

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

December 2015

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 23

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

<http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

Minister for Agriculture Visits Harcourt



Jaala Pulford the Agriculture Minister, accompanied by Local Member Maree Edwards, visited the Harcourt Cooperative Coolstores, on Friday 13 November.

Discussions centred on the range of products available currently from Harcourt, with a view to diversification. Other opportunities including warehousing and associated transport which would boost employment and Harcourt's economy, were also discussed.

After viewing the new bottling plant, which is expected to be ready for the 2016 apple season, the visitors were treated to lunch and tastings of a range of Harcourt products. *Picture above shows (left) Jaala Pulford (front) with Simon Frost of the Little Red Apple, and (right) Maree Edwards (front) and Drew Henry of Henry of Harcourt.*

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 3rd 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.



Twilight on the Green & Tour de Bress



Harcourt Progress Association organised the event “Twilight on the Green”, on Friday November 13th to run in conjunction with the Tour de Bress Criteriums. Shown left is a stage in the Women’s event and below, the group Summer Rain which entertained the crowds. The queue for the HPA Barbecue was long; the barbecue sold out and raised \$1,500 towards the 2016 Applefest.

Barkers Creek Beer and Cider Festival



The crowd which attended the Beer and Cider Festival Fundraiser organised by the Barkers Creek Cricket Club enjoyed the day at the attractive and historic venue. Shown above is a portion of the crowd and to the right Harcourt Progress Association members with their Gourmet Barbecue. Pictured are Genevieve Ward, Jacqueline Brodie-Hans and Donna McMahon. HPA has at least two more fundraising barbecues planned for Applefest!



Breaking News – SPEED LIMIT TO BE LOWERED TO 60KMs

After a solid year of regular lobbying, close monitoring and continually following up with Council and VicRoads workers, the Harcourt Progress Association is very pleased to report we have been successful in securing a lowering of the speed limit for Harmony Way, downtown Harcourt.

This issue has been pressing for the Harcourt community since the Calder Freeway was relocated. The matter came to a head several years ago when a newly installed pedestrian crossing had to be removed because the traffic speed was incompatible with the crossing installed. The HPA took on the issue in September 2014 and have been advocating

for the lowering of the speed ever since.

Council have now advised that the road speed limit will be lowered from 70 kms to 60 kms. A push to further lower the speed to 50kms was not successful due to the low number of residents and businesses currently adjoining the main road. This may change in the future and Council will revisit the speed limit should the population in the centre of town increase.

The next item of our focus will be the re-installation of a pedestrian crossing outside the general store.

Watch this space.....

Harcourt Swimming Pool Opens

The Harcourt Pool opens on Saturday 5 December, just in time for the first heatwave of the summer!

It's going to be a great year at the pool with the Harcourt Progress Association advocating for increased community activities and events to take place throughout the season. Pool operators, the Bendigo Regional YMCA, have so far been slow to respond to proposals put before them but have confirmed that a pool party is scheduled for Saturday, 23rd January, 2016.

Council have also confirmed that they will conduct monthly "listening posts" to provide pool users an opportunity to speak directly to Council staff about the pool and its facilities. **Council will hold three listening posts at Harcourt Swimming Pool** during the pool season on the following times:

- Thursday 17 December 2015 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 12 January 2016 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
- Wednesday 24 February 2016 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Council has been very proactive in their support for the Harcourt Pool and has invested \$44,000 in improvements including a new shade sail, barbecue hotplate and saline water purification system. Entry prices have been capped at last season's rates and season pass holders gain entry into all Council-owned pools at Castlemaine, Maldon and Newstead. To purchase a season ticket or to make a group booking, you can call the YMCA direct on 5444 3360.

To find out more about HPA planned events, including a season of Friday night BBQs planned for throughout February, check out our Facebook page.



Silver Theme for Applefest 2016

In March 2016 we will be celebrating the 25th annual Applefest, our Silver Anniversary.

The committee has resolved to adopt a 'silver' theme, to be used in the displays, costumes, parade floats and advertising.

For example;-

Applefest royalty will have silver sequinned material for their capes.

Ladies might wear silver 'bling.'

Harcourt's footballers to parade with their trophies (their 'silverware').

Harcourt Landcare display will feature the endangered Silver Banksia,

Costumes, floats and colour schemes could generally make use of silver alongside pink or other bright tones.

It is important that each year's Applefest be bright and fresh! The committee hopes to tap into the creativity of the community by giving early advice of the theme. Please put some thought into this and see what a bright face our community can present to the patrons of the 2016 Harcourt Applefest.

The growth of the event

The relocation of the market in 2014 and the development of a more focused layout in 2015 are two initiatives that have been enthusiastically embraced.

However the new site has also presented problems associated with dust, uneven ground and the proximity of food preparation occurring near retail stalls. The Applefest Committee received a number of complaints about these issues and has been working behind the scenes to lobby Council and other stakeholders to address and remedy these problems. The



open drain that created difficulties in March 2015 has now been piped by Shire council staff so that there will be an increase in usable area.

Plans for 2016

A key recommendation for the 2016 Applefest is to separate the food and beverage vendors from the retail stalls.

It is proposed that we relocate

the Market stalls to the area of flat even ground running parallel to High Street opposite the CFA. The Festival Market will be enhanced with landscaping and a good structured layout. It is anticipated that the new Market precinct will be an attractive site and will generate interest from a wider range of stall holders. A lot of stall-holders have already booked their sites. Last year's new addition, the Kids Kar-nival, will be relocated a little further northwards, nearer to the swimming pool. These are encouraging signs of growth in Harcourt's big annual event.

Food, cider and wine vendors will remain in Stanley Park North, creating an entertainment precinct around the stage with plenty of seating and family-friendly entertainment. This is aligned with the trend at other regional festivals. Focusing the festival into three distinct, but neighbouring, sites of the Applefest will avoid issues associated with access and overcrowding. It also makes the event more attractive to potential market participants and to the general public.

The detailed program is now being compiled, with popular musical acts to be booked, stall sites to be reserved and parade entries being devised. The ferret races are to make a welcome return to the program. We have much to look forward to! Please be sure to mark the date on your calendar.

Saturday March 12th 2016

The Silver Anniversary Harcourt Applefest

Mount Alexander Fruit Garden Farm Shop Opens



Katie in front of one of the shop displays

The “pop” of champagne corks was the sound that greeted those attending the opening of Hugh and Katie Finlay’s Farm Shop. The Certified Organic farm won the Shire’s Sustainability and Environment Award this year. Katie and Hugh decided to continue the sustainability theme by re-purposing many old bits of farm equipment for the shop and surrounds. Lucy Nairn, Landscape Designer took up the challenge and sourced bins, pallets, tyres, old scales, water tanks, wheel barrows and tubs from around the farm. The result is a charming and welcoming shop with nostalgic touches.

Special guests at the opening were the Mayor, Christine Henderson, and representatives from the Bendigo Community District Bank at Maldon including the Manager, Steve Streeter, and the Chair of the Bank, Gen Barlow. The bank sponsored the prize of \$2,000 for Business of the Year, which Hugh and Katie also won, at the Mount Alexander Business

Awards, which they put towards establishing the shop. Also present from the Shire were Claire Baker, Tourism, Marketing and Events and Vicky Mason, Director Sustainable Communities.

Katie said, “Getting the shop open was a challenge and we thank the many volunteers who assisted with the construction, layout and planting at the two working bees we had. We will be open every Friday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm and people can pick their own fruit, when the fruit is in season.”

Products available at the shop are fruits in season (this week: apricots, peaches and lemons), jams made by Katie from fruit on the farm, biodynamic vegetables grown on site by Gung Hoe, Granite Springs Olive Oil, Harcourt Honey, Duck Eggs from Hillside Acres Harcourt, and a range of plant based beauty products made by Stephania Netcu of El-phinstone.

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Invitation - Free Fire Ready Public Safety Information Session



A free fire ready safety information session has been scheduled for Tuesday 8th December at the Harcourt Fire Station from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. We are fortunate to be allocated these meet-

ings each year and they are the perfect opportunity for your questions to be answered as well as being able to hear valuable information to assist in preparing and planning for the fire season which this year has started earlier than normal.

If you have never attended one of these sessions before or it has been a few years since attending, then I encourage you to make a special effort this year. We look forward to seeing you. Recent attendees are also most welcome as there is always something new to learn or to just refresh what you know. Please note that CFA postpones all community meetings when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe.

The CFA along with Victoria Police are currently promoting the HELP CATCH BUSHFIRE ARSONISTS BEFORE THEY STRIKE campaign. Each year there are numerous fires that are deliberately lit or are suspicious in nature and it has been calculated that about 50% of all bushfires are believed to be deliberately or recklessly lit. Quite often it is simple observations by the public that help join the dots together in solving the cause and or person responsible. So what can you do to assist? Firstly, if you observe any suspicious behaviour call **Triple (000)** immediately. If you suspect someone of bushfire arson, call **Crime Stoppers** confidentially on **1800 333 000**. If you are suspicious of a person or a vehicle, write down the following details: **For vehicles:** registration, make, model, colour and any damage to the vehicle or distinguishing features eg bullbar, mag wheels, pack rack. **For individuals:** age, height, hair colour, build, facial hair, clothing, ethnic appearance.

Even though December is the first month of summer, it seems like October and November forgot that they are supposed to be part of spring. This has highlighted the prediction of a long and potentially serious fire season. Recent events in South Australia and Western Australia have endorsed these predictions and reiterate the importance of preparation and to have a fire plan for you and your family. I encourage you to continue with any actions that can reduce

the threat of fire or reduces the intensity around your house and property. Be careful when carrying out any mowing and slashing especially in any new areas that may have rocks or even wire. The brigade attended a grass fire in November that was started when a piece of wire became entangled around the blade plate on a ride-on mower which shows how easily a fire can be accidentally started.

And lastly as you prepare for Christmas, take special care with your electrical decorations. Christmas tree lights and overloaded power points are two common causes of house fires in the month of December.

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Harcourt Fire Brigade, we like to wish you a happy, safe and fire free Christmas and New Year.

Tyrone Rice

Captain

Reminder: Fire Restrictions are in force, this means no fire can be lit in the open without a permit. There are also restrictions on other activities which can start a fire. If you are unsure check the CFA brochure "Can I, Can't I" which is available at the local station on Sunday mornings between 9.00 and 9.30am or go online to www.cfa.vic.gov.au.



Anthony Burns
Owner
harcourtwreckers@bigpond.com

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Federal Member for Bendigo

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IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING THIS FIRE SEASON

Speak to CFA Tuesday 8th December in HARCOURT

What: Free Fire Ready Safety Information Session

Where: Fire Station – 56 High St, HARCOURT

When: 7:00pm to 8:00pm Tuesday 8th December 2015

Find out: Must-have fire information for this season

For more information:

Contact CFA District 18 Office (1800 820 118)

Don't understand English?
Require an AUSLAN interpreter?
Need assistance to access the venue?

Let us know and we'll do our best to help.

If you belong to
a community group
or club, talk to us
about arranging
a customised
session.

Please note that CFA postpones all community meetings when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.
FireReady Victoria

cfa.vic.gov.au/meetings

THE CORE

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Harcourt Football Netball Club



UNDER 17½ TEAM

Are looking for new players to join the club in 2016

If you or any of your friends might be interested in having a kick of the footy come along and meet the coach.

For more details ring: Glen 0411 484 698

We look forward to meeting you!

There is exciting news for the Club as a Coach has been secured for the under 17½ **footy team** and we already have committed players ready to go. **We only need to secure two more players for this age group** and we will be able to take to the ground. We are confident that this will be achieved but we still welcome more players to jump on board. It will be a big deal to have Junior Football back at Harcourt!

Next year we will run the **AUSKICK** program again and hopefully from these younger players we will be able to rebuild our junior football with younger players. We plan to introduce an under 11½ team, if not 2016, then we are aiming for 2017.

Harcourt Football Netball Club will be holding its Netball Tryouts for the 2016 Season in the first few weeks of December. The Dates are as follows:

- Monday 7th December, Wednesday 9th December,
- Monday 14th December, Wednesday 16th December.
- Juniors from 5.30pm to 6.45pm
- Seniors from 6.45pm to 8.00pm

All Netball players new and existing must attend!

Friday Night Training has commenced at the Football ground for the Senior teams.

Club Members and interested community members are advised to join the team app to keep an eye out for dates and information, or alternatively keep an eye on the Facebook page!

Jacqui Searle

Harcourt Tennis Club

The Harcourt Tennis Club commenced Saturday competition in the middle of October. It has been an exciting time for the club, as we joined the Marong Tennis Association

The Marong Tennis Association has been a new challenge for our club with matches against Newbridge, Leichardt, Marong, Lockwood, Lockwood South, Derby, Wilsons Reef and Woodstock on Loddon. Each week we have a team of 12 Harcourt members of all ages compete in the competition. The competition is played on a home and away format, so we have some fun team travelling together. On our home games 12 opposition team members and their families travel to our wonderful Harcourt.

JUNIORS

The Harcourt Tennis Club has 3 Junior tennis teams that compete in the Castlemaine District Tennis Association. The Junior teams train on a Thursday night and play their competition on a Friday night.



The photo shows Jack Bickford putting some power into a forehand.

SOCIAL NIGHT TENNIS

Social Night Tennis commenced in October and we have had some amazing weather for tennis under the lights. This is played on a Thursday night commencing at 7pm and will be finishing up on December the 10th with a barbecue. We will restart social tennis in mid-January.

BEGINNERS PRIMARY SCHOOL TENNIS

Over the past 6 weeks the Harcourt Tennis Club has been teaching a group of enthusiastic Harcourt Valley Primary School students after school on a Monday night. This will conclude for the Christmas break on December the 7th but will restart when school resumes in the New Year.

Please contact Sharon Blake micblake@bigpond.net.au or Faye Hards 54742580 if you would like to be part of our social night tennis or primary school tennis.

Sharon Blake

No. 4: Katherine Seppings

We know Harcourt is a place with hidden treasures, but perhaps not many of its residents would necessarily name the arts among them. Yet we have among us a significant – and increasing – number of talented, often successful, occasionally illustrious, practitioners from across the spectrum of the art world.

It's difficult to know where to start with an artist like Katherine Seppings; it may be easier to list the things she hasn't done. Already an accomplished artist, photographer and writer, the recent launch of her first poetry collection, *When Embers Dance*, confirmed her as an outstanding poet, but it is merely the latest evidence of a life of creativity and enquiry.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Katherine moved to central Victoria in 1983, after the Ash Wednesday fires had laid waste large areas of the State and killed dozens of people. Incredibly, on the day of the fires she was visiting her mother, Joan Webster, discussing the need for a manual of bushfire preparation and survival. The result of those discussions was *The Complete Australian Bushfire Book*, later renamed *The Complete Bushfire Safety Book*, now an invaluable resource for anyone living in fire-prone areas.

Katherine was one of the first on the scene of those fires, documenting the devastation and recording the things she witnessed as people returned to their homes. She remembers being bombarded with strange sensations – the acrid stench of ash, her shoes melting from the heat in the ground, residents finding small items undamaged in the rubble. She had a similar experience after the fires in 2009 and fire remains a source of inspiration for all her work.

It seems she was destined to be an artist from a very early age. She remembers crying as her family drove into Melbourne from the suburbs, having witnessed the destruction of beautiful and enchanting terrace houses and workers' cottages to make way for ugly housing commission flats. That appreciation of built form continued into her art in later school years; and into her early working life.

Her paintings of old buildings in city and country settings were widely exhibited – in fact they appeared in more than 50 exhibitions before Katherine turned 21. Her photographic work gained prominence too, resulting in an appointment to the National Trust Photographic Committee at a young age.

In central Victoria, it dawned on Katherine that her skill set could be put to good use. She quickly became a "one woman band", writing stories and taking photos for local press, business and government publications. Not long after coming to the area, however, Katherine felt the urge to make the (in those days) almost mandatory journey to the UK, and found work in the commercial art and publishing field. She also worked in the relatively new field of



music video, even making the blancmange that starred in the video for the No. 1 hit *Song for Whoever*, by the band Beautiful South.

After two years or so in London, she returned to Chewton but found it very small and didn't last long before heading in the opposite direction, travelling through Canada, Mexico and New Orleans before landing in New York City and falling under its spell. She experienced the "microcosm of the world", living in Chinatown among non-English speakers, but loving the emerging hip hop music scene, as well as dance and poetry. Having lost her camera in an assault in Mexico, she began writing more frequently—including poetry for the first time.

Even New York couldn't hold her forever, so she returned home looking for family and a garden, achieving both rather more quickly than she planned. Her beautiful daughter, Maya, became her new full time occupation.

Motherhood did not stop her from taking photos, though, and Katherine realised there was an opportunity to produce high-quality tourism cards featuring Castlemaine and surrounds. Many of these images have become iconic and are still seen in shops and tourist facilities around the area.

In between poetry book launches, Katherine is working on a memoir of her time in New York, based on the journals she kept there, and a much anticipated history of the Castlemaine Artists Inc. group of unique characters from the 70s and 80s. She will also promote *When Embers Dance* at various poetry events and festivals.

When Embers Dance is available at Collected Works bookshop in Swanston Street, from the Melbourne Poets' Union, and from Katherine's website at www.katherine-seppingspoetry.com. Check out the blancmange at www.mtv.co.uk/the-beautiful-south/videos/song-for-whomever.

Doug Falconer

For more on Katherine's poetry book launch see Page 21.

Councillor Update

Waste Management in the Shire

Comment by Ratepayer, Jill Loorham

Hi all,

It has been a busy time on Council. There is always a range of issues and the Councillors work very hard to achieve the best results for the community.



The Council has determined that Castlemaine will have a new indoor aquatic centre based at the existing Castlemaine pool site. As you will know this has been a drawn out decision but now we have a clear direction it will be good to see that project move into the planning phase. This project will depend on grant funding. If the funding does not eventuate in a three year period Council will review its decision.

Another task Council has been working on is a Rate Review. Our surrounding shires offer differential rates for the farm sector and I am keen to see a fair go for our farmers. One farmer told me it costs twice as much to run a sheep in our shire compared to another!! There has been discussion about other aspects of the rating including the municipal charge and waste charges. We have had advice from a consultant on rating. His task seemed to be how we could raise more revenue. That is not the path I advocate. I want to see better value for money with how the rates are spent and for Council to live within its means. I support rate capping, however, I am disappointed it is taking so long to implement. It should be noted that the Municipal Association seems to be strongly opposed to rate capping. Our rates in Mt Alexander shire have doubled in real terms over the past ten years and I do not support that. On a positive note our shire is in good financial shape. The problem is many of our rate payers are under financial stress.

I was sorry to hear of the death of local identity Ron Rice. Ron was an outstanding member of our community and our thoughts are with his wife Wendy and family. We are very fortunate in our community to have people like Ron. He was a tireless worker; created a lot of opportunities for others in the community and if there was something that needed doing, you could rely on him.

Fire season is with us again so I do encourage people to have a good clean up around the yard if they have not done it yet. The fires in WA and SA have demonstrated the devastation that can result from bushfires.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas. Remember to get the car checked out well before you plan to travel.

Best regards to all,

Tony.

AG Cordy, 0439742434

I have just completed the Shire waste management survey and found it a frustrating waste of my time and a lost opportunity. There are many good and simple solutions to Council's current management strategies in regard to waste and environment. It's important to remind ourselves also that when rate revenue is low (as it is in this Shire), every cent needs to be used carefully. There are so many good ideas in regard to waste management in the context of environment.

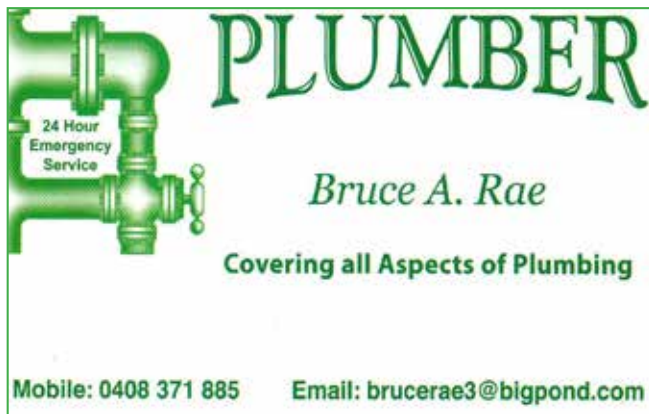
Management of the great swathes of weeds, grass-land and trees alongside all of the shire roads should be the responsibility of the landowner adjoining the road verge. We should relocate and rebuild the fencing abutting privately-owned land (the land that is next to roads, streets and freeways) and vest the management of it with the adjoining land-owners. Currently most of the Shire's roads receive token care from Shire workers. Poisoning great swathes of perfectly good grass, which in turn results in roadside erosion, using machines that carry weed-seeds everywhere else in the Shire is not good roadside management. This land could also be grazed by farming animals or mowed at least six-monthly by land-holders.

The municipal tip should become a huge recycling venture and should be used to produce energy. This is a massive undertaking; one that requires time, energy and a will to implement. There are amazing working case studies throughout the world. The initial cost to set-up would be more than compensated over time, as energy is produced and waste is minimised.

Private ratepayers could easily bring their kerb-side rubbish and recycling to centrally located large community rubbish bins. Such bins are used extensively in Europe and are placed at strategic rural locations and in residential streets and shopping areas. These large bins would be emptied regularly; weekly, as they are now, using a much smaller fleet of vehicles.

There is so much that can be done better in terms of waste and environment. The most important thing the Shire can do is to ensure the community is involved in a real way through intelligent research questions and through a newly formed community committee focused on best outcomes for the community, environment and waste management. A good start would be the Shire itself not wasting the community's time (or the community's money) in surveys that are not worth the paper (or the computer) they're written on.

Business Update - Bruce Rae Plumbing



Bruce Rae is a registered Plumber who specializes in domestic, commercial, industrial plumbing and gas fitting and he's been running his own business for over 25 years. The types of jobs Bruce works on range from the smaller call-outs, such as gas heater repairs and burst pipes to large commercial building projects where he's needed to employ a team of contractors including apprentice staff.

Bruce is building up his business in Central Victoria since moving to the area around two years ago. He and his wife, Annette lived in Taradale for nine months while they looked around for the perfect place and purchased their 17 acre property just on a year ago. They've both embraced their move from the congested city and love the peace and quiet of Harcourt.

Bruce and Annette have been gradually renovating their house plus revegetating their land with native trees. Bruce says the people in the area are great – very honest and welcoming. Their neighbours are happy to put their cows on Bruce and Annette's prop-

erty to help keep the grass down, especially now bush fire season is here. They have also made some good friends at the local Bowling Club.

Bruce has always taken pride with his business in having a big clientele who value his services. He says, "Most of my customers have been word of mouth where people can attest for my good work". He enjoys the challenge and variety his work offers as well as meeting different people and many customers have used his skills and services for many years. Bruce picks up some regular plumbing work a couple of days a week Melbourne whilst he continues to grow his business locally. He's recently had a sign made up which he's going to put on his Reservoir Road fence line to help with advertising.

Bruce is looking forward to the Coliban water pipe becoming operational. He believes it will be great for Harcourt and he also hopes to pick up some business by helping the locals with their water connections.

Give Bruce a call on 0408 371 885 for a quote – no job is too big or small!



Harcourt Uniting Church

In case you haven't realised – Christmas is only a few weeks away! Decorations are appearing in the streets and shops and everywhere there are presents for you to buy.

The Harcourt Uniting Church will be holding Carols in the Park (Stanley Park opposite the shop) on Sunday 13th Dec 7.30pm when everyone is invited to join in the singing of carols old and new. Thompson's Foundry Band will supply the music and George Milford will be MC. There will also be some items by guest artists which will allow you to rest your voices. So BYO chair or a rug and join us.

NB the date has changed from that which appeared in the November Core – so it's 13th Dec 7.30pm

We also do some singing around the district on another evening, visiting those who are elderly and or not able to join in community activities due to ill health. Last year we even had some cows come to the house fence at a farm to check out the noise!!

On **Christmas Day 8am** everyone is welcome to join us for a service at the Harcourt Uniting Church

in Buckley Street – this is nice and early so you can then go home and “put on the roast” or open your presents!!

In the last report I mentioned Frontier Services. In our special service held recently, Carole Ingersoll spoke about her visit to Yuendumu in Central Australia which is approximately 350kms North West of Alice Springs. She showed us photos of some of the aboriginal art work featured in their Church – they have such vibrant colours and every painting has a special meaning. If you type “Yuendumu Doors” into your search engine you will see some of the wonderful work done by these people using the school doors as their canvas. After some restoration these doors have become part of an exhibition in an Adelaide Gallery.

Despite the usual “last minute rush,” we hope that Christmas will be a special time of sharing in the love of your family and friends as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Jan Jenkin

Harcourt Lions Donation to MILO in2Cricket



The Harcourt Lions Club has generously supplied \$500 worth of junior cricket equipment for the Harcourt Milo Cricket from Rebel Sports Kangaroo Flat. Shown above are some of the children who attend the program with the equipment. Brian O'Conner is the Milo cricket facilitator/organiser (*right in photo*). Nate McLoughlan (*shown left in photo*) is one of the parent helpers, others are David Ling and James Thornley as well as members of the Harcourt Cricket Club.

The MILO in2CRICKET program is designed for boys

and girls from 5 to 8 years old. It is a fast, fun and active program that emphasises maximum participation, basic motor and cricket skill development. It is experience based and builds its foundations on the essentials for lifelong involvement in physical activity and sport. Milo cricket takes place on Wednesdays at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

There are 27 children who have signed up from Harcourt and beyond.

\$86,000 Project Complete



Janyce McMurtrie, (second from left) Project Officer for the Barkers Creek Project, hands over her final report to the Barkers Creek Landcare Network Representatives: Jarrod Coote, left, Daryl Colles, middle right and Karoline Klein far right.

Over the last two and a half years, Barkers Creek Landcare Network has had the oversight of \$86,000 project money to improve Barkers Creek. This is the second stage of a very long project which aims to improve the creek from its source at North Harcourt to the edge of the Botanical Gardens in Castlemaine. Project Officer Janyce McMurtrie has been responsible for managing the work and extensive and remarkable change has been achieved, in many cases with the eager cooperation of landholders along the creek.

Following the tour of the works on Barkers Creek a bar-

becue in the Oak Forest celebrated this achievement and was attended by those on the bus (below) and included members of Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group, Harcourt Valley Landcare Group and North Harcourt Sedgwick Landcare.

The Barkers Creek Landcare Network, which is made up of representatives of the three Landcare groups mentioned above, will be putting their heads together in the New Year, to source funds for the necessary further works to be done on Barkers Creek.



LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

A man with a very large tummy
Put it down to the genes of his mummy.
But the food that he ate
Every day with his mate
It was fatty, had sugar, but yummy



Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

If you have any State or Local Government issue
please contact my office for assistance

8 Pantom Street (PO Box 326)
Golden Square VIC 3555
Tel: (03) 5444 4125 Fax: (03) 5441 8140
maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au
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Harcourtian - Craig Carter

Most of us, when watching a film or TV series, take for granted the mix of sounds accompanying the images on the screen. Yet these sounds are pivotal to the viewing experience, adding dimension and context to what we see. The sounds of the forests, busy streets, cafes, lashing storms, demonstrations, animals, or of eeriness itself, are the craft of Sound Designers. The greater the skills of the Sound Designer and the talent with which he or she can blend the audio with the visual the better we are transported into the environment we are watching.

One of Australia's most accomplished freelance Sound Designers, Craig Carter, now lives in Harcourt North. He has received awards and nominations for his work in Australia and overseas and a lot of us, without being aware, have heard his work in *The Glitch*, *The Slap*, *Oddball*, *Matching Jack*, *Babe- Pig in the City*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Mad Max- Beyond Thunderdome* and *Rabbit Proof Fence*.

'I have been in this business for nearly 35 years now and have sound designed some 83 feature films, 37 television series and 17 short films. Some films you remember more than others. *Malcolm* was a lot of fun, *Kenny* enjoyable, *Rabbit Proof Fence* challenging and *The Last of the Apes*, still to be released and filmed in the Congo, Borneo and Indonesia, really emotional to do. *The Last of the Apes* shows, with the encroachment of humans into their habitat, how precarious the survival of these beautiful creatures has become.



opportunity to do some musical arrangement came up at the ABC and I left my studies to go there. My first job was working on a series on Macquarie Island which was narrated by Edmond Hillary and featured a now Central Victorian singer, Danny Spooner. I stayed on at the ABC and worked as an editor on *This Day Tonight*. When budget cuts hit the broadcaster in the early 80s I decided to put the skills I had acquired in film and sound editing to use as a freelancer.

'Michael Pattinson hired me as an assistant film editor on *Moving Out*. This was in the days when you actually cut a film. Once you made a decision and cut that was it. These days with digital recordings you can change your mind and revisit your cuts. As a consequence some films, time permitting, can be cut and recut a number of times.

'I stayed on with Michael and did the sound work on his next film *Street Hero* in 1983. It opened the door for me as a Sound Designer. I have worked with some wonderful and truly gifted people and had the opportunity to work in a number of countries.

'Sound design can be slow and intensive. If I am sound designing a storm scene with dialogue where machines have been used to create the storm on set, I have to strip out the sound of the machines put in genuine storm sounds and edit in the dialogue, sometimes syllable by syllable. Very often the entire dialogue needs to be re-recorded in studio conditions and blended with the mix of sounds.



'I didn't set out to be a Sound Designer. In fact I never went to Film School. I was studying at University and enjoying listening to and playing music. An

'I am currently doing the sound design on an Italian film shot in the north east of Italy. I travelled there to record atmosphere sounds - street noises, cafes, bells,

background conversations, etc. but now that the film is finished I am doing the sound design from my home. My home-based work is made possible by the NBN. Without it I'd spend more days than I do now in Melbourne and the lifestyle my wife, Fiona, and I enjoy would not be possible.

'Fiona and I are both city people. Fiona, a trained pharmacist who now works on contract to Bendigo Health, was originally from Blackburn and I grew up around Carrum on the Mornington Peninsula. We had a federation home in Brighton for 22 years. We wanted to try country living rather than die wondering if it was a lifestyle we would enjoy. We had been looking for years but really no further than Woodend. We saw a house was for sale in Harcourt North and decided to check it out. Once we saw the view and the garden we decided it was our type of place.

'We have gone from a garden you could look after

in an afternoon to one that is a bit like painting the Harbour Bridge. There are also things about country living that we had not thought about or had to confront before – fire plans, managing our water, sharing our environment with wildlife and shopping differently for supplies.'

'I don't see this as a place to retire. I see it as a pleasant place to continue doing some of the work I do now, but less of it, a place to get back to my music and also try my hand at writing.'

Keep an eye out for Craig and his high quality sound equipment. He has been known to walk around the neighbourhood recording chooks, dogs and farm noises for his sound library. I am reliably informed that a local dog provided the voice of the Maremma sheepdog in the film Oddball.

Jenny McKenry
Dandura Alpacas

(Left, Page 14) Recording orphaned apes.

Working on The Last of the Great Apes (below)



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Harcourt Bowling Club



After having a week off, in Round 5 the Pennant teams returned a mixed bag. Although there were some close games success only managed to come to

Weekend Division 8 at Dingee and Midweek Division 4 who enjoyed their close win over South Bendigo.

Round 6 brought success to Weekend Divisions 7 and 8 and midweek Division 4 having a welcome win over VRI.

Weekend Pennant - The results are:

DIVISION 3 - Round 5

Harcourt 4/92 lost to Castlemaine 14/95.

Leo Moloney 28/18; Rod Harris 19/26; Gary Maddern 16/35; Phil Clarke 29/16

Round 6 Bendigo East 16/105 def Harcourt 2/77.

Phil Clarke 10/33; Ken Delmenico 31/15; Kevin Holschier 19/27; Gary Maddern 17/30.

DIVISION 7 - Round 5

Kangaroo Flat 14/77 def Harcourt 2/66.

Daryl Gale 26/24; Rob Chaplin 18/29; Ron Douglas 22/24.

- **Round 6** Harcourt 16/15 forfeit by Bendigo 0/-15.

DIVISION 8 - Round 5

Dingee 2/65 lost to Harcourt 14/75.

Kaye Grant 15/23; David Jeffries 28/21; Grahame Pogue 32/21.

- **Round 6** Harcourt 16/95 d South Bendigo 0/46.

Allan Nicholls 36/18 Daryl Gale 21/14; Grahame Pogue 38/14.

Midweek Pennant - The results are:-

DIVISION 4 - Round 5

South Bendigo 2/68 lost to Harcourt 14/72.

Joan Bath 31/19; Moira Straw 22/20; Heather Braid 19/29.

- **Round 6** Harcourt 12/71 def. Bendigo VRI 4/61

Joan Bath 19/25; Heather Braid 36/15; Moira Straw 16/21

DIVISION 5 - Round 5

14/15 Bye

- **Round 6** Harcourt 0/21 lost to Dingee 14/68

Fairlie Harman 8/38; Joan Jenkin 13/30

Sponsor's Challenge

Round one of the three round Sponsor's Challenge on Tuesday night (17th) saw some hidden bowling talent

come to the fore in the teams from ASQ who are holding a narrow lead from Castlemaine Fresh. Chaplin's Orchards team and a number of others show promise and will have time to hone their skills for round two in February.

Tournaments - Kidman Fours

On Sunday 22nd Brian and Wilma Kidman returned to the Club to host the 4th Annual Kidman Fours Tournament they have sponsored since leaving the District. The Kidman's have both contributed to the success of the Club over many years and were warmly welcomed 'home'. This Tournament was keenly contested by teams from within the district and beyond. Winners on the day were Castlemaine team of Ian and Patti Devereaux, Trish and Mick O'Shea (*Left to right in photo below, with Wilma and Brian on the right*) in a play-off with two-time winners Gary Maddern's Harcourt team of John Starbuck, Joan Bath and Chris Anderson.



Tournaments - Harcourt Triples

Teams from Castlemaine (4); Golden Square; Campbells Creek; South Bendigo; Marong; VRI; Kyneton; Heathcote and Eaglehawk contributed to a very successful Harcourt Bowling Club Triples Tournament on Wednesday 11th November. Perfect weather and a delicious afternoon tea added to the friendship and fun of an enjoyable afternoon of bowls.

Winners on the day were Castlemaine Team of Pat Devereaux, Florence Stevens and Mary Stevenson with runners up from Golden Square team of Ruth Pearce, Cheryl Perrow and Rhonda Gould. Sponsors Parsons Motor and Body Shop, Castlemaine Fruit Supply and Castlemaine Toyota were thanked for their support of the day.

Tournaments - Marong

Two teams from Harcourt travelled to Marong on Friday 22nd to compete in the Invitation Medley Fours Tournament and although they did not win the camaraderie and experience made for an enjoyable day of bowls.

Green's Café

A very delicious "Sumptuous Summer" menu was enjoyed by those who attended the last Greens Café for the year. The bowling club is lucky to have had this Café throughout the year and hope that Graeme and Kay can continue this next Year.

Coming Up ...

Saturday 12th December- Club Christmas break-up.

Sunday 13th December - The Men's and Women's Club Single Championship Finals. The finals of the 100-up will also be played on this day. Participants are to wear uniform. Community members are welcome to come and watch our locals vie for the Championship.

The Harcourt Bowling Club extends best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our members and the broader community.

Chris Anderson

(Photos below show scenes from the Sponsors' Challenge Round One - barefeet were the order of the day)



Harcourt CWA

Greetings and Salutations from the ladies at Harcourt CWA branch!

November is the month for change at Harcourt CWA, as we wind down the year we have our AGM and vote in new Office Bearers – which is why I'm the one writing this not our lovely Lyn Rule.

To start the ball rolling, our new President is Meryl Adams, Meryl lives on a beautiful property out Campbell's Creek way. She's the go-to girl for honey; they have some gorgeous honey that shows up when we remember to ask.

Marie Twyford has retaken the role of Secretary after a break for a few years. Always willing to have a chat over coffee, Marie has her finger on the pulse of Harcourt and Castlemaine a lot better than most.

I've taken over as Publicity Officer for the Harcourt Branch, and I hope I can do half as good a job as Lyn Rule has done over the years. I'm one of the youngest members of Harcourt CWA, and my son starts high school next year. You'll have seen me prancing around at Applefest last March complete with wings – and you'll see me doing it again next March as I reprise the "Applefest Pet Fairy" role.

In January we will once more hold our annual "Friendship Day" and ALL are welcome to attend. This will be held on January 21st at 12 noon in the Castlemaine Gardens at the Rotunda. BYO food and drinks and all are welcome. Come along, bring the kids and meet the ladies. The day is cancelled if the temperature is over 35 degrees, however, so do please take note of the weather on the day.

In closing, we hope that you all have a safe and happy holiday season, if you aren't spending it with loved ones for whatever reason, don't forget to pick up the phone and call them.

Dani Kent

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ASQ Plant of the Month **Christmas Trees!**

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Pips 'n' all

Hello Garden lovers,

We are well into a hot, dry summer and our garden is suffering from hot winds and lack of rain. Our highest priority is water! We are concentrating on watering new plants as their small root systems have not developed sufficiently enough to support them. We have planted Pistachios along our driveway. They are establishing nicely but their root systems will only just be emerging from the potting mix and into the surrounding soil. Watering plants through their first summer will greatly improve their success. This is true for natives as well as exotic plants.

The water level in our dam is quite low after the dry spring. I am sure many others are in the same situation. This means that effective watering is even more important than usual. We have extended our drip irrigation into a few more garden beds. Drip irrigation is very effective because it delivers water directly to the plant roots and loses little water to evaporation because the lines lie under the mulch. Having the lines on a timer is also helpful so that we don't forget about them and leave them running.

Our roses don't mind the hot weather at all and are flowering nicely. Removing dead flowers promotes flowering and keeps the bushes looking good.

This month we are:

- Watering new plants;
- Staking & feeding the tomatoes;
- Deadheading the roses;
- Tying down soft new branches of espalier fruit trees;
- Harvesting cherries; and
- Watering peaches and apricots.

This month in the woodland:

- Common Everlastings (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) are flowering; and
- Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) is flowering.

Happy Gardening
Janyce



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Fire Resistant Gardens

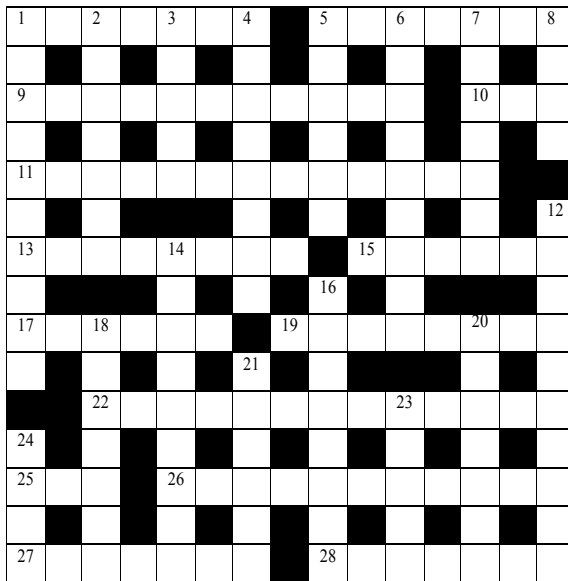
Is there such a thing as a fire resistant garden? During fire season the major menace is always wind. In my view, the best resisters are thick, fairly high close foliated evergreens. In the 1919 period it was the fiery end of several years of bushfires, which were rarely attended by fire brigades and which were fought with wet wheat bags and homes owners' fire pumps. It was after this that some planted firebreak plants, and some of these are still around, although many are now deemed environmental weeds. These plants include Privet, Hawthorn, Italian Buckthorns and Cape Ivy.

So what should be planted to assist in the protection of your home? The most flammable trees are Cyprus, pines, eucalypts, and some other natives, so do not plant these near your house. All plants will burn in a severe fire situation, but non indigenous plants which are deciduous and densely leafy in summer are the best protection, they slow the wind and are better at not igniting under ember attack. Cleared grass areas around a house keep the house cool and make a good firebreak for a running ground fire. For detail on how to prepare your garden for fire read "Landscaping for Bushfire, Garden Design and Plant Selection", which is a downloadable PDF from the CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Ian Johnson

December Xword 2015

©McW March '15



Across:

1. Saturday's short clue contains Hi-ace for the distinguished learned ones. (7)
5. Tree farm or something like silver beet? (7)
9. Renovation comedy? (11)
10. Sometimes one feels a hundred, quite off-colour... (3)
11. Switching air-conditioners to "Go" constitutes swanking it up. (7,2,4)
13. Antique 3-min hourglass? (Not crusty enough to be John...) (3-5)
15. He waits in motels... (6)
17. Tyro nun has nothing to confess. (6)
19. What sounds a little too bad for the French is enough to discolour urine? (5,3)
22. Additions to price of seat for Damocles. (8,5)
25. We terrorists have a monogram for the main enemy. (1.1.1.1.)
26. No-risk wave for shady locksmith. (4-7)
27. Hang cups on woman noted for her clothes? (7)
28. Brute said, "But grain in it ends up being derided." (7)

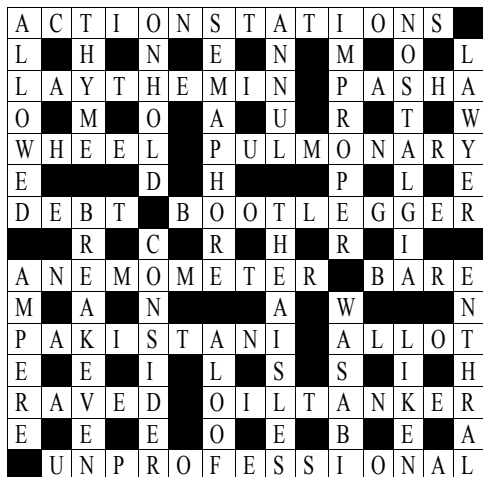
Down:

1. Take mortise & tenon back to bare timber for the raunchy night-spot. (5-5)
2. I divest in order to be called upon. (7)
3. I moan about celebrity—what's that? (5)
4. With a glass pen you could depict these glittery bits. (8)
5. Get one's bearings towards the dawn? (6)
6. Fat on stock is a short dictionary notion. (9)
7. A flimsy complex of lies is what it is all about. (2, 5)
8. Shop for Indian tummy upset? (4)
12. One Frenchwoman 28-ed but stet, even if bewildered... (10)
14. Rumpled bracket-creep? (9)
16. Swedish foursome's tavern stirs up stand-in son of the father. (8)
18. Stringed one consumed to break nastily into. (7)
20. Russian fatally wounded in duel enough to shove reliefs over the edge... (7)
21. Annoying beetle? (6)
23. A century to repeat beliefs. (5)
24. Two dollars given as compensation. (4)

November 2015 Xword

©McW Feb '15

solution



Down:

- 1 Let news boss [Ed] be permitted. (7)
- 2 Herb in space continuum? [Well?]
- 3 Second-lowest level in ship in abeyance? [Well? Above the hold...]
- 4 What you get when you stop sending smoke signals and just wave the blanket? [Well?]
- 5 Cancel once you drop a second yearly [annu~~al~~]
- 6 Says one is squeaky-clean, but behaviour tells a different story... [Well? I'm really proper...]
- 7 Giant also remembered sentimentally. (9)
- 8 Skid-marks before kangaroo, not before politician. Here's another non-skid road kill... [Well?]
- 14 Crack [Break] neck-and-neck even... for a neutral outcome. (5,4)

16 see 9ac.

17 Contemplate son head-over-heels in the scrumpy [cider]. (8)

18 Currently says he's the dad. [Well? French...]

20 What the prison octet does? [Well? The 'Captive eight'...]

21 Condiment was a bit of a shock! (6)

23 Backing off in that manner won't fool a lot of us. (5)

25 Say something similar to moss? (5)

Across:

- 1 Aux armes! Put terminals to work. [Well?] [Sorry about "action" as V.tr...]
- 9 & 16dn Stack super-appreciative audience in rows between seats. [Well?]
- 10 Kiss and a cuddle for high Turk. [Well?]
- 11 Back of the boot comes from the sunset [West...] to provide rotary invention. (5)
- 12 Road to lung? [Arterial one...]
- 13 Fiscal responsibility of one coming out [deb] to a [I]. (4)

15 Footwear, and one who runs away [Legs it...] from prohibition... (10)

18 Memo: anteater can't measure wind with [a]... (10)

19 "Nakedly ursine". [Well?]

22 Dad [Pa] and two singles stank in the sub-continent. (9)

24 Apportion the way illiterates spell much. [Well? More often with one 'l'...]

26 When I talked through my hat I wasn't varied at random. (5)

27 Will take RN oil. (3,6)

28 Bad behaviour of senior lecturer? [Well? Not like a Prof...]

When Embers Dance

by Katherine E Seppings

Published by Melbourne Poets Union (2015)

Katherine E Seppings' first poetry collection, *When Embers Dance*, (cover shown right) has been called 'a fearless first collection.' Published by Melbourne Poets Union, Katherine's chapbook was launched by Ross Donlon at The Maurocco Bar, Castlemaine, on Sunday 29 November.

When Embers Dance is 'an empathetic and hard hitting rendering of life in contemporary Australia,' writes Sue King-Smith. Poems of debilitating drought, bush fires, animal exploitation and family violence are interspersed with 'hope and quiet joy—a bar in Seville ... the birth of faith in a spring garden and poetic musings over a blank page.'

'The constant note sounded in Katherine E. Seppings' poems is one of compassion,' says Ross Donlon. 'She is able to express her feelings in precise, unsentimental language and through arresting imagery.'

'Poetry that compels – that challenges, and demands to be read.' Peter Hay

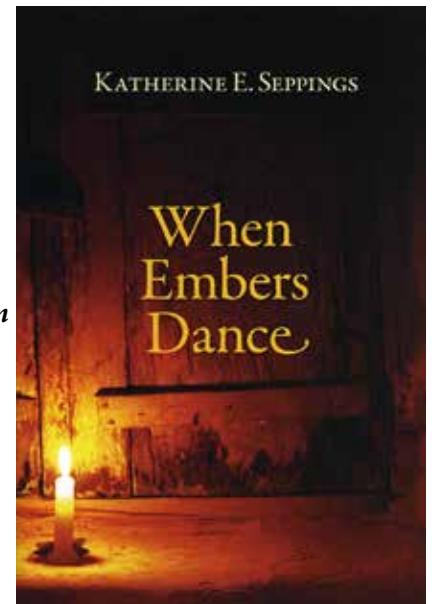
To Purchase:

through Katherine's website -

<http://katherineseppingspoetry.com/>

or pay \$18 (postage incl.) via Direct Deposit into the Melbourne Poets Union account (BSB: 063 010 Acc no: 1005 4087) with your name as remitter and the book title as the item OR send a cheque for \$18 to: MPU, PO Box 266, Flinders lane, VIC 8009. Remember to include the book title and your name and address.

Collected Works Bookshop 1/37 Swanston St,
Melbourne VIC 3000



When Embers Dance book cover (right). Katherine has kindly provided a poem from her new book (see below).

Heatwave

The sun came so close

I couldn't breathe.

All the baked days –

gusts fanning,

fire trucks tearing

out to the bush.

Sirens sang their terrifying songs –

a choir of dogs howling.

Too restless for sleep,

bedrooms like kilns,

we sprawled on the lounge-room's tepid floor,

pretended we were camping.

Our thoughts silenced

by the fan's whirr,

we prayed for the cycle

of change – storm, rain and cool.

We were trapped

inside our inland home,

my child and I dreaming

of a sea breeze.

Katherine Seppings

Community Diary Dates

5th December: *Harcourt Pool Opens*

7th December: 7.30 pm, *Heritage Centre Christmas meeting* and supper at ANA Hall.

7th December: Netball tryouts commence, see Football Netball Club article or Facebook page.

12th December: Bowls Club Christmas break-up.

13th December: Bowls Club, Men's and Women's Club Single Championship Finals.

13th December: 7.30 pm *Christmas Carols*, Stanley park, led by Thompsons Foundry band and featuring items by local artist Maya Seppings. (NOT AS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED)

14th December: 7.00 pm *Applefest Organising Committee*, ANA Hall

15th December: 6 - 9pm, Harcourt community Christmas celebration at the Bowls Club.

25th December: 8.00 am, *Christmas Service*, Harcourt Uniting Church, Buckley Street.

21st January: 12 noon, CWA Friendship Day in the Castlemaine Gardens at the Rotunda

23rd January: 1pm, Summer Pool Party at Harcourt Pool featuring inflatable water slide, music, BBQ and more!

24th January: Harcourt Star, An Applefest Fundraiser, Bowls Club

26th January: Australia Day

24 April: Maldon Cactus Warriors, the first monthly field day for 2016

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