

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 88 – November 2021

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

## History in the Making at BCCC



Mick Hanrahan (left) of the Western Front Association and George Milford display the banner that greeted Walter Peeler as he stepped off the train at Castlemaine in 1918. Photo taken at Barkers Creek Cricket Ground on November 11 2018.

THREE YEARS AGO ON ARMISTICE DAY on November 11, 2018 crowds gathered at the Barkers Creek Cricket Club ground for the unveiling of the memorial to Walter Peeler VC. The Harcourt Heritage Centre led the arrangements for this important ceremony which recognised Peeler, a local hero who served in both World Wars.

Dr Geoff Courtis, cricket tragic and a long-time member of the club said, 'My interest was piqued when I learnt that we had such a distinguished serviceman at the club. We didn't know much about Walter Peeler or the service given by so many who were members at the Barkers Creek Cricket

Club at the time of World War One. We were fortunate to secure a grant from Veteran's Affairs and I set about exploring the records of service of our cricketers. Once I secured the grant, I discussed it with my friend, Bryon Cunningham who has an interest in military history. Bryon has set up displays at the War Museum in Canberra and was able to advise on the artistic layout of the five display panels that have been developed for this project. I also headed to the Harcourt Heritage Centre to discuss the project with George Milford and Diana Cork.'

Now, three years later, on November 11, the club is holding a special event to honour those men who served in World War One.

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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.**





# HPA 2021 AGM Looking to the Future

The HPA will hold its 2021 AGM on Tuesday 16 November. It's the second AGM within 6 months due to disruptions caused by COVID which meant the 2019 AGM was pushed into 2021.

HPA President David Foley urges people to attend and get involved with the HPA at the 2021 AGM on Tuesday November 16 starting at 6.30 pm at the Harcourt Bowling Club. Please register your intention to attend at: [www.harcourtprogress.org.au/agm](http://www.harcourtprogress.org.au/agm)

'COVID not only disrupted our meetings but disrupted a lot of the plans and activity by council and state government in our area,' David said.

'It has meant that, as we approach 2022, a number of key issues need to be resolved, and physical work will be starting on projects that are critical to the future growth, prosperity and amenity of Harcourt. It really is now or never for our area if it is to be more than a dormitory suburb and is to reach its full potential.'

There are a number of items on the evening's agenda most important of which are:

- The president's report, including updates on our three key projects,
- The committee election,
- A public discussion on the issues affecting the community,
- A call for volunteers.

## *The HPA needs your help*

The HPA is only as strong and capable as the people who participate in the association. We are always looking for volunteers to contribute their time, skills and knowledge to our three key projects: The Roundabout, Plan/Shine Harcourt and The Railway Station. Of course volunteers are welcome to work on their own initiatives in areas that interest them.

## *Come join us Today*

1. Become a member.
2. Join a subcommittee.
3. Nominate at the AGM to join the main committee.

The AGM will officially commence at 7.00 with an open meeting to follow to discuss a number of current issues starting at 7.30pm.

The doors at the Bowling Club will open at 6.30 pm. Please allow time for COVID registration and attendance sign in. The bar will be open (cash only). Tea, coffee and apple muffins and sandwiches will be available.

Due to capacity limits at the venue, registration is essential, and the Bowls Club requires all attendees to be able to show proof of double vaccination.

See [www.harcourtprogress.org.au/agm/](http://www.harcourtprogress.org.au/agm/) for further details.



## **Harcourt Post Office**

**Now Open Saturday Mornings:**

**10 am – 12 pm**

Due to the overwhelming volume of parcels being received prior to Christmas, Harcourt Post Office will be open on Saturday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm (until the 18th December).



## **HPA AGM 2021**

**Tuesday November 16**

**6.30 pm for 7.00 pm**

**Harcourt Bowling Club**

General Discussion to follow AGM

Due to capacity limits at the venue, registration is essential.

Register at:

[harcourtprogress.org.au/agm](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/agm)

Light Supper provided and Bar Open (Cash Only)

*Harcourt Bowls Club requires evidence of double vaccination for entry*

# A Community House for Harcourt

## VicTrack Update on Harcourt Railway Station Restoration

VicTrack has confirmed that when the works are finished on the Harcourt Railway Station building it will be leased to Mount Alexander Shire Council which will sublease it to the Harcourt Progress Association. VicTrack has specified that the Station building is to be run as a Community Neighbourhood House with meeting, training, office and performance spaces.

A VicTrack spokesperson said, 'The restoration of the Harcourt Station building will bring the historic building back to its former glory while giving local people a new space to learn, work and get together.'

The restoration is being run via the Victorian Government's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program.

The Harcourt Station building is one of ten station buildings being restored through the \$9 million program, which fully refurbishes station buildings so they can be opened up and used by the community.

The program offers the dual benefit of restoring historic rail buildings while providing much-needed spaces for local communities.

The works that will be carried out at Harcourt Station include structural repairs, works to make the building safe and accessible, installing a new kitchenette and accessible toilet and internal repair and painting of walls, doors and windows.

Early works on the project have started, and planning approvals have been received from Mount Alexander Shire Council. When the contract is awarded later this year, major works are expected to get underway by early next year and be completed by around mid-2022.

Prior to the commencement of the restoration, some work to stabilise existing structures has taken place, including new roofs on the lamp room and a small timber building in the courtyard – possibly a woodshed. The trackside platform has been made safe with a secure fence. HPA representatives recently examined the site and reported new damage to parts of the buildings. HPA has contacted VicTrack requesting that the buildings be made secure as soon as possible to prevent further damage.



*The Lamp Room (left) has a new roof as does the small courtyard building*



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

### NOVEMBER 11

#### Stanley Park

Please gather by 10.50 am.

One minute's silence will be observed at 11 am.

Remembrance Day was otherwise known as

Armistice Day, marking the end of the First World War which occurred at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

In Australia, the day is now dedicated to all Australians who have died in wars and conflicts to protect the nation.



## Last call for Community Radio stories

A book recording the events and people involved in establishing and maintaining community radio in Central Victoria is underway. Radio veterans Ian Braybrook and Marilyn Bennet are gathering material from as many individuals as possible for inclusion in the story.

Marilyn says, 'It is not so much a history of the sector as it is about the people who made it happen and continue it today. Over the almost forty years since it began at Harcourt, many hundreds of people have been involved one way or another. That's a heck of a lot of stories. We want to include as many names and people as possible, no matter how brief their appearance.'



The book is scheduled for release on 25 April 2022 – Anzac Day – the 40th anniversary of the first official broadcast in Central Victoria by 3CCC at Harcourt in 1982.

Today, there are four community broadcasters in the region: Freshfm, KLFM, Phoenix and Mainfm (formerly WMAfm).

'Each of these would have maybe fifty people actively involved. That's a lot of stories to begin with,' says Marilyn. 'We don't want lengthy accounts but simple short pieces about individuals' experiences and their feeling about community radio.'

'As a lot of work has to be done before the launch, we need people to respond right away and not put it aside. We urge them to be part of what will be a lasting account and historical record of Community Radio in Central Victoria.'

Contact details are:

Email: [radio88fmcastlemaine@gmail.com](mailto:radio88fmcastlemaine@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Community Radio in Central Victoria](#)

Phone: 0409 333 513 or 0457 676 327.



## 2022 Applefest Planning Well Advanced

*The Core* recently spoke with George Milford; President of the Applefest Committee who is delighted to inform the community that planning is well in hand for the 2022 Applefest to be held on Saturday March 7.

George said, 'We will have many more market stalls this year, now that COVID restrictions are lifted. Patrons can expect to be able to purchase a wide variety of good quality products, many of them from businesses in Harcourt and surrounds.'

'Applefest 2022 will be bigger and better than ever. The music and entertainment for Centre Stage is already organised, all acts are booked, and visitors on the day are guaranteed to enjoy the performances.'

'Representatives from all central Victorian CWA branches will be there with a Malaysian theme, (the area of study for CWA in 2022), so you can expect some special cultural experiences including tasty food. Chewton Phoenix CWA will once again be catering for lunch and morning and afternoon teas.'

'Harcourt Valley Primary School parents and friends will be rolling up their sleeves to produce hundreds of apple pies for sale on the day and the apple growers' tent is always of great interest.'

'Expect more information about the 2022 Applefest in the December edition of *The Core*.'




*The Story Teller was a great hit with the children this year.*

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## History in the Making

*Continued from page 1*

Thirty-eight members of the Barkers Creek community served in 1914–1918, and their names are on the Honour Board which is now in pride of place in the clubrooms. Geoff said, 'We sincerely thank the RSL for enabling the Honour Roll to be permanently displayed in the club rooms.'

The names on the Honour Board still resonate today. Geoff said, 'There are sixth generation residents here whose relatives served in 1914-1918 and others who belong to the earliest families who settled here. In the history display panels we have focussed on four men who served: Walter Peeler VC (who also served in WWII), Alec Grant, and A (Albert) B Facey (who wrote the book, 'A Fortunate Life'). These men all returned from the war, although Albert lost four brothers. The fourth soldier to be honoured is Edward Dilworth who was awarded the Military Cross. Sadly he died of his wounds in 1918 and is interred at Ebbingham Military Cemetery in France. In all, eight Barkers Creek soldiers died in the service of their country.'

The club has a rich history, having been founded in 1855 during the gold rush. In addition to the panels with the records of war service there is a detailed history of the club showing early teams, the teams

that have played the Cricket Club of India (the club has had an association with the Cricket Club of India for 35 years) and, most recently, the Women's Cricket Team. There is also a photographic display.

The history of the Barkers Creek Cricket Club is an ongoing project for the Harcourt Heritage Centre. Diana Cork said, 'The aim is to gather and digitise as many of the records and photos of the club as possible, so that there is a central record which cannot be lost. This is just the start, there are many more stories to be collected and they are often to be found tucked away in people's homes. We welcome contributions.'

The event on November 11 will be officially opened at 6 pm by the former

premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks. Guests are advised to arrive by 5 pm as it is expected there will be delays caused by checking in with QR codes and proving evidence of double vaccination. Stirring music will be provided by The Castlemaine Pipe Band who will be in attendance from 5 pm. Numbers are restricted due to COVID and attendance is by prior registration only. For registration enquiries please contact Diana Cork at [heritage@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:heritage@harcourt.vic.au) or 0427 396 211.

*The photo below shows an early Barkers Creek Cricket Teams. Many of the names of the players will be readily recognised by those who live in the area. Walter Peeler VC is in the front row on the far right.*



*Dr Geoff Courtis and local historian George Milford at the memorial for Walter Peeler. The stone and plaque was unveiled on November 11, 2018. The display panel featuring Walter Peeler will be officially unveiled, as will four others, by past premier Steve Bracks on November 11, 2021.*



*Sternberg Trophy Winners, 1909–10*

**Back Row:** W Normington, H Pritchard Snr (Patron), C McKindley, A Grant, H Peeler, J Robinson, T Peeler. **Middle Row:** J Norris, E Hampson, W Grant, A J Williams (Sec), J Boyce (Pres), D Rielley (Capt), A Norris. **Front Row:** H Pritchard (Jnr), L McKindley, E Blume, W Peeler.

## School's back – Our Newest Crossing Supervisor is on the Job



Mount Alexander Shire Council's newest school crossing supervisor comes from a long-line of road safety enthusiasts.

Caitriona Holmes is the third generation in their family to take on the role of school crossing supervisor, and is now working on Harmony Way in central Harcourt, the road they crossed as a child on the way to primary school.

Caitriona's mum, Michelle Holmes, is also a school crossing supervisor, as was Caitriona's grandmother, Maureen James (Michelle's mum), who worked at school crossings for 20 years in outer south-east Melbourne.

Caitriona is loving the role and said being in Harcourt where

crossing the main road, now called Harmony Way, is a lot safer than when it was the Calder Highway.

'It's quiet and I already know some of the kids,' said Caitriona.

However, they are surprised by the number of drivers on hand-held phones and not paying attention as they approach the crossing.

'It's breaking the law to be driving while talking on a hand-held phone at any time. Even though schools have not been as active during COVID-19 lockdowns, it's better to drive safely, watch out for pedestrians and slow down in school zones especially during school times and stop when the crossing supervisor holds up a stop sign,' said Caitriona.

Both Caitriona and Michelle, who coordinates staff working at nine school crossing sites across the shire, have the same message for drivers.

'Please slow down when approaching school crossings or in school zones,' they said.

'We know that during COVID-19 restrictions, people have been unsure whether schools are running, but children at Harcourt Valley Primary School have returned to classrooms and drivers need to be extra cautious around schools. Please, for the children's and your own sakes, stick to 40 kilometre per hour or less near schools. It's safer for everybody.'

[www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News)

# Grannies Defend the Tarkine

## Judy's Story

'takayna /Tarkine remains today a rare gem of natural intactness in a world where the destruction of wild nature is rampant and accelerating. It should also be one of the easiest in the world to protect. Comprising just seven percent of Tasmania, the Tarkine contains the nation's largest temperate rainforest, a galaxy of its rare and endangered wildlife and some of the richest Aboriginal heritage in the hemisphere. The latter has been inscribed on the list of National Heritage. The cleanest air in the world, as measured by the nearby UN monitoring station, blows across the Tarkine's shores.' – Bob Brown.

The Chinese state-owned company MMG's proposal to use takayna/Tarkine rainforests as a dump for 25 million cubic metres of toxic, acid leaching tailings waste cannot be acceptable in one of the only true rainforests remaining.

It is for this reason that I travelled to Tasmania in June 2021 to a secret location to take part in a non-violent protest with the Bob Brown Foundation. I feel deeply concerned about the future for my grandchildren and felt compelled to take some action.

Many Australians care deeply about the Tarkine. The Forest Defenders are one such group. They are gentle, intelligent people who care about protecting rainforests for their biodiversity and carbon sequestration. There are many in the Harcourt/Castlemaine area who have also taken part in these protests. On arrival, I was sent details of where to travel to and after some thorough training and preparation, I made the decision to 'lock on' and get arrested and charged.

This was the measure of how passionate I felt about the destruction of this area. Non-violent Direct Action (NVDA) is the philosophy of the Foundation that guides the actions in every aspect of direct action to protect Tasmania's forests and natural landscapes. History has shown us how powerful a small group of people standing up for what they believe can be. I remember well the impact of people power in the eighties with protests over the Franklin Dam, which stopped the project from going ahead.

Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist once said, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.'

It was a freezing cold morning when a small group, including my daughter Pippa who was my support person for me during the lockdown, walked into the forbidden area. My lockdown buddy was another Granny, Kate, who was taking this action for her grandchildren too. It was an uncomfortable few hours sitting in the wet and cold in one position and, having to be cut out by Search and Rescue police with a blow torch, was a bit alarming. I think I was about the fiftieth protester to be arrested, and by the end of the protests there were about 75 people arrested in total.

Work at the mine was stopped soon after this and Federal minister Susan Ley made a personal visit after a barrage of letters were sent to her. There is yet to be a final decision on this mine in this beautiful wilderness area. My first court appearance in Hobart was adjourned as the prosecutor did not have the paperwork completed which I am assuming was due to flooding the court with so many retirees!

I feel very pleased and hopeful that these actions may change



the outcome of this toxic mine being introduced to such a pristine wilderness area. I hope that my grandchildren will be able to experience a rainforest in their lifetime and can say in years to come that my Nana and many others were one of those who saved the Tarkine from destruction by greedy prospectors.

## Pippa's Story

It was winter. COVID had displaced me for 12 months as I was living in Germany and got stuck in Australia when the borders shut. Lockdowns were being imposed and I was slowly crumbling. My hasty choice was shrouded with no hesitation. The only sensible decision would be to immediately book my flight and follow my headstrong, outlandish mother to Tassie for nearly one month.

We spent this time protesting as forest defenders for 285 hectares of temperate rainforest in the takayna/Tarkine against deforestation from the mining company MMG. A minerals and metals group advocating for a new toxic tailings dam to be built inside the sacred rainforest.

It was the first time I was involved in frontline non-violent protesting, and it was an incredibly powerful experience: fighting for something beyond myself. I fell in love with the entire community: truly inspiring people of different backgrounds from all walks of life, coming together to unite. They were quite literally, standing up and in the way for what they believe in. They chained and locked themselves to anything they could to stop the machines and deforestation from continuing. They used their bodies as roadblocks and in so doing sacrificed their (usually) squeaky clean records by being arrested.

*Continued next page ...*

## Grannies Defend the Tarkine

My time there made me realise how incredibly controlled the whole system is. If you want to stand up and fight for Mother Nature then you have to be willing to tolerate huge fines, and possibly a criminal record which can have serious consequences. Despite this, I can say with pride that my Mum was one of these rebels.

During my time there, my sister Georgie (who followed us later) and I had the opportunity and honour to make our way deep into the physical location planned to be destroyed. Clambering through the thick wilderness, with dense layers of trees, I was trying and failing to tiptoe as light-footed as possible over the thick moss, which deflated under my boots. All the while a subtle feeling of guilt rested in my mind as my feet tainted its purity. Scrambling my way, I was breathless and speechless. The rainforest is pristine, untouched and as magical as the imagination can fabricate. My photos do not do justice to its untarnished beauty. The tree roots were so pronounced, exploding out of the dirt, intertwining on themselves and then burrowing back into the earth. I kept observing how the jutting and weaving tree roots resembled veins that felt as if they were holding the life of the forest together. Inside the forest it was so tranquil and ancient, it is possible feel its energy and life-force flowing everywhere.

I am immensely proud to say that the efforts from the volunteers have made a huge impact, delaying further destruction and work by the mining company and resulted in a request for an environmental survey. This does not mean it's over, but it is a huge win for the rainforest and a huge step in the right direction.

It was amazing to be involved in something that has made a difference. This time, I challenged the system and it proved to me that we are not always powerless. I guess the last takeaway that I would like to describe is my reflection after I received my move-on order from the police. I walked away feeling slightly giddy in that moment, doing the 'wrong' thing and breaking the law. I was high on adrenaline from a long day of protesting; recording footage from law enforcement and security guards and ensuring my Mum was as comfortable as possible, arranged as a chained-up pretzel.

After the police took my details escorted me away, I looked back over my shoulder. In the early hours of that morning, I had shackled my 72-year-old mother to a fence with a metal elbow, and now I had to walk away from her while the police stood over her and began to hack off the contraption. My adrenaline quickly turned to sorrow and I was left thinking, 'Is this what it has come to?' I experienced the sad realisation that our system has been created in a way that we have to rely on our retired citizens to fight for our land. The system has made most of us believe that they are the only ones that can 'afford' the repercussions.

As I walked out of the old-growth forest I had a sense that the experience was a birth of responsibility.



## Harcourt Uniting Church

Harcourt Uniting Church has a strong commitment to supporting many Christian organisations within, and outside, our local community.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is one such organisation which our Church Adult Fellowship group has supported over the years.

After WWII, a group of Christian pilots asked: 'Why can't light aircraft that were used in war, now bring life and hope during peace time?' So, MAF was formed with a vision to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ.

Thousands of remote communities now have access to healthcare, education, community development, disaster relief and the good news of the love of Jesus Christ. MAF provides practical and spiritual help in two of our closest communities – Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea.



During the wet season, roads in Arnhem Land are often flooded or non-existent, so these indigenous communities rely on MAF for all their needs. In fact, some children in these communities haven't seen cars, but know all about the planes that provide their lifeline. One such boy, Yingiya, was fascinated by the planes and began sweeping the floor in the MAF hangars, was introduced to a spanner, learnt how to service the planes and is now a pilot with MAF.

PNG is one of the largest programs in the world, with more than 300 medevacs each year from some of the most extreme terrain in the world. MAF pilots' skills are tested to their limit as they land on remote airstrips nestled among the mountains.

Volunteer work parties from Australia are often flown in to assist local communities in building schools and community health centres. Teachers and medical staff also go by plane to work in these remote areas. Without the support of MAF, many people would have to walk for days to seek medical help. MAF relies on financial support from many Christian groups throughout the world.

For MAF pilots: 'Flying is not a luxury but a lifeline.'

To read more of the amazing work done by MAF you can visit the website: [www.maf.org.au](http://www.maf.org.au)

Recently our grandchildren were staying with us, so I was helping eleven-year-old Cooper with his online schoolwork while five-year-old Hannah was trying to help.

For those who don't know me, I began as a primary teacher in 1973 and then taught at the Harcourt Preschool for fourteen years.

Hannah was listening to me as Cooper and I were solving a maths question. She looked up at me and said: 'Nan, when you grow up you could be a teacher!'

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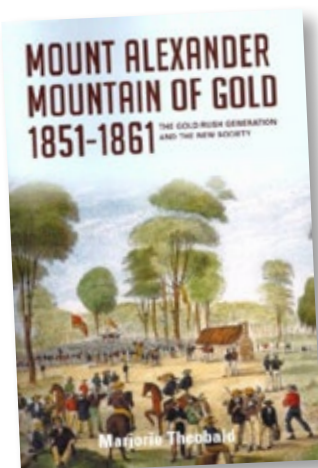
# Book Launch

## MOUNT ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN OF GOLD 1851-1861

THE GOLD RUSH GENERATION AND THE NEW SOCIETY

Saturday 13 November at 3pm

Castlemaine Market Building Information Centre



Marie Edwards MP for Bendigo West will launch a new social history of the 19th century gold rush that transformed Victoria. Written by local historian Dr Marjorie Theobald and published by Chewton Domain Society (RRP \$39.95).

All are welcome.

This social history of the first years of the 19th century gold rush tells the stories of the gold rush generation, those thousands of fiercely independent men and women who came to the Mount Alexander gold field in 1851

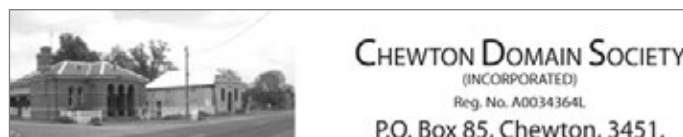
looking for gold and began a democratic protest movement that kick-started the journey to parliamentary democracy in Victoria.

It gives a new insight into gold rush history by reinstating the important roles of the 1851 Monster Meeting at Chewton and the 1853 Bendigo Red Ribbon Movement that forced Governor La Trobe to draw up a new democratic Victorian constitution well before the 1854 uprising at Eureka ended the old order on the goldfields.

Marjorie highlights the central role of women at the diggings, includes chapters on alluvial mining, the establishment of Chewton and Castlemaine, acknowledges the environmental devastation and the destruction of Dja Dja Wurrung society caused by gold mining and asks questions about who benefitted from the great wealth and profound social change the gold brought to Victoria.

For Information:

Pat Healy: [pathealy1908@gmail.com](mailto:pathealy1908@gmail.com) or phone: 0422 759 661



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

What magnificent weather we had on Sunday 31 October. Following last week's rain, the green rolling hills are a sight to see.

At the October meeting of Council, we adopted the Community Vision and the Four Year Council Plan. These are substantial pieces of work following extensive community consultation.

We also adopted the Community Wellbeing Plan. This is also a major document, and I thank everyone that contributed.

Council voted to oppose the Slingo depot at Muckleford. There were a lot of objections to this proposal, and the debate was very interesting. With this type of debate, the outcome is not known until Council votes. I was surprised at the outcome, but watch this space for future developments.

The November meeting of Council will see the election of the next mayor. Other councillors are keen to have a go at the top job, so, unless they get cold feet, expect a change.

It is a huge privilege to serve our community as the ward councillor and an even greater one to serve as mayor. Being the mayor looks easy when things are going well, but that is not always the case. It will be interesting to see who steps up. I know they will have the full support of all councillors.

Council and the staff are working together as a great team and we want that to continue.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy 0439 742 434

PS More exciting projects in the pipeline for our community.

## Harcourt Finalists in Shire Business Awards


Congratulations to these Harcourt Businesses which are finalists in the Mount Alexander Shire Business Awards for 2021.

**Category**  
Micro Business  
Agribusiness

**Business Name**  
Goodness Flour  
Bress  
Harcourt Organic Farming  
Co-operative

The Business Awards will take place on Thursday 2 December, commencing at 6 pm. Tickets are \$40. Drinks and dinner will be provided.

Tickets must be purchased prior to the event from [www.bit.ly/MtAlexBoxOffice](http://www.bit.ly/MtAlexBoxOffice)



# PLUMBER

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# Golden Point Road Parking and Traffic Analysis for Expedition Pass Reservoir

Expedition Pass Reservoir on Golden Point Road is a popular freshwater recreation site for residents and visitors to the region year round, but particularly during the warmer months.

Lack of parking at the site creates risks for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists accessing the reservoir. An analysis of existing car parking and traffic conditions will provide the documentation required to plan for crucial safety infrastructure.

## Project summary

Mount Alexander Shire Council is focused on improving pedestrian and traffic safety throughout the shire.

As part of this, Council is undertaking an analysis of parking and traffic at Expedition Pass Reservoir on Golden Point Road. The reservoir is situated in the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, which is managed by Parks Victoria.

Expedition Pass Reservoir attracts a large number of visitors and there is one small access point from the road. Given there is no formalised parking, there are safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle access.

This project is funded by the 2020 TAC Local Government Grant Program.

## Project aims

The aims of this project include:

- Analysis and documentation of vehicle and pedestrian activity in the vicinity of the reservoir.
- Analysis and documentation of parking habits along the roadside.
- Relationship building with regular reservoir users to promote messaging to increase pedestrian safety and driver road safety awareness.

## Project outcomes

The project outcomes will include:

- Concept design that improves road safety and accessibility of the reservoir.
- Planning approval requirements for construction including a review of cultural heritage and vegetation impacts.
- Recommendations for associated infrastructure to support improvements to address driver behaviour and traffic safety.
- Development of a community engagement plan in response to the recommended improvements.

## Where are we now?

We have engaged O'Brien Traffic as a consultant to undertake the traffic & parking analysis at the Expedition Pass reservoir.

A draft parking and traffic analysis report has been completed, this includes concept plans and proposals, on both a short-term and long term basis.

Major stakeholder consultation has commenced.

## What happens next?

Broader community consultation will commence in December, when peak use of the Reservoir is expected. Furthermore additional traffic data will also be collected. All this additional

data will then be collated and synthesised to inform the concept plans. Final plans will then be drafted and circulated with the community prior to completion of the project.

Project manager:

Nalinda Gunawardana – Project Engineer

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From the Shire Website: [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au)



*While to some, the Expedition Pass Reservoir or Golden Point Res, as it is more affectionately known, is simply a great swimming spot, many visitors to the res would not be aware of its cultural significance.*

*A walk along the wall will have you marvelling at its construction, done at the time of the gold rush in 1868. It was widened and strengthened in 1994. At the same time, the overflow was widened and lowered. The Harcourt granite wall is on the south-east side of the overflow. The purpose of the dam was to feed the enormous Garfield Water Wheel which used the water to drive the battery to crush the quartz as the first step in extracting gold. Remains of the pipe which took the water to the wheel are still lying in the overflow. The water flowed in a channel to the wheel which is about four kilometres away on foot.*

*The reservoir is part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, as are the remains of the wheel which consist of the footings. The wheel was made of timber, was 72 feet across and had 220 wrought iron buckets. (Some of this information was sourced from Mount Alexander Goldfields – Castlemaine by Harry Ottery and Co-Author Margaret James (nee Archbold). The book was published by Harry Ottery in 1986.)*

## 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



# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## The Intrepid Explorers

When Major Thomas Mitchell was surveyor-general of New South Wales he turned his back on the routine duties of administering his department to mount an exploring expedition into what he later described as *Australia Felix* – the happy great south land, happy Australia! On his homeward journey, Mitchell set his course by reference to Mount Alexander, *'this friendly hill'* and, when his dray broke down at Expedition Pass, the Major, with an Aboriginal named Tommy, *'...rode with ease to the summit, and found it but thinly wooded, so that I could take my angles around the horizon without difficulty.'*

Within the next few years, the opening up of unexplored country to European settlement was done by the overlanders. These were energetic young men intent on driving mobs of sheep, cattle and horses from the established settlements around Sydney to the fledgling settlements of Melbourne and Adelaide. Commenting on these overlanders, one observer said,

'No sooner had they set eyes on a gathering of weather-beaten, bearded men carrying short-handled whips than they had selected their workers and were underway, deriving immense patriarchal satisfaction from having their parties file through the bush behind them.'

Edward John Eyre was one of these overlanders. He was later to become famous for his foray into the north of South Australia and for his exhausting overland journey from Adelaide to Western Australia. You may remember the story from school: Eyre was accompanied across the Nullarbor Plain by John Baxter and three indigenous teenagers. The journey was one of great hardship. Two of the youths shot and killed Baxter and escaped into the featureless plain leaving Eyre alone with Wylie, with whom he completed the journey to Albany, WA in 1841.

But all this drama and fame were way off in the future when, in 1838, Edward John Eyre became hopelessly bushed in the vicinity of Mount Alexander. This was on an overland journey with 300 cattle being driven from Duntroon in New South Wales to Adelaide, South Australia. As well as the eager, energetic 22-year-old Eyre, there were six men, three teams of bullocks and eight horses in the party. Eyre wanted to be the first to overland

cattle into Adelaide. The first to arrive with cattle was going to double the money that he had invested. The trek promised to yield a handsome profit.

When he assembled the drovers, Eyre was asked to provide guns to his men. He agreed to take guns, but he kept them in a locked box on a dray. Eyre refused to provide the guns to the men as he feared that panicky firing on Aborigines they met would provoke reprisals.

You might ask why, if they were going to Adelaide, did Eyre and his party come anywhere near Mount Alexander? Having crossed the Murray River, the overlanders followed a generally south-west course, along Mitchell's line of travel. It had been a wet year when Major Mitchell's party traversed central Victoria, and the drays left deep wheel-tracks that were still visible for years afterwards.

Eyre left the mob of cattle as they plodded along and cantered away to make a social visit to the three-year-old settlement at Port Phillip. On his return from Melbourne on 5 February 1838, Eyre set up a stage camp at the point where Major Mitchell's track crossed the Coliban River, near present-day Metcalfe. He then went on to reconnoitre a suitable route for the cattle and the drovers.

With an Aboriginal man named Unmallie, a telescope, charts and a blanket Eyre crossed the 'high and stony' Mount Alexander range, located the Loddon River and explored the country to the north-west. They camped for the night somewhere north-west of Baringhup. In his account of the journey, Eyre tells

'Alas for the uncertainty of human speculations when, at sundown, we attempted to catch our horses to tether them they set off at full speed homewards leaving us in a very unenviable plight.'

It was dark by this time. Eyre and Unmallie camped for the night. Ten hours of the next day were spent in tracking the runaway horses. At last, they caught the horses feeding near a creek.

At dark that night (about February 8, 1838) the two men were on the west side of Mount Alexander where they had to camp for the night. Their campground was near the creek – now named Eyre Creek – which drains the north-west flank of Mount Alexander. The following day, Eyre and Unmallie met up with the drovers and cattle and escorted them around to the west side

of Mount Alexander. They were still on their way to Adelaide.

Confused by the few charts that were available, and, at the height of summer, encountering dry country within sight of the Grampians, Eyre eventually turned his party back.

The only reliable landmarks were the rivers and mountains. The mob retraced its steps to the safety of the Goulburn River and plodded downriver until it joined the Murray River. They then followed the south bank of the Murray River, eventually reaching Adelaide in July (five months!) later. Another overlander had beaten them to be the first to Adelaide, but, after withholding the cattle from sale for a few weeks, Eyre obtained his price and sailed back to Sydney.

There is a curious aspect to Eyre's *Autobiographical Narrative of his Journeys and Residence* in that he mentioned few observations of the Aboriginal people through whose lands he travelled. He must have seen the smoke from their campfires. He described extensive and rich plains, full of native yams. He noted the widely-spaced eucalypts and the occasional patches of burnt grass. No doubt he amazed and offended the Indigenous tribesmen when blundering about the country across traditional clan boundaries.

At one or two creeks, Eyre and his drovers met parties of armed Aboriginal tribesmen. Eyre was careful to dismount and walk slowly as he did not wish to convey the idea that they – the intruders – were running away. Unable to comprehend each other, the two groups communicated by gesture.

When met by spear-carrying men, Eyre unslung his gun and laid it on the ground, the Aborigines did likewise. This was wise and exceptional behaviour by this twenty-two-year-old Englishman. It is recorded that, during his entire Australian career, Edward John Eyre never fired a shot at indigenous Australian people.

Incidentally, Unmallie was also a young man of great intelligence. He was Eyre's constant companion on the overland journey of 1838, but he politely declined when asked to go on the next expedition. I think we know the reason!

**This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches compiled for *The Core* by Harcourt Heritage Centre. Here we note Mt Alexander as a landmark in the distinguished career of a great personality in the early history of Australia.**



## WALKING TOGETHER Towards Reconciliation Aboriginal Language and Culture

We human beings communicate in many ways, with words, body language, art, music and dance, and there can also be a deep connection beyond words, when we experience something wonderful together. Those who can't make themselves understood or share their meanings are often left aside.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, being able to speak in language has a deep connection to their cultural identity. There are teachings in language for which there is no English equivalent. Language is essential for passing on cultural knowledge, kinship, songlines and stories from generation to generation.

Whilst cultural practices and beliefs may change and evolve, many of the basic aspects remain the same. When people are disconnected from their culture, as has happened since colonisation, it has a deep impact on their sense of identity and belonging. This loss and damage takes away their sense of meaning and purpose.

Recovering language, which could bring with it traditional ceremony, lore/law, respect for sacred sites and ancestral country, may be the key to restoring dignity, identity and purpose to First Nations people. When other Australians learn more about their culture, it will help lead to healing for both First and Second Nations.

**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)

### SJK EXCAVATIONS Pty Ltd

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### 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.

## VMR Update

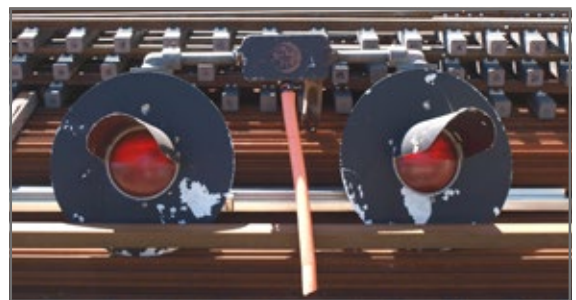
Works are underway at full capacity once more at the Victorian Miniature Railway. Now the COVID lockdown has been lifted in Melbourne, all members can travel freely to and from the site. An additional challenge has been wet weather. Engineer, Colin Mierisch said, "A week ago, we dug over 60 holes which were 2.5 metres deep. These were to be filled with concrete for the retaining wall on the south side of the station. In the week between we had 21 mm of rain and the holes have had to be drained; unfortunately some have fallen in. We have started again this weekend and have managed to get concrete into the bottom of the holes which should help stabilise them. This retaining wall is vital as it supports our dock roads. This is an area where we have engines and carriage sets waiting in preparation for use during opening hours. While the trains are in the dock roads they are given all-over safety checks and then can be shunted into the station quite quickly."

Colin has recently completed the manufacture of seven new sets of points. These are used to manually switch the trains from one set of lines to another.



The focus will eventually shift from the station area to the rest of the project. Colin said, "Before we open to the public we would like to see 2 km of track laid. This would consist of the two "balloon tracks" and the track into the station. The main track from the underground storage shed also has to be cleared and repaired as with the rain we have had so much mud over the tracks."

On behalf of VMR, Colin expressed sincere thanks to local member Brian (Buzz) Noonan. Colin said, "Buzz has assisted us by lending his truck and excavator. He has also been busy picking up and delivering the makings for the concrete we have needed for footings and foundations around the project."



*A full size sets of railway lights waiting to be installed*



*A prototype vent for the canopy: the vents allow engine smoke and fumes to escape from the station canopy.*



# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Happy Days at the end of a Challenging Year

GOOD NEWS. All students are now back at school engaging in face-to-face learning. Teachers and students are happy. Students are very pleased to be able to interact directly with their friends and teachers. Parents and caregivers are finally relieved of the extra time-management and concerns of managing learning at home.

COVID protocols are being strictly adhered to. Students must sign in and out at the front desk when they arrive at school and when they leave. Parents and visitors are not permitted on site, as yet. Principal Andrew Blake said,

‘All grade three to six students have been compliant with the mask wearing requirements when they have been in the classroom and teachers are determined to ensure students are fully engaged with their learning plans for the rest of this school year.’

There might not have been any news from HVPS in last month’s Core, but that does not mean that the last few weeks of the term were just taken up with online learning and surviving until the school holidays.

This last week I learnt that the school is just about to complete its four-yearly reviews of Teaching and Learning with Education Department Representatives and members of the community. Recently I spoke to Andrew about it and heard what it actually involved. He said, ‘School staff have incrementally and methodically been preparing for this review process for the past two years. Parents, teachers, students,

community members and Pre-school staff have been involved in the process.’

The Review began with a series of virtual interviews and visits with the Review Team. On Wednesday October 20, the Review Team spent the entire school day ‘attending’ classes, interviewing teachers and students and they also interviewed Natalie McCarthy, the HVPS School Council President. Natalie said, ‘I was very impressed with the way it was organised and how smoothly it ran.’

The last procedures in the Review will be completed on Monday November 1. Staff will then be able to enjoy the Cup Day Holiday! Andrew said, ‘We are looking forward to the completion of the review process in December when we expect to receive the report of the Review Committee. This report will then form the basis of the school’s Strategic Plan for the next four years. We hope to have a Draft Strategic Plan completed before the end of the year.’

Other good news is that the Department has just released its guidelines for school transitions. Andrew said, ‘Both Prep and year 6 students will be able to attend their transition days (in COVID safe ways) in a single group. Last year, students had to be divided up into small groups and parents had to do virtual tours of the school and have virtual transition meetings with teachers. We have yet to set dates and times for these transitions to take place. We estimate that there are potentially 19 students for next year’s Prep class. The school is also looking forward to re-engaging with the Harcourt Community.’

Excursions have had to be cancelled for this term, but I have been told that students have enjoyed their virtual experiences with the Bendigo Science and Technology Centre during Science Week and have been inspired to continue with their focus on Science and Technology for this term. The cancelled Book Week dress up and parade day has been scheduled to coincide with the Book Fair to be held at the school, at this stage for students only, on November 9, 10 and 11.

### *End of Year Celebration*

The School Council has continued to meet virtually and is planning an end of year celebration for the school community and involvement in next year’s Applefest.

Parents were given the opportunity to participate in the Parents Victoria Virtual Online Conference on November 11. Like so many of us they are ‘over’ virtual communications and contacts, and are really looking forward to meeting face-to-face with fellow parents and staff.

There is so much that the school community has missed out on this year. It is great that, as at 6 pm, October 29, restrictions on movement and gatherings will be lifted.

### *Important Community Announcement*

**The previously mentioned defibrillator that has been provided by the Bendigo Bank Community Trust has now been installed, ready for community access and use and is in the front of the school.**

*Lois Denham*

## S-T-E-A-M

*(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts And Maths)*

Now that students have returned to onsite learning, it has been full S-T-E-A-M ahead with all students having had the

opportunity to participate in a range of STEAM activities this week



*Prep 1 & 2*



*Grade 3 & 4*



# Relationships between School and Community

What does school and community mean for you? How can a school and its community support each other and how has this support been disrupted by COVID? These are some of the questions that have been going through my mind as I reflect on the past few years and my involvement through The Core with the Harcourt Valley Primary School community.

To obtain a first-hand insight into this I decide to contact Natalie McCarthy the president of HVPS School Council. Natalie is a school parent whose three children attend our local school. She is passionate about supporting parents and staff at HVPS which I guess is the reason why she is on the School Council.

The first thing Natalie said to me was that COVID has had a huge impact on the school community, 'It is easy to underestimate the impact it has had on parents and children and what they have all missed out on.' As a school parent she has had first-hand experience of this.

It was her plan to become involved with her daughter's class room activities in Kinder and Prep years as she had been unable to do so for her two oldest children. To this end she arranged her work schedule so she could have a day a week off from work to spend time at Kinder with her daughter and this year at school helping out with the school's reading program and to have more direct contact with the school. This has not

been possible and it is now has become a COVID related lost opportunity which is sad for both of them. She said, 'Of course I am not the only parent who has not had a chance to engage with the school and support their child's learning. Many other parents have been in a similar situation to me.'

HVPS has always prided itself on its community support and engagement of all students and parents, particularly those who are struggling. Parent involvement in the preparations of the planned Friday School Breakfast and lunches has not been able to take place neither have parent weekly catch ups at the Goldfields Track Café. The CWA ladies have not been able to provide their regular support for the schools reading program, external extra-curricular activities and excursions have been cancelled and no visitors have been allowed at the school. Natalie said, 'I had to sign off on my part of the School Review documents in the school yard, as I was not allowed in the school building.' Imagine that!

Natalie continued, 'The School Council has been meeting virtually and the bonding and incidental exchange of information and ideas that occurs with groups that meet for a common purpose on a regular basis has not been able to be developed as it would have normally. With the easing of restrictions there is an anticipation that things will be back

to near normal even before the end of the year.'

'The School Council is planning a Community Celebration for Thursday 9 December, hopefully at the school, if not there at Stanley Park. It will take place after school, in the late afternoon/early evening and details are still being finalised. As part of this we are in the process of organising a fun 'Slime Run' for the students.'

Sounds messy but fun for students! After the Slime Run they are hoping families will stay on with their picnics to socialise and have fun together.

Plans are taking place for next year's Applefest involvement – they will be back to baking apple pies and I believe other pies. There is also a possibility of a few other projects – if you are not involved with the HVPS community keep in touch with what is happening via *The Core*.

School Councils play a very important role in providing support for teachers and parents; the behind the scene's work they do often goes unnoticed. Thank you, Natalie and your School Council team, for the support you provide to our school and community. If you would like to know more specifically what a School Council's role is visit the Harcourt Valley Primary School website and look under the School Council tab.

*Lois Denham*



Grade 5 & 6





# Harcourt Bowling Club

With the easing of COVID restrictions, there has been a lot more activity at the Bowling Club during the latter part of October, with Pennant practice in earnest. The 3-Bowls pairs social games on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons for members has also provided welcome practice opportunities.

Getting out on the green has lifted the spirits of many. Despite the rain on a recent Saturday the interruption to play was minor and we were able to finish.



Midweek Pennant players took part in a pre-competition game on Monday October 25 prior to team selection and were pleased that the weather held out.



## Pennant

Clubs have been notified that Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Bowls Region Board's requirements for season 2021/2022 is that for all Pennant, State and Region Events, all players and

spectators must be fully vaccinated or hold an approved medical exemption.

Clubs must have a COVID Marshall on duty on days of play. Proof of vaccinations must be shown if requested by any Club or nominated official. If a bowler has not been vaccinated or does not hold an exemption (medical certificate) he/she cannot play. Masks must be worn, but may be removed while actually bowling or while giving or receiving instructions during play and social distancing requirements continue to apply.

Harcourt Bowling Club will field Midweek Pennant Teams in Divisions 3 and 5 and Weekend Pennant Teams in Divisions 2, 6 and 8. Weekend Pennant will commence on Saturday October 16 and Midweek Pennant on Monday October 18.

## Club Championships

The Men's and Women's Singles Championships and 100Up draws have commenced, and we are seeing some keen competition already. The finals of the Singles Championship must be completed before Christmas.

## Club COVID Rules

The Harcourt Bowling Club Board has announced that members and visitors to the Club will need to be double vaccinated and be able to show evidence of vaccinations or exemption.

## Thank You to our Volunteers

A big thank you goes to our keen gardener Mr Mac who has done a magnificent job of developing and maintaining our gardens throughout the year.

Also big thanks to Ruth Hay for taking on the onerous task of producing our club booklet and to Mick, Judy and Wendy for their assistance.

We must also acknowledge and thank



volunteers within the Club for the work being carried out to ensure that our Club is COVID free.

## Facebook

Thanks to Libby for creating the Harcourt Bowling Club Facebook Group. This will provide another platform for sharing information with members.

## Friday Social Nights

Friday social nights have resumed observing the relevant COVID procedures.

The usual raffles will be on offer commencing with the Members' Draw at 6.30 pm.

Visitors will be made most welcome at the Club.

## Coming Up In November

The following dates have been scheduled by the Board to take place in November and we hope these events will be able to go ahead.

Please check at the Club to confirm if you wish to attend.

- **Fortnightly on Tuesday evenings:** BBQ and Barefoot Bowls
- **Sunday 14th November:** Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament
- **Wednesday 17th November:** Ladies Invitation Triples Tournament
- **Tuesday 23rd November:** the first of the Sponsors Challenge



Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

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# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

## Frock Up! CWA to Resume



Lynette Carter, Marie Twyford, Colleen Hall, Joy Robertson, Helen Hand, Dot Farley, Ayrone Teed

These ladies at Harcourt CWA certainly have a reason to smile. Finally, after so many months of active wear and sneakers, it's time to become reacquainted with their wardrobe. How wonderful to once again have a reason to dress up and join friends for a special occasion.

On behalf of Harcourt CWA, I extend best wishes to you all for a safe and happy return to your wardrobe.

If you have ever thought of joining Harcourt CWA, we would really enjoy the opportunity to explain to you what it is that we do. Give me a call and we can meet for a coffee and a chat.

Lyn Rule

## Some Time Ago ...

### HARCOURT.

The news that the armistice had been signed was heralded with great rejoicing at Harcourt on Monday evening. The Methodist church bell was rung at intervals from 9 o'clock until midnight, and the whole populace of the district was filled with rejoicing and thanksgiving. To celebrate the event a public picnic was held on Tuesday afternoon near the local tennis court; and on Sunday afternoon next, in the A.N.A. Hall, services of thanksgiving will be conducted by Rev. F. A. Hagenauer.

Castlemaine Mail, 13 November 1918. Via Trove

Supporting your community

Community Bank  
Maldon & District

Bendigo Bank

## New Scholarships for 2022

Community Bank Maldon & District is pleased to be offering four scholarships in 2022 worth \$2,000 each, across four different categories. The purpose of each scholarship is to support students in the Maldon, Newstead, Harcourt, Dunolly and Mount Alexander districts for new or ongoing studies in 2022. Eligibility also includes students who attended a secondary school in this region.

Scholarships are awarded to cover costs associated with education, such as course fees, rent, purchasing computers, books, equipment or other resources associated with your course/training.

There are four categories of scholarship in 2022, each with different criteria:

1. Higher Education
2. Trainee / Apprentice
3. Indigenous
4. Agriculture

We have increased the number of scholarships, the dollar spend for each scholarship and have spread the categories out to ensure we can look to support all types of students, and not just those who take a traditional higher education path.



Congratulations to some of our 2021 scholarship winners – Caleb Kuhle, Uma Dingemans and Ethan Freemantle pictured here with Adam Balzan.

Community Bank Maldon & District Branch Manager Adam Balzan said, 'It's really pleasing we can offer more scholarships to include other areas that matter, such as TAFE and traineeships, helping people with agriculture training programs and encouraging and supporting further study for indigenous students.'

Further information is available on the Community Bank's website and includes the application forms and detailed guidelines with further information on eligibility criteria. Otherwise, to chat about the program in further detail, please contact Executive Officer Shannon Burdeu on 0478 435 110 or by email: [executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au](mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au)

## Step out into Spring

Harcourt Walking Group is a social opportunity where participants can now enjoy spring weather and flowers on Monday and Thursday mornings.

The group was started in May 2014. Wendy is a Harcourt local and CHIRP Community Health volunteer who has led the group since its start.

'Spring is a great time to be walking in Harcourt. We're lucky to have so many wonderful flowers here. Last week we walked to the reserve behind the leisure centre where many native orchids can be found,' said Wendy.

Strict COVID-19 guidelines are in place to ensure continued safety for group members, such as walking in smaller groups, staying 1.5 metres apart and mandated wearing of face masks for those without an exemption.

Harcourt Walking Group meets outside the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum at 9.30 am on Mondays and Thursdays. A post-walk morning tea occasionally happens in a local café.

Anybody interested in the Harcourt Walking Group is welcome to just come along.

Call CHIRP Community Health for more information on 5479 1000.



*A perfect day for a walk: Harcourt Walking Group members Val, Wendy, Loretta, Kay and Jess the dog, Liz and Kathleen were about to set off on their regular 5 km walk when The Core called in. Organiser Wendy Barron said, 'The group can have up to 10 people, but there is always room for more as we take things at our own pace, we can spread out as much as we like.'*

*Val Brereton said, 'During COVID we were pleased to be able to keep walking and keep active. During lockdown we were able to walk in pairs.'*

*Loretta said, 'We have a good social time, plenty of chat and a cup of tea afterwards. We even share excess fruit and veg.'*

*Just turn up on a Monday or Thursday at 9.30 am at the Heritage Centre for some exercise, a friendly chat and a cuppa.*

## MICA GRANGE Open Garden & Sculpture Exhibition

**Each Saturday & Sunday to 5 December  
10 am to 4.30 pm**

Group bookings available weekdays



Morning Tea, Light Lunch, Afternoon Tea,  
Garden Art, Plants, Preserves available

Entry: \$7, Children Free

373 Faraday Sutton Grange Rd. Sutton Grange

For further information:

web: [www.micagrangecommunity.com](http://www.micagrangecommunity.com)

phone: 0499 897 242 / 0409 322 413

email: [micagrangegarden@gmail.com](mailto:micagrangegarden@gmail.com)

*Double Vaccination required for entry*

## Grace Church

### Prayer

Let's look at the example of Jesus and the priority Jesus attached to prayer. In Luke's gospel Jesus prayed all night out on the mountain prior to selecting his apostles the next day. A momentous decision with ramifications down through the ages was preceded by much prayer.

In Matthew's gospel we find Jesus spending most of the night in prayer on a mountain prior to walking on water the next day! So intense prayer preceded the miraculous! Luke also records that Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness to pray. Thus, we see that Jesus attached a priority to prayer.

Following Jesus' example, it is also obvious that we need a secluded place to pray, a place where we won't be disturbed. The bible calls this place a prayer closet. Secondly, we need a dedicated time in which we are going to pray, rather than approaching prayer haphazardly. Jesus often prayed early, thus setting the scene for the rest of the day. Let's follow in the Master's footsteps, shall we?

For the sake of consonance let's call that secluded, that dedicated place in which we pray a private place of prayer.

Finally, it is obvious from the gospels that Jesus pursued a close relationship with God the Father through prayer. And in fact, this pattern is confirmed by the Apostle James later on in the New Testament where he states that if we draw near to God, he shall draw near to us. This was certainly the experience of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We too need a time and a place for solitude, alone with God, free from distractions and free from interruptions – a time to pray, a time to draw near to God, a time to intercede for others, and a time to be energized for ministry.

With 2021 drawing to a close Harcourt Valley Landcare has one working bee left for November and the group has nominated the Wetland for Sunday 28 November, from 10 am to 12 pm. We will be carrying out general weeding and maintenance on the plantings. Our Christmas celebration will be held at the Picnic Ground off Harmony Way on Thursday 16 December at 6 pm.

Harcourt Valley Landcare members play a role promoting positive environmental action in the community more widely. A couple of relevant and recent examples are: Terry Willis represented Landcare at the recent Fruit Fly Workshop held at the Orchard Keepers at the Harcourt Organic Cooperative and President Bonnie Humphreys who works at Connecting Country in Castlemaine will speak at the Connecting Country AGM at 2pm on Saturday 13 November 2021. Her topic is, 'Future Proof our Forests'. Bookings for the AGM can be made on the Connecting Country website at: <https://connectingcountry.org.au/>. Look for the events tab and follow the prompts.

For more information about Harcourt Valley Landcare, to join or attend any of our activities please contact the Secretary on 0467 670 271. See our Facebook page for updates.

### November is Turtle Month

Love Turtles? You Can Help

Did you know that turtles, tortoises and terrapins belong in the same genus? They are all 'turtles'.

Through Citizen Science, the '1 Million Turtles Community Conservation Program' will support turtle conservation initiatives, such as 'Turtles in the Classroom' or the creation of protected islands and nesting grounds around local wetlands, urban parks, and even golf courses. These initiatives will ensure that our freshwater turtle populations persist into the future.

See: <https://1millionturtles.com> (From the NCCMA November edition of the North Central Chat)



*Sue Albert and Sonny get to work on making wire guards for trees at a recent working bee.*



*The Eastern Long Necked Tortoise. Keep a look out for tortoises around Harcourt particularly anywhere near dams. Spring is nesting season and tortoises move from the water to mate and nest. Unfortunately they also attempt to cross roads and are often crushed. Drive more slowly in spring around Harcourt as Echidnas are on the move as well. Here's a hint: keep a pair of thick leather gloves in the car. They come in handy for moving wildlife off the road. Turtles smell pretty awful and echidnas are...spiky!*

ADVERTISEMENT

# Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.  
My office is still available for assistance, please  
contact us on 5410 2444 or  
[maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Address: 16 Lockwood Road (PO Box 1238), Kangaroo Flat, Vic 3555

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## Community Online Session

The CFA Fire Safety Essentials session for the Harcourt area is scheduled for Monday November 29 at 7.00pm. This is an online event and replaces the normal face-to-face community meetings that we ran pre-COVID.

Unfortunately, the link for registering is not yet available as there are many meetings to be organised throughout the North-West area of Victoria, starting in the top end of the state, where fire restrictions are either in place or commencing very soon. When the link becomes available, which will be at least two weeks before the night, we will publicise it through the Brigade's Facebook page and notices around town. If you do not have Facebook and wish to pre-register your intent to participate, please send an email to the brigade at [harcourtfb@hotmail.com](mailto:harcourtfb@hotmail.com) and we will send the registering details when they are known.

## Preparation for Summer

The Mount Alexander Shire is again offering free green waste disposal at both the Castlemaine and Maldon refuse sites from October 30th to November 15th. For more information refer to the Council's website or the shire column in the Midland Express.

Spring rain continued through October, and the seasonal outlook still shows above average rainfall for the September to November period, so the lawn mower will have a bit of ongoing work leading in to summer.

The shire has conducted some roadside grass spraying and has commenced their roadside slashing program, and the annual property inspections will be happening soon. Brigade members have done the mandatory burn-over

# Harcourt CFA Fire Safety Essentials

drill during the first week of October. Because of limited numbers allowed at the station at the one time due to COVID regulations, four nights were required to get everyone through.

How is your preparation going?

## Fire Restrictions

The timing of fire restrictions for the City of Greater Bendigo and Mount Alexander Shire is yet to be determined, and the current weather conditions are contributing to a later than normal start date. If the rain periods do stop suddenly and we experience warmer windy days, the fine fuels will dry out rapidly and the grass will cure ready to burn.

It is more likely that we will have grass fires in the earlier part of the fire season, as, currently, the moisture content in the forest areas is higher than normal.

Restrictions have commenced in the north-west of the state starting with Mildura and Swan Hill. Restrictions will then expand southward through November.

If you are holidaying in these areas, make sure you check on whether fire restrictions are in place so that you do not end up doing the wrong thing. Fire restriction signs are displayed on major roads leading into shires and can also be found on the CFA website.

## Brigade Turnouts

October resulted in four turnouts for the brigade starting with a single car motor vehicle accident (primary callout) on Golden Point Road Faraday and finishing with a single truck accident (support to Elphinstone) on the Calder Freeway, also at Faraday.

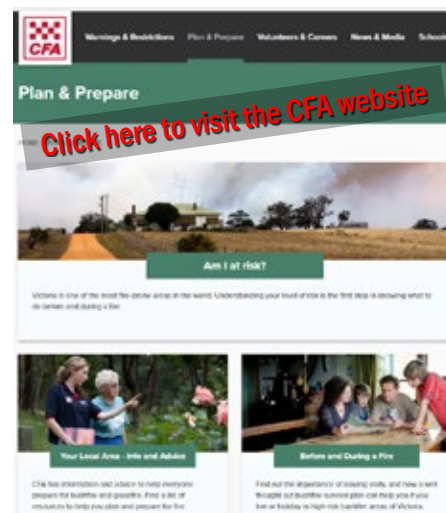
The other two were brigade primary callouts to a vehicle fire and an unregistered burn off reported by

a passerby. This once again highlights the need to register your burn so that the brigade does not get turned out unnecessarily. The number to ring for registering is **1800 628 511**. You can also register online on the [Fire Permits Victoria \(firepermits.vic.gov.au\)](http://FirePermitsVictoria(firepermits.vic.gov.au) website) website at least two hours before your ignition time. Alternatively you can complete the Burn Off Notification Form available from the CFA website ([www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)) and then email this form to [burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au](mailto:burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au)

Notifying ESTA (Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority) about planned burns prevents an unnecessary fire brigade response. Callers reporting a fire can then be assured as to whether the fire is a planned burn or not. If this cannot be verified, a fire brigade will be paged to respond.

Keep up the good work already done and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*  
Brigade Community Safety  
Coordinator





Lmct:10769 

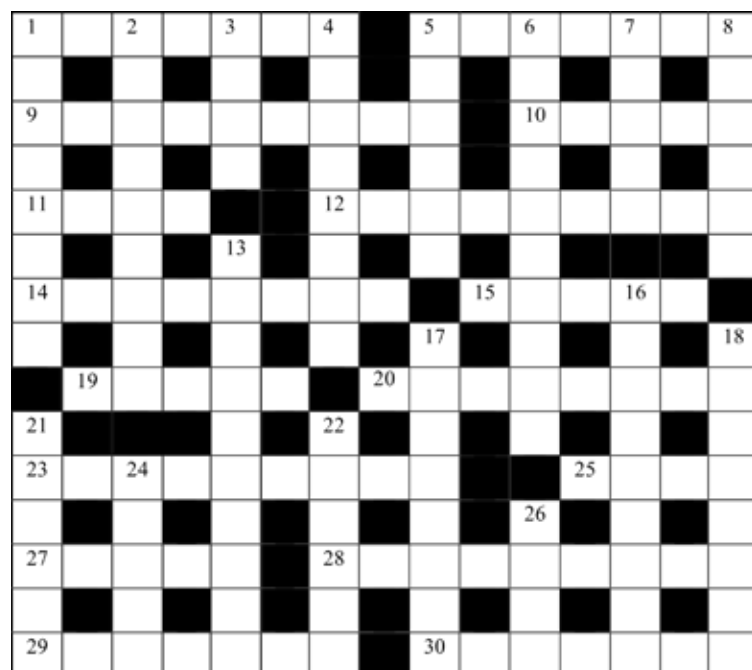
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# November Xwd 2021 © McW April '18



## Down:

1. By odd, yet quite understandable steps, bear-toting lad becomes a thug. (5-3)
2. This claim has a ceiling! (4,5)
3. (See 26)
4. Translator ran dogma in Garamond font. (8)
5. Frugal plant? (6)
6. Present nags invite no dental inspection. (4,6)
7. The French worker so inclined... (5)
8. Dances like rides at a cracking pace for bipeds? (6)
13. The coffee she's made annoys so... (7,3)
16. Nothing convinced Molly to cut down on these shows. (9)
17. With this sort of attractiveness you could get manic. (8)
18. Journos to do in the queen? (8)
21. Could be a place to be put up, or, if sweet, a letter. (6)
22. Nothing like a distant shout. (3,3)
24. Old-two-egg could fit in front of the clock... (5)
- 26 and 3. Cleaning lady tells fibs about sheilas in total. (4,4 or 8)

## Across:

1. We laughed at the bloodsucker in front because of what it did to **our**... (7)
5. To call them a gaga lot would show disrespect for Filipinos. (7)
9. We despair of the IR system's ramshackle state. (9)
10. Because of her fragile state, she needs to keep out of railway carriages. (5)
11. Shout "Ow!" for colour. (4)
- 12, 14. Without doing any serious research, I'd say it was that famed photo of "Hefty" being tossed about on the waves. (3,3,3,2,2,4)
15. Darling daughter might make a note... (5)
19. What ex-bull couldn't do when given the wheel? (5)
20. Silent bloke has rocket for alternative dog-spell (8)
23. For the most part, the inn I am patronising is fair enough, but I could be all at sea! (2,3,4)
25. Conductor and emperor come and go... (4)
27. In-between state of being legless? (5)
28. Fierce competition shaves profit margins... (9, or 3-6)
29. Thy tight (non-pejorative, tho') attitude causes major breach in thy finances. (7)
30. Bing rearranged for the inquest? (7)

# October Xword '21 solution © McW March '18



## Down:

1. Computer **app**lication program with absence of anxiety to **mollify**. (7)
2. Gillard, Rudd, **or dwarf** talents coming up, could aspire to **move** **thus**. (7)
3. **Times** and order of speakers **are in**: I try to make it as clear as possible. (9)
4. I'll put that little pick-me-up **back** in your cappuccino **this time**, okay? (5)
5. **Large, thick** and lacking potassium, I'm feeling lazy. (9)
6. **Naked**, but with a little **gravity** one might make a **small push**... (5)
7. Shout Menzies off the stage for what Australia was doing at the time. [Well?] (7)
8. Cowboy story for our tradition? (7)
14. Press angry German medal. [Well?] (7)
15. Three points [Well? N, S & E...] and a **Century**: **tripe**—or is she second sighted? (9)
16. **Undermine**, probably **below the green** in Champagne [i.e. Fr.]? (7)
17. Mud-brick trapeze artist? [Well? Adobe...] (7)
19. What'll do, by the sound of it, for the Scots. [Well? "This"?] (7)
20. Ages since you **last ate** so you could have a few nuts as a worst-case scenario. (2,5)
22. A long way **[far]** after Christ for modern politics? (5)
23. (See 10ac)

## Across:

1. [If Satan] were this pale and indistinct, he'd be equally difficult to discern... (2,5)
5. What you'd have to draw to suggest Trump as cure for world problems. [Well?] (7)
9. Part of after-dinner wine [Port] and a **particle** in the solution. (7)
- 10, 23dn. Usual way to experience the length of Bell St at peak hour? [Well? I find it a tedious drive at the best of times, but worse then...] (7)
11. Quieten down and say a food to entice. [Well? a bait?] (7)
12. **Face** East, **sire** and quit with the shooting! (7)
13. **Taking us** to the **agreed inn** and ordering **Grenadine** was one of his **affection-inspiring** moves... (9)
15. One from before who brings a **pang** to some Christians. [Well?] (7)
16. The darker deals? [Well?] (7)
18. It used to take a **cart-horse** (pulling a **hero's cart**?) to shift the musos; nowadays they use **other cars**... (9)
21. Robbery without a mask? [Well?] (7)
24. After a **Century**, the little mountain is icy. [Well?] (7)
25. Nothing to **grab me** in suspension of commerce **back** here. (7)
26. Get off your bum (**i.e. train**) to change your state from this. (7)
27. All that's left of lace-makers when deconstructed brusquely? [Well? Double!] (7)
28. Beseech **tear** torn [**anag. indicator**] after JRR's tree-feller [=Ent]? (7)



## Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



### A Good Year for Fruit – But Don't Neglect To Thin

Hi everyone,

What a great spring we're having this year. All this rain has been wonderful for the garden, though it's done some damage to some of the earlier flowering varieties – hopefully you haven't suffered too much damage from diseases like leaf curl or blossom blight.

A year like this is a good reminder that the greater the number of varieties of fruit you grow in your garden, the easier it is to carry losses in some trees, because you'll surely get a good crop on some other trees.

At our place, the later varieties of apricot are looking really good (we had some nice dry weather while they were flowering). And every plum and pear tree seems to have set a huge crop!

Now that flowering is finished, it's definitely time to start thinning your fruit. Thinning is the process of pulling some of the tiny fruit off, and it's one of the most important jobs in spring for all deciduous fruit types except cherries. So thinning should be carried out on apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears.

It can feel difficult, as thinning seems 'to go against the grain'. It feels kind of wasteful to be throwing all that fruit on the ground, but rest assured, if you do it early – now – you won't reduce the overall size of your harvest (or not much anyway) that is, you'll get almost the same volume of fruit, but in fewer pieces.

Here are four excellent reasons to thin:

1. Most fruit trees have a natural biennial bearing cycle – a heavy crop one year, followed by a light crop the following year (sound familiar?). Thinning makes the tree react as if this is its 'off' year, so it will set another full crop next year. Once you understand that, it's obvious why you have to do it every year!
2. To protect the structure of your tree, and make sure no branches or laterals break from carrying too much fruit.
3. To grow larger fruit, because the tree's energy is put into fewer pieces of fruit (you get more delicious juicy flesh and less core).
4. It helps control pests and diseases by allowing the fruit to dry faster after rain (so fungal disease has less opportunity to spread), and removing habitat for pests in the lovely dark spaces where fruit hangs in bunches.

In deciding how much fruit to remove, first assess the overall crop load (heavy, medium or light crop), the age of the tree, how healthy the tree is, how much water you have available, how long the growing season is, and the ultimate size of the fruit. We have charts inside the Grow Great Fruit program that help you work out exactly how much fruit to remove.

#### *Fruit Fly already in Bendigo*

And finally, it's also definitely time to get your fruit fly traps out. Fruit fly is already

well and truly out and about in Bendigo this year, and they've also noticed that the fruit fly will sting small green fruit if they don't have anything better on offer.

Happy growing!

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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## Spring into Spring at Mica Grange

Tired of feeling cooped up? Spread your wings this spring at the Mica Grange Open Garden Sculpture Exhibition.

The spacious gardens are full of creative ideas to enjoy or enhance the beauty of your own garden. Sculptures from Victoria, NSW and Adelaide plus a wide array of garden art adorn the gardens. There are also plants and preserves for sale.

Morning tea, light lunches and afternoon tea are served on the spacious decking or around the garden between 10 am and 4.30 pm. No matter where you choose to partake of your refreshments, you will enjoy the vast panoramic views across the Sutton Grange valley.

Whether your interest be traditional gardens, rose walks, proteas, Australian natives, rockeries, vegetable gardens, fairy gardens or simply meandering through beautiful scenery and relaxing with good food, you will find something to spark your imagination at Mica Grange.

**Double vaccination is required for entry, and all COVID 19 regulations relating to the serving of food will apply.**

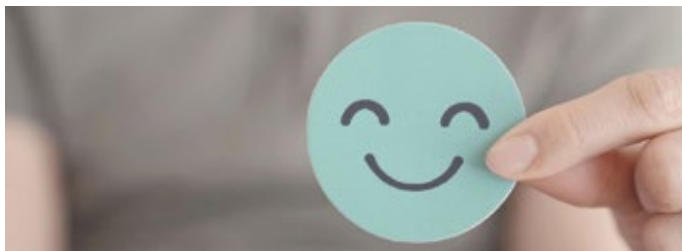
**Mica Grange is located at 373 Faraday Sutton Grange Road, Sutton Grange.**

**Mica Grange will be open every weekend, Saturday and Sunday until December 5. For more details see the advertisement on page 16.**



# Learn to Support Mental Health in Young People

Courses in Youth Mental Health First Aid for parents and carers of young people will be delivered in Castlemaine



Parents and carers of young people in Mount Alexander Shire are invited to learn how to support young people struggling with a mental health problem.

The Youth Mental Health First Aid course is for parents or carers of young people aged between 10 and 25 years.

'There is a lot to understand when it comes to mental health,' said Shannon Lacy, Youth Development Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

'This training covers the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, how to have a conversation with someone who is struggling and where to go for further help,' said Ms Lacy.

'This is particularly relevant and important at the moment given the serious impact of COVID-19 on our young people's mental health. The skills learnt can also be used to support other family members, friends or colleagues.'

Parent Kerrily Jennings completed the course, delivered by Council, in 2019.

'Being able to have open and honest conversations about youth mental health, in a group setting, was really helpful. It's given me more confidence in my ability to identify potential mental health concerns, and how to sensitively begin to discuss them.'

This current Youth Mental Health First Aid course combines online and face-to-face learning.

**The face-to-face training will be held over two evenings from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm on Monday 15 November and Thursday 18 November at the Civic Centre, Corner of Lyttleton and Lloyd Streets, Castlemaine. Dinner will be provided both nights.**

Registration of \$70 covers the cost of course materials and catering. To book, visit the training page at [www.mountalexandershiroyouth.com.au/training](http://www.mountalexandershiroyouth.com.au/training).

**Council is delivering the course as part of its commitment to improve access to mental health services for the community. For more information, contact Council's Youth Development Unit on 5471 1700 or email [youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).**



## Weather & Water

### Weather and Water

October was notable for its changeable weather. It began with four days of rain followed by some calmer weather for a few days. There were at least two frosts as well as windy, cold days.

On 28 October at 6.45 am a mighty clap of thunder was heard over Mount Alexander. This propelled me from my bed. Even though I was barely awake, I found myself standing on my feet.

We had 22 mm of rain that day, and there were wild storms all over Victoria. Mercifully, Harcourt did not suffer much damage at all.

The total rainfall for the month was 63 mm, bringing the total for the year at the end of October to 583 mm. Last year was even wetter at the same date with 615 mm. Both this year and 2020 had rainfall nearly double that of 2019. Who can forget the bushfires of the summer of 2019-2020? We can only be grateful that the state has been able to recover somewhat with two wet years.

Barkers Creek Reservoir has had significant inflows and is now at 94.2% capacity compared to last month's 80.2%. At Malmsbury, the Upper Coliban is at 100%, the Lauriston is at 96% and Malmsbury Reservoir is at 98%.

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate models have further confirmed that La Niña is going to settle in for the coming months and we will have wetter than usual weather in southern and eastern Australia.



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# Community Diary Dates

**Monday 8 November:** 7 pm Applefest Meeting, ANA Hall. All welcome.

**Thursday 11 November:** 11 am Remembrance/Armistice Day Service. Stanley Park.

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

**Sunday 19 December:** 7 pm Christmas Carols with Thompsons Foundry Band at Stanley Park.

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

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

**Monday 29 November:** 7 pm CFA Fire Safety Essentials session. See page 18 for details.

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

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

**Thursday 9 December:** HVPS Slime Spectacular Fun Run Fund Raiser, check school for time and location.

**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 14.

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

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

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

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

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

## Harcourt's Little Library

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



## 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 |



## A plan for our future

'Working together for a healthy, connected shire' – that's the promise that we committed to recently as Council adopted our new 10-year Community Vision, and four-year Council Plan for the Mount Alexander Shire.

Both documents are the result of extensive community engagement, and work together to set our strategic direction and priorities in the coming years.

Thank you to everyone in our community who took the time to share their feedback. We're looking forward to getting to work and delivering what we've set out to achieve.

Read the plan at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/council\\_plan](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/council_plan).

## Drop off green waste for free

If you're a ratepayer or live in our shire you can drop off green waste for free at our Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations between Saturday 30 October and Monday 15 November. Bring proof of shire residence on entry.

For details, see the 'Waste' section on our website.

## COVID-19 support

We're encouraging residents who've been impacted by COVID-19 and require emergency food relief to contact our dedicated COVID-19 support number on 1800 512 446 between 9.00am and 5.00pm (Monday to Friday) or email [covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au). Emergency food relief care packages include a box of basic supplies, along with essential food and personal care items.

## Australia Day Awards now open

Is there someone in your community who's made a difference in the lives of others? Nominate them now for a 2022 Australia Day Award. Complete a nomination form online at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay).

## Join our Council Meetings

- 3 November, 5.00pm, Special Council Meeting
- 16 November, 6.30pm, Ordinary Council Meeting.

Meetings are held at the Civic Centre and also broadcast live to YouTube. Search Mount Alexander Shire Council.

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

t (03) 5471 1700  
e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)  
w [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au)



# Help is at hand for COVID-19 Vaccination Proof

Council is supporting residents to obtain proof of their COVID-19 vaccination certificate through a number of face-to-face sessions being held in the coming weeks.

The sessions are designed to help people access their COVID-19 digital certificate online, and add it to the Service Victoria app on their smart phone. Support can also be provided to help residents print a copy of their COVID-19 digital certificate.

Council's Community Support Officers and volunteers will run the sessions on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 2.00pm at the Castlemaine Seniors Citizens Centre, Mechanics Lane in Castlemaine. Bookings are required, and can be made by calling 5471 1807. Please note: sessions will not run on Monday 1 November 2021.

From Friday 22 October, all residents aged 16 or over will be required to show their digital vaccination certificate or immunisation history statement when checking-in at certain venues, including businesses.

Acceptable forms of proof of COVID-19 vaccination status include:

- COVID-19 digital certificate via the Service Victoria app,
- COVID-19 digital certificate saved to smartphone,
- Printed copy of COVID-19 digital certificate together with photo ID,

- Printed copy of immunisation history statement together with photo ID,
- Medical exemption together with photo ID.

Digital support sessions are also being held at Castlemaine Community House, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, and the Castlemaine Library.

For instructions on how to get your proof of vaccination status, visit [www.service.vic.gov.au/covid-19/add-covid-19-digital-certificate](http://www.service.vic.gov.au/covid-19/add-covid-19-digital-certificate)



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## Harcourt Heritage Centre Coming Events

**Sunday November 21 at 1.30 pm**

Excursion to Lixouri Garden

Meet at the Heritage Centre for car convoy tour to 'Lixouri' Barkers Creek.

Margaret and Max Beyer have created a well-established Mediterranean-style garden and olive grove around their lime-washed mud brick house and studio.

Meandering paths, lovely views and beautiful shrubs and flowers make this one of the district 'jewels'

Afterwards, return to Harcourt Heritage Centre for afternoon tea and a look around the new museum displays.

**Monday December 6 at 7.00 pm**

Annual Christmas meeting at Harcourt Heritage Centre

Bring your ideas for the activities calendar for 2022

New residents welcome

Please bring a plate of supper

Harcourt Heritage Centre,

7 High Street Harcourt

Enquiries: 0400 916 527



## *An Invitation Brasslemaine in Concert*

Brasslemaine is a local 4-piece Brass Ensemble with a wide repertoire from Holst to Sibelius and Handel to Sousa, as well as jazz and TV theme favourites

The group started as a bunch of mates trying to figure out how to avoid the pandemic blues and has resulted in a wonderfully enjoyable get together around our passion, music!

**We want to share that passion with you!**

**When:** 3 pm Sunday 14 November

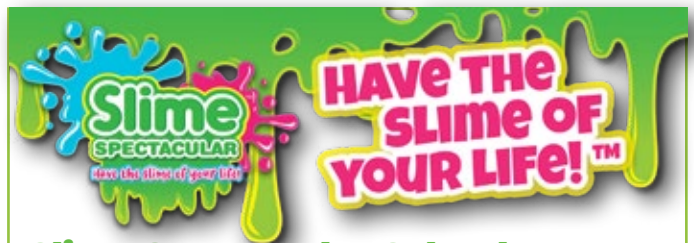
**Where:** The glorious sounding  
Castlemaine Uniting Church

**How do we book?**

- Book your seats by calling Dean on 0408 417 877, or Alison on 0419 597 765
- Entry is by \$20 donation adults, \$15 concession and \$5 for children. Children under 5 free.
- Patrons will need to show proof of double vaccination.



All proceeds of the concerts will be donated to Just Brass, an innovative schools-based music education program by the local Salvos.



**Slime Spectacular School Fun Run  
Thursday 9th of December 2021**

Fundraiser for Harcourt Valley Primary School

**Dear Parents, Guardians and Members  
of the Harcourt Community**

**We have really missed being able to have our family community together and would like to celebrate the end of the year, and the lifting of social restrictions, with a bang!**

**We are hosting a Slime Spectacular School Fun Run and Community Picnic which we think will be a terrific end to the term for our children and families.**

**Thank you so much for continuously supporting our school, especially through fundraising. Student feedback has been overwhelming that improvements to the oval would be most appreciated.**

**We are targeting a goal of \$5000 fundraised through our school community to put towards oval improvements in 2022.**

*On the day of the Slime Spectacular School Fun Run, Thursday 9th of December 2021, we will also be hosting a community picnic dinner for all families.*

*We really hope all current families and new 2022 families can join us.*

*All past families and other members of our community are also warmly invited to attend.*

*Location and time are to be confirmed.*

Harcourt Valley Primary School Council

Supporting your community

**Community Bank  
Maldon & District**

**B Bendigo Bank**

03 5475 1747

MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au