

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 95 – July 2022

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Gather Harcourt Returns in August



Gather Harcourt

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 6th of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and community groups will be sent reminder emails. **There is no edition in January.**



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2022



WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

Makarrata is 'coming together after a struggle, facing the facts of wrongs and living again in peace.'

Native Title Since Mabo

Calls by First Nations groups for title to their never-ceded lands have been made since early colonisation. Locally, in the 1840s, the Protector, Edward Stone Parker joined his voice to the Dja Dja Wurrung in calling for land rights at Franklinford. Two of the men leased acreage from Parker after the station was closed, but all the families had been moved to Corranderrk by the early 1860s.

The hand-back of the Wave Hill station to the Gurindji people in 1975 was the first time the Commonwealth Government had transferred Aboriginal land to its original owners.

Thirty years ago in June 1992, the High Court upheld the claim led by Meriam man, Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo, along with David Passi and James Rice, that they held rights over the Murray Islands in the Torres Strait. The decision acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal law and custom prior to the establishment of the Australian nation, recognising First Nations' connection to land and waters.

After two centuries of injustice, the earlier legal position that Australia was *terra nullius* was now overruled.

A new set of laws, the Native Title Act (1993), was intended to 'rectify past injustices.' The Act's four objectives, besides recognition and protection of native title, included how future dealings would proceed and how claims would be determined.

In the decade after the Mabo decision, a series of High Court decisions tested the implementation of the Native Title legislation, as in the Yorta Yorta decision of 2003. For many groups, the claims test was hugely difficult, especially for those forcibly moved off their land. The test required proof they had existed as a society prior to British sovereignty, practising law and custom through to the present day.

In 1996, the High Court found that native title could co-exist with pastoral leases, but that where a pastoral lease and a native title right were inconsistent, the non-native title rights prevail. This controversial Wik decision led on to the government greatly extending the extinguishment regime to their 'ten-point plan' and to the Native Title Amendment Act 1998.

The harsh intervention into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory Emergency Response from 2007 to 2022, besides creating great hardship, anger and fear in the scores of townships affected, did not deliver culturally appropriate economic benefits for the communities.

The Australian Law Reform Commission Report of 2015 recommended thirty changes to the Native Title Act, to 'refocus on the core elements of native title law, to facilitate an effective determination process'.

The South West Native Title Settlement of 2018, described by some as 'Australia's First Treaty', was approved by the Noongar Nation in Western Australia. They agreed to surrender certain native title rights in exchange for a comprehensive settlement package.

The first time the High Court considered and confirmed how compensation under the Native Title Act should be assessed came in 2019. Called the Timber Creek Decision, it dealt with calculating compensation for economic and cultural loss arising from violation of native title rights.

About one third of Australia is now subject to some form of land tenure (including Native Title), often with co-existence or co-management agreement for land and waters between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups.

In Victoria, alternative agreement-making processes enable traditional owners to negotiate a 'recognition and settlement agreement'.

The Mabo case had been an important step for the Australian legal system but, as yet, parts of our legal foundation as a nation are still tied to the colonial past. The limitations on resolving 'unfinished business' between the Australian State and First Nations peoples include the unfair burden of proof, non-exclusive title (limiting its economic utility), no recognition of the right to self-government and the slowness, sometimes many years, for land claims to be resolved.

Principles of recognition, equality and justice are very much needed to redress the appalling disadvantages for First Nations people. The injustices and untruths that play such an insidious role are yet to be fully addressed.

Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation 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



**GET UP!
STAND UP!
SHOW UP!**

3-10 JULY 2022

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.



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Harcourt Progress Association

Plan Harcourt

The Plan Harcourt process has now entered its final stage with Council adopting all amendments proposed by officers and requesting the Minister appoint a planning review panel.

The HPA subcommittee and other community groups met with Council's Strategic Planning team to discuss submissions made by the community and its representatives regarding Plan Harcourt. The subcommittee was impressed with the amount of consideration Council Officers have given to the community feedback.

While HPA subcommittee members continued to advocate for amendments and reforms to Plan Harcourt, once the limitations of the planning framework are acknowledged, it is fair to say that the Council have made an honest and genuine effort to deliver a planning amendment that is sympathetic to the community's aspirations and concerns.

Where are we now with Plan Harcourt?

The independent planning panel appointed by the Minister will now undertake a review of the entire Plan Harcourt process and provide a report to Council and the Minister. The review will pay particular attention to community submissions and seek further comment from submitters where necessary.

Gather Harcourt

Gather Harcourt has received another boost from Mount Alexander Shire Council in the form of a second grant.

This means there will be a **Gather Harcourt event on the**

27 August 2022 at James Park, Harcourt, at which we will have live music, food, a market and The HPA Bar.

Volunteers are essential in running this type of event. If you are interested, please register your interest on the HPA website.

Railway Station – Community House Planned

The Railway Station project has reached another milestone with works having concluded.

HPA, Council and VicTrack continue to work on the leasing agreements in preparation for a handover of the building.

The preferred operating model for the Railway Station is the Community House model which is a well understood and successful model for such buildings across Victoria and is compatible with the lease terms from VicTrack.

Of course, a Community House can only grow with the support of the community itself. The HPA is seeking anyone who has interest in participating in the creation of Community House in Harcourt. We need a multitude of people and skills in leadership, stewardship and volunteer positions. If you have an interest in building a vital community organisation or you think you could help in delivering programmes and activities:

The Harcourt Community House needs you. Volunteer today!

See the HPA website for more information: www.harcourtprogress.org.au

David Foley, President HPA

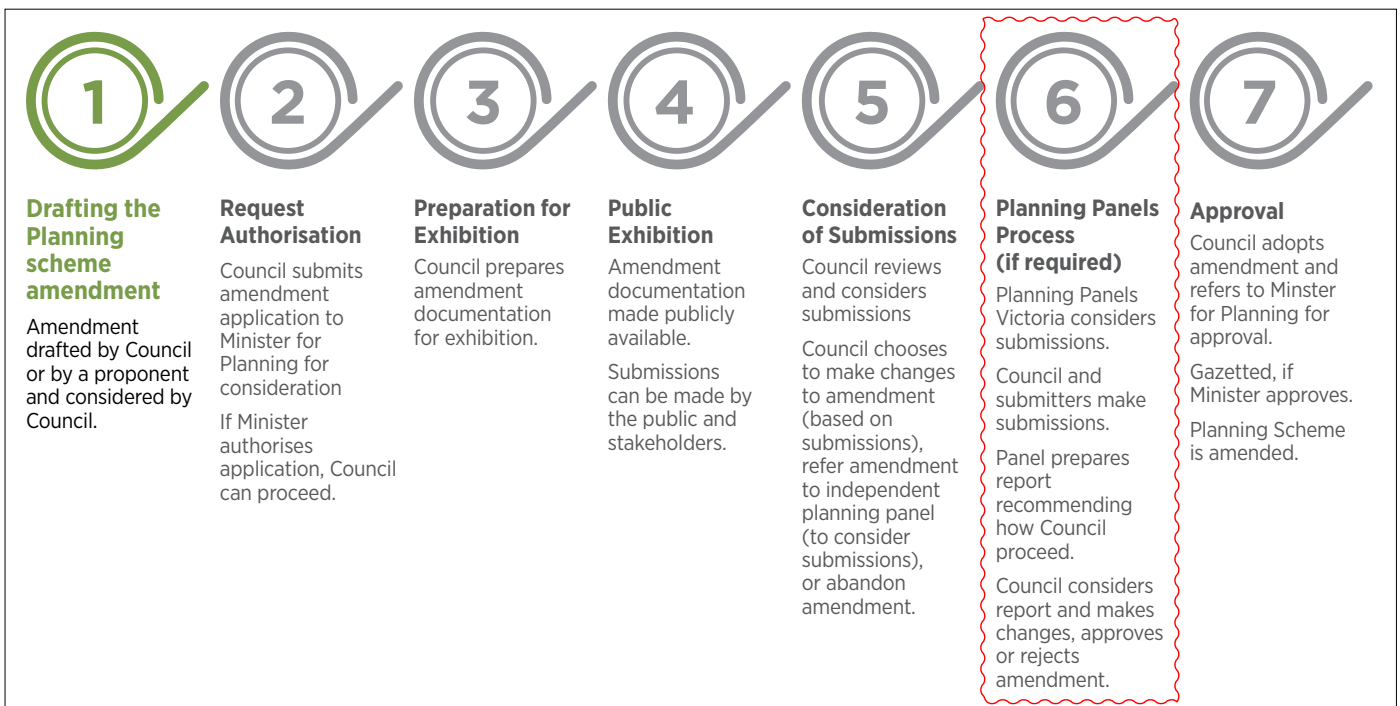


Figure 1: Steps involved in a planning scheme amendment – Plan Harcourt Amendment has been referred to a Planning Panel.

The Core online has live links to the website or to open your email software. QR codes can be scanned using your phone.

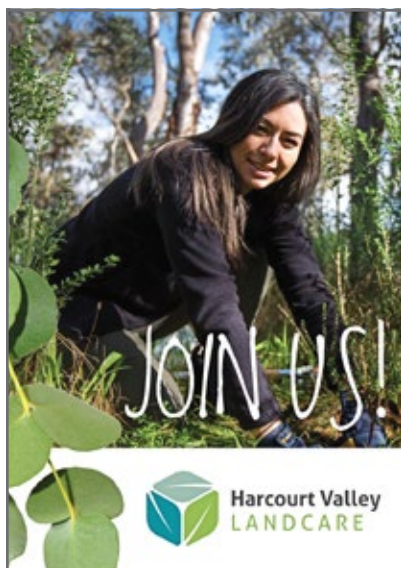


Photo by Richard Baxter

New membership brochure ready to launch

The Harcourt Valley Landcare group has produced a new membership brochure, the front page of which is shown above. The brochure contains information about our aims, projects and how to get in touch. We will have hard copies available soon and the brochure will be available on our facebook page shortly.

Five Year Action Plan

The group has also put in some work on its Five Year Plan. The plan is both a practical and an aspirational guide which has been written to guide and inspire new and existing members. The plan's Vision and Objectives are:

Vision

The Harcourt Valley Landcare aims to inspire, inform and support the community to protect and enhance our local environment.

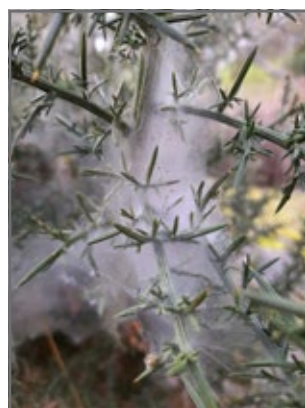
Objectives

1. Harcourt Valley Landcare has a robust, active and sustainable membership base including young people.
2. The ecological values of Harcourt Valley region are protected and enhanced.
3. The Harcourt community engages in healthy social activities that inspire a love of nature, a sense of responsibility to the local environment and a produce-growing lifestyle.

Working bees

Our most recent working bee focussed on gorse along Barkers Creek. A happy morning was spent cutting and poisoning the gorse. This area of gorse is recent re-growth and is beginning to smother plantings done in recent years.

Our next working bee will be on Sunday 23 July. Details can be obtained from our Facebook page; for further information contact the Secretary on 0467 670 271.



The gorse spider mite has been introduced into Victoria in an effort to control gorse infestations. Harcourt Valley Landcare President, Bonnie Humphreys said, 'It is slow working, but it is possible to see the effects of the mite. I can cut this gorse plant down, and pile it onto another one to move the mites onto the untouched growth.'



It was heads down at the recent working bee where gorse was cut and pasted with poison.



Matt Hillman and his daughters Amber and Kaylee enjoyed their morning as local eco warriors.

25 Years of Harcourt Valley Landcare

Sunday 25 September, 2022

Join us at 10 am at Leanganook on Mount Alexander to recognise and celebrate the 25 years of Landcare in Harcourt. Gather to remember and recognise our past achievements and look to the future with our new action plan. There will be awards for long serving members and past members, photo displays, good company and a delicious morning tea. RSVP to Secretary Robyn Miller: 0467 670 271.

From the July edition of the NCCMA North Central Chat Magazine

1-13 July	Plastic Free July
18-24 July	National Farm Safety Week
29 July	Schools Tree Day
31 July	World Ranger Day
31 July	National Tree Day

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Nutrition is vital to Life – Liz Stayner

The Orchard Keepers here in Harcourt have shared the benefits of growing great fruit with our local community. And we have all been able to benefit from the delicious fruit they provide.

One of their keenest advocates is Liz Stayner. She recently joined the cooperative and now buys food boxes from the Wednesday Farmers Market. Liz first read about the Orchard Keepers in *The Core*. She decided she would join the Community Supported Agriculture Scheme, which offered 80 opportunities to local people to participate in the first year of operation of the orchard team.

Liz joined the scheme to improve her diet, but she also wanted to support the growers. It was important for Liz because she grew up on a market garden on the Melbourne Sand Belt (a geologically formed circle of healthy soil around the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, prized by early market gardeners who flocked to the region.)

Liz also understood the complexities involved in food growing. As she says: 'I grew up in a market gardening family and understands the impact of market price fluctuations on primary producers and their families. By joining the CSA, I felt this was a positive way of showing appreciation for the Orchard Keepers.' By supporting them, Liz said she 'felt like a part owner of the orchard's crop and was proud to be a participant.'

'Once the fruit began to be available, I loved the anticipation of what the food box would contain. I enjoyed meeting the Orchard Keepers team and I came to learn a lot about the storage of the fruit for the best eating value. I learned about different varieties of cherries, plums, apples, pears and so on. I also found new recipes to add to my interest. Best of all, the fruit from the orchard is just so delicious. You can feel it doing you good.'

Liz gained a lot from joining the Orchard Keepers scheme and, in many respects, she gained more than anticipated. She was inspired to start growing her own food.



Using baby steps, she started to lift concrete and build garden beds. Liz commenced her garden adventure growing flowers and graduated to growing her own vegetables in any container she could lay her hands on. She added a Meyer Lemon to her garden. Slowly, Liz started to create an abundant haven for herself.

Her enthusiasm for good food has given her a new interest. As she says, 'I feel more purposeful and empowered to look after my own health. Nutrition is vital to life.'

Liz understands more than most the benefits of healthy eating. Not only from her early years growing up with a market garden, but also because Liz has had some health issues, as we all do. Significantly, this has never altered her determination to take a big bite out of life.

Sometimes, being unwell later in life can overtake purpose. For Liz, the 'window' might be closing but, as she says herself, 'I will just put a brick on it and just soldier on ... Well, I'm 72 and I want to be 73 ... and 74... and on and on.'

It was inspiring to enjoy her can-do attitude to life. Not only does this vibrant woman take on gardening, but she also sews clothing for herself and her family. Liz showed me her Happy Book, a collection of some of her favourite outfits. The quality of her work stood out immediately. Many of her outfits were fully lined with complex bodices and pintucks. Liz sources most of her fabrics from op shops, but occasionally lashes out to purchase beautiful materials online. She even has her own fashion label, which she designed herself. She modelled some of her favourite outfits for me and I was impressed with the beauty that she created, both in the selection of fabric and the design. Not only that, but a couple of years ago she participated in the MASG



fashion parades. Liz took to the catwalk and was triumphant in being the only participant with a walking stick. Some of her outfits are shown here.

As Liz says herself: 'We don't realise how much power we have to make change.'

In fact, in summing up her attitude to life, she borrowed a quote from the Campbells Creek Primary School:

'Be Curious, Be Brilliant and Be the Change.'

I think we can all embrace a little more from life when we bear witness to women like Liz.

For those interested in participating in the Community Supported Agriculture Scheme, there are 80 shares available. You can sign up to the waiting list through their website at: theorchardkeepers.com.au.

'Grown with love on Dja Dja Wurrung Country.'

Vera Hemkes





Harcourt CFA

Cold Hard Facts of CFA Statistics

Recent CFA statistics highlight the dangers of residential fires. Each year there are approximately 3,000 preventable house fires. This means fires started because basic preventable steps were not taken.

House fires resulted in 4,500 hospital cases and, sadly, 20 fatalities last year. Of great concern is that half of these cases either did not have a working smoke alarm or any smoke alarm at all.

There have been 220 more fatalities in residential fires than in bushfires.

So, what can be done to reduce the risk?

Only working smoke alarms save lives.

Ensuring your smoke alarms are working is the first step you can take. Giving them a clean with the vacuum cleaner will remove build-up of dust. A review of how many and where they are located is also important as 72% of fatal fires start in bedrooms and living areas, with unattended cooking being the biggest cause of fire starting in the home.

Prevention is the key. For more information, check out the CFA website or contact the brigade to answer any questions you may have.

Community Education Forum

The North-West Region Community Education Forum for 2022, which includes our brigade, was held at Mount Macedon on a cold June weekend. Brigade Community Safety Coordinators from approximately 75 brigades gathered to hear and discuss CFA safety programs, initiatives and information, including

the statistics mentioned above. Each brigade faces different risks, population variations (size, density, background etc.) so training on how to determine individual brigade risks, how to tackle these risks, what works and what does not, leads to each brigade being able to complete its yearly Brigade Community Safety Plan that is more accurate and more practical. This hopefully will assist in dealing with those 3,000 preventable house fires mentioned above.

Do You Want to Become a Volunteer Fire Fighter?

Occasionally we get inquiries from members of the public who are considering joining our brigade. The inquiries are always most welcome.

Due to current training requirements, there is no better time to start this process than now. While we attend all sorts of fires, the summer fire season is generally the busiest time. The General Fire Fighter course has changed to a more 'all hazards approach' but has a focus on grass and scrub fires.

If you are over 16 years of age and interested, please contact the brigade as soon as possible. Email your expression of interest to harcourtcfb@hotmail.com, or talk to our Captain Andrew Wilson on 0428 387 339 or any brigade member.

Brigade Turnouts and Training

June saw the brigade attend only one incident, which was a report of a car issuing smoke on the Calder Freeway at Harcourt North/Ravenswood South. On arrival there was no sign of fire. It appeared on further investigation that the smoke was more likely steam and

was more a mechanical issue than a fire emergency, but notifying the brigade in this situation is better than not.

Training has included an awareness of electrical vehicle fires as this type of vehicle is becoming more common on our roads. These vehicles create a new set of problems for emergency services, and having an understanding of the potential risks, how fires start and how to deal with them is important information for the safety of all responders.

Update on Our New Tanker 2



Our new Tanker 2 has arrived at the CFA workshops in Kangaroo Flat for a check of any operational and build defects. If no major faults are found, then, hopefully when you read this, it will be with our brigade for familiarisation and training.

Global logistics and supply issues have delayed the process, so it is good to know that it is finally coming.

The shortest day of 2022 has come and gone, which means summer is on its way. Check your winter fire risk around the home, but also start thinking about preparing it for summer.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

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The Community Bank Maldon & District held its Strategic Plan launch and Members' Night recently with a fantastic crowd in attendance, especially given the wet and wintry weather on the night.

The consultation for the bank's Strategic Plan has taken place over the past 18 months with a number of surveys and workshops held to ensure we considered viewpoints from our staff, board members, Bendigo Bank corporate staff and, most importantly, our members, grant recipients and the community. This work has culminated in a well-considered Strategic Plan for 2022-2027.

"We have set a new vision to have connected, thriving and sustainable communities and to keep improving on business performance, projects and leadership for greater community impact" says Community Bank chairperson, Ross Egleton. "Greater funding spread across diverse areas of our community and more robust assessment criteria will seek to match our vision and values of connection, integrity and sustainability. These are exciting times for our Community Bank."

A copy of the plan can be found on the Maldon District Financial Services website at <https://maldoncb.com.au/about-us/strategic-plan-2022-2027/>

The evening was not only about the Strategic Plan, but also an opportunity for the members and community to meet the staff from across our branches as well as the majority of our board members who were in



attendance. In fact, a number of our original members were in the room – those pioneers who put their money where their mouths were to ensure that Maldon had a local bank that not only provided the familiar Bendigo Bank products, but also gave back to the community by way of partnerships and grants. We congratulate those members for having the foresight to support our community bank model back in 1999 and to still be a part of the \$3.4million that has gone back to the communities across our branches (Maldon, Dunolly and Newstead).

When chairperson, Ross asked the audience to respond about why they were in attendance, it was clear that the community values the community bank model, with Maldon local Pam Millwood

saying she came along to the evening as a grant recipient. "When Tarrangower Tomorrow received grant funds (from the bank) to develop a new community plan we had ambitious ideas and the funding helped considerably in kickstarting that process." Pam went on to say "I thought it was such a privilege to live in a place that has a bank that is so well integrated into the community; that seeks to genuinely know and serve the community. It is such a fantastic model on so many levels."

The short presentation from Ross and the executive officer, Shannon Burdeu was supported by a slideshow and short video presentation of programs, grants and partnerships and a couple of lucky door prizes. All followed by a lovely spread and some great conversations and networking.



Have you ever wondered?

We often hear that governments have broadly consulted with the community and that a plan has been drawn up from those results. Have you ever wondered who runs the consultations and how you can add your voice? Well, the Victorian Government has a website specifically for this purpose where citizens are actively encouraged to respond to proposed government changes and plans.

Currently on Engage Victoria (engage.vic.gov.au) public consultations are being held on: 'non-cash payment surcharge for taxis 2022; review of the water customer service codes; review of family violence information sharing and risk management; and the Maryborough and District Hospital Redevelopment Project, to name a few.

The recently completed consultation on volunteering helped inform the Victorian Volunteer Strategy 2022-2027 which can be found on the Victorian Government site www.vic.gov.au It makes for interesting reading given the recently released Census data indicates volunteering has declined by 19 percent since the previous data collection in 2016.

Castlemaine and Surrounds Repair Cafe

31st July, 10am-1pm.

Castlemaine Community House

30 Templeton St. (Behind the Town Hall)

Enter via the back door from the car park.

Bring along broken household appliances and sewing repairs. If it's busy, last item at 12.30. Gold coin donation appreciated.

For more information call Chris: 5470 5508.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

As I write this article on the last day of Term 2, half the school year is already over! This term, there was an emphasis on maths skills and today, students are having fun using their maths and literacy skills playing board games. They have been asked to bring in their favourite board game from home to play with their peers. What a great way to complete second term, especially since there will be a sausage sizzle for all the students and staff just before school finishes for the term.

Additionally, students have been involved with several other interesting maths projects this month. The school conducted a science/maths 'incursion' for years 3 to 6, where students were involved in constructing models of the Solar System (see photos on the school website). On June 17, grades 3 and 5 students took part in an excursion to Melbourne Quantum where they participated in several maths/science projects. Maths and literacy skills have also been emphasised in the school's



Friday Community Groups (more about these below).

Grades 4 and 5 have been honing their formal letter-writing skills, writing letters to businesses, organisations and the Junior School Council. The joint letter that students, Tate, Ben and Braxton wrote to Harvey Norman must have been very well written – they asked for a donation towards a Sphero Ball for use in their Friday Community Group, and they were successful in obtaining a grant of \$200 which covered the cost of the ball. Well done boys! That will be something to look forward to using in next term's Community Group.

Writing this article, I have learnt something about Sphero Balls and the school's Friday Community Groups, which makes me wish I was back at school. Firstly, about the Community Groups: Every Friday afternoon students in grades 3 to 6 choose the Community Group they would like to be involved in. Andrew informed me that there are four Community Groups that students can choose to be involved with – a Cooking Group, a Gardening Group (which gardens in the school grounds), an Art Group and a Maths and Science Group (which will be using the Sphero Ball in their projects).

A Sphero Ball is a magic ball, well sort of. 'Google' informed me it is an App Enabled Robotic Ball which helps students



learn fundamental concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) through play-based learning and educational activities. Students will be able to use it interactively to create computer programs, play games and complete specific challenges. Lucky students! Wouldn't it be fun to get some lessons from them!

Art classes this term have been based on the theme, 'Things that Go'. I encourage Core readers to check out the school website to see some of the imaginative and colourful creations students have completed.

By now, parents will have received their children's mid-year school report and all teacher/parent interviews will have been conducted either in person or by phone. For those parents who require care during the school holidays, check out the OHS school holiday program, which will be operating at the school for the first time these holidays. It looks like a lot of fun activities have been planned.

To all staff, students and parents who are on holiday, we wish you a happy, safe and relaxing holiday.

Lois Denham





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Harcourt Heritage Centre

Ed Pritchard and the Royal Commission

The fruitgrowers of Harcourt met at the ANA Hall on Monday 1 March 1915. The meeting was hastily convened by Mr JH Lang to consider allegations made the previous week to the Royal Commission on the production, packing, marketing, distribution, preservation, cold and other storage, and the wholesale and retail prices of fruit.

The scandalous evidence, as reported in the Saturday *Argus*, left the impression that 'fruitgrowers were nothing but a band of robbers'.

Leading growers from Doncaster and Burwood had told of corrupt practices in the packing and presentation of fruit. Mr Lang said that steps had to be taken to combat the evidence given to the Royal Commission. Harcourt's fruitgrowers agreed and moved that the Commissioners be invited to Harcourt to get evidence very different what they had been hearing and which had gained such prominence in the Melbourne press.

The meeting resolved to appoint Messrs Ed Pritchard, JB Warren, J Lang, Eb Eagle and LH Rash to speak for the fruitgrowers. They were to take strong exception to the tone of the evidence laid before the Commission in the previous week.

The Royal Commissioners accepted the invitation. It is a rare thing for a Royal Commission to hold a hearing in Harcourt. On Friday 19 March 1915 the Royal Commissioners assembled at the ANA Hall. The evidence given can be found in Victorian Parliamentary Papers. In all, 578 questions were put to the Harcourt delegates.

Cr Ed Pritchard gave evidence for most of the morning. Referring to the Melbourne market agents, the Commissioners asked if the agents dealt fairly with the grower. Cr Pritchard believed they did. The Commissioners alleged that some agents were in the habit of being buyers and resellers to their own advantage. Cr Pritchard said he did not believe this was the case. The Commissioners alleged that repacking of fruit was being practised. Cr Pritchard said that he had heard rumours of sharp practices and shady dealings, but that was only hearsay, he had not experienced such treatment. Harcourt fruit always attracted buyers due to its quality. Fruit packed in Harcourt could be relied upon to be the very best.

Ed Pritchard's sixty-acre orchard was large by Harcourt standards, forty acres in bearing trees and twenty acres of young trees. Twenty-five acres were planted in apples, ten in pears, ten in plums, two in cherries and the rest in stone fruit.

Conditions were grim. The German wholesale fruit market had been lost at the outbreak of war, and fruit exports to Britain were in peril with German cruisers patrolling in the oceans around Australia.

The Harcourt valley was in drought. The average rainfall in the previous three years had been 307 mm. (In the most recent three years 2019-2021 the annual average has been 640 mm.) No water had been sent from Malmsbury since the previous October. The Pritchard orchard had yielded about 5,000 cases of fruit in the previous year. But, lacking irrigation, the current harvest yielded just 120 potato sacks of small apples, which he had sold to the Bendigo Jam Factory.

Then Cr Pritchard got onto what he really wanted to say. 'Our crops have all suffered this year. If we had water, we would have had a normal season. We must have water.' The Commissioners listened intently as James Lang, JH Lang and Cr Pritchard outlined the need for a local water storage. 'We are too far from the headworks at Malmsbury. The Water Commission sells only two-thirds of the water that leaves Malmsbury – the rest evaporates or leaks away. A reservoir could be built at Picnic Gully. To grow fruit here successfully we must have more water.'

When Cr Pritchard had given his evidence, the Commission adjourned for lunch at McLean's Temperance Hotel, where Cr Pritchard officially welcomed the Commissioners. The *Mount Alexander Mail* reports that 'the repast provided by Miss Mclean was all that could be desired and very much above the average of many similar luncheons.'

The afternoon session was taken up with the evidence of JB Warren, JH Lang, Eb Eagle, Luther Rash and Jacob Smith. Their answers give a lot of detail as to their orchards, the growing conditions, the way they sold the fruit and the costs and returns involved in fruitgrowing.

A proposal to raise the bank of Upper Coliban Reservoir was aired, as was the idea of a water storage at Picnic Gully. The Commissioners then adjourned.

The Harcourt growers were satisfied. The delegates chosen at the meeting in March had done their job, and done it well. The reputation of Harcourt fruit was untarnished.

At the time of the Royal Commission hearing, Edward Pritchard was President of the Metcalfe Shire. He had been first elected in 1894 and would serve until 1920. He was the first to advocate the establishment of the Fruitgrowers Association Packing Shed, which was a big asset to fruit growers during the export season. In March 1915 he was active in a scheme to amalgamate the Harcourt Fruitgrowers Improvement Association and the local branch of the Victorian Orchardists Cooperative Association Limited. The combined group was to arrange co-operative buying of materials and to perform the work of a Progress Association. In this capacity Ed Pritchard was instrumental in the establishment of Stanley Park.

Ed Pritchard was also an enthusiastic cricketer. He was captain of the Harcourt Cricket Club and secretary for 25 years. He was an active member of the Rechabite Lodge and served as Justice of the Peace. During the war he must have been always on the road as he was in demand to chair farewells to soldiers or to visit district schools to talk about the war effort.

Ed Pritchard was part of a large family. His siblings had married into large local families, and so he had a wide network of relatives. We can conclude from both his family ties and his organisational links that Ed Pritchard was well connected, with a broad support base in the community. When he died, Senator Sir Harry Lawson remarked,

'... the late Mr Pritchard had manifested the qualities of leadership and was associated with every organisation for the advancement of the fruit industry.'

This is another in a series of Thumbnail Sketches compiled for the Harcourt Core by Harcourt Heritage Centre. In later years the capacity of the Coliban system was increased by raising the wall of Upper Coliban Reservoir and by the construction of Lauriston Reservoir.

Readers will be interested to know that a modern cherry orchard flourishes at the site of Pritchard's 'Cairnsfoot' orchard.

George Milford

Goldfields Track Café to Close



Donna outside the café just before it opened in 2016

Many readers will be aware that very shortly the Goldfields Track Café will close. Many locals have come to enjoy the café as a venue to catch up for coffee, to attend a meeting, a celebration or a wake. 'See you at Donna's', became a common saying around town. The last days of service are from Thursday 7 July



Owner, Donna McMahon; Chef, David Beynon and staff member, Shelby Petersen.

to Saturday 9 July, 5 pm to 7.30 pm.

The Goldfields Track Café opened in early September 2016. Owner Donna McMahon said, 'My "partner in crime", Jacq Cue, and I put a proposal to the then owners, Andy and Paula. They offered us a wonderful lease agreement. We opened only at the weekends at first, as I was still working at the Doveton Café in Castlemaine.

'At The Track, Jac would be in the kitchen cooking up a storm and we had just a handful of staff. We went on to employ more than ten local people over the years. I want to thank Sous Chef, Jaan Niever; Pizza Cook, Barb Stanley; Head Chef, David Beynon; Cook, Shelby Petersen; Charlotte Rabien-Jenkins, Linda Quinton, Jolene Beynon, Carly Bauer and Naomi Matthews. I have probably missed someone out; if I have, I apologise. We were so pleased to offer employment to those living in the area.

'The business built up well. We had our regular customers: the school mums and

the walking group on Thursdays; the car club, The Petrol Sniffers, came for dinner once a month. The Victorian Miniature Railway has been a huge supporter; Andrew the President, and his wife Karen, have become good friends. We enjoyed the days at the Track when we had events like the meat smoking workshops and the warm afternoons with a band playing in the garden.

'Generally, what made it all worthwhile were the strong connections with people and groups in the town and in the area. The two years of lockdowns with COVID made things difficult for everyone in hospitality. During that time we found a model that worked for us with take-away food only, and we have continued that.'

Donna said, 'I need some time to process the change and I will take a break and have time for myself and with the family. I have some plans including teaching hospitality. I am studying Training and Assessment at the moment to get into the teaching field at TAFE. I'm also working in education support and with the NDIS. I have a Bachelor of Education and I'm interested in art but I don't think I will be able to leave the hospitality field altogether. I have some plans for that too.

'We are having a sale of all excess equipment – crockery, cutlery, serving ware etc. If anyone is interested they can send me a private message on Facebook.

'I could never have achieved what I have without the support of my family, my "work family", past owners Andy and Paula, Jacq Cue and the community.

'It's time for a new chapter in my life. I wish the new owners all the best and hope their business is a success.'

Robyn Miller



Everyone loves a party. The Uniting Church in Australia has recently celebrated the 45th

Anniversary of its formation on 22 June 1977, when the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches combined.

In 1977 Harcourt had two Methodist Churches, an Anglican Church and the Church of Christ at Barkers Creek. The two Methodist congregations eventually combined into the present Uniting Church building in Buckley Street. The Uniting Church logo shows the cross of Jesus in its light and love, the Holy Spirit is represented by the dove with wings of flame and the

Harcourt Uniting Church

wide U shape at the bottom reminds us that we are uniting but as yet not a complete circle.

We marked the day in Harcourt with Reverend Sarah and George Milford leading the service. George reminded us of that day, forty-five years ago, when the three denominations met at their respective buildings in Castlemaine to walk towards the Castlemaine Town Hall. An uplifting service to celebrate the occasion was held, with Thompsons Foundry Band providing the music and the hall filled to capacity. Many of our present members were there.

Our 45th celebrations were more 'low key' as we enjoyed lunch in the Castlemaine

Uniting Church where a large cake was shared after singing 'Happy birthday to us.'

Three boys in the school yard are bragging about their fathers. The first boy says: 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem and they give him \$50.'

The second boy says: 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song and they give him \$100.'

The third boy says: 'I can do better than that. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

Jan Jenkin

When *The Core* called in for its regular chat with VMR stalwart Colin Mierisch, he was gingerly bending a steel track to conform to a curve which would be part of a 60 foot radius point.

Colin said, 'This set of points will make up one of five needed for the storage of VMR carriages underneath the railway station. Steel doesn't always bend the way you want! It can sometimes bend easily in one section and not in another. We have nearly got it right.' See photo below of Colin using the laser cut curve gauge to assess the angle of the curve in the track. Colin commended a member of the group, Kevin Peveral, who has written a construction manual for point construction for miniature railways.

The VMR train tracks have a particular width, and all attachments, such as the

points, must conform to size. Colin rattled off a number of track sizes used by various miniature railways. In the case of VMR, the track width is 7¼ inches or 18.415 cm. The photo below shows a set of carriage wheels and a track gauge used as a guide to ensure correct track width.

The engines stored at VMR are raised well off the ground, and it occurred to me that somehow they have to get to ground level in order to operate. Colin was proud to demonstrate a piece of equipment which does just that. It's called a transverser, and yes, it travels sideways, not forward and back.

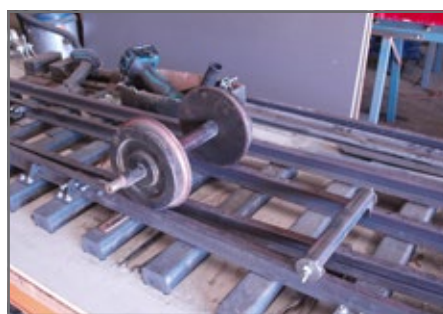
The door of the storage shed opens to reveal the engines at least a metre above the

ground. Tracks outside lead to the transverser which can be manually moved to an engine and then raised for the engine to move onto. The transverser takes the engine to the relevant track, and lowers it to track level so the engine can then proceed. This ingenious piece of equipment was constructed by VMR member Damon Gundry.

Robyn Miller



Colin Mierisch measuring the angle of the track for the 60 foot (18.288 m) radius point.



Wheel set (left) and track guide.



Colin Mierisch with transverser raised to track level.



Replica miniature VLine A66 class engine on raised tracks. The engine can be moved to connect to tracks at ground level by the transverser, shown in photos 4 and 5. (In August 2018 V/Line retired the diesel locomotive class A66, marking the end of the 'streamliner' A class locomotives used in Victoria.)



Transverser used to connect stored engines with the VMR tracks.

Some Time Ago

This comes under the heading of: 'They don't write stories like that anymore.'

Benjamin Potter, charged with assaulting James M' Muckle, sworn: Saw the defendant at Harcourt the 15th of this month; does not remember what he did to him; was blessed drunk; next day 'disremembers' whether there were cuts and bruises on his body. These loves had probably taken conciliatory nobblers outside, for there appeared such evident reluctance to get his reconciled neighbor into a scrape, that the Bench was obliged to dismiss the case.

Mount Alexander Mail 27 October, 1854 via Trove

Fireside Chat

1.30 pm Sunday 24 July

Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street

'Let's look at that old scrapbook.'

Scrap books provide a fascinating window into the past.

We will explore examples from the Heritage Centre collection, along with some private scrapbooks of photographs, news clippings and art work.

You are encouraged to bring along your old scrapbook that has been hidden in the drawer. Modern scrapbookers are also welcome.

Afternoon tea, (please bring a plate to share). There will be a small charge in aid of the Heritage Centre.

Enjoy an afternoon at the Heritage Centre, in good company, by the blazing fire. All welcome.





Councillor Comment

Hi all,

At the June meeting of Council we adopted the 22/23 budget. A couple of things for our community include funding for the design of a lighting upgrade for our recreation reserve. Also, as a result of a budget submission, there is funding allocated for the provision of shade at James Park.

In other news, council is seeking public comment on building social housing above the Council car park in Castlemaine. We have wanted to do something about social housing for some time, but finding land has been the difficult part. We would appreciate as much feedback as possible on this. See the council website.

We expect to see the award of the contract for cell capping and remediation works at the Castlemaine landfill site come to the July council meeting. This will be one of the largest projects undertaken by council, and the good news is, it is already fully funded from our landfill reserve. This is a great example of forward-thinking councils over many years. It has been talked about for many years, and now we deliver it! Thanks to all the staff working on bringing this to reality.

The latest on Plan Harcourt is that it has been referred to the Planning Minister requesting that a planning panel be convened to hear submissions and make recommendations on the proposal. This will take a while, but at the end of the process, we will have certainty about the orderly growth of Harcourt.

Best regards, Tony
AG Cordy
0439742434

Dogs and Roos Don't Mix

Local wildlife rescuers are appealing to dog owners to not let their dogs chase kangaroos or any other native wildlife.

There have been several reported incidents in recent weeks of dog attacks on kangaroos, attended by local volunteer wildlife rescuers. Tragically, these events are ongoing, and are only going to increase as our population grows. Dog owners need to be aware of the risks and dangers in allowing their dogs to chase native animals.

'Kangaroos being chased by dogs can get caught in fences, hit by cars, throw their joeys, get separated from their mother or their joey, or get capture myopathy – which will lead to their death,' says one local rescue volunteer.

'I have had discussions with owners of off lead dogs on the golf course in Castlemaine who believe their dogs are 'harmlessly' chasing kangaroos off the green, and do not stop them doing so. They believe their dog would never catch or harm one,' says another rescuer.

'Even if you are correct that your own dog could or would not catch it, dogs are pack animals. There may be other dogs in the area that join in the chase and one of those dogs may catch it.'

Responsible dog ownership should include being able to keep your dog under voice control at all times. If you do not have that level of control, the dog should be kept on a lead.

And if a dog is not game to attack an adult kangaroo, it may still attempt to get to a joey.



Little Hope (pictured above) ended up in care at a local wildlife shelter after someone intervened when a dog was chasing her and her mum. Mum was soaked in blood and her pouch has been torn to a bloodied flap in the attack. The terrified joey was trying to get back in but there was nothing to hold her.

The dog's owner had no control over it once it gave chase, and in fact thought it was a game when its owners were trying to catch it. Mum succumbed to her injuries, leaving her joey orphaned.

Hope is one of the lucky ones who was able to be cared for and soft-released back into the wild, the only physical evidence of the attack being the wound on her lip.

The injuries and trauma sustained from dog attacks often result in the kangaroo having to be humanely put to sleep, or dying weeks – or even months – later from capture myopathy, or if rescuers are unable to capture them, suffering a slow, painful death from infection, or from starvation when they become too unwell to move around freely in search of food.

Allowing your dog to chase a kangaroo, or any other animal, is not as harmless as you might think.

If you encounter injured wildlife or witness an incident, you can call Wildlife Victoria (03) 8400 7300, WRIN: 0419 356 433 or WRES: 0427 301 401.

Non emergencies can also be reported by email to: ocr@delwp.vic.gov.au

Lisa Rowe


**KEEP CALM
AND
VOLUNTEER
Harcourt
NEEDS
YOU**



Harcourt Football Netball Club

Hard Going in Wintry Conditions

As far as end of year aspirations go, there were two important clashes recently, one on June 18 and the other on June 25 against the always competitive Carisbrook and Trentham respectively.

Round 8 June 18

Football

A great crowd turned up at the Lions Den for the game against Carisbrook. Thanks to the local community for your support.

The junior football teams came up against strong opponents in Carisbrook. Both teams fought on but couldn't convert the efforts into enough goals. The U-11.5 BuildPro players of the week were Bede Lord and Riley Hancock. The U-14.5 BuildPro players of the week were Fraser McAinch and Tobias George. Also special congratulations to Riley Burns, who, after many injury set backs, finally got to play his 50th club game. Well Done, Riley!

The reserves worked over a strong Redbacks side to get back on the winners list. Sos, Butch and Conan played well. The seniors welcomed Barry Hall into the team but couldn't get the chocolates, with Carisbrook being cleaner with the footy in hand. Jed was a great focal point up forward, and Darb and Ando played strong games through the middle.

Harcourt Seniors 11.11 (77)

Carisbrook Seniors 14.9 (93)

Netball

In the junior netball, the U-11s showed much resilience and positivity during their match-up. The scoreboard may not have showed it, but they put up a great fight. Our U-13 team faced their toughest battle yet. They remained calm and capitalised on each intercept and came away with a well-earned win. They are undefeated at the half-way mark of the season. The very skillful U-15 team made it a tough day for Carisbrook and confirmed their position as ladder leaders.

For the U-17s, another close match slipped away in the last quarter. The girls have certainly showed they can stick with the top sides they just need to maintain consistency throughout a whole game.

C-grade proved too strong for Carisbrook with very consistent goaling and gaining possession. B-grade got off to a slow start due to Carisbrook's strong defense. Unfortunately, despite desperately wanting a win, they went down by 13 goals.

The A-grade match up was the spectacle of the day. Though still unable to showcase our full side (it was almost complete) against the always competitive 'Brook, a stellar performance by the whole team lead to a solid win.

Harcourt A-Grade vs Carisbrook - 63:39

Round 9 June 25

Football

And on June 25, the never looked forward trip to wintry Trentham. After the home loss the previous week, this took on even more importance than a clash against the undefeated team of the competition.

In cold and muddy conditions, the seniors put together a solid first half but left the door open, missing a few set shots that could have added scoreboard pressure. The second half saw Trentham come out determined to maintain their winning streak and they hit the front playing better in their conditions. But then the Frost brothers started to get on top, seemingly unaffected by the cold. The Orchardists gained the momentum in the last by kicking 4 goals, holding on for an impressive and vital 5-point victory.

Harcourt 9.9 (63)

Trentham 9.4 (58)

The reserves had a tough time, struggling to handle the muddy ball. After leading at quarter time, Trentham handled the conditions better to run out comfortable winners. Gurdy put in a solid four-quarter effort to put his hand up for a game in the ones.

We were super proud of the efforts of our junior footballers in the cold, wet and muddy conditions. The U-11.5s gallantly fought in a narrow loss. The BuildPro players of the week were Jack Dorian and Harry George. The U-14.5s got off to a great start and were able to secure the win. The BuildPro players of the week were Fraser McAinch and Edward Teed.

Netball

In the netball, The U-13s continued their strong form, as did an equally versatile U-15 team, to start the day off with some big wins. The U-17s went down again by one goal, unable to keep their third term lead.

C-grade had a slow start in the miserable conditions, but they proved again to be the most consistent side. Suzie Rinaldi lead the way with the support of Bec Waddington. B-grade's defensive pressure down the court was rewarded by both Georgia Brown and Kirrily McKay. Hopefully, this is the start of a winning streak for B-grade as they work their way back into the top four. In the A-grade game, the Lions overcame Trentham's physicality to lead by 25 points at the final whistle. The pressure from Carly Chaplin and Cassidy McLean was impressive.

Trentham vs Harcourt A-Grade - 37:62

There is a big month of football and netball coming up. We have three home games on the 9th, 16th and 30th July. They are all looking winnable. Hope to see plenty of locals at the Den.

Go Lions

Daryl Gale



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Documentary Celebrating the Falcons Calls on Community Support for Completion

Equal the Contest, a feature length documentary film following the journey and development of the new women's football club, The Mt Alexander Falcons, is seeking community support for completion.

The film, which commenced production in November 2021, has been shot from the unique perspective of local filmmaker Mitch, who is now also a player, wearing cameras on their body during playing and training.

When Mitch first saw a poster outside the Castlemaine IGA calling for women and gender-diverse people to join a new footy team – all ages and no experience necessary – their first thought was that it sounded interesting. When they headed to the first 'come and try day' little did they realise what started out as a curious kick would turn into not only the biggest creative project of their life, but one of their richest social experiences, and the first time that they've felt completely accepted in a sporting context.

The film broaches topics of inclusion, gender inequality, gender identity, cultural safety, risk and bodily autonomy as well as participation for all ages and body shapes. It also challenges biases around sport, including ideas around who can play and how we play.

'There's a number of twists and turns in this story as both the club and me personally, have to deal with situations and experiences we shouldn't have to in order to enjoy participating in sport' says Mitch. 'I really hope the film opens up new conversations in clubs and also helps attract more women and gender-diverse people to sports like AFL.'

The film has been self-funded by the film maker to date, and now a crowd funding campaign has been launched in order to hire an editor – who is also a local – and to raise the money needed for post-production and all the other expenses that go along with releasing a feature film. An impact campaign will also sit alongside the film, which will allow the film to be used as an educational tool in football clubs and schools

across Australia.

'This film is hyper-local in story and creation, but we feel like it has the capacity to create positive change nationally.'

Mitch is seeking the support of locals to donate to the crowd funding campaign, which is backed by the Documentary Australia Foundation with DGR status, meaning all donations over \$1.00 are tax deductible. They are also seeking corporate and commercial organisations to partner with.

'Organisations that both love footy and understand the importance of diversity, inclusion and gender equality would be perfectly placed to become a film partner and publicly align their brand with our message. I really encourage those organisations to get in touch and find out more' says Mitch.

The film will be completed in late 2022 and released in early 2023.

For more information, please contact Mitch:

0415 090 061

info@michelledunn.com.au

equalthecontest.au

View the film trailer & donate:

documentaryaustralia.com.au/project/equal-the-contest

Michelle (Mitch) Dunn

Creative Director

Pronouns: they / them

WINTER 2022 SCHEDULE

Sun 10 July	2.30 pm	Eaglehawk	Away
Sun 17 July	2.30 pm	Bendigo Thunder	Home
Sat 23 July	5.15 pm	Kyneton	Away

Central Victorians on Family Payments to Receive Boost

From 1 July 2022, more than 1.4 million Australian families will see an increase to family payments, while around one million pensioners will also benefit from increases in means test free areas, limits and deeming thresholds.

Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters said the increases are coming at a vital time for Central Victorians.

'In the Bendigo electorate, there are more than 17,000 families on either Family Tax Benefit Part A or B,' Chesters said.

'The cost of living is skyrocketing and locals are feeling the pinch. This boost will help many families across the region.'

'The indexation process complements the levers we are pulling across portfolios to help address the rising cost of living.'

'We will continue to support Australians by cutting the cost of medicines on the PBS, freezing deeming rates for pensioners, expanding access to the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, lowering energy costs and making child care cheaper.'

'There is still more work to do,' Chesters said.

Family Tax Benefit Part A will increase by up to \$204.40 per year for families with a child under 13 years, and \$255.50 per year for those with a child 13 years and over. Similarly, Family Tax Benefit Part B will increase by up to \$164.25 per year for families who have a youngest child under five and \$116.80 per year for those whose youngest child is aged five to 18.

The amount of income or assets an

Age Pension, Disability Support Pension or Carer Payment recipient can have before their payment is affected will also increase.

'Social security and family payments have a built in safeguard where they are automatically indexed at regular intervals to help them maintain purchasing power,' Chesters said.

Those who receive other family payments, such as Multiple Birth Allowance and Newborn Supplement, will also receive an increase.

More details on the new payment rates and thresholds are available on the Department of Social Services website.

From a Press Release by Lisa Chester, Federal Member for Bendigo.



Chatting with Harcourt CWA Association Day: Third Time Lucky

When five-year-old Jenny Steiner was asked what she was going to be when she grew up, she replied, 'I'm going to be an artist.'

We have been waiting for three years to hear Jenny's story as COVID got in the way on two previous Association Days and we had to cancel, but the wait was so worthwhile as Jenny delighted every one with her presentation of how she fulfilled that five-year old's belief that one day she would be an artist.

Although her parents would smile and say, 'how wonderful that you want to be an artist' to a five-year old, at seventeen and the only child of Greek immigrants, it was a different story with constant reminders that she needed to be practical and sensible about her career. 'You need to make a living.' 'You need a proper job.' 'Your cousins have good jobs in offices, why don't you do that?'

But Jenny knew what she wanted to do with her life; she wanted to be an artist. So, at the end of HSC, seventeen-year old Jenny applied for a position in interior design, graphic design and fine art. Interior design won the day, however this course was not all about cushions and colours, it was the first four years of the architecture course where she learned about the design process, how to take a brief and answer it, then create a concept and take it to design development and working drawings to construction.

At twenty-two, a new direction in graphic art saw Jenny working at Myer who sent her to New York to evaluate and purchase equipment for a new venture in computer graphics, and then off to Canada to be trained in the use of the equipment.

In the late 1980s, Jenny started her own graphic design company. In the 1990s murals were in and Jenny covered ugly walls with colour and design.

Over the next thirty years Jenny honed her skills and today creates artworks for private and corporate clients in a diverse range of media, paint, timber, brass, metal, glass and bronze, from small works to monumental.

Following is an example of a monumental work of art:

While exhibiting at a school fund raiser, Jenny sold some metal bulrushes to a lady for \$50. That lady turned out to be the director of works at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery. When she asked Jenny if making bulrushes was what she did for a living, Jenny showed the director her folio that she just happened to have in her car. The director was very impressed. Now it just so happened that the director wanted a memorial for the children's cemetery – somewhere parents could sit and relax. The cemetery was going to

erect a timber rotunda and asked Jenny to 'decorate' it with sculpture. Jenny did one better and made the rotunda the sculpture.

Jenny finished her presentation by saying, 'so I wanted to be an artist. I certainly didn't become a traditional fine artist. I didn't exhibit in galleries and I didn't go to art school, I'm my own kind of artist.'

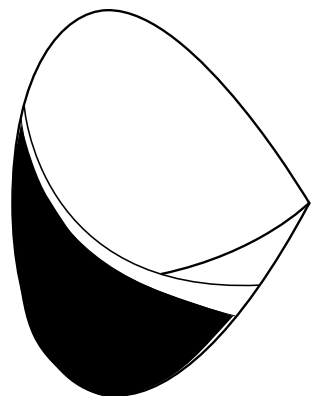
And if you want to see one of Jenny's sculptures, Saint Mary MacKillop can be seen standing outside the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo. Many of Jenny's other works can be seen in many Catholic private schools throughout Victoria.

In keeping with the sculpture theme, Joy Robertson's display of leaves, bark, galls, birds nests, feathers and photos of birds, butterflies and flowers, showed us that we are surrounded by sculpture in nature, and all we have to do is take the time to look.

Unfortunately it wasn't third time lucky for me as I couldn't attend Association Day, but Jenny has allowed me to use her presentation notes to prepare this chat to share with you all. Many thanks Jenny.

Lyn Rule

Harcourt CWA, Publicity Officer.



Gather Harcourt

James Park, Saturday 27th August 2022, 1 - 4pm

Bowen Therapist in Taradale

Carole Kernohan

I first discovered Bowen Therapy in 2002 while travelling Australia. After receiving two treatments, my back was much better, and I wanted to know more. This has developed into my current Bowen Practice.

The Bowen Technique was founded in the 1950s by Tom Bowen right here in Victoria.

A Bowen Treatment is made of gentle moves performed over muscles, connective tissue, the fascia sending messages throughout the body to help restore the natural balance. The gentle moves allow the body to relax and stimulate the body's innate healing, working on all levels of the body, physically, mentally and emotionally.

It is extremely gentle and suitable for all ages – newborns, the frail, pregnant women, everyone.

One of the benefits is that treatments are done while wearing casual comfortable clothing, such as a tracksuit and T-Shirt.

I have had clients who are elderly and clients only a few months old. Some of the health conditions I have helped with are anxiety, golf/tennis elbows, fibromyalgia, back, hip, knee, colic, sleeping issues and more.

I practice the Bowtech Bowen Technique and I continue to do revisions and studies each year.

I am a member of the BAA (Bowen Association Australia) and BTAA (Bowen Therapy Academy Australia). For more information, the websites are: www.bowen.org.au and www.bowtech.com

To book an appointment, phone 0407 372 426

Thanks,

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Covid restrictions apply

Member of BAA & BTAA

Grace Church
Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome
Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897
gracecastlemaine.org.au
30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

Grace Church

The Mizoram Bible College



Students and faculty of the Bible Mizoram College, India.

The Bible Mizoram College, a mission which Grace Church supports, is located in India.

The Bible College was first drawn to our attention by one of our pastors in Queensland. One of the chief attractions of the college was the fact that the principal, Pastor Andrew, regularly appears on our pastors' zoom prayer meetings of a Wednesday morning. Thus, we are able to get first-hand reports on how the ministry is going virtually weekly. This is a much higher degree of accountability than is usually the case for a church supporting a mission overseas.

The Bible College currently has one hundred students – all young people, judging by the photos we have received. Mizoram is a very 'Christian' state – atypical in that regard – with up to 98% of people in the area identifying as 'Christian' in a census. However, today, many are nominal Christians.

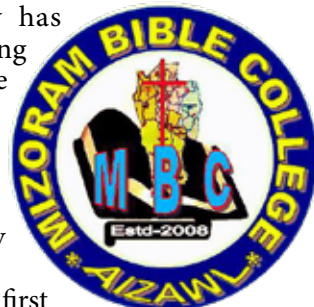
Mizoram was evangelised in the first instance by the Presbyterians, followed by the Baptists. Other denominations, including the Pentecostals, followed suit.

Mizoram is very interesting from the point of view of the ethnicity of its inhabitants: they are not Indian in the traditional sense. They have far more in common with the Burmese people of neighboring Myanmar. And, in fact, the state of Mizoram shares a very long border with Myanmar.

Students are drawn from Mizoram and from all of the surrounding countries, to varying extents. When COVID was at its height, the college was reduced to providing tuition via the internet, which in that part of the world is very hit-and-miss. However, now it is back to full strength.

We count it a privilege to support this ministry as they train young people to venture into the world as ambassadors for Christ, thus fulfilling 'The Great Commission,' spreading the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

Ps Roger & Glenise Thurecht





Harcourt Bowling Club

With winter upon us and the inevitable cool weather, our bowling green goes into hibernation mode so no bowling at present and many bowlers head north to warmer climes. Despite this, there is much activity behind the scenes and the social aspect of the club is still active.

The new board is busy finalising committees and the tasks ahead to be addressed. Newly appointed secretary, Diane Marsh has hit the ground running and preparing the membership renewal notices whilst also attending to the many other secretarial duties.

Members have been advised that, for the first time in about 5 years, the board has had to increase bowling fees. The membership fees for the upcoming season will be increased to \$170 and fall due on 1 July.

Ron Douglas and Dave Jeffries and the Greens Committee members are attending to the upgrade of the green in preparation for the start of the new season in October.

Early in June, board representatives attended a meeting with the BCG District Board to address the issue of proposed changes to the Midweek Pennant program. They were able to state the club's concern about the District proposal to change playing days from Monday to Thursday. This was presented to clubs in the Division as a fait accompli, although presentations from twenty-two clubs at the meeting seem to have quashed that idea; the outcome is still to be decided.

The remaining issue of the makeup of teams ie totally mixed male/female teams, single gender teams, has yet to be determined. At the time of going to print, it would seem Midweek Pennant sides will allow men to play as Skip – where previously, women only could Skip midweek teams.

Football Grand Final Reunion

On Friday night 26 May, the club was pleased to welcome a group of past Harcourt footballers who were in town for a reunion of the 1971 Grand Final Team. Locals joined the group to share stories and relive their past footballing days.

The son of the coach of the team, Steve Tonzing, instigated the writing of a book detailing the year's events leading up to the Grand Final. These include summaries on each player, previews and results on each match researched from *Castlemaine Mail*, *Bendigo Advertiser* and the *Maryborough Times*, as well as countless hours of interviews with players. Steve also co-ordinated the event.

Harcourt bowlers, who were in that team and present for the 50th celebrations, were John Grant and Grahame Hill. Russell Maltby also featured for the opposition team.

When John Grant's football playing days were over, he continued his involvement with the Lions and is very much involved in the Harcourt Bowling Club, having been secretary for ten years until recently.

Grahame Hill had already played a whopping 400 (overall) games by the last round of 1969 without a premiership and, for his 200th game with the Lions, he was selected as 20th man and only came on the ground late in the game, so he was lucky to



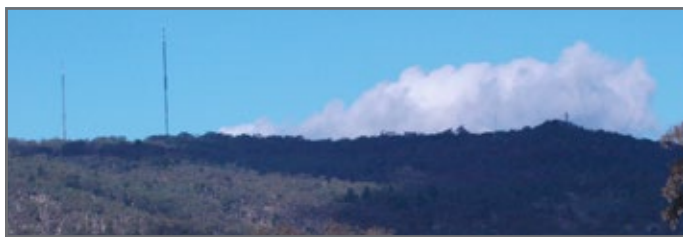
L-R BACK: Grahame Hill, Colin Douglas, Terry Knight, John Grant, Steve Tonzing, John Whitlock FRONT: Ian Robins, Graeme (Golly) Grant, Phil Moore, Garry Moxom.)

finally get a premiership. The Football Club Yearbook by Steve Tonzing shows that Grahame was awarded Life Membership of Chewton Football Club in 1960 and Life Membership of Harcourt Football Club in 1969. Grahame has also been awarded a Life Membership at Harcourt Bowling Club – a remarkable commitment to his community!

The Grand Final Reunion was well covered in the June *Core* and is a great read.

Christine Anderson

Telecommunication Towers on Mount Alexander



Having been in Harcourt for over 30 years, I thought I knew the profile of Mount Alexander well with its two telecoms towers. Then I saw three. Now I can see four! So what's up there on the Mount?

I found the ACMA web site and did some searching. ACMA is the Australian Communications and Media Authority: 'We regulate communications and media to maximise the economic and social benefits of communications infrastructure, services and content for Australia.' www.acma.gov.au

The ACMA site provides a map of all the 'Radio Communication Licences' in Harcourt. The term Radio Communication in this case is a catch all which covers television, radio, telephone and internet transmission. There are six marked sites on the Mount around the trig point at 745 metres. The six points of transmission going from south to north are: Vic Police site at 700 m, Optus site at 719 m, Telstra site at 733 m, Community Broadcast site at 717 m, BA site at 692 m and Southern Cross site at 674 m.

The names of the six sites belie the amount of traffic or clients they service. In no particular order the following organisations use the towers:

- Vodafone
- Southern Cross Communication
- The Wireless Institute of Australia, Victorian Division
- Vertical Telecoms Pty Ltd
- Prime Television
- St Johns Ambulance
- Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning,
- NBN Co
- Radio 3B0
- Digital Distribution Australia Pty Ltd
- SBS Television
- ABC Television
- Coliban Water
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Castlemaine Taxis
- Community Two Way Radio
- Optus

So there's plenty of communications media action in the air above Harcourt, with many vital services provided to the surrounding region. No wonder we lose *all* the free-to-air channels when lightning strikes the Mount!

Robyn Miller

Testimonials
previous graduates

"feeling empowered to make decisions about my business "

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

"confidence to work on the business with real knowledge"

"motivation to be more focused on my business"

Applications now open

Small Business Action Plan Program 2022

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

Limited to 16 local businesses
Applications close 15 July 2022
Program commences 8 August 2022

For more info: www.maldoncb.com.au

Community Bank
Maldon & District

Bendigo Bank

sorted.

Council news

Community Grants now open

Our next round of Community Grants will open on Monday 18 July to support new, innovative and emerging community projects and initiatives.



Two funding streams will be open, offering up to \$3,000 and \$10,000.

Applications close on Monday 8 August. For details visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/grants.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

mountalexander.vic.gov.au (03) 5471 1700

Rates notices delayed

Rates notices will arrive in the mailboxes of property owners in Mount Alexander Shire by the end of August, one month later than usual.

This delay is outside of our control, and we apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

If you'd like to receive an electronic notice, sign up now at mountalexander.enotices.com.au.

Tree works underway

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

Works will begin in Castlemaine and Maldon, and are anticipated to finish in November.



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

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

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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Winter – Get Ready to Graft

Hi everyone,

Hopefully you've been enjoying this lovely wintry weather. If you're finding it a bit too cold, rest assured that your fruit trees absolutely love (and in fact, need) it. It also signals the perfect time to prune your trees, so rug up, grab your secateurs, and get into the garden!

Last month we talked about how fun and easy it is to graft your fruit trees. You can easily learn how to grow your own trees for free, increase the diversity in your garden, and create multi-graft fruit trees. (There's a grafting workshop coming up at our place on August 20, see the details at the end of this story.)

This is your reminder to collect grafting wood (called scions) as soon as the trees are dormant, which is now (for most trees). The time between when last year's leaves fall off and next year's buds start swelling seems to get shorter every year, but each variety should have at least some gap between the two.

Once collected, you need to store the grafting wood in the fridge (see the step-by-step process below). The actual grafting takes place in early spring, when your fruit trees start waking up,

and the sap starts moving. The whole process takes a bit of planning, but it's worth it.

Grafting is a fantastic way to turn a seedling or a sucker into a useful fruiting tree. Plum seedlings or unwanted cherryplum trees are one of the most useful. They make a good rootstock for both plums and apricots, and you can even graft peaches and nectarines onto them (though it's not as reliable). If you want to give grafting peaches and nectarines a go, we recommend trying it in summer, using the summer grafting technique known as 'budding'. Remember, budding works best in one-year-old wood, so if you want to convert an old tree, cut it down before spring to stimulate lots of new growth.

Here's how to successfully collect scion wood:

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

spring. That's all you need to know for now – we'll be talking about actual grafting techniques when we get closer to the time.

Thanks to everyone who bought trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery this year. It's great to see how many locals are putting in new fruit trees, especially some of the older heritage apple varieties. Sales through the website have now closed, but we'll have any left-over trees available at our Nursery Open Days on July 2 and 3, and 9 and 10, when you can also pick up your pre-ordered trees. We'll be open from 10 am to 4 pm each day. At the time of writing, we still have some apples, peaches, nectarines, and plums available.

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

Workshops

We have two workshops coming up:

- **Winter Pruning workshop:** Saturday 6 August 2022, 2 pm–5 pm. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CAKJR
- **Grafting workshop:** Learning the craft of three techniques, Saturday 20 August 2022, 2 pm–5 pm. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CAKIK

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than 20 years, and offer a free weekly newsletter called **Weekly Fruit Tips**. They have more than 50 online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to www.growgreatfruit.com for details. They also run free online workshops - sign up at <https://growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing>.





Weather & Water

Cold nights and mornings were the feature of the last week of June. Prior to June 24, we had 15 days on which rain fell. Admittedly some of the readings were low. For example, there were three days of almost constant mist which resulted in a total of 4.5 mm.

It was certainly a soggy start to June, but I noticed that the wind was fairly moderate throughout and has been negligible in the last week. Fog and frost was slow to lift until the mornings were well advanced.

The total rainfall for June was 80.5 mm. Last year the total rainfall for the 6 months to the end of June was 323 mm. This year the total is 360 mm. People have commented on the number of fungi seen this year. Moss is also thriving.

The Bureau of Meteorology reports in its Climate Update that:

‘The 2021–22 La Niña event has reached an end, with a majority of indicators currently at neutral levels. However, some model outlooks suggest La Niña may re-form later in 2022. As a result, the Bureau’s ENSO Outlook status has moved to La Niña WATCH, meaning there is around a 50 per cent chance of La Niña forming later in 2022. This is approximately double the normal likelihood.’

As a result, it appears that in this part of the world we are likely to have a wetter than usual spring and a cooler summer than normal.

Reservoir Levels

Upper Coliban	96.7%
Lauriston	73.4%
Malmsbury	46.5%
Barkers Creek	Blue algae advice is still current.

Robyn Miller



Fire near Fords Road, North Harcourt in March 2022. Below, the same fire area in July 2022.



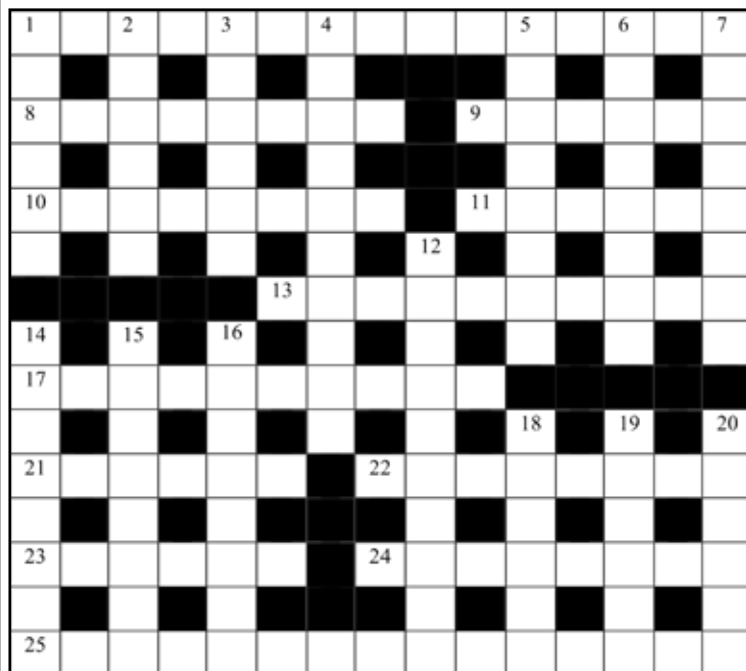
Mount Barker with soaks (showing white) running over rocks. This time of year, after consistent rain, Mount Alexander and Mount Barker become sodden and soaks and springs come to the surface. Lower in the valley, it's the time of year for tractors to become bogged.



Barkers Creek just below the headwaters which form at the top of the valley near Ford's Road.

July Xwd 2022

© McW June '18



Down:

1. Won't he melt in this sun? Needs a hat of some sort. (6)
2. I declare that all EEG readings have been falsified. (6)
3. "Brutal vet" [sic] tosses out civets. (6)
4. For the meanest sum, diversions on your mates' menus. (10)
5. Alas! I may forget the name of the new old PM's country. (8)
6. Verne, updated in 1954, went nuclear... (8)
7. He wets tees with the most sugary drink at the 19th hole. (8)
12. Feature cold spell over a cat. (10)
14. Got a base mined? That should set them back. (8)
15. Way to get o-u-t? (8)
16. Boil green in a cool crib. (8)
18. Cassidy's long square brother? (6)
19. Acid stirs itself approximately every seven years to make a racket. (6)
20. Friday makes sure firm is on the island. (6)

Across:

1. Strong disagreements in the sauna? (6,9)
8. Lit, you text pill where Swiftian was tied down. (8)
9. Cat's defence contains a verb, we hear. (6)
10. The genie is out of the bottle now, te-heeing off to vote this time (8)
11. Harvey might spy tit in the pool... (6)
13. Nope, the cheque isn't cashed by these methods... (10)
17. Air taken in at hopes of shooting for the stars. (10)
21. Irish time o' day? (1'5)
22. No longer running around with the Rabbi, she has much more run-down housing. (8)
23. There were three Magi, so they must've been friends, surely? (6)
24. As Lorna's coming in 15th, a snarl so nasty comes from behind her... (4-4)
25. A tongue-lashing for the empire! (7,8)

June Xwd 2022 Solution

© McW June '18



Down:

1. Old, weak and rickety in fashionable [in] company [firm].
2. Additional slug the government wants to abandon sounds like the Impost Knight. [Well?]
3. Alight [land] on gold carriage.
4. [I sign up age] cohort as trial subjects. (6-4)
5. Making shipping magnates (like Onassis) into royalty. (8)
6. Six balls [over] on what the apostles did [Well? Act of the...] for what Ham does... (8)
7. Shown by simple, tasteful and ingenious clue? [Well?]
12. [I open region], losing nothing my frontiersman spirit can make of it.
14. From him you might get drunken shouting, for a curse, perhaps. (8)
15. Substitute comics on the night? [Well?]
16. How to get a couch through a doorway—[sway] drunkenly under 15th [Ides], mixed?
18. ABC listener [ear] under enabling technology to show up. [Well? "ABC listen App"]
19. Right tool to use in brickies' mud [=mortar]
20. Fungal wood-lurgi like a Rechabite function in a state of decay. [Well?]

Across:

1. [Legal termites OK] the boilerplate in privacy policies, but I can't make it out. (3,3,5,2,2)
8. Combs the [conifers] in legal investigation of evidence. (8)
9. Add an extension [E] to make [n.] extension.
10. [A keen war] would gee us up anew! (8)
11. African mob wants a name... (6)
13. "I'm its topic!" says Pollyanna. (10)
17. [Stern giant] sucks lemons for same effect. (10)
21. Old Oz lightweights. (6)
22. Double old canola [rape] to come back into view. (8)
23. Tap for lumbar rock film? [Well?]
24. Film chap made to [record it] (8)
25. What the perpetual motion man was charged with? [Well?]

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

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

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

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

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

Community Diary Dates

NAIDOC Week 2022 3-10 July

Thursday July 14: 7.30 pm: Zoom Meeting, Harcourt Valley Landcare. Please contact Secretary for details: 0467 670 271.

Sunday July 23: 10 am – 12 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee. For details, contact Secretary 0467 670 271.

Saturday August 27: 1 – 4 pm, Gather Harcourt, presented by HPA. See HPA website & Facebook for updates.

Sunday September 25: 10 am – 12 pm, 25th Anniversary Celebration, Harcourt Valley Landcare. Venue: Leanganook Camping area, Mount Alexander. Contact Secretary for details: 0467 670 271

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

CFA: Brigade meeting night is the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; Siren is tested at 9.15am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for more details 0428 387 339. CFA is located in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

CWA: First Thursday of the month, 1.00 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Grace Church: Tuesdays at 10.30 am: Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm: Zoom Bible Study: A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link: pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au.

Harcourt Lions Club: Meetings every third Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way.

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

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

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

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

Harcourt's Little Library

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 PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



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

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

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

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

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

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

SIGNED: DATED:

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

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

OR

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

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

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