

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 112 – February 2024

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news

harcourt.vic.au/news



Thompson's Orchard Under New Ownership



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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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

THE CORE caught up with Harcourt orchard manager, Joe Sabire, of Redlands Premium Fruit, to talk to him about the changes to be brought about by Redlands, the company which has purchased the entire Australia-wide business of Thompson's Orchards. See page 19 for the story of the October 2023 takeover. The article was released in the Country Press, located in Shepparton. The Country Press has generously agreed to share the story and photos with *The Core*.

Joe is shown here standing in front of rows of Gala apples, which will be ready for harvest in a week or so. Joe said, 'Harcourt-grown apples colour well due to our climate, which is influenced by the

altitude at which they are grown. There's no point these days trying to sell a pale apple, they don't appeal to the market. That's why our new variety, Dazzle, is attractive to consumers, as is Gala, which is the first to come off the trees.'

Locals in Harcourt may have been concerned that large areas of what were Thompson's orchards have been cleared. Joe said, 'The orchard routine is continuing as usual in Harcourt, while looking to the future of fruit growing, with a ten-year plan to push out unprofitable blocks. These will be re-sown in about two to five years as the soil needs to be rested to recover from years of growing trees.'

Continued on page 2



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2023

Joe said, 'We will continue to grow Pink Ladies and Gala apples, as they are popular and keep very well in cold storage.'

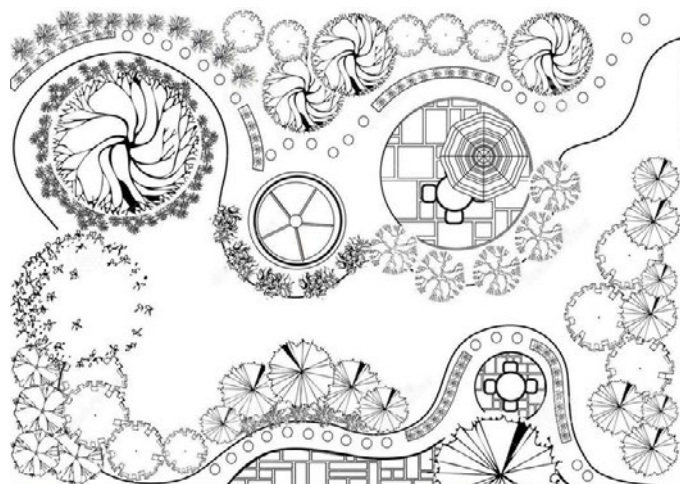
Redlands, which has its head office in Brisbane has retained the employment of all staff in Harcourt. Joe told *The Core* that Redlands has increased the employment of some specialists within the company, for example additional agronomists and pack house managers are now at work.

Joe has been with the business for three years and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the eight Harcourt orchards – supervising staff with orchard tasks, ensuring the maintenance of equipment and liaising with management and specialists, such as agronomists who test the colour, starch, size and sugar of the apples to determine their readiness for sale.

Currently there are three permanent workers in Harcourt, with around twenty people working on contract. Joe foreshadowed improvements in accommodation for the contract workers. He said, 'There are plans to house up to thirty to fifty workers at a time. These plans include demolishing two timber houses and replacing them with transportable accommodation. The orchard has three brick houses which will be completely renovated. In fact, one has already been completed. All accommodation will be air-conditioned, and all of it will meet the required legal standards. We have already located one set of demountable facilities in Danns Road. It will have ten beds, a mess hall, and a toilet block.'

It is good news for Harcourt that agriculture continues in the district. The importance of maintaining rural industry cannot be underrated for its value in providing locally grown fresh produce for Australia and for export, for providing employment, and for maintaining the rural nature of Harcourt.

YOU'RE INVITED



For those of you who have visited the site of the Harcourt Valley Community House (the old Harcourt Railway Station) you will have noticed a large plot of land that we have designated to be a Community Garden.

So, what do we want this garden to provide? Some of the things we have discussed include:

- teach people how to plan their own garden
- grow fruit and vegetables to supply a foodbank
- grow fruit and vegetables to supply a monthly community lunch/dinner
- sell produce to help fund the Community House
- run preserving classes
- and more ...

The Harcourt Valley Community House site also includes gardens established by a previous tenant which include a few edible plants such as olive and apple trees and artichokes. Should we revitalise these areas?

So, there is much to think about, and now we want your input. See you there.

Tuesday, 13 February 2024 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm



THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10AM TO 1PM

Castlemaine Community House
30 Templeton St
(enter via back door/garden)

For Information phone Chris 5470 5508

First in first served, so be prepared to wait.

WE WILL TRY TO REPAIR ALMOST ANYTHING
CLOTHES - FURNITURE - ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
TOYS - BICYCLES - etc



You'll have a chance to join our fixers to learn how to repair your useful items - to take up some new skills and avoid throwing your items into landfill.

 [Castlemaine Repair Cafe](#)

2024

Jan 28
Feb 25
Mar 31
April 28
May 26
June 30
July 28
Aug 25
Sept 29
Oct 27
Nov 24



castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

If you have a Facebook account, use the QR code to RSVP



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



HPA Update

Christmas Party

Well, Christmas and New Year have come and gone since our last update, but many of us have been enjoying the summer break as well, before the year starts in earnest. Our last event for 2023 was the Harcourt Valley Christmas BBQ, which was a lovely occasion made even better with the assistance of the Harcourt Progress Association and Heritage Centre volunteers, the CFA, in particular Tyrone Rice and Raewyn Rice driving the lovely CFA, truck which delivered Santa and his elf helper who have been volunteering around Christmas time for many centuries. We are extremely grateful to Mount Alexander Shire for providing the funds for the event through their small-town funding stream. (See photos page 14)

Annual General Meeting

The Progress Association is yet to undertake its planning for the year, but we do know the roundabout and Telstra coverage of our small region are high on the agenda for 2024. The HPA annual general meeting will be held on Thursday March 14 at 7.00 pm at the Harcourt Valley Community House. Notices will be posted on the HPA, HVCH and Hardcore Harcourt social media pages. If you have any aspirations to join the HPA Committee please let us know on president@harcourtprogress.org.au

Thank you to the CWA

We would also like to thank the Harcourt CWA for the kind donation towards purchasing kitchen equipment for the Harcourt Valley Community House. We are very grateful for their support and look forward to showing them around the kitchen and house when we have purchased the new oven.

Volunteer Opportunities

By the way, if you are looking for volunteer opportunities, the new community house will soon have many, as do the other not-for-profits in Harcourt, including *The Core*. According to the statistics, over the COVID pandemic, nearly two million volunteers left their volunteer roles in Australia, and the majority did not return – so, if your New Year’s resolution is to get involved, now is the time.

Best wishes for a good year ahead from all of us at HPA.

Breaking News

On Friday Harcourt Progress Association received the very welcome news that it had been successful in receiving over \$8,000 in funding from VicTrack to install the much needed fence at the railway station. We are sincerely grateful for the funding as this allows us to finally get the community house up and running without the added safety concern about the fencing.

Sha Cordingley
President, HPA

Services Australia Registration:

Good News for Community House and Job Seeker Volunteers

If you are a job seeker wishing to fulfil your mutual obligation through volunteering, there is good news. The Harcourt Valley Community House is now a registered organisation (organisation ID: 42751) with Services Australia, which means you can volunteer close to home for a great organisation that could do with your help. We will have outdoor jobs available for those interested in general garden maintenance and setting up a community garden, and administrative work for those who want to keep up or hone their computer and office support skills.

We will make sure you volunteer in a friendly environment with people who value your input. You will have a job description, be covered by insurance, and never be asked to undertake unsafe or unhealthy jobs. All volunteer work will take place at the old Harcourt Railway Station, 23 Station Street, Harcourt.

So, if you are interested in helping the Harcourt Valley Community House reach its potential, use your skills or learn new ones, and meet your mutual obligations, enquire with Centrelink or your service provider on how to proceed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact: Paul Mizzi: 0409 229 331

IT Question and Answer Session

Everything you want to know about IT, but don't know who to ask...

Tim Burnham, the NBN local representative for this region, and a number of local residents with Telco and IT experience will host a Question-and-Answer session at the Harcourt Valley Community House on 29 February 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Most of us in Harcourt use the NBN Fixed Wireless network for internet services, including email, web browsing and watching reruns of Friends. We buy the internet service from a retailer who is an Internet Service Provider or a Telco such as Telstra, Aussie Broadband or one of the other forty retailers who can service the Harcourt and surrounding areas.

Many of us just want to be able to dial a phone number and talk with someone without having to worry about constant issues with upgrades to technology. Many of the terms are confusing and we are often unsure as to why the services are not doing what we think they should. Are we sure it is not a solar flare causing disruption?

So, to try and help us wade through some of the terminology, lessen our frustration and more easily get through the day, particularly if you are working from home, Harcourt Valley Community House is hosting this information session.

Tickets are available here: events.humanitix.com/why-isn-t-my-internet-working-is-it-because-it-is-a-leap-year

Harcourt Progress Association and Harcourt Valley Community House

Proud Moment for the Hards Family of Harcourt

The Hards family of Harcourt are justifiably proud of their son Luke, head chef at the Alium Dining restaurant in Bendigo. The Australian Good Food Guide (AGFG) has recently awarded a hat to the restaurant with a rating of 14, which is noted as: 'Food quite out of the ordinary'. AGFG awards hats to discerning and exceptional chefs, as stated on their website. However, it is the restaurant that is listed for its hats.

For Luke, cooking has always been a passion. Even as a young boy he knew that's what he wanted to do, and as it happens, the skill runs in the family. On his father's side, Luke is related to the Blume family which ran the bakery in Harcourt from 1921 to 1960. His father, Jack, worked as a baker and a pastry cook, and, in his time, was known as the best pastry cook in the Castlemaine area. His grandfather was also a pastry cook specialising in wedding cakes.

Luke's mother, Faye, said, 'Our boys never knew what a store-bought birthday cake was. They always had a homemade birthday cake made by Jack.'

Luke was trained at Bendigo TAFE and completed the practical component at two Bendigo icons – the majority of his apprenticeship was spent at Clogs Pizza Restaurant, with completion at The Shamrock Hotel. Since then he has gone

on to work at a series of high end restaurants including Frangos Daylesford, Stokehouse in St Kilda, Balgownie Vineyards and the Royal George in Kyneton, which was awarded two hats while he worked there.

Luke has developed an interest in using indigenous herbs and grows them at home. As head chef at Alium, in order to plan the menu, he researches and chooses foods, and applies his creative instincts to test flavour combinations. When the Bendigo Gallery was running the exhibition 'Australiana', Luke produced a full Australian menu based on local produce with uniquely Australian herbs and spices.

Luke was also one of the first chefs to cook for regional Victoria's 'Dinner in the Dark' at the Alium. This is a gourmet dinner where guests wear blindfolds and have to guess what they are eating. Guests pre-order a three-course menu based on red (meat), blue (fish) and green (vegetarian). After each course, Luke would chat with the patrons about the food, and the next day photos were sent to the guests. Another Dinner in the Dark is planned at Alium; keep an eye out



on the web if you are interested.

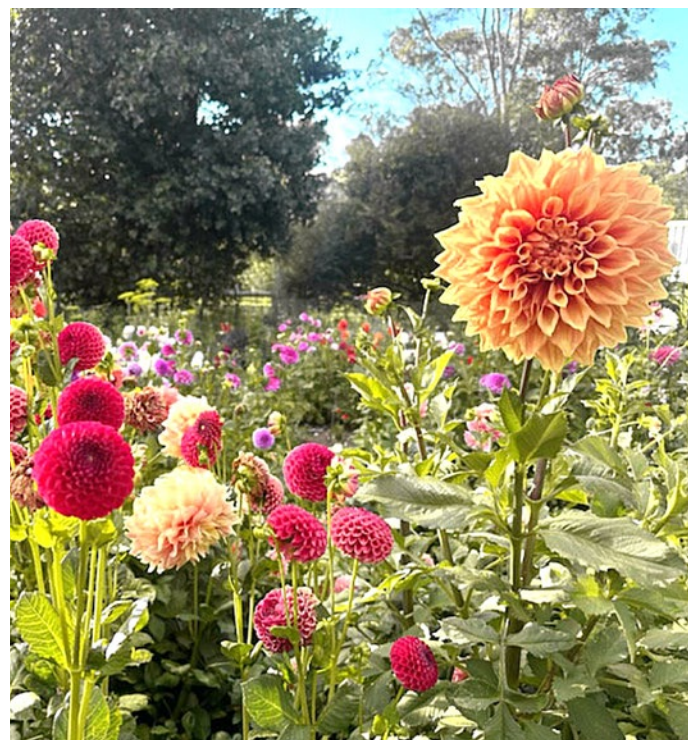
Luke likes to be busy in his work and loves the buzz of a full house. 'There are regular customers at Alium who come weekly or fortnightly; or it can be a special night out where you go for something different. I'm very happy with my efforts, and I'm delighted that it has been deemed worthy of a hat for Alium.'



For more about the AGFG awards see: www.agfg.com.au/awards/ballarat-bendigo-goldfields

Dahlias!

Annette Rae of the Harcourt Produce Store is not only a wonderful chef and pastry cook; she has a green thumb as well. In the garden behind the store she grows herbs, greens and edible flowers and at home she grows proteas, waratahs, and leucadendrons and other native species.

This summer she has a fabulous show of dahlias which are on display in the shop and are for sale as long as the season lasts.





Di Selwood
0488 148 358
Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon



Saturday March 9th
10am - 3pm
James Park Harcourt



Highlights include

Art Competition and show for all ages
Art Awards and opening Friday 8th 7.30pm

Duck Cameron - the Conjurer - Master Magician

Childrens Entertainment

Baking competition for all ages

Lego Competition for all ages

Live Music on TWO stages

Markets galore

To find out more about the day, or enter the competitions go to
www.applefest.harcourt.vic.au

Experience the best of the Harcourt Valley

HARCOURT

James Park

Saturday March 9th - 7pm

To purchase your \$30.00 tickets go to

<https://events.humanitix.com/applefest-evening-concert>
 or www.applefest.harcourt.vic.au



APPEARING:

James Park, Harcourt

March 9th 7-9.30pm

Art Competition, Show and Sale



OFFICIAL OPENING & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Friday 8th March 2024; 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

During Applefest



Ceramic Rose
 By Joan Halpin
 'Golden Rose'
 \$220



ANA Hall, James Park, Harcourt

2024 Scholarship Recipients Announced

Community Bank
Maldon & District

B Bendigo Bank

Your banking is making a huge difference to our community. More than \$3.6 million has been reinvested to support hundreds of projects and programs across Maldon, Newstead, Dunolly, Harcourt and the broader Mount Alexander region.

We are also making a difference to the lives of young people, by supporting their upcoming studies with a financial helping hand. Community Bank Maldon & District scholarships are provided to support these students with the upcoming year of study, and this year's recipients are studying a broad range of subjects and come from a wide geographic catchment.

Joseph Corcoran from Campbells Creek will be heading to Melbourne to study Community Services with Victoria University, and this money will help Joseph transition to living and undertaking placements in Melbourne.

Archie Sproat is a young Newstead filmmaker/storyteller who is looking

forward to getting his teeth into the Bachelor of Animation at Swinburne University, and will need his scholarship funds to help with purchasing of equipment as well as city-living costs.

Dunolly netballer and coach, Teagan Cole received a scholarship for her studies at La Trobe University where she will undertake a Bachelor of Physiotherapy. Teagan lives on a farm near Bealiba, and these funds will allow her to continue to help out with the family farm and be a true ambassador, showing other regional students that further education is not out of reach.

Another Newstead youngster, Maia Jade Hampton Postill will be using her scholarship to support her current studies at Swinburne University's Design course. In addition to her interest in design and architecture, Maia Jade is also a volunteer in a Korean Discord Server where she does regular practice-speaking events.

The final recipient is Nick Gardner-Trott from Maldon. Nick is heading to Canberra in February to take up his



Photo attached: From L-R, Branch Manager Paul Simmons, Nick, Teagan, Joseph, Archie and Executive Officer, Jane Hoiting. (absent - Maia Jade)

chosen course of Bachelor of Science, with a focus on chemistry in his first year. 'Living on campus will be a cheaper alternative to renting, will lower transportation costs as well as enable me to work more easily with other students', said Nick.

Community Bank Maldon & District can only provide financial support to these young people and other events, projects and programs because of the people who bank with us. Our model means that we put all our profits back into the community, so the more people who support us with accounts, home loans, superannuation accounts, insurance and other financial products equals more money back into our local community.

Supporting your community

Community Bank
Maldon & District

B Bendigo Bank

03 5475 1747

MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD

Visit Bendigo's Most Awarded Winery

- Weddings, events and functions
- 2021 Brides Choice Awards winner

Open Sunday 12-4 pm or by appointment only

Bookings please call Marie on 0431 996 515

Harcourt Valley Vineyards

3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt, Vic 3453

P: 03 5474 2223



Australia Day BBQ



Friends enjoy a BBQ in Stanley Park to celebrate Australia Day 2024. Loretta, Diane, Ray, Des, Wendy and Val. Trevor was also present; he took the photo.



WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation – An overview

Nalderun (Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation), meaning 'all together', is a local Aboriginal run and led organisation and registered charity that predominantly focuses on providing opportunities for young, local First Nations People, while also supporting their families.

The organisation also provides historical and cultural learning opportunities to the extended community, instilling the values of Country, truth telling and Indigenous worldviews, having many partnerships in government, community, education and health. Connection to Country, Community and Culture is at the core of Nalderun's work – walking together for a thriving future for all.

Nalderun supports young First Peoples to navigate the education system into meaningful employment, growing strong, proud leaders. Employment within the organisation involves an innovative cyclic mentorship approach. While Elders have a key place as directors on the board, young First Nations people hold a strong voice in decision-making about Nalderun's programs.

The organisation relies heavily on grants and donations every year. Funding provides twenty part-time positions – 80 per cent being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

As an ally and volunteer, it is incredible to witness the impact of the work, the breadth of community support and engagement, and how much the broader community also benefits when Nalderun is supported.

Nalderun's work involves personalised student support, from tutoring to travel, and several programs including the following:

Kuli Business

A collaboration between Nalderun and Castlemaine Secondary College, guided by Uncle Rick Nelson, this program is for young Indigenous men. It involves trips on Country, and cultural engagement that includes hands-on activities and skill building. It helps them build strong connections

to their Indigenous peers, a positive growth mindset and supports ongoing engagement with education.

School Based Apprenticeship Program (SBAT) and wrap around service.

Developing skills and connection in many areas including land management, conservation, agriculture, horticulture, education, business management and machinery operations.

Warrarrak business

Connecting and engaging First Nations women and gender diverse students from local high schools (predominantly CSC) in a range of activities which include day trips, camps and cultural days.

Youth Mentor Leadership Program

This program is led by First Nations Youth Mentors who regularly visit, build relationships with and support local First Nations secondary school students. They have hosted Cultural Days on Djaara Country as well as a two-day camp on Djab Wurrung Country.

The Meeting Place

Held fortnightly during school terms and based in Yapeen, this program is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children within the Mount Alexander Shire and Maryborough Education Centre and sometimes beyond. Students come together to learn the curriculum through Culture and Country. All who attend are honoured in the spirit of community learning.

Foodshare

Nalderun delivered food to thirteen families fortnightly through Foodshare last year in partnership with Bendigo Foodshare. That's a lot of meals!

Me-Mandook Galk

The community-supported acquisition of land has allowed a strong connection with Country and shared community vision. This is the home of Nalderun's new Bush Tucker Place, which is part of Nalderun's long term vision to care for Country and Community. Nalderun has been strengthening the partnership with the mob at the Middleton prison through community mentorship, being on a wonderful learning journey about native plants that the farm is starting to produce and hoping to propagate over the year. The dream is to establish a sound revenue stream in the future.

Education Network Group

The group meets with local schools four times a year to support and help teachers with Indigenous pedagogy and worldviews, and to incorporate Indigenous content into the curriculum through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols. Nalderun also run tailored Indigenous worldview and pedagogy training for schools and local organisations.

Nalderun is breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and disadvantage, which occur through ongoing colonisation. It is building pride, resilience and wellbeing.

Find out more about survival

day: antar.org.au/issues/survival-day/history-of-the-date

Nalderun website: nalderun.net.au

Floria Maschek is an ally and member of Friends of Nalderun (FoN). FoN members are guided by Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation and are diverse individuals and representatives of many local community networks, supporting Nalderun's visions and work. Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation supports the Aboriginal Community and is led by Aboriginal people while providing many learning and cultural opportunities to the broader community. Nalderun is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello everyone, it's lovely to be back chatting with you again. I hope that you all had an enjoyable

Christmas and that 2024 will be a healthy and happy year for you all.

We had our first get together for the year in January at Rodilesa. It's not a formal meeting, it's called Friendship Day. It was a chance to meet up again for the first time in the new year and catch up with everyone's news and, of course, to enjoy a coffee and delicious lunch that Rodilesa do so well.

If you have been thinking of joining Harcourt CWA, then maybe 2024 is the year to make it happen. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham Road. You are welcome to sit in on our meeting and then to join us afterwards for a cuppa and a chat.

I have wonderful memories from my childhood of sitting under a blood plum tree with my best friend in the backyard of my family home and eating these delicious plums until we could eat no more. Two years ago I planted my very



Friendship Day at Rodilesa.

own blood plum tree, and this year I sat under it and thought of those childhood days and my dear friend as I munched my way through far too many. It has been a great year for home grown stone fruit. Our member, Judi Kent arrived at Rodilesa carrying brown paper bags full of cherries, blood plums and peaches,



Judi Kent with her bags of goodies.

all picked from her own abundant fruit trees. It's so good to be able to share your home-grown produce, and it's also so good to receive it.

We are looking forward to meeting new members in 2024.

Lyn Rule
Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer

CASTLEMAINE SOCIETY INC PRESENTS

BOOK LAUNCH

You are invited to the launch of the latest book by author, historian and Castlemaine local **Marjorie Theobald** with guest speaker **Robyn Annear**.

THE GOLDFIELDS
Re-Imagined: MILITANT MINERS, MISCREANTS AND POOR MARY ANNE

Details:
Saturday February 24
3-5pm
Market Building
44 Mostyn St
Castlemaine

RSVP:
castlemainesociety@gmail.com

Previous publications by Marjorie Theobald

THE ACCIDENTAL TOWN
MOUNT ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN OF GOLD 1851-1861

Marjorie Theobald

Nordic New Year – Tuesdays in Harcourt

DHELKAYA HEALTH NORDIC POLE WALKING groups have been found to have psychological benefits and increase social connection, and will continue in 2024.

An evaluation by a team of Melbourne University students has found that in addition to known physical benefits, Nordic Pole Walking groups in Mount Alexander have psychological benefits and increase social connection.

'I think spending time outdoors is good for the soul. I call it my bush therapy session,' said one participant and study respondent.

Other respondents said that Nordic Pole walking gave them confidence, happiness or 'a good stress management tool'. Social benefits found include meeting new people, getting involved in the community, avoiding social isolation and making friends.

'Some of those people I met in the first couple of walks are now my best friends,' said another respondent.

The classes will continue in 2024 – on Monday afternoons in Castlemaine, on Tuesday evenings in Harcourt and Wednesday evenings in Maldon. Trained volunteers teach participants the required skills, and Nordic Poles are available to be used in class.

Bookings are essential as classes are kept deliberately small to ensure safety and adequate support for participants. Interested participants are encouraged to sign up now.

For further information and bookings, please call 5479 1000.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR & COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR for 2023

The Harcourt Lions Club has decided not to hold the Australia Day Breakfast, but we feel it is still important to recognise the achievements of our youth and the contributions made by members of the many clubs and organisations in and around Harcourt. These community members give of their time and energy and work tirelessly to make our community better with no expectation of reward.

Please take a little time to fill out the form nominating someone

you feel deserves recognition for their efforts within your club or organisation so the community can hear of their efforts OR the achievements of one of our youth, so they will be encouraged to continue in their chosen field.

The awards will be presented at the 2024 Harcourt Applefest celebrations on Saturday 9 March 2024 (Labour Day Weekend).

Members of the community are invited to join us at the main stage to see these awards presented and congratulate them.

Applications close: Thursday 15 February 2024
Harcourt District Lions Club, Post Office Box 100, Harcourt, 3453



HARCOURT & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB INC. NOMINATION FORM

The Harcourt District Lions Club is calling for Nominations for
YOUTH OF THE YEAR or COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR for 2023.

Details of eligible persons are listed below.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Nominations are open to residents of Harcourt Valley, who have lived in the community for at least 2 years.

They must have made a significant contribution to their club or community organisation in the past or present.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR.

Youth of the Year nominations are restricted to residents under 25 years of age. The award is for outstanding achievement in the last 12 months. It can be for academic, sporting or community service.

Community Member of the Year

Youth of the Year

Nominated Person:

Residential Address:

Phone/Mobile:.....

Person making Nomination:

Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Signature:.....

Secunder of Nomination:

Signature:.....

Reasons for nominating: (attach extra sheet if needed):

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Return this nomination form by 15 February 2024 to:
Harcourt District Lions Club Inc.
PO Box 100 HARCOURT 3453.



Harcourt Uniting Church

Shrove Tuesday and the Coffee Cup Challenge

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024. Christmas seems so long ago, the New Year was celebrated, holidays are over and the children are back at school. In the Church calendar we are beginning the lead-up to Easter.

The celebration of Easter within the Church begins with Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Tuesday, which, this year, will be February 13.

Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent when, traditionally, people would feast on a type of pancake using up luxury foods from their pantries before fasting for Lent (the forty days leading up to Easter). In modern times, fasting is not practiced widely, however some people decide to give up some vice for Lent such as chocolate, coffee, alcohol or a favourite food.

We will celebrate with a combined church service in the Castlemaine Uniting Church on February 13 followed by a luncheon, including pancakes for dessert, of course. Donations from this luncheon, along with money collected from the Coffee Cup Challenge, will go to Uniting, the community services organisation of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Since 2002, Pancake Day has raised over \$2.4 million for local communities in Victoria and Tasmania. The Coffee Cup Challenge 'challenges' members to put aside the cost of a cup of coffee each week from October to February 13 to add to the overall donation to Uniting.

Uniting delivers a broad range of services in the areas of crisis and homelessness for children, youth and families. Its vision is 'Working together to inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice.' It strives to make a difference for individuals, families and communities by working alongside people in providing care and support to vulnerable people.

An article by Bronwyn Pike (CEO for Uniting), as part of

a submission to the government for 2022 Anti-Poverty Week, states:

'People can only live a safe and dignified life if they can afford life's essentials and can live free from constant worry about how they will keep a roof over their heads and food on their table.'

Listening to and acting on people's needs is the most important part of the work of Uniting.

A Church-goer complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for thirty years now, and in that time I've heard about 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the minister is wasting his time preaching to me.' On hearing this another Church member replied: 'I've been married for thirty years now, and in that time my wife has cooked me some 32,000 meals, but for the life of me I can't recall the menu for a single one of them. But I know this - those meals nourished me, gave me strength to work and I would be dead if I hadn't eaten them! Likewise, if I hadn't gone to Church for some nourishment of the spiritual kind, I would be spiritually dead today.'

A little boy fell asleep during a very long-winded sermon. When he woke he asked in a very loud voice: 'Is it still Sunday, Mummy?'

Jan Jenkin

ALTERNATIVELY CREATED
BOWEN THERAPY

Carole Kernohan
Qualified practitioner since 2004

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All Welcome Summer Carpet Bowls

Summer bowls has recommenced and will continue on Wednesday nights at 7.30 pm at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road Harcourt. Those (over eight years old) who are interested in learning more about the game of Carpet Bowls are most welcome to come along on Wednesday nights. Members pay a small cost of \$5.00 per night.

We are a small and enthusiastic group and will make you feel welcome. Summer bowls will continue until March 27 and, after a short break, Winter Competition will be underway. (The date will be advertised later in *The Core*.)

Further information – Loretta: 5474 2453, John: 5474 2226.

Come and Try

The Castlemaine District Tennis Association is touring the District Tennis Clubs and is holding an Open Day at the

Harcourt Tennis Courts

Sunday 11 February from 10 am to 12 noon

Beginners and past and present players welcome

Free BBQ

All ages welcome

Come and Try

Equipment provided

Try Pickleball



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**HARCOURT
APPLEFEST
2024**

**March 9th
10am - 3pm**

**James Park
Harcourt**

Linda Newton



New Year's Eve Nostalgia

(Melva says: Back in the old days, 'when cocky was an egg', it was traditional to play a prank on New Year's Eve. The following is one prank we played that I'll never forget.)

Melva was raised in a rural family in South Australia. For a good while the family lived in Bute, south of Port Augusta and just north of the Yorke Peninsula, with cows, chooks, etc. The family had a fox terrier called Bouncer who rode on the bonnet of the school bus driven by her father.

When the Christmas tree was thrown on the wood heap,
And the rellies had taken their leave,
We kids would get into a huddle,
Planning pranks for a fun New Year's Eve.

One year we put ants in the porridge
A-warming for brekkie next morn,
But the year that we hid Dad's tobacco,
We wished that we'd never been born.

Epsom salts put in Grandma's gazunder
Caused a stir and tongue-lashing from Mum.
We thought piglets let loose in the kitchen
Would be harmless, and cause so much fun.

But the piece de resistance, I think,
Was the year that we shifted the throne
To the sand hills behind our old homestead;
'Twas a job we could not do alone.

It took us hours to do in the moonlight,
Our older cousins were in on the act.
Our parents were tired and slept soundly;
To tell no-one we all made a pact.

We were up early again as our wont
To write on each door the new year;
Then we waited, and waited, and waited
To see whod be first to appear.

My father came out looking groggy
He knew milking had to be done,
But first he must make a quick visit
To the throne – but of course, there was none!

Somehow he never DID see the joke,
But the telling got better each year.
Even now, many many years later,
I remember when New Year's draws near.





Harcourt CFA

Busy end of 2023 for the Brigade

What has happened to summer?

The long-term weather predictions of the 2023/24 summer have not exactly turned out as predicted. The change from La Niña to El Niño has created unstable conditions resulting in the weather being wetter, cooler and more humid than expected. This has resulted in fewer grass fires, but not necessarily a quieter summer for some brigades as they attend to other types of fires and incidents.

Haystack fires have been prevalent again this year post-harvest, with CFA attending more than fifty, with some being very large and also involving sheds. The cause is generally the result of spontaneous combustion and, therefore, can be attributed in part to the wetter weather affecting the curing of the grass before baling.

Recent electrical storms west of Ballarat early one morning resulted in more than twenty grass fires resulting from lightning activity. And, of course, brigades in flood affected areas assist the SES during these types of emergencies. So, while the landscape is generally green, there are locations where the grass fuel load is still dry and cured enough to burn.

Regardless of the weather, fire restrictions remain in force. Despite the restrictions, brigades have been called out to burn-offs during the fire danger period.

February is generally a hot month, and it is possible that the weather may return to a more normal summer. It may be that warmer conditions will continue through March and maybe into April. Regardless, it is important that we stay prepared and continue to keep grass regrowth under control.

Update on local activity

December resulted in five turnouts with a sixth one at three minutes past midnight on New Year's Eve, which is the only turnout for January so far.

A call out during the morning of December 14 was to a grass fire in Danns Road, and was started when a mower blade struck some metal in the grass. We had assistance from Castlemaine, Elphinstone and Sutton Grange brigades on the ground, and an air attack helicopter was dispatched from Bendigo but was not required to carry out any water bombing. However, their services were not in vain, as they were able to provide an overview of the fire from the air.

The next evening, the Harcourt and the Kangaroo Flat brigades supported the Lockwood brigade to a grass fire at the Jock Comini roadside rest stop at Ravenswood. This was just after 10.00 pm and was quickly brought under control.

The next morning, we were called to Sutton Grange to a serious two-car collision at the main intersection of the Sutton Grange-Redesdale Road and the Sutton Grange-Bendigo Road.

There was a further turnout to support Lockwood to a smoke sighting on the morning of December 19, which turned out to be a resident burning off during the fire danger period.

So, regardless of the weather, fires still occur. Most are preventable which is why it is so important to maintain our preparedness and take all precautions to avoid one starting in the first place.

The charging of Lithium Ion batteries has featured in news stories again as the

cause of some house and building fires. As mentioned in a previous *Core* article, they are occurring on a weekly basis.

Steps that can be taken to prevent battery fires include charging in a cool, well-ventilated space and to place the battery on a non-combustible surface. It is also best to charge them while you are present, so that you will be alerted quickly if things go wrong.

When they catch fire, they give off a very toxic smoke which can be lethal. Therefore, the best action you can take is to evacuate everybody from the immediate area and call Triple Zero (000) and request Fire Brigade when asked 'What emergency service do you require?'

The batteries undergo a process which is called thermal runaway and, therefore, the best method of control is by placing them in water for a long period of time to cool them down. Thermal runaway is one of the problems being experienced with electric cars when they catch fire, resulting in them being placed in swimming pools, dams and large tanks.

Applefest Information Marquee

The brigade is in the planning stages of having an information site at the Applefest Market.

Brigade members, along with a representative from the North-West Community Education Group, will be in attendance. We will answer your questions and inquiries with regard to fire safety, your fire plans, how to prepare for fire, and what to do when a fire starts on or near your property. Please come along, say hello, and use this opportunity to find out more. We look forward to seeing you.

Stay safe and prepared

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

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Am I at risk?

Councillor Comment



Hi all,

Congratulations to our Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day award winners.

In order of presentation:

Claire Mitchell – Young Citizen of the Year.

Barb Templar – Senior Citizen of the Year.

Taradale Mineral Springs Festival – Community Event of the Year.

Debbie Hamilton – Citizen of the Year.

While it was a cold day for this important event, the rain stayed away, and everyone in attendance had a great time. I extend a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the day.

Well, the rain this week certainly cooled things down. Hopefully, our volunteer fire fighters will enjoy the cooler conditions. While we have been on a few weeks' break I have still been in contact with residents about a range of issues. There is always a lot going on!

Leech Earthmoving is busy with the Fogartys Gap Road upgrade. I usually travel on that road three or four times a day, so the detour is definitely impacting my movements. Isn't it great to see local contractors getting a run with substantial projects like this?

Over the next few weeks council will be working on the 24/25 budget. Please get any budget submissions in ASAP. There is always stiff competition for funds, but you have to be in it to win it.

This year is a council election year. Mount Alexander Shire will have a ward reconfiguration, so it will be interesting to see what that looks like. Please feel free to give me a call if you wish to understand more about this. Approximately half of the councils across the state are involved in this process.

On the farm, I have been busy as usual. Seasonal conditions seem to be working for us, but economic conditions for graziers are very tough.

I had a dream the other night (or was it a nightmare?) that there were so many houses around that I could not find my place.

I wish you all the best for 2024.

Regards Tony

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Apple Pie Baking

Harcourt Valley Primary School

Applefest Pie Baking is coming up in Term 1

Harcourt community members are invited to come and help bake Apple pies!

Many hands make light work!

Please contact Louise in the office if you can help.

Phone: 5474 2266



Planting Memories – Book Launch



Anthea holds her new book alongside editor and publisher, Katherine Seppings.

Anthea Matley, a resident of Elphinstone (formerly of Faraday), achieved a personal milestone when she launched her book *Planting Memories* on Sunday 4 February. The launch was attended by family, friends and writing companions who have studied with, or have been in writing groups, with Anthea.

Anthea was born in Port Moresby and grew up on a rubber plantation on the Sogeri Plateau, Papua New Guinea, immigrating to Australia in 1968. Prior to this publication she has written short stories and poetry. *Planting Memories* is her first creative non-fiction book.

The book follows the life of her father Culver Matley, who left his drought-ravaged prairie home in Punnichy, Saskatchewan Canada, in 1935, and sailed to an unknown life on the island of Samarai and then to the Sogeri Plateau of PNG. Based on family letters, photographs, and memories, Anthea's book recounts many incidents that made up daily life in PNG.

Peter Wiseman, lecturer at Bendigo TAFE, introduced the book and commended Anthea's writing skills for connecting with the reader by making sensations and feelings tangible. He said, 'The book is well researched and tightly edited and I was particularly impressed by the capturing of the colour of life at the time.'

Planting Memories by Anthea Matley is published by Sevenpens Publishing (2024). ISBN: 978-0-9954144-9-5. To purchase: the book will be available from 4 February at Stonemans Bookroom, Castlemaine, and through the author's website: amatley.com
Cost: \$29.99

Harcourt Christmas Party





Harcourt Valley Primary School

The School Year has Begun

It is hard to believe that the summer school holidays are over and, as of 30 January, students will have returned to school. Of course, there is no school news, as yet, but there is news to share with *Core* readers from the final few weeks of last year.

Firstly, there is the information promised to *Core* readers in the December edition about *The Core* Writing Awards. Also, in HVPS's last newsletter there is an article I have copied, which I feel sure will amuse readers who are not associated with the school community as much as it did me.

2023 Grade 6 Graduation – The Core Writing Awards

I was delighted to be able to attend the HVPS grade 6 Graduation Ceremony on 18 December to represent *The Core* and to present *The Core* Writing Awards. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the standard of the four finalists this year was exceptionally high. Both Mr Blake and the grade 5/6 class teacher, Kelsie Rowlands, told me that all the finalists are good writers, but the winner of the award, Isabelle Hubbert, has been consistently outstanding.

Indeed, children's author Susan Green, who judged the work, wrote that: 'All students' work was impressive.' Susan said she was thrilled to read the stories and in her comments about her selection she said, 'The winning story is not necessarily the best story – and another judge might have chosen one of the others.'



Isabelle Hubbert, this year's winner of *The Core* Writing Award

Here is what Susan said about Isabelle's work 'The Secrets Below':

'This story ticked lots of boxes for me – an intriguing title, an unusual fantasy premise (a whole village in a bottle floating in the ocean), attention to detail (like the explanation of the two seasons), a mystery (the trapdoor and the hidden room) and a threat (the bad people down below). The writer took care to establish the different scenes with details from the senses, such as the smell in the alleyway. The resolution was neat – concrete! And I liked the hint that the danger might not have passed. Well done.'

Does that incite your curiosity? Well, fortunately, Isabelle and her parents have granted permission for *The Core* to publish her story. You can read Isabelle's story on page 16. As we have permission to publish the stories of all four finalists, we are promised some great reading in future editions of *The Core*. They are all definitely worthwhile reading.

The high standard of writing of last year's entries inspires *The Core* to provide a small Highly Commended Award to Ryah McAinch for her story titled, 'The Crash'. The other two finalists were Jorja Colquhoun and Zhara Thorpe.

Ten students graduated from HVPS, most of whom will be attending high schools in the area. It was a busy and emotional week for these students; they had their graduation dinner with their families and teachers in the evening of graduation day and later in the week their Big Day Out at Bendigo Jump and the Breakout Room.

Below is the story from the school's newsletter that tickled my fancy. I think it highlights a very imaginative way to engage attention of students at the end of the year and involve them in experiments of mass, time and motion.

The Potato Olympics

On the 13 December 2023 Harcourt Valley Primary hosted the Potato Olympics. The day started with an official opening ceremony with speeches, Olympic flag raising, the athletes' oath, lighting of the Olympic flame and the parade of athletes.



Thunderstorms impacted competition but this didn't ruin the spirit of the day. Athletes gathered harmoniously in the athletes' village while events were moved indoors.

We all witnessed the fierce competition and bravery of the athletes. The potatoes rolled, dived, balanced and bounced their way to victory, the judges carefully measuring and recording the results.

Unfortunately, this high level of sport does not come without risk and there were more than a few injuries and many potatoes looking worse for wear by the end of the events.

Some potatoes just proved better than others. The following were awarded medals at the closing ceremony:

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Distance:	Jake	Jorja	Gus
Long Jump:	Finnley	Gus	Merryn
Diving:	Reagan	Astin & Tillie	Bonnie M
Sprint:	Jorja	Sienna & Merryn	Bonnie M
Weightlifting:	Beau B	Matilda	Jimmy
Archery:	Kaiya	Brodie	Ezra

Scout received the Golden Laurel Award which honours an outstanding individual for their achievements in education, culture, development and peace through sport. Well done Scout.

This is my last regular article as the HVPS correspondent for *The Core*. *Core* editor, Robyn Miller, will take over the role temporarily (she hopes!). The first article I wrote for *The Core* was in September 2019. On the whole, I have enjoyed contributing to *The Core* and being part of its development, and I appreciate the effort the editorial team makes to produce *The Core*. Additionally, this role has been a great way to know something of my local school community. I have been impressed with the effort that staff and parents make to provide the best possible education opportunities for local children, at times under challenging circumstances. We are in the process of getting our lovely eight-acre bush block for sale and will be moving away from Harcourt sometime in the next twelve months. I will leave this area with many fond memories.

Lois Denham

The Secrets Below

by Isabelle Hubbert

Chapter One

A Town called Lottle.

Thump! Suddenly, I heard a loud CRASH! In the kitchen. I couldn't believe it! How did the bottle not shake with Dad crashing around the place when he came home from work? Our heavy, massive bottle that surrounds us is our home. Please do not ask how we got in here, (I have ZERO idea.) The bottle is in the middle of the ocean, at the top, floating. Sorry, now back to the story; I turn around, stuff my face into my pillow and pull the doona over my head. I bet it's not even six o'clock in the morning yet! TRAMPLE, TRAMPLE, TRAMPLE! 'Ugh,' I sigh. 'That's it.'

'DAAAD!'

A small face appears, but barely visible under my father's huge mop of red hair.

'Yes?' questions his deep and manly voice.

'Do you always have to be so loud?' I complain.

'I'm sorry Honey,' Harry said in a flat voice.

'You could at least take your boots off!' I cry.

'Night,' says my father.

'Morning ...' I groan, but my comment is muffled by the heavy doona.

Two hours later I awake from my lazy slumber. I sit up with a yawn. Gentle light pierces my eyes. I guess the blinds don't do much, I note. I sit there for a moment and get used to my surroundings for a while, until my silent, calm mind is interrupted by a: BEEP beep, BEEP beep-SLAM! My hand reaches out and puts my deafening alarm to a stop. I pull out my crinkled, faded, leather notebook and look at the date at the top of my page. It's the 57/1/75. Wait. Let me elaborate on that a bit. The '57th was the 57th day of the month 'Chill'. There are two months, Chill and Heat. The bottle's temperature changes on a BUNCH of different factors. The sun outside the bottle, the ocean's temperature that we are floating in, but ONCE, when our population grew in BIG numbers, everyone was building all the homeless

homes. At the end of the first day, our body heat, sweat and energy heated the glass, therefore the month was changed to HEAT! That was called a big HEAT WAVE.

How we know the month is that every time it changes, it gets announced at a town meeting. And speaking of town meetings...

I look down at what's below the date. 'Me and daffy go to Lottle square.' And sure enough, in big bold letters there reads, 'town meeting at 9:15'. OH MY STARS! That's In five minutes! I race over to my closet and pull out one of my five pairs of overalls. Each pair has a different embroidered pattern. There is a flower, butterfly, star, sun, and my ABSOLUTE FAVOURITE, yellow, orange and red pretty falling leaves. But today, seeing as I was in a rush, I choose the pair at the top of my pile, sun. I race out of my room, down our old timber corridor, and I'm about to leave the house when, WAIT! I forgot my money for the market! Hope Daffodil has extra.

I race out the door, onto the crooked garden steps and out onto the street. Two blocks down, turn left. One block down, turn to the right. The town's square.

I look up and close my eyes. I love the smell of golden dirt, the sound of happy people, and the giggle of young children. The old timber stand that the mayor stands on weekly, his voice projecting kilometres wide. There's nowhere I would rather be.

The town has approximately 40 villagers attending the town meeting today. That's a lot considering there are 53 people in TOTAL. The reason why most villagers do not come to meetings is they have farms that need tending to. And if they aren't there, they're paying someone else to do it for them. Usually only half the population attend town meetings. Something big must be happening.

I scan the crowd for a young, happy girl, presumably bouncing on the spot (take it from me, she's not hard to find). AHA! 'Hi Daffy.'

'Hey. My mum says the mayor's got BIG news today.'

'That explains all the people.'

I was always jealous of Daffodil's family. She had an Uncle Iris and an Auntie Tulip, two siblings, 3 cousins, a mum, a dad, and a baby pet lamb named Lavy, for Lavender. They all lived in the same house! And an ADORABLE tradition they had is every time a relative was born they would add a flower to the family garden. Today, Daffy was standing next to her mother and her brother, Wattle, and her sister, Orchid. I only have a mother and a father.

'AHEM!' starts the mayor. 'Lady Harriet of the Haches went missing.'

'That's my mum!' I choke out, unable to believe such horrid news.

'Any sightings of the woman, please report to Aqua Street number 5, the police station.'

I ran back home as fast as my legs could carry me, as soon as I heard my mother was gone. Daffodil didn't even notice.

Chapter 2

THUMP! I slump myself into my bed, sobbing horrendously. I cry for five minutes straight. My pillow is soaked the whole way through. MOTHER? GONE? This cannot be real.

Then I notice a small glint of metal, I think. I slowly rise from my bed and cautiously step closer to it. It seems as though there is a dint in the floorboards edged with metal. Perfect for a small hand to fit in. I fit my hand into the hole. Nothing happened. I push down. Nothing happens. I'm about to take my hand out and about half a meter square of floorboards rise. OH MY GOSH! It's a TRAPDOOR! I heave open the solid timber square and light pours into my room. The warm light is almost calling me. Begging me to come closer. I can't help myself.

There is a tall ladder going down to the bright room. I slowly clamber down the ladder. SLAM! I turn around. Nothing. Up. OH NO! The trapdoor has shut! Frantically, I take in my surroundings. In front of me is a wooden desk. To the left of me there is a whole wall filled with a selection of antique books and papers. To my right there is a cupboard, a table with two chairs, and a sink. Behind me there is a fire. Recently been used, I think, for the embers are still glowing hot.

I walk over to the desk. There is a small, old-fashioned, stained ink pot. Next to the pot there is a rough, old

piece of parchment that reads:

Honey, I dearly hope that it is you reading this note. Meet me here at 7:30. I Want you to know the truth. I'm always Waiting.

My head explodes with questions. Who is this? Should I trust them? Where am I? and most importantly, WHAT'S THE TIME?

CREEEEEK... I turn around.

CREEEEEK... 'who is that!?' I demand.

CREEEEEK...SWING!

A cloud of mist encircles the room. I cough, blindly stumbling around, trying to grab something to steady my balance. The mist eventually clears and out steps ...

Chapter 3

'MOTHER! I am so happy to see yo-' My words are suddenly caught in my mouth. I look mother up and down. She has a torn shirt, cut knee and a scar across her face. Her voice is ragged.

'Honey!' she chokes out.

'What happened to you?' I cry, holding back the tears that are welling up in my eyes at the sight of mother like this.

'Oh, Honey, it's nothing.' She replies. But I could see by the way she replied that she was anything but fine.

'Please, I want to know. And it's kind of not fair if you are the cryptic message writer from the note and you're not telling me what happened, especially when you turn up looking like this!'

'I managed to escape the grasp of some very bad men, that's all!' says mum, trying her best to keep her secrets secret.

'What?'

'I ... I ...' she stutters.

'Does this explain why you went missing, the trapdoor, why the mayor announced your name at the town meeting, this strange room that I have been sleeping ON TOP OF MY WHOLE LIFE!'

'Honey, slow down! Let me explain. When I came to the bottle, I was the first to dig under. I was a quiet person. I liked my space. So, in my room, I made a hatch ...'

'That's my room!'

'YUP! So over time, I made myself this room. Eventually, someone else dug underneath. His name was Vale Van Fredrickson. He thought of making an underground system to Lottle. His

plan was to make a 'civilisation' and take over Lottle with his soldiers.'

'Wow!'

'What does the ... stand for?' I ask.

'Oh yeah, the evil men needed a trademark. The came up with the ... so they could tell if someone was in their 'Team' because they would have that tattooed across their arm. It's a sign that the evil will rise.'

I shivered.

'They call themselves, the rising shadows.'

Chapter 4

Harriet walked over to the bookshelf and pulled on a spine of a book titled Hidden Secrets.

TSSSHHHH ...

Mist encircles the room once more.

'This is the mist maker,' begins Mum. 'It's to warn me if someone enters without me knowing, to give me time to react.'

I hear a swinging motion through the mist, and before I know it, Mum grabs my hand and pulls me into the unknown ...

Once the mist clears, it reveals a long alleyway. Mum strides confidently past, and all the smells hit me. There's delicious foods, sharp perfumes and dust from the old house up ahead.

'Wow,' I say as we pass a massive arch made of rough grey rock.

'Mum, what's this stuff?'

'Concrete.'

'Consmeet?' I gently brush my hand over the pillar's surface.

'No, concrete

'Where are we going mum?'

'Just a short lap of the town.'

'Why?'

'To show you how beautiful it is down here.'

Chapter 5

'I'VE GOT IT!' I yell across the kitchen table that morning.

'What?' asks mum, sounding bored.

'You know that consmeet stuff?'

'Ugh, concrete?'

'Yeah, yeah, whatever. That stuff. Could we block off all the possible entrances to Lottle?'

'Yeah...'

'It would stop the bad guys for a while and then we could build a master plan later!'

'That could work,' Mum says cautiously. 'I'll talk to the mayor today.'

I race back into my room. Have I found a way to banish all possible attacks from Lottle? I felt so good about myself, I pull on my favourite pair of overalls. Oh! And before I forget, better not forget my money for the market!

Chapter 6

'I have so much news!' I explain excitedly to Daffodil.

'Start from the beginning,' says Daffy, her face clearly showing how nervous she is to hear my news.

'Last night,' I start, 'I found a crack in a floor...' I tell her everything.

'Ha! NICE THEORY!' she yells, and rolls around on the floor laughing.

'No! Seriously!'

'Ehem!' says the mayor. 'Harriet of the Haches has returned!'

The crowd cheers a wild applause, and the mayor speaks again. 'To stop a mysterious underground person, we are to cover the town in concrete. It has to be done by the end of the week. Everybody, get to work!'

Before I knew it, the whole town was pitching in.

'Why... Does... It... Have to... Be so... HEAVY!' I complain, at 5:30 pm. We had been walking back, and forth, back and forth from the concrete mixer to the builders.

'It has been 3 days since my idea. The whole city is safe, and it makes my so happy.

'I have an announcement. Wait! Two big announcements, scientist Lolly informs me,' says the mayor with a chuckle. 'We have finished CONCRETING!'

The crowd cheers and I scream my lungs out.

'And ... due to all our hard work, we have had a BIG HEAT WAVE!' The mayor states, undeniably trying his best to not burst into a fit of laughter.

I'm so happy. I feel safe and I'm excited. What will Lottle build with its safe future? And what's kept me up on my sleepless nights is ...

How long will it take before they RISE?

We've only banished them further into the darkness. We have no idea what they are planning anymore. Are they building an army? Concrete isn't impossible to break through. Now we live in a town of peace. But danger isn't far below...

The End.

Passionate Volunteers at the Harcourt Organic Co-op

The Core enjoyed a visit to the rustic and charming Organic Co-op shop on a recent Friday and spoke with Hugh Finlay. He said 'We are delighted to have three volunteers of a Friday who help with the shop by cleaning the shop, setting up, sorting fruit, watering, planting and weeding in the shop garden.'



We met two of the dedicated volunteers on the day. We had the chance to speak to Natasha from Sandon, who is part of the Friday crew. She was heading home with some delicious fruit and some of Sellars Farmhouse Creamery milk which is sold via their web site: www.sellardairy.com.au

Annalies hails from Carisbrook and also volunteers as a fruit picker in the organic orchard. She said, 'I have an interest in organics and came as a result of attending workshops with Hugh and Katie previously. I also work at the Newstead Community Garden which is likewise organic. I have volunteered here most Fridays this season since November.'



Hugh Finlay and shop volunteer Annalies Chaplin.

Hugh said, 'There are 30 volunteers working on the orchard on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They pick, sort and pack. There's a real variety of reasons why people volunteer. Some come to learn about organics. Every week we do a mini class relevant to what we're doing in the orchard. It's an opportunity to support us, and an opportunity to learn and get active. There is a strong social aspect to volunteering here. We have a shared lunch on Thursdays, and we always have morning and afternoon tea. The volunteers earn pick-your-own fruit, up to 10 kilograms a shift, which they can use or sell for themselves. We also cram a lot into the two days when the shop is open.'

The Harcourt Cooperative organic shop is currently open from 10 am to 4 pm on a Friday and 10 am to 1 pm on a Sunday. If you want to buy beautiful fresh organic fruit or collect pre-ordered Sellars Farmhouse Creamery milk, come to the organic shop in Danns Road Harcourt. You might even consider volunteering!

See Katie's article every month in *The Core* for up-to-date information about the co-op, fruit tree care and workshops.

School Staff Rally for Mack



Mack Chilvers is a student at Harcourt Valley Primary. We surprised Mack on Friday 12 January when we visited him at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Mack is bravely battling Leukaemia and doing an amazing job!

To support Mack, the staff at Harcourt Valley Primary School have entered the 'Run for the Kids 2024' which raises money for the Royal Children's Hospital.

The people in the photo are Raewyn, Stacey, Brit, Kelsie, Ben, Lou and Mack.

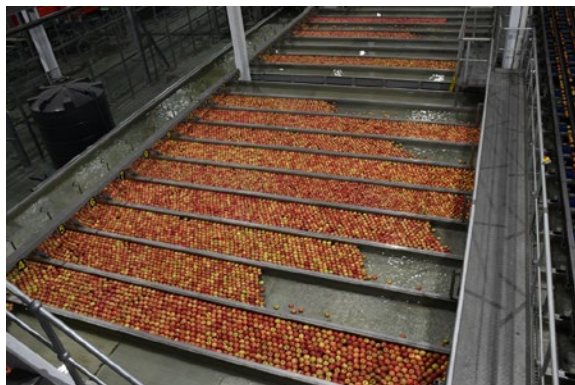
Louise Simpson
Business Manager

Lego Competition
Go to: applefest.harcourt.vic.au
for details and entry form

**HARCOURT
APPLEFEST
2024**

**March 9th
James Park
Harcourt**

Major GV fruit packing business sold



A sea of pink lady apples along the automated sizing line at Redland Premium Fruit facility in Mooroopna.

One of the Goulburn Valley's largest fruit growing and packing enterprises, which employs hundreds of people, has been sold to a national agricultural company.

Redland Premium Fruit completed the purchase of the assets of the Geoffrey Thompson Holdings Ltd in late September.

The acquisition of the 75-year-old company is a milestone for Redland as part of the group's vertical integration strategy.

Australian-owned Redland has a significant portfolio of farms across regional Australia and is currently growing citrus, apples, table grapes,



Thousands of bins of fruit can be stored in the automated retrieval system at Redland Premium Fruit at Mooroopna. Only robots operate in the dark and cold atmosphere of the tower.

stone fruit and kiwifruit in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia.

The business is a subsidiary of the Argyle investment group, based in Brisbane.

The acquisition includes the Mooroopna coolstore and pack-house in the former Ardmona Fruit Products building in Young St, which was modernised in a multi-million-dollar upgrade by the former

Geoffrey Thompson business. This site now packs up to about 100 tonnes of fruit on an average day.

The site includes an automatic storage retrieval system which will hold up to 5200 bins of fruit, stacked 26 high. The air-tight tower, one of the largest in Australia, is completely automated and feeds bins into an automated packing line.

The business now comprises growing, processing, storing, logistics, marketing and sales of produce to Australian and international markets.

Redland director Hugh Esler said they were excited to have made an investment into the Goulburn Valley region and by the potential of the Mooroopna and Shepparton processing sites to service both domestic and export fresh fruit markets.

'There has been significant capital investment into the Mooroopna facility in particular and we look forward to completing the various works that are under way as well as undertaking a number of other projects to allow us to maximise the potential of the recently commissioned state-of-the-art automation technology,' Mr Esler said.

'In addition to processing and selling Redland-grown fruit, we expect to service third-party growers as we



One of the older packing lines at Redland Premium Fruit in Mooroopna.

demonstrate the efficiency of the new facility and expertise of our new sales team.

'After a number of difficult growing seasons, we're hoping we can help local growers to maximise their returns into the future.

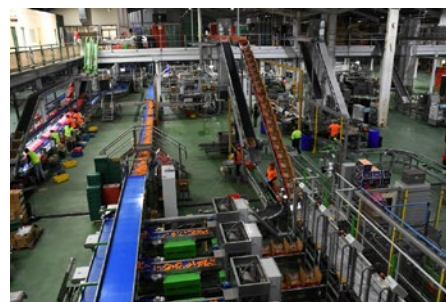
'This business will be set up for the long term and will be making decisions on that basis.'

Redland has taken on more than 200 staff from the Geoffrey Thompson group over the past two weeks and, as they scale up, they expect to employ more.

Redland managing director Tony Tremlett said Redland needed a processing facility and Shepparton was a great spot with a strong industrial base, on the freight route to Melbourne and with a capacity to process pome fruit and citrus.

'It's a facility that can run 365 days of the year. This can underpin a successful business operation,' he said.

Mr Tremlett said it would be used to pack not only their own fruit but they were looking to extend the capacity to outside growers.



The old and the new—automated lines run along-side the traditional people-powered fruit packing lines.

Thank you to the staff of Country News, who agreed to *The Core* publishing this piece.

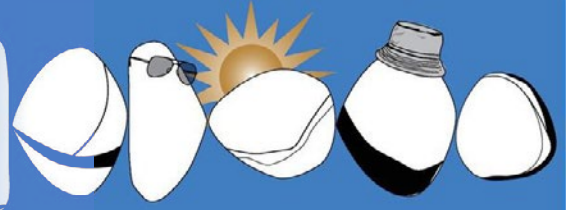
The article was published on October 16, 2023 in the Country News, based in Shepparton. The author is Geoff Adams.

Country News is owned by the McPherson Media Group: www.countrynews.com.au



The market will be seeing more of the Redland Name.

Gather Harcourt





Harcourt Heritage Centre

A Stack of Old Minute Books

Among the archives of Harcourt Heritage Centre are the Minute Books of various Harcourt community groups. Your correspondent tried to count them on his fingers but he did not have enough fingers, so he turned on the computer. A search of the computerised catalogue reveals that the Heritage Centre holds the Minute Books of twenty-two local committees. These committees ran their course, achieved their goal and wound up.

The deliberations of groups such as the Harcourt RSL sub-branch, the Mount Alexander Koala Park Committee and the Harcourt Swimming Pool Committee are represented by stacks of official Minute Books or humble exercise books, faithfully written up by honorary secretaries month after month.

Judging by the records of so many meetings, the people of Harcourt have engaged in a lively communal life. Funds were raised, public facilities were built, schools were supported, sports were organised, and events were staged, all by volunteer committees. You can read all about them in Minute Books.

Someone who is keen to search Harcourt's collection of Minute Books is Dr Elizabeth Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Design at Monash University. Dr Taylor, who has looked over our files on a past occasion, has asked to see the minutes of the Swimming Pool Committee. This is in connection with a study of the history and economics of swimming pools across Victoria.



Harcourt's first swimming pool was opened by Senator Lawson in December 1928 at the corner of Market St and Eagles Road (see photo). During the 1960s, a vigorous and protracted fundraising campaign for a replacement pool was led by the Swimming Pool committee. The

Minute Books of the committee reveal the immense effort that went into fundraising for the construction of the chlorinated pool at Bridge Street which opened in November 1973.

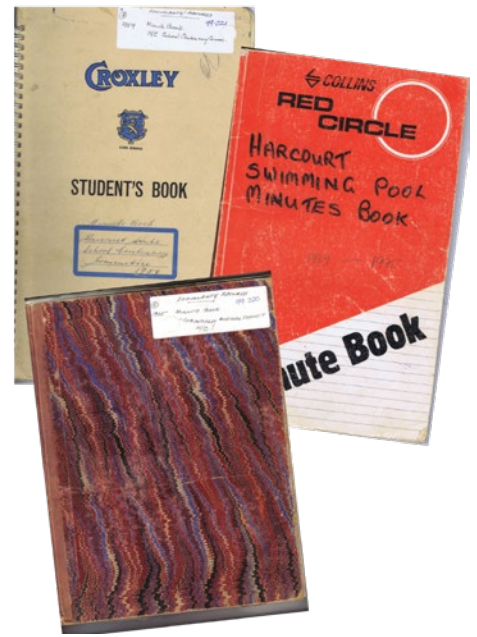
Dr Taylor makes the reasonable claim that the history of Harcourt's two pools is representative of the experience of many country communities. It is an example of local initiative, which is why she wishes to look at the Minute Books of the local committee.

Minute Books do not, generally, contain much detail. The minutes of any meeting only record the decisions taken at the meeting, the appointment of someone to undertake some tasks, the aim to achieve some objective and the amounts approved for spending. For the historian seeking a record of progress in a community, the contents of the minute books must be set alongside news reports, photographs, correspondence and official documents. It is the Minute Book which gives an accurate sequence of events and dates. But it does not tell the whole story. Country folk, as well as researchers, have had long training in what has been described as 'the art, craft and mystery of reading between the lines' of what, in the case of any Minute Book, is a fairly scant record.

The Minute Book does not often record the reasoning behind a particular motion; it is enough to record the agreed action. Nor does the Minute Book record the private remarks that garnish any committee meeting. Where else can you catch up with the news of the locality? 'Is so-and-so feeling any better?' 'Did you hear that Mr. X had a car accident this afternoon?' People go to meetings for a variety of reasons.

A noticeable aspect of the Minute Books in the possession of Harcourt Heritage Centre is the absence of points of order and of procedural motions. Only rarely has an amending motion been put to a meeting. Rescinding motions are not often encountered.

It may be supposed that in other places, when strangers meet formally to exchange ideas in the context of a variety of ideologies, then you may encounter points of order, motions to silence the long-winded, and amending motions designed to upset the first mover. But the Minute Books of Harcourt groups



are singularly free of such tedium and pin-pricking behaviour.

It seems that Harcourt folk generally aimed at a consensus and only recorded a motion when there was general agreement. If an initiative was too daring, or needed more investigation, then the Harcourt way of doing things has been to 'carry it forward'. Of course, much community business is discussed in someone's kitchen, or debated at the step of the General Store, before being put to a formal meeting and, if approved by a majority, recorded in the minutes.

Advancement of our community has been fostered by this aim of consensus. It is an indication that, in our small community, we feel reluctant to proceed till all have 'come on board'. That is to say, there is genuine mutual respect for the views of others. We should be proud of this. It is the key to progress.

Yes, our local keeping-place has a stack of old Minute Books. They are available to, and used by, university researchers. If readers of *The Core* have any old Minute Books lurking in the back of a cupboard, please deposit them at Harcourt Heritage Centre. Others can profitably learn from Harcourt!

George Milford, for Harcourt Heritage Centre.

The Heritage Centre, in the ANA Hall, High St, Harcourt, is open from 9 am to 3 pm each Wednesday.



Harcourt Bowling Club

'Twas the Season ...

Bowls Christmas Party

Harcourt Bowling Club members and friends celebrated the Christmas break-up on Saturday 16 December. There was a good turn-up, and all enjoyed the delicious food and music and the friendly Christmas vibe. Unfortunately, the band booked was unavailable, although President David Jeffries was an excellent DJ providing music for all tastes. Many thanks again to Carrol for the beautiful decorations and to the Catering Committee and all who provided the delicious food.



Maintenance Crew Break-up

A very happy group from the maintenance division of George Western Foods enjoyed their Christmas break-up at the Bowling Club with a social game of bowls and a meal.

By all accounts it was a very successful event with prizes presented to the winners of the game.

80th Birthday Party



Congratulations to past president, John Starbuck, who celebrated his special 80th Birthday in December. Affectionately known as Starry, John is pictured here with his wife Joy, son Paul and daughter Donna during the celebrations.

PENNANT

Presentation of 8-pin Award

In the last round of pennant on December 16, one of the Weekend

Pennant teams scored an 8. This being the highest score achieved on an end in pennant, an award is given to the relevant team. Pictured are Carrol Frost, Rod Harris, Barry Marsh and Phil Clarke as they were awarded the pin on a social night at the club.



8-pin (Dec 2023) Winners Carrol, Rod, Barry, Phil

The return to pennant from the Christmas break was something of a change for clubs within the Bendigo Division. A Charity Round for Cancer was held on Saturday 20 and Monday 22 January. Harcourt Bowling Club's nominated charity was Breast Cancer. All bowlers were encouraged to wear pink on the days, and a relaxation of uniform rules made for some fun and interesting versions of pink attire. The Harcourt Bowling Club has donated all fees collected from players on the days as well as other monies raised and donations received. Well done to Harcourt bowlers for embracing the initiative and for bringing such a good spirit to the week.



Pennant results

At the time of writing, it appears that Division 2 Midweek teams will be contesting the finals. A clearer picture of where all the teams are on the ladder will be in the March Core.

Ladies' and Men's Singles Champion Final 2023-24

The Harcourt Men's and Ladies' Club Singles Championships were played out on Saturday 13 January to a large gathering of supporters. The first to achieve a score of 25 is declared Champion.

Ladies' Champion

Competing in the Ladies' Championship were Wendy Chaplin and Fran Corstorphan. Wendy started well with good draw bowling giving her a strong lead. Fran found her fire and put in some bowls although not enough to get the better of Wendy. The game finished after twenty ends with Wendy Chaplin on 26 and Fran Corstorphan on 13.

Men's Champion

Best buddies, Brian Leech and Brett Jenkinson, put on a great show of bowling finesse and tenacity over thirty-one ends. Brian got the jump early with a healthy lead, but Brett hit his straps, and from a score of 18-all it was neck and neck. At 23-all, Brian scored a three to take out the championship with an exciting finish.

Champion Badges Presented

Congratulations were extended to Ladies' Champion, Wendy Chaplin and Men's Champion, Brian Leech by President David Jeffries who presented both Champions with their badges, thanking them for a great display of bowling. Wendy and Brian will now compete in the Division Champion of Champions in late January.



Champions: Wendy Chaplin and Brian Leech.

Annual Fours Tournaments

On Sunday 4 February the **Annual Men's Fours** Tournament is scheduled to take place. We will have all the information in the March Core.

On Thursday 15 February the **Annual Ladies' Fours** Tournament is scheduled and the results of that too will be in the March Core.

FRIDAY SOCIAL NIGHTS

Friday Night Barefoot Bowls

Harcourt Bowls Social Committee has held a number of Barefoot/Social Bowls on Friday nights with a great atmosphere and a lot of fun. Members joined with novices to guide them through the games. Prizes were presented to the winning team and runners-up.

It is hoped Barefoot Bowls will continue from 5.30 pm followed by a sausage sizzle. Just \$10 will get you a game of bowls, bowls provided, tuition if required, great atmosphere, drinks at bar prices, sausage sizzle and a load of fun. Names should be in by 5.00 pm please to assist with organisation.

The exact dates for barefoot bowls are to be confirmed.



Barefoot Bowls Winners.

MEMBERSHIPS

New social or playing members are always welcome at Harcourt Bowling Club. Applications for membership can be collected from the Bowling Club or downloaded from the website at www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

- Barefoot Bowls Friday Nights: dates to be confirmed
- Men's Invitation Fours Tournament: Sunday 4 February
- Ladies' Annual Fours Tournament: Thursday 15 February
- Ladies' Drawn Pairs: Thursday 7 March (evening)
- Men's Drawn (Gough) Pairs: Thursday 14 March (evening)
- Grant Pairs: Sunday 17 March



Grace Church

This is a statement of faith from Grace Church.

The contrast between being loved by God, and pleasing God

Many readers might be surprised to learn that, concerning God, there is 'a disconnect' between God loving us, and God being pleased with us. That is to say, God's love for us is unconditional, not dependent upon our performance. The Apostle John put it this way...

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

The Apostle Paul put it this way...

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

God's unconditional love may be starkly contrasted with the love we display as humans. In our case love is often tied to performance e.g. 'I will love you so long as you love me and meet my needs.' But God's love for us is sacrificial, demonstrated by the sacrifice of His Son upon the cross to pay the price for our sins.

Now, how do we go about pleasing God? The writer of the letter to the Hebrews answers that question

'...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.'

Faith pleases God. One only has to reflect on the story of Jesus healing the Centurion's servant for proof. The Centurion had faith that Jesus was able to heal his servant by remote, as it were, without seeing him, without laying hands upon him. Jesus exclaimed, approvingly, that he had not seen such great faith in all of Israel!

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

Summer at Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op



Welcome to 2024! Summer is whizzing past, and it's incredible that we're already at the end of January. What an interesting season we've had. After dire threats of El Niño the rain has returned. The difference this year is that spring was relatively dry when the fruit trees were flowering, leading to a cracker stone fruit season, which has been a welcome change.

Online course

We're full of news this month. First up, we have a few events coming up. The first is an online course we're running to help you write an action plan/calendar for your fruit trees.

It's called 'Learn. Plan. Succeed.' and it kicks off on February 27 at 7.30 pm. Over many years growing fruit we've learned that the single thing that makes the biggest difference is having a plan. Knowing exactly what you should be doing each month (or even each week) throughout the year is very relaxing and improves your chances of getting a good crop. You can register for it here: growgreatfruit.com/product/learn-plan-succeed-registration-february-2024/

Pick-your-own fruit

Next up is that the orchard is open this summer for pick-your-own each Friday (10.00 am– 4.00 pm) and Sunday (10.00 am – 1.00 pm). Despite the loss



of our peach and nectarine trees to wet conditions last year, we've been saved by the diversity in our orchards (which is also a good reminder of the benefit of having lots of different types of fruit trees in your garden). Between cherries, apricots and plums, we've had a feast of changing fruit varieties every week available to pick. We've started picking the first apples (Gravensteins) and the first nashi pears are almost ready. Check the Orchard Keepers Instagram page to see what's available each week (or see the link at the end of this article to join the newsletter).

Innovate to Regenerate

You might remember a year ago we were awarded a grant by WWF through their Innovate to Regenerate Program. We've been steadily working on developing a whole farm plan, learning how to measure and improve the health of the land we are so lucky to care for and exploring possibilities for the future of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. We're also documenting the whole process, so we will let you know when everything goes public through our website.

Now on to this month's top three tips to caring for your fruit trees:

1. If you still have fruit on your trees, it's not too late to net. Even a simple drape net provides at least some protection from hail damage and can really help prevent damage from birds, particularly cockies. Smaller and more persistent birds like parrots may need a net that goes all the way to the ground and is secured. Now that fruit fly is a real threat, if you're buying new nets consider getting nets that also exclude fruit fly, as this is the most effective prevention technique for backyard trees.
2. Keep a close eye on how much water your fruit trees are getting, particularly in the six to eight weeks before the fruit is ready. While we've enjoyed plentiful summer rain, things can dry out quickly, so be

prepared to start watering if the weather gets hot and windy again.

3. Wet conditions over summer have led to some brown rot problems, so keep an eye out for it in your stonefruit trees (it doesn't affect apples and pears). If there's any sign of it, the solution is wettable sulphur, which needs to be sprayed on the trees before every rain event. It's also important to remove any infected fruit, because it can spread from one piece to another. It does take a bit of diligence, but it's definitely possible to prevent this disease from spreading and ruining your whole crop.

Hope we see you at one of our PYO days soon.

Happy harvests!
Katie and Hugh

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home 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. For Orchard Keepers news, sign up to the newsletter at: orchardkeepers.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=fbf79adb0e1751518422ab3a9&id=d1ead3ac67

Grow Great Fruit

More than 50 Ways to Take the "Bad Luck" Out of Your Organic Fruit Growing



growgreatfruit.com

FREE WEBINARS

<p>"5 Key Steps to Quick Success with Fruit Trees"</p> 	<p>"Organic Pest & Disease Control for Fruit Trees"</p> 
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READY FOR NEW SKILLS?
50+ short courses
Grow Great Fruit home study program





Council news

Are you a climate change-maker?

Do you compost? Is your school water-wise?
Do you collect and recycle blister packs?

We're calling on Mount Alexander Shire residents to share their sustainability stories with the community.

We want to know what you've been up to!

Have you been to a reuse and repair workshop?
Does your business offer free water bottle refills?
Have you hired Wash Against Waste for an event?

Share your photos and stories at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au and find out more about our climate change-maker project.

This is stage one of an exciting initiative, so stay tuned.

Apply for an Event Grant

Our Event Grants program supports local groups and individuals who are running public events in the shire.

Applications open on Monday 19 February and close on Monday 11 March.

Find out more and apply now at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/EventGrants.

Keep up to date on local news

Sign up to Shire news, our monthly e-newsletter, for the latest on local news, events, opportunities to have your say and more.

Sign up at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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Down:

- After Alaska, coming here to balmier climes in the US might reset our circadian rhythms. (9)
- Most men can't mend their ways even after hearing these. (3,12)
- In poetic Oz I find animal version of mistletoe. (9)
- Secure these, else chaos reigns at the bottom of things. (4-5)
- Yo Bro! You mush it up to form growing part of terra firma (just drop the Yo, Bro...) (5)
- Good cape, Bob, no? (4)
- Surgeon's evil arm entering the cranium dismembers bunch of three. (10,5)
- Steady-state man on the cards? (5)
- Can't see, hear or feel if knocked this way. Can't smell or taste, either... (9)
- Fungus and magazine both sound like an overly possessive name for our sun. (5,4)
- It's not a cheesy pad, the school gym, but a seedy chap might have cased hype here, as one hyped case after another was made from the platform on this occasion... (6,3)
- The Pasha vocation contains the seeds of disorder. (5)
- Early electronic bacterium? (1,4)
- Tardy spirit component? (4)

Across:

- Prepares Golf for roofing? Certainly closes it down... (7,3,5)
- Shape of a hippie casserole dish? (9)
- Dunny in the know? (5)
- He thinks smashing statues and breaking windows are cool antics. (10)
- Dole out flesh, they say. (4)
- Car for lazy Australian wizard? (7)
- Are they Darwin's type? (7)
- Before the sound of Erin. (3)
- Japanese martial arts weapons (nunchakus) lose snake with missing tail, but keep its head and regain tail for lost-ball boys... (7)
- Tell story of past run rate going backwards half the time. (7)
- Rope weed factor? (4)
- One sure way to reach the ethnic Pole. (10)
- I escape lesser sin for the money-grubbing one. (5)
- Large rubber endowment of US beach buggy indicates that it's past its bedtime. (4-5)
- Lipstick liposuction? (8,7)

December 2023 Xwd Solution © McW June '19

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Down:

- If I'm put on the list [roster], I'll do this—uproariously!
- Snipping angles expedites journey, sloppily... [Well?]
- Squalid, but fixed up, we hear. [sorted"...]
- Second-rate journos' vehicles? [Well?]
- A Four 'n Twenty might put a bit of lard on the child-bearing features [hips] of these flower-children...
- A mere cheapness on supermarket shelves will not do justice to the Italian staple...
- Third-person shrub? [Well? I like it!]
- [Oo! Ribs contract] at the thought of it!
- [Do-it-yourself = sorer] (don't start me on 'hit thumb'...): so unimportant as to be ridiculous...
- Desert [V.tr] Gaye? [Well?]
- [Each char] comes back in jumps to facilitate passage of air. (7)
- Dateless [nd] lure [bait] might catch the outlaw? (6)

Across:

- When Madam [Lash...] does it, it's enough to wreck this chap...
- One who emits takes nothing at first and leaves things out...
- Read aircraft... [Well?]
- He might turn in his grave if he knew the Kylie Mole types who inhabited his place...
- In wrongdoing a century of frost... [Well?]
- One crashing [bore] takes on the [Ag] Dept for blue-flowered plant.
- Places for catamites of old and peccs and abs of new... [Well?]
- Moses, [a son] in this sort of bed [reed]—thought-through. (8)
- Take being [=is] "I" out of an entry in a year-book [statistic] and get interference.
- Long for 365 + pole...
- Dead in an iFriend?
- Endure sunken leave.
- Storm-water passages Tony would have seen Julia in? [Well? "Ditch the..."]
- 27, 28. What the murdering seamstress on tenterhooks might do as the jury ponders its verdict? [Well?]

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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

Tuesday February 13: 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm, Community Garden meeting Community House at ex Harcourt Railway Station.

Thursday February 15: Nominations close for Citizen of the Year and Youth of the Year. See page 9 for the entry form.

Friday March 8: 7.30 pm to 9 pm, Applefest Art Show Opening at the Heritage Centre, High Street.

Saturday March 9: 10 am to 3 pm, Applefest, High Street, Harcourt.

Saturday March 9: 7 pm Dusty Springfield tribute concert with Wendy Stapleton.

Thursday March 14: 7 pm Harcourt Progress Association Annual General Meeting Community House at ex Harcourt Railway Station.

Carpet Bowls: 7 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, summer and winter, Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt. Summer season commences Wednesday November 8.

CFA: Brigade meeting night is the third 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 9.15 am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

CWA: First Thursday of the month, 1.30 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt. *Note new time*

Grace Church: Tuesdays at 10.30 am: Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11.00 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 Bowls Club: See page 22

Harcourt Lions Club: Third Thursday of the month at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way at 6.30 pm for dinner (something to share) followed at 7.30 by general planning and discussion.

Heritage Centre: Every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9.00 am–3.00 pm or by appointment: 0400 916 527.

Pony Club: Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 902 400. The Pony Club is located next to the swimming pool.

Uniting Church: Sundays at 9.00 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 9.00–10.00 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.



Drug driving? The consequences will blow your mind.

Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension. Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

