

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

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Ken McDougall – A Volunteer for over 50 years



KEN MCDUGALL sets the bar high for all other volunteers or those considering becoming a volunteer.

Ken's main focus of volunteering has been with St John's Ambulance and in 2020 he was one of five people in Victoria to receive the 'ultra-long service medal' for 50 years of service.

Ken joined the Castlemaine Division of St John as a Foundation Member in 1967. Since that time he has taken on many roles

and acting roles within this vital organisation, including Divisional Officer of the Cadet Division, and Divisional Superintendent.

Over time with St John's, his awards have included the Bronze Medallion, and he has been appointed a Serving Brother in the Order of St John, and in 2005 Ken was appointed an Officer of the Order. In September this year Ken will have been with St John's for 54 years.

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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

New HPA President David Foley writes:

To the HPA Membership and the wider Harcourt Community

What a privilege it is to find myself in a position to accept the role of HPA President. Thank you to everyone who supported me on the journey here.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by our two most recent Presidents, Sha Cordingley and Michael Henry. 2020 was a challenging year for everyone and the HPA was no exception. Thank you to Michael for your stewardship of the association through a turbulent time.

The 2020 AGM (19 April 2021) was a great success for the association. There was a healthy attendance, a very interesting debate about the community's future direction, and we ended the

night with an overflowing committee. I am delighted to see such a wealth of diversity, skill and experience on this new committee. This will be invaluable to our efforts over the next 6 months. Given the urgency of the issues facing the community, there has been no delay in the committee beginning its work. All roles and offices were filled in five days and there have been three full meetings in three weeks.

This is a critical moment in time for Harcourt. There are a number of issues arising now and in the coming months: Re-design of the roundabout; Development of the Railway Station; Adoption of Plan Harcourt; Review and implementation of Shine Harcourt. All this is to occur in the context of a growing local population, ongoing construction development and a post (hopefully) pandemic economy. How

the community engages with these issues and this context will likely determine the direction of Harcourt for the next decade at least.

As President at this time, my primary objective is to lead the association and its new committee in delivering concrete progress on the above issues. I believe that the association at its best can deliver superb representation and advocacy for the community as is its purpose and intention. I hope that all members of the association and the community can cooperate in a respectful and inclusive way to deliver the best possible result and realise Harcourt's fantastic potential as a vibrant, sustainable and resilient community.

*Thank you
Regards
David Foley*

New HPA Committee Formed

The Harcourt Progress Association has a new President, Executive and Committee following the 2019/2020 AGM held on April 19 at the ANA Hall.

The incoming President David Foley paid tribute to outgoing HPA Executive and Committee, including Acting President Michael Henry who took up the reins from Sha Cordingley in 2020.

Several positions within the committee became vacant for various reasons during the COVID-19 lockdown periods.

Remaining committee members took on additional responsibilities and focused on building a strong foundation for the organisation with a view to inviting more members to join at the AGM.

'There's a renewed sense of optimism about representing local community issues and aspirations as the area emerges into the post COVID-19 'normal'. So many new faces attended the AGM, I was surprised and delighted at how many put their hands up to help rebuild and refocus the HPA', David Foley commented.

The new HPA Committee is the largest ever with 11 members, from which the new executive was formed at a subsequent committee meeting on April 23.

'In the coming weeks and months, the new Committee will review the outstanding issues and re-engage with the community to understand their view of the issues and whether any new issues have emerged post-pandemic.' David commented.

He went on to say that many of the new Committee were relatively recent arrivals to Harcourt and were already bringing new energy and perspective to the key issues and projects worked on by previous HPA Committees and Working Groups that were impacted and interrupted by the COVID crisis.

'Unfortunately, our local Councillor Tony Cordy was unable to attend the AGM, so we will find time very soon to meet with him and introduce our new team.

'With Tony serving as Mayor of the Council this year we are eager to understand his view on how to progress the Shine Leanganook process which identifies the real aspirations for the future of our community as expressed by our community through the consultation process.

'Understanding how and when the Council brings Shine to bear on their own plan for Harcourt is important to make sure our voice is, not only heard, but acted on.

'The next 18 months are a critical time for Harcourt, and it is vitally important that we ensure development progresses in the fashion articulated by the community through the Shine process. Mayor Cordy has an important role in this process.'

The HPA committee is planning to hold a public meeting for Harcourt residents and business owners as soon as possible. The Committee is in place for six months until the 2020/21 AGM, which will be held later this year.

For further information on this story please contact adam.baxter@harcourtprogress.org.au or call 0419 207 482



Federal Member for Bendigo
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Introducing the New HPA Committee

Following the recent (delayed) 2019/2020 AGM, a new Committee to move the organisation forward has been confirmed. The following is a snapshot of your new representatives. Next month we will feature other members of the committee.



David Foley – HPA President



David and his partner Lana, along with their pet Labrador, have been resident in Harcourt since January 2020. Together they are establishing their 25-acre farm along permaculture principles which they see as a 3-5 year project.

David also continues to operate a small business in the Information Technology Sector. These skills are being put to good use in developing and modernising HPA's systems to for better

administration, information and communication practice.

The HPA was brought to David's attention during discussions with Michael Henry who urged the new arrival to get involved.

David commented, "Now is a critical time for Harcourt with population growth, the railway, the roundabout and Plan/Shine Harcourt being top of the agenda. We need to ensure that as Council and other parts of Government turn their attention to our area that Harcourt gets a positive outcome and we continue to develop a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable community here."

David hopes to see the HPA grow bigger, more vibrant and more engaged with a momentum that sees many of aspirations of the *Shine* agenda realized for the benefit of the Harcourt community.

Adam Baxter – HPA Deputy President



Adam, husband Michael and their two West Highland terriers bought their home in Harcourt in late 2019 literally 4 days after their first visit to Castlemaine and having never heard of the town before. In fact they weren't actually looking to buy, or move from the city at the time, but fell in love with the area.

Arriving as COVID 19 restrictions started, they are grateful for the support and

welcome of local neighbours and local Harcourt tradies who gave them the lay of the land and to Annette at the *Produce and General Store* and Donna at the *Goldfields Track Café* for helping them get over their addiction to Uber Eats.

Adam previously worked internationally and across Australia in advertising and public affairs for a range of corporate and government clients before moving into the social sector advocating on behalf of refugees and migrants (and more recently dementia sufferers), negotiating for better services and equity and access from the federal and state government.

He hopes to bring his experience in communications and advocacy to the benefit of his new community through the HPA. "We hope to grow older here and I want to help ensure we have a range of sustainable economic, commercial, education, transport, tourism, farming, health, social service and amenity available for older members of the community, for local business and industry; as well as for the huge number of new families settling here." Adam said.

Liesl Malan – HPA Deputy President

Liesl, her husband Paul and their two Border Collies are 15-year residents of Harcourt.

The former landscape architect uses their 11-acre property, a former orchard, as the base for her new venture, *Goodness Flour*. The business produces small batch, freshly milled flour and working with other local producers, Liesl has developed a range of pre-mix cakes and biscuits currently available via local regional markets.

She is able to draw on her husband's expertise as an agricultural R&D specialist to constantly refine and develop her collaborations with local producers.

Liesl became interested in the HPA when she recognized the danger that the town might develop into a dormitory suburb and concerned that the facilities and infrastructure needed to sustain the growing population might not be realised.

She was, however, equally excited by the potential for growing the area's capacity to shine as a hub for small-scale makers, producers and regenerative farmers that could blend in with the existing farmers and orchardists that call Harcourt their home.

Liesl hopes her time on the HPA helps Harcourt retain its unique character and charm while growing to meet the community's needs, by being the conduit for ideas and conversations about the future that the Harcourt community wants for itself.



Castlemaine Health Ready for First Babies under New Maternity Model

Maternity Services at Castlemaine Health will be fully operational from Monday 3 May 2021.

The two-stage re-opening of the service began on 22 March 2021 with referrals for pregnancy care. Birthing services will re-open on schedule on 3 May 2021 for births from 37 weeks gestation up to 42 weeks gestation, in line with the capability of a Level 2 maternity service.

'This is an exciting day for the community,' says Castlemaine Health CEO, Sue Race. 'The response to the opening of pregnancy care has been wonderful and our team of Midwifery Group Practice midwives has been caring for a diverse group of women and their families.'

'We are thrilled that in partnership with Bendigo Health and our local general practitioner obstetricians we are able to offer what is regarded as the 'gold standard' of midwifery-led care: the continuity of care model, where women see the same midwife throughout their pregnancy, labour and birth and early parenting.'

Victoria's Acting Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Adjunct Professor Tanya Farrell, officially opened the Maternity Services at a small event on the day attended by key stakeholders from the community and the service review team.

From a Press Release

Grace Church Harcourt

How did Grace Church, Castlemaine end up in Harcourt? Our church met in the Senior Citizens Hall in Castlemaine for more than 25 years, but COVID put a stop to that. At one stage we were not able to meet at all, resorting instead to phone calls, texts, emails, and dropping off sermons at the door! At a later stage it became legal for us to conduct church services in our home, which we did for a time. Finally, we had the opportunity to meet outdoors, which we did for November and December, meeting in the rotunda at the Botanical Gardens.

We were bracing ourselves for a return to the Senior Citizens Hall when God providentially provided us with the opportunity of using the former Pre-school building in Buckley Street, thanks to a gracious offer that came our way from the folk at the Uniting Church. We are delighted to be there and appreciate our 'landlords' very much!

Our congregation is drawn from as far away as Maryborough in the west and Bendigo to the north. Of course, we also have folk from Harcourt and Castlemaine, as you would expect. We are open to newcomers from Ravenswood to the north, Faraday to the south, Barkers Creek to the west and Sutton Grange to the east!

The Uniting church holds their service at 9.00 am, whilst ours is at 11.00 am. This ensures that there is always parking available. We do share some facilities, and we also share the premises with the Harcourt Play Group, which meets Fridays between 9.30 and 11.30 am.

We would welcome everyone to come along one Sunday to experience contemporary Christian worship in the Pentecostal tradition.

May God bless the Harcourt valley and all her residents. And may that blessing extend to the regions beyond our valley.

Ps Roger & Glenise Thurecht

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Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

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

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

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Ken McDougall – A Volunteer for over 50 years

Continued from page 1

But wait, as they say, there's more! Ken has also had many other volunteer 'hats' over the years. Ken is a great fan of keeping fit and cycled competitively for ten years while taking on a number of roles with the cycling clubs in Castlemaine and Chewton until 1964. He then joined Harcourt Football Club as their First Aid Trainer, became their Head Trainer and again took on a number of other roles. Ken is a life member of both the Castlemaine Cycling Club and the Harcourt Football Club.

Ken has also been Australia Day Citizen of the Year for Harcourt and Senior Citizen of the Year for Castlemaine. He and his wife Edna have also taken on the role of Applefest Royalty.

Ken and Edna have been married for 61 years. As a young woman Edna lived in northern Victoria and when her family moved to Castlemaine she began work as a weaver at the woollen mill. She was spotted by Ken who also worked there. Edna said, 'I went with my friend to the weekly dance at the Castlemaine Town Hall and Ken followed me around all night! I had to tell him not to walk me home as my parents wouldn't like it.'

Edna has supported and assisted Ken all the way in his volunteering. She used to make many of the uniforms for the volunteers in the local branch of St John's as she was a self-trained seamstress. She has been there with him for many of the



The White Cross is known as the Amalfi Cross and was presented to Ken in 2005 when he was appointed an Officer of the Order of St John. The round medal with the head of Queen Victoria is the 50 year Service medal.

presentation ceremonies. While Ken was showing me his medals and photos I commented on a photo of ex-Governor of Victoria, John Landy shaking Ken's hand. Edna said, 'We have met many of the Governors of Victoria as a result of Ken's volunteering and Princess Margaret presented his Serving Brother Award in 1985.'

At over 80 years of age Ken still maintains the Division's Vehicle and carries out the duties of Divisional Manager, Divisional Operations Officer and Publicity Officer for the Mount Alexander Division of St John's. Well done Ken, you have set a wonderful example of volunteering for your local and wider community.

The history of the St John's ambulance is a fascinating one and can be traced to the Christian Crusades in the holy land as far back as 1070 when a hospice was established to care for pilgrims. The 50 year medal and some other medals have the head of Queen Victoria because in 1888 she made the Order a Royal Order of Chivalry with the monarch as its Sovereign Head. The Amalfi cross (white cross) has lions and unicorns which are the supporters of the Royal Coat Of Arms granted by the British Crown, and indicate that St John is a Royal Order. For a good coverage of the Order's history see: www.stjohn.org.nz.

ANZAC Day 2021

Good numbers attended this year's ANZAC Day service. George Milford presided over the ceremonies; within his opening remarks he said, 'One hundred and six years have passed since 25th April 1915. On this ANZAC Day we salute the service of those who strove to preserve our values and we remember the fallen in the world wars and in the many conflicts since. We also salute those who enlist to serve in the Australian Defence Forces, Army, Navy and Air Force.'

Representatives of the CWA, the school and the RSL laid wreaths, and others were given the opportunity to place a poppy on the cenotaph. This year in a sign of unity with New Zealand, the New Zealand National Anthem was sung as well as the Australian National Anthem.

Members of the Leversha family attended to remember their relative Ron Leversha, a serving member of the Forces who died in February this year, and who is interred at the Harcourt Cemetery.



Those in attendance who were wearing medals were asked to come forward and stand in front of the cenotaph.

L to R: George Milford, William Leversha, Kirshy McAinch, Jack Hungerford, Ken James, Andrew Leversha, Aaron Coutts, Troy Culgan, Julie Pellas and John Whiddon, President of the Castlemaine RSL.



Harcourt CWA

Ninety Years Old and Still Going Strong

Harcourt and Sutton Grange CWA Branches each achieved ninety years of friendship and community service in 2020 but, due to COVID, the celebrations were a year late and the number of guests was limited - but nothing would stop us from enjoying a wonderful afternoon of togetherness.



A souvenir to mark the occasion. Thanks to Harcourt Heritage and the Harcourt Progress Association for their invaluable help.

A special guest at the party was Clare Salathiel, an early member of Sutton Grange CWA, who at the age of 104 this May, enjoyed the celebrations and picked out the winning raffle tickets. Here shown with daughter Judy and Sutton Grange President Mavis Collison. Clare is still living in the family home that she moved into in 1943.

And no birthday celebration is complete without a birthday cake. Our



Guest of Honour Clare Salathiel.

thanks go to Marlene Thompson for this magnificent creation.

One of the themes of the party was recycling and our models show off their recycled creations.

And, of course, party hats make the celebrations official.



Marlene does it again.



Friends share a laugh. Invited guest Josie Milford with Pauline Wilkinson and Marlene Thompson.

Would you like to be a part of the next 90 years of the Harcourt Branch of the CWA? Our meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham Road and visitors and prospective members are always most welcome.

*Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer*



Melva Graham, Joy Robertson, Alison Curtis, Pauline Wilkinson and Robyn McConville showed imagination.



Guests enjoying the proceedings.



HARCOURT BOWLING CLUB INC. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Harcourt Bowling Club Inc. Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on

**Sunday 23rd May at 11.00am
1 Warren Street Harcourt**

The Agenda will include presentation of the Board Report and the appointment of 5 Board members for 2021/22-22/23 Seasons

The meeting will be followed by a BBQ and social bowls (weather permitting)

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Shape the future of your community

What's your vision for the Mount Alexander Shire community? We're asking residents to share what they love about their community and their vision for its future, as part of a new six-month project called Your Community, Your Vision.

The project is a collaboration between Council and the community, and encourages people to think about the big and small things they love about Mount Alexander Shire, and the things they'd like to see change.

Visit shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/vision to share your feedback, or call 5471 1700 and ask for a hardcopy survey to be mailed to you.

Feedback provided as part of this project will inform the development of a number of long-term Council strategies and priorities, including the Council Plan 2021–2025 and annual budget.

The first round of consultation closes on 15 May 2021.

Have your say on proposed budget

Each year we prepare a budget and give you the opportunity to review the draft and make a submission.

Copies of the document and a budget summary are available for review during office hours at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine, or via Council's website at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget. Copies are also available at the Castlemaine Library.

Submissions must be in writing and lodged by 5.00pm on Wednesday 19 May. Submissions will be heard at a Special Meeting of Council at 5.30pm on Tuesday 25 May.

Please address submissions titled 2021/2022 Budget to the Chief Executive Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine, VIC 3450 or email to info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

For more information on the proposed budget, visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget.

Civic Centre
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P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

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w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au



Book Review: By Motor to the Firing Line 1916 by Walter Hale

Walter Hale (1869–1917) was an American actor, artist and writer. The author states that this is not a work of military history, but a snapshot of the people, places, buildings and landscapes of Northern France and the effect of war on them.

'It has been written that I might pay a little tribute to the memory of the men I knew on the Notre Dame de Lorette hillside - whose letters no longer come to me.'

The book details his travels in a chauffeur-driven Renault along the front lines of the Western front. In a very matter of fact writing style, the writer describes the devastation of villages, hotels, roads, churches, monuments and cafes that he has visited on past motoring trips through France. It is these detailed descriptions that bring home the destruction caused in France. The writer links this to wondering of the whereabouts of people he has travelled with, eaten with, drank coffee with and talked with. There are many gentle reminders of the changes that affected the landscape and the people.

Attempting to chase down side curtains left on a previous trip, the writer visits his mechanic, to find him leaving for Arras.

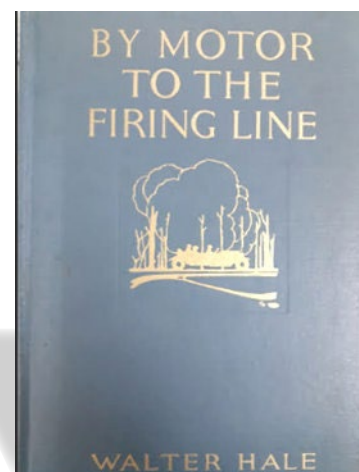
'I have been ordered out again, our regiment starts for the Arras sector tonight. He looked behind him with a brave show of confidence. His five girls stood in the doorway, each one a year taller than the other, like a ladder. In the shadow of the doorway stood his wife. She had been crying but her face was now calm and white.'

The writer goes on to say, 'To be ordered to the Arras sector means being sent into thickest of the fighting, into the zone of greatest danger in the western area.'

There are many tales of the people he meets, both military and civilian; they are always respectful, and touching. The descriptions of the trenches and no man's land are calm, bleak and horrific.

This book is a great read for those interested in motoring, the Great War and first-hand accounts of history.

Mick Turner
Sedgwick



Recent reprints of the book are available in paperback.

Book Details:

By Motor to the Firing Line An Artist's Notes and Sketches, With The Armies of Northern France: June-July, 1915
By Walter Hale

With drawings and photographs by the author.

New York The Century Co. 1916.

Art and Creativity: Lois Denham

A couple of weeks ago I met up with Robyn Miller, editor of *The Core*, at a yoga class in Castlemaine. At the end of the class I handed out some bookmarks advertising an Art exhibition I am part of with my son Matt and a Castlemaine-based artist, Malini Maunsell.

Ever on the look out for local news, Robyn suggested that I write an article about the exhibition and my art practice for *The Core*. So, here I am obliging her and hoping other people will write something about themselves which maybe of interest to *Core* readers (I think there are more than a few other Harcourt folk who are doing interesting things!)

About five years ago, my husband Geoff and I retired to an 8-acre bush block in Harcourt. My retirement has given me an opportunity to follow my three passions, gardening, art and environment protection. I grew up in country South Australia where taking art in High School was discouraged by the school (and my parents). The standard utterance was, 'If you have the ability you should pursue "the more academic" subjects.'

After completing my Matriculation, being awarded a Commonwealth scholarship and enjoying a 'gap' year, I undertook a degree in Occupational Therapy (OT) at Curtin University in Perth. I enjoyed working as an OT in various locations throughout Australia and overseas. Work and having three children did not allow much time to pursue my interests apart from doing a bit of gardening.



The title of this work is 'Black and White: different perspectives'. Lois said, 'I made the little white plaster figure and the background behind it... otherwise it is found objects. I spray painted the "house". It is about 10cms high.



Lois said, 'This is a water colour postcard called "After the fire". It is part of a postcard exchange with some American artists.'

Once the children had grown up and left home, I had some time to develop my creative pursuits. I undertook a couple of TAFE courses, including the Art Pathways course in Castlemaine in 2018, and a number of other workshops.

Before retiring, and moving to Harcourt in 2016, I lived in Heidelberg and became involved with a local group called 'Thou Art Mum'. This group of mothers and grandmother artists met regularly to encourage the continuing development of each other's practice and to organise and hold exhibitions several times a year. I exhibited with them for about five years. However, once I moved to Harcourt, the logistics of continuing my affiliation with this group became too difficult. Fortunately, about this time I was asked by a friend to join another group of artists called the Pleiades Art Group.

The idea of this group began in Lawrence, Kansas in the USA. A friend and a fellow artist in Canberra had connections with one of the founders of the group and I became one of the three Australians artists, invited to join the group.

The Pleiades is a star cluster in the Taurus constellation and, as the earth rotates, it can be seen at different times of the year both in the northern and southern hemispheres. It is also known as the Seven Sisters cluster and has been an important star cluster for many cultures across the globe, including the Australian Aborigines.

Many cultures have stories associated with this cluster. For us, it has been a source of connectedness and inspiration for many of our art projects. Currently, we are working towards establishing an online gallery of our work. We were to have had a joint exhibition in Canberra this year, but COVID put an end to that.

In 2018 we did have a very successful joint exhibition in Lawrence Kansas. We were all together for the first time. It was great to meet face to face with the American artists. Prior to that, all our communications had been via email, Facebook or Zoom, which is how we are presently communicating.

I had planned to have an exhibition with one of my sons at Lot 19 last year but of course that did not happen, and it is hard to believe that it is actually going ahead this year!

I am a pottering sort of artist who works across different media, but I particularly love doing some sort of sculptural work, often with found objects.

Living here stimulates my creativity. I get an idea or an inspiration and I just have to paint or sculpt it in some way or other, sometimes more successfully than others.

The exhibition opened in May and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in May from 11 am to 4 pm.

Thank you Lois, and we would love to hear about other interests and pursuits followed by Harcourt locals. Don't be shy! We'd love to hear from you – Robyn Miller



Harcourt Heritage Centre

James Chellew, first settler on the uplands.

Writing in the *Herald Sun* on March 4th, chief football writer Mark Robinson described Richmond's Dustin Martin as 'One of the best big-game Australian Rules Football players of all time. Which means he is one of the best of all time - period.'

In 2017, Martin became the first player in the game's history to win a Brownlow Medal, the Norm Smith Medal and a Premiership Medal in one season.

You do not have to scratch very deep to establish a link between Dustin Martin and Harcourt. Among Dustin's most loyal supporters each week will be found members of the Knight and Chellew families. 'Dusty' is the grandson of Lois Knight (born Lois Chellew) of Harcourt.

It is not often that you find two 'firsts' in the one family. In the annals of settlement of the Harcourt valley a special place is reserved for Dustin's ancestors James and Ann Chellew, who established the first farm on the then remote uplands at the north-east corner of the Harcourt valley.

The files of the Harcourt Heritage Centre inform us that the Chellews settled at Harcourt North in the early 1890s. James was born in 1858 at Pennyweight Flat on Forest Creek, the second-born in a family of eight children. By the time James was three years old, the family had moved to the Daylesford area. Then, as a young man James became a farmer at Musk Vale.

In August 1892 he married Ann Maria McKindley of Barkers Creek, and at about this time, he purchased 64 acres of land between North Harcourt Road and what is now known as Chellews Road from Joseph Young. This was a time of economic depression, but it was also the time when the first allotments of land at Harcourt North were carved out of the immense acreages of the early settlers.

As far as we can tell, at that time there were few settlers north of McIvor Road. It seems that Alfred Frankling, James Hooten, Johan Gies, James Chellew, Thomas Stevens and Joseph Torrens-Witherow were the earliest settlers there.

James and Ann had one child, Frederick, born 1896.

Another neighbour, living on the far side of Mount Alexander's 'north gap', was Peter McMahon. Mr and Mrs McMahon conducted the 'Straight View Farm Reformatory School' at Wellington Flat for Catholic boys who were first-time offenders. The boys were wards of the State and were from 13 to 17 years old and were sent by the Neglected Children's Department. The McMahons were paid to board and to teach the boys

all aspects of farming as well as providing evening lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic. One of the boys said that while at McMahon's, 'I got good tucker there, plenty of meat, potatoes and butter and pudding every day.'

Peter McMahon was authorised to place the boys with farmers who would engage them in general farm work. We know that James Chellew was thus accorded some help to clear and work his farm because, in 1896, two lads took the liberty of running away to Bendigo where they were apprehended and sent back to Mr Chellew and Mr Torrens-Witherow.

The Chellew property has wonderful views of Mount Prospect, Mount Barker and Mount Alexander as well as a long vista down the valley of Barkers Creek. Some of the gum trees that remain in the pasture paddocks are of immense age and clearly pre-date Chellew's occupancy.

It was inevitable that the Chellew holding, being so remote from settlement, was developed to be self-sufficient, with horses, milking cows, pigs and poultry as well as fruit trees and a vegetable garden.

In due course stables, a milking shed, a dairy, pigsties, haysheds, a splendid fruit house, and poultry pens were built. Most have been superseded by sheds of galvanised iron, but the basic features of a self-sufficient farming enterprise can be detected. James Chellew must have worked hard to establish the farm in the eighteen-nineties.

By 1911 a young orchard (described as an apple and pear plantation) had been established on 20 acres of the property and was being worked by James and his son. James was reported as saying that his orchard had never suffered any loss by late frosts as it was above the frost line. By 1914 the neighbouring hillsides had been subdivided into small holdings and made available for prospective fruit-growers.

We hear little more of the Chellew family until the Great War when young Fred, age 19, became the Secretary of the Metcalfe Shire Patriotic League. In 1916 Fred was called up but, on application to the Court, was exempted from war service because he was an only son in a farming household.

Fred Chellew married Mary Ann Henry in 1919. The newlyweds moved into a four-roomed mud brick cottage that Fred had built on the property. This house still stands as the core of a somewhat modified family home.

James Chellew retired from farming in 1925 and moved to Box Hill where he died, aged 75, in 1933. For some time, the farm was conducted by Llew Jones.

Fred moved his young family to Marong, working as a general carrier and contractor cutting firewood which he sold in the metropolitan area. After some years Fred took back the Harcourt property, using it primarily to raise cattle.

Fred and Mary Chellew had one daughter, Olive (Mrs Dave Normington) and three sons, Cliff ('Digger'), Eric and Graeme ('Blue'). Both Cliff and Eric lived on the family holding at various times after their marriages. Cliff eventually moved his home off the property and relocated it to Station Street in Harcourt, closer to his employment. Fred lived on the family 64 acre holding until his death in 1987 at age 92.

The name of Dustin Martin, great-great-great grandson of James and Ann Chellew, is inscribed in the record books for his outstanding achievements. The name Chellew is likewise rightfully commemorated in the name of the road where James and Ann Chellew were the first to establish a farm.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers, compiled for 'The Core' by Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Bobcat - Tipper - Mini Excavator

Sand, Soil, Gravel, Post Holes
House & Shed Sites, Rubbish Removed
Driveways, Ditch Witch



Brian Nunn

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Harcourt Heritage Centre Resumes Program of Tours and Talks

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

Sunday May 23: 'A Second-hand Home'.

In some places it is easy to track the history of a country town, its days of prosperity or its years of depression, by driving around the streets to identify which homes belong to which architectural style or period: gold rush, Victorian, Edwardian and so on. You cannot do this in Harcourt.

The simple fact is that many Harcourt homes have been moved here from some other location.

Using information from the C H James Collection, the May outing will identify some of these 'second-hand' homes and reveal some interesting history.

The outing will begin and end at Harcourt Heritage Centre at 1.30 pm on Sunday May 23rd. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Fireside Chats

Sunday June 20: 'What were we told?'

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

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



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope this finds you all well. My household is in wedding mode at present. Daughter three is set to get married this weekend. I am trying to go below the radar, but I expect that will not be for long.

Sensational weather and no sign of COVID, so that is about as good as it gets.

Our last Council meeting had some big issues including the budget for 21/22 and the Froomes Road Bridge. The budget involves a lot of work and we say thank you for all of the excellent work by our staff and the Councillors. The budget is out for public comment. We have trimmed a few items, so there is still an opportunity to get something funded if you have a good idea.

The Froomes Road Bridge created a huge amount of interest. There was a petition to save the bridge that had about 800 signatures as well as a lot of people addressing the matter in public question time. I have given the matter a lot of thought, but a major factor in my decision was that Councillors are elected for the community. With so many community members wanting the bridge saved, I thought it should be. With the vote tied at three all, I used the Mayor's casting vote to save the bridge.

Last night my sister Rosemary showed me a painting of Froomes Road Bridge that our mother had purchased at some time. I did not know the painting existed, but it appears my mother liked the bridge so I was quite surprised. The other personal coincidence is that Grace is getting married quite close to the bridge in our beautiful botanic gardens.

Best regards to all,

Tony

Cr A G Cordy



Back to Work for Harcourt Valley Landcare

Members attended the first working bee for the year creek side at Barkers Creek at the end of April. Slashing, weeding, pulling broom and protecting young plants were the main tasks. As always we followed with a cup of tea and a chat. As it was ANZAC day some ANZAC biscuits were duly produced, but Terry Willis' savoury muffins still won the day.

If you would like an easy walk, the area the group works on can be accessed from the bridge which crosses the creek at the corner of Bridge Street near the Pony Club. After the bridge is crossed, turn north and there is a pleasant walk in light bush which leads to an open area, we call the picnic area. There are plenty of birds to be heard and seen here.

After three planning meetings looking to our future aims we are ready to start drawing up a new and exciting plan which we hope will inspire and attract new members. We return to regular meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at the ANA Hall. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 13.

For information about the group see our Facebook page or call Secretary: Robyn Miller 0467 670 271



A well-deserved morning tea was enjoyed by John Baldock, Vanessa Chiang, Matt Hillman, Terry Willis and Kit (with Lottie who had her eye on Kit's food). Other members present but not in the photo were Sue Albert, Judy Coram and Robyn Miller.



Harcourt Bowling Club

Bowling with Babies

The Harcourt Bowling Club has been running a Bowls Victoria Bowling with Babies program for the last few weeks.

The program aims to provide the opportunity for local parents to gather at the club with their young children, try the game of bowls for some gentle exercise; and importantly be able to socialise with other parents.

This has been well supported with 11 parents and Grandparents; and 16 children who included a few of school-age over the recent school holidays. The morning usually finishes with a cuppa.



Jean Pogue is co-ordinating this program on Wednesday mornings from 9.30. Interested parents wishing to join can contact the Club on 54743494 and harcourtbowls@gmail.com OR Jean on mobile 0431 776381 and jeanpogie@gmail.com

Women's off-season social bowls competition Bendigo East

Harcourt has entered 2 teams to compete in a women's social competition being held during non-pennant time at Bendigo East. The competition will run over 8 weeks and give local bowling women an opportunity to maintain their interest and contacts after the pennant season ends.

Rice (Mixed) Triples Annual Club Tournament

On Saturday 24th April the Annual Rice Triples Tournament was held in memory of past Club stalwarts Ben and Amy Rice. This is another popular event on the Club



calendar which is keenly contested and this year was no exception. Winners on the day were Wendy Chaplin's team with Fairlie Harman and Steve Douglas. The Runners Up was Brian Smith's team with Joy and John Starbuck. The trophy was proudly presented by Heather Rice.

Ladies' Championship Pairs Saturday 17th April

The spectators at the Ladies Championship Pairs final held in April were treated to 3 hours of a great game of competitive bowls playing in good spirits. The scoring of a 5 on one end was the deciding factor, giving winners Wendy Chaplin and Judy Ewing an edge over Fran Corstorphane and Mary-Anne Doyle. The Final score was score was 14-9.

Men's Championship Pairs Monday 19th April

Also in April on a Monday evening, the small gallery of spectators was treated to a high class game of bowls as Daryl Gale and Leo Moloney pitched their skills against Gary Madden and Steve Douglas in the Men's nominated Pairs Championship. Daryl and Leo were eventual winners with 18-9 at the end, although once again the final scores did not reflect the quality of the game played.

Presentation Night and dinner

At the end of season Presentation Night and dinner held on Saturday 24th April members were treated to a delicious 2 course meal and good music as we reflected on a successful season both on and off the field.

Our thanks go to Carrol Frost for the beautifully decorated tables; to Marg Guest, Vivian and Narelle for the delicious food; and to the music man for great dancing music.

As President Ken Tribe presented awards to season winners he noted the significant achievement of everyone at the club to maintain the good spirit and camaraderie of the club, in what has been a challenging year.

Award recipients:

Ladies 100Up

Winner: Carrol Frost

Runner Up: Mary-Anne Doyle

Drawn Pairs

Winner: Moira Straw & Wendy Chaplin

Runners up: Judy Ewing & Mary-Anne Doyle

Nominated Pairs

Winners: Wendy Chaplin & Judy Ewing

Runners up: Fran Corstorphane & Mary-Anne Doyle



Singles Champion

Heather Braid

Runner Up: Carrol Frost

Men's Drawn Pairs

Winners: Phil Clark & Ken Tribe
(no R/Up this year)

Nominated Pairs

Winners: Leo Moloney & Daryl Gale

Runners Up: Gary Madden & Steve Douglas

Singles Champion

Rod Harris

Runner Up: Tony Olsson

Grant Pairs

Winners: Sheila Oxley & Joe Candy

Runners up: Joy and John Starbuck

Rice Triples

Winners: Wendy Chaplin, Fairlie Harman & Steve Douglas

Runners up: Brian Smith, Joy Starbuck & John Starbuck

Annual General Meeting Sunday 23rd May 2021

The Harcourt Bowling Club Inc. Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday 23rd May at 11.00 am at 1 Warren Street Harcourt.

The Agenda will include presentation of the Board Report and the appointment of 5 Board members for 2021/22 – 2022/23 Seasons

All are welcome to the meeting which will be followed by a BBQ and social bowls (weather permitting).

Board Members for 2021/22–2022/23 Seasons

As there will be at least 5 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 themselves. Nomination forms are available at the Club and need to be in prior to the Annual General Meeting early in May.

COMING UP ...

Friday Social Nights

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

Jackpot Social bowls – Wednesdays 1.00pm – all welcome; names to be in by Tuesday.



Strong Performances from Harcourt's Netball Teams

Round 1

Lionesses Review V Navarre

The Harcourt Junior Netballers got off to a flying start; they were extremely eager to get back on court and there was a buzz of energy in the club which the juniors used to advantage. Under 11's showed they had been working on their skills and got the day started with a bang. Under 13's made a dominant start and the joy of being back on court was evident on their faces. Under 15's impressed the crowd with their first game; there are lots of potential superstars for the blue and gold in this team. Under 17's held on to an early lead, with many younger girls stepping up. The accuracy amongst the goalers in the junior levels was very impressive.

In the Seniors, C Grade showcased their premiership-winning form from last year even with a very new side. The new additions stood up and impressed right from the first whistle. Gemma Papadimos was strong in her first senior game supported by club veteran Suzie Rinaldi. Midcourters and Defenders were so consistent it was hard to distinguish between standouts. They showed lots of composure and their coach was very impressed with how well they eased into their first game back.

B Grade had some impressive moments and built on their first quarter lead as the game progressed. There were plenty of contributors in this win: Shae Denahy and Kate Blake made a return to the club with an early impact and new arrival Paige Mitchener made her presence known in the midcourt. The team will need to work on consistency for a full quarter. Tara Chapman showed she was ready for her senior debut and will only get better as her confidence grows.

A Grade got off to a slow start and they certainly were aware it wasn't their best performance. They held on to achieve a win, and won't dwell on the game for long as they look to the next round determined to have a stronger performance. Tameka Branch's fitness was outstanding with all her pre-season efforts paying off. Bec Elliot debuted in her first A Grade match for the Lions proving she is an up and coming talent for the club. Bridie Semmen's made her debut for Harcourt in the A Grade match gaining some much-needed intercepts and combining strongly with Jess Lord as if they had been playing in the ring together for a number of seasons.

This round was certainly a great start to the season from the netballers but there's plenty more to improve on over the next few weeks.

Round 2

Lionesses Review V Royal Park

It was another successful day on the courts for our Junior Netballers, with all teams coming away with a win. 11/U continue to consolidate their skills and are building together nicely as a team. Both the 13/U and 15/U teams continued to impress with their versatility and positive attitudes, and both displayed great teamwork for end to end. 17/U came out on top after some good competition from Royal Park. The accuracy amongst the goalers in the junior levels was very impressive, including Aria shooting at 97% and Sammy at 100%.

C Grade Netballers built on their win from last week, it took them a little bit to get going but they managed to take a strong lead in the second half and ran away with a convincing win. They will be aiming to focus on holding onto a good start next week. Chris Curtis and Brooklyn Douglass proved again to be a tight combination in the ring, gaining lots of rebounds for Harcourt who then capitalised via the incredible accuracy and work rate from Suzie Rinaldi. 11-40 was the final score.

B Grade was down a couple of goalers this week but that didn't seem to matter, as some C graders had the chance to step up to the challenge and to show their depth. An amazing second quarter of full court defensive pressure by the Lions kept the Tigers to merely three goals with the defenders picking off everything in the ring, giving them the opportunity to run away with the lead! Tara Chapman again showed she is a rising star for the club. 19-45 was the end result for the Lions.

A Grade was happy to have their goal shooter return this week who gave them a strong option under the post. Tameka Branch and Bridie Semmens impressed again as new recruits for the Lions, while Jess Lord and Carly Chaplin got their hands to everything. Tayla Gale showed she can be another key player in centre bib. Paige Mitchener did well stepping into her first game in A Grade for the Lions. 15-44 was the score to conclude the last game of the day.

We have the bye in round 3 and look forward to playing in Dunolly, and the following round we hope you will all join us for our next home game on May 15!

Harcourt Netball Club Member Shout Out!

This is Kirrily, who has a key role in the Harcourt Junior and Senior Netball in season 2021. Not only does she coach many teams but last season she was league runners up Best and Fairest; she is also one of our most talented umpires. We are so fortunate to have her expertise in our club and know she will take our juniors far this season.

If you would like to get involved in the Harcourt Netball Club come along and check it out Saturday May the 15th as we take on Maryborough Rovers.

Lauren Peeler



Harcourt Lions Football All teams win!

On Saturday 24 March, the Harcourt Football and Netball Club delivered a great achievement for the Harcourt Lions with all eleven football and netball teams having a win. All boys and girls deserved to celebrate this early season result. There was no game on Saturday 1 May and we will play away at Dunolly on 8 May. The next home game on May 15 is against the Maryborough Rovers.

Club members Wayne, Dave, Daryl and Russell deserve a special call out for the great job they did on gate duty at our home games - thanks boys.

The Maryborough and Castlemaine District Football League has a few opposition teams struggling to obtain sufficient players in some areas, as Harcourt has been in similar straits in the past, all we can do is take each team as serious opposition and attempt to build to be our best in footy and netball.

We hope to see as many Harcourt locals as possible on May 15 at the home game against the Rovers.

Cheers Daryl Gale

Footy Pics



Auskick is very popular, with more than 35 children taking part this year.



Dynamic play from Chris McLean, backed up by Sean Moss, when Harcourt played Navarre.



The under 14.5 years Harcourt footy team with coach Mark Dorian and Any Simmons, Junior Football Coordinator.

Enjoy Winter Wednesdays with a Game of Carpet Bowls

The Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc. held their AGM on the 21st April 2021 at which a very enthusiastic group of potential bowlers attended.

This meeting resulted in the decision to recommence Carpet Bowls as follows:

Our first night of Bowls will be on Wednesday the 5th May 2021 starting at 7 pm when teams will be formed in groups of 4 to a team in the hope of making all teams more competitive.

Play starts at 7.30 pm and will be completed by approximately 9 pm.

Subsequent games nights will be on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm to approximately 9 pm. We meet at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt. (Heaters will be turned on).

- Registration for the Season is \$6.00 for Adults and \$3.00 for U/17 Juniors.
- Games fee is \$5.00 per night for Adult and U/17 Junior \$2.50. This cost is to cover the hire of the hall & VCCBA Insurance.
- Players can be aged from 8 years upwards so it is a game for families or individuals looking for a social night out.
- All will be made most welcome.

On games night we will follow COVID Safe Rules. Attendees will be required to sign on and off, hand sanitizer will be provided before and during the game as needed and the bowls will be sanitised before, during and after the games are played. The Leisure Centre has plenty of room to allow for social distancing as required by law.

We will always be happy to welcome any new players so please just turn up at the Leisure Centre on games night if you are interested.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc. For further information contact – Loretta 5474 2453, John 5474 2226, Tyrone 5474 2126.

Country Championships September

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association will be holding the Country Carpet Bowls Championships (postponed because of the COVID Lockdown in 2020) on Saturday September 18th from 12 noon. This is something for the whole town to look forward to. Further information will be available later in the year.

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

Students are back at school again after the Easter holidays, and visitors are now allowed back into school, provided they wear a mask and observe social distance requirements.

On the last Wednesday of the first term, March 31, I was one of the first group of visitors to be invited back to the school since December 2020. I felt honoured to be invited by a friend to attend the school's Grandparents or Special Person Day. The day marked the completion of Grade 1/2 classes Discovery Curriculum. As part of this discovery-themed learning project, students had been 'exploring special artefacts, buildings, significant places and olden days games and objects.' Grandparents and Special Friends were invited to bring along old toys, books and photos to share with the students.

The afternoon was well attended by grandparents and friends who had brought along a wide variety of photos, toys and objects, some more than 100 years old. After having introduced themselves to the adults, the children happily circulated around the mask-wearing, socially-distanced adults asking many and varied questions. As you can imagine different students gravitated towards different objects and toys.

I took along an old doll and was surprised and delighted that almost as many boys as girls came over to ask me questions about the doll. My favourite toy on the day was a toy sailing boat made by one of the student's great-grandfathers. What a treasure!



Grade 1/2 students were fascinated with the items brought in by the adults on Grandparents/Special Friends Day.

May will be a busy month for the school. On Friday the 7th, the students will be participating in the House Athletics Sports Day. I hope they have good weather for it. Grades 3 and 5 students will be undertaking NAPLAN tests on the 11th and 13th of May, we wish them well. Lucky Grade 3 and 4 students will be away at Camp Anglesea from the 19th to the 21st of May.

Lois Denham

Work Starts on HVPS Upgrade

On 13th April, Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP, announced works were underway at Harcourt Valley Primary School to deliver repairs to the school's main building.

The Andrews Labor Government provided \$15,120 towards the works. The Minor Capital Works fund supported this work and it is about delivering the small projects that make a significant difference to schools while also supporting local jobs.

Maree Edwards said, "Harcourt families are a step closer to getting the great local school facilities their kids need to thrive."

Projects through the Minor Capital Works Fund will be progressively delivered with all projects to be completed by the end of 2022.

More than 300 Victorian government schools have been allocated funding to fast-track priority projects under the Minor Capital Works Fund to improve learning environments as well as the condition and character of schools.

VMR Update

Progress is slow but sure at VMR. The Core spoke with Colin Mierisch about the latest news. Colin and another volunteer have been working on a set of points for the southern loop of the tracks. These are worked manually, but eventually it is planned they will be worked electronically.

The base foundations for Platforms 1 & 2 are complete. Platform 1 is closer to the station. After clearing to the granite, two layers of concrete were required – a lesser grade, topped with a higher grade. Work will begin on the next layer to bring the foundations up to the level at which the platforms will be supported. Each platform is 80 metres long.

With all the concreting which needs to be done the VMR have bought their own concrete mixer and adapted it to their needs.





Harcourt Uniting Church

Easter is a very important celebration on the Church calendar. Good Friday this year was a combined service in the Castlemaine Uniting Church, with members of all churches in the Castlemaine area joining together to remember the crucifixion of Jesus. The Bible story was read, interspersed with prayers offered by the various ministers of the area and the singing of hymns. As the Harcourt Church organist for many years I always enjoy being able to 'sing the words' for a change!

The Easter Sunday tradition in our Harcourt congregation has been a special early morning service in Stanley Park followed by a BBQ breakfast. However, this year we held our service in the Church without the BBQ breakfast. We still had Easter eggs of course.

COVID restrictions have meant no morning teas after our service, so we were pleased to eventually be able to begin our morning cuppas in a COVID friendly way. This is a very important part of worship as we enjoy fellowship with each other, sharing lots of conversation.

Anzac Day fell on a Sunday this year, so homemade Anzac biscuits were a special treat for morning tea. Anzac biscuits were often sent to the troops in war time as they are made with real butter which helps keep them fresh for much longer.

Harcourt Uniting Church members welcome all to join us any Sunday at 9am in Buckley Street Harcourt. Our split system heating provides a warm welcome as the winter months approach.

A group of city children were excited to be going on a Church Easter camping trip to the river.

While the leaders set up the tents, one of the young campers was asked to take the billy and fill it with water so they could make a billy of tea. A long time later he came back with an empty billy. 'Where's the water?' asked the leader. In a strained voice, the boy replied, 'Well I must have walked for miles down the river bank and I couldn't find a tap anywhere!'

Jan Jenkin



Merv Carr ~ Katie Finlay ~ Liz Carr

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Forty years of Community Radio in Central Victoria

If you were involved, tell your story

April 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the first official FM radio broadcast outside of Melbourne, and it had its beginning in Mount Alexander Shire.

On April 25th, Anzac Day 1982, 3CCCfm hit the airwaves from the former Harcourt railway station building.

Today, four community radio stations operate in the Bendigo region: Phoenix fm, KLFM, Freshfm and Mainfm. The latter began life in Castlemaine as WMAfm in 2006.



Two of those present on opening day at 3CCC in Harcourt were Ian Braybrook and Marilyn Bennet. They have now embarked on recording the beginnings and development of all five stations in a book to be launched on Anzac Day next year. A big birthday party is expected to be part of the day.

It is an ambitious undertaking that is already well underway, but they need help. The couple are calling on those who were involved from the beginning to the present day to contribute. Marilyn says, 'We are seeking input from any of the hundreds of people who had a role in any of the stations along the way. We want to gather facts, anecdotes and photos for inclusion in the book. We want it to reflect the human side of the story – not just facts and figures. We ask people to write short pieces, say 400 to 600 words, to forward to us. In fact, we are depending on this to make the book interesting!'

Ian said, 'We hope that people from the various management committees provide the actual history bits – the times, dates, important events, things that shaped the stations etc. This is not a repeat of the story I wrote in my *Bush Wireless* book, that was about my experiences.'

'Obviously, we know about the early history of Mainfm (WMAfm) because we were personally involved, but the more recent people we hope can also contribute please.'

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

'Without these contributions the book will not achieve its aim – to have real people tell the story; the human history of the Wonderful Wireless (community) in Central Victoria will bring the book alive. So please contribute!'

Contact details and contributions:

Facebook: Community Radio in Central Victoria

Email: ianandmazza@gmail.com

Phone: 0409 333 513 or 0457 676 327

Post: Ian Braybrook, Box 677 Castlemaine 3450

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

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"being able to see my business more objectively without getting stuck in the day-to-day detail"

"confidence to work on the business with real knowledge"

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Small Business Action Plan Program 2021

7 interactive sessions
1:1 mentoring
with Sorted.'s Clare Fountain

Limited to 16 local businesses
Applications close 18 June 2021
Program commences mid-July 2021

For more info: www.maldoncb.com.au

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Helping your business thrive post-COVID-19

The program aims to deliver:

- a tailored viable business plan for your business
- increase confidence
- identify new opportunities, and
- increase collaboration between businesses in the region.

For enquiries about the program and the application process, contact
Maldon & District Community Bank Executive Officer –
Shannon Burdeu: 0478 435 110 or executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au



Community Bank
Maldon & District

 Bendigo Bank

Supporting your
community

Supporting your community

Community Bank Maldon & District



The Maldon & District Community Bank is again partnering with Clare Fountain from Sorted, a regional based small business consultancy, to present a new program to support local businesses recover, reshape and rebound after COVID-19. The program will be delivered both face-to-face and online by Clare, and includes 7 live interactive sessions on business planning and 1:1 mentoring before and after.

Business owners will come away with a clear plan of action to relaunch their business post COVID-19. The course is designed to increase participant's knowledge, identify new opportunities and build collaboration with other businesses in the region.

Participants of the 2020 program noted the program provided them with increased confidence and motivation to work on their business and make decisions. Another business owner commented that the course enabled them to see their business 'more objectively without getting stuck in the day-to-day detail'.

The application process is simple – just a paragraph or two about how the program will benefit you and your business. Applications are now open via our website www.maldoncb.com.au and close on Friday 18 June 2021.

Maldon & District Community Bank is subsidising this program for 16 local businesses. We are encouraging small businesses from across our catchment area, including the towns and districts of Maldon, Dunolly, Newstead, Harcourt and Mount Alexander region, to apply for the program.

'Never has there been a more important time to change gears and adapt to new horizons. The Maldon & District Community Bank is excited to present this opportunity to

businesses in our region; to help them with their ongoing viability and success,' said bank Chairman Ross Eggleton.

'The value per business is worth over \$900, with the Community Bank subsidising the majority of this cost. There is a cost of \$150 per business to participate, but if this amount is a barrier notify us as part of your application, as we don't want cost to be an obstacle to businesses applying or participating,' explained Ross.

Key dates:

- Applications OPEN NOW
- Applications close Friday 18 June 2021
- Applicants notified of outcome Wednesday 30 June 2021
- Program begins Tuesday 13 July 2021

More information:

For enquiries about the program, payment assistance and the application process please contact Executive Officer Shannon Burdeu executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au or 0478 435 110. For information about the course content, contact Clare Fountain (Sorted): sorted@clarefountain.com.au or 0418 140 347.



Participants from the first small business program in December 2020.



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Harcourt Preschool Opens

Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards MP officially opened the new Harcourt Preschool, on Monday 26th April. The Preschool has been built on-site at the Harcourt Valley Primary School, giving families, students and teachers the opportunity to meet, mingle and work together more closely.

Maree said, 'This outstanding facility with a 3 year old and a 4 year old room will provide 66 places, it has a wonderful outdoor education space, safe parking and a shared common area with the school. I want to thank all those who contributed to the partnership, the YMCA Ballarat, the Harcourt Preschool Parent Advisory Group, Harcourt Valley Primary School and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.'

Maree concluded, 'Importantly for local families, having the two educational facilities close together saves time by having a single drop off and pick up point in the mornings and afternoons.'

Others in attendance at the opening were, Deputy Mayor Bill Maltby representing the Shire; Carly Middleton, Regional Victorian Manager for the YMCA; Andrew Blake, Principal of Harcourt Valley Primary School; the School Captains; Lisa Gray, Educator;

and Natalie McCarthy, ex-President of the Parents Group and members of the Parents Advisory Group. Invited community members were George Milford and Jan and John Jenkins.

It is expected that 3 year old sessions will commence in 2022.



Maree Edwards cuts the ribbon to officially open the Harcourt Preschool assisted by several of the students and Educator Lisa Gray. (The children were thrilled when each was given a piece of the ribbon.)



Delighted pre-schoolers, Harcourt Valley Primary School Captains, Maree Edwards and Natalie McCarthy pose for the TV cameras. Some of the children were selected by the staff for an interview by the local TV station. As one child ran to be interviewed, she called out, 'I'm going to be on TV!'

Harcourt Pony Club

The Harcourt Pony Club has been in existence in Harcourt since 1993; its grounds are in Bridge Street, behind the swimming pool, next to Barkers Creek.

The club offers instruction on how to ride for beginners and more advanced riders. We also instruct on horsemanship, which entails how to look after a horse or pony: what to feed them, how to groom your horse, methods of saddling and bridling, and also the essentials for a good safe paddock to keep your horse or pony in. Riders can compete in many types of events and support is given to members so they understand the requirements of these events.

Pony club now caters for all age groups, so all comers are welcome. The only items that are essential to join in at a rally, are a current rated riding helmet and riding boots, these can be obtained from a horse equipment shop; there are a number of these in Bendigo.

The Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month, unless there is a reason we have to change and then all members are notified.

We also work on certificates which enable members to gain more knowledge on how to look after our faithful companions.

Pony club rally days usually consist of dressage, (the base of all riding), show jumping (when members can ride independently), cross country, games, activity courses, and theory work, polo, vaulting and anything else that members might like to have a go at.

If anyone is interested in joining, or is curious and would like to visit on a Sunday or have more information, please contact me:

Peggy Mills
0419 902 400
pegmills1@bigpond.com





Harcourt CFA

Is Your Home Ready For Winter?

With the daylight hours getting shorter and the nights colder, is your home ready for winter?

There are several causes of house fires, with most starting in the kitchen.

There are definite actions and maintenance procedures that can help reduce the risk of a fire starting in your home.

Firstly, a reminder that only working smoke alarms save lives.



If you have not changed your smoke alarm battery recently, then don't put it off any longer.

There is also the newer type of smoke alarm which has a battery with a ten-year life cycle. This is worth the extra purchase price compared to buying batteries for ten years.

Note that hard-wired smoke alarms have a battery backup for when there is a power outage.

Electric blankets, heaters and other appliances that have been in storage should be checked for damage, frayed or kinked cords and so on, before use.

Clothes Dryers are another cause of house fires due to overheating when lint filters are not cleaned out.

Drying clothes too close to wood, gas or electrical heaters is another risk. A good rule is to keep it 'at least a metre from the heater.'

Electrical device chargers and candles are other causes that can easily start a fire but simple steps can reduce the risk.

Most importantly is to have an evacuation plan and a safe designated meeting point just in case the worst happens.

Brigade Turnouts

Since my last report, the brigade has responded to five incidents. Two of these were in late March and the other

three in the middle of April. Three were primary responses and two were support.

The callouts included a car issuing smoke, one MVA (Motor Vehicle Accident), and three grass fires.

Even though the weather has changed to cooler conditions, there has not been much rainfall, conditions are quite dry, and therefore the grass and forest areas will still burn.

If burning off, be aware of this dryness, and expect the possibility that spotting into surrounding areas may occur.

Brigade Elections

The April meeting was our AGM, and biannual elections were conducted this year. There were a couple of changes in some of the positions.

Results are as follows: Andrew Wilson continues to lead the brigade as our Captain. 1st Lieutenant – Tyrone Rice, 2nd Lieutenant – Kerrie-Anne Schnoor who replaces David Murdoch, 3rd Lieutenant – John Jenkin and 4th Lieutenant is now Stephen Upton (previously Kerrie-Anne). Lynda Wilson continues another term as our trusty secretary and treasurer (one of those positions that sometimes can be hard to fill) and Raewyn Rice takes on the role of Communications Officer.

This forms the makeup of our Brigade Management Team (BMT) which has the responsibility of leading the brigade.

There are also requirements for brigades to appoint a training officer (now Nathan Rice), an OHS officer (David Murdoch continues in this role), a Community Safety Coordinator (Tyrone Rice), as well as brigade delegates to the Mount Alexander Group of Brigades which is our Captain and 1st Lieutenant.

Congratulations were expressed on the night as well as a vote of thanks for the outgoing officers.

A brigade review by a CFA Commander, known as a Section 29, was conducted prior to the meeting. The review assesses the brigade against set criteria including response times to fires and incidents, brigade capability and skill sets, training, safety, records and reporting. There are always areas in which improvements can be made and these will be a focus of the brigade in the future.

Therefore, the improvements we make, along with any improvements you make in preventing fires and incidents will help make our community a safer place in which to live. Fire prevention is part of the CFA's mission and further information is available on the CFA website, as well as hard copies from the fire station. Please feel free to contact a member if you require some assistance.

Stay safe and safely warm.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator





Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Prepare the Soil for Winter Planting of Fruit Trees

Hi everyone,

It's time to be thinking about whether you'll be planting any new fruit trees this winter, and honestly - why wouldn't you? To give your trees the best possible start, now is a great time to do some soil preparation.

One of the quickest and most effective ways to improve your soil is to plant an autumn green manure crop, using a mix of a legume (to add nitrogen to the soil), a grass (to add bulk organic matter) and a few herbs (to add more nutrients). You can either buy an autumn green manure seed mix from a nursery, or buy the individual seeds to make up your own mix. The ground has dried out a bit, so unless we get some more rain soon you might need to water the crop in. Go ahead and plant the seed wherever you

intend to plant your fruit trees, but you need to do it ASAP. New trees should be planted in winter, when they're dormant. This is usually late June or the start of July in Harcourt, right through until about mid-August. That means there should still be enough time to get a green manure crop growing and tall enough to be fit for purpose, which is solely to add organic bulk and nutrients back into the soil. But you need to get your skates on, because the longer the crop has to grow before it's turned in, the better. Once it's grown you can either dig the green manure into the soil (which is best), or just cut it down and leave it lying on the surface. If you're digging it in, you need to leave a gap of at least a couple of weeks until you plant the trees, because the green manure can get quite hot as it breaks down.

If you don't have the time or inclination to plant a green manure crop, it doesn't matter at all! Don't let your lack of soil preparation stop you planting trees this year. You could add some well-made compost or aged manure when you plant the trees. If you can't manage that, it's much better to just plant trees into whatever soil you have and work on the soil improvement later, than miss another year of getting your future fruit supply started.

Consider Old Variety Fruit Trees

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery (one of the businesses here on our farm) is once again selling trees grown right here in Harcourt, to suit Harcourt soil and conditions. Our range of rare and unusual heritage apple varieties has expanded again this year. It's part of our aim to bring back and preserve these old varieties before they completely

disappear, so please consider including one of them in your garden and adding to the community collection of heritage varieties. We also have more multigraft trees available this year, in apples, cherries, apricots, plums, peaches, and nectarines. Please note this year we have a new website: here's the link to see the full list of trees and place an order: openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop

Free Fruit Fly Resources

As fruit fly has been found in Harcourt this season this is just a reminder that we offer free fruit fly resources in our Online Course Library. To download a copy go to growgreatfruit.com/online-courses and choose FREE STUFF under Product Categories on the right hand side of the screen. It's up to all of us to become fruit fly experts!

On another note, if you want to try growing your own trees from scratch, now is a great time to collect some apple, pear and quince seed and store it over winter, to be ready to plant in spring. Choose seeds that are dark brown and plump. Granny Smith apples, or Packham pears are usually a reliable source of seed, but it's fine to use whatever you can get your hands on. The seeds will produce large seedling rootstocks that are tough and resilient, and perfect for grafting your favourite variety on to. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring.

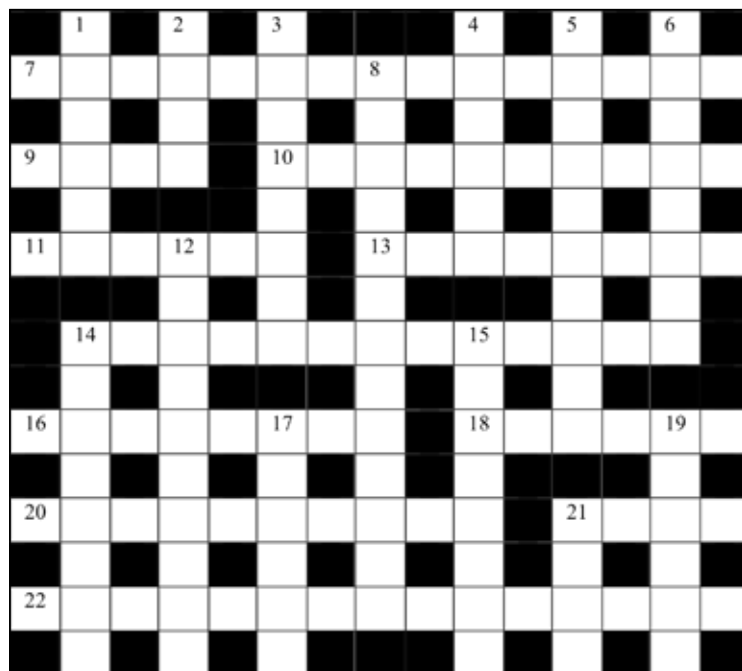
Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their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

Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
	megalitres	megalitres	% full	megalitres	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	30,586	81.0%	30,834	81.6%
Lauriston	19,790	18,140	91.7%	15,050	76.0%
Malmsbury	12,034	2,202	18.3%	1,606	13.3%
Total to May 5	69,594	50,928	73.2%	47,490	68.2%
Total to April 5	69,594	54,225	77.9%	47,446	68.2%

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

May 2021 Xword ©McW Feb'18



Down:

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

Across:

7. Current prick might make hasty decisions? [4-2-3-6]
9. Not ours, but all yours, friend. [4]
10. Lo, the suits at Elon Musk's offices—will their E.V. excite us? [10]
11. Climb up on what Americans might crudely describe as the rear of the vehicle. [6]
13. Sudden general occurrence of measles, say, could mark the start of the Great Escape... [8]
14. Wagons at a ute-muster? [13]
16. Mesa's not beaut to dance on, they say, but OK for dinner, or for a card game... [5-3]
18. Categorise again at the Bali hotel. (6)
20. Possibly a red fellow-traveller versus the blue mob at rallies? [10]
21. Miser that he was, two-thirds of his thrift brought about a major break in their relationship. [4]
22. Perhaps a great difficulty applying the rifle to problem-solving? [7,8 or 7-8]

April 2021 Xword solution ©McW Feb'18



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? [Well?]
3. Trendy [in], celebrated for all the wrong reasons... (8)
4. Pressure to suit has been applied in Hiroshima. (7)
5. Fixed film's lead, a red actor, with a steely gaze. (6)
6. Old lag [con] tries bouts. (8)
7. Hot cool sound. [Well?]
14. Confused bit of Canada certainly not to starboard [Well? anag. of "larboard"]. (8)
16. Make the road to "The Glenn" longer. (8)
17. In 1970 I attach [enc.] end of joint to creep up on your territory. (8)
18. Ideal garments in which to quench our thirsts. (1-6)
20. Book a flower, but not all the time. (6)
21. I don't have to be in a raiding party twice to be derring-doing to and fro! (6)
23. ...I say unto thee: "True dinks!". [Well?]

Across:

8. [Ho Ho! Not letting] on how old the Narwhal is! (4,2,3,5)
9. So 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? [Well? Baby's... Death....]
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)
15. Buckled, not scalped. (7)
19. Don't wanna be a bus-driver? Fly here with Coconut Airways! [Well?]
22. Young nun got none, so is free of sin. [Well?]
24. What Harvey got away with had an air of fun about it, but it was unjust. (6)
25. Minister gets right into his portfolio. [Well?]
26. Comet-man [Bill Haley] could a) rock, then b) keep it up 24/7. (6,3,5)



Weather & Water

A Dry and Mild April

Looking back over the last few years it seems that April's rainfall is anything but consistent. Here at Reservoir Road we received 8 mm of rain only and because of the mild days and cool nights, I had to remind myself to water the pot plants under the eaves and we had to run some irrigation on the fruit trees. The autumn colours have been beautiful, but with the continued dry, leaves were coming off the trees a little earlier than usual. Last year we had 150.5 mm! What a contrast. 2019 was a worse result than this year with 1 mm.

Reservoir levels have fallen by 7% since last month and are now not far off last year's figures at the same time.

The Weather Bureau continues to say that the index for el Niño/la Niña remains neutral.



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Community Diary Dates

Thursday 13th May: 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 23rd May: 11 am, AGM Bowls Club, 11 Warren Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 23rd May: 1.30 pm, Tour in Harcourt, Meet at Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

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

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

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

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 11.

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

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

Pony Club: Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 924 000. The Pony Club is located next to the swimming pool.

Uniting Church: Sundays at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street, Harcourt. The service is followed by morning tea. All welcome. Donations of food and other household needs for St Vinnies can be left at the Church door on Sunday mornings 9-10 am or contact, Jan 5474 2226, to arrange for collection.

Walking Group: Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am; meet at the ANA Hall. The one hour leisurely walk is usually followed by morning tea and new members are always welcome.

Harcourt's Little Library
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

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

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HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



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

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

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

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

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

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

SIGNED: DATED:

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

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

OR

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

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

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