

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 108 – September 2023

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news

harcourt.vic.au/news

Beautiful Harcourt



Barkers Creek Reservoir on a recent winter's walk. By Katherine Seppings.

A PERFECT WINTER'S AFTERNOON: 3pm on 25 July. Clean, crisp air, no wind. I go to Barkers Creek Reservoir whenever I need to be near water – the vast expanse of water and sky lifts my spirits and refreshes my outlook on life. Walking is great for writing and opening up deeper thoughts. And for letting go. Things become clearer.

On this day I kept stopping to take in the beauty of the landscape – the shining granite boulders on the hills, wet with trickling water; the mountain, like a monument; the elegance of the eucalypts at the water's edge. I love

Leanganook and the Harcourt Valley – its rocks and mosses and massive trees, the orchards, the flocks of birds.

I have photographed the built and natural environment of the Mount Alexander Shire since the early 1980s. My images have appeared as local cards, in books on the region, in exhibitions, in our shire newsletters and on Film Victoria's 'Location' website. You would think, by now, I'd have all the shots I need. But then I go for a walk and see a moment like this ...

Katherine Seppings

INSIDE

- Victorian Seniors Festival–2
- HPA–3
- An Xword Fan–3
- Nalderun–4
- Harcourt CWA–5
- Carpet Bowls–5
- Harcourt Lions Club–6
- Community Banking–7
- Councillor Comment–8
- Harcourt CFA–9
- Harcourt Uniting Church–10
- Dhelkaya Health–11
- La Larr Ba Gauwa Update–11
- HVPS–12
- Heritage Centre–13
- Poetry–14
- Harcourt Valley Landcare–15
- Pioneers of Harcourt–16
- Harcourt Bowling Club–17
- North Harcourt Landcare–17
- Grace Church–18
- Weather & Water–18
- New Harcourtiens–19
- Linda Newton–19
- Gardening–20
- Shire News–21
- Crossword–22
- Community Diary–23

DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2023



Harcourt features in the Seniors Festival, see page 2 for the full program of what's on in Mount Alexander Shire.



Victorian Seniors Festival 2023



Mount Alexander Shire Council is inviting residents to enjoy the 2023 Seniors Festival.

This year's theme is Learn. Love. Live. It's designed to encourage older people to embrace learning and new experiences, creating a life that not only brings joy, but also helps to live happier and healthier lives.

Council is partnering with Castlemaine Community House, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre and Harcourt Progress Association to deliver a series of events to celebrate Seniors Festival.

Harcourt Community Lunch and mini expo

A two course vegetarian lunch paired with wonderful company. Stop by for the delicious lunch and a mini expo that will connect seniors with terrific local opportunities for learning, socialising and loving life

When: Friday 6 October, 12.30 pm

Where: Harcourt Valley Community House, 23 Station Street, Harcourt

Cost: \$7 suggested donation – seniors and kids under 12 eat free

Special Features of the Seniors Festival

The program of events includes a session on intimacy and pleasure; a Country Concert featuring a Johnny Cash and June Carter tribute show; and community lunches and mini expos in Castlemaine, Maldon and Harcourt.

Plus, seniors can enjoy eight days of free public transport from Sunday 1 October to Sunday 8 October.

Find out more about what's on at
cch.org.au/community/mount-alexander-seniors-festival

Events

Not washed up on the beach yet: Intimacy and pleasure for people aged over 60, with Dr Linda Kirkman

This session will include information about sexual expression across a lifespan. It will focus on approaches to intimacy and pleasure that work, despite changing and unreliable bodies, and shifting identities.

When: Monday 2 October, 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm

Where: Chewton Senior Citizens Centre

Bookings essential – call 5472 4842 or visit cch.org.au/community/mount-alexander-seniors-festival

Castlemaine Community Lunch and mini expo

The best two-course vegetarian lunch in town! Stop by for a delicious lunch, fabulous company and a mini expo that will connect seniors with terrific local opportunities for learning, socialising and loving life. Plus, enjoy a special performance from Castlemaine Community House's local belly dancing troupe!

When: Tuesday 3 October, 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Where: Castlemaine Town Hall

Cost: \$7 suggested donation – seniors & kids under 12 eat free

Maldon Community Lunch and mini expo

A delicious two-course meal will be served. No need to book, just stop by for a good feed and a friendly chat with some local people. Plus a mini expo that will connect seniors with terrific local opportunities for learning, socialising and loving life.

When: Wednesday 4 October, 12.30 pm

Where: Maldon Neighbourhood Centre

Cost: \$7 suggested donation – seniors and kids under 12 eat free

Victorian Seniors Festival Country Concert



Johnny Cash and June Carter Tribute Show

'Get Rhythm', a Johnny Cash & June Carter Tribute Show. Husband and wife duo Mark and Joanne Caligiuri lead a fantastic ensemble as country music's favourite couple.

When: Thursday 5 October, 2.00 pm

Where: Castlemaine Town Hall

Cost: Free – this is a ticketed event with limited places

Book: www.stickytickets.com.au/BF9O9

Transport available

Transport will be provided between Maldon, Castlemaine and Harcourt for each of these events.

To arrange pick-up and/or drop-off between your home and an event, contact Castlemaine Community House on: 5472 4842 or reception@cch.org.au

For more information visit cch.org.au/community/mount-alexander-seniors-festival

Victorian Seniors Festival



HPA Update

and organisations, including Castlemaine Community House, and the Community Bank Maldon and District, who continue to donate items for the house and provide much needed support, funds, and advice.

Next twelve months for HPA

HPA itself has held the second of its planning meetings to determine what projects we will take on over the next twelve months. We are hopeful that the Heritage Centre will relieve us from the responsibility of revitalising our Gather Harcourt Markets and ensure they become a 'going concern'; who better than the organisation that has been running the highly successful Applefest for decades! This will allow us to focus on our priorities for the year, the most important of which is ensuring the community house becomes a viable and sustainable asset for Harcourt.

Until next month enjoy spring in the beautiful Harcourt Valley and stay safe.

Sha Cordingley
President, Harcourt Progress Association.

We were thrilled last week to hear that HPA was successful in gaining a community grant from Mount Alexander Shire Council to develop a green hub at the community house. We sincerely thank MASC for its continued support. To add to the excitement, our grant for the community house from DFFH (Department of Fairness Families and Housing) is also imminent. HPA's next goal is to apply for a grant from VicTrack to build safety fences along the nearly 100 metres of unfenced platform.

Join us for a Seniors Festival event at the Harcourt Valley Community House

We have been busy this month fixing up the communal office at the community house which will be shared by *The Core*, HPA, and the HVCH Committee. We have had another working bee in the garden, the piano has been tuned, and planning for the Seniors Festival is well underway. We are indebted to so many people

A Core Crossword Fan and Degrees of Separation

The Core reaches far and wide by various means, and has found a fan of TMCW's mind-bending cryptic crosswords in Neil Anderson. Neil lives at Gisborne and has received a copy of *The Core* in the mail for a number of years. From time to time, Neil and others from the Anglican Church make the trip to Harcourt's Produce Store. Until this August we have not had the good fortune to meet.

Leigh MacFie is an artist who has lived in Sutton Grange for nine years and is reviving her art practice after a full life as a working parent. Leigh said, 'I had a wonderful grounding in my artwork, being mentored from 16 years of age by Riddells Creek artist Bryan Jones.' She joined the Riddells Creek Art Society as a young person and went on to a degree in fine arts, majoring in painting and photography at the Bendigo College of Advanced Education. Her working life involved photo-journalism for the



Leigh and Neil hold a piece of Leigh's artwork.

group of papers called *The Leader*, which still publishes 33 community newspapers in Melbourne. Leigh also had a long stint of special school teaching in Geelong. Her business is called 'Arisaig Art'. Arisaig translates from the Scottish as 'safe place'.

Her current series of works features local letter boxes created using Posca pen (a paint pen) and gouache.

By happy coincidence I was able to meet both Leigh and Neil at the Produce Store because of Neil's friendship with Leigh's

mother, Ann Souden, who also travelled on the bus that day. Neil had kindly encouraged Leigh to be there so that *The Core* could promote her artwork which is on display and for sale at the store. Her work is also on show at the post office where there are framed works and cards available for purchase.

In his working life, Neil was employed as an information officer at the American Embassy in New Zealand. He said, 'I met about 400 American diplomats while I was there. They came to New Zealand for some R&R as they were working in hot-spots around the world.'

After moving to Australia and settling at Gisborne, Neil worked as a security guard and was the manager of the Woodend Pool for a time. His most recent position was a six-year stint as a carer for a handicapped person. That work finished two years ago. Neil said, 'I go to the Anglican Church in Woodend every day of the week to do some chores, but also to pray. I have been doing cryptic crosswords for some years. I find TMCW's enjoyable and challenging. I also regularly do the crosswords in *The Age*, *The Herald*, *The Women's Weekly* and *The Saturday Paper*.'

At times I am amazed at the impact our small community newspaper has in bringing people together to tell their personal stories. While not earth shattering, this story exemplifies the connections our readers have with the paper and with each other.

Robyn Miller



Many readers will recognise this letter box in High Street.



Leigh's art cards at the post office.



WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

Cultural Literacy

I gaze across the historic Monster Meeting site by Forest Creek in Chewton, the view to the creek unbroken. Now a bumpy, grassy landscape, I imagine what was once likely a forest, once likely sheep trodden paddocks, and once a tortured 'honeycombed moonscape'. New plantings are growing along the water's edge where it curves away. Many know this area as 'upside down country', a reference to the gold diggings. A digger's flag flaps noisily in rainy gusts, marking a place and time, an important rebellion that shaped Australian democracy, a triumph ... but this place speaks about more ...

Here is a merging of histories, futures, the present; those of the First Peoples, the squatters, the digger's, those before, here now and to come. Standing between the mountains I know as Liyanganuk Banyul, Dharrang Gauwa, Lalkambuk, Gurutjang, I'm conscious of a teaching as ancient as local volcanic rumblings. Country is always connected to all points of time. I wander and wonder in Djaara Country – Djandak.

A sign drew me here – wood, metal, laminate. 'Womin-dji-ka' is written in large, friendly lettering. Commonly interpreted as 'welcome', a more literal translation is 'to come – (an instruction of) I am asking you to come – purpose'. Included are further words in Dja Dja Wurrung ('Wurrung' – speaking/ language/tongue). The new sign, with its old pictures and ancient words, is a sign of living culture and change. A QR code links me to a video of a traditional Welcome to Country.

This continent is home to more than

250 Traditional First Nations languages and about 800 dialects. Indigenous languages were banned, lost through many violent and systemic acts of colonisation. Increasingly traditional languages, knowledge and culture are embraced. First People are rediscovering and sharing their heritage. There are nuances to the term 'literacy'. Cultural literacy means that we better understand beautiful and complex traditional systems, empowered by orality.

From story, song, local seasons, life cycles, soil, fire practices, to kinship, art, the reading of the stars and the spaces between ... everything can be read with diverse ways of knowing.

Ngunnawal, Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi artist and activist Lynnice Church says

'Language is part of our songlines, stories, spirituality, law, culture, identity and connection. Language transfers important knowledge passed down from our Ancestors and Elders that guides us.'

Indigenous Literacy Day is on 6 September. When I first considered literacy as a topic, I felt uncomfortable for reasons not yet entirely clear to me. Discomfort had something to tell me. As I listened, it slowly dissolved.

I once heard Aunty Julie McHale give a teaching. Not just a story – as was made very clear by this much respected Elder. It had survived since little Lalkambuk was a fiery active volcano. Importantly, I learnt that teachings are told in a way that is relational to the listener. Everything I've learnt about First Nations cultures shows they are deeply adaptive and relational.

It is not without reason that they are the oldest continuous cultures on earth.

The QR code is a modern portal for sharing cultural traditions. New technologies are often embraced with ingenuity by First Peoples as they share in their cultural ways. I am learning about complexities of language sharing at an interesting time.

First Nations communities can more freely explore and restore language and culture now, but this process of restoration is a sensitive, gradual one. Respect means we honour these processes by embracing First Peoples agency, listening carefully, particularly to local Elders. As respect grows, so too will our cultural literacy. As we better read and look after Country, it is better able to sustain all who walk here.

I am learning from First Nations educators, importantly Djaara. Special mention to Harley Dunnoly-Lee, Djaara Elders and non-First Nations people living locally – Lynne Kelly and Vic Say.

To learn more:

Djaara – learn more about Dja Dja Wurrung, the Djaara and Djandak at djadjawurrung.com.au/

Boorp Boorp Boondyil

A permanent, award winning, interactive exhibition produced by Djaara Elder Uncle Rick Nelson, continuing the legacy of his late father, Elder Brien Nelson, can be seen at the Castlemaine Visitor Centre. The essential partners were Mount Alexander Shire Council, SharingStoriesFoundation, Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation and St. Peters Primary School.

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

You Can Help ...

If you know someone who would like to get a copy of *The Core*, either in print or online, but is having difficulty accessing it, let us know. We can make sure they get their preferred version – we can have it put in their letterbox, or we can send a copy by email.

Let us know by sending the person's details to: news@harcourt.vic.au



Chatting with Harcourt CWA Afternoon Tea and More

I would like to thank our members, our guests and, of course, our wonderful guest speaker, Lisa Candy from The Tea Dispensary, for making our Association Day fundraiser such a success.

Our very own Joy Robertson's display of 100 Teapots was much admired by all, and I believe someone actually counted them all just to make sure the number was correct. Our Trading Table also did a roaring trade with many happy faces pleased with their purchases.

I am a life-long tea drinker, but I must admit I knew very little about the many teas available due to my habit of usually buying my tea at the supermarket. After listening to Lisa's talk about the range of teas that can be purchased at The Tea Dispensary, I now realise there is more to tea drinking than just good old English Breakfast.

Thank you to all who attend our fund raisers; without you we would not be able to raise the money to support the women, children and families in our local area.

We will be holding another social event later this year on Thursday 19 October. This time our presenter will be the well-known local identity Peter Bottomley, who will host our Op Shop Fashion Parade. I will give you more details about this event in next month's *Core*.

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer



Reinforcements of Marlene's Marvellous Cupcakes heading for the refreshments table.



Lisa Candy with her Mum Isobel and daughter Ruby.



Isobel handing out samples of the delicious teas that Lisa supplied.



A small sample of the 100 teapots on display.



The guests enjoying our afternoon tea.

Busy Season at Carpet Bowls

Now our Carpet Bowls competition season is coming to an end we are going into playing our final games. In the first week of September the semi-finals will be between RSL and New Breed and Maine Four and Rebels. The grand final will be played on Wednesday 20 September, and our Presentation Dinner will be on Tuesday 26 September at the Cumberland Hotel, Castlemaine.

Summer Bowls

For those who do not like going out at night in winter, the Association organises a summer competition to be played on a Wednesday night at Harcourt District Leisure Centre at 7.30 pm – further information in the October *Core*.

Tournament Fundraiser for Legacy

Harcourt Carpet Bowls held a Round Robin Tournament with many guests from the Castlemaine branch of Legacy attending to have a night of carpet bowls.

As people came into the hall, they placed their names on a list from which the teams of four were selected. After some instructions from the bowls members on how to play the game, two games of ten ends were played, and the team with the most winning ends being declared the winners and receiving the prizes.

From entry fees and the raffle on the night, a sum of \$232 was raised for Legacy. A big thank you to those who supplied the supper, team prizes and raffle prizes. Legacy chairperson, Jane Anderson, received the cheque from Carpet Bowls president, John Jenkin.



The next Repair Café is on
September 24 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.

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

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



Harcourt Lions Club

Spring into Spring – Lions on Safari.

Harcourt Lions Club is on Safari! So far we have recaptured three old Lions and brought in two new members soon to be Invested into the Harcourt Lions Club.

We welcome all old Lions back and are hopeful all new Lions find their time as Lions working in the community as rewarding as current members.

Recently our members cleaned out our storage unit where, among lots of other stuff, we were storing the Harcourt Scouts cart. This cart was used many years ago by the local Scout Group when going camping etc and has been in storage since the local Scouts disbanded. Well, now it has found a home at the Harcourt Heritage Centre in the old ANA Hall, High Street. For a trip back in time, make sure you visit the Heritage Centre to see the old Scouts cart and many other items of interest from the past.

V1-4 District Governor Team Visit 2023-2024

The next meeting is to be held on the third Thursday 21 September 2023 at 6.30 pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR). We will welcome the Lions First District Governor, Des to our meeting where he will swear in our two new members.

The meeting will follow a shared meal with each member bringing a plate of food to share by a roaring wood fire provided by VMR (thank you, Colin, it is much appreciated on cold nights).

To the other Lions, The Harcourt Lions Football Netball Club, we wish you a roaring success in the Finals. Go Harcourt!



The cart in place in the museum. The cart has very long staves which the horse stood between to pull the cart. The museum is deciding how these will be displayed.



CALLING ALL TENNIS PLAYERS
HARCOURT TENNIS CLUB IS LOOKING FOR PLAYERS FOR THE 2023/2024 SEASON.
ALL AGES WELCOME.
PLEASE CONTACT KARI: 0402 076 340
OR EMAIL: ckaldridge@bigpond.com

Level Heading
Proofreading • Copy Editing • Book Layout
*memoirs, family history, oral history
novels, short stories, anthologies, e-books
negotiable prices*
Bernie Schultz
p: 03 5472 3952
m: 0409 52 43 54
e: bernsch@gmail.com
w: levelheading.com.au

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD
Visit Bendigo's Most Awarded Winery

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

Open Sunday 12–4 pm or by appointment only
Bookings please call Marie on 0431 996 515
Harcourt Valley Vineyards
3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt, Vic 3453
P: 03 5474 2223

PLUMBER
24 Hour Emergency Service
Bruce A. Rae
Covering all Aspects of Plumbing
Mobile: 0408 371 885 Email: brucer3@bigpond.com

Maldon & District Community Bank Welcomes New Executive Officer



The board of directors of the Maldon & District Community Bank is thrilled to announce the appointment of Jane Hoiting as its new executive officer. With a background in diverse industries, including event promotion and

management, film and TV production and travel, Jane Hoiting will be bringing a plethora of skills and experiences to her new role.

Jane is no stranger to community engagement and organisation. Her recent tenure as the coordinator of the Arts Centre Melbourne's Sunday Market demanded astute organisational skills and an understanding of the community and stakeholder needs and aspirations.

Hailing from a family farm in central-west New South Wales, Jane has always been a dynamic individual. She has travelled extensively, and lived and worked in the UK and northern Europe for many years. Prior to her return to Australia, she secured the rights to tour the free outdoor photographic exhibition 'Earth and Above' in Australia, thus enriching the art scene in cities like Melbourne, Sydney and Perth while promoting the exhibition's powerful cultural and environmental message.

Although Jane's career trajectory has been eclectic, her commitment to community development and passion for connecting with people has been constant. Her global travels have enriched her understanding of diverse cultures and her ability to foster connections. In addition, Jane's academic pursuits include a degree in social science, reinforcing her commitment to understanding the interconnectedness of the world, societies and communities. She also once held a

fellowship with London's Royal Geographic Society, reflecting her love for historical geography.

Chairman Ross Egleton expressed the board's enthusiasm, stating, 'We believe Jane's multi-faceted background, combined with her fervent dedication to community development, positions her perfectly for the role of executive officer. Her experience in event management and keen understanding of community dynamics will undoubtedly be instrumental in furthering our bank's mission of creating thriving, connected and sustainable communities.'

As Jane prepares to take the reins, she remains passionate about fostering community ties and utilising her vast skill set to support the board and company activities.



Volunteer Position Advertising Coordinator – Harcourt News – The Core

The Core is seeking an active volunteer to become a vital part of its editorial team. By contributing to this volunteer run newspaper you will be ensuring its sustainability and supporting local Harcourt community and businesses. This role is for someone who can dedicate around one hour a week as Advertising Coordinator.

This position would suit someone with an interest in writing and wanting to develop their skills in news media, business and advertising.

Key responsibilities:

- ▶ Generate new advertising sales
- ▶ Maintain relationships with existing advertisers
- ▶ Manage accounts administration
- ▶ Work collaboratively with the editorial team
- ▶ Write articles to feature advertisers' businesses

You will have:

- ▶ Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- ▶ Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook
- ▶ Good organisation and time management skills
- ▶ Experience in administration and accounts

Training and mentoring will be given to the successful applicant.

Apply to news@harcourt.vic.au outlining your relevant skills and experience.

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 well.

There's a heavy frost here today, so catching up on some office jobs while it thaws out.

At last week's council meeting we received a petition supporting the continuation of commercial kangaroo harvesting. Attached were around 240 signatures of mostly rural folk requesting that council does some work on the economic impact high kangaroo numbers are having on our farming community. I have been talking to farmers extensively about this and have come to the realisation that it is a far bigger problem than I thought, and it will take much greater intervention to see improvement.

Yesterday we had our weekly council briefing. There was a lot covered, but we got to hear from some of our best and brightest young staff as well as our directors and CEO. Many of the papers presented will come to the next public meeting of council, which is the decision-making forum. We talked about projects, service delivery, housing and land supply, just to name a few. Some of the work has been out for public comment, some will go for comment after the next council meeting.

There is a common theme, the reports are high quality and are robustly discussed by those present. After around five hours of presentations and debate, we do a final round of general business with the directors and CEO and then we have some time with the CEO and the councillors. There is not much left to be said that has not been said with the directors and the staff.

Looking around the room I can see all present are positive, have a greater understanding of the issues and are still communicating effectively. Our CEO knows he has our support to continue to operate in the best interests of our community. This is about as good as it gets.

Best regards, Tony

A G Cordy
0439 742 434

Lmct:10769

WRECKING ALL MAKES & MODELS

We buy most cars and utes
Free old car removal

5474 2432 **HARCOURTAUTO.COM**



CASTLEMAINE
COMMUNITY
HOUSE

Open House and Garden!



You're invited to our House and Garden Party!

This month at Castlemaine Community House we're throwing open our doors and inviting everyone in for a squiz. Come along to explore our spaces, talk to our tutors, discover a new hobby, find out exactly what we do at CCH.

The morning will include tours of our Community Kitchen Garden and fabulous Art Studios, as well as demonstrations of our various courses and workshops. If you've ever considered volunteering and have questions, this is the perfect opportunity to come ask what it's all about. Our friendly staff and volunteers will be available and ready for a chat with you.

Held during the first week of school holidays, our Open House and Garden Day is an excellent opportunity for families to come explore. Past, present and future students are invited to bring along their families and friends, to show off the fabulous learning spaces they've enjoyed gathering in. Drop in for a quick look, or stay for a chat and maybe a sausage or veggie burger. All are welcome.

Plus, enrol in a term 4 course or workshop during the Open House and Garden Day, and get a discount on the fee!

The Castlemaine Community House Open House and Garden Day welcomes everyone to come say hi, check out what we do, and maybe discover something new. Looking forward to seeing you there.

When: 10 am–1 pm, Tuesday 19 September 2023

Where: 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine

Cost: Free!

KNIGHTMOVES

R n B - 4 Piece Band
 60s 70s 80s +

BOOKINGS
 Trev: 0421 957 168
 Tony: 0439 742 434
 Lou: 0416 146 417
 knightmovesband@gmail.com



Harcourt CFA

Spring has Sprung – Summer is Coming

Late August showed glimpses of spring with some warmer sunny days, grass growth, the sound of mowers in the air and flowers blooming in our gardens. August was overwhelmingly dry for most of the country and in three months it will be summer and early predictions indicate that we may face our hottest summer after three consecutive years of La Niña. Although the BoM has yet to officially declare an El Niño, a weather update released in mid-August says it remains likely. The Australasian Fire Authorities Council released its 'Season Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2023', flagging an increased risk of significant bushfires for large areas of central and northern NSW and some parts of southern Queensland. Think back to 2019 when the predicted forecast for that summer showed a lot of similarities to the current one. The results in 2019 were some large disastrous fires in Queensland, NSW and then Victoria. Also, looking at recent fires throughout the Northern Hemisphere, generally gives us an indication of what our summer may be like. This year's summer fire risk is likely to be extremely high. Preparing our properties for this risk needs to be high on our 'Things to Do' list this spring.

BBQs Coming Out of Hibernation

Spring is also the time when many barbecues come out of hibernation. Before using your barbecue, take the time to do the mandatory safety checks to ensure it is only the meat that might get burnt. Check all connections and hoses for damage and leaks with a visual inspection as well as using the soapy water spray check. Don't forget to check the O-rings as well, and ensure the barbecue is clean and that there is no remnant fat build-up from previous uses. Do not leave an

operating barbecue unattended, and keep a watch on small children if they are present.

Zero Turnouts for August

At the time of writing, the brigade has had zero turnouts for the month of August. Not only will it be a great achievement to have a full month of no turnouts, but how much better it would be if we could get through September in the same way. Hence, take the time to be fire aware and fire wise. Assessing the potential risk of a fire starting from the various activities we undertake is the vital first step. Taking steps to negate the risk or not undertaking the activity if the risk is too high, will assist in continuing with a zero figure.

Brigade Awards

In August our brigade took the opportunity to present recognition awards to our members at a brigade dinner. The CFA gives recognition of five years of service with a framed certificate and, thereafter, every five years, gives a long service medal. Certificates were presented to Matt Friedrich, Sue Bray and Jess Phillips. Our brigade Secretary and Treasurer Lynda Wilson was not only presented with a long service medal for 20 years of service, but she also received brigade life membership for her dedication to the role. Lynda is a worthy recipient endorsed by all members. Chris Comini, after 55 years of service, was granted CFA Life Membership. Unfortunately, Chris was unable to be in attendance on the night to receive his medals but we will ensure he receives the appropriate accolades for such an achievement.



Left to Right: Mel Dole (Brigade Administration Support Officer), Steve Alcock (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Sue Bray, Lynda Wilson, Captain Andrew Wilson, Jess Philips, Matt Friedrich. Photo taken by Megan Wilson.

Our last brigade elections saw some members step down from leadership/representative roles. Thanks were given to John Jenkin, Des Rice and David Murdoch for many years of service in a variety of brigade and group roles.

Tyrone Rice – Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Harcourt Uniting Church

A Lost Boy of Sudan

The story of Dr Jacob Atem would make an amazing Hollywood blockbuster movie. In the August edition of *Crosslight* (a magazine of the Uniting Church), I read of Jacob's life story entitled *Strength from Adversity* written by Andrew Humphries.

As a young child growing up in the Sudanese town of Maar, Jacob would rise at dawn each day and take the family goats and cows to find grass and water. One morning in 1991, he heard gunshots and loud screaming and then saw his village on fire. His parents and some of his siblings were killed. At the age of six, he fled his village with his cousin as the soldiers attacked their homes.

Jacob and his cousin joined a group of displaced children who walked nearly 2,000 miles across Africa to flee the danger. They were in constant danger of attack by lions and had to cross the crocodile infested Nile River. They faced malnutrition, dehydration and exhaustion until they arrived at a refugee camp in Kenya. The group was referred to as the Lost Boys of Sudan. Jacob estimated that of the 20,000 to 30,000 children who started this trek, about 10,000 died on the way.

While in the camp, Jacob was reunited with his older brother Gabriel and learned what it meant to go to church. Jacob remembered Christmas being his favourite time in the camp. He also learned to read. He stayed in the camp until he was 15.

From Kenya he was sponsored by a family in the USA where he had to adjust to a very different lifestyle. As he said: 'When you are by yourself, like I had been, you have to fight to survive.' He soon found that fighting wasn't the way. He went on to college and university where he gained a master's degree, followed by a PhD.

Despite all the hardship at such a young age, Jacob developed a strong Christian faith. In 2008, he formed the South Sudan Healthcare Organisation (SSHCO) with the goal of 'bringing health and hope to where it is lost.' He wanted to do three things

for his people back in South Sudan – build a church, a school and a health clinic.

In 2012, a health clinic was opened in Maar, and, in 2020, a mobile clinic in the Mongalla displacement camp. A sobering statistic is that 'nearly 75% of all child deaths in South Sudan are from preventable conditions, such as diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia.' In 2022, a primary school education centre opened. The SSHCO's agricultural expert helps families learn best practices in farming so that they can have food security during the dry seasons.

Jacob no longer lives in his birth country; however, he continues to return there to support his people through SSHCO, and he is very proud of what has been achieved.

Jacob sums up his life so far with these words:

'I'm not rich in terms of having millions of dollars, but I'm rich in that I'm breathing. I'm rich in that I'm still alive and have three beautiful boys who were born in a modern hospital.'

He is excited by what his organisation can achieve along with the support of the Uniting Church: '... because it shows that what unites us isn't the colour of our skin or anything like that, the anchor here is Jesus Christ.' We must 'take care of those people in need.'

From a childhood spent in a Kenyan refugee camp to being honoured for outstanding humanitarian work as an adult, faith has been a constant companion on Dr Jacob Atem's remarkable journey.

Jan Jenkin

Information from an article written by Andrew Humphries, Communications Officer with the Uniting Church Synod Office Melbourne is used with permission.

Find out more at Jacob's website: www.jacobatem.com, or Google his name to see the impact that one person can have. Also check out the website of sshco.org

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

ALTERNATIVELY CREATED
 BOWEN THERAPY
Carole Kernohan
 Qualified practitioner since 2004
 Relieve back pain, chronic fatigue,
 improve general wellbeing & more.
 Suitable for all ages.
 Homebased practice near centre of Taradale
Phone: 0407 372426
 Covid restrictions apply Member of BAA & BTAA

Property Plus
 REAL ESTATE



Di Selwood
 0488 148 358
 Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon

Harcourt Nordic Group

Bookings are now open for Dhelkaya Health's weekly Nordic Pole Walking group in Harcourt. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings in Harcourt, led by a team of experienced volunteers.

Lead volunteer Ruth Hay said, 'Over the course of the term, we teach participants Nordic Pole Walking skills, and support participants to continue using the correct technique. Nordic poles are available for use during classes on the Tuesday nights, and we can help participants buy their own discounted poles if they choose.'

Previous participants have noted the health benefits of Nordic Pole Walking. 'I can now enjoy long walks without aggravating my foot pain. I knew I needed to do regular walking for my fitness, but never enjoyed it due to my health issues. Using Nordic Poles has made all the difference and I now enjoy walking,' said previous participant Phil.

Limited spaces are available as classes are purposefully kept small to ensure safety and adequate support for participants.

The free Nordic Pole Walking classes start in early October, but bookings are essential. Interested participants are encouraged to sign up now to be ready to start on 3 October.

For further information and bookings, please call 5479 1000.



Leader of the Harcourt Nordic Pole Walking Group, Ruth Hay, said, 'Smile, and you are using 95% of your muscles when you are Nordic Pole Walking.' The current group is shown demonstrating the correct stance for setting out on a walk using the Nordic Poles. There are some places in this group still available, with a new round due to start in October.

La Larr Ba Gauwa set to Reopen in October

There have been a few eager La La Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Committee members poking their heads in at the Oak Forest recently as they enjoy a sneak peek at the soon-to-be-complete mountain bike trails.

The trails were closed in October 2022 after an extreme rain event that saw torrents of water gouging chest-deep tunnel erosion in the emergency access roads and damaging many of the trails.

Nick Byrne, Chair of La Larr Ba Gauwa Park/Harcourt Committee of Management told mountain bike website *Flow* in July, 'We had tunnel erosion that you could stand in, particularly on the fire trails, that was up to your chest. That's huge, and it really changes the landscape.'

'With the scale of the damage,' Nick said at the time, 'we had no choice, except to close the park.'

The volunteer committee has been



The campground has been reconfigured to protect the trees by directing traffic, and by clear designation of camping spaces.

working on reopening the park ever since and is pleased to announce they expect both the trails and a newly refurbished Oak Forest campground (completed by Djandak, the commercial arm of Dja Dja Wurrung corporation) to be reopened in October.

South Australia-based trail building company Trailscapes is completing the repairs and upgrades to the trails.

Flow's July story described the task ahead:

The crux of what Trailscapes is tasked with doing is improving drainage. They will also introduce drainage rocks and gravel, which will be incorporated to improve the sub-surface drainage – which is a slow process.

Having a professional trail building company coming in to fix this type of extensive damage also presented the opportunity to update features



The new amenities block under construction.

with the latest techniques, and create trails that keep up with the evolution of how mountain bikers are riding.

'When you initially build a project, you may build a feature that morphs into being not quite what you wanted,' says Trailscapes boss Garry Patterson. 'It's easy for us to come in and give it a few tweaks here and there and get those entries and exits working better, and fix up those rock features that have become a little too clunky.'

Patterson has a message for riders: 'The trails will be a little more dynamic than the last time you rode them.'

Nick Byrne told *Flow* that he sympathised with folks who are frustrated with the extended closure — as he's part of that group — and wanted to thank them for respecting the closure of the trails.

Thanks to writer Colin Levitch and *Flow* magazine for the above extract from their July story.

Stay tuned for a definite date for the reopening of La Larr Ba Gauwa. In the meantime, Nick Byrne implores riders to be patient.

'Not much longer folks, you waited this long. October isn't that far away!'

To read the full July story from *Flow*, visit flowmountainbike.com (search La Larr Ba Gauwa)



Harcourt Valley Primary School

By the time the *Core* is distributed this month, students at HVPS will be looking forward to their spring holidays. The last day of this term is on Friday 16 September, and term 4 begins on Tuesday 2 October.

Preparations for next year are beginning. Preps are now enrolling at HVPS and on 21 August, Years 5 and 6, with Ms Rowlands and Ms Stearne, visited Castlemaine Secondary College for a couple of hours.

Science Week from 14 to 21 September was probably forgotten about by many Australians, including me, who were engrossed in the Women's Soccer Championships. At HVPS Science Week was observed by all students and some interesting science experiments were conducted.

That was also the week that Years 3 and 4 spent three days away on a school camp at Anglesea. They had a great time. Mostly the weather was good enough and, as well as enjoying some beach activities, students had a variety of other activities to challenge them and to enjoy.

State-wide Book Week, with the theme 'Read-Grow-Inspire', ran from 21 to 25 August. My guess is that many readers will have seen photos of children of friends

or family dressed up as their favourite book character. I've seen photos of some very creative and imaginative costumes from children I know at HVPS and other schools. At HVPS, on 23 August, teachers and students from years 1 to 6 arrived at school dressed as their favourite book character. At 9.15 am they took part in a Book Week parade which was watched by prep students and family members. After the parade, students read their book, or part of it, to a family member or special friend, followed by a shared morning tea.

On the subject of reading, HVPS was thrilled that their Year 5 NAPLAN reading results were higher than the state's average. Students scored in the strong to excellent range in their reading proficiency. Well done students.

To see photos of recent school activities in school newsletters for the weeks ending 18 and 25 August go to the school website: www.hvps.vic.edu.au/page/221

The school continues to engage the community. Currently it is conducting an on-line survey to provide parents with the opportunity to give the school feedback on educational and other school-related topics.



Apple pie baking on Fridays has now finished and pies and slice orders have been collected from school. I will be sharing mine with my family this weekend, yum!

Want a beanie in the school colours? A beanie fundraiser is currently running for the school. Check out the school's Facebook page to order yours – \$25 each.

The school's annual Father's and Special Person's Day breakfast will have taken place on 31 August. A breakfast of fruit, cereal, egg and bacon rolls and tea and coffee was on offer.

Don't forget to come to the biennial school concert, 'The Big Bang Theory' at Harcourt Recreation Centre on Monday 11 September at 7 pm.

Lois Denham

Restoration at the Memorial Garden

Readers may remember that in the June issue of *The Core* there was a short article on a car accident and subsequent damage to the memorial garden at the junction of Market and High Streets.

The photo on the left was taken shortly after the damage was done. The middle

photo was taken on August 30. The rosemary (for remembrance) hedge has been completely removed, but fortunately the roses have been saved. The back of the digging machine has been caught in the left hand corner of the photo.

The next day, the rescued original and

three new granite posts were installed in preparation for the 'old fashioned' cyclone fencing to be attached (right-hand photo.)

The stonemason working at the site said the gate closest to the cenotaph will be a new black powder-coated one. The finishing touch will be replacing the rosemary hedge.



Australian Refrigeration History on Display

Two important examples of Australian ingenuity are now on show at Harcourt Heritage Centre following recent donations and a re-interpretation of the collection.

In a display rivalling that of the National Museum in Canberra, our local museum now proudly exhibits some of the great Australian advances in food preservation – a Coolgardie safe and a 'Rotafrig'.

It has been said of the Coolgardie safe that it was 'the father of the ice chest and grandfather of the refrigerator.'

The Coolgardie safe, one of the earliest artifacts in the Harcourt Collection, is a timber-framed, hessian-covered cabinet with a metal tray at the top and metal guttering underneath. A 'wick' of flannel carried moisture from the tray by capillary action down to the hessian sides. The contents were cooled by the evaporation of the water. It was used to preserve, cheese, butter, cream and meat. The safe was invented about 1900 at Coolgardie,

Western Australia and was in general use until the ice chest and electric refrigeration became available. Older folk remind us that it was usual to stand the legs of the Coolgardie safe in water-filled jam tins to stop ants getting at your food.

A recent addition to the collection is an ice chest donated by the Jenkin family. This timber cabinet provided a simple but effective way of cooling food without the use of electricity. The walls of the ice chest are lined with tin or zinc and are packed with insulating material. A large block of ice was placed in the compartment in the top of the box. Cold air circulated down and around the storage compartments in the lower section. A drip pan at the bottom caught the water from the melted ice and had to be emptied regularly. Freezing works were to be found in most towns and cities, and until the mid-20th century, an ice man would deliver blocks of ice to homes for use in ice chests. The ice chest in our museum had been put aside when the family bought a refrigerator, but had regular outings when it was taken for use on camping trips.

The Rotafrig is the latest artifact to be accepted into the Harcourt Museum collection. This item was owned by the late Betty and Eddie Jenkin of Harcourt and was donated by their family. This Rotafrig was an Australian made refrigerator manufactured in the Sydney suburb of Waterloo by Rotafrig Pty Ltd from at least the late 1940s until 1954. Our particular model was made in 1947. It was advertised as 'the most revolutionary refrigerator ever designed.' Disregarding the pun, we can agree, because the rotating circular shelves meant that everything in the Rotafrig was at your fingertips. This is a rarely seen appliance and another example of a distinctly innovative Australian design.

It is not the intention of Harcourt Heritage Committee to present a comprehensive history of refrigeration. It is true that export shipments of Harcourt apples were made in the holds of refrigerated cargo ships to northern hemisphere ports from the 1880s. Fruit storage at Harcourt Coolstores was made possible by refrigeration powered by a steam driven compressor from 1919 onwards, and upgraded to electricity in the mid-1930s. Today



From left to right: Coolgardie safe, 'The Frigid' ice-cream maker on top of an ice chest, the circular Rotafrig, and the Pope refrigerator painted with a scene of Harcourt.

the Harcourt Coolstore provides state-of-the-art refrigerated storage for horticultural products of central Victoria.

Getting back to the domestic refrigerator, this modern kitchen appliance is represented in the Harcourt Museum by a Pope refrigerator. This fridge was donated to the-then Harcourt Public Hall committee by Mrs Joy Lofts in the early 1980s.

In a move to rival the acquisition, by Bendigo Art gallery, of a fridge painted by artist Arthur Boyd, in 2002 the Harcourt Chat Group, led by Shirley Stewart and Nancy Curtis, painted the door of the Pope fridge with a scene dominated by a branch of apple blossom. The painted door shows a horse and cart on the old highway heading north, having just crossed the original bridge over Barkers Creek. The old kitchen fridge has become an art work worthy of its place in a surprisingly colourful museum collection.

George Milford

Harcourt Heritage Centre **Historical Tour**

1.30 pm Sunday 24 September

Granite in the Landscape

Meet at Harcourt Heritage Centre at 1.30 pm for a car-pool tour.

We will look at some interesting ways that Harcourt granite has been used.

Please wear stout shoes as there will be a little walking involved.

After our tour we will return to the Heritage Centre for afternoon tea.

Please bring a plate.

There is a gentle breeze ~ that allows *me* [to “speak”], ever so softly.
so *freely*.

, as I “feel” [the freedom] - that envelops me; I’m allowed [to dictate] my own “reality”
causing me - to no longer fault, no longer stumble.

The earth spins (around) ~ in an indifference, that doesn’t really affect ‘me’ at all.

I AM; allowed [to] “be” my own (true ‘calling’) ...my own [true] SELF.

I have; *become* [the energy] that radiates ~across~ with a beaming sound of;

Singing; and

revelations [that] allow my footing to finally ... “let go”.

so here I AM;

ready

- to abound

ready

- to take [that] ____ leap of FAITH.

here I AM;

- awaiting my own destiny

- awaiting my own triumph

to become that;

searching

calling out

that breathing - I have;

waited; *and*

felt; and

held on

for this entire journey so far

I step outside of my front door; *and*

I ~breathe ~in the new air, of a new day.

by the sun

[the rays of loving oxygen] - pat me on the back and say;

“*a job well done*”.

, and

I *feel* [the warmth] of summer, of a united “calling” ~inside ~ of my internal system.

calling me

[out] - of this “waiting room”.

telling me; it’s time to live my life.

to not look back

to not be afraid

to just be myself...

outside ~ of this ... “waiting room”.

Written by JC3
[extract] taken from autobiography
girl, GOD, and the waiting room

W

R

F

E

O

R

17 August, 2023, JC †



Hunting for Ballantinia – a Highly Endangered Plant



The hunt for *Ballantinia* was on in late August. The following information was sent by Dr Aaron Grinter, Natural Environment Program Manager from DEECA, to the Harcourt Valley Landcare Group prior to us joining the program:

‘*Ballantinia antipoda*, also known as Southern Shepherd’s Purse, is a tiny annual brassica, less than 5 cm tall, with strikingly delicate white flowers.

‘*Ballantinia* was endemic to south-eastern Australia, being found through parts of Victoria and Tasmania. Around the 1800s, it started disappearing and was presumed extinct for most of the 20th century until it was rediscovered at Mt Alexander in 1983. Repeated previous searches across the species’ historic range have failed to locate *Ballantinia* at other sites, and so it is believed that the only surviving population of the species is on Mount Alexander.

Accordingly, its status is extinct in Tasmania, and critically endangered in Victoria.

‘With much of the wider environment cleared for development and invaded by weeds, the plant found refuge growing in delicate moss mats on granite outcrops on the mountain. In order to continue to preserve the species, annual surveys are undertaken to locate these refuges and note their condition, including current threats.

‘Being so small, they are best located by looking for their small white flowers, which open in late winter.’

Harcourt Valley Landcare and members of other Landcare groups in the Shire spent some days in late August helping Dr Grinter find and count this tiny, highly endangered plant. Sadly the number of plants found is decreasing. The habitat is shrinking

to higher and cooler elevations. Members of the group used an online form to record the count, and made observations of the site including evidence of threats, such as disturbance by humans and animals.



Activities for September and October

Sunday 24 September: It’s wildflower time! Join us for a Wildflower Walk and morning tea at the Flora Reserve, Bingham Road, Harcourt from 10 am–12 pm.

Sunday 22 October: At the Flora Reserve. Our special guest will be a Phascogale expert. We will be checking nesting boxes at the reserve with a special camera. This is a combined event with Barkers Creek Landcare. Come along if you are interested, you don’t need to be a member of Landcare.

Enquiries: Contact us at: www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org Look for the Contact button on the home page.

The PO Garden



The spring garden at the Post Office is once again in full bloom. It is flourishing. Thanks go to Liz Ward who created the garden a few years ago.



solar power | battery storage | insulation |
heat pump hot water, heating and cooling |
natural oils and paints | EV charging

49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues to Sat from 10am
t: 5472 4160 e: newstead@enviroshop.com.au
www.enviroshop.com.au

Supporting your community

Community Bank
Maldon & District

B Bendigo Bank

03 5475 1747

MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Harcourt Heritage Centre

William Gay and the School Forestry Scheme

William Gay was beaming with delight when he visited Harcourt. The Harcourt State School celebrated Arbor Day In June 1927 by inviting Mr Gay to visit the school's two-year-old endowment plantation.

Things were on the move at Harcourt State School. In April 1925 it had been reported that the newly elected school committee and the Mothers Club were brimful of enthusiasm. One of the first tasks undertaken by the committee was to apply to the trustees of the Harcourt Recreation Reserve asking for the use of a portion of the reserve for the establishment of a school plantation. Pine tree seedlings were planted on the allocated land. By the time of Mr. Gay's visit, about 87 per cent of the seedlings had survived and made good growth.

It is interesting to examine the documents concerning these plantings. Harcourt Heritage Centre has a Covenant dated 8 June 1927 in which the teachers and students of the Harcourt Primary School undertook to set up and maintain such a plantation. The Covenant is quaintly worded in the language of the day, it states:

'it is desirable to promote, among the pupils, ideals of disinterested citizenship by encouraging them to labour diligently in a task which will confer material benefit upon their school in after years but from which they themselves will derive no direct advantage. And it is of grave importance to create enlightened citizenship in respect of the forestry resources of this State to take steps to utilize and beautify our waste lands and to provide for the future well-being of our country by husbanding and increasing her timber supplies and rendering her less dependent on other countries.'

Under the Covenant, the teachers and pupils were to plant and maintain the trees 'until such time deemed profitable for the cutting and disposal of the produce, the revenue derived being invested in a trust fund' and, to that end, to fence the land, prepare the land for planting, plant annually one acre of conifers or other suitable trees, care for the trees planted, cultivate seedling trees and keep the area free of noxious weeds and vermin.

Gippsland born William Wilson Gay held a degree in Science and a Diploma of Agricultural Science and was Forestry Commissioner, Victoria. William felt the need to rehabilitate vast areas of the State that, since 1851, had been devastated by mining and indiscriminate land clearing. The removal of the forest cover had impoverished the soil, he said. The farming community was indifferent to the need to preserve the environment. To reverse the trend, he sought to create a national forest conscience.

William Gay had a vision of softwood plantations such as had already been planted in worked-out mining areas. Timber harvested from softwood plantations would be a financial asset, producing hard cash in years to come, cash that could be used to beautify schools and provide up-to-date equipment and scholarships.

It was William Gay who initiated the Schools Forestry Scheme. This was a cooperative effort between the Education Department and the Forests Commission of Victoria. The scheme was launched in 1923 and had great success. Over a quarter of a century the pine trees were expected to solve all the financial problems that vexed school committees and teachers. By the middle of the twentieth century, most rural schools had an endowment plantation. Scant evidence of them exists. Locally, remnant school plantations can be seen at Faraday and Ravenswood South.

Many older people recall their days in the school plantation planting pine seedlings or sawing off lower branchlets. These were routine tasks in a day out of the classroom, a day enhanced by a lunchtime picnic in unfamiliar surroundings. The children who laboured diligently among the seedling pine trees became the leaders in the Landcare movement, establishing native plants, rehabilitating wildlife habitats and ensuring the health of our waterways.

In the early years of the twentieth century, it was learned that Monterey pine (also called radiata pine) was the most vigorous of timber trees, attaining 25 metres height in twenty years, and it would thrive on poor land. Thousands of Radiata pine seedlings were planted on Mount Alexander from 1910. Monterey pines (*Pinus insignis* or *Pinus radiata*)

THE SCHOOL ENDOWMENT PLANTATION SCHEME OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA*

By W. W. GAY, B.Sc., Dip.AGRIC.Sc.
(Forestry Commissioner, Victoria).

THE inauguration of the School Forestry Scheme in Victoria in 1923 marked the beginning of a very fine co-operative effort between the Education Department and the Forests Commission of Victoria.

While in the main the underlying interests of the two bodies coincided their specific aims differed somewhat.

The Education Department's interest in the scheme lay in an attempt to promote the highest quality of citizenship such as is induced by efforts and sacrifices to secure great benefits for future generations.

It was felt that there could be no better training for the youth of the country than to cultivate in it a spirit of readiness to take thought for the well-being of others and to be up and doing in every effort by the community for the promotion of the welfare of district and of State.

The Forests Commission's interest centred in solving the same sort of problem that has confronted the forests authorities of most young countries.

During the mining era of the State ruthless and uncontrolled cutting of the forests was general, and indiscriminate 'selection' or settlement of mountain areas clothed with valuable hardwoods had tragic results. Magnificent forest areas were given over to the

became a serious component of the Victorian government platform from 1920-1929. Forestry emerged as a skill suitable for unemployed ex-servicemen.

Planted on waste land, harvested and replanted, the second crop of trees exhausted and acidified the soil so that a third planting would not thrive. Native grasses and wildlife are repelled by the thick bed of pine needles that builds up on the soil. Nowadays, it is only the cockatoos that love the pine trees. The yellow-tailed black cockatoos wing their way to the tops of the pine trees to feed on pine cones, now and then dropping a cone to the ground to betray their presence far above to the passerby. In other parts of southern Australia, the trees are being harvested for export

It seems there is no future for the remaining radiata pines locally. The pines on Mount Alexander have germinated from wind-blown seed. Pine trees on public land are viewed as an environmental weed. Pine purges on Mount Alexander in 2013 and 2014 attracted hordes of people of all ages, keen to combat this public enemy. This is a contrast to the practices of a hundred years ago.

The elimination of wild pines is how we in the twenty-first century provide 'for the future well-being of our country'. Those who would restore native vegetation and enhance the habitat for our native fauna and flora are labouring:

'... diligently at a task from which they themselves will derive no direct advantage, surely the mark of enlightened citizenship as they engage in beautifying our waste lands.'

George Milford



Harcourt Bowling Club

Improved Facilities Prove Attractive

Despite the cold weather, Friday social nights at the bowling club have seen a resurgence of interest, including several nights when delicious food has been served. President, David says the vibe has been back to pre-COVID numbers. He extends his thanks to all the volunteers who help to provide the warm and inviting environment the club is known for. It is expected that there will be more opportunities in the future to have meals on offer.

Earlier in the year soundproofing was added to the ceiling, which improved the comfort level inside.

Heaters are now installed, and are working, on the large back deck for those chilled days and nights.

The barbecue area now has an all-weather roof; two barbecues; new sinks and power for the clean-up; and a new concrete floor, increasing the entertaining area.

Season Opening and President's Day

The official opening of the bowling season, combined with the Annual President's Day, will be held on Sunday 17 September commencing at 1.00 pm.



After the official opening a social game of bowls will be played followed by afternoon tea. All welcome. Members are respectfully required to wear their Harcourt uniform.

Pennant

There will be a few changes to Harcourt Pennant line up for the coming bowling season, notably an increase in teams for both Midweek and Weekend Pennant.

In response to the survey of members and the interest of new bowlers, Harcourt Bowling Club has announced that Midweek Pennant will continue to be played on Mondays with Division 2, Division 4 and Division 5 competing.

Weekend Pennant will field Division 2, Division 5, and two teams in Division 7 (Harcourt Blue and Harcourt Gold).

Competition commences on Monday 16 October for Midweek and Saturday 21 October for Weekend Pennant.

The Green

As is usual during the winter months, the bowling green has been rested and given the necessary treatment to ensure it is up to standard for the start of the season. Greenkeeper, Ron Douglas and a number of volunteers have also been busy preparing the area surrounding the green to enable games to be played both South/North and East/West in accordance with Pennant requirements.

Friday Social Nights

Friday social nights are looking to be bigger and better with the Members Draw and generous raffles on offer. The Members Draw is at 6.00 pm during winter and 6.30 pm otherwise. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us; new social and bowling members are always welcome.

Memberships

Application for membership can be collected from the bowling club or downloaded from the website: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au



Blackberry Control Demonstration

Blackberry is a serious weed across our region, along with much of Victoria. The North Harcourt Sedgwick Landcare Group is hoping to kick-start blackberry control on private properties by offering a free Blackberry Control Demonstration and Information Session on Sunday 24 September.

In conjunction with the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce, the event will include demonstrations by local contractors, including an organic control method, herbicide spraying from a drone, and mechanical and chemical control from the ground. We will discuss how to get started at your place, control options and blackberry management plans, and offer the chance to have all your questions answered.

As well as being an eye-sore in our beautiful landscape, blackberry can out-compete and displace native flora and provide harbour for pest animals, leading to a loss of biodiversity. It can also decrease the productive capacity of the land, alter water flow, lead to erosion problems and be a fire hazard. It truly is a neighbourhood problem, as birds and mammals eating the fruit distribute it across wide areas.

We encourage anyone who has blackberry on their property to come along to our event. The session will be held in Sedgwick, with morning tea and lunch provided. Bookings are essential: go to www.eventbrite.com and search 'Blackberry Control' or email nhselandcare@gmail.com

Grace Church

God is Love

This is a statement of faith from Pastor Roger Thurecht

The Apostle John says that the number one characteristic of God, is that God is love. And the number one characteristic of God's love is that it is sacrificial in nature. John's Gospel states:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16)

The Apostle Paul, writing to Christians in Corinth elaborates on God's kind of love. This is a famous passage that is often read at weddings, but in fact it describes characteristics of God's kind of love:

Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends ... So faith, hope, love abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Furthermore, Christians are enjoined to love one another. The Apostle John puts it this way:

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

Carrying this a step further, this is what Jesus had to say about the love that the Christians ought to have for one another:

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)

I will finish with this promise from John:

No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:12)

Ps Roger Thurecht, Grace Church Castlemaine

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



Weather & Water

The month was bookended by full moons: the first on August 1 and the next on 30 August – a blue moon – which did indeed look larger than usual over Mount Alexander. On August 1, I noticed that the Hardenbergia – happy wanderer was out in full bloom.

Temperatures at the start of the month were cool to mild during the day with sunny breaks. August 4 saw a red sky in the morning with wind and then rain mid-morning.

Between August 9 and 12 we had 11 mm of rain and after that the rain eased off. August 15 and 16 began with heavy frosts and Friday 18 proved to be cold with a top of 9°C and with sleety showers in the afternoon. On 19 August, the temperature reached 17°C, but 'felt like' 14°C, and I noticed that the peach blossom had burst.

On Monday 21 we were told to expect 1–5 mm of rain; we received 1 mm, which was disappointing. The month finished with a run of calm days, where 17°C was recorded on two days.

New leaves were open on the grape vine on August 29, when, again, predicted rain failed to produce more than 1 mm. The month finished with cooler temperatures: on 30 and 31 August the top was 14°C.

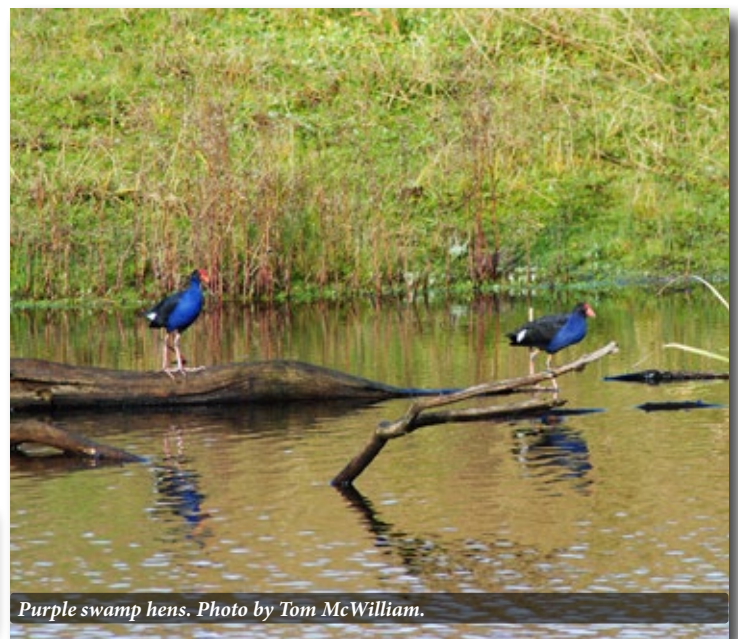
The total rainfall for the month was 23.5 mm, received over nine days, which is the lowest monthly total since the summer months of January and February and it is the lowest rainfall received in August for four years. It seems that the Bureau's prediction of a dry spring may be on the horizon.

The total rainfall for the year to the end of August is 424.5 mm, which is a good amount when compared to the years prior to 2020. For example in 2019 – a hot year – we received only 289 mm in total by the end of August.

Coliban Water has announced 100% allocation for those in Harcourt on the rural irrigation system.

Reservoir Levels

Upper Coliban	100% as at 5 September
Lauriston	100% as at 5 September
Malmsbury	104% as at 5 September
Barkers Creek	99.7% as at 20 August



Purple swamp hens. Photo by Tom McWilliam.

Say Hello to Bruce and Ruth Bennett

I was encouraged to interview Bruce and Ruth by Andrew Mierisch, President of the Victorian Miniature Railway at Harcourt. Andrew said, 'Bruce is making a wonderful contribution to VMR and Ruth is a valued employee at Arcare in Castlemaine. They are both contributing to the club and supporting our family in this project in important ways.'

Before moving to Harcourt, Bruce and Ruth lived and worked in Melbourne for a number of years. Both were attracted to the idea of moving back to the country, having grown up in the country in New Zealand's south island. Ruth lived near the southern tip in a small town called Balclutha. She said, 'It was no surprise to have snow in winter.' Bruce lived on the east coast at Timaru where his father was the station master. He said, 'I grew up around trains and I was a train driver with New Zealand Rail for 20 years. I had a connection to Australia because my grandfather was born in Geelong, and in 1997 I moved here and my sisters followed to be close to family.'

When I interviewed the couple, Bruce had just completed eight hours at VMR concreting a level crossing with seven other volunteers. 'The crossing is vital to the movement of traffic, both road



and rail, around VMR and is a major milestone in the project,' he said. Ruth was on a day off from work. 'I have worked in aged care for fifteen years. I needed a break from very long hours. That was one of the reasons we moved. I am now working part-time and able to enjoy living in a quieter, less busy place.'

Bruce has retired but is doing a lot of volunteer work with VMR. Before his retirement, Bruce worked in Andrew's business which builds pizza ovens. 'My role was writing instruction manuals for building the ovens. My role now at VMR is mainly driving heavy equipment. For example, I moved tonnes of mulch for the landscaping which has recently been

completed around the station.'

As a result of a few health issues, Bruce has developed an interest in men's health. 'I have built a website called Men's Health Directory Australia which is the largest resource for men's health in Australia. I picked up my IT skills along the way in some of my other roles. I am also a part-time musician. I play trumpet which I learnt by ear, playing trumpet in a high school band.' Ruth said, 'I enjoy walking, baking and reading. I enjoy working part-time as it gives me the opportunity to pursue my interests.'

They both agree that the overriding reason they enjoy being in Harcourt is the strong relationship with the Mierisch family and other members of VMR. They believe that once the project is finished it will be a huge asset for the community and will have a big impact.

Ruth said, 'We enjoy living in Harcourt itself and, of course, its location is excellent. We can get to Castlemaine in fifteen minutes and the edge of Bendigo in twenty. We enjoy being able to take the train to Melbourne for day trips. We have both found the community very welcoming, and we look forward to staying here for a good while.'

Robyn Miller

Linda Newton



Yellow robin.



Entries now open for Mount Alexander Business Awards

The awards showcase and celebrate the achievements of local businesses.

The entry process is really simple – plus, there are cash prizes up for grabs! See page 21 for more information.

Entries close Monday 18 September.

Parking caravans and tiny houses on land with an existing dwelling



A recent change to Local Law 13 means that a permit is no longer needed for tents, caravans and tiny houses to remain on land with an existing dwelling.

Conditions apply, so make sure you learn what you can and can't do. Get more information at the Shire website: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

Fruit Tree Tips for Spring



Hi everyone,

Spring is bursting all around us, with almonds, apricots, plums and peaches already in flower. We've been enjoying running a series of workshops on the farm this year – thanks go to the many local fruit enthusiasts who have joined us. The next workshops are on Sunday September 24, where you can learn all about grafting in the morning, and organic pest and disease control in the afternoon (you can book at growgreatfruit.com).

After a couple of wet springs, this year the BOM is forecasting a relatively dry season. This puts everyone on high alert because it increases the chances of bushfires but, on the upside, it's very good news for your fruit trees because it's much easier to grow fruit in dry conditions.

All fruit trees get fungal diseases. The worst culprits are leaf curl (peaches and nectarines), blossom blight (apricots, and sometimes peaches and nectarines), and black spot (apples and pears). What they have in common is that wet conditions can result in these becoming a problem in your trees.

Some of these diseases are more destructive than others. A bad case of leaf curl in your peach tree can set its growth back significantly, and it can even infect the fruit. Infected fruit will often fall off the tree. It's preventable by using an organic fungicide like Bordeaux (see instructions below) on the trees at budswell. Some peach and nectarine varieties are already in flower and so it's too late to spray them, but some later varieties are just getting to budswell now. However, because we're looking at a dry season, don't worry too much if you haven't sprayed this year.

If you are spraying it's OK to use a copper spray like Bordeaux, but be very careful with it because copper is an effective fungicide which can accidentally kill your soil fungi (which are highly precious) if you use it too much. We recommend not spraying unless you have to, and then never putting on more than two copper sprays. Bordeaux is one of the most effective copper sprays to use because it has a bit more 'stickability'. Mix 50g each of copper sulphate and builder's lime in 5 litres of water. It's a bit messy, and the mixture doesn't store well, so it needs to be mixed on the day you plan to use it (there's a video on our website showing how to mix and use it).

While you're spraying, you may also want to put a Bordeaux spray on your apricot trees if they're flowering. This can help prevent blossom blight, a fungal disease that can cause the flowers to rot on the tree and destroy your crop. For extra security, follow up the first spray with another one ten days later. After that, switch to wettable sulphur as your preventive spray. If any significant wet weather is forecast, make sure your trees have had a 'cover spray' of sulphur before the rain.

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

- Start thinking about getting your fruit fly traps ready to put out (if you're not sure how to prevent fruit fly, check out the free Fruit Fly Action Pack on our website).
- If you've just planted new fruit trees, make sure you protect them with tree-guards.
- If you planted new trees this winter but haven't pruned them yet, prune ASAP so they put their energy into growing branches in the right place (i.e. where you want them).

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

Make sure you've got your irrigation system set up and ready to go, because we'll probably have some hot weather before we know it. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below. Alternatively, wait until the weather really starts to get hot before you mulch the trees.

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

Happy gardening, and stay well,

Cheers, Katie and Hugh

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists in Harcourt for more than 20 years, and offer a free weekly newsletter called *Weekly Fruit Tips*. Find their online fruit-growing courses at growgreatfruit.com and sign up for a free online workshop at growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing

Grow Great Fruit	SUNDAY FRUIT TREE WORKSHOPS	
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		

Council news



Enter the 2023 Business Awards

Applications for the 2023 Mount Alexander Business Awards open on Monday 21 August.

The biennial awards showcase, acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of local businesses.

There are seven award categories open for nominations, recognising a diverse range of businesses – new, established, innovative, creative and more!

An information session will be held on Monday 21 August at 5.30pm at the Castlemaine Civic Centre.

Applications close on Monday 18 September.

The awards ceremony will take place in November.

Read more about the awards and apply now at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessAwards.

Apply for an Event Grant

Our Event Grants program supports groups that are running public events in the shire.

Applications close on Monday 28 August.

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

Levee update

We're in the process of delivering, upgrading and re-establishing levee banks in Castlemaine and Campbells Creek. A levee in Newstead is currently in the investigation and design stage.

Find out more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Levee-update.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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



ADVERTISEMENT

Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

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

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

www.mareeedwards.com.au



SJK EXCAVATIONS Pty Ltd

Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks



Stuart King
Owner/Operator
sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au

Call Stuart for a free quote
0407 514 797

Equipment includes 5 ton, 8.5 ton & 14 ton excavators all with rubber tracks & tilt buckets, tipper truck & large tag trailer. Attachments for all excavators include rocker breakers, a grab (ideal for clean-ups), auger - several sizes. Posi track with laser grader blade attachment, (ideal for driveways, shed & house site cuts). We can provide all general earthworks including driveways, trenching, site cuts, land clean-ups & drainage works. ABN: 63708909385

Level Heading

Proofreading • Copy Editing • Book Layout

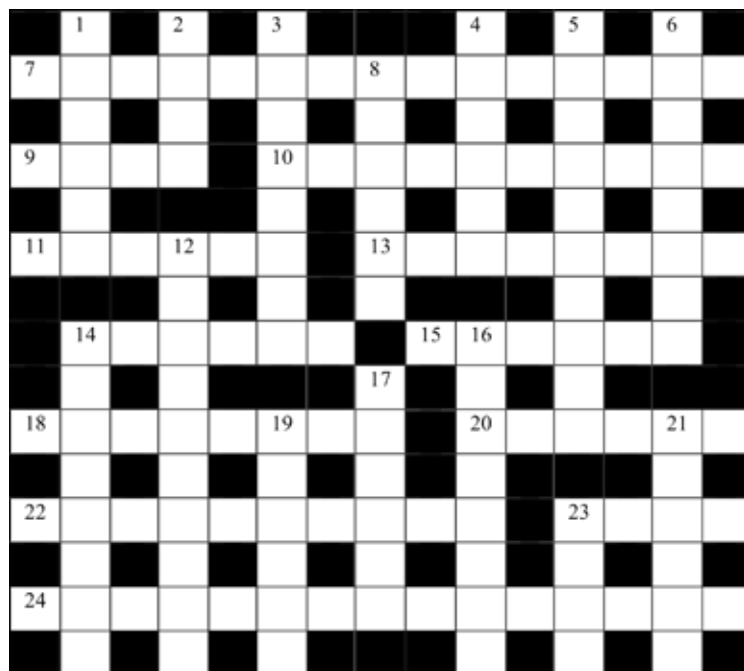
*memoirs, family history, oral history
novels, short stories, anthologies, e-books
negotiable prices*

Bernie Schultz
p: 03 5472 3952
m: 0409 52 43 54

e: bernsch@gmail.com
w: levelheading.com.au

August 2023 Xwd

© McW December '18



Down:

1. Yanks hear back of donkey; we climb... (6)
2. One very small Sunday? (4)
3. Maybe not going down that entire path let especially tired sportspeople make a name for themselves? (8)
4. What goes in your date loaf to give life meaning? (6)
5. He bought the inexpensive foot vehicle, thus exposing himself! (10)
6. Vet taking on he-men would have to be forceful. (8)
8. Stine falls away from the sides of the month of confessions. (6)
12. An elite trial might sort out those incapable of making out the exam questions. (10)
14. As the SES trips into disarray, the volunteer spirit hangs on! (8)
16. *Rattus rattus* was blamed for the Black Death. What might pied mice set off? (8)
17. How will the timber-jinker finish work? (3,3)
19. More foolhardy slice of animal protein? (6)
21. Put lots of pages together, but lose tyro to find place. (6)
23. Even the cheapest way of researching Darwin reveals our origins. (4)

Across:

7. Aha! A sweet thesis appraises her complexion in terms of thread-count! (2,5,2,1,5)
9. Second vowel in high explosive could cover holiday-makers. (4)
10. Legally, it's alleged... (10)
11. State of rootless snow? (6)
13. Left vaguely menacing? (8)
14. They shine in Eastern Europe. (6)
15. Leave the trap, Eddie, and stay alive to do so! (6)
18. Marsupial ratio in work for voices and orchestra. (8)

20. Our side also has some lofty motives... (6)
22. Working in the lab, he's laid low by bacteria and cries "Compo!" How does he work that out? (10)
23. Cleaning lady does affectedly teasing back-flip. (4)
24. Built to stay free? Come by ship (perhaps by a tourist fleet?) and you'll see it... (6,2,7)

July 2023 Xwd Solution

© McW December '18



Down:

1. No term more appropriate for teaching role in Homer.
2. Get from porridge [oats] to porch in two backflips...
3. Emaciated monarch in a brown study. [Well?]
4. Recall—but *not about* politician.
5. I led simple creatures out of the garden and piled slime on them: they're nuisances.
6. A little twitchy if you don't sleep as much.
8. A Pakistani, and on the same path, an Afghani...
12. Border Force has a bad name, but the Bay Militia are noted for their easy nature.
14. Pair allow wrist décor.
16. Army uniform for gaoler?
17. Very much in the realm of comics.
19. Oz all-rounder and commentator [Benaud] reincarnated as Euro river.
21. Backward PhD [Dr] round messy tomato [Roma] gets unbending tool for packing.
23. They constructed extra street in St Ives to exert self-raising fallout leaving gallery.

Across:

7. Presumably what Elvis did to allow the underpinnings of the conclusion to remain. [Well?]
9. Untidy volcanic area? [Well? Not "neat"...]
10. A prominent person, but useless... [Well? So often it's not ability that got them there...]
11. Motivation to back up on a Mongolian track might entail a grand wild horny sheep!
13. Why plane is rapid, see?
14. Newly-wed carrying weight [g] across a flower. [6]

15. What a Scandinavian Townshend might grow? [Well?]
18. The bad coma was put into could have been the work of Pol [Pot].
20. David Frost raised many issues from his platforms.
22. Astonished denial? [Well?]
23. To me, it's still just a book, despite its weight and size...
24. Tony's method could initiate bad loss for the Coalition...

**Harcourt News/The Core
is published monthly by the
Harcourt Progress Association Inc**

(ABN: 22 887 254 268)

For inclusion in *Harcourt News/The Core* contact the Editor Robyn Miller on news@harcourt.vic.au or 0467 670 271. Contributions of news items, articles, photos, stories, poems and letters are welcome, as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

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

Circulation is 400 hard copies which can be obtained at the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Post Office, Harcourt Produce Store, The Little Red Apple, and various outlets in Castlemaine.

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

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

***Harcourt News/The Core* is a member of the CNAV, the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria.**

Advertising rates			
Business Card Size (55x90mm)		Larger ads	
pre-paid for:		invoiced monthly	
3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

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

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

Community Diary Dates

Monday September 11: 7 pm, Harcourt Valley Primary School Concert, Leisure Centre.

Sunday September 24: 10 am–12 pm, Wildflower walk at Harcourt Flora Reserve, Bingham Road, Bendigo. See page 15.

Sunday September 24: Blackberry Control Demonstration with North Harcourt Sedgwick Landcare. See page 17.

Sunday September 24: 1.30 pm Granite in the Landscape Tour, see page 13 for details.

Thursday October 19: CWA Op Shop Fashion Parade with host Peter Bottomley. See page 5.

Saturday October 14: Mount Alexander Emergency Services Expo (see page 9 of the August edition of the *Core* for more information).

Sunday October 22: 10 am–12 pm: Check nest boxes with a phascogale expert; join Harcourt Valley Landcare at the Flora Reserve. See page 15.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Helping you do business

Starting or expanding your business?

Our Business Support team can help you with:

- Permits and registrations
- Connecting with local business networks
- Information on workshops and events
- Funding opportunities
- Grants and funding opportunities



Scan the QR code for more information

Get in touch with the Business Support team:
business@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
03 5471 1745

