

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

May 2016

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 27

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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

Welcome to Harcourt



Ugly, untidy and unwelcoming, the town entrance and northern freeway exits to Harcourt and Castlemaine are seriously unloved. It's a complaint the Harcourt Progress Association has heard repeatedly from local residents and we are determined to get the issue addressed. See page 3



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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.



ANZAC Day Ceremony

Harcourt's ANZAC Day Ceremony began with an afternoon tea at 2.30pm in the ANA Hall. Diana Cork read poignant excerpts from the Castlemaine Mail of events relating to Harcourt over the first year and a half of World War 1. What follows are those excerpts relating to community members in military service.

Items of Interest from Castlemaine Mail

May 12 1915: "... Major Gartside has proved himself a soldier of the first order and when Captain James is put to the test will not be found wanting..."

July 27 1915: "Last week's recruits bring the districts numbers up to 28 exclusive of those who failed (the health tests). This speaks volumes for itself for this district; the residents wish them all God speed, a decisive Victory and a safe return."

December 9 1915: "Writing to Mr J B Warren of Harcourt from Lemnos Island, Private Albert Ball says: 'Just a few lines to let you know I am in the best of health and spirits... To begin with we have been relieved from the Front and we are once more peaceful in Camp at Lemnos Island. But before we left the island Bob Thomas and I went out and found Major W B James and had a good old talk to him and by Jove you would hardly believe how pleased we were to meet one another... We were all pretty well done for by the time we were relieved and a spell (away) will do us a lot of good. I have been in some very

tight corners during my time at the Front; thought I was a goner dozens of times, but my luck stuck by me and I am still going strong. I was on Gallipoli for 18 weeks. We landed on Lemnos Island and I saw the first woman I had seen in twenty-six weeks.

February 9 1916: The residents of Harcourt district numbered over 100 assembled at the Harcourt Railway Station to welcome home Private Ivan Pellas, who has just returned from the front. On arrival the local band played a welcome and later on played selections... Three cheers were called for Private Pellas and were heartily given; also three were given to his mother Mrs J Pellas. Private Pellas was the first native of the district to return home and all are proud of him and pleased to have him home.

Following afternoon tea, those present formed up for the march behind the Castlemaine Pipe Band. During the service George Milford sang the hymn Whittier's "Tree of Peace" which starts with the words "Fold to your heart your sister and your brother..." The tune was by the late Dr A E Floyd, organist at St Paul's, Melbourne. George thanked the Pipe Band, The Castlemaine RSL and the Vietnam Veterans Association. As part of the year of ceremonies marking the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan a new memorial was placed in Stanley Park for David Milford who died at age 22 during the Vietnam War.

Below left: The Vietnam Memorial. Below right: The new memorial to David Milford, who served in Vietnam.



Welcome to Harcourt *(from page 1)*

Drive along the Calder Freeway and you will see a telling tale of two very different Shire Councils, as reflected in the entrances to their major towns. Approaching Kyneton, from Melbourne, you will note a landscaped entrance with rock formations and a welcoming crafted town sign, green manicured lawns belying the continued drought conditions.

A mere 30 kilometres north and you encounter the significant exit to Castlemaine and Harcourt, the major entrance to both these towns. This entrance is overgrown with weeds, with knee high grass and littered throughout with large quantities of rubbish. There are basic freeway signs – left for Castlemaine, right for Harcourt – but there is nothing interpretative or indicative to let you know you've arrived in a region rich in agriculture, history, natural beauty. As a visitor you would have no idea that prize winning wineries and acclaimed cider manufacturers operate nearby; or that Mount Alexander has an extraordinary rich and fascinating history. As a local, you will once again wonder when on earth VicRoads will get around to mowing the roundabout and verges surrounding the freeway exits.

When will the grass be mowed? Sometime later in the year, possibly spring. After all, they only mow once a year. Then how, you wonder, does Kyneton manage to have such a tidy and welcoming entrance to their town? Herein lies the difference between funding arrangements with Vic Roads and the Macedon Ranges Council and those currently held between Vic Roads and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Macedon Ranges receives funding from VicRoads to

subsidise a regular maintenance program for their freeway exits. According to MASC's own (former) CEO this funding is in the vicinity of \$25,000 per annum. Mount Alexander Shire Council does not receive this funding, but VicRoads has informed the HPA that they would be open to discussing this with Council and working towards a partnership arrangement.

A regular maintenance program would also help address the increasing volume of rubbish being dumped in the area, and discarded from passing vehicles. Whilst it's hard to prevent unthinking litterbugs from despoiling our surrounds, an improved standard of care sets a higher standard, and encourages greater civic pride. It might be subtle, but psychologically the state of our town and surrounding roads does impact on how we feel about our town and how our town is perceived by others. We are proud of Harcourt and its vibrant community: it's time that that pride and the love of place we have, is reflected in a better quality of care and service for our surrounds.

The Harcourt Progress Association calls on Mount Alexander Shire Council and VicRoads to work towards a partnership which will help address the issue of roadside maintenance and improvements. As rate payers, tax payers, payers of licence and registration fees; as users of our roads and residents of this Shire, we deserve and demand a better outcome.

Cut Grass and Then What?

Through the Harcourt Community Plan local residents expressed a desire to see the town entrances to Harcourt reflect the vibrant nature of the town with signage, landscaping and possibly sculptural installations. This was also identified within Council's Town Centre Masterplan and Landscape Masterplan.

Town entrance beautification is not within VicRoads' remit, so this a project which will fall to Council and the community to pursue. External funding sources do exist to help realise this goal and it is one we feel will be

a great asset to the town. But first steps, first. Let's get the weeds removed, the rubbish cleaned up and the grass cut. Not once a year, but on a regular basis. And not by volunteers – as some misguided council observer has suggested – who are prevented from mowing freeway exits due to insurance and safety issues. But by the state and local bodies whose job it is to maintain and clean our roads and roadside precincts.

Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns
Secretary, Harcourt Progress Association



Harcourt CFA Report

**FREE PAVS AVAILABLE
SOON FROM THE HAR-
COURT FIRE BRIGADE.**

Now that I have grabbed your attention and you have a picture in your head of meringue topped with cream and fruit of your choice, I need to explain a bit further.

PAVS in CFA is an acronym for Property Advice Visit Service. This is conducted by trained members of the local brigade. Recently the Officers of the Harcourt Fire Brigade received an information presentation on PAVS for the Harcourt Brigade Area. We were briefed on the background of PAVS, what is involved, how to deliver it and the identified properties (179 of them in our Brigade area) with the highest exposure to bushfire risk. This is quite a daunting task to undertake and is something that will require a large commitment of time. We are currently processing the information and reviewing the maps we have been given before taking the next step.

END OF FIRE RESTRICTIONS - UPDATE

With the ending of fire restrictions in a large number of shires across North West Victoria, there was a higher volume than normal of out-of control private burn-offs that required attendance by CFA appliances due to the dryer than normal conditions for this time of the year. While autumn is generally a good time to take advantage of the milder conditions to conduct clean up burning, the current conditions require extra care to be taken. It is critical to check forecast weather conditions, taking particular notice of predicted wind speeds and direction as well as being fully prepared so that your burn can

be kept under control. You must also comply with local by-laws and we request that you register your burn by calling 1800 668 511. It is also advisable to let your neighbours know at least two hours beforehand. Establishing a fire break around the area helps reduce the risk of the fire spreading and ensuring you have enough water on hand to put out the fire is absolutely essential. There isn't enough time to run back to your house to get water if your fire gets out of control.

**Register your burn
by calling
1800 668 511**

On the flip side, if you see smoke, please be mindful of the fact that it may be a burn-off. Take a few seconds to assess the scene looking for the presence

of landowners and their vehicles and if the fire is static or spreading away from the material being burnt. If you report a fire about which you are unsure whether it is a burn-off or not, please provide an accurate as possible location and size so that cross-checking can be done against registered burns. If there is a registered burn in the same area, the operator should confer with you as to the likelihood that it is the same fire.

HOW IS YOUR CHIMNEY OR FLUE?

With the cooler nights, chimneys and flues can be seen working, indicating residents are returning to lighting their fireplaces for heating. Don't forget to give your chimneys and flues a clean and check before lighting up for the first time.

A post summer check of spouts, downpipes and gutters at the same time is also advisable because hopefully one day soon we will get some good rainfall in the Harcourt Valley. Every day that passes is a day closer!!!

***Take Care and Stay Safe
Tyrone Rice
Captain***

Harcourt Progress Association Farewells David Heath



David is shown with his partner Gen at one of the first Progress Association fundraisers - an afternoon of Jazz with Meg Corson in December 2013 at Harcourt Valley Vineyard.

After three years at the helm of the HPA our first ever Chairperson, David Heath, is hanging up his hat. David has recently commenced a new job in Bendigo. In the final days of his tenure as Chair, Harcourt News/The Core asked him about his motivation and highlights in the role.

Core: What prompted you to get involved with the Progress Association?

David: At the time, I was new to Harcourt and I was interested to see what would happen to the town centre following the bypass. I got wind that a community meeting had been organised to discuss community planning and the HPA involvement followed on from that.

Core: What do you see as the greatest achievements over the past 3 years?

David: I think the obvious successes have been The Core newspaper and the events that the HPA has run or been involved with. The Core was a huge need because there was no obvious way for Harcourt news and events to be publicised to all. The events have been great fun and a good opportunity for the community to come together. Applefest has been strengthened with the Kids Karnival and the new location and the Easter Egg Hunt is a huge success. Although less obvious, communications with council and keeping tabs on decisions which impact Harcourt has also been a success. Effecting the proposed location of the new Harcourt Playground has been an example of that.

Core: What have been the challenges and the stumbling blocks?

David: I'd have to say the big ticket items like moving

forward with on the ground works in the town centre. Working with council has been a huge learning curve. Things move at a glacial pace and it sometimes feels like even the smallest decisions take endless planning. Securing funding has been challenging for the HPA and getting capital works out of council is tough.

Core: What have you personally got out of the experience?

David: When I started with the HPA, I had very little experience with community groups let alone chairing meetings, public speaking, local government, fund raising and applying for grants etc. I jumped in the deep end and have received so much help from a great bunch of people. I also successfully applied for the Loddon Murray Leadership program which was really helpful with seeing what is possible and also with practical skills. I feel very happy with the successes we have had.

Core: And what is next for you David?

David: Genevieve and I are trying our hand at garlic farming. We have planted out a small commercial crop in the paddock after three years building up our stock. I also have a new full time position with Monash University in Bendigo which should keep me very busy. I want to spend more time around the property which always seems to need something or other done. I am also still working on an HPA project to establish an irrigation system in Stanley Park North. I'd like to see Stanley Park North green and attractive - just as Stanley Park is around the memorial. I am very hopeful that we can secure funding for this and have the system in place in time for next year's Applefest.

Councillor Notes



Hi all,

It has been a busy time on Council with the budget preparations and the start of the search for a new CEO.

The budget has now been released for public com-

ment so please have a look at it and send in your comments. Key points are the rate increase is held at 2.5% which is close to the CPI and we have adopted a new rating strategy which will see the municipal charge phased out over three years and the land management rate discount increased to 20%.

We need to acknowledge the State Government for introducing rate capping.

The CEO position has been advertised and this appointment will play an important role in the community over coming years. One of the challenges is everyone has a different view on what the ideal person for the role would look like!! The recruitment consultant will screen the applications and the Councillors will make the decision on who is the best candidate.

I hear it is going to rain tomorrow so I am looking forward to that. The garden and the farm need a drink and if we get 25mm of rain everyone will be happy.

It's great news that Council is about to start planting trees in Harcourt. How good is that? When I look at the parks and gardens in Melbourne and also our local gardens in Castlemaine it makes me realise what a great thing it is to plant trees. It is not expensive to do but it provides a legacy and something for future generations to enjoy.

Council had a civic reception at Maldon on April 26 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Maldon being named the first notable town by the National Trust. In fact it is the only town that has the Notable designation. It's quite a special place but not as good as Harcourt!!

Best regards, *Tony*

AG Cordy

0439 742434



Mount Alexander Shire Council in conjunction with Small Business Victoria is running four workshops over the coming weeks, starting on Monday 2 May with Marketing for Growth. This first workshop will be held from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm in the Ray Bradfield Room, Frederick Street, Castlemaine. Cost is \$30.

Future workshops include:

Develop Your Online Strategy:

Tuesday 17 May at 5.30pm - Cost \$30

Financial Health Check:

Monday 6 June at 5.30 pm - Cost \$20

Your Business in a Digital World:

Monday 11 July at 5.30 pm - Cost \$20

To book, visit www.eventbrite.com.au and search 'Mount Alexander'. For further information contact Eva Parkin on 5471 1805 or:

e.parkin@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Members of Business Mount Alexander will receive a 50% discount for a business mentoring session if they attend one of the above workshops offered by MASC. This voucher entitles you to a 60 to 90 minute session with a mentor from the Small Business Mentoring Service at the discounted price of \$50.

These mentoring sessions are proudly sponsored by Robertson Hyetts Solicitors and Mount Alexander Shire Council.

To find out about becoming a member of Business Mount Alexander go to:

www.businessmountalexander.org.au or contact Genevieve Ward at: gen@businessmountalexander.org.au.



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Tornado Strikes Hard in Harcourt



Left: Property damage in Craigie Street. Above: SES workers clear a tree stripped of its branches in Reservoir Road.

Around 2am Sunday morning on 1st May, many people would have woken to the sounds of thunder, lightning and heavy rains. My house was shaking on its stumps as a massive storm moved through Harcourt. A quick check that the windows were shut and that rain wasn't coming in, then I could relax and go back to sleep as the storm passed through.

I awoke to find the power was off (as expected) and the sounds of chainsaws in stereo from neighbouring properties. We soon discovered that the SES were clearing a driveway of broken limbs from a huge old flowering gum tree across the road. A police car was also parked to alert traffic to slow down to avoid any hazards.

On our own property we found the old shearing shed and barn had both lost sheets of iron and guttering which had blown across the road! The debris had been neatly stacked on our nature strip, and we are grateful to the kind helpers who took care of this for us.

Below: This picture demonstrates how many trees had their top branches twisted off. Jaz and Brendan in Leafy Lane said Council workers were on hand just after 2am to clear roads.



As we walked around the property we found more damage. Tops of trees were shredded and large limbs lay next to it, whilst small branches were strewn the along the paddock, stopping against fences. In the distance I could see Drew Henry's tractor driving to help another neighbor with fallen tree branches. I was told that Leafy Lane was a mess and later took a drive to see the line of destruction. From Eagles Road and through the paddocks of Leafy Lane up to Douglas Lane – the tops of old gum trees had been broken off and branches were lying everywhere.

I'm pleased that no one got hurt and know that this damage can be fixed in time. The sound of chainsaws continued throughout the day and I've received many kind offers to help with clearing up. It's times like this that you are thankful for living in a community where people look out for each other.

Genevive Ward

Below: Lucas O'Brien stands near the huge roots of a storm-felled red gum in Leafy Lane.



Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc



FREE COME AND TRY NIGHT!

7.30 PM WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2016

VENUE: Harcourt District Leisure Centre,
Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

(If cold the heaters will be on.)

Current players will have a practice and new players will learn more about the game and meet new people.

SUPPER will be supplied.

BOWLS GAMES NIGHTS

Competition commences on

WEDNESDAY night 18th MAY 2016 at 7.30pm

REGISTRATION FEE - Adults \$5.00. U/17 \$2.50
(Covers insurance etc.)

NIGHTLY GAME FEE - Adult \$4.00. U/17 \$2.00
(Covers hall hire etc.)

Families most welcome -
children 8 years old up can play.

Beginners will be put in teams with more experienced players to learn the game.

ALL games commence at 7.30pm to approx. 9pm and are played at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

ALL equipment to play is supplied -
there is nothing more to pay!!

Come along and enjoy the game and social time out.

If you require further information contact:

Secretary Loretta 5474 2453 or Tyrone 5474 2126



**Castlemaine District
Community Health**
Facilitating Better Health

Harcourt Walking Group: Walking for 2 years Now

The Harcourt walking group was established in May 2014, and is also known as the Mount Alexander Foothills Walkers.

"We have people coming to walk with this group for a variety of reasons", says Liz March, CEO of Castlemaine District Community Health. "Some attend to get relief from arthritis pains, others want to improve their heart health or mental wellbeing, and many use the walk to help maintain a healthy weight".

This walk is up to one hour, and also gives the chance to meet new people. It is suitable for all ages and abilities, and walks end with a cuppa at the ANA Hall and Museum. "A cuppa for a one dollar donation is the cheapest cuppa you can get in Harcourt", says one of the attendees of this group.

All are most welcome to attend this group which meets Mondays, 9.30am at the Harcourt Museum and ANA Hall on High Street.

For more information call Castlemaine District Community Health on 5479 1000.

AUSKICK Thursday Nights

Auskick for 2016 will be held every Thursday night from 4.15pm - 5.30pm beginning on 21st April. The change of night was made to suit the majority of the parents and kids involved and has opened up an opportunity for new members to join in - we hope that the change has not inconvenienced anyone too much.

It's not too late to join! For more information go to the AUSKICK web site, and search for Harcourt, or turn up on Thursday night at 4.15pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.



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A Good News Story from Council

Tree Planting in the Town Centre



These trees will be replaced and the traffic islands landscaped.

As part of Harcourt Landscape Master Plan, Council will soon begin a widespread tree planting program to improve the presentation and liveability of Harcourt. The planting program was one of the recommendations in the town's Landscape Masterplan.

"The community has told us that the beautification of Harcourt is a high priority and the tree planting program will make a welcome difference to the look and feel of the town," said Stewart Campbell, Coordinator Parks and Gardens, Mount Alexander Shire Council. "Over the next few months we'll be planting 145 trees in and around the Harcourt town centre and surrounding residential streets," said Mr Campbell.

"Deciduous Turkey Oaks (*Quercus cerris*) will be planted along the centre median strip of Harmony Way, creating a welcome gateway to the community," he said.

"Nature strips along Harmony Way will be characterised by the bright red foliage of the deciduous Chinese pistachio, in contrast to the feature Natchez Crepe Myrtle to be planted near the General Store.

We will plant more Smooth-barked Apple (*Angophora costata*) trees along Victoria Road to further enhance the town entrance," said Mr Campbell.

Residents in five local streets will have a say on the trees planted in their street. The planting program will also include landscaping of several traffic islands and understorey planting at the base of the scar tree. Seats will be installed beside the creek path and River Red Gums will be planted in the open grassed area to complement the recent Landcare planting along Barkers Creek.

Council will remove several dead and poor performing trees in residential streets, along with a number of environmental weed trees such as Cootamundra Wattle. Some young native trees in the centre median strip will be removed to make way for the new plantings.

For more information on Harcourt's tree planting program contact Council's Parks and Garden Team on 5471 1700.

Taken from a press release supplied by Council.

Update - Let's Get Eva to Europe!

Donate at: www.pozible.com/playforaustralia



Above: Supporters have donated \$470 so far to Eva's campaign, with 52 days to go to reach her goal of \$7,000

Harcourt local, Eva Harrington has been selected to represent Australia with the Australian Futsal Association (AFA - indoor soccer) 2016 Australian Tour of the UK and Spain in November and December. Participation in the AFA National team requires considerable personal funding. Approximately \$7000 is needed to be raised to fund Eva's tour.

In relation to the fundraising effort Eva said:

"I need to raise the funds by the end of July to confirm my place on the tour. Any local support would be so awesome. I will do my best to acknowledge and keep informed all those people and business that donate. It is

an amazing, exciting and massive challenge".

A Pozible crowd funding campaign has been established by some local supporters to help Eva continue on her pathway. Any donation to assist would be greatly appreciated by Eva and her family.

Donations can be made online though the Pozible link at: www.pozible.com/playforaustralia

Also, donations of goods or services are being sought from local businesses to assist in compiling a major fundraising raffle.

If you are able to assist, please contact Scott Harrington on 0427 042 552.

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How did Harcourt Get it's Name?



In March this year, the Harcourt Heritage Centre received an enquiry via the Harcourt Community website from a UK based gentleman named Simon Harcourt. Simon was interested to establish where did Harcourt and the surrounding valley get its name from?

Harcourt Heritage Centre files reveal that the name Harcourt was shown on Surveyor E W Bagshaw's Survey maps in 1853.

Les Blake's book on 'Place Names of Victoria' says that it was named after Sir W V Harcourt, English Chancellor of the Exchequer, but that is a conflation; W V Harcourt was still a student at Lincoln's Inn in 1853 and did not assume public office until many years later. There is a Harcourt in Normandy (France) which is horticulturally similar to the Harcourt valley. Maybe the name was chosen by a well-travelled and knowledgeable surveyor. But our questioner asks "Who?" So our enquiries turn to Google and there we find a long list of notables bearing the name Harcourt. The Harcourt family was of Norman descent and well known in the British aristocracy. It boasts many famous statesmen, soldiers and clergy.

A most likely guess is that our township was named for William Venables Vernon-Harcourt (1789-1871) founder and first secretary (and, from 1839, President) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Harcourt's special fields of research were the composition of water and the effect of heat on inorganic compounds.

It is sometimes possible for the historical researcher to 'join the dots' to link the naming of a particular locality with an explorer, surveyor, geographic feature or scheme of naming.

When E W Bagshaw conducted the survey of Harcourt township he was acting under a government program to bring township land onto the market to satisfy the de-

mands of the gold-diggers. Multiple townships had to be surveyed with all possible haste. In a new colony, with no knowledge of the district's history to guide him and few residents (apart from the squatter, Dr William Barker) the surveyor had a 'clean slate' upon which to write place names and street names.

When it came to naming the streets of Harcourt, Mr. Surveyor Bagshaw chose the names of officers of the Survey Department. Hence we have Urquhart, Buckley and Bagshaw Streets. Dr Barker had a street named for him, as did Queen Victoria. Wright was the senior goldfields Commissioner. The rest of the streets in the original township were named generically: High, Bridge, Market.

It is logical to assume that a surveyor would admire a man of science. An added clue to the attribution of Harcourt's name to the founder of the British Association for the Advancement of Science is that the nearest locality south of Harcourt was given the name of Michael Faraday, another prominent British scientist.

So, in the absence of other evidence, we may state that the name of our valley is a tribute to the founder of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, W V Vernon-Harcourt.

George Milford

An advertisement for SJK Excavations. It features a yellow excavator on the left. The text on the right reads: "SJK EXCAVATIONS", "Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks", "Stuart King", "Owner/Operator", "sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au", "0407 514 797", and "ABN: 63708909386".

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Harcourt Uniting Church

Do you receive many letters in the mail these days? Many of us use emails or texts rather than sending a letter as we have become used to "instant replies." The Uniting Church in Victoria has a project called Sammy Stamp. Churches are encouraged to collect used stamps and these are sent to Melbourne Uniting Church Office where a group of dedicated people meet each week to sort / trim / package and sell used stamps. There is also a market for old phone cards / Met tickets and used postcards.

The money from the sale of these items is used to fund

small grants for special projects run by Uniting Church Congregations in Victoria. Some of these include: Breakfast programs in schools, Children's playgroups for disadvantaged families and supporting overseas projects such as clean water for a school in Zimbabwe. In 2014 Sammy Stamp raised approx \$24,000 just through the collecting and sales of used stamps. If you're interested in saving your stamps please make sure you leave at least 1 cm of the paper around the stamp and this will then be trimmed to size.

Jan Jenkin



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

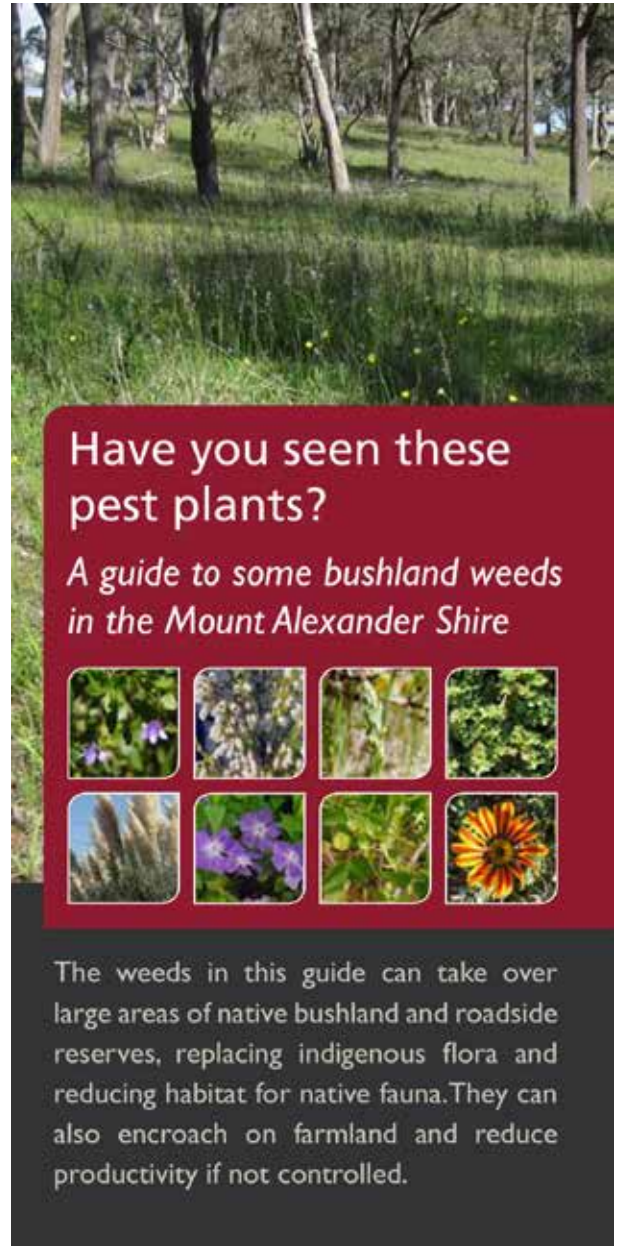
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Harcourt Valley Landcare


New Local Weeds Guide

Harcourt Valley Landcare group and Friends of the Box Iron-Bark Forests are proud to announce the release of the local weed guide. This guide is intended as an introduction to some new and established weeds in the Castlemaine region. It gives a brief description of eight weeds you might see in and around our bush and agricultural areas and helpful links to further reading and websites with more information. Hopefully the guide triggers the treatment of these get away species. Please download as you need from fobif.org.au or you can pick up a hard copy from room 14 in the Connecting Country office.



Have you seen these pest plants?

A guide to some bushland weeds in the Mount Alexander Shire



The weeds in this guide can take over large areas of native bushland and roadside reserves, replacing indigenous flora and reducing habitat for native fauna. They can also encroach on farmland and reduce productivity if not controlled.



Kangaroos and sheep sharing the sparse new grass near Picnic Gully Road.



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Harcourt CWA

Harcourt CWA in April celebrated International Day on the 7th of April. This year the country of interest for CWA Victoria is Papua New Guinea. Harcourt Branch is very lucky to have a member who lived in Papua New Guinea for a number of years.

Mrs Ayron Teed led a most informative conversation with us about her time living amongst the native peoples of Papua New Guinea. There was also a fantastic display of items that she brought with her when she returned to Australia

For our Craft Day this month, Mrs Helen Wall came and taught us the fine art of shadow embroidery which has a delightfully delicate appearance.

Next month our meetings are, as usual, on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Our regular meeting on the 5th of May starting at 1pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre and our craft meeting on the 19th of May where we will be working on UFO's - so bring your current project down to the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1:30pm and share a cuppa! Craft meetings do have a \$2 contribution to hall hire.

*Dani Kent
Publicity Officer*



Mrs Margaret Gaal, Harcourt CWA International Officer, displaying items belonging to Mrs Ayron Teed at our International Day.

The live.life.well. Project

The **live.life.well. Project** developed as a result of concern across the Mount Alexander Shire about the mental health and wellbeing of community members.

Following round table discussions, organised by the Maldon Community Bank, a group of citizens and organisations was formed to respond to the major issue of focus, that being suicide prevention.

Castlemaine District Community Health took the lead to apply for funding. The William Buckland Foundation was approached and very generously provided funding for a three year community development project to address this issue within the community. The William Buckland Foundation supports activities, organisations and projects which create lasting benefit for the Victorian Community.

The project commenced in early 2015 and is overseen by a Reference Group made up of a diverse, committed and a well-qualified alliance of individuals who live and/or work within the Mount Alexander Shire community.

The key objectives of the **live.life.well. Project** are to build a community of individuals who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to: improve and maintain their own positive mental health and wellbeing and respond to other community members in their immediate network who may have a mental health problem.

The **live.life.well. Project**, is built around the catchphrase/mnemonic – **I WILL. I WILL** look after myself, and **[I] W.I.L.L – Watch** out for others, **Invite** conversation, **Listen** respectfully and **Lend** a hand.

As well as the I WILL action plan, the information session briefly covers information about mental health, mental illness, and alcohol and other drugs.

This two hour **live.life.well.** information session is available to all members of the Mount Alexander Shire community, and presenters will deliver this session **free of charge** to your club/organisation/community group/business, at a time and place that is convenient to you.

For further information please contact Doug Doran or Sarah Day Community Development Workers on:

Phone 03 5479 1000 &/or ddoran@cdch.com.au or sday@cdch.com.au



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Harcourt Bowling Club

Perfect weather was the order of the day on Saturday 16th April for the Rice Family Triples tournament at Harcourt Bowling Club. Held in memory of past members and supporters of the Club, Ben and Amy Rice, this Gold letter event is hotly contested. The Winners were Rob Chaplin's team of Wendy Chaplin and Fairlie Harman who took the honours after a play-off with Garry Maddern's team of Brian and Wilma Kidman.

Presentation Night and Dinner

The Annual Club Presentation night and dinner was held on Saturday 16th April, following the Rice Triples tournament.

President John Starbuck paid tribute to the members for their input into a successful year for the Club. Vice President Moira Straw thanked all who contributed to the beautiful meal on the evening and noted the significant contribution of the catering committee and the many others who provided food and assisted with catering of events throughout the year. Particular thanks were extended to Joy Starbuck for keeping the clubhouse clean.

Presentations were awarded to winners of Club Championships and gold letter events held throughout the year. The winners were:

Rice Triples – Rob Chaplin, Wendy Chaplin and Fairlie Harman; Runners Up Garry Maddern, Wilma Kidman and Brian Kidman

Grant Pairs – Leo Moloney and Joan Bath; Runners Up John Grant and Kaye Grant

Ladies' 100Up – Kaye Grant, Runner Up Joan Bath

Men's 100Up – Ken Delmenico, Runner Up Steven Douglas

Men's Gough Drawn Pairs – Steven Douglas and Brett Jenkinson, Runners Up John Starbuck and Rod Hamilton

Ladies' Nominated Pairs – Lorna Davey and Jean Pogue; Runners Up Moira Straw and Fairlie Harman

Men's Nominated Pairs – Terry Chisholm and Grahame Hill; Runners Up Brian Smith and Phil Clarke

Ladies' Single Champion – Moira Straw; Runner Up Heather Braid

Men's Singles Champion – Steven Douglas; Runner Up Garry Maddern

Vice President Russell Maltby noted that President Starbuck will be stepping down from the Board at the AGM next month and offered a vote of thanks to him for all of the considerable work he has done for the club.

Jackpot Pairs

Jackpot Pairs are again being held on Sunday afternoons. All bowlers are welcome to play. Please enter your names on the list at the club.

Social bowls will also continue on Wednesdays until further advised.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Harcourt Bowling Club is to be held on Sunday 22nd May at 11.00am. The Agenda will include presentation of the Annual Report, the Audited Financial statements and election of members of the Board. Following the meeting there will be a barbeque and an opportunity to get together over a cuppa. All members of the Bowling Club and the broader community are invited.

Greens Café

Greens Café returns with Fish 'n Chip Fridays on the first Friday of each month.

Starting on 6th May from 6.30pm you can get a plate of fish and chips and salad at a very reasonable price. This initiative will go well with the Members' Draw and the generous raffles. So come and join us for fun Fridays and fish 'n chips.

Christine Anderson, Publicity Officer

Annual Club Presentation
Winners for 2016



Harcourt Bowling Club

Junior Jack Attack

In an attempt to introduce young people to the game of lawn bowls the Harcourt Valley Primary School, with assistance from the Bowling Club, successfully applied for a grant to purchase two Junior Jack Attack bowling kits. The Junior Jack Attack program offers a wide variety of fun-filled games that are also challenging. They are designed to assist young people to develop the basic skills used in this increasingly popular game.

19 children attended a five week program at the Harcourt Bowling Club supported by a number of volunteers from the club and staff from the school. This exciting and enjoyable program concluded with a gala day of indoor activities (due to heavy rain closing the green) involving parents, staff and all the children from years 3, 4, 5, & 6 at Harcourt Valley Primary School.

This was a successful program for all involved and is expected to be repeated in the not too distant future.

Christine Anderson, Publicity Officer

Photos show Harcourt Valley Primary students participating in the Junior Jack Attack.



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Harcourt Valley Primary School

We have had a very smooth start to the term, with all children settling back quickly into the program.

In the first week, our School Captains and Vice Captains attended the Grip Leadership conference with me in Bendigo. This wonderful event gave them a great opportunity to learn leadership skills to support them in their roles as school leaders. We look forward to seeing them develop these skills over this year.

We have been fortunate to receive a number of Sporting Schools grants which have allowed us to improve and increase our Phys Ed equipment. This term, the children will be learning hockey skills. They have also just completed a unit on Orienteering, which will be helpful when the older children participate in the district Orienteering event shortly.

This week we are looking forward to our next Arts

incursion which is "The Big Samba". This is a whole school session using percussion instruments and we encourage our parents to join us on Thursday afternoon.

On Friday week, we will be hosting our annual Mother's Day breakfast and are looking forward to having all our Mums join us for breakfast prepared by the staff.

On a more sober note, we have had some unwelcome visitors around our school, leaving rubbish and causing some damage, as well as being very rude to staff. If you are driving past and see anyone lurking around the school at an inappropriate time, please contact the Castlemaine Police on 54704100. They are well aware of the situation.

Annette Smith
Principal

Colour Me In!



LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

*The sun's in the east in the morning.
At a time that is known as The Dawning.
But the sun's at its best
When it sets in the west
Then it's dark and it's bedtime, we're yawning.*

Below: Steve Schultz leads the children in the Big Samba performance.



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Pips 'n' All

Hello Garden lovers,

We would love some rain but the warm weather is wonderful for the garden. A little water now while the weather is still warm will keep the garden, Warm-season grasses and new plants healthy and actively growing.

Autumn is a fantastic time to renovate your lawn. Warm-season grasses like Kikuyu, Buffalo and Couch that grow in warm weather are still active. This means that with a little attention now we can encourage growth to improve the quality, extent or durability of the home lawn.

Buffalo grows via stolons or runners which are stems that run along the top of the soil. Couch and Kikuyu spread via stolons and rhizomes which are shoots that grow under the ground. This is often why they cause a nuisance as they can creep into garden beds with ease. In a lawn, this ability promotes establishment and resilience. There are a number of ways that we can encourage stem growth:

- Coring or aerating the lawn;
- Topdressing with soil;
- Fertilising;
- Testing and amending pH; and
- Watering.

Coring or aerating a lawn involves punching or creating holes with a fork or corer. Coring helps open up compacted soil to allow water, nutrients and oxygen to enter the soil.

Topdressing is spreading a thin layer (less than 10mm) of good soil over the lawn. The soil can be raked out so that the tips of your grass are visible. Topdressing adds nutrients, corrects lawn levels and over time improves soil quality. Topdressing is most effective when combined with coring and water.

Fertilising is the addition of organic or chemical fertilisers. Chemical fertilisers such as slow release pellets can be spread by hand to feed the lawn. Organic fertilisers such as manure, seaweed products, worm tea or compost tea feed the lawn and also improve the health and richness of the soil over time. Organic fertilisers should be used in conjunction with water to avoid burning the grass and to help penetration.

Testing pH is simple using a pH kit from your local nursery. Lawns respond well with a neutral soil with a pH of between

6.0 and 7.0. If your soil is too acidic or alkaline, it can prevent grass from accessing nutrients. Acidic soil (less than 6) can be amended by adding lime, dolomite or poultry manure to raise the pH. If your soil is alkaline (higher than 7) compost, manure, leaf litter, mulch, sulphur or Iron chelates can be added to lower the pH.

Effective watering will help nutrients penetrate the soil and assist absorption. Watering in the morning for longer but less often is most effective.

This month we are:

- Renovating lawns;
- Refreshing Garden beds;
- Pruning berries;
- Watering;
- Planting autumn vegetables.

This month in the woodland:

- Grey Box is flowering.

Happy Gardening
Janyce



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Skydancers for breakfast

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p 03 5474 3800 | e skydancers@asq.net.au

ASQ Plant of the Month

Cyclamen

Cyclamen can be grown either inside or out. They start to come into their prime at this time of year and make a great growing gift! If grown indoors, they need plenty of natural light. Cyclamen will start to wilt if the room is too warm, but they like cool nights, so just put them outside with the cat before you go to bed! Also, be sure to remove spent flowers to promote further blooms.



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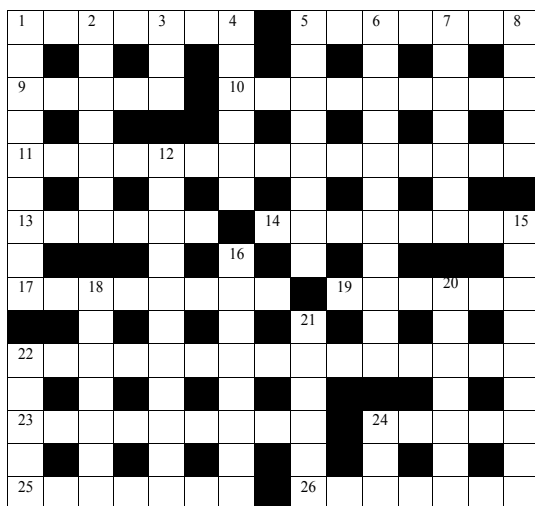
Grow Great Fruit

"If you're planning to plant some fruit trees this winter, now is a great time to do some soil preparation, and the best way is to plant an autumn green manure crop. Use a mix of a legume (to add nitrogen to the soil), a grass (to add lots of organic matter), and a few herbs (to add more nutrients); several of the bigger nurseries have Autumn Green Manure seed mixes available. Plant the seed now wherever you plan to plant your fruit trees (you might need to water it to get it started due to the very dry conditions we're having), then before you plant your fruit trees you can either dig the plants into the soil, or just cut them down and leave them lying on top.

Even if you don't have time to plant a green manure crop, don't let your lack of soil preparation stop you planting trees this year. It's better to plant trees into whatever soil you have, and work on the soil improvement later than miss out on getting your future fruit supply started. This year's range of bare-rooted fruit trees has just gone on up on our website, with more than 100 different varieties available this year, starting at less than \$20 each. You can order trees right up until June 30, and trees will be available to pick up from the farm on the weekend of 9th and 10th of July - all the details are available in our Weekly Fruit Tips free e-newsletter: <http://www.opt-in.mafg.com.au/>, or you can go straight to our website to order: www.mafg.com.au

On another note, if you want to try growing your own trees, now is a great time to collect some apple and pear seed and store it over winter. Granny Smith apples or Packham pears are a reliable source of seed, but needs must—use whatever you can get! The seeds will produce rootstocks that can be grown on as fruit trees, but the fruit they produce won't be 'true-to-type'. It's much better to graft them with a known variety. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring."

Hugh and Katie Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They also run the online Grow Great Fruit membership program (www.growgreatfruitprogram.com), for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit.



Down:

1. Clever ploy puts layers over the jewel. (9)
2. Am I bent to suggest that this is the temperature my cup of tea must eventually cool to? (7)
- 3 & 22ac. Where you would hear 11 after an 18dn? (3,3,3,2,3,4)
4. He's in the episode doing his duty all around. (6)
5. Dependent dag? (6-2)
6. Seeing it as distinct, I have no problem distinguishing it as characteristic... (11)
7. Without hard evidence, you haven't a leg to stand on, or a wing to fly with.(7)
8. Tony's seamless transition from Opposition attack-dog to PM attack-dog? (5)
12. Cynically characterised as wanting equal misery for all. (11)
15. How shepherds used to rustle sheep? (9)
16. Strict disciplinarian sounds like a little Heidegger. (8)
18. Sanitise winning a bundle? (5,2)
20. Monk's cape loses the right to shoulder. (7)
21. For the iron in potatoes? (6)
22. Entice, but not at first try... (5)
24. Pace of sheep station? (3)

Across:

1. The way a naval hospital looks? (7)
5. Nice type of strength to be had in sci-fi trilogy. (7)
9. By first putting it in the middle of the spool, we know who Marlon is playing. (5)
10. Gun in ship is giving the enemy curry! (9)
11. What can be heard on the 3dn 22ac route? 3,4,8)
13. San Franciscan cake? (6)
14. Luther was incendiary, but the Calvin Co. could erupt at any time! (8)
17. Chiming a little haphazardly around the lake district. (8)
19. Sofia's company suffers humiliating rout in the middle of things. (6)
22. (see 3dn)
23. My French semiotic alternative for distinguished clergyman. (9)
24. Canon for 3 shaped like first 7. (5)
25. Winning double-overhead granny for pigeon headgear. (7)
26. Cooper may or may not have played the Hun here, but Magyars, Turks, the Habsburgs and the Russians have all been through... (7)



Down:

1. Monroe, Gibson, Paltrow [*star*] on committee [*board*] to the right. (9)
2. Bring tyro [*L*] in to prefer [*favour*] taste. (7)
3. Trendy pub? [*Well?*]
4. [*Hosing-Down*] which vehicle needs after dashing through mud? (6)
5. Dusters, air-heads, birds, mattresses etc. describable thus. [*Well?*]
6. What to wear to smell the crowd? [*Well?*]
7. Cheap fare for Hockey's hobby-horse[*Well?*]
8. Yen for frills? [*Well?*]
12. Caper makes one ill, [*sick of antic*'...] but sounds out the buttering-up drive. (11)
15. Naked musical [*Hair*] coiffure? (4-5)
16. Noisy, disorderly philosophy? [*Well?*]
18. If Whitlam '75 was "sacking Grassby" [*Dismiss At...*], this was perhaps the getting him out that followed.... (7)
20. Take in [*con*] with discretion [*tact*...] for email listee. (7)
21. Warm-to-hot conditions in which to drink to the victor? [*Well?*]
22. Lost it now—24 like a dinner, we say—but hints at past possession [*Well?* Past it, maybe? Used to have it...]
24. Completed (brownly), as the Americans might say. (3)

Across:

1. [*If hosts*] boil your egg, it'll be none too hard... (7)
5. Naturist reserve cover in the Vatican [*Well?*]
9. A profit for the second time [*Well?*]
10. Fire escape said to look over the precipice? Brazen it out! [*Well?*]
11. Collecting metadata brings [*this worrying sob*] from early researcher. (8,7)
13. In virtually no time on the third attempt? [*Well?*]
14. I don't rip Chitty-Chitty Bang-Bang off for three related paintings. (8)
17. Drop trio because they're indigent. (4-4)
19. Korean Greek letter cabbage? [*Well?*]
22. It takes insurance demons to enchant with deals on this. (4,3,8)
23. Pigeon bums describe how the big end of town fits into government.[*Well? Like a thumb?*]
24. Dyslexic journal might inadvertently admit milkers? [*Well?*]
25. Vite! Le compte rendu encompasses a major service provider. (7)
26. Flower (antepenultimate in length) has triangular endings. [*Well?*]

Autumn Heralds Jazz Festival's Return

Right: The John Magill Undetect will be back for this year's Jazz Festival. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work alongside these great Victorian musicians.



Autumn is for most, a sign it's time to start hunkering down for cooler weather, but for the organisers of the Castlemaine Jazz Festival it's the signal to step up preparations for 2016's Castlemaine Jazz Festival.

Taking place again over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June, this year's Castlemaine Jazz Festival will see over 340 musicians perform in a kaleidoscope of combinations. There will also be eight big bands for the listening pleasure of thousands of local and visiting music fans.

Castlemaine business owner Linda Carpenter is a founding member of the Castlemaine Jazz Festival organising committee and says the festival, now in its third year, continues to go from strength to strength.

"We've been able to successfully launch and now develop this unique musician-driven festival featuring performers you'd happily travel to see in any jazz festival across the world," Linda said.

While, to use a jazz-like expression, the festival vibe couldn't be better, the practicalities of keeping a music festival rolling are unrelenting, with the next order of business being a call-out for festival volunteers.

"Volunteering is a wonderful way to contribute, to intimately experience the festival up close; to meet and enjoy the company of like-minded people," Linda said.

Those attending previous festivals have commented on the warmth and lack of pretension of the event.

"A welcoming environment in which performers and audience can participate without need for airs and graces remains central to our vision," Linda explained.

The festival offers a range of volunteer roles including front-of-house, back stage, administration and promotion, with shifts programmed to allow volunteers to enjoy the events taking place around them.

"We've had great feedback from our volunteers that it has been a unique way in which to experience this wonderful event," Linda said.

Volunteers accepted for the festival will receive passes to Festival events and will be invited to a special follow up event for volunteers.

To register your interest in volunteering please send an email to Castlemainejazzfestival@gmail.com indicating any skills and experience you may have with events and festivals.

Vocal Nosh!

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Sunday 5th June at 6pm

At Newstead Community Centre

- 6:00 – 7:00pm Vocal entrée – warm up and easy stuff
- 7:00 – 7:30pm Food – Hearty soup, crusty bread, fresh fruit
- 7:30 – 8:30 pm Musical main course – delicious harmonies

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Bookings by email: faywhite.music@westnet.com.au or phone Fay 5461 5471

CACTUS WARRIORS MAY FIELD DAY

The Cactus Warriors monthly field day will be on again on Sunday 29th, 10 am to 12.30. As usual, we will start with a talk and a demo, then go out and kill cactus. Equipment will be provided for the morning as well as a BBQ lunch at midday. All you need to bring is a hat and walking shoes.

The venue hasn't been finalised, but it will be announced on our website www.cactuswarriors.org closer to the date, or you can ring Ian Grenda on 0412 015 807.

Frances Wade





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HARCOURT BOWLING CLUB INC.

NOTICE OF

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Harcourt Bowling Club Inc. AGM

Sunday 22nd May at 11.00am

1 Warren Street Harcourt

The meeting will be followed by a Barbeque

ALL WELCOME



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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Community Diary Dates

5th May: 7.30pm - 9pm Harcourt Progress Association AGM, Tread, Guest Speaker: Lucy Mayes from the Loddon Murray Community Leadership program

11th May: 7.30pm Carpet Bowls Come and Try Night, Harcourt Leisure Centre

12th May: Landcare Meeting, 7.30pm, ANA Hall.

18th May: 7.30pm Carpet Bowls Competiton begins, Harcourt Leisure Centre

24th April: Landcare Working Bee, 10am to 12; .

May 22nd: 1.30 pm Heritage Centre Tour to Malmsbury, (meet at ANA Hall)

29th May: 10am to 12, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee: Clean up Picnic Gully Creek in the Oak Forest

June 5th: Vocal Nosh at NCC 6-8.30pm Fay 5461 5471

June 19th: Heritage Centre 1.30 pm Talk, Our Indigenous Heritage.

What's on at the Bowling Club? See Page 15

CWA: First and third Thursdays of the month, 1pm, Harcourt Leisure Centre

The Harcourt News/The Core is Published by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc.

For inclusion in Harcourt News/The Core contact the Editor Robyn Miller 0467 670 271 or email:

news@harcourt.vic.au. Contributions of news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs. For placement of advertising please contact Genevieve Ward via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au or phone 0409 070 930.

Circulation is currently 450 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple and in Castlemaine: Run Rabbit Run, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital, Castlemaine Community Information Centre and Castlemaine Visitors' Centre plus a number of other sites.

A full colour version of *Harcourt News: The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: <http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

Harcourt News/The Core is printed with the assistance of the Harcourt Primary School and Mount Alexander Shire.

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



HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member based organisation which encourages active participation and contribution and conducts regular public meetings to further a variety of goals and projects. Members are able to join working groups and sub-committees and pursue specific areas of interest or initiate projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

- Support and encourage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Strengthen community connections by promoting local sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities.
- Encourage, support and acknowledge the role and contribution of volunteers within Harcourt.

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners within a 20kms radius of the Harcourt township - some exceptions apply - do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the Steering Committee. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year. Any renewals or new memberships paid in 2016 will be valid until the end of June 2017.

-----✂-----
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

☐ Financial member: full fee \$20 ☐ Financial member: concession fee \$10 ☐ Non-financial member: no charge

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

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SIGNED:.....DATED:.....

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

Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 132, HARCOURT, VIC 3453 **OR**

☐ I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151337409.

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

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