



Now We're Cooking



Blumes Bakery Set for a Soft Opening in February

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING in Harcourt as Blumes Historic Bakery prepares for a soft opening in late February, leading up to its official grand opening in early March. Owners Jodie and David Pillinger have worked tirelessly to restore and revitalise the original Blumes Bakery site, which has been a

part of the community since 1918, after relocating from Barkers Creek.

The bakery seamlessly blends history with modern functionality. The beautifully restored scotch oven remains a centrepiece of the bakery and will be used regularly, playing a major role in production. While it may not be in operation during extreme

heatwaves, it will be a key feature of daily baking, as well as special events and baking demonstrations. Primarily a takeaway venue, the bakery offers limited seating and a granite wall for informal dining. Jodie and David have chosen to partner with Market Lane Coffee, known for its quality beans and strong

Continued page 4



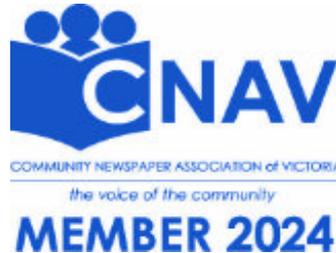
Use this QR code to read the full-colour issue of The Core online.

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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.



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COMMUNITY DIARY

Monday 10 February: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Harcourt Community House re-opens. See page 12

Thursday February 13: Close of nominations for Youth of the Year and Community Member of the Year. See page 7 for the nomination form.

Wednesday February 19: Careers Fair, Castlemaine; See page 23.

Late February: Soft opening of Blumes Bakery.

Wednesday March 5: 8.30 am – 4 pm; Lego Competition Closes, see page 26.

Friday March 7: Applefest Art Show opening: 7.30 – 9.00 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre.

Saturday March 8: Applefest at the Harcourt Leisure Centre 10–3 pm. Harcourt Valley Primary School art at Victorian Miniature Railway. (VMR)

Saturday March 8: VMR open for visitors; Harmony Way, Harcourt.

Saturday March 8: Presentation of Community Member of the Year and Young Person of the Year – Harcourt Lions Club. Venue: Applefest main stage.

Saturday March 8: Official opening of Blumes Bakery.

Monday March 10: All swimming pools in the Shire close.

Harcourt Celebrates: Save the dates on page 11.

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

Harcourt Valley Community House: Closed until February 5, then open each Wednesday 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: See page 16
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.

New Year greetings to all from the Harcourt Progress Association. We hope 2025 is a great year for you.

We would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the Victorian Government and the support from Maree Edwards MP for the \$50K grant to establish a Community House presence in Harcourt. The grant has now been expended, and we are in the final stages of reporting. We would also like to thank the team from the Department of Fairness, Families & Housing for their support throughout this project.

In the past 15 months we have used the grant to fund infrastructure and purchase equipment to run CH programs (the most significant being the kitchen refurbishment), provide secure lighting in the car park, install a security system at the house, provide WiFi throughout the building, cover overheads such as water, electricity, rent, insurances, etc; run programs such as Senior Lunches (both in 2023 & 2024), and fund a community garden consultation and plan.

We would also like to thank Mount Alexander Shire Council for the funding to host the Harcourt Christmas BBQ and Carols in the Park and the community members and organisations who made it possible including the CFA, David Schofield and Helen Shuffel, the Heritage Centre, Thompson's Foundry Band, the impromptu choir, the craft table volunteers and, of course, all those HPA members who cooked and organised on the day. Thanks go to Alison Curtis for her organisational skills in planning for the day and keeping it all on track.

We hope to have our forward plan ready for the next edition of The Core and hope to get some feedback on what residents believe are the most pressing projects we should focus on.

Cheers

Jeanette Teague

President, Harcourt Progress Association Inc.

Following a meeting on Tuesday February 6, the following are members of the HPA committee:

President – Alison Curtis

Vice President – Rena Geroe (unchanged)

Secretary – TBC although Bronnie Dean is Minute Secretary

Treasurer (including CAV Secretary) – Jeanette Teague

Harcourt Christmas



Give your feedback on Christmas decorations

In 2024 Mount Alexander Shire Council provided \$10,000 to a variety of local townships and community groups for gatherings or decorations, to celebrate Christmas.

As part of this initiative, Business Mount Alexander (BMA) supported a group of volunteers in Castlemaine to create and install decorations including wooden Christmas trees, a Santa photo board, lighting and bows hung in CBD trees and a series of festive bunting erected on shop fronts in Mostyn and Hargraves Streets.

BMA is keen to hear your thoughts and get your input into the success and outcomes for this project. Click below to have your say.

Taken from Business Mount Alexander Inc Facebook page (or search Mount Alexander Feedback Christmas Decorations).

[Give Feedback](#)

Bulk-billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens in Bendigo.

In a recent move, the Federal Government has funded a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic which provides bulk-billed, quality health care, seven days a week.

There is no need to make an appointment to attend the clinic, you just need your Medicare card.

Urgent Care Clinics treat non-life-threatening illnesses when a visit to a GP is unobtainable.

The clinic, situated at **121 Arnold Street, Bendigo** opens Friday to Tuesday from 10 am to 10 pm and from 10 am to 6 pm on Wednesday and Thursdays.

Although appointments are unnecessary calling ahead on **5445 5690** will save you time.

Blumes Bakery Opening Soon

Continued from page 1

Melbourne presence, including at Madeleines in Lygon Street, Carlton. 'We were told to go with coffee we love, and we're confident our customers will love it too.'

The journey to this point has been one of dedication and determination, with the Pillingers' unwavering vision driving the restoration and transformation of the bakery. 'This was always our dream—to create a modern bakery space that allows for continuous production of exceptional baked goods. Don't worry, the bakery will be here for another 100 years. That was always our goal—to ensure Harcourt has a bakery for the long term.'

In 2024, when native timber harvesting ceased, the Victorian Government established the Timber Innovation Fund to support businesses in transitioning to more sustainable operations. Blumes Historic Bakery secured funding to acquire a new oven for sustainable baking. Behind the scenes, the bakery is equipped with a high-quality Italian deck oven, designed to ensure consistent baking results and maintain artisan quality. The grant funding allowed for this critical investment, supporting the bakery's transition to more efficient and environmentally friendly operations.

The bakery will operate with early morning production hours, utilising the Italian deck oven for precision and efficiency to ensure fresh bread and a diverse range of handcrafted baked goods are available daily. The layout and equipment have been thoughtfully arranged to create an efficient and smooth workflow. The team at Blumes will be hard at work bringing this vision to life. 'Baking is our passion, and we are committed to crafting the best possible products for our community.'

Beyond the bakery itself, attention has also been given to the surrounding space. The intricate brickwork and granite features have been expertly completed by Marcus Houston, who was also integral in the restoration of the Scotch oven and original bakery building. Though now in another career, Marcus remains committed to the project. Locals have taken notice of the beautifully reconstructed original fence with granite footings and the striking granite entrance to the new parking area, the finishing touch will be signage created by local Neil Tate. The new Blumes logo was designed by Warrick

Lancaster, a member of the Blume family. His connection to the bakery's heritage inspired a stunning logo, which includes two pearls as a tribute to Pearl Blume, whose legacy remains a cherished part of Harcourt's history and the bakery's heritage.

Blumes Historic Bakery will have a soft opening in late February, with an official grand opening set for Saturday, March 8. This will coincide with the Harcourt Applefest, making for an exciting weekend in town.

The return of Blumes Historic Bakery is a significant moment for Harcourt. It adds another layer to the town's growing reputation as a destination for quality food, wine and produce. It's worth remembering that the bakery was part of Harcourt's contribution to Bendigo's successful recognition as a UNESCO City and Region of Gastronomy in 2019.

With doors set to open soon, Blumes Historic Bakery is ready to welcome locals and visitors alike, offering a taste of the past with every bite.



Top photo: A re-purposed rolling pin adds a delightful touch as a door handle at the entry to the bakery workshop.

Bottom photo: The view from the front door of the bakery shows saltbush plants which Jodie plans to use in some of her sourdough goods.

Harcourt Applefest and Art Show on the move



The 2025 Applefest will be bigger and better.

Having outgrown James Park and the Harcourt Heritage Centre, the Art Show and Applefest will be re-locating to the Harcourt Recreation Reserve, corner of Bingham's Road and Mills Road, Harcourt.

The Art Show will be held on **March 8 and 9** at the new location and the Applefest will run from **10 am to 3 pm on Saturday March 8.**

Please note that while the venue (and our bank details) have changed, it is the same exciting showcase of local talent and local produce that you have come to expect in the picturesque Harcourt Valley.

Sixty stallholders are booked with lots to offer, including food and coffee vans. The CWA will again serve sandwiches, scones and other baked goods with a good old cuppa inside the hall, while the local Lions Club will provide sausages,

hamburgers and egg and bacon rolls. The Applefest will also feature the Lego display (the theme for the Lego competition will be trains and railway) and, of course, apples of all types and the apple pie making (and eating) competitions. The stage will be set up outside the main hall with marquees providing some seating and shade.

Another new feature will be the children's Art Show which will be on display at the new Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR) complex in Harmony Way. This will be their first day of operation of the miniature railway and should be an ideal opportunity for families to, not only look at the children's artwork, but also have a family ride on the train.

Harcourt Applefest will feature new and old additions to the day – King Jonathon, Lady William (with their children) and Granny Smith will be distributing apple products

after their appearance on stage, Kashmiri Belly Dancers, Thompsons Foundry Band, Harcourt Valley Primary School choir, ferret races, camel rides, special events designed for children (watch out for the CFA truck for kids), as well as craft markets, homemade goodies and lots more.

The Art Show opening is always 'a buzz' as the artists are eager to learn of the award winners and hear the judge's comments on their work. It is a great opportunity to purchase modest-sized, quality original art to give as a gift or to decorate your home.

Application forms for the Art Show, Cookery Competition and the Lego Competition are all available and people of all abilities are encouraged to participate. Follow us on Facebook or look out for more information around town.

Application forms for the Lego Competition and the Cookery Competition are on the back pages of this edition of the Core.



HARCOURT VALLEY HERITAGE & TOURIST CENTRE INC.

APPLEFEST ART SHOW & SALE 2025

**INVITATION
OFFICIAL OPENING &
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Friday 7th March 2025 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
At Harcourt District Leisure Centre
Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
Saturday 8th March 10 am–4 pm
Sunday 9th March 10 am–4 pm

Harcourt Applefest Art Show, a fundraiser for Harcourt Heritage Centre, is part of the famous annual Harcourt Applefest. The 2025 Applefest will be bigger and better. In 2025 the Art Show, and the Applefest, is re-locating to Harcourt Recreation Reserve, Cnr Bingham's Road and Mills Rd, Harcourt. Please note that the venue has changed.

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY BBQ NIGHT

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Ice Cream Republic will be on site to purchase all those ice cream needs along with Robyn from Yo-Yo's Plus Harcourt with her yummy biscuits!

We are looking forward to celebrating the start of 2025 with you all!



APPLE PIE BAKING

HARCOURT VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harcourt Valley Primary School's major fundraiser each year is the sale of our famous Apple Pies at the Harcourt Applefest.



To ensure we can continue to support the school and the students in helping upgrade the grounds, holding fun activities and supplying some special lunches throughout the year, we require lots of help Along the way from our HVPS community.

Starting Friday 7th February 2025 at 9 am in the school kitchen!

If you can help, give Lou a call at the school.



WORK BEGINS ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND LEARNING HUB IN CASTLEMAINE

Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards has announced the start of works on Bendigo TAFE's new Community Health and Learning Hub in Castlemaine, which is supported by a \$4 million Labor Government investment. Locals in Castlemaine and the region studying for a career in healthcare will soon have access to first class training facilities close to home. The start of the building project, which is on Dja Dja Warrung Country, was marked by a Traditional Owners' smoking ceremony.

Bendigo TAFE has engaged Barpa, a majority First Nations owned commercial construction company, to undertake the construction. Bendigo TAFE is collaborating with Dhelkaya Health to create the Hub, which will be based in the renovated hospital wing at 142 Cornish Street, Castlemaine. The new centre will have training facilities for Bendigo TAFE's health services qualifications in subjects like allied health, nursing and aged care.

The Hub has been designed by Australian architecture firm, Architectus. It will be a multi-use space that replicates the real-world healthcare settings students will eventually work in, including a 4-bed healthcare space, a 2-bed residential aged care space and a unit that simulates a home care environment. In addition to giving students opportunities to gain healthcare skills that are in high demand, the partnership with Dhelkaya Health also means students will have direct access to placements and jobs in the local health industry.

Dhelkaya Health will also use the space for training development for staff in the graduate nurse program, external students and the Monash University GP program. It will have capacity to host more than 60 students at once. The Hub is expected to be ready for students to start training on site from late 2025. Investment in this project comes from the \$170 million Building Better TAFE Fund, which is helping to ensure students have the best facilities to train in, close to home – which is important for regional Victorians. Victoria's TAFE network is a vital part of Victoria's education system, and along with the Victorian Government's Free TAFE program, thousands of students can enter a career in high demand industries without the cost of tuition fees. For a full list of Free TAFE courses, visit: vic.gov.au/free-tafe

From a press release.





Councillor Comment

Hi all

I hope everyone has had a happy Christmas and New Year. Like many of you, we have spent a lot of time with family, including grandchildren having sleepovers. The kids were so well behaved, and there was a lot of backyard cricket played. That is about as good as it gets.

On the Council scene I attended the Australia Day celebration in Victory Park. It ran very well and it was great to see the Citizenship Ceremony. To see our newest citizens take the oath and complete the process of becoming Australian citizens is something very special.

On Tuesday we will be back at Council continuing our work on the new plan and the budget. There are many demands on finances, so the budget is always a lot of work.

That is enough from me for now. There is a lot to look forward to in 2025 and it will be great to see our new Council in action.

Very best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy

0439 742 434

Word of the Month:

Frangible

Definition:

Able to be broken into small fragments, brittle or fragile.

Possible Usage

Those bollards at the roundabout are surprisingly frangible.

Support for Young LGBTIQ+ Locals Across Mount Alexander Shire

The state government is backing connection and inclusion for young LGBTIQ+ people across the Mount Alexander Shire through the latest round of the Healthy Equal Youth (HEY) grants.

Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards MP announced that Mount Alexander Shire Council is one of 13 community groups sharing in more than \$100,000 of funding from the HEY program. The Shire will use the funds to run the Over the Rainbow project, which will provide opportunities for regional young LGBTIQ+ people to connect with the wider queer community through a series of youth-led events and excursions. These events will provide much needed safe spaces for young people to form supportive relationships and celebrate their diverse identities. Now in its 14th year, the HEY grants program aims to promote diversity, eliminate stigma and discrimination, and ensure young LGBTIQ+ Victorians are safe, empowered and celebrated. Marie Edwards said "Over the Rainbow will help young LGBTIQ+ people in Central Victoria to feel safe and empowered within their community – ensuring they can rightly be their most authentic self."

The Labor Government partners with the Youth Affairs Council Victoria to deliver the grants, which have supported more than 120 organisations and provided more than \$1.3 million of funding since 2010. This year, eight of the 13 projects receiving grants are youth-led – empowering young LGBTIQ+ people to lead mental health and social connection initiatives in their communities.

The HEY grants program is part of the Labor Government's support for programs that improve mental health outcomes for LGBTIQ+ Victorians across the state. Since the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System handed down its final report, the Labor Government has invested more than \$6 billion into Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system – the largest investment in mental health in the state's history.

From a Press Release



Harcourt Lions Club

The Club members have had a well deserved break, ending the year with a dinner at the Railway Hotel. But, we are due to get busy with a BBQ at the Harcourt Applefest on the Long Weekend Saturday 8th March 2025. Applefest will be held at the Harcourt Leisure Centre/Recreation Reserve this time and not in Stanley Park as in recent Gatherings.

We will also be holding a BBQ at Gather Harcourt on Saturday March 29th.

REMINDER: Those wishing to nominate a worthy recipient in their club or maybe a non-resident who has made a significant contribution to the Harcourt district in general for YOUTH or COMMUNITY MEMBER of the Year, please fill out the Nomination Form on page 7 of this issue of *The Core* (or the December, February or March issues and forms are available at the servo, the Harcourt General Store, Coolstore Cafe, in the primary school newsletter and on the footy club Facebook page) and forward to the Harcourt District Lions Club at P.O. Box 100, Harcourt 3453 by the closing date of 15th February 2025.

The awards will be presented at the opening of the Applefest on the Main Stage, so come along and be there to congratulate the recipients and enjoy the day.



Harcourt Lions member, Colin, in the Christmas spiirt.



Harcourt CFA

A Lesson from Los Angeles Fires

The devastating fires in California are a stark reminder of the destruction that a raging fire can cause. When conditions are so extreme there is really nothing that can be done to stop fires like this during the worst conditions possible.

There is at least one lesson that can be learnt straight away from the footage that was shown on our news and that is the importance of **Leaving Early**. Mass evacuations led to traffic jams with too many people trying to get out at the same time. Residents had to abandon their cars to save their lives which also then blocked emergency service getting into the fire zones. In the end earthmoving equipment were brought in to clear the roads.

This is why the CFA constantly stresses the importance of leaving early on high fire risk days. Not only does it reduce the risk of being caught in a fire, but is less stressful, more organised and heaps safer.

Please review your fire plan and re-assess your trigger point for leaving.



Check that you have more than one option for direction of travel and that you have your grab bag of all the essential items you need to take with you.

Closer to home, there has been the Grampians fire which has burnt through more than 76,000 hectares, starting from a lightning strike. While the fire was detected early, due to the location of the fire, access was a problem. While water bombing aircraft are advantageous in stopping the spread of fires, they are not always able to contain the fire due to lack of ground crew support. We value the support of aircraft, and at Harcourt there have been numerous times when we have been ably supported by them. But just like fire trucks, there is a limited number of them and if they are already committed to another fire, then support is further away.

Local Activity

It has been pleasing to see that things have been reasonably quiet locally throughout December and January, especially on the hotter days.

While December saw the brigade receive five calls, three of these were support calls. The first was on the 20th when we were called to form a strike team for a fire at Bullengarook.

The fire had started in the bush and was expected to burst out into the open grasslands and threaten houses and property. This did not eventuate on the day as the fire stayed in the bush.

The problem (like the Grampians) was getting access to the fire with the larger fire trucks. This resulted in our strike team, along with one other, being sent home and replaced with

the smaller slip-on firefighting vehicles working into the night.

The other two support calls were to the steam train storage shed again and to a house in Walmer where there was a strong smell of smoke inside. Both of these were false alarms and therefore we were not required.

The two primary calls for us were both fires and both were kept small due to early detection and reporting. The first at 1.25 am on the 10th was on the side of Mclvor Road and the second on the 18th just north of the freeway roundabout.

We had four calls for January. The first, on the third of the month, was to a three vehicle accident on the Harcourt North-Sedgwick Road.

Our second call, later in the month, was to support the Lockwood brigade to a vehicle emitting smoke on the Calder Highway at Ravenswood. Lockwood brigade, being closer, were able to get on scene and determine that no assistance was required.

Two later responses were to support the Castlemaine brigade for a house fire in Goldsmith Crescent in the early hours of the 28th. This was followed on the 29th to support Sutton Grange to a motor vehicle accident at the crossroads by the Sutton Grange hall. Once the first responders were on scene, it was determined that our assistance was not required and we could return the vehicles to the station.

Hopefully, we can continue to have a quieter season, and your assistance is very much appreciated in keeping the greater Harcourt area safe from the spread of fire.

Be alert, be prepared and be ready in case a fire does start in your area and know what to you are going to do to ensure the safety of yourself and your family.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



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An International Visitor to Harcourt

A recent visitor to Harcourt, Leonora Ulfhager (or Leo, as she prefers), is Swedish and has been touring Australia. She used the scheme Worldpackers to find places to stay and work during her visit. She said, 'This is the first time I have left Europe, and I wanted to combine my travel with something significant, so it's a bit more sustainable. I didn't want to travel just for pleasure. That's how I was brought up: to be thoughtful about meaningful travel. I like to stay a long time in one place and connect with that place, not just to see the tourist places because all you are doing is feeding commercial interests. I like to contribute to the country in a purposeful way. I was attracted to Australia because of the unique animals and the environment here. I wanted to see the wildlife: dolphins, whales, snakes, and other animals only found in this country,' she told The Core.

Leo holds a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Anthropology and decided to combine further study with her travels by immersing herself in a permaculture farm to the west of Noosa in Queensland where she exchanged working on the farm for six weeks in return for accommodation. Her Master of Arts, with Global Environmental History, as a focus requires research for one year. She said, 'While fully engaged in the program at the farm, I conducted ethnographic research by conducting interviews and observing the thirty people living and working together there. They had food gardens and syntropic (an intensive form of agroforestry) gardens. I used the 'emic approach' for my strategy, which basically means, looking at a culture from within. I used qualitative in-depth interviews and participant observations.'

So, what was the attraction to Harcourt? 'After four weeks in Sydney and ten days in Melbourne, I wanted a break from the city. I looked for a quiet place with some countryside which was different to Queensland and New South Wales. When a site advertises on Worldpackers, they say how many hours work are required and what kind of assistance is needed. I read the reviews from others who had stayed in Harcourt with Vicki Polglase and Paul Mizzi. The pictures and reviews were



so good, it sealed my decision. I have really enjoyed my time here and I've had the space to write up about half of my thesis from my time at the permaculture farm. Staying with Vicki and Paul felt a bit like home. I enjoyed that Castlemaine and surrounding towns with all their activity were nearby.

Leo talked about her home in Sweden. 'In Sweden, I live in the countryside in the forest; there is a village nearby with 209 people. Mum is from that area and Dad followed. I am the youngest of five children and I have a twin brother. My mum still works and has studied to become a psycho-dynamic therapist and works from home a couple of days a week. To get her qualification she worked night shifts in elderly care and studied during the day. Dad was a truck driver, but has now retired. All my siblings are in different cities in the region. Our home is in the south; I study in Uppsala which is in the middle of Sweden and is seven hours from home by train. When the university term is under way I live away from home.

'Our House is timber, with two storeys, an attic and a cellar. In winter, when we know it is going to snow, Dad takes the car and parks it down the road (which is nine kilometres long) at a neighbour's house. In winter, the ground around our house can be covered with two to three metres of snow, so it's impossible to drive. Last winter it snowed a lot, the valley got covered with snow, and the house had

snow up to the second storey. When this happens and we need to go out we have to climb out the top storey window and go outside to the attic to get the skis. Then we ski on the fields to the car and go shopping or visiting people. When we get home we have to ski up to the window with the shopping. I love it, it's fun. I was home for a couple of weeks in winter. My sister and her babies were there and I really enjoyed that time. The snow lasted for two and half months. I thought it was fun, but I was only there a short while and went to Italy, and my dad said it was not fun!

'We have a large wood fire for heating; my dad and brother gather wood for the fire from the forest. We still need to run the fire in summer – it's not like here. In the spring there are lovely flowers in the alpine meadows. My mother made a whole new area on one side of the house which is like a mountain forest area, with trees and flowers as if it is on the higher mountains.

'Our house has two atriums, one is for sitting in and has some plants in it and the other is a big one which is more of a traditional greenhouse heated by the sun. We grow as much food as possible and preserve it for the winter. We have a stone cellar where we store food. We eat our own sheep, and my dad and brother go hunting for deer and wild boar and prepare these for eating. I think it's important to understand where food comes from, especially if you are going to eat meat. I was a vegetarian for a long time, but I like meat and I try to eat from ethical sources.

'I have learnt a little about the indigenous people in Australia. I have read Bruce Pascoe's book *Dark Emu* and found it fascinating. We have our own indigenous people, the Sámi. My parents met in the north; they went to a Sámi school, and they loved the culture, so I grew up hearing about them and I have visited them; I love the Sámi people. They make their own clothes and do beautiful weaving and make their own tools. They live in the Sápmi area in the north of Sweden, Norway, Finland and part of Russia. I did my Bachelor research about the Sámi. We have issues now and historically around culture, including forced

Continued page 11

Harcourt Celebrates



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

An International Visitor to Harcourt

Continued from page 10

assimilation in the 19th century and about native title, as you have in Australia. For example, there is conflict between native Swedish farmers and Sámi because Sámi now, often have more rights. Some Sámi are reindeer herders and they have a lot more rights from the Swedish states than other Sámis without reindeer. In the past Swedish scientists have carried out “scientific investigations” e.g. phrenology (the study of skulls) “for character traits and intelligence” etc which I understand has also happened in Australia.

‘I have found strong cultural differences between the Swedish and Australian people. I was most surprised by the openness of Australians. The Swedish are distant and formal if we don’t know someone. Here in the supermarket, the cashier will ask, “How are you today?” The first time that happened, I thought I shouldn’t answer, it was just something people say, and I didn’t know what to do. I was very uncomfortable; I have now acclimatised. I like this kind of culture. It will be a bit depressing going back home,’ she laughed.

Leo is moving on to Bali, Lombok, Vietnam and Thailand before heading home to see her nephew for his fifth birthday in April. ‘I have to submit my research at the end of May, defend my thesis at the end of June and then I graduate and can spend the whole summer with my parents. After that I need to figure out what I want to do and where I want to live. I don’t want to live in Sweden; I would like to live in the south of Europe, especially Italy. I have enjoyed living in Italy previously and I would consider working in the Middle East with a research organisation. When I’m older I can settle down and do wildlife rescue which is something else I am passionate about.’

It was a pleasure to meet and spend time with such an enthusiastic and intelligent young woman, who, as an independent traveller and academic, is planning her life with her sights set on making a difference wherever she lives.

Robyn Miller



A reader has sent in this photo of an agave in flower for the first time in 35 years.



Harcourt Carpet Bowls

WE'RE BACK!

Summer Carpet Bowls has resumed playing and will continue until 26th March 2025. We have a small number of enthusiastic bowlers coming along each Wednesday night enjoying the game.

There will then be a break until we start our Winter Competition in May, providing we have enough interested to join in to play the game of bowls.

A general meeting will be advertised in the April Core so we can make the decision and then play would resume in May.

Bowlers and anyone wishing to come along and join in should arrive at 7.15 pm ready to start at 7.30 pm on Wednesday nights finishing by 9.00 pm.

Families are most welcome with players from 8 years old upwards competing in a team.

\$5.00 to play for adults and \$2.50 for U/17. Free for learners to try until a decision to join is made. Come along and give it a go, we are a friendly bunch, competitive, but friendly.

Contact John on 5474 2226 or Loretta on 5474 2453 or just come along on a Wednesday night.



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

Harcourt Valley Community House News

The operational team at the Harcourt Valley Community House (HVCH) wishes all Harcourt Valley residents a Happy New Year and hope you have had a happy and restful time over the summer, catching up with family and friends.

The House will be open this year on Mondays from 10 am to 2 pm during the school terms (excluding public holidays). Our first day back for the year will be **on Monday 10th February**. Please note this is a change from the Wednesday opening we had expected (and announced) late in 2024.

On Monday 10th February we are hosting a community morning tea from 10:30 am and everyone is welcome. Please come along and tell us about your ideas for activities or just drop in, have a chat and a look around. We are very excited to show you our new kitchen (see pictures) and hope to run cooking classes soon and offer community lunches once a month. Please keep an eye on our Harcourt Valley Community House Facebook page and Hardcore Harcourt for program updates.

Introducing the Operational Team

The HVCH now has a team of five volunteers, and I am delighted to introduce them to you: Ingrid Button, Rena Geroe, Grant Hamilton, Jess Teague and Jeanette Teague. These volunteers will be at the House on Mondays to meet and greet you.

We welcome more volunteers! If you have a bit of time available, some skills to share, or just want to be involved in the exciting task of establishing a community house in Harcourt, we would love to hear from you! Drop in on a Monday, phone 4417 8742 (leave a message... the phone is monitored but we are not always available to answer it) or email communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au

A big thank you is extended to the people who completed a survey late last year about what they would like to see at their local community house. Your thoughts and ideas are invaluable to us. It's not too late to add your voice, though. If you missed the survey you can still complete it at any time. Please follow this link: [here \(forms.gle/VjMdtPqskJC1cLcb6\)](https://forms.gle/VjMdtPqskJC1cLcb6) or use the QR code.



Hope to see you soon at your local community house.

Cheers

Ingrid, Rena, Grant, Jess and Jeanette.





Dhelkaya Health

Healthier Together

News

Construction has begun on a new Education & Learning Hub at Dhelkaya Health's Castlemaine campus. It is set to open in late 2025.

The Hub is a collaboration between Dhelkaya Health and Bendigo TAFE. It is supported by a \$4m investment from the Victorian Government.

The collaboration will give residents from Mount Alexander Shire and surrounding shires more choices to live, learn and work locally.

Once complete, the new facility will offer training in healthcare fields like nursing, allied health, and aged care.

The hub includes simulation spaces such as a 4-bed healthcare space, a 2-bed residential aged care space and a unit that simulates a home care environment. It will accommodate over 60 students.

Programs

- **Cancer Rehab & Survivorship Service**
Helping cancer survivors and their carers to regain strength, health and quality of life after cancer treatment.
T: 5471 3575
- **First Aid & CPR Training**
Nationally-recognised training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for community members.
T: 5479 1000

Events

HomeShare Community Gathering
Join us to celebrate HomeShare's achievements, listen to HomeShare stories and learn a bit more about the HomeShare program.

Time: 5.30 -7.30pm
Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2025
Venue: Ray Bradfield Room
RSVP: phone or text 0499 309 418

Opportunities

Volunteering Opportunities

- **Companion Walker Volunteer**
Accompany local individuals on a gentle one-to-one walk
- **Wednesday Club Volunteer**
Support people living with dementia in a weekly group held in Harcourt (10.30am-2.30pm)
T. 5471 3565

TAC L2P Program

This program is looking for learner drivers who want to gain the 120 hours of driving experience required for a Probationary Licence.

You must be: 16-20 years; have your Learner's Permit; be without access to a vehicle, supervising driver, or both.
T. 5479 1000

dhelkayahealth.org.au | (03) 5471 5555

Applefest at VMR

Visitors to Applefest will have the opportunity to visit the Victorian Miniature Railway site to catch up on the progress of the railway and buildings; but wait there's more: Andrew Mierisch, President of VMR said, 'We look forward to welcoming visitors to see the art work of the students of Harcourt Primary School who will have their art show within the station building.'

'In addition, there will be engines on display on the tracks and we will also have a stand at the Leisure Centre. Members will be on hand at both sites to answer visitors' questions.'



The signal box pictured was originally Signal Box A at Bendigo Railway Station and has been in the process of restoration for a good while. The Core has covered the progress of the signal box for a number of years, beginning with the story of its purchase and then its move from Bendigo to Harcourt. President of VMR, Andrew Mierisch, said, 'The signal box is 90% complete and we have passed our final (lock up) building inspection.'



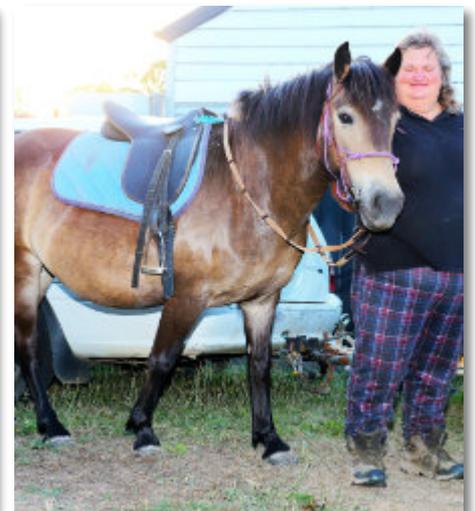
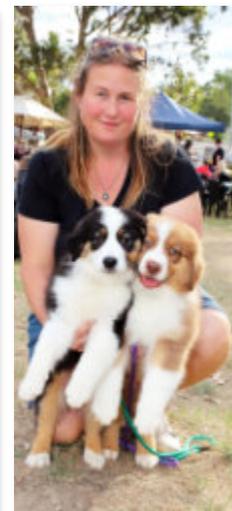
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St John Ambulance Victoria Donates Life-Saving Defibrillator to Barkers Creek Cricket Club

Melbourne, Victoria – St John Ambulance Victoria announces the Barkers Creek Cricket Club as one of the recipients of a Defibrillator and PIN Code Access Cabinet as part of its commitment to public access AEDs. The life-saving devices, which will be handed over to nine other lucky winners across the state, will ensure more Victorians are prepared to respond effectively in medical emergencies, particularly in cases of sudden cardiac arrest.



Nicki Renfrey, Geoff Courtis, Trevor Bell, Linda Bell, Club Volunteers, were present on the day to receive the device on behalf of the club.

Recent research released by St John Ambulance Australia shows that almost all Australian adults (96%) believe that AEDs are important in public locations. * St John ambulance continues to actively advocate with governments, workplaces and communities, to improve availability of public access defibrillators.

St John Ambulance Victoria's CEO, Gordon Botwright said getting more defibrillators out into the community is crucial, as you never know when this killer will strike: 'Sudden cardiac arrest still takes too many lives each year and can impact anyone, anywhere, at any time. Having a defibrillator within 400 metres allows for immediate intervention, significantly increasing the chances of survival,' says Gordon. 'We are aiming to save 500 more lives each year from sudden cardiac arrest as part of our new Strategic Plan.'

In Victoria alone, almost 8,000 people suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospitals each year. Sadly in 2023 less than 5% of victims return home to loved ones, and only 139 received a shock from a public AED.

When victims receive CPR and defibrillation within 3-4 minutes, the survival rate can be increased to as high as 70%.

St John Ambulance Victoria's Shocktober campaign raised awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and the importance of having accessible, life-saving equipment in public spaces, particularly where large crowds gather or where emergency response times may be longer. By

supplying another ten defibrillators installed at key locations around the state, St John Ambulance is working to ensure availability in communities across Victoria without prior access.

'We are proud to support the Barkers Creek Cricket Club with the delivery of this life-saving defibrillator. This device empowers the club to be better prepared for emergencies, especially because the closest device from the club is about 50 minutes' walk, and we hope it provides peace of mind to everyone who plays or visits the club,' said Gordon.

Nicki Renfrey, a club member, expressed her gratitude: "While we hope it will never be needed, this defibrillator will be an invaluable asset to the cricket club and the wider community. Many of our club members and supporters are older, and our games are often played on hot summer days, which can be a real concern. Knowing we have this life-saving device on hand gives us, and our local residents peace of mind, as it ensures we can respond quickly and effectively in case of an emergency."

In addition to the Barkers Creek Cricket Club, other recipients will be announced over the coming weeks as part of St John Ambulance Victoria's commitment to improving community health and safety.

*** St John Ambulance Australia Commissioned Survey with YouGov, September 2024 (n=1009)**



Harcourt Bowling Club

Christmas Party

Harcourt Bowling Club was beautifully decorated by Carrol Frost (who weaves her magic each year) for our annual Christmas party on Sunday afternoon December 8. This was a different format to previous years and was a great success. Members generously volunteered their time, much of the food, and prepared and served a delicious two course roast meal for eighty guests. The music was provided by renowned country and light rock band "AVALANCHE", and a special appearance from our own Joe Candy really had the place rocking. Grateful thanks to all who made this such a special occasion.



PENNANT

Charity Round

The Charity round in December was somewhat disrupted with the Midweek Pennant being cancelled. However, Weekend Pennant teams were able to

participate in the event dressed in light blue. Harcourt proudly raised \$840.00 for the nominated charity of Prostate Cancer.

Midweek Pennant will conclude their home and away games on February 10. As we go to print, all Divisions, 2, 4 and 6, are in the four, and with two more games to play, have a chance to participate in finals action commencing on Monday February 17.

Weekend Pennant will conclude their home and away games on February 22. All Divisions of 2, 4 and 7 are tracking well, with a good chance of a show in the finals. Although, with five games to play, it is a bit early to predict who will be there on March 1.

Keep an eye on the Harcourt Bowling Club, there are Pennants to be won this year!

The Green



The Harcourt green was closed during December and the early part of January to undergo much needed repair work. A lot of work was undertaken by the Greens Committee and other volunteers, and bowlers are all delighted with the outcome. Thank you to Greens Director Ron Douglas and his team for the many hours put in to produce a Green we can be proud of.

Girls on the Green



The final of the 2024 Harcourt Girls on the Green played out last November and from the feedback, the 'girls' all enjoyed the program.

The Hard's team was overall leader with Male's team a close second. The evening concluded with food and drinks.

2025 Harcourt Girls on the Green will commence on Wednesday of February 5 and continue over four weeks. These fun nights of social bowls are a great opportunity for women to get together in their own teams of three or four in a friendly environment. Teams can also be created from individual enrolments. Wear comfortable clothing and flat soled shoes (or go barefoot). Bowls and tuition is provided as well as light food and drinks at bar prices. Contact harcourtbowls@gmail.com or Chris on 0417341814 for further information and to register your interest.

HARCOURT SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

On Friday November 29 both the Ladies' and Men's Singles Championships were played out. The sizeable gallery was treated to a great bowling display, with the scores level and the lead changing in both of the games many times. Congratulations to all for a fine display of Championship bowling.

Ladies' Singles Champion



Kathy Harding and Judy Miles.

After 31 exciting ends played out over three hours, Kathy Harding was declared the Harcourt Ladies' Champion with a score of 26 over her opponent, Judi Miles, on 21.

Men's Singles Champion



Mark Swain and Phil Clarke.

Harcourt Bowling Club

continued

Played out over 30 ends and three hours, the Men's Championship game was equally exciting with Mark Swain taking the lead as Champion on 25 over runner-up, Phil Clarke, on 18.

COMING UP

Men's Annual Fours Tournament

The Harcourt Men's Annual Fours tournament will be held on Sunday February 2. This popular all-day event includes delicious lunch and afternoon tea as well as generous prizes and raffles. Results in the March Core.

Ladies' Annual Fours Tournament

Harcourt Ladies' Fours tournament will be held on Thursday February 20. This all day tournament of 2 games of 8 ends and 1 of 10 ends, includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as well as good cash prizes. Entries close on Friday February 14. Contact tournament secretary Judi Miles 0401 223 077 to enter. Results in the March Core.

Friday Socials – Fortnightly Meal Nights

From Friday January 31 there will be meals on offer each fortnight for very reasonable prices.

Keep an eye on the local Facebook pages or contact the Club for menu and pricing still to come. How exciting that we will have a meal every second Friday.

Harcourt Bowling Club 70th Celebrations

This year is the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Harcourt Bowls Club. We are planning to hold a celebration party on Saturday September 20 2025. This is still in the planning stage, but keep the date free. We have much to celebrate.



Harcourt Uniting Church

A cup of coffee to start the day has become the norm for many people in recent years. I'm one of those rare people who doesn't like coffee, even though I love the aroma of it brewing.

A friend once said, 'Come over for a coffee', which sounds so much better than 'Come over for a glass of water!'

In 2017, Barry Schofield, of St Leonards Uniting Church in Brighton, wanted to 'shake up' the fundraising for Pancake Day. He had watched a television news story featuring people sleeping rough in Melbourne and observed a bystander holding a takeaway coffee.

That cup of coffee fired up Barry's thinking. If 100 people put aside the cost of one cup of coffee each week it would add up very quickly. So, Barry, along with their minister Rev Kim Cain, introduced the first Coffee Cup Challenge to their congregation. Members were given a takeaway coffee cup and challenged to donate the cost of a cup of coffee each week, commencing on 1st October –

International Coffee Day – and ending on Pancake Day the following February. All money raised would be given to Uniting Vic/Tas (the Community Service Section of the Uniting Church) to help support people experiencing homelessness.

Close to \$150,000 has been raised to date.

At Harcourt Uniting Church we have taken up the Coffee Cup challenge for several years now, helping to raise some of those funds for Uniting to assist people in crisis, those feeling vulnerable, the disadvantaged as well as those sleeping rough. All donations will be collected when we celebrate Pancake Day at the end of February 2025.

Harcourt Uniting Church meets every Sunday at 9 am in Buckley Street Harcourt and we welcome all to join us any Sunday.

Thinking of money - It's funny how two dollars can look big when you put it in the collection plate at church, and so small when you take it to the supermarket.

Jan Jenkin

Linda Newton



Willy Wagtail



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Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Happy New Year to you all for 2025 and hello again from the Chicks with

Attitude at Harcourt CWA.

Looking at our list of activities planned for this year, it looks like Harcourt CWA has an exciting year ahead, filled with meaningful activities and community connection!

The fun has already begun! We started the year with a Friendship Lunch at The Green Folly and, as expected, it was a wonderful way to bring everyone together with fun and positivity.

Preparing for Applefest in March is always a busy time for us all. The jam-making, cakes and biscuits on sale and the terrific raffle will showcase the group's creativity and dedication.

We will focus on Sri Lanka for this year's Country of Study, and it will be fun testing new recipes and immersing ourselves in the culture in preparation for the International Day later in the year.

On a sad note, one of our long-term members, Colleen Hall, passed away recently after a long and productive life. Colleen was a remarkable woman who left a lasting impact on those around her. Colleen was often the first person a non-creative CWA member like me went to when I needed help with repairs or advice about anything creative or crafty. Every time I look at my huge, beautiful hand crocheted silk cotton tablecloth (made by my Grandma and given to me nearly 60 years ago as a 21st birthday present), I think of Colleen. She mended it for me and made sure it'll last for many more years. Thank you, Colleen.

I'd better finish now and go and water the garden. The veggies look like they desperately need a drink.

Don't forget, you are most welcome to join us at Harcourt CWA on the first Thursday of each month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre, 1.00pm for 1.30pm start. You will be made very welcome and we'll even give you a cuppa and a bikkie.

Beverley Orgill on behalf of the Harcourt CWA

PS: One of our other long-term Harcourt CWA members for many years was Iris Howarth, the Queen of the Jelly Slice!

On Sunday 2 March, Iris's daughter Robyn is a special Guest Speaker at the Castlemaine Golf Club. This event is being organised by the Castlemaine VIEW Club (with all proceeds going to The Smith Family and its Learning for Life Program for students and families facing hardship).

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Photo: Colleen Hall, taken when we in the Harcourt CWA celebrated the 90th anniversary of CWA Victoria. Colleen made the lovely layered birthday cake shown and decorated it with relevant CWA and Harcourt motifs. A woman of many talents indeed! Vale, Colleen.





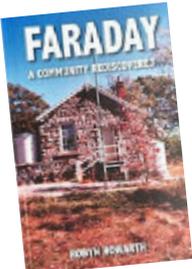
CASTLEMAINE EVENING VIEW CLUB
 INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON
 WITH
ROBYN HOWARTH
 Author of "FARADAY A COMMUNITY REDISCOVERED"
 At the
Castlemaine Golf Club
Sunday 2nd March, 2025 at 2.00 pm
 Tickets: \$20.00 including afternoon tea

 Faraday such a beautiful part of the world, a small hamlet in rural Victoria, nestled under the serene gaze of Mount Alexander. In the 19th century, this community built a granite school building that would be known as the Faraday School 797.

In 1972, the unthinkable happened, a heinous event occurred and was coined as the crime of the century, known as the Faraday kidnapping.

Two masked men burst into the school room on Friday 6th October 1972 and kidnapped the young female teacher and 6 female students, the author, Robyn Howarth, being one of those students.

Robyn Howarth, who was 10 years old at the time, tells her story of life on the farm, that heinous event and the aftermath in the long road for justice. Robyn, tells the story through the lens of childhood trauma, and the effect it had on herself and her family.



Tickets are available on TryBooking (ref: CYIWG)
 Tickets can also be purchased from Marg on 0407 022 065



Harcourt Heritage Centre

New at the Heritage Centre – a Patent Apple Box Printer.

Harcourt Heritage Centre displays a number of objects from the time when the production and sale of apples and pears dominated the economy of the Harcourt Valley. A recent and much valued addition to our museum display is a heavy machine, formerly owned and operated by Harcourt Fruit Supply Society Limited. The machine is an ABC Patent Apple Case Printer.

We can date this machine precisely because it was the subject of a news item in the Launceston *Examiner* on 8 October 1931. A year before, a prominent apple grower from northern Tasmania walked into Jackson's Lock Works and asked, 'Can't you devise a machine to cut out the curse of stencilling?' Jackson's motto was 'always striving to make the better job even better', so they took up the challenge and constructed a case printer capable of embossing 300 case ends an hour, marketing it in apple growing districts across Australia.

Without doubt, the Patent Apple Case Printer was a welcome piece of equipment at Harcourt Fruit Supply in the 1930s when hundreds of thousands of cases of Harcourt apples were exported to markets in Great Britain.

Brass letters on the machine roller impressed the Harcourt 'Doctor Apple' logo and the name of Harcourt Fruit Supply into the pre-cut pine apple-box ends, thus doing away with stencils, brushes, messy ink blocks, paper labels and paste. The machine operates on the same principle as an old-fashioned mangle and, using a heavy-duty screw press, can be adjusted to suit the thickness of the pre-cut box ends. A similar machine is in the Beaconsfield Museum in Tasmania.

An embossing press like Jackson's Patent Apple Box Printer has something in common with three other objects in the Harcourt Heritage Centre display. By its use of a massive screw, the Box Press joins a family of objects that includes the Cider Press, the Bookbinders Press and even an antique Gentleman's Trousers Press. You can exert immense pressure using a screw, pressure sufficient to impress a logo into a slab of pine, to crush apples, to hold pages together for book-binding or even to get a decent crease in a gentleman's trousers!

The humble screw had its origins in ancient times. The immediate problem was 'how can we improve the pressing of olives?' The traditional olive oil press

had been a beam-press. This involved clumsy manual effort to get a result. It was left to a man living in North Africa to make the next adaptation. History gives the credit to Hero of Alexandria, who lived during the Roman era.

Hero's solution was to cut a wooden screw using the helix design. The breakthrough came when he cut a triangle out of soft metal and, wrapping the triangle around a cylinder, drew his pencil along the line that appeared as he unwrapped the soft metal. The line thus left was the helix design.

But Hero had to make not one, but two, inventions to create the screw press. Not only did he have to design a mathematically precise (male) screw spiral, but it had to have its female counterpart (*of course*) in the nut (or crosspiece)

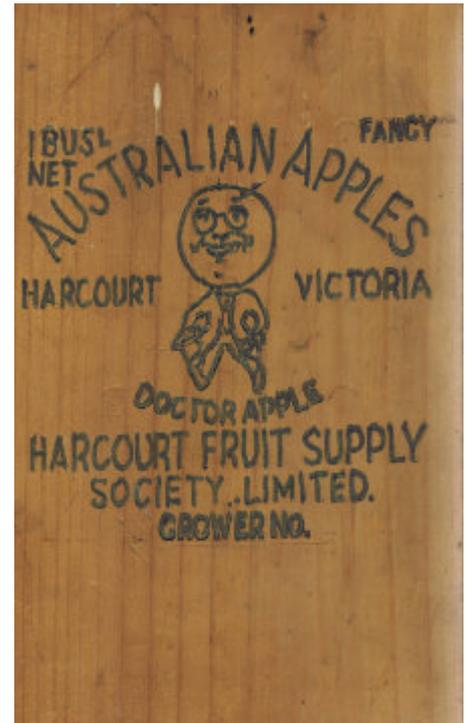
It must have been a problem – how to cut an exactly-matching spiral female furrow in the cross-piece. So Hero set to work to make the world's first screw tap. This was Hero's real triumph, described comprehensively in his writings. Hero's screw tap was made of wood with an iron cutter at its tip.

He then set up two uprights which carried a cross piece. A screw hole was made in the middle of the cross piece. The wooden screw was put in this hole and turned by means of a handspike, exerting pressure on the lid of the box containing the fruit, pressing it down till the olive oil flowed.

While few visitors pay much attention to the Bookbinder's Press in the museum display, it illustrates one of Hero of Alexandria's great inventions. Go and have a look at it next time you visit the Heritage Centre. And, when you have a moment, cut an A4 piece of paper from corner to corner, wrap it around a cylinder (narrow point first) and you will see how Hero devised the helix.

The screw-down press is a marvellous invention, not only because it is simple and compact, but also because it is capable of enormous pressure. The ability of a single man to exert a pressure of over a thousand pounds per square inch by this screw-press was unprecedented.

It was the need to make an olive press which prompted the discovery of the principles on which modern screw design is established. For hundreds of years after Hero's lifetime, people used metal spikes or dovetailing to hold



This board has no nail holes and was never part of a fruit case. It was made as a sample or display item.



The paper label which was replaced with the pressed label.

things together. Screws, as we know them, are basically the product of the industrial era. Harcourt Heritage Centre's display of a Cider Press, a Bookbinder's Press, a patent Apple Box Printer and, surprisingly, a vintage antique trouser press – is truly a window on the past – the very ancient past. Incidentally, Hero is the man who devised the means of calculating the area of a triangle. He must have been obsessed with the triangle to come up with the design of the helix and, in turn, the screw press.

Harcourt Heritage Centre has resumed operations for 2025. It is open from 9 am to 3 pm each Wednesday, or by appointment.

KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Welcome to 2025! Summer is whizzing past with its ups and downs of temperature. The birds have been intense this year! They've completely demolished anything we've been foolish enough not to net, so hopefully you've managed to protect your precious crop from the rapacious flocks.



We're full of news this month. First up, we have an online course coming up to help you write a fruit tree action plan for 2025. It's called 'Learn. Plan. Succeed' and it kicks off on February 11 (it's worth registering even if you miss the live sessions, because the replays will be made available). Over many years growing fruit we've learned that the single thing that makes the biggest difference is having a plan. Knowing exactly what you should be doing each month (or even each week) throughout the year is very relaxing and improves your chances of getting a good crop. You can register for it here: growgreatfruit.com/product/learn-plan-succeed-6-registration-february-2025

Next up is that our amazing Fruit Crew volunteer exchange program is going gangbusters again this year. Volunteers work on the farm one half

day each week, and in exchange they get weekly lessons on fruit growing and as much organic fruit as they can eat. This means the orchard (called The Orchard Keepers) is still selling fruit at Castlemaine Farmers Market every Wednesday! It's held at the Camp Reserve from 2.30-5.30pm. We've had a feast of changing fruit varieties every week and currently have lots of different and delicious types of plum and the first apples. We'll be picking the first nashi pears very soon! Check the Orchard Keepers Instagram page to see what's available each week.

You might remember a while ago we were awarded a grant by the World Wildlife Fund. Well, we finally finished all the work we were funded to do! You can check out our film, our Whole Farm Plan, and the reports on Small Farm Viability and Land Sharing Models through our website: hofcoop.com.au/innovate-to-regenerate-grant-from-wwf-australia

On to this month's top three tips to caring for your fruit trees:

1. If you still have fruit on your trees, you're very lucky, and it's not too late to net. Even a simple drape net provides at least some protection from hail damage and can really help prevent damage from birds, particularly cockatoos. Smaller and more persistent birds like parrots may need a net that goes all the way to the ground and is secured. Now that fruit fly is a real threat, if you're buying new nets consider getting nets that also exclude fruit fly, as this is the most effective prevention technique for backyard trees.

2. Keep a close eye on how much

water your fruit trees are getting, particularly in the 6-8 weeks before the fruit is ready. While we've enjoyed plentiful summer rain, things can dry out quickly so be prepared to start watering if the weather gets hot and windy again.

3. Wet conditions over summer have led to some brown rot problems for some people, so keep an eye out for it in your stone-fruit trees (it doesn't affect apples and pears). If there's any sign of it, the solution is wettable sulphur, which needs to be sprayed on the trees before every rain event. It's also important to remove any infected fruit because it can spread from one piece to another. It does take a bit of diligence, but it's definitely possible to prevent this disease from spreading and ruining your whole crop.

4. Hope we see you at our online workshop!

*Happy harvests!
Katie and Hugh*

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter and register for one of their free online workshops. For Orchard Keepers news, sign up to the newsletter at <https://orchardkeepers.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=fbf79adb0e1751518422ab3a9&id=d1ead3ac67>

Or use the QR code



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Weather & Water

At the end of the first week of December, the Bureau forecast thunderstorms stretching from Brisbane to Melbourne with a warning of heavy rain. The expected area of rain excluded central Victoria; however, we were fortunate to receive 10 mm of rain on December 10. There was no more measurable rain until January 6, (a gap of 28 days) when 13 mm was recorded.

December temperatures were mild at the start of the month and heated up at times to 'mild heatwave conditions', according to the Bureau. There was one day of extreme fire danger prior to 19 December and another with a total fire ban across the whole state on December 26.

On January 7, the day after we received rain, another day of extreme fire danger was declared, with temperatures in the high 30's. Warm air began to blow into the house from the north at 6 am. The wind shifted to the north-west (which in Harcourt is the direction from which fire usually comes), before shifting to the north-east later in the day. Overnight, (January 6 and 7), the cool change arrived, and it rained until mid-morning. This was when the fires in the Grampians began and to date (February 4) they are still not out.

The Bureau announced a mid-summer La Niña bringing summer rainfall. Well, La Niña is taking its time. January was predominantly dry, with rain being too brief and light to make any impact. Towards the end of January, a pattern began to develop with increasingly hotter days – about four in row – followed by a dry cool change. Finally, on February 2, we received 26 mm of rain (after a gap of 26 days without rain), which cooled the day until mid-afternoon, when the temperature rose again to the high 30s.

As I write, we are in the fourth or fifth day of very high temperatures and high fire danger. The CFA site indicates there were four days of total fire bans in the north-central district over December 2024 and January 2025.

Coliban irrigation system outlook 2025/26

Coliban has reported that water allocations, in the expectation of average conditions, should be 'good' for the 2025/26 period. 'Given the dry period we have been through and if the year is drier than expected, it is possible that irrigation could be cut to 50%.' The lowest allocation of 0% was during the ten-year drought in 2006/7. 'Our water supply outlook suggests that, even under worst conditions, we will have greater than 24 months' supply over the coming year.'

www.coliban.com.au/about-us/policies-and-plans/annual-water-outlook

Link to the original source on the ABC website: bit.ly/4aG0kLH (or use the QR code).



Reservoir Levels as at 19 January:

Upper Coliban:	68.8%	(83% as at 17 November 2024))
Lauriston:	91.3%	(79.9%)
Malmsbury	16.8%	(33.1%)
Barkers Creek	36.2%	(38.7%)

Data sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel, the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ. As Jesus hung on the cross paying the price for the sin of mankind he uttered these immortal words ...

"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do."

Similarly, Stephen, the first martyr in the modern-day church, had this to say as his religious persecutors stoned him to death ...

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep (died).

Jesus prayed ... referring to Father God in heaven ...

"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

Similarly, Stephen the first martyr, prayed ...

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Just prior to this Stephen described the scene that he could see ...

"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man (Jesus) standing at the right hand of God."

Now, ordinarily, Jesus is described as being seated at the right hand of God. Therefore, on this occasion, he rose to his feet to acknowledge the imminent arrival in heaven of the first martyr in the Christian era. This was a singular recognition of the grace and forgiveness Stephen displayed towards his murderers.

Bringing this down to a principle that every Christian should adhere to, the Apostle Paul had this to say to the Christians who lived in a town named Colossae ...

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel. Won't you forgive someone today? Will you follow in Jesus' footsteps and do so? Will you take a page out of Stephen's book and forgive somebody today, just as you have been forgiven?

Roger Thurecht
Pastor, Grace Church

Grace Church

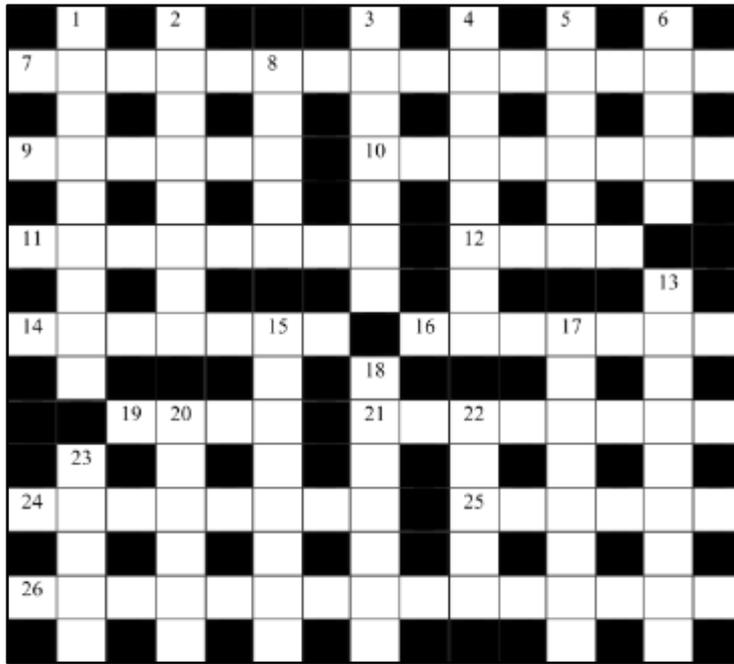
Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

February 2025 Xword © McW Sept '19



Down:

1. You'd get a dodgy rub from minder. (9)
2. Pursuers of the Crown taken to their logical conclusion? (8)
3. Address as a lure, etc. (7)
4. Don Juan is just *over* promissory notes, and adopts a suitable demeanour for the library! (8)
5. Get a licence and romp it in! (6)
6. Either way you look at it—up, down—it's horizontal! (5)
8. Girl with zilch gets wild steer. (5)
13. When identifying white material on a quiz show, ask about the blast area before having a real stab at it... (9)
15. Get deep exit done quickly. (8)
17. Pulls back about pleasurable events provided. (8)
18. Six twenties could provide one. (7)
20. Toys terribly with his 18 as a first... (6)
22. See look, hear step... (5)
23. Low-grade fur pains the French a little over US city. (5)

Across:

7. It is not some cell these surgical procedures are removing, but two hard-to-swallow bits ... (15)
9. Misspelt Timber Island? (6)
10. Top deals from spring dam? (8)
11. Our six are saying hooroo for now. (2,6)
12. He chooses to knock one of the spots off the alternative. (4)
14. Administrator has golf equipment sundered by oxidation. (7)
16. Usually, alas, rue the Ural Sea... (2,1,4)
19. TV cake? (4)
21. Something from lab to ascertain whether the old tyre is punctured? (4,4)
24. Bert was a bit of a stranger once... (8)
25. (1,5) would not make you comfortable (2,4)
26. A wet Thunderer, eh? A bit Brahms & Liszt... (5,3,7)

December 2024 Xword Solution © McW July '15



Down:

1. [Said] to be parts of a platform.
2. May be put on either L or R ["putting on side"]
3. [Job cards lead] all the way up...
4. Tell how a vegetable is insinuated into a text. (5)
5. Bubbly retired top worker? [ex-uber-ant]
7. Sounds like small fry still available in some big libraries. [Well?]
8. Are [satiny figs] meeting all requirements?
11. Soft touch on the Scots' back dam [Ness] for salami etc.
13. Quiet [P] occupation of top office.
14. Needs to be switched on to think? [Well?]
16. Elgar's one & two at the Proms? [Well?]
20. It was not child's play to put one of these on your Wild West rifle...
21. Metal junction to darken windows?
22. Leaving might get the crease out, but it'll often return to this...

Across:

1. Hit rider? [Well?]
6. Endless smash, unknown [X] at first, is just the thing for Noel. (4)
9. [Rice] scattered throughout, with no [O] sound is improper. (10)
10. This cat's few meats, at least partly. (4)
12. If you're going to be like that, I'd prefer you to adopt a sober posture. (12)
15. Type of idiocy to be had away from the city... [and 15 & 16 depends on drought breaking.] (5)
16. Power [ability] of six [VI] can do, shows it's feasible. (9)
17. Spray in the general direction of political marketing. [Well?]
18. Grey, and acting like a chook... [Well?]
19. Railway navvies' two foremen? [Well?—double-gangers...]
23. Pond version of Brahms and his fellow muso [Liszt]? (4)
24. Raiding the fort is Simon's way of being very loud. (10)
25. Where Jake the Peg should have been kept! [Well? Three feet in one...]
26. A 19 sort of surname? [Well?]



Council news

Explore the Careers Fair

The Castlemaine Careers Fair is a free event that will help you explore a new path and build the skills you need for a successful career.

When: Wednesday 19 February

Where: Castlemaine Town Hall

Book online at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CastlemaineCareersFair.

Apply for an Event Grant

Our Event Grants program supports local groups who are running public events.

Applications for the next round open on Monday 17 February and close on Friday 14 March.

Learn more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants.

Stay cool in the pool this summer

Outdoor pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead are open until Monday 10 March.

The pools offer a variety of activities, including lap-lane swimming, barbecues, aqua aerobics and inflatable fun.

Find out more at mountalexanderpools.com.au.

Come along to a Council meeting

The first Council meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday 18 February from 6.30pm.

You can read the agenda and a list of upcoming meeting dates at mountalexander.vic.gov.au, and you can livestream each meeting on YouTube - search Mount Alexander Shire Council.

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

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

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

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

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Advertising rates

Business Card Size (55x90mm) pre-paid for:		Larger ads invoiced monthly	
3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$110	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35

From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday

Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25





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

Castlemaine Community House
30 Templeton St
(enter via back door/garden)
For information phone Chris 5470 5508
First in first served, so be prepared to wait.

WE WILL TRY TO REPAIR ALMOST ANYTHING
CLOTHES - FURNITURE - ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
TOYS - BICYCLES - etc

You'll have a chance to join our fixers to learn how to repair your useful items - to take up some new skills and avoid throwing your items into landfill.

f Castlemaine Repair Cafe

castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

2025

Feb 23

Mar 30

April 27

May 25

Jun 29

July 27

Aug 31

Sep 28

Oct 26

Nov 30




SUDOKU

Difficulty: Moderate

December Solution

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

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

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



HARCOURT
APPLEFEST
2025

COOKERY COMPETITION

Please complete this form and present to inside the Harcourt Leisure Centre by 10.30am on March 8th

Open Section

- 1. Apple Pie**
- 2. Apple Muffins**
- 3. Apple Muffins Gluten Free**
- 4. Apple Cake**
- 5. Apple Cake Gluten Free**

Secondary School

- 6. Apple Muffins**
- 7. Apple Muffins Gluten Free**

Primary School

- 8. Apple Muffins**
- 9. Apple Muffins Gluten Free**

Preserves Section

- 10. Apple Chutney**
- 11. Apple Jam**
- 12. Dehydrated Apple**

Conditions of Entry

Tick the box next to your entry. One form per entry.

Apple Pies: Must be baked in a 20cm pie dish. Must have a bottom & top crust.

Pie top must be whole. Homemade pastry only. Do not add other fruit to the apple.

To be presented on the plate or dish on which it was baked. To be covered in clear wrapping.

Apple Muffins & Apple Cakes: No packet mixes. To be covered in clear wrapping.

Apple Chutney, Jam & Dehydrated Apples: Jars 250g - 350g only, labeled and dated.

Jars to be clean and polished.

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

All entries to be picked up after 2pm on Applefest Day March 8th



HARCOURT APPLEFEST 2025

LEGO COMPETITION

Please complete this form and present your creation to
Harcourt Leisure Centre (63 Bingham's Road)
Wednesday 5th March between 8.30am & 4.00pm

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	4 years and under	Make something using one colour (Using Lego Or Duplo)	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	5-6 years	Build something that floats	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	7-8 years	Build the letters in your name	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	9-10 years	Build food items to create a Lego lunch	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	11-12 years	Make a carnival ride	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	13-17 years	Build a volcano with an opening in the middle	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Big Kids Lego 18 +	Design a monster	1st 2nd and 3rd Sashes
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Primary Student	Build a Railway	Sashes & 1st \$25, 2nd, \$15, 3rd \$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Secondary Student	Build a Railway	Sashes & 1st \$25, 2nd, \$15, 3rd \$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Open 18 years +	Build a Railway	Sashes & 1st \$25, 2nd, \$15, 3rd \$10

Exhibitors, Please Note

All your amazing creations must be on strong sturdy bases so they can be moved easily,
 like a cake board, bread board or tray.

Kit models & freestyle welcome, no size limit.

Please label with your name, age, class and contact number on the bottom of the board/tray.

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

All entries to be picked up on Applefest day, Saturday 8th, after 2pm - or Sunday 9th between 9am - 2pm,
 from the Harcourt Leisure Centre. Any queries Contact Diane Dooley on 0456 309 020

HARCOURT

APPLEFEST
2025

Saturday 8th March 2025
New Location - 63 Bingham's Road
(Harcourt Leisure Centre), Harcourt
Time - 10am - 3pm

Featuring

Kashmir Belly Dancers, Magician Richard Vegas
Thompson Foundry Band, Vintage Vixens

Competitions

Baking, Lego, Apple pie eating

The Zone

Laser Tag & Rockwall

Market Stalls





and SOS - The Australian Tribute Band presents

Gather ABBA or ABBA Gather!!

March 29th 2025 7pm

**Food Trucks & Drinks available from 6pm
James Park, Harcourt**

**Tickets at: <https://events.humanitix.com/gather-abba-or-abba-gather>
or head to Gather Harcourt Facebook page/events**

**This is an outside concert - but we have it covered if its raining.
An alternative inside venue has been tentatively booked.**