

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 121 – November 2024

Produced by: Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news or harcourt.vic.au/news

HALLOWEEN IN HARCOURT



Some elaborate costumes were on show for this year's Halloween in Harcourt.



A noisy and excited crowd gathered in the playground to begin the celebration of Halloween. Creative and ghostly costumes were in abundance. The organiser, Helen Shufell said, 'It's getting bigger each year!'

After milling about and having their photo taken, groups of children and their carers spread out into the local streets hoping for delicious treats.

Photo right: Janine McCarthy and husband Richard Symons with Lazarus – complete with sparkling bat wings – were in character to celebrate Halloween in Harcourt.



Use this QR code to read the full-colour issue of The Core online.

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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.**



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

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main
FM
LISTEN LOCAL

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Community Diary

November Community House dates: Page 14

Thursday 7 November: 7 pm Harcourt Progress Association AGM, Harcourt Valley Community House.

Monday 11 November: 1 am. Summer fire restrictions begin.

Monday 11 November: 7 pm Fire Safety Essentials – prepare for the bushfire season: CFA Bridge Street, Harcourt.

Monday 18 November: 7.15 pm Harcourt Football Netball Club AGM, Club Rooms, Harcourt Leisure Centre.

Saturday 30 November: Gather Harcourt Christmas.

Saturday 30 November: 5.30 pm, Phascogale Themed Story Time at Gather Harcourt. See poster page 10.

Sunday 15 December: Christmas Party and Carols – Stanley Park North Playground.

Saturday 28 December: Gather Harcourt Summer.

Harcourt Celebrates Save the dates on page 10

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

Harcourt Valley Community House: Open each Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm. Closed during school holidays.

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 on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15 am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located at 56 High 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: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

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 pm 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 on 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.

Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the Harcourt Progress Association AGM will be held on Thursday 7 November commencing at 7 pm at the Harcourt Valley Community House, 23 Station St, Harcourt. All welcome. Your RSVP would be appreciated to help us with seating arrangements and refreshments. RSVP either 4417 8742 (leave a message) or email president@harcourtprogress.org.au

Save the Date - Annual Christmas Party and Carols in Stanley Park

Thanks to support from the Mt. Alexander Shire, HPA will be hosting the annual Christmas Party and Carols in the Park on Sunday 15 December in Stanley Park. More details to follow in the December edition of *The Core*.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Fundraiser.

Thank you to community members who have been dropping off eligible cans and bottles at the Harcourt Valley Community House (HVCH) at 23 Station St, Harcourt, since September.

So far, we have averaged \$10 a week with this fundraiser - that is potentially \$520 a year or alternatively, five electricity bills (@\$100/month) or two water bills (@\$250/quarter). This is REAL money to help us cover the overheads of the Community House and it is greatly appreciated!

If you prefer to drop off your own cans at a collection point (Chewton or Kangaroo Flat), you can choose Harcourt Valley Community House in the 'Donations' section of the CDS Vic North App. Just put 'Harcourt' in the search and we are the only not-for-profit that comes up. Show the barcode to the operator and your donation will land directly in the HPA account to help run the Community House. Thank you once again.

Have a great month!
Cheers from Jeanette Teague (HPA President)

Christmas Gather Harcourt

Christmas Gather Harcourt is only a few sleeps away on 30 November 4 pm–8 pm, and is a free event held for our community.

The stall holders are frantically creating and making your perfect Christmas presents to share with your family and friends.

Currently we have more than fifty stalls; the range is increasing daily and includes many community organisations such as Harcourt Landcare (which has a special treat in store for the children), the Harcourt Fire Brigade to emphasise this summer's bushfire preparedness and the Lions Club of Harcourt to cook the sausages.

Even NBN wants to be part of Gather – to answer any questions you may have about your service, so make sure you prepare your list.

The hard working food truck operators are selecting their menus, preparing their food, and many use local ingredients from this area for you to enjoy. The wineries and cidery will be the perfect partner to the food and of course The Gather Bar will be serving Henry's of Harcourt Cider, and will have limited edition Gather Harcourt Glasses on sale.

The local musicians are practicing ready to give you a fun-filled evening at the park,



so bring your dancing shoes and singing voices. Children will be entertained by bubbles, balloons and craft activities.

Christmas Gather brings the community of the Harcourt Valley to James Park to celebrate how good it is to live here, but this is not just for locals, many visitors come to enjoy a Gather in Harcourt too.

We have a few vacant spots for local vendors or community groups wanting to display their creativity and/or produce or promote their organisation. Please contact us: Market.gatherharcourtvic@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you Saturday 30 November from 4 pm–8 pm and don't forget our early New Years Eve Gather Harcourt on Saturday 28 December – Jazz in James is going to be fantastic.

The place where Gather Harcourt is held is in Jaara country. The Dja DjaWurrung are the Traditional Owners of this place. We thank them for the care they have taken of this country.

Ruth



Community Bank Maldon & District

Bendigo Bank

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We are choosing to make a difference

Wildflowers, Birds and Rubbish



Harcourt Valley Landcare regularly visits the Flora Reserve in Bingham Road. This precious area of bush has been given a high rating for its intact nature and is well known for the wildflowers which bloom profusely in spring.

On our visit in September, we noted that the dry weather this year affected the numbers of wildflowers. The toughest plants seemed to be OK. We can count on the seeds being in the soil ready to flourish when we next get a wet winter.

October saw the group return with the aim of removing rubbish, but we began with a more pleasant task: participating in the Great Aussie Bird Count. We also succeeded on our goal of rubbish removal and took away 10 bags of rubbish, with more sites earmarked for removal in the future.

The bird count started at 10.15 am and went for 15 minutes. We noted the following:

- ▶ Brown Tree Creeper: 1
- ▶ Yellow Faced Honeyeater: 1
- ▶ Little Corellas: 6 + 1
- ▶ Striated Thornbill: 1
- ▶ Brown Thornbill: 1
- ▶ Scarlet Robin: 1
- ▶ Black-eared Cuckoo: 1
- ▶ Yellow-rumped Thornbill: 1

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

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

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

November 11 Remembrance Day / Armistice Day

Remembrance Day will be marked by a gathering at the cenotaph in Stanley Park. The service will commence at 11.00 am.

Join with others in our community to remember those who have served in the defence forces for Australia.

Please arrive at least 5 minutes beforehand.

Community Bank
Maldon & District

 Bendigo Bank

MDCB Annual Scholarship Program open

Community Bank Maldon & District (MDCB) is excited to announce the opening of applications for its annual Scholarship Program, aimed at supporting students in the Maldon, Newstead, Harcourt, Dunolly and Mount Alexander districts. Applications will open on Tuesday 22 October 2024, and will remain open until 12 January 2025.

In 2025, MDCB will award scholarships worth up to \$2,000 each to eligible students pursuing new or ongoing studies. The scholarships are designed to assist with costs associated with further education, including course fees, rent and essential materials such as computers and books.

'Education is an important foundation of our community's growth and development' said Sophie Guerin, Community Partnership Lead of MDCB. 'Thanks to all the people that bank with our branches in Maldon and Dunolly, we are proud to offer this financial support to local students, enabling them to focus on their studies and achieve their educational goals.'

Previous scholarship recipients have expressed how invaluable this support has been for them:

Nicholas: 'I have settled really well into Canberra, and I'm having lots of fun, even though it is quite cold. The grant money assisted in paying rent for the first fortnight as I searched for a job, and it was a lifesaver.'

Teagan: 'The scholarship has had an immense impact on my studies, as it's been a huge contributor to my weekly rent, uniform and tuition.'

Hannah: 'The scholarship enabled me to focus on my coursework and family without the added pressure of financial stress. Paying my school fees upfront and having the tools I needed made my year much more enjoyable.'

Students who wish to apply or need assistance with the application process are encouraged to reach out to our Sophie. For enquiries or support, please contact Sophie via email at community@mdcb.com.au or by phone at 0478 435 110.

We look forward to supporting the next generation of scholars in our community!

VARIETY AND JOY AT HARCOURT CONCERT

A concert held recently in the Harcourt Uniting Church began, middled and ended with a group of singers led by Fay White. Their voices blended superbly as they sang about nature and peace.

The theme for the afternoon was a saying by the fourteenth century mystic, Julian of Norwich: *'All shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'*

The songs sung by the choir – *Bird's Eye, Wind Harps, All Will Be Well and Bells of Norwich* – were gentle ones that showed the way to a more harmonious world.

Another highlight was the exhilarating rendition of *Between* played on cello and violin by two young musicians, Mannie Maund and Thomasina Challenger.

Several items involved story-telling, often with humour.

George Milford told of a lad working in the apple packing shed long ago, who wrapped a message around an apple that was to be transported to England. His request, 'Will you be my woolly aphs?' gained massive publicity; he wanted a nice English lassie for a wife. But he didn't marry any of the English lassie applicants, and the folk at the Harcourt Heritage Centre wanted to know what did happen to him. Eventually some actual descendants heard of the search for F J Smith and told their story.

Another Harcourt personality, Jean Shannon, intrigued us with her unusual method of whistling and the collection of tunes she challenged us to identify.

Lana Osterfield recounted an incident from her childhood when she accidentally knocked the kitchen clock into a bucket of milk.

Terry White, dressed as the 'Old Woman who swallowed a Fly', caused us to hold our collective breath as we watched his efforts to ingest larger and larger creatures.

With such varied presentations, there was something for everyone to enjoy. An appetising afternoon tea put the finishing touch to a pleasant Sunday outing. The organisers were pleased and grateful that donations to be sent to the Asylum Seekers Welcome Centre topped \$500.

Solway Nutting



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

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Free Camping in Victoria

Premier Jacinta Allan, Minister for the Environment, Steve Dimopoulos and local MP Maree Edwards visited Leanganook Camping Area in the Mount Alexander Regional Park in October to announce that camping in every national park and state forest would be free in Victoria from 1



The Premier, Jacinta Allan discusses the prospect of free camping for the summer holidays with a family who were camping on Mount Alexander for the weekend.

December 2024 until 30 June 2025, potentially saving families millions in booking fees.

The \$9 million investment will ensure all campers have free access to every campground across the state – including the popular Tidal River on Wilson's Promontory where fees are currently \$40.70 a night.

Families who have already booked and paid to go camping won't miss out. Existing bookings for the summer will

be honoured and refunded.

Part of this investment, \$1.7 million, will go towards additional maintenance, repairs and operating costs to ensure campgrounds are kept clean and safe for all to enjoy.

The Premier said, 'Busy families deserve a great holiday in our great outdoors – and this summer, they can stay for free.'

From a press release



Have you visited the camping ground on Mount Alexander recently? New facilities and signage have improved the functionality and attractiveness of this popular camping spot

Home Care Packages

At Dhelkaya Health Home Care Packages, we offer comprehensive support to residents of Mount Alexander Shire who are 65 and older, or 50 and older for Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander community members. We guide you through every step of your Home Care Package journey, including navigating government websites, completing assessments, securing and managing your package, and coordinating services. Our goal is to provide you with a variety of services to help you remain comfortably and safely in your home.

Get local support to help you live better at home.

"Healthier Together"

For more information call Susan Andrews, Home Care Packages Coordinator
Phone: 5479 1000 or Email: hcp@castlemainehealth.org.au

www.dhelkayahealth.org.au/home-care-packages/



Dhelkaya Health

Christmas Sewing Workshop

Monday 11 November 10 am – 1 pm

@ Harcourt Valley Community House,
Old Railway Station, 23 Station St
Harcourt

Cost \$10

Christmas is just around the corner and this workshop will offer instruction and provide materials to make Christmas coasters and ornaments.

BYO sewing machine, Christmas coloured cottons (red, white & green) and scissors, if you have them. If you don't have a sewing machine, let us know upon booking as a limited number of spare machines may be made available.

Bookings are essential as places are limited:

Please phone 4417 8742

or email communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au

HARCOURT FNC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE
18 NOV, 2024



TIME
7:15PM

DI SELWOOD 0488 148 358



Harcourt Recreation Reserve

Harcourt Football Netball Club Annual General Meeting is being held November 18, 7:15 pm at the club rooms.

We encourage anyone interested in assisting the club at committee level or just wanting to know more to come along.

If you have any questions, you can contact the club Secretary Di Selwood 0488 148 358.

COUNCIL HAS A DUTY OF CARE

You know, I've lived in Harcourt for a long time now. Maybe too long. About six years ago I approached Councillors to ask that Barker and Bagshaw streets be sealed. The two roads form part of the township grid and yet are the only roads that remain unsealed. Because there are no footpaths along the roads, we're forced to walk on the roads. It's frequented by dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders, children and people just out for a walk. There's absolutely no other way to go out and about. Recently I was walking my dog along the road. A four-wheel drive was going at a massive speed and I signalled for the vehicle to slow down. It just veered towards me threateningly. That's what we have to deal with here.

The dust and the corrugations get worse each year. So many residents complain about the dust in their houses and in their gardens. Each year, after I take down my fruit tree nets, its covered in dust. My car in the carport is

covered in dust. The corrugations get worse each year and the roads are no longer regularly graded.

The roads are no longer fit for purpose. Barker Street is probably the most densely populated street in the township. In the years I've pleaded for the roads to be sealed, Council has allowed further building and subdivisions, exacerbating the problem in Barker Street. Seriously?

For nigh on six years I have written to Council, to my Councillor insisting they have a DUTY OF CARE for a reasonable standard of living and that residents are entitled to be comfortable in their own homes.

This year, surveyors completed plans for roads and footpaths in our streets. Once again I put in a budget submission asking that the roads be sealed. When I spoke at the Council Meeting, the CEO walked around distributing papers. He wasn't even paying attention. I received a brief note

saying my bid was unsuccessful.

I do understand that years ago Harcourt was a small rural village sustained by farming and small industry. But times have changed. By all accounts, Harcourt is being set up for development with no thought to those who already live here. No thought to a future than is more than a dense housing estate.

But I think it is more than just the sealing of a road. What we need here is a fresh vision. I feel we need council representation that has concern for its citizens, its environment and a constructive and supportive Council that responds to the people who live in this town. This is a time for change in Harcourt and there are many new faces here, young families with vigour and enthusiasm. Let's build a vibrant and successful future.

Vera Hemkes



Glass Exhibition

November 2–December 1



GLASS ARTISTS

Hannelore Lau, Peter Henderson & Colinda Mannix

Open Melb Cup long weekend Saturday to Tuesday

10am – 3pm

Saturday & Sunday from 9th Nov to 1st Dec 10am – 3pm

Other days by appointment only

Hoppers Glass Studio & Gallery

8 Vincents Road Maldon

✉ hannilau2016@gmail.com

📍 [HoppersGlassMaldon](https://www.hoppersglassmaldon.com.au)

Glassblowing courses

Glassblowing: more correctly called lampblowing (or flameworking) uses a bench-mounted, gas torch to melt glass rod and tubing to make jewellery, decorations and small decorations.

Peter Henderson is the main instructor and demonstrator in glass lampworking at Hoppers Glass.

In the 1970s Peter studied scientific glass blowing (now called lampworking or flameworking).

Peter set up his lampworking studio at home in 2018 when he retired after many years as a scientific instrument engineer and joined Hoppers Glass in 2021.

Class cost is \$50 per person, and includes all materials & tools needed on the day.

More info ☎ 0408 305 325

✉ peter@phentron.au

📷 [phentron390](https://www.instagram.com/phentron390)



Maximum of 2 students with 1 instructor.

No previous experience is needed.

Founded in 2017, we are a privately owned studio located in Maldon.

Our aim is to promote all aspects of glass art, including lampworking (glass blowing), stained glass, kiln work (fuse, cast & slump), cold working, glass mosaics & jewellery making.



Hoppers Glass Studio & Gallery

8 Vincents Road Maldon

📍 [HoppersGlassMaldon](https://www.hoppersglassmaldon.com.au)



We met the Council Candidates - October 10

While we await the results of the recent Council elections we should note the recent opportunity for residents of Calder Ward to meet the candidates.

A very civil meeting followed, and I can't help comparing this with what is occurring in the American elections at the moment. While not on the same scale by any stretch of the imagination, the comparison of the respect shown to all on the night was palpable.

The Harcourt Valley Community House was pleased to host the meeting on October 10. Thanks go to the Really Local Team who took the initiative to run these sessions

around the Shire in the wards where there was more than one candidate standing.

The MC for the session was Bryn Davies who ran through a series of questions for each candidate to address. Questions were then taken from the floor.

The evening concluded with plenty of socialising and a delicious supper provided by the House.

Why not consider Harcourt Valley Community House for your next meeting or function? Contact: communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au

Robyn Miller



Bryn Davies discusses an issue with the candidates. Left to right: Sitting Ward Councillor Tony Cordy with Kerrie Allen and Ken Price.



The Game for All Ages

We are having a short break from Carpet Bowls but wish to remind everyone that Summer Carpet Bowls will commence on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7.30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

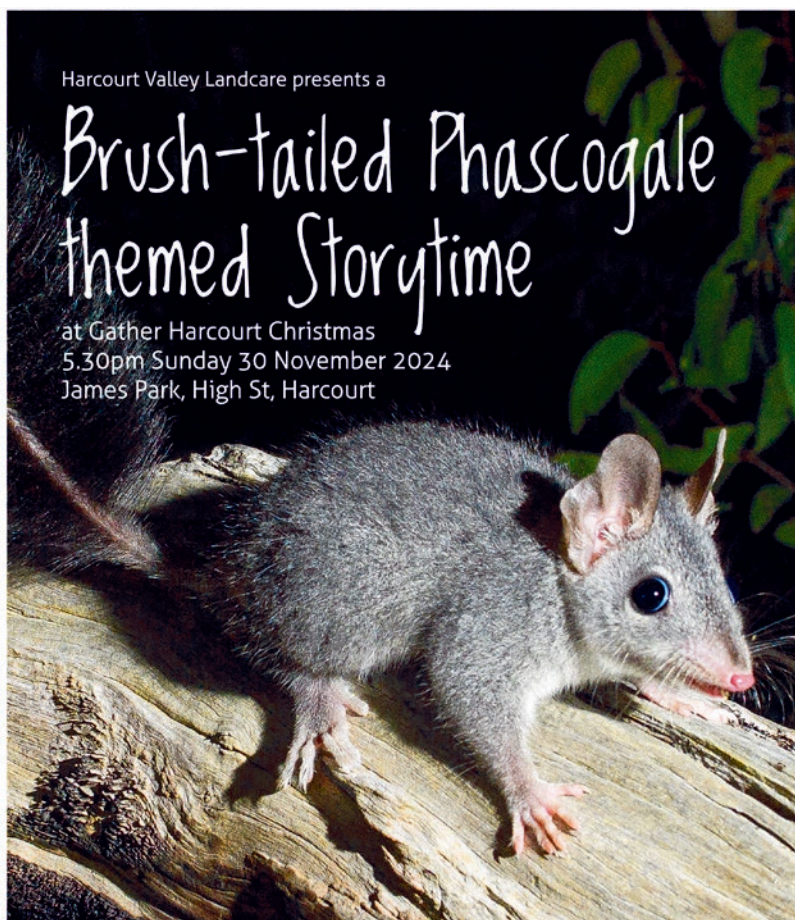
All interested in playing bowls, from 8 years old and up, will be made most welcome. New and old members are reminded to arrive at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Registration for new members is \$5.00 and U/17, \$2.50.

Each night's game is \$5.00 Adult and U/17 \$2.50 so it is a good social night competition which won't cost a fortune. Everything is supplied and you will learn the game as you play.

So why don't you get some friends together and make a team of four (extras are catered for and can join in a team). Meet for a fun night out.

For more information: John 5474 2226 or Loretta: 5474 2453. Or just come along and see what the game is all about.



Harcourt Valley Landcare presents a

Brush-tailed Phascogale themed Storytime

at Gather Harcourt Christmas
5.30pm Sunday 30 November 2024
James Park, High St, Harcourt

Presented by Castlemaine Library's much-loved, nature-loving and chuckle-inducing Storytime presenter, David Holmes.

Bring your pre and primary-school aged children to hear stories about Harcourt's favourite marsupial, the Brush-tailed Phascogale, which makes its home in our beautiful valley. Stay and learn how you too can help this threatened creature, by simple changes to your behaviour.



**Harcourt Valley
LANDCARE**



With thanks to Landcare Victoria grants program 2023

Harcourt Celebrates



November 30: Gather Harcourt Christmas – a Twilight Christmas Market with local entertainment including Alexander and the Apple Dumplings. Children's entertainer Tim Tim the clown will also be visiting with bubbles, balloons and fun.



December 28: Gather Harcourt Summer – a Twilight Holiday Market and Jazz in the Park. The well-known jazz band, Pip Aven's Mouldy Jazz, has been booked for this party night. Bring picnic blankets, chairs and enjoy local produce and music.



March 8: Applefest – all the fun of the Festival. Volunteers are needed to help run this long established event. Please get in touch if you can volunteer your time either on the day or in the lead up to March 8. Everyone is welcome!



March 29: Gather Music & Food – the ABBA Tribute Band SOS will be performing in James Park. Food and beverages will be available so you can picnic while dancing, dressing up and singing the night away. Family Fun for everyone!

Volunteers Please!

All these events are run by volunteers – however, we need more. If you would like to be involved with the events team in any way, please contact Ruth Hay on 0433 633 093.

Vendor Contacts

Any vendors who are interested in attending, please email:
market.gatherharcourtvic@gmail.com
or
harcourtapplefest.market.vic@gmail.com



Harcourt CFA Fire Restrictions Dates

The date for the commencement of fire restrictions for Mount Alexander Shire and the Greater City of Bendigo has been set at 1.00am on Monday the 11th of November. From this date any open-air burning will require a permit. For more information on what you can and cannot do during the Fire Danger Period (FDP) visit the CFA website and check out the 'Can I, Can't I' brochure. Hard copies are available from the fire station or ask a local brigade member. It is important that you understand the rules during the FDP and ignorance is not an excuse.

New Chief Officers Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Station Siren Use

Following significant community feedback about the use of station sirens for brigade alerting, CFA sought advice from the Environmental Protection Agency. This advice indicated that station sirens may not be exempt from the unreasonable noise emission provisions of the Environment Protection Act 2017.

The decision to reduce the hours of operation of a brigade siren is made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the relevant Deputy Chief Officer. Our siren at Harcourt has been set on a time clock for many years now to not go off during the night hours, but one new recommendation of the new standard operating procedure is that sirens are to be only tested once a month between the hours of 9.00am

and 6.00pm. As a result of this, we will test our siren on the first Sunday of each month at the regular time of 9.15am. All other siren activations should only be due to an emergency call. It is envisaged that changes implemented in the future will be that the siren will only be activated on Code 1 calls. Code 1 calls are those that require the brigade to attend with the activation of flashing lights and/or vehicle siren. There is an exemption when a siren has been repaired or replaced and testing needs to be conducted to ensure everything is working fine.

October a Busy Month for Turnouts

October saw the brigade respond to seven callouts. Three of these were to burn offs that were out of control from those conducting the burns. This is why careful planning and preparation is vital in any burn off no matter how small. It is important that the area around the burn is assessed, and this includes looking above the burn area for overhanging trees or power lines. There were two more callouts that required urgent action by the brigade. One was to a grass and scrub fire in the middle of the freeway at Ravenswood that spotted over the road and the other to a car fire that started when the car battery was being recharged. This fire required the responding brigades to not only extinguish the fire but also ensure that the fire did not spread to the

surrounding exposures. The other two callouts were to false alarms. One was to a registered burn being conducted in front of a house at night so the caller from a distance away thought that the house was on fire. The second was to support Castlemaine to a house fire which was a prank call. These calls are not only annoying but also can tie up resources if there is a secondary call received for a different job.

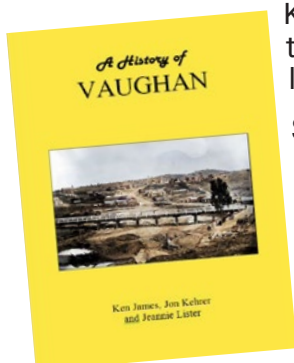
Community Engagement Meeting

As mentioned in the last edition, the brigade will be holding our yearly community information evening on Monday 11th of November in the park just south of the playground at 7.00pm. Please bring a chair or rug to sit on and hear advice on how best to prepare for this coming fire season and steps that you can take to protect you, your family, your pets and your house and property from the threat of fire. It is planned for a duration of one hour and there is plenty of time at the end to answer questions or speak to a brigade member on a one-on-one basis for relevant information pertinent to you and your situation. Please take the opportunity to attend. Note that if the weather is not suitable for an outdoor meeting, we will relocate to the Harcourt Fire Station. The brigade will also be in attendance at the Gather Harcourt event on Saturday 30th of November as a follow up to our public meeting.

Keep preparing your property and hopefully we will see you on the 11th.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator


Book Launch: A History of Vaughan




Ken, Jon and Jeannie invite you to join them in celebrating the launch of their book:

**Sunday 10 November 2024
at 2:00 pm
at Vaughan Springs
(if inclement weather, at the Guildford Hall)**

Full details are available in the September and August issues of *The Core*.

**Property Plus**
REAL ESTATE



Di Selwood
0488 148 358
Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Well the votes are in and probably on the way to being counted by now. The official announcement or declaration of the polls will happen at 3 pm on 8th November. Not sure how that will go, but, however it ends up, we will be well represented.

One of the things I have learnt at the council table is you learn by listening to those that may have a different point of view. Of course we are not always convinced but in the end Council does what it can with resources available.

Council is in a sound position but there are always more demands and requests than available funds.

I would take this opportunity to thank the Harcourt Progress Association for their support over the past ten

years. When our thoughts are aligned and we sing from the same song sheet we can achieve amazing things.

What a wonderful community we have and how lucky we are to live around Mount Alexander.

Best regards to all.

Tony
AG Cordy
0439 742 434

P.S. Big shout out to all involved with MAVEC tractor pull on 27 October. Another great community event. My tractor was in a class of its own. Won, of course, but could not pull the skin off a rice pudding. Like they say: If its red leave it in the shed!



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Acting Principal for Term 4

Principal Andrew Blake is on long service leave during Term 4. In the school newsletter of October 11, Acting Principal, Ash Harvey, thanked the families and students at the school for making him feel welcome. Mr Harvey is Assistant Principal at Carisbrook Primary School. Mr Harvey is looking forward to getting to know everyone in the school community.

2025 Prep Transition program November/December

The all-important program of prep transition will take place on 4 Tuesdays beginning on November 19.

World Teachers' Day – Friday October 25

World Teachers' Day was celebrated at the school as a special occasion to recognize and honour the educators at Harcourt Valley PS. Acting Principal Mr Harvey thanked the staff saying, 'Their dedication and passion for teaching truly make a difference in the lives of our students. We encourage everyone to take a moment to express your gratitude to our teachers for their hard work and commitment to fostering a love of learning in our community. Thank you for all that you do!'

Halloween Dress up Day – Thursday 31st October

Spooktacular fun was had for Halloween with students permitted to come in costume ups or casual clothes. A gold coin donation to the school was accepted from those who took part.

Kinder Visit from Harcourt Kinder – Monday 28th October

The school was pleased to welcome the children from Harcourt Kinder on Monday October 28. This visit was designed to give the kinder students a chance to explore the school and engage in some fun activities with our current Prep/1 students.

Exciting December Dates

As Term 4 moves into the final month there are a number of activities for staff, students and their families to look forward to:

- ▶ Mon 2nd: Choir excursion
- ▶ Thurs 5th: Colour Run & ice cream truck
- ▶ Mon 16th: Grade 6 Graduation and afternoon tea followed by Graduation Dinner
- ▶ Tues 17th: Grade 6 Big Day Out
- ▶ Wed 18th: Harcourt's Got Talent
- ▶ Thurs 19th: Excursion to Cinemas
- ▶ Thurs 20th: Last day of Term 4; 1.30 pm finish.



HARCOURT DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

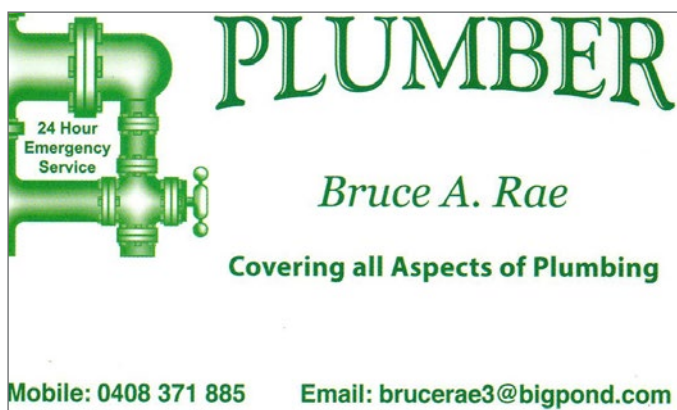
At our last dinner meeting the Club was very happy to welcome a new member. Mark was invested by President Lion Ray into the Harcourt District Lions Club and received his Lion's pin from his Nominator, Secretary Sue Nash on the 17th of October 2024. We hope Mark enjoys being a member of the Lions Club and finds it a rewarding experience working with the members of our Club for our community. Welcome Mark.

We are happy to welcome those interested in joining Lions or want to know more about this Worldwide Club. Speak with our members for more information when you see them out and about at the next Harcourt happenings at the end of November and in December 2024.

**Contact: Lion Ray 0409 957 429.
Harcourt District Lions Club
PO Box 100 Harcourt 3453.**

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Premium Feed-in Tariff

The Premium Feed in Tariff (PFIT) ends on 1 November 2024. What to do if you are on the PFIT of 66 cents per kWh for your excess solar energy? Note that the likely feed in tariff will drop to somewhere between 3 and 5 cents per kWh depending on your retailer.

Short answer – if your solar system is still generating a decent amount of power, then the focus has to switch to self consumption ie. use your solar energy during daylight hours. This is a very good reason to switch from gas appliances (e.g. hot water) to efficient electric alternatives.

If the ability to self consume during the day is limited, then just adding more solar panels is unlikely to be a cost effective solution. In this case some form of battery storage may be worth considering. An AC coupled battery may be able to be configured to collect your excess solar to then use in the evenings.

A further option would be to add a new solar system with a hybrid inverter and DC battery. You could be eligible for solar panel rebates from Solar Victoria plus an optional interest free battery loan.

And then there is the biggie - an electric vehicle. EVs have significant capacity to absorb excess solar which you can then use to drive around with CO2 free, very low cost energy.

We can arrange a visit to review your electricity data and advise on which option is right for you.

EnviroShop Newstead
49 Lyons Street, Newstead
03 5472 4160
enviroshopnewstead.au

EV Insights

The electric vehicle market in Australia is now developing quickly, with more manufacturers, a wider range of models, longer driving range and increased price competition. The switch to EVs is noticeable in central Victoria with dozens of our clients now driving EVs from GWM to Mercedes and everything in between.

Seeing EVs in the showroom is one thing, but talking to the owners of the vehicles also provides a valuable insight. It is instructive to hear first hand about their choice of vehicle, their driving patterns, their charging routines, and the pros and cons of the EV in question.

Our monthly series of EV Insights feature a particular EV on display in the shop and a discussion with their owner about all aspects of their EV experience. Sessions are held once a month on Saturday mornings throughout 2024. To provide an opportunity for a close encounter with the vehicle (minus any showroom sales pitch) and the owner we can accommodate a maximum of 20 guests per session.

Our November EV Insights session will focus on the Hyundai Ioniq 5 with owner Hannah Castles.

Details and booking information at [Humanitix: events.humanitix.com/ev-insights-november](https://humanitix.com/ev-insights-november)

EnviroShop Newstead
49 Lyons Street, Newstead
03 5472 4160
enviroshopnewstead.au



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
Meet at Harcourt ANAHall & Museum

A one hour walk followed by a cuppa and a chat

Dhelkaya Health

Harcourt Valley Community House

Program of Activities November 2024

(subject to change according to demand)

Thursday 7th November	1st Thursday of the month
Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) Jess is an early childhood teacher and music specialist. Offering the 1 st 20 mins tailored for babies & toddlers (under 3 years) @ \$5 per child and the 2 nd half hour (from 10 am) for children 3-5 year @ \$8. Caregivers with both under & over 3s can stay for both sessions @\$10 <i>A parent/caregiver must be in attendance with their child/children.</i> <i>Limited numbers, bookings are essential. Please phone Jess on 0401 834 457</i>	Basic Mending (12:00pm – 2:00 pm) Do you know how to sew on a button, make a repair or take up a pair of pants? Come along and learn how and bring your mending! A sewing machine will be available (to use under instruction, if needed). <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i>
Monday 11th November	Special workshop – Bookings essential
Christmas Sewing Workshop at 10 am – 1 pm Christmas is just around the corner and this workshop will offer instruction and provide materials to make Christmas coasters and ornaments. <i>See the advertisement on page 8.</i>	
Thursday 14th November	2nd Thursday of the month
Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) See description & pricing above. Community Morning Tea (10:45 – noon) Drop in for morning tea, make new friends and tell us what kind of activities you would like to see happen at your Community House. <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i>	Craft-a-noon (12:30pm – 2:30 pm) Have you got UFOs (Un-Finished Objects) in your cupboard? Bring your UFO along and finish it off in like-minded company, you might learn a trick or two from other crafty folks! <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i>
Sunday 24th November – Special workshop – Bookings essential	
Foraging in your own backyard – Herbs & Wild Medicinal Intensive Workshop Have you always wanted to know what herbs and edible plants are in your own garden? What medicinal uses for wild herbs and common plants are growing in your own backyard? For full details of this workshop, see the advertisement on page 20. To book go to https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1311106	
Thursday 21st November – 3rd Thursday of the month	
Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) See description & pricing above. Board/Card Games (10:45 am – 12:30 or beyond, up to 2 pm) Do you like playing card or board games? Fancy a game of old faithfuls like 500, backgammon, scrabble, etc, all in good company? Have you got a new game you'd like to try. BYO your own game or we have some you can use. <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i>	
Thursday 28th November – 4th Thursday of the month	
Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) See description & pricing above. Community Lunch Working Group - 11 am We would like to offer a community lunch once a month but this is entirely dependent on gathering willing volunteers to help make this happen. Please drop in if you are interested in being on the team to cook a lunch once a month, help with set up, clean up or bring your great ideas for simple, nutritious meals.	
Thursday 5th December – 1st Thursday of the month	
Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) See description & pricing above.	Basic Mending (12:00pm – 2:00 pm) See description above.

Thursday December 5, 2024

Thank the volunteers who make our community strong

The United Nations estimates that there are around 970 million volunteers in the world. That's a lot of people getting involved in their communities. In Australia somewhere around 30 percent of the population over the age of 15 years volunteer each year. The reasons people volunteer vary; some people have a skill they want to use, others want to develop a skill and some want to get involved in their community and bring about some needed change. Harcourt's volunteers reflect those motivations. Nationally, the work that volunteers undertake for the community, whatever their motivation, is valued at billions of dollars a year and of greater economic contribution than the mining industry.

Harcourt, we need to chat

If Harcourt is a typical Australian community it means around one person from each family is a volunteer. But are they? We don't know. What we do know is every single organisation in our little town needs more volunteers and preferably younger ones. In 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, we heard a story from a woman whose mum was going into aged care supported accommodation.

She'd asked her mother 'what about Meals on Wheels?' Her mother, aged 92, said 'I'm not sure if I could be bothered doing that anymore.' The moral of that story is that volunteers eventually wear out or like old soldiers, they just fade away. Many organisations in our district could do with a boost of young energy, talent and ideas. This is not to belittle or disparage the immense wealth of knowledge and talent provided by existing volunteers, but we all need a succession plan! The vision for the national strategy for volunteering states:

Volunteering is the heart of Australian communities

- ▶ Where more people volunteer more often.
- ▶ Where volunteers feel respected and know their contribution makes a difference.
- ▶ Where diversity in volunteering is recognised, celebrated, and supported.
- ▶ Where people individually and collectively realise their potential for creating thriving communities

Volunteers have rights

Volunteers generously donate their time and skills for community organisations that provide much needed community, environmental, sporting and emergency services. Volunteers also have rights (and some corresponding responsibilities) which volunteer-involving organisations should honour.

Volunteers have the right:

- ▶ To work in a healthy and safe environment.
- ▶ To be interviewed and employed in accordance with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation.
- ▶ To be adequately covered by insurance.
- ▶ To be given accurate and truthful information about the organisation for which you are working.
- ▶ To be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of

the organisation for which you are working.

- ▶ To be given a copy of the organisation's volunteer policy and any other policy that affects your work.
- ▶ Not to fill a position previously held by a paid worker.
- ▶ Not to do the work of paid staff during industrial disputes.
- ▶ To have a job description and agreed working hours.
- ▶ To have access to a grievance procedure.
- ▶ To be provided with orientation to the organisation.
- ▶ To have your confidential and personal information dealt with in accordance with the principles of the Privacy Act 1988.
- ▶ To be provided with sufficient training to do your job.

Volunteers are expected:

- ▶ To respect confidentiality and privacy.
- ▶ To be reliable.
- ▶ To carry out their work in the agreed manner.
- ▶ To give notice if leaving the organisation.
- ▶ To work in a safe and responsible manner.
- ▶ To adhere to organisational policies and procedures.
- ▶ To undertake training as requested.
- ▶ To ask for support when needed.
- ▶ To support other team members.

Adapted from Volunteering Australia's Volunteering Guidelines and the original information sheet written by Sha Cordingley for Volunteering Victoria.

If You've Never Tried It, You'll Never Know



The Applefest Committee is looking for volunteers in the following roles:

- ▶ Gate attendants.
- ▶ Stage manager.
- ▶ Sound manager, some technical skill or experience required.
- ▶ Media liaison personnel (experience with Facebook, Instagram, etc. desirable).**
- ▶ Electrical coordinator.**
- ▶ Compere.**
- ▶ Bump in/bump out people.

Time commitment: Saturday 8th March 2025.

****Roles asterisked will appreciate being involved some evenings in the lead up.**

Contact name: George Milford,
Phone: 0400 916 527



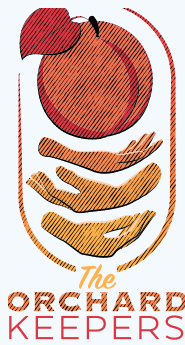
HARCOURT BOWLING CLUB

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

The Harcourt Bowling Club was created and is managed, maintained and carried forward by our volunteers.

Our Board members and members of the many and varied Committees of the Board are dedicated Club members who are primarily bowlers. They do an outstanding job in guiding and maintaining the ongoing function and viability of the Club within the Harcourt community.

All these people and the roles they undertake are on a voluntary basis. Without their input, at all levels of managing a Club, we would cease to be. The Harcourt Bowling Club salutes and thanks our Volunteers for the wonderful work they undertake on behalf of all members.



Fruit Crew

Join our volunteer exchange program called Fruit Crew. The work includes thinning, picking, mowing, fruit packing, monitoring for fruit fly, netting, pruning, and many other jobs in the orchard. In exchange you'll receive a weekly

'Skills and Theory' class, and 5kg of fruit for every shift you work. We also provide delicious cakes for morning and afternoon tea, lots of great chats, and a wonderful sense of community.

The program is currently full, but please fill out the application form if you're interested and we'll let you know if a position becomes available. We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to our wonderful group of volunteers, many of whom volunteered last year and have come back for another season. We love you and very much appreciate your efforts in helping to keep our heritage family orchard growing fruit for the local community.

Time commitment: There are 4 shifts available each week: Wed morning (8.30am-1pm), Wed afternoon (1.45pm-5pm), Thurs morning and Thurs afternoon. You can come to as few or as many shifts per week as you choose. We ask that you only apply if you can commit to at least 20 shifts (10 days) over the fruit season, from October to April.

Contact name: Katie Finlay

Rather than ringing, please check out the information on the website: theorchardkeepers.com.au/volunteering/. You'll also find the link to the application form on the information page on the website.



CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Volunteer roles: Community Christmas Lunch – multiple roles.

Many thanks to all our current volunteers who have generously shared their time and energy during 2024!

Time commitment: 23rd, 24th, or 25th December – times vary

Contact name: Kelsey Docherty
Contact: 5472 4842



Harcourt Fire Brigade

Volunteer Role: Fire Fighter

Time Commitment: Requires a strong commitment due to training expectations and we need to ensure the brigade can turn out 24/7.

Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

Contact: 0428 387 339

Note that the preferred time to join is post summer as this not only allows time to do the required initial training and probationary period, alignment with training courses but also gain a better understanding of how the brigade functions and the time commitment that is required.



Dhelkaya Health

Harcourt Nordic Walking Group

Amazing Harcourt volunteers

Dhelkaya Health thanks our dedicated and valuable volunteers who support our Nordic walking group in Harcourt.

A huge thank you to Ruth and Phillip Hay, and Wendy Cummings. This is our Harcourt team of Nordic Walking volunteers whom we have trained to teach the skill of walking with Nordic poles to participants.

The group meets every Tuesday evening during school terms, and the donation of their time allows the group to be free of charge (including the use of Nordic poles). Our volunteers also welcome new participants, maintain attendance sheets, and ensure the safety of participants. Dhelkaya Health provides first aid training to our volunteers, just in case this is required during the groups.

For more information about Nordic Walking in Harcourt, or if you are interested in volunteering in Harcourt, please call Dhelkaya Health on 5479 1000.



Castlemaine Safe Space

Castlemaine Safe Space would like to thank all its amazing volunteers – that have kept us running for over two years! We literally wouldn't exist without you – and we are so grateful for your time, empathy, energy and dependability.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers: If you have lived experience of suicide, emotional distress or have cared for someone who has, then we would love to hear from you!

The Castlemaine Safe Space is a non-clinical, open-door centre which welcomes people and their carers/loved ones who are in emotional distress or experiencing suicidal thoughts. All are welcome to visit, no referrals or appointments are necessary, and everyone who attends is treated with respect, non-judgement, and empathy. As a volunteer you will be an integral part of the safe, supportive and trauma informed environment. You will be provided with free training and be invited to attend regular check ins with other volunteers. Please email for a chat to see if this is something that might be a good fit for you.

Volunteer role: Peer Volunteer

Time commitment: Availability of at least 3 hours per month and commitment to attend the training sessions

Can be involved for a minimum of 12 months

Contact name: Volunteer Coordinator Mark MacDougall

Contact: volunteers@castlemainesafespace.org



Volunteer role: Help with tea and coffee - fill urn, deliver cuppas to repairer, helpers and attendees, collect dirty cups and wash, repack for storage.

Help on reception table...welcoming people, name tags etc. (training provided).

Help set up for Repair Cafe from 9.30 then leave when done. The Repair Cafe starts at 10 am.

Time commitment: Last Sunday of the month. Tea and coffee people from about 10.30 am to around 12.30 pm. Reception table from 9.50 am to 1pm.

Contact name: Chris Hooper

Contact: 5470 5508

Harcourt Heritage Centre & Museum



You, like many before, have chosen to live in this historically rich valley. Your museum is growing in reputation as a destination for both family and professional researchers. This is creating many problems for the Society as we cannot keep up with the donations that keep coming.

We invite you to come any Weds morning for a look and chat.

We have flexible work-stations with excellent wifi.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Contact: Diana 0427 396 211



Volunteering doesn't have to be a massive commitment. Maybe you want help with your property or advice on which tree to plant? Maybe you want to learn about the rich history of Harcourt from people who have lived here for generations? Landcare can be what you want it to be. We are open to new ideas and new directions.

Time commitment/day: While we do have 10 working bees a year, you can choose to do one, ten or none. And everyone is welcome – all genders, all brains, families of all shapes and sizes, singles, couples, young adults, retirees.

Meetings:

2nd Thursday 7pm

Working bees:

3rd Sunday 10 am–12 pm

Contact name:

Harcourt Valley Landcare

Contact:

info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

THE CORE

If you would like to learn how to do desktop publishing, layout and graphic design we are looking for more volunteers to assist with the layout of the monthly newsletter

Time commitment: Flexible, but *The Core* is published monthly February to December

If you are interested or would like to talk to someone about the role contact us via news@harcourt.vic.au.

Is this volunteering or some other form of unpaid work?

Are you working for:	community benefit?	a nonprofit or 'for-purpose' organisation?	no pay?	by choice?	in a volunteer designated position?
Formal volunteering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work experience	✗	Either	✗	✓	✗
Community Service Order	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Student Placements	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Informal neighbourhood support	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Carers	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Unpaid work trials	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗

Five out of five ticks mean you are volunteering.

Two Volunteer Stories

Succession Planning

Back in 2017, when I was celebrating the start of my retirement, Robyn Miller, our esteemed editor, on hearing that I had some experience with desktop publishing asked if I'd be interested in helping do the layout of the Core. I said yes.

The Core relies on volunteers. Every month, contributors take up their pens (or, more likely, keyboards) and produce reports of what's going on in the community.

Every month a team of volunteers folds the papers and then distributes them to outlets in town and further afield.

It has become increasingly apparent that we need some volunteers trained in laying out the Core. So, here is a very specific call-out. If you would like to learn how to do desktop publishing, layout and graphic design, let us know by sending a note to news@harcourt.vic.au.

Maybe there are graphic design students willing to donate time to the community; time which could perhaps gain them additional credit in their courses?

I've noticed that most of the volunteers around the community are 'people of a certain age' – which is to be expected as they tend to have more time to spare – but the community really does need younger people to come forward.

Please contact: Bernie Schultz at news@harcourt.vic.au



**KEEP CALM
AND
VOLUNTEER
Harcourt
NEEDS
YOU**

Initiator of Fruit Fly awareness in Harcourt calls it a day

Terry Willis, who began the fight against fruit fly in Mount Alexander Shire in 2018, has stepped back from an active role.

Terry said, 'After six years of leading Harcourt's response to the threat of Queensland fruit fly, I've decided to call it a day as Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) campaigner in Mount Alexander Shire and the lone operator of Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group.'

'My fruit fly story started in 2018 when I decided to alert the community about Queensland fruit fly. Having lived with the destructive results of QFF before, I knew it was only a matter of time before it landed in the orchards of Harcourt and the fruit trees of Mount Alexander Shire.'

'While it was impossible to prevent the arrival of fruit fly altogether, Mount Alexander Shire now has a better chance of minimising the impact of fruit fly thanks to six years of community awareness. The awareness campaign included many media interviews, ten workshops, the distribution of 325 free traps to community members and quick responses to community requests for the identification of suspicious larvae, as well as a clear course of action when fruit fly was identified. Another part of the response was planning: this included the development of the Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Regional Action Plan, an Emergency Outbreak Plan, advising councils, writing numerous grants, removing all rogue roadside fruit trees from Harcourt and a submission to Victorian Fruit Fly Strategy.'

'I'd like to say a massive thanks to a bunch of passionate locals for their help and support on this journey: Katie Finlay, Ian Lillington, Ali Brooks and Chris Hooper. Nicole Porter in Bendigo is another I've learnt so much from, and I feel inspired that she didn't give up growing fruit and veggies, now just under nets. Thanks also to Jess Drake for her work on developing the action plan that set the wheels in motion, as well as Janet Barker for creating the first local emergency outbreak plan.'

'Thanks also to the Mount Alexander Shire Communications team who helped with awareness and website content. Colin Bain from Bio Traps and leading entomologist Andrew Jessop both answered my many questions about these fascinating insects.'

'And lastly, a huge thanks to all the people who came to workshops, trap giveaways, read up online and are doing the right thing by being responsible fruit tree owners.'

'Did the fruit fly win? I found larvae in my blood plums for the first-time last season, so yes. But QFF has taught me to appreciate fruit trees and the value what they bring to our lives.'

As a result of Terry's initiative, the Mount Alexander Shire website now has fruit fly information on how to prevent fruit fly with links to Agriculture Victoria and Horticulture Innovation Australia. On this page you can also find a link which directs you to Harcourt-based Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens free fruit fly resource pack. Simply put the words 'fruit fly' in the search area of the Shire website to access this information.





Dry outlook

We have all enjoyed the spring weather in October. There has been some variability in the temperatures, but we have felt that it has generally been warmer than previous Octobers. My 'unscientific' reason for stating this is that we have not been lighting the wood fire now for at least three weeks, whereas in the last few years there has been more consistent cold weather leading up to Christmas and the wood fire was still in use most days. In the last week and a half of October we began the summer watering program as the dryness in the garden became apparent with drooping leaves and flowers attesting to the dry air. There were some dewy mornings, but the dew burnt off quickly.

Rainfall for October was 43 mm here in Reservoir Road which pipped last year's reading for the month by 0.5 mm. 2023 showed the reducing trend of rainfall and finished with 605.5 mm compared to the very wet year in 2002 when we received 1023.5 mm. So far the total rainfall here is 441.5 mm. At the same time last year it was 481.5 mm.

A feature of October's rainfall was that it occurred over only three days of rain with long gaps between. A small reading early in the month was followed by twelve dry days, and then 39 mm fell in two days. To date (November 3) it is now sixteen days since we had any rain.

On a very local level (i.e. the backyard) I noticed one climate factor indicating warming: many spring flowers bloomed early. This isn't a one-off occurrence; I think that this tendency to earlier flowering has been going on for a number of years.

On October 12 the Bureau of Meteorology predicted that Australia would have one of the hottest summers on record. One sentence which sums this was contained in the ABC report (link below): 'The BOM's initial summer forecast, released this week, shows a greater than 80 per cent chance of minimum temperatures in the top 20 per cent of years – which the BOM label "unusually high temperatures".' Note, this abbreviated link goes to the ABC news website: bit.ly/4fa4WfY

Further information on our changing climate can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology's website:
www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate

Reservoir Levels as at October 21, 2024

Upper Coliban: 87.1%
Lauriston: 80.7%
Malmsbury: 48.0%
Barkers Creek: 42.9%

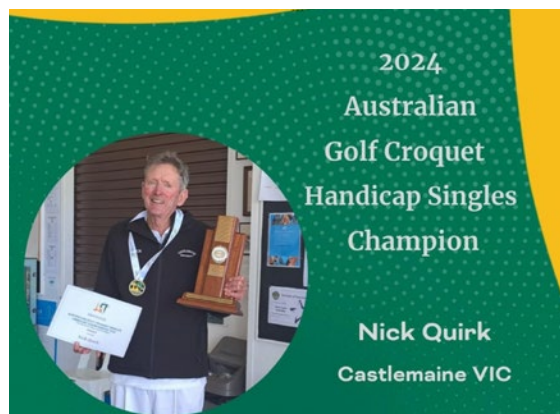
Data from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Irrigators in Harcourt have been assured of 100% allocation by Coliban Water for the irrigation season.



On the green lawn area (where the septic runs) we see the heron searching for food every day. This area is shared over the day by a raven, a family of magpies and sometimes a kookaburra which attacks first to clear away competitors.

Croquet anyone?



What to do after retirement is often a challenging question. Born and bred local Nick Quirk worked within the local orchard industry for many years as well as providing specialist grafting services to growers. After about a year of retirement, a friend, ex-Harcourtian Peter Ward, said 'Why not try croquet?'

18 months has passed since Peter asked Nick that question. Nick attended the Castlemaine Croquet Club which offers a number of free try-out games and after which you can join or say, 'It's not for me.'

Nick decided croquet was for him, joined the club and took to the sport with great interest. It's a handicap sport and his handicap has gone from a 14 to a 7, now verging on 6. Being a competitive type he has entered a number of competitions but particularly enjoys playing singles.

He recently won the National Golf Croquet Handicap Singles Tournament in Albury. Play was over 3 days with 24 players. When it came down to the final on the last day of play, Nick was successful against the 2023 champion.



Fundraising: Container Deposit Scheme

We have begun collecting bottles and cans with the 10c logo for refund which the Community House will exchange as part of the Container Deposit Scheme.

If you have a very large number of eligible bottles/cans, we have a volunteer who can pick them up, just email us on communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au to arrange this.



Harcourt Uniting Church

If you were asked to name some important Australian traditions, what would come to mind? Cricket, football, a day at the beach, the great Outback, Anzac biscuits, meat pies, pavlova and at this time of the year perhaps the race that stops the nation – the Melbourne Cup.

For those who like to cook there's another one: the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) Cookbook. Of course, these days we can just go to our favourite search engine to find any number of recipes. This year celebrates the 120th birthday of its first edition which began being compiled way back in 1904. An interesting fact is that it's never been out of print since its launch, making it the oldest continuous cookbook in Australia.

Royalties from the sale of each cookbook went to the PWMU for missionary work, and since the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977, all proceeds have been divided equally between the two Churches to support mission-based ministries within Australia and overseas.

Recently the cookbook provided some "healing" for communities dealing with the bushfires of 2009, the Black Summer fires of 2020 and the Pomonal fires earlier this year. Copies were donated to families who lost their homes and weren't sure where to start in providing for their families.

Unlike many other cookbooks there are no photos with the recipes. So there's no need to compare your cooking to the glossy photo and feel a failure. It also helps keep the sale price affordable. The editors have made sure that the recipes keep up with the ever-changing way in which we eat and live in Australia.

Recently we enjoyed celebrating Peter Padreny's 90th birthday with a delicious morning tea following our Sunday service. Of course, there had to be a plate of Peter's favourite – jelly slice.

In our Harcourt congregation each member plays a part in making our Church a special place. Even at 90, Peter makes sure everyone has the notice sheet each week, participates in the bible reading roster and locks the Church after the weekly service. Others participate in the weekly bible reading during the service, welcoming people at the door, working the data projector, setting up and serving morning tea, cleaning the Church, arranging flowers, drawing up rosters, answering emails, keeping us up to date with rules and regulations – however no one seems to offer to play the organ for me! Thanks to Solway who plays her lovely flute if I'm away for a weekend. Thanks also to Solway for the amazing concert she organised recently. As they say 'Read all about it' in her article.

Harcourt Uniting Church meets every Sunday at 9am in the granite brick Church in Buckley Street and everyone is most welcome to join us.

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

Jan Jenkin

Harcourt Valley Community House, in partnership with Free Food Foragers

Foraging in your own backyard Herbs & Wild Medicinal Workshop

Sunday 24 November (12pm - 3pm)

@ Harcourt Valley Community House, Old Railway Station, 23 Station St Harcourt

Cost \$100

Have you always wanted to know what herbs and edible plants are in your own garden? What medicinal uses for wild herbs and common plants are growing in your own backyard?

Well now you can learn from one of Australia's leading foraging educators, Ingrid Button from Free Food Foragers. Ingrid will be hosting an exclusive event immersing you in the world of wild edibles, herbal medicine and foraging for your health and wellbeing. In this 3 hour intensive workshop you will learn how to confidently forage for yourself – learning from a nationally accredited educator with over a decade of foraging education experience.

We will feast on foraged ingredient gourmet treats with a herbal afternoon tea experience. With cake, savoury nibbles and of course wild foraged herbal tea all created by our foraging guide.

This is an authentic experience not to be missed as we learn together about all the amazing plants and herbs that nature has to offer all around us growing wild and free!

Includes:

- ▶ Identification Q&A session – bring in your samples from your own backyard to find out if they have uses
- ▶ Learn how to confidently forage for yourself – learning from a nationally accredited educator with over a decade of foraging education experience.
- ▶ Medicinal and edible weed identification walk
- ▶ Make your own wild herbal tea take home pack
- ▶ Herbal high tea with delicious foraged nibbles, cake and taste testing herbal tea we make
- ▶ Learn how to make wild herbal remedies
- ▶ How to dry and preserve herbs.

To book go to www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1311106 OR email freefoodforagers@gmail.com

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Lisa Chesters MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BENDIGO

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



Labor



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello again from the Ladies of Harcourt CWA.

October was another busy month for us CWA members.

On October 3 we got together for the Central Victoria Group Conference: a day of learning and friendship. The conference brought together nine branches from Castlemaine, Dunolly, Newbridge, Newstead, Chewton, Harcourt, Maryborough, Heathcote and Sutton Grange. Hosted by Harcourt CWA and chaired by Group President Dani and Secretary Judi, the conference provided an excellent platform for sharing ideas and building connections.

The day began with informative presentations from Robert and Gus from the Castlemaine State Emergency Service (SES) who emphasised the importance of safety and preparedness in our communities. Their insights reminded all of us the vital role we play in ensuring our own safety and gave us tips to ensure the safety of those around us.

Following the SES speakers, various reports highlighted the achievements

and initiatives of each branch over the past year. It was good to hear about the successful activities that each branch had enjoyed throughout the year.



Romania has been our Country of Study for 2024 and, appropriately, lunch was a delicious Romanian-style meal of traditional dishes prepared by several members. Short talks were given: Cheryl from Chewton Phoenix spoke of the traditional food and drink of Romania, Bev from Harcourt talked about Dracula and Transylvania and Ann and Helen from Newstead branch, looking terrific, told us about folk costumes and customs. These informative short talks rounded off a beaut lunch so well.



As the day concluded, we learned a lot from each other and attendees left feeling inspired and connected, ready to implement new ideas within their branches and strengthen the bonds of our CWA community. Here's to continued collaboration and support among our members and more delicious international lunches together!



Speaking of food and fun ...

Another enjoyable activity together last month was our CWA Harcourt 'Fun Day': A Potluck Celebration of Friendship. This delightful 'Fun Day' social get-together was hosted at the home of our president, Robyn, and what a perfect sunny day it was! Members gathered for a yummy potluck lunch, each bringing a dish to share. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and fun as members caught up and shared stories.

Robyn's warm hospitality made everyone feel at home, and her garden provided a beautiful backdrop for the lunch. This 'Fun Day' highlighted the essence of CWA Harcourt - supporting one another, celebrating the friendships that enrich our lives while we fundraise for various local and other causes and organisations. It was indeed a fun day. Thanks, Robyn.

Harcourt CWA meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1.00pm for 1.30pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. If you would like to know more, and like to join in the fun, please call our secretary, Helen on 0448 510 996.

Beverley Orgill for Harcourt CWA

Word of the Month: Spuddle

Definition:

A useful verb from the 17th century that means to work feebly and ineffectively, because your mind is elsewhere or you haven't quite woken up yet.

Possible usage:

'Here comes the boss, look busy.' Or, alternatively, a cry of warning could be raised by simply shouting 'Spuddle!'

Linda Newton



Kookaburra



Harcourt Bowling Club

PENNANT

Harcourt Midweek Pennant Divisions 2, 4 and 6 had a 'fruit salad' of results in round one of Pennant which was played out in perfect bowling weather on 14 October.

Division 2 just down to Woodbury; Division 4 a decisive win at home against Calivil; and Division 6 a draw with Eaglehawk.



Harcourt Weekend Pennant Divisions 2, 4 7 Blue and 7 Gold had a stellar start in their first round with three of the four teams scoring wins. All the signs are positive so far for a successful season.

Green Closed

The Harcourt green will be closed during December and part of January to undergo much needed repair work. Pennant teams will play their home games at other designated clubs (clubs to be confirmed).

Harcourt Mixed Fours Tournament

The Mixed Fours Tournament held on Sunday 27 October was jointly sponsored by Harcourt Bowling Club and Build Pro.

This tournament was formerly known as the Kidman Fours, and it is hoped to return as that, to honour the dedication and loyalty of past members Wilma and the late Brian Kidman.

Winner on the day was Mary-Anne Doyle's team with Leo Moloney, Fran Corstorphan and Darrell Normington. David Jeffries' team of Rod Watson, Carrol Frost and Jean Pogue were runners-up.

Highest winning rink was Heather Braide, Judy Ewing, Carl Roberts and Ken Tribe. Lucky card draw went to Cheryl and Garry Maddern with Joy and John Starbuck.



Thanks to Rod and Heather and the catering team, an enjoyable day was held by all.

Harcourt Girls on the Green

Commencing on Wednesday 6th November, Harcourt Girls on the Green will continue over four consecutive Wednesday evenings.

Entries close at 4 pm on the night of play and should include team names and number as well as contact numbers. Enquiries and entries to the Club 2 Warren Street Harcourt OR harcourtbowls@gmail.com OR text to Chris 0417 341 814.

Ladies Invitation Triples Tournament

This popular annual tournament will be held on Thursday 21 November. Results in December Core.

COMING UP

Christmas Celebrations

Harcourt Bowling Club Christmas celebrations will take on a slightly new look this year. On Sunday December 8 from midday, members and their family and guests are invited to join in on lamb spit roast with vegies and salad and the usual delicious dessert.

There will be music by renowned country and light rock band AVALANCHE with a guest appearance from our own Joe Candy.

Nordic Pole Walking

Term 4 2024 7 October-20 December

COME AND JOIN THIS FUN AND SOCIAL GROUP

Castlemaine

Botanical Gardens
(picnic shelter/playground car park)
Mondays 2 pm-3 pm

Harcourt

ANA Hall James Park
Tuesdays 4.30 pm-5.30 pm

Maldon

Railway Station
Wednesdays 4.30 pm-5.30 pm



Dhelkaya Health

Weekly groups during the Victorian school term. Nordica poles are available for participants to use during sessions

No cost but bookings essential as spaces are limited. For more information or to book call 5479 1000

Groups will not happen if the temperature is 30 degrees or above.



Nordic Walking



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Living with a big debt

Three account books covering the years 1865 to 1905 can be found on the top shelf of the cupboard in the storeroom at Harcourt Heritage Centre. These old books tell of struggle, of the habits of the community and of a debt that lingered for nearly forty years.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church was built in 1865, largely due to the enthusiasm of one man. George Crampton Leech was charismatic and persistent, he visited every home in Harcourt to put forward his desire to see a Wesleyan Methodist church built in Harcourt.

Mr Leech was a barrister and solicitor whose name appeared in court reports in the *Mount Alexander Mail* over many years, defending the underdog, generally winning his case. He had strong support in Harcourt.

The oldest account book reveals that the construction of the church was financed, partly by subscriptions from about thirty-six local households, but mainly by loans from three men, Mr George Richards, Mr Penpraze, Mr Etchells and from the Chapel Building Loan Fund.

The Trustees put the finances on a sound basis by charging quarterly seat rents and conducting ticketed tea meetings. Mr Leech was a favourite with the congregation, being the chosen speaker at Sunday worship and at the tea meetings.

Donations and subscriptions continued to come in to cover outlays for supplies such as lamp oil and stabling for the minister's horse. One of the main sources of funds was the collection taken up at the annual church anniversary services.

Within a few years, the trustees were able to pay out Mr Etchells, Mr Richards and the Chapel Building Loan Fund, leaving Mr Penpraze to carry the remaining debt, for which he charged 6% per annum interest. The congregation was in debt to Mr Penpraze for the rest of his life.

The fame of G C Leech spread far and wide. In 1870 he gave a series of lectures in Bendigo. This was a turning point in his career because he became enmeshed in a hair-splitting debate with a Bendigo minister, the Reverend James Nish, regarding

interpretation of the Bible. The debate provoked scandalised letters to the editor, becoming a controversy that filled many columns of the *Bendigo Advertiser*. A later writer, sadly, summed up the situation:

'Mr Leech yielded to doctrinal vagaries and resigned his official connection with the church.'

Mr Leech (later Mr Justice Leech) did not figure in the life of the church at Harcourt after that date. But the Trustees kept the course and built up the fellowship, making the Harcourt church the place to be. Weekly services, with stimulating preachers, and quarterly tea meetings provided the main social activity for most households in Harcourt. Wesley's hymns, with their memorable tunes, were often heard in the milking sheds and orchards. Methodism was a significant aspect of Harcourt in those days.

The church trustees had to face up to a major outlay in 1882. The wooden shingle roof was in a bad way, the shingles had shrunk and split and the rain was coming in. In April 1882 the Trustees engaged Mr Odgers to cover the Harcourt church roof with galvanised iron.

After spending all available funds on the roof, any idea of paying out the loan had receded into the distant future. Unfortunately Mr Penpraze died in 1884 and his executor asked that the loan be repaid. This was only made possible by an equivalent loan by Mrs Growar.

Then, in August 1886, the calico ceiling of the church was replaced with red Baltic pine boards by Thomas Coggan. It is a happy chance to find Coggan's name in the church's account books. We know from other sources that Tom Coggan was a great talker with a fund of humorous anecdotes. But, as he said, 'having put my hand to the plough, I must remember Lot's wife and press on.'

Installing the long timber was a big task, but Tom Coggan was equal to the challenge of working at heights, erecting scaffolding, easing in the boards, while talking to anyone nearby. The timber was well seasoned, and today, after nearly 140 years, has



shown no signs of deterioration. (The galvanised iron was replaced in 1995.)

Progress toward paying out the loan was frustratingly slow. There was always the cost of kerosene for the lamps, hay for the minister's horse and the token sum paid to the church cleaner. Ticketed tea meetings were not a fundraiser, as these tea meetings were catered for by James Morris, of the well-known bakery and catering business in Castlemaine's Market Square.

Curiously, the annual accounts of the church were compiled for each financial year ended March 25, Lady Day', or, more precisely, the Feast of the Annunciation.

As time went by the loan had to be re-financed, Mrs Growar's loan was paid out, but this was only due to the making of an equivalent loan by Henry Ely.

The loan was eventually paid out in May 1899, the treasurer noting 'church now free of debt.'

For 34 years the debt had weighed heavily on the congregation. Anyone who has had a massive mortgage will know the treasurer's feeling of relief when he wrote that phrase 'church now free of debt.'

Old account books, like the old minute books in the Heritage Centre collection, may appear dry stuff, but they can open an insight into the goings-on in our neck of the woods in bygone times and is evidence of the great energy and self-sacrifice of those who built the amenities that are still in use today.

Harcourt Heritage Centre has a wealth of information about the people and institutions of the valley. It is open every Wednesday from 9 am to 3pm.

VMR Update

How lucky are we in Harcourt to have the Victorian Miniature Railway choose this town as its location? The VMR began this project in 2016 and its dedicated volunteers are continuing to make headway toward the aim of being the largest miniature railway in the southern hemisphere. Great progress has been made.

In order to be compliant with modern safety and access requirements a new all abilities walkway has been added to the front of the station and raised passenger walk ways to move between platforms are being constructed at each end of the station tracks. President of the group, Andrew Mierisch said it would be possible to be operating now, but these are important features which need to be finished which will make the visitor experience complete.

Progress photos are below. Readers may need to be reminded that there was nothing on this hillside until the project began eight years ago. The station is a replica of the station at Maryborough Victoria. Harcourt locals and visitors are sure to celebrate with VMR when the project is completed next year.



The frame of the pedestrian track cross over at the north end of the station is matched by one at the southern end.



The gable of the front entrance to the station has recently had the commencement date of VMR added.



The replica signal box stands at the south end of the tracks. When the trains are running, a volunteer will be responsible for the track switching and signals from this box.



The ticket booth. This impressive feature is an outstanding part of the fit out of the inside of the station.



The station platforms and associated works demonstrate the extremely high workmanship required for this project. Note the wall of granite to the right. This area will be cleaned off and planted with low growing native shrubs.

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD

Visit Bendigo's Most Awarded Winery

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KEEPING MORE VICTORIANS SAFE FROM MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

More Victorians will have protection from the Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) this mosquito season, with the Allan Labor Government expanding the eligibility of Victoria's free vaccine program to additional areas across the state.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas visited Springs Medical in Kyneton to announce that from today, people living or working in Alpine, Macedon Ranges, Mansfield and Mitchell local government areas can access the vaccine.

It follows advice from Victoria's Chief Health Officer and means the vaccine is now available to people in 24 regional local government areas, primarily inland riverine regions, where there is a higher risk of exposure to the virus.

Most people with JEV infection do not have symptoms or have only mild symptoms. However, a small number (around one in every 250 people) can develop severe infection of the brain (encephalitis).

Symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle aches, and people with severe infection can develop encephalitis or meningitis which can be fatal.

The free JEV vaccine is available for eligible people through GPs, Aboriginal health services, community pharmacies and some local councils.

Victorians can contact their local public health unit for further information or assistance with locating their local immunisation provider.

Simple and practical steps that Victorians can undertake to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, include:

- ▶ wearing long, loose and light-coloured clothing when outdoors,
- ▶ using mosquito repellents that contain active ingredients including Picaridin or DEET,
- ▶ spraying or rubbing repellent on children's clothes is recommended, avoiding their skin,
- ▶ limiting time spent outdoors when mosquitoes are most active such as at dawn and dusk,
- ▶ removing stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around the home or a campsite,
- ▶ making sure windows are fitted with mosquito netting or screens.

JEV typically occurs in many parts of southern and eastern Asia, and in recent years has extended beyond its traditional boundaries to eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Torres Strait, and was first detected in Victoria, and several other parts of Australia, in 2022.

To learn how to protect yourself from mosquito-borne diseases, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-disease

From a Press Release by the Victorian State Government

Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

The Parable of the Sower

Jesus... told this parable:

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

Jesus said ...

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop ... a hundred times more than was sown."

According to Jesus' parable each person, upon hearing the word of God proclaimed, falls into one of four categories. Dear reader, please be found in category four – those who hear the word of God, retain it (receive it, accept it) persevere, and produce a crop that is honouring to Jesus and serves to extend the Kingdom of God.

Ps Roger Thurecht

SEEKING PLAYERS



HARCOURT CRICKET CLUB WOMENS SIDE

The Harcourt Cricket Club is seeking interest from women in the area who may like to compete for our women's side this season.

Please contact this page or email harcourt.cricketclub@gmail.com for more info

KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Hi everyone,

Our orchard volunteer exchange program (called Fruit Crew) kicked off last week, and it was fantastic! 30 enthusiastic vollies have put their hands up to help grow this year's fruit crop. In exchange they get weekly lessons, free fruit, and lots of cake! Our experience last year showed us that what our volunteers really valued was being part of a community - which is funny, because that was definitely one of the highlights for us as well! The program has filled up but gaps may open up, so if you're interested, head to the website: <https://theorchardkeepers.com.au/volunteering/>.

The other good news is that our fruit will be available this season at the local weekly Castlemaine Farmers Market. It's on every Wednesday afternoon at the Camp Reserve from 2pm-5pm, so we hope to see you there. (Also, keep an eye on The Orchard Keepers instagram because we may also open the Farm Shop at times.) We've got a great crop of apricots, lots of plums, apples, and pears, and even a few cherries.

Have you had any leaf curl on your peach or nectarine trees? If so, there are three things you need to know: (1) once you've got it, you've got it this season and there's nothing you can do about it now. (2) It will miraculously disappear from your trees very soon, as soon as the weather warms up and then your trees will look much better! (3) You need to take

preventive action next winter to make sure you don't get it again next year (we'll explain what to do closer to the time).

If you have curly leaves in your plum trees it's a different problem! There are lots of aphids about this year and they're the probable culprit. If you spot a patch of aphids you can wash them off or spot spray them with an organic spray (or even just soapy water). You can even cut infected bunches of leaves off, but only if it's not going to ruin the structure of your tree. Another tip for beating aphids is to check if there are ants in the tree. Ants "farm" the aphids and protect them from predators, so it's a good idea to exclude the ants from the tree with some sort of sticky barrier around the trunk. Luckily, they can't fly so this strategy usually works.

Now that flowering has finished, it's definitely time to start thinning your fruit. Thinning is the process of pulling some of the tiny fruit off, and it's one of the most important jobs in spring for all deciduous fruit types except cherries (i.e. apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears). There's no need to thin your cherry trees.

It can be a hard job to do! It feels wasteful to be throwing all that fruit on the ground, but rest assured, if you do it early (i.e., now) you won't reduce the overall size of your harvest (or not much anyway). In theory, you'll get almost the same volume of fruit, but in fewer pieces.

Here are four excellent reasons to thin:

- 1 Most fruit trees have a natural biennial bearing cycle – a heavy crop one year, followed by a light crop the following year (sound familiar?). Thinning makes the tree react as if this is its 'off' year, so it will set another full crop next year. Once you understand that, it's obvious why you have to do it every year!
- 2 To protect the structure of your tree, and make sure no branches or laterals break from carrying too much fruit.
- 3 To grow larger fruit, because the tree's energy is put into fewer pieces of fruit (you get more delicious juicy flesh and less core)!
- 4 It helps control pests and diseases by allowing the fruit to dry faster after rain (so fungal disease has less opportunity to spread), and removing habitat for pests in the lovely dark spaces where fruit hangs in bunches.

In deciding how much fruit to remove, first assess the overall crop load—does the tree have a heavy, medium or light crop? Factors like the age of the tree, how healthy the tree is, how much water you have available, how long the growing season is, and the ultimate size of the fruit can also impact how much fruit you remove.

And finally, it's definitely time to get your fruit fly traps out. Some fruit flies will have overwintered as adults, so it's important to start monitoring early in the season so you know if they turn up or start to get active in your garden. Then you can be ready with your next line of defence (e.g. netting, female traps, or an organic spray).

Happy growing!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and teach the Grow Great Fruit organic fruit-growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter and register for one of their free online workshops.



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

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

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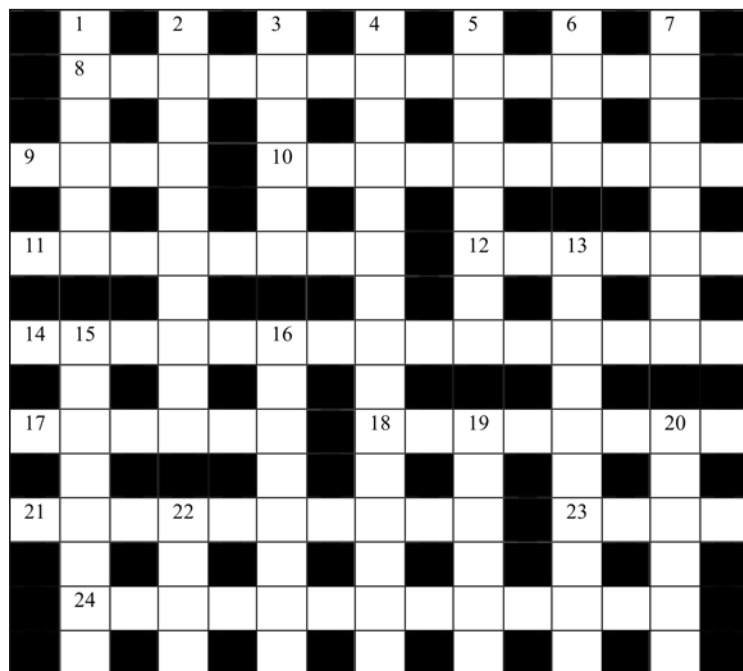
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October Solution

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

November 2024 Xword © McW November '15



Across:

8. Fairy in unique temporal conjunction? (4,4,1,4)
9. Secrete the hippo in Pythagoras for Native Americans? (4)
10. One French floor covering edition for bare boards. (10)
11. Can a slab seem to put it all together? (8)
12. Man of Steel before Howard? (6)
14. Failing to grasp the right felon? (15)
17. A backside aft. (6)
18. Aweigh! (2,6)
21. Correct neither obtuse nor acute. (5,5)

Down:

1. Common fast food repeats a lot... (6)
2. Let ace race—let him elect a race and watch him speed off! (10)
3. Shut blue robe oddly to find precinct out of town. (6)
4. Readymix urban wildernesses... (8,7)
5. The car loses, but after the race loss they can regroup and play this game. (8)
6. They breed on computer desks... (4)
7. Sounds like ET with a guide dog... (8)
13. Citing a bad case of stage-fright, and in order to forestall the 'indict-a-bag' brigade, he is relinquishing the top spot. (10)
15. Fashionable saint? Fashionable court? Innate pattern of behaviour! (8)
16. Rover gift of Chinese government to British cops? (5-3)
19. Cage in New York supplies motive force in a roundabout way. (6)
20. Muddled bird from Ypres has nothing for starters. (6)
22. What the Mafia is under? (4)

23. Key in sort. (4)
24. So clean even CC wouldn't fail to recover during this. (13)

October 2024 Xword © McW May '15



Across:

8. Contest shower of rocks for birds in exclamation...
9. What unrestrained spanakopita is missing? [*it's "un-feta-ed"!*]
10. I see loud and clear...
11. Governor Bear blasted? [*Well?*]
12. Sick, one supposes. I shall pontificate on that! [*Well?*]
14. Sites of domestic explosions? [*Well?*]
17. Swore he was hexed... [*Well?*]

Down:

1. A toff, into the bargain! [*Well?*]
2. City to lasso the endless celluloid legend.
3. After a freeway, a highway, an arterial road, a boulevard and an avenue, this is just the slightest one=[St] after the pond [*mere...*].
4. Arterial sclerosis might mark this for some... [*Well?*]
5. One of Woolf's lovers [*Vita*] and misc. components make for a positive approach to doing something about the state of things.
6. Depressed county? [*Well?*]
7. It has me as I think 'tis pity...
13. After a quiet interval [*lull*], a broken cove [*bay*] and splashed spirit [*gin*] spell out nightly singing to the small.
15. "You serious, Shylock?" [*Well?* Slur it a bit...]
16. Those who cite evidence for the dude's car [*Dud cares?*]
19. Much milder than 8ac remade.
20. Set rat to puzzle the dead.
22. Equine equivalents to momentary eyeclosures? [*Well?* A hod's as good as a sink to a blind Norse...]
18. Spanish 'H' [*Well?* Hernando...] 'O' might secrete himself here.
21. Last three of 11 might lunch here. [*Well?* If you go down to the woods today...]
23. Nary a chance of a story in this form.
24. Conceal the gems and return below clothes

Council news



High risk weather season

High risk weather season takes place between October and April, and refers to severe weather such as bushfires, storms, floods and heatwaves.

We're working with local emergency services and our community to prepare for this season.

Ways you can prepare include clearing your garden and gutters, relocating fire wood away from buildings, and making an emergency plan.

If you or someone you know needs help making an emergency plan, contact Luke or Zac on 5471 1700, or visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au and search 'Emergency Planning Assistance'.

For emergency preparation information visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/EmergencyPreparation.

Join the People's Panel

We're looking for a diverse group of residents to represent the Mount Alexander Shire community.

- Together we'll brainstorm the future of our shire
- We'll discuss key issues and plans
- You'll help guide important decisions at Council
- We'll pay you for your time.

Keep an eye on shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au for details to come later this year.

We support local businesses

We're working to create a strong plan to provide sustainable growth of our industries, and we want your feedback.

Find out more at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

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



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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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Protect your entire body on every ride.

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HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member-based organisation which encourages active participation in working groups to pursue specific areas of interest or projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. Purposes are to:

1. Provide a voice for the residents of Harcourt.
2. Identify, support, facilitate or manage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community and increase social, economic and community inclusion.
3. Encourage, support, and facilitate volunteering within Harcourt.
4. Promote and protect the character and identity of Harcourt doing such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the purposes.

Any person who is a resident or landowner in Harcourt Valley and supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership. Members who do not fall within this category but still have a connection to Harcourt through employment, family ties, previous residence or similar links, may make application to the Committee for individual consideration. Members must be aged over 18 years. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year. Any renewals or new memberships **paid in 2024 will be valid until 30 June 2025.**

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become or renew my membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. (please circle one). I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

☐ Full fee \$20 ☐ Concession fee \$10

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

SIGNED: DATED:

☐ I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 Concession for Annual Membership

Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 135, HARCOURT, VIC 3453 **OR**

☐ I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.

Please indicate your "Surname" and state "Membership" when paying online.

This application will be submitted for determination by the Harcourt Progress Association Committee and the applicant will be advised of the outcome of their application pursuant to the Rules of the Association.

30th November
James Park Harcourt
Twilight 4pm-8pm

Christmas Market

Food Vans

Wine, Cider

Live Music

Childrens Entertainment

Community Information

Landcare - NBN - Fire Safety

