

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

May 2017

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 38

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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



Young people share in ANZAC Day



A spontaneous youth choir was formed at the Harcourt ANZAC Day Service, when the usual recorded music for the Anthem was not available. The kids willingly gathered around to sing. The service followed a delicious afternoon tea and the march to the cenotaph, led by the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band.

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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 Pool

end of season report

Representatives of the Shire, YMCA and the Harcourt community represented by HPA, met for the wrap up meeting for the 2016-17 pool season.

While there is always room for improvement, overall the season was deemed to be a success by all parties. The success of the season can be seen in the attendance numbers. Attendance at Harcourt was 2,646 which was 600 more than last year. March had bumper numbers – 485 compared with 237 last year.

Feedback surveys showed that once again Harcourt returns the highest number of responses in the Shire. The total number of surveys received this year, from users across all pools, was 126. Fifty nine responses were received for the 2015 -2016 season. Harcourt pool users prefer to respond online. There were 39 responses from Harcourt up from 20 in 2016. 10 of the 39 responses were on paper.

The Shire is evaluating technical requirements for all pools to establish required capital works over the coming years.

The YMCA and the Shire representatives were invited to attend a public forum to be organised by Harcourt Progress Association in October to discuss and get input for the coming 2017 – 2018 season.



Neil Charter - Vietnam Veteran

Neil Charter had been a Captain in the CMF (Citizen's Military Forces) before he was sent to Vietnam.

His medals (not necessarily in order) include: one Reserve Forces Medal, two Vietnam medals, one National medal, one Efficiency Decoration (for officers) and the National Service Medal. Neil is a stalwart of the annual ANZAC Day Ceremony.



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Harcourt Progress Association to host Castlemaine Health Round Table

The next meeting of the Harcourt Progress Association incorporates a round table with members of the board of Castlemaine Health. For your say on the future of the Castlemaine Hospital, come to the Goldfields Track Cafe at 6pm on Wednesday 17th May. See the article below provided by Castlemaine Health.

The round table will be followed by dinner at 7pm

Castlemaine Health in Harcourt May 17th 6pm

Castlemaine Health is the guardian of a long standing and much-loved health service. We deliver high quality, respectful, and personalised care from the hospital, in homes and across the community. We're located at the hospital in Castlemaine.

We want to continue delivering health services to our community well into the future. We have a great team of skilled people, but we are less fortunate when it comes to our site. The hilly site makes it hard for staff, patients and visitors to get around – especially our aged care residents. The old buildings are very expensive to maintain and limit our ability to grow. Our aged care accommodation is spread across the site, which makes it very hard to deliver efficient services that meet our residents' and families' expectations.

In short our ability to deliver a sustainable health service in the future is limited by how much it costs to maintain our current site. Continuing 'as we are' is not an option. We need to identify a health service for the future.

and a public HPA Meeting at 7.30pm. Ongoing matters for discussion include the renovation of the Railway Station, the proposed Playground and discussions with VicRoads about town entrances.

To book a meal, please contact Donna at the Goldfields Track Cafe on 5462 5514.

Three main options for redevelopment have been suggested by service providers and community groups. We're hoping to hear more from the community about the best way ahead.

Each of the three options includes a new hospital and aged care accommodation. We'd like to know what you think about those options. We'd also like to know whether you think our services are right for the community, or whether there are other services that should be made available in the future.

If you'd like to explore these issues and options in detail, visit www.engage.vic.gov.au/castlemaine-health.

Together we have an opportunity to develop a modern health service for our community and we want to get it right. Ideas and suggestions put forward in this consultation will form the basis of a report to Government recommending how we should redevelop Castlemaine Health.



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Road Trip to Forrest Mountain Bike Park



Four hardy souls set off for Forrest, dubbed the “Gateway to the Otway’s” on Sunday 30th April. The four were: Drew Henry (who kindly drove), Annette Rae, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns and Robyn Miller.

The mission was to find out about the effect of the mountain bike park on the town of Forrest and to see what a mountain bike park looked like. The bike trails at Forrest were some of the earliest in Victoria (opened 2007) and the development of them was driven by one couple in the town. The trails developed as people literally went out and made tracks in the bush. However, the whole system of over 60kms is now more formalised and has two sets of tracks. The “Town” trail head (entrance to bike tracks) has a large carpark and facilities and sits on the main road. (*see above*) The Yaughier trail head is reached by a dirt road. At the end it has a loop with easy parking for about 10 cars. It also has a toilet block. There is a dedicated bike trail beside the main road leading to the Yaughier trail head, but there is a tricky road crossing on a bend in the road which causes safety concerns. This is one of the issues which Harcourt faces - how to get riders safely to the trail head from the Harcourt town centre.

On arrival in Forrest after trying to find one of the trail heads, and failing, we headed to the Forrest Brewery for lunch. Luckily we had booked a table as the Brewery was busy (and noisy). We spoke first with Mandy Bishop who has moved to the town after visiting the town for bike riding. Mandy now produces the Forrest Post, the local newspaper. Forrest began to die once logging ceased in the old growth forest of the Otway’s. Once the trails went in they were a trigger for development and rejuvenation of businesses. Mandy said they have found that visiting families rather than elite riders were now the key to steady economic growth in Forrest. And many visitors come for the Brewery, the nearby Great Ocean Road and the bush. The caravan park accommodates about 80% of the bike riders who stay in the town. The most recent business de-

velopments include a proposed jewellery shop/art gallery and a chocolatier. The General Store has changed hands and been rejuvenated, and is very impressive. Real estate values have begun to rise as well.

Sandy Maxwell is the President of the Forrest Mountain Bike Club which was formed about eight years ago. Once the informal trails began to attract riders and it was realised that mountain bike tracks could stimulate growth in the town, a Strategic Plan was drawn up. This was embedded in an overall plan for development of the Greater Otway’s area. Unlike Harcourt, it was difficult for the club to get DELWP to agree to the club’s involvement in maintenance of the tracks. The situation has since changed and the club and DELWP work together on maintenance of the trails – however – maintenance remains the greatest challenge. Sandy mentioned that events are the way the club raises funds. One example he gave was of the Forrest Soup Festival which has a Run Forrest event on the same weekend. Run Forrest uses the bike trails as ready-made running tracks. Bike related business include shuttle buses, bike hire and maintenance, bike riding tours and skills courses.

Next we headed to Colac to meet Sharon Bradshaw, owner of the Forrest Brewery. The Brewery is planning a very large expansion in the near future and has taken over a site which was once a timber mill near the Caravan Park. Sharon said that at first their business was only open 3 or 4 days a week, but eventually because of the growth of tourism stimulated by the bike park, they are now open 7 days a week. South of Colac Prickly Moses, another brewery and cidery has been established at Otway Park winery, and at Birregurra there is fine dining at Brae.

It was a very positive experience from the point of view of tourism and other businesses; one thing we didn’t get to do was to track down some “ordinary folk” and ask them what they thought about the bike park. We’ll have to go back again! It’s worth a visit.

Robyn Miller



Annette and Jacqueline check out the bike trail map at the Town mountain bike park trail head.

Easter Egg Hunt - *another perfect day*



Can you spot the Easter Bunny? Children, parents and volunteers enjoyed the fourth Easter Egg hunt in the Oak Forest on Easter Sunday. HPA's Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns did a fabulous job of organising the event.

The morning's activities included bunny ear making, easter egg bag decorating and egg hunting (of course). The crowd enjoyed music by Mood Swing and appreciated the barbecue, hot cross buns and tea and coffee. A gold coin donation was collected for the activities to go towards funds for the Harcourt Playground.



Karen and Andrew Miersch who are constructing the Miniature Railway in Harcourt gave a hand with the barbecue and were kept busy all morning.

HPA thanks the Applefest for supporting the hunt - a donation will be made towards the 2018 Applefest.

Samantha Rowe organised the Easter bag decoration and members of Landcare looked after the making of bunny ears.





CFA- Brigade Elections bring Change

END OF THE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

Fire restrictions terminated for the Shires of Mount Alexander and City of Greater Bendigo on Tuesday 18th of April. This was followed up by some good rainfall in the Harcourt Valley and now the weather has turned cold towards the end of April. With this colder weather and the need for warmth, it is a timely reminder to ensure whatever methods of heating you use in your house, that they are ready and right to use. Chimneys and flues should be cleaned, fans and filters should be cleaned and if it is a gas heater, does it need a service? Portable heaters and electric blankets that have been in storage should be checked before using and if they have frayed or damaged electrical cords then they should be repaired or replaced.

If you intend to burn off please register your burn by calling the Vicfire Burn Off line on 1800 668 511. You will be required to provide your name and a contact number, along with details of the burn including location, size, material, time of starting and end time. A registered burn will hopefully mean that the brigade will not be called out unnecessarily if a passer-by thinks that your burn is an actual fire and calls triple '0'.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

Statistical data is compiled on a yearly cycle for the Brigade AGM which is held in April. This shows that the brigade was called out on 51 occasions. This consisted of 35 callouts within the

Brigade's response area and the additional 12 calls were supports to our neighbouring brigades and four strike team deployments, (Bridgewater, Ultima and Glenhope twice).

BRIGADE ELECTIONS

The biennial election cycle for the Brigade was held also at the AGM. I had decided that after 12 years as Captain, it was time for a break and Andrew Wilson will step into the role of Captain on the 1st of July. The Lieutenant positions are now 1st Lt Tyrone Rice, 2nd Lt David Murdoch, 3rd Lt John Jenkin and 4th Lt Kevin Earl. Lynda Wilson continues on as Brigade Secretary and Communications Officer is Kerri Anne Schnoor. Thanks to Des Rice as our outgoing Communication Officer.

Just a final reminder again about the importance of having working smoke alarms fitted in your home. If you have not changed your battery at the end of daylight saving, then the time to do it is now. Also give it a light vacuum to remove any dust build up and remember that smoke alarms have an expiry date and it is recommended that they be replaced after ten years.

*Tyrone Rice
Captain*

The Core thanks Tyrone for his regular contributions over the last three and a half years. The community has benefited from his timely reminders and reports. We look forward to a continued association with Harcourt CFA.



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Harcourt Valley Primary School

Trivia Night

Over 120 adults and children attended Harcourt Valley Primary School's first-ever Trivia Night. On the last Friday in April, teacher Matt Watkins played MC to the big crowd. The fast-paced entertainment included family-friendly activities and games, along with a good old fashioned multi-round quiz.

After a social sausage sizzle, the team-based trivia competition began. Spot prizes were awarded throughout the night, for winners of fun challenges including a coin toss and a paper airplane competition. A team called The Feisty Chickens was the overall winners, taking home a bundle of great prizes to share.

All prizes for the night were generously donated by local businesses. For the much-needed support, the school would like to thank Goldfields Track Café, DMC Honey, Laura Pratt Hairdressing, Blue Elephant Beverage Co, The Florist on Piper, ASQ Skydancers, Bendigo Discovery Centre, Sovereign Hill, Bendigo Tram Tour, Central Deborah Goldmine, Bendigo Joss House Temple and Halls Gap Lakeside Tourist Park.

The night was a success, both as entertainment for attendees and as a fundraiser for the Harcourt Valley Primary School. It was a fantastic community-building event and a great opportunity for new school families to mix and mingle with longer-serving ones. Parent representatives from the school council have already put locals on notice for next year.

Get geared up for the 2018 Trivia Night, they say, because it's going to be bigger, better and more fun!

Veronica Budnikas

ANZAC Day



Alan Lane - Castlemaine RSL Member

A Vietnam Return Soldier spoke during assembly: 20th April, 2017

Alan was invited to speak to the school during assembly and share information about why ANZAC day is a special day on our calendar.

Heart felt and Informative

Alan shared with the students the importance of ANZAC day and why it is imperative that they, the future generation, remember the spirit of ANZAC.

Buddies and Peer Support

After assembly, Buddies made poppies and Peer Support groups created an individual wreath.



From the school's social media site - FlexiBuzz

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

*A man who was once a Lay Preacher
Resigned and became a school teacher.
The children he taught to
All said that "You ought to
Try singing, you're more of a screecher."*



CWA - AGM and Bi-annual Conference

The Central Victoria Group CWA recently held its Annual General Meeting and half-yearly Conference in Newstead.

This is always a very enjoyable day which gives all members the opportunity to meet up with other members, discuss Branch issues and elect new Group office bearers for 2017. Congratulations to two Harcourt members, Sandra Webb who was elected President and Lynette Carter who was elected Secretary.

This year the conference was opened by the Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire, Cr Sharon Telford, who spoke of attending CWA meetings as a child with her mother, and of her Aunty Kate's involvement in setting up CWA Branches in the Mallee in the 1930's. These pioneer women realised the importance of providing meeting places for the many country woman who came together for support and friendship in remote areas.

Margaret Wood was the guest speaker from CWA Headquarters. Margaret holds the position of Chairman Membership, and spoke of the importance of maintaining our connection with the community and promoting the ideals of the organisation through the 2017 CWA Theme, "Share the Friendship", and how Social Media is now being successfully used to promote the CWA in the community today.

It was good to reflect on those early days of CWA when all Branches were country-based and then hear about the changes in the status of today's members where younger working women are now forming branches in Melbourne suburbs. Like all organisations, the CWA is evolving as it heads into the ever-changing technological future.

No organisation can run smoothly without a Secretary, and the CWA is no different. Each year the Annual Report from one Branch Secretary is selected as the Report of The Year and we were delighted that this year our very own Harcourt CWA Secretary, Marie Twyford, had that honour. Congratulations Marie, a job well done.

Another lady who deserves a mention is Audrey Bishop who has been a long term member of the Sutton Grange Branch. Whilst chatting with Audrey during afternoon tea, she mentioned she was going on a trip. When I enquired further it came out that Audrey, at the age of 86 was heading off to England in August, to visit her family in Shropshire. Whether it is Aunty Kate back in the 1930s in the Mallee setting up CWA Branches, or 86 year old Audrey in 2017 from the Sutton Grange Branch going off to England to visit her family, it is ladies such as these who have made the CWA the great women's organisation that it is today. Well done Audrey, have a wonderful holiday.

In last month's edition of the Core I wrote about the Rest Area tent at Applefest that was the brainchild of Samantha Rowe and was situated beside the Harcourt CWA site. I referred to Samantha as a member of the Mount Alexander CWA. This was not strictly correct as the Mt Alexander branch closed last October. The young mothers who had met each month with their children, reminiscent of the early days of CWA, decided to put the Branch on hold for the time being but promised to be back. Samantha has supported Harcourt CWA in many ways since the Mount Alexander Branch closed. Thanks again Samantha, your assistance is very much appreciated.

*Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer*



Marie Twyford being presented with her trophy for the Branch Secretary's Report of the Year by Group Secretary Rachael Mitchell.



Audrey Bishop will have many tales to tell when she returns from her trip to England



Heritage Festival at Harcourt

The career of Henry Hayden BA

The Australian Heritage Festival for 2017 has the theme “Having a Voice” providing talks, tours, exhibitions and events recognizing the many narratives that have shaped Victoria.

The Harcourt Heritage Centre is hosting a lively and entertaining talk on the career of Henry Hayden BA, whose Irish oratory made itself heard in the rowdy meetings of the Land Convention of the 1850s and the sensational parliamentary crises of the 1860s. Recent research has unearthed fascinating detail about the career of this journalist/agitator/country schoolmaster. Henry Hayden spoke up for Harcourt when most other pioneer settlers were pre-occupied with establishing a livelihood in virgin country.

This Heritage Festival event will be held at the ANA Hall (Heritage Centre) in High Street Harcourt on Sunday 21st May at 1.30 pm with afternoon tea to follow.

Victorian Collections - The Virtual Museum

Lots of people collect things. All collections have a focus. Our focus, at Harcourt Heritage Centre, is local history; the families, the community groups, the industries and the recreations of Harcourt folk from the 1850s onward.

Harcourt’s collection started with the gift of the Hedley James Collection of 1,891 photos, books and objects. From this base the collection has now grown to over 4,000 catalogued items, forming a rich treasury of interest to anyone who wants to understand the landscape or learn about the people who live (or lived) in this district.

In an initiative designed to make the collection more accessible, Harcourt Heritage collection is now represented online at ‘Victorian Collections’. Volunteers at the Heritage Centre have uploaded about one percent of its collection onto the website. A visit to ‘Victorian Collections’ is a visit to our own virtual museum.

‘Victorian Collections’ is a web-based collections management system that allows museums and historical societies to publish their records and photographs online. Hundreds of groups have contributed to the growing database of objects, creating a central portal to Victoria’s rich cultural heritage and diverse histories.

Some societies and museums have loaded up the details of their entire holdings. Others have provided just a sample of what is hidden away in storerooms and showcases. The Harcourt selection is just a ‘teaser’ because we want people to come to Harcourt to make

use of the immense database of Harcourt history.

A recent Weekly Times article “Stories of Women on the Land” written by ‘Miranda’ (Genevieve Barlow) drew its inspiration from material found at ‘Victorian Collections’. The website has the potential to be increasingly useful for journalists, scholars and researchers.

‘Victorian Collections’ is for everyone to use. Whether you are a student, researcher or a history enthusiast, you can browse tens of thousands of objects from around the state.

For readers of “The Core’ there will be local interest in the brief *history* and *statement of significance* attached to each Harcourt Heritage Centre item that has been made available online. Discover hidden gems and uncover unexpected links between Victoria’s many and varied collections. Just type ‘Victorian Collections’ into your search engine.

George Milford



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Business Update

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Nicola is a Naturopath who applies an integrated approach to healthcare – drawing on evidence based natural medicine to promote optimal wellness and well-being. The Core first met with Nicola at her Harcourt home a year ago where she and her family enjoy the country lifestyle and great outdoors that Central Victoria offers.

Nicola is based at Castlemaine’s multi-modality clinic Healing Well at 147 Mostyn Street. Nicola is finding that with the change in seasons and cooler weather, her clients are looking for natural ways to reduce the severity of these viruses and help prevent new exposure. If you do have symptoms or want to strengthen your immune system, Nicola recommends specific blends of the following:

- High strength mushroom blend for immune strength
- High potency immune support formula
- High strength bioavailable zinc powder with zinc and activated B6

She uses practitioner only products that are scientifically tested to achieve higher standards than other products on the shelf. Nicola’s other areas of specialty include:

- Hormonal imbalances and thyroid issues
- Menstrual irregularities
- Menopause (peri and post)

- Digestion and detoxification
- Weight loss and maintenance
- Sleep disorders
- Diet and lifestyle support
- Stress and mental health support
- Functional testing, food intolerance testing and hair tissue mineral analysis

Nicola is registered with the National Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA) and health rebates are available. She also offers Skype consultations.

For readers of The Core, Nicola is offering 10% discount for their initial consultation until end September 2017.

Phone Nicola today to make a confidential appointment on 0433 048 430.



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Katie & Hugh Recommend Entering 2016 Shire Business Awards



Putting your business forward for a Mount Alexander Business Award can bring many benefits beyond winning one of the categories or the overall competition.

Katie and Hugh Finlay (above) from Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens won Business of the Year award and the Sustainability and Environment category in the 2015 Mount Alexander Business Awards.

Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens is a certified organic orchard on the foothills of Mt Alexander in Harcourt, with a focus on biological farming, improving the soil, energy efficiency and sustainable practice.

The organic fruit growers encourage other businesses to enter the awards and explain how winning has helped to build their reputation and improve their business.

“We had been working really hard on improving our sustainability practices for many years,” said Katie.

“Our sustainability plan was integral in setting the direction of our business, improving our farming and business practices and telling our sustainability story. Winning the award was personally satisfying and proof for our customers that we walk the talk. We were really proud to be acknowledged as an important part of the economic and social fabric of the shire, despite being such a small business. We received lots of publicity, and the award continues to be noteworthy when we hear ourselves described in the media or by people we know,” she said.

Winning the awards has also opened up many new opportunities for Katie and Hugh, helping them to tap into funding opportunities, and increase their involvement in industry networks.

“After hearing our story, Regional Development Victoria came to visit and encouraged us to apply for fund-

ing to develop a collaborative farming model based on sustainability principles. We’ve also been invited to get involved in expert committees, industry networks and teaching initiatives like the new organic farming courses at Bendigo Kangan Institute. The prize money helped us build a small rustic farm shop and garden to sell our fruit to the public from the farm door while providing a really pleasant experience for visitors.”

Katie and Hugh now have a policy of applying for an award or grant every year. “Filling out the application form is a good chance to re-assess where your business is at and your achievements to date, as well as to refocus on your future plans,” said Katie. “So many small business owners fall into the trap of being too busy working ‘in’ the business to take the time to work ‘on’ the business. We honestly believe that going through the award entry process is almost as valuable as winning. Of course it’s fantastic if you’re lucky enough to win! Business of the Year is a pretty amazing label to wear, and we wear it with great pride,” she said.

We honestly believe that going through the award entry process is almost as valuable as winning.

The Mount Alexander Business Awards are designed to showcase

and encourage business excellence in the shire. More than 130 businesses were recently nominated for the awards and now have the chance to enter. The categories are:

- Manufacturing, construction and trade
- Agribusiness
- Retail, hospitality and tourism
- Micro business
- Professional services
- Creative and cultural

To enter, visit www.mountalexanderbusinessawards.com.au and complete the entry form by 5.00pm on Tuesday 16 May.

The Mount Alexander Business Awards are run in partnership with Maldon & District Community Bank® and The Midland Express/Castlemaine Mail.

They are supported by Business Mount Alexander, Maldon Inc., Workspace Australia and Regional Development Victoria.

For more information or to read the full story about Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, visit the awards website.

For queries regarding award entries phone: Eva Parkin, Economy and Culture, on 5471 1805.

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

Project Update

April 2017

Situated on a former pine plantation next to Mount Alexander Regional Park, the Harcourt mountain bike park will offer up to 34 kilometres of dedicated trails and magnificent views alongside a natural forest setting.

Once fully operational the park is expected to inject substantial funds into the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors each year and generate local jobs.

Built to International Mountain Bicycling Association standards, the park will be consistent with future development plans for the Harcourt area while improving the site's environmental value.

Design stage rolls into action



We are working with a leading mountain bike trail company to design and deliver the Harcourt mountain bike park.

Dirt Art is one of the largest trail companies in Australasia with strong links to the global mountain bike fraternity, managing the design and delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games mountain bike venue.

Part of the design stage will be Dirt Art's commitment to work with the community and stakeholders on the design of the trails to ensure ample opportunity for consultation on the preliminary design.

Having your say

During April, it was great to come together with adjoining landholders, residents and the wider community to discuss the preliminary design of the trails.

Ideas and suggestions were put to the designer and once the changes have been made and final design approved, we will send out the final version to those registered on our mailing list. Please find details for registering at the end of this update.

There will be employment opportunities during construction and the Dirt Art team will be seeking local accommodation during the construction stage.



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Environment,
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Car versus bike

The Community Reference Group met last month to discuss a range of topics including the concept of minimal car parking at the park by having an off-road link from the town to the park. The group is supportive of this approach to ensure minimal disruption to the Oaks during major events and providing a safe off road access from the town to the mountain bike park. We will keep you informed about the feasibility of this concept throughout the planning process.

DELWP, Mount Alexander Shire and VicRoads staff met on site to discuss traffic management including the off-road pathway. VicRoads committed to reducing the speed limit along Market Street to 80 kmph and this change is expected to be implemented soon. Other traffic management issues are being reviewed by council.

Getting technical

The Technical Reference Group along with experienced riders have conducted field inspections of the park. They have provided details for a potential route that will maximise rider experience while enhancing cultural heritage and environmental values of the area. The area takes in spectacular views of the valley and surrounds and would be a great addition to the trail network if we are able to balance rider experience and cultural heritage and environmental values.

Park improvements

Dja Dja Wurrung teams have been busily spraying blackberries and gorse on the site and expect to be there for a few weeks, weather permitting. They are also completing a weed management plan for the mountain bike park to target species and assess where funding is best utilised. The road maintenance program is to commence within next few weeks.

How are we tracking?

May	June	July	Aug – Dec
Community feedback included in final trail design Final trail design for Commonwealth and State environmental and planning approvals	Commonwealth and State environmental planning approvals underway	Trail design approved Construction begins, weather permitting	Construction underway and completed

Keeping in touch ...

It's important to us that we are talking to you and giving you the opportunity to become involved in future consultation and engagement opportunities.

Register your interest at harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au or call us on 136 186.

There's also our website: delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp



Harcourt Valley Landcare *Toll Gate Park Signposted*

Harcourt Valley Landcare is pleased to announce that a new sign with history of the area called "Toll Gate Park" has been erected. The group has been working in this part of Barkers Creek for close to 20 years. The group will have a ceremony marking the sign's presence on Sunday May 28.

The next working bees of the the group are:

Sunday 28 May: Removal of willow and weeding on Barkers Creek, 10am -12pm.

Saturday 17 June: Little Habitat Heroes – combined working bee with Barkers Creek- see back page. All welcome. Secretary: 0467 670 271



Carpet Bowls - Competition Starts Soon - Come and Try

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc.

Venue: Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt

FREE - COME & TRY NIGHT

Wednesday 10th MAY 2017, 7.30pm

The night will be FREE and SUPPER will be served.

Past players and new interested people are invited to practice and learn about the game.

If unable to attend but would like to play come along on the 17th May at 7.30pm and join in. (See right)

COMPETITION NIGHTS BEGIN

Wednesday - 17th May 2017, 7.30pm

Registration: Adult \$6.00; U/17 \$3.00 (Covers insurance etc.)

Games night: Adult \$5.00; U/17 \$2.50 (Covers Hall hire etc.)

Families most welcome - 8 years old up can play

Games played from 7.30pm to 9pm in heated hall.

Carpet bowls offers an inexpensive competition/social night for young and old

Further information - Contact Loretta 5474 2453 or Tyrone 5474 2126

Come along it may just be the game for you!



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Harcourt Lions Club

AGM - Successful Year

The Lions Club provided a free BBQ dinner for the Harcourt Land-care volunteers up on the Mount on Saturday the 1st April 2017. More than 70 participants enjoyed a BBQ dinner of vegie burgers, sausages and salads.

The Club also provided support to the Harcourt Valley Easter Festival. The Wine Festival attracted over 700 visitors to Harcourt and the Lions Club helped with car parking, ticket checking and coordinating the shuttle bus between the winery and the Castlemaine Railway station.

The outgoing Club executive wishes to thank all the members and supporters for their generous contributions in 2016/2017.

The Club will be distributing donations to the following groups in April:

- Harcourt Valley Primary School \$250
- Elphinstone Primary School \$150
- Harcourt Valley Landcare \$150
- Harcourt Football and Netball Club \$250
- Castlemaine State Festival \$680

The Club held its AGM on Friday 21st April at the Harcourt Scout Hall.

Election results were as follows:

President: Gary Selwood

Treasurer: Nathan McLoughlan

Club Secretary: Sue Nash and Madi Selwood will share the role

Membership Chairperson: Di Selwood

Public Relations Chairperson: Grant Victor-Gordon

The Financial Report confirmed that the Club was in a good position for 2017/2018 with adequate funds to cover future community activities such as Australia Day celebrations in Stanley Park, as well as ongoing Administration costs for the next 12 months, such as insurances, water and power charges and fire levy fees.

Grant Victor-Gordon



Uniting Church 40th Anniversary

In June 2017 the Uniting Church of Australia will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the combining of the Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregational Churches throughout Australia in 1977.

In 1977 Harcourt had four places of worship – Harcourt Methodist and Harcourt North Methodist, the Anglican Church and the Church of Christ at Barker's Creek.

The Methodist Churches were the existing Church in Buckley Street and the Harcourt North Church was in the timber building on the corner of Reservoir Road and McIvor Road. These two places of worship finally combined onto the one site in Buckley Street Harcourt.

The 40th Anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday 18th June 9am at Harcourt Uniting Church followed by a special morning tea.

On April 30th Harcourt Uniting Church hosted the Combined Churches Parish Service which celebrated the work of Frontier Services in out-back Australia. The service was followed by a "piece of slice" morning tea. There were many delicious slices to enjoy with an invitation to donate towards the work done by Frontier Services. It was great to see the Church full and the singing almost "raised the roof"!

Just a reminder: we meet every Sunday at 9am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea and all are welcome to join us anytime.

Jan Jenkin

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Bowling Club - *end of season celebrations*

Championship Results

Women's 100 - Up

A strong contest between Club Champion Heather Braid and Wendy Chaplin was played out in the Club 100-Up competition last week. Spectators were treated to a fine display of bowling as both vied for the title. In just her second year as a bowler Wendy Chaplin was able to take the lead from Heather in a very close finish 100 to 99. Congratulations Wendy. *(Photo below of Heather Braid (R) & Wendy Chaplin (L))*



Men's Nominated Pairs

An exciting final of the men's nominated pairs was played out last Thursday in which Ken Delmenico and Daryl Gale against Brian Smith and Dave Jeffries vied for the title. With the lead changing many times throughout the game the gallery of supporters/spectators were treated to a fine display of good bowling and steely determination. A score of three on the last end gave Brian and Dave the Championship. Congratulations to them both. *(See photo below)*



Women's Nominated Pairs

The women's pairs are still at semi-final stage but it is hoped this game will be completed next week.

Rice Memorial Triples (Mixed)

A full field in the Rice Triples memorial last Saturday signalled that a great afternoon of bowling camaraderie and laughter was in store. At the end of play three teams had wins which meant a play-off to determine the winners. The teams were John Kays, Terry Chisholm, Chris Anderson; Leo Moloney, Brett Jenkinson, Joan Bath and Gary Maddern, Steven Douglas and Lorna Davey. A final tussle between Leo and Gary's teams ended in Gary Maddern's team coming out victors. The Trophy was presented to Gary and his team by Wayne Rice, son of Ben and Amy Rice in whose memory the event was held. *(See photo below)*



Presentation Night

Presentation dinner was held on Saturday night with a dinner of shared food and much laughter and dancing to music provided by local band "Summer Rain". Awards presented for the various club Championships and events won throughout the season were: - **Grant Pairs** Moira Straw & John Kays; **Champion Pairs Men** Brian Smith & David Jeffries, Runners Up Ken Delmenico & Daryl Gale; **Champion Pairs Ladies** -not completed; **Gough Men's Drawn Pairs** Leo Moloney & David Jeffries; **Ladies Drawn Pairs** Kaye Grant & Francis Collins; **100 up Ladies** Wendy Chaplin, Runner Up Heather Braid; **100 up Men** not completed; **Rice Family Triples** winners skip-Gary Maddern, 2nd Steve Douglas, Lead Lorna Davey; **Singles Championship Men** John Morris, Runner Up Rod Harris; **Singles Championship Lady** Heather Braid, Runner Up Moira Straw. President

Bowling Club *(cont)*



John Starbuck congratulated all of the winners and thanked everyone for their contribution to what has been a successful year for the club. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd May at 11.00 am followed by a barbeque and social bowls - weather permitting.

Above: a montage of the season's winners at Presentation Night.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd May at 11.00 am followed by a barbeque and social bowls - weather permitting.

Christine Anderson



Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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Time to Plant Fruit Trees

Tips from Katie Finlay of Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens

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). You can either buy an Autumn Green Manure seed mix from a nursery, or buy the individual seeds to make up your own mix. Because we've had such a great autumn break this year, but the weather is still (relatively) warm, you can go ahead and plant the seed wherever you plan to put your fruit trees. Once it's grown, and before you plant your fruit trees, you can either dig the green manure into the soil, or just cut it down and leave it lying on the surface.

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 another year of getting your future fruit supply started. This year's range of bare-rooted fruit trees has just gone up on our website, with more than 100 varieties available (starting at under \$20 each). You can order right up until June 30, and trees will be available to pick up from the farm on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of July - all the details are available in our Weekly Fruit Tips free e-newsletter. You can buy trees (and sign up for the newsletter) on our website 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, to be ready to plant in spring. Choose seeds that are dark brown and plump. Granny Smith apples, or Packham pears are usually a reliable source of seed, but it's fine to use whatever you can get your hands on. The seeds will produce large seedling rootstocks that can be grown on as fruit trees, but the fruit they produce won't be 'true-to-type', and 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.

Katie and Hugh Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They also offer online fruit growing courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Visit www.growgreatfruit.com to find out more.



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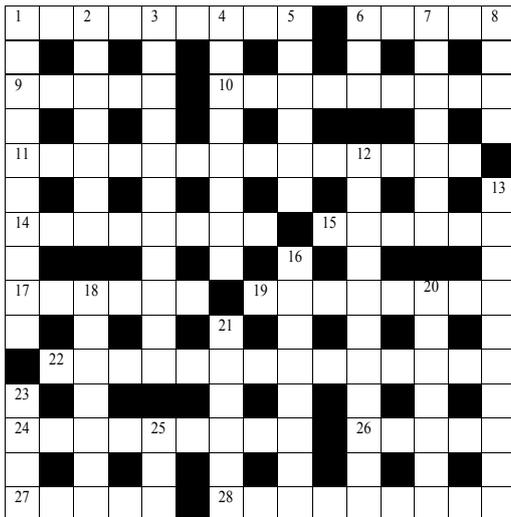
- Lawn mowing
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MAY 2017 Xword

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Down:

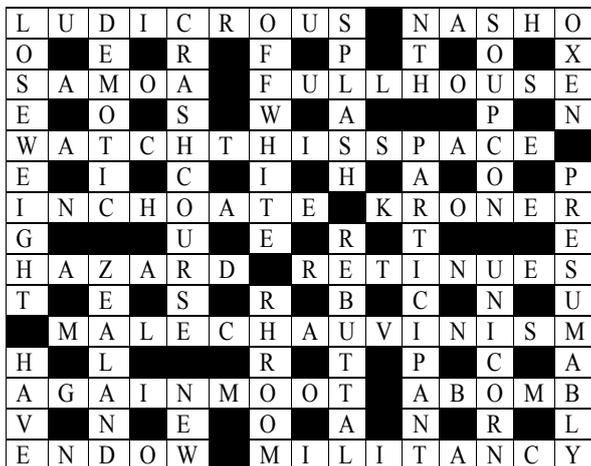
1. Repeat offending lands one in viscid mire. (10)
2. Stage Irish creatures in holes... (7)
3. It moved Aunt that I moved taunt at the state of the dole-bludging youth. (11)
4. Play a fast lute with conventional aesthetic discernment. (8)
5. Defence was down and delight was out in the abyss, quite, quite lacking... (6)
6. Backward way to pen stuff one doesn't want? (3)
7. The vanguard of footing? (3-4)
8. To quieten, you really only need the second half.... (4)
12. Exchange covert datum for market advantage. (5,6)
13. Get dog out of litter, or we might decompose! (10)
16. Outdo (if in charge) — blissful. (8)
18. Her gift to the fighter was just so much baggage, really. (7)
20. Darwin developed thus? (8)
21. A Harold in flowering meadow? (6)
23. With even a little gravity, Australian Tory is still smooth and slight. (4)
25. One might shovel kangaroo-substitute off Scandinavian road after hitting it with a very large truck... (3)

Across:

1. Are you texting while he recited and enrolled? (9)
6. Cadge a chapter and make a mess? (5)
9. Charlie Manson in the abyss? (5)
10. Having seen vases he's brought back, we know where the sailor's been. (5,4)
11. Destroyed in hot reaction when he plays mean trick on his friend... (4,3,5,2)
14. Active Mediterranean smotherer? (8)
15. A hundred radio waves at heart. (6)
17. Best match out of harm's way. (6)
19. Macho chaps interrupt animal medico in ardent, forceful way. (8)
22. Cajoles to comply, but should win in photo-finish... (5,2,3,4)
24. I'm a lumberjack and I don't care—I've left the laptop good and proper... (6,3)
26. French one of these might undo composer. (5)
27. Blast pink pigment onto waxed fabric, oddly enough. (5)
28. Scoff at Henry for his house style. (4,5)

April Xword 2017 SOLUTION

©McW May '15



Down:

1. Lighten up with an **ego whistle!** (4,6)
2. **Come, it'd** hardly be formal speech now, would it? (7)
3. What dummies enrol in? **[Well?]**
4. At the club, there are often **few if hot**, **We hit off**, and the colour of the ball sums it up twice. (3-5)
5. **Sp**ell Madam to make waves? (6)
6. Ultimate degree? **[Well?]**
7. **Just the merest** sound of the first course boiling... **[soup's on...]**
8. A big **box en**traps **these animals**. (4)
12. **Enrollee**, whose movements are enough to **panic tip-rat**, or even to **trip captain**... (11)
13. **How** **[NB: an adverb...]** the **fumble pays** is taken for granted. (10)
16. **Rub** white coffee **[tatte]** out and supply **argument-stopper**. (8)
18. (see 25) (7)
20. **Mythic beast** in daggy **Monash** revue. **[corn]**
21. Starboard space... **[Well?]**
23. **Possess** pointless close one? **[shave]**
- 25, 18. VI **[six] = 'SUCKS' HERE?** (3,7)

Across:

1. Those **loud curs** mix with are quite **ridiculous**. (9)
6. Partly pear-shaped conscript? (5)
9. **[Samuel]** Butler gets Aust. Honour **[O.A.] in the Pacific**.
10. No room in winning hand. **[Well?]**
11. Train telescopes on area between Jupiter and Saturn, and await developments. **[Well?]**
14. Short measure **[inch]**, nothing **[θ]** consumed **[ate]**—**half-formed or formless**. (8)
15. **Currency** **on** discombobulated G-G. **[Kerr]**
17. **Shirl** **[ey Hazard]** drops half a double to **risk** it. (6)
19. **Ensure it** has **more than one following**. (8)
22. **"I'm such a vile man!"** all the chicks lament—they pin **this** on me. (4,10)
24. A profit **[gain]** debatable once more? (5,4)
26. Robert **[Oppenheimer? BOB]** with a degree makes this **old banger** hold together differently.
27. Stop **[end-]** someone being in debt **[owing]** by removing the last three. (5)
28. **Bellicosity** pushed green-blue **[cyan]** **[limit]** anyhow. (9)

Furious Riding



Harcourt Artist to show "The Kelly Women Narratives"

Harcourt artist Janet Goodchild-Cuffley is putting the final touches to her series of paintings on the Kelly Women, to be shown at Art Space Wodonga from 5th to 26th August, 2017.

Janet says about the painting above: "This is the painting which gave my new exhibition its name. It's such a wonderful story (told in more detail in my forthcoming catalogue), which tells us much about Ellen Kelly's personality."

Janet's brief description of the painting follows:

1871: Furious Riding in a Public Place

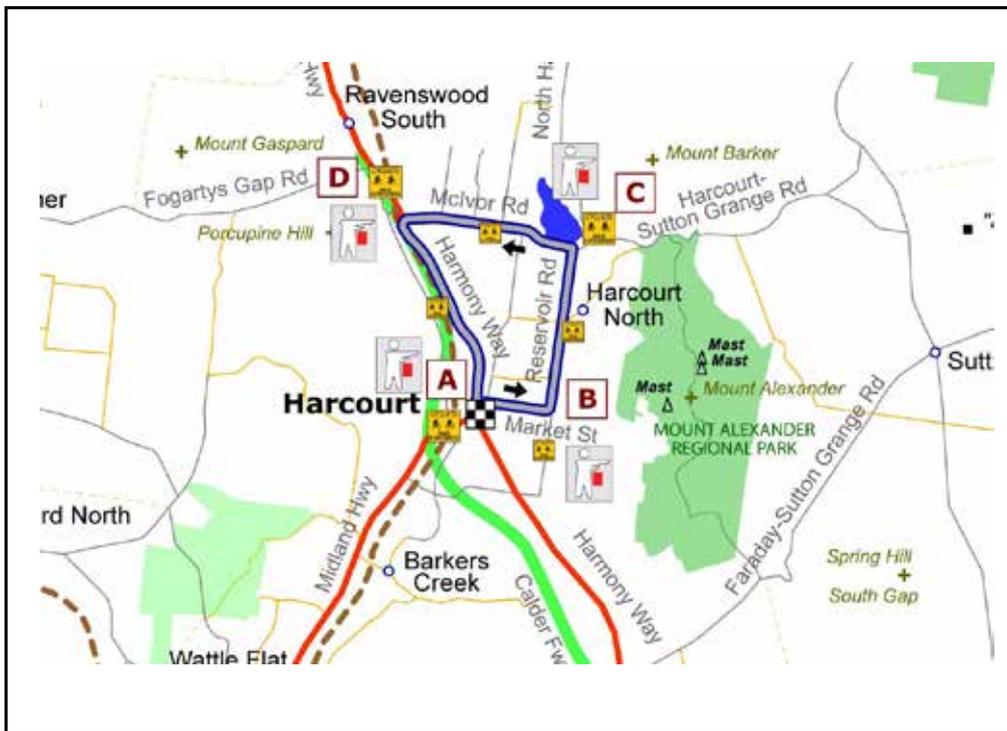
Five years after the death of Red, Ellen gave birth to another baby, to William Frost. In a move unheard of at the time, she sued him for child support - and won. In celebration, Ellen and her supporters rode wildly around the streets of Benalla, and Ellen was charged with Furious Riding in a Public Place. The charge was dropped on a technicality.



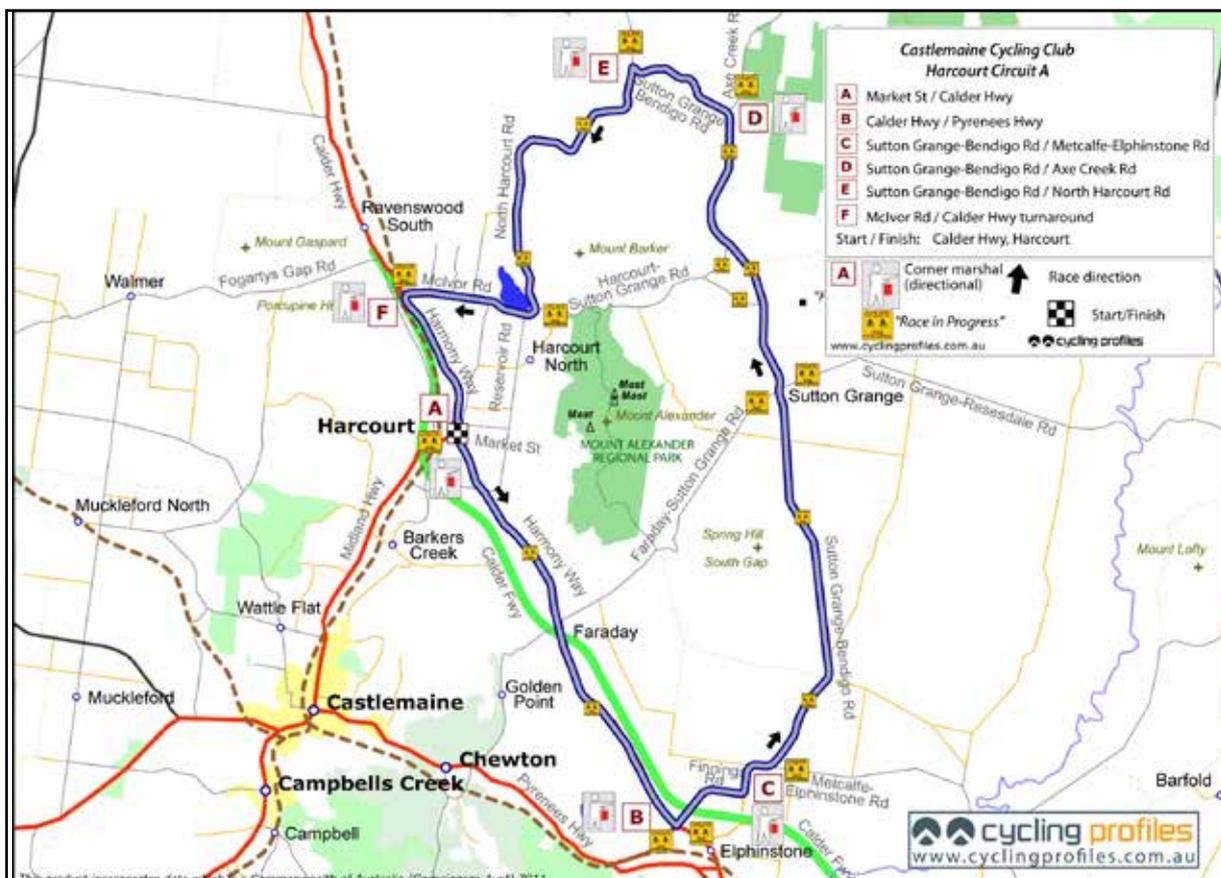
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56km Route - *no road closures*



Community Diary Dates

May 7: 6-8.30pm, Vocal Nosh at Newstead Community Centre, Fay 0447 576 642

May 17: 6pm Castlemaine Health Round Table - possible new location of Hospital; 7pm Dinner; 7.30pm HPA Meeting. Goldfields Track Cafe.

May 20 & 21: Country and Metro Cycling Championships in Harcourt.

May 21: 1.30 pm Heritage Festival event, "Giving the People a Voice" at ANA Hall.

22nd May: 11.00 am AGM Bowls Club, followed by a barbeque and social bowls - weather permitting.

28 May: 10am - 12pm Working Bee: Harcourt Valley Landcare. Removal of willow and weeding on Barkers Creek

June 17: 9am - 12pm. Little Habitat Heroes

Planting Day. At the Silk Worm Farm historic site. See back page.

June 18: 9am, 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church at Harcourt Uniting Church followed by a special morning tea.

Bowls Club Dates: See Pages 18 & 19

Heritage Centre: Open every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 10am to 4pm or by appointment. Call : 0400 916 527

Pony Club: Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30am to 12 midday.

Uniting Church: Every Sunday at 9am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea and all are welcome to join us anytime.

Walking Group: Every Monday and Thursday at 9.30am. Meet at the ANA Hall.

Maldon Cactus Warriors May Field Day Sunday 28th May

The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group will hold this month's field day on Sunday 28th, starting at 10.30am. As normal we will start with a demo and a brief information session for newcomers, kill cactus for an hour or so and finish up at midday with a free BBQ lunch and a sociable cuppa. Equipment will be provided for the morning. 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.

Harcourt's Little Library

Little Libraries are springing up in many suburbs in Melbourne and many of us will be familiar with Rolling Stock at the Castlemaine Railway Station.

Harcourt now has its own Little Library based at the Heritage Centre.

Borrow, take or leave a book on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm.

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

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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>

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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.





Community Planting Day

Help regenerate the former Silk Worm Farm on Mount Alexander

Saturday 17th June | 9am - 12pm

How to get there: Park at the Leanganook Picnic Area on Joseph Young Drive in the Mount Alexander Regional Park. A shuttle bus will take you to the planting site.

Bring: Warm clothing, covered footwear, wet weather gear, gloves, your favourite digger and a picnic lunch and cup.

Provided: Planting tools, hot drinks and morning tea.

Register your interest: littlehabitatheroes@gmail.com

For more information or to donate:

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