

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 87 – October 2021

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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[harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)

## Harcourt Businesses Nominated for Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to these Harcourt Businesses nominated for the 2021 Mount Alexander Business Awards

- Black Jack Winery
- Bress
- Circleworks
- Goldfields Track Café
- Goodness Flour
- Gung-Hoe Growers
- Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op
- Harcourt Produce and General Store
- Harcourt Perry and Cider Makers
- Harcourt Valley Vineyards P/L
- Henry of Harcourt
- Sellar Farmhouse Creamery
- The Little Red Apple



In December 2019, these Harcourt business people were recognised for their business excellence. Will Harcourt Businesses scoop the pool in 2021? This year there are nearly 300 nominations. Nominees needed to confirm their award entries by October 4. This year's awards will take place on December 2 at the Castlemaine Town Hall.

## Harcourt Progress Association AGM

THE HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION will hold its AGM on Tuesday 16 November, 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. Those who wish to attend in person will need to complete a registration form as there will be a limit on numbers. Registration forms and

Nomination forms for positions on the committee will be available on the HPA website. The venue is yet to be confirmed. If possible we will meet in person, with live streaming available for those unable to attend. If COVID restrictions rule out a public gathering, we will meet

on Zoom. Only Members can vote at the AGM, so to have your say join up! The membership form is available on the back page of *The Core* or on the HPA's website. Once the AGM is complete, the gathering will be opened up for a public meeting.

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For updated information on the HPA AGM go to [www.harcourtprogress.org.au](http://www.harcourtprogress.org.au)

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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.**

  
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
the voice of the community  
**MEMBER 2021**

## Council's Draft Four-year Plan Open for Feedback

After six months of community engagement and consultation with experts and community groups, Council has released its draft 2021–2025 Council Plan for public feedback.

The plan also features a new ten-year Community Vision, which outlines the goals and aspirations the community has for its shire.

The plan outlines objectives, strategies and actions across three pillars, which reflect focus areas that emerged from working with the community to develop the Community Vision:

- A healthy, connected, inclusive community
- An environment for people and nature
- A resilient and growing economy

'While developing the plan we had input from nearly 700 people across all areas of the community,' said Tony Cordy, Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire Council.

'This engagement was via our new online platform, Shape Mount Alexander, as well as three community forums and dozens of consultations with community groups.

The result is a new Community Vision, and a Council Plan that acts as a framework for us to work towards that vision for the next four years,' said Cr Cordy.

The plan outlines a number of objectives, with associated actions that will guide Council decision-making in coming years.

'We have listed priorities under each pillar to outline how we will achieve our objectives,' said Cr Cordy.

'The community's input was deeply influential in creating this plan. We heard that the big issues were things like accessibility, climate change, housing affordability, and ensuring physical and social connectedness. This is reflected, we believe, in the high-level strategies this plan outlines,' said Cr Cordy.

***Have your say on the draft Council Plan  
before 5.00pm on Wednesday 13 October.***

To review and comment on the plan visit: [shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/vision](https://shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/vision) or read a printed copy at the Civic Centre in Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine or at the Visitor Information Centres at Maldon and Castlemaine.

The plan will be adopted at the Council Meeting on 19 October.



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope you have had the jab and are surviving COVID. Like they say, the best vaccine is the one that is in your arm. Last I heard there are local exposure sites, so we need to be careful to protect our friends and families.

We have been busy at Council: our draft Vision for the Community and our Four Year Council Plan are on the website for public comment. Feedback would be appreciated. Under the new local government act these must be completed this month.

As a result of additional grant funding and delays in some projects, Council posted a significant surplus for the last financial year. This is good news as the Council is in a very sound financial position which means we can continue to provide the services our communities need.

Another substantial piece of work in progress is the Rating Review. We received a lot of feedback on the consultant report, so Councillors will consider that and set the four-year rating strategy at the October Council meeting. The majority of feedback was concern about the proposal to increase the commercial rate. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, and given the impact of COVID on small business, the timing of a proposed rate increase was not ideal. The idea of a zero rate rise has been discussed previously, but that would have an impact on future service delivery. It is bound to be an interesting debate at Council, so stay tuned for the outcome. Our Council has a strong record of delivering for our community, so I am sure it will be a well-considered strategy.

At our next Council meeting there are some interesting planning matters coming up. Our planners do a great job and are extremely busy at present. The demand for local properties and dwellings is red hot. Let's face it, we do live in the best place, don't we?

Best regards to all

Tony

AG Cordy 0439742434

### APPLEFEST MEETING

**MONDAY 11TH OCTOBER, 2021 AT 7PM  
at the ANA Hall**

**If you know someone who  
would like to be involved  
with next year's Applefest,  
please bring them along.  
Hope to see you at the  
meeting.**



## Whoops!

This bollard that was knocked down is directly opposite the south exit from the service station.

Any long vehicle using the exit needs to take care as the turning circle is reduced. There is little option to turn right from this exit since the bollards have been installed. The bollard to the south side of the one pictured has a good nick taken out of it as well.

Since this photo was taken, the bollard has disappeared – into someone's fireplace presumably ... Well it wasn't good for much else!





*Continued from page 1.*

Since our Community Meeting which was held on Zoom on 24 August, the HPA Committee has been continuing to address these issues: Plan Harcourt, Shine Harcourt, the Roundabout and the Railway Building Restoration and Management Plan. The relevant sub-committees of HPA are working on each of these in preparation to report to the next Committee Meeting to be held on 21 October.

The grant received from Maldon District Community Bank is intended to be used on an aspect of Shine Harcourt, which will also support Plan Harcourt. HPA representatives on the roundabout working group are waiting to see the proposed plan for the roundabout which will be 'tweaked' after feedback and will then be available to the community for comment. HPA is the lead tenant at the railway building and hopes to involve as many community bodies as possible in the planning prior to the building being open for use. The expected date of completion is the end of 2022. However, with construction delays due to COVID, the opening date may be later. VicTrack Media and Communications have agreed to provide community updates on the progress of the restoration. These updates will appear in *The Core* and on the HPA website.

For comments or updates see the HPA Facebook Page or the HPA website: <https://www.harcourtprogress.org.au>

## Things that go bump...

Many of us felt the earthquake on Wednesday 22 September at 9.15 am. Locally, there were more than 70 comments on the Hardcore Harcourt Facebook site expressing shock and surprise. Reports from people who were driving at the time amounted to: 'Didn't feel a thing!' Some said they ran outside (that's what I did), which is apparently the wrong thing to do! The advice is to get under a sturdy table. The main danger is from falling items, particularly large pieces of furniture. An earthquake of this intensity is rare, so let's hope we don't have to remember that advice any time soon.

Geoscience Australia or Earthquakes@GA reports the following: The magnitude was 5.9 on the Richter Scale and was 10 kilometres deep. It was located north of Rawson in Victoria. At least nineteen aftershocks have been recorded.

Geoscience Australia received 43,016 'Felt Reports' in the 24 hours after the initial shock, with nearly 7,000 reports in the first half hour. A Felt Report is a freely available questionnaire that helps Geoscience Australia judge the effects of the earthquake and give an indication of the distance over which it was felt.

Toolangi, 76 kms from Rawson, was the first earthquake station to detect the quake. Subsequent seismograms show it was detected in Tasmania, Sydney and as far as Queensland and Western Australia, and overseas in Indonesia, Antarctica, Vietnam, Korea and the Northern tip of Japan. The most distant report was from Kazakhstan, 11,317 kms away.

For significant earthquakes, Geoscience Australia produces Shake Maps based on the Felt Reports and also seismic data, geological information and models which estimate ground shaking for a given magnitude and distance from the earthquake.

For further data and maps on the earthquake go to: [earthquakes.ga.gov.au](http://earthquakes.ga.gov.au)



## Harcourt Cricket Club to take on the Blue and Gold Colours of Harcourt



At the recent AGM of the Harcourt Cricket Club, the decision was made to change the club's uniforms from green and gold to blue and gold.

Scott Berry, President of the club said, 'This brings us into line with the football and netball club colours, the Bowls Club and also the Primary School. In doing this, we represent a unified sporting group and better reflect our community.'

Scott, who is a Life Member of the Football Club, has also taken on the Presidency of the Harcourt Football and Netball Club since the recent resignation of Dianne Baig from the role. Scott is going into his fourth year as President of the Cricket Club and has had experience in leading the Football Club for four years from 2012 to 2016. He said, 'I played footy for eight years with Harcourt and experienced four premierships as Captain of the Seniors. I then retired and went onto the committee as Vice President.'

Both clubs have a long and proud history in the community. The 148-year-old Cricket Club is part of the Castlemaine and District Cricket Association. The

Football Club celebrated its 125th anniversary some years ago and is part of the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League (MCDNFL).

'The outlook for the coming cricket season is good,' Scott said. 'This year, to cope with the possible effects of COVID restrictions, the league is running one-day competitions. That means if we can get a full day's play in, the game will be finished, unlike the usual set-up where we play over two weekends. We will play 80 overs for the day – 40 per side. This should help the competition to run smoothly.'

'This year we are fielding four grades: A-Reserve, B-Grade, C-grade juniors Under-16, and Under-13s. Our A-Reserve team has participated in three of the last four grand finals, so we are hopeful of success again. We are really pleased to have a women's team which is open age. It has strengthened the welcoming family atmosphere of the club.'

Being an old hand at the club, Scott said, 'The Footy/Netball and Cricket clubs work together. Committee members are often involved with both, and the change-over between seasons for the facility is

smooth.'

The Harcourt Football Netball Club finished the season on a high, but as the final rounds were cancelled due to COVID, the grades which were at the top of the ladder were awarded a Minor Premiership in the MCDNFL. These were: Football – Seniors and Reserves and Netball – Under-15, Under-13 and Under-11 teams.

A new development for the footy club is interest from a women's football team – the Mount Alexander Falcons. The female friendly/gender neutral facility at Harcourt has been the attraction for the team. While a tentative approach has been made, Scott said, 'There are a number of requirements to be covered before this could happen. Some of these are external to the Harcourt Football/Netball Club, and we don't have input into those.' We do have some hesitation at the Cricket Club because the women's footy season would clash with the cricket season, and during summer, the Cricket Club uses the ground five times a week. Plus, there is the maintenance of the wicket to take into account.'

# Harcourt Valley Landcare AGM



Landcare members were fortunate to have an 'exclusive' lunch at Goldfields Track to mark the 2021 AGM. Under the current COVID rules, we had the maximum number of patrons allowed inside the restaurant, so we felt very privileged to be able to eat and meet together and celebrate another successful year.

## Highlights of the past year:

President Bonnie Humphreys noted the following achievements for 2020-21

- **The Fruit Fly Action Group** has continued to educate the community on how to manage fruit fly. Mapping and treatment of feral fruit trees has been undertaken over 20 kilometres of local roads.
- **The Pippin Court Project** is now complete. It has been a two-year project managed very capably by member Vanessa Chiang.
- We have been working towards our new **Action Plan** supported by a grant to develop a five-year plan to guide and promote the group.
- With Harcourt Valley Landcare heading towards its 25th year of existence in 2022, planning for a **25th Anniversary** is in the pipeline.
- Our **working bees** have continued despite interruptions caused by lockdowns with associated limitations. We have managed, with planning, to continue maintenance of the plants on Barkers Creek and the Wetland and to complete the Pippin Court project. Where necessary we have worked



*Members relaxed after the September working bee at the Barkers Creek 'picnic area'. This attractive area can be reached by walking across the bridge opposite the CFA. The bridge is at the northern end of the parking area for the mountain bike park.*

individually or in pairs. While the year has felt disjointed, everyone has worked so well at continuing to do what they can, and as a result, it has been a very successful year.

## Other Landcare News:

**The Silver Anniversary** of Harcourt Valley Landcare Group will officially occur on 2 September 2022. A sub-committee has been formed to help celebrate this event. Ideas include a promotional event with a guest speaker, with a gift to all attendees of a tree – for example a silver wattle. Life memberships will also be awarded.

**Plan Harcourt** – We are considering an approach which stresses the protection of significant trees and areas of significant roadside vegetation which provide native fauna corridors. When the Calder Freeway proposal was being worked through, Landcare Treasurer George Milford, in his role at the Heritage Centre, was involved in the production of a book about significant trees in Harcourt. The group intends to revisit this publication and update it.

**Fruit Fly Funding:** At our August meeting we allocated a further \$1,000 to the ongoing fruit fly campaign.

*Robyn Miller, Secretary*

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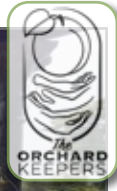
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## Landcare Sponsors The Orchard Keepers Fruit Fly Workshop



Landcare President, Bonnie Humphreys was pleased to pass the \$500 cheque to Ingrid Phyland of the Orchard Keepers. L to R: Terry, Bonnie, Ingrid and Alex.

Harcourt Valley Landcare has responded to a sponsorship request from The Orchard Keepers to support their Queensland Fruit Fly Workshop, due to be run on Sunday October 10 from 1–4 pm.

In order to cover associated costs, the Landcare group agreed to a sponsorship of \$500. President of Landcare, Bonnie Humphreys presented the cheque on behalf of the group. Bonnie said, 'Harcourt Valley Landcare is delighted to support the Orchard Keepers in this important community education effort.'

Landcare member Terry Willis, who has been responsible for gearing up the entire Mount Alexander Shire to battle QFE, will be one of the presenters, along with Colin Bain from Biotraps Australia and Elizabeth Mace, Deputy Chair of Fruit Growers Victoria.

Ingrid Phyland of the Orchard Keepers has been the lead person in organising the workshop. She said, 'We are delighted with the response. We are fully booked for the in-person session with 20 people, including fruit growers and fruit retailers, attending, and so far the Zoom session has 50 people booked in.'

Last month, *The Core* featured the Orchard Keepers team at the Harcourt Organic Cooperative. New to the business of maintaining an orchard and growing fruit, the team of Alex Kelly, Ingrid Phyland, Terry Eyssens and Yoann Le Guen are keen to learn from Katie and Hugh Finlay and Katie's father Mervyn.

Since taking over the orchard of over 4,000 trees, they have been honing their skills in planting, grafting and pruning – usually the biggest winter job in any orchard. Terry said, 'Our next orchard tasks are composting, fertilising and netting, while administratively we are working on strengthening external marketing relationships.'

Ingrid mentioned that the subscriptions for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) fruit boxes have all sold out for the coming season. She said, 'This is a great result for us, and those who want to purchase our lovely organic fruit have not missed out. Our Farm Shop at the cooperative will be open every Friday during the season, plus we expect to be selling at local farmers' markets.'

You can find out more about The Orchard Keepers at: [theorchardkeepers.com.au](http://theorchardkeepers.com.au)

## COMMUNITY ALERT SIREN AT EXPEDITION PASS RESERVOIR

The CFA Community Safety Coordinators of the Mount Alexander Group are working on **A PROPOSAL FOR A COMMUNITY ALERT SIREN AT EXPEDITION PASS RESERVOIR.**

**PURPOSE:** Assess the need to alert residents and visitors at Expedition Pass Reservoir of imminent risk of a bushfire by using a CFA Community Alert Siren at the Reservoir.

**REQUEST** to Chewton, Harcourt and Faraday area residents to be part of a working group to seek out the level of community support for such an alert system. This is a requirement of the approval process.

### WHAT IS THE RISK TO PEOPLE AT THE RESERVOIR?

- ➡ The Reservoir is a high-risk location in summer. Many people swim, walk or picnic there for much of the year, but on hot summer days, there can be as many as 200 people there with many cars parked along the narrow winding road, before and after the small carpark.
- ➡ Bushland surrounds the Reservoir. If there was imminent threat of bushfire, many people may not be aware of the fire or they may panic because of the congestion of cars trying to evacuate.

If you are interested in being part of a working group to assess the level of community support for a **CFA COMMUNITY ALERT SIREN AT THE RESERVOIR**, please text your interest to:

**Robert Smith**, CFA Community Safety Coordinator, Mount Alexander Group on 0490 348 763.

or

**Tyrone Rice**, CFA Community Safety Coordinator, Harcourt Brigade on 0409 686 738.

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# Mount Alexander Australia Day Awards

Mount Alexander Shire Council is calling on the community to acknowledge individuals who have stepped up and made a difference in the lives of others by nominating them for an Australia Day Award.

Nominations opened on Monday 27 September, for the awards to be announced on Australia Day/Survival Day on Wednesday 26 January 2022.

Council's Director of Corporate and Community Services, Lisa Knight, said she hoped people would make the most of the opportunity to nominate those who have given so much, whether in response to the pandemic or otherwise, and over this year or a number of years.

'Whether visible or behind the scenes, and whether working individually or with others, so many people have contributed so much in our communities this past year,' said Ms Knight.

'People on committees and organisations, in their jobs and in community roles have had to go more than the extra mile this year, some in very challenging circumstances,' said Ms Knight.

'Why not take this opportunity to see them and their work and contributions publicly acknowledged?'

Council will allocate four awards to recipients selected by a panel of Mount Alexander Shire Councillors. The categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year – over 65 years of age on 26 January 2022
- Young Citizen of the Year - under 26 years of age on 26 January 2022
- Event of the Year (includes online events).

Nominees must live in the Mount Alexander Shire, be an Australian citizen and have given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

To nominate someone for an Australia Day Award, complete a nomination form online at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Australiaday](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Australiaday) or collect one from the Civic Centre in Castlemaine. Completed nomination forms can be submitted at the Civic Centre or via email to [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

## Nominators are asked to:

- Outline the nominee's contributions to the broader community
- List the nominee's other significant contributions and/or achievements
- Explain ways the nominee has demonstrated excellence
- Add other relevant background details
- Provide details of another person who can also be contacted about the nominee

Mount Alexander Shire's 2021 Citizen of the Year Ian Gallagher said receiving the award last year gave him a real lift. Now he's planning to share the love and nominate others for an award.

'My oath I will. There's a lot of people out there doing a lot and they don't always get recognised,' said Mr Gallagher.

Mount Alexander Shire's 2021 Young Citizen of the Year Jade Bujeya said after winning the award she was approached by a Federal Government initiative which supported her studies to write a profile of herself for International Women and Girls in Science Day for national publication.

'Nominating others is an incredibly meaningful way to show you appreciate the efforts others go to for our community and it's also really valuable for nominees personally,' said Ms Bujeya.



*Ian Gallagher, the 2021 Citizen of the Year Award recipient with Mayor Tony Cordy.*

**Nominations close at 5.00pm on  
Friday 26 November 2021.**

Complete an online nomination form at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay).

## Learn How to Use Computers and Get Digitally Connected

Over 55s who want to learn how to get online, use computers and mobile phones, and tap into the digital world can access a free, in-person service across Mount Alexander Shire to teach them how.

Council has partnered with the Goldfields Library Corporation, Castlemaine Community House and the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre to deliver one-on-one mentoring sessions to help people develop digital skills and confidence.

The 'Be Connected' sessions are offered by digital mentors, who can help participants navigate a range of digital challenges such as setting up a MyGov account or email address, search the internet, complete an online application form, and more.

Simply call any of the four Be Connected providers and explain what you want to learn and book a mentoring session.

If you are interested in attending a Be Connected session, please call first to make sure sessions are running.

Be Connected sessions are usually held in-person (pending COVID-19 restrictions) on the following days:

**Monday  
9.00am-12.00pm:**

**Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre,**  
Mechanics Lane. Drop-in sessions.  
\$2 donation for morning tea.

For details call 5471 1807.

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
2.00pm-4.00pm:**

**Castlemaine Library.**

One-on-one IT help sessions with library staff. To book a session, visit or call the library on 5472 1458.

**Wednesdays  
3.00pm-5.00pm:**

**Castlemaine Community House.**  
To book a session, call 5472 4842.

The Victorian Government is funding the promotion of the Be Connected sessions in the Mount Alexander Shire through its COVID-19 Community Activation and Social Isolation Initiative. Be Connected aims to empower all Australians to thrive in a digital world.



# Readers' Corner



**Daryl O'Brien – 'I always look forward to the monthly paper.'**

Daryl O'Brien is a reader of *The Core* who lives in Castlemaine. He said, 'I like small-town newspapers. I used to print the Dunolly local paper on an offset press for a couple of years. I didn't do any writing or editing, I was purely the printer.'

'I worked at the Mount Alexander Shire and when I retired I was looking around for something to do. I took up volunteer work as a community radio announcer and joined the Victorian Goldfields Railway (VGR) as well. On September 21st this year, I celebrated my 40th anniversary as a radio announcer with KLFM (formally 3CCC). I play mostly middle of the road and easy listening music.'

'I suppose my interest in VGR came naturally, as my father was a Victorian Railways signaller for 51 years. Not being interested in driving engines, I joined up and trained as a signaller. My dog Lola goes everywhere with me. I'm now 80 years old and reasonably fit, but the levers are getting harder to pull these days so I might have to think about what to do next!'

For those of us who remember the signal boxes in Castlemaine, Daryl provided the following information. 'Castlemaine had two signal boxes. The one in Parker Street was dismantled and removed to a backyard in Woodend. That was Castlemaine 'B' box. The 'A' signal box is still operational, but just for VGR trains.'



Signal box A – date unknown. From [www.victorianrailways.net](http://www.victorianrailways.net)



Signal Box B – 1978. Photo by David Langley, from [www.victorianrailways.net](http://www.victorianrailways.net)



Lola the Golden Retriever supervises signaller Daryl O'Brien in the Castlemaine 'A' signal box on which levers to pull for an incoming VGR steam train.

Dear Editor

Thank you for arranging the delivery of my latest copy of *The Core*.

I am keeping well thank you. The 'virus' isn't a handicap to me.

I attend a local Anglican and Uniting Church service still, getting up early each day to acknowledge the Creator.

As Pastor Roger Thurecht states in his Grace Church column (page 9, September, 21): 'God is never early, but he is NEVER late!'

Neil Anderson  
Gisborne

**Editor's Note:** Neil is a big fan of TW's Cryptic Crosswords and is also a reader of the Chewton Chat.

## Community Health Integration gets Ministerial Seal of Approval

A shared future is one step closer with the Minister for Health having formally approved the integration of Castlemaine Health and CHIRP Community Health.

The integration is supported by an independent review and feedback from staff, consumers, partner organisations and the wider community. Both Boards formally endorsed integration at their meetings in June.

Castlemaine Health Board Chair Peggy Ronnau said: 'The case for integration couldn't be more compelling. We are better together. With this decision we're now just months away from a shared future where our unique people, identities and strengths work as one to deliver the very best community health services around.'

CHIRP Chair Lexi Randall-L'Estrange said: 'This was the very last formal step so we're not resting on our laurels. There is a great deal of work already in progress as we prepare for implementation of integration on 1 October 2021.'

Community health clients and the wider community will not experience any changes to the services they receive or the staff delivering their care. Community health services currently delivered from CHIRP's premises on Mostyn Street will continue, as will the services being delivered in the community and at Castlemaine Health. Over time the integrated organisation expects to find natural opportunities to combine and grow services but this work has a longer-term horizon.

For now, the CEOs and teams from both organisations are meeting regularly to work through the detail of integration to agree how best to navigate the operational, governance and financial issues that will underpin successful integration. Much of their work over the next few months will also focus on supporting staff and volunteers' transition into the newly integrated organisation.

Ms Ronnau said: 'Integration is not a bolt-on. Both organisations are looking at what we do and how we do it. We're making sure that we're all ready to flex in the right direction so that, come 1 October, the two parts come together to make a whole.'



*L to R: Di Couch, CEO CHIRP Community Health; Jane Staley, CHIRP Operations and Integration Project Manager; Peggy Ronnau, Castlemaine Health Board Chair; Sue Race, Castlemaine Health CEO; Kerry James, Director of Allied Health and Community Programs; Lexi Randall-L'Estrange, CHIRP Board Chair; Purdy Buckle, CHIRP Acting Manager Housing, Family Services and Quality.*

Accommodation options for community health services are also being considered as part of the mix to ensure easy access for clients and the local community.

Ms Randall-L'Estrange said: 'We know from community feedback that people value easy access and we know we can't deliver good community health services without it. While there is no easy answer to the question of location, we are exploring options that let us be flexible about what we do and how we do it. Those discussions will evolve over time in partnership with clients and the community.'

Both CHIRP Community Health and Castlemaine Health will continue to liaise with clients, community and partners over the next few months as finer details of integration are worked through.

For more information visit  
[www.chirp.org.au](http://www.chirp.org.au) OR [www.castlemainehealth.org.au](http://www.castlemainehealth.org.au).

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# VMR Update

## Support Needed For VMR

*'The train is running late – it's stuck on the hill.'*

These wry words were spoken by Andrew Mierisch as part of an update for this month's *Core*. He said, 'We have achieved a massive milestone in erecting the platform roof stanchions. To get to this point it was a lot of hard and drawn out work, clearing the rock to gain the platform footings, then dealing with one big hole and loose soil. Building the timber boxing work over the 2x80 metre platforms was also another big achievement.'

'The construction lock-down for two weeks from September to early October has also held us back as VMR members were unable to leave Melbourne to come and work on the project.'

'Although we have all the permits required, we rely heavily on our volunteers and funding. Both have taken a big hit due to COVID and, unfortunately, there is no COVID financial assistance bracket that we fall into. We are looking at grants, but as we are a private volunteer association, we often "don't fit" the pre-requisite conditions. We are also exploring a Go Fund Me type of fundraising. We can continue slowly on club funds, but a boost of funding will see us get more done.'

Andrew mentioned that volunteers from Harcourt are welcome. In order to be covered by insurance while on site, volunteers need to become members of the club.

'The team is still very positive and hopeful despite the ongoing setbacks. We wish everyone health and safety in these very trying times.'

*Go to the VMR Facebook page if you would like to volunteer, or if you have any ideas for supporting for this long established and vital project in Harcourt.*



*The new platform stanchions are ready for the platform roofing iron*



*Piles of railway line waiting to be assembled into tracks around the VMR site.*



*Looking east over Harcourt from the front of the station.*

  
**KEEP CALM  
AND  
VOLUNTEER  
Harcourt  
NEEDS  
YOU**

### **LOVE YOUR PET?**

Send a picture of your pet to the editor:

[news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au)

and tell us why you love your pet.



## Harcourt Heritage Centre

### Up rode the squatter, mounted on his thoroughbred.

In the same way as the rising tide fills coastal inlets, so the arrival of sheep in the Port Phillip district was slow but unstoppable.

With the sheep came wealthy young men who ventured into the unknown in search of a livelihood. If you had enough money to buy a mob of sheep it was an attractive proposition. Land was so plentiful that there was no risk of your sheep becoming mixed with the sheep of your neighbour; your neighbour was miles away. The bush did not need to be cleared because there was enough grassland for the flock. And, of course, the land was 'free'. The number of sheep would increase, so you could count on a good wool clip in the future.

It became the ambition of many young men of means to buy a few hundred sheep and set off into the unknown interior, trailing the flock while mounted on a well-bred horse. It was a shortcut to future wealth. It was said of the squatters that each had an ambition to become 'lord of all they surveyed and master of every man that they encountered in a day's ride'. This was the time when Edward and William Barker entered the history books.

Edward Barker was an opportunist. From 1840 to 1845 he had purchased an interest in seven flocks of sheep – in reality he had acquired seven pastoral runs, mostly on the Mornington Peninsula, but one, purchased in a 'fire sale', was far away to the north. To solve this problem of distance, Doctor Edward Barker arranged to bring his younger brother William from England and settle him on the run at Mount Alexander.

Twenty-seven-year-old William Barker first came to the valley at the foot of Mount Alexander in July 1845. There were no title deeds to hand over, and there was no exchange of keys, because there were no doors or gates with locks. There was no contract with witnessed signatures, no need to apply a red wax seal, none of that. There was only a bill of sale for a mob of 3,000 sheep. By this transaction, William Barker took possession of 30,000 acres of land west of Mount Alexander in July 1845.

William was a fully qualified doctor with certificates from the Royal College of Surgeons, but he did not practise medicine for the next seventeen years. Instead, he lived the life of a squatter. He built a homestead on the banks of the creek that now bears his name and established

shepherds huts and other outbuildings scattered widely across the run. The Mount Alexander sheep run was big, stretching from what we now know as Harcourt North to Chewton, and from the crest of the mountain to as far west as Woodbrook.

William put up walls for his homestead, vertical structures upright and unyielding, unlike the tall trees which swayed and bent to the unseen wind and unlike the housing of the local indigenous people, the Dja Wurrung who used sloping slabs of bark for protection.

The shepherds marked out rectangles where no rectangle had ever been seen, four-sided sheep folds formed of hurdles, four-sided paddocks, four-sided dwellings, all rectangles where previously there had only been free flowing open space. These men of the 1840s made straight lines, plough furrows, paths and fence lines. Doctor Barker brought all of these to the Harcourt Valley. These straight lines were to stand in place of traditional boundaries marked by a ridge, by the meandering course of a creek or, in the case of paths, by the line of travel of the kangaroos.

William Barker was an educated man in pursuit of the riches that the export of his sheep's wool would bring.

He must have seen evidence of age-old human occupancy in the Harcourt Valley; there were tell-tale signs of the Dja Dja Wurrung everywhere. The most obvious signs of occupation were scarred trees, trees from which bark had been taken for a shield, coolamon, shelter or canoe. The best sites for Dr Barker's vegetable gardens were the great mounds of ash and blackened soil where communal campfires had burned for months at a time and for many generations past. The grinding grooves and the stone scatters were not so easy to see, but they were there, and if you took pains to observe, had such a pattern that you could identify exactly where the toolmaker sat on his haunches to strike stone upon stone.

Then there were unexplained clearings where no tree grew – the landscape was park-like. How was the European to know that the clearings were the result of aeons of 'cool burns' practised annually to promote fresh green grass which, in turn, attracted game to the hunter? And, up on Mount Barker, as he surveyed the distant valley, did Dr Barker see the Mindi, three hundred yards in length, a stone serpent of such huge extent as to be invisible to the European eye?

Yes, there was evidence aplenty of the previous occupants. But, like all the folk from the northern hemisphere, William Barker could not see it.

With a workforce of shepherds and hutkeepers and their wives, a bullock driver (John Worley) and an overseer (JW Pearce), Dr Barker managed to graze his sheep, shear his flock, transport the wool to the seaport and bring supplies and cash from Melbourne.

Doctor Barker built a substantial home of stone. The interior woodwork was of polished cedar, the windows had glass panes and there were enough rooms to be able to offer a bed to travellers intent on reaching far-flung settlements further north. The homestead, of which only one wall remains, must have been cosy and well furnished, for it is recorded that Superintendent Charles La Trobe made a point of staying overnight when he was travelling through the district.

From 1846, the price of sheep and of wool was on the increase, and the later 1840s were years of prosperity. The only shadow on the plans of Dr Barker was encroachment. In 1846, Samuel Hawkings opened the Porcupine Inn alongside the north-west track at the far corner of Dr Barker's run. Hawkings was an ex-sergeant-major, not a man to be trifled with, so his presence was tolerated.

A survey of the run commenced in 1851, and Dr Barker got used to parties of surveyors camping on his run. Each day the surveyors took up the chain to take triangulations, make field notes of Dr Barker's boundaries, and peg out straight lines, uphill and down dale, to formalise his occupancy.

It was a hut-keeper, Christopher Peters, who located gold embedded in quartz in a long east-west gully far to the south of Dr Barker's homestead. Peters then told his secret to two shepherds and the bullock driver. The four men quit their jobs and set off into the bush and camped near the site of the discovery. The men did very nicely, digging up gold nuggets which they stored in pickle jars. It was the overseer, Pearce, who found the campsite of the four men and reported their discovery to Dr Barker.

Dr Barker mounted his horse and rode down to the campsite. In a towering rage he threatened the discoverers of gold with legal action. The four men had left his employ. It was an impertinence for them to trespass on his land.

But soon the whole world knew of



Mount Alexander. In the same way as the rising tide fills the coastal inlets, so the arrival of gold seekers on Dr Barker's sheep run was unstoppable. People from all over the globe set out to make a fortune feverishly turning over the soil searching for nuggets on Dr Barker's sheep station.

Not only that, but the newcomers also needed home sites and somewhere to grow their vegetables and to turn out the milking cow. In the same way as the rising tide fills the coastal inlets, so the force of democracy was unstoppable. The privileged few were in danger of losing their pre-eminent position as well as having the extent of their lands reduced. The government parcelled up the land for sale to sturdy ex-goldminers. Those who fenced, built on, and cropped their land comprised the bulk of the population. In the Harcourt Valley, the bush was cleared and fruit trees planted.

In the 1850s, when the population of

Harcourt had grown to include a large number of children, it was the general desire that there should be a government-funded school. The old habits of the English still survived, and a committee was formed. The parents approached Dr Barker (a bachelor) to ask that he become the patron of the committee to promote a school.

Dr Barker played his part, wielded influence in high places, and Harcourt obtained its school. But the era of the squattocracy was over. The whole of Dr Barker's run was resumed by the government, thrown open for selection and settlement for farms and townships. In 1862, Dr Barker sold the remainder of his land to Henry Ely and left Harcourt to commence medical practice at Beechworth. For a time, he practised at Echuca, and then in the Melbourne suburb of Albert Park. Dr Barker was a kind man and, we are told, treated the poor without payment.

As for Harcourt, the departure of Dr Barker marked the end of an era of class distinction and landed gentry and opened a far more democratic era. Henceforth, the community would not defer to 'the big house' or seek the favour of the 'Lord of the manor.'

The Harcourt community now included several Irish-born, who had seen the unjust treatment of their countrymen by the English ruling class. In this new land, every adult male had the right to vote. It is a characteristic of the community at the foot of Mt Alexander that, unlike many other Victorian communities, it achieved its civic amenities and made great progress under the most democratic of methods. It was a new era for Harcourt when Dr Barker recognised the inevitable and went away.

*George Milford*



## ***Fireside Chat*** (Probably without the fire)

**Sunday October 17 at the ANA Hall at 1.30 pm**

**Guest Speaker: Luke Devenish**

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

Luke Devenish is an author of historical fiction.

His novels include 'The Heart of the Ritz', 'The Secret Heiress', 'Den of Wolves' and 'Nest of Vipers'.

A surprise topic that will captivate,.

Luke is a brilliant speaker with lots of stories.

Browse Luke's website: [lukedevenish.com](http://lukedevenish.com)

## **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**



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WATER

## **Expect a Call about your Water and Sewerage Services**

More than two thousand customers across six water corporations, including Coliban Water, will be surveyed over the coming weeks for their feedback on water and sewerage services.

Joining forces for this annual customer satisfaction survey are Central Highlands Water, Goulburn Valley Water, East Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water, Gippsland Water, Westernport Water and Coliban Water.

The survey is being conducted by TKW Research over the telephone, with a random sample of 400 residential customers being contacted from each of the water corporation areas.

Coliban Water's Executive General Manager Customer Community & Stakeholder Affairs Lauren McLean said the annual survey is an important tool to help the organisation gauge how well it is performing with our services and will assist with our planning for the future.

"We encourage customers contacted to be as honest as possible about their experience with us over the past 12 months when asked for their feedback on a variety of issues. The survey should take no more than ten minutes to complete."

The telephone survey has commenced in the week beginning Monday 26 September. It is all about gathering information. TKW Research will clearly identify themselves and will not engage in any sales pitch for a product or a service.

**Please note that if customers receive calls from people selling water filters or any other device, it is in no way connected with this survey.**



# WALKING TOGETHER

## Towards Reconciliation

### The Golden Rule

For thousands of years, Indigenous people in the lands now called Australia lived a well-ordered and peaceful lifestyle. Their culture included kinship, spiritual story, songlines, sustainable agriculture, large inter-tribal gatherings, territory boundaries and protocols for welcoming visitors.

When the British Fleet arrived in 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip had been instructed to 'gain consent from the natives' to settle in New (South) Wales. But communication proved difficult because neither group understood the language of the other.

The Indigenous people expected their visitors to wait for a traditional welcome, and to bring gifts. Customary practice was to *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. The newcomers had rather different expectations of how to behave, based on the impulse for colonial expansion that had begun back in the fifteenth century. They did not wait to enter territory, nor bring the anticipated kind of gifts.

Fifty years on, in the late 1830s, colonists arrived in the part of New South Wales now known as Victoria. They came to stay, ruining the grasslands with their with huge flocks of sheep, decimating food supplies, trampling the houses, displacing the Aboriginal residents and killing many. The land that had been so abundant, rapidly became unrecognisable. Yet the Europeans benefitted from the knowledge of country built up by the original inhabitants over thousands of years.

When the official gold rushes began in 1851 on the Victorian goldfields, Aboriginal people remained on country trying to retain their spiritual connection to the now-unproductive land.

They guided new arrivals to the goldfields using the knowledge encapsulated in their songlines via story, music and dance. They showed them where to find water or gold, helped to cross rivers, rescued them when in danger or lost. The gold seekers were greatly aided by this fund of expertise, as it was the traditional custom for their guides to share understanding of and identity with their country.

Aboriginal people had long played key roles in the colony as native police, trackers and guides. Now added to the list of roles were gold escorts, prison guards, postmen, bark cutters,

fur merchants, child minders, entertainers, prospectors and bushrangers. Thus the First Nations people took an active part in Australia's economic history. Many learned the language and manners of miners from the world over, often with a sharp sense of humour. New sounds and sights were incorporated in their cultural networks, and gold now featured in their creation stories.

Many formed their own prospecting parties, teamed up with non-Indigenous prospectors, or worked for a wage on sheep stations. By the mid-1860s, Dja Dja Wurrung people were selling their gold to buy staples such as flour and beef, tea, sugar and tobacco and even new clothes. Both trading and sharing the road were traditional ways in which they interacted with others.

According to their law/lore they expected to be recompensed for the use of their land, to receive gifts or to be compensated in other ways. Although this happened to some extent, exploitation, violence and racial vilification were too often their reward. Life for Aboriginal people became a descent into wretchedness, poverty and loss of their spiritual connectedness to the land.

After the gold rushes, it was still believed that the Indigenous race would die out. Clearly that is not the case.


In spite of the long history of protectorates and missions, of Bringing Them Home and saying Sorry, First Nations people are still enduring social, economic and cultural disadvantage. Government interventions have failed so far to Close the Gap.

Only when services are designed with the full agreement of First Nations people, will there be healing. The Uluru Statement from the Heart, which was rejected by the Federal Government, points the way.


**Main resource, available free online: *Black Gold* by Fred Cahir**

**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](http://www.nalderun.net.au)**



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# Harcourt Bowling Club

## Plans for the 2020-21 Bowls Season

### Season Opening Day

Unfortunately, the scheduled Season Opening Day of 26th September was cancelled due to COVID restrictions/lockdowns. This activity usually gives Club members an opportunity to get together prior to the start of the season, and for the President to welcome new members. It also offers any news and information relevant to the upcoming season to be passed on to members.

When restrictions allow, President Ken Tribe and the Board members will find a chance to do this in a more informal way.

### Pennant Bowls 2021-22 Pennant Season

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. Midweek Pennant is due to commence on Monday 18th October and Weekend Pennant commencing on October 16th – the previous Saturday.

Pennant practice started in earnest on Wednesday 22nd September, and many were keen to put a bowl down at last. Midweek teams are being treated to extra training from Carrol Frost.



### Thank You to our Volunteers

A big thanks to our volunteers who have maintained the Club surrounds, the green and our gardens. A number of maintenance tasks are nearly completed, for example, new seats and exterior painting is underway.

Our volunteers have ensured that the Club will be ready within determined COVID restrictions when the season starts.



Dave Jeffries in action preparing for painting.

### Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Bowls Region

In the September *Core* we mentioned that there will be changes over the next two Bowling seasons.

There will not be much of a difference in the 2021-22 season apart from the amalgamations of Bendigo, Campaspe and Goldfields Regions – with three specific 'playing areas/divisions'. Harcourt will continue in the Bendigo Division along with the other teams that were in the former Bendigo Region.

The decision has been made to continue with playing 21 ends, although the issue of meal breaks for both Midweek and Weekend teams, and no sandwiches on Saturdays, is yet to be resolved.

Of significant note for Season 2022-2023 in Bendigo Division will be the introduction of a Premier League and the full application of gender equality. This will mean that bowlers will be selected entirely on merit, regardless of gender, in any team position for both Midweek and Weekend games.

The fallout from this decision could have ramifications for all Bowling Clubs, particularly the smaller ones. Members will be advised of any specific changes as they arise.

### Coming up in October

#### (What is **PLANNED** for October)

The Board have planned for the programs below with the knowledge that things could change.

The uncertainty of the times means that we will all need to keep an eye out to see whether or not scheduled programs can go ahead.

### Come and Try Bowls

#### Sunday 17th October from 1 pm–3.00 pm

An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to have a go at bowls – no cost and bowls provided.

### President's Day

#### Sunday 24th October: a social day of bowls hosted by President Ken Tribe.

Bowling Club Members are required to wear their uniform.

### Friday Social Nights

Friday social nights will resume – when permitted – subject to COVID restrictions.



Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552

Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550

T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736

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Twitter: @LMChesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo



# Grace Church

Have you ever Wondered - just what do Christians Believe?  
Grace Church is conducting the Discipleship Evangelism Course via zoom - free and with no obligation.

In the course of forty eight lessons you will discover all of the basic tenants of the Christian faith. Almost all topics are dealt with in the space of one session of about forty minutes.

You might think that you are being set up to become the next Billy Graham! Not necessarily so! The title to the course is a bit of a misnomer. It is more about the basics of the Christian faith, and then out of that you will find yourself able to share your faith quite naturally.

Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out into all the world and make disciples (followers) of all nations – that is, all ethnic groups – baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, and then to teach them all that Jesus taught us. This latter part of Jesus' instruction has been neglected. This course addresses that situation.

The course is being conducted via zoom at 7.30 pm of a Tuesday evening. If you would like to join in please send your email to [pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au](mailto:pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au) and I shall arrange for you to receive the link.

The course is being conducted on a “parachute in at any time” basis, on a continuous loop. If you stay the course, you will cover the entire syllabus in the space of about a year.

Not only is this an opportunity to learn and grow but it also represents a time of good fellowship, albeit on a flat screen, during lockdown. I shall be watching my in box for your email!

*Roger & Glenise Thurecht, Pastors @ Grace Church*

## Grace Church

**Service: 11.00am Sunday**  
**All Welcome**

**Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht**  
**0422 605 897**  
[gracecastlemaine.org.au](http://gracecastlemaine.org.au)

**30 Buckley Street, Harcourt**

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## Chatting with Harcourt CWA Looking Back, Looking Forward

Once upon a time, before the coming of the plague, we caught a train to Dingee. The Dingee CWA had invited all of the Central Victorian Branches to join them in celebrating the ninetieth birthday of the Victorian CWA.

And what a grand day we had. We enjoyed the company of friends, laughed with each other, filled our plates with fine food, reminisced, and made plans for future get-togethers.

But it wasn't long before we could no longer rely on such events happening and, finally, we just stopped making plans all together.

COVID has changed our lives in many ways, but when I look through my photos of all the events that I have attended as a member of Harcourt CWA, I know that this is but a recess and that it won't be long before we are all on another train together to who knows where.

### *Keep the trains rolling everyone.*

I will let you know when meetings resume so please come along and say hello. We meet at 1:00 PM at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on the first Thursday of every month.

*Lyn Rule*

*Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA.*



*Waiting for the train at Castlemaine Station.*



*Enjoying a tour of Terrick Terrick National Park and ending our journey at Prairie Park for lunch*



# The Good News

## *Stories from the West Nile: Arua Public Hospital, Uganda, Christmas Eve 2008*

**This is another excerpt from the diary of Harcourt local Judy Coram. The diary was a record of her work as a member of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors' Without Borders). Judy's role was to set up a Children's Counselling Service at the Public Hospital.**

When I first met Yassim he was asleep in his bed and was surrounded by about 20 members of his family. I spoke to his younger brother Rashed who told me that Yassim had eleven children and that his four year old son was also HIV positive and living with the mother. I discussed with them about returning the next day in the morning to speak to him by himself. Yassim was a 58 year old Muslim male who had worked as a driver for an NGO (Non-Government Organisation) in Kampala and who was now in the last stages of HIV. He had wasting syndrome and was thin and wrinkled and the bed seemed to swallow him up.

The next day he was awake and I was met with a beaming smile which somehow seemed out of place as he lay there. He proceeded to talk about his three wives and eleven children and told me his number three wife and six year old son Habib were arriving from Kampala the next day. I suggested that we meet together for some couple counselling and he seemed keen that I meet with them. The next day I received

a message that his wife had arrived and wanted to talk with me.

I was met by a stunningly beautiful young lady of 25 years called Marian and her six-year-old son called Habib. She was well dressed in modern clothes and spoke perfect English. She told me she was studying at University in Kampala and had just completed her exams and I wondered if this was the reason she was with Yassim as it enabled her to get an education. She told me that Yassim had been sick and deteriorating for the last four years. We sat together and I talked to them both about the modes of transmission of HIV and the reasons why women were more susceptible to being infected with HIV. As we continued throughout the session tears began pouring down her face as she began to talk about her fears. She had been tested five years previously and found to be negative but she was scared now to be retested. I offered to go with her the next day for VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing); after she had given it some thought, she agreed.

The next day we both went to VCT at about 10 am, only to find there were no staff present as it was Christmas Eve and they had started their celebrations early!! Marian told me she was returning to Kampala the next day and I realised it would be important for her to be tested immediately.

I approached the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) team to request if she could be tested there, which they kindly agreed to. We sat together while the blood was drawn and the tension was palpable. Marian was then requested to return in half an hour. This testing is performed by using a progression of rapid tests, so if the first one is positive; two other tests follow to ensure accuracy.

At the first test the dreaded red line appeared indicating a positive result and I was not looking forward to giving this news to Marian. Fortunately the remaining two rapid tests were both negative and I thought how strange that a person's life and future hang in the balance based on a red line on a testing paper. For me waiting for each result was also very tense and I felt a great relief that I was able to give her 'the good news'.

PMTCT is such a busy, congested place and there is never any privacy so Marian and I walked to under the mango tree in the hospital. As we sat under the mango tree I was able to tell her that her test for HIV was negative. When she heard the result she took hold of both my hands and began to cry. She told me that I had given her the greatest gift on this day Christmas Eve 2008 in Arua, sitting under the mango tree.

*Judy Coram*

## Carpet Bowls

### High Hopes for Games and Competition to Resume

At the end of August COVID put a stop once again to our Social Carpet Bowls. We hope to resume from Wednesday 27th October as this will allow us to finalise our winter competition and organise a summer competition.

Prior to lockdown, the competition was going well, and before we had to cease playing we were able to hold a very successful Tournament for Legacy. Thank you to prize buyers Barb and Kevin and the support of so many, it was a fun night.

As advised earlier in the year it was the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association's intention to run the Victorian Country Carpet Bowls championships in September at the Leisure Centre. After discussions with the VCCBA, and taking into account the older ages of most of the participants coming from other Victorian towns, we voted to postpone the event and hope to be able to hold it later in the year in November. The chosen date is the 20th November 2021 at the Harcourt Leisure Centre and games will commence at 12 Noon. Spectators are welcome to come along during the afternoon for a look see. There will be team games, gents and lady singles and Under 17 boys' and girls' singles games. Once again we hope that COVID will not cause another lockdown, and we can hold the Championships.

Carpet bowls is for all age groups from 8 years upwards, and is easy to learn and a good social night is ensured for those who attend.

**For further information: Loretta 54742453, John 54742226 or Tyrone 54742126.**



*Legates Brian Bannerman, Denis Cox, George Milford, Marg Dennis and Jane Anderson receiving a cheque from Harcourt Bowls Association President Kevin Earl (centre). Absent: Master carpet bowler, Legatee Bill Chapman.*

*Photo and caption were published in the Castlemaine Mail, 27 August 2021 and were kindly provided by the editor of the Castlemaine Mail, Lisa Dennis.*

## Funding up for Grabs for Housing Projects in the Mount Alexander Region

State Labor Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP is calling on all developers and landowners in the Mount Alexander region to put forward any developments or vacant land that could be turned into social or affordable housing. She said, 'We are calling on local landowners and developers to put their hand up to help make a contribution towards the future of Castlemaine, Maldon and district, create local jobs and put a roof over heads of those in our community who need it most.'

The Victorian Government is investing \$80 million to address a critical shortage of housing in regional Victoria, with recent rental market data showing housing affordability has fallen to its lowest level since data was first collected in 2000.

This is an opportunity for landowners and builders to contribute to the future of their communities by growing the supply of housing and creating jobs under the Government's landmark \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build.

This round of funding will focus on purchasing new homes, house and land packages and developable land that is zoned for residential use. Strict guidelines for proposals will need to be addressed including proximity to retail, schools and transport.

All Victorian regional areas will be considered, with a preference for the Greater Geelong, Latrobe, Moorabool, Golden Plains, Greater Shepparton, Baw Baw, Mildura, Wellington, East and South Gippsland, Macedon Ranges, Bass Coast, Surf Coast, Mount Alexander, Horsham, Swan Hill, Alpine and Mansfield Local Government Areas.

Landowners and developers are encouraged to partner with community housing providers, local government and other organisations to submit proposals to Homes Victoria. They can tender more than one proposal, with submissions due no later than 2:00pm on Thursday 7 October 2021 through [tenders.vic.gov.au](https://tenders.vic.gov.au) (Buying for Victoria).

The Big Housing Build will provide more than 12,000 new homes across the state – boosting social housing stocks by 10 per cent – and create 10,000 jobs a year.

## Backing Victorian Sports Clubs And Leagues in Time of Need

The Victorian Government is boosting support for thousands of sports clubs, leagues and associations affected by public health restrictions to curb the spread of the highly infectious Delta strain of coronavirus.

State Members for Bendigo, Maree Edwards and Jacinta Allan today announced that applications were open for a **\$10 million fourth round** of the *Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package* – taking the package to support these key grassroots organisations to \$50 million. Ms Edwards said, 'Community sporting clubs are the backbone of many local communities and this will help support them through very tough times.'

The Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package has to date provided a lifeline for more than 6,300 clubs, with a further 430 leagues and associations and 75 state sporting associations, organisations and regional academies also supported.

In the City of Greater Bendigo, more than 160 clubs have received close to \$460,000 in funding through the first three rounds.

*All Victorian clubs that have suffered losses due to the current lockdown will be eligible to apply, including clubs that have been awarded grants in earlier rounds of the program.*

In the fourth round, clubs can apply for a grant of \$1,500 and local leagues and associations \$2,500 to cover costs and lost revenue associated with the cancellation of training, development programs and competition.

Previous recipients will be asked to respond to an email from Sport and Recreation Victoria by 29 October 2021 to receive their top-up grant.

**For further information and a list of all recipients of the Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package, visit [sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding](https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding)**

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# Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

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# Harcourt Uniting Church

## What does Love Mean?

Families are so important in our lives. Being part of a family means sharing love, caring for and encouraging each other, supporting one another in the highs and lows of life, learning to share, helping each member develop a sense of worth and the joy of belonging.

Unfortunately not all families experience the important love of a family.

Our Church family is also very important. Each week when we meet for our Church service we share our faith through love, care and concern for each other and with the help of our minister, we grow in our faith. Worship is very important but so is the conversation we share over morning tea.

Recently we were saddened to hear of the death of one of our Church family members, Joan Kerr. Joan was a very vibrant 94-year-old lady with such a positive outlook on life, always with a kind word and a gorgeous smile. We will miss her enthusiasm, her generous nature and her love for God and her Church family.

*A group of 5 year olds were asked: "What does love mean?"*

- When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different, so you know they love you.

- Love is when you share your chips with someone even if they didn't ask you to do it.
- Love is what makes you smile even when you're tired.
- Love is when Mummy makes Daddy a cup of coffee and she takes a sip to make sure it tastes nice.
- Love is like a little old lady and a little old man who are still friends even though they have known each other for a very, very long time.
- Love is when my big sister gives me her old clothes and has to go out and buy some new ones.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even when you've left him by himself all day.
- Love is what's in the room at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.
- You really shouldn't say "I love you" unless you mean it, but if you mean it you should say it a lot.
- Love is when Grandma gives you a big hug and says, 'I love you' and then I say, 'I love you too Grandma'.
- There are two kinds of love. Our love and God's love. But God makes both kinds of them.

*Jan Jenkin*

## Notice of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ("AGM") of Maldon & District Financial Services Ltd (MDFSL) (ABN 46 086 749 886) [the 'Company'] will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 6pm. Please send RSVP of attendance or apologies to the Company Secretary per the below.

Zoom link will be emailed prior to meeting to registered attendees and will be available on the Company website and Facebook account.

### Meeting's Business

1. To receive and consider the company's Financial Report, the Directors' Report and the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.
2. To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the election of Directors and Directors' remuneration as an ordinary resolution.
3. To consider any other business that may legally be brought forward of which due notice has been received.

A financial report, directors' and auditor's reports will be available on the Company website, [www.maldoncb.com.au](http://www.maldoncb.com.au). Otherwise these reports are available for viewing in each Branch at Maldon, Dunolly and Newstead and can be posted to any shareholder, free of charge, if requested.

Any shareholder who is entitled to vote at the AGM may contact the company secretary and request the Company to provide them with a personal notice of the meeting. The company secretary contact details are:

Shannon Burdeu, Executive Officer & Company Secretary

In person: Maldon & District Community Bank, 81 High St Maldon VIC  
Post: PO Box 268, Maldon VIC 3463  
Phone: 0478 435 110  
Email: [executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au](mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au)

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



**Maldon & District Financial Services Limited operating as Community Bank Maldon & District**

Maldon & District Financial Services Limited ABN 46 086 749 886



## **Prepare for bushfires – Community Information Session November**

In the last edition of the Core, I mentioned about the possibility of having an online information session organised by CFA for the Harcourt community. Currently we are finalising a date and time. It is likely to be in mid-to-late November. Further information will be in the November edition of The Core and on the brigade's Facebook page when details are finalised. This will also include details on how to register for the event.

## **Brigade Activity**

Turnouts for September were three support calls only. The first two were to Castlemaine and were a result of an escalation. This is where an initial paged brigade has not turned out in the predetermined response time so further brigades are activated. Generally by the time members arrive at the fire station, a brigade will be on scene and it will be determined that we are no longer required. This was the case on both occasions.

## **Bus on fire Vanishes**

The third call was to support Lockwood to a bus issuing smoke on the Calder Highway near the Ravenswood interchange. This resulted in a bit of a hunt to find the location of the bus. After the responding brigades had driven the length of the road right into Kangaroo Flat it was determined that the bus had moved on and was no longer a problem. This incident highlights the importance of reporting an accurate location. If you happen to be mobile when reporting a fire and if you are going to move on,

# **Harcourt CFA**

you should call back and advise our emergency call centre.

## **Burn off out of Control**

There was also another turnout late in August to some trees on fire early in the evening as a result of a burn off conducted during the day. This was caused by the wind picking up and spreading the fire from its origin to the nearby trees. This is why it is very important to always keep an eye on any burning off you do for several days afterwards.

## **Burn over Drills**

In preparation for the summer fire season, all active brigade members will be undertaking mandatory burn over drills. A burn over drill involves the crew of a truck using the truck for protection as a fire passes over them. Due to the CFA's COVID regulations, we are limited still to the number of members allowed at the fire station at one time. The plan is to run a number of sessions in the first week of October to get everyone through this exercise.

## **BBQ Safety**

With spring in the air, warmer weather and daylight saving commencing, the good old Aussie BBQ comes out of hibernation. If your BBQ has been in storage for winter, then a few quick checks will help to ensure nothing goes wrong at its initial use. The first step is a visual check of the gas hoses for cracks, hardening or deterioration (don't forget the one that goes to the wok burner if you have one). Next is a check of the connections. After turning on the gas, listen for any audible sound of gas leaking. If you hear nothing then use a spray bottle with a bit of soapy water in it to spray the connection. If there are no bubbles, then there should be no troubles. Check the general condition of the BBQ and always ensure there is no build-up of grease and

fat. And check the placement of your BBQ. Maintain a distance of at least 50 cm from all walls or fences, and never leave cooking unattended.

## **Check of Fire Hydrant Plugs in Harcourt**

The pre-summer check of fire hydrant plugs within the brigade area is planned to be carried out this month. There are over 100 of these plugs scattered around the township and along the water mains between Harcourt and Castlemaine. These hydrant plugs are a quick and ready access point for refilling of tankers, so accessibility and location identification are very important. All hydrant plugs should have a white marker post with a red band top and a blue reflector and if it is also along a sealed road, it should also have a blue reflector stuck to the road surface. If you are fortunate to have one located directly outside your property and it is missing the marker post or a reflector, it would be very much appreciated if you could let us know and then we can rectify the problem. If you are willing, you can 'adopt' a fire hydrant plug and we can provide the information on what is required to look after and maintain the plug on our behalf. Please contact a brigade officer to discuss further if you are interested.

## **Reduction of fuel load is an important part of fire prevention**

There is quite a lot of grass mowing happening at the moment which is pleasing to see. No doubt the predicted above average spring rainfall will ensure that it will continue to grow through spring and into the start of summer and therefore will require ongoing cuts. Keep up the good work and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*

*Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*



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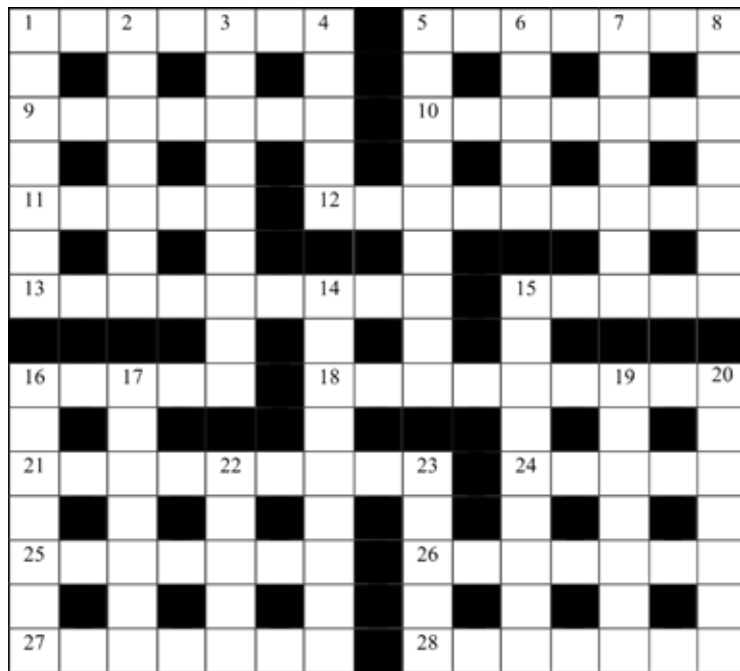


94.9

MAIN fm



# October Xword 2021 © McW March '18



## Down:

- Computer application program with absence of anxiety to mollify. (7)
- Gillard, Rudd, or dwarf talents coming up, could aspire to move thus. (7)
- Times and order of speakers are in: I try to make it as clear as possible. (9)
- I'll put that little pick-me-up back in your cappuccino this time, okay? (5)
- Thick, large and lacking potassium, I'm feeling lazy. (9)
- Naked, but with a little gravity one might make a small push... (5)
- Shout Menzies off the stage for what Australia was doing at the time. (7)
- Cowboy story for our tradition? (7)
- Press angry German medal. (4,5)
- Three points and a century: tripe—or is she second sighted? (9)
- Undermine, probably below the green in Champagne? (7)
- Mud-brick trapeze artist? (7)
- What'll do, by the sound of it, for the Scots. (7)
- Ages since you last ate, so you could have a few nuts as a worst-case scenario. (2,5)
- A long way after Christ for modern politics? (5)
- (See 10ac)

## Across:

- If Satan were this pale and indistinct, he'd be equally difficult to discern... (2,5)
- What you'd have to draw to suggest Trump as cure for world problems. (4,3)
- Part of after-dinner wine and a particle in the solution. (7)
- 23dn. Usual way to experience the length of Bell St at peak hour? (7,5)
- Quieten down and say a food to entice. (5)
- Face east, sire, and quit with the shooting! (5-4)
- Taking us to the agreed inn and ordering Grenadine was one of his affection-inspiring moves... (9)
- One from before who brings a pang to some Christians. (5)
- Darker deal? (5)
- It used to take a cart-horse (pulling a hero's cart?) to shift the musos; nowadays they use other cars... (9)
- Robbery without a mask? (4-5)
- After a century, the little mountain is icy. (5)
- Nothing to grab me in suspension of commerce back here. (7)
- Get off your bum (i.e. train!) to change your state from this. (7)
- All that's left of lace-makers when deconstructed brusquely? (7)
- Beseech tear, torn after JRR's tree-feller? (7)

# September Xword 2021 solution © McW March '18



## Down:

- Wise old Greek on battleground has company subdivision. (7)
- If you put me up for a position, you put me in one. (7)
- A tall lyre strung from the side. (9)
- There's nary a poet in the bush who'll tell em punchline-first [i.e. backwards...]. (Take five a...side and see...) (5)
- Men-at-arms need 'em. (9)
- Enthusiastic attack on food is really a little puff over nothing. (5)
- Don't call Sis nice—she has a cold demeanour. (7)
- If you get zany enough, go plant rice along it! (7)
- Slatter of wine might enrage VIP considering where it came from... (9)
- ...and you could make wild flans with these pickups. [Cabernet tart, anyone?] (9)
- Average [par] can-do yarn with a point. (7)
- Early email inbox? [Well?!!!] (7)
- Mixed-up seabird on dawn's side. (7)
- What does she call that glaze? (7)
- The French [le] city sick at heart? (5)
- Footy club in bad weather? [Well? in Melbourne] (7)

## Across:

- Fine writer and 27s of animal and Tory. (7)
- Lay grin out to respond in ire. (7)
- I am metering currently, so what does that make me? (7)
- Girl with particle [ION] is on a quest. (7)
- Possessor of headless Alexander [Downer]. (7)
- Men on lots of beds are just about out to it... (9)
- High-speed embroidery tool could remove rust and slag? [Well?] (7)
- A stew of stuff past its use-by? (5)
- Patrick Field (they say Melon...). [Well?] (7)
- They weren't there, but it sounds as though they were the cause of all the divots. [Well?] (7)
- Could they do spin for the NRA? [Well?] (7)
- Clock-wheel useful for lighting a pipe in the wind? [Sorry...] (7)
- I, sick [ill], cab it back to the hospital because of these. (7)
- Reduce friction with source of Texan wealth? [Well? The "well" is an adverb in one and a noun in the other more obvious one!] (7)
- Outrageous previous [ex-] platypus? [A Monotreme... No protests will be considered.] (7)
- A higher degree [M.A.] of boom for apron wearers? (7)



# Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



## Soil Nutrition for Fruit Trees

### Online master class on the value of understorey plants

The ground is warming up and weeds have started growing. To decide how to manage weeds around your fruit trees, you first need to think about the cost/benefit analysis. The 'cost' of weeds is that they can look messy, they can make it harder to work around your tree, and they can provide a 'ladder' into the tree for annoying, fruit-eating insects like earwigs. Tall grasses (like paspalum) can also be quite competitive with the tree for water and even nutrients.

However, lots of other plants under your fruit trees are actually beneficial. It turns out that the common idea that weeds compete with your fruit trees for water and nutrients is mostly just wrong, and in fact, the benefits of plants growing under your trees are huge. This is still a challenging concept for many people (as well as offending those who have the tidy gene). If you'd like to learn more about it from an expert, we recommend you have a look at one of the master classes we ran with Dr Christine Jones, a world-renowned Australian soil scientist. She does an excellent job of explaining why understory plants under fruit trees bring so many benefits to the soil. You can access the master classes here: [growgreatfruit.com/?s=christine+jones&post\\_type=product](http://growgreatfruit.com/?s=christine+jones&post_type=product).

The simple message is that bare soil is BAD! It heats up (to at least 60°C in summer), loses moisture, loses carbon and the microbes die - in short, it becomes a sterile desert very quickly. The idea that weeds under fruit trees take moisture away from our fruit trees is a myth. The soil needs total ground cover all the time to stay healthy - a tall order in our climate, but in fact there's lots of evidence showing that's what the environment was like pre-European settlement.

We've known for a long time that healthy microbes (bacteria, fungi etc.) are needed in the soil to convert nutrients into a plant available form - it's called the Natural Fertility System (NFS). The latest science is showing that the microbes actually live inside the plants for part of their lifecycle, so they are even more important than we knew.

Weeds help to increase the amount of carbon in your soil, they increase the amount of water your soil can hold, they provide habitat for the all-important microbes, they keep the soil cool in summer (which conserves water) and they provide food for worms and other lovely underground garden helpers.

### *Try growing edible plants under your fruit trees*

And of course, you don't have to grow any old weeds; you can choose the plants you'd like to grow around your fruit trees. There are lots of herbs, veggies, and flowers that make really good companions, and if they're also edible, all the better. Most of us have diets that are way too simple. Apparently we should be aiming to eat at least 30 different vegetables, herbs and fruits in our diet every week, which is quite a lot. The more different types of edible plants you grow that you can throw into a salad the better, because even small amounts can make a big difference.

Some weeds are also very good at 'mining' the soil for nutrients and making them available to your fruit trees, particularly the ones with a deep tap-root. Flowering weeds also provide important habitat for insects in the garden (particularly yellow and white flowering plants).

Can you tell we like weeds? For all but the very youngest fruit trees, we reckon the balance is firmly in favour of having a "living mulch" under your fruit trees. However, they still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are (1) mow them occasionally (but not too low), (2) plant the things you want to grow there, like flowers, herbs, or vegetables, or (3) use animals (geese, sheep, chooks, guinea pigs...) to mow them for you.

### *Plants are 5-30 times better at building soil carbon than mulch*

Mulching is also popular, and while it's better than bare soil, plants are 5-30 times better at building soil carbon than mulch. Living plants win. If you do decide to mulch, be aware that it can be just as effective at stopping water soaking into the soil as preventing evaporation. It's also a great idea to put some compost or worm castings underneath your mulch before you lay it, to help kick start the biology in your soil. And a word of warning - don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed.

### *Recent rains and humid weather could mean blossom blight*

How are your apricot trees looking? That early spring rain (while good in many ways) has taken its toll once again, and the early apricot varieties have some

blossom blight in evidence. If you're not sure whether you have it, have a look at your apricot tree and check the flowers. Depending on the variety, most of the flowers should have fallen off by now to reveal tiny (and very cute) apricots. If instead you're seeing shrivelled flowers that have stuck on the tree, and possibly even some dead shoots, then you can be fairly sure of the culprit.

If you're seeing a lot of dead shoots, it's quite important to cut these out of the tree and get rid of them. They can go into a hot compost pile, or you can burn them, or just pile them well away from your fruit trees and let them break down. The main thing is to get them away from your trees, because the same disease that causes blossom blight can also cause brown rot in your fruit. According to the BOM it looks like we're due for a wetter than normal spring/summer, and this increases the risk of brown rot. Recent rains at the end of September and humid weather are unfortunately the ideal weather for blossom blight and brown rot. Good hygiene will help to keep the fruit clean throughout the season, as well as regular sulphur sprays as required.

**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](http://growgreatfruit.com) to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their free online workshops.**

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## Weather & Water

September began with a beautiful day, but not a lot of sunshine has been seen in the last two weeks. Showers and gusty winds have dominated. However, daytime temperatures have been gradually increasing, and nights are a little warmer.

We had one severe frost where the orchard and winery frost fans went into action at about 2 pm, disturbing the sleep of some. As the apple trees are in blossom now, and the vines are setting fruit, we can expect more 'frost fan action' during October. Traditionally in Harcourt, tomatoes can be planted after Cup Day which is accepted as the last time we see a frost for the year.

We had six rain days in September and they delivered a good result of 76.5 mm. There was a 13-day gap with no rain between 3 September and 17 September and another week's gap later in the month. The highest rainfall received was 36 mm on 3 September. The total rainfall for the year stands at 520 mm which compares well to last year's total at the same time, of 539.5 mm.

Reservoir levels are being maintained and most are over full, reflecting the constant rainfall over most months to date. Barkers Creek Reservoir is the only exception at 80.2% full as at 19 September.

Maximum and minimum temperatures across most of Australia, including south-east Australia, are expected to be higher than the median for the coming months to December with some exceptions in eastern Australia, the Great Australian Bight and south-western Australia, where lower or median temperatures are expected.

The Southern Oscillation Index, which tracks the swings between El Niño and La Niña, and the Indian Ocean Dipole are both indicating above average rainfall in most parts of Australia, for the three months to the end of 2021.

**Spring Triptych. Left to right: Banksia Rose, Oak Tassels, Crab Apple Blossom.**

**Photos by Robyn Miller**



# Community Diary Dates

**Sunday 10 October:** 1 – 4 pm, Fruit Fly Workshop, The Orchard Keepers. Zoom bookings only available. See [www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=808626&](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=808626&)

**Monday 11 October:** 7.00 pm, Harcourt Applefest Meeting, ANA Hall.

**Thursday 14 October:** 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, ANA Hall. Contact Secretary 0467 670 271.

**Sunday 17 October:** 1.30 pm Fireside Chat – Luke Devenish author of historical fiction. Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

**Thursday 21 October:** 7.00 pm, HPA Committee Meeting, by Zoom.

**Sunday 24 October:** 9 am to 12 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee, Barkers Creek. Details: Secretary 0467 670 271.

**Tuesday 16 November:** Harcourt Progress Association AGM 6.30 pm for 7 pm. Venue TBC. Available on Zoom.

**Saturday 20 November:** Midday, Victorian Country Carpet Bowls Championships, Harcourt Leisure Centre, Spectators welcome.

**Tuesday 2 December:** Mount Alexander Shire Business Awards, Castlemaine Town Hall.

**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 Road, Harcourt.

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

**Harcourt Bowling Club:** See page 13.

**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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/news/sub) The Core is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: [harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)

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## 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



## Nominate for Australia Day Awards

Is there someone in your community who's made a positive difference to the lives of others? Nominate them now for the 2022 Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day Awards.

Categories include Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year and Event of the Year (includes online events). Nominations close 26 November.

Pick up a nomination form at the Civic Centre or online at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay).

## Join our business workshops

Are you a local business owner/operator interested in developing tools to manage your mental health?

We've got a range of workshops on offer that use a mix of science, psychology, and mindfulness techniques to help participants transform the way they think, feel and behave.

For details, visit the Business Resources section of our website or call 5471 1700.

## Free green waste disposal

We're making it easier for households to prepare their properties for the upcoming fire season by offering free green waste disposal.

Local residents and ratepayers can dispose of green waste for free at the Castlemaine and Maldon waste facilities from Saturday 30 October to Monday 15 November.

Acceptable items include garden waste, grass clippings, natural wood and tree branches (diameter less than 10cm). Green waste must be emptied from plastic bags and not contain rubbish or declared noxious weeds. Conditions apply.

## Celebrate Seniors Festival

The 2021 Victorian Seniors Festival Reimagined continues throughout October, with a lively and entertaining program of musical performances, artist conversations, comedy, radio plays, talk programs, and much more.

View the program at [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival](http://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival).

Civic Centre  
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e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)  
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# Free Green Waste Disposal to Local Residents and Ratepayers Between Saturday 30 October and Monday 15 November

To help prepare your home and properties for the Fire Danger Period, Mount Alexander Shire Council is offering free green waste disposal to local residents and ratepayers between Saturday 30 October and Monday 15 November.

Residents and ratepayers can dispose of garden and green waste at the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations at no charge over the period, which includes three weekends.

Green waste includes garden waste such as grass, sticks and branches (less than 10cm in diameter).

The green waste must be free of contaminants such as rubbish and declared noxious weeds, and removed from plastic bags prior to disposal.

'Many people have spent a lot of time in the garden this year, so we're expecting the free green waste disposal period to be very popular,' said Glenn Brown, Municipal Fire Prevention



Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council. 'It's important we all take steps to reduce the risk of fire around our property in the lead up to summer,' said Mr Brown.

'Things to do before the Fire Danger Period include pruning bushes, cutting branches that overhang your home or sheds, clearing out gutters and relocating piles of wood away from buildings,' he

said.

'We have planned the free green waste disposal period to help you get your property ready for summer,' he said.

Normal green waste fees will apply to businesses or residents acting on behalf of businesses.

Loads containing items other than green waste will be charged accordingly. Normal gate fees will apply before and after the free green waste period.

Residents are also encouraged to compost as much material as possible at home.

Proof of residence in the shire will be required to make the most of the free green waste disposal period, and proof of identification will be required before entry is permitted. COVIDSafe requirements will be in place.

For more information, including opening hours for the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations, visit [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/WasteFacilities](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/WasteFacilities).

# 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.*