

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

September 2016

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 31
<http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Another win for Harcourt!



Making it all happen - Lisa Chesters second from right announced successful funding for the irrigation of Stanley Park North on Friday September 2. The irrigation project was the brain child of David Heath (centre) who was ably assisted by Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns (left). George Milford (second from left) provided his financial advice and skills. David and Gen (far right) were Applefest royalty in 2016.

Harcourt's green oasis is a step closer to becoming a reality thanks to a \$9,000 funding grant from the Federal Government's Stronger Communities scheme. The Harcourt Progress Association has partnered with Coliban Water and the Mount Alexander Shire Council to install irrigation throughout Stanley Park North to help keep this central park green all year long. This will create a pleasant and relaxing town centre park land, perfect for picnics, BBQs, events and celebrations. This is a huge bonus for Applefest and a first step towards the plan to construct a significant community playground on the site. (cont page 4)

◆ **Harcourt Web Site Highly Commended at Australian Awards see pages 3 & 4**

◆ **Goldfields Track Cafe opens September 3, see page 2**



INSIDE

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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.



HARCOURT
**GOLDFIELDS
TRACK CAFÉ**

ESTD 2016

*Opening Saturday
3rd September*



Donna McMahon is well prepared for Saturday 3rd September, when the Goldfields Track Café at Tread will open for business.

Donna has many years' experience in the hospitality industry and is well known for being a great hostess.

With a generous menu, great coffee and other beverages, you are sure to enjoy your weekend breakfasts, lunches and coffee breaks at the Goldfields Track Café. Donna will also be providing some take home meals.

There are plans to extend the café's hours and to make the space available for catered functions.

So call in and enjoy Harcourt's newest café and meeting place.

Opening Hours are: Saturdays and Sundays 9am to 4pm.



Harcourt Website Wins ANZIA Commendation



harcourt_online

by David J Ling, PhD

Tuesday night was *Australian and New Zealand Internet Awards* night—the ANZIAS. It's an annual affair that hops from one cosmopolitan city to another. This year, the gala was held in Melbourne at the Plaza Ballroom.

Fortunate enough to attend on behalf of nominated site harcourt.vic.au, I put on clean clothes, invited Veronica Budnikas and we headed to the city.

After mingling and banter, we were seated at a table with a couple of entrepreneurs, a media producer and one of the directors of *auDA*, the admin body for .au domain names. The people were delightful, the venue was suave, the beverages were plentiful and the grub was very, very good. But everyone was there for the awards.

Our category was the last of the night. We spent a couple of hours being awed by many of the Internet-based achievements that Aussies and Kiwis have made in 2016. Much of the time was spent sipping on the sparkling... water, that is—I was designated driver.

Noting that each award recipient was being asked to make an acceptance speech, I nudged Veronica. If I had to go up, I told her, she had to come with me—and she'd be the one to take the mic. She accepted the challenge: no words were prepared, she was confident she could wing it.

When the community website category finally came about, I braced myself and listened to the MC, poised to politely clap the successes of our co-nominees.

Lo, they announced harcourt.vic.au as the *Highly Commended* site!

On the way to the stage, Veronica found some impressive swagger, posing for the event photographer before taking the microphone. On a night to mark what is often thought of as technical achievements, her off-the-cuff speech was a pure promotion of Harcourt—and she did us proud. Her sign-off —‘Come visit Harcourt, the cider is great!’—was met with applause and chuckles. Before heading home, Veronica celebrated with a couple of glasses of sparkling. Wine, that is: after all, she had a designated driver for the night. (*cont page 4*)



David, Veronica & the Highly Commended certificate.

Harcourt's Highly Commended Website

(from page 3)



The next day, we delivered the Commendation to Diana and George at the Heritage Centre. Their involvement with the site has been driving its success since the start.

Congratulations to Buninyong who got the crystal for our category. Their site has been up and running for nine years and it just keeps getting better. In such good company, we're wrapped with our commendation.

Harcourt got the NBN in 2013. Gary Holmes got the community its own geographic domain name some years ago. In August 2016, a panel of pundits ranked our community website to be among the top two from across Australia and New Zealand. That's pretty swift progress.

Thanks for the response to last month's harcourt_online about social media! It's been rightly pointed out that it definitely should have mentioned the Facebook page of the [Harcourt Fire Brigade](#). There are a bunch of reasons why connecting with that page is a good idea!

At brand agency Copy Transmission (www.copytransmission.com), David handles promotions, reputations and strategy for folks that enjoy success. He's also site administrator for harcourt.vic.au—our community website.

Header photograph by Kit Haselden Photograph, used with permission.

Another win for Harcourt

(from page 1)

Federal MP for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters, attended Harcourt on 2nd September to announce the funding.

“Stanley Park North is a fantastic community space right in the heart of Harcourt but during summer and autumn it can be dry and dusty. To make this space usable and attractive all year, it's really important to keep it green,” said Ms Chesters. “It's vital that our Government demonstrate strong commitment to supporting regional infrastructure and projects such as this.”

Coliban Water are contributing \$3500 in professional plumbing services to extend the existing pipeline into the park whilst Mount Alexander Shire Council will provide planning support and help maintain the facility for years to come. The balance of funds is being contributed by the Harcourt Progress Association which will use this year's Twilight on the Green community celebration, to raise the remaining funds.

The “green oasis” was the brain child of David Heath, former chair of the HPA, who progressed the plan whilst undertaking the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program. It was developed in partnership with HPA Secretary, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns who bore the brunt of a complicated and protracted grant process. Thanks to both David and Jacqueline for their determination. That makes 4 successful grants in a row for the HPA this year! Now it's time to focus on the big one: fund-raising for the Harcourt Community Playground!



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Harcourt Valley Landcare

Pine Kill on Mount Alexander

If you see yellowing pine trees on Mount Alexander, it's because they are being weeded out.

Members of Harcourt Valley Landcare, led by Max Schlacter were out on the hunt for pines to kill on Sunday 28 August. They walked into the bush on Mount Alexander, below the Dog Rocks, armed with drills and poison. Max has been leading regular pine kills on Mount Alexander for a number of years. Some of the pine kill events have also involved camp outs, night walks and other activities.

Working to cover specific areas, Max is now leading groups for a two or three hour pine hunt followed by afternoon tea.

The method involves sawing off lower branches to allow access to the trunk. Then holes are drilled around the base of the tree. Another member of the two or three person team then pours poison into the holes.

The pine trees have seeded from the now defunct Pine Plantation which surrounded the Oak Forest.



(left) Jarrod Coote clears lower branches on a large pine in order to gain access to drill holes around the base. (right)

Landcare Open Day Event in Harcourt Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group and Harcourt Valley Landcare Group

*Invite you, your family and friends to a Flora Walk
followed by Barbecue Lunch*

Sunday 25th September, 9.30 am - 1pm - This is a free event.

Flora Reserve - off Bingham's Road, beside the Harcourt Leisure Centre

Come along and find the special wild flowers which grow in our area.

For more details contact: Daryl Colless: daryl.colless@gmail.com or 0407 419 606 or

Robyn Miller: rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com or 0467 670 271

Call for Action on the Harcourt Community Playground



Let's dream big! An example of what we could have for the Harcourt Community Playground. (Photo shows Cedar Hill Playground)

Local residents are calling for action to progress plans for the proposed Harcourt community playground.

Upgrading playground facilities has long been identified by numerous reports and was listed as a key community objective in the Harcourt Community Plan and Council's Landscape Masterplan Plan. In December 2015, a consultant was engaged by Mount Alexander Shire Council to examine options for a location for the new playground. The community's response overwhelmingly endorsed Stanley Park North as the preferred site for a significant playground investment. Council identified numerous hurdles to address, including rezoning the land and consolidating the title and has undertaken to progress this work.

Taradale has just launched their new playground facilities which were funded by state and council notwithstanding that the com-

munity already had extensive, high quality play equipment in place. In Harcourt, the HPA have made repeated offers to Council over the past 3 years to assist with funding to progress the playground proposal. We remain

committed to assisting realise this vision and are contributing \$18,000 towards the installation of irrigation of the park, a first step towards creating a welcoming site and playground destination.

The time for action has come. We call on the residents and visitors to

join us in planning for our new playground and to strategise ways of raising funds to contribute to the construction costs. We have invited council officers involved in planning for our new playground facilities to attend the next HPA meeting on Wednesday 28th September. We are keen to work in partnership with Council and identify other partners who can help us progress this vital community project.

*HPA Public Meeting
To discuss the Harcourt Community
Playground
and launch the 2017 Applefest
Goldfields Track Café,
92 Harmony Way, Harcourt
at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th September
All welcome.*



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Applefest Launch



Save the date!

Friday 11th November,

6pm – 9pm

Twilight on the Green

**James Park, High Street
Harcourt**

**Free community celebration
featuring**

KING STONE!

**Live music, kids entertain-
ment, jumping castle,
food stalls, licenced bar**

Hot on the heels of this year's spectacular Applefest 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee, planning is already underway for next year's event.

Working groups have been established to enlist people with particular interests or passions, who would like to get involved. Working groups allow people to give as much or as little of their time to contribute in ways that are relevant and meaningful for them. Have you got a passion for animals? Join the Entertainment Working Group and help with next year's pet parade. Did your kids love the Kids Karnival? Think about joining the KK Working Group and share your thoughts, ideas and experience to help improve the next one. Working groups don't require you to attend endless meetings but allow for information sharing and the opportunity for people to pitch in when and how they can.

Come along to the next HPA meeting where the Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourism Centre - custodians of the Applefest - will officially launch the 2017 Applefest.

**7.30pm on Wednesday, 28th September at
Goldfields Track Café, High Street, Harcourt**

Councillor Comment



Hi all,

I have been enjoying the beautiful rain followed by perfect sunny days. The big news is, I have finished my work at Peter Mac in Melbourne and am now

working at home on the farm. I have not missed the 5am alarm!!! The current project on the farm is mending fences!!

The next big thing with Council is the Council Elections. Key dates are as follows:

- Fri 26 August: Enrolment close
- Tues 20 September: Nominations close
- Fri 21 October: Voting closes

Many of you will know I was elected to Council in 2014 in the Calder ward bye election. It has been a real privilege serving my local community. The role of Councillor is very challenging and it has been a steep learning curve. We are fortunate to have an excellent team of Councillors and with the appointment of Darren Fuzzard as our new CEO the future for Mount Alexander Shire is very bright.

Key achievements in my time in Council include:

- Support of appropriate development and assisting small property owners to get planning approval.
- Careful consideration of Council planning, budgets and contracts including support for local contractors.
- Playing a significant role in winding back rate increases through the rating strategy and support for rate capping.
- Support of farmers and those caring for the environment with the planned increase in the land management rate discount.
- Support of local residents with the phase out of the Municipal charge.
- Support for the proposed development of the Wesley Hill junior sports hub.
- Working with Councillors and staff to adopt a shared vision for the Castlemaine Aquatic Centre while continuing to support local community pools.
- Support for Section 86 committees and community engagement.

I understand there is still a lot to be done in our community. I will be seeking a further term as the Councillor for Calder ward and I request your support to make this possible.

Best regards to all,

A G (Tony) Cordy
0439742434



Harcourt CWA

Welcome to Spring everyone, how nice to be talking to you again.

Thanks Dani for giving me this opportunity to write the September submission for Harcourt CWA.

Our fundraising concert this year is being held on October 20th at Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1.30pm.

This year's theme is Rhapsody in Blue, a delightful look at all things blue, singing, dancing, and yes, Elvis will be there in his Blue Suede Shoes.

Admission is \$8 which includes the best high tea you have ever seen, and there will be a trading table and a raffle.

We do have a bit of a reputation for putting on a great turn so if you haven't been to one of our concerts, do yourself a favour, invite a friend, put on your best blue outfit, and come and see for yourselves what these ladies get up to.

RSVP Marie Twyford on 5472 5450 or email harcourtewa@gmail.com by October 13th.

There is that famous saying that says, 'all good things must come to an end', and now Mike and I can really appreciate its meaning.

Eleven years ago we left Melbourne and headed to Barkers Creek. We have had many moves in our married life, this one was the best.

Now our next adventure begins when we head further south to Tasmania, a place we have also grown to love during our many visits and house sits.

Thanks Harcourt CWA for making me feel so welcome when I arrived 11 years ago. Thank you for the fun and laughter, the monthly meetings, the yearly concerts and the wonderful friendships. What great memories I will take with me.

Many of you know the two characters who live at Woop Woop, Andy and Melva Graham. Melva, the Old Chook, is also well known in CWA circles as a writer, and this year the winner of both the Short Story Section and Poetry Section in the Victoria Country Women's Association's State Literature Competition.

Here is Melva's winning poem (see page 9) that looks at the problems facing our planet today and in true Melva fashion ends with a solution that will make you smile.

Lyn Rule

Endangered Species

by Melva Graham



Oh, pity our poor mother Earth,
Her family's grown too many.
Although she tries to stretch the food,
For some there isn't any.

She's getting hot and bothered,
As she tries to quench their thirst,
But each is so demanding;
They all clamour to be first.

They mine oil, coal and gas
Which hastens global warming;
They think supply's unending;
They will not heed her warning.

As her family expands,
They cut the forests down;
They barricade the rivers;
Turn lush countryside to brown.

They kill insects, plants and animals,
Fish seas and rivers dry,
Then point accusing fingers,
But never question why.

With food, water, space near gone,
Earth's family eats the other;
Very quickly they forget
That each one is a brother.

No wonder our poor mother Earth
Has post-natal depression;
A loving and caring family
Was her absolute obsession.

The only real answer,
Argue against it if you will,
Let's take our lovely mother Earth
And put her on the pill.

Harcourt CFA



What Will spring Bring?

The weather forecast for spring is for above average rain. This will generate more grass growth, which will result in more fuel come summer time. More fuel means higher flame height if a fire starts which leads to bigger fires. Starting preparation for summer now will avoid last minute backyard blitzes when the hotter weather comes. Firstly, regular cutting of grass will not only keep your place looking neat and tidy, but also it will stay greener longer without moisture than longer grass that has gone to seed then cut. As the warmer weather arrives, you can start moving any firewood stored next to your house to a location away from all buildings. Also with heavier rainfall comes the risk of flooding. Maintaining your spouting and gutters assists in reducing the risk.

The recent rainfall has seen more run off filling up dams which is a pleasing sight. One of the concerns in recent summers was the number of water storages that had limited or no water. When water is close and accessible, quicker turnarounds are achieved when refilling, and the result is quicker fire suppression.

One of our sources of water is a fire hydrant. Do you have one near your residence? While the brigade carries out regular inspections of hydrants, and once a year a full inspection including a clean and marker check, you can assist us by carrying out maintenance around a fire hydrant, if you have one in front of your property. If you would like to "adopt a fire hydrant", please contact a brigade member for more information on what you can do.

House Fires

The media has been regularly reporting house fires throughout not only Victoria, but across Australia throughout this winter. As the reasons for these fires are analysed, regular causes which can be avoided continue to be highlighted. These are: candles left burning, faulty electrical appliances; phone and computer chargers and overloaded power points. These are causes of fires that can be easily avoided. In addition a number of building fires have started while a building is undergoing renovations. This is something else to be aware of if you contemplate doing a renovation.

CFA/UFU EBA Concerns

While the CFA / UFU EBA saga continues, I just want to reiterate that your local brigade is still committed and ready 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in providing a fire fighting service to not only the Harcourt area but also to our fellow brigades throughout Victoria. Contrary to some statements and reports, the dispute will not interfere with our preparedness for the coming fire season. After all we are prepared for fire every day of the year.

So be prepared and get those motor mowers active.

Tyrone Rice
Captain

Road Repair

Harcourt-Sutton Grange Road



Mount Alexander Shire Council is about to begin construction of a gabion retaining wall to support a section of the Harcourt to Sutton Grange Road at Harcourt.

The works are located to the east of Mount Alexander about halfway between the intersections of Wilkinson and Richards Roads and the Gray's Road intersection with the Harcourt to Sutton Grange Road.

The section of road is impacted by significant rain events and the gabion wall will protect the 30 metre section of road from future erosion.

The road will remain open throughout the three month construction period. Motorist are required to follow the traffic signage which will be in place.

The \$257,427 project is fully funded by the Federal Government's Road to Recovery Program. MADCAT Constructions (VIC) Pty Ltd will undertake the works.



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Cadet Journalist Found!

The Core is pleased to announce that Serenity Campbell will be joining the team. Serenity will be spending her first few weeks with The Core learning the software and sending in some articles while she is travelling. We will have a journalist on location overseas for The Core!

Serenity has completed an internship at Nirvana TV and had articles published on their blog. She is passionate about writing and we are thrilled that she has made the decision to give "grass roots" journalism a go.

Robyn Miller, Editor

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

Many things have been happening at the school over the last month.

We finished July with a celebration of National Tree Day, planting 150 trees in the old pine forest area at the back of the school, as well as wearing our gumboots to explore Ulumbarra.

A curriculum day was held in mid-August and while the families enjoyed a long weekend, the teachers, along with staff from other schools, spent the day working with Maths guru George Booker, updating their knowledge and skills.

The Bike and Scooter Ed was a big part of the program for two weeks in August. The Grade 3-6 children practised their riding skills every day as well as learning about safe riding and road rules. The Prep, 1 and 2 learned good riding techniques on their scooters and also about traffic safety rules.

Friday 2nd September has been a busy day, with an early morning start for Father's Day breakfast. It was great to see most of our dads and some grandpas at school for a yummy egg and bacon role.

We also enjoyed a performance of OZ Opera's new opera for children "El Kid", which had all the children transfixed. It is an operatic version of "Three Billy Goats Gruff" Just to make the day special, everyone came to school in their pyjamas. Grade 3-4 children are looking forward to their camp next week at Boomerang Ranch at Daylesford.

Annette Smith, Principal

At the recent Land-care Schools Day held at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Grade 5 & 6 pupils were involved in four environmental activities. Here they are absorbed in recording creepy crawlies found in pond water.



Harcourt Playgroup Art Show

Harcourt Playgroup's art show is coming up on the 14th of September, 10.30am-12.30, and we'd like you all to come along. This is a great chance to check out the playgroup, have a look at some of the childrens art work and at our wonderful outdoor play area. Even if you don't have small kids we'd love you to come and help to vote for the winners of the colouring competition. If you havent already grabbed a colouring page just drop into Top End Technology, or to 26 Buckley street Harcourt. The adult ones are \$2 each and the childrens are \$1. We appreciate all your support. Below is a sample of one of the colouring pages and some of the prizes to be won!



Colour Me In!



***Harcourtian* – Suzanne Dwyer**



Some of us take for granted the natural beauty of the Harcourt Valley and the landscape shaped by settlers, or are reminded of it every now and then when we see a spectacular sunset seep down Mt Alexander. However for Suzanne Dwyer this is what gives her inspiration and what she tries to capture in her photography.

Suzanne has lived in Harcourt all her life. “My grandfather came to the area from Bullarto near Daylesford. Dad grew up in Barkers Creek and Mum was from Bendigo. I went to primary school in Castlemaine and then was one of the local kids that caught the bus for the 30 minute ride to Maryborough High School.

“Although I would augment my school projects with my photos, it wasn’t my schooling that inspired my interest in photography. There was no subject for it at high school. Rather it was my travels with my parents. When I was about 7 or 8 I got a disposable camera on one of our trips. I got hooked. A point and shoot film camera followed at the age of 10. Later, when my family realised I was serious about photography I was given a digital SLR. I was in Year 10. Since then I have added a flash and bought a tripod and different lenses for the same camera.

“I finished secondary school in 2009. In 2010 I started in hospitality but also decided to do a short course in photography with Bendigo Continuing Education. I wanted to improve my skills and supplement what I was picking up from Google. I learned a lot in the course but worked out there was a lot more to know. Next year, working casually at the BP Servo in Harcourt, I enrolled in a three year Visual Arts Course at the Bendigo TAFE, majoring in Photography. I enjoyed the course immensely. It helped develop my skills and gave me the chance to experiment with techniques using both black and white and colour.

“TAFE also exposed me to selecting, preparing and framing photos for exhibition. There were small exhibits during the year and a major show and exhibition at the end of each year. Since TAFE I have exhibited my work and won prizes at Castlemaine and Bendigo Shows.

“My interest is the natural landscape, animals and birds. However I have also worked on portraits and



Nature



Companion

been asked by people to photograph their pets.

“Originally my photos captured things and the atmosphere on our 10 acre Harcourt property - the farm, sheep, winter mists, fog, ice, sunrises and sunsets. I now also take broader landscapes. Mt Alexander is such a moody mountain. With its fog, cloud, sun and storms it is a photographer’s dream.

“I like working with digital photography. I think the quality is very good. To be honest I have done very little with film. TAFF didn’t offer film as part of the course I did but I don’t think I have missed out on much. There is so much you can do with digital. You can take a photo, process it different ways and create different works and atmospheres. I use Photoshop predominantly and a Microsoft platform. Some of my photos are available for purchase as prints, cards or post-cards.

“I would love to spend more time on my photography, eventually making it my main occupation and setting up my own studio. It’s a bit hard at the moment as it is something I fit in around my 6 day a week full-time job serving customers at the Harcourt BP Service Station. I have offered to do commissions for people and am hoping that as that work comes in, the balance of my work can change and I will be able to spend more time behind the camera lens. People can get an idea of what I shoot and some of my work from my website www.redbubble.com/people/suzanned-wyerart. Like a lot of people, I also have a Facebook page.”

Jenny McKenry, Dandura Alpacas

Photos for this article are supplied by and taken from Suzanne’s folio.



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Harcourt Bowling Club

Coming out of the cold winter and into spring the Harcourt Bowling Club is preparing for the upcoming Bowling Season with enthusiasm.

Preparations are underway for the upgrading of the seating and shade areas and a general working bee will be held shortly, members will be notified of this by email.

The Opening Day of the 2016-2017 Bowls Season

On Sunday 18th September a social game of bowls and afternoon tea will be held to mark the beginning of the new bowling season for Harcourt. Bowlers are to be at the Club by 1.00pm for a 1.30pm start. Members are asked to bring a plate to share for afternoon tea and Regulation uniform is to be worn for bowling members.

Non-bowlers and anyone interested in playing bowls is encouraged to attend and will be made very welcome.

On this day we will also formally declare the new outside entertainment area open with the usual gusto befitting such an occasion. Members of the Harcourt community are very welcome to come and check out our new facility.

October is Play Bowls Month

Bowls Victoria has declared that October is *Play*

Bowls Month so Harcourt will be having a come and try day and other activities for anyone interested in joining us.

There will be more in the Core next Month and look out for flyers around town for the dates.

New members are always welcome.

The Green is Open

The green is open (weather permitting) for members wishing to get some practise in before Pennant starts.

Social Friday Evenings

The Social Friday evenings are still in full swing and even though it has been cold the Club house is as warm as toast. Come and join us for a social drink (we also have a variety of soft drinks) the members draw, or buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win a meat tray and other prizes. Every one's a winner!

Greens Café - Italian Night

Another successful Greens Café was held on Friday 26th August. Thanks to Graeme and Kay for generously giving of their time and expertise to provide such tasty delights for the members and the broader community. (See photo below)

BBQ and Social Bowls

The fortnightly BBQ and bowls evenings will commence again on November 8th – all welcome.

Christine Anderson



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Harcourt in the Social Media of the 1860s



Medical men do not normally air their opinions in the 'Letters to the Editor'. Nor are the contents of medical certificates normally

quoted in the press. However, in the early days the actions of the doctor who lived and practised at Harcourt regularly featured in the 'Mount Alexander Mail'. The columns of the newspaper were used in the same way that we use social media these days.

Dr Daniel James Young, newly appointed as the doctor on the railway construction works, had sent a man with a certificate to seek admission to the Castlemaine Hospital. The certificate stated that the man was suffering from dyspepsia. The Hospital Secretary refused him admittance, and when challenged, wrote to the Mail suggesting that no weight could be given to Dr Young's statements, in fact it might be assumed that Dr Young was *'in a state of dyspepsia himself when concocting the document, and sending the man with it'*. The real issue in the mind of the Secretary was that the man had nowhere to live and would become a burden on the hospital. Upon being sent back to his workplace on the rail construction site, the man returned with a further certificate (this time from his foreman) stating that he *"has been ill some time with dysentery"* from which you will perceive that the disease had suddenly changed. He received medical treatment for his dysentery. This provoked another letter to the 'Mail' from "A lover of truth and peace" saying *"I think it but fair to Dr Young to state that the Hospital Secretary would have shown more of a true Christian spirit of charity, had he directed his benevolent feelings or influence towards the poor dyspeptic patient. Apropos- Mr. Editor, a lecture on charity would, in my humble opinion, be the most advisable prescription for the Secretary just now."*

On three occasions Dr Young refused to attend when called to attend to a sick child at night. Each of these occasions terminated fatally. Each was the subject of an inquest written up in the 'Mount Alexander Mail'. Eighteen-month infant James McBride was suffering from croup in a tent not half a mile from the doctor's, but the Doctor would not come *"being very much the worse for*

drink". When the child died the Coroner suggested that Dr Young be charged with manslaughter. However, he withdrew the charge when someone pointed out that the Dr had never been near the unfortunate child. The next day's 'Mail' printed Dr Young's response and a testimonial from a friend. Dr Young pointed out that he had gone off to another professional engagement and added, by way of postscript, that *the father of the child had just got out of goal!* This is a Victorian way of saying "Do you really believe his story?" The accompanying testimonial stated *"I never saw you in the slightest degree affected by drink."*

The unwashed, hairy, belligerent, floating population of the railway encampments at Harcourt and at Porcupine Hill took up the Doctor's time from 1859 to 1862. In December 1860 he was called to Black Jack Road to attend to the victim of a stabbing. The newspaper report said *"Dr Young came down to the injured man, whose entrails were hanging out. Dr Young returned the bowels, stitched up the wounds and recommended his immediate removal to hospital."*

The language used in the press of 150 years ago far exceeded today's social media comments in its lack of restraint and in its graphic detail. If you wish to access the columns of the local paper of 150 years ago, the 'Mount Alexander Mail' is available on trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper. Go to "Advanced search", select the 'Mount Alexander Mail', select a few years to search and then type in your ancestor's name. Be prepared to be surprised (or appalled) by what you find written there!

George Milford

Harcourt Heritage Centre

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

*A man who collected rare stones
Found an agate amongst some old bones.
He said to his Missus,
"I wonder whose this is?"
She said "It belongs to old Jones"*

Sunny Days are Here Again

The sunshine is calling your name, urging you to get outside and walk. Walking is a great way to get a taste of this sunnier weather while doing something that is good for your health. Walking in a group is even better; it helps motivation and is more fun. If you used the cold weather as an excuse to become a couch potato, Castlemaine District Community Health has a walking group here in Harcourt to help you get active. Meet at the Harcourt Museum and ANA Hall on Monday mornings, 9.15am for a gentle one hour walk.

Sam Peavey, Allied Health Promotion Team Leader, advises that “after a winter of little or no exercise, the best approach is to start with a more gentle regular exercise program. If you’re new to exercise or have been unwell, you might like to see your doctor first.”

More information about this Castlemaine District Community Health Walking Group is available by calling 5479 1000 or by visiting website: <http://www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au/>

Harcourt Native Orchids Walking Tour

Castlemaine District Community Health organise monthly historical walking tours throughout Mount Alexander Shire. On Wednesday 21st September, walkers will meet outside the Harcourt Leisure Centre for a tour of native orchids growing in the nearby Flora Reserve.

Tour organiser Liza Shaw from Castlemaine District Community Health says “the gentle walk of up to one hour will be a great opportunity to connect with others in our local community while admiring our local flora”. Participants are advised to wear sensible walking shoes and bring their hat and water bottle.

All are welcome to join this free event, and bookings are not required. Meet outside Harcourt Leisure Centre at 10am on Wednesday 21 September 2016.

To find out more about this event or future walks, please call Castlemaine District Community Health on 5479 1000.

Liza Shaw

Harcourt Uniting Church

As I’m writing this article I’m looking at Mt Alexander covered in cloud with the sun shining through – what a wonderful picture it makes. It reminds me of a funny family story. When our son David was about 3 he was looking up at the towers on Mt Alexander and said: “I’d like to go up and see the big hole where the towers go down when the clouds come over!!” The logic of a young child never ceases to amaze me.

We celebrated the 151st Anniversary of Harcourt Church with a special morning tea last Sunday. It was certainly not the big celebration we had last year for our 150th, however, it was a very important reminder that there has been a Church for worship in Harcourt for 151 years.

We are busy baking biscuits for a stall at the Coffee morning tea run by the Castlemaine and Harcourt Uniting Church Fellowship groups. There is to be a display of interesting hats over the years – I was glad that I didn’t grow up in the era of having to always wear a hat to Church although I remember my Mum would take a hat with her when we went on holidays - just to wear to Church!

At Harcourt we have a special offering once a month to support 2 groups: Lentara – a Uniting Church organisation based in Melbourne that supports Asylum seekers with a variety of activities including English lessons, meals, cooking classes, family outings (including a trip to Castlemaine recently for a picnic day) as well as a catering service set up to provide participants with an opportunity to learn skills which can assist in employment later on. We also support farming families in the Mallee who are doing it tough with the recent drought. Despite the good rains recently they will have to wait until their crops are harvested later in the year before they have any income. As the saying goes - farming is a real gamble.

In October we will be hosting a BBQ with funds raised going to Frontier Services which supports families in Out-back Australia – more details later.

A reminder to families with young children that a Playgroup meets in our Church Hall on a Thursday morning and always welcomes new families. It’s an opportunity to meet new people whilst your children enjoy playing with new friends.

Jan Jenkin



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Business Update – Castlemaine Group Fitness



18 months ago I interviewed Mandy Chilcott for The Core to find out about her group fitness classes. Since that time, I've been a regular participant in her Friday morning aerobics session where we grape vine, easy step and high kick to high energy dance music. It's fun, fast and friendly. I've certainly built up my fitness in this time and have met some great people over coffee at The Gov Café afterwards.

To recap on Mandy and her career in fitness, she is qualified with a Certificate IV in Personal Training and Group Exercise Instruction and has run gym based classes in Melbourne, Bendigo and Castlemaine for the past 16 years. In February 2015 she started up the Castlemaine Group Fitness classes at the Old Castlemaine Gaol (on the north east side of the Gaol).

The classes Mandy runs include Power Bar and Aerobics and they are designed for all ages and fitness levels. Mandy says "I provide options for all exercises, intensity and resistance so that participants can modify the moves to suit their level of fitness and any injuries they may have". Mandy lists the benefits to her classes as burning calories, improving coordination and agility, raising overall fitness and stamina, developing muscle strength, enhancing bone health and increasing heart and lung capacity.

Recently Mandy has started running a Circuit Class for people with disabilities from Windarring on Thursdays from 9.30am to 10.15am. This involves a combination of aerobics, resistance exercises and cardio drills with an emphasis on movement to music and having fun.

The timetable below lists the different classes and times with the introduction of an early bird 6.15am Power Bar

class on a Thursday morning. Mandy's friend Georgie, who she met whilst studying 16 years ago, now instructs the Power Bar class on a Wednesday night. Georgie has many years' experience running Power Bar and Cycle classes.

If you've been thinking about getting some more exercise or build up your strength, why not try out one of Mandy's fitness classes! At a casual rate of \$10 it's affordable and you don't need to commit to a membership. Children are most welcome to come along to Mandy's classes and play in the designated toy room under their parent's supervision.

To find out more about Castlemaine Group Fitness classes contact Mandy on 0409 866 279 or

mandchilcott@gmail.com.

Genevieve Ward

Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes

'Come and join us at the Old Castlemaine Gaol'



Affordable – Relaxed – Friendly

Tue	9:30am-10.30am	Power Bar
Wed	6:05pm-7:05pm	Power Bar
Thurs	6:15am-7:15am	Power Bar
Fri	9:30am-10.30am	Aerobics
Sat	9:30am-10.30am	Power Bar

*\$10 per class – All fitness levels welcome
Children welcome under parent supervision
Classes run during school terms*

Mandy Chilcott 0409 866 279

mandchilcott@gmail.com





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Grow Great Fruit

With spring bursting all around us, it's important to pay close attention both to our fruit trees and the weather, because a rainy spring is not the friend of the fruit grower! Rain can increase the chances of your trees getting a fungal disease, which can be quite devastating. Peaches and nectarines are prone to Leaf Curl, and a bad case of the disease can set back a tree's growth significantly, and even destroy the fruit. Luckily it's quite preventable by using an organic fungicide on the trees at bud swell. Bordeaux (a mixture of 50g each of copper sulphate and builder's lime in 5 litres of water) is an easy spray to mix and use at home. A Bordeaux spray on your apricot trees can also help to prevent the dreaded Blossom Blight, a fungal disease that can cause the blossoms to rot on the tree and destroy any chances of an apricot crop. For extra security, follow up the first spray with another one 10 days later, and unless we get a downpour of more than about 25 mm of rain, that should be enough to keep the trees healthy and fruitful.

Katie and Hugh Finlay own Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic mixed orchard in Harcourt. They also run a 12 month online organic fruit growing course called Grow Great Fruit. For more information visit: www.mafg.com.au

Pips 'n' All

Hello Garden lovers,

Spring is coming and the weather is wonderful for gardening. The recent rain is so beneficial. What a lovely time of year.

It is the perfect time to spend a little time on your lawns to prepare them for summer. Over the winter, your lawns may have become compacted due to high rainfall and foot or pet traffic causing the soil particles to compact and squeeze out air pockets. We can remedy this fairly easily by coring or aerating. If you are feeling energetic and your lawn is small you can use a garden fork. Work your way around the lawn digging the fork into the soil about 150mm apart and about 200 mm deep. Remember to stay away from irrigation lines so that you don't puncture them. If your lawn is larger or you can't manage the garden fork, then it may be worthwhile hiring a coring machine which rolls spikes into the ground.

It is also a good time to remove any flat weeds from your lawns now while the soil is moist. This is worthwhile because the spring grass growth and germination will fill in the gaps. If you just have a few weeds, you can lift them out with a hand fork and the moist soil will make this relatively easy. If there are too many to remove by hand then you can water on 2 dessert spoons of Iron sulphate per 1 litre of water. This will burn the flat weeds. It can stain your hands and skin so it is best to wear gloves when handling Iron sulphate.

One little task for this time of year is to stake or label your bulbs. Marking them now while they are in flower will help you find them later when they die down below ground. The stakes or labels will make it easy to identify your bulbs when it is time to lift and divide or transplant them to new locations.

This month we are:

- Renovating the lawn;
- Preparing to plant potatoes; and
- Covering frost tender plants.

This month in the woodland:

- Hoary Sunrays are starting to flower (*Leucochrysum albicans*)
- Sun Orchids, Milkmaids, Rabbits Ears and Chocolate Lilys are shooting.
- Riceflower, Diuris and Greenhood Orchids, Early Nancy and Sundews are flowering.
- Austral Crane's-bill and Magenta Stork's-bill and Scented Sundew are shooting.

Happy Gardening
Janyce



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ASQ Plant of the Month

CITRUS

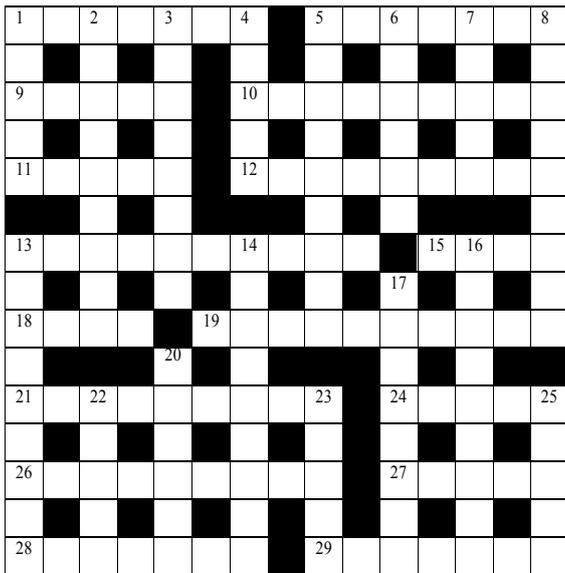
Nutritious, delicious and fresh, citrus is a great addition to your garden. They are easy trees to grow, thriving in open sunny environments with fertile, quick draining soil.

Citrus trees can be very productive and the fruit holds on the tree in good condition for many months after ripening - providing you with long-term self-storage of the fruit! The trees are also ornamentally beautiful with glossy green leaves, white flowers and bright coloured fruit, making them a valuable contribution to any garden.



September Xword 2016

©McW 14th August '15



Down:

1. I shot vehicle inspection device haphazardly. (5)
2. Only a pseudo git with a stupid ego would disregard this semiotic help. (5-4)
3. Hands-off sort of philosopher? (8)
4. Where the hidebound churchman came from? (5)
5. Mean hide to strike sparks? (9)
6. Snake may revert to tight posture from effect of firearm. (6)
7. The 10% that bind, by the sound of it... (5)
8. Reflected wisdom? (9)
13. Brazen and shaven... (4-5)
14. Not a lot weighs on it for me, so you can proceed tunefully for all I care... (2,7)
16. Taxpayer forcibly removed by Bronnie's chopper? (6,3)
17. Chew rellies and steal game. (8)
20. Five plus three of these to get all the way round. (6)
22. Where the Real Self should be aimed? (5)
23. Ground a near thing, poles apart and lacking a small amount. (5)
24. Please locate something I can use to paint. (5)

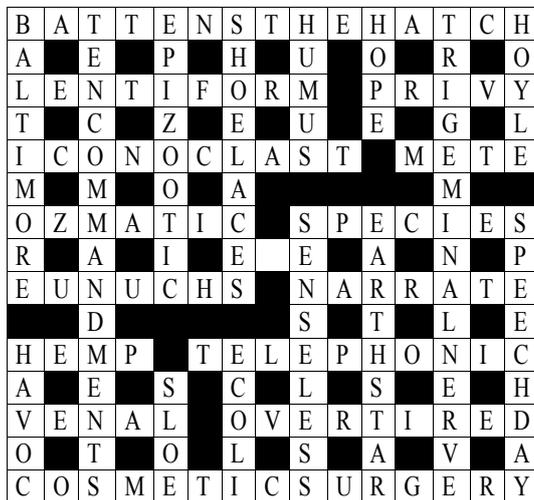
Across:

1. Porcine abluton? Rot! (7)
- 5, 18. What to do to Indian bread to make pizza? (7,4)
9. Dark Freudian force has me coming back from Chartres with their characteristic form of expression. (5)
10. Phil the Greek a heavyweight at uni... (9)
11. What corruption commission lacks... (5)
12. Helpers to dress FIFO workers. (9)
- 13, 19. Poser now "humbling" (twit!) is just self-promoting... (7,3,3,7)
15. ...and removed from robber in wild terrain, leaving prison on board. (4)
18. (see 5)
19. (see 13)
21. I ran chefs at a chain of restaurants. (9)
24. When Con emigrated to Athens, it left the island less specific and definite. (5)
26. Machine might cramp coot, or any other bird trapped inside. (9)
27. Tied by Ronnie? (5)
28. Not the full monty for diner? (7)
29. Bunch of fives in one's grasp? (7)

August Xword 2016

©McW 14th August '15

SOLUTION



Down:

1. After Alaska, coming here to balmier climates in the US might reset our circadian rhythms. (9)
2. Most men can't mend their ways even after hearing these. (3,12)
3. In poetic Oz I find animal version of mistletoe. (9)
4. Secure these, else chaos reigns at the bottom of things. (4-5)
5. Yo Bro! You mush it up to form growing part of terra firma (just drop the Ye, Bro...) (5)
6. Good cape, Bob, no? [Well?]
7. Surgeon's evil arm entering the cranium dismembers bunch of three. (10,5)
8. Steady-state man on the cards? [Well? Two of them...]
14. Can't see, hear or feel if knocked this way. Can't smell or taste, either... (9)
15. Fungus and magazine both sound like an overly possessive name for our sun. [sorry]
16. It's not a cheesy pad, the school gym, but a seedy chap might have cased hype here, as one hyped case after another was made from the platform on this occasion... (6,3)
20. The Passha vocation contains the seeds of disorder. (5)
22. Early electronic bacterium? [Well?]
23. Tardy spirit [gin...] component? (4)

Across:

1. Prepares Golf for roofing? Certainly closes it down... [Well?]
9. Shape of a hippie casserole dish? [Well?]
10. Dunny in the know? [Well?]
11. He thinks smashing statues and breaking windows are cool antics. (10)
12. Dole out flesh, they say. [Well?]
13. Car for lazy Australian wizard? [Sorry...]
14. Are they Darwin's type? [Well?]
17. Before the sound of Erin. [Well?]
18. Japanese martial arts weapons (nunchakus) lose snake with missing tail, but keep its head [s] and regain tail [e] for lost-ball boys... (7)
19. Tell story of past run [ran] rate going backwards half the time. (7)
20. Rope weed factor? [Well?]
21. One sure way to reach the ethnic Pole. (10)
24. I escape lesser sin [venial] for the money-grubbing one. (5)
25. Large rubber endowment of US beach buggy indicates that it's past its bedtime [sorry].
26. Lipstick liposuction? [Well?]

Report from 2nd Annual Australian Network of Organic Orchardists (ANOO) Conference

The 2nd annual Australian Network of Organic Orchardists (ANOO) Conference was held in Harcourt (central Victoria) on 2–3 August 2016.

ANOO was formed in 2015 after Michelle McColl from Kalangadoo Organics in South Australia contacted a few other organic apple growers with a view to forming a network of like-minded growers for information and experience sharing. The initial gathering took place in the Huon Valley in Tasmania, and was so successful that the group agreed to meet again, and Hugh and Katie Finlay from Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens offered to host the 2016 conference in Harcourt.

ANOO welcomes any grower who is certified organic, commercially producing and selling apples, and willing to share their experience and knowledge with their peer group. Many members also have diverse businesses that include value-added products, stone fruit, or livestock, and a range of business models including wholesale, retail, farmers markets, and farm door.

The conference consisted of a packed 2-day program including growers' round-table sessions, highly qualified and relevant speakers, and interesting field trips to organic orchards. The venue was Skydancers Café in Harcourt, which combined a large enough space for the presentations, with delicious refreshments on tap!

The growers' round table sessions were ably facilitated by local historian George Milford, whose extensive knowledge of the local apple industry plus experience with running effective meetings kept the group on track and ensured everyone had an oppor-

tunity to speak. These discussions were a highlight for many who welcomed the chance to share a review of the past season, and the many issues affecting their businesses with their peers, including managing pests and diseases, tree vigour, value-adding, finding and managing good staff and farm succession.

The conference was attended by growers from three states—Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia—and was opened on the first morning by Deputy Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire, Cr. Sharon Telford. Cr. Telford said the council was proud to be hosting the conference in Harcourt, which is home to Victoria's oldest and most famous apple growing district, with a 150-year history of apple growing. The Harcourt apple industry is worth in excess of \$10 million to the Shire each year and is a significant employer.

Cr. Telford also noted that the conference was raising the profile of the organics industry in the Shire, which currently has more than 10 certified organic producers, as well as many more that currently identify themselves as "growing organically" or "chemical free". Mount Alexander Shire Council recognizes the potential growth opportunities offered by organic production in the Shire, and encourages more businesses to take the next step of organic certification to give extra credibility to the Shire's already 'clean and green' image.

The conference wrapped up with a session for reflection, suggestions, and resource sharing, and a decision to hold next year's conference in the Adelaide Hills. **For more information about ANOO please contact Katie Finlay: kfinlay@mafg.com.au**



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Next Market 11 September

9 - 2pm

Fountain St & Shire Gardens, MALDON
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SEPTEMBER CACTUS FIELD DAY

The Cactus Warriors will meet again on Sunday 25th at 10 am at a venue to be announced (see below). All are welcome.

We will start with a short talk and a demo before setting forth to kill cacti. Mentors will be available for newcomers and tools and chemicals will be provided for the morning. At about midday we will end with a free BBQ lunch, a cuppa and a chat.

All you need to bring is a hat and/or waterproofs and sturdy shoes.

For this month's venue or for any other information, please visit our website www.cactuswarriors.org or ring Ian Grenda on 0412 015 807.

Vocal Nosh!

A good sing and good food in convivial company

Sunday 4th September at 6pm

At Newstead Community Centre

Led this month by the energetic Jane Thompson
and James Rigby

Theme: **Travelling Songs**

- 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

Songs in the folk style, mostly a cappella

No prior musical experience necessary. No need to read music.

Singing for the pleasure of it.

Whole session including dinner \$15, concession \$12, Children \$5, first hour only \$5.

Bookings by email: faywhite.music@westnet.com.au or phone Fay 0447 576 642

Newstead Spinning Group: 'Fibre to Finished Product'

The Newstead Spinning Group was formed in 1978: yes...we are coming up to our 40th anniversary! Over the years people have come and gone and stayed. We bring together and support people interested in spinning and related crafts, working with a variety of fibres including wool, alpaca, mohair, silk, etc. All steps of the process from fibre to the finished product are always exciting and the outcomes often surprising.

Newstead Railway Arts Hub Sat 10th to Tues 27th September Open Tuesdays and weekends, 10am – 4pm

On show and for sale: a collection of members' creations: hanks and carded batts, scarves, throws, beanies, hats, cushions, mittens, and more.

Demonstrations: carding, spinning, weaving; dyeing and felting on 13th and 27th, weather permitting).

Further information:

President: Wendy Charles 53484786;

Secretary: Karen Baker 439714665

Harcourt Valley Landcare



AGM & Lunch

Goldfields Track Café

12.30pm

Sunday, 11th September

*Celebrate Landcare's Achievements
in Harcourt*

RSVP to Secretary, Robyn Miller
by 9th September

0467 670 271

Community Diary Dates

September 4th: Vocal Nosh at NCC 6-8.30pm Fay 0447 576 642

September 5th: 7pm Discussion re Mountain Bike Park, Bowls Club

September 11th: 12.30pm Harcourt Valley Landcare AGM, Lunch at Godfields Track Cafe

September 18th: 1.30 pm Heritage Centre outing to the Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum

September 25th: 9.30am - 1pm, Flora Walk followed by barbecue. Flora Reserve, Bingham's Road. Landcare Open Day, Barkers Creek & Harcourt Valley Landcare Groups.

September 21st: 10am, Harcourt Native Orchids Walking Tour, meet at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road.

September 25th: 10am Cactus Field Day, Maldon. See page 23 for contact details

September 28th: 7.30pm, Applefest Launch, followed by HPA Public Meeting, Goldfields Track Cafe.

October 2nd: Vocal Nosh at NCC 6-8.30pm Fay 0447 576 642

October 13th: 1.30pm CWA Fundraising Concert, Harcourt Leisure Centre

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

Bowls Club Dates: See page 14

Heritage Centre: Open every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm or by appointment



Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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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:.....

TELEPHONE:.....EMAIL:.....

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

I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 Concession for Annual Membership
Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 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.