

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 116 – June 2024

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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harcourt.vic.au/news

Warming Harcourt's Heart



Seriously...having fun. Tina and Andy Buchan have come to Harcourt with their years of experience as restaurateurs and wine makers, and they intend to stay. Come and visit on June 29, the day of Gather Harcourt.

WITH THE AIM OF revitalising what was once known as The Tavern and then the Goldfields Track Restaurant, Andy and Tina Buchan have begun a retro makeover of the building in the centre of Harcourt. Andy said, 'As soon as we noticed that it was

for lease, we decided it was an opportunity too good to miss; we have taken out a ten-year lease. It is in a great position in the heart of Harcourt. We love Harcourt; our family has property here and we intend to retire here.'

He said, 'The new business will be

called the Le Coq Door which is a play on the well-known French fine dining term, Le Coq D'or (The Golden Cockerel). It's a tongue-in-cheek use of the French with a touch of Aussie humour. The business will specialise in charcoal chicken in both French and Australian styles, with chips and salads, and beer on tap (Melbourne Bitter) and a range of local beer, wine and cider. We will be offering these as takeaway as well. *Continued on page 12.*

CONTENTS

- Community Diary → 2
- HPA → 3
- Gather Harcourt → 3
- Harcourt Lions Club → 4
- Virtual Contact Centre → 4
- Harcourt Community House → 5
- Harcourt Uniting Church → 6
- Community Bank → 7
- Survival Day → 7
- Harcourt CFA → 8
- Harcourt Biodiversity Study → 8
- Councillor Comment → 9
- Harcourt Walking Group → 9
- Harcourt Bowling Club → 10
- Book Launch → 11
- Linda Newton Art → 13
- The Good Coat Drive → 14
- HVPS → 14
- Harcourt Carpet Bowls → 15
- Treasure Hunt → 15
- The Heritage Centre → 16
- HFNC → 17
- Harcourt Playgroup → 17
- Harcourt Flood Study → 18
- Little Legends → 18
- Gardening → 19
- Crossword → 20
- Shire News → 21
- Sudoku → 22
- Repair Cafe Dates → 22
- Gather Harcourt Winter → 24

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.**



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Community Diary

Monday June 10: Feedback for Harcourt Strategic Biodiversity Study Closes. See page 8 for details.

Thursday June 13: 7 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare: meeting at Heritage Centre.

Sunday June 23: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare joint working bee. Details: info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Saturday June 29: 10 am – 2 pm Gather Harcourt at James Park.

Carpet Bowls: 7.30 pm Wednesdays, Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt.

Harcourt Valley Community House: Open each Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm.

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

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

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

Harcourt Bowls Club: See page 10

Harcourt Lions Club: Third Thursday of the month at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way at 6.30 pm. Gathering 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.

Harcourt's Little Library

It's outside the ANA Hall
It's available any time.

Leave, Borrow or
Take a Book



HPA Update

Committee Elections HPA

As this is my last HPA update I would like to sincerely thank my fellow board members for their diligence, enthusiasm, good humour, skill and camaraderie over the past couple of years as we worked to establish the Harcourt Valley Community House. To say that it has been an easy process would be to vastly misrepresent the obstacles that HPA has had to overcome. I am delighted though, that at the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30 May 2024, HPA adopted a more fit for purpose set of Rules of Association, elected a new board and confirmed two standing committees.

Sha Cordingley, Robyn Miller and Paul Mizzi stepped down from the Board but will remain on the standing committees for *The Core* and HPA Community House. Bronnie Dean, Alison Curtis, David Dean,



Di Lederman, Rena Geroe, Phil Musat, Jeanette Teague and John Baldock were elected to the Board for the next term. *The Core* Editorial Committee members remain as follows: Robyn Miller, editor; Sha Cordingley, co-editor; Bernie Schultz, design and layout; Bronnie Dean, proofreading; Michele O'Brien, proofreading; Alison Curtis, marketing. The new HPA Community House Standing Committee members: Geoff Freeman, Paul Mizzi, Robyn Miller, Di Lederman, Jeanette Teague and David Dean have already met and will continue to establish the community house and secure funding.

It is a great feeling to step down from a board or committee knowing that enthusiastic and skilled people are going to continue the good work of the previous board. I wish the board the best of luck as it faces the challenges of securing funding for the community house and works on projects that protect and progress our little town.

Kind regards
Sha Cordingley

Editor's Note: The outgoing committee of the HPA presented Sha with a small gift and grateful thanks for her work over the years on the HPA committee. The committee relied on her leadership on the HPA committee at all times, but especially in overseeing the establishment of the Harcourt Valley Community House. Her knowledge of policy and procedures of committee operations at both levels of government, her methods of communication and her experience in the volunteer sector have been invaluable and have resulted in the HPA and the Community House having excellent foundations for the future.



Gather Harcourt brings together producers, residents and visitors to explore the range of food, drink and local produce, whether it be art, craft or hobbies, all of which are specific to the region.

The Market has fostered many new, small-scale and upcoming producers and makers, along with local artists and homemade goods. Many will be offering sips and tastings of their wares. At the time of publication there will be more than forty stalls for you to enjoy.

One of Harcourt's new businesses will be opening its doors on the day especially for us. The beer taps will be pouring, the wine flowing and the fireplaces burning again at what we all know as the 'old tavern'. What a golden opportunity for locals to check it out!

Gather Harcourt is focused strategically on quality, points of difference and right scale, rather than growth. We keep it small and intimate – just like Harcourt –

allowing locals time to wander the market and enjoy the local entertainment at a relaxed pace.

Musicians from CSC will be performing from 10 am–2.30 pm, including Harcourt locals, students who were part of the award-winning CSC Stage Band and some of their outstanding rock and contemporary musicians.

Home based band, Alexander and the Apple Dumplings Blues Band, with soloist Nick Quirk, will play the final set of the day.

A roaring fire and a treasure hunt at the ANA Hall will explore the past history of this community. Enjoy a glass of hot mulled cider while discovering some parts of Harcourt's history you didn't know existed. This event brings both local and visitors together to share their stories. So, come along and be part of it.

Discover Harcourt's Past





Harcourt Lions Club

Anniversary Celebrations Forty Years and Counting

Forty years ago, with the help from Guiding Lion, the late Ted Cutlack of the Castlemaine Lions Club, the Harcourt and District Lions Club Inc. was formed and Chartered on the sixth day of June 1984.

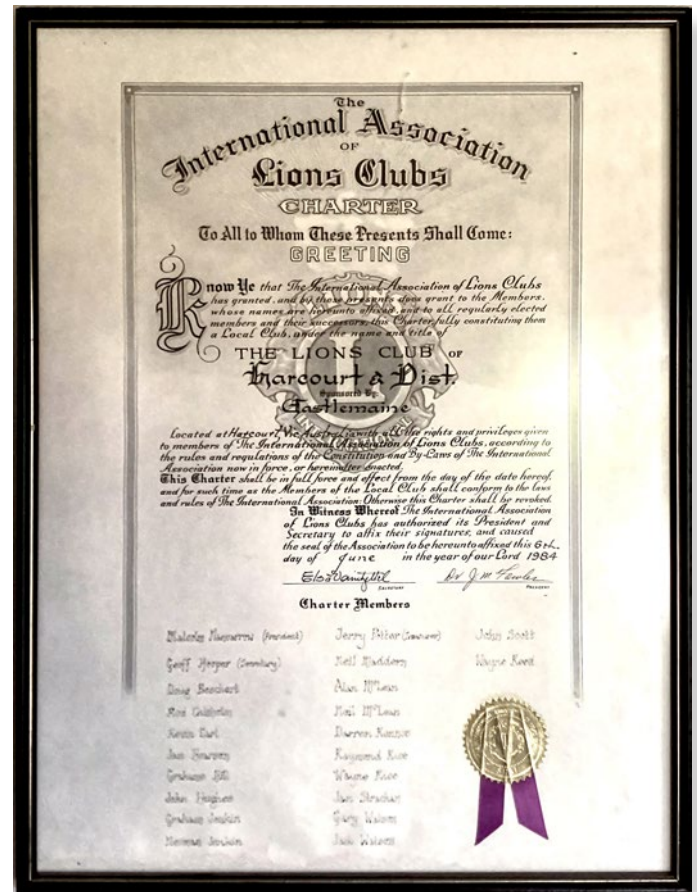
There were twenty-two young Harcourt men who formed the club, with Malcolm Nancarrow elected as the first president with Geoff Hooper as secretary and Terry Potter as treasurer. While Kevin Earl was with the club he was known as 'Snap' as he took many photos recording the club's activities.

Originally, the International Lions Club was an all-male club but, finally, in 1987, women were permitted to join. Subsequently, Janet Mitchell, who owned the tea rooms next to the Harcourt Store, became a member of the Harcourt Club and was voted in as the club's first Lady President in 2005-06. Janet later married and moved to the Kyneton Club.

Over the forty years, the Harcourt Lions Club has been through 'feast and famine' as far as numbers go, but has still continued with fundraising. These funds have been donated back into the community and towards helping the elderly in their homes. In 2013-14, the club reached a point when there were only six members remaining, and it was expected that the club would fold, however, Grant Victor-Gordon and family moved to the Harcourt Club, and we gradually rebuilt the numbers over the last ten years. They have now moved back to the Castlemaine Club.

Recently, our numbers have increased with new members and prospective members. We will always welcome anyone who wishes to join and help the Lions to continue our work for the betterment of the Harcourt Community.

Of the original twenty-two members, Raymond Rice is the only Charter Member remaining in the club and is now the president, and is very much devoted to the continued success of the Harcourt Club.



Charter of the Harcourt and District Lions Club – Malcolm Nancarrow (president), Geoff Hooper (secretary), Doug Boschert, Rod Chisholm, Kevin Earl, Ian Hearson, Graham Hill, John Hughes, Graham Jenkin, Norman Jenkin, Terry Potter (treasurer), Neil Maddern, Alan McLean, Neil McLean, Darren Rennie, Raymond Rice, Wayne Rice, Ian Strachan, Gary Watson, Jack Watson, John Scott, Wayne Reed.

Meetings are held at the VMR shed on the third Thursday from 6.30 pm for a shared meal followed by discussion for coming events at 7.30 pm.

Loretta Rice

Paul Mizzi Recognised

The Journey of a Social Enterprise Business – Virtual CC

**VirtualCC named as AMP Foundation
2024 IGNITE Tomorrow Maker**

Addressing Ageism in Employment

Harcourt local Paul Mizzi has co-founded a not-for-profit business, (also known as a social enterprise) called VirtualCC which aims to address the issue of ageism in employment. The AMP Foundation has a program of awards which recognises and funds social enterprises in their development and start-up stages. Funding is not 'a given' and Paul has competed with a number of start-up businesses, first in 2023 and again in 2024, to ultimately have success in May this year.

Paul was recognised for his pragmatic approach and innovative thinking, which earned VirtualCC a Tomorrow Makers SPARK program finalist in 2023, Community Member of the Year in 2024,

and Certification as a Social Traders Social Enterprise, further solidifying a dedication to overcoming societal challenges.

The 2024 award Tomorrow Makers IGNITE supports social enterprises in their start-up phase through a 12-month grant and capability development program that will ensure they commence trading within 12 months.

In presenting the award it was said, 'VirtualCC stands as a testament to Paul's vision for a more inclusive workforce. Recognising the unique challenges faced by older workers, particularly in regional Australia, Paul's journey is driven by lived experience and a passion for positive change. More than a mere solution, VirtualCC serves as a vital lifeline for individuals facing late-career job loss and employment hurdles.'

Nicola Stokes, General Manager of the



AMP Foundation said, 'Paul's mission for VirtualCC is a prime example of the social impact that the AMP Foundation aims to support.'

Interested in finding out more about VirtualCC? As a not-for-profit and a registered charity with DGR status, you can make a tax deductible donation to VirtualCC at www.virtualcc.org.au where you can also get in contact and connect with the VirtualCC team directly.

Other contact information for Virtual CC:
Phone: +61 409 229 331
info@virtualcc.org.au www.virtualcc.org.au

Harcourt Valley Community House Update

At the HPA Annual General Meeting, the Standing Committee for the Harcourt Valley Community House was established.

The new HPA Community House Standing Committee members Geoff Freeman, Paul Mizzi, Robyn Miller, Di Lederman and Jeanette Teague will continue with the work to establish the community house and secure funding for a range of initiatives. There is much work for the committee to do, and others with interest and appropriate skills are invited to contact: paul.mizzi@harcourtprogress.org.au

On May 23, three representatives from HPA met with Council officers at the Community House. The purpose of the Council representatives' visit was to learn about the progress made in setting up the House and also to consider opportunities that Council could develop and promote in Harcourt via the House. Those representing Council were: Merryn Tinkler, Manager Economy and Culture; Daniel Bone, Economic Development Coordinator and Jessica McNamara, Tourism Marketing and Development Officer. The Progress Association was represented by Paul Mizzi, Alison Curtis and Robyn Miller. A lively discussion took place with the visitors being impressed with progress and going away with some ideas for opportunities for Council.

The visitors were pleased to hear that the kitchen was nearing completion. Amazingly, in October 2023, without a stove or microwave installed, volunteers from HPA were able to serve a two-course lunch to 70 guests as part of Seniors Week.



One of the plans for the House is to have a community lunch at least once a month prepared and served by volunteers. This will be made much easier with the new stove, convection microwave and dishwasher which have all been installed. As mentioned, there is still work to be done, both with amenities and planning before the House can launch into this activity.

If you have a program of classes you would like to offer or ideas for activities at the House, please contact: paul.mizzi@harcourtprogress.org.au

Progress/highlights so far:

- Donations of computers, a fabulous piano, kitchen equipment, crockery and utensils, vacuum cleaners, a TV, a large fridge, furniture, books and CD's. Thank you to all who have donated to the House.
- There is a wheel-chair access toilet.
- Security has been installed across the whole site.
- A design has been drawn up for the gardens at the House including a Community Garden.
- WiFi is connected throughout the building.
- Donated computers are being set up, so that community members can have open access to good quality WiFi and desk space.
- 'Be Connected' will be offered at the House. This program is for those who need assistance to understand digital technology.
- A Food Pantry room has been established which will be open once a week. Foodshare Bendigo and Growing Abundance will be providing some of the supplies.
- The House is open on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm for the collection and distribution of donated food. Harcourt community members are invited to drop in donations of food with long shelf

life and fresh fruit and vegetables on Thursdays. It is planned that Bendigo Foodshare will also be donating food to the House.

- Gardening equipment has been purchased – and used to great effect!


Volunteering Opportunities including fulfilling Mutual Obligation

The Harcourt Valley Community House has many volunteer opportunities on offer. We have outdoor jobs for those interested in garden maintenance or setting up a community kitchen garden for experienced gardeners, administrative work (including helping with *The Core*) for those who want to keep up or hone their computer and office support skills, grant writing opportunities and staffing the HVCH Community Pantry to name but a few roles.

We are a friendly organisation of volunteers who will value your involvement. You will have a job description, be covered by insurance, never be asked to undertake unsafe or unhealthy jobs, and we usually have tea, coffee and the occasional chocolate biscuit on hand. So, if you are interested in helping the Harcourt Valley Community House reach its potential, use your skills, learn new skills, meet your mutual obligation or find an outlet for your creative side, come and join us.

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to fulfil your mutual obligation through volunteering, the Harcourt Valley Community House is registered with Services Australia (Organisation ID: 42751) which means you can volunteer close to home for a great organisation that could do with your help.

If you have ideas for programs or want to contribute to the activities of the House in any way, please contact: Paul Mizzi on paul.mizzi@harcourtprogress.org.au for further information



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Reservoir Levels

Upper Coliban: 81% as at 5 June, 2024

Lauriston: 92% "

Malmsbury 38% "

Barkers Creek 42% as at 2 June 2024

Data sourced from Coliban Water and Bureau of Meteorology.



Harcourt Uniting Church

Have you ever heard yourself agreeing to help do something then later thinking 'Why am I doing this?' May 20-26 was Volunteer Week with the theme: 'Something for Everyone'.

Volunteers are as diverse as the people they spend time with. I asked a friend for their definition of a volunteer and the reply was, 'Someone who does work without being paid for it because they want to.' The Uniting Church at Harcourt has many volunteers, as do all the organisations who contribute articles to this magazine, *The Core*, every month. We thank the team of people who edit and compile the magazine and those who distribute them around our community.

Recently, a new website was created and launched for the two congregations – Castlemaine and Harcourt Uniting Churches. If you're interested, you could

type Castlemaine District Uniting Church into your search engine and you will be able to 'read all about it' – as the paper boys used to call out on the city street corners.

You may have read Jim Foley's article in the Matters of Faith section of the *Castlemaine Mail* on May 24. Before Jim became a Uniting Church minister he was a journalist, describing himself as a 'news tragic', so he has a great way with words, both written and spoken. Jim's heading: 'Don't be overwhelmed by the bad news', reminds us that although we may not have a great influence on the world or national events, we can make a difference by being kind, considerate and caring people within our community. In typical Jim fashion, he writes: 'Had fridges been around 2,000 years ago, bible contributor, Paul, could have made magnets of his description of the fruits of the Spirit of God showing out in people, in living

lives of love, joy, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'

On Mother's Day, Reverend Sarah wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and reminded us that for those who may not be mothers, 'You have still been a mother figure in the lives of others.'

Following the service, the men of our church provided a delicious morning tea of cakes, slices and biscuits, 'lovingly baked by them' and served on a lace tablecloth with a centrepiece of flowers. Doing the dishes was also part of the deal!

You are always welcome to join us at Harcourt Uniting Church any Sunday at 9.00 am, and our split system heating will help ward off the winter frosts, as will the cuppa at morning tea afterwards.

The local minister was visiting a member of his congregation when he asked if he could borrow a newspaper. 'This is the 21st century' she said, 'We don't waste money on newspapers; here, use my iPad.'

'Well', said the minister, 'I can tell you, that fly never knew what hit him!'

Jan Jenkin

Groups
GP's Links
Health
Services
Activities
Support
Improvement
Community
Social isolation
Loneliness
Remedy
Mental health
Get Connected
Wellbeing
Social connection
Live well
Volunteering
Social prescribing
Mount Alexander Shire

Get Connected Mount Alexander

Get Connected is a free service to residents of Mount Alexander who are over 25 years and would like support to find and access community activities.

For more information and how to go about getting some support to connect with your community and your passions go to: cch.org.au/getconnected

Supported by Goldfields Medical Group; Community Wellbeing Unit, Mount Alexander Shire; Castlemaine Library; Dhelkaya Health Counsellors and Dhelkaya Health and Family Services Team.

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

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

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

Affected by a recent major emergency?

You may be eligible for recovery support.

For more information
vic.gov.au/recovery



Community Bank Maldon & District Celebrates 25 Years of Serving the Community

Community Bank Maldon & District was thrilled to host its 25th birthday celebration on April 24, 2024. Back in 1998 a few community-minded people created a movement to ensure banking services were maintained in our small town. An original amount of \$10,000 was required to conduct a feasibility study, plus an additional \$250,000 before the bank could commence. Pledges came in thick and fast, and by the end of April 1999 the Bank was in operation.

Since its inception in 1999, Community Bank Maldon & District has remained dedicated to its mission of providing banking facilities to the Maldon community while also giving back to the community groups and people who make it possible. We have contributed to so many community groups, programs, campaigns and provided upskilling to individuals and groups – for instance the Driver Training Program which builds skill and confidence in young learner drivers.

‘Reaching this milestone is a testament to the trust and support of our loyal customers and the hard work of our dedicated staff,’ said Ross Egleton, Chair of the Maldon District Financial Services Ltd Board who oversees the Community Bank branches in Maldon and Dunolly. ‘We are incredibly proud to have served the local area for 25 years,

and we look forward to continuing to build strong relationships and provide exceptional service while giving back to the community for many years to come.’

The Harcourt and surrounding region have benefited from our model of Community Banking through programs like our COVID-recovering Small Business Action program, our local school’s Spark Program as well as local groups receiving funds from our Community Enterprise Fund and our Partnership programs. We are thrilled to have been able to distribute around \$50,000 over the last four or five years through groups like the Fruit Fly Action Group, HPA, Pony Club, Harcourt Football Netball Club and Barkers Creek Recreation Reserve, just to name a few.

As part of the anniversary celebration, Community Bank Maldon & District hosted a birthday afternoon tea on Old Bank Corner in Maldon’s town centre on Wednesday April 24 from 3 pm - 5 pm. The Maldon Golf Club provided a free sausage sizzle, there was a birthday cake, ice-cream and more.

We wouldn’t be where we are today without the support of our community, so it’s important for us to show our gratitude,’ said Ross. ‘Our anniversary celebration is as much about thanking our original pledgers as it is about celebrating our achievements, and we’re excited to



Casey Cain and his daughter Billie doing their banking 25 years after Casey opened his own account.

share this milestone with everyone who has been a part of our journey.’

Local builder, Casey Cain was the first person to open an account at our newly opened branch when his Mum brought him in back in April 1999. Pictured this week in branch is Casey, as a dad, bringing his daughter Billie in as another generation of Community Bank customers.

Australia Day – Survival Day Event wins Reconciliation Victoria Award

Mount Alexander Shire Council is proud to share the news that the shire’s Australia Day – Survival Day event has been recognised with a Reconciliation Victoria award.

The event was selected as one of the winners of the 2024 Maggolee Awards, which celebrate and recognise strong partnerships between Victorian local governments and First Nations Peoples.

Australia Day – Survival Day is an annual community event held in Castlemaine on 26 January.

The event was first held in 2018 in collaboration with Dja Dja Wurrung Elder, Uncle Rick Nelson, and has continued every year since. See photo to the right.

‘Australia Day – Survival day has come

so far since my father (Uncle Brien Nelson) first raised the Aboriginal Flag, and since Aunty Julie McHale won the Citizen of the Year award in 2017,’ said Uncle Rick.

Mount Alexander Shire Council’s Mayor, Cr Matthew Driscoll, said he’s proud to see the event recognised and celebrated. ‘For many people, 26 January is a day of mourning and one that brings mixed feelings,’ said Mayor Driscoll. ‘Everyone who’s been to one of our Australia Day – Survival Day events knows it’s a really special day, and that it gets better and better each year. Congratulations to everyone involved in making Australia Day – Survival Day the amazing event that it is. This award is well-deserved.’





Harcourt CFA Warnings for Winter

With the cooler weather and colder nights, it is a good time to check your hotspots this winter.

The Winter Fire Safety Checklist includes the following:

- **Electric Blankets** – Check that wires are not damaged. Visually inspect the blanket for burn spots. Fit firmly to the bed. Turn on no more than 30 minutes before going to bed and turn off before getting into bed.
- **Heaters** – Check before first use each winter. Maintain heaters according to manufacturer's instructions. Keep clothing, curtains and toys at least one metre away. Always supervise children in rooms with heaters.
- **Kitchen** – Never leave cooking unattended. Keep pot handles turned inwards so that they cannot be knocked over. Keep a fire blanket handy.
- **Laundry** – Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after use. Let the dryer complete its cycle; the cool down is essential.
- **Candles** – Keep away from curtains and windows. Place on a safe surface (not directly on wood or plastic). Use

only in the presence of adults. Do not leave unattended.

- **Open Fire Places** – Always place a screen in front of an open fire. Keep clothing, curtains and toys at least one metre away. Always supervise children in rooms with open fires.
- **General Fire Hints** – Don't overload powerpoints. Only use one appliance for each outlet on a power board. Replace damaged power cords. Never smoke in bed. Always have a working smoke alarm between the living and sleeping areas of your home as a minimum. Test and clean your smoke alarms regularly and change the battery annually in older type smoke alarms.
- **Fire Safety and Security** – Never deadlock yourself in your home. Develop and practice your home escape plan, have two ways to escape from each room. Existing deadlock on doors should have the keys left in them when you are home. Know how to use your fire blanket and extinguishers.

Brigade Turnouts

The first week of May was a busy time with the brigade turning out four times in four days, followed by two more turnouts



on May 9 and 14. There was one further turnout for the month on May 26.

May's incidents included: three motor vehicle accidents (one primary and two supports), support to Castlemaine for a house fire, a burning tree as a result of a Forest Fire Management prior burn, an incident resulting in burns from a campfire and an unregistered burn reported by the travelling public. This is why it is important to register your burn no matter how small it may be, especially when it is highly visible. Burns can be registered by ringing 1800 688 511 or, if at least two hours before your lighting time, you can use the Fire Permits Victoria website (firepermits.vic.gov.au).

Stay warm and stay safe this winter.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Harcourt Biodiversity Study Feedback closes on June 10

As part of the long running project Plan Harcourt, which concerns residential development in Harcourt, a need was identified and required by the Planning Panel in 2022 for a biodiversity assessment, after Landcare members and HPA successfully expressed concerns about damage and possible eradication of valuable species of fauna and flora. The biodiversity assessment consisted of two stages.

Council engaged Ranges Environmental Consulting to undertake Stage 2 of the Strategic Biodiversity Assessment; this is now completed in draft form with suggested planning controls. To view a copy of Stage 1 and 2 of the biodiversity assessment visit [Plan Harcourt \(https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Building-and-Planning/Planning-for-the-future/](https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Building-and-Planning/Planning-for-the-future/)

[Strategic-planning-projects/Plan-Harcourt](https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Building-and-Planning/Planning-for-the-future/Strategic-planning-projects/Plan-Harcourt/)).

Recently, the Shire held two community consultation sessions in Harcourt about the results of Stage 2 of the Biodiversity Assessment. **The opportunity for**



Shire Planner Nathan Lord discusses the Harcourt Strategic Biodiversity Assessment with community members.

submissions about the study will close on July 10.

Landcare President, Terry Willis said, 'People do feel strongly about the environment in Harcourt and want it protected. We have a petition which has 1600 signatures so far in support of the planning controls which have come out of the study. They support the protection of the wildlife corridors that allow safe passage for our precious native species from Leanganook to the Walmer Forest.'

The new planning controls are set to go to Council at the August meeting.

For more information and details on how to make a submission, visit the Mount Alexander Shire Council [SHAPE page \(https://shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/proposed-planning-controls\)](https://shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/proposed-planning-controls).

Councillor Comment



Hi all,

It was great to see so many at the Bowling Club on Friday evening to talk about the biodiversity study and also the flood overlay. Thanks to the Catchment Management people and Council staff who came along. Also, a big thank-you to the Bowling Club for hosting us. They are a wonderful group and a credit to our community. Visitors and new members are always made to feel welcome.

My job on the farm at the moment is picking up rocks. It is a never-ending task, but I can see where I have been. As you would expect, rocks are tough on farm machinery, so it will be good when that job is done.

Talking farming, we have just watched Clarkson's Farm on TV. The first two episodes are amazing; I have never laughed so hard. It is like fifty years of my farming life on TV. Only difference is Clarkson has a lot more money to play with, and it actually rains in England.

In May we had two public Council meetings – one to hear public submissions to the draft budget, and then the regular monthly meeting.

Thanks so much for submissions to budget from Harcourt locals. When we sing from the same song sheet, eventually we will succeed. To our friends in Sutton Grange and Faraday, please be assured we are pushing for your areas as well.

One of the interesting things about Council is that you get elected by a ward, but then you are required to make decisions in the best interests of all residents of the shire. It is a bit tricky, but no-one said it would be easy! Sometimes we feel a bit disappointed when our ideas don't get up, but we must continue to push for what is required.

Good news: rain is forecast this week. Our gardens and farms badly need water, so hopefully by the time you read this our dams and tanks will be full.

Best regards to all,
Tony Cordy

Harcourt Walking Group



Meet others in our community, get to know the local area, and greatly reduce your risk of chronic illness

Monday & Thursdays at 9.30 am
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Harcourt Bowling Club



L-R – Back: Brian Leech, Ron Douglas, Chris McAuliffe, Wendy Chaplin, Rod Harris.
Front: Carl Roberts, Judy Ewing, David Jeffries, Diane Marsh, Heather Braid

Annual General Meeting

The Harcourt Bowling Club Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 19 May, where the Board Annual Report was presented by Club President, David Jeffries. Noted in the report were the achievements of the club during the past year. Of particular note were the improvements to the building and grounds, and the financial stability reported by the Treasurer. Six vacant board positions were declared including the retirement of Les Harding and

Ken Tribe who were thanked for their contribution.

As there were six nominations, the positions were declared filled and the election of the board confirmed. New board members Carl Roberts and Brian Leech were welcomed along with returning members Judy Ewing, Diane Marsh, Heather Braid and David Jeffries, who join Wendy Chaplin, Rod Harris, Ron Douglas and Chris McAuliffe.

A presentation was made to retiring board member, Ken Tribe, who was

congratulated and thanked for his tireless contribution during six years as a board member, including as president for three years.

Immediately following the AGM the new board met to elect office bearers for the coming year and the results are: President – David Jeffries; Vice Presidents – Carl Roberts and Heather Braid; Secretary – Diane Marsh; Treasurer – Judy Ewing.

Friday Social Nights

Even though the nights are cooler the warm vibe continues on Friday Night Social nights with the member's draw **at the earlier time of 6.00 pm** followed by the ever-popular raffle draws. Barry has stocked the fridges with a great range of non-alcoholic drinks, as well as the usual drinks on offer, all at reasonable prices. So come on down and join us. ALL WELCOME!

Memberships

The make-up of memberships is being reviewed by the board with a view to re-grading the levels of memberships on offer for the upcoming new season. These will be notified as soon as available.



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The Primary Schools of Harcourt: Past and Present



George Milford introduces author Ken James

A large crowd of ex-students of local schools were in attendance when Ken James launched his most recent local history book at the Harcourt Heritage Centre on Sunday May 19. The book, *Schools of Barkers Creek Harcourt and Harcourt North* is a history of the four schools attended by students from Barkers Creek and Harcourt, and is a large tome full of information, photos, and facts and figures. For those looking for names and dates and a unique slice of history in this locality you need go no further.

There is poignancy to much of this record. The three original schools have closed. While Barkers Creek continued to be an educational site for the Castlemaine High School for some years, it was badly damaged by fire in 2008 and was not used again as a school. Harcourt Primary School is now a private residence and still retains some original features. Sadly, after Harcourt

North Primary School was closed in 1993, the original timber building was burnt to the foundations. Subsequently, that block of land was sold for residential occupation. Harcourt Valley Primary School opened in 1994 and, happily, is still going strong.

The index of the book is fascinating in itself, as it shows the different iterations of each school. Barkers Creek was the first school of the early three and was 'of slab construction with a dirt floor'. It was established in 1858 as a denominational school. The name and style of this school changed five times until it closed in 1993. Harcourt National School (Harcourt Primary School) followed in 1859 with Harcourt North the 'newest' of the old schools commencing in 1921.

Ken said, 'I have rounded up as many photographs and unique pieces of information for each school as possible. It

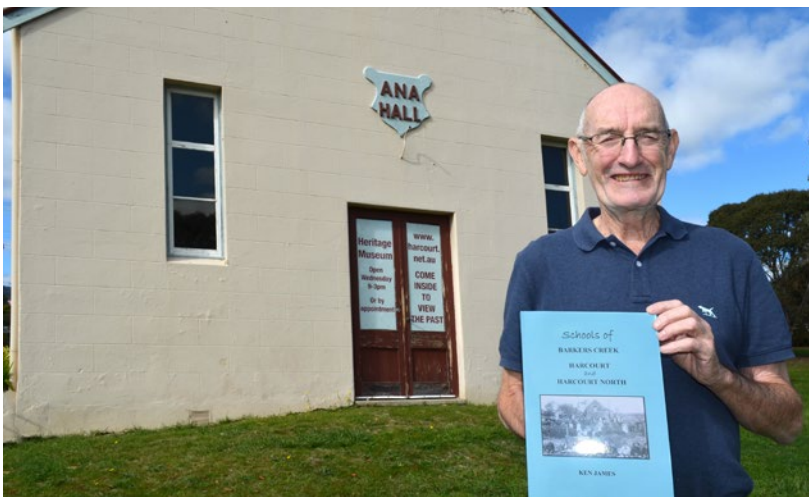
was frustrating at times as there are some class photos missing. If anyone purchases the book and realises that they have a relevant photo, please contact the Harcourt Heritage Centre.'

Ken has captured the lives of those who taught, administered and learnt at each school. Features distinctive to education in Harcourt are mentioned such as apple packing classes and young farmers' clubs, as well as celebrations, bookkeeping records and student reports.

That Ken is a prolific writer of history books is no understatement. His first publication was *Werribee: The first hundred years* in 1985. In 2005 he wrote *A History of Lyal* and in the intervening years to date, he has published another 70 local histories. He has two further local histories to complete which are both co-authored, and he intends that those will be the final books he produces. While Ken now lives in Melbourne, his family 'goes back' to Golden Point in the 1850s and also to Lyal, which is between Redesdale and Myrtle Creek. He was raised in Bendigo and moved to Melbourne in the 1950s.

On the day of the launch at the Heritage Centre, Ken thanked a number of people who contributed to the book with their moral support, photographs and information. These were: Lil Balmer, Faye Douglas, Barry Ellis, Jean Everett, Don Lerversha, Howard Carr, George Milford and Diana Corke.

Copies of *Schools of Barkers Creek, Harcourt and Harcourt North* are available at the Castlemaine Visitors Centre.



Ken with his book. (Thank you to Lisa Dennis, Editor of the Castlemaine Mail for agreeing to provide this photo.)

Warming Harcourt's Heart

Continued from page 1.

We also intend to feature guest chefs from time to time. When we open, we hope that folks will come in for a winter warmer – we will have the fires lit so that patrons can linger to socialise and enjoy the food, beverages and ambience.'

Andy and Tina have years of experience in the industry and have been well recognised for past and current ventures. Not afraid of a new challenge, Andy began making wine in Harcourt four years ago using an ancient method. He said, 'I lease a small area of vines in Harcourt and make organic wine with a process still used in Georgia (the former Soviet Union country) which dates to 8,000 years ago. The method utilises egg-shaped clay pots called qvevri, which are buried in the ground for fermentation. I make light reds, like Syrah and Rosé.'

'We began Soi 38, a Thai restaurant ten years ago in Melbourne, which was in the Top 10 Best New Restaurants in the *Good Food Guide* and was also written up in the *New York Times*. We are currently running a wine bar in North Melbourne called Pour Diane where we feature our wines which are also sold in Daylesford, Melbourne and Sydney.'

Tina said, 'My parents lived in

Maribyrnong, and the bowling club there closed down so we took the opportunity to buy the original furniture. With our new paint scheme and the retro furniture, we hope to make Le Coq Door a fun and friendly destination for locals and visitors from the surrounding towns. We want to be part of what happens in Harcourt and help to make Harcourt a destination with all its attractions. I also have a fashion store which will be open at times until Le Coq Door becomes fully operational. The stock is made up of sample sizes, with some vintage offerings at good prices.'

Open during Gather Harcourt June 29

Le Coq Door will be open on June 29 from midday to 8 pm, giving the opportunity for locals and visitors to sample some tasty treats and wines as well as browse Tina's fashion range.

The couple expects that once all the permits come through for the ongoing business, Le Coq Door will initially be open on Friday and Saturday nights and Sundays depending on demand.

Andy and Tina are looking forward to welcoming you, your friends and family and visitors to Harcourt.



Andy and son with qvevri (wine containers) partially buried.

Remember the Tavern?

The photos below, from many years ago, show The Tavern as it was then: the dining room, and the bar.



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Linda Newton, Illustrator and Author

The Core chatted with Linda Newton, artist and writer about her work. Linda's bird drawings have become a regular and welcome addition to *The Core* since November 2022.

Linda lived in England prior to travelling to Australia with her family in December 1970. She said, 'That was when I began my art, despite not learning or knowing anything about illustrators or artists while I was at school.' Linda graduated with Honours in Fine Arts at La Trobe University Bendigo and also trained in Disability Services at Bendigo TAFE. She subsequently supported people with disabilities, at Bendigo TAFE (now known as Bendigo Kangan Institute).

Linda said, 'Having built my skills for a good while, I began selling art during the Castlemaine State Festival in the 1990s. I now run my own studio called Studio MA 56 at the entrance to the Mill in Castlemaine which is described on the website as a: "Fairy bread assortment of quirky, surreal, real and imagined..." I'm pleased to say that MA56 is now in its eighth year.

'I am known as the "bird lady" as I am fascinated with birds and I find that observing and drawing them allows me to connect with nature, and to promote it,

in a quiet way. I am also the manager of the Drying Shed Art Space which is a social enterprise supporting seventeen artists.

'My other passion is women's soccer. I was part of a group which started the women's soccer team in Castlemaine. I loved playing and retired at 46 years of age. I've been a player, coach and general team support. I believe that team sport is of huge value to character development.'

Linda has branched out beyond illustrating birds into publishing educational books about birds for young readers. For example, *Floss, The Wandering Albatross*, was produced with the financial support of the Australian Nature Conservancy. Beyond birds, Linda has created the mythical creature, the Oddasaurus which comes in a number of forms and can be found in an illustrated book, *I saw an Oddasaurus*. She said, 'During the pandemic I created a card game for all ages about birds, using the dodo as a symbol of bird extinction. It's called the Dodo Card Game – there are three Dodos in the pack, if a player turns one up, they are out of the game. My



most recent forays into book illustrating are *The Village of Teapots*, where harmony and kindness grows and *The Walladuck's River Adventure* which is in black and white will come out in August.'

Linda lives in Harcourt and is often seen sitting and quietly sketching and having a coffee at The Produce Store where her greeting cards featuring birds, and the Dodo Card Game are for sale.

For more about Ma56 see: millcastlemaine.com.au/portfolio/studio-ma-56/

Linda Newton



The Good Coat Drive is back!

Community Bank Maldon & District is once again partnering with The Good Op Shop in Castlemaine and local housing and homelessness support services to run The Good Coat Drive throughout May.

We are inviting the public to donate their pre-loved but clean and good condition, coats and blankets to The Good Coat Drive so that those sleeping rough or struggling to keep warm this winter will have a little bit of extra help. Executive Officer Jane Hoiting said, 'Being a local Community Bank means that we can have an immediate and direct impact across our region. We can make a big difference when we collaborate with local organisations that support some of our most vulnerable.'

Tiffany Inglis, Director of The Good Op Shop in Castlemaine is thrilled to be involved again in The Good Coat Drive. 'We have partnered with the Maldon Community Bank in the past, so we feel very lucky to be a part of this team of different groups that are working together to get more to those in need,' said Tiffany. 'There are already enough clothes in the world now for many generations to come, so it's just a matter of getting them to the right people.'

One recipient of a jacket last year was a woman who attended a local service to receive support and was able to leave with a new coat to wear to her upcoming job interview, so she was very happy.

The Good Coat Drive is running now until June 30th and your good coats can be dropped at any of the following collection points:



The Good Op Shop Coordinator, Tiffany Inglis with Community Bank Maldon & District's representative, Nicki Renfrey, starting off this year's Good Coat Drive.

- **Maldon Community Bank**, 81 High Street Maldon (Mon-Fri 9.30 am-4 pm, Sat 9 am-12 noon)
- **Dunolly Branch, Community Bank (RTC)**, 109 Broadway, Dunolly (Mon-Fri 10 am-2 pm)
- **The Good Op Shop**, 4 Lewis Drive, Castlemaine (Thu-Sat 10 am-4 pm)



Busy Time at Harcourt Valley Primary School

During May staff and students have been participating in, and enjoying, many activities within the classroom and outdoors.

- May 13 to 17 was Education Week: highlighting the importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). Two open school sessions were held, with Grade 5 and 6 students leading prospective families on a school tour.



- Working Bee with Harcourt Valley Landcare: Lots of families came to help; about 25 people volunteered. The main task was to move a big pile of mulch onto garden beds and to move timber veggie boxes into place. These were kindly donated by Trevor Chaplin – past parent and now grandparent of the school! A big thanks was extended to Peter at Run Rabbit Run who catered for the morning tea it was delicious, as usual.
- District Cross Country: Grades 3–6 participated in the run at Wesley Hill. Six students will progress to the next round. Ada Webb came in as number 11 and will therefore progress to the next level. The school wishes Ada success in her next challenge.
- The Bendigo Braves have been coming each Tuesday morning to read with the



students for an hour. The students have loved this and are really getting to know the Braves, with all they have been doing with the school. For example, the Braves selected the school to participate in the half-time Bicknell's School Cup for Basketball Skills. Some of our students who showed interest in Basketball attended the event and progressed to the semi-finals!



School captains, Sienna, Grace and Hector visited the Council Chambers to present their big idea to the Mayor, Councillor Matthew Driscoll.

- Students are looking forward to the Gardening for Insects incursion on June 14 organised by Liz Stearne, Primary Maths Science Specialist.

Continued next page →

WINTER CARPET BOWLS IS UP AND RUNNING

It is good to report that the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association is up and running again with just enough bowlers to form four teams with emergencies. The teams are: Rebels, R.S.L., Main Four and New Breed.

We have plenty of mats and bowls to accommodate many more teams, so if you would like to enjoy an evening of playing carpet bowls with like-minded people, you and your family would be most welcome.

We meet at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre
Binghams Road, Harcourt on a Wednesday night at
7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. The competition finishes in
September.

Anyone from eight years upwards will be put in a team, all bowls are supplied, and the rules are very easy to learn, and then you just hone your skills on the mat.

For adults, the cost of registration is \$5.00 and for children under 17 it is \$2.50.

To cover costs and insurance we charge \$5.00 per adult per night and for under 17s \$2.50 per night

The Hall is heated during winter for comfort.

So come along and give it a go! I think you will have a great time and meet some new people. Games finish by about 9.00 pm, so it is not a late night.

For further information contact:

President John – 54 74 2226 or

Secretary Loretta – 5474 2453 or

Tyrone – 5474 2126

or just come along on a Wednesday night.

Busy Time at Harcourt Valley Primary School

... Continued

- In the most recent newsletter students have been given the opportunity to design the Report Cover, the artwork is to be submitted by June 12.



It's that time of year: Reports and High School Visits. Mid year reports will be issued on June 21 and Grade 5 and Grade 6 students will have the opportunity to attend Castlemaine Secondary College on Tuesday June 11.

Thank you to Louise Simpson, School Bursar for her input to this report.

Treasure Hunting in Harcourt

Come into our 'time machine' at the ANA Hall and discover the hidden jewels and stories about the people who lived in this valley.

They were people just like you, living, working and enjoying life in this valley. You might know of some of them. You might see things in the museum that you still use.

Start your treasure hunt by looking for an 'apple label' on display cases in the museum.

Answer all the questions & receive a prize.



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Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Harcourt Brass Band



In his booklet *100 Years of Brass*, Castlemaine's Bill Shaw tells us that a brass band was formed at Harcourt on 5 November 1912. The bandmaster was Mr G Wilkinson. It seems that Bill Shaw learnt this interesting fact from his uncle Charles Greensides, long-serving bandmaster with Thompsons Foundry Band.

In May 1913 the *Mount Alexander Mail* reported that the newly formed Harcourt Brass Band was making rapid strides under the instructor and bandmaster Mr Arthur Taylor. The *Mail* article referred to the band's 'loyal and painstaking members', from which we might deduce that the members had been regular attendees and careful listeners at their Tuesday night training sessions.

Many towns had their own brass band, and there was enthusiastic competition between them. Bandmasters were in great demand. It seems that Arthur Taylor, whose chosen instrument was the cornet, was recruited from some other band to take up the baton at Harcourt. The bandmaster had many duties, including handwriting the musical score for each instrument, so that, despite varying numbers in the band, the result was a harmonious performance.

Harcourt Heritage Centre's files do not reveal much about the day-to-day affairs of the band. However, it would appear that the bandsmen purchased their own instruments. Fundraising dances and recitals were held to cover the band's outlays for rent of the ANA Hall (for practice sessions) and for music.

By February 1914, the Harcourt Brass Band had twenty-three playing members, with an average attendance of nineteen at practice nights. President was the

storekeeper, Mr H McDougall (later it was Mr C Wilson) and secretary was quarry master Mr George Wilkinson.

By now the band was giving public recitals. Even people who were hard of hearing would have enjoyed the combined sounds of brass and percussion inside the walls of the ANA Hall.

The band's most ambitious outing had been a visit to Castlemaine to play several selections at the post office corner on election day.

From snippets of news in the *Castlemaine Mail* and *The Bendigonian*, we learn that ten of the leading members enlisted for active service. A learner's class was formed, bringing the band up to its original strength.

For the next few years, the energies of all were directed to supporting the men at the front through the local Patriotic Committee and the Red Cross. There is no mention in the papers of the Harcourt Brass Band in the

following three years, but men like George Wilkinson and Sven Johansen stood ready to revive the band.

They certainly kept in touch with the latest tunes. In March 1919, the Harcourt Brass Band was in attendance at the Harcourt railway station to give Corporal Jennings, an original member of the band, a rousing 'welcome home'. As the train came into the platform, the band played the *Aviator March* and *Home Sweet Home*. The *Aviator March* was a fairly new tune. It was played at a brisk pace and had many changes of tempo. The sound of trumpets echoing against the louvred vans in the adjacent siding was followed by three rousing cheers. It must have been an emotional homecoming for Corporal Jennings, who had been away for three years and three months and was wounded in the big offensive at Villers-Bretonneux.

Later in 1919, an attempt was made to reform the band but this seems to have failed.

Brass Band music is still heard in Harcourt, but it is provided by Castlemaine's Thompsons Foundry Band at Applefest and at Christmas. Long may it continue to stir the emotions and thrill the listeners!

Note: An internet search indicates that there are several tunes each called the *Aviators March*. The one the band played in 1919 was undoubtedly published in 1908 and written by James M Fulton.

George Wilkinson was also associated with the Castlemaine Borough Band, and, later, with the CMF Band. Both George Wilkinson and Sven Johansen gave long leadership to the musical aspects of the Harcourt Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

The Heritage Centre file concerning the Harcourt Brass Band is rather slender. If any reader of *The Core* has stories or mementos of the Band, we would be pleased to hear of them.

The Harcourt Brass Band, which is making its first public appeal for the purpose of augmenting its funds on Wednesday next, is deserving of hearty public support, considering the manner in which they have always responded to local appeals for their assistance. The action of the committee in appointing the whole of the bandsmen a sustenance committee to invite the ladies of the district to provide the edibles by means of basket contributions, has evidently caught on, as practically every female for several miles round has agreed to provide a basket. The response has surprised the bandsmen themselves, who are apparently quite oblivious of the fact that their good looks and persuasive manner completely won over the whole of the fair sex, thus assuring the complete success of the band's first financial appeal.

Mount Alexander Mail, 14 June 1913, p.2.

Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League

2024 Ladder Positions as at 5 June for Harcourt Teams

FOOTBALL

- 1 Harcourt Seniors
- 1 Harcourt Reserves
- 10 Harcourt Under 17.5
- 4 Harcourt Under 14.5
- 9 Harcourt Under 11.5

NETBALL

- 12 Harcourt A Grade
- 5 Harcourt B Grade
- 7 Harcourt C Grade
- 4 Harcourt 17 & under
- 3 Harcourt 15 and under
- 12 Harcourt 13 & Under
- 10 Harcourt 11 & under



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For more information contact Libby on 0436 804 583





Harcourt Football Netball Club
presents

ANNUAL BALL

June, 22nd 2024 | 7:00 p.m.
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Dress Code: Formal

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- Live Music by Tara Muscatello Music
- Drinks at bar prices and \$5 punch

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NCCMA and Shire Team Up For Harcourt Flood Study



Submissions regarding the Flood Study in Harcourt will close on June 7, just as *The Core* is published. Face-to-face consultations about the flood study were held on two occasions recently at the Bowls Club and the Heritage Centre. The information and maps produced as part of the flood study were available on the Shire page known as Shape Mount Alexander.

The Shire engaged with NCCMA for two reasons:

1. To ensure the planning scheme acknowledges flood hazard and risk so that any future growth in Harcourt is sustainable.
2. To update the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme to be compliant with Victorian Government planning and building standards.



The flood study was based on 1% AEP modelling which means there is a 1% (1 in 100 chance) of a flood occurring, or being exceeded, in any one year. The 1% AEP is the Victorian Government standard.

The Harcourt Flood Study identifies over 213 properties that are likely to be affected by flooding in the future. All of these which are likely to be impacted are near Barkers

As we now experience 'weather events' which seem to be more severe, it is timely that this study was done.

There was a queue of people with questions for NCCMA representatives.

Creek in the Harcourt area. Overlay maps were produced to show the extent of flooding at different depths.

The study was based on the following:

- Historical information such as newspaper accounts and recorded peak flood levels.
- Physical conditions such as ground contour information and aerial photography.
- Computer modelling.
- Local knowledge gathered through extensive community consultation.

Property owners likely to be affected were contacted. The study raised issues for property owners such as: Can I build? Can I farm? Does my house really have to be included as being impacted? etc

The Core spoke with John Baldock, a property owner whose land is included as part of the flood study. John said he found the study logical and acceptable, as long as people are not locked out of building in those areas. 'We have the right to challenge decisions and come up with different ideas. Once someone is aware that their land could be subject to flooding, they can build for flood, for example by using different foundations or bringing in earth to raise the site of the house.'

The council has indicated that all affected property owners have been, or will be, contacted individually to discuss the possible impacts of the study.

Note: The information from this article came from Shape Mount Alexander and associated documents.

Little Legends Footy & Netball Harcourt



Don KR awarded little legends for 25 May

Junior Netball

11U - Gus Jackson & Olive Husted

13U - Sienna Freeman and Quinn Vance

17U - Ruby & Emma

Junior Football

11.5s Mitchell Vidler & Ollie McAliece

U14.5 Blake McKay and Harry George (no photo)

U17.5 Jack Archer and Hunter Bird (no photo)



Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

Welcome to Winter



Most of the fruit is harvested (unless you still have any late apples or pears still to pick), and fruit trees are well on the way to going dormant. It's a beautiful time of year to be in the garden, and there's plenty to do. Our first tip this month is to think about whether you want to plant any new fruit trees this winter. If so, it's time to be ordering them now.

You may know that at our on-farm nursery (Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery: openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop) we focus on growing heritage apple varieties that are in danger of becoming lost. Harcourt is one of the oldest apple growing districts in Australia, so it feels like we have a special responsibility to help preserve these old heirloom varieties. They need to be grown in people's backyards, eaten, shared, talked about, and loved so we can all get to know them again.

However, it can be a big leap to risk giving valuable garden space to a variety you've never heard of. To solve this problem, this year we've created a whole new range of multigraft apple trees that combine known varieties (like Gala, Fuji, and Pink Lady) on the same tree as more exotic varieties like Belle de Boskoop and Orleans Reinette. It's a low-risk way to try out a new variety in your garden and add to your biodiversity.

Tip number two is about planning. If you are thinking about planting new trees, you need to decide where to put them. One of the benefits of living here in Harcourt is that most people have enough space for a decent-sized garden, with lots of room for fruit trees. But even if you have a large garden, it might make sense to keep your fruit trees together in one area of the garden, rather than spreading them out.

Having a designated orchard area in the garden makes it possible to net the trees under a single structure, rather than having to create a separate structure for each tree. It can also be easier to set up a simple but effective irrigation system if all the trees with similar needs are in one place.

Neither of these things are deal breakers if you'd rather have your fruit trees scattered throughout your garden. It's quite easy to protect a single fruit tree from fruit fly and birds with a simple hoop structure that is easy to construct from

star pickets and polypipe. Similarly, it's not that hard to irrigate individual trees that are scattered around your garden, it just might take multiple pipes and offshoots to reach them all.

This month's third tip is about pruning, because one of the questions we often get at this time of year is whether it's too late to prune apricot trees. The short answer is no, it's not. Our philosophy with pruning fruit trees is that there's no 'right' or 'wrong', there's just 'cuts' and 'consequences'.

So, what are the consequences of pruning apricot trees at the moment? Well, if you have fungal disease in your apricot trees (which is very common) there's a higher chance that you'll spread it around the tree if you prune the tree in cold, wet weather. You can minimise this risk by choosing a fine, sunny day to do your pruning with a few fine days forecast ahead. That will help your pruning cuts to heal quickly.

The other reason we usually recommend pruning apricot trees in late summer is because they tend to be very big, vigorous trees, and pruning them in summer is likely to result in a smaller growth response to your pruning cuts. Pruning your trees in winter is likely to stimulate a bit more growth in the tree, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just important to prune them thoughtfully so you don't encourage your tree to get too bushy (we cover how to do this in our upcoming online Pruning Masterclass, you can find the link at the end of this article).

However, one of the big advantages of leaving it until your apricot tree (or any fruit tree) has lost its leaves is that you can clearly see the shape of the tree, which makes deciding how to prune it much easier.

Lastly, this month it is a good time to reflect on other ways of generally improving the health of your garden: try to add more diversity each year—different varieties of fruit trees, different understorey plants around and near your fruit trees (e.g., herbs, vegetables or shrubs—or even just weeds!), and even different microbes in your soil.

Believe it or not, biodiversity is one of your best defences against the risks you face from pests and diseases, and even the weather! Wondering how that works? Well, the more varieties of fruit

trees you have, the more likely you are to harvest at least something every year. A particularly wet spring, for example, may lead to disease in the stone fruit but the apples and pears will thrive.

Having a diverse collection of plants in your garden (especially flowering plants, and yes—even weeds) provides good habitat to attract lots of beneficial insects that will do at least half your work of cleaning up any pests. There's also a lot of science emerging about the incredible impact that multiple plants growing in the same soil can have on each other. It's kind of an extension of the old idea of companion planting, but we now know that plants communicate with each other underground, they swap nutrients and microbes, and they help to make each other healthier.

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than twenty years and offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips – sign up here: growgreatfruit.com/resources.

Hugh and Katie are running an online Pruning Masterclass on July 4 – growgreatfruit.com/product/pruning-masterclass-1-registration

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is open for orders at openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop until June 28, and trees will be available to pick up from the farm Open Days on the last weekend in June or the first weekend of July, from 10 am to 4 pm (see advert page 17).

Grow Great Fruit

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



growgreatfruit.com

FREE WEBINARS

"5 Key Steps to Quick Success with Fruit Trees"

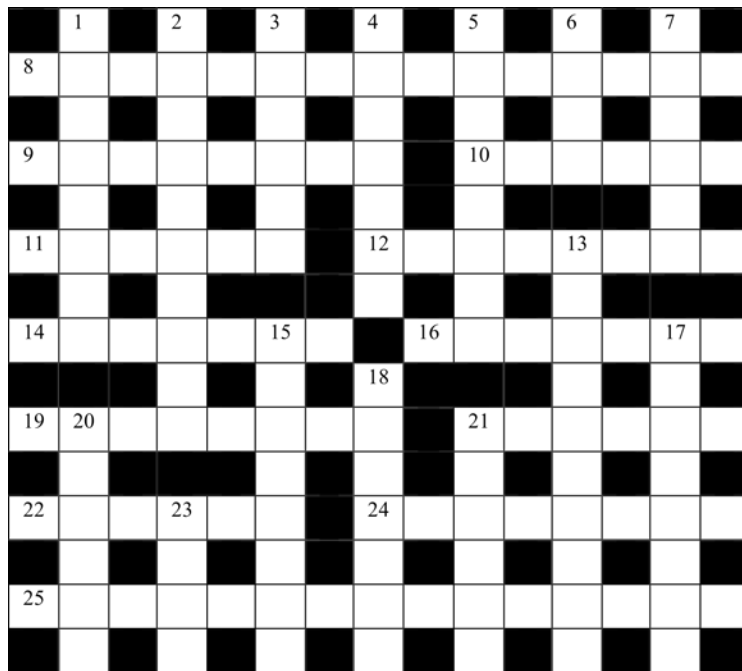


"Organic Pest & Disease Control for Fruit Trees"



READY FOR NEW SKILLS?
50+ short courses
Grow Great Fruit home study program



**Down:**

1. What you might come across wandering solo, like an overcast sky? [8]
2. It isn't game to be less than certain; it isn't a gem, either, surveying thus. (I'm a testing routine, sometimes...) [10]
3. Made it respectable after it died and curled up. [6]
4. At least clap twice for dual pap. [7]
5. Lets go about rental agreements. [8]
6. Junior continent sounds between pews. [4]
7. Huns may clomp around east to make us do their bidding. [6]
13. Lice with acumen may present as representing everyone. [10]
15. Rip phone off the wall, put it in hopper, and dance one of these! [8]
17. No longer needed for sender of mobile message when complete? [8]
18. Pig on wheels? [4-3]
20. The sound of a frayed rope makes me more than anxious! [6]
21. Charm taken to extremes in Python film. [6]
23. Concoct a view? (4)

Across:

8. Printmaker gets the wrong idea? [5,10]
9. Has the imprimatur if coal; if solar, it hasn't. [8]
10. Take one container from wobbly Mexican pet and not have to pay the fee. [6]
11. Third cause of Hundred Years' War. [6]
12. Yum! Eels 'n gravy, with little boys on the side! Why do you take it amiss? You think it's this? [8]
14. Sounds not much, usually off-hand but missing a loud pedal (and if it were as it sounds, you'd take it amiss). [7]
16. Que? Rats! I need one of these to angle the drawings properly. [1-6]
19. Impromptu court for bloke hopping into a neighbour? [8]
21. Cloudburst might regularly medicate stock. [6]
22. Stumble on journey to Cairns (from Melbourne or Ballarat)? (4,2)
24. Princess, gin, the works—it's enough to make you lose your mojo... [8]
25. What wharfies did to disappear import? [15]

May 2024 Xword Solution

© McW '15

**Across:**

8. What state am I in if I want seven for the Camira (according to Kerrigan of *The Castle*)?
9. Ten years [*decade*] when Darwin [N.T.] is showing moral deterioration.
10. Walk it to the tax office [ATO] in a smooth, flowing manner...
11. Even an earlobe could be one of those animals that sit on your knee... [Well?]
12. Spade is brought [near: thus] it discovers stuff.
14. Noted for their great feet? [Well? Leg-ends!]
16. Baffled beside fiscal hole? [Well?]
19. Schoolhouse for a snail? [Well?]
21. Use screwdriver as opener [*pry*] and get [*toe*] chopped in what could be averse!
22. Surrendered in [*vain*; e.g.] donated after pestering?
24. Birds to [*warn slob*]—all over the place, silently.
25. The focal points of retail therapy? [Well?]

Down:

1. A pre-game precaution might be to check that this is steady rather than fluctuating in this way.
2. Recent maps don't show it (will publisher repent scam?) but we owe that man respect who found it and climbed it.
3. Thing that's never about me? [Well?]
4. Redactive process not done in-house [Well?]
5. About as deeply committed as is recklessly possible?
6. Dragon [Well? SmAug...] gets rid of central character, becomes complacent.
7. We only catch a fragment of the chants.
13. Outcome of heavy steam-engine standing in for combine harvester? [Well?]
15. Not an arid bone in Biro deant's makeup, but there's an idea born that this rabid one could not do-in bear in a bed or be anything but cheerful and self-assured.
17. At Red Hills, the drill he's been using often sounded like birds' stridulous calls.
18. We could bag eats at the kiosk, and then come back and use these to make cheap drinks.
20. A vegetable, or a cheese? Too green for cheese... [Sorry...]
21. Reed, MP (call me Fiona) went to Mr Deep Wave's hairdressing outfit, and came away like this.
23. Online agent to see something [Well?]

Council news

Nominate for Council in 2024

Are you passionate about the future of our shire? Do you want to exercise your leadership qualities in an open, inclusive and influential space? Nominate to become a Councillor in 2024.

We rely on residents to put their hands up to become Councillors and represent our community.

Councillors need to understand the issues and opportunities that are specific to our shire. They need to have broad interests and consider a range of information when making decisions. They also need to think about the bigger picture and look towards the future of our shire.

Learn more about the role and book a one-on-one information session at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CouncilElections.

Take over the Phee foyer!

Expressions of interest are now open for artists of all genres to exhibit their work in the Phee Broadway Theatre foyer.

Applications close on Monday 24 June. Find out more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PheeFoyer.

Safe asbestos disposal

Castlemaine Transfer Station is an Asbestos Disposal Point (ADP).

This means the site includes a fit-for-purpose bin that temporarily stores asbestos waste.

To make a booking or for more information on packaging, transport and onsite disposal requirements call 5471 1836. Fees apply.

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

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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

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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

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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



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

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

For Information phone Chris 5470 5508

First in first served, so be prepared to wait.

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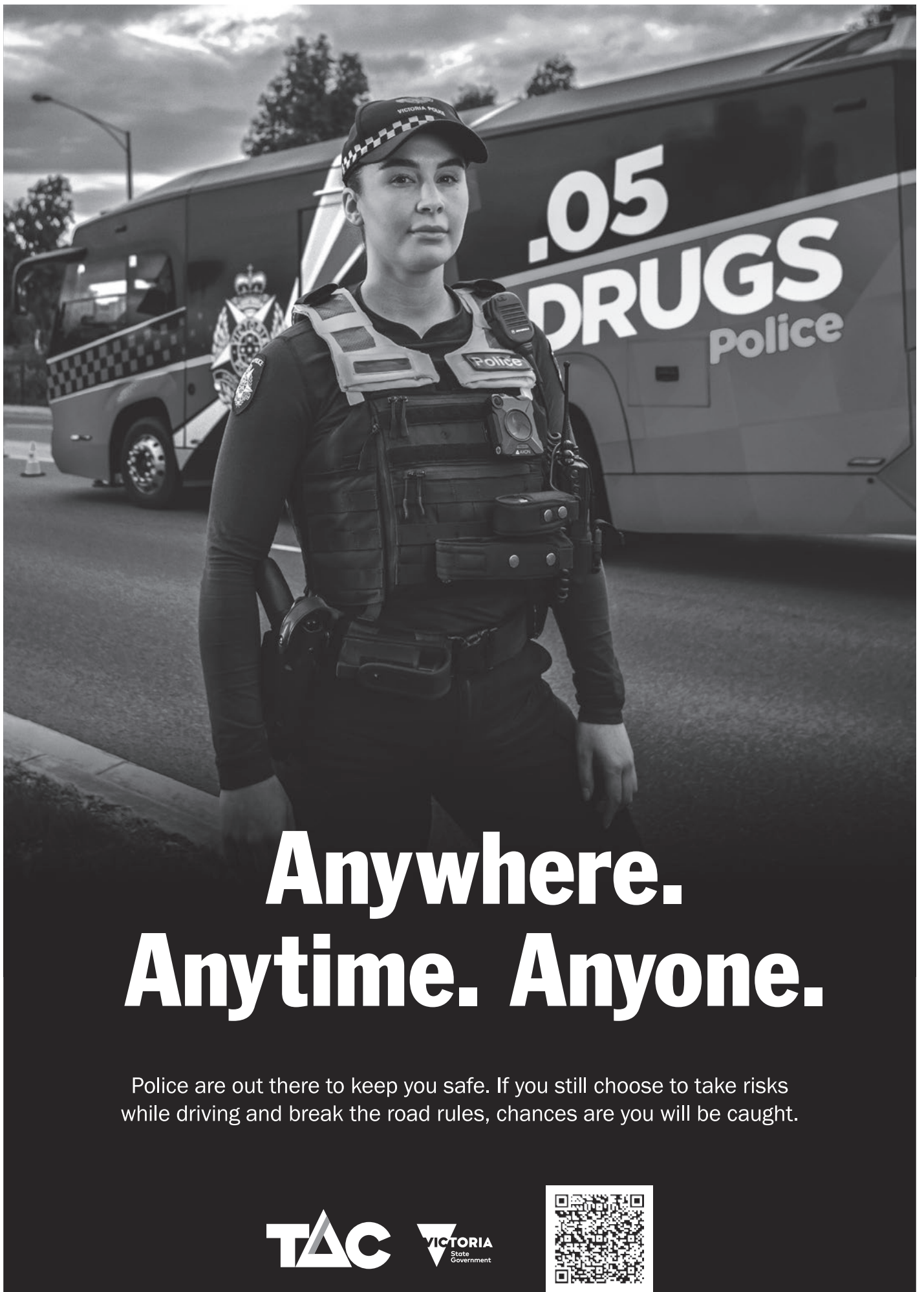
SUDOKU Difficulty: Medium

Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3 frame contains every number from 1 to 9.

			7		9		2	
		9	2	1				5
5			8		4			
	6					4		
3	7			4			6	1
		2					5	
			9		7			3
7			3	8	5	2		
	3		4		1			

Last week's solution

8	5	3	2	4	1	6	9	7
9	4	2	6	5	7	8	1	3
1	7	6	9	8	3	2	4	5
5	6	9	4	7	2	1	3	8
2	3	4	8	1	5	9	7	6
7	8	1	3	6	9	4	5	2
6	9	7	5	2	4	3	8	1
4	2	5	1	3	8	7	6	9
3	1	8	7	9	6	5	2	4



Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.





Harcourt Winter

June 29th, 2024
10am - 2pm

- ★ **Market Stalls**
- ★ **Food Trucks**
- ★ **Local Cider & Wines**
- ★ **Entertainment**

Alexander & the Apple Dumplings

Nick Quirk

Castlemaine Secondary College

- ★ **Museum open for**

Scavenger Hunt

Old Photos & Maps

Guided Tours

Family History



James Park, Harcourt