

Hospitality is Thriving in Harcourt



Kamal, new owner of the General Store.



Cafe Lingo's Judy Gleeson

At the Harcourt General Store, life will go on pretty much as before, but now under the management of its new owners, Kamal and Vinay. To have Annette leaving may feel like a blow (see our Farewell to Annette on page 5), but Kamal and Vinay have already moved into the house behind the store, and are keen to become active members of the community.

Kamal has 17 years' experience in hospitality in Melbourne, and Vinay has come from a business background in Sydney.

They intend to keep to Annette's winning formula, supporting local businesses and providing an outlet for local producers, as well as an exhibition space for artists.

One new thing they intend to add in the near future is

craft beer, so that's exciting!

They're also about to add a community noticeboard to the outside of the building, so keep that in mind for letting people know about lost dogs, things for sale, or events.

They hope the Store's many regular customers will continue to support them, while they continue to support local businesses. Kamal told us that he's very excited to become a part of the community. He calls himself a "new local" – a most apt description!

Their Facebook and Instagram pages will continue as before. A new website is under construction. You can contact Kamal on 0452 625 043.

The General Store is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 9 am to 3 pm.

Café Lingo is the newest café in Harcourt. And it is a little different. No vehicle noises here, just the sounds of laughter and nature.

This café is affordable, a little quirky, with a relaxed atmosphere. You can settle in with a board game, share a pizza, or try an awesome ice cream sundae. You can indulge in fresh coffee and the full range of cafe offerings to the sounds of birds in the flowering gum trees and many other native plants.

On a hot day, you can enjoy the air-conditioned gallery building or find a shady spot outside.

During Spring and Summer, Café Lingo is open Friday and Saturday 10 am to 8 pm, and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. On Fridays and Saturdays you can go there for

dinner, or grab a takeaway.

Café Lingo is available any time for private functions. You could plan a memorable children's birthday party, including Mini Golf, for example. Call to enquire on 0417 485 327.

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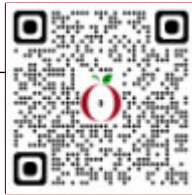
We're Still Here!

After the resignation of Robyn Miller, long-time and irreplaceable editor of *The Core*, we've gathered a team of three volunteers who will humbly attempt to maintain her standards. (Luckily, we still have Bernie Schultz, who does the other half of the work, and without whom *The Core* wouldn't exist.)

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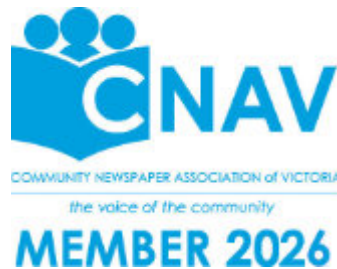
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Use this QR code to read
The Core online.

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.



COMMUNITY DIARY

HADCRA drop-in sessions: Wednesday 7 & 21 October 10–11 am or Friday 16 & 30 5–6 pm (see p. page 17 for details)

Saturday 17 October: 11 am–3 pm VMR Community Day (see notice p. page 12)

Sunday 18 October: 10:00 am–12:00 pm Working Bee at Harcourt Valley Community House (see notice p. page 17)

Sunday 25 October: 2:30 pm Sunday Afternoon Concert, Harcourt Uniting Church Buckley St (see notice p. page 6)

Thursday 29 October: 7:00 pm HPA Annual General Meeting, Community House (see p. 4 for details).

Wednesday 4 November: 4–6 pm Help Design the Community Garden at HVCH (see p. page 11 for details)

Saturday December 5: From 6:30 pm Gather Harcourt TUSK - The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show. (Details back page)

Each Friday: Community Lunch, 12 noon to 1.30 pm Community House, Station Street Harcourt. See page 13 for other services and
Each Sunday: Harcourt Choir 2–4pm Community House.

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

CFA: Brigade meets at 8.00 pm on the third Monday of each month. Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs start 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.

Community House: Open each Wednesday from 12:00 am to 3:00 pm, closed in school holidays. See page 19

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

Grace Church: Sunday Service at 11.00 am at 30 Buckley Street. Prayers at 10.45 am, followed by warm fellowship and a shared lunch. All welcome. We also have House Church in various homes from 10.30 am on a Wednesday. Please ring 0422 605 897 to ascertain the location for that week.

Harcourt Bowls Club: see page 20 and the website: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

Harcourt Lions Club: Second Monday of the month at Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way at 6.30 for a shared dinner and 7.30 for meeting.

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

Leisure Centre Committee: 7.30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each even-numbered month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

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

Repair Café: Last Sunday of the month from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. See ad on page 23 for more information.

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.

Victorian Miniature Railway: Open 10 to 4 every Sunday at 3643 Harmony Way C794 Harcourt.

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.

LMCT:10769

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HPA Chairman's Message

Special Greetings from our H.P.A. Board Members.

It is certainly becoming more reassuring, when driving around Harcourt District and the Mountain surrounds, to observe the activity underway relating to our ongoing recovery from the January 2026 event, including:

- ▶ some now well-advanced new home frameworks, progressing in some instances to the wall cladding stage or more;
- ▶ a number of portable homes or cabins now in place and occupied; and
- ▶ ongoing clean-up works on both private and public property.

I am privileged to present the following comments from our HPA Board on a number of activities, events and occurrences which each promote, support and indeed, draw external support to our great Harcourt Community!

1. Harcourt Football Netball Club

Our hearty congratulations and cheers go to the senior football team in taking out Talbot in the 2026 Seniors Grand Final Game. A great victory for Harcourt. (As an aside, the team members might be able to provide some critical training advice to my poor old Essendon!)

2. Our new Harcourt and District Community Recovery Association (HADCRA)

A special thank-you to the community members who came forward to establish and support HADCRA. Also, congratulations to those members who have been elected as the HADCRA Board. We would encourage our wider community to support HADCRA in its programs and services and especially, it's working with the Mount Alexander Shire Recovery Committee, for a progressive recovery and importantly, a great visionary future for our Harcourt Valley.

3. Community Activities/Events

... and their dedicated support for and promotion of our Greater Harcourt

As we approach our next HPA Committee Annual General Meeting, and my almost one year as

Chairperson, I would especially like to take the opportunity to applaud and convey special appreciation and congratulations for the fantastic work which so many of our highly dedicated Harcourt community members undertake each year: serving on respective Community Committees, planning for and organizing a range of activities, conducting some amazing public events and activities to each of: - provide sporting and other activities and events for our community and overall, to promote the range of opportunities in our District. Events and activities which include:

- ▶ to provide ongoing:- sporting, social interaction, essential community services and other promotional activities, etc;
- ▶ to publicise our Greater Harcourt to the wider community; and
- ▶ importantly, draw thousands of both district residents and outside visitors, to participate in and enjoy those events and activities;

all of which contribute to providing a whole range of benefits back into our Harcourt community. These community organisations include:

- ▶ Country Women's Association – Harcourt Branch;
- ▶ Gather Harcourt Event Committee;
- ▶ Harcourt Applefest Committee;
- ▶ Harcourt Bowling Club;
- ▶ Harcourt CFA Volunteers;
- ▶ Harcourt CORE Publication Committee;
- ▶ Harcourt and District Community Recovery Association, HADCRA;
- ▶ Harcourt Football and Netball Club;
- ▶ Harcourt Heritage Committee;
- ▶ Harcourt Lions Club;
- ▶ Harcourt Progress Association Inc;
- ▶ Harcourt Valley Community House Committee;
- ▶ Harcourt Valley Landcare;
- ▶ Other Harcourt Groups, providing for activities, including:- (carpet bowls, cricket, pony club, soccer, tennis, etc.);
- ▶ VMR's fantastic Miniature Railway Complex.

4. A Mens and Womens Shed Facility

A special thank you to the many community members who have already formally indicated their support for

such an establishment in Harcourt. We encourage any further feedback, which can be directed to our HPA Secretary via email to secretaryhpa3453@gmail.com.

5. The Harcourt Tools Library

Just a reminder that if you need to undertake works which require the use of special tools and you do not wish to purchase same.... check out our "up and running" Harcourt Tools Library. If anyone wishes to borrow items, they may contact Jarrod Coote on 0438 069 849.

Tools currently available include: wire spinner, post drivers for large & small posts, Gripple strainers, Knipex pliers.

6. The "LandMate" Fence Re-construction Program:

Another reminder this program provides assistance to property owners, in the re-construction of fencing lost in the fires. Support is via fencing crews of trusted, low security prisoners whom, as part of the Disaster Management Program, are assigned to rebuild burnt farm fences. For further information or application forms for such fencing assistance, you may contact our HPA Committee by email to: vicechairhpa3453@gmail.com.

7. For your information

Concerning the public toilets next to the Harcourt Pool and the Children's Playground

I was approached by a resident the other day questioning why the above facilities had been closed for some weeks. I lodged an inquiry with the Shire Office and received the following response –

"Unfortunately both toilets were subject to criminal damage/ vandalism and are not currently safe for public use. We are taking remedial measures/ repairs to both facilities and it is hoped that they will be re-opened within the next month."

It is disappointing for our community, which has lobbied for these facilities for the use of our residents and visitors, that some individual/s vandalise them.

If residents happen to witness any such inappropriate activities, we encourage you to inform the police.

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8. Important Notice

Our upcoming HPA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 29 October, 2026, 7.00 pm, at the Harcourt Valley Community House (Station Street)

We encourage interested community members to:

- ▶ Register your interest in membership of the Harcourt Progress Association (HPA). To be a voting Member, you must have paid your dues by 15 October 2026. See the membership form opposite or on the HPA website.
- ▶ Record your intention to attend the Annual General Meeting.
- ▶ Record your intention to nominate for a position on the HPA Board.

You can use the QR Code below to RSVP. The link will take you to a Google form.



Cheers,
Ivan Gilbert, Chairperson



Springtime at Leanganook. Suzanne Dwyer.

Robyn's Goodbye to *The Core*

Prior to 2013, the Mount Alexander Shire received funding to aid a planning process for the small towns surrounding Castlemaine. Out of that planning process, the Harcourt Progress Association was established. The main document driving the direction for HPA was the Harcourt Community Plan of 2013. It contained lots of background information about our small town. It also listed all the local clubs and groups active in the community. The plan was the first document created by the HPA in conjunction with and with the support of the Shire.

It contained objectives to support, develop, promote and strengthen the town. As part of the goal called Connecting Community it was decided that we needed a local newspaper. Just prior to this, a young couple, Kelly Aitken and her husband had started an occasional newsletter using the apple logo which we still use today for *The Core*. At a meeting of the HPA, I put my hand up to be the editor. I really wasn't sure what I was going to do as editor or how we would produce it!

A key person was the secretary of HPA at the time, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns. She had many ideas about activating the town. One of the first public events she organised for the HPA was a community barbecue at Harcourt Valley Winery. That event was the focus of the first issue of *The Core* in December 2013. It was a single A3 page.

Although I had lived in Harcourt since 1990, I worked full-time until 2012 in a demanding role, so the HPA and *The Core* were the vehicles that helped me learn about my community, and all the organisations in it. In my last couple of years at Bendigo TAFE, I studied Professional Writing and Editing and brushed up on my design skills in desktop publishing. My first efforts at publication were amateurish.

Initially the paper was printed at the Shire offices and then at local photocopy services. The next step was that it was decided to purchase a second-hand photocopier. As it would print, but not fold A3 paper, we recruited a team of volunteers and thus *The Core* folding team was born. The members of that team are still with the paper today and I thank them for their support and friendship over the years.

A major breakthrough in the production of *The Core* happened by chance when I went to the function of Bernie Schultz's retirement from the

Post Office and just happened to ask him would he be interested in helping with *The Core*. As a result, Bernie has become the backbone of production process. The quality of *The Core* improved remarkably, and continues to do so, because Bernie has a keen eye and superior display skills.

The Core has always been a joint effort, but it became even more so when Sha Cordingley joined the group as co-editor in February 2023. I could not have continued in the role without Sha's support and expertise as we shared the 11 editions, month about.

The Core has an editorial committee which has had oversight of each edition, and I want to thank each and every one of the members who have turned up every month over the years, with special recognition to Michele O'Brien who has been the secretary of the committee from the get-go and has now also retired.*

And now, since I am unable to continue due to health issues, I am thrilled to say that *The Core's* editorial team has expanded to three! Sincere thanks and best wishes to Janet Carr, Julie McHale and Suzanne Dwyer as they take on an exciting challenge to promote and strengthen *The Core*. And not to forget our contributors, many of whom have written faithfully each month – thank you – without you there would be no *Harcourt News/The Core*.

Robyn Miller

*** This is the list of present and past members of the *Core* Team:**

Robyn Miller, Sha Cordingley, Bernie Schultz, Alison Curtis, Bronnie Dean, Stephen Carthew and Gina McWilliam.

The crew who fold and distribute the *Core*: Liz Bini, Moira McLennan, Liz Rowe, Liz & Peter Ward.

Past members of the team have been Genevieve Ward, Lois Denham, Pauline Wilkinson, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns, Vera Hemkes and Michele O'Brien. Apologies for any oversights.

The members of the *Core* team express their sincere thanks to Michele O'Brien who has also retired. Michele was our minute secretary for many years as well as a proofreader with an amazing eye for detail.

Reflections and Thanks

After thirteen years at the helm and 137 editions of the Harcourt Core, the Editorial Committee, both present and past, bid a heartfelt farewell to Robyn Miller, the visionary founder and dedicated editor of our community newspaper.

Robyn's journey began with a modest, single-page, folded A3 leaflet. Launched as a humble project to keep neighbours connected, it quickly grew under her guiding hand into a vibrant, 28-page publication that has become an indispensable part of local life. From community events, sports and social milestones to council updates and environmental news, Robyn poured her heart into capturing the true essence of the region.

With a notepad in hand and a camera around her neck, Robyn was a familiar, welcoming fixture at local events. She ensured every local voice had a platform, treating every story with meticulous care and professionalism. Her tireless volunteer hours, keen eye for detail, and unwavering commitment have not only left an indelible mark on our community but have also established a vital historical archive for our town.

What truly sets Robyn apart is her deep, unmatched local knowledge. She didn't just edit the news, she lived it through her long-standing connections with organisations and groups across Harcourt and the greater region. Robyn possesses an innate understanding of our community's heartbeat. She knew instinctively which stories mattered most, and which events deserved the front page each month. Whether highlighting a quiet act of kindness or bringing crucial regional issues to the fore, her editorial judgment guided our monthly narrative with precision, empathy, and insight.

While we will deeply miss Robyn's editorial vision, community intuition, and warm leadership, we wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement. Thank you, Robyn, for your



friendship, your years of selfless service, your wisdom, and for being a wonderful example of how to build a supportive, compassionate community.

Bronnie Dean

Farewell to Annette!

The Harcourt Produce & General Store, the vision and creation of Annette Larsen, is a remarkable achievement - the space itself, before you add any contents, is a thing of beauty, combining warmth with elegance.

And then you add the contents:

Firstly the food - the delicious menu, Annette's famous Danish pastries, and the exquisite display of sweet temptations...

And then there's the stock - Annette's own range of products, developed in a way that has enabled several locals to establish their own businesses. And the endlessly fascinating collection of gift items, and the work of local artists and craftspeople, displayed in such a way that even when the Store is so busy that one has to queue to order, it becomes a pleasure, just to get to browse. And of course, there's the rack upon rack of regional wines, beautiful displays in themselves.



And finally, the staff - the Store now provides employment for 16 locals!

It seems like a miracle that one building can contain so much.

And at the centre of it all has been Annette herself, unfailingly gracious, warm and welcoming.

Undeniably, the Store has had a major impact on Harcourt, and it now serves as a central meeting place for the community. In fact, one of the things Annette says she is most proud of is the contribution the Store made to putting Harcourt on the map. She should also be proud of the way it has continued to adapt and develop through the years, coping with COVID, and going above and beyond to help serve the community after the devastating fire in January.

As she hands over the reins to Kamal and Vinay, she says she hopes the community will continue to support the business, and thus, all the other businesses it supports.

After years of hard work and 5 am starts, Annette is finally getting to take a break - and she's about to start travelling the world! We wish her all the best. She will be long remembered for the huge value she has added to Harcourt.

Sunday Afternoon Concert

2:30 Sunday 25 October 2026

Harcourt Uniting Church

Buckley Street Harcourt



Baroque music, young performers

Older musicians and story-tellers

Harcourt Recovery Choir

Afternoon tea

Entry is free but donations will be gladly accepted to help the Harcourt community re-establish.

Program Order

John, Jo, Jennifer

Bertie Challender and Mary c/o Jem

Rex Odgers and Solway, with George

Leg-stretch break for 2 minutes

Thoma and Camille c/o Jem

Jan Jenkin story

Harcourt Recovery Choir

Afternoon Tea

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

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday

All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht

0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

Hospitality is Thriving in Harcourt

Continued from page 1

The Harcourt BP Service Station has entered a new chapter, with Simone Leatham taking over the role of manager and working alongside Bowser Bean to give the store a fresh new makeover.

Simone has been with Bowser Bean for seven years, having previously run their site at Juneee. She's looking forward to developing and improving the premises, while still continuing to provide Harcourt with a seven-day-a-week service, with all the food and the excellent coffee we're used to, alongside lots of new additions to the menu. You can now get pizza every day! And as well as their familiar parma Tuesdays, there are now other tempting daily specials, so go check them out.

As people may remember, Bowser Bean had a kombi van providing free coffee after the fire, and Simone wants everyone to know that she's keen to meet community needs in the future wherever possible.

So, drop in to talk to her about catering for special events.

You can keep up to date with Bowser Bean developments via their FB page.

The servo is open every day, from 5 am to 8 pm during the week, from 7 am to 8 pm on Saturdays, and from 7 am to 6 pm on Sundays.

A Small Space and a New Beginning

It's been a big year for our family, and like many people in Harcourt, the months since the January fires have taken us in directions we didn't expect.

After losing our cafe on Coolstore road, we've spent some time bunkering down with our kids, working on different projects and finding our feet again. But one thing has become very clear along the way – Remy has really missed making coffee.

He's missed the routine of café owner life, being behind the machine and serving the Harcourt community.

So, we're very excited to share that we are opening a new little coffee spot in Harcourt.

The new space isn't intended to be like Coolstore cafe, instead we're creating a cosy hole-in-the-wall sized, espresso bar. A place to stop in for a really good coffee with something simple and freshly baked to go alongside it.

It's still early days and there's plenty of work to be done before we open the doors, but little by little it's starting to take shape.

For me, it's the fun in creating a new space. For Remy, it feels like a chance to get back to something he loves.

Watch this space. It's on its way.



Bonnie Sowman

Introduction to *The Core's* New Editors

The Core's new editors are Julie McHale (Auntie Julie), Suzanne Dwyer and Janet Carr. After the scary cover of the last issue, suggesting that the Core might have to close down, all three put their hands up to save it, because they all feel strongly that the Core plays an important role in Harcourt's community, and most definitely shouldn't be lost!

And they could see that it would need a team to replace Robyn, who's done such an amazing job all these years!

Julie McHale will be known to most people around here as Auntie Julie. She spent her working life as a primary teacher and school principal, at Guildford, Campbells Creek and Winters Flat schools, so she brings management skills to the job. Her other major area of expertise is in the areas of bush foods and indigenous culture.

Suzanne Dwyer will also be known to most people in Harcourt, as she's worked behind the counter at the local BP for eighteen years. She has an Advanced Diploma in Visual Arts, majoring in photography, making her an essential member of the team. Her other passion is for dogs, both her own and the others she cares for.



Welcome to our new editorial team. From the left: Julie McHale, Suzanne Dwyer and Janet Carr.

Janet Carr moved back to Harcourt fifteen years ago, after a varied career in Bendigo, Melbourne and Hong Kong. She has worked as a trainer, an editor, a technical writer and an office manager, so she also has relevant skills to bring to her new role.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls

Winners Are Grinners

Another season of Harcourt Carpet Bowls has been completed with the playing of the grand final on Wednesday the 16 September 2026, followed by our breakup dinner, held at the Five Flags Hotel in Campbells Creek on Wednesday 23rd September, when the shield was handed by Des Dooley to the captain of the Rebels team, Dawn O'Haire, with other members Tyrone Rice, Kay Francis, Colin Mierisch.

The final game was played between last year's champs, Rebels and RSL. This was a very competitive game up until change ends, when Rebels took over. Final scores were Rebels 20 to RSL 14.

In August, Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association held a bowls tournament to raise funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group. We had a good turnout of Legacy members who joined with our members for a round robin tournament.

With entrance fees and a raffle, the money raised was handed to Legacy member Dennis Cox and then passed onto Treasurer George Milford. Winners and runners up were all given prizes, thanks to Kevin Earl, and a selection of prizes were won in the raffle. Special

thanks to Barb Templer for supplying the first prize in the raffle. A lovely supper, supplied by our members, followed. Thanks to Val for a special tray of chocolate eclairs!

The bowls club members all said they had a great social time playing bowls for the season, Wednesday nights at 7.15pm to 9.00pm, from May to September. We hope we can get

together again for a carpet bowls season next year, but this will depend on getting enough members to play. I will advertise again when the time comes and let everyone know the start date, if we can get enough members to form a club.

For further information contact – President John 54742226 or Loretta 0411 193661.

Cheers for now, Secretary Loretta.





The Harcourt Cooperative Coolstore Limited

3rd September 2026

This is an update on progress towards the rebuild of the Coolstores.

For some months the Directors have been negotiating with the Insurers for the release of sufficient funds with which to commit to stage one of the Coolstore reinstatement. Stage one is for the main store complete with refrigeration and CA equipment for the storage of fruit together with space for the storage of wine, craft beer and dry goods. The Directors have been inhibited in their ability to proceed due to the extended lines of communication between the Coolstore and its London based insurers.

In the meantime, the Directors had entered into contracts for the supply of Coolroom paneling, and Refrigeration equipment with RBR Refrigeration Services and for Controlled Atmosphere equipment with Van Amerongen CA Technology. In-depth talks with MKM Building Group have been taking place to specify and obtain costings for the concreting, shed construction, drainage, plumbing and electrics. An important aspect of our planning has been the need to pay attention to current technology and the requirements of the Building Code. The layout of the replacement premises has been carefully considered so as to minimize material movement and optimize workflow.

As a full suite of working drawings became available a Planning Permit Application was lodged with Mount Alexander Shire Council on 6th July 2026

The Coolstore's Loss Adjuster wrote on 28th August to confirm that he had submitted a recommendation to the insurer earlier today for payment on account settlement of the balance of the indemnity value of the property. With this understanding, on the same day, the Directors awarded the contract for the construction of the replacement Coolstore.

In simple language, the release of funds by the insurer has enabled the Directors of the Coolstore to press the 'go' button on the rebuild.

We are very conscious of the customers' need for the operation to be up and running. We are aware that customers have endured much inconvenience because the Coolstore has not been open for use. Detailed planning by the construction contractor is aimed at handover and reopening in mid-March 2027.

A Project Control Group has been formed in order to meet the terms of the Government's \$500,000 grant. Members of this Control Group include Coolstore staff, directors, customer representatives, council representatives and officers of Regional Development Victoria. Throughout its ongoing interactions with insurers, contractors and control group members you may be assured that staff and directors will continue to stress the need to meet the Coolstores customers' business needs.

Gavin Lang,
Chair
Harcourt Co operative Cool Store Ltd

I've led choirs and singing troupes for as many reasons as there are semitones in a scale: for education, for the money, to support a friend, for spiritual expression, to give young people a voice in public, to bring joy and dignity to precious elders living with dementia. I ran a protest choir in Tasmania who sang songs of justice and equality on the street corner; a choir of primary students removed from the classroom for individual learning programs who also needed a space of shared learning and creativity; a choir of medical doctor mums who were seeking a space away from both clinic and home where no one needed them to come up with the answers; a choir of 150 grade threes and fours to give time release to their class teachers; a choir of lunchtime lonelies at school who needed a safe space to be and discovered a new community of friendship and pride in their collective voice.

Collective community singing has so many angles of benefit - whether it's thrown together in a spontaneous pub-sing or a gathering that rehearses each week and creates a set of shared repertoire to polish and perhaps perform.

Since June this year, each Sunday afternoon a group has met at the Harcourt Community House - a humble but joyful initiative, established as a bushfire recovery choir.

Our simple intention has been to sing and laugh, to make mistakes and try again, to feel our strength and confidence grow in our bodies, to get to know ourselves and one another in ways that other contexts of connection haven't allowed. Some participants are seasoned singers, some dusting off cobwebs from their school choir days, others finding their feet as singers for the first time ever.

All are welcome, because it is the humanness in the act of singing that is most important. If we can bring our very selves, all the other aspects - learning some breathing tricks, sorting out finding pitch, locking in with steady rhythm, holding the harmonies - are accessible skills.

Group attendance fluctuates wildly and this is completely fine, as we recognise the importance of family visits, holidays, and commitments to other community groups. Our purpose is to support our members in their wider lives, not operate in competition.

Some weeks three sopranos hold their ground against ten lower voices. The next week only six people are there - but equal numbers in all three parts.

All of this demonstrates that the Harcourt Community Recovery Choir is always, firstly and ultimately formed around what is good for recovery: recovery of connection, recovery of spirit, recovery of voice, recovery of possibility.

Singing is a whole body, whole mind, whole emotion activity. Among the many physical benefits, singing restores integration to our being - which is especially important if a challenge or shock or trauma has caused dissociation or disorientation for us.

Across the winter and spring season we've been rehearsing a set of classic Beatles numbers and a couple of travelling tunes for our metaphorical and inner journeys.

You can hear us share a few of these on October 25 at Harcourt Uniting Church from 2pm.

Or you can dive in and join us at rehearsal any Sunday afternoon at Harcourt Community House from 2pm - 3:45. There is no cost to participate.

Beth Waldron Anstice



Harcourt Heritage Centre

In Case of Impact ...

New signs have been placed at various rail-over-road bridges recently. The signs refer to the potential for vehicles, mainly semi-trailers, to drive into, instead of under, bridges on arterial roads. The signs read as follows:

“In case of impact to this bridge please phone 1800 013 007 immediately.”

There have been some memorable crashes of this nature, most often on the Midland Highway near Harcourt's Station Street, when the driver had not seen the height warning signs and had hit the bridge at 60 or 80 kmph, damaging the top of a load of hay, or toilet paper, or a stock crate. The loud bang and the sudden stop were generally followed by spillage of whatever was on the truck, spillage that took a while to clean up.

The railway line, an important and usually reliable facet of regional travel has, occasionally, been closed while a survey was made of the impacted bridge. While VicRoads and Vic Track are concerned about possible structural damage to the bridge, the truck driver's first thought may be for the damage done to the load. It is the misalignment of the rail line that could, theoretically, derail a high-speed passenger train. Hence the use of the word “Immediately” in the posted sign.

When I was a child, I considered it to be a risky business to drive under a rail bridge when a train was crossing overhead. My brother teasingly said

“duck your head, there's a train up there” and my father, at the steering wheel, seems to have sped up to be under the bridge just at the moment the heavy locomotive sped along the rails above my head. Perhaps I had let my fears be known! As instructed, I ducked my head.

As an adult I have come to look at bridges in a more mature way. Rail-over-road bridges enable us to take the shortest route, avoiding an uphill journey to the site of a level crossing. And, of course, as we speed along in the train, the ease of travel of the



Vick's Viaduct by Wendy Oates, who makes her own paints from local ochres. Unfortunately, this painting was lost in the fire.

nearly dead level rail line is something we take for granted.

We have to thank the early railway surveyors for this comfort, not forgetting the labourers who, from 1859 to 1862 worked with pick and shovel, horse and tip dray, to build up the rail embankments that lead onto each rail-over-road bridge.

It is worth remembering that Harcourt's rail bridges, built by stonemasons specially brought out from Germany 160 years ago, were so well built that we can expect that

they will still be standing for a long time into the future. Unless of course, someone who is driving a high transport vehicle has an impact with the bridge.

It is good to have a closer look at Harcourt's rail bridges. Some of them have been made entirely of Harcourt granite. Other local bridges were designed as girder bridges with granite abutments. Sourcing the granite from Mount Alexander was the start of the local quarrying industry. The roughly hewn blocks of stone were carted to the work site and were there shaped and placed to form either bridge abutments or complete arches.

Both types of bridge are considered works of art. The granite for the bridges has been so finely chiseled and positioned that the whole structure appears to have needed very little mortar. The arches have been carefully crafted out of wedge-shaped pieces of stone called voussoirs. The rail bridges hereabouts are, in fact, works of superb craftsmanship, with much embellishment.

The designers of these bridges had very high standards. They knew that their work would stand for centuries. Their

architectural drawings for the bridges call for appropriate ornamentation and a variety of surface treatments to emphasize the importance of the entire railway system. The Heritage Listing of these bridges testifies to their outstanding design.

There is no doubt that the authorities will be unhappy if they ever hear about the impact of motor transports on these important, historic rail-over-road bridges.

George Milford

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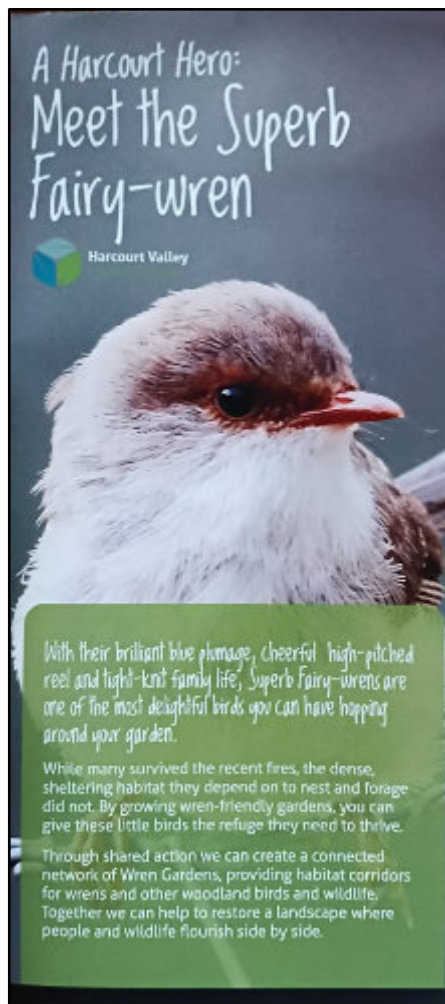
CONTACT 0433 506 230

Meet the Superb Fairy Wren

Since the bushfire on January 9, many people in Harcourt and surrounds are concerned about the loss of habitat for wildlife, particularly small birds.

In response to these concerns, Harcourt Valley Landcare has launched a brochure containing the recipe for a successful wren garden. It's a clear 'instruction manual' which encapsulates everything one needs to know to create a wren garden and includes:

- ▶ Places for potential wren gardens
- ▶ A garden design and a cross section of a wren garden
- ▶ A plant selection list ranging from small trees to low ground covers and grasses
- ▶ The brochures are available at:
- ▶ Rodilesa
- ▶ ASQ Castlemaine
- ▶ Harcourt Post Office
- ▶ Harcourt Valley Community House
- ▶ Harcourt Service Station



Landcare member, Terry Willis, told fellow members, "Our Wren brochure is making gardens!! I know five gardens already that have been planted and I bet there are more to come. I've heard comments like, 'This is just what I've been looking for!' and 'I'm going to put in another!'"

Terry continued, "And now it's our turn to build one at Harcourt Pre-school for our working bee on October 27. Pupils, parents, Landcare members, friends and family are invited to make a dramatic change to the area shown left and contribute to improving the habitat for small birds,

particularly the superb fairy wren." A big thank you goes to Kendall Ingram, who created the design for a wren garden and had a leading role in producing and promoting the pamphlet.

After the fire...



Landcare members recently spent a sunny September morning in the Flora Reserve in Bingham's Road.

Much to the delight of those attending, many species of wildflower are returning, despite the devastation caused by the fire which ripped through the reserve.

In addition to finding and photographing the wildflowers, members cleared rubbish from the reserve, leaving it as is, so it can regrow and repair.

Robyn Miller

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Councillor Comment

Hi all,
Hope you are all travelling well and taking care of each other.

On the weekend we saw an absolutely first-class AFL grand final.

Probably the takeaway for me was the game is not over until the final siren. It's a bit like farming – we just have to keep going, regardless of what comes our way.

Someone said to me the other day they had not got much out of land ownership. We need to remember we are only temporary custodians, and the main thing is to leave the land in better shape than we got it.

In Engineering we say you get about seventy-five percent out of what you put in. If the input is zero, don't expect much back!

Recently we had a council meet and greet/community conversation at Maldon. These events provide a great opportunity to hear what locals think.

The 2025/2026 Council Annual Report has just been finalised. Grab a copy for some nighttime reading. It is a beautifully presented document, so congratulations to all involved.

Talking about beautiful books, I must commend our man George for his book on the history of Harcourt. I gave a copy to my wife Jo for her recent birthday. It is a fabulous read. The bits I am hearing about are great. Do yourself a favour and get a copy. George's book builds on the work started by Hedley James. Really, it is two lifetimes' work, and there is a lot of interesting material there.

Home on the farm, fencing is still a work in progress. Stock and wool prices are encouraging, but fuel is the big worry. Pretty soon the trucks and tractors will stop running. How can we afford three bucks a litre for diesel?

Enjoy your day.
Regards,

Tony
AG Cordy
0439742434

Harcourt Valley Community Garden

Help us design our community garden!

Harcourt Valley Community House is exploring the creation of a new community garden, and we want you to help shape its future.

This gathering is an opportunity for the Harcourt community and keen gardeners to come together, share ideas and help develop the vision of the proposed community garden at Harcourt Valley Community House.

We want to hear what you would like the garden to offer and how it could become a welcoming, productive, sustainable and inclusive space for our community.

Come along and share your thoughts about:

- ▶ What we could grow
- ▶ Indigenous foods and plants — incorporating local First Nations foodgrowing knowledge and plants
- ▶ Fruit trees, herbs, flowers and native plants
- ▶ Garden beds and accessible growing spaces
- ▶ Creating habitat for pollinators and wildlife
- ▶ Composting and sustainable gardening
- ▶ Activities, learning and community involvement
- ▶ How the garden could be welcoming and useful for everyone

Enjoy a relaxed gathering with refreshments while we talk, brainstorm, enjoy a stroll around the site and imagine what our community garden could become.

Everyone is welcome!

No gardening experience is necessary — just bring your ideas, enthusiasm and love of community!

Date: Wednesday 4 November

Time: 4–6 pm

Location: Harcourt Valley Community House
23 Station Street, Harcourt

For more information or to register your interest:
email Kendall at ingram.kendall@gmail.com

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FOR HARCOURT RESIDENTS, FIRST RESPONDERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS

GOLDEN WELLNESS FESTIVAL

Golden Wellness Festival is an immersive celebration of holistic health, taking place in Castlemaine on Saturday 31 October.

The one-day festival will offer workshops, movement classes, ceremonies, creative sessions and insightful panel conversations, bringing together a plethora of wellness practitioners and alchemic explorers.

Explore and restore with yoga, tai chi, acupuncture, sound healing, homeopathy, massages, art therapy, plant medicine and more.

Entry to the festival is FREE, with a small number of ticketed workshops and group sessions in The Temples.

"We have an amazing program on offer for our first year," said Festival Founder and Director Ciel Lindley.

"We're over the moon to host Alex Perry in conversation with Mara Ripani and Yoko Nakazawa for Cooking from Scratch. They'll be discussing nourishment for the body, grounding for the mind, and a sense of connection for the spirit.

"Sound Circle with Lucy Ennis will be an immersive sound healing experience, creating a deeply restorative space of rest, reconnection and nervous system regulation.

"Relax and drift to the beautiful sounds of the Handpan played by Melbourne healer Stephanie Mansour.

"Crossing the Inner Thresholds – Ayurvedic Wisdom for the Maiden, Mother and Matriarch Within with Marye O'Brien of Maiaveda in Kyneton will hold space for women to navigate sacred transitions.

"We're particularly excited for our Closing Ceremony Kirtan with Sun Hyland, Amla, Andre Macky, Sarah Hines and Gavin Simpson. Sun will lead live music and call and response chanting, inviting dancing, reflection and celebration

From a Press Release

GREAT VIC BIKE RIDE

Great Victorian Bike Ride

The organisers of the Great Victorian Bike Ride plan to make Harcourt an official Lunch Stop on Monday November 23rd.

Stephen Anastasiu, Bicycle Network Event Route Operations Manager, has booked James Park for a Lunch Site from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm, in anticipation of having 400 or 500 riders travelling 47 km from Bendigo to Castlemaine on this first day of the 2026 Great Vic Bike Ride.

The cyclists are expected to arrive in bunches. There will be perhaps 70 to 90 riders at the lunch site at any given time. The organisers intend that the rest site will be totally self sufficient. They will provide all the equipment for riders' use, including portable toilets, coffee cart and first aid station.

Harcourt residents are advised that there will be plenty of activity in the vicinity of James Park and the Post Office on Monday 23rd November.

Please allow plenty of time if you intend to visit the Post Office or Petrol Station on that day.

George Milford



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello to all you Harcourt Core Newsletter readers and supporters of the Harcourt Country Women's Association (CWA)!

While it has been a quiet month around the branch with much the same cozy routine as always, our members have certainly been keeping busy with the heart and community spirit that defines us.

Community Support and Fund Distribution

True to our mission of supporting local welfare, our recent fundraising efforts have allowed us to distribute vital funds and donate some very generous amounts to some incredible local services:

- Dhelkaya Health (Castlemaine Hospital): Supporting essential local health and care services.

- Safe Space Castlemaine: Contributing to accessible mental health and community support.
- MASARG (Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group): Partnering with this wonderful organization to support our community - especially women and children.

Recent Donations to Sunshine Bendigo

In the last issue of the Core I told you about our visit to and generous donation to Sunshine Bendigo and their CEO, Glenda Serpell being our Keynote Speaker at our recent Association Day.

Well, our dedicated Group President Noni and Group Secretary Cheryl recently delivered a generous haul of donated items. Following our recent Group

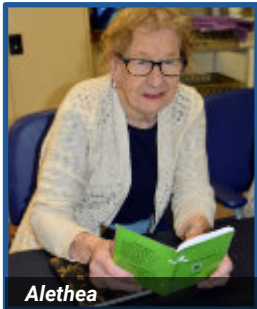
Conference in Chewton, Harcourt CWA members generously contributed clothing, toys, and toiletry items specifically for babies and toddlers (birth to 2 years).

The team at Sunshine Bendigo were absolutely thrilled and immensely grateful for the contribution, which will go directly to families needing a helping hand in our wider region.

Harcourt CWA – local "Chicks With Attitude"!

Fun, friendship and community care and TLC is what Harcourt CWA is all about. For more information, contact our Secretary Helen on 0448 510 996, or just come along, pop in and have a cuppa and a chat - we meet on the 1st Thursday each month at 1.00pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

*Until next month, bye for now,
Bev Orgill for Harcourt CWA.*



Alethea



Helen



Marie and Bev O



Marie and Jill



Dhelkaya Health

Healthy communities start with us

Good health is about more than visiting the doctor. It's also about connection, healthy food, being active, feeling supported and having safe, inclusive places to live.

Dhelkaya Health works with local schools, community groups, organisations and residents to build healthier communities across Mount Alexander Shire. From social walking groups to healthy eating and inclusion initiatives, the focus is on prevention, connection and participation.

In 2026–27, health promotion priorities are healthy eating; active living and social inclusion; reducing harm from tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs; safe, respectful and connected communities; prevention, health literacy and early intervention, supporting First Nations community members; and strengthening health-promoting practice.

Keep an eye out for upcoming activities.

Parenting in the modern world

Parents and carers are invited to the next session in the Parenting in the Modern World series "Preparing Your Teen for a Social World: Navigating Drugs, Alcohol and Vaping", on Thursday 15 October 2026, from 5.30 to 7.00 pm at Castlemaine Library (5.15 pm arrival for a 5.30 pm start).

The session will provide practical strategies to help parents support teenagers as they navigate social situations involving drugs, alcohol and vaping. It will focus on open communication, informed decision-making and building resilience to peer pressure.

The session is presented in partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council and Castlemaine Library.

Bookings are available at goldfieldslibraries.com or for more information, contact Bron on 0439 187 051 or bgrieve@castlemainehealth.org.au.

Keep flu at bay this season

Spring brings hay fever, but influenza, COVID-19, rhinovirus (the common cold) are also circulating, with flu cases in the Loddon Mallee region already higher than at this time last year.

There are simple ways to help prevent the spread of infection: wash your hands regularly, clean frequently touched surfaces, stay home when unwell and avoid visiting health services if you have symptoms. Masks and other protective equipment can also help reduce transmission.

Flu and other viruses can look like hay fever, so if you have any respiratory symptoms, please postpone visits to Dhelkaya Health's aged care, hospital and community wellbeing services.

Four-virus tests are available at local pharmacies. Dhelkaya Health's Urgent Care Centre remains open 24/7 for non-life-threatening emergencies.

dhelkayahealth.org.au



The police will be using every tool they have to keep the roads safe. But if you decide to drink then drive, how your holiday ends is your choice.

TAC

VICTORIA
State Government





Harcourt Uniting Church

Churches around the world are celebrating the Season of Creation from 1

September to 4 October with the theme "Living Water". Reverend Suli, president of the Uniting Church in Australia, calls on us to pray, reflect and act in celebration of God's gift of creation and our shared responsibility to care for our world. We are reminded to love our country.

Recently we enjoyed holidaying in Outback Queensland, travelling through the Hay plains, the red mud near Cobar, the small towns trying to survive the closure of shops and businesses, the fast-flowing Thompson River after floods further north, the area of Morvan which has been struggling in drought for several years and the amazing bird life of the Lara Wetlands.

Artesian water is the living water of the outback. Australia's Great Artesian Basin is the largest and deepest artesian basin in the world. Every town has a large bore with water coming out at 35-40°C, at least, which is then cooled for domestic use. Of course, the hot springs baths are very popular with tourists.

Our time at Lara Wetlands, on a Station south of Barcaldine, was spent watching Brolgas dancing in the shallows, many birds making their nests, emus strolling past, kookaburras calling us at dawn, the magnificent sunsets, walks in the bush and a very tasty bush stew prepared by the station owner and enjoyed around a campfire. We were truly reminded of our love for our country.

Sunday October 25th at 2.30pm is our next concert at the Harcourt Uniting Church (for details, see page 6. You will be entertained with musical items, stories and a time to chat over afternoon tea. Why not join us?

A Priest and a Pastor are standing on the side of the road holding a sign: "The end is near. Turn around before it's too late."

A passing driver yells, "You blokes are nuts!" and speeds past. From around the corner, they hear screeching tyres then a big splash! The Priest turns to the Pastor and says, "Do you think our sign should just say, "Bridge out"?"

Jan Jenkin



Harcourt CFA Trusting Technology

Due to a technical issue, my email containing my article for the August

edition of the *Core* did not arrive.

Trusting technology can have its pitfalls and, occasionally, we can be caught out.

This is a timely reminder of how important it is to not rely on single sources of information. To not only have a plan A with regard to fire safety, but to make sure to check and recheck fire plans and equipment.

One item in my article was that the brigade is participating in the Get Fire Ready program again this year on Sunday 4 October, which will have already occurred when you are reading this. Hopefully, you heard of this day from other sources and attended to get the latest information to help you prepare for this year's fire danger period, which may be not that far away.

There has already been an announcement of the fire danger period for the Shire of Wellington and East Gippsland commencing on the 5 October. You can monitor other shires at cfa.vic.gov.au for fire restriction dates. It is well documented that when

the northern hemisphere has a bad season for bushfires, Victoria follows, and the seasonal outlook predicts that this will be the situation again.

Unfortunately, there is a large amount of spring grass growth that will cure rapidly with warmer weather and wind. Vegetation observations show that wild oats are already going to seed. The time for fire prevention works is **now**.

Ongoing Brigade Support

The brigade continues to be supported in a number of ways. It was great to meet up with Geocaching Victoria and the Mustang Club of Victoria at VMR to receive donations from these clubs' fundraising event when visiting Harcourt.

After negotiating many hurdles, the tanks donated for emergency storage of water for firefighting are closer to being installed. Red tape comes in many forms, and Andrew, our captain, has gone through a few pairs of scissors lately!

Turnouts

Through August and September, we

have responded to eight support calls and four primary calls. Six of the support calls were to Castlemaine and one each to Sutton Grange and Lockwood. We can be called to a variety of incidents – from a fungicide spill at Lockwood to powerlines sparking.

Our training program covers a large array of topics, including doing our annual burn-over drills and equipment familiarisation, important at this time of the year. We welcome Leigh and Mitch to our response team, as they have recently completed their General Fire Fighting training.

Busy Time Ahead

The brigade calendar for October and November is very full, so you may see lots of activity around the station and around the district.

Likewise, cleaning up your property in preparation for the fire season will require extra activity this year due to the prolific growth of grass and the remnants of the January fire. Take care if burning off and remember to log your burn either online or by phone.

Stay Safe,
Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Harcourt Football Netball Club 2026 Season Wrap

As another football and netball season comes to an end, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what has been a busy, challenging and ultimately rewarding year for the Harcourt Football Netball Club. Like many in our community, the club has faced its share of challenges throughout the year, making the commitment, resilience and support shown by our players, families, volunteers and wider community all the more meaningful.

While wins, losses and results are an important part of any sporting season, there is so much more to a community club than what happens on the scoreboard. It is the people who make the club what it is – the players who commit to training and playing each week, the coaches and team managers who give their time, the volunteers working behind the scenes, and the families and supporters who cheer from the sidelines.

There were plenty of highlights across both football and netball this season, with many of our teams enjoying successful seasons and earning their place in the finals.

Our Under 11, B Grade and C Grade netball teams all made it through to the finals. While they unfortunately didn't progress to the Grand Final, reaching the finals is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the

commitment and hard work of the players, coaches and volunteers throughout the season.

Our junior and senior football teams also enjoyed strong seasons, with all teams making finals. Our Under 12 footballers faced a strong Navarre side in their final and, despite their best efforts, finished their season with plenty to be proud of.

Our senior footballers went one step further, taking home the cup after a fantastic finals campaign. Congratulations to the players, coaches and everyone involved – an outstanding achievement for the club.

One of the great highlights away from the football and netball was seeing our Auskick numbers grow to more than 50 participants this year. It was fantastic to see so many young children enjoying their first experiences of football and becoming part of the Harcourt Lions family. Hopefully, many of these young players will continue their journey through the junior ranks in the years ahead.

Our Thursday night dinners were another wonderful part of the season. Bringing our junior and senior playing groups together each week created a great opportunity for players, families, coaches and volunteers to catch up, share a meal and enjoy each other's company. These are the moments that help build the strong community spirit that sits at the heart of our club.

Community sport simply could not operate without volunteers, and we are incredibly fortunate to have so many people willing to give their time. Whether it is coaching a team,

running the canteen, preparing the ground, washing jumpers, helping in the rooms, organising an event or simply lending a hand when needed, every contribution makes a difference.

This year's Club Person of the Year, Amy Simmons, is a wonderful example of that commitment. Congratulations to Amy on a very

C Grade Netball



Thursday night training before the Grand Final



Under 12 Football



well-deserved award. Anyone who knows Amy will appreciate the enormous amount of time, work and commitment she gives to the club. Her contribution extends well beyond any one role, and she is always willing to step in, help out and make



Amy Simmons – Club Person of the Year





Harcourt Football Netball Club 2026 Season Wrap

... continued from previous page

things happen. The award is a fitting recognition of the contribution she makes to our club and the wider Harcourt community.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, local businesses, families and supporters for their ongoing support throughout the season. Your contribution, whether big or small, helps make it possible for our players and volunteers to enjoy the opportunities that community sport provides.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who has been part of the Harcourt Football Netball Club this season. To our players, coaches, volunteers, committee members, families, sponsors and supporters – your involvement is what makes our club such an important part of the Harcourt community.

As the season winds down and we enjoy a well-earned break, we can look back with pride on the year that was – celebrating the achievements, the challenges, the friendships and the many moments that make being part of the Harcourt Lions so special.

Congratulations to everyone involved and Go Lions!

Di Selwood

HADCRA – Update from the Committee



The Harcourt and District Community Recovery Association (HADCRA) has been established to support our community through the recovery following the January fires, and to ensure the Harcourt community has a strong voice in shaping its own recovery.

While much of our work so far has been happening behind the scenes, the committee has been busy getting the foundations in place so that HADCRA can operate effectively and represent the community well. This has included establishing our committee structure and governance, working through incorporation and administrative requirements, building relationships with Council, recovery agencies and local organisations, and beginning to identify opportunities for future projects, funding and community-led recovery initiatives.

HADCRA is made up of local community members who care deeply about Harcourt and want to help build strong connections between residents, local organisations, Council and the broader recovery network.

A really important part of our role is listening. We want to hear directly from people about what is working, what is needed, what concerns you may have, and the ideas you have for our community as we move forward.

During October, HADCRA committee members will be available for community drop-in sessions at:

- **The Harcourt General Store** – Wednesday 7th & 21st, 10am–11am
- **Harcourt Bowls Club** – Friday 16th & 30th, 5pm–6pm

There's no need to make an appointment and you don't need to have a particular issue to raise. Come along for a chat, ask a question, share an idea or simply get to know some of the people involved with HADCRA.

If you can't make any of these times, you can always reach us by email at hadcra.admin@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you, hearing from you and working together as Harcourt continues its recovery.



Spring is in the air, and the House is humming!

So lovely to see so many community members coming to Friday community lunch at Harcourt Valley Community House, enjoying the weekly feasts so smoothly and professionally prepared by Kate, the community lunch coordinator, and the dedicated and unflappable team of lunch volunteers. Every week, food prep from first thing, setting up the room ready to welcome everyone, clean up and pack up. Amazing! Our huge thanks to them all.

As the new Co-Managers we are finding our feet and starting to learn who's who and what's what in the Harcourt Valley community. The regular things are ticking along, and new activities and ideas are bubbling up.

Over the past month or two, there's been much to celebrate. The Harcourt Community Garden project, being developed at the House by the Community Garden Group, has welcomed Kendall Ingram to manage the project and the garden design. The Group is keen to start working with community members to shape what the garden becomes, so here's a chance to get involved, right from the start! All are welcome to a gathering on Wednesday 4 November, 4-6 pm at the Community House where people are invited to share ideas, thoughts, knowledge and skills. There'll be wine, snacks, site-walk and shared imagining of what the garden could be. Fabulous!

We have also, in the last month,

supported community members with some new initiatives: a short form media workshop for young people of Harcourt and Surrounds; regular Jiu-jitsu sessions; and a fortnightly Games Night. And in the wings, we will be starting up a program of low cost exercise, well-being and health activities in October and November. This will be a chance for us to test what kinds of exercise opportunities people in the community are (or aren't) looking for.

On the 'back of house' front, the Community House Committee, a Standing Committee of Harcourt Progress Association, is working with the Managers to build the sustainability of the community house - identifying and applying for funding, getting policies in place, strengthening governance and looking at ways to increase volunteering, participation and community-run activities at the House. The ongoing work of keeping the wheels turning and shoring up the House's future.

And, last but by no means least, October is Mental Health Month - "A Little Connection Goes a Long Way". This is a sentiment very much at the heart of neighbourhood houses. So pop in, tell us what you would like to start up or see happening at the House, or sign-up for something already on the go. Look forward to seeing you soon!

Amy and Kir (Co-Managers HVCH)

Harcourt Valley Community House

Room Hire

Our multipurpose room for meetings, workshops, etc, offers heating, cooling and wi-fi. It can accommodate up to 40 people seated in rows, or about 30 seated around tables. There is a fully equipped kitchen.

Hire rates are \$12/hour (community or not-for-profit organisations) or

\$20/hour for business or private use.

Savings are available on half or full day rates. Call or email us to book a tour of the facility or to discuss your needs.

Printing & IT Services at HVCH

We are now offering printing, scanning and email services at HVCH during opening hours.

Printing Fees

A4 black & white @ 10c per page, colour @ 20c per page

A3 black & white @ 30c per page, colour @ 60c per page

Lamination

Lamination is available at an extra 20c for A4 or 50c for A3 documents.

Scanning and Email

Scan and email for 10c per page, negotiable for large (multi-page) documents.

Public Access to Computers

A public access computer is available at HVCH for your email access or research. It's free during drop-in hours: Wednesdays 12 noon to 3 pm. A donation for access is welcome.

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HARCOURT VALLEY COMMUNITY HOUSE

23 Station Street, Harcourt (old station)



**what's
new?**

October-November 2026

Events, workshops & gatherings at the community house

**Games
nights**

2nd Tuesday of the month, 6.30 pm

Board games galore! Beginning Tuesday 13 October

**Volunteer
celebration**

Wednesday 21 October, 4-6 pm

Join us to celebrate our volunteers - we'd be nothing without them (literally!). All welcome.

**Community
garden
consultation**

Wednesday 4 November, 4-6 pm

come along, hear about the community garden project, & add your ideas as we imagine what it will be! All welcome.

Jiu-Jitsu

Saturdays 11 am - 12.30 pm

BJJ Open Mat, good rolls, good people, \$5 donation.

**Learn
Support
skills**

Tuesday 13 October 10.30 am - 1.30 pm

Intro to Mental Health Support for community leaders.
Bookings essential (details below)

**First Aid
Training**

Late October/Early November - date TBC - One-day St Johns Ambulance 1st Aid training. Email your interest.

**trick or
treat!**

Saturday 31 October 2 pm - Get spooky with other parents & kids! Meet at the Community House.

**Trivia
night!**

Saturday 7 November 5.30 - 10 pm - A playgroup fundraising initiative. Have fun, spout some facts, and support your local playgroup!

Info current
Oct 2026

**harcourtvalleych@gmail.com; 0494 808 113;
FB: HarcourtValleyCommunityHouse**

THE CORE



Harcourt Lions Club

FIRST – Please take a few minutes to nominate a worthy contributor who has given of their time and energy for the good of our community over this year, or many years, in the Harcourt District. So many have gone above and beyond to make Harcourt the place it is today, especially after the devastating fires in January.

Whether it was in a sporting club, a group, CFA, CWA, at the school or kindergarten, or just general time given overall, their contribution or time given deserves some recognition, so fill out the nomination form in this Core. (See page 20)

The Junior nomination is for those under 25 years of age, for achievement in the last 12 months, in sporting, academic, or community service.

The Senior and Junior persons chosen for 2026 will be announced at Applefest on the Labour Day weekend, 6 March 2027. Nominations must be in by Monday, 8 February 2027.

SECOND – The Harcourt Lions Club

BBQ shelter is nearing completion – and isn't it just grand! Concrete will be put down later, then painting will be done and, voila!, it will be finished, with just a little tweaking to be done, so come on, community organisations, get your bookings in. Bookings available for December and January and beyond.

The Lions Club is supplying everything except BBQ products, drinks and any other goodies you want to provide. There are two BBQs, BBQ tools and gas on site. For bookings contact Diane on 0456 309 020 with your details.

THIRDLY – We have been very busy providing a BBQ at VMR, as they have been opening on both Wednesdays of the school holidays as well as the usual Sunday opening. VMR has also announced that they will be open for the Wednesdays and Sundays of the Christmas break. So there are many opportunities for the public to enjoy rides on their little big trains, and for clubs to make much-needed funds.

FOURTHLY – some of our club

members ran a BBQ at Woop Woop to feed a number of special children, which was very successful.



Harcourt and District Lions Club are now meeting at VMR (green shed) on the SECOND MONDAY of the month at 6.30pm for a shared meal (members bring a plate to share), followed by a general discussion at 7.30 pm to plan upcoming events, to finish by 8.30pm. New members most welcome.

Contact: Harcourt District Lions Club, PO Box 100, Harcourt 3453. Email: harcourtlionsclub@gmail.com.

Loretta for Harcourt Lions Club.



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Complete Coliban Water's Customer Outcomes survey to help shape the future of water

Coliban Water customers are invited to help shape the region's water future by completing a short online survey ahead of organisation's 2028-2033 Price Submission.

The Price Submission is developed every five years and sets out the services, investments, outcomes, and prices Coliban Water proposes for the next regulatory period. It will be submitted in September 2027 to Victoria's independent economic regulator, the Essential Services Commission, which reviews water corporation plans to ensure they are justified, fair, and shaped by customer priorities.

Your feedback will help identify what customers and communities value most and clarify any emerging expectations or trade-offs that need further consideration.

To find out more and complete the short survey visit: connect.coliban.com.au/ps28

Lisa Chesters MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BENDIGO

5443 9055
lisachesters.org

Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP
16 Myers St, Bendigo



ADVERTISEMENT

Labor



Get bushfire-ready with our summer preparedness series

As we prepare for the warmer months ahead, our Bushfire Recovery Team is launching the Summer Preparedness Event Series.

This is a new program of free community events designed for residents to build knowledge and confidence, and prepare for emergencies and summer challenges.

The series will provide practical information, local advice and opportunities to connect with organisations that support our community before, during and after emergencies.

Upcoming sessions:

Who Does What During an Emergency?

A free community information session featuring representatives from a range of emergency services, government agencies, and community organisations.

Through a facilitated panel discussion, you'll hear directly from the people involved in emergency response, relief and recovery across our region.

When: Thursday 15 October, 10am-2pm

Where: Campbells Creek Community Centre

Includes lunch and plenty of time for Q&A.

Parent Information Sessions

Supportive sessions for parents and carers, delivered by a psychologist, with separate supervised children's activities and light catering.

When: Wednesday 4 November, 5pm

Where: Harcourt Valley Primary School

When: Wednesday 11 November, 6pm

Where: Chewton Primary School

When: Wednesday 18 November, 6pm

Where: Campbells Creek Primary School

When: TBC

Where: Castlemaine Community House

Develop Your Emergency Plan

Hands-on workshops co-hosted by Council and the Red Cross to help residents develop personalised emergency plans.

The workshops will be linked to community lunches and will provide practical tools to help households prepare for emergencies.

When: 9-27 November

Where: Newstead, Maldon, Harcourt and Castlemaine

Mount Leanganook Recovery and Preparedness Walk

A guided tour that showcases fire-affected areas, recovery work, fuel-load management and cultural land care practices.

Come and see recovery in action, learn about fire behaviour and gain practical insights into fuel management ahead of summer.

Led by Agriculture Victoria, DJAARA and Parks Victoria.

When: Saturday 21 November, 10am-1pm

Where: Mount Leanganook Camping Area

Visit shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-hub for event details, support services, recovery news and other information.

Contact our Bushfire Recovery Team by emailing bushfirerecoverygroup@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire
mountalexander.vic.gov.au (03) 5471 1700



NEW WELLNESS FACILITY FOR HARCOURT:

Thursday is Sauna Day



A new business in Harcourt is making regular sauna available for locals. Fiona Briers is bringing her mobile sauna, called fire+stone sauna to Harcourt every Thursday, with hour-long sessions available between 3 pm and 8 pm.

As Fiona explains, "Sauna is a really restorative thing to do, and after the traumas of last summer, I thought Harcourt would be the perfect place to start my new business."

Weekly sauna is a well-established health and wellbeing practice in many parts of the world – especially Nordic countries like Finland, which is where Fiona first fell in love with sauna, but is much less known in Australia.

"The benefits of sauna are well researched. The heat causes your heart rate to rise and your blood vessels to dilate, giving your cardiovascular system a bit of a workout while you sit around doing absolutely nothing – which is a pretty appealing kind of exercise!" Fiona said.

There's even a cold-plunge option if you're looking for more health benefits (or you just need to cool down). Fiona brings a gorgeous cast iron bath, filled with cold water and ready for the brave!

The sauna is set up each Thursday at 69 Dann's Road, Harcourt, the home of the Harcourt Farming Coop. Fiona explains, "It was really important to me to offer the sauna experience in a beautiful, natural setting. I think where you do it makes a big difference."

The sense of slowing down is a big part of the appeal, Fiona says. "It doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes just giving yourself permission to stop, sit quietly, and just breathe is great for mental health. It's also a great way to improve your sleep."

If you've never tried sauna before, this could be a good place to start. Each hour-long session is limited to 4 people, so you can book with friends, or book for yourself and meet new people if anyone else is booked in your chosen session.

Fiona hopes people will discover the pleasure of making sauna a regular part of their week. She explains, "This isn't a fancy, expensive city day spa. It's a mobile sauna parked on the farm surrounded by paddocks, cows, orchards, and the foothills of Leanganook."

"It's an hour to step away from everyday life, leave your phone behind, spend some time in a beautiful setting, and do something that's good for both body and mind." After a busy day of work, kids, and life admin – and for a town that's been through a lot – sitting in a hot sauna for an hour sounds like a great habit to start.

To find out more or book your session at fire+stone sauna go to: www.fireandstonesauna.com.au

Sessions are available every Thursday, 3 pm to 8 pm, at Harcourt Farming Coop, 69 Dann's Road, Harcourt.



Weather & Water

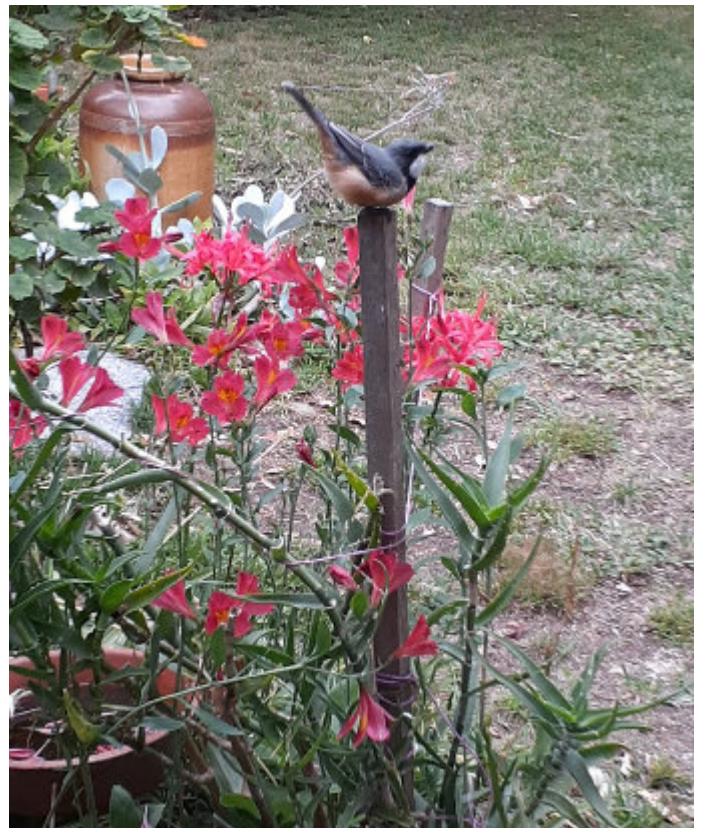
In April, we began to believe that good rains would never arrive. It was dry, dry, dry. Combined levels in the Coliban storages were at 50% and Coliban Water was indicating that it expected to impose further water restrictions after it set the summer irrigation allocations at 60%.

In May we received 69 mm, which lifted the spirits, but given the outlook, we weren't expecting what followed in June and August, when we received 140.5 mm and 132 mm respectively. Total rainfall to the end of September here at Reservoir Road is 597.5 mm. No wonder Coliban has lifted all restrictions for the coming season with combined reservoir totals at 100%

We have had similar totals in years labelled as La Niña. The weather bureau is reporting that spring temperatures are higher than normal and indications are that a strong El Niño is imminent.

While I have enjoyed watching the garden recover after the hot weather and fire damage, it seems that bird numbers are down. For example, we seem to only have one fairy wren pair nesting. I am on the lookout for a couple of species which "should arrive" at this time of year, but I'm pleased that I have seen striated pardalotes nesting and have heard the spotted pardalotes in the distance. New rosella nesting boxes have proved popular. Landcare members kindly gave their time for a planting session in the paddock and I'm hoping the new shrubs and trees will encourage more birds to make a home here.

Robyn Miller



One of the birds that I am hoping will return to our garden.

KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Hi everybody, we'd like to start this month with a huge thank you to Robyn for her years of wonderful and professional work on the Core. We've especially appreciated her patience (especially over the busy harvest months) as she's gently reminded us about the deadline for this column. We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to the new team – we're so excited and relieved that the Core will keep going!

On to all things fruity, and this month we want to talk about pruning burned fruit trees. The first thing to say is that if you haven't done it yet - that's fine! Now is actually the perfect time to make some decisions.

You might remember that in January, just after the fire, we suggested that unless you were positive your tree was dead, it was best to water it and wait. A lot of trees put out new shoots over summer, and went dormant as usual in winter. Now that we're in spring, you can have a proper look at them and decide on the future of the tree.

The first thing to know is that a tree that looks badly burnt isn't necessarily dead. There can be a surprising amount of life left in a tree that looks pretty terrible from the outside. But on the flipside, just because it's alive doesn't mean it's worth saving - it really depends how much living tree is left, and where the growth is. This decision can be tricky, so let's go through the steps.

1. Assess:

Once the tree starts showing signs of life in spring, have a really good look at the whole tree, not just the top. You want to work out how much of the tree is alive, and where the living parts are. Look for buds, flowers, and leaves. Are there buds swelling and opening? Are there new shoots emerging or healthy leaves anywhere on the tree? It's probably quite obvious by now, but just because you can't see leaves doesn't mean a branch is dead, it might still be waking up so look carefully.

Use your secateurs or a sharp knife to investigate branches that you're not sure about. Make a small sideways cut into the bark to create a little flap, rather than cutting straight into the branch, then gently lift the edge of the bark to see the tissue underneath. You're looking for green, moist tissue,

which tells you the cambium layer is still alive. If it's brown and dry, it's dead. Go over every branch to get a clear picture of how much of the tree is alive - it might be useful to cut off any confirmed dead pieces as you go to make it easier to see.

Also look carefully at the trunk and base of the tree, particularly for suckers. If the top of the tree has been badly damaged but the roots have survived, the tree may produce suckers from below ground level. But don't use the presence or absence of suckers as a way of deciding whether a tree is worth keeping. Some fruit trees sucker even when they're completely healthy, so suckering isn't a reliable indicator of how badly the tree has been damaged.

2. Decide and prune:

Once you've worked out how much of the tree is alive, you have a few choices.

Remove the tree: Sometimes there simply isn't enough living tree left to make keeping it worthwhile. If you fear this might be the case, go over the whole tree and prune off all the definitely dead wood as described above, so you can really see what you've got left. Then ask yourself, do I want a tree this shape? If, for example, there's only one healthy limb left, or if there's a lot of growth on the tree but it's all very high up, you might be better to cut your losses. Before doing that, though, think about whether there is any possibility of grafting a sucker, whether you have the time and skills to graft it, and the capacity to care for a grafted tree in the garden (it will need a bit more ongoing care for the first year or two). If you're renovation pruning

Re-establishment prune: It's a useful option for many fire-damaged trees, especially if multiple branches have survived, but all the lower shoots have been killed. The tree has enough life left to be worth saving, but too much of the existing structure has been damaged to simply carry on with normal pruning. The best way to re-establish the tree is to cut branches quite short (around knee height, if possible) to stimulate new shoots that will become new branches. It's essentially rebuilding the tree from the surviving parts, and completely starting again. It feels really drastic, but if the branches are still alive



it can have a great outcome.

Normal pruning: Some trees come through a fire with relatively minor damage. In that case, you can essentially prune them as you normally would, removing dead and damaged wood and following the normal process (we have resources to help with this on our website). You may need to prune a little harder than usual to remove damaged branches, but there's no reason to completely rebuild a tree that still has most of its healthy structure.

Suckers: Once you've assessed the whole tree and decided what you're going to do, make a decision about the suckers. If you're keeping the tree and pruning it, completely remove the suckers as part of your pruning. If the tree is beyond recovery but the roots have survived and produced suckers, however, those suckers can be really useful. They are essentially surviving rootstock, and you may be able to regraft them with a new variety. This means you can keep a fruit tree in the same spot, without having to remove the roots and then plant a new tree.

3. Remove fruit if necessary:

The first year after a fire is about recovering the tree, not growing a crop. If a tree has suffered moderate to severe fire damage, we'd generally recommend removing all the fruit. It can be hard to do when you see a few healthy-looking apples, pears, peaches or plums developing on a tree that has otherwise been through hell. But fruit takes a lot of energy, and that energy is

Continued next page ...

better directed into growing new wood, so think of the first year as a recovery year. It's fine to leave fruit on a tree that has only had moderate damage! And if you're still having trouble making a decision about your tree, please reach out - we're happy to help wherever we can.

Fruit Crew is Open!

Would you like to get some hands-on experience learning how to grow fruit with The Orchard Keepers (the community-based orchard on our farm) this season? Fruit Crew is our volunteer exchange program where you get free organic fruit, fruit growing lessons, and excellent morning teas in exchange for your labour. It's a fun group, and we have many people come back year after year, but there's always room for locals! Applications close on October 10. Here's the link to find out more if you're interested: theorchardkeepers.com.au/volunteering.

Spring is looking very positive

How are you feeling about spring? Early signs are that we're going to have a cracker of a fruit season. The soil is charged with water (though already starting to dry out) and there's been very little rain during the flowering period, which takes the disease pressure off and means all the nasty fungal diseases are staying away.

Meanwhile, the grass and weeds have started growing. A lot of people don't like weeds around their fruit trees because they can look messy, but your fruit trees love them, so we suggest mowing them rather than pulling them out. However, the idea of letting the weeds grow under your fruit tree can be a challenge if you have the tidy gene, so if you really don't like them, this month's job is to improve the biodiversity in your garden by replacing weeds under your fruit trees with flowers or some sort of perennial understory plant that you can enjoy. If that feels too overwhelming, start small and aim to create a new bed under a single tree.

Happy spring!

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 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.

Djakitj (Bush Tucker) Around Harcourt

Many of you may know of me as Auntie Julie and I am often described as a "Bush Tucker Expert" (which I'm not). I am not DjaDjaWurrung. My First Nation's heritage is through my father who was Trawlwoolway from Tasmania. I intend putting a piece in each edition of the *Core* describing the native bush tucker food that can still be found around Harcourt.

In telling you about these amazing plants I am in no way encouraging you to go out foraging for them.

The Pulloitch is described as semi-parasitic, or hemi-parasitic, which means it attaches to the roots of other plants, usually gum trees, to get water and nutrients. It can detach itself and grow independently. The Pulloitch is considered to be sacred to the DjaDjaWurrung who use the leaves in smoking ceremonies to represent community. Other leaves used are Wattle (which represents produce of the land) and Gum (represents Elders).

The fruit of the Pulloitch can be eaten when red and is delicious. The sap was also used for medicine. For snakebite, the sticky sap was placed on the bite area. The twigs were used as a bitter tonic and astringent. Chewing on the twigs is said to ease toothache, and bark infusions contain tannins and were used for minor wounds. The fruit, if eaten in large quantities can be a laxative. Do not eat the seeds as they contain a toxic acid.

Many of our plants also have teachings attached to them. Here is one about The Emu and The Cherry Bullart.

Barramul and Pulloitch

In the new Dreaming on Jaara Jaara Country there lived Barramul, the emu. Barramul had a wonderful life with plenty of room and good tukka.

BUT one day a Bokka monster turned up. The Bokka, a dingo, was huge and very, very mean.

When Barramul saw Bokka he ran as fast as he could, which is pretty fast, across the grassland.

Bokka, however was just as quick and chased, and chased Barramul.

Barramul dived under a Pulloitch, cherry bullart tree and crouched down and hid.

The Pulloitch had often seen Barramul strutting around near where she lived, so she was worried when Barramul hid



Pulloitch (DjaDjaWurrung) Exocarpos cupressiformis (Latin) Cherry Bullart or Wild Cherry (English)

shivering and panting underneath her.

Bokka had his nose to the ground trying to find Barramul. He started sniffing around Pulloitch. Pulloitch was frightened but she also wanted to save the friendly emu.

Pulloitch pushed the seeds out of her fruit. The seeds landed on Bokka's head. Now it was his turn to be frightened, he'd never had a tree attack him before!

Bokka put his tail between his legs and ran away, never to return to this spooky place where trees attack Bokka monsters.

Barramul was so grateful that he wanted to help Pulloitch. He asked what he could do. Pulloitch told him that if he was to eat her fruit then go to another place and coonie (poo), then her seed would be spread.

Barramul thought this was a great idea because he'd get to eat the lovely fruit and also help Pulloitch.

Auntie Julie Mchale

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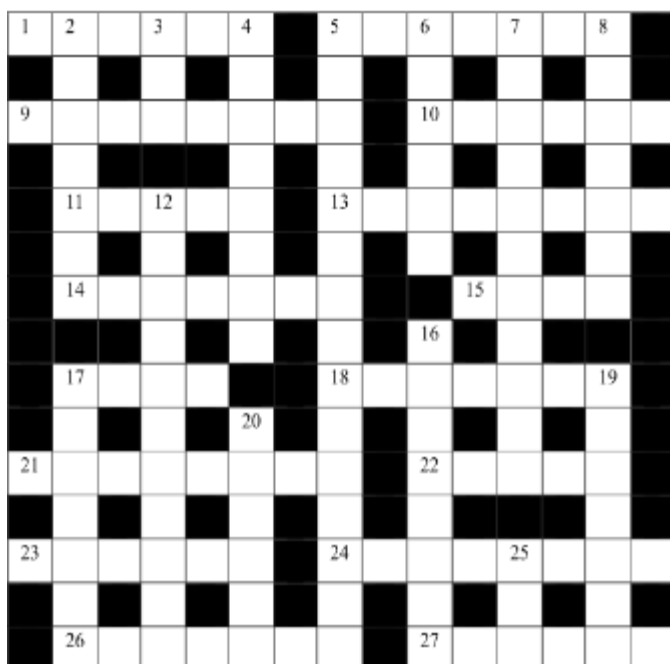
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Phoenix 4 / 2026 Xword

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Down:

2. What animal at six won't do well... (7)
3. Hommus for petty thief? (3)
4. Check to get leaves out on second attempt. (8)
5. Transmogrify = turn into a cat
Globalise = get the whole world in your greedy hands. (15)
6. Incapacitate: chew small bits of the suspect food. (2 solutions, please.) (6)
7. Edible man? (11)
8. What we owe a King Brown blocking our way? (7)
12. Of prime financial importance? (11)
16. Confessed to a ward? (8)
17. If the software is adept, do please see that it is taken on board, and apprise IT of the fact. (7)
19. Age of admission? (7)
20. Digital in private hearings these days.... (6)
25. Spirits mixed here for batting side. (3)

Across:

1. Gasp! I'd eradicate it if I could—my worst nightmare... (6)
5. A feed-box quite often couldn't run a chook raffle... (7)
9. Way working girl sits suggests something. (8)
10. Maybe start your expected response with a V? (6)
11. CFMEU chap made one that couldn't be refused? (5)
13. Post-micturition state? (8)
14. Metal omen gets an entry in newsletter. (7)
15. I'd put money on it that you'd help out with the scam. (4)
17. Where you have to go to find a method of getting there? (4)
18. For keeping away from snakes in nylons? (7)
21. Put out in front of people how many fish you'll catch? (8)
22. Back to book for Catholic censor? (5)
23. You there, Rodin? D'ya hear? (6)
24. Methuselah silhouetted everyone else's face! (8)
26. Useful for disconnected fifteen. (7)
27. **adj/n.** car table room
Vint. (am/is/are +) pres. participle
Ger. — is a pleasant pastime. (6)

Phoenix 3 / 2026 Xword Solution

© McW February '26



Down:

2. What a healthy ecology **fosters**?
3. Not for returning.
4. Well-**bred** **twelve months** in the making. [**bred** + **year**]
5. Second of twenty-two on stage...
6. Scam [**con**] eight-**beam** for **art** **material**.
7. What the annoying little supervisor on your shoulder will do... [**Well?**]
8. For all the **hanging round your neck** it does, the beam [**ray**] comes **back in** to touch down.
12. How high the cost of denial? 😊
16. Why d'Alpuget didn't drown under the pier? 😊
17. Half-D now apparently descriptive of feature of male torso... [**Well?**]
19. Tautological peak? [**Well?**]
20. Cricketer sounds like he should have the wherewithal to join Royal Melbourne Golf Club.... [**Well?**]
25. Body part used on line to stay nice.
- 14a **plays fast and loose with pronoun reference. The middle one is definitive...**
- 26a **'most-avid' should be hyphenated, but that would be giving it to you...**

Across:

1. An extremely loud [**A FF**] and incredibly close **atmosphere** attends their **relationship**!
5. Carrying rodents, boy **backs** **currency**.
9. **They** often have cold pulses.
10. Half a band [**AC/DC**] and small change in the **way you speak**.
11. Egg in nest a cut above? [**Well?**]
13. **Suggestion** that working girl sit [**pose**] before metal. [**'suggestion'** = **def.** + **homonym flag...**]
14. **Turned inside-out**, the length of time [**age**] it spends in **it** **decomposes** it...
15. Runs through for time.
17. Don't come a cropper at fine leg!
18. Brazilian diplomacy could be read in demonstration. 😊
21. Pre-exact; [**precision...**] in-cut; with previous partner-**complete removal**. [**Well?**]
22. **Peel** **back** **expurgation** from the start.
23. To get rid of with the required response. [2 solutions, please.] [**Well?**]
24. Another one incorporated; **you** change to second to hear a try-out. [2 solutions, please.] [8]
26. Most avid mourners at Dublin funeral? 😊
27. What's to be had at a **bun** dance? [**Well?**]

Harcourt News/The Core is published monthly by the

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

(ABN: 22 887 254 268)

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

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

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

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

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6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
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		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	12:05	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:06	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:07	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:13	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:15	2:35

From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday

Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	11:55	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	11:56	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:03	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:04	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:05	2:25



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

Castlemaine Community House

30 Templeton St

For information phone Chris 5470 5508

First in first served, so be prepared to wait.

We will try to repair clothes, small wooden items and furniture, electrical appliances, toys. You can learn basic bicycle maintenance, crochet and darning. Get Apple Mac advice, knives sharpened. Consider repairs and clean items before taking them to the Cafe.

You can join our fixers to learn how to repair your useful items and avoid tossing items into landfill. If the Cafe is busy the last item must be in at 12.15. Gold coin donation appreciated.



Castlemaine Repair Cafe



castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com



August Solution

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

For early access to the solution to this month's puzzles, email: news@harcourt.vic.au

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

The Dance

TUSK

THE FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE SHOW

6:30 PM



FOOD & DRINK

7:30 PM



MUSIC

SCAN QR TO



BUY TICKETS

DECEMBER 5TH

JAMES PARK STAGE, 7 HIGH ST. HARCOURT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

