

# HARCOURT NEWS

# THE C<sup>Ö</sup>RE

June 2015

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 17

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

<http://theharcourtprogressassociation.blogspot.com.au/>

## Harcourt Producers Shine

*Story pages 2 and 3*



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### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 3rd of the month. The deadline is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and Community Groups will be sent reminder emails. There is no edition in January.

## Coliban Water Managing Director at Fruit Growers Meeting



President of the Harcourt Fruit Growers, Rob Chaplin, welcomes Coliban Managing Director, Jeff Rigby to the May Meeting of the Fruit Growers Association.

For story see Page 5

## Henry of Harcourt 2013 Kingston Black Cider Wins Victorian Awards



*Drew and Irene Henry on the Cidery verandah.*

Henry of Harcourt has carried off three major awards at the 2015 Royal Agricultural Society's Fine Food Awards in the Cider Category which had 58 entries. Champion Cider was awarded to the 2013 Kingston Black; in the Traditional Cider Class the Kingston Black took out a Gold Medal, and their Duck and Bull Cider won a Bronze medal.

Drew and Irene Henry started experimenting with cider over 20 years ago when they moved to Harcourt. Beginning with Pink Lady Cider and Perry from Bosch pears they have since moved into a range of ciders and fortified fruit wines produced from fruit sourced locally and within the state.

Drew said, "When many growers were told to get big or get out, we decided to get different. We investigated old varieties of apples for cider first obtaining trees from Clive Winmill of Badger's Creek at Chewton and then we visited Somerset in England for research. We now have forty varieties including English and French varieties, and by experimentation we have found seven or eight which grow well in this climate."

In 'getting different', Drew and Irene, class themselves amongst the 'crazies' of the cider industry - the specialists - who produce varietals with cider apples which give complexity of flavour, unlike the large commercial ventures that use fruit concentrate, sugar and chemicals.

This year's production of Kingston Black is under way with 5,000 litres ready for bottling soon. In winning the Champion Cider, Drew said "It was the apple that won it; it was such a perfect apple. Our ciders are astringent and flavoursome. We call them 'Ciders for Grown Ups.'"

**Website:** [www.henrycidery.com](http://www.henrycidery.com)

**Phone:** 5474 2177

**Address:** 219 Reservoir Road, Harcourt, 3453



*Kye Livingstone with the Export Award for Harcourt Valley Vineyard*

## Harcourt Valley Vineyard Export Award Mount Alexander Shire

Emerging markets for ginger beer in Asia have given impetus to local wine producers Kye and Quinn Livingstone. When the Export Award at the Mount Alexander Shire Business Awards was presented to Harcourt Valley Vineyard, Kye was overseas promoting their ginger beer and wine in Korea and Hong Kong, so his mother Barb Livingstone accepted the Award for her sons. While Australia has developed a taste for alcoholic ginger beer, it is relatively unknown in Korea, which means that if Kye is successful in Korea this will be a breakthrough into a totally new market. The Ginger Kid is already exported to Alberta Canada and Kye is in talks with Japanese, Vietnamese and Hong Kong importers. Their wine is also exported to Canada and China.

Kye who does the Sales and Marketing for the winery explained, "Ginger beer can be made and sold all year round - compared to wine which has a finite harvest and production period. This means we can expand our business both locally and overseas."

Kye and Quinn have plans to triple the output of their signature ginger beer from 1500 cases per brew to 5,000 cases per brew in the next few months. With a proud tradition of wine growing and making begun by their father and mother, these young entrepreneurs are set to take on the world.

**Website:** [www.harcourtvalley.com.au](http://www.harcourtvalley.com.au)

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## Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens



### Business of the Year Mount Alexander Shire

*Katie and Hugh with Mayor Christine Henderson and a copy of their prize cheque from Maldon Community Bank.  
(Photo courtesy of Castlemaine Mail.)*

Hugh and Katie Finlay's business Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens is certified organic and they operate as a carbon friendly business. Not only do they grow and pick fruit for six months of the year, but they also run training and produce e-books for the backyard grower. They have a strong social media presence, and attend up to three markets every week in the season selling their fruit. Twenty per cent of their land is reserved in a corridor to join Mount Alexander and was revegetated with advice from the North Central Catchment Management Authority. This year Katie won the Victorian Rural Woman of the Year; no wonder they won the Environment Award and the Business of the Year in Mount Alexander Shire!

They attribute part of the reason for winning the Business of the Year to a course which the Shire put on a few years ago. It was a free, ten week course entitled, "Footprints to Sustainability" run by Jane Knight. The course was the catalyst for their Sustainability Plan which aimed to reduce their carbon footprint and this also acts as their Business Plan. They added in their financials, yields, water use and a number of other important indicators. This plan is updated regularly and is available for download from their web site for free. See [www.mafg.com.au/farmnotes-eBooks](http://www.mafg.com.au/farmnotes-eBooks)

Says Hugh: "Many people ask us about problems in their gardens. Ninety per cent of garden problems can be solved with soil improvement. We apply organic compost and use liquid fish and kelp and worm tea which is put through the irrigation

system. This combined with our efforts at carbon sequestering means we get healthier trees and higher production with less water use. Plus the trees are more resistant to pests and diseases."

Sounds easy? Not necessarily. The change over from traditional farming practices, drought and then flood led to some very difficult years. However, now with their organic status very firmly established and with diversification into teaching and the social media, Katie and Hugh are ready to start developing the next stage of their business, teaching on line via webinars. This is ideal for people who cannot get to Harcourt for classes. They have also leased some of their land to Gung Hoe Gardeners who are growing organic vegetables for local sale. They both agree this is great, "We can look out of our window and see all these lovely vegetables growing which will be kept weed-free and we don't have to do the work!"

**Website:** [www.mafg.com.au](http://www.mafg.com.au)

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*Robyn Miller*



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## Councillor Update

Hi all,

It was great to see representatives of Harcourt Progress Association and the Core at last Tuesdays Council meeting. (David Heath and Robyn Miller).



The message is, if we continue to press the same issues we will see progress.

The new Harcourt Master Plan was formally adopted by Council and is now available at the Council Office.

The Master Plan includes an overall frame work that will allow for the development and beautification of Harcourt. Some of our residents will may say we are beautiful enough!! At the same time Council agreed to reduce the speed restriction in the town to 50kph. I know this is something many residents are keen to see implemented. I do look forward to seeing the works identified in the Plan progressed.

Please remember the draft Council budget is available for comment. I have made my view known that I do not support the proposed rate increases. If you have time please make a submission to the budget.

This evening I have been invited to a meeting of Harcourt Fruit Growers. That will be interesting and I read somewhere that we are more than just apples!! Food for thought. Coliban Water are coming along so we will hear about the issues with the pipeline modernisation. I have heard from them previously and it sounds like it will be a long time before that project will be finished. I have told Coliban they need to employ their own crew to get on and finish the job. Since then the board has been sacked so where will it end??

I have just read that the pool will be getting an upgrade to the water filtration system prior to summer. That is good news as water quality is a critical element with pools.

We need to continue to support the retention of the Harcourt Pool. I remember what it was like before we had the current pool. The old pool was very poor and some of our newer residents would be surprised to know its location.!! Perhaps for the next issue of The Core we could have a Harcourt Quiz. I will talk to our wonderful editor about that.

Best regards Tony

**AG Cordy**  
**Councillor**

**0439 742434**

## Harcourt Progress Association

### Speed Limit to be Reduced



At the Council Meeting of 26 May, the Harcourt Landscape Master Plan was adopted and the recommendation that the speed limit within the Harcourt town centre be reduced to 50kmph

was also accepted. Both of these achievements took extensive work by members of the Harcourt Progress Association Executive, namely Chair David Heath and Secretary, Jacqueline Brodie-Hans.

David tabled a Budget submission to council, including a number of requests relating to the Landscape Plan. HPA has requested that some money is allocated in the next budget so that the planting of trees and other beautification in the town centre can begin. HPA has requested that a watering system be installed in Stanley Park north due to its importance to the Applefest and for other community events. The dust experienced at the Applefest by stall holders and the public was a major problem identified in feedback after the Applefest.

At the May general meeting of the HPA, Gaynor Atkins who is the new Community Engagement Officer at the Mount Alexander Shire, spoke of her role and how she intends to assist groups like the HPA in the Shire. One of her main aims is to get the various Council departments which affect community groups to meet regularly to share and compare information, with the aim of achieving a more uniform approach to issues within the different townships around Castlemaine. Gaynor's role includes Youth Development, Community Grants, Violence Against Women, Transport Connections and others. Members of HPA who attended were impressed with Gaynor's energy and positive outlook and were interested to hear that she is overseeing the process of analysis of the two suggested sites for the new Playground – either at James Park or Stanley Park north.

The HPA Executive has completed an evaluation of the Pool Season of 2014 – 2015, after a meeting with Council and YMCA representatives. While the summer was cooler than usual, feedback from the community was overwhelmingly positive. The employment of two lifeguards was very much appreciated as it considerably raised the safety of the swimmers. This was paid for by the Council and HPA has expressed its gratitude for this action on behalf of the community. Meetings will follow later in the year to begin planning for next year's season. Items on the agenda will include community activities at the pool, possible fund raising and training for lifeguards.

The next general meeting of the Harcourt Progress Association will be on July 15 at 7pm at Harcourt Valley Primary School; all Harcourt residents are welcome.

*Robyn Miller*

## Coliban Water Managing Director at Fruit Growers Meeting

Jeff Rigby, MD of Coliban Water, was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Harcourt Fruit Growers Association held at the Harcourt North Hall. The evening was well attended by growers and others with horticultural and agricultural interests in Harcourt Valley and surrounds.

Jeff began by acknowledging the work of Dianne Baig in seeking funding for economic development in Harcourt and indicated Coliban Water's ongoing support for these efforts, with the valley relying so much as they do on the provision of a secure water supply.

He then emphasised Coliban Water's commitment to the completion of the Harcourt Modernisation Project. He said, "\$32m of the \$40m budget has been expended or committed, with \$8m set aside for completion. While work ceased in mid-April this year, 95% of the backbone (the main pipe) is in the ground, along with half of the network pipelines, the pumps are procured and in storage, and below ground works for the pump stations are constructed with the stations 30% completed overall."

He acknowledged the frustration felt in the community and said, "Within the terms of the contract, which is time sensitive, Coliban Water is working very hard to get the project back on course."

Jeff anticipates that the channel system will have to be run for the 2015-16 irrigation system, although this is still to be confirmed. Coliban Water had planned for the channel system to be operational for up to two years while customers converted to the new system as a contingency.

"Above all," Jeff said, "we must prove that the new system works at its rated capacity once completed, and before we take on new customers." Questions were then raised from those present about whether the system would cope with new users and who would bear the cost as new customers came on line. In reply he stated "There is some spare capacity engineered into the system, but economically, that has to be conservative, and if additional infrastructure is required to service new users then the cost will need to be recovered from the new users. In the future, the backbone can

also form part of an interconnector pipeline from Bendigo to provide a second source of supply to urban users in the south of the system, who currently have only one source of water."

Channel maintenance was commented on as well as infrastructure delays on farms caused by the interruption in construction, and Jeff concluded by saying that if irrigators had ongoing issues they should contact Coliban Water's Customer Support Team via 1300 363 200 or by email [coliban@coliban.com.au](mailto:coliban@coliban.com.au) where their enquiry will be directed to the most appropriate person.

*Robyn Miller*



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**Maree Edwards MP**  
State Member for Bendigo West

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## Refreshed Gardens at Harcourt Valley Primary

Students and staff led by Matt Watkins have been revitalising the gardens around the school.

On the day I visited grades 3 – 6 were planting vegetables and flowers at the entrance (*above*) and laying straw on garden beds behind the main building. Teacher Ben Walter was working with his mentor group, three boys from Grade 6, planting a special vegetable garden. Teacher mentors meet with their students once or twice a term. The students in this particular group are very interested in gardening and chose this activity for their mentoring time. Ben is also working with his Grade 1 and 2 growing vegetables in four apple bins as part of their “Watch it Grow” teaching program.

Matt said, “ We are very grateful to those organisations which have donated the vegetables including the Loddon Prison and Buda Fest.”

*Robyn Miller*

*Al Brasher from Grade 6, is a keen vegie gardener*



## Harcourt Pre-School

### The importance of play and creating beauty in play spaces.



In thinking of our approach at Harcourt Preschool and in writing our philosophy we feel an emphasis is given to the presentation of setting up meaningful and inviting play spaces.

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover; create; improvise and imagine. Both indoors and outdoors our play areas are set using materials from the natural environment: sand, rocks, mud and water. We aim to foster an appreciation for the environment and provoke interest in the broader community.

Materials used within the kinder are increasingly coming from sustainable sources as we move away from plastics and non-environmentally friendly products. We recycle lots of materials and take pride in creating spaces using simple materials in effective and aesthetically pleasing ways.

Through using natural materials we are creating a calm atmosphere gentle on the eye, ear and other senses. The seasonal table (shown at right)

invites children to contribute by bringing items from home and evokes interest in changes across the seasons. As educators we feel it is important for children to recognize simple pleasures around them and appreciate beauty within the natural world whether this be in a play space indoors or in the digging patch outdoors.

Our kinder is always open for prospective parents should you wish to visit. An official ‘open day’ will be held in October however we invite enrolments from now onwards and invite you to come and see our play spaces and learning environment.

*Lisa Gray (Educational Leader)*



## The Schools Forestry Scheme

An exotic, upright, copse of trees that contrasts strongly with its surrounds may be seen alongside the Calder freeway at Faraday. This is a rare survivor of the many small plantations of radiata pine established under the Schools Forestry Scheme.

The Schools Forestry Scheme was inaugurated in 1923 as a co-operative effort between the Education Department and the Forests Commission. The Schools Forestry Scheme encouraged country schools to augment their funds by the establishment of an endowment plantation. A major proponent of the scheme was W W Gay, a man of immense energy and enthusiasm who travelled the State to address meetings and inspect suitable sites. The Harcourt Primary School obtained the northern portion of the Recreation Reserve for the purpose of establishing a school plantation. This area is now the site of Harcourt Valley Primary School. W W Gay visited Harcourt School on Arbor Day 1927.

Harcourt Heritage Centre collection includes a Covenant dated 8th June 1927 in which the teachers and students of the Harcourt Primary School undertook to set up and maintain such a plantation. This must have been signed during Mr. Gay's visit to the school. In the language of the day "it is desirable to promote, among the pupils, ideals of disinterested citizenship by encouraging them to labour diligently in a task which will confer material benefit upon their school in after years but from which they themselves will derive no direct advantage. And it is of grave importance to create enlightened citizenship in respect of the forestry resources of this State to take steps to utilize and beautify our waste lands and to provide for the future well-being of our country by husbanding and increasing her timber supplies and rendering her less dependent on other countries"

Under the Covenant, the teachers and pupils were to plant and maintain the trees 'until such time deemed profitable for the cutting and disposal of the produce, the revenue derived being invested in a trust fund' and, to that end, to fence the land, prepare the land for planting, plant annually one acre of conifers or other suitable trees, care for the trees planted, cultivate seedling trees and keep the area free of noxious weeds and vermin.

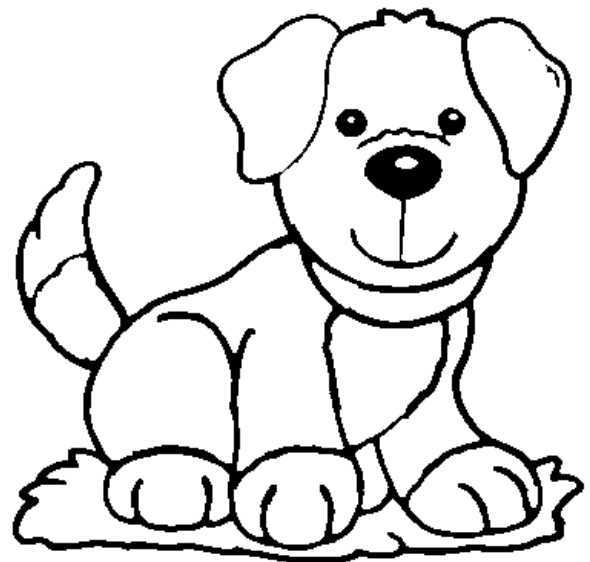
Many local people recall their days spent in the school plantation. Planting seedling pines or sawing off lower branchlets were routine tasks in a day out of the classroom; a day enhanced by the lunchtime picnic in the open air.

It wasn't only pine trees that were being cultivated. While working for the future good of the community, high ideals and spirit of citizenship was being implanted within the staff, putpils and parents of the schools.

Almost every central Victorian school participated in the Schools Forestry Scheme. Most of the endowment plantations have been harvested. Two such plantations may be seen, at Harcourt North and at Faraday. They form a link with our historic past.

*George Milford*

## Colour us in!







## Harcourt CFA

Every year, every fire brigade has a review of their operation. This is known as a "Section 29" inspection. For our Brigade this was conducted recently, and we received a good report. The Section 29 inspection

covers all aspects of the operation of the Brigade which includes numbers of operational members and their turnouts, the risk profile of the brigade which is matched to the qualifications, skills and training carried out by members, equipment maintenance and testing and the brigade's response times to incidents. For our Brigade, we have six minutes to get a truck out the door from notification to meet the standard delivery response time. This is not always possible, especially at three o'clock in the morning, but time is a critical factor in any fire to limit the damage and spread. This is where you as a caller to 'triple zero' can help. The more accurate location of any fire or incident that can be reported assists us in getting vehicles to the scene quicker. So while it generally is easy to give details of your home address, (although if your house is on fire, the stress and adrenalin rush may not make it so easy to give clear and concise details), it is not so easy if you are driving along roads without numbered residences or intersecting roads. It is an interesting exercise to do when out and about, to stop and think that if you had to report a fire or car accident, do you know accurately where you are. Try it sometime and see how you go.

CFA attends more than 1,000 house fires every year, with most fatal fires occurring in the home, however, the real tragedy is that many of these could be avoided. A moment's distraction in the kitchen, a faulty electrical appliance or washing left too close to a heater could all

have disastrous consequences, destroying homes but more importantly exposing you and your loved ones to harm.

Did you know that in 2014 there were 13 house fires within the Mount Alexander Shire with the top three causes being Electrical Faults, Unattended Cooking and Heating? Fortunately there are a few simple things you can do to help reduce the risk of a house fire.

- Never leave cooking, heaters, open fires or candles unattended.
- Don't overload powerboards.
- Keep electrical appliances in good working order.
- Do not dry clothing too close to heaters.
- Clean lint filters in clothes dryers regularly and let dryers complete the cool down cycle.
- Have a fire extinguisher and fire blanket and know how to use them.
- Have a fire escape plan and practice it.
- Do not deadlock yourself inside the house. Keep keys in the back of the lock or close by.

### *Most fatal fires occur in the home*

A good way to practice your fire plan is to announce to everyone in the household that you will be conducting a test of your evacuation plan sometime during the week. Then on the night you have chosen say to yourself, "When the

next commercial break appears on the TV, that will be the cue to raise the alarm." Once you have enacted your fire plan, do a review and ask questions like how long did it take to all assemble at the designated assembly point? Did you take your pets with you? Did you have a mobile phone with you to ring "000"? Did family members shut doors behind them?

Keep warm this winter, but keep fire as your friend and not your foe.

*Tyrone Rice*

*Captain*



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## Harcourt CWA



June is here already and the cold winter months will follow. I like the winter, whether it be working in the garden or walking the dog or sitting in front of the fire, as long as I can stay warm, winter is OK by me.

We are very fortunate to have many talented ladies who love to knit and sew in our Branch so you can imagine the excitement when earlier this year we received donations of wool and fabric.

Many of our elderly citizens in aged care in Castlemaine will be warm this winter thanks to the wonderful knitters who made gorgeous knee rugs from the donated wool, they used such beautiful colours and patterns which are certain to brighten up the coldest day. The ladies made great use of the donated fabrics too, making lovely useful bags for the Mount Alexander Shire Timor-Leste Friendship Group - Friends of Lolotoe.

I'm sure you are all aware that there are CWA Branches throughout Australia, but did you know that all of these Branches are part of a worldwide organization called Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)? ACWW is a non-political, non-sectarian international organization of over 70 million members in women's societies in 70 countries and offers mutual support, friendship and practical help to women and communities around the world.

Each year all CWA Branches in Australia study one of these member countries and this year our country of study is Cameroon, and with monthly reports from our International Officer Margaret Gaal, we are learning much about the history, culture and problems facing this African nation.

And of course the foods from these countries that we study provide our CWA cooks with yet another opportunity to show off their skills in the kitchen. This year our members and guests enjoyed a wonderful culinary experience at the Tea Room in the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Thank you to Margaret Gaal and members who researched and prepared the magnificent Cameroon feast.

Although we are only a small CWA Branch in a small country town, we are fortunate to be able to support many causes and charities from funds raised at our stall at Applefest, the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings in Bendigo and other fund raising events held throughout the year.

This year we have been able to donate \$200 to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal as well as local donations to the Harcourt Valley Primary School and Pre School and the Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group (MASARG).

And fundraising and supporting our community is only



going to get better in Central Victoria with the creation of two new CWA Branches: Heathcote and Castlemaine Phoenix. We are looking forward to helping the members of these new Branches whenever and wherever we can.

Stay active, stay warm and enjoy these beautiful cold Central Victoria days.

*Lyn Rule  
Publicity Officer*

*Harcourt CWA*

*Photo below: A Cameroon Feast in Castlemaine.*



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## Cycling in Picture Perfect Harcourt



Castlemaine Cycling Club hosted over 340 cyclists in picture perfect Harcourt over the weekend of 16th and 17th May. This was the Victorian Country Road Cycling Championships on Saturday and the Metro Championships on Sunday. The glorious autumn weather set an amazing backdrop as riders arrived from early to see the sun rising through the trees to reveal a crisp clear day. Even the wildlife came out for the occasion! (see above)

Racing commenced at 9.00am each day, with the junior divisions contesting laps of the 12km course of Market St, Reservoir Rd, McIvor Rd and finally the long downhill straight of Harmony Way to the finish line in central Harcourt. The second wave of riders headed out at 10.30am. These were the groups who covered a combination of a couple of laps of the short course then a lap of the 56km loop from Harcourt to Elphinstone, Sutton Grange, Sedgewick then back through Nth Harcourt to McIvor Rd and home via Harmony Way. The Elite men covered 112km, being 2 laps of the long course. The 3rd wave left at 1.30pm to complete 1 lap of the long circuit. Racing was finished by 4.00pm each day. These are challenging races and as usual, the hilly terrain sorted out the weaker riders early in the some of the races. Castlemaine Cycling Club was represented by 14 riders who brought home a total of 7 medals. Local Harcourt residents Tony and Ruby Byrne both raced well to finish close to the front in their events. Ruby took home the bronze medal in her division.

The Cycling Club will hold three more Open events in Harcourt this year. The Maldon Community bank Time Trials will be held from 1.00pm to 4pm on Saturday 27th June. Riders will start in Harcourt at 1 minute intervals and do an out-and-back course, travelling south on Harmony Way and returning to the finish line in Harcourt.

Saturday 5th September will be another afternoon of road racing involving several

other clubs.

On Friday 13th Nov, will be the staging of the spectacular twilight Tour de Bress Criteriums in conjunction with the fantastic carnival atmosphere of Twilight on the Green. The Harcourt Progress Association is already in planning to bring something for all the family, including food and refreshment stalls and activities for the kids to compliment the fast and furious action of the cyclists. The Tour de Bress is promising to take on much more of a community focus this year. Along with the Charity ride on the 13th and the Criteriums in the evening, there will be other events extended over the weekend. To complete the cycling theme the Race the Train event will follow on the Sunday. Members of the community are encouraged to take part and enjoy this weekend with a strong cycling theme.

*Shirley Amy  
Events Secretary*

*Below: Harcourt's own Ruby Byrne celebrating her bronze medal ride.*



*The Under 13 girls Country Championship podium.*

*1st Madeline Starling (Geelong)*

*2nd Natalie Wemyss (Ararat)*

*3rd Ruby Byrne (Castlemaine)*



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# Business Update – Regional Envirosense



Janyce McMurtrie is an Environmental Management Consultant who started up her business in 2011 when she moved to Harcourt. Janyce lives on an 11 acre property with her partner Stewart, where they have discovered that Dorper sheep live up to their “Houdini” reputations. They also have four alpacas and five laying hens.

Before Harcourt, Janyce worked for local government in parks and environmental management in Melbourne. She decided the country life would be ideal and chose Central Victoria to be close to family.

Janyce’s business is called Regional Envirosense which is an open space and environmental management consultancy. ‘Open space’ covers park management, auditing, specifications, asset management and strategic planning. Environmental management involves working with small businesses on sustainability including environmental policies, reporting and environmental management systems. Janyce also works with private land owners on landscaping, revegetation and land management.

Janyce is passionate about what she does and at the moment is enjoying working with three local Landcare groups on the revegetation of Barkers

Creek. She says “it’s very rewarding and has been a great way of meeting local people and getting to know the area.” Janyce is also excited about an upcoming project to audit grounds maintenance in Melbourne’s cemeteries.

Janyce has consolidated a background in Horticulture and a solid career working in local government, with additional studies in sustainability and environmental planning. She explains, “my experience in both fields allows me to provide a balance between natural and managed assets.” Janyce adds, “my local government experience and a flexible approach help me to achieve outcomes that work for all parties.”

Janyce enjoys sharing her experience and passion for horticulture with “The Core” audience in her Pips’n’All column about gardening in the local area. If you are looking for some advice on your garden or property or small business sustainability, contact Janyce on:

Mobile: 0429 968 782 | [info@regionalenvirosense.com.au](mailto:info@regionalenvirosense.com.au) | [www.regionalenvirosense.com.au](http://www.regionalenvirosense.com.au)

*Genevieve Ward  
Advertising Coordinator*



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# Harcourtians –

## Roger Thurecht



Roger says you could write a book about running a postal business in a town like Harcourt. He relates anecdotes about encountering the same fox, at the same time each day, crossing Dannels road when making mail deliveries; skidding into a letterbox on a frosty road; getting

bogged and having to be pulled out by a tractor; being held up in the post office by a man carrying a double barrel shot gun; having to identify a deceased person on the side of the road to spare the family the trauma; telling farmers their stock had escaped; and avoiding the perpetual dangers of traffic whilst delivering mail.

‘Such a book would celebrate the lovely people we have met and thank them for supporting our business,’ says Roger. ‘Not only from our 720 odd delivery points which extend from Harcourt into Ravenswood and the foot of Big Hill then east into Harcourt North ending at the race crossing on the Harcourt North Road just north of Ford Road; but also the people from Barkers Creek and further south who choose to use us rather than make the journey to Castlemaine. It is the loyalty of these people that has meant that a post office is still a viable business in a place like Harcourt.

‘Glenise and I have been here 24 years. Our youngest Becky went to the local kinder. In that time we have seen the town change. The once dominant apple industry is no longer our major local employer; sewerage has come into the town allowing for higher density housing; and with the sad passing of older people the demographic has changed and the area has attracted people from elsewhere. As a result the town has become more vibrant. While the town’s focus is on the future it still proudly retains its sense of history.

‘The postal service has changed over the years. When Glenise and I came here in 1991, Harcourt had a Post Office Agency under Castlemaine. Three years later our local post office became an independent franchise. Glenise and I still get up early to sort the mail, now delivered by Peter, but gone are the days of high volumes of personal letters and people buying between 40 and 80 Christmas stamps. Mail now is mostly for business purposes and Bernie, our Manager, also handles a lot of auxiliary services. Parcels have become our core business. The postal service will always continue to evolve to meet changing community needs.’

Roger’s decision, back in 1991 to write to Harcourt’s then Post Office Agent asking if the business was for sale came after Glenise suggested to him that rather than be an employee he was best suited to running his own business, one where he was ethically comfortable. By that time Roger had journeyed through a number of jobs, not all of which met that latter criterion.

As Roger explains: ‘I was born in Townsville in 1952 and had my childhood around Townsville and Ayr; I finished secondary school on the Atherton Tableland. My father was a pharmacist and my mother a legal secretary. My father’s ancestor, a vine dresser, migrated to Australia in 1855 from near Heidelberg in Germany. In Australia the Thurecht family worked in timber, hardware and insurance. My mother’s ancestors came from England. My school holiday jobs included picking up sticks after the cane had been mechanically harvested. It was hard work and paid just \$18 a week. The next year, at age 16, I tried tobacco harvesting which paid an incredible \$10 a day. I thought I was made.

‘I joined the Air force when I was 18 and was transferred to Victoria. Glenise and I met at a dance at the Powerhouse on Albert Park Lake. Then after leaving the Air force I had a career with a few companies in the finance industry, dealing mainly with real estate. I enjoyed this work. The cut and thrust gave you an adrenalin rush but I saw a lot of people get taken down, which I found hard to



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reconcile with my faith. After ten years where we had homes in Tullamarine, then Essendon, Glenise and I moved to Guilford.'

Whilst living in Guilford Roger sold real estate in the Castlemaine district but again came up against ethical issues. Leaving the industry, he mowed people's lawns for a few years and worked as a casual at the Castlemaine Post Office, serving on the counter and delivering mail. It was in Guilford he found he had leadership skills he could draw upon without compromising his faith. 'We attended the local Anglican church although we weren't Anglicans ourselves. We were drawn into the church community and ended up organising and leading church activities. I found I had ability for Christian leadership and enjoyed it. Over time my and Glenise's Christian faith has evolved and brought us into a Pentecostal tradition.

'The Post Office in Harcourt had elements important to both of us. It gave us a business focus which I believed to be ethical, it enabled us to work with people and the location let us continue our links with our church community.'

Roger is now a pastor in the Grace Church in Castlemaine and both he and Glenise give their time to church activities.

Now after 24 years of caring for our mail, Roger and Glenise are looking towards retirement. They plan to leave the Post Office within 12 months. 'You know, apart from long weekends we have only had 10 days holiday in the time we've been here. That was to attend our son's wedding in Boston,' says Roger. 'We want to concentrate on serving our faith and wider community.' There is no talk of leaving Harcourt though. Roger and Glenise say it is a brilliant location. It is a pretty valley where you can see and feel the seasons. 'What more could you ask for'?



*Glenise & Roger at our Harcourt Post Office.*

*Jenny McKenry,  
Dandura Alpacas*

## Winter Operations at TREAD

At the end of May, Tread owners Paula Ewing and Andrew Bos made the tough decision to close the kitchen/restaurant while they complete some long overdue improvements to the motel. The decision was made after learning of chef Wayde Sedgwick's appointment at the Five Flags Hotel in Campbell's Creek.

"The new job is a fantastic opportunity for Wayde and we understand and support his decision to leave," said Paula.

"We've been incredibly lucky to have had him at the helm in the kitchen for the past 16 months. He's great under pressure and he has been a terrific teacher for all the staff who have worked alongside him.

"Along with Shane, Jude, Camille and Madi, the crew have consistently delivered terrific food and helped create a wonderful environment for everyone to enjoy. We sincerely thank him and the rest of the staff for their hard work, and we also thank our loyal customers who have supported us to this point."

The Cafe will continue to operate from 9am-4pm on Saturdays and Sundays serving up beautiful coffee, delicious treats and fresh and tasty light lunch options. Evening meals and cooked-to-order breakfasts and lunches however will not be available during this time.

"Our next job is to undertake significant improvements to the accommodation side of the business," said Andrew. "Reduced trading hours over the quieter winter months will enable us to complete these renovations while still being open in the cafe on the weekends for locals and visitors alike."

Accommodation remains available 7 days a week during renovations.

Once the renovations are complete, Paula and Andrew anticipate being able to scale up their days and hours of operation again accordingly.

For further information please contact Paula and Andrew on 5474 2211.



## Harcourt Bowling Club

Club events have been in full swing despite the end of the bowling season.

The inaugural **Men's 100 - Up** was enthusiastically contested over a number of weeks. The final played out on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April before a large gallery of spectators who saw Rod Harris and Kevin Holschier in a battle of determination and skill. Rod got off to a good start but 'H' caught up with some fine bowling to be all but equal at 86/87. This competition continued with Rod Harris coming out the winner at 100 to 91. Unfortunately we didn't get a photo of the winner on this occasion.

The **Women's 100 - Up** final was played out in perfect weather last Wednesday between Heather Braid and Moira Straw. Heather and Moira have played off in this final for the last 3 years with varying results. A good number of spectators on hand to watch a fine display of bowling technique from both players were not disappointed. Heather Braid came out the winner with 102 from Moira at 82. (*Heather (left) and Moira, below*)



The club **Women's Nominated Pairs** competition is yet to be finalised with a number of players unavailable.

At the **Annual General Meeting** held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May the Club President John Starbuck presented the Annual Report as well as the Audited Financial statements. In his report Mr Starbuck noted the increase in membership for the year and the healthy financial position the club is in. John noted a number of changes taking place and being planned for the future development of the club.

He noted the valuable contribution of the members of the club in providing the welcoming and friendly environment.

Retiring Board member Allan Nicholls was thanked for his considerable contribution to the Club over a number of years.



(Above: John (left) welcoming Russell onto the Board)

Nominations for the four vacant positions were received and accepted which showed reappointment of Moira Straw, Joan Jenkin, John Grant and the newly appointed Board member Russell Timmins.

The meeting concluded with a barbecue and a social game of bowls.

At the subsequent meeting of the Board, the results of nominations received and accepted for the following positions within the Harcourt Bowling Club were:-

**President** John Starbuck; **Vice Presidents** Moira Straw and Russell Maltby; **Treasurer** Joan Jenkin; **Secretary** John Grant.

The Harcourt Bowling Club is looking forward to a successful future both on and off the green.

Friday social nights continue to be popular particularly with locals. The club is keen to welcome newcomers so come along and join in. We have a member's draw and raffles – “every one's a winner” seems to be the catch phrase of the year!

**Greens Café** for members and locals continues on a fortnightly basis offering a set menu with a different theme each fortnight. Good wholesome food, at very affordable prices – seriously it's too good to miss but you will need to book! Call the club on 54742494 to reserve your place.

**Sunday Jackpot pairs** continue while the weather is good. We are always keen to welcome bowlers from other clubs to join us for this social game. Commencing at 1.00pm please have your names in by Friday Night to help with the draw.

Christine Anderson

Publicity Officer



## Harcourt Uniting Church



We hope that all mothers enjoyed some time with their families on Mother's Day. The men folk of our Church "slaved over a hot stove" to provide a sit down morning tea for the ladies after Church on Mother's Day. The table (complete with a lace cloth & bowl of flowers) was spread with delicious cakes and savouries prepared by the men. And they even washed the dishes – well done blokes! Some confessed to being closely guided by the lady of their house when creating their food.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays during the year we combine at one of the four Churches in our area to worship together. On Sunday 31st May 10am, the service at Harcourt had Castlemaine, Newstead and Yandoit congregations joining us.

A reminder that our usual Sunday service is at 9am, followed by a cuppa and chat and all are welcome to join us in Buckley St Harcourt – the street above the Service Station.

*Jan Jenkin*



Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

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## 40,000 Trees Project Underway

A very rare and exciting environmental revegetation opportunity is well underway. The ambitious "1,000 people; 40,000 seedlings; 3 hours" project plans to have 40,000 indigenous seedlings planted within 3 hours on 11 July 2015 in the North Harcourt area. Supported by a professional event manager and a local social media expert the three local landcare groups of North Harcourt/Sedgwick, Harcourt and Barkers Creek and Connecting Country have joined forces to achieve the target number of 40,000 seedlings.

Planting sites for 25,000 seedlings have been pledged by local landholders within only a fortnight of launching the project.

The several ten thousands of seedlings (grown by the local Castlemaine prison) will be planted by hundreds of volunteers from across Victoria.

"It took the North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare group 10 years to plant approx. 25,000 seedlings in the area – so to get 40,000 seedlings into the ground in 3 hrs would be just phenomenal" says Karoline Klein from the North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare group.

If you like to contribute the project as landholder or volunteer, please contact Karoline Klein, North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare group on [kklein7@bigpond.com](mailto:kklein7@bigpond.com).

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## New Footbridge north of Picnic Ground



*At the April working bee some clearing was done.*



*At the May working bee: Getting the span in place.*



*All done, complete with steps!*

Harcourt Valley Landcare have recently completed a small footbridge across a gully next to Barkers Creek. This gives safe access to an area north of the picnic ground beside Harmony Way (to the north of the shop and north of the bridge).

Funding from the North Central Catchment Authority and National Tree Day has been used to weed and

vegetate this area. More spraying, weeding and planting north of this new footbridge will take place this year with further funding from the North Central Catchment Authority. A planting working bee will take place on June 28 from 10am - 12pm. For further information call Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271.

*Thank you to Katherine Seppings who has provided these photos of Barkers Creek Reservoir in North Harcourt.*





CASTLEMAINE GROUP FITNESS

### Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes at the Old Castlemaine Gaol

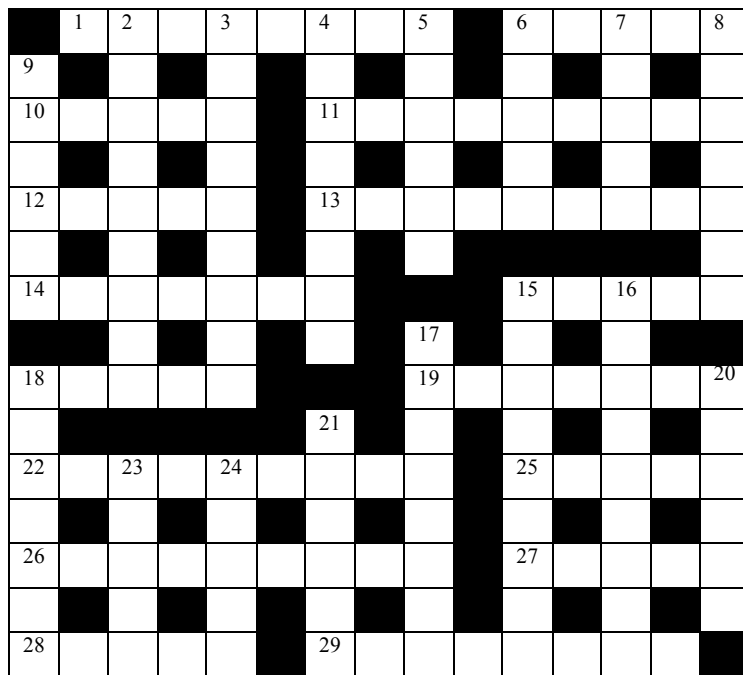
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**Across:**

1. Had Simon to task? (8)
6. Put off like Derrida? (5)
10. With a fair bit of Brahms, it could lead to a state of 22... (5)
11. Provides impetus while he boots prostitute... (4-5)
12. Luhrmann and 2x24 mix it in a western isle. (5)
13. Lo! Letting modern pollies have these sorts of profits is a Bad Thing! (3-6)
14. His chance to sing (deprived of the opportunity) what Joni Mitchell sang about seasonal grass areas. (7)
15. Latin country god first appreciates animal life. (5)
18. Fake a self. (5)
19. They persist in using canon law. (7)
22. Unmoving after 10 combo. (9)
25. To harass thus sounds like a baby carriage... (5)
26. Not particular, but everywhere. (2,7)
27. I bail him out thus? (5)
28. Fire loses point for one most heated! (5)
29. Collins-class confluence to go under. (8)

**Down:**

2. Sack Grassby for historic Oz beheading. (9)
3. How to send a large bird to Coventry? (9)
4. Forebodings are merely heather in pen-fuels... (8)
5. One of two comical black birds to give lip to pollicie. (6)
6. Denigrate business for hop? (5)
7. Safe about to end in slap-up tea by the sound of it. (5)
8. Here Brutus may daunt, or perhaps make a band play. (7)
9. Disturbed the shelving of small mischievous beings, but not in New Guinea. (6)
15. Blondes apportion justly... (4,5)
16. Going the wrong way to be outshining, but it's a way of doing it. (9)
17. Will orbital cab lapse for experiments *a la distance*? (5-3)
18. Affectedly elegant silent work in fish. (7)
20. Indian words of incitement to Rottweiler? (6)
21. Looks to mount apprehension? Steps towards it, we hear. (6)
23. According to most people, 15 isn't sinister at all... (5)
24. Take the anger off solitary cowboy hero and you end up a solitary... (5)



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**Across:**

1. New-born [*neonate*] alternatively [OR] not new, but showy. (6)
4. Legible splashing of ale through an illegible set of whiskers [*beard*]. (8)
9. Sundry scuba sorts... [Well?]
10. What wrecks new one of 2dn might provide a winner. [Well?]
12. Permitting everything still to be recouped. [Well? All (still) owing...] (8)
13. Two articles [*an, the...*] and grand [*M*] antiphonal composition. (6)
15. (Youngish) polar goat slide? [Well?]
16. Doesn't need three rings to make one scratch? [Well?]
19. Undoing of cobbler's work [*soling...*], and the state it induces? [Well?]
20. Shortly spell four [*IV*] flash as a rat with a gold tooth? (4)
23. Chardonnay, Shiraz, [*wines*] mixed on board [*SS*], produce wiriness and strength. (6)
25. Proclamation of UK clock [*Ben...*] for pious Italian hermit. (8)
27. Desert conditions [*arid*] blown about lead to a face spasm [*tic*] between Greece and Italy. (8)
28. Cinderella can't be given out after a cancellation, unless the prince catches her. [Well? You can be out if caught on a no-ball...]
29. Half Pago [Pago fell] in order to raise standard. (6)

30. Way (i.e. how) to go for Socrates? [Well? Had to be an adverb...]

**Down:**

1. Door-seal for call centre drops a call in difficult times. (7)
2. *Middlemarch, War and Peace, Ulysses*, etc. incorporate corporate neckwear [*tie...*] to produce originals. (9)
3. How Lizzie's chair is pitched, we hear [Well?]
5. Sacked computer whiz shows the door [*ex-IT*]
6. One coming out [*Deb*] via radio [*on air...*] has cheerful self-assured aura. (8)
7. Sandy tree? [Well?]
8. Speed reading [*skim*] in empty espresso and pole [S] for cold climate ladies. [Well? Who found this harder than "chaps"? SHAME ON YOU!]
11. Get small amount of information after deadline to blow it up. (7)
14. Not bare of nobility. (7)
17. Prison octet to enthrall? [Well?]
18. Wind illumination? [Well?]
19. The women in a cleft stick? [Well?]
21. How six add up, if crucial... (7)
22. Hat doffed, or another one. (6)
24. Norman Bates "wasn't quite normal" — Bellini gave us another... (5)
26. English PCs duck part? [Well? Note—NO apostrophe...]



## Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc.

After holding our Come and Try night we have made up four teams, but would be over the moon if we could get an influx of new players to come along and join us. It is not too late and you would be made most welcome. Our competition is not serious but a great social get together with the added challenge of trying to win as many shots as your team can. We started our winter Carpet Bowls competition on Wednesday 13th May and will continue each Wednesday night at 7.30 at the Harcourt Leisure Centre (with the heaters on). You do not have to be available every week, just whenever you are free, but be warned, it is addictive.

The executive committee of Georgie Kontos President, Loretta Rice Secretary and Tyrone Rice Treasurer have planned a fixture with games to be concluded by August 26 followed by finals and dinner/presentations on September 23rd.

Costs are registration Adults \$5.00 - U/17 \$2.50.

Nightly game fee Adults \$4.00 - U/17 \$2.00.

These payments help pay for Hall hire, Public Liability Insurance and Dinner/Presentation night etc.

The Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc. celebrates its 63rd year in 2015 so it would be great to welcome YOU to join this long running Association.

There will be a Singles challenge night to find a representative to play at the State Country Bowls Championships which are played in September each year.

I can be contacted on 54 742453 or just come along on Wednesday night at 7.30pm and see what it is all about.

We look forward to seeing YOU there.

*Loretta Rice*  
Hon. Secretary



*Thanks again to Katherine Seppings for sending in her beautiful photos of Barkers Creek Reservoir in North Harcourt.*



## Vocal Nosh!

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Songs in the folk style, mostly a cappella no prior musical experience necessary - no need to read music

-♦-♦-♦-♦-♦-

### Bookings:

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### Cost

- Whole session including food - \$15 full, \$12 concession
- \$5 children • First hour only \$5

\* Note re children overleaf, with further program information

-♦- A good sing & good food in convivial company -♦-

## Pips 'n' all

Hello Garden lovers,

The weather at this time of year is lovely for gardening. Cold mornings and clear, crisp days invite us outside. Hopefully, a well-planned garden offers you the time to relax outside and enjoy your garden as well as the pleasure of gardening.

A beautiful garden doesn't have to mean lots of hard work. A little planning will make the most of your time and maximise your efforts. Grouping plants together with similar needs is a useful gardening tool. It helps you manage your time. It also helps you to provide the conditions your plants need.

If we concentrate intensive gardens such as perennials, mixed beds or trimmed hedges where they are most visible and visited then they will provide the most impact. Then you can create lower need gardens where they are less visible or less visited. In these areas, massed dense groundcovers or informal shrubs can provide greenery and flower colour without needing a lot of work.

The obvious garden highlight is the front of the house. This is the area that makes you feel good when you arrive home and that welcomes your visitors. It is a great place for colour, whether from foliage or flower and for gardens that may require a bit of pampering. If you have a large front area, then maybe it is the main path that you focus on to create a statement. Another example is a grouping of potted herbs near your back door or kitchen door. You can access them easily when cooking, and because you pass them regularly, you can pull a weed or two and monitor their water needs.

You may have some hot dry exposed areas, some dry shady areas or some wet shady areas. Clever gardening will help tackle those difficult areas of your garden. It will also help produce healthy plants and maximise your time working in the garden. By grouping plants together that cope with specific needs, areas and conditions, you can create a wonderful and enjoyable garden.

I will just end with two thoughts. Our first frosty morning of the year prompts us to protect sensitive plants from frost. There are a few things we can do: lay down a frost blanket, install plant guards or sleeves, or add some straw mulch. The second thought is that there is no harm in a plant or a garden bed not working. The beauty of a garden is that we can always move things and try again.

This month we are:

- Preparing new garden beds;
- Pruning spent perennials;
- Planting Raspberries;
- Covering frost tender plants;
- Planting winter vegetables.

This month in the woodland we are:

- Manually removing Gorse.

Happy Gardening

Janyce

## ASQ Plant of the month: Grevillea

Grevilleas really will put on a show over winter. Some flower most of the year, but add a bit of colour over winter in the right spot.

Some examples are Lemon Daze, Lady O, Fireworks, Mount Tamboritha and Orange Box to name just a few.



## Garden, gift and café

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## Servicing Stick on Gardens\*

Commercially grown seedlings are grown as fast as possible in moist potting mix and are really too tender to survive without a great deal of care. One should always start by acclimatising seedlings still in their containers with more dry air, sunlight and less water. Most plantings are done in spring which is a bad time if the heat has already started. They may grow too fast and thus become more garden waste for compost heaps. The low cost way is to grow your own seedlings, naturalising them slowly to match the climate. Go easy with watering. If you are new to growing seedlings, try starting with Petunias.

Ian Johnson

\* Last month's article by Ian was called: "Stick on Gardens" - this is his name for gardens in containers.



## Thinking about what fruit trees to plant this year?

If you're short of space, consider either a multigraft (more than one variety on the same tree, e.g. a Mariposa blood plum and an Autumn Giant plum) or a fruit salad tree (more than one type of fruit on the same tree, e.g. an apricot and a plum). This not only provides a wider range of fruit in a compact space, but means you can make sure your pollination requirements are taken care of if you choose compatible varieties. The disadvantage is that one variety is often more dominant, but that can usually be managed with some detailed pruning.

Winter is also a good time to reflect on the past season, and do some planning for your garden. As a guiding principle, try to add more diversity to your garden each year—different varieties of fruit trees, different understorey plants, and even different microbes in your soil. Biodiversity is one of our best defences against the risks we face from the weather!

*Katie Finlay*



**MT ALEXANDER**  
*Fruit Gardens*



## Winter Workshops

We offer 6 different half-day workshops, that together make up a comprehensive but simple course in growing organic fruit.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Building Healthy Soil                          | Sunday 5 July       |
| • Grow Your Own Fruit Trees (Grafting)           | Sunday 12 July      |
| • Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees                  | Sunday 19 July      |
| • Pest & Disease Control for Healthy Fruit Trees | Sunday 16 August    |
| • Grow Great Fruit (FREE workshop)               | Sunday 30 August    |
| • Worm Farms & Compost Tea                       | Sunday 13 September |

Time: All workshops run from 10am—1pm.

Value: 1 workshop \$44, 2-5 workshops \$40 ea., 6 workshops \$35 ea. (incl. GST).

Grow Great Fruit Program members - 50% discount.

**Bookings: [www.mafg.com.au/workshops](http://www.mafg.com.au/workshops)**

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# Community Diary Dates

**11th June:** 7.30pm Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall

**19 June:** 3pm - 8.30pm Mount Alexander Landcare Forum and Dinner, Campbells Creek Community Centre

**21st June:** 1.30pm Heritage Centre Fireside Chat; Peter Trounsen, topic; "The luck of the draw"

**28th June:** 10am-12pm, Landcare Working Bee, Planting Barkers Creek Picnic Ground

**30 June:** 7 - 8.30pm MASH 2 Community Solar Bulk Buy, Tread Harcourt

**11July:** 40,000 Trees Planting Day

**15th July:** 7pm Harcourt Progress Association Meeting, Harcourt Valley Primary School

**19 July:** Brew & Bake Competition, Barkers Creek Landcare, Barkers Creek Cricket Oval

**19th July:** 1.30pm A visit to a private museum in Castlemaine.

**23rd August:** 1.30pm Fireside Chat; "Henry Hayden, Harcourt's pioneer schoolmaster"

## Harcourt Heritage Centre



The Heritage Centre is always appreciative of donation from residents and non residents. Here is a selection of items generously given over the last month:

- Details of Daniel Maclaurin who died on 2 June 1860 at the Talbot Inn
- Volunteer War Works Book of 1918 listing all the Patriotic/Comfort Funds working in Victoria supporting the WW1 soldiers.

Harcourt's entry is very impressive.

- Various newspaper cutting relating to Harcourt in the past
- Photos of the Coolstore in 1964
- Selection of items from Cannie Ridge Pottery. Our collection is increasing quickly as everyone seems to have a piece in the back of their cupboard that they no longer use.
- Pritchard Family research

If you have any items such as old photos/ memorabilia we would love to see them on any Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

*Diana Corke*

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

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

[rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com](mailto:rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com). 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:

[gen\\_ward2@hotmail.com](mailto:gen_ward2@hotmail.com) or phone 0409 070 930.

Circulation is currently 500 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, Tread Harcourt, 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.

A link to a full colour version of the Harcourt News/The Core can be accessed via the Harcourt Progress Association Inc blog at: <http://theharcourtprogressassociation.blogspot.com.au/>

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

***The Harcourt News/The Core wishes to advise that the views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association and no endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.***





# Community solar bulk-buy

**Come to the Harcourt info meeting!**

**Tuesday 30 June • 7.00–8.30pm • Tread Harcourt**



**Register at [www.mash.org.au](http://www.mash.org.au)**



**1 day  
1,000 people  
40,000 trees**

**Saturday July 11th – 9.30 for a 10 a.m. start**

**Can we do it?**

**Yes we can - with your help!**

That's right – in just 1 day 1,000 volunteers will plant 40,000 local indigenous plants.

40,000 plants for the community to help create and connect wildlife corridors, repair landscapes and offset our carbon footprint.

Please contact Karoline Klein, North Harcourt/  
Sedgwick Landcare group on  
[kklein7@bigpond.com](mailto:kklein7@bigpond.com)

## What is MASH 2?

MASH (Mount Alexander Solar Homes) is a community solar bulk-buy organised by the Hub Foundation, a not-for-profit based in Castlemaine.

MASH 2, our second bulk-buy, kicks off on 4 June 2015. Our aim is to help people in the Shire reduce their power bills and CO2 emissions. We're doing this by offering high quality solar PV systems at discounted bulk-buy prices together with a low-interest loan option.

And for those who are dissatisfied with excessive electricity prices there's the opportunity to switch to Powershop, rated as one of the cheapest, greenest\* electricity retailers in Victoria.

MASH 2 has a community bonus; a free solar panel system will be installed on a community building in the Shire once 100 MASH 2 installations have been completed.

Already 225 homes have been installed with MASH since September 2014. This has helped increase the percentage of solar rooftops in our Shire from 18% to 24% in the 15 months to March 2015. We are now the equal second Shire in Victoria for residential solar PV penetration. The Hub Foundation's aim is to work with like-minded people and organisations to help our shire become Victoria's #1 solar shire by the end of December 2016.

"Council is pleased to support MASH 2, the community solar bulk-buy for residents in our Shire." - Cr Christine Henderson, Mayor, Mount Alexander Shire

### How to find out more

1. Visit [www.mash.org.au](http://www.mash.org.au)
2. Register for a MASH 2 info meeting (6 throughout the Shire from 22 June)
3. Call 0455-589-065

\* Essential Services Commission report, 'Energy Retailers Comparative Performance Report—Pricing 2013-14, October 2014, p.26. The Green Electricity Guide, published by Greenpeace <http://bit.ly/1tysXlO>

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## HPA MEMBER JOINING / RENEWAL FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association was created to support and progress the objectives of the Harcourt Community Plan. The Plan was prepared in 2013 with contributions by members of the Harcourt community and reflects the goals, vision and aspirations for our town and surrounding region.

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association and is governed by a set of 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 monthly 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 & encourage initiatives which benefit & 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 20 kms radius of the Harcourt township (some exceptions apply so do ask!) 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 able to formally vote. Annual subscriptions full due on 1st July each year. The Harcourt Progress Association is facilitated by a Steering Committee elected by the members annually.



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become a member 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 OR

☐ I have deposited \$20 into BSB 633-000, account 151796620 – Harcourt Progress Association Inc.  
Please indicate your name and state "membership" when paying online.

Please mail this completed form and cheque (if paying by mail) to: HPA, PO Box 132, Harcourt, VIC 3453

*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.*