department has taken responsibility for this road.

Chris Thornhill, president of the Faraday Association wrote to Melissa Horne (State Minister for Roads and Road Safety) and forwarded copies to council and the Federal MLA, Lisa Chesters, regarding the lack of ownership and responsibility for the road and the delay in fixing problem potholes. When *The Core* rang council, a council officer rang back to say it was a council road (as reported in the May edition of *The Core*), so confusion reigned, even behind council walls.

In a letter dated May 28 from the Shire CEO, Chris received the news that showed the shire was determined to sort out the departmental responsibility. Before he



Some of the repairs on the 54 potholes.

received this letter he approached the *Midland Express*, which on 3 June published a very terse, well documented article about the state of the road and lack of government action since 2004. Coincidentally, John Ellis of the *Chewton Chat* wrote to Parks Victoria and received a letter confirming that the problem of the potholes was to be immediately fixed.

Thanks to Parks Victoria, every pothole has been filled and sealed over, and the verges have been cleared of the overhanging vegetation, which had become a fire and access risk.

And we should also thank the unknown "artist" who wrote messages on the road surface warning of the dangers ahead and circled every pothole. That was a very succinct warning, and most likely saved cyclists from injuries and perhaps the loss of a life.

And now back to the problem of the Harcourt roundabout ...

Robyn Miller

National Water Week poster competition: *Water Heroes: Save Every Drop*

Coliban Water is calling on young artists from across the region to step up as 'Water Heroes' in their community by taking part in the annual National Water Week Poster Competition.

The competition invites preschool and primary school students to design a poster that reflects a theme related to water conservation. This year's theme is 'Water Heroes: Save Every Drop.'

Entrants are encouraged to reflect on how water is essential in their lives – growing food, keeping communities healthy, and supporting nature – and how we can all be 'Water Heroes' by taking small, thoughtful actions to save every drop, every day.

The competition is now open, and

entries closes on Friday 12 September.

Entries will be judged on how well they communicate the theme, raise awareness of water issues, and creatively use materials and design.

Age categories include:

- ▶ Preschool
- ▶ Prep/Foundation
- ▶ Grade 1–2
- ▶ Grade 3–4
- ▶ Grade 5–6

Fantastic prizes are on offer for the top three designs in each category, and all participating schools and preschools will go in the draw to win a \$250 gift pack.

For full details and to enter, visit connect.coliban.com.au/nwwposter



Harcourt Bowling Club

As we settle into the cool of winter and the end of club competitions and championships, things normally slow down on the bowling green. While the usual maintenance of the green will take place, social bowling and roll-ups will be happening until the wet sets in and the green is rested.

Watch for notices on the board and the directions of the greens keeper.

Many people head to warmer climes, but the bowling club will still be open on Friday nights (and possibly Wednesdays). The heating at the bowling club will be cranked up; the Friday Member's Draw will continue (at 6pm); as will the usual raffles, and we hope the fortnightly foodies will, if the patronage is there. So come on down and keep in touch.

Men's Championship Pairs Final

The Men's Champion Pairs final was played out on Saturday 17 May between Brett Jenkinson and Brian Leech against Mark Swain and Ian (Locka) McMillan. The anticipated display of good, competitive bowling was delivered in bitterly cold weather conditions with an occasional shower and little sunshine. Scores were even after 10 ends; then Brett and Brian held a handy lead for a few ends, before a spirited fight back by Locka and Mark. After the 18 ends Brett Jenkinson and Brian Leech claimed the title by 3 points. Congratulations to them all. (see attached photos)



Final of Harcourt Ladies' 100 Up

On Wednesday 23 April the final of the Harcourt Ladies 100 Up was played in beautiful autumn weather. Kathy Harding got away to a good start and a late surge looked promising from Judi Miles, but she was unable to catch Kathy who went on to win. Congratulations to both for a great bowling display. This win for Kathy Harding caps off a good year of bowling for her, being also the Club

Singles Champion and a member of the winning Division Four Pennant Grand Final team. Congratulations to them both. (see attached photo)



Harcourt Valley Primary School Junior Bowlers

Over three weeks during May, groups of eager students from Harcourt Valley Primary School graced the greens to try their hand at bowling. Reports are that the students are adapting to bowling and showing some great skills. This program between the school and the Harcourt Bowling Club has been successful and it is hoped to continue.



Special Birthday celebration Fairlie Harman

On Friday 23 May Harcourt lady bowlers gathered to celebrate the 90th birthday of Fairlie Harman over a luncheon. It has become a tradition to do this for special '0' birthdays and



provides another opportunity to get together over a meal. It was lovely that Fairlie's daughter Sussan could also be there from New Zealand.

AGM and Presentation Day – 18 May

On Sunday 18 May the Annual General Meeting was held and the Annual Report and Financial Statements were presented. President David Jeffries advised that he will step down from the board. In his report he outlined the many club achievements of the past year including the Midweek Pennant Division 4 Grand Final success.

Within her report, Treasurer Judy Ewing advised, that she too would be resigning after seven years, and as Treasurer. Judy also noted the financial stability of the club and the board's decision to start a Future's Fund. Barry Marsh has designed a temperature gauge, located in the club house, to indicate how the savings are progressing.

Thanks were extended to outgoing board members for their service to the club. They were: Judy Ewing (7 years); Wendy Chaplin (6 years); David Jeffries (3 years).

The five vacant positions on the board were filled by nominations from Rod Harris, Gary Maddern, Kay Francis, Daryl Gale and Ron Douglas.

Immediately following the AGM the newly appointed board met to elect office bearers for the 2025- 2026 Season. The elected executives are:

- ▶ President Gary Maddern;
- ▶ VP (Men) Carl Roberts;
- ▶ VP (Women) Heather Braid;
- ▶ Secretary Diane Marsh;
- ▶ Treasurer Rod Harris.
- ▶ Other board members are Brian Leech, Ron Douglas, Kay Francis, Daryl Gale with Kaye Grant and Chris McAuliffe (co-opted).

Presentations to Winners from 2024-2025 Season

Following the AGM, presentations were made to the winners throughout the season. They were:

Ladies Competition

- ▶ Singles Champion Winner: Kathy Harding; Runner-up: Judi Miles.
- ▶ Champion Pairs Winners: Mary-Anne Doyle and Fran Corstorphan; Runner-up: Frances Collins and Kay Francis.
- ▶ Drawn Pairs Winners: Frances Collins and Wendy Chaplin; Runners-up: Pam MacGregor and Cheryl Maddern.

- ▶ 100-Up Winner: Kathy Harding; Runner-up: Judi Miles.

Mens Competition

- ▶ Singles Champion Winner: Mark Swain; Runner-up: Phil Clarke.
- ▶ Champion Pairs Winners: Brett Jenkinson and Brian Leech; Runners-up: Ian McMillan and Mark Swain.
- ▶ Gough Drawn Pairs Winners: Rod Harris and Wayne Walsh; Runners-up: Daryl Gale and Ron Douglas.

Mixed Competition

- ▶ Grant Pairs Winners: Carrol Frost and Ken Tribe; Runners-up: Joe Candy and Sheila Oxley.
- ▶ Rice Triples Winners: Libby Harris, Brett Jenkinson and Heather Braid; Runners-up John Kays, Di Marsh and Barry Marsh.

Midweek Pennant Division 4 Pennant Grand Final win.

Weekend Pennant Trophy vote for best bowler (GOAT)

This inaugural Award for Weekend Pennant voting was designed and presented by Wayne Walsh and Rod Harris who did a countback of votes on the last five games of the season. The winner of the GOAT was Col Foster on 14 points. The BLNT (Better Luck Next Time) Runners-up, both on 12 points, were Sheila Oxley and Gary Maddern.

Congratulations to all on a good season!

The day was made complete with a barbeque.



Harcourt Bowling Club 70th Celebration – 20 September 2025

Later this year at the new season opening on 20 September, Harcourt will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary. Members and supporters are busy gathering together relevant memorabilia for display on the day.

Friday Night Fortnightly Meals

The Fortnightly Friday social nights have been a huge success with Kayla and Ebony providing a different delicious affordable meal on alternate weeks. It is expected this can continue through the cooler months although, will be dependent on numbers. Check in at the club for dates and menu. Bookings need to be in by Wednesday.

The weekly members draw will now be held at the earlier time of 6.00pm followed by raffle draws. These times will remain until daylight saving commences in October.

Weekly Jackpot Bowls will continue each Monday. Be there at 12.30pm for a 1.00pm start – names in at the club beforehand please. All welcome.



Weather & Water

I searched back through my rainfall archives; it was as I expected: this May was the driest since I started records in 2008. The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that the central Victorian region has received only 40% to 60% of the mean rainfall, which is shown as 100 mm to 200 mm.

Here at Reservoir Road we didn't make the 100 mm, with 98 mm received this year to date. The total rainfall for the month was 6 mm. The drying trend is shown in the figures of our reservoir storages (see the table).

Days at the start of May were warm and dry until 17 May when the temperature dipped to 12 degrees and clouds massed to the north, which did not live up to their promise, with a light shower and mist which did not register in the gauge. Up to 23 May there was a series of frosts with sunny days. There were light mists on

23 May with a temperature of 17 degrees. On Saturday May 24, we received 3.5 mm of rain after a lovely sunny morning. (twenty-eight days since any recordable rain). On 26 May, a wild dust storm which affected most of Victoria arrived in the late afternoon and 2.5 mm of rain was recorded. Temperatures dropped in the mornings with frosts and sunny days at the end of May.

Home gardens are suffering, as is

the bush. It is difficult to keep plants watered as the air has been so dry. I noticed water deliveries to rural properties in Harcourt.

Temperature predictions from the Bureau for June to August indicate warmer days and nights than usual across much of Australia.

As of 31 May the Bureau predicted that La Niña (wetter weather) is likely to emerge later in 2025, while noting that water storages in the south-eastern states were 10 to 50% lower than the same time last year.

Robyn Miller

Reservoir Levels

	2024	2025			
	5 June	27 May	6 April	25 March	16 February
Upper Coliban	81%	55.7%	56.4%	56.8%	64.3%
Lauriston	92%	72.6%	80.3%	83.2%	84.6%
Malmsbury	38%	13.3%	17.4%	18.7%	18.6%
Barkers Creek	42%	27.9%	31.3%	32.5%	33.7%

Data sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology and Coliban Water websites.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

From the Principal's Desk

Mother's Day Breakfast

Highlights for the month included our very important Mother's Day Breakfast which took place on Thursday 8 May. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend. It was a very enjoyable morning, and it was a great opportunity for the students to give their Mum a little extra TLC in the lead up to Mother's Day on Sunday 11 May. Thank you to the staff who assisted with the breakfast on the morning, along with Katie for preparing the pancake mixture and Marg Grant for donating the apple juice.

Year 6 to Year 7 Secondary School Placement Information Packs

How the year moves on! Year 6 to Year 7 secondary school placement packs were due back in early May.

May 19 Education Week 'Celebration of Cultures' – School Open Day

To celebrate Education Week, new families enrolling in our school for 2026 were invited to attend our Open Morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am, or our Open Evening from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. A light supper was provided at our Open Evening.

National Reconciliation Week

The 2025 Reconciliation Week theme was: 'Bridging Now to Next'. This important week was held from May 27 to June 3. Students engaged in a range of activities, learning more about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and exploring how everyone can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Important dates for June & July

- ▶ **5 June:** Art excursion to Melbourne Grades 4, 5 & 6
- ▶ **12 June:** School photos
- ▶ **13 & 18 June:** Two school incursions Murnong Mummas
- ▶ **17 June:** AFLW Clinic
- ▶ **27 June:** Reports issued
- ▶ **4 July:** Last day of Term 2
- ▶ **21 July:** First day of Term 3

Andrew Blake

May 17: Semi Finals of Bicknell's Cup



Students line up in the goal challenge during the semi finals of the Bicknell's Cup at the Red Energy Arena in Bendigo Stadium held during the break in a Bendigo Braves game.



Small business owners, creatives, freelancers, farmers and aspiring entrepreneurs – don't miss your chance to be part of Mount Alexander Shire's Micro and Small Business Day, happening across Castlemaine on **Friday 27 June**.

This free, full-day event features more than twenty practical workshops, expert panels, mentoring sessions and a vibrant business expo – all tailored to help you grow your business, build connections, and stay ahead of the curve.

Program highlights include:

- ▶ **Farmers Forum** – where locals working in farming and agriculture can share stories, hear expert advice and find support.
- ▶ **Creative Business at The Mill** – learn how to price your work, stabilise income and build your creative brand from those doing it locally.
- ▶ **Circular Economy Leadership** – see how local businesses are turning sustainability into a competitive edge.
- ▶ **Business Essentials workshops** – choose from sessions on marketing, social media, AI, cash flow, funding, business structures, succession and more.

New additions to the program include:

- ▶ **Outlook for Business** – expert panel of industry and government leaders



A delicious morning tea was provided for prospective families at the open day on May 19.



Grade 6 ran a very successful barbecue on the day of the Federal election.

Register now for Micro and Small Business Day

explores the major shifts influencing our local economy – from climate impacts to workforce trends.

- ▶ **Business Expo: One-Stop Support Hub** – connect with mentors, government agencies, funding bodies, legal advisors, training providers and more. One-on-one mentoring will also be available via the Business Victoria Small Business Bus (bookings essential).
- "Don't leave booking your place to the last minute! All tours, workshops, mentoring and panel discussions are free, but places are limited and we strongly encourage people to register early to secure your place," said Merryn Tinkler, Manager Economy and Culture at Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Micro and Small Business Day culminates in a casual networking trail, hosted by Business Mount Alexander.

"You don't have to attend everything," said Ms Tinkler. "Even one session could give you the spark, the contact, or the confidence you need."

View the program for Micro and Small Business Day and book your place at: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Business-and-Growth/Micro-and-Small-Business-Day-2025

From a Shire press release.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Going, Going...Gone!



Towards the end of May, staff, parents, students of Harcourt Valley Primary School and members of Landcare joined forces on a school garden project. The goal was to spread a massive pile of cypress mulch on a large and steep garden bed at the school.

The morning was a great success with plenty of volunteers of all ages on hand. School Principal, Andrew Blake led the way by laying newspaper ahead of those in charge of the mulching. Getting the mulch up the hill in wheelbarrows required a good run up and then a charge to get to the top – they would have slept well that night!

Landcare President, Terry Willis spoke about the work of Harcourt Landcare and highlighted the recent

project on Phascogales which began with a storytime session at the Harcourt Gather in November. A well-attended nesting box construction session was held at the school in April and a very attractive brochure on phascogales has been produced and is available for download on the website at: <https://www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org/events>

Terry brought the Landcare pole camera and led a group to the nesting boxes in the bush reserve at the school, but no creatures were 'at home' except a large huntsman spider.

Terry said, "One of our aims is to work with other groups in the community to support their environmental goals. The next shared project for Landcare is to pitch in and help clear the gorse around the Community House at the Railway Station."

Andrew thanked everyone for their energetic approach and determination to get the mulch where it was needed. The morning was capped off with a delicious morning tea.





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'Growing the core of your child's education'

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Community offer to acquire historic Hub building opens soon!

The Castlemaine Community Investment Co-operative is excited to announce the opening of its debenture offer to raise funds for the purchase of the Hub, a beloved landmark property in the heart of Castlemaine.

The offer will be open from 2 June to 29 June 2025.

The Co-operative is seeking investors to buy the Hub through fixed term loans called debentures. Investors will be able to support a vital community asset while earning a good annual return. As terms expire the Co-op will re-pay the debenture holders. "We project the building will be wholly community owned in around 20 years," said Director Gwen Hanna. "Funds raised will be used to acquire and maintain the building, ensuring it is a long-term home for

sustainability and environmental organisations, small businesses not always available in rural towns, and community-led action," she said.

The Hub holds significant historical and economic value for Castlemaine. Over its colourful history it has been a successful single-story pub, a grand two-story restaurant and boarding house, and in 2006 was bought by Neil and Heather Barratt as a home for local action on climate change. It has been substantially renovated, including with sustainability features, and is a successful business. By purchasing the Hub, the Co-op will:

- ▶ Preserve a cherished piece of local heritage
- ▶ Keep our wealth locally, and
- ▶ Continue to invest into the community for our future resilience.

The debentures offer up to 4% annual return over a 5, 10 or 15-year term, making them an attractive option for socially conscious investors. Both individuals and organisations can participate, with minimum investments starting at \$500.

"We believe in the power of community ownership," said Director Jeanette Pope. "This is more than an investment - it's a chance to shape the future of our town while earning a fair return. Together, we can ensure this building remains an asset for generations to come," she said.

The Co-operative currently has 232 members from Castlemaine, surrounding districts, and beyond, and would be delighted to welcome more new members.

You can learn more about purchasing debentures by visiting the Co-op website www.castlemaine.coop



Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

The Lord's Provision

Feeding the Five Thousand

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So, they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Like the crowd, we too are in need of a miracle – in our case, rain, to break this dreadful drought. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and is well able to meet our need. Like Jesus, let's be in prayer to our Heavenly Father, for indeed that is what Jesus was doing when he looked up to heaven (recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke), gave thanks, receiving the miracle, distributing the food. Jesus was in no doubt that his prayer would be answered, and it was. Likewise, we too must approach our heavenly Father in faith, presenting our petition for rain. Won't you join us in doing so?

Pastor Roger Thurecht, Grace Church

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Lisa Chesters MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **BENDIGO**

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Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP, 18 Myers St, Bendigo

Labor

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

Reconnect with MASG

Way back in 2006 a bunch of passionate and purpose-led Mount Alexander Shire residents banded together around their desire for coordinated action on climate change in our community. This convergence led to the creation of the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, known as MASG, – pronounced ‘masG’ – as the peak sustainability organisation in our shire working with community for a more sustainable future together.

Our actions are focused across waste reduction, renewable energy, energy efficiency and agriculture, with community at the heart of all we do. Over the past almost 20 years, we (MASG) have experienced booms of enthusiasm, support and program development such as with our popular Repair Café, Wash Against Waste Trailer and Healthy Soils project. Additionally, like most community organisations, we’ve also experienced challenges and periods of less connectivity with our community, especially during, and since, the recent pandemic years.

This month, June 2025, we’re getting out and about in our community, your community, to (re)connect and chat about what’s happening locally in sustainability and regenerative practice, what you’d like to see happening, or simply to be there for questions around “what does this even mean?!” MASG knows that scratching the surface of sustainability can often look exactly like what the things you, your parents and grandparents were doing ‘back in the day’. I clearly remember the drawer in our kitchen where the bits-that-will-be-useful-one-day lived, a wild gathering of rubber bands, odds and ends whose purpose would be determined according to demand at a later date.



Become a MASG member today to...
be part of the solution!

Waste Reduction
Renewable Energy
Energy Efficiency
Agriculture

Local Voices - Local Actions - Global Change

www.masg.org.au

Farm life, out of town, during periods of drought (water and cash), meant being thrifty, conscious and practicing sustainability before it became a buzzword.

It’s wonderful to see these practices being revived-reclaimed-repurposed as climate action, sustainability and regenerative action, especially on a local scale with projects such as YIMBY community composting, The Good Op-Shop sewing sessions and the West End Resilience Group Home Energy Efficiency Workshops. Whilst none of these are MASG programs, their development indicates the important work MASG has done over two decades to nurture establishment of purpose-led sustainability projects in our shire. We celebrate this shared action for climate, sustainability and future for community, and look forward to what we can all be doing together going forward.

Please keep an eye out for our MASG representatives (volunteers and staff) across the shire this month, as we get out and about encouraging conversations and connections with

MASG, especially as support by coming a member. What’s the benefit of being a MASG member? The usual things – voting rights at the AGM, receive the e-newsletter – but also, to be supporting a community organisation that advocates for your voice in climate action. As a community organisation we are guided by the focus of “Local Voices – Local Action – Global Change”, and the community development principles of acting with community, being informed by community and acknowledging community as the experts in their own lives. What brings us all together is the understanding that everyone wants to live in a world that provides for their needs now (food security, comfortable home, clean water, clean air), without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs too. Membership with MASG provides you with an opportunity to be part of the solution, for now and into the future. For further information, and/or to become a member please visit www.masg.org.au/get-involved or scan the QR code.



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KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Welcome to winter! Like us, you've probably finished harvesting from your trees, unless you still have any late apples or pears still to pick. The fruit trees are well on the way to going dormant. It's a beautiful time of year to be in the garden, and there's plenty to do. There's lots going on this month with trees available to order, and a brand new Masterclass called Design Your Home Orchard coming up—you'll find the links at the end of the article.

Tip #1: It's time to order new fruit trees

Our first tip this month is to think about whether you want to plant any new fruit trees this winter. We'll be having four open days this year at our on-farm Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery on the last weekend of June and the first weekend of July, from 10am to 4pm each day. It's the only time of year you can visit the farm to buy a fruit tree, and we love it when locals drop in!

There's usually a good range available, but to be sure of getting what you want we recommend that you pre-order your trees through our online shop: openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop and we'll have them ready for you to pick up at one of the open days.

Being Harcourt's only fruit tree nursery, we feel a responsibility to save heritage apple varieties that are going out of fashion. You can help make sure these beautiful and interesting old heirloom varieties don't get completely lost by growing one in your garden! The best way to maintain our apple heritage is by growing, eating, sharing, talking about, and loving as many different varieties as possible. However, it can be nerve-wracking to give valuable garden space to a variety you've never heard of. To solve this problem, we've created a range of multigraft apple trees that combine well known varieties (like Gala, Fuji, and Pink Lady) on the same tree as more exotic varieties like Winter Banana and Worcester Pearmain. It's a low-risk way to try out a new variety in your garden and add to your biodiversity.

Tip #2: Winter is a good time for garden planning

If you are thinking about planting new trees, you need to decide (a) where to put them, and (b) what varieties you

want to plant. To help with this, we're holding an online Masterclass starting on June 12 (see the link at the end of the article).

One of the benefits of living here in Harcourt is that most people have enough space for a decent-sized garden, with lots of room for fruit trees. But, even if you have a large garden, it might make sense to keep your fruit trees together in one area of the garden, rather than spreading them out. Having a designated orchard area in the garden makes it possible to net the trees under a single structure, rather than having to create a separate structure for each tree. It can also be easier to set up a simple but effective irrigation system if all the trees with similar needs are in one place.

If you'd rather have your fruit trees scattered throughout your garden, that can work too! It's quite easy to protect a single fruit tree from fruit fly and birds with a simple hoop structure that is easy to construct from star pickets and polypipe. Similarly, 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.

Tip #3: It's OK to prune apricots now

One of the questions we often get at this time of year is whether it's too late to prune apricot trees. The short answer is no, it's not. Our philosophy with pruning fruit trees is that there's no "right" or "wrong", there's just "cuts" and "consequences".

So, what are the consequences of pruning apricot trees at the moment? Well, if you have fungal disease in your apricot trees (which is very common in Harcourt) there's a higher chance that you'll spread it around the tree if you prune the tree in cold, wet weather. You can minimise this risk by choosing a fine, sunny day to do your pruning with a few fine days forecast ahead. That will help your pruning cuts to heal quickly.

The other reason we usually recommend pruning apricot trees in late summer is because they tend to be very big, vigorous trees, and pruning them in summer is likely to result in a smaller growth response to your pruning cuts. Pruning your trees in winter is likely to stimulate a bit more

growth in the tree, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just important to prune them thoughtfully so you don't encourage your tree to get too bushy. However, one of the big advantages of pruning your apricot tree (or any fruit tree) when it has lost its leaves is that you can clearly see the shape of the tree. This makes deciding how to prune it much easier!

Before we go...

Lastly this month it's a good time to reflect on other ways of generally improving the health of your garden. 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 any pests. There's also 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 underground; they swap nutrients and microbes, and they help to make each other healthier.

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than 20 years, and offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips - sign up here: growgreatfruit.com/resources. They are running an online Design Your Home Orchard Masterclass on June 12 & 15—growgreatfruit.com/product/design-your-home-orchard-registration-0625/. Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is open for orders at openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop until June 28.



Council news

Learn new skills and network at Micro and Small Business Day

Develop new skills, connect with industry professionals and get inspired by local success stories at Micro and Small Business Day – an event for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Featuring panels, workshops, a business expo and networking opportunities, the day offers practical experiences, expert advice and direct conversations with industry professionals.

When: Friday 27 June

Where: Locations across Castlemaine

Cost: Free

Keep an eye on bit.ly/MicroSmallBusinessDay for more details and session times.

The Active Living Census is back!

The census is a community survey that asks about physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, and barriers to being healthy and active.

Your input will help guide decisions about programs, recreation spaces and services.

Complete the survey for your chance to win a share of \$10,000 in prizes. Learn more at healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc.

Stay in the loop on Council news

Are you interested in what events are on around the shire? What about sustainability updates, local business opportunities or arts news?

We have something for everyone! Sign up at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Connect-with-us.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire
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Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

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Let us know by sending the person's details to:
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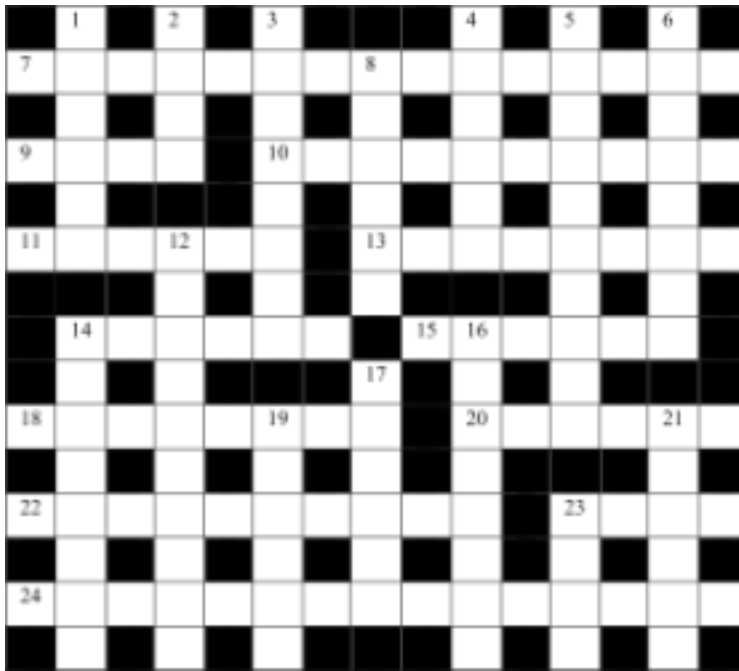


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Down:

1. Fake android salesman? (6)
2. Just about an alternative to more? (4)
3. Do vacate the courtroom if you wish to speak for him. (8)
4. Wash ears before using cutters. (6)
5. Grant fed me the extremely messy remains of their meal. (10)
6. The tall man I caught at the ATM, in all probability, was bent on purchasing one for his Spanish wife. (8)
8. More prompt than a dieter. (6)
12. Simple past tense can be used again on this... (10)
14. I tell yuz—artists oughta get straight back into 'em! (8)
16. Makes lisper's heart grow fonder? (8)
17. Climate tragic has the measure of Silk Road. (6)
19. Revives about every which way... (6)
21. Most recent American cricket match? (6)
23. They say Immanuel is unable to assume a sloping position... (4)

Across:

7. Death of the drone brings us to a finish of sorts. (3,3,2,3,4)
9. Where the burden of responsibility rests? (4)
10. Tons of laughs in these fierce attacks, but only for the attackers... (10)
11. I may P. O. 'cos I can't see far... (6)
13. Dawn's wind—or the rabbit's? (8)
14. All that is south, friends. (6)
15. Is it a human trait to repeat a slogan to ourselves? (6)
18. Sterile environment with complimentary micro-organism? (4-4 or 4,4)
20. Seat between hills? (6)
22. Fred insisted on X; Mary insisted on Y. "No!" insisted Bruce, "What've we got here?" (10)
23. Heard seeing quote. (4)
24. Reliability isn't surest throw of the dice, but perhaps a hero's "twists" turn it into something very similar... (15)

May Xword Solution

© McW April '20 Note date of this Xwd.



Down:

1. How little damage a backhanded sling or arrow might inflict if we're lucky?
2. Look after [attend...] workers and be part of the team fighting across...
3. Novel century for hooves of the enemy.
4. The PM, before all this? [Well?]
5. WWII groups of cherubs? [Well?]
6. Unfashionable [intent] meaning for camp ...
7. Morrison and Albo—what two small men are doing that is hopeful? [Well? As in their being hopeful that putting aside party bickering may make them look good.]
12. Smear the mark [stain] off this sheet.
14. We could hope that the drivers across perish thus... [Well? Or put our trust in hand-sanitiser...]
16. Sorry—no clue. It's a has-been! [Well?]
17. Piled up in Italy, Spain, and...? [Well?]
21. Fireys at abattoirs after 4? [Well?]
22. Last week, about [re-] the 16 in currency... [Well? It hasn't been around for a while...]
24. Way the finder (Riley [Pathfinder], perhaps) after it actually finds...
23. Across Homeric stories... [Well?]

Across clues share a theme [COVID-19]; all others are normal...

Across:

8. When these things seemed unimaginable? [Well?]
9. No place for it [Plague] in this sore affliction.
10. [Love]backflips in major centres [cities] at relative rates...
11. They didn't get what they paid for. [Well?]
13. The Holy Grail to get us out? [Well?]
15. Solo-household of a writer could sound a bit middle-eastern... [Well?]
17. Notes of infection, you say? [Well?]
18. Porky [toilet-]roll-hunters? [Well?]
19. In your dreams—where I am and vice-versa... [Well?]
20. Back three what they wave in the US [gun]—rest Boris, but ineffectual...
23. Can't get past the first bit [of the soln...] to see the kids if I'm her second husband and we're living apart... [These days, in April '20...]
26. Something like it needs to be flattened with raised eyebrow... [Well? Curved arch?]
27. Duration of paddle-less barbed-wire canoe-rower's fix? [Well?]

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Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

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

From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday

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



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THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10AM TO 1PM
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castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

2025
Jun 29
July 27
Aug 31
Sep 28
Oct 26
Nov 30



May Solution

5	3	4	2	9	8	1	7	6
2	6	9	7	1	4	8	5	3
8	1	7	3	5	6	4	2	9
3	5	1	6	8	2	9	4	7
4	7	2	1	3	9	5	6	8
6	9	8	5	4	7	2	3	1
9	4	6	8	2	3	7	1	5
7	8	5	4	6	1	3	9	2
1	2	3	9	7	5	6	8	4

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Moderate

Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3 frame contains every number from 1 to 9.

3								4
			4			6		5
		1		9				
7	4				2			
	2		6					
							3	6
		7	8				2	
1		9						
			5				7	



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