

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 97 – September 2022

Produced by:
Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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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

25 Years of Harcourt Valley LANDCARE

It's been 25 years since a small group of passionate locals came together to form Harcourt Valley Landcare. Many projects and volunteer hours have helped protect the unique Harcourt Valley environment. We welcome the Mount Alexander community and Landcare network to celebrate with us.

RSVP

Friday, September 16
info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Date

Sunday, September 25, 10am–12pm for morning tea. Cake, tea and coffee provided.

Where

Leanganook Campground, Mount Alexander

Guest Speaker

Local personality and Harcourt Valley Landcare member George Milford will speak about Ballantinia, Banksias and Blue-banded Bees, and of the 25 years of inspired work in landscape rehabilitation of Harcourt Valley.

Presentation

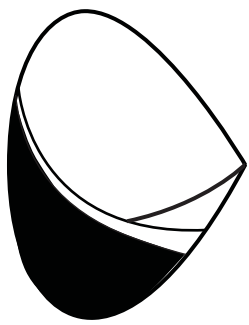
Life memberships will be awarded to past members.



Become a Landcare member

If you love meeting fellow Harcourtians in the outdoors or you want to learn more about the natural beauty of Harcourt Valley, come along – we'd love to meet you.

www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org



Gather Harcourt





Harcourt Progress Association

The Plan Harcourt process continues with the independent planning panel beginning its work of reviewing the proposed plan and hearing further submissions from individuals and community representatives from Harcourt plus expert witnesses.

Thanks to another grant from Mount Alexander Shire Council, a second Gather Harcourt event was held on the 27 August at James Park. The weather was generous, allowing patrons to listen to some fantastic live music, enjoy local wine and cider at the HPA bar and browse the market stalls. Thank you to everyone who was involved and congratulations on another great event! Volunteers are essential to running this type of event. If you are interested, please register your interest on the HPA website.

HPA, Council and VicTrack continue to work on the leasing agreements in preparation for a handover of the Railway Station building. Once this is completed work will begin on building the Community House organisation to operate in the building. The 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 a Community House for 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! If you are interested, please register your interest on the HPA website.

Finally the HPA AGM will occur in the coming weeks, see the HPA website for more information: <https://www.harcourtprogress.org.au>

Plan Harcourt Amendment C94malx – Harcourt Landcare

As many will be aware Plan Harcourt has reached the 'pointy end' of its processes. Beginning on 16 September an Independent Planning Panel hearing will be held where objectors and potential developers will have their say. All submissions made to the panel are read and noted, but not all submissions will be supported by a speaker or representative. The areas in Harcourt under discussion for this amendment are two residential growth areas marked A and B on the Plan as Neighbourhood Residential Zone and areas in the Commercial Zone.

Harcourt Valley Landcare has strong views about the potential damage to be done by unthinking development in the residential zone. The group has put in a submission which will be read, and the group has also employed an expert witness, Paul Foreman, to speak about the ecological and environmental values at risk in the proposed development areas A and B.

Harcourt Valley Landcare has spent considerable time speaking with council representatives about the environmental and ecological values in the development areas A and B. We requested as part of the C94malx amendment that a study be carried out prior to the finalisation of the amendment to inform and set requirements for development which protect and even enhance flora and fauna in the area. This has not happened and this omission is the focus of our submission.

For a more detailed explanation of Landcare's stance, please see page 13 of this edition.

*Robyn Miller,
Secretary Harcourt Valley Landcare*

Harcourt News/The Core celebrates 100 issues in December

Please join us for a celebration of 100 issues of *The Core* on December 5 at the Bowls Club. More details will be published in coming editions. *The Core* sub-committee intends to recognise our volunteer workers, writers and other contributors, many of whom have supported *The Core* for nine years.

As part of the celebration we are calling for back copies of newsletters published prior to *The Core*, so we can acknowledge those who have worked before December 2013 with the intention of keeping our townsfolk informed.

Harcourt News/The Core was first published in its current form in December 2013 under the aegis of the Harcourt Progress Association. The HPA grew out of a community planning process which began in 2011 and was completed in 2012. The Harcourt Community Plan identified a need for better communication within the town. Kelly Aitken and her husband John Paul 'JP' Frappier, who were members of the HPA, published a short newsletter a few times prior to the decision to appoint a person (an editor) responsible for a regular newsletter. Kelly and JP gave *The Core* its name and JP designed the logo which we still use.

Before that there was an occasional newsletter produced by Barry Constable. If anyone has copies of these, please bring them along also.

Robyn Miller



The Meg Causon Jazz Trio at HPA's very first fundraiser – for the 2014 Applefest. (From the 2013 edition of Harcourt News/The Core.)

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



WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Makarrata

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

A Journey Towards Solidarity

Janet Phillips

I would like to Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders past, present and future of Djaara Country, on which I write this. I also Acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live on this land, or who are reading this. I was born on GunaiKurnai Country, my ancestors are primarily of English origin and my two sons were born on Djaara Country.

I think my journey of solidarity really started in the early 1990s, when with friends we became early supporters of the Pay the Rent campaign, and we were invited to join in on Invasion Day commemorations. We dressed up as convicts, went aboard a tall ship in Port Philip Bay, launched a longboat and landed on St. Kilda Beach. We were met there by local Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people, spears at the ready. Our (role-playing) Commander kindly requested and was given permission to come ashore, where we were warmly welcomed by local people. As newcomers, we signed a pledge to honour this Country and the people of this Land.

On moving to Djaara Country in the mid 90s, local treasure Vic Say introduced me to Reconciliation Learning Circles, a self-directed exploration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history, of colonisation and the impacts of racism on our countrymen and women. As a small group at Castlemaine Community House, we created a safe space to challenge one another and to learn what Reconciliation could actually mean for us. One community activity our

group initiated was a Women's Storytelling Day. We invited local female Aboriginal Elders to share their stories with us as together we created a large wall hanging to represent our connection to Country, local lore and people. It was displayed in Green Goes the Grocer for many years.

In the early 2000s my sons were in the Community Class (a multi-age parent-guided classroom) at Winters Flat Primary School. We were very fortunate to have Elder Auntie Julie McHale as our Lead Teacher. Auntie Julie's generous offerings and teachings deepened our knowledge of local country and our connections to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In 2012 our family took a year to travel through the Central Desert and Top End, finally arriving in Gapuwiyak, Northeast Arnhem Land NT. The boys enrolled in school and my partner and I took on community development roles. I later also developed another project where I mentor a local woman, Minay Wunungmurra, to manage a whole of community Nutrition and Wellbeing program. We have fun creating community events like Family Cooking Competitions and Women's Bush Camps, all underpinned by the ever-present nature of health issues in remote communities. Over these eight years Minay has become a respected local authority on Yolngu nutrition and is about to take on mentoring the program herself.

In 2019 I started work in Darwin developing a social enterprise that works

side-by-side with remote Aboriginal Corporations to build both-ways capacity in social and human services delivery. And now, I am back in Castlemaine, a member of the Friends of Nalderun and part of a group hosting Self Reflection Conversations in Castlemaine. These are facilitated conversations for those who wish to become a good ally to First Nations people, to reflect on white privilege, racism and de-colonisation.

I have found in my relationships and conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, that an open hand is always extended; I always hear 'We can do this together, my sister'. I believe this open hand is linked to an open heart and an open mind and I aim to embrace this in my journey toward being a good ally. As we collectively move closer to enlivening the Uluru Statement from The Heart and making real Voice, Treaty, Truth, I invite you to consider how you too can become an ally. All you need to do is to start somewhere and follow it everywhere.

If you are interested in joining a Self-Reflection Conversation, please email: reflectionconversations@gmail.com

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 Djaara word meaning "all together".

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

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P: 03 5474 2223



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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**CASTLEMAINE
COMMUNITY
HOUSE**

Organising Changes: Elder Information Forum

During Seniors' Week, the first week in October, an information forum and mini-expo for elders and their friends and families will be held. The forum will be hosted by Castlemaine Community House in consultation with the community, including the Positive Ageing Advocacy Group (PAAG).

The Organising Changes: Elder Information Forum has been organised in response to community feedback from Mount Alexander Shire residents needing to access services for older people. The forum is for community members to equip themselves with information and confidence in taking steps to organise the next stages of life and planning for changes.

'Our intention is for people to come away feeling informed and empowered in making choices that are right for them, by knowing who to contact and what steps to take,' says Kirrily Flanagan, Project Worker at Castlemaine Community House.

'Join us at the expo at Community Lunch in the Town Hall on Tuesday October 4 at 12:30 to kick off the forum,' says Kirrily. There, people will enjoy a delicious meal, speak to experts, and socialise in a friendly, welcoming setting. Stalls include, but are not limited to: Seniors Rights Victoria, U3A, Grainger Legal, Office of the Public Advocate, Dhelkaya Community Health and local Community Groups. The Blenders choir will provide delightful entertainment during the Community Lunch.

Throughout the week until Friday October 7, there will be various one-hour information sessions held at Castlemaine Senior Citizens Building, the Ray Bradfield Room and Castlemaine Community House. These sessions will cover topics such as Will Preparation, Powers of Attorney, Advocacy, navigating MyGov and MyAgedCare, Housing Needs, staying active and healthy and more.

Bus services from surrounding towns to and from the Information Sessions will be available from Tuesday 4 to Friday 7 October.

For more information, contact Castlemaine Community House on 03 5472 4842.



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

We have been shearing at our place so a break from the rain is welcome. Like most businesses we farmers are feeling the pressure from rising costs. Fuel prices are starting to ease but the price of diesel is a big issue.

It was great to receive the funding from the federal government for the next stage of Fogarty's Gap Road. As many will be aware there have been too many fatalities in this area. The road funding helps our Council budget so that will mean other projects can be carried out.

Materials for projects are hard to get and it makes me wonder about the logic of being dependant on overseas manufacture.

The Skills and Jobs Summit is on this week so hopefully that will see more training opportunities for our community.

As we get closer to the end of another year it is time to think about what infrastructure and services we should be including in next year's budget. By working together with State and Federal Governments we have delivered some fantastic projects for our community.

Every time I drive past our Stanley Park playground it is great to see the children playing and having a great time. They told me it could not be done!!

Think about what is possible working together.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy
0439 742 434

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

New and existing residents of Harcourt

Are invited to share a coffee and chat

Sunday 2 October at 2 pm

Harcourt Produce Store

Look for the table with a red balloon

For more information

Contact Susannah Ennis

Mob: 0413 813 190

Supporting your community

**Community Bank
Maldon & District**

B Bendigo Bank

03 5475 1747

MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Chatting with Harcourt CWA All Things Art

For years now I have been telling you that our members are a very talented lot.

Sure you expect a good scone and a luscious sponge cake when you attend one of our functions, but our ladies can put their hand to more than cooking a good scone or a luscious sponge cake. You can see this for yourself at our annual fund raising event, All Things Art at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on October 20th.

All Things Art will showcase the works created by some of our talented Harcourt CWA Artists, and as the name implies, All Things Art covers a huge range of artistic skills including painting, drawings, sculpture, photography, textiles and art glass. So, invite a friend and come along to see for yourself the many artistic talents of our members.

Now the format of All Things Art will be different to our previous functions as visitors are invited to come at any time between 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm to view the many art works on display, then to enjoy a Devonshire Tea, check out the goodies on the Trading Table and relax in an atmosphere of All Things Art. You are more than welcome to linger, have another look at the art, or you can leave whenever you like.

This will be a very wonderful opportunity for you to see what our members get up to in their spare time. If you feel inspired, have a chat to any of our members about joining Harcourt CWA and sharing your talents with us all in the future.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA.

All Things ART

Join us and delight in a showcase of works created by the Harcourt CWA Artists.

Including: Paintings, Drawings, Sculpture, Photography, Textiles and Art Glass

by

Melva Graham, Judi Kent, Joy Robertson, Lyn Rule, Jenny Steiner and Robyn Yeoward

Enjoy our Delicious Devonshire Tea, Raffle, & Trading Table

October 20th 2022

Drop in from 1.30pm till 4.00pm
Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt.

\$10 Entry

RSVP 10th October Mrs Helen Hand - 0448 510 996
Email - harcourtcwa@gmail.com

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Harcourt CFA New Tanker is Operational

The brigade's new tanker two is now operational and turned out to its first call on 26 August to a caravan fire in Woodbrook (Walmer). Unfortunately, the caravan was well alight when the first fire fighting vehicle arrived on scene and, while the caravan could not be saved, the fire fighters from the four brigades attending ensured the nearby exposures also did not catch fire. This incident was one of two callouts for the month of August. The other callout was to a monitored smoke alarm in Market Street Harcourt and, therefore, was the last turnout for our now retired tanker two. As the vehicle is owned by the brigade, it will now be offered for sale by the brigade in the near future. If you are interested in purchasing the vehicle, your expression of interest and further information can be obtained from our captain, Andrew Wilson or talk to a brigade member you know.

New Australian Fire Danger Rating System also Operational (AFDRS)

September 1 saw the introduction of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System. The new four-category system replaces the older six-category sign we have become very familiar with. The reasons for the change include: to simplify the risk and associated action messaging; being able to use modern scientific information to predict fire risk within these categories, and aligning pre-plan responses within the four categories. The new system commences with the lowest category as Moderate with the prompt message of Plan and Prepare. This is the first risk level that, where a fire starts, it is likely to be easily controlled. More information on the AFDRS can be sourced at this year's emergency expo. More details are listed further in this article.

Plan and Prepare

The time to Plan and Prepare is now and is something we all should be doing constantly as fire can occur any time of the year. The main focus for summer though is always grass and bush fires. With the seasonal outlook predicting a wetter than normal spring and possibly longer periods of rain into summer, there will be more grass growth therefore leading to more fuel

to cure when the hotter days arrive. It is looking like the mowers and slashers will have much work to do this year. The brigade has been preparing as well with not only conducting our normal training but, also, participating in more Virtual Reality training. Utilising a mix of fire scenarios has allowed brigade members to hone their skills and knowledge in a safe and warm environment through the cool nights of winter. The last session also allowed members to try out using the Virtual Reality Fire Extinguisher Simulator. This is a great tool as it allows members to select the right extinguisher for the type of fire presented and then put the fire out without needing to discharge an actual fire extinguisher. A saving of costs and resources is a real benefit of this technology.

Brigade Members Recognition

The brigade has been able to finally recognise the service of members post Covid. This occurred at a dinner and presentation evening on Saturday 13 August at the Kangaroo Sportsman's Club.

Member awards included 5-year service certificates to: Matt Frederick, Jason McAinch, James Reid, Jasmine Schnoor and Kerry Anne Schnoor.

Long Service Medal recipients were:

10 Years - Peter Henderson and John Rouse
25 Years - Nathan Rice
30 Years - John Munday
40 Years - Kevin Earl and Andrew Wilson
45 years - Tyrone Rice and May Wilson

Three members have each given 50 years of service to the brigade and the CFA. These worthy recipients were Tom Comini, Ron Everett and Des Rice.

A total of 430 years of service was recognised.

To cap the night off, Peter Wilson was presented with his National Medal 4th Bar. Each bar represents a period of service

attached to the National Medal (given for diligent service), and this bar is for another 10 years.

Not everyone was able to be present on the night, especially those who remained home on standby just in case we were unfortunate enough to have a callout during this event.

Emergency Expo is back this October

Planning for this year's Emergency Expo is well under way. This expo follows the successful event from last year. The date to put in your diary is 8 October from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Western Reserve, Castlemaine. The theme for this expo is "Know Your Area, Know Your Risk." The Mount Alexander Shire is the lead coordinator. CFA, SES and Victoria Police are the main agencies directly involved. CFA will have Community Engagement displays and information, specific presentations on AFDRS, Fire Safety Essentials and How to Prepare your Property. Possibly, there will also be a demonstration of fire behaviour using a burn table. This is still to be confirmed.

This event is the ideal opportunity to get your emergency planning questions answered.

Hope to see you at the Expo

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



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Harcourt Valley Primary School

When I read and hear about all the interesting activities and excursions students have undertaken in the past month, I feel a touch of envy and, on occasions, want to go back to school! On Monday 8 August students from grades 4 to 6 attended the Castlemaine Library for a book launch where they met the author of 'August and Jones', Pip Henry. The book is described as being a 'Middle Grade Novel'. Pip Henry is a well-established writer of books for children and young adults, who won the Australian Children's Book Council Award in 2020 for her novel 'The Little Wave'.

'August and Jones' was inspired by a story of a special friendship between two students from Campbell's Creek Primary School, Jarrah and Mathilde. They have been friends for years and the story of the book and their friendship was featured in the local papers. Students enjoyed hearing what it was like to have a book written based on the bond between Jarrah and Mathilde who were also present on the day.

The story of the friends and the book was also featured in an article in the Sydney Morning Herald (access using this QR code or go to the website and search for 'Jarrah and Mathilde').



At the end of the following week on Friday 19 August, the whole school had an excursion to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat. The visit was designed to extend students' learning on various subjects they have been studying at school.

All schools celebrated book week from 22 to 27 August. HVPS students came to school in their pyjamas with their favourite book (or collected one at school). They had the opportunity to read their book to



parents, carers or friends in the morning between 9.15 am and 9.45 am. A soup lunch made by parents was provided to students and staff on the day.

Grades 5 and 6 have the last excursion this month on Wednesday 31 August. They will be visiting the Victorian Space Education Centre in Stanmore, Melbourne for the day. I have checked their website

and they have a wide variety of space-related education activities that students can participate in. Looks like a fun way to learn to me! So now you can see why I am a tiny bit envious of senior students at HVPS. At the end of this week, the school is hosting a Father's Day breakfast and grades 1 and 2 students are participating in a Tabloid Sports Program with other schools at Wesley Hill Sports Centre.

Below is an update of information about the projects being undertaken by the School Council delivered in the latest (26 August) Newsletter:

School Council met this week and has been enjoying a return to face-to-face meetings at the school. School council members are currently Natalie McCarthy as president, Georgie Boucher as vice president, Jason McAinch is in charge of finances and additional members are Colinda Mannix, Christine Walsh, Miss Norris, Mrs Quick and Mr Blake. Kendall Ingram was also in attendance to discuss the school grounds garden project. The Council discussed:

- What is going well this term: a great response to the Pie and Slice Drive, the return of Friday school lunches, excitement about school camps, the great work Alison Quick is doing as school business manager, new enrolments for next year and parental attendance at assemblies in person and via Webex.
- The Berry Street Training that HVPS teachers have been completing as part of their professional development. Miss Norris has completed the training and explained some of the strategies teachers learn as part of this training, including how to encourage students to feel supported, safe and connected to their school environment through activities such as the morning welcome circle and positive affirmations.

Continued next page ...



Continued from the previous page ...

- An update on the School Wide Positive Behaviour Program, including a new process of house points leading to a list of prizes as developed by the students, which also includes a VIP seat at assembly for students with a high level of points.
- A new teacher at the Harcourt Kindergarten provides new opportunities to connect the kinder and the school.
- The school's 'Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures.'
- The positive response to the recent 'Preparation for Puberty' and 'Making Friends with Worry' programs.
- Upcoming fundraising activities including apple pie baking and the end-of-year Slime Run.
- The need to remove stinging nettles that are growing in the school veggie boxes.
- An update on the toilet upgrade. Black mould was discovered in the toilets due to a slow pipe leak within the

wall occurring over years. The school immediately quarantined the area and removed affected materials. A grant for repairs was sought and approved in Term 1. The execution of repairs now sits with the Victorian School Building Authority; not our local school. It's of enormous frustration to the school staff, students and parents that this work has not commenced. The School Council has written a letter to the VSBA expressing these concerns and requesting a timeline for completion to support the school management's efforts to progress this work.

- An update on Kendall's school garden landscaping project. Kendall presented her plans and council agreed to provide some funding for materials needed for stages 1 and 2 of the project. A working bee will be announced for 11 September and all parent help is welcomed for this exciting work.
- A curriculum day on Monday 3 October was approved by council.

Lois Denham

41st ANNUAL BEEKEEPING FIELD DAY

Sunday 9 October 2022
9.30-3.30

Harcourt Leisure Centre
63 Bingham's Road Harcourt

Open Hive Demonstrations
Hobbyists/Beginners Area
All-day Refreshments
including breakfast & Lunch

ALL WELCOME

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Children under 16: Free

Enquiries to Carol
secretarybendigobranchvaa@gmail.com
www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/BendigoBranch



Harcourt State School (No 229) Reunion – 1968 Sixth Grade

Members of Grade 6 from the Harcourt State School (Number 299) recently enjoyed a school reunion. Tony Cordy had a surprise for us all when he brought along Elaine Harris (Miss Maple), our prep teacher from 60 years ago. Harcourt State School was her first teaching position. It was lovely catching up with her after all that time. Elaine brought along her husband, and he took many photos of us all.

We had afternoon tea and each of us related a story of something that happened at school. Jeff Gartside told us that when one of our teachers, Miss McGregor retired, the boys were all given a piece of her strap to keep, which Jeff brought along on the day. Back then, only the boys got the strap. Another told how she had her mouth washed out with soap for using a naughty word.

We all used to go to school early to make sure we got a game of soft ball in before school started. Many of us still live in Harcourt, but Judith Mactier travelled from further away; I hadn't seen her since Grade 6. The Mactier family lived at Pine Lodge.

Faye Hards



The Harcourt State School prep class of 1962 with their teacher Miss Maple.



Members of the sixth grade class with their prep teacher, Miss Maple (Elaine Harris). The reunion was held at the ANA Hall in Harcourt on Sunday 31 July. Faye said, 'It was a lovely day with everybody enjoying catching up after 60 years.'

Customer Service Superstar Retires after 23 Years in Community Banking

Community Bank Maldon & District has said goodbye to our longest-serving staff member, Jan Brain, who retired last month after 23 years in customer service. Jan had been with our organisation since the inception of the Community Bank in Maldon way back in 1999. Jan was a very popular member of staff and will be sadly missed, but this paves the way for a new face and we welcome Marlene to the fold.

Marlene comes to us with lots of banking experience from her previous life in the Macedon Ranges, but now resides in Maryborough and has slotted in to the Maldon & Newstead branches with ease – Welcome Marlene!

In other news, Maldon District Financial Services Limited is the organisation that governs the Community Bank branches of Maldon, Newstead & Dunolly, as part of the broader Bendigo Bank network of Community Bank branches.

As part of that governance, an Annual General Meeting must be held each year to report on our financials, as well as to present to members, customers and community about the impacts that we are having along with the challenges that come from being a part of a Community Bank.

The Annual General Meeting for 2022 will be held on Wednesday October 26 at the Maldon Community Centre from 5.30 pm (for drinks and nibbles) with the meeting starting at 6



Maldon branch staff with Jan Brain (front, centre).

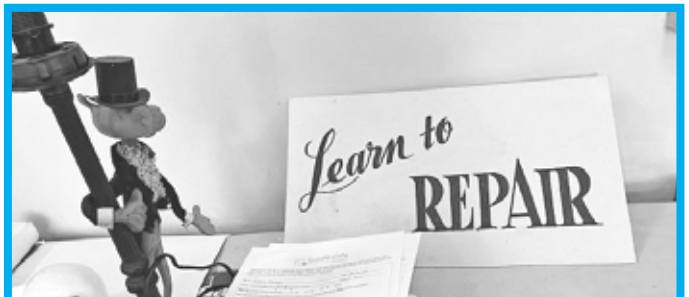
pm. Financials and our 2022 Annual Report will be available prior to the meeting, in Branches, on the night, or following the event on our website at www.mdcb.com.au

To RSVP for the AGM, please email Shannon Burdeu, our Executive Officer at executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au or chat with a staff member in any of our branches at Maldon, Newstead or Dunolly.

mainFM is an award winning radio station based in Castlemaine, broadcasting music, community news, talks and specialist programs and events throughout a large area of Central Victoria, serving our community.

With over 100 local volunteer presenters with a passion for radio, our programs are varied and diverse with over 70 shows across the program grid, transmitting 24 hours a day and streaming online via mainfm.net

94.9
main
FM
LISTEN LOCAL



Castlemaine and Surrounds Repair Cafe

25 September, 10am–1pm.

— Last Sunday of the month —

Castlemaine Community House
30 Templeton Street (behind the Town Hall)
Enter via the back door from the car park.

Participate as a volunteer or join a workshop.
Come along for the day and see what we're all about!

Website: castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

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Harcourt Uniting Church

Recently we celebrated the 157th Anniversary of our Church in Harcourt. In thinking back through our history, George Milford told us of reading through some old books which formed part of the Church's library in days gone by. The subject matter was rather heavy however the silver fish didn't seem to mind! There have been many faithful members of our Church over the years. One such person was Glad Iskov, who had a dry wit and an amusing way with words. Glad would often write a witty poem for any special occasion. This example was written many years ago and some of the places mentioned no longer exist, however its still a great poem.

Blumes Fashions

Our Adult Fellowship Group invites you to our Blumes Fashions morning at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on Tuesday 25 October at 10am. Entry is \$10. After enjoying a delicious morning tea, the full Spring & Summer range of clothing will be shown with all items for sale. All are very welcome to join us.

RSVP to Jan Jenkin 5474 2226 / 0407 873 102 or just come on the day!

Jan Jenkin

This Place called Harcourt

by Glad Iskov

There's a little place called Harcourt, not far from Bendigo
Where all the nicest people live and the best apples grow.
There's granite in the quarries, sheep grazing here and there.
They're building houses all the time, and still there's room to spare.
We haven't got a hospital and we haven't any pubs.
But, better still, we have a lot of very active clubs.
There's carpet bowls in winter and the green kind when it's hot.
And if you're energetic, you'll likely play the lot.
We've packing sheds and coolstores and an active fire brigade.
There's a Guide camp and a Scout Hall and a place where pottery is made.
We've got Sunday Schools and Churches and an excellent Primary School.
A footy ground and tennis courts and a top class swimming pool.
There's a Fire Station, Service Station and a Radio station too.
There's another station near the hall but that one's to comfort you.
And when you're hitting ninety-nine and your clock is running down,
There's a quiet little place to rest within a mile of town.



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Bonnie Humphreys

The Core chatted to Bonnie Humphreys who has been the Harcourt Valley Landcare President for seven years this September, and a member for over ten years.



'I have lived in central Victoria most of my life. When I joined Harcourt Valley Landcare I found the members were really friendly and welcoming. Landcare is important to me because it is a way to give back to the area where we live and to improve the area for people and animals.

'My interest in indigenous plants was fired once I started a course in Conservation and Land Management in 2009. I found I really enjoyed

learning about the landscape and discovering how our local environmental systems work. While I was studying I was lucky to land a job with Connecting Country in Castlemaine. I worked four days a week while I completed my Certificate IV and Diploma at Bendigo TAFE.

'One of my early major projects with Connecting Country was the Yellow Box Woodland Program. This was a four year program which involved on ground works with landowners. The aim of the program was to eliminate pests and weeds, revegetate and install fences for grazing exclusion. Since then I have been involved in many projects of a similar nature working with private landholders to maintain and revegetate their land. My work and my interest in Landcare blend easily for me, and one informs the other.

'I believe it's most important to protect our local bushland and not plant anything that spreads and impacts our natural areas. Many of our noxious weeds were introduced to Australia as garden plants. In my own garden I also try to plant a diverse range of species, forms and plant families, for example, Wattles, Hop bush, Banksias, Tree Violets, Correas, Daisies etc, because these create valuable and diverse resources for animals, birds and insects throughout the year, which improves the health of both the plants and the creatures. It's also important to source your plants from local populations as these are best adapted to our climate and conditions. Check the labels of plants that you buy and if you are not sure about them, check on line. Connecting Country and the Castlemaine Field naturalists have some great resources for our area.

'New members are very welcome in our group and you can find out about us on our Facebook page and by reading regular reports in *The Core*.'

Contact Harcourt Valley Landcare through Facebook or by email on: info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Harcourt Valley Landcare Celebrates 25 Years



In 1997 an enthusiastic group of residents joined forces to form the Harcourt Valley Landcare Group. This enthusiasm has been sustained and the group will celebrate its success on September 25.

Since its inception, Harcourt Valley Landcare has completed over 50 projects and activities which have focussed on preserving and improving Harcourt's environment. Amongst others, the volunteers have contributed to educational projects in partnership with the primary school, worked since 2001 at revegetation and rehabilitation along Barkers Creek involving weed removal and replanting, have re-introduced key plants such as the Matted Flax Lily which supports the blue banded bee, have made picnic tables, built a bridge and constructed the stone circle at the Oak Forest. And the group has enjoyed walks, talks, bird watching, companionship and celebrations.

Member of some years, Shelley Fiddes said, 'I joined to get to know more people in the area and to help improve the environment in Harcourt. I wanted to gain knowledge about trees and grasses and how to identify a weed. I've learnt a lot from other members, some of whom are experts. Landcare only takes a few hours each month and when you get a group of people working together you can make good progress on a project. I think it's special that we have a group like this in Harcourt who care about the environment and who enjoy working together outdoors. The morning tea after a working bee is always a treat!'

The group's most recent endeavour is the production of a beautifully illustrated promotional brochure and an Action Plan which sets out its goals for the next five years. These will be launched at the celebration on September 25.

Harcourt Valley Landcare invites the Mount Alexander community and Landcare network members to come and celebrate with them from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm on Sunday 25 September 2022 at Leanganook Campground, Mount Alexander. Members who have served over ten years – and there are many – will be presented with a Life Membership Certificate. Well known identity, George Milford will speak and a delicious morning tea will be served.

If you wish to attend please RSVP by 16 September 2022 via email: info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Ensuring Ecological Certainty – Plan Harcourt

As we celebrate Harcourt Valley Landcare's 25th year, we can reflect on the local landscape.

With the backdrop of Leanganook (Mount Alexander) embracing this natural landscape, the Harcourt Valley offers a unique ecological environment*. Its natural valley setting is a place of exceptional beauty. It has been the home for the Kulin nation for thousands of years and since white settlement many others have been drawn to live here.

While many humans have established their homes here, it is also a place for ancient trees, natural grasslands and a home for local native animals.

There are plans for future development in Harcourt. While housing development can be productive and innovative it needs to consider the intrinsic value of native flora and fauna. There is a need to maintain wildlife corridors and undertake assessments to ensure the continuity of threatened species.

Harcourt Valley Landcare has previously undertaken projects with ecologist Paul Foreman, an expert in the field with over thirty years of experience. Paul runs a consultancy business as well as working for Biolinks Alliance, an organisation dedicated to large-scale conservation.

I recently interviewed Paul regarding the ecological strength and vulnerabilities of the Harcourt Valley. Paul has been asked to help Harcourt Landcare and Connecting Country to determine the impact of development on the Valley.

I have encapsulated Paul's comments below.

Paul said, 'The local community doesn't want to see a Melbourne-like suburban sprawl in the bush. Currently there is a proposal for future development in the valley. But development needs to be appropriate to the environment that the locals know and love.'

He explained: the region is home to some unique native creatures. The Bendigo/Castlemaine region, including the Harcourt Valley is a known 'hot spot'



Diamond firetail finch. Photo by A Chapman, license CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

habitat for the Brush-tailed Phascogale, (or Tuan), a carnivorous marsupial listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (the FFG Act provides for the listing of threatened communities of flora and fauna and potentially threatening processes).

The phascogale has distinctive mating habits that contribute to its vulnerabilities. The male in particular has a unique breeding pattern and only lives for twelve months. To thrive, or indeed survive, the Tuan requires links between habitat to keep populations viable by allowing animals to disperse, breed and forage. They require large trees with hollows. Nest boxes have proven useful where hollows are lacking. Many locals have observed these captivating creatures and actively protect suitable habitats.

There are a number of local flora and fauna listed as rare or endangered, including the swift parrot which is more vulnerable given its migratory routes from Tasmania to the mainland. Other vulnerable species include the brown tree creeper and the speckled warbler, both woodland birds. Connecting Country** has also identified the diamond firetail, hooded robin, painted button quail and jacky winter as declining in numbers and range in woodland areas.

The Harcourt Valley contains remnant grassy woodland of yellow and grey box as well as the iconic river red gum. The best quality remnants of these woodlands in the region contain many native grasses including the summer active Kangaroo Grass, plus wildflowers like goodenias, pelargoniums, sundews, orchids and the threatened flax lilies.

The area contains significant springs and soaks of groundwater that form



Speckled Warbler. Photo by P Kavanagh, license CC BY 2.0.

wetland habitat. Significant species reside in these wet soaks such as the Bibrons toadlet, the burrowing crayfish and the migratory Latham's snipe. Species of fairy aprons and pipewort may also be present, and survey work needs to be conducted for assessment to ensure any threatened species are protected. The key federal law protecting biodiversity is the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places – defined as matters of national environmental significance. A recent review of the Act identified plenty of flaws and made many recommendations for improvement. However, while the previous coalition government failed to act, the new Labor government has at least pledged to begin modernising the legislation. This important work must be carried out before development takes place.

While the local council has put forward a proposal for expanding Harcourt in response to demand for more housing, so far they have not undertaken any meaningful environmental assessment. All the community is asking for is that this vital work be undertaken in advance – to ensure better planned development that properly takes the long term protection of Harcourt's unique environmental values into account.

It is up to us all to maintain a healthy environment, and we have the opportunity now to do this important work before it is too late.

Vera Hemkes



Phascogale tapoatafa tapoatafa (brush-tailed phascogale). I Gynther, DEHP. License CC-by-4.0.



Flax lily. Photo by HankyHelper. License CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

*Notes:

Environment: The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

Ecology: the branch of biology concerned with the relations of organisms to one another and their physical surroundings.

From the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, Twelfth Edition

**** As identified by Connecting Country in 2013 in its ten-year woodland bird action plan.**



Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Engine Driver

The volunteers at Harcourt Heritage Centre must sometimes refer to the museum's formal 'Collection Policy'. Storage space is always hard to find, so every gift must be evaluated to ensure its relevance to the chosen themes for the collection. The themes at Harcourt Heritage Centre are, of course, the history of Harcourt, fruit growing and granite extraction. The discovery in the collection of five engineering books dating from the era of steam, raised the questions 'What have they to do with Harcourt?' and 'How come these old books are part of our collection?'

The answers are to be found elsewhere in the collection, firstly, in a photograph depicting a man standing beside a portable steam engine on the banks of the Murray River. The portable steam engine was the forerunner to the tractor. It was a self-contained power unit and after horses towed it into position, it was capable of driving machinery by means of belts. This had a horizontal underfired boiler with vertical or inclined cylinders and a flywheel mounted on a crankshaft. The portable engine had to be operated at a steady speed, so later models were fitted with governors which, as they spun, adjusted the throttle. The portable engine in the picture is being used to drive a pump to lift water from the Murray River into an irrigation channel.

The photo, with the engineering books, came into our collection as part of the gift, donated by the late Sybil James, of 1,848 individual items of significance in Harcourt's history that had been amassed by Sybil's late husband, Hedley James. It is this gift that forms the nucleus of the collection in the museum in the ANA Hall. The photo and books had belonged to Charles Louis Hawkins, who died one hundred years ago, in July 1922.



For the last twenty-five years of his life, Louis Hawkins had an orchard alongside Quarry Road (now Coopers Road) Harcourt. Louis made his will back in 1899 and appointed Isaac James junior (Hedley James' uncle) to be his executor. Not only that, in writing up his will, Louis Hawkins was conscious that the folks at the Methodist Church had struggled to pay off the debt incurred when the church was built, 35 years before. In 1899 the debt on the building seemed insurmountable. Louis Hawkins directed that his executor pay a considerable sum to the church to pay the debt.

But let us return to the little stack of C L Hawkins' books, all published in the second half of the 1800s. Examination of these books is like reading over the shoulder of a man who died a hundred years ago. Torn corners of a newspaper mark the spots where he has been studying. A book may fall open at a particular page.

The Model Locomotive Engineer, Fireman and Engine Boy (the engine driver's friend) is a history of the pioneers of locomotive engines. The book advocates the establishment of certificates for qualification as an engineer. On page 147, the author describes the rising engineer's newborn strength,

ardour and enthusiasm. The engineer's growth will be strengthened by a series of lessons to encourage love of the engine and a desire to understand all the laws by which its movements are regulated. Of course this was before the era of Technical and Trade Schools.

The Practical Engine Driver's Manual is bookmarked at page 14. Under the heading of Firing and Combustion we read these words:

'... in charging a furnace with fuel, especial care should be taken not to fire too heavily. A thin fire of four or five inches thick is the best for keeping up steam. This gives a chance for the oxygen to pass through the fire from the ashpit between the furnace bars thus causing better combustion. Fire lightly and often, and the result will be a brighter fire and less smoke.'

Hawkins' copy of *The Complete Practical Machinist* is bookmarked at page 107. Under the heading Cylinders and Slide Valves it describes the importance of ensuring the piston will fit truer and closer to the bore of the cylinder if it is to be rebored. The book also falls open at page 299, at the section that deals with Keys and Keyways. The book says there is a hard way and an easy way to remove keys. Obviously, this was a preoccupation with Louis Hawkins. Other books in this collection include *An Elementary Treatise on Steam and Locomotion* and a 1903 copy of *Tangye's Catalogue*. This book is a useful guide to machinery then in use.

The Tangye's catalogue includes a photo and description of a 'hoisting crab' and, for the researcher, depicts a device commonly mentioned in historical articles. Newspaper descriptions of the movement of granite from the quarry to the railway station often refer to a 'crab winch', which is the alternate name for a hoisting crab. The catalogue also describes the screw jacks that were also used to move heavy blocks of granite.

We may assume that Hawkins valued this book, as it provides details of various types of steam engine governors and valves. For the Harcourt reader, a glimpse at page 85 reveals a picture of a hand wharf crane of the type used on the platform at the Harcourt railway station to transfer granite blocks from the quarry dray to the railway wagon. Louis Hawkins' copy of Tangye's Catalogue is a useful



Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Engine Driver (continued)

booklet, even today, as a means of understanding the equipment regularly used in the 19th century in Harcourt.

Apart from operating his orchard Louis Hawkins was in constant demand to play the concertina at local dances. The late Mrs Charles Bertuch once told me that Louis Hawkins was a very popular figure in the community.

In 1922, after Louis Hawkins had died, it was learnt that he had bequeathed £1,000 to the Methodist Church. In terms of purchasing power in 2022 this would equate to about three hundred thousand dollars. This presented a problem to the church trustees. The debt, so intractable in the 1800s, had been fully paid off over the early years of the new century. What should be done with all this money?

The trustees resolved to build a new brick hall, alongside the granite church, to be used for Sunday School and for social functions. With the help of an architect appointed by the Methodist Church Melbourne Office, the trustees drew up plans and had them approved by the Department of Health. The builder was Mr Gunner. The new hall was opened by Mr Lawson, MLA in 1924. There was still a problem – there was still money left over from the bequest. The trustees resolved to use this money to erect a monument over Louis Hawkins' grave in the Harcourt Cemetery.

So it is that the Harcourt Heritage Centre collection contains reminders of Louis Hawkins, sometime engine-driver on the Murray River at Echuca, reminders such as books and photos that, on first glance, may not seem relevant to the goings-on in the Harcourt valley, but they recall for us the life and interests of a man who proved to be Harcourt's largest public benefactor.

This is another in a series of Thumbnail Sketches of the pioneers, compiled for *The Core* by Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre.

Friends of Chirp

CHIRP Community Health relocated from Mostyn Street to the Castlemaine Health site in June 2022 and operates from Spencely House. A Community Health Information Hub has also been established at Castlemaine Community House in Templeton Street.

The Friends of CHIRP are now seeking feedback from community members about how they are adapting to using community health services at the new sites.

'The Friends have been receiving anecdotal feedback, and we would now like to obtain feedback from a wider range of people,' said Margaret Griffin, Convenor of the Friends of CHIRP.

'It can take time for people to adjust to changes in services which they are familiar with. We want to know what is working for people and what isn't.'

The Friends have advocated for strong and viable community health services since 2019. We maintain regular contact with CHIRP Community Health (Dhelkaya Community Health).

The Friends are seeking feedback using a survey which is available online at our Friends of CHIRP Facebook page.

The QR code to the right gives a smart phone user access to the survey. A hard copy can be picked up at Spencely House, the Community Health Information Hub, and at the Castlemaine Library. The paper survey can also be submitted at the library. If you would like to respond by phone, ring Margaret Griffin on 03 5472 2855. If you would like to receive the link by email you can contact us at friendsofchirp@gmail.com



The Friends would like to receive responses by Friday, September 30, 2022.



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Enjoy a Walk in Spring

Harcourt Walking Group welcomes anyone who wants to join them for a leisurely walk on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Local volunteers lead the group which meet at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum to walk for approximately an hour.

Participants enjoy the social aspect of the walk and receive health benefits as a result.

'We have fun exploring Harcourt and then we have a coffee and chat afterwards. The walk is great for our health and improves mental wellbeing for all involved,' said one walker.

In spring the group enjoys the warmer weather when they walk around Harcourt. A special feature of the walks at this time of the year is the opportunity to see the native orchids.

Bookings are not necessary; interested participants can meet at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum at 9.30 am on Monday and Thursday mornings.

For further information, please call Dhelkaya Community Health 5479 1000.

An advertisement for a plumber. On the left is a green illustration of a pipe with a valve. To the right, the word 'PLUMBER' is written in large, green, serif capital letters. Below it, 'Bruce A. Rae' is written in a green script font. Underneath that, 'Covering all Aspects of Plumbing' is written in green. At the bottom, 'Mobile: 0408 371 885' and 'Email: brucer3@bigpond.com' are listed in green. A small '24 Hour Emergency Service' logo is also present.



Harcourt Bowling Club

Preparations are well underway at Harcourt Bowling Club for the upcoming combination President's Day and Season Opening on Sunday 22 September. As this is an official club event, members attending will be required to wear their Harcourt Bowling Club uniform. Full details of starting times were not available at time of going to print, but will be available at the club.

Pennant

Midweek Pennant

The Pennant commencement date for Midweek is Monday 10 October 2022.

For Season 2022-23, Harcourt will field teams in Midweek Pennant in Divisions Two and Four. For the first time, Midweek Pennant teams will be open – men and women can be selected to play in all/any position.

Weekend Pennant

The Pennant commencement date for Weekend is Saturday 22 October 2022.

For Season 2022-23, Harcourt will field teams in Weekend Pennant in Divisions Two, Six and Seven.

Pennant Draw

The draws for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant have been completed and are available at the club and on the Harcourt Bowling Club website. www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au



Harcourt Carpet Bowls Carpet Bowls Legacy Tournament

Harcourt Carpet Bowls held a very successful evening with a Tournament to support the Castlemaine Legacy Group raising a grand total of \$246.00 which was handed to their representative on the night. The winning team was Dawn O'Haire, Bill Chapman, Bubby Swift and Rebecca Mandersloot and the Runners Up team consisted of John Jenkin, Barb Templer, Dot Farley and Rick Dennis.

A big thank you goes to Kevin Earl for supplying the prizes for the event and to Barb Templer for the choice of prizes for the raffle.

All those attending said they had an enjoyable evening and the supper served on completion of the games was very much appreciated. A big thank you to all who supplied the lovely supper.

Winter Season ends, Summer Season starts soon

Finals games for the winter season of competition will be played over the next three weeks, followed by our wind up night.

A Summer Competition will commence shortly and times and dates will be advised in *The Core*.

Carpet Bowls Country Championships

The club is still working on organising the upcoming Carpet Bowls Country Championships to be held on September 17, after being postponed for the last two years. Fingers crossed that we get it over the line this year. Teams from Geelong, Horsham, Girgarre and Harcourt have indicated that they will attend.

The Championships will be played at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre to commence at 12 noon. The public is welcome to attend to watch the games being played.

Want to know more about Carpet Bowls?

Further information on Carpet Bowls can be obtained by contacting Loretta 5474 2453, John 5474 2226 or by attending the Leisure Centre on Wednesday nights during the winter or summer playing season at 7.30pm.



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Harcourt Football Netball Club

During the last month of footy and netball, most of the seniors and juniors teams have achieved three at-home wins.

We came up against Campbells Creek (returning to the league this year), the much improved Dunolly, Maryborough Rovers and Newstead. In almost every division, the teams took the opportunity to tune up their games for finals appearances – great reward for the work put in by our impressive coaching panels in both footy and netball.

Along with the many who help out, it is appropriate to give a big 'well done'

to junior netball Kirrily, senior netball Lauren, junior footy Amy and Mark, senior footy Heath, Wridgy and Alex.

Junior footy battled hard continuing on the Lions' fightback from having no juniors only a few years ago.

Senior footy saw a below par performance from the Reserves – they will have to regroup for the next final. Seniors edged out top finisher Trentham in a five point thriller. They now have a week off and progress to the Preliminary final.

A shout out to club legend volunteer Carol Waddington who had to deal with disappointing support from the league and still excelled in providing the finals

canteen.

There are three more weeks of finals the Lions playing in many divisions. We hope to see supporters in Maryborough.

Appreciation to sponsors Douglas Excavation & Construction, Castlemaine Rod Shop, V Stone Group Bendigo, Railway Hotel.

Go Lions

Late News: Harcourt lost to Lexton in the Netball A-Grade Semi-Final 41 to 47.

Harcourt lost to Carisbrook in the Football Reserves Semi-Final (Carisbrook 12.4 -76 Harcourt 5.6 - 36).

Football Results Seniors

Round 13 – July 30	
Harcourt Seniors	33.12 - 210
Campbells Creek Seniors	5.1 - 31
Round 14 – August 6	
Dunolly Seniors	7.6 - 48
Harcourt Seniors	20.15 - 135
Round 15 – August 13	
Harcourt Seniors	22.35 - 167
Maryborough Rovers	0.2 - 2
Round 16 – August 20	
Harcourt Seniors	15.12 - 102
Newstead Seniors	3.7 - 25
Qualifying Final – August 27	
Trentham Seniors	8.8 - 56
Harcourt Seniors	9.7 - 61

Football Results Reserves

Round 14 – August 6	
Dunolly	2.0 - 12
Harcourt	24.25 - 169
Round 15 – August 13	
Harcourt	27.20 - 182
Maryborough Rovers	0.0 - 0
Round 16 – August 20	
Harcourt	16.18 - 114
Newstead	0.1 - 1
2nd Qualifying Final – August 27	
Harcourt	6.5 - 41
Talbot	9.6 - 60
Semi Final – September 4	
Harcourt	5.6 - 36
Carisbrook	12.4 - 76

Netball Results A Grade

Round 14 – August 6	
Dunolly vs Harcourt	29 : 68
Round 15 – August 13	
Harcourt vs Maryborough Rovers	56 : 36
Round 16 – August 20	
Harcourt vs Newstead	74 : 27
Qualifying Final – August 27	
Avoca vs Harcourt	53 : 50
Semi Final – September 3	
Harcourt vs Lexton	41 : 47

Preliminary Final – September 10

Harcourt vs Natte Bealiba – Princes Park Maryborough, 2:35 pm



Castlemaine Cycling Club – 2022 Road Season

Date	Location	Event (Course)
September		
10	Harcourt	Ken Maddern Sr Memorial (Country's Loop)
17	Harcourt	Handicap (Harmony Way)
24	Harcourt	Handicap (Block)
October		
8	Harcourt	Handicap (Med. Loop)
15	Harcourt	Scratch (Block)
22	Harcourt	Handicap (Harmony Way)
29	Harcourt	Club Championships

Note: CCC reserve the right to change course, race and event type on the grounds of rider safety and numbers.

Safety at Fogartys Gap Road Receives Federal Funding of \$1.2 million



Mount Alexander Shire Council has received \$1.2 million in funding from the Federal Government to improve the safety of Fogartys Gap Road, a popular route that links Maldon and the Calder Freeway.

There are a number of safety issues with this road, and it has been the site of several deaths and accidents in recent years.

Mount Alexander Shire Council's Mayor, Bill Maltby, has commended the Federal Government for granting this funding to the shire.

"We're very excited that the government has allocated this money and identified Fogartys Gap Road as a black spot," said Mayor Maltby.

Construction is set to begin soon and will include works such as:

- the construction of sealed shoulders, which will provide a delineated and safe space for cyclists
- the addition of clear lining, reflective markers and guide posts to ensure the road can be seen in the dark
- the widening of traffic lane widths and addressing of areas with super elevation
- the addition of more speed signage
- the removal of roadside hazards such as dead trees.

This project is made possible through funding from the Australian Government's Black Spot Program.

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Grace Church

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

This is but one of the many miraculous healings reported in the New Testament. This one is particularly remarkable because it represents the only time Jesus found it necessary to lay hands on somebody twice to effect a healing. No doubt this was because this man hailed from an area that was notorious for unbelief. Jesus overcame this hindrance by giving the man a second "dose" of the anointing power of God.

Jesus continually interwove preaching, teaching, healing and deliverances. Christians are followers, Disciples of Christ, and as such should be seen to be following in the Master's footsteps. Jesus' expectation was that his followers would do even greater works than he did

God still heals today and we do offer prayer for the healing of the sick with the laying on of hands. Recently, we have witnessed a minor miracle, to God be the glory. All are welcome at our service held at 11.00 am Sundays at 30 Buckley Street - see you there!

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Ps Roger Thurecht, Grace Church Castlemaine

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
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gracecastlemaine.org.au

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Council news

We're driving towards zero emissions

Harnessing wind to power Council buildings and upgrading street lighting to LEDs are two goals we're delivering on, as part of our plan to achieve zero-net emissions by 2025.

We have also purchased our first electric vehicle for our fleet and installed a new charger, marking the beginning of our electric vehicle transition.

These are just a few of the milestones we have achieved as part of the Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2020-2025, which outlines the priorities for us to achieve zero net emissions by 2025.

Find out what else we're doing by visiting the News section of our website.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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

Small business opportunities

We're hosting a range of free business workshops in partnership with Business Victoria.

The next workshop, Micro Business Health Check, is on Monday 26 September at 9.30am.

Learn more on the Business Resources page of our website.

Join the 2022 Seniors Festival

We'll be celebrating the 2022 Victorian Seniors Festival with a free Country Concert, featuring Broderick Smith.

The event will be held in the Castlemaine Town Hall on Friday 7 October at 2.00pm.

Find out more on our website.



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

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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

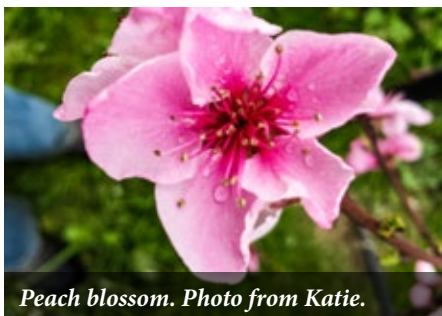


Preventing Fungal Disease in Fruit Trees in a Wet Spring

Hi everyone, spring is bursting all around us, with almonds, apricots, plums, and some of the peaches already in flower. Unfortunately, the BOM is once again forecasting a wetter than usual time for the next 3-6 months – just like last year! That means it's really important to pay close attention to your fruit trees and the weather for the next little while, because a rainy spring can cause devastation in your fruit trees. Rain increases the chances of your trees getting various fungal diseases, many of which can be quite devastating. The worst culprits are leaf curl, blossom blight and black spot.

Peaches and nectarines are prone to leaf curl (it doesn't affect other types of fruit trees). A bad case can set back a tree's growth significantly. It can even infect the fruit, which can sometimes cause it to fall off. It's theoretically preventable by using an organic fungicide on the trees at budswell, but last year leaf curl control proved to be a real challenge. Anecdotally we kept hearing that some trees that were left unsprayed were the ones that DIDN'T get leaf curl. Some peach and nectarine varieties are already in flower and so it's too late to spray them, but some later varieties are just getting to budswell now.

It's OK to use a copper spray, but be very careful with it because copper is an effective fungicide which can accidentally kill your soil fungi (which are highly precious) if you use it too much. We recommend never putting on more than two copper sprays. One of the most effective copper sprays to use in a wet spring is Bordeaux, as it has a bit more 'stickability'. Mix 50g each of



Peach blossom. Photo from Katie.

copper sulphate and builder's lime in 5 litres of water. It's a bit messy, and the mixture doesn't store well, so it needs to be mixed on the day you plan to use it (there's a video on our website showing how to mix and use it).

While you're spraying, you may also want to put a Bordeaux spray on your apricot trees if they're flowering. This can help prevent Blossom Blight, a fungal disease that can cause flowers to rot on the tree and destroy your crop. For extra security, follow up the with another one 10 days later. If the wet weather continues, you might want to follow up with a spray of wettable sulphur before each significant rain event.

Here are some more tips for your fruit trees at this time of year:

- ✿ Start thinking about getting your fruit fly traps ready to put out (If you're not sure how to prevent fruit fly, check our website for resources).
- ✿ If you've just planted new fruit trees, make sure you protect them with tree-guards.
- ✿ If you planted new trees this winter but haven't pruned them yet, prune now so they put their energy into growing

branches in the right place (i.e. where you want them).

- ✿ Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch young trees or start planting a diverse understorey around them. If you're mulching, remember that fruit trees prefer a woody mulch like wood chips, or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes. The main drawback to mulching is that it's really good at stopping the rain from getting to the trees.

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

One of the best things about living in the country is room to have lots of fruit trees in the garden – we hope you enjoy yours this spring.

Happy gardening, and stay well,
Cheers, Katie and Hugh

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and teach the Grow Great Fruit organic fruit-growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their free online workshops.



Subscribe to Organic Fruit Boxes from Local Emerging Farmers

Do you salivate at the thought of a juicy fresh plum or the crisp bite of a nashi pear? Local farmers, The Orchard Keepers, are offering a mixed seasonal box of delicious

fruit grown in a certified organic orchard at the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Boxes are collected weekly at a variety of locations in and around Castlemaine and Harcourt. The fruit changes throughout the season which begins around November and lasts about 22 weeks. Subscribers will get a taste of the entire summer season which begins

with cherries and apricots, then peaches, nectarines and plums, and finishes with apples and pears.

Using a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model, customers commit to receiving fruit from the beginning to the end of the season and pay for it up front. This model helps the farmers plan ahead, provides some cash flow at the beginning of the season and means subscribers get to enjoy the best of our seasonal, local fresh fruits and build a relationship with the farmers and the orchard. Subscriptions are now open and

close on October 1.

As part of their commitment to growing a community as well as fruit, the Orchard Keepers will be launching a series of workshops and events throughout the coming season: workshops on fruit growing, and a series of feasts savouring individual fruit varieties and collaborating with other local growers and foodies. Scrumptious!

Sign up for a CSA box directly at bit.ly/CSA-OK, or check out orchardkeepers.com.au for more info.

Harcourt Flood Study

A message from the North Central Catchment Management Authority

Thank you to those in the community who provided valuable local knowledge to the development of the Harcourt Flood Study at our recent drop in-sessions.

If you were unable to attend these sessions and would like to contribute or know more about the project, please contact North Central CMA project officer Nick Butler via email at nick.butler@nccma.vic.gov.au or via phone on 0408 277 016. Alternatively, you can contact a member of the Harcourt Flood Study project steering committee who will pass on information to the North Central CMA.

Bryan Balmer: 0419 870 158

Jarrold Coote: 0438 069 849

John Baldock: 0428 420 028

We will be heading out to the community later in the year to seek feedback on the draft study. Details will be advertised in local papers and on the North Central CMA's social media pages.



Editor's note:

There has been quite a bit of interest generated in Harcourt by the recent information sessions run by the NCCMA. Locals were keen to show that it has flooded in Harcourt in the past. With recent rains we are seeing plenty of water on the sides of the roads and the water table has risen. Recently there have been reports of tractors becoming bogged.

Faye Hards provided the attached photos:



The Flood of 2007 – Never Again?

The Core contacted George Milford for comment about the photos below. George confirmed that the photographs of the lake on the west side of the ANA were definitely taken in 2007. This must have been a rare rain event for the time, as it took place during the ten year drought which ended in 2010.

George said, 'The main hall of the Heritage Centre was flooded from two directions, via the meeting room door and, as the water rose, via the west door and side entrance. The committee spent several evenings mopping up the floors to clear away the mud and debris.'

The main entrance of the Heritage Centre faces the Post Office in High Street and is also opposite the Wright and High Street intersections. George explained that the Wright Street drain collects water from the east of Barker Street and all of Buckley and Wright Streets. It is 600 mm in diameter and runs into a culvert under High Street, and connects to a drain near the public toilets. This drain was (and still is) 400 mm diameter and could not handle the quantity of water. This resulted in the water becoming banked up onto the road east of High Street, it then flowed across the carpark under the main entrance of the ANA Hall, as well as flooding the low ground at the west end of the hall.

George continued, 'The Council response was to construct a relief drain from the High Street culvert out onto the middle of James Park. This results in a lot of water running through the middle of James Park. We experienced this at Gather Harcourt on Saturday 27 August when it was very wet underfoot in this area.'

'The reason the water banked up on the west end of the hall was discovered by Neil Charter and Tyrone Rice. They located a drain that fed from the then highway (Victoria Road) under the former 'slip lane' into the blackberries alongside Barkers Creek.'

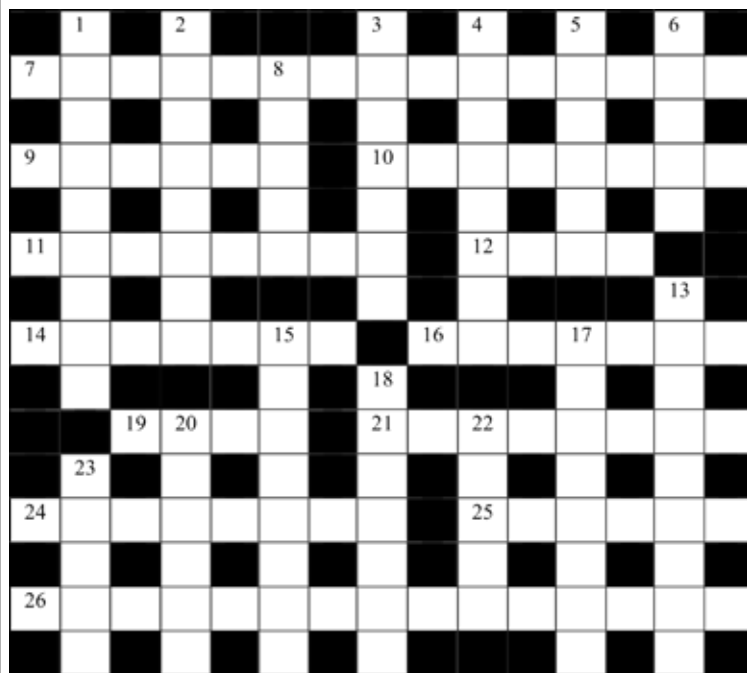
'They then found a manhole cover between the slip lane and the highway. Lifting the cover they could see that it covered a pit into which a pipe entered from near the flagpole. This was the lower end of the Wright Street drain (the previously mentioned 400 mm pipe). Using a torch they could see a large concrete slab at the bottom of the pit. The slab covered the outlet blocking the pipe that was running under the road into the blackberries by the creek.'

'It appears that some passing truck ran over the manhole, broke the cover, which then fell into the pit. The next highway patrol must have noticed that the manhole cover was missing and obligingly provided a new cover, not seeing that the former cover now blocked the outlet from the pit.'

'Once the broken slab was pulled out of the pit the problem was solved. No more flooding at the ANA Hall.'



September Xwd 2022 ©McW Aug '18



Down:

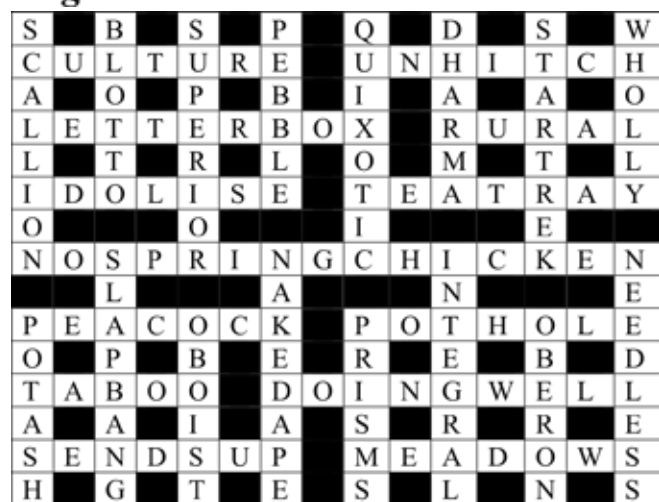
1. Optical torrents! (9)
2. I clear TV, change hold. (8)
3. Doesn't remember the last cold snap (e.g., frost). (7)
4. Do whores traduce Marian here? (8)
5. Interrogates chops, steaks, etc. in the '60s and '70s. (6),
6. Poor Grassby—his corpulence proved terminal. (5)
8. Penny's maker hits one out of the enclosure. (5)
13. It is, if sated... (9)
15. Alternate jam? (8)
17. Fashionable Miss America and Miss Universe look into murky deaths. (8)
18. Second taken out by an STD? (5-2 or 7)
20. What the ISIS man might have in his carpet roll to get things under way?
22. Taxing circular reef? (5)
23. Third ray mixed in volcanic product. (5)

Across:

7. How, weary of the cheat, I turn a blind eye to his shenanigans. (4,3,5,3)
9. Plucky little chook in move to no-platform O'Shanter. (6)
10. It's all go, sir—there was a girl also in the mist with them... (8)
11. Not a cab—a cart you'll be taking to the casino to pick up your winnings here. (8)
12. Kick the first half out from the muddled south. (4)
14. More peremptory than Romans, but often on the same page... (7)
16. Pommy Viscount could not be highly regarded, could he? (7)

19. Address seedy writer. (4)
21. NRA quilt composed? (8)
24. You can't get more open than a building dedicated to all the deities. (8)
25. Unique cover drive? (3-3)
26. I optimise bliss, I promise nirvana, I say I will deliver your eternal happiness. I offer you these... (15)

August Xwd 2022 solution ©McW June '18



Down:

1. Rap a spring onion in Ireland for a rascal. [Well? *Rapscallion...*]
2. Brahms, Liszt—second-rate Tatts. [Well?]
3. Mum [Well? *Mother S*] over novice? (8)
4. —mortar to render? [Well? *The "dash" should've been a giveaway...*]
5. Extravagantly romantic pursuit of renewable energy? [Well?]
6. To avoid harm, a good way is to adopt correct behaviour. (6)
7. Galactic marathon? [Well?]
8. Completely sacrosanct by ear. [Well?]
16. [Plan B: gas] the blighters precisely in the middle! (4-4)
17. Desmond *au naturel* at the zoo? [Well?]
18. [Regal tin] incorporated as necessary part. (8)
19. Pointless to add point to the pointed. [Well?]
20. K compounded after dope finished. [Well?]
21. Orchestra member found, perhaps, on 23? (6)
22. One of these Misses featured earnestly. [Well? *Oscar W...*]
23. Fairy satellite IV of William by 2? [Well? *It's a double-bunger: bet you didn't get the second. Or the first (Shakespeare's Tempest), if you're a science nut...*]

Across:

9. Arts in a petri dish? [Well?]
10. How to detach a Christopher [Hitchens] from Paris? [un]. (7)
11. Where you're contacted in landlord [letter] container when you're renting? (9 or 6-3)
12. Sort of idiocy found outside Sydney. [Well? *"Sydney or the bush"... Sorry.*]
13. Put in salt additive, [iodise] rather messily, and first [look up to one's hero]. (7)
14. What a twinkling bat looks like in the sky? [Well? *Twinkle twinkle little bat, how I wonder what you're at. Up above the world so high, like a ...*]
15. Little old hopping chook that's lost its drive... (2,6,7 or 2-6, 7)
20. Bird that wouldn't rise twice? [Andrew, by Keating...]
22. Underground river-bed system a nuisance on back road. (7)
24. To observe 6, beware the tote [TAB] and nothing twice—it's a no-no. (5)
25. Acting [doing...] water-source is carrying it off nicely. (5,4)
26. Cat [puss] interrupted by the final [end...] gets back and parodies. (5,2)
27. We [saw demo] in them: after they all left, they seemed [as mowed] [Pronoun reference needs to be accurate and not ambiguous, doesn't it?]

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(ABN: 22 887 254 268)

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 *The Core* via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au

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

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		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

Thursday September 8: 7.30 pm: On line Meeting, Harcourt Valley Landcare. Please contact the Secretary for the meeting link. Secretary for details: 0467 670 271.

Saturday September 17: 12 noon, Carpet Bowls Country Championships, Harcourt Leisure Centre. Contact Loretta: 5474 2453 or John: 5474 2226.

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

Sunday October 2: 2 pm, Get to know your Neighbours: meet at Harcourt Produce Store.

Monday October 10: Mid-week bowls gets under way.

Thursday October 20: 1.30 pm – 4 pm: All Things Art, Harcourt CWA. Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt.

Saturday October 22: Weekend pennant bowls gets under way.

Carpet Bowls: 7 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, Leisure Centre, Bingham 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 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

Harcourt's Little Library is outside the ANA Hall
It's available any time.



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.