

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 103 – April 2023

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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Flagship for Conservation: the Phascogale *Biodiversity Audit in Proposed Housing Development*



Photo: Jess Lawton

HARCOURT VALLEY LANDCARE has met by invitation with Shire Planners and an ecologist appointed by DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) in the first steps towards the audit. Shire Planners, Nathan Lord and Lauren Watt hosted the meeting at the Council offices, with some speakers joining the meeting via Zoom.

Representing Landcare were Paul Foreman, ecologist; Jess Lawton, graduate researcher at La Trobe University; and Bonnie Humphreys, president of Landcare. Bron Willis, George Milford and Robyn Miller, all spoke on behalf of Landcare, with Bron organising the agenda and chairing.

Jess Lawton, who has recently completed her PhD on the conservation biology and landscape ecology of the brush-tail

phascogale said, 'Whereas once the species was widespread across Victoria, data shows us that the species is contracting into Central Victoria. In the Mount Alexander region 60 sites have been studied with 84% of survey sites indicated a presence of phascogales showing they are widespread in the area. I believe the Harcourt valley is likely to be valuable as a phascogale site.'

Bonnie spoke of rare and threatened species, some we may not even know about without this study, and mentioned the importance of preservation of vegetation along creek lines as they are refuges for fauna in challenging climatic times and that these refuges will be more important in the future.

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2023

Third Grand Final Win in a Row for Harcourt Tennis



The Kelly family includes Willow, a 12-year-old who has many talents, but tennis is the main one. She has played for Harcourt for two years in the senior side, and this year we made her our number 1 player in our A Grade side. She only lost one set for the year and that was in the grand final 6-5. She has played in two of our three grand final wins. (Willow is shown holding the winner's shield in the team photo at the left.)

We think this is a great achievement for an 11-year-old and now 12-year-old girl. We know we are very lucky to have her play for our local team. She always smiles and simply enjoys her tennis.



Dad Nevan, mum Megan and Willow (in their Harcourt tennis T-shirts) and sister Winnie.

Willow's parents play in the A-Grade team, and Winnie plays in the junior side.

On the hottest Saturday of the season (March 18), the Harcourt team travelled to Marong to play in the Marong & District Tennis Association's grand final.

Harcourt's win was a great team effort, with everyone contributing to our win.

Harcourt defeated Wilson's Reef: 6 sets 71 games to 12 sets 94 games. Players with three sets wins on the day were Simon Gearing, Ellenor Landy and Megan Atkin.

We are a true family club. Families who play for us are: the Kelly family (4 members); the Threthowan family (3 members); the Blake family (2 members); the Landy family (2 members) and the Gearing family (2 members).

In our grand final win for the 2022-23 season, she played with her dad and won 6 games to 5 in the number 1 set, which is a great achievement for her and us. She won her ladies 6-3 and lost the other 5-6, which was the only set she has lost for the entire year.

Due to strong performances and strong player characteristics, Willow was selected into the National Development Squad and now attends weekly sessions at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne. This is a wonderful opportunity for Willow to train

with the best young people in the state.

Willow recently played in the 12/U Australian Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga. She has received direct entry for the Claycourt Championships (qualifying round) to be held in Canberra this April.

We wish Willow all the best!

Faye Hards

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HPA Progress Report

The Harcourt Progress Association has been fairly busy over the past month planning for the opening of the community house at the old railway station. We are very interested in hearing your views on the sorts of events and courses for the community house and even more vitally, whether you can provide a course, volunteer in the centre or be involved in the occasional working bees. We invite you to fill in the survey at bit.ly/HPASurvey (or use the QR code, or via the Hardcore Harcourt Facebook page, or see page 24). All responses will be carefully considered.

Over the next couple of months, we will be holding the HPA annual general meeting and an open day where you can come and have a good look around the station. I think, like the HPA Committee, you will be impressed with the quality of the refurbishment. Of deep concern though is the absence of fencing across the length of the platform which runs in front of what will be the carpark and the community garden. Those of us who live fairly close to the railway line know at what speed the trains on the Bendigo line pass through Harcourt. Interestingly, from early photos of the station there has always been fencing on each side of the station building as you can see in the old photo below.

We were very grateful to the Community Enterprise Foundation for allowing us to repurpose its grant which was allocated to HPA in 2020 and unused because of COVID. The \$12,000 grant will allow us to furnish the community house and purchase equipment for the community garden as well as ensuring courses are fit for purpose. We are also very grateful to the Australian Community Workers Association for donating a number of desks, cupboards and chairs and to the Dean family for providing a fridge.

Several other Harcourt issues have kept us occupied recently, including responses to the biodiversity survey led by Landcare. Also, we were pleased to have partnered with Mount Alexander Shire Council to apply for TAC funding for a Harcourt Town Centre Active Transport Safety and Amenity Strategy to support the town centre action plan. We understand that the Minister will be announcing successful projects in April.

HPA representatives Robyn Miller and Alison Curtis met with Shire staff on 30 March to discuss the Town Centre Action Plan. Many of the ideas put forward by Harcourt residents and HPA are being taken on board. Important concerns include connectivity of walking paths and, of particular concern to HPA, how to create a walking link to the railway station/community house from the town centre. Also raised were: the possibility of a track along the creek; a safe crossing from the play space; a connection from town to VMR; and diverting trucks away from the intersection



of High Street and Market Street by declaring a local traffic area for Reservoir Road which is a school bus route and, in season, has slow moving agricultural machinery and wildlife hazards.

Council officers have been pleased with feedback from Harcourt residents, and reported that what has been said is well considered and useful. Please see Council's media release to find out how you can contribute.

Finally, the Harcourt Progress Association AGM will be held at the railway station 12 May 2023 at 7:00 pm. If you wish to vote at the meeting, please don't forget to renew your HPA membership and if paying by bank transfer add your name so we know who has paid. A happy and peaceful Easter to all.

Sha Cordingley



Mount Alexander
Shire Council

Setting the Direction for Harcourt's Town Centre

Mount Alexander Shire Council has used feedback from Plan Harcourt and Shine Harcourt Leanganook to create a vision for Harcourt's town centre that celebrates Harcourt's beautiful features, and conceives a town that is liveable and connected.

Council has developed ten key actions to help Council prioritise projects, allocate development contributions and seek funding opportunities. The document will inform a town centre master plan.

Harcourt's town centre is dominated by the former Calder Highway, now Harmony Way. The old highway has led to town centre development that caters primarily to motor vehicles. The town centre can be difficult to recognise as it lacks the typical features of a small town such as a single main road and buildings that define the street.

The actions described in the Harcourt Town Centre Vision are based on recommendations in previous plans, community feedback, targeted consultation with community groups and site analysis. They include:

- Making James Park Harcourt's civic heart
- Highlighting the relationship between Barkers Creek and Leanganook (Mount Alexander)
- Defining High Street as the main street
- Improving safety and accessibility for people moving between home and the shops, school and kindergarten, the bowling club, train station and the reserve, playground and the pool.
- Defining town entrances

The plan will seek to give Harcourt a heart whilst retaining the open relaxed atmosphere that meshes well with the surrounding landscape.

To learn more and comment on the draft Vision document visit: shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/harcourt-town-centre-action-plan

If you want to know more about earlier plans, background documents can be found on the Plan Harcourt (Amendment C94) project page on our website.

From a Shire Press Release



WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

Like a Fish in Water – White Privilege

Many of us who are part of dominant settler culture in Australia learned early in childhood to notice fellow human beings who dress differently, live in skin of a different colour, speak a different language and/or behave according to different customs. These groups are often pushed to the outer edges of white society, looked down upon or pressured to disregard their own cultures and conform. While white people have all sorts of choices about how we live, people on the margins do not, particularly Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In a way, white people living in a white dominant society are like fish swimming in our regular environment; we don't know of any other environment than our own kind of culture. Like fish, which absorb seawater by osmosis through their skin, we cannot help absorbing the attitudes that are all around us.

The realities for First Nations people are: dispossession, oppression and degradation – desecration of Country; harm done to families; destruction of Culture and language; generations of stolen children brought up in white families, never able to discover their relatives or their Country; discrimination and abuse in the workplace, and in everyday life. The poor conditions that First Nations people are forced to live in today go right back to when sheep and guns first destroyed the industrious farming practices and cultivation that they had carefully developed over tens of thousands of years.

The 1967 Referendum result overturned previous dehumanising white myths that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Indigenous fauna of little intellect. The 1992 MABO case revealed the lie behind the myth of terra nullius. The National Apology to Indigenous Australians (particularly to stolen people) in 2008 recognised some of the harm white attitudes have caused. The Close the Gap campaign attempts to address the socio-economic inequalities like health, housing and education.

But life for Indigenous people is still not equal to that of white people. Consider the many freedoms and privileges we,

as white people, enjoy and which many regard as our right. We take for granted safety, comfort, access to education that affirms and reflects back our worldview and culture, basic medical care, easy access to internet and phone. We travel where we like, through bush, rainforest, desert, river or sea without regard to damage we might do to marine or terrestrial life through our entitled and extractive ways. Our innumerable freedoms are summed up as White Privilege.

We didn't have the risk of our children being taken away; didn't have to run away when police or welfare arrived; didn't have our families split up by white officials nor whole communities moved off Country to missions on other Nations' Country. We don't mourn generation after generation for family members murdered, enslaved or starved, and we don't have to fear that members of our family could be put in a cell instead of taken to hospital, or that our skin colour would work against us in court. We don't have feelings of rejection based on our race, or be lumped with all other Indigenous people as if we are all the same.

Our dominant culture needs to change.

We need to look hard at ourselves and our culture: the accidents of gender, race, family, profession and religious affiliations that have led us to our own worldview. Not recognising this does not eradicate White Privilege or make it go away. Rather than pity Aboriginal people, we can learn much from them – about their ingenuity, their worldviews, their leadership, resilience and resistance despite the ongoing oppression of Colonisation. They show us a way of living in right relationship, thus making visible that the white western way, which has destroyed so much, isn't the only way but one of many.

And we can change it. Big changes have been made in the past: abolishing slavery, the vote for women, labour rights, equal numbers in male and female leadership. Change happens when people look from outside at the 'water' they swim in and become conscious that the type of water isn't 'natural', but is formed through particular histories, systems and world

views.

In our (dominant) culture we avoid seeing the sorrow and despair, the anger and the powerlessness. We shy away from the shameful. But there is much of which to be ashamed and truth-telling demands it. Our unearned advantage stunts our development and distorts our humanity, thus damaging us in mind, emotions, spirit and morality.

We need to look hard at ourselves and tell the truth about our White Privilege; the privileges and racism that flow throughout Australian history, institutions, policies and way of life. With privilege comes responsibility. We need to discard any claims to superiority and learn to talk about it. We need to support First Nations people's efforts towards self-determination. We must build respectful relationships and learn from Indigenous leaders, standing back to allow First Peoples to recapture the values, protocols, songs and stories that sustained their way of life on this continent for so long.

Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation is a service that supports the Aboriginal Community, led by Aboriginal people. Many people and organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire contribute to Nalderun; the name is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.

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



Councillor Comment



Hi all,

Nice rain for the garden.

You may have heard the term sing from the same song sheet. What it is about is getting everyone going in the same direction.

Sometimes I surprise myself when I reflect on what our community has achieved, particularly in recent years with the Stanley Park playground, our new change rooms and now, let there be light with upgraded lighting at the Recreation Reserve.

George would probably say it sounds like he's banging his own drum, but seeing I have played the drums for over fifty years, it's probably okay.

At Council we work together as a team to ensure all our communities get a fair go over the journey. This year it looks like Maldon is doing pretty well but perhaps they are only trying to catch up.

What I am really wanting to know is: What will be our next goal or target to work towards?

Let me know what your thoughts are as we need to keep the momentum up.

Best regards to all.

Tony

AG Cordy

0439 742 434

Harcourt Carpet bowls

And the winners are Rebels.

The summer Carpet Bowls season was completed on Wednesday 29 March with Rebels coming out on top. A lovely supper was supplied and enjoyed by the members to finalise the summer season.

All reported having a good time playing bowls and socialising even though we are a small group of around 16 players. We are always happy to welcome anyone interested in playing the game.



The Rebels team – John Jenkin, Brian Cornish, Des Dooley, Raymond Rice, Laurence Hauser.



Some of our members enjoying supper.

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Lisa Chesters MP
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Authorized by Lisa Chesters, ALP, 16 Myers St, Bendigo

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Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello everyone. March is mostly about Applefest and what a wonderful Applefest it was this year.

A perfect day to wander around Stanley Park, check out the stalls, meet and greet friends and family, and listen to the wonderful music from the many talented artists we have in our community.

There were so many stalls to look at. Did you have a chance to check out Legoland? This was the brainchild of our very own Harcourt CWA member, Diane Dooley, who took it upon herself to organise a competition for children to enter. The grown-ups had the Apple Baking Competition (although kids could enter too) but Diane wanted something just for the kids, and looking at the number of entries, it was a good decision. Well done Diane, and well done to all the creative children who entered the competition.



Legoland comes to Applefest

And well done to another of our members, Robyn McConville, who took out first prize for her Apple and Berry Jam and was highly commended for her Apple Pie.



Robyn McConville receives her First Prize certificate from Maree Edwards.

The Central Victoria Group CWA was well represented again this year as the Phoenix Chewton ladies were busy all day in the Tea Room providing tea and coffee with those beautiful scones with jam and cream, while the Apple Baking Competition judge, Ann Marston from Maryborough CWA, was busy all

morning in the Fruit Growers Tent judging the many entries with fellow judge Anne-Marie Primmer. And of course, our Harcourt CWA members did a wonderful job manning our CWA stall. Well done to all our CWA members who contributed to making Applefest 2023 the success that it was.



Phoenix Chewton members preparing afternoon teas for the crowds




Four happy Harcourt members after their stall sold out of practically everything

May is also a busy month for us as this is when we hold our Branch International Day. This year our Country of Study is Namibia, and we all look forward to learning about its history, its people, and of course its food. Throughout the year I will let you know a bit more about this country. Lesson 1: Where is Namibia? What does the Namibian Flag look like?



If you would like to be a part of the CWA family, we meet at the Leisure Centre in Bingham's Road, Harcourt on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 PM. Please come along to a meeting and get to know us.

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA



ANZAC Day in Harcourt

Tuesday 25 April

You are invited to meet at the Harcourt Heritage Centre (ANA Hall) at 2.15pm for afternoon tea.

The march to Stanley Park will commence at 2.45pm

ANZAC message and wreath laying at 3.00 pm.

Calling all tree lovers and tree-changers!

The Australian premiere of the film *The Giants* is in Castlemaine on April 20.

This is more than a film – it's a cinematic experience, featuring the ancient forests of Tasmania. These are 'the Giants'.

The Giants are vital lungs of the Earth, cathedrals of wonder, and homes for myriad rare and unique creatures. The Giants are irreplaceable: once gone, they are gone forever.

Many were standing strong long before white settlement, some have been there for more than 2000 years.

A mega-mining company is about to send bulldozers into the ancient Tarkine/Takayna – Australia's largest temperate rainforest.

MMG has plans to build a toxic tailings dam which will destroy the habitat of endangered species – the masked owl, the spotted-tail quoll and the Tasmanian devil. The Bob Brown Foundation is fighting to stop this destruction, but it needs help.

Proceeds from the premiere screening of *The Giants* will go to help protect the Tarkine.

Come along for an absorbing experience of the life of Tasmania's Giants, and help protect this treasure from the bulldozers.

Book tickets at:
theatroyalcastlemaine.oztix.com.au/outlet/event/b8020327-9d95-4d4a-98c8-d1cef8a0ab5a?Event=162470

Biodiversity Audit

Continued from page 1

Paul Foreman, whose submission to the Planning Panel was key to achieving the biodiversity audit, said, 'I believe we should try to design a future planning scheme which balances the needs of humans with the needs of the local ecology. It is vital to give due recognition to the valley's threatened species and communities. For example, the grey box, grassy woodlands and red gum swamps associated with ground water discharge. It would be to our lasting shame if we paved these over.'

Note: As a result of the Planning Panel hearing undertaken in September 2022, where Harcourt Valley Landcare was successful in presenting a strong case for the need for a biodiversity audit, the Panel ordered that such an audit must occur before any development can occur in the proposed development areas in Harcourt. (For more background on Plan Harcourt and the process, see the Mount Alexander Shire website and search for Plan Harcourt. The most recent information is found under Plan Harcourt Amendment C94.)

HERITAGE CENTRE 'TOURS AND TALKS'

Sunday 16 April at 1.30 pm

The program for 2023 commences with a visit to 'The Eccentric Bushman' in Kangaroo Flat.

Paul Boromeo is internationally recognised for his fine drawings, prints and photography.

Paul's poster-size photos recapture the Australian bush, his sense of humour and eccentric ways. Timeless images of days gone by, of swaggies, drovers, blacksmiths and rabbiters, along with Paul's quirky sense of humour, combine to make an endearing visual experience.

Meet at Harcourt Heritage Centre at 1.30pm to car pool for our visit to the studio of 'The Eccentric Bushman'.

**Please bring a plate of afternoon tea
Enquiries, phone 0400 916 527**

HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

WINTER AGM

The Winter Carpet Bowls Annual General Meeting will be held on
Wednesday 19 April at 7.30 pm

in the Meeting Room
Harcourt District Leisure Centre
Binghams Road, Harcourt

Current and new members are encouraged to attend so that we know if the numbers are there to hold the competition.

If unable to attend the meeting,
please contact

Loretta: 5474 2453 or John: 5474 2226
to show your interest.

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Community Bank Supporting Local Events

It's always a pleasure to partner with an organisation that we haven't worked with before – and we were excited to support the Harcourt Pony Club with their recent Community Open Day. This was an event that had been planned to run months previously but, after damage from local flooding, the event was postponed. At this time, the Community Bank Maldon & District was also able to help the Pony Club with some small grant funding that was made available for any local organisations impacted by flood damage. So finally, we were pleased to see the Harcourt Pony Club Community Open Day come to fruition last week with a great turnout and plenty of smiling faces.

Community Bank Maldon & District is able to partner with organisations like the Pony Club because the profits from the Community Bank's full range of banking services are returned to the community. In our 24 years of operation, we have poured over \$3.6 million into our region through:

- **Programs** like our Driver Training Program and our Scholarships Program.
- **Partnerships** like those we have with Harcourt Pony Club and Harcourt Progress Association.
- **Community grants** where not-for-profit organisations and clubs receive funds for specific projects that will benefit their communities like the Harcourt Playspace and the Barkers Creek Recreation Reserve.

The more people who bank with Community Bank Maldon & District, the more money is invested back into the community! Call in to one of our branches in Maldon, Dunolly or Newstead to chat to our staff about how your banking can help your community.

If you want to be first in the know when grant rounds or funding opportunities are offered, please join our regular monthly newsletter (we promise we won't share your details with anyone else) – maldoncb.com.au/newsletter

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03 5475 1747

MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Harcourt CFA

Change your Clock and Your Smoke Alarm Batteries.

The end of Daylight Saving time is also the time we need to change our smoke alarm batteries. This is applicable to any older type of smoke alarm. If you have the newer smoke alarms that have the lithium ion batteries, then these are good for the ten year life cycle of the smoke alarm. Also do not forget that if you have hardwired smoke alarms, these have a backup battery in case of a power failure. They will still need your attention. Regardless of which type you have, you still need to maintain them, keep them clean and test that they are still operating. Remember that only working smoke alarms save lives. Also check the expiry date as smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years.

When will fire restrictions end?

Fire restriction will end on Wednesday 12th of April for Mount Alexander Shire and the Greater City of Bendigo.. The change of weather at the end of March has brought some rain indicating the change of season from Summer to Autumn; so keep an eye on local media for any relevant announcements.

Keep in mind that once restrictions are lifted, it is still your responsibility to take all precautions and ensure any fire does not get out of control. Registering any burn will also ensure we are not called out unnecessarily, and courtesy notifications to neighbours can also assist.

Successful Applefest

The brigade had a successful day at Applefest and wish to thank you for your support on the day. The kids enjoyed the little helicopter provided by the North West Region Community Education Group, and we thank them for their attendance and support on the day.

March Activity

March resulted in two more turnouts for the brigade. The first was to a grass fire at a quarter to six in the morning in the vicinity of Lang's Hill on Harmony Way, Faraday. The Harcourt Valley was already full of smoke when the brigade was alerted and an initial assessment resulted in extra brigades being called. This was to ensure there were sufficient resources available to bring the fire under control and to also ensure a quick mop up before conditions changed, which did happen when the wind picked up shortly after the fire was brought under control.

The second incident was later in the month to support the Castlemaine Brigade responding to a smoke sighting in the area of the Moonlight Flat Pine Plantation near Colles Road. Further reports indicated that the smoke had dispersed and while the Castlemaine Brigade investigated, we were able to turn around

and return to our station.

March also saw the second Total Fire Ban day declared for our district for this fire season. Fortunately, it was a quiet day in our area and there were no major fires.

New Recruits are Completing their Training.

Three of our new recruits are completing the final stages of the General Fire Fighter Course and we look forward to having Nathaniel, John and Jess able to turn out with the brigade. Along with their training, the brigade also continues to maintain our skills.

We were fortunate to have a visit from Ambulance Victoria to our regular brigade training night. Not only were we able to practise our CPR skills, but we were also able to receive instruction on using their equipment including spine boards, neck collars and the ambulance stretcher as well as getting a full tour of an ambulance. A very valuable exercise which assists us in supporting them at incidents.

Special Presentation

April will see some of our members receive National Emergency Medals for their participation in the 2019-2020 Bushfires at a special function to be held in Bendigo on Saturday 1st April. Keep an eye out for the next edition for the full story.

Until then, remember to check your smoke alarms and start preparing for the winter fire risks.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Fire restriction will end on Wednesday 12th of April for Mount Alexander Shire and Greater City of Bendigo.



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Harcourt Uniting Church

No doubt you have eaten some hot cross buns by now as they have been in the shops since the end of December. As a child, we looked forward to eating them on Good Friday, and then we had to wait until Easter Sunday for our Easter eggs. In the Christian faith, Easter eggs are a symbol of new life and rebirth with the hollow egg reminding us of the empty tomb – from where Jesus was raised from death. Easter also reminds us that there is hope in our world, no matter how bad it may seem.

Celebrate Easter at the Harcourt Uniting Church

Good Friday Service on 7th April at 9 am.
Easter Sunday Service on 9th April at 9 am.

Both services will be in the Harcourt Church in Buckley Street, and all are welcome to join us.

Recently, we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving which (as it sounds) is a service of thanks for the abundant food we enjoy in our community. In Harcourt, our orchardists begin to harvest their apples and pears early in the year, cherries have already been enjoyed, and our vegetable gardens produce well in summer and autumn, so it's appropriate to celebrate by giving thanks to God for the harvest.

The table was laden with apples from Chaplin's orchard, fresh fruit and vegetables from our home gardens and a vast selection of foods available from our supermarkets.

As we gave thanks for this food, we remembered those who struggle to pay for the most basic food for their families. Our

gifts of food were then donated to Castlemaine St Vinnies to be shared with those families.

Harcourt Uniting Church welcomes everyone to join us any Sunday at 9 am. As it reads on the website: 'Harcourt congregation is an accepting, inclusive group offering worship, peace, growth, enrichment and a community.' Let's hope we can live up to that statement!

A tourist in a Madrid restaurant wanted to order steak and mushrooms but he spoke no Spanish, so he drew a picture of a mushroom and a cow on the back of the menu. Seeing this, the waiter nodded his head and hurried away. A short time later the waiter returned smiling and presented him with an umbrella and a ticket to the bullfight.

Jan Jenkin



Rev Sarah with some Harcourt apples.



JOIN THE FUN!

Harcourt Auskick Centre

Harcourt Recreation Reserve

Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Starts April 26, 2023

Contact: Mark

mail@capitallocksmiths.com.au

0409 011 104

Register by Scanning QR Code



Harcourt Supported Playgroup

Are you looking for a fun, FREE playgroup to join with your preschool aged (0-5years) child?

Fridays 9:30am - 11:30am

Harcourt Uniting Church Hall

28 Buckley St, Harcourt

Morning tea provided. We'll enjoy play, craft, songs and stories together.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information contact Libby on 0436 804 583





Harcourt Heritage Centre

How it all Started

In mid-May 1991, Barry Johansen, operator of the Harcourt Motel, invited local business operators to a meeting. Barry had realised that more visitors were needed to make the local economy prosper. About thirty people attended the meeting. There was strong support for the idea. The apparent obscurity of Harcourt meant there was an opportunity to promote Harcourt as the Apple Centre of Victoria. Rather than leaving it to individual businesses to bear the costs of promotion, there were opportunities to combine in future promotional efforts. It was resolved to form a tourism promotion group. The members approached Harcourt Heritage Centre Inc. to become a Tourism Committee under its umbrella to avoid administrative delays and to have the security of belonging to an incorporated group.

The committee of enterprising residents was determined to enlighten the rest of the country about the Apple Centre of Victoria. Bursting with ideas, the Tourism Committee started planning for Harcourt's own festival, aptly titled the Apple Festival. Tentative plans were made to hold the event in March 1992 with an impressive array of activities. A foot race over Mount Alexander was envisaged, the winner being crowned 'Alexander the Great'. Tourism brochures were to be prepared. Local authorities were to be asked to improve signage around the town. Barry said, 'The Harcourt valley has a lot to offer visitors. It is up to us to get out there and spread the word. We will be doing our utmost to bring people into the area. The aim is to get to the stage that when people think of apples they will think of Harcourt.'

In a February 1992 interview with the Bendigo Advertiser, Tourism Committee publicity officer Ian Braybrook said, 'The Applefest is the nine-month-old Tourism Committee's first initiative. We've been working flat strap on it. The basic purpose is to promote Harcourt as the apple centre of Victoria. Hopefully it will encourage everyone in the community to work together.'

Barry Johansen was a third generation Harcourtian. His grandfather, Sven Johansen, had an orchard in Craigie Street. Sven was musically talented and had a large role in the Harcourt Brass Band which flourished before World War One. Sven was choir master in the Harcourt Methodist and Presbyterian

Churches. During World War Two, Sven was secretary of the Harcourt Patriotic Committee while his wife Jean coordinated the Volunteer Air Observer Corps. Barry's father, Douglas Johansen, was also a well-known orchardist.

When he was in his late 30s, Barry Johansen left a banking career to take over the licence of Castlemaine's Northern Hotel. From 1983 Barry was President of the Harcourt Football Club. Later in the decade, Barry and wife Irene acquired the Harcourt Motel. In July 1991 the couple applied to the Metcalfe Shire for approval to build a public bar, toilet and storeroom at the northern end of the existing motel residence. Approval was granted in April 1992. Barry worked unstintingly and continually as Chairman of Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre and its Tourism Committee until the mid-1990s.

The Tourism Committee recruited Lorraine Wiggins to draw up the first Tourist Map of Harcourt. This was a single sheet map showing the local attractions with the Doctor Apple logo. The more recent, more colourful tourist map was published in co-operation with Harcourt Progress Association with the aid of David Jefferies of Pommegraphics. An updated tourism map is now (2023) being prepared for printing.

But it was the inaugural Applefest of 1992 that put Harcourt 'on the map'. The weekend programme included the first-ever Victorian Town Crier Championship, hosted by Castlemaine's Neville Stonehouse and Barkers Creek's Don Latimer. A royal couple were chosen from the district's bright young successful people, with the title of King Jonathon awarded to TV reporter Gavin McDougall while Nikki Bright was crowned as Lady William. Also making his debut was Doctor Apple. The royal duo presided over a varied program of festivities, including an historical display, a procession and a street market with a vast array of stalls along High Street.

The Tourism Committee was not the first to conduct markets in Harcourt. The pioneers in this initiative had been the fundraising committee for the Harcourt District Leisure Centre. From 1984 to 1990 there were regular Leisure Centre markets in Walters' paddock (now James Park) next to the ANA Hall. By 1991, when the Leisure Centre had been built, its committee no longer conducted street



markets in the centre of Harcourt, so the Applefest took up the baton.

Under Barry Johansen's leadership, the Applefest had an ambitious multi-day program in its early years. The Applefest program for 1993 included an old-time dance in the Leisure Centre. Then, on the Sunday, an estimated 300 people spread themselves out in the Oak Forest to listen to the Strathfieldsaye Brass Band and the Highland Pipers. But the Emergency Services pointed out that there was only one road in and out of the Oak Forest. The following year, Barry arranged for a semi-trailer to be positioned in the hitherto neglected area of Stanley Park North to be used as a concert platform for the Applefest's Sunday afternoon musical program. Lack of electricity was not an issue, local electrical contractor, Steve De Araugo installed a powerboard under the pine tree in Stanley Park North – problem solved! (Steve also installed a public events powerboard on the fence of a private home in High Street, opposite the post office.)

There have been many changes of personnel in the Applefest organising committee, but the vision of its founder, the late Barry Johansen, remains up-front and central. The committee is re-formed each year, enthusiastically (and successfully) taking up the challenge. Every Applefest is different from the previous year's event, but the drive and energy exemplified by its founder has been sustained year after year. Applefest 2023 was the thirty-second annual Harcourt festival. The Harcourt valley as a tourist destination is well established. The title of 'Apple Centre of Victoria' firmly belongs to Harcourt.

This is another in a series of Thumbnail sketches compiled for The CORE by Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Term 1 at HVPS is almost finished. Mr Blake informed me that all students have settled well into the school year applying themselves well to their learning and

school life.

Students in grades 3 and 5 have completed all of their NAPLAN assessments a term earlier than usual. It is always a relief when this is accomplished and it's great to get it over and done with early in the year.

Students and staff worked hard to produce the school's art display at the ANA Hall and the school choir's Applefest performance.

No COVID restrictions this year has seen strong community engagement with all school activities. Mr Blake was particularly delighted with the sterling effort volunteers put in to make apple pies and other goodies for the school's Applefest stall. Parents, students and community volunteers also helped with the organisation and running of the stall – raising \$4,370 for the school. Well done to all of you helpers!

If you missed out on purchasing a pie on the day, don't fret – the plan is to make more sometime during the year. Once again, the school was appreciative of the fact that all of the ingredients for the apple pies were donated by parents and local businesses: apples from Harcourt Coolstore and flour, sugar and butter from the IGA stores in Castlemaine.

The cool weather on 10 March was disappointing, as it was deemed not suitable to hold the school's Swimming Sports Day. Consequently, it was decided to hold a Tabloid Sports Day at the Harcourt Oval instead.

The grade sixes did a great job organising the day. Hopefully, the weather will be good enough to allow grades 3 to 6 to participate in the Local Schools AFL9s and netball competition at Wesley Hill on 31 March.

Student Leaders

All student leadership positions have now been filled. Congratulations to Isabelle and Reagan, the school captains, and Astin and Zharal, the vice captains. Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) leader is Tammy and our house captains for the 2023 school year are: Jorja and Evie (Barker House), Sheleah and Ben (Mitchell House), Ryah and Kirsten (Lang House).

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as Student Council representatives for this year: Maria, Hector, Suzie, Arlo, Bonnie, Chevelle, Henley, Charlie K, Mack and Jose.

Students in the school's student leadership team are currently canvassing for ideas on changes students would like to see to enhance their educational experience at HVPS.

Recently, the school was notified by the department that it has been granted \$365,000 for maintenance works to cover the costs of work to ensure that the school building will, in the event of a bushfire, adequately provide a 'shelter in place' for students and staff. Further details about this project have yet to be provided.

Further to my article in last month's *Core*, the following is an updated post in a March HVPS newsletters on the school's implementation of the School Wide Positive Behaviour System:



Across the year levels during Respectful Relationships this term we have been exploring emotional literacy, including; what emotions we feel and where we feel it in our bodies. Students have been learning about our Zones of Regulation that represent what zone we are based on how we are feeling. This supports students to be able to identify how they feel and strategies they can use to support themselves and others.

Students have recently completed ECG's of their days to identify which zones they are in at different parts of the day. This helps us identify patterns of emotions and to further support us to come back to the green zone so that we are Ready to Learn. Over the next three weeks of Term 1, students will be creating Ready to Learn Plans specific to their own needs and strategies that support them to be happy and settled learners at Harcourt Valley Primary School.

(Ms Rowlands (class teacher 5/6))

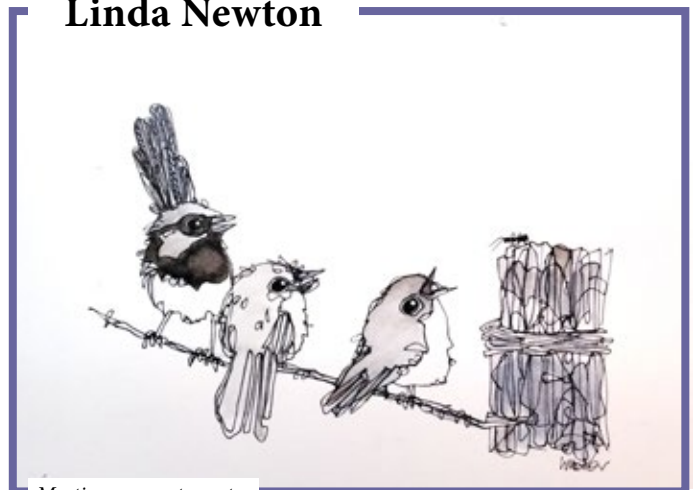
Core readers who would like to keep up-to-date with activities at HVPS, log into the HVPS Facebook Page.

Term 1 finishes at 2.30 pm Thursday 6 April. Staff and students will celebrate with a casual clothes day and a hotdog lunch. Term 2 commences on Monday 24 April.

We wish all staff and students at HVPS a happy, safe and relaxing Easter holidays.

Lois Denham

Linda Newton



Meeting on a gate post

Thirty-two Years of Applefest

Wow! Applefest is certainly growing. There was a real buzz during the whole day, and the crowds seemed to be enjoying themselves. Ticket sales, both online and at the gates, were 60% higher than the previous Applefest, with an estimated 4,000 people passing through the gates.

The number of stallholders who applied for a site was huge. It was good that we were able to occupy the whole of James Park, including the grassed slope north of the Hall. Having a second stage, the Lego display and some food outlets in this area made for a good 'feel' for what, in other years, has been a 'dead space'.

The organisers were impressed with the entries in our first ever Lego model competition. The storyteller and the dinosaurs (and dinosaur talk) enthralled the children.

Boundary fencing, brought in for the day, made the Applefest a really family-friendly occasion, while the shade umbrellas, also hired for the day, made for comfortable listening to what proved to be two nationally renowned on-stage performances.

To have an artiste of the calibre of Eliza Hull appear on the Applefest stage was something of a coup, but the icing on the cake was the spirited performance by the Australian Women's Choir under the leadership of Wendy Stapleton!

There was so much to see and do: the judging of the Apple Cookery competitions inside the fruitgrowers tent, the apple pie eating competition in front of centre stage or, into the museum to see the children's artwork or, to see and sample the 58 different apple and pear varieties on display, apple pies and toffee apples and, not forgetting, apple cider.

The Applefest met its brief of creating a strong visual apple focus for the event. Harcourt Applefest is a major fundraiser for Harcourt Heritage Centre, Harcourt Lions Club, Harcourt CWA, Harcourt Valley Primary School and Harcourt CFA.

For the set-up on the day, and in the clean-up and take down, we had the help of 47 men and women. The Applefest is a cross-community, community-building event. The very enthusiastic organising committee met frequently in the lead-up, bringing together representatives of various groups including Harcourt Progress Association. Phil and Di, the Applefest 2023 Royalty, gave great leadership.

Thank you all – royalty, committee, volunteers, heavers and movers – for your part in such a successful 32nd festival! It really was a wonderful day and a lovely example of Harcourt's community spirit.

*George Milford
Chairman*



Photo: Mike Rule



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Suzanne Dwyer



Photo: Robyn Miller

APPLEFEST Cooking Results

Apple Pie
Jane O'Donohue.
Apple Cake
Ruth Hay.
Apple Muffins – Open Section
Jane O'Donohue.
Apple Muffin – Junior Section
Sophie Carmichael.
Apple Muffin – Secondary Section
Gemma Hartnett.
Apple Chutney
Aaron Johnstone.
Apple & Berry Jam
Robyn McConville.
Total Entries 35 (same as last year).



Photo: Richard Menegatti



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Richard Menegatti

Applefest Art Show 2023

Once again the Art Show was a highlight of Applefest with some very fine entries. The judge for this year's art show was Paul Northam. In his remarks on the opening night, Paul congratulated every artist who had submitted a work.

He said 'It takes a good deal of courage to put yourself forward for public scrutiny, whether you are a hobbyist, a professional or anywhere in between.'

Below is a list of the awards for the Applefest Art Show.

Many visitors to the show took the opportunity to purchase an original, authentic piece of art, once again making for a successful Art Show fundraiser for the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

George Milford

AWARDS

Best in Show (Chairman's Award)

Artist: Carolyn Marrone

Title: Togetherness.

Highly Commended Oil/Acrylic

Artist: Allison Howarth

Title: La petite Nectarine

Best Oil/Acrylic (Cameron Lang Memorial Award)

Artist: Serge Daeffler

Title: Into the Sunshine

Highly commended Watercolour

Artist: Brian Harding

Title: Gum Tree

Best Watercolour (Shirley Stewart Memorial Award)

Artist: Anna Ressia McGrath

Title: My Lemon Roses

Highly Commended Other Medium

Artist: Suzanne Dwyer

Title: Dog

Best Other Medium

Artist: Reno Capanna

Title: Venezia 1

Highly Commended Local Subject

Artist: Stephen Phillis

Title: Harcourt Area Scene 2

Best Local Subject

Artist: Winsome Moffatt

Title: Back Road, Campbells Creek

STUDENT AWARDS

Highly Commended Junior 12 years & under

Artist: Spencer Rowell

Title: The Red Barn

Best Junior 12 years & under

Artist: Olive Andrews

Title: Portrait 1

Highly Commended Senior 13 to 18 years

Artist: Elsa Carlton

Title: Sunset Cottage

Best Senior 13 to 18 years

Artist: Tahlia Giffard

Title: Sweet Dreams



Photo: Suzanne Dwyer



Photos: Robyn Miller



Harcourt Bowling Club

There has been a lot of activity at the Harcourt Bowling Club during March, and more to come in April and May. We provide our readers with a snapshot of all that has been and all that is planned.

Harcourt Bowling Club Men's and Ladies' Champion Pairs and 100-Up competitions are all still in play, with the final outcomes to be completed early in April.

Jackpot Bowls social games, which were played on Mondays, have been moved to Wednesday afternoons commencing at 1.00 pm. All bowlers are welcome, and we ask that you have your names in at the club before 12.30 pm to allow time for the draw and commencement at 1.00 pm.

Sponsors' Challenge Round 2, to be held on Tuesday 21 March, was postponed due to forecasted inclement weather. The new date is to be announced.

Weekend Pennant Grand Final

It was a disappointing result for Harcourt Weekend Pennant Division 6 side on Saturday 11 March in the Grand Final against Bendigo at Eaglehawk. The team has played well all season and represented the club proudly. The sizeable crowd of Harcourt supporters was treated to some great bowling throughout the finals' series. At the 12-end break of the Grand Final, the scores were level although the second half saw Bendigo gradually take the lead and eventually win the game. Harcourt displayed some great bowling but were out-bowled by the Bendigo side. Harcourt, 72 lost to Bendigo, 104.

The **Division 6 side was:** Darren Cunningham (s), Ron Douglas, Damian Bird, Diane Marsh, Russell Maltby (s), Wayne Walsh, Rick Williams, Alf Manallack,

Ken Tribe (s), Chris McAuliffe, Tim Carr, Wendy Chaplin, Terry Robinson(s), John Grant, Les Harding, John Starbuck.

Barefoot Bowls

It was another successful barefoot bowls night on Friday 10 March with the Applefest royalty, King Phil and Queen Di joining in the fun and Granny Smith (aka Kay) made an appearance as well.



Kidman Invitation Mixed Fours Tournament

It was perfect bowling weather for the very popular Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament on Sunday 5 March. Wilma Kidman travelled from Kaniva to present the prizes generously sponsored by the Kidman family since she and husband Ben left the district some 12 years ago. Twelve teams competed in three games of ten ends, breaking for a delicious lunch after the second game. Wilma was on hand to present the prizes.

Winners of the day – the only 3-game winners – were the Bendigo VRI team of John Hawkins, Deb Williams, Peter Williams and Brenda Hawkins. The runners-up (last year's winners) were



Kidman 4s Winners.

Harcourt team with Darrell Normington, Fran Corstorphan, Mary-Anne Doyle and Leo Moloney.

Veterans Day 2 March

Six Harcourt bowlers were among the 60 who attended the Annual Veterans' Day hosted this year by Marong Bowling Club.

Russell Timmins and Meg Tucker from Harcourt were presented with their Super Vet badges.

Overall winners of the games on the day were Kay Francis and Meg Tucker, also from Harcourt.



Veterans Russell, Kay, Meg, Fran and Sheila.

Ladies' Drawn Pairs

It was a perfect bowling evening for the Ladies' Drawn Pairs on Thursday 9 March. Ten teams were drawn to play three games of eight ends. As has become a tradition, the evening ends with a meal prepared and served by the bowling men – and they didn't disappoint! The overall winners were the only 3-game winners, Wendy Chaplin and Mary-Anne Doyle. Runners-up were Heather Braid and Kay Francis.



Ladies drawn pairs winners Mary-Anne and Wendy.

Men's (Gough) Drawn Pairs

Another perfect evening for bowling, this time for the Men's (Gough) Drawn Pairs on Wednesday 15 March. Teams were drawn to play three games of eight ends with the



Division 6 Grand Finalists vs Bendigo.

evening finishing with a meal prepared and served by the women. The overall winners on the night were John Grant and Barry Marsh.



John Grant and Barry Marsh – Gough Drawn Pairs Winners.

Grant Mixed 3 Bowl Pairs

A full field of eighteen teams competed in the Annual Grant Mixed Pairs on Saturday 18 March. The gusty wind and the heat provided a challenge for the bowlers who all competed in great spirit playing three games of eight ends with three bowls, amid

much laughter and keen competition. This day is supported by the Grant family in memory of Charlie and Freda Grant, founding members and long-time bowlers of Harcourt Bowling Club. John Grant was on hand to present the perpetual trophy. The winning team was Phil Clarke and Judy Ewing, with Diane Marsh and Barry Marsh finishing second.



Judy Ewing and Phil Clarke – Grant Pairs winner with John Grant.

Australian Women's Choir visit

After performing at the Harcourt Applefest, the Australian Women's Choir relaxed at the Harcourt Bowling Club before returning home. They are pictured here enjoying our sunny deck.



Coming up in April/May

Wednesdays: Jackpot Bowls

Saturday 22 April: Rice Memorial Mixed Triples Tournament

Saturday 22 April: Season Breakup and Presentation Night

Sunday 21 May: Annual General Meeting

Harcourt Lions Cricket Club breaks the Finals Drought

Congratulations to the Harcourt Lions Cricket Club on winning not one, but two Grand Finals in the 2022 – 23 season. A reserve and B grade fought their way to the top. The under 16 juniors also made it to the semi-final. The club had not won a senior premiership since 2001.

Tammy Simmins, staunch supporter and hard-working volunteer at the club said, 'Thank you so much to the locals that got around the club for the finals, both at home, and at Wesley Hill. Local support, believe it or not, gets us across the line every week.'



A reserve premiers.



B grade premiers.



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Local Maternity Service Applauded in Milestone Review

Dhelkaya Health's Maternity Service has received a glowing review from women who gave birth at the service in its first year of operation. The feedback from the women was gathered as part of a formal evaluation review undertaken by La Trobe University.

Publication of the evaluation report was celebrated at an event held at Buda Historic Home & Garden in early March. The event was attended by local GP obstetricians, Bendigo Health, La Trobe University researchers, Dhelkaya Health staff, and representatives from Dhelkaya Health's Board of Directors and committees.

Dhelkaya Health CEO, Sue Race said: "This report gives us confidence that the model is working. It equips us to be both responsible and responsive and to offer the care pathways which meet individual needs and preferences. It also maps the priority issues we need to navigate for sustainable growth."

The service which reopened in March 2021 offers a model of care that sees Midwifery Group Practice midwives working collaboratively with GP Obstetricians for women with low risk pregnancies. The relationship with Bendigo Health enables collaborative shared care, and complex maternity care when needed.

Dr Méabh Cullinane and Dr Laura Whitburn, two of the La Trobe University researchers who also spoke at the launch event about the project, explained how the evaluation process involved speaking with clinical and non-clinical staff including GP obstetricians, midwives, governance officers, safety and quality staff, board directors and executive staff at Dhelkaya Health and Bendigo Health.

The research team's work also included in-depth consultation with women to explore their satisfaction with the service, their clinical outcomes and the workings of the collaborative relationship between Dhelkaya Health and Bendigo Health. The voices of local women birthing in Castlemaine played a critical role in this evaluation.

The report concluded that the maternity care model is highly valued by staff, women and the community. Midwifery

Group Practice midwives were found to be working within their full scope of practice and were fully supported by committed GP Obstetricians working within the model, and by Bendigo Health.

Elloise Richards, who recently gave birth to her first child, spoke glowingly about her own experience of Dhelkaya Health's Maternity Service: "We walked away looking forward to our next visit. I was seen for who I am and my needs were supported. Our midwife even helped to connect us to our community."

April Jardine, Dhelkaya Health's Maternity Clinical Coordinator and Educator, talked about the importance of supporting midwives to use the full range of their skills and providing space for them to build supportive relationships with mothers and partners along the continuum of pregnancy, birth and parenthood. She also highlighted the consultative process for forming the model and praised the work of the evaluation team.

In her concluding remarks, CEO Sue Race said: "Our service has a great future, and it is wonderful to have our dedicated midwives who have a pivotal role in its future development. Their care is rightly valued by the women who choose to birth with us, and all staff involved deserve the praise that is evident in the feedback. It has been a great outcome for the Mount Alexander community."



(L to R): Service user and new mum Elloise Richards with La Trobe researchers Dr Méabh Cullinane and Dr Laura Whitburn, Midwifery Coordinator and Educator April Jardine and Dhelkaya Health CEO Sue Race.

Dhelkaya Health acknowledges the support of Safer Care Victoria and the strong partnership with Bendigo Health that have enabled the service's success. The evaluation report is available in full to read at www.castlemainehealth.org.au
Media release Sue Race, Chief Executive Officer, Dhelkaya Health



Photo: Suzanne Dwyer

The next Repair Café is on **April 30** at the Castlemaine Community House, 30 Templeton Street (the old Continuing Education building) from 10 am to 1 pm. Enter from the carpark and garden at the rear of the building.

Learn basic bike maintenance, sewing repairs, machining & hand sewing. It's one item at a time. If the Café is busy, the last item is at 12.30 pm.

A gold coin donation is appreciated. For further information call Chris: 5470 5508.

The Repair Cafe is held on the last Sunday of each month February to November.



Council news

How to get in touch with us

Do you need to pay a bill, report a road issue, or talk to us about something?

There are lots of ways to get in touch with us:

- Lodge a request via mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Contact_us
- Email us at info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
- Call us on 5471 1700

Please note: we do not use third party apps like Snap Send Solve for customer service requests.

Pet registration due soon

Pet registration renewal forms have been mailed out, with registration due on Monday 10 April.

Please refer to your renewal notice for payment details, or call customer service on 5471 1700.

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

Council services over Easter

The Castlemaine Civic Centre will be closed over the Easter long weekend (Friday 7 April to Monday 10 April).

There will be no kerbside waste or recycling collection on Good Friday (Friday 7 April). Bins will be collected the following day (Saturday 8 April) and as usual on Easter Monday (Monday 10 April).

Keep up to date on local news

Sign up to Shire News, our monthly e-newsletter, for the latest on local news, events, community consultations and more.

Sign up at mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



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Barkers Creek Cricket Club



Barkers Creek Women's cricket team at the grand final of the 2022 -23 season.

That's an awesome bunch of women right there! This season I played in my third women's cricket grand final over the last four years with Barkers Creek Cricket Club (barkerscreek.vic.cricket.com.au). Sadly, we didn't come away with the win, but we put up a reasonable fight and I am proud of this group for giving something new a go, learning and putting new skills into action to get us to the Grand Final!

Congratulations to Newstead Cricket Club (www.facebook.com/NewsteadCricket) for being great hosts and taking out the win; your team and the club are a force to be reckoned with.

Nicki Renfrey

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Preaching Good News to the Poor

Jesus went to Nazareth and on the Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and said, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’ Jesus’ words resonate down through the corridors of time and are as apt today as when first uttered.

He does preach good news to the poor – both those who are poor spiritually and those who are poor materially. He preaches to any who have the particular misfortune of being in both of those categories.

In both cases, he offers the means by which to escape poverty. He does so by providing salvation, freedom from sin and its penalty, death and life forevermore, through faith in His name. Those who are oppressed by sin find freedom in Jesus.

Those who are materially poor can find prosperity in Jesus. The definition of prosperity, in this respect, is always having enough to be able to be a blessing to someone else. One may be released from the oppression of poverty in Jesus’ name.

Blind eyes are still being opened, and disabled frames straightened in His name. The healing ministry is alive and well. Alas, it goes underreported in the secular media.

All of these aspects of the ministry of Jesus Christ find expression in the teaching that is on offer at Grace Church, which meets in the former pre-school building in Buckley Street, Harcourt. See you there! You would be most welcome!

Ps Roger Thurecht

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897
gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

Harcourt’s Little Library

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

Leave, Borrow
or Take a Book



Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Hi everyone,

Welcome to autumn. It's been another mild, late season and autumn is no different, with fruit ripening slowly and the trees only just starting to change colour now. It looks like we'll be in for a stunning display this year.

We have a big announcement. It was almost exactly two years ago that the Orchard Keepers took over running the orchard at our place. They've done an amazing job but, for a whole variety of reasons, they've decided it's time they move on. So, we're excited to announce the 'instant orchard business' opportunity is available again. Yes, it's time for us to find the next farmer who wants to learn how to become a commercial organic orchardist! You'll find all the details (including how to apply) on this page: growgreatfruit.com/expression-of-interest. Expressions of Interest close on April 30, so please spread the word to anyone you think might like to settle in beautiful Harcourt and become a fruit grower.

Harcourt has escaped fruit fly relatively lightly again this year. It arrived to the farm quite late in the season so hasn't done too much damage. This is similar to what happened last year, so maybe the wet conditions we've been having don't suit fruit fly very well. We need to be on alert if we have a drier season next year. Please stay diligent, because do you

want to know what the biggest risk is? It's unmanaged and feral fruit trees. If fruit flies are allowed to get established in fruit trees in backyards, on roadsides and in the bush (or the mountain bike park, in Harcourt's case), that's when the pressure can really start to build up.

We can all learn how to manage our own orchards and fruit trees, but we can't manage the ones that are not in our gardens. So, if you've got a fruit tree, please keep monitoring your traps right until the end of the season. Follow all the hygiene recommendations, which are mainly about cleaning up ALL your fallen fruit at the end of the season. This can make a big difference to how hard we'll be hit next season, so you can definitely still help to make a big difference to how easy it is for all of us – orchardists and backyard growers both – to keep being able to grow our own fruit into the future. And if you have a fruit tree you can't look after, please have a think about getting rid of it this winter and replacing it with a beautiful ornamental.

So, to this month's tips: Now is the time to put away your nets if you used them on your fruit trees over summer. Nets get damaged and wear out much faster if they're left out in the weather all year. Early autumn is the perfect time for this job because they slip off more easily while the tree still has leaves, so don't wait too long to get the job done. Of course, if your apple or pear tree still has fruit, then leave the nets in place for now because the birds will take advantage of the free feed if you take them off early.

If you've used drape netting (as opposed to having put up some sort of frame to hold the net off the tree) a handy tip is to use a long stick to push the nets off the tree, being careful not to damage the ends of the limbs if possible. Disentangle any twigs, branches, leaves, or rotten fruit before you pack them away. If you can pack and store them so they're rat-proof, you'll thank yourself next summer when you go to put them out again. If the net has any holes (from persistent kangaroos, for example), your future self will thank you very much if you repair the nets now before you put them away. This is usually a simple matter of sewing the holes

up with UV-stable nylon thread, or tying the edges together with cable ties or even hay band (baling twine).

On another note, if you're noticing some of your fruit trees flowering (despite the fact that it's not spring, and we'll soon be descending into winter) don't panic. It's not uncommon for fruit trees to have a last ditch attempt to produce some fruit. It might be an indication of a sick or stressed tree, but it is also common in perfectly healthy trees – it's just the genetic drive to reproduce. The flowers or tiny fruit that form will most likely just drop off as the weather cools down.

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.



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City Rangers

by Jack Dorian, winner of the 2022 Core Writing Award

'Hey, get back here!' yells the animal catcher.

RG keeps running down the street. Hoping to find his house in the sewers, yes you heard me right, he has a house in the sewers. He survives on washed up rats, and once a month there is an amazing market that sells juicy fruits, great for RG to steal. But it's risky...

Okay, let's talk about how RG got to this big city. In RG's younger days he got shipped over from an island by the dreaded city zoo. But RG made an escape by going on a journey through the city pipes, and that's how he lives on the run from the animal catchers, in the sewers, eating dead rats. RG got tragically taken away from his family, and RG has the smallest bit of hope that someone else got shipped here as well.

The market is on today and RG can't wait to get his delicious fruits. **SUDDENLY!** He hears a bang on the hatch. 'OPEN UP!' screams the animal catcher. RG rushes to get ready, he runs to the market exit and climbs up the ladder. RG sees the zoo is closing in 5 minutes and gets an idea. RG thought if he got there quick enough and not get caught he could look for one of his family members.

RG jumps the fence and sees the



guards shutting the metal gates. He sneaks around the zoo trying to find the orangutan enclosure. 'Hey!' an orangutan escaped. The guards chase after RG as he dodges lightposts and trees. He sees the orangutan cage with the guards still on his back. He jumps on top of the cage, he hides in a dark shadow and leaves the guards puzzled. 'RG!' yells Jerry. Jerry is RG's long-lost brother.

'Jerry, how'd you get here?'

'I got shipped here the day after you left,' said Jerry.

'Come on, I'll break you out, Jerry.'

RG slides through the open window of the guard's office and looks for the keys. He spots a guard locking up the gates and sees something shining in his back pocket, it was the keys. If RG gets on the wall and jumps off stealthily, he can retrieve the

keys and break Jerry out.

Its time. RG jumps off the wall, spins around mid-air and yunks the keys out of the guard's pocket. The guard doesn't realise and RG unlocks Jerry's cage and takes him to his house in the sewers.

'I never would have thought of this,' said Jerry.

RG and Jerry go to sleep and hope to get some rats in the trap.

'AAAAAAAAAAAH. RANGA. HELP,' yelled Jerry 'THERE'S A CROC ON MY LEG' ...

Jack completed grade 6 in 2022 at Harcourt Valley Primary School and was the winner of the newly established Core writing award.

The award was judged by well-known author of children's and adult's books, Susan Green who lives in Castlemaine. The award was established to encourage students in creative writing.



Weather & Water

The autumn crocus, which appeared in the garden in the last weeks of February, endured throughout March and are now beginning to fade. The temperatures in the first part of March continued the cooler trend evident at the end of February; however, those who attended the Harcourt Applefest on the March long weekend enjoyed a sunny – if not hot – day. After the autumn equinox, temperatures began generally to cool further with dewy and misty mornings. The photo to the right was taken on 22 March.

Rainfall for the month was 60.5 mm over seven days, which was encouraging after the light falls in January and February. In the first week of the month 24 mm was received. A gap of 13 days saw a return to dry conditions. Over the last 11 days of the month, the balance, 36.5 mm was



received. The cumulative total rainfall for the year so far is 83.5 mm.

Cumulative totals for the same months in the La Niña years of 2020, 2021 and 2022 were: 111.5 mm, 184 mm and 149 mm, respectively. The total for the same period in 2019 was 46.5 mm, so it seems we are not in an extra dry year as yet, although the Bureau of Meteorology declared an El Niño watch on 13 March,

with a 50% chance of El Niño developing in winter or spring.

Reservoir Levels

Reservoir levels are still good due to the accumulation of water in 2022 and the lower than average irrigation needs due to the wet year just gone. The first three reservoirs below are linked. Malmsbury often has the least storage as it feeds the Coliban system which provides town water to Castlemaine and

surrounding towns, and irrigation water to Harcourt.

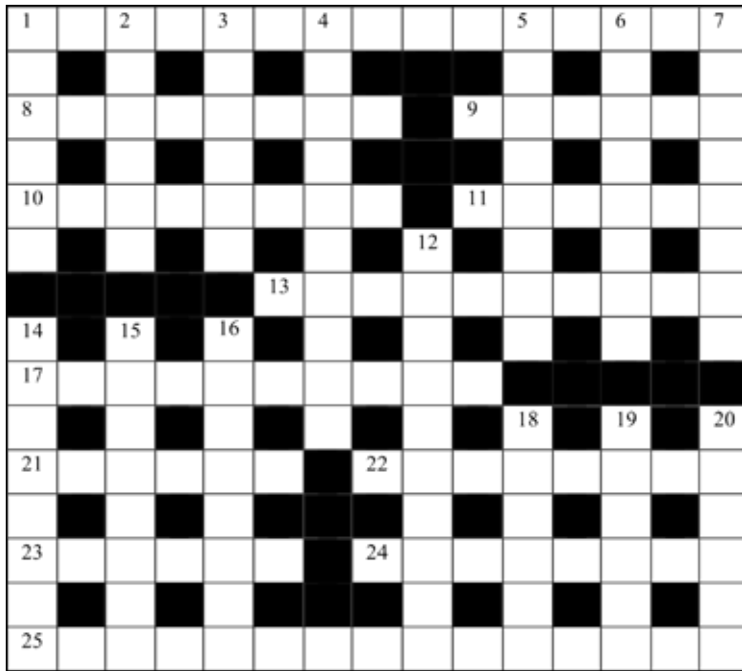
As at 31 March:

Upper Coliban Reservoir: 97.8%

Lauriston Reservoir: 91%

Malmsbury 37%

Barkers Creek Reservoir: 53.7% (as at 9 March)



Down:

1. Les, her old man, puts her seat on pony in topsy-turvy fashion. (6)
2. Extra strong vine weakens over the narrow gorge. (6)
3. Le Sten gun disassembled for old chocolatier? (6)
4. Flooding can be daunting in different circumstances. (10)
5. They have hidden depths of frozen assets. (8)
6. Fleas nip for the duration of their being. (8)
7. Some use the term "snot"; others call her a "rotten Ms". There was a proper net storm over what a hopeless thing she was—such are her trials and tribulations... (8)
12. Heads off the front seats? (10)
14. Getting a lot of work in popular no-nonsense request? (2,6)
15. Sank deep around these to protect joints. (4-4)
16. Snare entry to gain entry via this to next level. (8)
18. Why text in fling on the wing? (6)
19. Datsun verse? (6)
20. The French might rush to stay in them just like le shot; the Spanish might ring El Host to book first, and so on... (6)

Across:

1. I'm thriving, so liken me not to a dwindling flower! (9,6)
8. Short Black with strings? (5,3)
9. You can find a young animal here if you look a certain way... (6)
10. She collects from 11. (8)
11. Pays regularly to 10. (6)
13. Belated thankfulness delivered in total slang... (2,4,4)
17. Clean liver is kinder on RN. (3-7)
21. Trump's pet Mex obligation-free. (6)
22. Beatified dunny makes for a long thin cutter. (8)

23. Tome River? (6)
24. Those in the French group might regard outsiders as canaille! (8)
25. Disaster's slings and arrows assist girls send them. (8,7)



March 2023 Xwd Solution



Down:

2. Incognito hawk in a Dane [Hamlet]'s toolbox?
3. Retains what is wired-in after losing head and foot in the scramble. [Sorry: misspelling]
4. Ursula [Le Guin] mixes 500 [D] to gratify their wishes.
5. No handicap on the Isle of Man? [Well?]
6. Under direction of sunrise [East...], Henry's number is up after contorting his thigh. (6)
7. Maybe get the [real tally] sideways? (9)
8. It is said that we hear this way. [Well?]
14. Overworked and pedestrian ALP promissory notes? [Well? IOUs...]
17. Stuck on [Monopoly] board at the start, but constantly moving... [Well?]
19. Fashionable [in...] left dictator won't get the 72 virgins? (7)
20. [Ran] up over speed [rate] to tell it how it is. (7)
21. Bipedal Vauxhall dragon? [Well? Welsh...]
24. The moving finger that points at modern technology? [Well?]

Across:

1. [Since this healer] has been operating, she has been mired in a morass of legal threats and innuendo. Maybe she needs to [hire steel chains] to extract herself from the mire, and to prove that she is above this murkiness. (3,2,2,3,5)
9. Just [in case] you thought the Spanish were cruel, this inner mob had its work cut out to resist them... (4)
10. This sort of negative review is coming out—ready or got! (10)
11. A toff, also? (2,4 or 1,5?)
12. Pole [N]-slather hypnotises... (8)
13. How one's [rel. stewed] in the sauna. (9)
15. [Sloppy] deployment—cunning manoeuvres after losing one of the solution's starters. (5)
16. [Bud to] take root in paranoia? [Well?]
18. That [guy filing] just decomposes, making modern life unsightly. (9)
22. Architectural levels repeated in oral narratives? (8)
23. Something to make a milliner chuffed, or ahead-covering better than a hankie. (6)
25. Prior to workman? [Well?]
26. Last note [ting tong TANG! of the guitar] under the vine on the dark veranda, [Miranda...] might come back to bite you...
27. Beware! [Open not! Reptiles] have written it!

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**Castlemaine Bus Lines
Harcourt Services Monday to Friday**

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

Community Diary Dates

Friday April 7: 9 am Good Friday service at Harcourt Uniting Church, Buckley Street, Harcourt.

Sunday April 9: 9 am Easter Sunday service at Harcourt Uniting Church.

Friday April 7 to Sunday April 23: School holidays in Victoria. Public holidays: Friday 7 and Monday 10.

Sunday April 16: 1.30 pm, Visit to the Eccentric Bushman in Kangaroo Flat. Meet to carpool at the Heritage Centre/ANA hall opposite the Post Office in High Street.

Wednesday April 19: 7.30 pm AGM Winter Carpet Bowls, Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Tuesday April 25: 2.15 pm ANZAC Day commemoration. Meet at Heritage Centre for afternoon tea, followed by the march to the memorial and service.

Friday May 12: 7 pm AGM Harcourt Progress Association, Railway Station Building, Station Street, Harcourt.

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

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

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

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

Harcourt Bowls Club: See page 14.

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

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

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

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

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

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Survey - Harcourt's Neighbourhood House

The Harcourt Progress Association has worked with VicTrack (who manage state government rail properties) and the Mount Alexander Shire Council to restore the Harcourt Railway Station and it is now ready to be used as a Neighbourhood House. We are keen to know what sorts of activities Harcourt residents and visitors would like to see occur in this community space. We would love your ideas, and – if you are able – your time and assistance in making this operational and a vital asset for our community.

1. What sorts of activities would you like to see conducted at Harcourt Neighbourhood House?

.....
.....

2. Which of the following activities would you be interested in?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Shed and Repair Shed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training and workshops including skills development, hobbies, languages, qualification, information sessions etc | <input type="checkbox"/> Art classes and exhibitions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting rooms for visiting allied health practitioners such as natural health, counselling physiotherapists, etc | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing groups and choirs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga/Pilates/exercise groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike repairs, bike hire and bike service centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community library service/toy library | <input type="checkbox"/> Public computers, Wi-Fi, printing and copying services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Op Shop/trading groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Homework club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting rooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's and families services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Club activities |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Toastmasters |

3. Do you have any skills you could contribute to assist the Harcourt Neighbourhood House?

.....

4. Would you consider volunteering at the Harcourt Neighbourhood House?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes occasionally at working bees | <input type="checkbox"/> no cost to help behind the scenes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can assist once a month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for specific one off projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can assist on a weekly basis for a few hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at this time, but please keep me informed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can share my professional skills at | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can assist every couple of weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to help |

5. Do you have any other suggestions comments or feedback that you can share with us about the Harcourt Neighbourhood House?

.....

6. Your contact information: Name:.....

Address (including Post Code).....

Email address:.....

Phone number:.....

Please hand in your survey at the Post Office, hand it to an HPA committee member, or mail it to HPA at PO Box 135, Harcourt 3453. Your response and any questions can also be emailed to: railway.sc@harcourtprogress.org.au