

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 104 – May 2023

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harcourt.vic.au/news



Anzac Day 2023



Harcourt residents, retired Major Nathan Clarke-Hong and Major Jessica Clark-Hong, served in the Australian defence force. They now live in Harcourt with their three daughters. (Photos by Mike Rule)



Harcourt's cenotaph was originally erected to honour those who fell in the Great War, however, it also shows the names of those who served in WWII. The cenotaph is surrounded by memorials to those from Harcourt who died in war, including the Vietnam War.



George Milford and Diane Dooley present wreaths

Colonel Robert Gartside and two members of the Facey family (Roy and Joseph) were killed in action at Gallipoli.

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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.**

The 25th of April is observed nationally as the anniversary of the 1915 landing by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on the Gallipoli peninsula in the Dardanelles.

At Harcourt, the 2023 commemoration had a distinctly local emphasis.

Following afternoon tea at Harcourt Heritage Centre a crowd, estimated at 100, marched behind the pipes and drums of Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band to the war memorial in Stanley Park. In his opening remarks, the chairman of Harcourt Heritage Centre, George Milford, spoke of the district's losses in the Gallipoli campaign.



Harcourt Remembers the ANZACS

Continued from page 1. Photos by Mike Rule.

A third member of the Facey family was shot in the eye at Gallipoli, invalidated home, only to die three years later. Thomas Facey, though a casualty at Gallipoli, was buried in Harcourt Cemetery.

Harcourt's Colonel William James became seriously ill as he was evacuated from Gallipoli and was returned home. After he recovered, he returned to the front and was twice decorated for his bravery. William James' grandson (Ron James) wore his grandfather's medals to the Harcourt observance, with the DSO in pride of place.

The little community of Harcourt was understandably shocked at the losses sustained in the Great War, both at Gallipoli and in Europe. To surround the grieving families with support, it was arranged to plant memorial trees in the newly laid out Stanley Park, each tree having a granite marker dedicated to a fallen soldier. This was done in a community gathering before the end of the Great War. It was a really thoughtful kindness to families that had not been able to farewell their menfolk with a funeral and could not visit their graves.

In sombre mood, a number of wreaths from community groups and individuals were placed at the WWI memorial.

In another local touch, Linda McNeill played a saxophone rendition of 'Last Post' and 'Rouse' before taking up the violin to play Australia's national anthem.

The Harcourt Heritage Committee is especially grateful to the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band, Castlemaine RSL Sub-branch, to Kirshy McAinch and to Linda McNeill for their help with a solemn and moving ANZAC Day observance in Harcourt.



The Castlemaine Highland Band led the march from the Heritage Centre/ANA Hall in High Street to the cenotaph in Stanley Park.



Harcourt Valley Primary School Principal and pupils.



Castlemaine RSL President John Whiddon and Castlemaine RSL Secretary Barb Templar prepare to lay wreaths at the cenotaph.

Bendigo Electorate to Benefit from Cheaper Medicines

Federal Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters MP welcomes changes which will allow **some patients requiring routine medication to buy two months' worth of medicine for the price of a single prescription.**

The Labor Government has announced changes to pharmacy dispensing that will ease cost of living pressures and make hundreds of common medicines cheaper.

From September 1, patients with a Medicare card will save up to \$180 a year if their medicine is eligible for 60-day prescribing and concession card holders will save up to \$43.80 a year per medicine.

The first tranche will include 113 medicines including for conditions like heart disease, cholesterol, Crohn's disease and hypertension.

Once implemented, the 60-day prescribing policy will provide doctors with the option to prescribe a two-month supply of 325 medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to Australians with stable, ongoing conditions. The current dispensing limit for these medications is

for a one-month supply only.

Introducing 60-day prescribing for stable, ongoing conditions was a recommendation of the clinical experts at the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) in 2018. These changes were not implemented under the previous Government, costing Australians billions.

These changes will bring Australia into line with New Zealand, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada where patients already have access to multiple month medications on a single prescription.

This expands on the Federal Government's commitment to make medicines cheaper following the reduction of the PBS general co-payment on January 1. To date, this has saved people in the Bendigo electorate an estimated \$311,263. Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters said, 'In the Bendigo electorate, where local bulk billing rates are at crisis-level and the average out of pocket cost to see a doctor is



Lisa Chesters with Matt Jones, CEO of Murray Primary Health Network.

\$36.79, these changes will mean that some people can visit their GP less frequently to get a script refilled, saving time and money.'

'Our pharmacists are a valued partner in delivering primary health services and every dollar saved by the Government will be reinvested straight back into community pharmacies to secure the ongoing strength of the sector.'

From a Press Release 28 April, 2023

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

HPA Progress Report

Autumn has definitely set in and whilst we are enjoying the beautiful days, the changing colours and last of the sunshine, we are also looking forward to being able to offer a winter program at the Harcourt Community House. A big thank you to all who have been returning the survey with your views on what could be offered through the House, please keep the ideas coming.

Our move from the ANA Hall and the hospitality of the Harcourt Heritage Centre committee and volunteers is almost complete, although the collegiality will continue. We have been so grateful to have had use of the Hall and most appreciative of the support we have been given. We anticipate many more joint projects between HPA and the Heritage Centre.

In my last update I discussed the grant we had received from the Maldon & District Community Bank, an organisation that has provided so much support to us and other community groups in the area. We are delighted to have some funds to furnish the new neighbourhood house and to start work on the wilderness garden that surrounds it.

The AGM will be held on Friday 12 May 2023 at 7:00 pm, and we look forward to welcoming you to the meeting and having the opportunity to discuss ideas people may have about the Community House. We are also encouraging members to consider joining the committee or becoming volunteers at the station. Whilst the building itself is now in a great condition, the gardens and surrounding car park, sadly, are not.

If anyone wishes to discuss roles at the house or on the committee, please feel free to email me at sha.cordingley@harcourtprogress.org.au and we can organise a time to chat.

See you on 12 May.

Sha Cordingley
HPA President

HPA Annual Membership

\$20 payable on the HPA website

Or

\$20 or \$10 (unwaged) to
BSB 663 000 Acc 151 337 409

Or

Cheque/Cash \$20 or \$10 to
HPA, PO Box 135, Harcourt, 3453



Fireside Chat

1.30 pm Sunday 21 May

Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street
'Songlines'

We shall explore the indigenous concept of songlines. Described as the oldest library in the world, but a library with no books, songlines have been around since the Dreamtime.

Come along, share your knowledge, learn of our country's great history and share afternoon tea by a blazing fire.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

Walking Harcourt's Town Centre

Members of the Harcourt Progress Association set out with a Council representative to take a walk to test a link from the centre of Harcourt township with the kindergarten, school, leisure centre, the Cooperative and the railway.

Mount Alexander Shire Council would like to thank Harcourt residents for sharing their time and thoughts recently as we continue to build our understanding of the issues and opportunities for the town centre.

Last month, our Heritage and Urban Design Officer spent time with members of the Harcourt Progress Association and Mount Alexander Disability Advocacy Group, walking the streets and visiting the playgroup to chat to parents and observe after school pick up routines.

Information gathered from residents during this time will help to further inform future work to improve Harcourt's footpath and cycle networks.

The project forms part of the Harcourt

Town Centre Action Plan, which focuses on ten key actions to help us prioritise projects, allocate development contributions and seek funding opportunities. The plan will seek to give Harcourt a heart whilst retaining the open relaxed atmosphere that meshes well with the surrounding landscape.

Consultation for the draft Harcourt Town Centre Vision document is now closed. We will be collating the feedback and preparing the final document for adoption in the coming months.

There will be further opportunities for information and to provide feedback on each project as they are scoped. Over early May, this will include consultation on a key action of the vision: 'Making High Street a high street' and the proposed rezoning of land in the town centre to commercial.



To learn more about the project, please 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: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au**



WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

Reconciliation

Reconciliation Week will run from May 27 - June 4 following Sorry Day on May 26.

This year's reconciliation week theme is:

'Be a voice for generations. Act today for a reconciled tomorrow'

The theme hints at an important question being put to us in a referendum this year, and also invites us to consider these ideas from multiple perspectives.

On March 24 of 2023, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the question to be asked at the upcoming referendum:

A proposed law: To alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?

At a federal level Australia does not currently have an advisory body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people regarding laws and policies that impact them. While the Voice's composition, functions, powers and procedures can be changed by successive governments, its existence would be enshrined. This means that unlike previous government bodies such as ATSIC, this body can be changed but not readily scrapped, and successive governments can be held to account by the people.

In hearing diverse voices with diverse platforms, the asking of one question results in the asking of many more. The Referendum prompts us to enrich our personal understanding and our deeper social and cultural fabric.

Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in this referendum, this is about their voice and hearing what is being asked. We are called to listen and grow our understanding of the complex history of the long journey towards reconciliation across this vast continent.

Lilla Watson, activist, academic and artist, often credited with the following words, attributed these to the collective voice of an Aboriginal Rights group in Queensland in the early 1970s she was part of:

If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

Systemic and institutional racism continues in homes, workplaces, schools, legal systems and other institutions. Assimilation is still often confused for reconciliation. White supremacy and colonisation continue.

We live on the lands of the oldest surviving cultures in the world, with deeply held laws and customs. Pre-colonisation this continent had over 250 distinct language groups. First Peoples have lived here for over 65,000 years, or from a First Nations perspective - time immemorial.

Reconciliation embraces the rich connectedness embedded

in First People's notions of 'Country' which includes the living systems that we ultimately depend on. It is in our interest to listen to First Custodians of these un-ceded lands we tread, honouring Country, responding to climate change, and living sustainably.

The Uluru Statement From The Heart calls for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to be embedded in the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to guide Truth Telling and bring us closer to Treaty. Importantly, reconciliation occurs at every level of government and society and the journey to Voice, Treaty and Truth may not be so linear.

In May 2021, in Victoria a formal Truth Telling process, The Yoorook Justice Commission was established. Further work is being done through the First People's Assembly towards Treaty.

In 1987, a Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was established. We are yet to see all recommendations followed with ongoing disproportionate Aboriginal deaths in custody.

The Bringing Them Home Report was tabled in Federal Parliament on 26 May 1997. Twenty-six years on and twelve years since the National Apology, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are still 10.6 times more likely than non-Indigenous children to be removed from their families.

Our actions do not only affect First Nations People but ultimately, all of us. Here is a call to non-First Nations People to amend personal constitutions considering one's own culture, history, future responsibilities and possibilities. In this way we can be a better voice for generations and act today for a reconciled tomorrow.

See the Nalderun program of events happening locally for Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

This article was prepared by a member of Friends of Nalderun.

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



Harcourt Valley Landcare Call to Action

Concerned community members are invited to get active in a local campaign to protect Harcourt's natural values in the proposed areas of housing development in Harcourt throughout the strategic planning process. As a result of successful depositions to a government Planning Panel in 2022 by Landcare, Stage 1 of a biodiversity audit has been completed. This stage included a desktop review of existing studies and published literature as well as brief site visits. Landcare is now calling on the Council to commit to Stage 2 of the audit (a detailed, on-ground study of the ecology), which Landcare considers critical to gain an understanding of what Harcourt has to protect. At the time of writing it's unclear whether this decision will be made at the 16 May Council meeting or the 20 June meeting.

Whether Stage 2 continues or not, there is plenty of work to be done to ensure Harcourt is developed in a way that benefits our community's environment, health and wellbeing – and we'd like your help to do it! Our group has been keeping Council on their toes for four years on this issue so let's not stop now. Can you help?

We encourage concerned residents of Harcourt and our shire to:

- Call or write a letter to your ward Councillor Tony Cordy demanding protection of Harcourt's biodiversity by approving a thorough Stage 2 biodiversity audit by emailing calder@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
- Join our working group Naturally Harcourt to add your time and expertise to our campaign by emailing info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Landcare calls on Council to align Plan Harcourt with the Council's declaration of a Climate Crisis

Some background: In 2014 the Victorian government identified Harcourt as an area which could support population growth. In response the Shire developed the strategic planning process Plan Harcourt which commenced in 2018. In 2019 the Shire declared a climate crisis and in 2021 Harcourt Valley Landcare called on the Council to align Plan Harcourt so it addressed the declared climate crisis.

After a lengthy consultation process with the community, the amended Plan Harcourt



Members of the Harcourt Valley Landcare collected stakes, plastic and wire covers from the wetland site at the April working bee. The project is finished and the plants will have to fend for themselves. The items collected will be re-purposed at the Barkers Creek planting site.

document went before a Planning Panel in 2022. The panel review handed down two major recommendations, one to do with the amount of commercial land and the other, which is Landcare's concern, was that **development in the proposed areas could not go ahead without a biodiversity audit**. The audit commenced in April 2023. A review of this type can consist of two stages: a desktop review with brief visits, followed by Stage 2 which entails detailed on-ground assessments and monitoring of identified and possibly previously unidentified ecological assets, however, it is not a guaranteed action within the biodiversity review process. The Council has the power to decide whether the critical second stage will go ahead. At the time of writing the decision date is not known, it could be at the Council meeting of May 16 or June 20.

Bron Willis, Landcare member said, 'This is Harcourt's opportunity to do something about climate change, which is intertwined with biodiversity loss. The strategic planning process may seem complicated and drawn out, but the decisions that it makes will affect Harcourt's ecological values forever. These values deserve to be protected, preserved and enhanced. We are not against development, but it needs to be the kind which respects the environment and enhances the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives here.'

Bron calls for Council to:

- **Commit** to Stage 2 of the biodiversity assessment (on-ground surveys by ecologists)
- **Protect** and buffer:
 - ▶ **Habitat and corridors for the Brush-tailed Phascogale**
 - ▶ **Key waterways** Barkers Creek and Picnic Gully Creek, which will provide critical habitat corridors for animals moving through the landscape in a warming climate
 - ▶ **Large, old trees** that provide critical habitat for hollow-nesting species
 - ▶ **Roadside vegetation** on Elys Lane, Douglas Lane, Leafy Lane, Craigie St and Eagles Rd through a larger buffer zone
 - ▶ **locally vulnerable species** (including plants such as Hoary Sunray and Silver Banksia) and **declining woodland birds**, not just those threatened state-wide or nationally
- **Deliver** on their 2019 declaration of a climate emergency, in which Council vowed to consider climate change as a high priority in every decision they make.

How can you help?

Join your fellow Harcourtians and Landcare members to ensure that Council makes the right decisions for Harcourt, both in the leadup to the decision for a Stage 2 biodiversity assessment and beyond.

Skills welcome: writing and communication skills, town planning skills, environmental expertise, experience with lobbying government, willingness to review government guidelines and protocols and a desire to protect Harcourt's environment.

If you are interested please email to info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org



Join us for morning tea at our next working bee in May. The time and place will be posted on the Harcourt Landcare Facebook page.



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Some months have five Thursdays and, when this happens, we choose somewhere nice to have lunch and indulge ourselves. We are very fortunate to have so many places close by that fit the bill nicely, and so it was that in March, on the fifth Thursday, we met at Rodilesa in Harcourt.

If you haven't been to Rodilesa since it moved from its Castlemaine premises then do yourself a favour and pop in to check out the nursery. There is so much to see including a wonderful selection of plants, trees and shrubs, or that little pot of colour to brighten your day and, of course, everything else that you may ever need to keep your garden thriving.

However, going to the nursery these days is not just about buying plants or bags of potting mix – you can also include a delightful morning or afternoon tea with friends, or perhaps something a bit more filling for lunch. We thoroughly enjoyed our lunch at Rodilesa, and look forward to more months with five Thursdays.



Enjoying our lunch at Rodelisa

Branch Meetings

Our main branch meeting is at 1.30 pm at the Leisure Centre on the first Thursday of each month, but we also get

together again on the third Thursday of the month at the same time and place for craft. Our Craft Leader (or another member) will have set up an activity for us to do, or it can just be a relaxed get-together where members bring their own handiwork.

Craft Day

Last week our Craft Day was led by Diane Dooley who provided us with the necessary materials to make greeting cards and, under her expert instruction, we were all able to create a card that we would be proud to send.



Diane Dooley shows Joy Robertson how it is done.



Some of the beautiful cards that were created.

Namibia. Lesson 2

Namibia is Africa's emptiest country due to its huge, inhospitable landmass and low population. The Namib Desert



Namibian sand dunes are the highest in the world



Where is Namibia?

stretches along the Atlantic Ocean for over 1,000 kilometres with huge dunes as far as the eye can see. This desert is considered the oldest in the world and has been in its arid condition for more than 55 million years. The Namib also has some of the highest sand dunes in the world.

As I mentioned above, our main meeting is at 1.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month in the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham's Road, Harcourt. As always, we would love you to call in and meet us all.

Lyn Rule

Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer

ADVERTISEMENT

Lisa Chesters MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BENDIGO

☎ 5443 9055
🌐 lisachesters.org

Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP,
16 Myers St, Bendigo



Labor

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

Councillor Comment



Hi all,

I hope you are enjoying the weather. For me, autumn is the best.

Rates and charges keep going up!

At last week's Council meeting, I tried to reduce the increase in the general rate from 3.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent. Unfortunately, I did not have the numbers, so an increase of 3.5 per cent was approved. It was only a 1 per cent reduction I was seeking; with all the talk about cost of living pressure, it would have been something. (For information: I support the rate cap put in place by the Andrew's Government.) Rates are too high in my opinion, but they would be out of control without the cap.

The 2023/24 Shire budget is out for comment now. It will be interesting to see what submissions we receive.

Last night, I was looking at local real estate prices on the net. It seems we have been discovered. Prices are so high it is unbelievable.

I attended a couple of services on ANZAC Day. Our friends at Sutton Grange do it well. Harcourt had a great roll up and excellent ceremony lead by George Milford. It is great to see the younger generation getting involved as well.

Best regards to all,
Tony

AG Cordy
0439 742 434

Feedback Questionnaire

The editorial team of the Harcourt Newsletter/The Core appreciates your contribution to helping us improve our monthly newsletter.

Please note that this questionnaire is totally confidential - no names or emails are collected. If you would like to contact *The Core* editors, you can do so through the email address: news@harcourt.vic.au

How would you rate The Core?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Excellent

How do you read The Core?

- The digital version every month
- The digital version occasionally
- The printed version every month
- The printed version occasionally

Which items most interest you?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HPA | <input type="checkbox"/> Councillor Comment | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet Bowls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFA | <input type="checkbox"/> Uniting Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Shire News |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CWA | <input type="checkbox"/> Grace Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather & Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Crossword |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VMR | <input type="checkbox"/> HVPS | <input type="checkbox"/> Landcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneers of Harcourt | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Diary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nalderun | | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

What else would you like to see in The Core?

.....

Would you like to contribute The Core occasionally?

If so, please provide your contact details, either here or by contacting *The Core*

Yes

Do you have any suggestions for improving The Core?

.....

The completed Questionnaire can be returned via Harcourt Post Office or the ANA Hall on Wednesdays.

If you prefer, this Questionnaire can be completed online using the QR Code:



HARCOURT VALLEY PS

OPEN DAY 2023

Wednesday May 17th May 2023

3 Wilkinson St, Harcourt, 3453
Ph: 5474 2266

Open Times
 9:30am – 11:00am – Morning Tea provided.
 5:30pm – 6:30pm – Pizzas provided.

Come and see your neighbourhood school that offers:

- Small class sizes, personalized learning and passionate amazing teachers
- Dedicated P.E, Music, French and Art lessons
- Before & After School Care through OSCH Club – As well as a Holiday Program!
- Huge recreational spaces featuring:
 - Large oval
 - Two playgrounds
 - Sand pit
 - Stadium with Olympic size basketball court

Bookings not required.

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Curious

Volunteers Rock

Coming up in May is Volunteer Week and, as a Community Bank, we know how valuable volunteers are, given our board members are local community members who volunteer with us. Community Bank Maldon & District can help your organisation by making things easier for your volunteers with a locally owned and produced Operations Manual, created last year by Cass Ewing. To celebrate the amazing volunteers we have in the community for the month of May; if you would like a copy of this manual, please contact



our Executive Officer to arrange a free download straight to your computer (executiveofficer@mccb.com.au).

This update is a reminder of our ongoing community partnership program, which is assessed monthly and covers a range of community activities such as the recent Harcourt Pony Club open day, T20 Cricket sponsorship, which was won by Barkers Creek Cricket Club, and a new partnership with Mount Alexander Falcons who have been calling Harcourt Rec Reserve home. From our marquees (with or without wind-break

walls) and hand sanitising stations to the Community POS, we offer these items free to local community groups and not-for-profits.

The Community POS is a portable, fee-free EFTPOS machine that we make available too, which Maldon Primary School has borrowed several times for the annual Shopping Spree. Debra Watson, Maldon Primary School Business Manager, said: 'Our school doesn't have an EFTPOS facility so the ability to borrow one for fundraising events is awesome. It enables volunteers to collect money on

the spot rather than waiting for attendees to go and get cash or do a bank transfer. It also means that the school inevitably makes more money on our silent auction items as attendees have the ability to pay using a card rather than cash – after all who carries cash these days? Thank you Maldon & District Community Bank for making the lives of our volunteers easier!'

If you are a volunteer who is responsible for marketing your club or not-for-profit you should consider downloading the free e-resource available from the Community Bank. This resource

was put together by the Communications team and has a range of helpful information in it from software and online platforms for designing flyers and social media posts to tips for taking good photos. You can get this free download by scanning the QR code here:



If you think your organisation could use any of these items, please contact the staff at any of our Community Bank branches – Maldon, Newstead or Dunolly.



Didn't Vote in the State Election?

Close to 300,000 Victorians who appear to have failed to vote in the November 2022 State election will have an opportunity to explain why they didn't vote when they receive an 'Apparent failure to vote notice' in the coming days.

Acting Electoral Commissioner, Dana Fleming, says the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is urging people who receive a notice to respond with a detailed explanation, as the VEC is required to issue a fine of \$92 if a person fails to respond within 28 days.

'An 'Apparent failure to vote notice' is not a fine – it's a chance to explain why you appear not to have voted,' Ms Fleming said.

'If you respond to the notice, you are much more likely to be excused.

'Completing and sending the notice back to us within the 28-day timeframe gives us a chance to consider your explanation and whether you can be excused.'

Voting in State elections is compulsory in Victoria.

The VEC worked to make voting in the 2022 State election as convenient and accessible as possible by:

- increasing the number of early voting centres by 50% (to 155)
- extending voting hours during the early voting period
- offering telephone assisted voting for those who are blind, have low vision

or a physical disability and were unable to vote without assistance, or people impacted by the Victorian floods.

The option to vote by post was also available to all electors, and a drive-through voting centre was offered to COVID positive voters who were unable to vote in the last 3 days of the election and hadn't voted early or applied for a postal vote before applications closed.

The VEC also sent VoterAlert reminders by SMS and email to 2.5 million enrolled voters who had provided their contact details. Voters can sign up for VoterAlert at any time to be reminded to vote in all future State and local council elections at: vec.vic.gov.au/VoterAlert



Harcourt CFA

National Emergency Medal Presentation

Saturday 1 April was the designated day for presentation of National Emergency Medals to over 400 volunteers and CFA staff in District 2, which includes the Harcourt Brigade, for their efforts in the 2019-2020 Australian bushfire crises. This included the fires that devastated East Gippsland, North Eastern Victoria as well as in NSW. Seven Harcourt fire brigade members were recognised for their contribution and presented with their medal at the ceremony held at the J B Osbourne Theatre in Kangaroo Flat. The recipients were Matt Friedrich, John Jenkin, Colleen Marchant, Raewyn Rice, Tyrone Rice, Kerri-Anne Schnoor and Andrew Wilson.

and techniques in dealing with a LPG cylinder fire in a safe and controlled environment. Three levels of spill fires can be simulated as well as being able to add a safety valve fire and a rupture fire. The prop is housed in a self-contained container which allows it to be moved around the state as needed, and this prop complements the existing Domestic, Small Industry and Car Props, which we have utilised in the past.



Other Activities

On 30 March the brigade was paged to support the Lockwood brigade to a truck leaking diesel at the Ravenswood Service Station. This was followed up with the brigade turning out to a fire during the Fire Danger Period (FPD) on 5 April in Ravenswood South, and the third incident for the month was to the Victoria Road/Calder Freeway on/off ramps at the roundabout for a reported oil spill. Fortunately, what was thought to be oil turned out to be grapes that had fallen from a trailer, and they were quickly washed off the road, before following the trail to the north end of Coolstore Road to deal with more of the load.

Home Fire Safety

With the approaching cooler weather, fire safety around the home focuses on the methods of home heating we use. Whether we use wood, gas, electric or any other alternatives for heating, it is important that it is in good condition and maintained as per manufacturers' recommendations. Having a home fire safety plan with a designated evacuation meeting point and working smoke alarms are also important things to have for the safety benefit of you and your family. If you do not have these, then do not put it off for another day, but act now!

Remember if you are planning on doing a burn, please register it by calling the Burn-off line on 1800 668 511.

Take care and stay safe.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Harcourt Brigade members show off their National Emergency Medals

The National Emergency Medal was established in 2011 for the purpose of according recognition within the Australian Honours system, for the unique contribution and commitment of those who have provided sustained or significant service in response to declared nationally-significant emergencies. The medal was introduced into the Australian Honours system by Letters Patent by her Majesty the Queen on 23 October 2011.

Pressure Vessel Prop Training

Brigade members have been able to train on the Pressure Vessel Prop during April which is currently located in the Castlemaine Fire Brigade's car park. This simulated hot fire training enables fire fighters, including our newer members, to practice skills

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Mountain Bike Park Upgrade and Repairs

The La Larr Ba Gauwa Committee of Management would like to introduce their new committee members and update the community on repairs to the Park after the 2022 storms and the upcoming works within the Park.

The new committee comprises returning members, Jason Tolland, Michael Scott and Jane McQueenie and new members Jo Wall, Hugh Finlay, Trent Gibson, Terry Willis, Nick Byrne and Alex Wells. The committee would like to thank departing members Janine McCarthy, Andrew Nicholas and David Ling, Alexander Robert and Rosie Annear for their service. The new committee has been meeting monthly since April 2022. To contact us, please fill out the form on our website at www.lalarrbagauwa.harcourt.vic.au/contactus

In exciting news, in 2021, the committee successfully received a grant of \$200,000 from the Victorian Government, as part of its \$105.6 million dollar investment into Victoria's Great Outdoors. Specifically, this funding comes from the Camping and Caravans grant stream and is be used for campground improvements and construction of associated recreation infrastructure at the La Larr Ba Gauwa Park.

The purpose of these works is to formalise campground areas, protect the Oaks and Cypress, to manage visitor

behaviour and impact, and to improve safety and amenity. The scope of the works will include:

- Protection of the Oaks and White Cypress forest areas from cars and caravans
- Designated campsites, toilet block and fire pits at the Oaks campground
- Formalising car parks for day visitors and campers
- Improvement of picnic areas
- Slowed and improved traffic flow for visitor safety.

These works will minimise encroachment on the Oaks, protect the Oak Forest and White Cypress trees from disturbance, manage traffic to reduce soil compaction around the remaining White Cypress trees, manage toileting and disposal of toilet paper at the camp sites, provide safe and respectful parking and camping spaces, and reduce the impost of events on the Harcourt township.

All works will be guided by the Operational Environment Management Plan and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, as well as planning approval and referral authorities.

The project will commence construction in the campground on Monday May 8 and continue for 3 to 4 weeks. During these weeks the Oaks

campground may be closed as heavy machinery will be operating in the area.

After the campground construction, there will be a trail repair crew working across the mountain bike trails that were damaged after the storms in October 2022.

The committee will provide regular updates on social media sites of Facebook and Instagram.

Repairs

The roadways, emergency access tracks and mountain bike trails were significantly impacted by the October 2022 storms.

Following the extensive storm damage and subsequent trail network closure, the La Larr Ba Gauwa Committee of Management has been working with the State Government DEECA, formerly DEWLP, to develop a staged plan and approach to repair and reopen the trails at the Park.

A local contractor completed repair of the emergency access tracks in March and we are in discussions with the State Government to secure funding focused on assisting volunteer Committees of Management to repair public assets damaged in the October 2022 floods and storms.

A specialist trail building and maintenance company has been identified to undertake the trail network repair. We will provide an update through *The Core*, social media and community networks when we are able to confirm when works will begin.

Committee of Management La Larr Ba Gauwa Park





Harcourt Heritage Centre

JH Ely—A Spokesman for Harcourt.

Newspaper headlines in Melbourne's *The Argus*, *The Weekly Times* and Tasmania's *The Hobart Mercury* told their readers of the dire situation in Harcourt. Conditions for horticulture in 1938 were the worst ever experienced. The rainfall in the latter part of 1937 was insufficient to maintain a satisfactory amount of water in the subsoil. There was little run-off from the rains that fell on the catchments in January and February 1938.

The Coliban system reservoirs at Malmsbury and Upper Coliban fell to their lowest levels ever. No irrigation water reached Harcourt's orchards, and water for domestic use was severely curtailed. The lack of water affected the fruit trees, resulting in small fruit and early defoliation. It was as if autumn had started three months early.

In May 1938, a deputation to Premier Albert Dunstan sought assurance that the government would augment the Coliban water storages. Those who formed the deputation were Mrs Lillian Thompson, Colonel JH Lang, Colonel WE James, and JH 'Jim' Ely.

Mrs Thompson said that several Harcourt residents had left their homes as there was no drinkable water in their tanks! Mr Lang stated that many orchardists had been reduced to the breadline. Government assistance seemed out of reach. Colonel James pointed out that the Debt Adjustment Board seemed to be concealed behind an array of clerks (this remark drew a rebuke from the Premier.) Jim Ely told the Premier that it was only because they were faced with ruin that the growers were induced to apply to the government.

In reply, Mr Dunstan said that the government was intent on avoiding the problems of such severe droughts as had occurred in 1913-14 and 1937-38. There was talk of providing another reservoir at Shepherds Hut Creek at Lauriston, between Upper Coliban and Malmsbury Reservoirs. Mr Dunstan advised that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SRWSC) had been testing foundations and sinking bores to identify a suitable dam site. A report was to be delivered by the SRWSC within a fortnight. Everything possible had to be done to keep primary producers on the land.

Jim Ely was well placed to act as spokesman for Harcourt. He was born in Harcourt in August 1885, the eldest son of George Ely, who was the eldest son of pioneer orchardist and 'father of Harcourt', Henry Ely. Jim Ely had many relatives in the valley, eleven brothers and sisters, more than twenty uncles and aunts and a host of first cousins. Jim Ely was related to some of Harcourt's largest family groups – the Warren, Leversha and Gartside families. His marriage, in 1911, to Frances Pritchard further extended the family network: his father-in-law was Councillor Ed Pritchard.

Jim Ely was a member (and often an officeholder) of the Harcourt School Committee, the Harcourt Football Club, the Rechabite Lodge and the Harcourt Cooperative Fruitgrowers Association. He was a director of Harcourt Coolstores Ltd and a member of the Coliban Investigation Committee.

Jim Ely assisted in organising a 'Queen Carnival' as a fundraiser for the swimming pool, his daughter being an entrant in the competition. It was Jim Ely who had the vision of a retail area on what is now Harmony Way, purchasing a large, late-Victorian homestead from Ravenswood, positioning half as a private residence at 50 High Street and relocating the other half as a cafe and boarding house.

The cafe/boarding house was taken over by the Moxom family (it is now the Harcourt Produce and General Store).

Jim Ely then conducted a small fruit shop between the garage and the Calder Bridge (over Barkers Creek). In 1948 he made the fruit shop available to the scout troop as a meeting place. In 1952 trustees for the Scout Association formally acquired the place. It remained in use until the Scout Hall was established in its present Eagles Road location.

As a grandson of pioneer fruit grower Henry Ely, it was perhaps inevitable that Jim Ely would become an orchardist. His orchard was at 3379 Harmony Way, now the home of Black Jack Wines. Probate records of JH Ely's father suggest that Jim Ely also had an interest in land at the north-west corner of Eagles Road and Frost Lane. In later life, Jim Ely retired to a brick home at 15 Buckley Street in Harcourt.

Jim Ely was also a gold miner. His most successful venture was to operate

a hydraulic sluicing claim in the vicinity of a dam on the east-facing slope in what is now Black Jack vineyard. The water for the claim was drawn from the Specimen Gully channel which wound its way around the contours above Jim Ely's orchard. When the water was not available (as in 1938), Jim Ely sank some deep shafts into the solid stone of the ridge immediately above and to the west of his orchard. Having recovered payable gold in the sluicing claim, he was hopeful of striking it rich on the nearby hillside. We will never know if he was successful. The shafts dug by Jim Ely were long abandoned in the 1950s.

The Argus reported in March 1938 that the great apple industry of Harcourt had been ruined because of the shortage of water.

Soon afterwards it was announced that funds would be allocated for construction of the new Lauriston Reservoir. In May 1944 Jim Ely commended the Dunstan Ministry for building the Lauriston Weir, otherwise Harcourt orchardists would have been in a sorry plight.

Lauriston lies in a deep valley between the huge Upper Coliban Reservoir and the Malmsbury Reservoir. All three storages provide water to Bendigo and Castlemaine. During the millennial drought (2000 to 2010) the immense Upper Coliban Reservoir dried to a muddy puddle. Water from Malmsbury Reservoir was pumped back into Lauriston because, being in a deep valley, there would be less surface area and thus reduced loss by evaporation. By this action, the population of central Victoria was supplied with water until the drought broke on 4 September 2010.

Every reader of *The Core* is indebted to folk such as Jim Ely who, in 1938 pressed the Victorian Government to build the Lauriston Reservoir.

Throughout his adult life, Jim Ely was a consistent and effective worker and advocate for Harcourt.

This thumbnail sketch is another in a series written for 'The Core' by Harcourt Heritage Centre.

*** During the inter war period Queen Carnivals were held to raise funds for worthy community causes. Often funding sporting facilities or community buildings and services. (From Wikipedia)**



Harcourt Valley Primary School Into Term 2

Easter holidays are now just a memory for us all.

Students have only been back at school for four days this week but they have had a busy week, and it looks like May will be a busy month for the school community.

On Thursday this week an ANZAC Day service was held during the school assembly, which was describe by Mr Blake as a 'very emotional one' because it was attended by Mrs Simpson's father, Glenn, who played the last post on his bugle.

A number of families from the school community also attended the ANZAC Day service at the Harcourt cenotaph on Tuesday 25 April. School captains, Reagan and Isabelle, represented the school and laid wreaths on behalf of the school community at the service.

Plans are in place for the next school community event is a Mother's Day breakfast. All families will have now received an invitation for mothers, grandmothers and a special person to attend a very special Mother's Day Breakfast scheduled for the morning of Thursday 11 May. If *Core* readers are planning to attend this event, the school has asked that you RSVP as soon

as possible to assist with numbers for catering.

Next week, the annual Schools Book Fair will be taking place.

Education Week begins on Monday 15 May. To celebrate, HVPS will be hosting two open sessions on Wednesday 17 May for families and members of the wider community. The first is scheduled for Wednesday morning from 9:30 am to 11:00 am – Grade 6 students will conduct a tour of the school that morning. The second session is on Wednesday 17 May from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. All parents/carers and members of the wider community are most welcome to attend either session, to meet the teachers and be given a tour of the school. For further information relating to the evening event, check out the school's website closer to the date.

Would you believe it, parents/carers are already thinking about enrolments for next year? All Grade 6 students have received a Year 6 to Year 7 placement pack for the 2024 school year which needs to be returned to the school no later than Friday 12 May. Additionally, families wishing to enrol their children at Harcourt

Valley Primary School next year are requested to complete enrolment forms by the commencement of third term.



To conclude this article, I would like to share with *Core* readers this delightful photo taken from the school's website of Harry proudly holding delicious tomatoes freshly picked from the school's vegie patch.

Lois Denham

Linda Newton



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Harcourt Walking Group Turns 9!

The Harcourt Walking Group started in autumn 2014, so this year celebrates their milestone of walking for 9 years. Local Wendy Barron is a Dhelkaya Health volunteer who has been leading the group from day one.

‘We welcome anyone wanting to join us for a leisurely walk on Monday and Thursday mornings. We meet at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum at 9.30 am and then walk for approximately an hour. It’s been almost a decade of walking around Harcourt whilst having a chat and a laugh, and in the process some great friendships have developed,’ said Wendy.

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

For further information and bookings, please call 5479 1000.



The Core Folding and Distribution Team



Neither rain, nor snow or the Easter holidays can stop *The Core* folding and distribution team.

Our usual group of Moira McLennan, Liz, Liz and Liz (yes there are three of them – Liz Ward, Liz Bini and Liz Rowe) were joined by Genevieve and Peter Ward. A little later on, three others joined us for a lovely afternoon tea including hot cross buns and fresh figs.

There is a variety of roles for volunteers with *The Core*. If you would like to assist, please call Robyn on 0467 670 271.

Welsh Village Walk

Following the success of our Channel Walk last year, the next scheduled walk is to the Welsh Village site along Llewellyn’s Road, just below the Expedition Pass Reservoir.

Come and join the Faraday Community Association committee and community members on an informative walk discovering the history and significance of the Welsh Village.



DATE: Sunday, May 21st

TIME: 10:00 am

MEET AT: The car park at Welsh Village, along Llewellyn’s Road

BYO: Nibbles, drinks etc, for a debrief at the end of the walk.

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Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc

Winter competition to commence

Date: Wednesday 3 May 2023
 Time: 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start
 Where: Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road

- The cost for registration is \$6.00 per Adult and \$3.00 for Under 17 players.
- Game fee per night is \$5.00 per Adult and \$2.50 for Under 17 players.
- Games commence at 7.30 pm and usually finish around 9.00 pm.
- Anyone from age 8 upwards can join the Association, and all will be made most welcome – just come along.

Annual Legacy Tournament

The tournament date is Wednesday 9 August 2023. More information will be available in *The Core* closer to the date. (Anyone is welcome to join in and play to raise funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group.)

Also, later in the year, the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association is planning to again host the State Championships Tournament, so watch for more information in *The Core*.

So why don't you give Carpet Bowls a go? Come and join us on a Wednesday night – the more the merrier.

For further information

- Loretta: 5474 2453
- John: 5474 2226
- Tyrone: 5474 2126.



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Business Link from the Economy and Culture Team at Mount Alexander Shire

Wedding Industry Awards 2023 – Harcourt Valley Winery shines

Wedding Venue - Coordinator

Winner - Harcourt Valley Winery

Wedding Venue - Winery

Winner - Harcourt Valley Winery

Wedding Transport

Winner - Sandy Creek Clydesdales Maldon

Buck's and Hen's

Highly commended - Shedshaker Brewery

[View All Winners Here](#)

Castlemaine Rotary 2023 Apprentice/Trainee Awards are now open!

[Nominate Now](#)

It's less than 3 years until the Commonwealth Games come to Victoria!

The Victorian Government has launched the Victoria 2026 Goods and Services Procurement Pipeline for local businesses to get involved.

[Find More Information Here](#)

Protect your Business - Cyber Threats

The Digital Jobs for Manufacturing Program offers grants of up to \$5000 to assist Victorian manufacturing businesses adapt to a digital operating environment.

12-week online, part-time industry-endorsed digital skills courses are available to a nominated employee.

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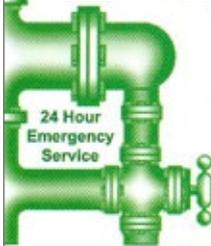
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There was much happening during April at the club as various championships were held and finals completed. We also celebrated a special birthday and completed our official bowling season with the Presentation Night, which followed the Rice Family Triples. The results of these are contained below.

Harcourt Ladies 100-Up

An exciting final was played at the end of March between Mary-Anne Doyle and Kathy Harding. After a long game Mary-Anne came out the winner.



Birthday Celebration

During Easter, Kay Francis celebrated a special birthday, which was commemorated in the following week with an afternoon tea at the club.



Jackpot bowls

These Wednesday afternoon social games will continue while the weather allows. 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 to commence at 1.00 pm.



Harcourt Bowling Club

Men's Nominated Champion Pairs

Harcourt Bowling Club **Men's Nominated Champion Pairs** was played in April between Phil Clarke and Ian McMillan, and Gary Maddern and Steve Douglas. Over the lengthy game, spectators were treated to some fine bowling, which finished under lights. Phil Clarke and Ian McMillan came out the winners with a score of 19 to 9.



Rice Family Triples

We had perfect bowling weather for the Annual Rice Family Triples competition on Saturday 22 April. Twelve teams competed in 3 games of ten ends, which brought out some stiff competition amid much laughter. Overall winners of the day, and only 3-game winners, was the team of Alf Mannalak, Judy Ewing and Brian Buchanan. Runners-up were Gary Maddern, Mary-Anne Doyle and Ken Tribe.



Presentation Night

Following the tournament, the Club Presentation Night and celebration of the end of the season was held. President Ken Tribe thanked all for a great season. Awards were presented to:

Ladies

Singles Champion ► Winner: Carrol Frost; **Runner-up:** Mary-Anne Doyle

100Up ► Winner: Mary-Anne Doyle; **Runner-up:** Kathy Harding

Drawn Pairs ► Winners: Wendy Chaplin and Mary-Anne Doyle; **Runners-up:** Kay Francis and Heather Braid

Men's 100Up

An exciting final of the competition was held in April with the result down to the last bowl. David Jefferies was winner with John Starbuck a close second place.



The Ladies' Nominated Champion Pairs final between Judy Ewing and Wendy Chaplin, and Mary-Anne Doyle and Fran Corstorphan is yet to be played.

Coming up in April/May

Wednesdays:

Jackpot Bowls

Sunday 21 May:

Annual General Meeting

Men

Singles Champion ► Winner: Phil Clarke; **Runner-up:** Terry Robinson

100-Up ► Winner: Dave Jefferies; **Runner-up:** John Starbuck

Drawn Pairs (Gough) ► Winners: John Grant and Barry Marsh (No second place awarded)

Championship (Nominated) Pairs ► Winners: Phil Clarke and Ian McMillan; **Runners-up:** Gary Madden and Steven Douglas

Grant Pairs ► Winners: Judy Ewing and Phil Clarke; **Runners-up:** Diane Marsh and Barry Marsh

Rice Triples ► Winners: Alf Mannalak, Judy Ewing, Brian Buchanan; **Runners-up:** Gary Maddern, Mary-Anne Doyle and Ken Tribe.



Chair Donation Makes a Difference in Palliative Care

The Palliative Care ward at Dhelkaya Health provides end-of-life care for our local community. It's a place where people can stay close to loved ones, family and friends in a comfortable and supportive environment surrounded by caring staff. For staff, it's challenging but incredibly rewarding to provide the very personalised physical and emotional support needed by each patient and their family at such an important time.

Bob and Eileen McDonald are well known as stalwarts of their community in Mt Alexander, and showed how much this care meant to them by making a gift, which will provide a lasting benefit for the care of others in similar situations.

Eileen McDonald recently presented the Palliative Care ward with a Princess Chair. Eileen was motivated by her experience of palliative care when Bob passed away in palliative care in December 2020.

'It was Bob's idea; I'm doing what he asked me to do. Bob was in Bendigo for 10 days prior to coming back to Castlemaine. They had a chair similar to that in Bendigo they could take him outside and he loved sitting in the sun.'

The Princess Chair has adjustable air cell support to relieve pressure and increase comfort. The chair has wheels to make it easy for staff to move patients around and outside into the sun, if they wish. For Eileen, it was something she and Bob wanted to do to show how much they appreciated the care they received in their community, and the little comforts that made all the difference.

'I wanted to say thanks to all those beautiful people on the Palliative Care ward. When it comes to funding, palliative care can sometimes be at the end of the line, but we were so grateful to have the care we did in Castlemaine Health.'

Sue Race, CEO of Dhelkaya Health (amalgamating Castlemaine Health, CHIRP Community Health and Maldon Hospital), reinforced what a difference a donation like this makes to the sensitive and personalised care that Dhelkaya Health staff provide.

'The support from our community for the ward providing our palliative care service has been transformational. It isn't just about the clinical aspects, but about surrounding our patients and families with an environment where their wider needs can be met. With this thoughtful gift



Eileen McDonald with Geroe Nurse Unit Manager, Steve Warren and the donated chair.

from Bob and Eileen, we have even better resources for providing that much-needed end-of-life care. It is incredibly rewarding for the staff to be appreciated in this way and we are deeply grateful.'

From a press release



Carers Drop-In Support Sessions & Morning Tea

Do you want to know about the services in Mount Alexander for carers?

Do you need help accessing services for yourself or the person you care for?

Have you experienced difficulties accessing services?

Do you want to meet other local carers?

Drop in to find out what local services might meet your needs.

The sessions are an informal and welcoming space to learn about, and share, what is happening locally. All while enjoying a cuppa and a chat with other carers!

Time: 10.00am - 11.00am

When: 1st Wednesday of the Month

Where: Castlemaine Community House

To book, scan the QR code or call 5472 4842



30 Templeton Street Castlemaine
Ph: 03 5472 4842
reception@cch.org.au
www.cch.org.au





Council news

Have your say on our 2023/2024 proposed budget

We've released our 2023/2024 proposed budget and we want to hear from you.

Some of the highlights include initiatives that increase flood protection, replacement of existing bridges and significant investment in improving recreation reserve facilities.

Copies can be viewed at the Castlemaine Civic Centre, the Castlemaine Library or online at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Feedback can be made online via Shape, by emailing info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or by writing to: 2023/2024 Budget, Chief Executive Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine VIC 3450.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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

Grants boost local projects

Congratulations to 18 community groups who will share in almost \$50,000 to boost local projects.

Some of the groups to receive funding include Harcourt Valley Landcare Group, Castlemaine Safe Space and Queer Book Club.

Read more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News.

Final small business workshop

Don't miss out on our final, free small business workshop: Generating cashflow.

When: Wednesday 17 May, 6.30pm-9.30pm

Where: 17 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Book now at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources.



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Harcourt Granite Grand Buildings of Bendigo

Mount Alexander is a granite mass and in 1997, in a Geological Survey report for Victoria, it was reported to have six quarries, five of which were still working, however it was also reported that the mount had thirteen other abandoned quarries. The use of Harcourt granite in monuments and buildings in Australia is widespread. In the same report, it was stated that Harcourt granite is found in buildings in every major city in Australia, much of it from the late 1800s and through the twentieth century.

Sacred Heart Cathedral

The foundation stone of the cathedral was set in place on Friday June 25, 1897. Foundations of granite were constructed for the whole building, although only the nave and side aisles were to be built. The cathedral was opened with grand celebrations on 29 September 1901.

The *Mount Alexander Mail* reported in March 1897:

A goodly number of men are now employed at the local granite quarries, the proprietor, Mr. Blight, having secured an important contract to supply the stone for the new Roman Catholic Cathedral to be erected in Bendigo.

A walk around the outside of the cathedral reveals the immensity of the granite work. This contract brought secure employment to many Harcourt families for four years around the turn of the century.

The second construction stage began on October 16, 1955 with Cardinal Gilroy officiating. The Trapp family of Austria (and *The Sound of Music*) sang during Mass. Cardinal Freeman consecrated the completed cathedral on 14 May, 1977.

Alexandra Fountain



The fountain was built in 1881 as the gift of George Lansell. It was named for the then-Princess of Wales by her two sons, Prince Albert Victor and Prince George (later King George V). It was built on the banks of the Bendigo Creek, with foundations that go down four metres to support the twenty tonnes of Harcourt granite.

The design was by WC Vahland, the well-known architect of many significant buildings in Bendigo. The stonework was by Peter Finn & Co. The turned and polished bowl of the fountain, reputedly the largest in the southern hemisphere, is three metres in diameter and

fourteen inches thick, supported on a granite disc 2.4 metres in diameter and more than 30 centimetres thick.

Other Civic Buildings of Bendigo

Pillars of Harcourt Granite can be seen at the former Post Office, the Law Courts and the Town Hall and have contributed to Bendigo's nationwide reputation as a boom-time city. Turned and polished granite pillars give a classic finish to the façade of the Bendigo Town Hall, designed by WC Vahland in 1885. The pillars were turned and polished by Peter Hoey Finn at his steam polishing works just a short distance away in Lyttleton Terrace.

From a booklet by George Milford, *Reasons to Visit Melbourne* and the geological survey report 112, *Dimension Stone in Victoria* by R L King and K S Weston, 1997.

Grace Church

The Day of Pentecost

On Sunday 28 May we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. What happened on the Day of Pentecost? God poured out His Holy Spirit and the Christian Church was born...

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. 'How can this be?' they exclaimed. 'These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!... we...hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!'

This coming of the Holy Spirit had been prophesied by the Prophet Joel in the Old Testament, as the Apostle Peter pointed out.

The same experience continues today for those who seek God for 'the baptism in the Holy Spirit'. The only requirement to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be 'born again'. This entails being truly sorry for one's sins, recognising that you are a sinner in need of a Saviour, and placing your faith and your trust in Jesus Christ, God's Son, as Saviour and Lord. Having done that sincerely, you have been 'born again' and your transformation from sinner to saint is complete.

Ps Roger Thurecht, Grace Church

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



Prepare the Soil to Plant Fruit Trees

Hi everyone

It's hard to believe, but it's already time to be thinking about which new fruit trees you want to plant this winter. (And yes, we're assuming everyone can squeeze another fruit tree in somewhere ☺) Not sure what to plant? Start by having a think about this summer. Did you pick as much fruit as you wanted from your garden? Did you have to buy fruit that you could have grown yourself? If you've got even a little bit of a green thumb and a bit of time to give your fruit trees, it's really not that hard to harvest some fruit from your garden. And you can be sure that the fruit you grow yourself will be more delicious, healthier and cheaper than fruit you can buy in the shops.

It's too early to be planting yet, but if you are thinking of planting fruit trees it's a good idea to do some soil preparation first. This helps to give your trees the best possible start in life. One of the best ways to improve your soil is to plant a winter-active green manure crop. New research shows that if you include at least five different species in the green manure (grasses, cereals, brassicas, chenopods and legumes) it can produce much better results. Here's a list to inspire you:

- Alfalfa (lucerne), Amaranth, Beetroot, Broad bean, Buckwheat, Butterfly pea, Chia, Cocksfoot, Corn, Dill, Endive, Fenugreek, Kidney beans, Lab lab bean, Linseed, Medic, Millet, Mung bean, Mustard, Purslane, Quinoa, Radish, Rocket, Sesame, Soybean, Sunflower, Turnip, Vetch.

The rule of thumb is the more different types of seed, the merrier. You can either buy an autumn green manure seed mix from a nursery, or buy the individual seeds to make up your own mix. Try to use organic, untreated seed if possible. We've had the autumn break, and it's raining as I write this - you shouldn't have to water the crop.

Go ahead and plant the seed wherever you intend to plant your fruit trees, but you need to do it ASAP. The best time to plant your new trees is when they're dormant, usually from late June right through until about mid-August. That means there should still be enough time to get a green



manure crop growing and tall enough to be fit for purpose, which is solely to add organic bulk and nutrients back into the soil. The longer the crop has to grow before it's turned in, the better. Once it's grown you can either dig the green manure into the soil (which is best), or just cut it down and leave it lying on the surface. If you're digging it in, you need to leave a gap of at least a couple of weeks until you plant the trees, because the green manure can get quite hot as it breaks down.

If you don't have the time or capacity to plant a green manure crop, it doesn't matter at all! Don't let your lack of soil preparation stop you planting trees this year. You could add some well-made compost or aged manure when you plant the trees. If you can't manage that, it's much better to just plant trees into whatever soil you have and work on the soil improvement later, rather than miss another year of getting your future fruit supply started.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery (one of the businesses here on our farm) is once again selling trees grown right here in Harcourt, to suit Harcourt soil and conditions. We have a great range, with more than 250 different varieties and combinations available this year. We specialise in heritage apples, multigraft trees (with more than one variety of the same fruit type) and fruit salad trees (more than one type of fruit on the same tree).

We encourage everyone in Harcourt to plant a heritage apple variety! We're trying to preserve as many old varieties as possible, before they completely disappear. Here's the link to see the full list and place

an order: openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop

You will be able to collect your trees from our Nursery Open Days on the last weekend of June and the first weekend of July (all the details are in the checkout section).

As fruit fly has been found in Harcourt again this season; just a reminder that we offer free fruit fly resources in our online shop. To download a copy go to growgreatfruit.com/online-courses and choose FREE STUFF under Product Categories on the right hand side of the screen. It's up to all of us to become fruit fly experts!

If you'd rather try growing your own trees from scratch than buying them from a nursery, then now is a great time to collect fresh apple, pear and quince seed. The seeds will produce large seedling rootstocks that are tough and resilient, and perfect for grafting your favourite variety on to. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring.

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 a free online workshop.

Grow Great Fruit

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



growgreatfruit.com

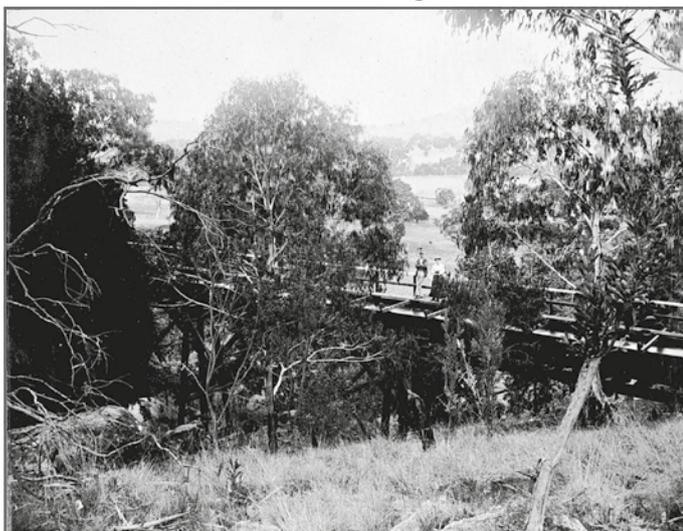
FREE WEBINARS

<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



Exploring The Coliban Main Channel

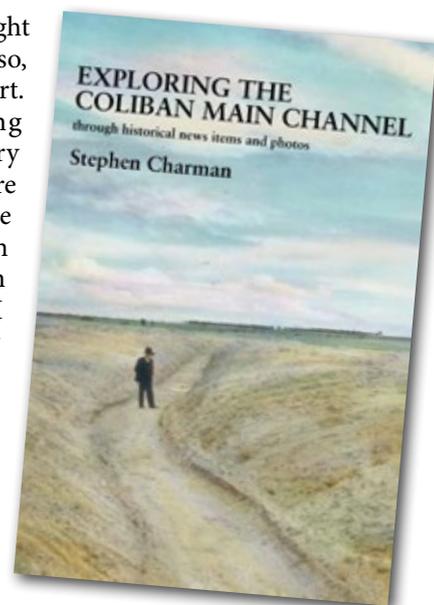


In late 2022, a fellow member of a local Facebook History Group posted an intriguing photo (shown above) of a structure that had once been part of the Coliban Main Channel, which conveys water to the city of Bendigo from the upper Coliban River and its series of reservoirs. The structure is an example of a wooden flume that once transported water above and across gullies encountered at regular intervals along the course of the channel as it winds its way over some 70 kilometres between Malmsbury Reservoir and its destination (these days Sandhurst Reservoir at Big Hill Bendigo). The photo is dated 1894 and is one of a series taken by M. Law of scenic sites in Central Victoria, his wife and an assistant often appearing (as they are here) in these photos at various localities.

In this case a location had been given, 'Whisky Gully near Mount Alexander'. Being an ardent bushwalker or more accurately, 'rambler' I immediately decided to search for its location, and to take a photograph of how the scene looks

today from where I thought M. Law had stood. And so, this is how obsessions start.

Over the following weeks on the State Library website I discovered more historic photos taken of the early features of the Main Channel (which had been built during the 1870s). I then set out to discover the locations of these old photos and to photograph what remained of these features. It wasn't long before I discovered, via Trove, a number of detailed newspaper articles written about the channel system at the time of its construction. These articles give an in depth description of the channel and the country it flows through. The photos and articles are so vivid and evocative I hope that, by collecting them in a book, I'm able to convince both lovers of history and of bushwalking to follow the course of the Coliban Main Channel with a new appreciation of what lies before their eyes.



The book *Exploring the Coliban Main Channel, through historical news items and photos* can be purchased at various outlets in Castlemaine, including Stonemans Bookshop and the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre, Mostyn Street. It's also available at the Harcourt Heritage Centre, 7 High Street Harcourt.

Steve Charman

Weather & Water



April proved to be generally warmer overnight than usual and many people remarked on the Indian summer we had the good fortune to enjoy. Sunny days with mild temperatures prevailed for most of school holidays and proved to be good for outdoor activities. The Thursday before Easter and Good Friday, were the days



when the heaviest rain for the month fell with 34 mm received over the two days.

Rainfall for April was 86 mm which brought the cumulative total for the year to 169.5 mm. This is very acceptable: while it falls below the mark for the years 2020 – 2022, it is far better than 2019 with a cumulative total at the same time of 47.5 mm and 2018 with 75 mm.

The skies were busier than usual with a solar eclipse on 20 April and sightings of the Aurora Borealis.

The Aurora Australis made a spectacular show on 23 April and was captured by local resident, Slade Beard. The best time of the year to see it is from May to August and it is best to be as far south as possible. This event was unusual as it was seen in Victoria's far north, and in Perth. The aurora is a result of solar weather which is expected to peak this year.

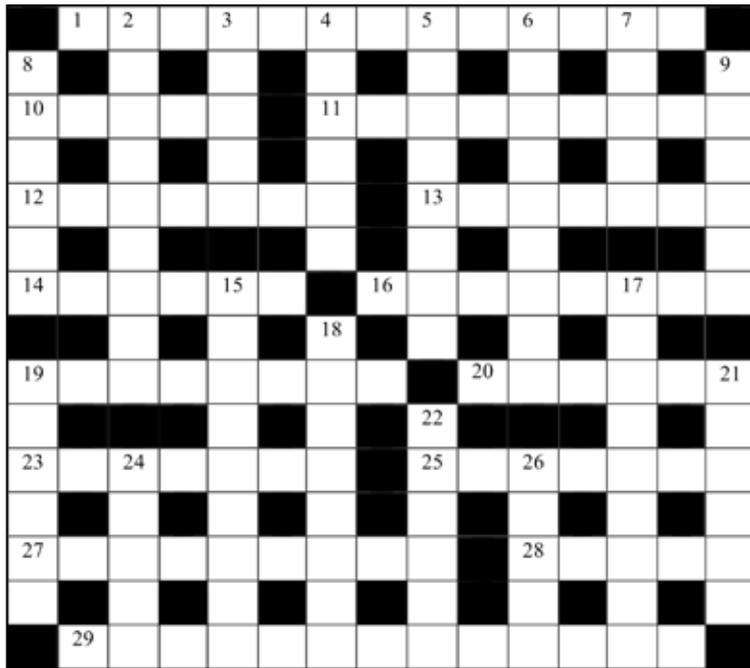
Reservoir Levels as at 1 May

Malmsbury	51.0%
Upper Coliban	83.3%
Lauriston	92.3%
Barkers Creek	47.3% as at 27 April

Photo of Aurora Australis over Ecothought farm by Slade Beard.

May 2023 Xwd

© McW July '19



Down:

2. Eight might die in the tumult if climate-change hits! (9)
3. Artist loses a bit of weight from over his surfaces as he lolls in a deckchair... (5)
4. What not to use on your brain if you don't get the graveside joke? (6)
5. Thick sudden weep broadcast from Kiwi cartridge? (8)
6. Bra, thinly disguised in an amazing way. (9)
7. Joint precipitation from bride's head? (5)
8. World's bottom on top heats lots of insects... (6)
9. Stick commercial in this place. (6)
15. Posterior imperfection unpacks as a deluge from on high. (9)
17. I don't really claim to be a mind-reader, but I've got it in the Parisian night. (9)
18. Circuit and bumps round the airfield in an old Messerschmitt? I do, Jerry. C'est moi! (3-5)
19. Er... 59 + 1 inside could be a tonic! (6)
21. Slim redactor took us up the garden path... (6)
22. Outback ways up junkies' arms? (6)
24. Eve is up for going through a fine sorter. (5)
26. Rare judge at the bar? (5)

Across:

1. Because I can't shift her, I'll claim (pitiably) that it's a key mother-in-law trait. (13)
10. Whirl US producer to the end of the alphabet with the second Baptist, perhaps. (5)
11. Dodge rent to make way across swamp? (9)
12. Come forth again about the edition? (7 or 2-5)
13. He just rang, explaining how odd the left-of-centre bit was. (7)
14. Amerindian potassium bird-noise? (6)
16. Toot + smoke = dance. (8)
19. An 'R' in front of it might lead to spitting it out if you lose the 'R'.. (8)
20. Regularly recurring sequence without a single vowel. (6)
23. Who didn't pay out on small reservoir ruin? (7)
25. Oxidised country bumpkins? (7)
27. Cecil and I could talk about obsolete Scandinavian language until we thawed out. (9)
28. Heard on tables round various coves and inlets... (5)
29. Ninety-eight year-old in good nick—like a hole in the ground before it's dished up? (4-9 or 4,9)

April 2023 Xwd Solution

© McW March '19



Down:

1. Les, her old man [Dad], 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. [Well?]
6. Fleas nip for the duration of their being. (8)
7. Some use the term "snot"; others call her a "frotten 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 [in...] 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? [Sorry: I'm an old rally driver. Stanzas were after our (1600s) time, but they did rally them, dunno how "poetically"...]
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? [Well? Sammy...]
9. You can find a young animal here if you look a certain way... (6)
10. She collects from 11. [Well?]
11. Pays regularly to 10. [Well?]
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? [Well?]
24. Those in the French group might regard outsiders as canaille! (8)
25. Disaster's slings and arrows assist girls send them. (8,7)

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For placement of advertising please contact *The Core* via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au

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3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
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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

Thursday May 11: 7 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare meeting, Heritage Centre/ANA Hall, High Street.

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

Wednesday May 17: Harcourt Valley Primary School Open Day, 9.30–11.00 am and 5.30–6.30 pm.

Sunday May 21: 1.30 pm, Fireside Chat: 'Songlines'. The Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street.

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

CFA: Brigade meeting night is the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; siren is tested at 9.15 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 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 15.

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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Return this to the Post Office or bring it with you to the AGM on Friday May 12 at 7 pm.



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?

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





Harcourt Progress Association

REMINDER NOTICE
HPA Annual General Meeting
Harcourt Railway Station
7:00 pm 12 May 2023

AGENDA

- 1 - Welcome
- 2 - Apologies
- 3 - Minutes of last AGM
- 4 - Report to members
- 5 - Financial report
- 6 - Election of Committee*
- 7 - Walk through railway building and refreshments.

* **Please note:** only financial members may vote at the meeting. Non-financial members may renew their membership at the AGM. Membership fees remain the same for 2023/24: \$20 full membership, \$10 concession. New members are very welcome.

We hope to see you on 12 May.

For catering purposes please rsvp to
sha.cordingley@harcourtprogress.org.au

