

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 84 – July 2021

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1100 Plants in the Ground – With a Little Help



NINA WAS HARD AT WORK at the last Harcourt Valley Landcare working bee, and she is not the youngest member of the group. Having young families and children in Landcare is a great way to grow understanding of the local environment and

children certainly enjoy a bit of mud!

Nina was assisting the project to improve native vegetation around Pippin Court which was funded by the North Central Catchment Authority. In 2020 COVID affected the ability of the group to have some of the social engagement activities

which were planned for the community, but didn't prevent the planting of larger shrubs and trees over the winter months of 2020. Working outdoors at a distance and with masks was possible and the group missed only one working bee for the entire 2020 year.

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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.**



Mount Alexander Shire - Update on Plan Harcourt

Mount Alexander Shire Council is one step closer to implementing recommendations that guide the future growth of Harcourt, as outlined in the strategic document Plan Harcourt.

In July 2020, Council adopted Plan Harcourt - a blueprint for land use planning, town centre design, and a number of economic development initiatives for the town.

The strategic plan also includes the Harcourt Framework Plan, which highlights the proposed planning policy, zones and overlay controls to be incorporated into the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme.

Before Council can implement the recommendations in Plan Harcourt, it is first required to seek to make an amendment to the local planning scheme. This amendment must be approved by the Minister for Planning.

Council submitted final documentation to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) seeking authorisation from the Minister of Planning for the planning scheme amendment on Monday 7 June.

The Minister for Planning and DELWP will now consider Council's application before authorising the amendment. This process can take up to two years, and Council may be required to provide further information before a decision can be made.

The planning scheme amendment, known as C094, proposes to implement changes to local planning policy content, introduce new zones to manage future residential and commercial land uses, and overlay controls to achieve preferred design and development outcomes.

A formal public exhibition process will take place following the authorisation of the amendment, to give the community an opportunity to view the proposed changes, and make a submission on the changes.

For more information about Plan Harcourt visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt.

For more information about the planning scheme amendment process see below or visit: www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme.

At this stage, the town centre design project is on hold while the planning scheme amendment work proceeds.



HPA Public Meeting



Tuesday 24 August, 2021

Venue: Bowls Club

7.00 pm for 7.30–9 pm

Bar open and snacks

Agenda includes:

- ▶ Harcourt Railway Station
- ▶ Roundabout
- ▶ Plan Harcourt



Harcourt Progress Association

Newly Elected HPA Committee Members



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

Alison Curtis

HPA Community Engagement Officer
Member 3 Months



The HPA welcomed Alison to the Association – and to the Committee – only one month ago, despite being a shire resident for over 30 years and a Harcourt resident for nearly 11 years.

Alison and Dean, her husband of 47 years, are Harcourt's current King and Queen of Applefest which they have visited or been involved with since its inception.

Having recently retired after selling her Castlemaine business, *The Shoe Connection*, in Mostyn Street, Alison believes she now has enough time to devote to working for the local

community alongside giving her the chance to enjoy family time with her 3 children and 5 grandkids.

Alison is well known in the community and hopes to use her connections to build support for the HPA's activities. She believes her experience in local politics and machinations of all levels of government will also provide insight into how the HPA approaches its advocacy responsibilities.

Alison is no stranger to community engagement having been Chaplain at the local hospital and involved for most of her life with the Salvation Army.

Paul Mizzi

HPA Committee Member
Founding HPA Member

Despite a significant history in the community, Paul joins the HPA Committee for the first time.

Paul, his wife of 37 years Vicki (a marriage celebrant), and their two children moved to Harcourt on Australia Day in 2004.

With a young family and with the highway bypass threatening the viability of the town, Paul became active with the Harcourt *After the Bypass* group and *Harcourt 2020* while also working hard to save the local pool when it was threatened with closure.

The work done to identify a vision for Harcourt and public meetings identified a need for a communication channel for the local community, led Paul to establish *Hardcore Harcourt*. It has become an important community resource and social outlet.

Paul's community affiliations include over 15 years with Applefest while maintaining his business interests. More recently he has also established a *Not for Profit* business to assist jobseekers over 55 into employment.

Paul has become involved with the HPA now because he believes Harcourt is at a critical stage in its development.

For example, he nominated rail, bus and timetabling issues as critical issues vital for the growing youth population in Harcourt.

Paul hopes his time with the Committee helps to move the plans for our township forward in a way that allows for appropriate growth that is supported by the whole community.



HPA Moves on Key Issues

Reports and Discussion at the recent HPA Committee Meeting showed that the new members have moved quickly to progress some key issues for the community.

Harcourt Roundabout

The HPA President welcomed the progress that the Roundabout Sub Committee reported on, particularly in light of another accident there last week.

The Mt Alexander Council, Regional Roads Victoria and HPA representatives have agreed a way forward that involves funding from RRV for the re-design and works to ensure a sustainable and driver-safe design is implemented; with RRV providing maintenance in the interim.

RRV has recruited a consultant to develop a design proposal that will be provided for feedback to the community in the coming months. The design will take into account significant road safety requirements and the existing resources on site while ensuring that Harcourt's identity is acknowledged with attention and respect paid to indigenous culture.

The HPA will be able to report more

next month but HPA's David Foley said he was hoping to engage further with council to ensure that the existing site vegetation on the roundabout and the roadways leading into and out were managed to ensure traffic safety during the redevelopment process.

Harcourt Railway Station

Workers have taken advantage of the pause in train movements along the line during track maintenance to resurface the platform areas so that when restoration and development works commence it is a safe environment for workers at the site.

It is understood that tenders for this work will be requested shortly. The HPA has already had several informal discussions with the MASC and hopes to formalise these discussions in the next two weeks.

The HPA will be able to report more next month but the HPA Committee is hoping to engage further with council to ensure that the existing site vegetation on the roundabout and the roadways leading into and out are managed to ensure traffic

safety during the redevelopment process.

Plan Harcourt

With Plan Harcourt formally presented to the Victoria State Government, HPA will be seeking advice about how the local community's input has been – and will be – incorporated. HPA President David Foley said he was concerned that important elements of The Shine Harcourt plan might not have been acknowledged.

"The process to develop Shine Harcourt involved a significant number of local residents and businesses. While it appears as an addendum to the formal Plan put forward to government, we need to ensure outcomes are in line with what we want as a community. We need to ensure that everything done from here on in safeguards Harcourt from becoming a dormitory suburb." Mr Foley said.

It is expected that this issue will be addressed at a Public Meeting to be held in Harcourt in mid-August.

Minutes from the recent HPA Committee Meeting are available on the HPA website.

NAIDOC Week – Local Events

Mondo Lounge Indigenous Culture Tour

Mount Alexander Shire Council's Mondo Lounge invites young people to discover more about Indigenous culture by taking part in a field trip to Mt Tarrangower with Dja Dja Wurrung Elder, Auntie Marilyn Nicholls.

Auntie Marilyn is a Dja Dja Wurrung Elder, with family connections to Saltwater People in South Australia and Freshwater Murray River People.

The excursion will be held on Wednesday 7 July from 9.15am to 3.30pm during NAIDOC Week. It will be delivered in partnership with Mirawara, a local outdoor education organisation that specialise in experiences such as rock climbing, Indigenous cultural events and bushwalking.

Event details:

What: Mondo Lounge NAIDOC Week Excursion

When: 9.15 am to 3.30 pm on Wednesday 7 July

Where: Meet the bus at Mondo Lounge, 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine at 9.00 am. The bus will return participants to Mondo Lounge at 3.30 pm.

Cost: Free

For more information or to book your place, contact Jodie Hearn, Youth Activities Officer at Mount Alexander Shire Council on 5471 1743 or email youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Tour

Join Uncle Rick Nelson Dja Dja Wurrung Elder and Traditional Owner for the Castlemaine region, with members of Nalderun's Youth Team on a Bus Tour revealing the pre-colonial history of this area.

Event Details:

Friday, 9 July 2021

Time: 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Cost: \$159.34 - \$190.99

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dja-dja-wurrung-cultural-tour-tickets



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1100 Plants in the Ground

From page 1.

The project was instigated and managed by Landcare member Vanessa Chiang. Miraculously, the group managed to get 1100 of the first of 2,000 tubestock into the ground at the working bee this June. The other 900 will be planted in July.

This year, apart from the regular working bees on the usual sites around Harcourt (Barkers Creek, the Flora Reserve and the Wetland), planning has started for the 25th Anniversary of Harcourt Valley Landcare. Stay tuned for more information in the Core and on our Facebook site. If you have been a past member and have any memorabilia please contact the Secretary, Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271 or Facebook.



Kit is Harcourt Valley Landcare's youngest member.



The soil beside the creek is a very happy place for this huge worm.



Members of Harcourt Valley Landcare planted many native grasses closely together in the effort to save whipper snipping. If successful they will crowd out weeds with a dense cover and hold the soil together as well.

Front page photo supplied by Terry Willis



Di Selwood

0488 148 358
Harcourt – Castlemaine – Maldon

Wellbeing and Landcare

From the NCCMA North Central Chat

The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare as detailed a new report published by KPMG in partnership with Landcare Australia are not only personal, they have an economic benefit to the wider community.

The June edition of Landcare Australia's Landlink explains, "For decades, those involved in Landcare have testified to a greater sense of self, both physically and mentally, resulting from an enhanced link with their local environment. This, in turn, has boosted community wellbeing and it has long been the desire of the Landcare network to quantify the significance of these benefits.

"Now, newly published findings by KPMG Australia in partnership with Landcare Australia indicate Landcare volunteers enjoy substantial improvements to their mental and physical wellbeing – and a significant decrease to their healthcare costs. More than 1,000 Landcare volunteers and coordinators from Landcare groups were surveyed; the findings are in the report, titled 'Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare'.

- 46% of surveyed respondents reported an improvement in their mental resilience.
- Avoided healthcare costs of \$57million for the estimated Landcare population of over 140,000 (or \$403 per Landcarer).
- Improved productivity is \$97 million for the estimated Landcare population of over 140,000 (or \$487 per Landcarer).
- With health benefits, productivity and disaster resilience taken into consideration, there is a \$1,347 per person, per year economic benefit from participation in Landcare.
- 93% of respondents reported a closer connection to the land
- 43% of participants who reported that they spent 0 – 4 hours or less per month involved in Landcare still reported an improvement in their mental wellbeing.
- Younger adults appeared to experience additional benefits of being involved with Landcare in comparison to the older population
- 59% of those in major cities reported an improvement in their mental wellbeing compared to 47% in regional areas.
- 90% of respondents reported experiencing a stronger connection to the community.

The summary and full report can be accessed from the North Central Chat, July Edition, page 5: www.nccma.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/north_central_chat-july_2021.pdf

Upcoming Event Dates

July

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

August

National Tree Day 1 August
Landcare week 4-6 August
National Science Week 14-22 August
Keep Australia Beautiful Week 16-22 Aug
World Humanitarian Day 19 August

Grace Church Baptism

The highlight for Grace Church this last month was undoubtedly the baptism of Barry. Barry has found faith in God in a very sincere fashion and therefore wanted to follow the example and the command of our Lord Jesus Christ who was baptised by John the Baptist in the muddy waters of the River Jordan.

Baptism by immersion in the west these days is a fairly sanitised affair. Nowadays the ceremony is often conducted indoors and the water in the baptismal tank is heated. This was certainly the case with Barry. (I would like to send a big 'shout out' to the Castlemaine Church of Christ who allowed us to use their baptistry.)

I have conducted a baptism in the Loddon River and I know of others who have been baptised at the Golden Point Reservoir, and still others in the shallows of the sea. This is what Evangelical and Pentecostal churches believe in and do.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ in lands where Christians are persecuted, baptism can be a clandestine affair. I read about one such baptism in the "Voice of the Martyrs" magazine; it was conducted in the dead of night, and in the heart of winter – a hole was cut in the ice to allow the baptism to proceed. Thankfully the baptism went unnoticed by the authorities in that land.

Christians in Australia really do get off lightly when compared to many of our brothers and sisters overseas. However, in those countries where persecution is rife, the result is often the very same. Persecution fans into flame an evangelical zeal that only serves to spread the gospel further! Ironical, isn't it?

At Grace Church an offering is taken up every second month to support the work of The Voice of the Martyrs.

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



Term 3 Nordic Pole Walking Groups

CHIRP Community Health Nordic Pole Walking groups – including introductory sessions – will be running at 10am on Monday and Wednesday mornings throughout Term 3 in Castlemaine.

Earlier this year, Abbie Heathcote who is nearly 80 years old was a participant in the classes. She said, "My health has improved enormously, and it may have been due to the Nordic Pole Walking. I am very thankful for the classes which were led by a very good instructor. I recommend it to anyone, but you need to learn how to do it properly. Nordic poles are special, and you need the classes".

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

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.



CHIRP Nordic Pole walking volunteers (left to right): Johanna Winchcomb, Ruth Hay, Sylvia Phillips, Graham Bradshaw, Liz Citroen.

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Harcourt CWA A Winter Warmer

Winter has certainly made itself felt recently and what better time is there than to eat curry. Just the mere mention of the word curry has me heading for the Keens Curry Powder and the slow cooker.

I know there are the purists amongst us that will carefully mix a combination of spices such as coriander, turmeric, chilli powder, ginger, peppers, fennel, garam masala, and perhaps cinnamon, and I'm sure it will add a fine flavour to their beef, but I am a Keen's Curry lady from way back. For years I watched my Mum spoon the curry powder into the sizzling pot and smelled that delicious warm, spicy aroma. To me, a curry not only contains the warmth of its spicy ingredients but the memory of a warm kitchen on a cold winter's day.

If you have ever been to South Hobart, you may have come across a very interesting sign. Way up on a sloping block of land in the foothills of Mount Wellington are the word KEENS CURRY. Being a Keens Curry user I was very keen to learn more about this sign as I'm sure that you are too.

The Keens Curry sign has been visible on the foothills of Mt Wellington for over 100 years. When 22-year-old carpenter, Joseph Keen, sailed to Australia from Britain in 1841 with his bride, Johanna, he would never have dreamt that his curry powder creation would still be tantalizing taste buds 150 years later. Following Johanna's death in Sydney in 1843, Joseph left for Van Diemen's Land where he soon married Annie (Nancy) Burrows and became a father of 16 – to nine daughters and seven sons. Joseph and Annie settled at Browns River, Kingston, south of Hobart, where they established a bakery, a small manufacturing outlet and a general store. Joseph Keen created the iconic curry powder in the 1860's and sold it from his small store in Kingston as well as producing and selling his own sauces and other condiments.

Within a decade, Joseph's curry powder was known throughout the colony and his produce was winning awards. He received a medal for his spice mix at the 1866 Inter-Colonial Exhibition in Melbourne and an honourable mention for his spicy sauce at the 1879 Sydney International Exhibition. In



An Australian tradition.

1905, after both Joseph and Annie had passed away, the couple's sixth daughter Louisa and her husband Horace Watson took over the family's curry powder business.

Horace purchased land in the foothills of Mount Wellington overlooking Hobart and soon after transformed the side of the hill into a large advertising sign. Using heavy stones painted white, he formed the words 'Keens Curry' in letters 15 metres high. Public uproar resulted, but Horace won the right to use the land as an advertising sign which can still be seen today and which is now listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

So, if this cold weather has you looking for something warm and spicy to serve your family, this recipe of my Mum's might be just what you are looking for (but I think that the Australian Women's Weekly was the original source).

Mum's Sweet Beef Curry

2 tablespoon olive oil	2 cup stock or water
500 grams blade steak, trimmed, cubed	2 tablespoon vinegar
1 onion, sliced	1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 clove garlic, crushed	1 tablespoon cornflour, mixed with 2
2 tablespoons of Keen's Curry	tablespoons water
2 celery stalks, sliced	chopped parsley, to serve
1 apple, cored, chopped	pappadums, to serve
1 large banana, chopped.	
1/2 cup sultanas	

Method

In a large saucepan, heat oil on high. Brown the meat, 3-4 minutes. Transfer to a plate. Using same pan, add more oil if necessary, reduce heat to medium and sauté onion and garlic for 2-3 minutes until onion is tender. Stir in curry paste and cook 1 minute.

Add the celery, apple and banana and sultanas and cook 1-2 minutes, return meat to pan and give a good stir to combine all ingredients.

Stir in stock, vinegar and sugar; season to taste. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for 1 hour until meat is tender or pop it in a slow cooker for 3 or 4 hours to finish the job. Add more stock if necessary.

Gradually add cornflour mixture to thicken the curry. Bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Simmer 3 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with pappadums and fluffy steamed rice.



The famous sign in South Hobart.

.Harcourt CWA meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm in the Harcourt Leisure Centre. It might be cold outside but it's nice and warm inside so why not pop in and say hello.

*Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer*

OUT & ABOUT

Molly Drive

These three photos were taken from early 2020 to mid-2021..



9 February, 2020



27 November, 2020



June 28, 2021

As the Harcourt township area develops, The Core is making an attempt to track development around the town with the aim of recording change for history's sake and to inform the ongoing discussions about development in the township especially in the expectation of the release of the Shire Document Plan Harcourt.

Readers will see relevant articles about Plan Harcourt on pages 2 and 3.

Liyaka Court



The plots along Harmony Way are being filled with new structures and work is continuing at a rapid pace.



The creek bed of Barkers Creek has been cleared along the length of the new estate. This was done by DELWP after they were contacted by one of the new residents of Liyaka Court. It happened that the DELWP crew were in the area and were able to complete the clearing – particularly of blackberries which were choking the creek at this point.



The creek side of Liyaka Court looking north. Residences will have a view of the creek.

My experience joining the blockade to save the Tarkine/takayna from destruction

Two local women, Vera Hemkes and Judy Coram (and her two daughters) have been in Tasmania on the blockade of the Tarkine. Vera said, 'I think all of us who strive to protect our natural environment share a deep love of our native forests for we are indeed blessed with an extraordinary ecology which is rapidly being destroyed by mining and forestry with the aid of self-serving governments.'

Earlier this year, the Bob Brown Foundation put out a call for volunteers to help to protect the Tarkine, an ancient Gondwana rainforest which is under threat from MMG, the Chinese mining company prepared to cut down 285 hectares of ancient temperate rainforest to build a toxic tailings dam. The idea was so appalling to me that I set about joining the campaign as soon as I could.

So there I was at the entrance to the mine site at 5:30 am in the pitch-dark walking down a muddy track, prepared to face potentially aggravated mining officials, security and police. We were a team of four mothers and grandmothers who were preparing to lock on our most senior member, "Tricia" (fictitious), on to a front-end loader. She is a 75-year-old grandmother, a person of small stature but blessed with an iron will, who was determined to pin herself to the gargantuan machinery.

Even though we had all been well prepared and trained by the campaign coordinators, I was more than a little apprehensive at what I could be facing. We walked silently down the track followed by a security guard in a four-wheel drive with lights flashing, warning us we were trespassing. In our eyes, we were not trespassing. We were enacting our right to civil disobedience in the face of the potential destruction of ancient and irreplaceable rainforest.

We just kept walking quietly through the black night. On reaching the loader, we set about locking Tricia on. Workmen cannot proceed whilst there are blockaders in the camp. And it was in our interest to make it as difficult as possible to remove Tricia from her locked-on position.

That morning we had three groups of activists located on different sites. There was one group at the mine entrance holding banners; our team with Tricia locked on to the front-end loader; and another group locked on to a mammoth excavator deeper down the track. The intent was to halt the progress of work as long as possible. The security guard followed us in and made a point of disturbing our interviews. As we spoke, the dawn light filtered through the majestic forest. We felt enriched to be here. Eventually the police arrived along with SES workers with equipment to remove Tricia. The whole operation took some hours.

At all times the spirit of the campaigners remained positive and resolute. Here we were fighting for a cause that could stand in the way of the dreadful destruction. Here at least we could momentarily make a difference and voice our concerns through

the media. People of all ages and all walks of life are engaged in this campaign. It was an honour and a privilege to be part of this movement.

To date, the Bob Brown Foundation has held the machinery at bay for fifty days. About fifty people have been arrested. And yet, a stream of volunteers continues to gather at the camp to be trained and move into the Tarkine to protect this ancient place. They hook themselves up to machinery. They tree sit in the giant canopy. They bring their enthusiasm, their determination and their courage in protecting what is so precious to us all.



The Tarkine's natural history dates back 100 million years. The rainforest includes ancient stands of beech myrtle over 400 years old, Leatherwood, Celery Top Pine, majestic mountain ash, tree ferns and an amazing array of fungi and lichens. It is a haven for masked owls, eagles, Tassie devils, platypus and giant sweetwater crays to name a few.

To be part of this blockade was a privilege. All of those involved felt they could at least be making a difference rather than simply bearing witness to the potential destruction of such a unique and irreplaceable ecology.

You can support the Bob Brown Foundation in a number of ways.

Of course you can join the blockade. You can provide a donation. And/or you can take action in your own town or city, as so many of us have done in Castlemaine and Harcourt.

And I would encourage everyone to write to the Minister for Environment, Sussan Ley MP, C/- Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600, objecting to the proposed destruction of the Tarkine. Please forward this letter before 23 July when the Minister will make her decision on the future of the Tarkine.

Vera Hemkes





Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well. COVID cases are everywhere else but here which is a relief.

At our June meeting we adopted the budget. It is a very responsible budget and keeps Council in a sound position while continuing substantial works. The budget will be in surplus which will enable us to take advantage of grant funding that may be available. I want to thank all the staff and Councillors for their good work on this recent budget. From memory we received 23 submissions to the budget and we were able to make some adjustments and include most of them.

This week I attended a celebration at Buda to mark the completion of \$120,000 of grant-funded maintenance work. Well done to George Milford and all the committee. I hear

attendance has been up as well, so all in all that's a great result.

Later this week we will be celebrating progress to date, on the underground power project at Maldon. This is a \$4M plus project mostly funded by the State Government. Maree Edwards and our staff worked very hard to get the funding for this project, so a big thank you to all concerned.

At this month's Council meeting we will revisit the supermarket planning permit for Castlemaine. There is a huge amount of interest in this and it appears VCAT will make the final decision. It seems there may be some interesting discussion on this one yet. Applicant objector meetings will be held shortly.

The rain has been well received. Stay well.

Regards Tony

PS I hear Mount Alexander Vintage Engine Club is going well, and I'm looking forward to the next tractor pull.

State Government announces World-Class Health Hub at La Trobe Bendigo

A simulated hospital, pharmacy and other healthcare settings will be built as part of a \$5 million upgrade to La Trobe University's Bendigo campus, funded by the Victorian Government.

The new Health and Biomedical Sciences Teaching and Research Hub will also house state-of-the-art teaching spaces, an anatomy laboratory, two research laboratories and collaboration spaces for the university community and industry.

Maree Edwards, Member for Bendigo West said, "Not only will this facility provide great training and job opportunities for local students, but it also firmly puts Bendigo on the map

as a destination for world-class health education and research."

The project will give students real-life skills in an environment that simulates a professional setting. It will also accommodate local organisations and industry undertaking professional development and collaborative projects.

The facility is expected to be open in December 2022 and will create about 36 local jobs during construction.

The Government and La Trobe University jointly contributed to this project. It is one of many proposals from universities to the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund, which was developed in response to the

significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the sector. La Trobe University Vice Chancellor John Dewar AO said, "We are firmly committed to building Victoria's regional health workforce, and to supporting rural and regional health research – many of the next generation of Bendigo health workers will gain their qualification here."

The *Victorian Budget 2021/22* includes a \$383.8 million investment in the sector to ensure more Victorians get the training they need for in-demand jobs.

From a Press Release

ADVERTISEMENT

Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

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Harcourt Heritage Centre

Joseph Young of Preston Vale

Harcourt Heritage Centre regularly receives family history enquiries via the harcourt.vic.au website. A recent enquiry, from Western Australia, concerned Joseph Young of Preston Vale, North Harcourt Road, Sedgwick.

Irish-born Joseph Young landed in Victoria in 1853 and was part of a large extended family. We first encounter the family in 1865 when nine-years-old Robert Young became the first person buried in the Harcourt cemetery. Robert Young was a nephew of Joseph Young. The family was living at Wellington Flat at that time. From the late 1830s to 1865 all the country to the north and east of Wellington Flat had been occupied under lease by Sutton Grange and Preston Vale squatting runs. The squatting runs were heavily mortgaged with a lien on the woolclip. A court order in October 1866 abolished the runs. It seems that the mortgagor-in-possession sold its interests to Joseph Young who then took steps under the Land Act to get freehold title to upwards of 1,284 acres that had been part of the Preston Vale Run.

For many years residents of Harcourt saw Joseph Young of 'Preston Vale,' in his spring cart, driving to Castlemaine each market day. You could set your clock by this weekly occurrence. In 1914 Joseph Young was described as a veteran grazier, but, when he went to Castlemaine he went to look after his business interests. Joseph Young had several investment properties, including the historic Castlemaine Hotel. This grand two-storey building was situated at the south-east corner of Lyttleton and Hargreaves Streets, Castlemaine. Fire destroyed the hotel in April 1912. The licensee, Peter Tensen, and his family escaped from the flames via the first-floor veranda. Fortunately, the building had been insured for £800 with Joseph Young receiving an additional £225 from the License Reduction Board, for surrendering the liquor licence.

More remarkable was Joseph Young's involvement with the Standard Brewery. In 1892 at the height of an economic depression, Joseph Young had joined with Horace Collett and J C Greaves to form a syndicate to purchase and re-open Campbells' Creek's Standard Brewery. Collett was the Manager/Brewer for nine years, leaving in 1901 to go to the old country. Joseph Young then took Mr E J Bayley into partnership, Bayley becoming half-owner and Manager/Brewer. The business was worked up to a high state of efficiency in the face of cut-throat competition from other local brewers and

at a time when the Temperance movement was gaining ground. In 1911 the brewery closed after being sold to Fitzgerald's Brewing and Malting Company at a decent price. It is little wonder that Joseph Young's obituary described him as *'a man of keen business acumen and energy'*.

But Joseph Young was primarily a landowner. The Preston Vale landholdings bordered the vast Ravenswood Estate and overlapped the boundaries of Metcalfe, Maldon, and Strathfieldsaye Shires. Newspaper reports vary as to the extent of the Preston Vale Estate but, in 1878 the Land Tax valuation of Joseph Young's holdings was £2,578 for 2,539 acres. The Preston Vale Estate, including the rock-strewn Mount Prospect and Mount Barker, extended from 'The Springs' at Mandurang South to the Barkers Creek Reservoir. The municipal authorities were slow to form up gazetted roads within these boundaries and, at various times, were asked to make these roads trafficable. It seems that Joseph Young's normal line of travel was across country to Wilkinson's Lane and up over the North Gap to Harcourt. In 1893 a meeting of Strathfieldsaye Shire Council considered what was to be done about the road from Preston Vale to Harcourt *'through what is known as "breakneck" or the "Devil's Way"'*. In the twenty-first century many cyclists would agree with that description of what is now the Sedgwick-North Harcourt Road.

Joseph Young used his land for grazing, selling beef bullocks, cows and calves in the Bendigo market as well as maintaining a milking herd. However, from the 1880s, rabbits plagued the Estate. Trappers regularly camped on the Estate. Government-appointed Rabbit Inspectors regularly visited. But efforts to trap, to poison or to capture the pest were futile. No matter how much rabbit fur went to make hats, nor how many pairs of rabbits were consigned to the city markets, the animals prospered in their warrens and burrows among the granite outcrops. In 1904 Joseph Young, and the Managers of the Mount Alexander Farmers' Commons, were summoned to answer charges of failing to destroy vermin. Harcourt's A E Gartside, J R Warren, Matthew Vick and Mr McLean stood alongside Peter McMahon and Joseph Young. All parties had lawyers speak for them in court. The three Rabbit Inspectors told the magistrates that Peter McMahon had told the Inspector to *'go to h—'* to which the magistrate replied, *'So you went to your lawyer.'* (laughter in the court). Witness

after witness gave their opinion that there were fewer rabbits in 1904 than in days gone by. They asked: 'How could you dig out burrows in the rocks? Why would you lay out poison for rabbits when there was spring grass around?' Every possible effort had been made to clear the land of rabbits. The Bench considered all of this and said, while Mr Young had taken steps to destroy the rabbits, he had not used all practicable means; therefore they would inflict a fine of ten shillings. This was a token penalty. Realising the impossibility of controlling the pest over the whole of Mount Alexander, the Bench dismissed the case against the Managers of the Common. No doubt the Rabbit Inspectors were aggrieved. But Joseph Young had suffered the loss of good pasture and had seen Mount Prospect and Mount Barker denuded of vegetation which was a vast change since he had first purchased the land at Preston Vale in the late 1860s.

In 1908 Mr Lawson MLA and the Hon Mr Swinburne, the Minister for Water Supply, asked Joseph Young to sell several thousand acres to the Closer Settlement Board, which would then subdivide and on-sell the land to young Harcourt residents in blocks suitable for fruit-growing. An irrigation channel was to be constructed to irrigate the proposed new orchards. A price per acre was agreed but, in the event, it was Robert Thompson who purchased about 2,000 acres of the land. Thompson then built "Koongal" homestead, and subdivided, and sold the Harcourt Orchards Estate while retaining the upland for grazing purposes.

This private initiative between Joseph Young and Robert Thompson was a fundamental step in the expansion of horticulture in the Harcourt valley. The now-established small holdings north of McIvor Road date from this move to convert grazing land into productive orchards.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre, principally from NLA Trove.

Note 1 'Preston Vale' homestead still stands at 650-652 North Harcourt Road, Sedgwick.

Note 2 Joseph Young Drive on Mt Alexander was named as a tribute to Councillor Joseph Young, the Sutton Grange-based grandson of the subject of this thumbnail sketch.

Note 3 Historians Ken James and Noel Davis are at present working on a detailed history of Preston Vale and Sedgwick.

Kathleen Gray OAM

Harcourt resident Kathleen Gray has been awarded an OAM for 'Service to medicine through digital health education.' Kathleen has lived in Harcourt since 1988, coming from Vancouver (her home town), via the Caribbean and then the UK, arriving in Australia in 1980. The Core asked Kathleen about her career and how this led to her OAM.

Kathleen said, 'When I arrived in Australia, I had a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of British Columbia. My first real job here was to set up a teaching library at the Bendigo Hospital. It was an interesting time to work with health information. It was the early days of internet based searching of medical research literature and we were able to do that in a very slow 1980s kind of way in Bendigo through the health department in Melbourne.'

'I came to Australia because my husband, Stephen Carthew, who grew up in Castlemaine and whom I met in Canada, was ready to come home after international travels. I left Bendigo to work as a hospital librarian at the former Queen Victoria Medical Centre (now the site of the QV shopping centre in Melbourne's CBD). Stephen and I lived in Elwood and both our children were born at the hospital.

'We bought the house in Harcourt in 1984 and used it as a weekender until we moved here. When I arrived in Australia I was amazed to find that you could study a degree for free so I took a Master's degree in Environmental Science at Monash University. When we moved up here, I changed from hospital librarianship to become a university lecturer, teaching Map Librarianship and Environmental Science at RMIT. I began my practice of commuting to Melbourne, mostly by train. Apart from a period when our kids first moved to the city and we lived in North Melbourne, my commuting continues to this day.'

'I was working part time, and I was interested in being involved in the community. I became a member of the North Harcourt Sedgwick Landcare group, one of the early Landcare groups to be established when Landcare groups were first being set up in Australia. I had done my Master's thesis on land saving action by private land owners in different parts of Victoria, comparing this with a model used in the US. So when Landcare became a public program here, I thought, I know how that works, I can help with

that. I was the secretary for about 5 years I and got to know a lot more about local conservation that way.'

'Our kids went to the Harcourt Pre-School and the North Harcourt Primary School and later the Harcourt Valley Primary School; I was pretty active as a school mum. Also, one of the other school mums decided to train as a yoga teacher and she wanted some volunteers to help her practice her teacher training. We used one of the big rooms at Harcourt North Primary School once a week so that she could get her teacher training hours up and for me that began a long association with her as a yoga teacher. As well, I got involved as a Harcourt Brownie Guide leader, my leader's name was Bookoola or "Wise Owl". We had a lot of fun, and I still come across women who are 30-something now who were Brownies.'

'When Stephen was elected to the Mount Alexander Shire Council and became the Mayor, I was a very low key "Mrs Mayor". Receiving debutantes at his side in the Castlemaine Town Hall was one of the more unusual and un-looked for things that I've done in my life here.'



'When I was teaching at RMIT I could see that I wasn't going to be able to secure a career or do more interesting work in academia unless I had a PhD. I had become really interested in university teaching and learning and how students respond, especially when you want them to engage in something like the state of the environment. And I was quite interested in how to enliven teaching by using audio visual materials. In those days the materials were VHS cassettes of TV programs and the occasional interactive video disc. One night in the early 1990s I went to a demonstration by the Bureau of Meteorology about how it was using this thing called the World Wide Web. I had a light-bulb moment; after that session, I just knew the web could change the way I taught. In the mid-90s I started to take courses at Melbourne University's Centre for the Study of Higher Education, on theories of learning and online learning. Simultaneously I found some people at RMIT who helped me get access to a room full of computers connected to the internet for my students to try out learning activities. This type of teaching

Kathleen Gray OAM

Continued from previous page

was unexplored in Australia at the time, and I did my PhD in this area.'

'My teaching was in a part of the university where there were people teaching health profession degrees. They wanted my help – they were interested in using the internet in their teaching but had no real sense of how to get started; I took on a new role, online learning facilitator. That extension of my PhD work is what took me into the field of health informatics, in other words, the scientific understanding of how information and communication technology is used in health care. It is more commonly called digital health these days.'

'I graduated with my PhD in 2001 and moved from RMIT to Melbourne University in 2005. I spotted a job there with the focus on research in educational technology and health and bio-medical sciences and I thought it would be a great chance to build up my research experience. I worked with a really good group of people there, who were very keen to see this area go ahead. As a result I had a lot of support to build up health informatics research and teaching there. My work has been recognised by academic promotions from lecturer to senior lecturer, then associate professor until at the start of 2021 I was made a full professor.'

'My story over the past 20 years has been working not only inside the university but also with many professional and industry groups around Australia and internationally to raise awareness about

how the internet is changing health care. My concern is to ensure that these changes are beneficial. Everyone who cares about health should understand what digital health means for them, and we need to design opportunities for people to learn to use digital health technologies safely and effectively.'

'The web, opening up medical information, research literature and electronic health records to anybody with the ability to get on line and search the internet, really shifted the situation. Patients and clinicians can work more in partnership; people can take more responsibility for understanding their health conditions and prepare better for their clinical care. With social media, the next wave of the internet – for example Facebook and online discussion platforms – people have been able to organise themselves on a big scale, online. Not just professionals but also lay people, with an interest in a particular health condition, have formed peer support groups.'

'Now with high-speed computing and internet services, we are seeing health services become available through telehealth, and that's game changing for the way people think about health systems. As well, with the number of health services around the world that have started to keep all of their patient data in electronic health records, we now have the ability to train computers to find patterns in very large data sets, and to make new discoveries about health and illness this way. It's now possible for a trained machine to diagnose some health conditions from medical images or other kinds of digital data, more rapidly and

accurately than clinicians used to be able to. Many information and communication technologies have become more prominent in the COVID-19 pandemic: hospitals have developed virtual care services, computers working with big data have sped up vaccine development, and social media has spread information and unfortunately also some misinformation.'

Kathleen has written over 200 peer reviewed papers (mostly journal articles and book chapters in health information technology publications). She is excited about a multi-author book that she has been editing over the past two years which is due to come out soon. She said, 'The book is about a specialist workforce within health – the people who are the experts in health informatics and digital health and managing health data and knowledge. It is quite invisible and poorly understood compared to just about any other part of the health workforce. In our book, a lot of different experts have described their work, the pathways into the work, the challenges in the work and the ways that their careers have developed.'

Kathleen has, as many people have, worked from home throughout the pandemic supported with information technology. When not working she socialises with friends and family, enjoys her yoga practice and gardening and is a member of a book club. She also took up bee keeping during the pandemic, 'To give me a new way to keep busy', she said with a smile.

The investiture for Kathleen to receive her OAM will be at Government House Victoria on 22nd September, 2021.

Some Time Ago ...

At Barker's Creek.—Dear Aunt Connie,— This is the first time I have written to you, and I hope you will accept me as one of your nieces. I was 12 years old last May. I got my certificate in the fourth class when I was 11 years old. I am now in the fifth. We live about five minutes walk from our school. We have one head teacher, and one pupil teacher. There are about 70 children attending school. I think I will tell you a little about where we live. It is a very pretty place. There is a creek running close beside our place. We have two churches, one store, one hotel, and one State school. There is a slate quarry about a mile and a half from our place. We live about three miles and a half from Castle-maine. With fond love to all, I remain your loving niece, May Peeler. P.S.—I forgot to mention that my sister takes the "Weekly Times," and I like reading the "Young Folks" page very much.

Weekly Times 7 December 1895. Via Trove



Fireside Chat

Sunday 18th July at the ANA Hall at 1.30 pm.

Topic: The Thumbnail Sketch

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

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



Harcourt Bowling Club

Winter Cheer at the Bowls Club

As we move deeper into the winter months there is not as much bowling at the Club as the green moves into hibernation mode. There is, however, always other activity happening within.

Social evenings

For instance – each Wednesday and Friday afternoon our bar manager John Starbuck will open the Club from 4.30 pm. The Friday nights incorporate the Member's Draw (at around 6.30pm) followed by the usual raffles draw. These are popular nights, providing an opportunity for locals, members and their friends to get together in a warm and friendly environment for a catch up over a drink. John has the bar well stocked with a variety of popular drinks and an assortment of non-alcoholic drinks as well.

Get Card Crafty With Carrol - Wednesday 7th July from 1.00 pm

Put this date on your Calendar!

Cards and Coffee with Carrol - providing some winter cheer and a chance to get together during the cold winter.

For just \$5 each Carrol Frost will show you how to make one Xmas/Birthday card and one all-purpose card. All equipment will be provided and you get coffee (or tea), cake and a warm friendly venue and company. All welcome, just turn up at 1.00pm.

This is open to all community members.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Harcourt Bowling Club is managed and operated entirely by Volunteers, so behind the scenes they are always beaver away. The various committees appointed by the Board have tasks and responsibilities to undertake in preparation for the warmer weather and the next season.

Importantly, the Greens Manager and the committee will arrange for the preparation of the green – weeding, fertilising, rolling, cutting etc. They will be also working with the Building and Grounds Management/Maintenance Committee to maintain the whole area around the green. The Building and Grounds Committee members take care of any maintenance required in and around the building.

Locals will have noticed the changes and improvements made to the Club over the years – all either done or arranged by our generous volunteers. The seats outside and in the club are being repainted and refurbished.

Constantly working behind the scenes will also be the Catering committee, each Friday preparing the snacks for visitors and at other times shopping and preparing for any events, be they Tournaments; Club social events or sandwiches for the Saturday bowlers.

Working hand in hand with the Catering committee is the Social Match committee preparing the dates and times for events and the draws for club competitions. During the Season the Selection Committees take on the onerous task of selecting our Pennant teams - balancing bowlers' skills and personalities to ensure success on the green and maintaining harmony within each team.

Vital to a well-run club are the members of the Board, so hats off to our Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries and Directors who over many years, have provided the Harcourt community – and beyond - with a Bowling Club to be proud of.

Coming Up ...

Wednesday 7th July from 1.00 pm

Get Crafty With Carrol

Cards and Coffee with Carrol Frost providing some winter cheer.

Memberships are now due

Renewal notices will be sent out this month. Forms will also be available at the Club.

New bowling memberships and social memberships are always welcome.

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Twitter: @LMChesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo





Harcourt Football Netball Club

Round 9 Harcourt vs Natte Bealiba

Due to COVID restrictions, the schedule for June was pretty quiet. June 19 was what is always a challenging road trip to Natte Yallock, especially for the senior side. The U-11.5s continued to improve, going down in spite of a good effort. Best were Tobias George and Darcy White.

Showing continued improvement stemming from their commitment at training, the U-14.5s had another win. A team effort was led by Fraser McAinch and Olivia Muscat.

A dominant display by the reserves saw a big win, which reflects the fight for selection. Major goal kickers were 'Legend' Jeff McMurtrie who kicked 7 and James Gale with 4. Best in a solid team performance were Clint Donohue, Ryan Dzioba and Jethro.

The seniors came up against their strongest opposition so far in a tough Natte Bealiba unit. The extended break, and possibly complacency, may be the reasons for a less than acceptable Harcourt footy display. Coaches have a bit of ammunition for some training and future changes to get the team back on track. Future performances will tell of our commitment. Best players in a real battle were Sean Moss, Tom Stefanew and Sam Gale.

Harcourt: 9 . 9 - 63

Natte Bealiba: 6 . 6 - 42

The local derby at the Lions Den against Maldon in round 10 will be another stiff challenge. There should be a big crowd to see the Lions Roar!

A reminder that supporters are welcome for the Thursday night selection meal at the clubrooms. Our Lions and Lionesses welcome everyone to this, as well as to the Saturday games.

Round 10 Harcourt vs Maldon

A big COVIDSafe crowd at the Lions Den saw a real hard country-style footy clash against Maldon. Our two junior teams went down, but they continue to show great promise for all concerned.

Reserves and Seniors each weathered a tough contest. Both came away with significant wins and remain undefeated.

Seniors

Harcourt: 10 . 12 - 72

Maldon: 6 . 7 - 43

It's all good at this stage, but flags aren't won in June.

We look forward to seeing many Harcourt locals at the family-friendly Lions Den for the remaining home games.

Round 11 will be Harcourt vs Carisbrook at Carisbrook

HARCOURT FOOTBALL CLUB

CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CLUB'S 1971 PREMIERSHIP

AUGUST 7 FROM 2 PM AT THE HARCOURT FOOTBALL GROUND

•
Unfurling the 1971 Flag

Replica Jumpers Worn By Seniors vs Royal Park

Relive the Past Glory

Launch of **The 1971 Yearbook** by Steve Tonzing

Memorabilia • Replica Jumper Auction

Drinks At Bar Prices

•
Everyone Welcome

•
Premiership Reunion Dinner – 2-Course Meal

6.30 for 7.30 pm



For details on costs please contact
Steve Tonzing on 0427 401 540
or by email: tonz04@bigpond.com

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MAKE FRIENDS, BURN ENERGY AND LEARN THE
NETBALL BASICS.
PLAY SUNCORP NETSETGO
AT YOUR LOCAL CENTRE.



VENUE

Harcourt Netball Club

SESSION DAYS & TIMES

Wednesdays 4 pm

START DATE

21st July 2021

CONTACT

Jane 0409 514 296

Find your nearest centre at play.netball.com.au





Community grants open soon

Our next round of Community Grants will open on Monday 19 July to support new, innovative and emerging community projects and initiatives that align with Council's strategic objectives.

Two funding streams will be open—small grants of up to \$3,000 and partnership grants up to \$10,000. Come along to an information session in Castlemaine or Maldon in late July to find out more.

For details visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/grants.

Council adopts budget

Council adopted the 2021/2022 Budget at its Ordinary Council Meeting of Council on Tuesday 15 June.

The \$41.48 million budget is bigger-than-planned, including \$11.98 million earmarked for capital works.

The budget and budget summary are available to view at the Civic Centre or in the news and publications section of our website.

Community Vision update

After the enormous response from our Your Community, Your Vision engagement project in April and May, we've been busy drafting a new ten-year Community Vision, which will serve as a guiding light for developing our four-year Council Plan.

The next round of engagement will include in-person community forums, where we will be asking you for further input into the Vision, along with what you would like to see in the new Council Plan 2021–2025.

Find out more at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/vision.

Tree works program underway

Our annual tree maintenance program gets underway this month to improve tree health and public safety throughout the shire.

Works will begin in Castlemaine and Maldon, and will include street trees, and trees located in Council-managed parks and properties. Works are anticipated to finish in November.

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



Council Tree Care Program in Harcourt



As part of Mount Alexander Shire Council's annual tree management program, pruning is set to commence shortly and will occur on street trees in the Shire, and in several parks and reserves. The area in Harcourt to be treated is: Stanley Park North.

The works will remove dead wood from trees, reduce and remove hazardous branches and maintain appropriate clearances from roads, footpaths, street lights and signs.

The trees identified for maintenance are based on a proactive assessment by Council's Tree Management Officer to maintain tree amenity, health and safety.

All tree works will be carried out by qualified arborists in line with Australian Standards.

The street tree maintenance program is expected to have minimal impact on the community. Please adhere to traffic management plans in place to help ensure safe speed zones of 40 kilometre per hour while works are underway.

The tree pruning program will start in July and is expected to be completed by November. The works are separate to the annual power line clearance program.

From a Press Release

Mount Alexander Shire Community Grants Open July 19

Our next round of Community Grants will open on Monday 19 July to support new, innovative and emerging community projects and initiatives that align with Council's strategic objectives.

Two funding streams will be open—small grants of up to \$3,000 and partnership grants up to \$10,000. Come along to an information session in Castlemaine or Maldon in late July to find out more.

Sessions will be held at:

- 10,00am, Friday 19 July, Castlemaine Town Hall
- 10.00am, Monday 22 July, Maldon Community Centre
- 6.00pm, Monday 22 July, Civic Centre, Castlemaine

Registration is recommended. To secure your spot visit bit.ly/MtAlexBoxOffice

Applications for community grants will be open from Monday 22 July until 4.00 pm, Friday 9 August.

For more information about council grants and how to apply visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants or call Council on 5471 1700.

Irrigation season will open with 100% allocation – Eleventh year in a row

Water allocations for the 2021/22 rural season will open at 100 per cent, Coliban Water announced today.

Once the season opens in the late spring, Coliban Water's 1,362 rural customers will have access to their full licence water volume for their property, which is supplied by 504 kilometres of rural channels and pipelines.

Executive General Manager Climate and Population Adaptation Steve Healy said the announcement means the rural season will experience a full water allocation for the 11th year in a row.

"This is good news for our rural customers and allows them to plan ahead for their families, businesses and livelihood," Mr Healy said.

"Our rural customers rely on this water allocation throughout the warmer months to sustain their properties, whether that's running their orchards, vineyards, stock or for lifestyle."

The decision for 100 per cent allocations is based on the current storage levels of the three major catchments in the Coliban System. These are currently sitting at 81.5 per cent, and there is also rainfall forecast for the season ahead.

"This year's rainfall into our catchments has been good, when also factoring in climate change," Mr Healy added.

"Our water inflow for this past financial year was approximately 40,000 megalitres, which is 10,000 megalitres more than average over the last 25 years."

Mr Healy added our region is adapting to a hotter and drier climate, and we can't be complacent and expect our current water sources to be as reliable in the future.

"When making any of our water resources decisions we want to ensure there is enough water to sustain and grow economic activity and investment for our region, while also aiming to maintain two years of supply in store," he said.

"We remain focused on the challenges of water security and climate change outlined in our Strategy 2030 - our 10-year plan to achieve our vision of Water to Live, Grow and Enjoy."

Rural water deliveries will start towards the end of October 2021, depending on demand. Rural customers will be sent further information once channel rosters have been finalised.

For further information see the rural, reservoir levels or water security page of our website coliban.com.au.

Electric Car Charger Harcourt

Many of us are well aware of the electric car charger which is located at the ANA Hall opposite the Post Office. Those who live nearby say it is being well used.

The Core spoke with Rob Law of the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance who was testing/using the charger. He said, 'We are in the process of rolling out the stations across the regions to approximately 20 sites. We have a mix of these machines – some are faster charging than others. We are encouraging people to stop and spend money in the smaller towns; the faster chargers are more for people just passing through.'

'Payment is through an app on the customer's phone through the EV network, or a card can be given to the customer for free, and it's simply 'tap and pay'. Across Victoria there are a couple of different electric vehicle charging companies – it's a bit like choosing between Shell and BP.'

'People generally charge their car for an average of 30 minutes. This charger has two leads fitted with different plugs for charging different types of vehicles. Nissan Leaf is pretty much the only car which has the old style of plug and all other use the newer style plug.'

I asked about the charger in Castlemaine – the one in the IGA car park. Rob said, 'The station set up at Castlemaine required a lot more preparation - it's a different type of machine and there has been a global shortage of the components. Everything else is ready. Once the machine comes we just plonk it in the ground – it takes two days. It's a faster charger and more expensive to use.'

Our very own EV charger seems to be a drawcard and those who need to charge their cars in Harcourt are hopefully taking some time to look around our town and hopefully 'stay and play' a little longer.



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	36,861	97.6%	31,624	83.7%
Lauriston	19,790	18,120	91.6%	16,730	84.5%
Malmsbury	12,034	3,234	26.9%	2,291	19.0%
Total to July 5	69,594	58,215	83.6%	50,645	72.8%
Total to June 5	69,594	50,391	72.4%	48,692	70.0%

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

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Harcourt Uniting Church

Creative Fundraising

It seems that the winter Solstice – the shortest day (daylight) of the year – is being celebrated with many skinny dipping experiences! At Harcourt Uniting Church mention was made of the Solstice, however no thought of a cool dip!

No doubt you have seen many media reports on the amazing work being done by the Daniher family in their fight to find a cure for MND. Those brave enough to take the plunge into an ice bath for the Big Freeze have raised millions of dollars towards research while providing entertainment for those of us watching on.

Another amazing group of volunteers is the Mission Liaison Group – part of the Uniting Church in Victoria. MLG is a group of volunteers who receive, sort and pack donated goods (new and secondhand) into shipping containers to be sent to South Pacific nations. One important area of support is to the schools and kindergartens of these nations.

Tables, chairs, good quality books and toys are often donated when local schools update their furniture and equipment. All goods are donated, however the cost of hiring and sending the shipping containers is very expensive. MLG relies on monetary donations to meet this expense, and our Harcourt Uniting Church Fellowship group donates towards these freight costs. We also donate backpacks filled with books, textas, pens, pencils, lunch boxes, drink bottles and so on to be included in these shipments.

Early this year, a hurricane struck Fiji. The MLG swung into action with 60 people arriving to help pack non-perishable food, tools, bedding, clothing and cooking equipment. They had filled a container within two hours and donations kept coming. A second container was filled with mattresses and furniture, and all shipping was paid for by donations. God is good indeed!

In many meetings you notice people reluctant to sit in the front row. It's the same in a Church, but one minister had an idea. As the people entered the Church they noticed only one pew at the back, so of course they sat there. The minister then pressed a button and their seat shot to the front of the Church. Another pew appeared at the back – and yes you've guessed it – the people chose the back seat rather than go up the front and, once again, their pew shot to the front. So it continued until the Church was filled, and the problem was solved!

What a great idea, but not a great way to encourage people to attend, so I suppose we'll just have to allow people to 'always sit up the back'.

You're most welcome to join us at 9 am on Sunday mornings, and we'll even let you 'sit up the back' if you wish.

Jan Jenkin

LOVE YOUR PET?

Send a picture of your pet to the editor:

news@harcourt.vic.au

and tell us why you love your pet.

Popular Learner Driver Program on Again

School holidays mean that our Learner Driver program is back on with another intake of students. In the July holidays, 6 students will be behind the wheel at the Maldon Racecourse to learn more about safe driving in preparation for getting their licence.

The driver training course for learner drivers across our region is one of our most popular programs. The participants drive in a group of three during the five-day course with a qualified instructor, in a range of different environments and traffic conditions, including un-sealed country roads, highway, city driving, and defensive driving.

"This week helped me gain my confidence while driving in different situations" said past participant, Ash. "Gary really helped me with my parking and applying further minor detail to my driving".

The Community Bank Maldon & District subsidises the majority of the \$900 per participant program costs. There is a charge to participants of \$150 but each graduate receives a reward of a \$50 bank account with the Maldon & District Community Bank on completion of their course.

The course can add up to 15 hours of supervised driving experience per participant. Two sessions are run during most school holiday breaks.

To enquire, chat to a staff member at our Maldon branch (phone 54 751747) or apply directly online for the course: <https://maldoncb.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Application-form-Learner-Driver-Training-Program-2020-21-MDCB.pdf>



Driver Training Instructors and Graduates: Far left of photo is Kyle Winstanley from Community Bank Maldon & District with driving instructor Gary Clarke (far right) and this week's graduates.



Harcourt CFA

June Storm Activity

Recent Violent storm damage in the Macedon Ranges Shire and the Dandenong Ranges highlights the dangers and major disruptions associated with these major weather events. No one can be totally prepared for these extreme storms. Just as preparing your property in summer in readiness for bushfires can reduce the risk and damage, similar preparation can assist to ensure smaller storms have little or no effect on your property.

To assist in preparing your home and property, check out the VICSES website at www.ses.vic.gov.au and remember, for any life threatening emergencies call triple zero (000) and for storm emergency assistance from VICSES call 132 500. Note that a local SES Volunteer may contact you for further details especially after a storm to categorise and prioritise the multiple calls they receive. Types of calls that are determined as an emergency are:

- A tree has fallen and caused structural damage to your home or vehicle.
- There is damage to your roof or it is leaking significantly.
- A tree or large branch has fallen and is preventing you from entering or leaving your home.
- Your property is flooded or is about to flood.

VICSES responds to around 20,000 requests for assistance as a result of storms each year, which equates to approximately 80% of all requests for assistance. Much of the damage has been the result of tree branches, trampolines, outdoor furniture or other loose items becoming flying projectiles in strong winds, flooding due to blocked drains, cars damaged while parked under trees and falling overhanging branches.

As you can see from this list, steps can be taken to protect your property and reduce the risk. For example, before a storm hits:

- Park your car undercover and away from trees.
- Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains to ensure they are not blocked.
- Check that loose items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas and trampolines are safely secured or packed away if feasible.

- Just as you would in a fire, stay informed. Use the Bureau of Meteorology website and heed warnings from the VicEmergency app, website and hotline (1800 226 226).
- Also be prepared as you may lose services connected to your house including power, water, sewage and gas if applicable.
- And NEVER EVER drive through floodwater.

Brigade Activity

COVID has once again affected some brigade activities during lockdown but we have since returned to 'COVID Normal' activities including training and Sunday morning maintenance. We have recorded another month so far without a turnout. This is once again a great statistic to have. We also welcome on board two of our newer members who have successfully navigated the General Fire Fighter Training program, enabling them now to respond to fires and incidents. This is no small feat as they have had to endure the effects of COVID on this training which resulted in it being a long drawn out affair.

Winter Fire Safety Reminder

Winter fire safety focuses on preventing fires within the home. One important principle to follow is 'Safe Cooking'. Never leave cooking unattended and always supervise your children if they are cooking. *There's no rewind in real-life. Get it right the first time. A Sunday brunch or a Sunday roast both have one thing in common - left unattended, they could end in disaster.*

Continue to keep warm and dry this winter but also continue to stay safe. And now that the shortest day has past, we are now heading towards another summer. Starting your thinking and planning now will assist in being prepared before the next bushfire season and fire danger period (FPD) commences.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Lmct:10769

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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery Sales

Thanks to everyone who bought trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery this year. It's great to see how many locals are putting in new fruit trees, and imagining how much delicious fruit our town will be harvesting in years to come! Sales through the website have now closed, but we'll have any left-over trees available at our Nursery Open Days on July 3 & 4, and 11 & 12, when you can also pick up your pre-ordered trees. We'll be open from 10 am to 4 pm each day. Many trees have sold out, but we'll still have some apples, peaches, nectarines, and plums available.

Time to collect Grafting Wood

Last month we talked about how fun and easy it is to graft your fruit trees, to grow your own trees for free, increase the diversity in your garden, and create multi-graft fruit trees.

This month is your reminder that the time to collect grafting wood (called scions) is while the trees are dormant - i.e., any time now. The time between when last year's leaves fall off and next year's buds start swelling seems to get shorter every year, but it's better to collect the wood earlier rather than later, even if the leaves haven't completely fallen off, rather than risk waiting too long and collecting the wood when the buds have already started to swell.



Once collected, you need to store the grafting wood in the fridge (see the step-by-step process below). The actual grafting takes place in early spring, when your fruit trees start waking up and the sap starts moving. The whole process takes a bit of planning, but it's worth it.

Grafting is a fantastic way to turn a seedling or a sucker into a useful fruiting tree, and plum seedlings are one of the most useful, as they make a good rootstock for both plums and apricots. You can even graft peaches and nectarines onto plum rootstock, though it tends to be less successful (and is best done in summer, using the summer grafting technique known as 'budding').

Here's how to successfully collect Scion Wood:

1. First choose the new variety you want to grow. If you're not sure what variety you want to grow, try asking around your neighbours to find out their favourite and most successful varieties. That way you'll be growing something that you already know will grow well in our district.
2. Try to wait to collect the grafting wood until the trees are completely dormant (no leaves).
3. Collect strong, healthy pieces of one year old wood, i.e., the shoots that grew last summer. It's not hard to spot them—just start at the end of any shoot, and go back to where you can see an obvious join to the older wood that grew the year before. Choose pieces that are at least 20 cm long (if possible), and approximately pencil thickness. If you can't meet those criteria, get what you can!
4. Cut a few pieces, wrap them in plastic wrap or seal in a plastic bag. They don't have to be airtight, but it's important to make sure the wood won't dry out while they're stored in the fridge.

5. Here's the really important bit—label it!

6. Then just store it somewhere cool like a cellar, or the fridge, until spring.

Care for your Worm Farm

On another topic, here's a tip for looking after your worm farm over winter. Worms don't like to be cold, so add an extra layer of insulation by covering with underfelt or old carpet. If you only have a small worm farm, move it into a shed or the laundry to provide some extra protection from the elements. It's important to look after them or the worms will either die or escape if conditions get too dire!

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.

Some Time Ago ...

Record Year for Fruit



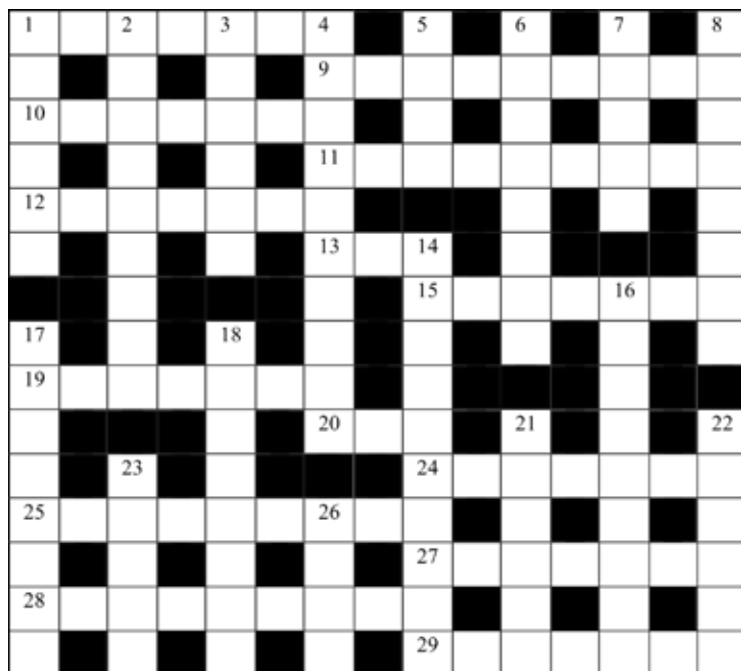
MR. AND MRS. JACK MILFORD, OF HARCOURT, NEAR CASTLEMAINE, have had their best year for pears on record. Here they are shown packing large juicy pears for the Sydney and Brisbane market.

The caption reads: MR. AND MRS. JACK MILFORD OF HARCOURT, NEAR CASTLEMAINE, have had their best year for pears on record. Here they are shown packing large juicy pears for the Sydney and Brisbane market.

The Age, 30 March 1951. Via Trove

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July Xwd 2021 © McW March '18



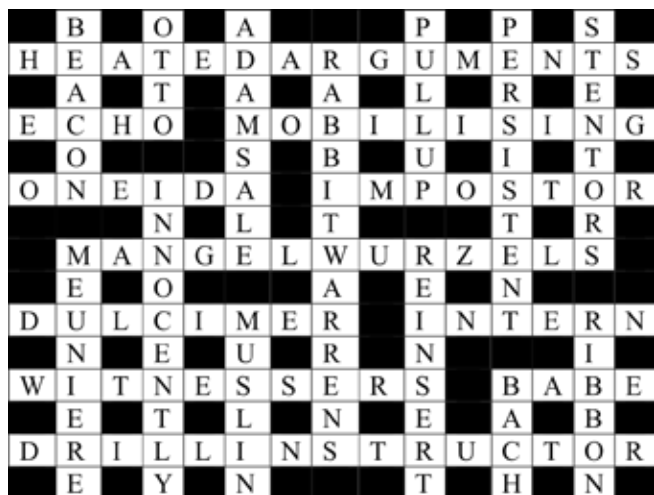
Down:

1. If you'd had to wait while she backed in, you'd never reduce her to a dot... (6)
2. Its driver might listen to a radio rant in the territory. (4-5)
3. Possible burial chamber after accurate enemy strike, and how it was made? (6)
4. Vinyl needs bouleversement. (10)
5. (See 27)
6. I manacle you with unguent when burnt. (8)
7. No hesitation in giving the least drop. (5)
8. English waterway consumed collection of old Chinese dicta. (8)
14. I'm nosy, Cato, about complex protein. (10)
16. Separate blokes over last flat. (9)
17. Fried spuds in shells, depending on the state... (8)
18. Because of his propensity to chew Lego, the boy may mangle a part of the gearbox. (3-5)
21. Misprint actually preserved with no damage after losing five a side. (6)
22. Perhaps if HG had an E, they'd say he was awesome? (6)
23. Offal mature under steak. (5)
26. Conservative gets guts churned in Odysseus' turning-point. (4)

Across:

1. The nearest little Dorothy gets to a green stone. (7)
9. Often a relief when it occurs! (9)
10. Dust of the cave for squibs?—genuine duster backs it. (7)
11. Will's gross curate produces more of a lie than an anagram... (9)
12. Oxidation after JRR's tree being to have faith you'll look after what I leave with you. (7)
13. What the Imam cooks on? (3)
15. John Flaus facin' east? (7)
19. Comfort control-panel and take in a floundering Pommy. (7)
20. Yank poster-boy yearns for you! (3)
24. You could get zany planting grain downstream. (7)
25. Fairly slow-moving big hot junction re-joined. (9)
- 27, 5dn. Well, fat gits will not take the prize here, although a few still tag along... (7,4)
28. Black stuff ground on me as subject of sausage. (9)
29. Writes a set of symbols, but with neither the modern nor the 1897 gallery, apparently... (7)

June 2021 Xword solution © McW Feb '18



Down:

1. Flashing light invites you to cheat people slyly! [Well? Be a con...]
2. Each-way German engineer [C19th], also conductor [Klemperer]. (4)
3. The [very...] first beer? [Well?]
4. Stop the car! What you need to do with hose to get your act together. [Well?]
5. [Prettiness] can be a quality that lasts and lasts... (10)
6. [Sort] dispatched shortly [sent] for great speakers. (8)
8. 1080 might [warrant bribes] if it's to be effective here. (6,7)
12. Is the question asked disingenuously, or in a way free from moral wrong? [Well? She asked, innocently...]
14. Read [i.e. menu re] cooking mussels. (8)
15. [Rise, Tern] and put your beak back in the first hole! (2-6)
17. Replace last letter (same as the first, i.e. [m]) with the one that comes after it [n] and change religion to fabric. (6)
19. Possibly a strip of 17, or, if blue [-ribbon seat], a safe place to sit... (6)
21. Composer never dog-like with wrong trees... [Well? He never barked up the wrong tree!]

Across:

7. Strong disagreements around the fire? [Well?]
9. Removing bat's place [-location] leaves how it's found... [Well?]
10. [Big lions I'm] getting ready for engagement. (10)
11. Delete one oriental aspect [E] from solitary thought [one idea...] for American Indian people in N.Y. (6)
13. [Oops! Trim] that beard or people will see you're not the real McCoy. (8)
14. The [glum wren lazes] among the vulgar beets... [Well? Poetry in Welsh? Or Cornish?]
16. Instrumental damsel? [Coleridge?]
18. Fashionable bird is new to the hospital. (6)
20. Those who actually are the onlookers [witnesses] have a [right] to be heard. (6)
21. Ruthless pig—or pig-less Ruth? [Well? Film and/or US baseball hero...]
22. Shoot the Makita trainer? [Well?]

Colour me in ...



Weather & Water

Rainfall for the six months to the end of June was 323 mm. At the half year mark last year the rainfall total was 369 mm. Five of the last seven years have had lower rain totals to the end of June than the last two years. This year is showing a wetter trend for winter, which we hope will continue for spring with follow up rain similar to 2020.

As of Friday 2 July, the Coliban system southern storages (which provide reticulated water to Castlemaine and Harcourt and to the Coliban Modernised irrigation system which our agriculture depends on) were at 81.9% capacity compared to last year's reading of 72.6%.

Wild winds with widespread damage were experienced over Victoria around June 10, but mercifully for Harcourt the result was messy rather than catastrophic. Power was lost only for a brief time. Temperatures dropped over the month as is to be expected, ending with some cold days at the end of June. Brief hours of sunshine brought the birds out from cover. In the last few days of June the Shrike Thrush was making itself heard as if it was a herald of milder weather. I also noted the local rosellas were feeding young in the tree which they regularly nest in.



What mountain? Low cloud and fog descended on the Harcourt Valley at the end of June and early July. On this day the entire valley was filled with light fog from Mount Alexander to the east across to the 'Bright Hills' in the west. (The Bright Hills was the term used in the late 1800s for the western ridge of the valley and it was so called because this is where the sun strikes early in the morning as it rises over Mount Alexander.)

Photo taken at the North Harcourt turn-off looking east to the Mount.



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Community Diary Dates

Thursday 8 July: 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 18 July: 1.30 pm, Fireside Chat of winter 2021 – Thumbnail Sketches: background and discoveries. (The Thumbnail Sketches appear in The Core each month). Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 25 July: 9 am to 12 pm, Working Bee, Harcourt Valley Landcare at Pippin Court. Enquiries: Robyn Miller, Secretary 0467 670 271.

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

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

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

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

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 14.

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

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

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

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

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

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday			
	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday			
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25

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

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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

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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.