

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

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The People's Hero Book Launch



Left to right: Kerrie Maguire, David Foley, George Milford, Patrick Verdon and Maree Edwards MP for Bendigo West.

IRISH SONGS AND THE GAELIC LANGUAGE were special features of the launch of a book about Henry Hayden, an Irishman who came to Australia in 1840 to seek his way in life. He left the Irish rebellions of the 1800s and was first employed by the Henty Brothers of Portland.

So how did this well-educated Irishman from a wealthy background come to be headmaster of the primary school of Harcourt? You will find out if you read the book launched on 27 March this year.

Author, George Milford, our resident Historian said, 'This book, *The People's Hero* has been something of an obsession, and I'm very pleased to see it launched

today.'

Before the official launch by Maree Edwards, Kerrie Maguire sang two Irish songs, David Foley read a short piece in Gaelic and Patrick Verdon spoke about the use of the Irish language when he was young, and he also spoke a passage in Gaelic.

George said about Henry Hayden, 'He was a willing participant in public affairs. When the State government was engaged in a fight for survival the Head Teacher of Harcourt Primary School worked to turn the tide.'

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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

Why join the Harcourt Progress Association?

The purposes of the Association as set out in its Rules of Association are to:

- Provide a voice for the residents of Harcourt.
- Identify, support and facilitate initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Encourage, support and facilitate community engagement within Harcourt.
- Promote and protect the character and identity of Harcourt
- Do all things conducive to achieving these purposes.

The above purposes are good reasons to join the Association and we have had many successes (and some setbacks) over our seven year existence:

- We liaise with Council on matters relevant to Harcourt and feed Council information to the community via The Core and public meetings.
- The Twilight Markets (due to COVID, we had to call them off in 2020 and early this year), will be back in October 2021 unless COVID strikes again.
- The Playspace is a success and was a combined effort from the Shire, HPA and Community Representatives and the designers and contractors – that took seven years! We obtained a grant of \$6,500 as a contribution towards the accessible barbecue thanks to our relationship with the Maldon District Community Bank.
- Public meetings – about road cycling, the bike park, economic development, the railway station building refurbishment, and the return of the rail service (petition). More work is to come with the community on Plan and Shine Harcourt. We are waiting to hear and will follow up with the Shire when the next stage is reached. We respect that many people in the community had input into these and are still waiting for outcomes – so are we!
- The roundabout – not a success at the first effort but read below for progress.
- Is your organisation aware that via a grant we received, HPA has a trailer which can be hired for free by community organisations? In the trailer are 80 chairs a number of tables and we can provide umbrellas, a barbecue for meat and a barbecue for vegetarians, and a large esky.
- The publication of The Core each month. We support and foster as many Harcourt organisations as we can by taking their monthly updates and reporting of their successes. Community organisations can advertise for free. We value their efforts; we are all volunteers trying to do our best for Harcourt.
- We support our indigenous community members, their organisations, aspirations and activities.
- We support local businesses via The Core by taking advertising at very reasonable rates and we provide business updates and write ups to promote local business.
- Fund raising: Via the Twilight Markets we raised \$500 for the CFA hose drying racks and assisted the Applefest Committee with selling raffle tickets.

- We write letters of support on request for community groups when they apply for grants or projects.
- Support of the Applefest and the Heritage Centre: HPA members have participated in each year's Applefest meetings and have supported Applefest with market organisation and development of the Kids Karnival, free printing and feet on the ground when setting up, on the day and taking down equipment.
- The Easter Egg Hunt (we'll be looking for another venue because the bike park and associated camping have taken over the Oak Forest).

Please consider the work that the HPA does and think about assisting on the committee or a sub-committee and turn up to the AGM on Monday April 19th to find out about our achievements and aims for the next couple of years.

Roundabout Progress

Background: The roundabout was originally conceived as a project funded with \$50,000 from Regional Roads Victoria (they retained and managed the funds – it was not a grant) and the roundabout was to be maintained by volunteers. As it turns out despite the work which was done in good faith by all parties, the site is too challenging to maintain in its current form and it is not reasonable to expect volunteers to toil into the future preserving a government asset which is so large and problematic.

Now the Good News

The HPA prompted the Shire and Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) to face the issue and they have worked together to give Harcourt a solution which will be more easily maintained by an arrangement between RRV and Council.

Andrea Proctor Landscapes (APL) has been engaged by Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) to work with RRV, the community, Council and other key stakeholders to produce a concept design for the roundabout. APL's design experience with roundabouts, means they will do what is needed to ensure the roundabout is safe, can be effectively maintained and work as the marker of the town. They will be undertaking a design process with key stakeholders (including the Progress Association and Council) to work up a concept for community comment and eventual implementation. The process and time frames are being worked through with RRV.

When we know more HPA will make announcements via its webpage and *The Core*.



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Interview with Lee Casley

Lee Casley is the friendly face at the Harcourt Post Office. Many of us have been assisted by Lee with tips on packaging, postal rates and times. If in doubt, ask Lee! Lee and her husband Colin bought the Post Office business and took over in November 2018 and hold a licence (a bit like a franchise) with Australia Post.

Lee said, 'Having previously lived in Langwarrin, we bought land in Yandoit, and when the children were small, they were my focus, so I wasn't looking for employment then. My working life prior to being in Post Offices has been in administration in the National Bank for 13 years, and the Central Cabins and Van Park in Castlemaine. I became interested in Post Office work and started at the Guildford Post Office in 2010 as a Customer Service Officer; I was there for seven years and in that time I also relieved at Maldon, Newstead and Harcourt.'

'We have quite a big mail run, it's approximately 150 kms. Pete the mail man drives to Belvoir Park Road (on the Ravenswood side of Big Hill) and delivers to both sides of the road there and then comes south towards Harcourt on the Highway. The Delivery Manager at Echuca works out the best option for delivery order and makes the decision about where to slot a new address in to the run.'

'Colin assists at sorting times, and works on our hobby farm. His previous job was doing water treatment against Legionella for cooling towers and industrial boilers. He travelled a fair bit – as far as Benalla and Horsham but also to Bendigo and Ballarat. We have pigs, chooks, and sheep and recently we have established a beehive. He looks after all that, and it keeps him very busy.'

I asked Lee if the business has grown. 'Oh yes! The number of parcels during COVID tripled or quadrupled. Now that amount has become a constant, whereas it had been steadily increasing prior to COVID. The number of letters being posted has decreased, so the increased number of packages balances out that reduction. Our customer numbers have also increased. We have customers from Barkers Creek, Castlemaine, Junortoun, Sedgwick, Faraday and Sutton Grange.'

'We are getting to know lots of people. We have our regulars, and there are new people in town as others move out. For some of the older folk, it's a little outing and they have the opportunity to have a chat and possibly meet their neighbours.



Mondays and Fridays are the busiest days, but all days, particularly during COVID, have been busy. The busy times tend to be after lunch or after school pick up, and 9 – 9.30 am is peak time. After that business is steady.'

'The services at the Post Office have expanded. All transactions are dealt with by Australia Post's special broadband service. Patrons can pay a large range of bills and we appreciate that they support us instead of paying online. Our banking services have increased – it's possible to deposit or withdraw from over 70 financial institutions, with the ANZ Bank being one exception.'

'Other services include the sending of money or buying items using Western Union. If you are looking for that last minute present, we also have a range of gift cards, for example, BCF, Myer and others. To supplement your gift giving we have a range of greeting cards and gifts.'

I asked Lee what can go wrong. She said, 'When parcels take a long time to arrive it's a worry and the worst thing is that some go missing. These are major issues and we can't control them. If a parcel goes missing you can rest assured that parcels under \$100 are covered. If a parcel is worth over \$100, it really is a good idea to take out extra cover via Australia Post. If a parcel is late and it's suspected to be missing, the sender should get in touch with Australia Post and put in an enquiry. It will take some time while they check, and if the item is lost, then the sender can claim. Now things have settled down after COVID we haven't had any missing parcels. During COVID there were some delays because countries were waiting until the planes

were full, and there were some places we couldn't send to, for example South Africa was not accepting parcels. There were also delays once a parcel arrived in Australia. It was 14 days from when parcels came into the country before they were dealt with and moved out across the country. I'm so pleased things are back to normal!'

Lee and her family do get a break from the Post Office at weekends and on public holidays. Lee said, 'I love going fishing and sometimes fish in our dam. I enjoy going to the movies with a friend and can recommend the cinema at Maryborough, it's a small and pleasant theatre. From Guildford it's 35 minutes to Maryborough, so it suits us to travel there for a film and to sometimes do some shopping.'

'As a family we enjoy sports. I like the Big Bash league and we get to the football occasionally. I'm an Essendon supporter, but as a family we are Hawthorn members. We have been members of the Guildford Cricket Club for about nine years. Both of us are on the committee; Col is Vice President and I am the Treasurer plus I am a cricket scorer. So cricket takes up all our spare time from September to March.'

'At the end of the season we had a Pink



Stumps day for the McGrath Foundation and raised \$3,000. We were very pleased with that result. We had two teams which were a mixture of women and men, with partners on opposite teams, so it was good fun. The club intends to continue this annually and it will probably be scheduled closer to Pink Stumps Day in January.'

You can always get a friendly smile and great service from Lee and other employees at the Harcourt Post Office, so pop in and have a chat and support this great local service.

Robyn Miller

Applefest 2021 – Retrospective

Planning for this year's Applefest was marked by hesitancy, and apprehension aplenty. The Applefest committee's liaison with nearly sixty Harcourt community groups, traders and stakeholders was overlaid with uncertainty as to the public health conditions.

The committee's ambitions were modest: the first plans were to hold a series of small-scale COVIDSafe events.

Advertising was restrained and almost entirely confined to social media. The events had to be ticketed for potential contact tracing so there was an entry fee.

On Applefest Saturday, March 6th, the folk at the gate were surprised to find that the bulk of the attendees had come from Melbourne. It seems that there was pent-up ambition to escape the suburbs for the long weekend.

There were plenty of children who enjoyed the free storytelling and the face painting, while the adults took in the Thompsons Foundry Band, the belly dancers, the putt-putt of old engines, the apple pie eating competition, the Art Show, the Primary School choir and a great musical programme.

The tearoom, the food vans and the coffee vendor had constant queues of punters. The fruit-growers display attracted many admirers and the apple pies sold out early.

The James Park location worked well. It was repeatedly said that the layout was ideal because everyone could hear the music but still get around all the stalls and talk to people.

There were sufficient attractions on offer so that those who came reported that they were well satisfied. Typical comments were:

'Thank you for helping Harcourt have a fabulous fun day on Saturday.'

'We really appreciated the effort that went into ensuring a COVID Safe and friendly event.'

'We thought it was a really lovely day: low key, ideal for families and happy.'

'What a fabulous community event!'

Of course, there were other events on the month-long program. The Tour of the Organic Farm Cooperative was a sell-out and useful contacts were made.

Unfortunately, the much-anticipated Indigenous Stargazing had to be cancelled due to torrential rain, which came exactly at the time predicted four days earlier by the Bureau of Meteorology. We were definitely experiencing La Niña weather. A handful of those who had booked for the stargazing asked for refunds, but the remainder donated the ticket price to the indigenous youth initiatives of Nalderun.

The Granite Houses Tour was also dampened by light rain, but those who came along were very generously invited inside two of the houses (and onto a spacious verandah at the other) and learned a lot of Harcourt history as well as gaining an understanding of what it means to build with our very own Harcourt Granite.

And those who attended the Wine, Pizza and Music afternoons at Killiecrankie and Harcourt Valley Vineyards tell me that they had a great afternoon's entertainment in very nice surroundings.

Financially, the Committee has come out in front (thanks chiefly to the Melbourne people desperate to escape suburbia for the long weekend).

Because the events were ticketed, the committee has, for the very first time, been able to get a fairly accurate handle on the numbers. Over the whole month of events some 2,000 people bought tickets. Then there were the children, who were given free entry, plus, of course the folk who got over the bunting on the Harmony Way frontage of James Park (several people have advised the committee of this ... the committee members were fully occupied elsewhere, of course). The folk who came via the back fence were mostly families anyway, and we wanted the day to be a family day.

Last month's edition of The Core contained a long list of those who earned the heartfelt thanks of the Applefest committee.

The members of the Applefest committee are now enjoying some well-deserved autumn relaxation after about three months of intensive preparation.

It would be foolish to suggest that the committee has any idea of the format for the 2022 festival, but the precedent has been set for a month-long, multi-venue festival of all that is unique and worthwhile about the Harcourt valley.

George Milford



Apple Pie Baking Competition



Ayrone Teed and her granddaughter Charlotte dominated the prizes in the baking competition at the 2021 Applefest. Kaye Francis AKA Granny Smith carried off first prize in the Open section of the Apple Cake baking. The Applefest Committee thanks the judges, Anne Marie Primmer and Anne Marston, for their interest and support of the Applefest once again.

Results:

Apple Cake Open

1st Prize Kaye Francis

Highly Commended Marie Twyford

Apple Muffins Junior

1st Prize Charlotte Teed

Apple Muffins Senior

1st Prize Ayrone Teed

Highly Commended Ayrone Teed

Apple Pie Open

1st Prize Ayrone Teed

Apple Chutney Open

1st Prize Ayrone Teed

Royalty have their Say



Alison and Dean Curtis both agreed that they enjoyed the task of being Royalty at the Applefest this year. Alison said, 'It was lovely to be approached by families with young children; we were surprised that so many people wanted a photo with us.'

Dean said that, 'Having been avid watchers of the TV series *The Crown*, I think we must be royalists at heart. Our 4-year-old grandson asked if our being Applefest Royalty, makes him a Prince!'

Kaye Francis as Granny Smith has been in the role for three years and likes to match her glasses and shoes with the outfit, making her 'the complete picture'. She was photographed for the *Weekly Times* in 2020. This year she appeared on the front page of the *Castlemaine Mail* to advertise the Applefest and the Granite Houses Tour.

The People's Hero Book Launch

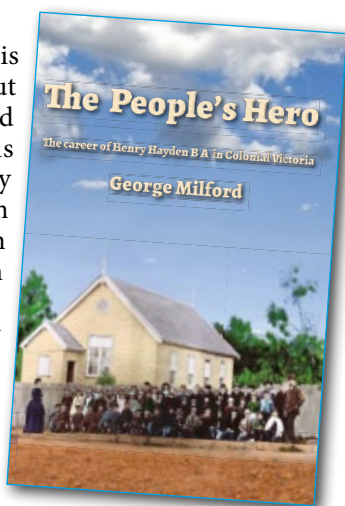
Continued from page 1.

George also said, 'Noted by his contemporaries as a stand-out orator, Henry Hayden attracted crowds of up to 1,000 to his political rallies. For nearly forty years, Henry's name was often in the newspapers for his views on education and his participation in radical politics.'

George said, 'I especially want to thank Bernie Schultz (the design guru of *The Core*) who edited and designed the book, and for his input that included stringent fact checking.'

Maree Edwards spoke of the political turmoil at the time when Hayden was rallying against privilege and about what makes a community in which people are treated well and have equal rights no matter what their job or background. She said, 'I congratulate George on this well-written and important book which captures vividly the life and times, not just of Henry Hayden, but of the whole political setting in Victoria at the time.'

Copies of the book are available for purchase at \$18 from the Heritage Centre which is open on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm.



Harcourt CWA Celebrating 90 Years

On the 20th October, 1930, Mrs Waller, the then Secretary of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, gave an address in the ANA Hall to the ladies of Harcourt on the aims and work of the Association.

At the end of this address, it was decided to form a Branch of the Country Women's Association in Harcourt. Mrs Pritchard was elected President, Mrs W Eagle and Mrs Lang, Vice Presidents, Miss M Mitchell, Honorary Secretary, and Miss L Roberts, Treasurer.

The first meeting of the Harcourt Branch of the CWA was held in the ANA Hall on 13th November 1930 and, ninety-one years later, the Branch is still meeting on a monthly basis, now at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. In April, we are celebrating our 90th Birthday.

Now, if you do your math, you will realise that we are in fact 91 years old this year, but as COVID put a stop to our 2020 celebrations, it is only now that we are finally able to celebrate our history and we will do this with our 90th Birthday Party in April.

We are sharing our event with the Sutton Grange CWA which also became a CWA Branch in 1930 and I will tell you all about this special day in the May edition of *The Core*.

Don't forget that we are back to our normal meeting schedule at last and we get together at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month in the Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt. We would love to meet you if you are ever able to join one of our meetings.



The photo is a preview of the commemorative bookmark we are producing to give to the members attending our Birthday Party.

Lyn Rule

Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer.



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A potted History of Gold Mining in the Shire

George Milford's booklet about the early Harcourt settler Dr William Barker, mentions that in 1851 (shortly after the colony of Victoria came into being), evidence was given to a Parliamentary Committee that Christopher Thomas Peters, a hutkeeper (a shepherd) engaged by Dr Barker first found gold at Specimen Gully Barkers Creek. This was one of the earliest finds of gold in Victoria. It was this find that started the gold rush to the Mount Alexander gold fields.



The first gold finds around Castlemaine were alluvial, that is the gold was discovered in and around the creeks: Barkers Creek, Forest Creek and Campbells Creek and their tributaries. The gold was mainly found on the surface and had been washed into prominence by the action of the particular creek. From the first find and initial rush to Barkers Creek the miners moved to the aptly named Golden Point Faraday/Chewton which has now become a popular swimming spot. This gold rush laid the foundations for the development of Castlemaine as a township.

While the diggers were called miners, many of the early miners didn't ever go underground, but washed the dirt, seeking the precious metal. The methods were very different to underground mining methods. Some of the richest and deepest mines were at Maldon. Quartz reefs were found that had broken through the surface and it was discovered that they were auriferous (gold carrying). Gold bearing quartz reefs run north and south and can be followed deep into the earth

if the technology is available. The North British Mine in Parkins Reef Road (named after the reef being mined) was at one time one of the richest gold mines in the world. It had a shaft of 1650 feet; the mine began in about 1860 and ceased work in 1926. As methods of gold extraction became more sophisticated one common method was to weaken the quartz by heating it, followed by crushing it in a battery and then cyanide was applied to separate the gold from the unwanted rock. The remnants of the North British Mine include sections of the brick quartz ovens and the cyanide ponds. The shaft is well covered. Unfortunately much of the area was damaged by a bushfire in the early 1980s.

The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is a world heritage area and preserves the mining history of this area. It extends south from Harcourt nearly to Glenlyon, east to Glenluce and west to Tarilta south east of Guildford). For more information see: www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/castlemaine-diggings-national-heritage-park

Interested readers can visit Specimen Gully Road in Barkers Creek (one of the main sites in the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park) to find this cairn and other reminders of mining activity in the bush. The deep gully where the seasonal creek runs is the clearest evidence that the creek (a tributary of Barkers Creek) was the focus of attention. It has been deepened and widened and now suffers from erosion. The cairn marks the discovery of gold at Specimen Gully. It says,

'The first gold from the Mount Alexander Goldfields was discovered in this gully by Christopher John Peters on 20th July 1851. Associated with him were: John Worley, Robert Keen and George Robinson.'

This cairn is the gift of R Owen Owens and was unveiled by him on 10th October, 1931.'

A story on the history of this cairn was featured on page 13 of September *Core* of 2018. Back copies of *The Core* are on the Harcourt Valley Community Website.



Should we be worried about gold exploration in the area? I know that some people in Specimen Gully Road had a drilling rig nearby which worked day and night for most of 2019, but drilling ceased and there has been no further activity.

Robyn Miller

References:

Australia's First Notable Town Maldon, Grant Blackman and John Larkin, 1978, Hodder and Stoughton.

Dr William Barker and the Mount Alexander station 1845, George Milford, 1995.



The Modern Gold Prospectors

By Peter McCarthy (retired mining consultant)

This article first appeared in the Faraday Farrago of February 2021 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author.

The high price of gold and the success of the Fosterville gold mine near Bendigo (producing A\$1.5 billion worth of gold each year) have led to a resurgence of gold prospecting across Victoria. The Parish of Faraday has a proud history of gold mining, including the rich alluvial diggings along Golden Point road and the later quartz reef mines such as the Nimrod. Should you be worried about an invasion of gold prospectors?

Gold fossickers must purchase a miner's right. They are not allowed on private land without the permission of the landowner. Although this permission can be verbal, it is best to put it in writing in case of future disputes. A landowner is not obliged to give permission. Whether on private or public land, a fossicker must abide by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Heritage Act 1995. Those acts prevent sites from being disturbed and require relevant finds to be reported.

The process of exploring and mining by companies is covered by the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990. Entry onto your land requires written consent, often in the form of a compensation agreement for any loss or damage, which you can negotiate. You should get legal advice before signing one. Because the minerals under your land are owned by the Crown (i.e., the people of Victoria), the company has the right to explore and can go to VCAT to have the amount of compensation set. In my experience this is

unusual, they do not want to offend the people they may later have to negotiate with as neighbours for a possible mine. They will prefer to explore from crown land, which might include nearby road reserves, and from neighbouring properties that have given consent.

Any permission that you may give relates to entry onto your land and cannot later be withdrawn, and it applies to new owners if you decide to sell. The first exploration activity is usually a geological survey, which may involve a geologist taking chip samples, drawing maps, and possibly excavating shallow trenches. Whatever is done must be described in an approved Work Plan and comply with a Code of Practice set out by the Earth Resources department. The next step may involve drilling, which sees a drill truck and support equipment on site for weeks to months, depending on what is found.

The Victorian government supports exploration and mining as legitimate economic activities, so it is pointless opposing them without cause. Anyone impacted by exploration should find out the obligations of the explorer to minimise risk to people, property, or the environment, and put in a complaint to the Earth Resources Information Centre if they are not compliant.

Drilling does not often discover an economic deposit; the success rate is something like one in one hundred. In most cases the drillers will go away, and they must leave the property rehabilitated to its original condition. If there is a mine development, then a series of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments and other reports are required which typically take five to ten years to complete. The impact on communities, groundwater, environment and other matters are considered at that stage. This becomes a very big exercise, with plenty of opportunity for input by those affected. These days, mining companies are very concerned about their "social licence to operate" and will try very hard to become a valued part of the community.

Will the explorers come knocking at your door? Exploration licences are large and include areas that are not really of interest to explorers. There is no known gold in central Victorian granite, so if your property is on the Harcourt granite (granodiorite), like much of Faraday, it is most unlikely that anyone will waste time on it. The gold is found west of Harmony Way, west of a line from Taradale up through the Expedition Pass reservoir.

For further information see: earthresources.vic.gov.au/community-and-land-use/landholder-information/faqs



The photo shows a modern drilling rig.



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Harcourt Heritage Centre

Better Country Further Out

The Frost family

Frost Lane, off Eagles Rd, Harcourt, marks the site of the home of Alfred and Ann Frost over the years 1860–1877.

Alfred Frost was employed as Rate Collector for the Shire of Metcalfe and Herdsman on the Mount Alexander and Faraday Farmers Commons. The Governor in Council had proclaimed that unsold Crown Land had the status of 'a farmers common'. Landowners could turn out their livestock onto the common for a small annual fee. The Herdsman was paid out of the fees collected.

One of the duties of the Herdsman was to help the owners round up the cattle from time to time so that newly born calves could be branded.

Most of Mount Alexander was declared State Forest in 1874, and general grazing of it was then prohibited. After the Mount was ruled off-limit, and as Crown Land was progressively surveyed and occupied by settlers, Alfred's job became redundant.

Alfred then selected land (under the then Land Act) on the river flats north of Boort. The Frost family, mother, father and seven children, left Harcourt and moved onto their new selection early in 1877. The place they selected was between the Loddon River and the Twelve Mile Creek. The creek leaves the Loddon River to meander across the floodplain until it re-joins the Loddon about 11 kilometres further north, forming an 'island' of about a kilometre in width.

The dominant pasture grass on the 'island' was Phalaris, commonly known as 'Canary Grass'. The locality, north of Boort and west of Durham Ox, became known as Canary Island. Phalaris became a common topic of conversation when visitors from Canary Island visited their Harcourt relatives – 'our grass is better than yours!'

Any person over the age of 18 years had the right to formally 'select' a 320-acre allotment of land. By 1879, Alfred and Ann Frost had each selected 320 acres. Charles (aged 23), Mary Ann (21) George (20) and Emily (18) had also selected a 320-acre block each, so that the Frost family farm was three square miles in extent.

Certain improvements to the land selected were to be made in the first three years. After making a small primitive dwelling, the Frost family worked hard at putting up fences and cultivating the land. Meals were prepared in a bark

kitchen and then cooked in a camp oven.

Back in Harcourt, those who had arrived in the valley at the same time as the Frosts were rather better established on their fifteen-acre or twenty-acre holdings, harvesting good crops of fruit and saving enough money to build a brick or timber house.

But, up north at Canary Island, the Frost clan had an immense acreage. For a family from a small holding of 20 acres in Harcourt to be able to take possession of three square miles, this was definitely 'better country further out'.

Other selectors took up land on the floodplains around the Frost properties and the population of Canary Island grew. A school was opened, and a Methodist Church was built. Community life in the district flourished with social evenings around the piano. However, the Frost family retained its social links to Harcourt and surrounds.

It is a curious fact that, over the next ten years, all but one of the Frost children found their marriage partners in the Harcourt area. Charles Frost married Louisa Leversha of Harcourt, Mary Ann Frost married Joseph James of Harcourt (and when Joseph died, she married Robert Martin), George Frost married Jane Milford of Harcourt, Emily Frost married Isaac Fletcher of Elphinstone and Edward Frost married Phillipa Broad of Sutton Grange.

It seems that the folk at Canary Island retained 'dual citizenship', of Canary Island and of Harcourt. The same pattern of marriage between the younger Frosts and Harcourt families continued into the next generation, with marriages connecting Frosts to the Symes, Warren and Moon families.

The writer's Great-Uncle Charlie had made a 320-acre selection and spent the winter and spring of each year at Canary Island but worked during summer and autumn at his orchard block at Harcourt.

Travel between the two settlements involved a full day's ride in a horse-drawn buggy or spring cart. When a big occasion was planned for Harcourt, such as a church anniversary or a 'back to', invitations were always sent to the Frosts at Canary Island and the Canary Islanders took full advantage of those invitations.

The February 2021 issue of *The Core* outlined the opening up of settlement north of Nathalia by the Schier family of Harcourt and described the ongoing connection between families linked by blood and affection although their homes were far apart. It was as if Narioka was a suburb, or a satellite community, of Harcourt.

It is a curious fact that from the 1870s up to the 1950s, Harcourt had, not just one satellite community, but two, the second being Canary Island. Part of the key to understanding the social and family life of Harcourt of yesteryear is the knowledge of the community's links to these two northern Victorian settlements.

It is sometimes joked that Kangaroo Flat is becoming an 'outer suburb' of Castlemaine due to the number of Castlemaine folk relocating to live there. In the same way, Narioka and Canary Island were 'outer suburbs of Harcourt' for eighty-odd years.

This is another in a series of Thumbnail sketches of the pioneers compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre using the resources of the CH James collection. The writer also acknowledges the 'Frost Family History' published by John Moon in 1996.

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Walking away from COVID stress

CHIRP Community Health's walking group in Harcourt is happening again after a year of COVID restrictions.

Wendy Barron, a long-term volunteer of the Harcourt Walking Group says that current walking enthusiasm is high now that the group can be together again.



'Our group benefits from the walking, and so much more: we share excess garden produce, our favourite recipes and some wonderful conversations.'

The Harcourt Walking Group meets Monday and Thursday mornings at 9.30 at the Harcourt Museum (ANA Hall). The one hour leisurely walk is usually followed by morning tea, and new members are always welcome.

For more information on the Harcourt Walking Group, please call CHIRP Community Health on 54791000.

Nordic Pole Walking Commencing Mid-April –

Bookings Essential



The popular 10-week Nordic Pole Walking introduction groups will again be happening in Castlemaine.

The weekly one-hour groups will happen at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings starting in mid-April.

Lynne is a current participant who described herself as very inactive prior to starting Nordic Pole Walking. 'My aim is to be a better walker and I'm improving. It's a slow process; I've got a long way yet,' says Lynne. 'It's a social group, it gets me out of the house. You make the effort to go, and then you thoroughly enjoy it. I don't want to miss it now.'

This project is a CHIRP Community Health and Castlemaine Community House partnership.

For further information or to book, call CHIRP Community Health on 5479 1000. Bookings are essential as groups will be purposely kept small to maximise participant safety.



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

It's great to talk to you again via *The Core*. I want to send a big thank you and congratulations to the organisers of the Applefest. I dropped in a few times over the day on 6 March, and it was a great event. The Art Show was particularly well attended and is a credit to all of our talented artists.

How good is the rain? It is the best autumn I can remember and the farmers will be loving it. I should be on the tractor now, but am in the office doing a few things first.

Diary management has got a bit tricky since becoming Mayor. Imagine how our superstar George keeps track of everything! He's an amazing guy and now he has written another book, and I am looking forward to getting my hands on a copy. Will it be a best seller?

I do miss my three hours a day reading while sitting on the train, because it's back to work for me. Council is very busy putting together the budget. It is a lot of work and we have been occupied double time on it. With four new Councillors there is a lot of information to bring them up to speed with.

Rates roads and rubbish, how hard can it be? But I can assure

you, there is more to it than that.

There is still a way to go, but the draft budget will be out for public comment in a few weeks' time. I would like to see a balanced budget this year so it will be interesting to see if we can achieve that.

It was interesting to see some of our new Councillors campaigning on a zero percent rate rise during the Council election. How will that pan out when there are seven Councillors casting their vote?

Our last Council meeting was open to the public and is available on Youtube. Speaking at Public Question Time is a really good way to promote your ideas or ask questions of the Council. We have a few regulars who push the same issues over and over. They are a dedicated band and they help us to do a better job.

When you drive around our towns you will see tree planting and beautification works going on. This has followed from public comment prompting us to do more of this important work.

Stay well and happy, best regards Tony.

AG Cordy
0439 742 434



Harcourt Bowling Club

Babies on the Green

This new eight-week program started on Wednesday 24th March, and after a good start will continue each Wednesday starting at 9.30 am. The aim is to provide a space where parents/babies can meet, have some fun with their babies over a game of bowls in a safe and enjoyable environment. Thanks to Jean Pogue and her assistants for organising this event.

AGM in May

Board Members needed for 2021-22 Season

As there will be at least 3 positions available for next season's Board, members are asked to think about who they would like to help run the club for the next season and/or consider standing for election. Nomination forms are available at the Club and need to be in prior to the Annual General Meeting early in May.

Tournament and Championship Season Results

Kidman Fours Tournament

On Sunday March 21st, Harcourt Bowling Club was to welcome local bowlers and others from around the District for the Annual Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament. The tournament, sponsored by Wilma and the late Brian Kidman, is always popular and is keenly contested.

The event was cancelled last year due to COVID, and sadly, since then, Brian has passed away. Wilma Kidman made the trip from Kaniva to take part in the tournament and present the prizes.

Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to rain, so the club invited the intended players for lunch anyway for some social time and to catch up with



Wilma Kidman (centre) and friends.

Wilma. The Tournament has been rescheduled for later this year in October. Men's Championship Drawn (Gough) Pairs

The Men's Drawn Championship Pairs (The Gough Pairs) was held on March 18th evening with the overall winners being Phillip Clark and Ken Tribe. Although an enjoyable contest, the number attending was disappointing. The men ended the night with a light meal.



Phillip Clark and Ken Tribe.

Ladies 100-up Championship

The final was held on Friday 26th March between Carrol Frost and Mary-Anne Doyle. As expected, the sizable gallery was treated to a great display of fortitude and bowling skill between an experienced Carrol and a relative newcomer to the game, Mary-Anne. The winner of the 100-Up Championship was Carrol Frost.



Carrol Frost with runner-up Mary-Anne Doyle.

Grants Pairs Tournament

The Annual Grants Pairs tournament was held on Sunday 28th with 18 teams competing. This Harcourt tournament, held in honour of the late Charlie and Freda Grant, was cancelled last year due

to COVID and, sadly, this year we will be missing their son Malcolm, too.

Another of the keenly contested club tournaments, bowlers didn't disappoint this year. With only two teams having 3 game wins, the delighted winners were Sheila Oxley and Joe Candy with a score of 47. Close Runners-up were Joy and John Starbuck with a score of 44.



Winners of the Grants Pairs Tournament Sheila Oxley and Joe Candy.

In presenting the Grant Shield, John Grant noted that it is essential that these events continue to be played, as they are commemorating the families that put a lot of work into the Harcourt Bowling Club in the past.



Runners-up in the Grants Pairs Tournament, Joy and John Starbuck.

New Members to the Club, Dianne and Barry Marsh also joined in the day and were made very welcome. It was also great to see the afternoon tea back to our normal best.



The HBC catering team.

Harcourt Bowling

Continued from the previous page

Ladies Nominated Pairs Championship

The Championship is coming to the final stage. The two games that were scheduled for Tuesday 23rd were cancelled due to rain. Mary-Anne Doyle and Fran Corstorphane are still to play Carrol Frost and Kay Francis; and Kaye Grant and Myra Frankling are to play Judy Ewing and Wendy Chaplin. The winners of those two games will play off for the Championship.

Pennant outcome

Weekend and Midweek pennant teams represented the club well throughout the season and adapted well to the new 21-end format. Weekend Pennant Division 2, the only Division to make the finals, did well and put in a mighty effort in the Preliminary Final against Kangaroo Flat at South Bendigo. Up until the last few ends, Harcourt had an overall lead and showed great spirit in the rain, although some found it difficult to maintain a grip on bowls. The Kangaroo Flat side were able to fight back taking the win by 6 points.

Well done to the Harcourt side for a successful first season in this higher division.

Sponsors Challenge – Back to Back Winners

The second and final round of the Sponsors' Challenge was held on March 2 with a good attendance and a lot of fun. Competition among the participants was willing, with teams eager to get their names on the trophy.

Brenton Chaplin presented the perpetual trophy to the overall winners of the Chappies Challenge – Paul Long's Castlemaine Mini Diggers team of Bernie Gervasoni, Paul Long, Andrea Long and Gary Devereaux - who enjoyed a back-to-back win from last year.



Paul Long's Castlemaine Mini Diggers team, winners of the Chappies Challenge

The encouragement award was given to the ASQ team which showed some good form. The club wishes to thank all of our sponsors for their support throughout the year and for those who participated in making the Chappies' Challenge a success.

Coming Up ...

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

Barbeque/Barefoot Bowls – all welcome – dates to be advised

Jackpot Social bowls – Wednesdays 1.00pm – all welcome

Harcourt Bowling Club Tournaments

Rice Triples Tournament – April 24th followed by end of Season Presentation Night.

Female Friendly Change Rooms at Harcourt Recreation Reserve



Mount Alexander Shire Council will start construction on two new female friendly/unisex change rooms and umpire rooms at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve this month.

Located at Bingham Road in Harcourt, the reserve is home to the Harcourt Football Netball Club, Harcourt Cricket Club, Harcourt Tennis Club and Harcourt & District Leisure Centre Inc.

The new facilities have been designed in consultation with the local sports clubs and user groups, and will include toilet cubicles, private shower stalls and umpire facilities.

Cath Olive, Manager Parks, Recreation and Facilities, Mount Alexander Shire Council said the facilities are an exciting step in ensuring more residents have the opportunity to access sporting facilities.

'It's fantastic that we're able to provide much needed community infrastructure that allows for more women and girls to get involved in local sport,' said Ms Olive.

'At the moment, there are no change facilities at the site for female participants or umpires,' said Ms Olive.

'These facilities will not only provide much needed amenity for the women and girls already playing sport at the reserve, but also help to accommodate the growing participation of women in sports traditionally played by men.'

'Users of the reserve are telling us that the provision of new female-friendly facilities will enable clubs to increase their membership – and that's fantastic to hear.'

Council is funding the female friendly change rooms in partnership with the Victorian Government, which provided \$372,131 as part of its Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Female Friendly Facilities.

The Harcourt Football Netball Club and Harcourt & District Leisure Centre Inc. are also contributing to the project.

Council awarded the construction tender to local builder BLR Construction, which will undertake the works in conjunction with other local traders and suppliers.

'This project is the realisation of the hard work by many Harcourt clubs and user groups over time, and we're really proud to be able to assist them,' said Ms Olive.

It is anticipated that the new female-friendly change rooms will be open to the sporting groups and ready for use by November 2021, weather permitting.

From a Press Release

Carpet Bowls Club Aiming for 70 years of Play

We are back and hoping to recommence carpet bowls in Harcourt after 68 years of continuous playing of carpet bowls. Our record was dented by the pandemic of 2020, so we hope to make our 70th year with the help of old and new players.

Come along and join the association and keep the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association going.

It's a good social night for all ages with a season competition to add to the mix - but we can't play if we don't have the people.

Games are played on a Wednesday night from 7.30 until 9.00 pm approximately.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Venue: Harcourt District Leisure Centre.
Binghams Road, Harcourt.
In the Kitchen Meeting Room
Wednesday, 21st April 2021, 7.30 pm

All interested past and potential new players are welcome

If numbers are sufficient we will recommence the season.

Notices will be in *The Core*, Harcourt Heritage Centre Notice Board, Lawn Bowls Notice Board so keep an eye out.

Further information if interested but unable to attend the meeting contact:

Loretta: 5474 2453, John: 5474 2226, Tyrone: 5474 2126

Big Win for Harcourt Tennis Club in 2020-21 Competition

Harcourt Tennis Club won the Marong District Tennis Association A&B Grade Grand Final on Saturday 20th March 2021. Harcourt, with 10 sets 87 games defeated Marong - 8 sets 67 games. Alex Manning and Sharon Blake starred by winning 3 sets.

Prior to joining the Marong competition, Harcourt had won the last three years in the Castlemaine competition before it ceased. Since then, with five years of competing in the Marong competition and having been in the finals for four years, 2021 proved to be the year when Harcourt A&B grade triumphed. This is a great achievement for the team and reflects their dedication and skills.



The team consisted of Nevan Kelly, Simon Gearing, Lee Tunn, Alex Manning, Jess Cox, Ellenor Landy, Bruce Bickford, Coen Malone, Col Green, Katrina Walters, Sharon Blake, Megan Atkin, David Gearing, Faye Hards, Sophie Bickford, Rhian Sellwood, and Nicole and Angus Trethowan.

Congratulations all!

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Harcourt Junior Football team came out the winners on March 14 when they played against Maldon. Seven of the team were first timers and were very excited to have a win so early in the season.



Harcourt Netball Club

Pre-Season Wrap

Harcourt FNC Netballers have been busy preparing for their season opener this month. They kicked off their pre-season with an indoor competition in Bendigo and by competing at the Rochester netball tournament in late February. This ensured all players are in top condition for the coming season.

After the long anticipation prior to last season and continuing their training online well into the winter months, the girls were disappointed to see the 2020 season not go ahead. Senior Coach Lauren Peeler felt confident that 2020 would have been a very successful year on the netball court, as 2019 finished with C-Grade being the reigning premiers and B-Grade as runners up. A-Grade weren't far behind them, going down by one point to the formidable Carisbrook in the preliminary final.

This pre-season has seen some Harcourt A-Grade superstars take a season off to start a family. They will be hard to replace on and off the court, but this provides a chance for movement within our ranks, and plenty of girls are ready to step up to the challenge.

We know we have some hard work ahead of us to meet the standards of Avoca and Carisbrook, but we are certainly up for the challenge and aiming to be finals contenders across the board.

We have been playing together on a Tuesday night and have seen some really nice passages of play, we just need to now pull that all together for some consistent quarters and find the right combinations, which will take time.

We welcome to the club new recruits Tameka Branch and Bridie Semmens. Tameka joins us from Newbridge. She has premierships experience and will replace our 2019 Best and Fairest in the Wing Attack position. She has a great eye, feeding the goalers and adds great speed on the circle edge.

Enhancing our defensive line up and increasing our overall height average is Bridie, who joins us from the Bendigo Football Netball League. Coach Lauren Peeler has been very impressed with how well she has gelled with club Goal Keeper Jess Lord and long-time club veteran Carly Wilkins.

The C-Grade team are the reigning premiers but this season will have a new look, with last year's top age 17s now embarking on their first season of senior netball. I think these girls have what it takes to play some really great senior netball, and I've been impressed with their skill given they missed out on their last year of 17s.



While our B-Grade has really added depth to their list and it will be hard to decide what that final A or B squad will look like as we continue to trial new combinations and figure out what's going to work best for the team. They made the Grand Final last playing season despite a plague of injuries, so Lauren is really excited to see how we go this season in B-Grade.

Our junior grades are shaping up nicely with the 15s meeting some strong sides at the recent Rochester tournament and making it to the semi-finals. We are, however, looking for some additional 17-and-under players for the upcoming season. If you are interested in coming to try out on Thursdays at training, please feel free to join us. The Club will host a Net Set Go in Term 3 for any young children wanting to start out.

URGENT ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

Harcourt Netball is looking for umpires for all Junior and Senior grades this season. There are financial incentives for anyone interested.

Or maybe you would like to learn how to assist us in future seasons. Please get in contact with Lauren on 0488 757 573

Player Profile – Carly Wilkins

Carly has been a huge part of our club for many years, taking on her fair share of roles within the netball scene. Carly has been coaching 17s and C-Grade, Captaining A-Grade and has earned herself plenty of Best on Courts in her time. Not to mention leading the club as our very important Secretary for many seasons, among other important roles within our Committee. It's safe to say that Carly has been a vital part of our club's success over the years, not just on the netball court.

On the court, Carly shows her versatility by moving into any position in our mid-court line-up. She is a real workhorse in defence, but also adds consistency to our game each week. She is a fantastic leader for our great club both on court and off.



Volunteers Always Welcome

If you would like to get involved in the local netball club in any way, we are always looking for volunteers to help us out: scoring, cheering, sponsorship, umpiring or assisting our juniors please get in contact with us on 0488 757 573.

Stay tuned for your monthly dose of local netball and meet the local women who help make it all happen!

Vulcan Riders Association

I had a chat with members from the Vulcan Riders Association who called in to Harcourt for a break on the last Sunday in March.

Over many weekends, particularly in good weather, bike and car clubs visit Harcourt on road trips. If you see any of these and are interested enough to take a photo, send it in with a bit of information and we'll publish it in *The Core*.

The Vulcan Riders Association based in Echuca, heads out for a Sunday ride once a month. On Sunday 28 March, they were on their way to Geelong and called in to the Harcourt Produce Store for a natter and a coffee.



This chapter of the Vulcan Riders has been running for 14 months and has 15 active members. The ownership of a Kawasaki Vulcan is the criterion for joining, although members are often enthusiasts for other bikes as well, a couple of which were spotted in the line-up. The Kawasaki Vulcan is a cruiser, usually with a V-twin motor. The first model was released in 1984.



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COVID-19 Vaccinations in Mount Alexander Shire

GP Clinics in the Mount Alexander Shire are preparing for a dramatic increase in appointments as the COVID-19 vaccination program rolls out across the country.

With vaccinations already underway for the 1A priority group, the next phase of vaccinations will focus on the 1B group. This group includes people over 70, healthcare workers, Indigenous adults, adults with specified medical conditions and a range of critical workers, including defence, police, fire and emergency workers and meat processors.

Our local GP clinics are yet to receive any COVID-19 vaccine or have received a very limited amount of vaccine. However, they are already overwhelmed with enquiries from patients trying to book appointments. The community is being urged to be patient, refrain from calling clinics about the vaccine and wait for their clinic to contact them.

Castlemaine Health's Director of Medical Services said, 'Local practices will manage vaccination roll-out for their own patients. They'll be vaccinating their most vulnerable patients first. Your GP clinic is reviewing yours and all other patient information to assess vulnerability factors. They'll contact you to arrange an appointment as soon as you're eligible and vaccine is available.'

Community pharmacists will also take part in the vaccination program. However, vaccine supply is an issue facing all distribution hubs and vaccination clinics across the country.

Peter said, 'In Phase 1b there are around six million people. Not everyone will be vaccinated immediately. While distribution may seem slow it will be equitable and carefully managed to ensure that no-one misses out.'

COVID-19 vaccine is being rolled out in phases which have been determined by the Australian Government. In the Loddon Mallee region, Bendigo Health is the coordinating hub managing distribution. Allocation of the vaccine for the Mount Alexander Shire will depend on supply, with rollout to increase as more vaccine becomes available.

Health authorities are urging all Australians to get vaccinated.

More information

Check out the eligibility calculator to find out which phase you are in: www.covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility. Want to know more about the rollout? Visit www.health.gov.au to find out more.

A Victorian Government COVID-19 vaccine hotline option has been established through its dedicated coronavirus hotline. People with general enquiries about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout should ring 1800 675 398 (option 3).

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New Executive Officer for Maldon & District Community Bank



Chair Ross Egleton and Branch Manager Adam Balzan with Shannon Burdeu the new Executive Officer for Maldon & District Community Bank.

The Maldon & District Community Bank is delighted to formally welcome Shannon Burdeu as our new Executive Officer! The Chair, Ross Egleton says, 'Shannon is the "all-rounder" we have been seeking with diverse skills in community and business who has a very friendly manner and "can do" approach.'

Shannon has over 15 years' experience working in tax, corporate and governance roles. She has also volunteered with various not-for-profit Boards for approximately 10 years, including most recently the Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services where she served as the Treasurer then Secretary.

Shannon was born and bred in Bendigo before moving to Melbourne and then Perth for study and work opportunities. She is married, has five-year-old twins and enjoys travel, sports, playing netball and time with family and friends. Shannon returned to her Central Victorian roots with her young family over three years ago and is looking forward to immersing herself in the local communities.

She said, 'I have local family and friends and have always loved this area, so I can't wait to start working with and supporting local groups.'

'My personal passions have always centred on equity – ensuring all groups, no matter age, ability, race, sex, status, etc have equitable access to funding and opportunities for growth and development. This is a huge reason why I love the Maldon & District Community Bank model and the diversity of projects, groups and clubs we support.'

Shannon will commence her Executive Officer role on Monday 29 and will take on the existing contacts for this position: 0478 35 110 and executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au Her office is located next to the Maldon Information Centre.



News for the Business and Creative Community in Mount Alexander Shire

Below is a selection of items of interest for businesses in the Mount Alexander Shire from the Business and Creative Community from the Economy and Culture E-News for April.

There's so much support and inspiration here:

Sign up at: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Economic_Development and go to the bottom of the page to find the sign-up link.

Grants and Funding: for example

- Small Business Energy Saver Program – no closing date shown
- Funding for Businesses to Integrate their Products and Services into Domestic and Global Value Chains

Training and Development: for example

- Boosting Female Founders Initiative – grants and funding – closing April 22
- Partners in Wellbeing – Small Business Support: www.partnersinwellbeing.org.au/small-business-support
- A range of online training designed to boost your business eg, online marketing, Facebook, digital marketing etc

Resources and funding for Creative Arts

- Australian Performing Arts Exchange 2021

Localised Central Victoria

More than 80% of local businesses want to support other local businesses – but less than half of them actually do. And the number one reason why they don't? It is hard to find a local.

Localised changes that! Discover new business opportunities using Localised Central Victoria.

Join the network for free centralvic.localised.com.au/register/.

COVID Support and Regular Updates

- Reminders about COVID Safe Plans and record keeping – with appropriate links

New Gastronomy Guide Launched – features over 120 local businesses.

As you know, the Bendigo region has been designated as a UNESCO Creative City and Region of Gastronomy in recognition of our First Nation's story, our sustainable relationship to Country, our culturally diverse and innovative food systems and our access to fresh produce and a healthy lifestyle.

To build on the reputation of our region and encourage more awareness and visitation of our producers, farmers, cafes, restaurants, breweries, orchards, wineries etc, Bendigo Regional Tourism has launched the new digital gastronomy guide. Featuring over 120 local businesses, it also provides visitors with suggested themed itineraries, opening hours, and inspiration for visitors that seek to immerse themselves with our story of gastronomy. If you'd like to be included in this guide, please reach out to Sharna:

Sharna Crosbie - Tourism Marketing and Development Officer for more details: s.crosbie@mountalexander.gov.au

From the Shire's Economic and Community Development E-News for April 2021



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Fun Filled Start to 2020

After the many changes that needed to be made to enable primary school education to be delivered in COVID-ridden 2020, this year is proving to be 'back to normal' for HVPS this term – well nearly normal – because COVID-safe practices still need to be observed.

Does the school community 'normally' fit in so many extra curricula activities in one term? Read further about the busy start to the year at HVPS.

March began with the school's contribution to Applefest with the students' art work displayed in the ANA Hall, and the school choir performing at the opening of the Applefest on the 6th March. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend on the day, but I am told that the choir did themselves proud. I have managed to see their art display; some budding artists there!

It was reported that the Grade 1-2 camp at Axedale on 17th and 18th March was a great success. Students enjoyed participating in mini golf, hut building, a night walk and bush art activities.

Later that week, on Friday 19th, Grade 5/6 students and Mrs Rowlands organised the Ride to School Day with a free pancake breakfast for the students when they arrived at school, (Friday is the breakfast at school day, but normally without pancakes!).

The following week on Friday the 26th, HVPS Grades 3 to 6 students competed in the Interschool Athletics Competition at Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve. I was informed that students trained hard for the event and were rewarded. HVPS has fourteen of the twenty students who will represent this area in the next Regional Cross Country in Term 2.

Grades 1 and 2 students had an outing the same day. They walked to the ANA hall to discover more about our local history as part of their Discovery Curriculum whereby they examine artefacts, significant buildings and olden days' games and objects.

Grandparents and special friends are once again allowed to

visit the school for Grandparents and Friends Day. They have been invited to attend the Prep, 1 and 2 Grandparent and Special Friend Day from 2.30 to 3.30 pm on Wednesday 31st March. Attendees have been asked to bring along an object or a toy from their childhood (this also links in with their Discovery Curriculum) to share with the children. I have been invited as a 'special friend' and have chosen the toy I want to share with the students. More about this in next month's Core.

On the same day at 2.25 pm Grades 2/3, 4/5 and 5/6 students will be given the opportunity to attend a concert in the school stadium by a performer in the Castlemaine State Festival, Allara Briggs Pattinson, a Yorta Yorta woman.

Allara is a rising indigenous star in her mid-twenties who, through her music and ancient oral traditions, pays respect to her past and the environment and questions colonial land management practices. Members of the school community have also been invited to attend the concert.

Incidentally, some HVPS parents were part of the very successful Fanny Finch production at the Festival, more about that in next month's edition of the Core!

Finally, we would like to congratulate all the students who have been elected to some 'executive' position at the school, and to the student who earned the Respect Badge of the month. This is a new initiative for the school and is a partnership between Blue Light Disco Victoria and the school. It aims to encourage Respect, Responsibility and Integrity in and between students. Where possible, police officers come to the school to present the student with 'the badge' in the nominated months, at the whole school assemblies.

In conclusion, we wish all students and staff a safe and happy Easter Holiday.

Lois Denham



Harcourt Uniting Church

Recently we celebrated our annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Giving thanks for the 'harvest' was first

celebrated in the 1800's in Cornwall, England. Farmers made loaves of bread from the first wheat of their harvest and brought them to the Church to be blessed. Hymns such as 'We plough the field and scatter' or 'All things bright and beautiful'

would be sung and the Church would be decorated with home grown produce. Some of these hymns are still sung in Churches around the world today.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving is celebrated in autumn when the local Apple harvest is in full swing and our vegetable gardens are producing wonderful fresh food. The table at our service was full of fresh Harcourt 'Chaplin apples', many fresh vegetables from our gardens as well as a great variety of non-perishable foods. The service centred on giving thanks for the bountiful food we have, whilst being reminded to share this with those in need. All food was then donated to St Vincent de Paul in Castlemaine to be shared with others who struggle to provide enough food for their families.

We regularly give to St Vinnies with weekly donations of food and other household needs, so if you would like to add to our donations you can leave them at our Church door on Sunday mornings 9 am – 10 am or contact me, Jan 54742226, to arrange for collection of goods.

In the lead up to Easter, which is a very important part of the Christian Church



calendar, we celebrated Palm Sunday. If you drove past the Church the Sunday before Easter, you would have noticed palm branches on the grass and in the Church. On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey and, like a modern procession, people gathered and waved palm branches to welcome him. In Australia we might have cut some gum tree branches to wave.

We read so much about healthy eating, what's good for you and what's not! Here's a thought:

Once you lick the frosting off a cupcake it becomes a muffin, and they say that muffins are healthy!

Jan Jenkin



VMR Update

Platform preparation

At the end of March, blasting to clear the area for the two 80 metre platforms at VMR was almost complete. It has been a noisy, long and challenging process for the members, who work every weekend at the site. The club has been busy on Facebook most weekends warning people of imminent blasting. The sound has carried across Harcourt; many of the residents are familiar with the gas guns used to scare birds in the orchards. I for one am used to them and the blasting – it means the sound of industry in one form or another - and for me it means an active productive community. Perhaps now the blasting is at a minimum, those living nearby won't miss the explosions at all! Many families will benefit and enjoy the miniature railway when it opens. It will be a very special addition to the town and you have to admire the tenacity of this group of volunteers.

The photo shows the cut into the hill for both platforms. VMR President Andrew Mierisch said, 'The soil for the first platform came out relatively easily. When we started the second platform we were confronted with granite 1.2 metres above ground and we had to clear 1.2 metres below ground to get the footings and services in.'

'There will be four tracks on Platform 1, three tracks on Platform 2 and six storage tracks to the south of the station



building. We hope to pour the concrete for the footings after Easter, and then we can bolt on the stanchions which will support the canopy which protects both platforms. Once the canopy is up, we can begin laying the tracks.'



Camp Out on the Mount 2021 – we're going virtual!

Since 2013, Connecting Country, local Landcare, and other community groups have organised a free 'Camp Out on the Mount' event on Leanganook/Mount Alexander. This year, to reduce the risk of having to cancel or reschedule, they have decided to jump the gun, get

creative and plan for a virtual 'Camp Out on the Mount'.

When: 3 – 18 April 2021

Where: Online at www.connectingcountry.org.au/landcare/camp-out-on-the-mount-2021/

Asha Bannon, Mount Alexander Region Landcare Facilitator, says, "We hope to capture the 'Camp Out on the Mount' spirit by encouraging everyone to engage with our special 'Camp Out 2021' web pages, and inviting you to contribute to our 'Camp Out Collage'."

Each web page focuses on one of the elements that make the Camp Out special: 'Camping out' (of course!), 'Caring for the land', 'Loving Leanganook', and 'Connecting with Indigenous culture'.

For each contribution you make to the 'Camp Out Collage' you will be entered into the draw to win one of several special prizes (maximum four entries per person), including a nest box, tubestock plants, and a native plants book bundle. Please note that you are only eligible to win the prizes if you live in Australia, and some of the prizes (such as the nest box and plants) will



Camp Out on the Mount 2019 (photo by Leonie van Eyk).

only be available for properties in the Mount Alexander region (central Victoria).

Anyone and everyone is welcome to participate, so hop online and join the fun! If you have any questions, please contact asha@connectingcountry.org.au

This event was made possible by the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program, funded by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning.

Enquiries:

Asha Bannon
Mount Alexander Region Landcare Facilitator
Connecting Country
Tel: 5472 1594 or 0418 428 721
Email: asha@connectingcountry.org.au



Council plan and budget

Have your say on the direction of your local council by getting involved in the development of a Community Vision and four year Council Plan. Opportunities to have a say will start in April. Our 2021/2022 draft budget will also go on public display on 21 April. Take a look at the priorities for the year ahead and make a submission on the budget by 19 May. For more information on other projects visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay.



Easter bin update

There will be no kerbside waste or recycling collection on Good Friday – Friday 2 April. Bins will be collected the following day – Saturday 3 April, and as usual on Easter Monday – Monday 5 April.

Pet registrations due

Don't forget that dog and cat registrations are due on Monday 12 April. Make sure your pet is registered so you can be quickly reunited with them if they go missing. Pet owners will soon receive a reminder in the post. To update registration details contact Council on 5471 1700 or raise a service request via our website.

Help fight fruit fly

Queensland Fruit Fly can destroy your backyard fruit and veggie crops so it's important that we work together as a community to fight this pest. Treat infected fruit by microwaving, freezing or placing the fruit in a sealed black plastic bag and leave in the sun for at least seven days. Find out more at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly.

Civic Centre
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd Sts
P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700
e info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au



Are you Passionate about Improving Waste Management?

Seeking Community Ideas

Mount Alexander Shire Council is seeking a small and diverse group of community members interested in waste management in the shire to join a new Community Waste Reference Group (CWRG).

The CWRG will play an important role in providing input and advice on future plans to better manage waste and recycling in our shire.

"There's a lot going on in the waste sector at the moment," said Tanya Goddard, Executive Manager Infrastructure, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"There are new government policies in place with regards to how commingled recyclables, glass and Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) are collected and processed.

"There's also increased community expectations that we will process waste responsibly.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us as a community to think about how we can reduce the waste that we currently send to landfill, and move towards a circular economy by keeping materials in use for as long as possible," said Ms Goddard.

The CWRG will assist Council in facilitating meaningful conversations with the wider community around waste management, focusing on waste reduction and recycling opportunities, the separation of glass and FOGO, and also the development of a Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) at the Castlemaine Landfill Site.

"We are about to start planning for a new RRC at the Castlemaine Waste Facility," said Ms Goddard.

"As part of that, we will be seeking community ideas on how to make the facility something that is useful, valuable and affordable for the shire."

Membership of the new CWRG is intended to represent a

broad cross-section of the community, with varying skills and backgrounds.

The group will comprise up to eight community members and at least one Councillor, in addition to Council officers.

"We'd love to hear from people who are passionate about waste management and the environment, and interested in playing a part in this exciting project," said Ms Goddard.

Membership of the CWRG will be for at least one year with meetings held bi-monthly. Meetings will generally be conducted on Mondays from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm.

Expressions of Interest are open until 5.00 pm on Monday 26 April 2021

From a Shire Press Release





Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



New Owners Set to Take on Organic Orchard this Winter

Welcome to autumn. We're very pleased to announce that there are some new orchardists in town. Our current grower, Ant Wilson, has done an excellent job running our organic orchard for the past three years, but sadly is leaving us in June. We're pleased to announce that a new team consisting of Yoann Le Guen, Alex Kelly, and Terry Eyssens (with Ingrid Phyland as the informal 4th member) will be taking over the lease on July 1. They've already started finding their feet and learning how to grow organic fruit, and Ant's in the process of showing them how the business works. We'll keep you posted with their news (like their business name) as it develops.

Fruit Fly won't 'Just Go Away'

2020 will be remembered as the year Harcourt finally got fruit fly. This season

there have been multiple confirmed sightings in Harcourt and the district. It feels like the right time to remember the wise words from Terry Willis (who heads Landcare's Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group) at this time last year, when we'd only had a single sighting: "Don't panic, but don't relax just yet, and please keep monitoring your traps until the very end of the season".

If you're not an orchardist and you don't rely on fruit growing for your income, you might wonder, "What is all the fuss about? Surely it's just another pest, can't we just spray it and make it go away?"

The truth is most orchardists DO manage fruit fly in their orchards very effectively, using a range of methods. Even organic growers like us have quite a few tools at our disposal like biodiversity, orchard hygiene, monitoring, traps, organic spray, and cold storage.

What makes Fruit Fly Difficult to Eradicate?

The greatest risk with Fruit Fly is unmanaged and feral fruit trees. If fruit flies are allowed to get established in fruit trees in backyards, on roadsides, and in the bush (or the mountain bike park, in Harcourt's case) - that's when the pressure can really start to build up for orchardists. We can manage our own trees, but we can't manage the ones that are not on our farms.

If you've got a fruit tree you can't look after, please have a think about getting rid of it this winter and replacing it with a beautiful ornamental!

Put away Fruit Nets

So, now for this month's tips:

Now is the time to put away your nets if you used them on your fruit trees over summer. Nets get damaged and wear out

much faster if they're left out in the weather all year. Early autumn is the perfect time for this job because they slip off more easily while the tree still has leaves, so don't wait too long to get the job done. Of course if your apple or pear tree still has fruit, leave the nets in place for now, because the birds will take advantage of the free feed if you take them off early.

If you've used drape netting (as opposed to having put up some sort of frame to hold the net off the tree) a handy tip is to use a long stick to push the nets off the tree, being careful not to damage the ends of the limbs if possible. Disentangle any twigs, branches, leaves, or rotten fruit before you pack them away. If you can pack and store them so they're rat-proof, you'll thank yourself next summer when you go to put them out again. If the net has any holes (from persistent kangaroos, for example), your future self will thank you very much if you repair the nets now, before you put them away. This is usually a simple matter of sewing the holes up with UV-stable nylon thread, or tying the edges together with cable ties or even hay band (baling twine).

On another note, if you're noticing some of your fruit trees flowering (despite the fact that it's not spring and we'll soon be descending into winter) don't panic. It's not uncommon for fruit trees to have a last ditch attempt to produce some fruit. It might be an indication of a sick or stressed tree, but it is also common in perfectly healthy trees - it's just the genetic drive to reproduce. The flowers or tiny fruit that form will most likely just drop off as the weather cools down.

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their free online workshops.

Grow Great Fruit

More than 50 Ways to Take the "Bad Luck" Out of Your Organic Fruit Growing



growgreatfruit.com

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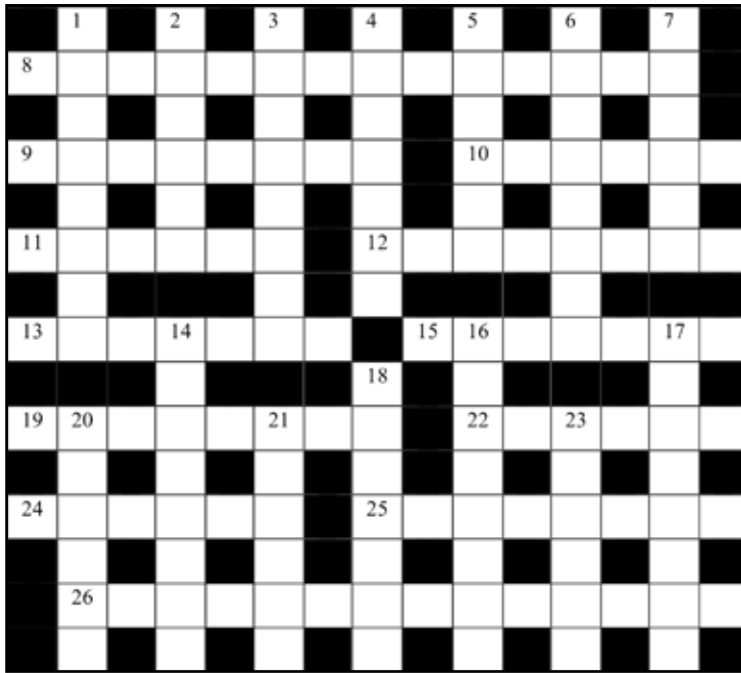


Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply <i>megalitres</i>	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
		<i>megalitres</i>	% full	<i>megalitres</i>	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	34,726	91.9%	31,988	84.7%
Lauriston	19,790	16,300	82.4%	14,260	72.1%
Malmsbury	12,034	3,199	26.6%	1,197	9.9%
Total to April 5	69,594	54,225	77.9%	47,446	68.2%
Total to March 10	69,594	55,975	80.4%	49,109	70.6%

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

April 2021 Xword ©McW Feb '18



Across:

8. Ho Ho! Not letting on how old the Narwhal is! (4,2,3,5)
9. Thus far, a remedy for lack of sweetness is available, and can partly back up the other ingredients. (8)
10. Perhaps Sir Simon is appropriate at both ends of life? (6)
11. Snafu gives the Mafia scope to do a raid in the midst of it! (6)
12. Some might say it's sad I stick red-hot needles into prisoners, but I wouldn't characterise it thus... (8)
13. Not worth a cracker to power company if you reduce your electricity bill. (7 or 3,4)

Down:

1. Will the side come on board willy-nilly for these plays? (8)
2. What he does when made an offer he can't refuse? (6)
3. Trendy, celebrated for all the wrong reasons... (8)
4. Pressure to suit has been applied in Hiroshima. (7)
5. Fixed film's lead, a nit-picking redactor, with a steely gaze. (6)
6. Old lag tries bouts. (8)
7. Hot cool sound. (6)
14. Confused bit of Canada certainly not to starboard. (8)
15. Buckled, not scalped. (7)
16. Stretch the road to "The Glenn". (8)
17. In 1970 I attach end of joint to creep up on your territory. (8)
18. Garments in which to quench our thirsts. (1-6)
19. Don't wanna be a bus-driver? Fly here with Coconut Airways! (8)
20. Book a flower, but not for all time. (6)
21. I don't have to be in a raiding party twice to be derring-doing to and fro! (6)
22. Young nun got none, so is free of sin. (6)
23. ...I say unto thee: "True dinks!" (6)
24. What Harvey got away with had an air of fun about it for him, but it was unjust. (6)
25. Minister gets right into his portfolio. (8)
26. Comet-man could a) rock, then b) keep it up 24/7. (6,3,5)

March 2021 Xword solution ©McW Feb '18



Across:

8. Emma [Chisit] and her Strine cousin [Emma Charthey] ask the obvious question about turning [witches to toads]... [Well?]
9. [Glory] be! Beer [ale] as well in layered tale. (8)
10. You may convince yours [elf of settle]d opinions on art, Bogans, chardonnay, etc., but, after yours, oddly limp-wristed and a bit tired... (6)

11. Davy's outer wear [coat] [is]... a bit like his hat, courtesy of 18. [Well? Coonskin...]
12. Transport supremo's boast [I am...] has short and long feet. (8)
13. Blacktop snake holdup? [Well?]
15. Cope again by scattering the [parade] before coming to the road junction [T]-. (7, or 2-5)
19. [Rum label] off covering device. (8)

Down:

1. Winton splashed around in these early in his career. [His first "adult" novel...]
2. Limit of expectations having achieved the ideal? ["At best, we'll come in third..."]
3. Size of Rhodes Scholar's achievement? (8)
4. From whence came lupus onto sheep enclosure? [...came down like a wolf on the fold.]
5. Get river from app. (6)
6. Old lag [con...] discovered something to perplex and confuse... (8)
7. Vary pronunciation of query identifying Nelson on phone? [Well? Iss stat yoo, Horatio?]
14. Gets [her label off] a plant. (8)
16. Lieutenant [Lt] messing in the [avenue] by and by... (8)
17. [Teen vamp] a sidewalk show. (8)
18. (See 11)
20. Threaten blokes 15/love first serve. (6)
21. Paddle-boat [Robert E Lee...] direction provides safety margin. (6)
23. One of JRR's nasties secreted in flower. [Well?]

22. Remove the roller [Well? R-R] from Beatles album to grow more complex with time. (6)
24. Why [nebula] won't do—it can't. (6)
25. Give a hirsute feline a means of taming it underground. [Give-a-cat-a-comb?]
26. [Local abortions] tax [local brains, too] so colonial brat is involved with other players in them. (14)



Harcourt CFA End of Fire Restrictions

The details of the end of fire restrictions for the 2020/21 season are as follows: For Mount Alexander Shire and Central Goldfields Shire, restrictions ended at 1.00am on Monday the 29th of March, while for City of Greater Bendigo they will be lifted on Monday 12th of April. Note that this is two weeks later and affects residents that reside at the northern end of the Harcourt Valley. To the south, Macedon Ranges finished on Monday 22nd of March.

If you are planning to undertake a burn, it is important that you are fully aware of your responsibilities. You must remain vigilant and alert when conducting your burn and always have on hand resources to extinguish the fire. It is also important to register your burn to avoid an unnecessary call-out of the brigade.

There are three ways in which to register your burn:

- Online: www.firepermits.vic.gov.au
- Phone: Burn Off notification Line on 1800 668 511
- Email: burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au

The arrival of good rain in March has lessened the risk but any fire has the potential to get out of control. Keeping burn off piles to a manageable size is a good strategy to also reduce the risk.

Callouts go From Zero to Seven

After last month where I reported zero turnouts for February, the Brigade responded to seven calls for the month of March. The first of these on the 6th was a false alarm. There were two support calls to Castlemaine for a gas leak and a fire alarm. There were three turnouts to MVAs (Motor Vehicle Accidents). These all involved vehicles running into the wire rope barriers on the Calder Highway. There was also a turnout to a burn off during the fire danger period.

The support calls to Castlemaine were a result of the initial brigades which were paged, not responding within the standard response time of six minutes. When this occurs, further brigades are paged to ensure there is a response. Generally the initial brigades will respond within a further few minutes and once arriving on the scene will determine that the extra brigades are not required. This is what occurred on these calls. If you have seen the tankers turning out with lights and sirens but then returning shortly after, then this is what has occurred.

Changing Focus to winter – time to clean fire places and flues

The risk of fires in the home increases as we move through autumn into winter. Now is the time to prepare the home for the colder months. Carrying out cleaning and maintenance of home wood heaters and checking of electrical appliances and electrical cords are some of the jobs that can assist in reducing the risk. Older chimneys and flues should also be inspected and cleaned.

The end of daylight saving is also the time to check smoke alarm batteries as well as clean and check their operation. Remember: Only 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives'.

Take care, stay safe

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Bobcat - Tipper - Mini Excavator
Sand, Soil, Gravel, Post Holes
House & Shed Sites, Rubbish Removed
Driveways, Ditch Witch

Brian Nunn
0409 834 449

29 Bingham's Road, Harcourt, Vic 3453
ABN 98 370 744 852



**Harcourt Valley
LANDCARE**

Working Bee
Sunday 25 April
10 am to 12 pm

Barkers Creek – off Harmony Way
All welcome

Wear appropriate clothes and shoes, bring tools
and something to share for morning tea.

Tea and coffee supplied.
Enquiries: Robyn Miller
0467 670 271





Weather and Water

The rainfall for March was a whopping 90 mm which exceeds any year in my records (but my records only go back to 2009). That being said we have had a good start to the year with rainfall totalling 184 mm which is only exceeded by the exceptional reading of 396 mm in 2011.

On 30 March, the Bureau of Meteorology stated that La Nina is officially over and the needle on their chart points to inactive – that is we are neither in a La Nina situation or an El Nino. La Nina was declared in September 2020 and by that time we were all pretty sure it was an exceptional year for rain in this area. Unfortunately for those in other states it has meant flooding which has often occurred in the areas most affected by the bushfires of the summer of 2019 – 20.

For the last few weeks we have enjoyed some remarkable autumn weather with sunny warm days, cool nights and very little wind. We have had better weather recently in Central Victoria than many other parts of Australia. The Bureau's outlook is for higher than average rainfall for April to June, with minimum and maximum temperatures expected to be higher than average.



I'm sure many home gardeners have had bumper crops this year. Our cumquats are waiting to be made into marmalade.



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Community Diary Dates

Thursday 15th April: CWA celebrates its 90th Anniversary

Monday 19th April: 7 pm ANA Hall, AGM Harcourt Progress Association.

Wednesday 21st April: 7.30 pm Carpet Bowls AGM, Kitchen Meeting Room, Harcourt Leisure Centre

Sunday 25 April: 3 pm ANZAC observance at Stanley Park War Memorial

Sunday 25 April: 10 am – 12pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee, Barkers Creek. See page 21 for location

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

Harcourt Football and Netball Club: Juniors Pre-Season Training Monday nights. See page 17 for details.

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 10.

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

Pony Club: Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30 am–12 noon. Next to swimming pool.

Walking Group: Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am. Meet at the ANA Hall.

Uniting Church: Sundays at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

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

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.

Harcourt's Little Library
is at the Heritage Centre
Leave, borrow or take a book.
Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm

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

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

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

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

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HPA AGM 2019–2020

Monday April 19th 7:00 pm ANA Hall

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic we were forced to postpone the 2019-2020 AGM.

Now that the situation has stabilised, we would like to invite all current and aspiring HPA members to attend.

- The business of the evening is to conduct the election for committee members.
- In addition, we will provide information about our initiatives, and we hope to encourage new volunteers.

The Association Rules of HPA show that the purposes of the Harcourt Progress Association are to:

- Provide a voice for the residents of Harcourt.
- Identify, support and facilitate initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Encourage, support and facilitate community engagement within Harcourt.
- Promote and protect the character and identity of Harcourt
- Do all things conducive to achieving these purposes.

**The Rules in full are available at the HPA Website at:
www.harcourtprogress.org.au/organisation/rules-policies**



National Volunteer Week running from Monday 17 May through to Sunday 23 May 2021 is the annual celebration of the work of Australia's 6 million volunteers. Initiated in the 80's by the then Australian Council of Volunteering it has traditionally been a time to thank volunteers and enthuse a new generation of people to the rewarding world of volunteering.

Last year changed the way we conduct our workplaces, maybe forever, with many of us working from home. Volunteer groups had similar challenges, which many rose to, keeping in touch with each other, continuing their support of causes and projects dear to their hearts.

This theme for National Volunteer Week this year acknowledges the need to recognise volunteers, but also how we should learn from the experiences of the past 14 months and prepare for a future where flexibility is paramount, and much volunteer work can be undertaken from home.

Volunteering brings its own rewards, not only do people have the satisfaction of a job well done, but also

the knowledge that some change in the community has occurred through their hard work. It also brings camaraderie and an opportunity to use your skills or learn new ones. The test for all volunteer groups will be to maintain these tangible benefits whilst coping with the uncertainty of the next couple of years and the changes in people's expectations.

Volunteering Australia has developed a volunteering 'resource hub' which contains useful resources in reimagining a volunteering future which can be found here : www.volunteeringaustralia.org/resources/new-volunteering-resource-hub/#/ and also resources for NVW here: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/nvw-resources-2/

Congratulations and thanks to the many volunteers in Harcourt who survived the COVID year and made our community a much nicer place within which to live. #NVW2021 National Volunteer Week