

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 86 – September 2021

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The Orchard Keepers at Harcourt Organic Farming Coop



THE ORCHARD KEEPERS ARE ALEX, INGRID, TERRY AND YOANN, a group of friends who have reached a point in their lives where they want to translate their skills, experience and values into the process of growing and selling fruit in an ethical manner.

Strong principles around climate change, nutrition, clean food and being in touch with the land have driven them to want to physically work the land and grow fruit which is healthy to eat. Yoann said, 'We hope to achieve a balance between growing food and looking after country. That's a challenge – a tricky balance – and we are prepared to learn.'

As the most recent lessees of the orchard (which is one of four businesses in the Harcourt Organic Farming Coop instigated by Katie and Hugh Finlay), the new business partners spoke highly of the guidance and mentorship of Katie and Hugh as they enter

this phase of their business lives. The orchard was previously known as Tellurian Fruit Gardens and has 4000 trees with over one hundred varieties of fruit including apples, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums, cherries and pears.

On the day *The Core* visited, the group was working with Hugh and Katie to replace trees burnt in the bushfire of February 2018 which spread from the corner of Picnic Gully and Reservoir Road into the organic orchard.

Terry said, 'We've got lots of expertise between us that we can use for this enterprise, and we're all confident that our mix of skills and perspectives will not be wasted here. As we begin to get to know the orchard in a practical sense, our first experience has been learning to prune and understand the trees.'

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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.**



The Orchard Keepers

Continued from page 1.

Come springtime, the four will be taught to graft by Katie and her father Mervyn. Katie said, 'There are about 160 trees which last season suffered blossom blight; the aim is to graft them to an established variety which will avoid this happening again.'

The challenge for all orchardists and gardeners in the district is, of course, Queensland Fruit Fly. In early October, with support from Harcourt Valley Landcare, The Orchard Keepers are running a workshop for the community with expert speakers and the opportunity to develop a management plan for the individual orchard or garden. More information about this is on the back page of this edition.

With the fruit season not far away, it's time to start thinking about sourcing delicious and healthy fruit. The season for fruit from the Orchard Keepers runs from December through to the end of March. During this time, produce will be available from the farm shop in Danns Road on Fridays, at local markets, there will some pick your own, and it's possible to subscribe to regular fruit boxes.

Subscriptions for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) fruit boxes for this coming season are open now. Being part of CSA is a way for eaters to share with the farmer the costs and risks of farming as well as the bounty. For an upfront fee, CSA subscribers receive a weekly box containing a variety of fruit throughout the season. The closest hub for Harcourt is the Farm Shop on a Friday.

More information and sign up information is on The Orchard Keepers website:
theorchardkeepers.com.au/fruit-subscription



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

COVID continues to dominate our lives, and it is a concern that we see cases rising in both NSW and Victoria. Many of the people I talk to have been vaccinated, and we need everyone to get vaccinated to move forward.

Like many of you, our Council staff move quickly to implement health orders. We endeavour to deliver critical services while meeting the challenges of keeping everyone safe.

Key projects are still progressing. Our new female-friendly change rooms and the undergrounding of power supplies in Maldon are well advanced.

We have been engaging with the community on our vision and also our four year Council plan. If you go to the [Council website](#) you can still contribute to these.

There is a lot of interest in the proposed Waste to Energy plant in Castlemaine. This has not come before Council yet, so we do not have a position on the proposal.

We are currently reviewing the rates strategy, and this will go out for public comment in September.

Best regards to all.

AG(Tony) Cordy
0439 742 434

FEVER OR COVID FEVER?

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Harcourt Progress Association

Report of HPA Public Meeting

A full house was guaranteed for the HPA Public Meeting on the August 24 at the Bowls Club, until COVID-19 'did its thing', and we were back into lockdown once again; the meeting went online instead. HPA thanks the Bowls Club for its assistance in preparing for the meeting, and we look forward to being able to meet in person with community members in the near future.

Twenty people were online for the meeting which is now available on Youtube and on the first page of the HPA website.

The first part of the meeting was a presentation on the three main areas which HPA is working on now. They are:

- Plan Harcourt and Shine Harcourt – for the latest version of these documents see the HPA and the council website.
- The Railway Station
- The Roundabout

The presentation was followed by questions and discussion.

Plan Harcourt is a Council proposal which will become the working document for township planning in Harcourt. In June 2021, Council submitted an application to DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) seeking authorisation from the Minister of Planning for the planning scheme amendment. Council and the community will be waiting anxiously for this process to be complete (it could take up to 18 months) before we get the opportunity to comment.

In the meeting, issues raised around Plan Harcourt included the balance of commercial and residential zoning, with some anomalies being noted. For example, residential development in the central area of Harcourt which many people think ideal for commercial activity. In the most recent version of Plan Harcourt, Township zoning has been retained and has been applied to the area south of the intersection of Harmony Way and Victoria Road. This zoning allows for mixed residential and commercial activity. This will assist the township to join up – it effectively extends the town centre and should allow for linkages to the railway station. The much anticipated Urban Design Plan becomes the key for parking and safe connections with footpaths and bike paths to most of the central amenities in Harcourt.

Concerns were raised by Harcourt Valley Landcare members about protection of existing vegetation and large trees. The attraction of Harcourt for many people is the beauty of the surrounding bush and the existence of old growth trees and quiet roads with vegetation which serve as wildlife corridors. The aesthetics of subdivisions, including plantings and green space, were discussed with reference to Shine Harcourt. On page 53 of this document there is the proposal for Conservation Subdivision Developments where 50–70% of the developable land of the site is preserved as habitat or farming land and managed by a trust, co-op or body corporate, and the balance is developed at significantly higher densities that is typical of the area, thus maintaining overall housing yield. This approach has been around for over half a century. In December 2019, Council declared a Climate Emergency and the question was asked, 'How does Plan Harcourt take account of this?'

Shine Harcourt was discussed and it was noted that it is much more than an economic stimulus document. Many suggestions were made in Shine Harcourt about what we would like to see happen in Harcourt, and the document can assist us to articulate what we want for Harcourt. President David Foley said, 'It

is an aspirational document, and we can use it as a basis for discussions with private business and government agencies of all kinds. We need to consistently use the messages contained in Shine, perhaps for years to come.'

The Railway Station building is being restored by VicTrack for community use. The Shire is the Head Lessee and HPA is the lead tenant. Processes are in train for VicTrack to work with the Shire and the tender has closed for the restoration of the building, but at this stage the successful tenderer has not been announced. There will be a formal process around consultation with the community. HPA hopes to use the model of the community representative committee that was so successfully used for the development of the playground in Stanley Park. HPA will invite potential users – groups, local associations and interested individuals to be part of this committee.

The Roundabout, always contentious, is in process, with agreement from Regional Roads Victoria, the Shire and HPA about the approach to re-developing the roundabout. The working group has been appointed and its first meeting was held on 21 June. It includes representatives from RRV, Mount Alexander Shire, the Dja Dja Wurrung and HPA. A landscape architect is now engaged to undertake redesign of the roundabout. The group will meet in September to review the preliminary draft concepts and provide feedback. A further review will be undertaken to confirm the design which will then be presented to Council. After Council has viewed it, there will be the opportunity for the community to have its say on the proposed design.

Discussion took place around public events such as Applefest and the Twilight Market. Planning for Applefest will commence shortly, and HPA will bring back the Twilight Market as soon as it is understood what is allowed under the appropriate vaccine thresholds.

HPA President David Foley thanked all those in attendance and remarked that it is likely that we will be holding a public meeting within a couple of months, either online or face-to-face.

Note: This is a 'potted version' of the meeting. If you wish to see the meeting, put aside an hour and a bit of your time, grab a cuppa and go to the [Harcourt Progress Association website](https://harcourtprogress.org.au).

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

The week 21st to the 27th of August was Book Week. The theme this year was Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds.

I am wondering how many HVPS parents, grandparents or care-givers spent that week fossicking around at home helping their children create a costume for their favourite book character?

Originally, the students were going to be involved in a Book Week parade on Tuesday the 24th, and parents would have had the opportunity to see the parade via Web Ex. The parade has now been postponed because, once again, schools have returned to on-line learning and home schooling.

HVPS has also had to cancel all school excursions. This past month has certainly been a tough one for every one coping

with COVID restrictions, the sudden lockdowns, open-ups and cancellations. What a roller coaster ride it has been! Maybe next month there will be more news from HVPS.

Anyway, here are some facts about Book Week. Children's Book Week was an initiative of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA). It began in 1945, at a time when quality children's books were few and far between, and Australian authors and illustrators were virtually unknown. Now, Book Week is celebrated in schools and libraries across Australia. The aim is for children to engage with their favourite book character through a variety of activities and to remind families of the benefits of early reading.

Book Week supposedly originated in 1913 when the USA Boy Scouts librarian

Franklin K Matthews proposed a Book Week. It's aim was to encourage improved standards in children's literature and support authors, publishers and booksellers involved in the production of children's books.

In Australia, the CBCA established the Annual Children's Book Awards in 1946 to promote high quality literacy and artistic productions of children's books. They established six categories of awards which remain in place today. These are: Older Readers (teens 13 to 18), Younger Readers, Early Childhood Books, Picture Books, and the Eve Pownall and New Illustrator awards. The 2021 awards were announced about a week ago, and to find who the recipients of the awards were, visit the CBCA website, cbca.org.au.

Lois Denham



Harcourt CWA

Association Day **CANCELLED**

Association Day is cancelled ... again.

Hello everyone. My original September Chat, written a week ago, started off in a positive manner.

"Hello everyone, although we have suddenly found ourselves in lockdown again, in true CWA fashion we are soldiering on and still planning to hold Association Day on September 16th. So, COVID permitting, come and listen to Jenny Steiner and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea. This is Jenny's second attempt, last year we had to cancel Association Day due to COVID, who would have believed we

might have to do it again?"

Well here we are a week later, and we do have to cancel, again.

Once we were made aware of the latest COVID restrictions on September 1st, we had no option but admit defeat, and cancel Association Day.

But the show must go on, and as soon as possible we will try again.

Stay safe and take care everyone.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer

Harcourt CWA. Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA



Jenny's work, Sisters and Kindred Spirits, Padua College Mornington

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With the news this week that 16-39-year-olds are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, Castlemaine Health's busy clinic staff are working hard to respond to all the enquiries.

Shelley Leathem, Castlemaine Health's COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Nurse Unit Manager, has urged the public to use the Loddon Mallee Registration Hub link on Castlemaine Health's website to secure an appointment.

Shelley said: "We're receiving a high number of calls with people requesting an appointment, but the only way to register is via the link. Once you've registered using that link, we'll contact you when an appointment becomes available."

We asked Shelley to answer some of the most frequently asked questions the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic team are hearing.

How can I get vaccinated at Castlemaine Health?

Register your interest on our website via the Loddon Mallee Registration Hub at www.castlemainehealth.org.au/coronavirus/vaccinations. When we are able to offer you a booking, we'll send you a link to enable you to book your appointment online. Please don't share the link with others, the link is only for you. Should anyone else use the link to book an appointment they will be turned away on arrival. Please encourage your friends and family to register via our website so they can be vaccinated too.

I'm aged between 16-39, when can I book an appointment?

Now! We have had people register their interest previously, before Tuesday's announcement and they were sent the booking link on Tuesday night and already have appointments.

Register online and as appointments are available you will be sent the booking link.

I've made an appointment, but now I can't make it. What should I do?

Please call us on 5471 3555 (option 5) and leave a message to let us know you can't make it.

We can offer your appointment to someone else. Vaccine is drawn up in advance of appointments so to avoid wastage please let us know as soon as you can that you can't make it.

I registered online via your website and/or called but haven't heard back. What do I do?

We'll send you a confirmation email to say that we received your expression of interest within 48hrs. Please note that if you expressed an interest on Friday afternoon, you may not receive this until Monday. We receive many calls a day with messages from people who forget to leave a number. Please remember to leave your name, enquiry and number if you'd like a call back. We also receive hundreds of registrations of interest with an incorrect email address, so our replies can't be delivered. Please check the email address you are entering on the expression of

interest carefully. Some of our emails do end up in junk/spam folders, so remember to check them too.

Why can't I find Castlemaine Health on the coronavirus.vic.gov.au website or when I call the 1800 number?

We are on the vaccination centre map but we aren't listed as a provider in the centralised state booking system. This is because we use a Castlemaine Health-specific booking system, which is the Loddon Mallee Registration Hub. Our vaccine supply is allocated only for those that reside within the Loddon Mallee region so it's important that only local people book with us. We can't vaccinate people from Melbourne or other areas. Our clinic's job is to vaccinate those in our community.

What if I need to change my appointment?

Once you receive your first vaccination, you will be booked your second dose appointment while you're in the clinic. If you need to change this appointment, call us! The number is 5471 3555 (option 5)

I've been waiting a while to receive my appointment, why is it taking so long?

All Victorian state vaccination centres have been allocated a maximum amount of first dose Pfizer that can be administered. We are vaccinating to this maximum and will gradually open more bookings as our allocated supply increases. Before the 16-39 age group opened up, we also had to adhere to the eligibility criteria, so if you didn't fall into one of the priority groups, you may have had to wait longer for your appointment.

Our clinic currently runs three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday), with the possibility of also opening up on a 4th day. We can't vaccinate as many people as the bigger clinics, which have a greater capacity to vaccinate and run 7 days a week.

Do you offer walk-in appointments?

Demand for vaccination appointments is currently so high that its extremely unlikely that walk-in appointments can secure a vaccination on the day. Sometimes we have cancellations or excess doses from a vial which enables us to vaccinate more people.

At times we may be able to offer walk ins for Astra Zeneca, but this is dependent on supply on the day. The best way to secure a vaccination is to book via the Loddon Mallee Registration Hub link on our website.





Harcourt Heritage Centre

Who was Black Jack?

Harcourt's Black Jack Gully occupies a large area south of Harcourt. It is drained by a tributary of Barkers Creek. At the eastern and southern parts of the gully, the land is very fertile and supports orchards and vineyards. In its lower western reaches, the gully broadens into flat, much-cultivated former orchard land. There is not much evidence of gold-digging now, yet the lower reaches of the gully were fossicked, mined, paddocked and sluiced from the 1850s to the 1950s.

The gully was the scene of a gold rush in the winter of 1855. The *Mount Alexander Mail* reported that it was a 'gentleman of colour who initiated the rush'. 'Jack' told the *Mail* reporter that he had been working on the spot with his mate for three weeks before he was discovered by the public at large, and during those three weeks he washed two ounces of gold to the tub from 'stuff raised from the bottom of the hole'.

As soon as his secret was discovered, as if by magic, up sprang about 500 men who set to work sinking holes in the hope of locating gold. The *Mail* informed its readers,

'... a great number of holes have been sunk, both below and above Jack's claim, but as yet the lead has not been struck, either toward the head of the gully or in the flat below.'

Most of these holes were sunk to a depth of about six metres for no return. Many of the new arrivals were soon dissatisfied and, in a manner familiar at the time of the gold rush era, the flat was abandoned by most of the hopefuls.

A fortnight later the *Mount Alexander Mail* again visited the spot and reported,

'Our old friend "Black Jack" who had been so successful in the gully which bears his name began to try the surrounding country, and finally bottomed a hole on an adjacent hill.'

This would have been on the ridge above the western boundary of today's Black Jack Winery, an area successfully mined from the 1930s to the 1950s by the late Jim Ely.

During the twentieth century, some quite deep mineshafts on the hillside were to be found by bushwalkers, but most traces of mining activity on this ridge were obliterated while constructing the new freeway alignment from 2005 to 2009.

The most definite clue to the origin of the name of this locality is found in the *Mount Alexander Mail* of 6 June 1863, in a report of proceedings in court on the previous day. A man named Santa Rosa Ramoy was in the dock, having been charged with assaulting William Armstrong. The *Mail* states,

'When the defendant, a man of colour, was sworn, he informed their Worships that he was known as "Black Jack".'

He was employed to drive the steam engine of the Specimen Gully Cooperative Quartz Mining Company. The 40-horsepower high-pressure steam engine, described as the most powerful and substantial in the district, was so famous that it appeared on maps of the diggings as a significant landmark.

The Specimen Gully mine was being worked with gusto. Imagine the activity and the noise, with a constant fire under the boilers, the cries of carriers bringing firewood as they backed the horses up to the wood stacks, the hiss of steam from the engine, the thud-thud of the stampers and the constant blow

of sledgehammer on drill.

Black Jack was the engine driver, but when Armstrong, a shareholder in the company, visited the boiler, he found Black Jack absent. Annoyed, he blew the steam whistle, whereupon Black Jack appeared around a corner, abused Armstrong and grappled with him against the firebox!

Santa Rosa Ramoy had arrived on the Mount Alexander diggings from Burra in South Australia. Copper was discovered at Burra in 1845. The Burra mine was the largest mine in Australia and one of the world's great copper producers. During its first years, eighty-thousand tonnes of ore were shipped from Port Wakefield to England. The ore was initially carted from Burra to Port Wakefield by bullock wagons, but the bullocks were only capable of doing fourteen and a half kilometres a day. It was found that mules would be a lot faster. So, the Burra Mining Company imported Spanish-speaking mule drivers from Uruguay to speed up the transport of copper from the mine to the port. It is recorded that as many as a hundred Spanish mule drivers passed along the route each day.

After a number of years mule-driving at Burra, Black Jack heard of easily won riches and came to the Mount Alexander goldfield.

With his Spanish ways, it is probable that Black Jack was a conspicuous personality among the diggers. He was certainly remembered. Some present-day residents were told by their grandparents that Black Jack's hut was south of Black Jack Road about half way between present day Harmony Way and the Calder Freeway.

There can be no doubt that Santa Rosa Ramoy, 'a man of colour', was the first to dig for gold in the gully to the north of the original Specimen Gully diggings. Finding his name just too improbable to use, the newly arriving diggers called the location 'Black Jack's Gully'.

This is another thumbnail sketch of the pioneers compiled by Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre with help from the late David Treloar and from David Bannear.

Fireside Chat



Sunday September 19 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..



WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Reconciliation

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap

A new approach to closing the gap in health, education, employment and lifestyle, all of which are experienced so differently by Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, was set up in 2020.

When Close the Gap was initiated in 2007, it aimed to bring about equality with other Australians within a decade, and committed to monitoring the life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ten years later, few of these targets were on track.

The new National Agreement includes monitoring of government actions and how they can influence outcomes. It has been built around what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people said is important to improve their lives, and was developed in genuine partnership between Australian governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak groups.

Working with Indigenous people, their communities, organisations and businesses, all governments are to implement the new National Agreement at the national, state and territory, and local levels.

For the first time, all levels of government and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations are jointly accountable for ensuring that the goals of closing the gap are achieved. They will share monitoring and implementation arrangements.

Four priority reforms central to the National Agreement commit governments to change the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; for example, with more

support to community-controlled organisations as they deliver services. Progress they are making to reach the targets will be monitored by the Productivity Commission over the next ten years and reported annually.

Seventeen new socio-economic targets were developed, focussing on improvements in the areas of education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and languages.

Briefly stated, the targets are:

1. Everyone enjoys long and healthy lives.
2. Children are born healthy and strong.
3. Children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years.
4. Children thrive in their early years.
5. Students achieve their full learning potential.
6. Students reach their full potential through further education pathways.
7. Youth are engaged in employment or education.
8. There is strong economic participation and development of people and their communities.
9. People can secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.
10. Adults are not over-represented in the criminal justice system.
11. Young people are not over-

represented in the criminal justice system.

12. Children are not over-represented in the child protection system
13. Families and households are safe
14. People enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
15. People maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters
16. Cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing
17. People have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

A short time ago, data on twelve months of working towards seven of the targets was released. It reported that over-imprisonment rates of First Nations adults, child removals, suicide rates and life expectancy were either not on track or actually going up.


We other Australians can help close the yawning gap between ourselves and First Nations people by being informed about the hurts they suffer, and by respecting them just the same as we respect our 'white' colleagues and friends.

Nalderun is a service that supports the Aboriginal Community, led by Aboriginal people. Many people and organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire contribute to Nalderun; the name is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.

More information can be found at www.nalderun.net.au



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Harcourt Bowling Club

A shout out to all our members and visitors to the club and our community generally. We hope you have been able to keep well and active during these uncertain times of lockdowns.

Hopefully, by the time this goes to print, we are out of lockdown and able to catch up at the Harcourt Bowling Club in a COVID-safe environment.

Planning for the new bowling season within the Bendigo Bowls Division, and Bowls Victoria generally, has been underway for some time.

As advised last year, the Campaspe, Bendigo and Goldfields Divisions have been united and are now known as the Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Bowls Region.

There have been a number of significant changes which will be introduced over the next two seasons (2021-22 and 2022-23). Members will be pleased to learn that Harcourt will continue to play in the Bendigo Division, as we have done previously.

A more detailed account of what will happen will be available at the club and in the October edition of *The Core*.

For Season 2021-22, Harcourt Bowling Club will field Midweek Pennant Teams in Divisions 3 and 5 and Weekend Pennant Teams in Divisions 2, 6 and 8, commencing on Saturday October 16 and Monday October 18 respectively.

Bowling with Babies Program

Such was the success of this program last year that we hope to be able to run it again at the club as soon as the weather warms and we are out of lockdown.

Please keep an eye open for notices about this in the coming months.

Stay safe everyone – we hope to see you all soon at the Harcourt Bowling Club



Customers of the Post Office are being treated to a spring show of flowers created by Liz Ward. Thank you Liz!

Harcourt's Little Library

For some years now, Harcourt's Little Library has been inside the ANA Hall and only available when the Hall was open. Now, the Little Library has grown up, so to speak, and moved outside, into a repurposed office locker. And it's available any time.

Leave, Borrow or Take a Book



HPA Thanks the Bowls Club

HPA would like to thank the Bowls Club for its generous cooperation and support in the preparations for the HPA Public Meeting which was to be held on 24 August at the club.



Due to COVID restrictions the meeting was held online.

The meeting is available on line on the HPA website: www.harcourtprogress.org.au

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news@harcourt.vic.au

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Grace Church

This editorial is what is known in Christian circles as a 'testimony'. Today I would like to testify to the goodness of God, His providential care in general, His love, and His providential care of me in particular.

Recently I was mowing at the church. Now, I have reached that stage in life where it is no longer easy for me to lift a mower into the boot of a car unaided. So, I was praying, asking the Lord for someone to give me a lift with the mower once I had finished.

About ten minutes before I finished mowing, a jogger came up Buckley Street. I thought, 'Lord, is this the one?' I thought 'Perhaps I can ask them to jog back this way in ten minutes time!' However, I decided that that was a bit of a stretch, not really the answer to my prayer, and resolved to keep mowing, believing in faith that someone would be available at the right time.

Just as I finished mowing, a car wheeled up the drive. It was a kindly and helpful person from the Uniting Church next door who had called in to drop something off. As they reappeared from the Uniting Church, I was ready to ask them for a lift with the mower!

God's timing is always perfect – never early, never late, just on time! I was truly grateful for the lift, my spirit singing inwardly with thanksgiving. There is a passage in the New Testament which says, 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' We used to have a prophet visit our church regularly. His theme song contained the lyric 'God is good, all the time'. To me that is appropriate.

Ps Roger Thurecht

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday

All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht

0422 605 897

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Fundraiser for Castlemaine Health



Virtual Run The Maine is up and running. And we're excited.

There's just one ticket and one entry fee, with a concession and now an U15 ticket.

Choose to run the 21 km, 10 km or Run / Walk the 5 km or do all 3 distances — and like last year you get to pick your course and when you want to run.

You can upload as many 'varified' times as you like to our virtual leaderboards, you'll see upgrades to our website over the coming weeks hopefully making the experience fun and smooth.

Check out the RTM website for FAQs & our Eventbrite page for more. All funds raised go to straight to Castlemaine Health.

Finally, we know it's not the same, but at least our virtual format gives us the chance to keep FOREVER RUNNING.

Have a great weekend & run well.

xxx Team RTM xxx

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21km | 10km | 5 Km Run or Walk — \$25

Concessions \$20 | U15 \$15

Secure your Ticket Now

Go to [Eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au) - search for Run the Maine and include online events in the search results.

MAYA ROSE releases vibrant gender-inequality single 'MIND THE GAP'

Maya Rose, R&B singer-songwriter from Castlemaine, says 'Enough is enough!' in her new gender inequality single '**Mind the Gap**' to be released on 17 September.

'**Mind the Gap**' is a powerful anthem supporting current global women's movements.

Twenty-two-year-old **Maya Rose** delivers the story of her experience as a female musician with a mature depth in her smooth, soulful voice and strong lyrics, combining her signature 90s R&B inspired tone with Sade-influenced pop/jazz, and a reggae groove you'll want to get up and dance to.

Nominated for 'Best Regional/Outer Suburban Act' Music Victoria Awards in 2019, **Maya Rose** has continued to build on her experiences as a writer and performer with regular gigs and live-stream events in Melbourne and regional Victoria. She has also been busy in the studio with producer **Julian Steel** (JAYDEAN, HANNAH, Blush'ko, JANEVA) unleashing '**Mind the Gap**' as the first taste of her forthcoming second EP of introspective songs written in the 2020 lockdowns.

Her debut single 'See You Again' and EP *Time*, released in 2019 in collaboration with Melbourne producers Jerome Farah (Baker Boy, KIAN) and Aman Bayatly (Adrian Eagle) received strong reviews, support from Triple-J Unearthed, and new audiences.

'Lovely voice from Maya Rose on this moving record; throwing back to some classic 90s R&B here!'

Tommy Faith

This compelling new social/political side to **Maya Rose** grew from a place of feeling fed up with how women are treated, and wanting to speak about personal experiences. The opening of the song is set with the voices of female protestors chanting 'my body, my choice', creating a timely feeling of change. **Maya Rose** has created a song that will connect with women around the world.

'The song is about the gender gap, and female empowerment. It's also about my experience of being a woman in the music industry. Many times I've felt I wasn't being listened to or taken seriously as a woman, and couldn't speak my mind. I've been excluded and unsupported in the industry by 'boys' clubs.' It's time that we not only talk about the disadvantages women face every day in our community; it is important to express the issues creatively. I want to hear more messages of female empowerment in the music we consume. I'm releasing "Mind the Gap" because "We're still not equal yet".'

Maya Rose

Working with Melbourne-based producer **Julian Steel**, who brought to the sessions years of experience as a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and producer, provided an element of musicianship Maya Rose connected with profoundly. The track leans into live instrumentation with laid back guitar, smooth tones of the saxophone, reggae nuances in the organs and rhythm, and groovy bass.

"Mind the Gap" has been a few years in the making. I'd been waiting for the right producer to work with, and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to bring this to Julian. He really heard the song and connected to the



meaning and musicality, developing the exact kind of sound I wanted. His production complements the song beautifully.'

September will see Maya Rose launch her new single with a show in Melbourne and an online livestream event. Maya Rose is making a strong return with '**Mind the Gap**' as her new single.

'**Mind the Gap**' is available on all streaming services.

MAYA ROSE 'MIND THE GAP' SHOW DATE

Sunday 26 September Charles Weston Brunswick
Free Entry

'*Mind the Gap*' is released on 17 September 2021

[Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#)
Maya Rose | 0466 614 599 | pearson.maya@gmail.com

Nominations for Victoria's fossil emblem

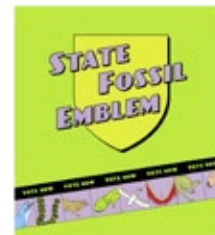
Museums Victoria is excited to invite the people of Victoria to cast their vote in selecting a candidate for a state fossil emblem.

State emblems are a way of celebrating the unique and amazing natural heritage of our part of the world.

Victoria has these emblems already:

- helmeted honeyeater (bird),
- Leadbeater's possum (animal),
- weedy seadragon (marine animal),
- common heath (flora)
- and gold (mineral)

but does not yet have a fossil emblem.



Voting closes on 4 October, cast your vote here:

museums victoria.com.au/melbournmuseum/state-fossil-emblem/

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Together we thrive

Town centres get a lift

Works to upgrade streetscapes in the town centres of Elphinstone, Taradale and Campbells Creek are underway as part of our multi-year Small Town Streetscapes Project.

The project aims to increase the safety and attractiveness of town centres in six small towns across the shire. Visit the Capital Works section of our website for details.

Workshops for business

We're offering a range of workshops for local business over the coming months to help people develop practical tools for managing their mental health. Call 5471 1700 or visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources for details.

Join the conversation at Shape

Have your say on key decisions and priorities for our shire by signing up to shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Find out about Council projects and initiatives that are open for input, and share what matters most to you in the Mount Alexander Shire.

Nominate a local business now

Help support a local business you know and nominate now for the Mount Alexander Business Awards 2021.

Your vote will help recognise the achievements of local business across nine categories. Submissions close Monday 6 September. Visit mountalexanderbusinessawards.com.au for details.

Let's keep in touch

Get the latest Council news and information delivered straight to your email inbox by signing up to Shire News. Visit the Newsletters section of our website for more details.

Paying your rates

Just a reminder that if you pay your rates quarterly, your first instalment is due on Monday 30 September. You can pay your rates online by direct debit, by phone or in person. If you are having trouble paying your rates, contact us on 5471 1700 or visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Rates.

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

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Harcourt Football Netball Club

Round 8 Harcourt Lions v Avoca
Harcourt 18.17-125
Avoca 3.4-22

Back on the oval at Avoca after the extended break. Fingers crossed we will get through the rest of season without another interruption from COVID. Who knows? At the moment there are no more important issues at stake, but some social catch-up and community involvement in our local club is a big positive.

There were no crowds at the weekend's battle against Avoca, but a few spectators were spotted looking on from outside the oval – all good!

The U-11.5s were up against an undefeated opposition – always a tough ask. Coaches and parents can be proud of a four-quarter effort despite going down. Best on field were Sam McCallum and Levi Dunlop.

The U-14.5s still have a chance to play in the finals after they fought out a great contest. There were a few missed chances late in the game, leading to a narrow defeat. Best on field were Luey McCallum and Ryder Bennetts.

Despite the long break, the reserves, not losing much momentum, continued their dominant year with a big win. Goal scorers were Jimmy Gale (6) and Gibbo (5). Best on field in a good team effort were Lenny McNamara and Mearzy.

The seniors took a while to settle into the usual 'Harcourt footy'. They were up against some questionable opposition and officials' performance. One team apparently had decided that thuggery was preferable to footy – the Harcourt boys won the footy despite some baffling umpiring that rewarded some who wanted to punch on rather than get a kick. Still, the men have been putting up with it most of year, and both seniors and reserves remain undefeated.

The team took control and dominated on the scoreboard, which was the best way to respond to the tactics and decisions.

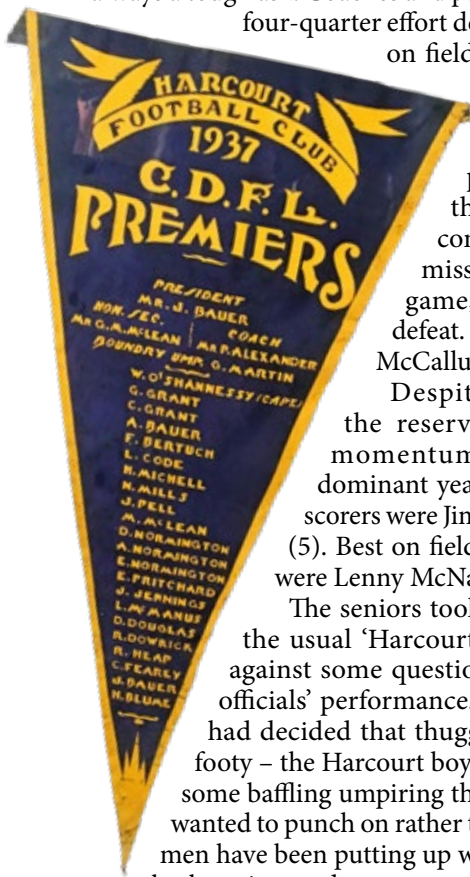
Goal scorers were Benny L (5) and Zac D (3). Cam had a stand-out game, joined by Frosty and Mossy among the best.

The Harcourt netballers came up short in most grades against the strong Avoca teams.

A big thanks to Brian B and Bob Egan for manning the sometimes confusing 'COVID rules' gate.

COVID willing, the teams are back at the Den this coming week against another undefeated side – Trentham – just two weeks out from the finals. So there is all to play for against a much respected opposition. See you at the Lions Den!

Go Lions



TerraCycle Program

TerraCycle bins are now available at Castlemaine Community House!

TerraCycle is working towards eliminating the Idea of Waste® by making the non-recyclable, recyclable. By sending waste to TerraCycle you will avoid it ending up as litter, in a landfill or incineration facility. Instead, new materials and products will be made with your collected waste, reducing the need to extract new materials from the planet. – [terracycle.com](https://www.terracycle.com)



To find the TerraCycle bins:

Castlemaine Community House is located at 30 Templeton Street Castlemaine. The bins are located in the walkway between CCH and the Council carpark, near the kitchen doors. Bring your items in!

Dental Care Products:

- Toothpaste tubes and caps.
- Manual toothbrushes,
- Electric toothbrush heads,
- Toothbrush and toothpaste tube
- Plastic packaging, and floss containers.

Dish & Air Care Products:

Any brand of dish care and air care packaging, including:

- Dishwashing liquid bottles (including caps)
- Dishwashing tablets flexible packaging (including snap locks and zip locks)
- Air freshener aerosol cans and spray bottles (including spray and trigger heads)
- Plug-in air fresheners and refills (including plastic outer packaging)
- Clip-on car fresheners and refills (including plastic outer packaging).

Pens & Writing Products:

- Any brand of pen, or felt tip,
- Highlighter, marker or texta.
- Correction fluid pot (must be empty),
- Correction tape.
- Mechanical pencil and eraser pen regardless of their composition.



the hub



Supporting Local Business

The Community Bank Maldon & District's popular small business program is back for its second year in 2021.

The Community Bank is partnering with small business consultants Sorted to present the program. Sorted's Clare Fountain is delivering the Small Business Action Plan program via a mix of online and face-to-face group sessions, when appropriate, combined with 1-to-1 mentoring to guide and inspire locals to help their businesses grow during and post-COVID-19.

'More than a dozen small business operators from around the region are enrolled in the program,' said Community Bank Branch Manager Adam Balzan. 'I want to congratulate each of these local business for committing to working on their business, not just in it.'

The Community Bank initiated the program last year in response to the economic impact of the pandemic, to support and assist local businesses to recover and rebound, and received such positive feedback that it was clear they should run it again in 2021.

Local businesses involved in the program include Purrs on Pinjarra based at Lockwood South, Twisted Snake Distillery at North Harcourt, IRMA Landscape from Elphinstone and the Orchard Keepers Collective who are involved in farming at Mount Alexander.

One of the key positives that came out of the previous program was the collaboration between the businesses. As they connect through the interactive webinars and get-togethers, they are building networks that extend beyond the program.

'The businesses are keen to learn more about action plans and strengthening their small business. The participants have also welcomed the opportunity to connect with other small businesses in their region, with collaboration ideas already flowing,' noted Clare Fountain.

The program will provide a boost beyond the small businesses involved – contributing to stronger local economies throughout the district.

As Clare noted, 'All the participants are inspiring. They are committed to learning and being the best they can be. I can't wait to see the ripples across our communities as their business plans are implemented!'

Shannon Burdeu
0478 435 110



Clare leads an interactive webinar for local businesses.



Harcourt Uniting Church

At our recent Zoom Church, Reverend Sarah asked us to think of the latest lockdown as a river and asked: 'What type of river are you?'

Some of the replies were: a billabong – just resting near the river, a rock pool – relaxing in the slower pace, a quiet creek, just rippling along, or a river bank where we are able to sit, relax and enjoy the wonder of nature. I was the odd one out, thinking of a river flowing along (as our regional Victorian lives were) then suddenly coming to a waterfall and down we go! I do love waterfalls, however I feel for the young children coping with the sudden changes brought on by lockdowns. The lack of social interaction and loss of routine (when schools and preschools are closed) can have a dramatic effect on a child's development. Pardon my preschool teacher training taking over!

Several years ago at a preschool conference on child development, we were told of an American paediatrician who visited a Romanian orphanage as part of a study on the development of young children's brains. The children lived in three large, cramped dormitories, were under-nourished, had one staff member to each room and spent their whole time in that one room. As part of the study, scans were taken of the children's brains. Results showed that their brains were much smaller than average and very under-developed. However, they were puzzled by a group in one room where brain scans revealed some better results. They talked with the staff member in that room. She was embarrassed at first when she told how she played with the children, sang to them, talked with them, and, at night when the children went to bed, she would give each child a hug and tell them they were loved. This attention, affection and stimulation had helped each child's social and emotional development. Such a simple, but emotional message of love.

Jesus told the disciples – let the children come to me, don't stop them, the Kingdom of God isn't limited just to adults. Putting it simply, we are also reminded that Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

Two Mums were having a relaxing chat in the lounge when the three-year-old tried to be part of the conversation. She started pestering the visitor with a 'cup of tea' from her tea set. The visitor pretended to drink the cup of tea, handed back the cup and continued the adult conversation. The child went away and came back with two cups and pushed them into the adults' hands. Without paying any attention to the child, they each pretended to drink and handed back the cups. This went on for several more 'cups of tea' until the mother had a horrible thought. Where was the child getting the water from because she couldn't reach the taps! Sure enough, they followed the child and found her dipping water from the toilet!

We need to give attention to children, notice what they're doing, make them feel they belong, help them feel special and perhaps make sure the toilet door is closed!!

Jan Jenkin



Harcourt CFA

The upside of lockdown

There are not a lot of personal positives of lockdown, but it gives all of us the perfect time and opportunity to review our fire plan and prepare our property for the coming summer.

September is realistically on the doorstep of the each fire season and is the perfect time to start those tasks that will make your home and property less vulnerable to the impact of fire. With a wet winter, and spring looking like it will deliver more rain, the grass will continue to grow for some time. Keeping it under control now will ensure it does not become a more onerous task later on.

More time at home gives you the opportunity to do a bit extra and increase the area of reduced fuel. It will definitely be more beneficial than watching another movie on the TV to fill in the day.

Raging bushfires currently in the northern hemisphere are also a timely reminder of what we could experience this coming summer. The time to start preparing is now.

It is also worth maintaining an awareness of the traditional winter fire risks in the home, as fire does not work to calendars and can break out at any time.

Brigade activity

Brigade activity has been very quiet with only one turnout so far for August which was reported as a washaway of oil on the Calder Freeway as a result of an accident. This turned out to be a non-event as no accident was found at the given location, and there were no signs of oil on the road.

The brigade did support Taradale to a house fire on the last day of July. The house was well alight when the first vehicle arrived, and water supply was an issue, hence our brigade, along with other surrounding brigades, assisted with the fire fight and provided extra water supply.

The downside of lockdown

Lockdown limits normal brigade activity, but vital and required training is taking place under CFA and government COVID rules. Maintaining a high level of skill and proficiency is a lot harder to do within the guidelines.

The coming months will require all active members to do the mandatory preseason training drills in preparation for the fire season. Again, the brigade is planning that members will do additional training to ensure we are fully prepared.

Unfortunately, at this stage we are not able to engage with the public face-to-face, so the annual public information and preparedness sessions are on hold. CFA has invested in sharing

more information within the technology framework, taking advantage of social media and online presentations and forums. The brigade may be able to tap into this service in the near future, so keep an eye out for announcements and details.

I will also use this page if the opportunity arises. In the meantime, use the CFA website or give a brigade member you know a call.

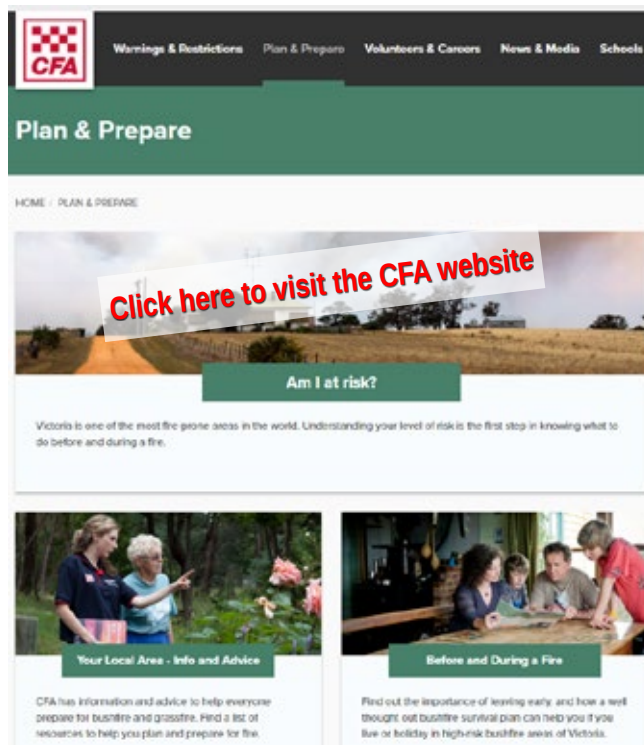
Ashes to ashes

Aireys Inlet CFA brigade shared a story of an incident they attended in mid-August where the resident had emptied the ashes from their wood heater in the backyard. This resulted in the wooden fence catching fire. Fortunately, the neighbour was a brigade member and quickly put it out with a garden hose. This shows how easily a fire can start and is a timely reminder to put your ashes out before you put out the ashes.

Stay safe and start preparing

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



The Core online has live links – Click to go to the linked website or open your email software.

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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Hi everyone,

Spring is bursting all around us, with almonds, apricots, plums, and some of the peaches already in flower.

Though the weather is a glorious 20°C as I write this, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a wetter than usual time for the next 3-6 months. That means it's really important to pay close attention to your fruit trees and the weather for the next little while, because a rainy spring is not the friend of the fruit grower. Rain can increase the chances of your trees getting various fungal diseases, many of which can be quite devastating.

Peaches and nectarines are prone to leaf curl (it doesn't affect other types of fruit trees). A bad case can set back a tree's growth significantly. It can even infect the fruit, which can sometimes cause it to fall off. Luckily, it's quite preventable by using an organic fungicide on the trees at budswell. Note that some varieties are already in flower and so it's too late, but some later varieties are just getting to that stage now.

Bordeaux (a mixture of 50g each of copper sulphate and builder's lime in five litres of water) is very effective, and is a relatively easy spray to mix and use at home. It's a bit messy, and the mixture doesn't store well, so it needs to be mixed on the day you plan to use it.

While you're spraying, you may also want to put a Bordeaux spray on your apricot trees. This can help prevent the dreaded blossom blight, a fungal disease that can cause the flowers to rot on the tree and destroy your crop.

For extra security, follow up the first spray with another one ten days later. If the predicted wet spring eventuates, you might want to follow up with a spray of wettable sulphur before any significant rain events.

Here are a few other tips for your fruit trees at this time of year:

- ✿ It's time to put out the fruit fly traps! (If you're not sure how to prevent fruit fly, check our website for resources)
- ✿ If you've just planted new fruit trees, make sure you protect them with tree-guards.
- ✿ If you planted new trees in this winter but haven't pruned them yet, prune now so they put their energy into growing branches in the right place (i.e. where you want them).
- ✿ Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch young trees or start planting a diverse understorey around them. If you're mulching, remember that fruit trees prefer a woody mulch like wood chips, or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes. The main drawback to mulching is that

it's really good at stopping the rain from getting to the trees.

- ✿ Make sure you've got your irrigation system set up and ready to go, because it's not unusual to get a sudden hot spell in spring. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below. Alternatively, wait until the weather really starts to get hot before you mulch the trees.

Thank goodness we all have our gardens to help us get through the seemingly never-ending lockdown.

Happy gardening, and stay well,

Cheers, Katie and Hugh

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and teach the Grow Great Fruit organic 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.



Harcourt Valley Landcare

Pippin Court 2,200 Plants – Done

A creative approach has enabled the completion of this important urban project. Members of Harcourt Valley have worked through and within the boundaries of COVID-19 restrictions to complete the planting of 2,200 small shrubs and grasses around Pippin Court. The project took two years. In the most recent restrictions, members worked solo or as a group of two – socially distanced for the time allowed for exercise outside.

Working bees and activities

As mentioned above, working bees have been restricted to a small group (in earlier restrictions) or to working solo or in a socially distanced pair. The group is planning to go back to the plantings at Barkers Creek in our own time to do weeding. Like everyone else, we are hopeful some restrictions

may be lifted and we can look forward to working together.

In December, Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group have offered the opportunity for us to join them for seed collecting, which will be a new and exciting experience for some members.

AGM October

The AGM will be held on October 14 or on the weekend following. This is a month later than normal, but we are hoping that we may be able to meet face-to-face and celebrate another successful year.

For updates of times and places of working bees and meetings, see the Harcourt Valley Landcare Facebook page or call the Secretary, Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271.

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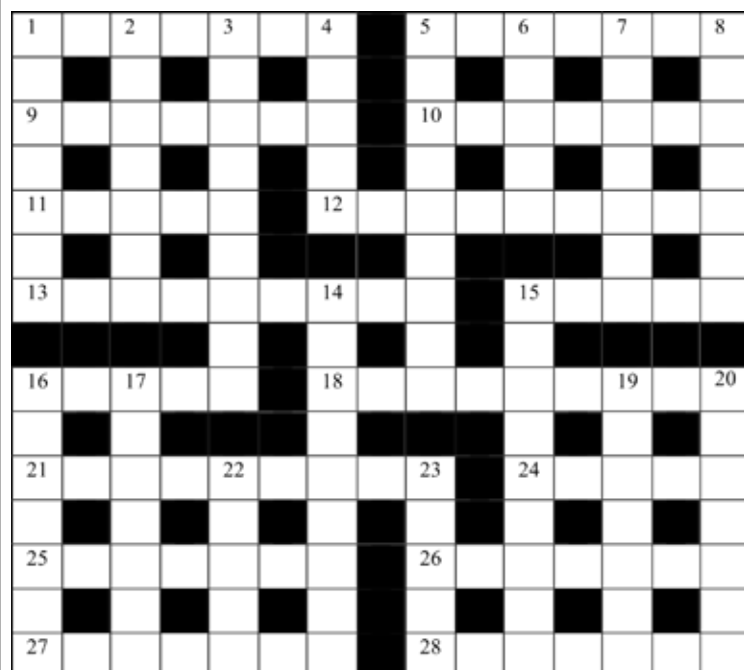
"Organic Pest & Disease Control for Fruit Trees"



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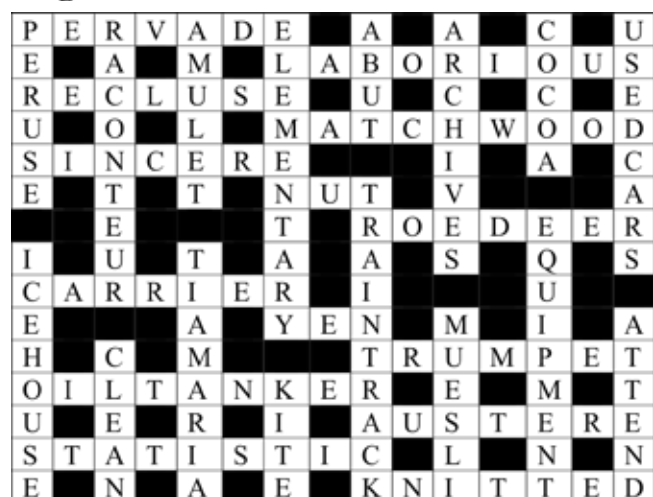
Down:

1. Wise old Greek on battleground has company subdivision. (7)
2. If you put me up for a position, you put me in one. (7)
3. A tall lyre strung from the side. (9)
4. There's nary a poet in the bush who'll tell 'em punchline-first with a back-flip in the middle... (Take five aside and see...) (5)
5. Men-at-arms need 'em. (9)
6. Enthusiastic attack on food is just a little puff over nothing. (5)
7. Don't call Sis nice—she has a cold demeanour. (7)
8. If you get zany enough, go plant rice along it! (7)
14. Splatter of wine might enrage VIP, considering where it came from... (9)
15. ...and you could make wild flans with these pickups. (9)
16. Average can-do yarn with a point. (7)
17. Early inbox? (7)
19. Mixed-up seabird on dawn's side. (7)
20. What does she call that glaze? (7)
22. The French city sick at heart? (5)
23. Footy club in bad weather? (5)

Across:

1. Fine writer and 27s of animal and Tory. (7)
5. Lay grin out to respond in ire. (7)
9. I am metering currently, so what does that make me? (7)
10. Girl with particle is on a quest. (7)
11. Possessor of headless Alexander. (5)
12. Men on lots of beds are just about out to it... (9)
13. High-speed embroidery tool could remove rust and slag? (6-3)
15. A stew of stuff past its use-by? (5)
16. Patrick Field (they say Melon...). (5)
18. They weren't there, but it sounds as though they were the cause of all the divots. (9)
21. Could they do spin for the NRA? (9)
24. Clock-wheel useful for lighting a pipe in the wind? (5)
25. I (sick) cab it back to the hospital because of these. (7)
26. Reduce friction with source of Texan wealth? (3,4)
27. Outrageous previous platypus? (7)
28. A higher degree of boom for apron wearers? (7)

August Xword 2021 solution © McW March '18



Down:

1. It could be super-useful to examine it thoroughly... (6)
2. Only a rare count could earn court approval for his speaking ability. (9)
3. Get protective wear from infertile pack animal [= 'mule'] in extremes of adroit cruciverbing. (6)
4. Teeny realm in starting [adj.] school.
5. Take nothing out of regarding [= 'about'] to get next door. (4)
6. Doorway [arch] over Cornish saint files lots.
7. 18-substitute after abashed reform? [Well?]
8. They can be a sad curse on the lot sometimes! (4,4)
14. It was an art trick to make a carriageway. (5,5)
16. Gear takes umpteen IQ to sort. (9)
17. Inuit band? Ouch! I see... (3-5)
18. I... I am a rat to give coffee drink to little kids. (3,5)
21. Text yoU in slime backflip for brekky. (6)
22. Deal with presently? [Well?]
23. Obviously not a wolf-whistle! [Well? Clean as a...]
26. One of the birds that should have eaten Claudius? [Well? "...fatted all the region kites..."]

Across:

1. Permeate to deprave. (7)
9. ALP [Labor] promissory notes [IOUs] prove pedestrian and not very fluent. (9)
10. Cave-dweller about [=re:] deviant hints [clues]
11. What equal [= 'match'] forest might be smashed to. [Well?]
12. A way to get the suds off [= 'rinse'] after Christ must be fair dinkum. (7)
13. God in shell? [Well?]
15. Erode HER Maj? Silly to think Santa would consider one... [Well? Too small...]
19. Typhoid Mary big on the ocean. (7)
20. A ring-less longing [yearning] for currency.
24. Headless old pro left with something to blow... [Well? Lost her 'S...]
25. Spooner's hard-work [= 'pail'] wanker a cause of ocean pollution? (3-6)
27. Life of the Amish in Oz [ere] long? (7)
28. Actual number of road accidents per calendar year—'tis static bananas. (9)
29. Produced top for [kid] in [tent]. (7)



Do you have land to sell?

Following the successful sale of the blocks of land on Harmony Way and in Liyaka Court I have a large number of buyers that are looking for land in the area

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Weather & Water

August rainfall was disappointing compared with previous months. Here at Reservoir Road, only 28 mm fell over 8 days and so did not follow the trend of preceding months. In fact, the 28 mm was the lowest rainfall we have experienced since the mere 8 mm we received in March this year. The total rainfall to date is 443.5 mm which is 45 mm less than at the end of August 2020, however this year's total is still higher than the reading for 2019 through to 2017. 2016 was a wet winter and the total at the end of August that year was 527 mm.

The water table around Harcourt is still high, though the top few inches of soil have hardened off. It won't take much rain to make the soil open up and for tractors and other machinery to become bogged again. It's very heartening to see the water levels in the Coliban storages – see the table below.

The end of August closed out with a few brighter days and the temperatures began to increase just a little.

For the spring months, the bureau is continuing to forecast that rainfall is likely to be above median for the eastern two-thirds of Australia. Above median temperatures are expected across the whole of the continent except for southern Western Australia.



In late August the evening skies often displayed billowing clouds in soft tones of grey and pink against a pale blue sky

Current Reservoir Levels

Please note that the method of getting these numbers has changed. They are now obtained directly from the Bureau of Meteorology (link below). Notice that Barkers Creek Reservoir is now in the list.

Storage	Capacity at full supply megalitres	Current volume		Volume same time last year	
		megalitres	% full	megalitres	% full
Barkers Creek	1,673	1,103	65.9%		
Upper Coliban	37,680	37,880	100.5%	37,890	100.3%
Lauriston	19,790	19,430	98.2%	18,610	94.0%
Malmsbury	12,034	12,106	100.6%	7,834	65.1%
Total to September 6	71,177	70,519	99.07%	64,344	92.4%
Total to August 5	69,594	69,872	100.4%	53,710	77.2%

Data from: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/sites/state?location=Victoria> – 6 September 2021.

Community Diary Dates

Thursday 9 September: 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, by Zoom. Contact Secretary 0467 670 271

Sunday 26 September: 9 am to 12 pm, Working Bee, Harcourt Valley Landcare. Details – Secretary 0467 670 271.

Sunday 19 September: 1.30 pm Fireside Chat: Thumbnail Sketches: background and discoveries. (Thumbnail Sketches appear in *The Core* each month). Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

Sunday 10 October: 1 – 4 pm, Fruit Fly Workshop. Details back page. 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 8.

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.



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

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

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

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

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

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

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3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

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 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.

Understanding and managing Queensland Fruit Fly

Information session and workshop - in person & online

Sunday October 10th 1-4 pm

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) has the potential to harm our local food system, with potentially devastating impacts for commercial growers and home gardeners.

QFF was found for the first time in Harcourt Valley last year.

The Orchard Keepers are learning how to monitor and manage QFF on the farm, but preventing outbreaks in our region requires a whole of community effort. With the support of Harcourt Valley Landcare we are hosting this information session and workshop so that others in our community can learn with us.

We will hear from:

Colin Bain - Owner of Biotraps Australia

Elizabeth Mace - Deputy Chair of Fruit Growers Vic

Terry Willis - Harcourt Valley QFF Action Group

We will also break into smaller groups to develop and receive feedback on QFF management strategies across both business and community settings.

Tickets: In person \$25 (limited tickets based on covid restrictions)

Includes afternoon tea

Online: Zoom option for the info session only (1-2.30pm) free of charge

Registration:

Email: fruit@theorchardkeepers.com.au

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=808626&>

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