

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 106 – July 2023

Produced by:

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[harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)

## Harcourt Valley Community House



The newly refurbished auditorium in the Harcourt Community House at the old railway station.

**A**S YOU KNOW, HPA is progressing well with establishing the community house at the old railway station, but as always there are sticking points.

The current issue we have is with the fencing, or more correctly – lack of fencing. Not only is it a major safety issue (as discussed in a previous edition of *The Core*), we have recently found that the fencing is the responsibility of VicRail, not VicTrack as we originally thought, and that it is illegal to be within 15 metres of rail lines where unfenced. We may be calling on the Harcourt community in the very near future to help us lobby to get fencing installed.

The survey for Harcourt Valley Community House provided us with some very valuable information, and we sincerely thank those

who took the time to respond with such thoughtful and useful answers. We were mainly interested in what people think we should provide through the house, and in gaining some idea of what classes and activities appeal and who can help run them.

The question ‘What sort of activities would you like to see conducted at the HVCH?’ produced some interesting results including: yoga, Pilates and exercise groups, meeting room hire, a community garden, singing groups and choirs, bike repairs, bike hire and bike service centre, public computers, WiFi, printing and copying services, digital media courses, children’s and families services, social club activities, a repair shop, training and workshops including skills development, hobbies, languages, information sessions etc,

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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**

# HPA Progress Report

Continued from page 1

Other suggestions included: a community library service/toy library, Men's Shed, art classes and exhibitions, playgroups, and a volunteer referral agency.

We have recently joined the Regional Association of Neighbourhood and Community Houses (RANCH) and they, along with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, have been very helpful with such things as incorporation and getting started.

## ***We still need your help – Trainers, session leaders***

We are now urgently seeking expressions of interest from individuals who are qualified to provide any of the above offerings. Some people have already expressed their interest through the survey, but we need more trainers and session leaders in addition to those we have already identified.

## ***Volunteers***

If you can offer some volunteer hours, please let us know. Harcourt is a 'volunteering town' as we know from the many articles we receive in *The Core* (not to mention the volunteers already involved in the entire production process of this newsletter), but we hope many of you will be able to find some 'spare time' to help the house get successfully established. There will be jobs for every interest and skill set.

## ***Thank you***

Thank you to the Department Family, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Community Bank Maldon and District, Australian Community Workers Association, Salvos Stores, Ray Roberts, and the Dean and Freeman families for the donation of household items, and the lovely piano from the Cregan family that is now gracing the auditorium.



## Threatened Bird Species

Australia's Nature Laws are being rewritten for the first time in over twenty years and Birdlife Australia is calling on all Australians to get behind the campaign to ensure that the laws save the birds and places that we love. The campaign calls on the Australian Government to enact strong and enforced national standards that protect critical habitat, create an independent National EPA to monitor and enforce the standards, close legal loopholes that favour large developments over nature, and properly fund habitat restoration.



In our Federal Electorate we have 12 threatened birds on the endangered species list: the Australasian bittern, blue winged parrot, diamond firetail, eastern white needletail, regent honeyeater, south-eastern whiteface, south-eastern boobook, south-eastern brown tree creeper, south-eastern hooded robin, southern barking owl and swift parrot.

If you enjoy our local birds, want to save their habitat, and preserve the country life we love, go to BirdLife Australia's website to sign the petition or learn more: [www.actforbirds.org](http://www.actforbirds.org)

## ***Some Time Ago***

There's a certain irony here.

**HARCOURT IMPROVEMENTS.**  
Harcourt, 27th April.  
At the monthly meeting of the Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Association last Friday evening, it was decided that a deputation, consisting of Messrs. M. M'Lean, A. E. Eagle, A. Frankling, E. B. Eagle, J. H. Lang, E. Pritchard, and the secretary (Mr. J. B. Warren), wait on the Railway Commissioners when on tour, and ask that certain improvements be carried out at the local railway station, including the lengthening of the verandah and the removal of the fence on the west side of the station, so as to permit of passengers alighting at the station entrance. At the present time the gates are closed at 5 p.m., and after that hour passengers by the evening trains have to alight outside the gates, and carry their luggage a distance of about 60 yards to the station, often on dark, wet nights through mud and water.

From The Bendigonian, 5 May 1914 via Trove

## **Expression of interest Harcourt Valley Community House**

We are taking expressions of interest from skilled and qualified people who wish to be involved in providing courses at the community house.

Contact Paul Mizzi: [paul.mizzi@harcourtprogress.vic.au](mailto:paul.mizzi@harcourtprogress.vic.au)

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



# WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

## NAIDOC Week – For Our Elders

The raven/crow or 'Waa' in Dja Dja Wurrung, is an important totem to the Kulin Nation which Djaara are part of. Its call aptly wakes me on the morning I complete this column. Country is telling me to get up. There is work to do! I'm a non-First Nations person but connected now to Djaara Country and with responsibilities to it. Elders past and present are foremost in my consciousness, and I acknowledge their care for community, which is integral to Country.

NAIDOC Week is celebrated from 2–9 July this year. The National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week's theme this year is 'For Our Elders'.

NAIDOC Week is a time when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people celebrate, recognising their history, culture and achievements.

Locally, many First Nations People do so without taking on the same level of burden educating non-First People's as they do for the recent Reconciliation Week. However, on these unceded lands where safety, truth and culture have so often been denied, NAIDOC Week offers an opportunity for all people to learn about and celebrate the oldest continuous living cultures on earth.

The substantial history behind NAIDOC Week dates back to the 1920s and 30s and should be in our national consciousness, including the determined activism of people like Yorta Yorta Elder William Cooper, and one of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world, the Day of Mourning on 26 Jan 1938. These are among many historical efforts that led to this week of celebration.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders earn their status, not simply by getting older, but by the relationships nurtured over time. They are recognised by their communities for their wisdom, cultural knowledge, care and service.

Being an Elder comes with much responsibility. In turn, Elders should be treated with a high level of respect. The amazing Elders in our community are very busy people and it's important that we know who they are.

Locally, many will be increasingly

familiar not only with local Elders but also other dedicated and hard working First Nations educators and mentors. Protocols around Elder status are more complex than many are aware, and I myself am doing my learning around this.

We are increasingly aware of First People's culture and the very considerable efforts of these local leaders that go into celebrating First Nations people, culture and community. Young and proud First Nations People are emerging as leaders, listening and learning from the wisdom of the Elders and mentors.

This year, the National NAIDOC Committee 2023 writes:

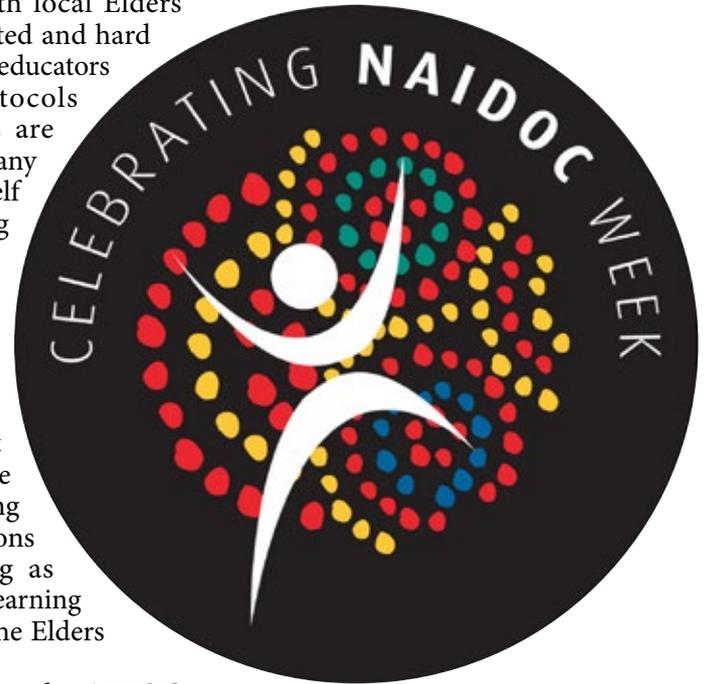
'Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families. They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.'

**For more information about NAIDOC week including its history and events visit: [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)**

**To learn about respectfully communicating with Elders visit: [www.commonground.org.au/article/guide-for-respectfully-communicating-with-elders](http://www.commonground.org.au/article/guide-for-respectfully-communicating-with-elders)**

**For further information on Djaara Country and the Dja Dja Wurrung people please visit Djaara [www.djadjawurrung.com.au](http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au)**

**Floria Maschek is an ally and member of Friends of Nalderun (FoN). FoN members are guided by Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation and are diverse individuals and representatives of many local community networks, supporting Nalderun's visions and work. Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation supports the Aboriginal Community and is led by Aboriginal people while**



**providing many learning and cultural opportunities to the broader community. Nalderun is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.**

**More information can be found at [www.nalderun.net.au](http://www.nalderun.net.au)**



The next Repair Café is on **July 30** at the Castlemaine Community House, 30 Templeton Street from 10 am to 1 pm.

Enter from the carpark and garden at the rear of the building.

**Bring along broken household appliances, sewing repairs, get help with wiping info from mobile phones, learn basic bicycle maintenance. Join the Mending Circle to learn darning and crochet.**

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.

# Changes in July

## Are you getting your pay rise?

From the first full pay period on or after 1 July 2023:

- The National Minimum Wage will increase to \$882.80 per week or \$23.23 per hour.
- Award minimum wages increase by 5.75%.
- Superannuation increases to 11%.

You can find these new rates and any other information about fair employment, either as an employee or employer on the Fair Work Australia/Fair Work Ombudsman website.

Source: [Minimum wages – Fair Work Ombudsman \(www.fairwork.gov.au/pay-and-wages/minimum-wages\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay-and-wages/minimum-wages)

## New Government subsidy for Australians with 'deadly duo' of diabetes and kidney disease

A new PBS listing follows a three-fold increase in diabetes-induced kidney failure in past 20 years. Thousands of Australians with type-2 diabetes who face the prospect of kidney failure are now

able to access a first-of-its-kind medicine to help slow the worsening of kidney damage. From 1 July, Finerenone will be funded through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to delay the progressive decline of kidney function in adults with chronic kidney disease associated with type-2 diabetes.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of chronic kidney disease. Chronic kidney disease is characterised by the gradual loss of kidney function over time which decreases the ability to filter waste products from the blood. Patients with both diabetes and chronic kidney disease are also at a higher risk of developing other complications, such as nerve and eye damage.

Without the subsidy, more than 26,000 patients could pay over \$1,000 per year of treatment.

Finerenone is used in addition to standard medicines for the condition. Appropriate treatment for each patient is for their healthcare professional to determine in consultation with the patient. For more information go to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

Source: (PBS) [Pharmaceutical Benefits](http://www.pbs.gov.au/medicine/item/13316W-13335W)

[Scheme \(www.pbs.gov.au/medicine/item/13316W-13335W\)](http://www.pbs.gov.au/medicine/item/13316W-13335W)

## Child Care Subsidies

From 1 July around 96 per cent of families with a child in early childhood education and care will benefit from increased child care subsidies. The child care subsidy for families earning \$80,000 or less will increase to 90 percent. For a family earning \$120,000 with one child in care their child care costs will be about \$1,700 a year less than they otherwise would be.

For families with two or more children aged five or under in care, the higher subsidy of up to 95 per cent for the second and subsequent children in care will remain.

More Indigenous children will be able to access early education by increasing the baseline number of hours of subsidised early childhood education and care families are eligible for each fortnight.

Families can now calculate their Child Care Subsidy by visiting [www.childcaresubsidy.gov.au](http://www.childcaresubsidy.gov.au).

Source: Media release, The Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education

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# Provide your Feedback on Council's Vision for Managing Waste

Mount Alexander Shire Council is inviting the community to provide feedback on its draft Waste Management Strategy 2023-2033.

Currently, Council's waste management services include kerbside bin collection, the operation of two transfer stations, street sweeping, providing and managing bins in public spaces and reserves, and the collection and processing of litter and items illegally dumped.

The new draft strategy proposes a high-level vision for Council's waste management services for the future, with a focus on reducing, reusing and recycling waste. It has been developed in response to ongoing changes in the waste sector, directives from Recycling Victoria, and feedback from community members in Council's Community Waste Reference Group, which was established in December 2021.

The strategy is guided by four overarching goals and key focus areas, which aim to:

- Reduce the generation of waste
- Increase resource recovery of reusable and recyclable material
- Support a local circular economy
- Minimise the environmental impact of waste management.

In 2024 Council will be drilling down into the detail on waste, and asking the community about how two new waste streams: glass recycling, and food scraps and garden waste can best be addressed.

## Have your say

Community members are encouraged to view the draft Waste Management Strategy and provide input.

- Visit [www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/waste-not-want-not](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/waste-not-want-not) and complete a short survey on the draft strategy.
- Email your feedback to [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)
- Call us on 5471 1700.
- Pop into the Castlemaine Civic Centre to request a hard copy of the draft strategy and provide feedback in person.

Submissions to the draft Waste Management Strategy close on 31 July 2023.

Council will finalise the draft Waste Management Strategy later this year, with a plan scheduled to go to Councillors for consideration in November.

For more information contact Michael Scott, Waste Management Officer on 5471 1836 or at [m.scott@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.scott@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

Source: Mount Alexander Shire Council Media Release





# Chatting with Harcourt CWA Association Day—Tea for Two

Hello everyone. Association Day is coming up in August for Harcourt CWA. It is held each year by all CWA branches which invite members of other branches and members of the public to come and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment including guest speakers and displays. The money raised goes to CWA State Headquarters where it is put to good use in the ongoing running of the Association.

We have had many wonderful Association Days in the past, and we're sure this one will be up there with the best.

Our theme for this year's Association Day is 'Tea for Two', and when Lisa Candy, owner of The Tea Dispensary in Castlemaine, accepted our invitation to be our guest speaker, we were very excited. We are great tea drinkers in Harcourt.

The origins of tea started around 2750 BC in China and was introduced to Britain at about 1650 and to Australia in 1788. Initially it was an expensive product that only the rich could afford and was often kept under lock and key. Catherine of Braganza, wife of Charles II, introduced the ritual of drinking tea to the English Royal Court and the habit was adopted by the aristocracy. Drinking tea socially by the aristocracy, however, didn't become popular until 1840.

Anna, the Seventh Duchess of Bedford, found that she would become a little peckish at around 4:00 pm each day. Lunchtime was long gone and the evening meal, which was fashionably served at 8:00 pm each day, was a long time off. What she needed was a bit of a pick-me-up to keep her going until the dinner gong.

The Duchess thought long and hard and then took the matter of her rumbling stomach into her own hands. She instructed that a tray of tea, some slices of bread and butter and a cake or two be brought to her room each day in the late afternoon. This proved to have the desired effect and was so enjoyable that the Duchess was soon inviting her friends to join her at her afternoon ritual.

Soon, more and more women were inviting their friends to join them in the late afternoon for tea. It became a fashionable social event during the 1880s, and women of the aristocracy and the upper-classes would change into long

gowns, gloves, and hats for their afternoon tea which was usually served in the drawing room or in the garden between four and five pm.



*Afternoon Tea in the Garden*

Well, we are not suggesting that you change into your long gown and don hat and gloves, but we are inviting you to join us for an afternoon of tea with a sandwich and a cake or two to tide you over until your evening meal.

I have already mentioned that Lisa Candy is to be our guest speaker at our Association Day celebrations, and anyone who has had the pleasure of visiting The Tea Dispensary in Templeton Street and checking out the many delicious teas on offer will know that you will be in for a very interesting talk.

So please, come along, have a cup of tea with your friends, have a sandwich and a cake and learn about the many varieties of teas available and the differing benefits they offer. Finally, give quiet thanks to Anna, Duchess of Bedford and her rumbling stomach.

For the extra icing on your cake (as it were), our own Joy Robertson will present a display of 100 teapots from her extensive collection.

Of course, there will be some light entertainment and our usual raffle, door prize, and trading table.

## **Association Day**

Thursday 17th August 2023 1.30 pm  
Harcourt Leisure Centre  
Binghams Road, Harcourt

### **Tea for Two**

**Guest speaker:** Lisa Candy  
(Castlemaine Tea Dispensary)

**Featuring:** 100 Teapots

**Door Prize Entry:** \$10  
Entertainment  
Trading Table  
Raffle

RSVP to Helen Hand on 0448 510 996  
or email to [harcourtowa@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtowa@gmail.com)



As you know, our Country of Study this year is Namibia and I thought that it might be nice to have a look at Namibia's national flag.

Namibia's National Flag was unanimously adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 2 February 1990 as a symbol of the country's struggle for national unity. It symbolises peace, unity, and common loyalty to Namibia. The National Flag represents the nation in every aspect:

- The sun symbolises life and energy. The golden colour of the sun represents the warmth and the colour of the plains of the Namib Desert.
- The blue symbolises the sky, the Atlantic Ocean, Namibia's marine resources and the importance of rain and water.
- Red represents the Namibian people, their heroism and their determination to build a future of equal opportunity for all.
- White refers to peace and unity.
- The green symbolises the country's vegetation and agricultural resources.

Thanks again for your time and I look forward to chatting with you again next month. Don't forget to call in and see us if you would like to know a little more about the CWA. We meet at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Binghams Road on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm.

*Lyn Rule*

*Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA*



## Giving Learner Drivers the Best Start

Do you have someone in your household ready to get their L plates? Are you a little nervous about how to be helpful in the passenger seat? Then we might be able to help.

Gary Clarke is the driving instructor leading the Driver Training Program run by Community Bank Maldon & District that has been running for over 20 years. This program has seen more than 400 young people learn skills, increase confidence and better understand road rules by experiencing a range of different environments, traffic conditions and driving styles.

The Community Bank Maldon & District subsidises the majority of the \$900 per participant program costs. There is a charge to participants of only \$150, but each graduate receives a reward of a \$50 bank account with the Community Bank Maldon & District on completion of their course.

The course can add up to 15 hours of supervised driving experience per participant. Two sessions are run during most school holiday breaks. Information about how to apply is listed below.

In the meantime, Gary's top tips for

parents of new drivers are:

- Explain all the controls on the dash of the vehicle, e.g. indicators, heater, wipers, seat adjustment, mirror adjustment and how to start the car e.g. foot on brake for auto and foot on clutch for manual. Then turn the key.
- Choose a quiet place on-road or off-road to start moving forwards and backwards slowly.
- Feel how the steering works left to right, moving slowly and back to straight, then applying brakes to stop.
- On your first drive – keep it short and positive; no speed involved just get used to how it feels, very gently; never get into arguments about driving as this will not create confidence; build up slowly and enjoy the drive.

For more information about the Driver Training Program, chat to staff at any of



*Instructor Gary with recent graduates Amabel, Liam and Finley.*

our branches, phone Maldon on 5475 1747, or head to our website [maldoncb.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Application-form-Learner-Driver-Training-Program-2020-21-MDCB.pdf](http://maldoncb.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Application-form-Learner-Driver-Training-Program-2020-21-MDCB.pdf)



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# Harcourt Lions Club

There's been movement at the Station and word has got around there has been a change of leadership of the Harcourt District Lions Club. Newly elected President, Ray Rice; Vice President, Mark Mitchell; Secretary, Sue Nash and Treasurer, Loretta Rice have been appointed to lead the Club as from 1 July 2023. These changes have been made after the transfer of Grant and Katrina Victor-Gordon and Sabrina to the Castlemaine Lions Club.

When the Harcourt District Lions Club was about to fold some years ago through lack of members, Grant and his family transferred from Castlemaine Lions to Harcourt Lions Club and we were reinvigorated. For some years, through Grant, the successful Pick-my-project (a Victorian State Government initiative) meant a number of students from Castlemaine Secondary College were involved in working at the Victorian Miniature Railway VMR (the project has now finished), along with the involvement of the Club in that and other projects.

We thank Grant, Katrina, and Sabrina for all their input into the Harcourt Lions Club and the enjoyable time we had with them.

Now we are once again rebuilding and making some changes. We are moving from a Friday Meeting night to a 'Club Gathering' on a Thursday night with a dinner (something to share) at 6.30 pm followed by a general discussion and planning time.

Of course, if you are community minded and would like to join Lions and become involved in helping folk in the Harcourt District, then talk to one of our members at the Gather Harcourt market on Sunday 30 July 2023.

**Of note: the Harcourt District Lions Club was chartered in June 1984. Next year we will be celebrating 40 years of service to the community.**



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# Why I support the Voice

There are many disadvantaged groups in Australia, all of whom would surely like to have a greater say in government matters affecting them. So why should one group, Indigenous Australians, be given a special and constitutionally-enshrined voice to parliament? There is no doubting the extreme level of disadvantage in many Indigenous communities: the statistics on, for example, life-expectancy and imprisonment, are shocking and unacceptable. But while that is an often-stated reason for the Voice, it is not, in my view, a sufficient reason. So why do I support the Voice?

Firstly, the proposed Voice is intimately connected to the proposed recognition of Indigenous Australians in the words of the constitution – a recognition (widely supported) that they were the custodians of this land for thousands of years before colonisation. Such recognition is central to what defines Australia, so it should be more than just words. It needs to be more substantial. In my mind this justifies giving Indigenous Australians their own Voice to Parliament: that would be tangible recognition.

Secondly, the disadvantage that many Indigenous Australians experience has a different genesis from that of other disadvantaged groups. Much is the result of colonisation: their land was taken from them, many of their children were taken away, they were omitted from the national census, they lacked electoral franchise, they have been subjected to paternalistic laws. The impact of colonisation on them and their way of life has been nothing short of catastrophic, and warrants redress in a tangible way.

Thirdly, modern Australia has much to learn from the traditional practices and beliefs of Indigenous culture. Top of mind here is 'connection to country', respect for non-human life, living in harmony with nature, being custodians not owners of the land. In contrast, modern Australia, with its worship of wealth, consumerism and exploitation of nature is demonstrably unsustainable both environmentally and ethically. It is perhaps wishful thinking on my part, but a louder indigenous voice could show us a way towards a brighter future.

*Ian Penrose*

**Ian is a former scientist and our first Yarra River Keeper. He is a regular commentator in The Age.**

## 'Want to Know More About Voting 'Yes' or 'No'?

As the debate surrounding the upcoming referendum intensifies, the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) has outlined the key arguments for and against enshrining an Indigenous Voice in the Australian constitution. You can find out more by going to:

[www.sbs.com.au/news/article/yes-or-no-here-are-the-main-arguments-for-and-against-the-voice/2h82rx9tj](http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/yes-or-no-here-are-the-main-arguments-for-and-against-the-voice/2h82rx9tj)

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## Councillor Comment



Hi all,

Hope you are all keeping warm.

This week's Council meeting was a blockbuster. The crowd was down slightly, but you can still see all the action on YouTube. Some of the good news is that we approved the 23/24 budget after finding some extra money for community groups that made submissions to the budget.

We received a national local government award for the Boorp Boorp Boonyil Exhibition in the Market building. Congratulations to all concerned for this great exhibition. Not to be outdone (well a little bit), we received a state government award for our Stanley Park North playground in Harcourt.

Our latest finance report indicates we are on track with the budget year to date. Some may say that doesn't matter, but I can assure you, it does. It means we are able to attract grant funding to deliver more for our community, and it also means we can respond quickly in the case of unforeseen events or opportunities.

The not-so-good news is the valuers tell us that valuations on farm properties have gone up faster than residential values. This means that our farmers will see substantial rate increases, even though produce prices are significantly down. As you know, I am involved in farming. Continual rising costs are killing farm businesses, so I think it is time for a rethink. Many of our farmers produce fruit, wool, meat or grain for export. When they are all gone what will the rest of the community do? Rely on mining?

On the music scene, we had the gig at Shedshaker. Thanks for the support to the locals who attended. We had a great night, and I have had feedback from as far afield as Cairns and Hobart.

As they say it is a long way to the top if you want to rock and roll.

Best regards Tony

AG Cordy  
0439742434



## Local law change allows tiny homes on wheels



Mount Alexander Shire Councillors have voted to remove permit requirements for people wishing to camp or occupy a caravan or tiny home on wheels on private property where there is an existing dwelling.

Councillors made the unanimous decision to change the permit requirements, which are outlined in Local Law 13 – Camping on Private Property, at the meeting of Council on Tuesday 20 June 2023.

'This decision was informed by long-term community advocacy and the 1616 residents who made submissions to Council on the matter,' said Mayor Rosie Annear.

'With 91% of people supportive of the proposed change, there was little doubt that this is what our community wants.

'We know that this change won't fix the housing crisis we're experiencing in the shire, but we hope it will provide another option for people who are struggling to find a place to live or for those who just want a lifestyle change.

'I've lived in Castlemaine almost my whole life and have never seen people struggling with housing availability, security, and affordability to the extent that they are now. I've also never witnessed so much visible homelessness and rough sleeping in our shire.

'We're hoping to mitigate risk by only amending the local law to allow people to camp, or stay in a caravan or tiny house on wheels, on land where there is already an existing dwelling without a permit. This way, a lot of aspects such as bushfire and flood management, environmental impact, and access, will have been managed already by the existing dwelling.'

The changes to permit requirements will come into effect following notification of the change in the Local Government Gazette, which is planned to occur on Thursday 29 June 2023.

People interested in camping or occupying a caravan or tiny home on wheels on private property where there is an existing dwelling can do so without a permit as long as the camping does not cause any detrimental impact.

Wastewater will need to be removed from the site for disposal at suitable locations, such as a dump point. Penalties may apply for property owners who do not comply with these requirements.

Mayor Annear said the move by Councillors to remove permit requirements will increase options for people during the housing affordability crisis, but more work needs to be done.

'This Council has made housing a real priority, reflecting the needs of our community, and we'll continue to work on other ways we can address the housing crisis in our shire,' said Mayor Annear.

'This is an important step in the right direction, but it's not the end.'

Taken from a MASC media release 23 June 2023



# Harcourt CFA

## Keeping Cool in Winter

While we are all trying to keep warm this winter, there are some things that need to keep cool. The charging of phones, tablets and laptops in the home or lithium batteries, e-scooters and e/bikes in the shed/garage can generate heat which potentially can start a fire. There are basic steps to take to reduce the risk.

Never charge electronics devices while they are sitting on soft surfaces such as couches and beds. This can cause the items to generate excessive heat and lead to a fire.

Do not leave items on charge while you are away from home, and it is better to charge these items while you are still awake, not overnight while you are sleeping.

The charging of lithium batteries, e-bikes and e-scooters is also starting fires in sheds and garages in Victoria. CFA is recommending the installation of a smoke alarm in these areas where charging takes place so that early detection can occur in these out-of-sight locations. Taking these simple steps will hopefully avoid the consequence of a fire starting.

Energy Safe Victoria is also advising that safety switches on your switchboard need to be tested every year to protect your home from faulty wiring. Using the slogan: TEST. RESET. PROTECT. they are promoting this simple test to make your home safer and

reduce risk. If you have never done this, or if it has been some time since you have, then carry out a test as soon as possible and then schedule the test along with changing your smoke alarm batteries or something similar, to ensure you do not forget in future.

### Product Recalls

While there are product recalls occurring every week, some are well publicised while others not so much.

Recalls are divided into categories that include vehicle safety, food safety, therapeutic goods, agricultural and veterinary chemical products, child safety and many others. Complete lists can be found at [productsafety.gov.au](http://productsafety.gov.au) where you can browse all recalls.

Currently, there are some recalls of vehicles and batteries that can potentially cause a fire. It is worthwhile to do a regular check of the website, especially if you are not a regular reader of print or electronic media.

While vehicle manufacturers are able to contact the original owners of vehicles to advise of these recalls, this will not occur on secondhand vehicles, unless current owner details are passed on to the manufacturer's database. This applies to most purchases as they are not registered with the manufacturers.

### Brigade Activity

June has been a quieter month with only two turnouts. Both were to support the Lockwood Brigade.

The first was to attend a fuel spill at the Ampol service station at Ravenswood as a result of a drive-off with the filler hose still attached. The Lockwood Brigade arrived first on the scene and quickly dealt with the situation, so we were able to return to the station.

The second was to a car emitting smoke just south of the roundabout at Ravenswood. Again, the Lockwood Brigade arrived first on the scene and quickly determined that it was steam and not smoke coming from the vehicle. This is a common occurrence, especially after an accident in which the cooling system can suffer a puncture or a split.

### A Date for the Diary

Planning for the 2023 Mount Alexander Emergency Services Expo has commenced and the date of Saturday October 14, 2023 has been set for this event to take place.

Stay safe and warm.

*Tyrone Rice*  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



## *Fireside Chat*

### *Harcourt Heritage Centre*

#### *Sunday 16th July 1.30 pm*

**'It was a good idea at the time'**

Set in the midst of the millennial drought, this true story tells of a Harcourt initiative. It was a good idea at the time (and may yet re-surface).

But it might also have become the stuff of sensational headlines.

**Warm room, Blazing fire.**  
**All welcome.**  
**Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.**

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Labor



# Harcourt Uniting Church

## Refugee Support

### Seed Sundays

Our Church is not just about meeting for worship on Sundays. Recently, Marie and I attended a Fellowship Day in Bendigo where we heard about the Community Issues Group which is under the auspices of the Swan Hill Uniting Church. There, a group of volunteers are strong advocates for refugees in the community, many of whom are from Afghanistan where the Taliban have taken control and life is very difficult.

The Swan Hill community has welcomed these people into their town, and the Community Issues Group provides support to help them settle into a new life. Welcome nights, English classes, assistance with navigating the health system, opportunities for education, driving lessons, bus trips around the area and Aussie BBQs are just some of the ways they are made to feel welcome. In return the Afghan people invite the community to share traditional Afghan meals with them. To learn more about this amazing work just search for [Swan Hill Uniting Church](#) and click on [Activities](#)

Several times in the year we hold 'Seed Sunday' when a representative of a community group is invited to speak about their work. Recently, we learnt about the Castlemaine Safe Space. Their website sums up the purpose of the Safe Space in the following words. 'Our lived experience volunteers are fully trained to support guests who may be in emotional distress or experiencing suicidal thoughts.' There is no need for an appointment or referral, and it's a non-judgemental, warm, and welcoming space where people can just sit and chat, one to one, with a volunteer who is trained to just 'listen'. Some people come just because they are lonely and find comfort in enjoying a cuppa, food, and a chat.

### Castlemaine Safe Space

**Tuesday 6pm–8.30 pm** at the Senior Citizens Hall, Mechanics Lane.

**Saturday 1.30pm–4pm** at Castlemaine Community House, Templeton St.

### Anniversary

On June 22nd, 1977, the Uniting Church in Australia was formed when the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches combined to become the Uniting Church in Australia. At Harcourt we celebrated with a 46th birthday cake for morning tea, and George reminded us of that day back in 1977 when members of the three churches in Castlemaine walked from their own church and met up in the centre of town to walk to the Town Hall for a service. Harcourt only had two Methodist churches - Harcourt and Harcourt North, so there wasn't a great change for our town. The Harcourt Uniting Church now meets at the one site - Harcourt Uniting Church in Buckley St at 9 am each Sunday - and you will find a warm welcome.

**Two men were watching the local Church burn down. One said, 'Bill, this is the first time I've seen you anywhere near the Church. Why haven't you been before?'**

**'Because,' Bill replied, 'I haven't seen the Church on fire before!'**

*Jan Jenkin, Harcourt Uniting Church*

## Harcourt Carpet Bowls

Winter Carpet Bowls is going well with some very keen bowlers coming out on very cold nights to play. We are planning to hold a Tournament on Wednesday August 9 at the Leisure Centre to raise funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group.

**Commencing:** 7.30 pm, arrive 7.15 pm to register.

**Cost:** \$5.00 to play three games followed by supper.

Prizes for the winners.

A Raffle will also be held.

All welcome.

Planning is also underway for Country Carpet Bowls Championships to be held on 23rd September 2023 at the Leisure Centre. More later.

Contacts: Loretta 54742453 John 54742226.

## Dhelkaya Health

### Harcourt Heritage Stroll

Dhelkaya Health's free guided tour of the Harcourt heritage will be held on Thursday July 27, and everyone is invited to come along.

The tour begins in the Harcourt Heritage Centre at 10:30 am, where Harcourt local George Milford will describe the many items of interest stored inside this museum of treasures.

Local volunteers will then lead the group on a short walk to several areas of interest nearby, including the old post office, the old state school and a historic bakery. The event is approximately one hour long and finishes at about 11.30 am.

'We'd love to see our regular participants and warmly welcome any new guests. It's a wonderful opportunity to socialise and hear about the history of Harcourt,' said Liza Shaw from Dhelkaya Health.

### Event details

**What:** Gentle stroll of Harcourt Heritage

**When:** Thursday July 27, 10:30 am to 11:30 am

**Where:** Meet at Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum

**Bring:** Wet weather gear if required, comfortable walking shoes, water bottle.

**Cost:** Free

**The walk will be cancelled if there is heavy rain.**

**Bookings are not required. For more information, please call Dhelkaya Health on 5479 1000.**



# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Term Two Highlights

In a recent phone conversation I had with HVPS head teacher Andrew Blake, we discussed the highlights of second term. During our conversation Andrew mentioned how delighted he was with the support HVPS staff and students have received from the school and local community. More students are now attending the Friday Breakfast Club, and there is a trusty band of volunteers that oversees and organises it.

Community volunteers are now back in school to help children with their reading and other activities which have been well supported and have been featured in past *Core* editions. They are:

- The Mothers' Day Breakfast
- Prep to grade 2 Tabloid Sports Day
- School House Cross Country Sports Day
- Education Week

Andrew reported that students settled well into the term and have had a productive second term. By now, students are enjoying their school holidays and would have received their mid-year reports, and the parent-teacher interviews would have been conducted.

On the 22 June students enjoyed their Casual Clothes Day and on the next day, the

last day of term, there was a special Sushi and Cupcake Lunch to mark the end of term.

There were two student highlights for the term. First, there was the talk at the school on National Simultaneous Story Day by author Claire Saxby. The talk provided students with an opportunity to learn about incorporating fact and fiction into their story writing (see last month's *Core* about the visit). The second was a recent visit to the Bendigo Regional Gallery by students. The report below is taken with permission from art teacher Kellie Maddaford's School Newsletter report. She mentions the Gallery visit and reports on student artwork for this term.

'We have had a wonderful term in Art! The 2/3/4 and 1/2 students have completed their self-portraits using watercolour, the Prep/1 and 1/2 have learnt all about the primary and secondary colours and the 5/6 class have completed their grid drawings and are in the process of making some fantastic Surrealist artworks. We were also fortunate to have received funding for Yrs. 3-6 to visit the Australia: Designing a Nation at the Bendigo Art Gallery. It was lovely to see and hear students'

enthusiastic responses to the artworks and their engagement with gallery educators. The exhibition is on over the holidays, and I would highly recommend a visit.'

As mentioned previously, the school has been promised funding so that the tatty shade cloth near the Art and the Music room can be replaced. The Student Council, supported by the School Council, organised a vote to enable students to select the colour they would like for the cloth. The yellow/navy blue cloth proved to be the winning colour. Now we hope that this arrives and can be installed before the warmer weather returns (soon, we hope!).

Happy holidays to all staff and students. We hope you have a great break and a good start to third term.

*Lois Denham*



**Linda Newton**



*Harcourt fencepost blue wren.*



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# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## When bad light stopped play.

John Lupton, ancestor of many residents of Mount Alexander Shire and beyond, came to Harcourt in 1857. With him were his his youngest son, George T Lupton (later to be known as 'Gorgeous George'), his eldest son James and his wife Mary Ann, and Sarah, John Lupton's second wife. His first wife (the boys' mother) Alice Lupton, nee Middleton, had died of cancer in 1851.

John Lupton was a member of a solid upper-class family. He kept a confectionery/pastry shop at 27 St Peter's Street Leeds and inherited a corn-milling business from his father. The Luptons were a family of wealth and position that included several of Leeds' lord mayors and today boasts of its place in the ancestry of Her Royal Highness, Catherine, Princess of Wales, whose great-grandfather Noel Middleton married heiress Olive Lupton .

It speaks volumes for the far-reaching fame of the Mount Alexander goldfields that John Lupton should be lured away from his corn-milling business to take up a new life on the diggings of colonial Victoria. When the Lupton family left England, they left behind an adult sister and brother of James and George. They did not lose touch, however, as there is evidence of regular letters passing between the families in Leeds and Harcourt.

John Lupton conducted a goldfields general store on a bush track on the south side of Black Jack Gully. The track, which is no longer visible, ran north-south along the western edge of what are now 40 to 54 Peelers Road. In his six years at Harcourt, John Lupton was mentioned in the Mount Alexander Mail just twice, the first in October 1860 when he was prosecuted, along with twenty other storekeepers, as part of a general strengthening of the licensing laws.

The case rested on the evidence of a police informer who had gone from store to store, buying a 'nobbler' of brandy at each. The proceedings were somewhat farcical, as it was alleged that, by the time the constable reached the seventh of the local businesses 'he was in seventh heaven, having downed seven "nobblers" of brandy.'

All twenty-one of the storekeepers were fined, upon threat of imprisonment if the fines were not paid. The evidence gives us just a glimpse at the sort of things that John Lupton had on the shelves of

his store, because the evidence mentions lemonade, sarsaparilla and ginger wine. We can be sure that the shelves of Lupton's store contained flour, eggs, tea, soap and other, more humdrum, household essentials.

The only other mention of John Lupton was in the *Mount Alexander Mail* of 11 October, 1862.

### **BARKER'S CREEK CRICKET CLUB.**

**This Club commenced the season by playing a scratch match, on their ground, October 8th, two elevens being chosen by Mr Potter and Mr Manning, from resident members, but, owing to the large scores obtained, was not played out. Notwithstanding the wind blew somewhat coldly, there was a good attendance, a satisfactory proof that the noble game of cricket is not on the decline on Barker's Creek.**

**From the scores it will be seen that there was a considerable amount of leather hunting, and from the hitting powers exhibited by some of the younger members, we fully expect to see Barker's Creek Club maintain their reputation.**

**P. Bond played a very fine innings of 50 against all kinds of bowling. J. Bond's 36 was a masterly piece of cricket for "a colt," going in first and bringing out his bat, although Manning, the well-known bowler, was well on the spot, he could not disturb his timbers. The fielding was very loose, but this may be accounted for by the bad ground.**

**Mr Owens, of the Union Hotel, with his usual liberality, provided a good substantial luncheon, which all seemed to enjoy. We consider this one of the most successful meetings over witnessed on this ground.**

A full list of the twenty-two batsmen was published with each man's run score. The match was unusual in that there were no catches, the batsmen were either clean-bowled or run out.

Subsequent reports of matches in the following season reveal that only a handful of the men mentioned in

the season opener actually played in scheduled matches. This game was therefore more social and not really a guide for the selectors.

Mr Owens, of the Union Hotel, with his usual liberality, provided a good substantial luncheon, which all seemed to enjoy.

John Lupton, then aged 50, played for Mr Mannings side, had a score of 21 not out when bad light stopped play while James Lupton (John's eldest son) was aged 27. Playing for Mr Potter's side, he had scored 11 runs when he was clean bowled by Mr Manning.

This report is the last mention in print of John Lupton. Of James Lupton we know quite a bit about his subsequent career.

Until June 1863, James Lupton, was mining at Barkers Creek, and there was favourable reporting on the results of his surface mining - digging up gold-bearing alluvium and carting it to the cradle to separate and recover any specks of gold.

By June 1864, James appears to have taken over his father's store and was living in Black Jack's Gully, from where, on 27 June 27 1864, he applied for a beer licence.

In 1875, James moved to the corner of what are now called Black Jack Rd and Peelers Rd. In that year he successfully applied for a licence to open the Live and Let Live Hotel.

Family historians have told Harcourt Heritage Centre that the report of the October 1862 cricket match is the last mention of John Lupton in any news article or official record. He then disappeared. In those far off days of limited communications it was quite possible to simply vanish. Several possibilities have been suggested; (a) that he went to the New Zealand gold rush, (b) that he returned to England or (c, and this is not mere speculation) that he changed his name and became a storekeeper at Raywood, north of Bendigo. We shall leave this problem to the family historians.

**This Thumbnail Sketch was written for *The Core* by Harcourt Heritage Centre using the CH James collection, Trove and Lupton family research files. Information as to the ancestry of HRH the Princess of Wales can be found using your preferred search engine.**



# Harcourt Bowling Club

## The Club is not Hibernating

Although our bowling green is in 'dormant' mode there is nothing dormant about Harcourt Bowling Club. As the weather allows, our volunteers have been busy with ongoing maintenance jobs. The Building and Grounds Committee is always looking at ways to improve the facilities and at this stage the paving of the western seating end of the green has been completed and looks a treat as well as being more practical. The cementing of the barbeque area has also been finished.

The newly elected Board has also been

busy preparing for the next season – this will begin with the combined Opening Day and President's Day set for Sunday September 17, 2023.

The Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region to which we belong, is looking into changing Midweek Pennant days. Clubs in the Bendigo playing region have canvassed their players and a decision will be made early in July as to whether Midweek Pennant will be played on Monday or Tuesday.

### Friday Social Nights

The Social Nights will continue throughout the winter months with the members' Draw and raffles being drawn at the earlier time of 6.00pm. The colder evenings may put some people off coming out, but be assured, the Club rooms are well heated. So come along and join the warm company.

The annual migration north has begun, with many bowlers heading off to the warmer weather. We wish them safe travels!

*Christine Anderson*



**Grow Great Fruit**

## SUNDAY FRUIT TREE WORKSHOPS

JULY	2	Planting & Pruning Young Fruit Trees 1pm - 2pm
AUG	27	Pruning Fruit Trees 9.30 am-12.30pm Continuous Hot Compost System 1.30pm-4.30pm
SEPT	24	Organic Pest & Disease Control 9.30am-12.30pm Grafting Fruit Trees 1.30pm-4.30pm
OCT	29	Biochar Making & Correcting Compost 10am-12.30pm Compost Tea & Worm Farms 1.30pm-4pm

**BOOKINGS**  
tinyurl.com/2rhz4rwf

## A Dog's Life

A farmer had to count his sheep for taxation purposes, so he got his border collie to do it. The dog came back and announced that there were 400.

The farmer thought that maybe he shouldn't take a dog's word for it, and very carefully counted them himself. There were 397.

He scolded the dog. 'I gave you a very important task and you said there were 400 sheep. I've counted them, and there are only 397.'

'I know,' said the border collie. 'I rounded them up.'

# PLUMBER

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Winter is well and truly underway, and this month the Landcare group braved the cold to undertake some work at the picnic ground along the creek at Harcourt.

We were lucky enough to be a part of the Buzz Pollinator project with Connecting Country who provided us with a mix of fifty locally indigenous shrub and understory plants to add to the area. The species were chosen to provide a range of different resources to insects.

We also found time to admire some of our previous plantings and do some maintenance. Silver banksia, hop bushes and an array of wattles are all growing steadily and transforming the area. Of particular beauty is the bushy needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*). This plant is our only locally indigenous hakea, and it is currently in full flower with fragrant white flowers. It is particularly spiky which makes it a great refuge for small birds. Be sure to take a walk along the creek to check it out but don't get too close!

We then enjoyed some morning tea and a cuppa and chat about local eucalyptus trees. We brought along specimens from the area to identify.

Along the creek we are surrounded by river red gums, a common species in lower lying areas within our shire.

Next month we will be working in the same area continuing to maintain our current plantings. Hope to see you there!



Dear Submitter,

### Plan Harcourt Amendment C94malx Update – Findings of the Strategic Level Biodiversity Assessment and Next Steps

The Planning Panel report for Amendment C94malx (November 2022) recommended that further work should be done including a strategic level biodiversity assessment to strategically plan for the protection and conservation of areas of biodiversity in Harcourt.

With the support of the Department of Transport and Planning's Regional Planning hub, a Stage 1 strategic level biodiversity has been prepared. It was recently completed and found that while the proposed amendment attempts to protect higher value biodiversity in certain ways, such as rezoning areas for development with limited biodiversity values, a Stage 2 assessment should proceed with further work to confirm higher biodiversity areas where possible (e.g. access dependent).

### Next Steps

In light of the assessment's findings, Council officers are working with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Forest, Fire and Regions Group to scope out the Stage 2 strategic biodiversity assessment based on the findings of stage 1, to ensure that this work identifies suitable planning controls to protect and manage biodiversity values. In addition, officers have applied for further funding assistance from the Department of Transport and Planning's Regional Planning Hub to help undertake this work. The application is currently being assessed by the Department.

The Stage 1 strategic level biodiversity assessment can be viewed at Council's dedicated Plan Harcourt (Amendment C94) webpage at <https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Building-and-Planning/Planning-for-the-future/Strategic-planning-projects/Plan-Harcourt>.

**Should you have any questions, please contact the Strategic Planning team on (03) 5471 1700 or via email [strategicplanning@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).**

Yours sincerely

Nathan Lord  
Strategic Planner

## Flood Mitigation Strategy

Mount Alexander Shire Council is in the process of delivering, upgrading and re-establishing levee banks to Castlemaine and Campbells Creek.

Levee banks and waterway improvements will considerably reduce the impact of major flood events on nearby homes, businesses and community assets.

The Detailed Design, which includes levee locations, materials and construction standards, has been awarded to a contractor. The levee designs aim to enhance accessibility, serviceability and durability.

Due to the complexities associated with each of the levees, they are planned to be delivered in a staged manner.

Council is currently in the development stage of this project, which includes finalising designs, and securing permits

and approvals.

Once this is complete, Council will progress to the delivery stage, which includes construction of the levees.

Construction on the first levee is expected to commence in 2024.

### 2024

- National School Lane, Campbells Creek levee
- Elizabeth Street, Castlemaine levee
- Campbells Creek Township levee

### 2025

- Castlemaine Cabin and Van Park levee

Read more about the Levee banks project on our Major projects page.

For more information contact Council Manager of Engineering, Paul Diss, on 5471 1700 or [p.diss@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:p.diss@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

Source: MASC Media Release

# Grace Church

## BAPTISM?

Why do we baptise people by full immersion in water? You may have seen this occur in a baptismal tank, a river, a lake, a swimming pool, or even in the sea.

The first reason is because we are following the example of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Matthew records:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan [River] to be baptised by John [i.e. John the Baptist]. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

Similarly, when we go through the waters of baptism, our Heavenly Father is well pleased with us.

Secondly, we willingly submit to being baptised in obedience to Jesus' command known as The Great Commission:

Jesus said .... Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...

On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out, the Apostle Peter had this to say:

Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Compelling reasons indeed. Interested in being baptised? Please get in touch.

*Pastor Roger Thurecht, Grace Church*

## Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday  
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht  
0422 605 897  
[gracecastlemaine.org.au](http://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



## Weather & Water

After steeling ourselves for El Niño to swing into action, June proved to be a very wet month in Harcourt with a rainfall total of 153 mm. The highest fall was on June 7, with 53 mm recorded. Total rainfall to the end of June for 2023 stands at 278 mm, which is lower than the three preceding years, which were: June 2022, 360 mm June 2021, 323 mm and 2020, 369 mm. Perhaps the influence of El Niño is being felt, but it is not fully obvious as yet. Cold and cloudy days persisted in June.

In their Climate Driver update, the Bureau of Meteorology has announced an El Niño Alert. The update began with the following statement:

'When El Niño Alert criteria have been met in the past, an El Niño event has developed around 70% of the time.'

### Reservoir Levels as at 2 July

**Upper Coliban:** 101%

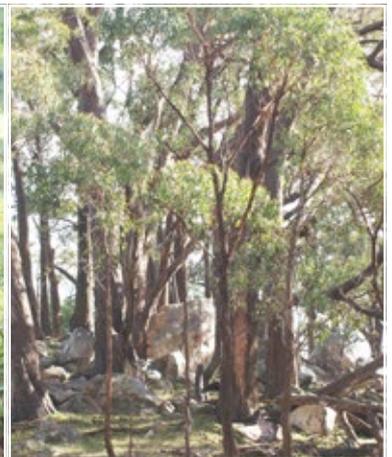
**Lauriston:** 95%

**Malmsbury Reservoir:** 80%

**Barkers Creek:** 62% as at 21 June



*Lauriston Reservoir.*





# Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

## Get Ready to Graft



Hi everyone,

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

Are you interested in learning how to graft your fruit trees? It's a great way to grow your own trees for free and create multi-graft fruit trees. (There's a grafting workshop coming up on September 24, see the details at the end of this story.)

If you would like to do some grafting this spring (or you're not sure but want to keep your options open), now is the time to collect grafting wood (also called scions). Scions need to be collected when the trees are dormant i.e., after their leaves have fallen off. That's now for most deciduous fruit trees. The time between when last year's leaves fall off and next year's buds start swelling seems to get shorter every year, but each variety should have at least some gap between the two.

Once collected, you need to store the grafting wood in the fridge (see the step-by-step process below). The actual grafting takes place in early spring when your fruit trees start waking up and the sap starts moving. The whole process takes a bit of planning, but it's worth it.

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

Here's how to successfully collect scion wood:

**1** Choose the new variety you want to grow. If you're not sure what variety you'd like, try asking around your neighbours to find out their favourite and most successful varieties. That way you'll be growing something that you already know will grow well in our district.



- 2** Wait until the trees are completely dormant (no leaves), then collect strong, healthy pieces of one year old wood, i.e., the shoots that grew last summer. It's not hard to spot them—just start at the end of any shoot and go back to where you can see an obvious join to the wood that grew the year before. Try to choose pieces that are at least 20 cm long (if possible), and approximately pencil thickness. If you can't meet those criteria, get the best shoots you can find.
- 3** Cut a few pieces, wrap them in plastic wrap or seal in a plastic bag. They don't have to be airtight, but it's important to make sure the wood won't dry out while they're stored in the fridge.
- 4** Here's the really important bit - label it!
- 5** Then just store it somewhere cool like a cellar, or the fridge, until spring. That's all you need to know for now - we'll be talking about actual grafting techniques when we get closer to the time.

Thanks to everyone who bought trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery this year. It's great to see how many locals are putting in new fruit trees, especially some of the older heritage apple varieties. Sales through the website have now closed, but we'll have plenty more (including lots of multigrafts) next year.

On another topic, here's a tip for looking after your worm farm over winter. Worms don't like to be cold, so add an

extra layer of insulation by covering with underfelt or old carpet. If you only have a small worm farm, move it into a shed or the laundry to provide some extra protection from the elements. It's important to look after them or you may find that your worms have died or escaped!

### Workshops

We have 7 workshops coming up (go to our website to book in to any of them: [growgreatfruit.com/product-category/workshops](http://growgreatfruit.com/product-category/workshops))

- 1 Planting and Pruning Young Fruit Trees**, July 2, 1pm - 2pm
- 2 Pruning Fruit Trees**, August 27, 9.30am - 12.30pm
- 3 Continuous Hot Compost System**, August 27, 1.30pm-4.30pm
- 4 Organic Pest & Disease Control**, September 24, 9.30am-12.30pm
- 5 Grafting Fruit Trees**, September 24, 1.30pm-4.30pm
- 6 Biochar Making & Correcting Compost**, October 29, 10am-12.30pm
- 7 Compost Tea & Worm Farms**, October 29, 1.30pm-4pm

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



# Council news

## Read our 2023/2024 Budget

We've finalised our 2023/2024 Budget, following extensive community consultation.

The budget outlines our priorities for the upcoming financial year and enables us to deliver more than 100 services.

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

Other features include a new climate initiative to off-set emissions, upgrades to the Frederick Street precinct in Castlemaine, and resources to continue to make local roads safer.

See what's in the 2023/2023 Budget for you at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Our-Budget](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Our-Budget).

## Check out our new website

We've been working hard to get a new website up and running. It's highly accessible, easy to navigate and has a more intuitive search bar. This means it will be easier for users to find essential services.

Have a look at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

## Apply for a Community Grant

Our Community Grants program supports local groups and individuals who are developing emerging community projects.

Applications open on Monday 17 July.

Find out more at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Community-grants](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Community-grants).

**Working together for a healthy, connected shire**

[mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au) (03) 5471 1700



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# Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.  
My office is still available for assistance, please  
contact us on 5410 2444 or  
[maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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

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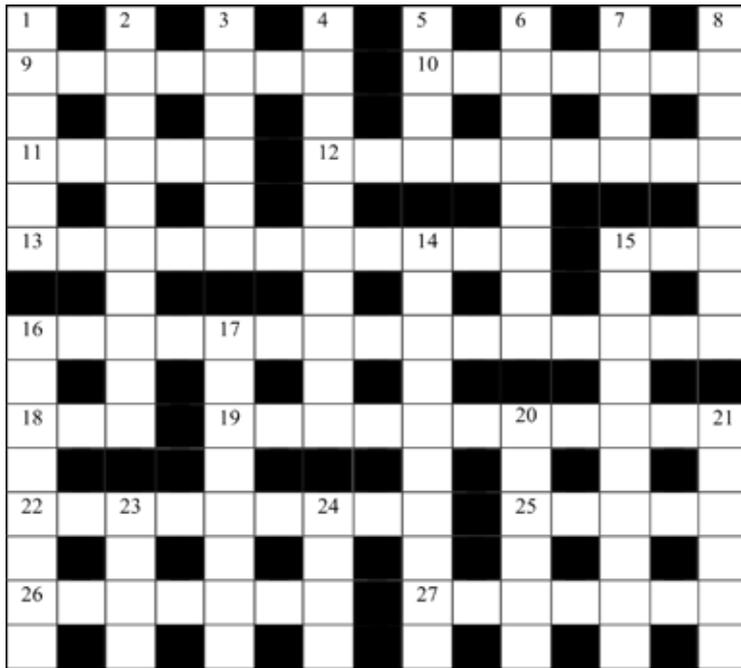


## Di Selwood

0488 148 358  
Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon

# July 2023 Xwd

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### Down:

1. Crab as likely to beetle off?. (6)
2. She knew one, and would always give lip in return. (6,4)
3. Some examples could be acidic, I trust. (6)
4. Frenetic Di uses it for oral work. (10)
5. They grow on trees and come up to knock you out. (4)
6. Die, Dewey, and reincarnate as naïve librarian with good peripheral vision? (4-4)
7. Mount Apple? (4)
8. If it's a set price, we'll need tickets to show we've paid. (8)
14. Crud! Any end to work is hard to take. (10)
15. He vets elms, but when he's out of sorts they take it upon these to prune them into shape... (10)
16. Shearer may have needed to negotiate with him, back then? (8)
17. Platform for gaming surfers? (8)
20. Beating in concealment: backing a lost cause, you're on one to nothing. (6)
21. The end of before time put before it makes it annual. (6)
23. Non-pejorative miser-attribute loses two to leave a division. (4)
24. Take a powder, all you goats of Asia... (4)

### Across:

9. Take in impost to hem in. (7)
10. Honour to the brute it is out of order to deliver. (7)
11. Farmer loses a little weight to join the other seven on the river. (5)
12. Those on a diet sneer at carnivores who thus make their flesh palatable... (9)
13. One should forbid pyres for all those eagles poisoned in Gippsland. (5,2,4)
15. Tilt rubbish here. (3)
16. Petty conceptualising mends mad illness. (5-10)
18. Animal from further north discovered in Selkirk. (3)
19. One can only pity his keen pursuit of unattainable happiness. (3,2,3,3)
22. A rich moan might come out if blown. (9)
25. Late half-grand flows into the metaphoric mouth. (5)
26. Ump rolls one loud and four similar vowels. (7)
27. Hard to go clean after what gravy might do left on the spoon. (7)

# June 2023 Xwd Solution

© McW November '18



### Down:

2. At the zoo, I'm the apes in the garden, I'm the peas—I identify easily with them.
3. Smell of nothing over a stern countenance.
4. Old man [in Oz = 'Dad'; in Eire = "Da"] in Cork has a disguise made from his wife's tablecloth...
5. I wouldn't fancy a silver gelatin compound [on muesli!]
6. Pan toilet shows promise.
7. Small cuts sound like nothing, no...
8. Useful for convicts, or vehicles on Hotham. [Well?]
9. Head church? [Well?]
17. All in all at sea? [Well?]
18. Trust that [git, Ernie] to get the stove going again.
19. If you're cunning [sly], and take on a few years [age], you can deal with things philosophically.
21. Useful for 8 on early-model saws? [Well?]
22. Serpent—it is [writ: he] will twist and turn forever...
24. Get a prick from this direction? [thorn...]
26. What to look for if ignoring quality? [Well? Never mind the quality; feel the...]
20. Wiped out at second-rate [B-] Tatts?
23. Horse-drawn [gig] carrier of three points [N, S, E], one [N] twice for medicinal herb.
25. If you read Law only to make a real wad, your clients might get it!
27. It isn't clear who steals clarinets.
28. What Drake faced, played, loses a play.
29. Wheel the paint-machine out to the skip: it's useless and more trouble than it's worth...

### Across:

1. Assistant assisting to get more from the kitchen? [Well?]
10. Sainly wallower? [Well? Augustine of...]
11. S[alvador]. D[ali]. [came south] for easy facial recognition...
12. Fashionable hospital birds? [Well?]
13. Cat [puss] back around finish satirises.
14. Alternate [Vtr.] power supply? [Well?]
16. [Old mice] find in residence.
19. Run through redactor, run [perfect tense!!!] through...

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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**

**Monday July 10:** Airport Bus Service comes to Harcourt.

**Sunday July 16:** 1.30 pm, Fireside Chat: 'It was a good idea at the time.' Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street.

**Monday July 17:** Applications open for MASC Community Grants.

**Sunday July 30:** 1.00 pm–7.00 pm, Gather Harcourt at James Park. See back page for details.

**Monday July 31:** Closing date for submissions on council's waste management strategy (see page 4).

**Thursday August 17:** CWA Association Day (see page 5).

**Saturday October 14:** Mount Alexander Emergency Services Expo (see page 9).

**Carpet Bowls:** 7.00 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, summer and winter, Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt.

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

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

**Grace Church:** Tuesdays at 10.30 am: Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11.00 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm: Zoom Bible Study: A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link:

[pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au](mailto:pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au)

**Harcourt Bowls Club:** See page 13.

**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 9.00 am–3.00 pm or by appointment: 0400 916 527.

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

**Uniting Church:** Sundays at 9.00 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street, Harcourt. The service is followed by morning tea. All welcome. Donations of food and other household needs for St Vinnies can be left at the Church door on Sunday mornings 9.00–10.00 am or contact, Jan 5474 2226, to arrange for collection.

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

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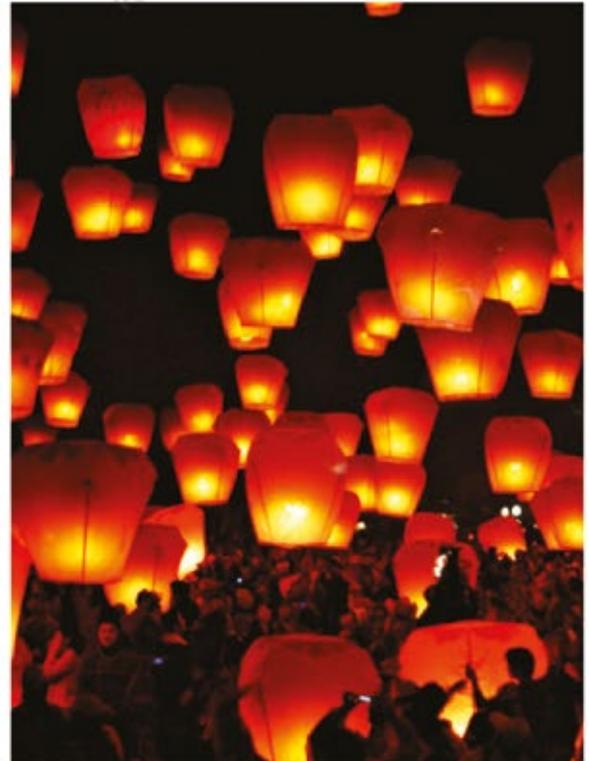
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**Sunday July 30th 1pm - 7pm**  
**James Park, Harcourt**

**Market stalls. Camel Rides. Fire twirler.**  
**Weaving & Printmaking demos.**  
**Community information stalls.**  
**Live entertainment on stage.**  
**Lantern making & Lantern parade.**  
**Warm food. Hot coffee. Fire pots**  
**Cider. Wines. Beers. Spirits.**



*Gather*  
**Harcourt**