

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

March 2016

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 25

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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



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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.

Preparations for 25th Applefest on Saturday March 12, are well under way. Applefest 2016 Royalty, David Heath and Genevieve Ward are shown at the most recent Maldon Market. Gen and David will also be promoting Applefest at Federation Square in Melbourne and in Castlemaine at the Women's Bicycle Ride and the Castlemaine Farmer's Market. Read more about Applefest, Kids Carnival the Harcourt Valley Winery Easter Festival and the Easter Egg Hunt inside.



Applefest Art Show Opening 7.30pm, 10 March.

Harcourt Applefest Art Show is a showcase of the district's creative talent.

The art work submitted must be "smaller works" in any medium –oil, acrylic, watercolour, textile, pastel, pen and ink or print. The concept of "smaller works" gives the Harcourt Art Show a distinctive edge. Artist Rick Amor points out "restricting the works to a modest size allows the viewer an intimate experience of each drawing or painting without the distraction of competing scale".

The Harcourt Art Show is also unique in having a large Junior section. There is something rather fresh and engaging in the work of children and the Art Show committee

is always happy to provide a range of prizes and encouragement awards to the budding artists of the district.

An added feature of this year's show will be the Harcourt Valley Primary Teapot Exhibition ...22 pots to be exact ... thought-provoking, quirky and humorous art works.

All of these works will be on display at the Harcourt Applefest Art Show, which opens on Thursday 10th March at 7.30 pm and continues throughout the Labour Day long weekend, at Harcourt Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

George Milford

Harcourt Applefest Walking Tour - Wednesday March 23

Meet at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum for a free tour of Harcourt's apple industry. The tour will be led by local historian George Milford as part of this year's Applefest.

"Participants will see varieties of apples ready for harvest in some of our orchards and learn about apple storage inside the Harcourt Co-op Cool Stores," says George.

This will be a gentle and fun walk of up to one hour, which gives the chance to meet new people. It is suitable

for all ages and abilities; participants need to bring their hat and water bottle.

Meet on Wednesday March 23rd, 10am at the Harcourt Museum and ANA Hall on High Street.

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

Liza Shaw



**Castlemaine District
Community Health**
Facilitating Better Health



Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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

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-  Visit the expanded **Festival Market** with over 60 stalls featuring local produce, quality crafts and unique gifts
-  Applefest favourites the **Pet Parade** and **Ferret Races**, Harcourt **Art Show**, Applefest **Street Parade**
-  **Applefest Kids Karnival**: a dedicated festival with rides, entertainment, activities & amusements for kids of all ages

Discover the bounty of Harcourt as we celebrate the annual apple harvest on

Saturday 12th March, 9am–5pm

Full program details and times online at:

www.harcourtapplefest.org.au

Printing proudly donated by Lisa Chesters, Federal MP for Bendigo



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Genevieve Ward
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Book your Kids Carnival tickets online now!

After the success of last year's inaugural event, the Applefest Kids Carnival is back bigger and better than before.

We have consolidated the Carnival within the Pony Club grounds at the Bridge Street Reserve and PACKED IT FULL of entertainment, activities and rides for kids of all ages.

New at this year's Kids Carnival is the bouncing aerial bungee jump and the laser tag zone. There's also a dedicated kids entertainment area with musicians and performers and a Teddy Bears Picnic and tea party. We've invited back the fabulous folk from Specky Sports along with the pedal powered slot cars, miniature train, animal farm and climbing wall. They will also be arcade games and a craft zone and it wouldn't be a festival without jumping castles and face painting. There are free activities at the pool and crazy bike events in Bridge Street.

Tickets are on sale now, starting from \$15. A day pass entitles you to access all areas for 5 hours crammed full of fun. Order your tickets now and we'll post them so you avoid the queues. Online tickets also save you money - go to www.trybooking.com/KAUH



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25th Harcourt Applefest

KIDS KARNIVAL

Saturday 12th March 2016

**EVEN BIGGER AND
BETTER THAN BEFORE**
Rides, entertainment, activities galore
for ages 2 to 18

Featuring:

- ~ Laser Tag, Bungee Jumps ~
- ~ Pedal-powered slot cars ~
- ~ Specky Sports, Climbing Wall, Jumping Castles ~
- ~ Miniature train rides, animal farm, face painting ~
- ~ Arcade games and craft zone ~
- ~ Teddy bear's picnic and tea party ~
- ~ Crazy bike displays & bike demos ~
- ~ Pool party with giant inflatables ~
- ~ Kids stage with great entertainment ~

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Tickets start from \$15 ~ www.trybooking.com/KAUH

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Printing provided by Lisa Chesters, Federal MP for Bendigo

Harcourt Town Centre Updates

On the back of the comprehensive Landscape Master Plan released last year, small steps continue to be made to improve Harcourt's town centre.

Council have recently removed dead and dying trees from Stanley Park and have met with Applefest organisers to improve the accessibility of the park. "Council's Works Unit has been busy smoothing surfaces in readiness for Applefest stalls and carrying out preparation works to make sure Stanley Park is ready for the festival crowds," said Jason Taylor, Director Sustainable Development, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

The Harcourt Progress Association are campaigning for Stanley Park to be upgraded as a key community recreation space and is working to secure funding to install irrigation throughout the northern stretch of the park. HPA Chair, David Heath, has lobbied Coliban Water who have thrown their support behind the proposal and undertaken to extend the connection from existing pipe-works in the War Memorial park. Next steps are to secure funding to install sprinklers and to continue advocating for a significant community playground to be constructed on this site.

Council's renewal works at ANA Hall are also on track to be completed by early March. The \$58,000 works program includes re-stumping, replacing and painting fascias and weatherboard cladding, installing new window frames and doors, external painting and more. A new tree planting program will commence over the winter period.

Council has also progressed further works at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve. The sportsground surface has been aerated and fertilised to improve turf quality and playability for the coming football season. This work builds upon the spring renovation program at the reserve, which included topdressing to improve player safety and establish drought tolerant couch grass. A safety gate and new bollards were also installed at the Recreation Reserve to improve safety for children at the playground.

Thanks to Mount Alexander Shire Council for their ongoing commitment to our town. We look forward to continuing to work with them to see the recommendations of the Landscape Master Plan fully implemented.

Thanks to Lisa Shiner, Communications Officer at the Shire of Mount Alexander for the information about Shire Works in Harcourt.



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Cider Press On Show at Henry of Harcourt



Come and see Cider being made during Applefest and Easter at Henry of Harcourt's Cidery!

The traditional cider press will be in operation and tastings will be available for free. The Cidery is locally owned by the Henry family, which started the business in 1994. All apples used in their various ciders are locally grown.

The press will be operating both days of the Applefest and Easter Weekends.
Opening hours are: 10am - 5pm

For those who want to taste "Cider for Grownups" there are a number of single-source Ciders to try and Farm-house Cider will be on tap during the Festival. Henry of Harcourt also sells Perry which is made from pears. There are several new lines of produce including Apple Cider Jelly and Limoncello and Henry's is the only outlet for Goldfields Honey, made locally by Colin and Maree Murley from Castlemaine. Drew and Irene with their son Michael will open their cidery and have the press operating for both days of the Applefest weekend, Saturday March 12th and Sunday March 13th and also for Easter Saturday and Sunday, March 2th and 27th. Opening hours are 10am to 5 pm.



Looking for something to do this Easter Sunday? Why not bring your family and friends to Harcourt Valley Vineyards Easter Festival 2016?

The day will showcase some fantastic wines, craft beer and cider with a pop up cocktail bar. There is a variety of food to choose from that is sure to appeal to all. Relax amongst the vines and picnic under the gum trees whilst listening to live music, with entertainment for the little ones to round out the day.

For a full list of all the exciting stall holders attending the day and all the finer details, head over to www.facebook.com/HVVEasterFestival

\$20 early bird tickets are available before March 15th at www.trybooking.com/KCIP and \$28 after March 15th.

A shuttle bus is available from Castlemaine Train Station and return for \$10. Tickets must be pre-purchased.

Where: 3339 Harmony Way Harcourt, Victoria

Date: March 27th 2016

Time: 11am-5pm

For more information: Contact Marie on 0431 996 515





Harcourt CFA Report

The Brigade has continued to be fortunate enough to be having a quiet fire season. So we have been busy in other areas to maintain our preparedness with planning, training, etc. We have also been planning for the Harcourt Applefest. Representatives are coming from the CFA Community Education Department (Bendigo Group) to assist the Brigade at this year's Applefest. We will be set up at the front of the fire station from 9.00am with information and people available to discuss fire issues and answer questions. We also have Captain Koala returning along with a toy fire truck for the kids. Please come and say hello and take the opportunity to access the information you may require.

The weather predictions for March are a little confusing with some reports indicating a below average rainfall for the month while other predictions indicate possibilities of the Autumn break producing some good rainfall. Fire restrictions remain in force for the time being and generally are not lifted until after significant rain. Please monitor local media for when this may be for the time being, and if in doubt, you can check on the CFA website or call the Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667. There is also our local signage that is located at the shop and service station.

If you do not have a **Basic Emergency Supply Kit** for when evacuating your home before a bushfire, consider collecting the following items as a starting point.

Bushfire Emergency Evacuation Kit

- Sufficient drinking water (3 days' supply is a good amount).
- Non-perishable food. (Don't forget a can opener for tinned food).
- Battery powered or hand-cranked radio (and extra batteries).
- Flashlight/torch with extra batteries.
- First Aid kit
- Moist towelettes, hand sanitizer, garbage bags for personnel cleanliness.
- Local maps if unfamiliar with the road networks.
- Mobile phone charger
- Prescription medicines and glasses.
- Pet food for your pets if applicable.
- Infant formula, nappies and baby food for those with babies.
- Money and credit / Eftpos cards.
- Important family documentation.
- Sleeping requirements.
- Extra clothing.

Hopefully by the time I am writing for the next edition, we will have had some rain. Until then continue to take care and don't let your guard down.

Tyrone Rice
Captain



Harcourt CWA

Members of Harcourt Country Women's Association Branch have been busy little bees and will be busy little bees again this month. In February we attended the Central Victoria Group Conference where one of our members won second prize in the "Your favourite Jam" competition with a jar of classic blackberry jam.

February craft was quilting with Robyn McConville which I'm told was highly enjoyable.

In March our ladies will once again be in attendance at Applefest, selling raffle tickets, parading down Main Street and offering a place in the shade to rest. We will also have what we call a "Trading table" set up to share our things we have no use for anymore.

As always, all are welcome to come and see what we are up to. We meet at the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1pm on the first and third Thursday of the month. The first Thursday is the general meeting and the third Thursday is craft meeting; either bring along your own craft or come and join us with what we have on.

Dani Kent

Shown right are two CWA members at the 2015 Applefest.



Business Update - Maldon Market

People love a Sunday market. What's better than leisurely browsing through the stalls in the hope of finding a gift for a friend, fresh produce for that night's meal or to pick up some Australorp hens for the chicken coop you just built? Such



Above: Delicious Delicacies stall holder David Hinrichsen

a place is the Maldon Market which runs on the second Sunday of each month. I met with Kirsten McKay, the Market Coordinator and Amy Atkinson who is the Centre Coordinator at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, to find out more.

The Maldon Market was originally run by volunteers as a community market and sold bric-a-brac and local produce. This market was in need of a refresh and the decision was made to appoint a Marketing Coordinator - a role that is funded by Maldon Neighbourhood Centre. Alex Fisher initially took on this role and successfully built up the market using her background in events and marketing. She worked collaboratively with Community stakeholders to give the market a vision, professional branding and developed a structured selection process for stall applications.

The new Maldon Market was launched in November 2013 and has been running successfully since then. Located on Fountain Street, you'll find rows of stalls selling candles, clothes, jewellery, cheese, olives and wine...the list goes on. Fountain Street is an ideal venue just off the main street and close to parkland

MALDON MARKET
Hand Made • Home Grown

Second Sunday of every month

Next Market 13 March

9 - 2pm

Fountain St & Shire Gardens, MALDON
Facebook.com/maldonmarket www.maldonnc.org.au



which offers a pleasant area for people to rest in the shade.

Amy describes the purpose of the market as "a place for locals to shop, socialise and an attraction for visitors to come to the town."

Kirsten recently joined the team in January this year as the new Market Coordinator. Kirsten brings an array of skills from her 16 years working as the Curator of Castlemaine's Art Gallery and Historical Museum. Kirsten says, "The market runs all year round - rain, hail or shine. There's about 70 stalls and we usually have musical entertainment in the rotunda. A real highlight is the donkey rides for the kids". (*see below*)

The next Market is on Sunday 13th March. Kirsten says, "The March market will be huge as it's on the long weekend and a lot of people are keen to have a break from the city to explore the Central Victorian region."

For stallholder enquiries contact Kirsten via:

P: 03 5475 2093

E: market@maldonnc.org.au

W: <https://www.facebook.com/maldonmarket/>

Genevieve Ward

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

*A chemist who lived by the zoo
One day he had nothing to do.
He suddenly said "I know
I'll visit the rhino"
So that's what he did wouldn't you?*



Urban Growth Strategy

What are the Implications for Harcourt?



Harcourt residents discuss the proposed Urban Growth Strategy with Shire and Consultant Representatives.

The Shire has engaged town planning consultants, *Meinhardt*, to prepare an Urban Growth Strategy (UGS) for the Shire's townships and urban areas, including Harcourt. The UGS will guide where residential development will occur over the next 15 years. The key task in preparing the Strategy is the review of each *Town Framework Plan* that currently forms part of the Mt Alexander Planning Scheme. The review will re-examine the appropriateness of the current town boundary and in doing so will consider constraints to development, key features, required rezonings and other items of further work necessary to facilitate growth and development.

The Shire advertised a series of public consultation sessions to receive community input on a *Background Report* prepared by the consultants. Approximately 10 people attended a meeting at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on Wednesday 17 February. They discussed Harcourt's 'Strengths', 'Weaknesses', 'Opportunities' and 'Constraints' in relation to existing and future residential development. The consultants noted that Harcourt is identified in the State Government's Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan as a 'Growth Town', the only town within the Shire outside Castlemaine with such a designation. As a result they stated that the growth of Harcourt is recognized as regionally significant and that Harcourt is a place where sustainable growth is to be encouraged.

The discussion identified a wide range of issues including: land ownership patterns; servicing issues; limited lots on the market for development; the need

to protect the town's character; the importance of not negatively impacting on horticultural or viable agricultural production; and ensuring that bushfire threats and vegetation protection are considered. There was consensus that increased residential growth would provide significant benefits for the viability of social, economic and community infrastructure including the school, pool, shops, community groups and sporting clubs and facilities etc. Equally it was acknowledged that it will be very important to ensure future growth is appropriately located and sensitively designed so as not to negatively impact on the town and its current residents.

The Shire's Manager of Strategic Planning, Mr Daniel Borton, stressed that the UGS is only con-

sidering residential development in urban areas and that it will not consider rural (including rural living), industrial, or commercial land or development. The Study is expected to take approximately six months to complete. Mr Borton indicated that the next opportunity for people to have an input into the study will be provided when the draft strategy is released for public comment (by the end of March or Early April).

Background on the study, including access to the Background Report, is provided on the Shire's Web Site (Refer the following Link: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=2472)

The Core will provide a feature article on the Draft new Harcourt Framework Plan once it is released for public comment.

Issues identified include land ownership patterns, limited lots on the market for development, the need to protect the town's character...

hArcouRT

No. 6: Ben Winspear

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



Tucked away on the way to North Harcourt is the studio of a new arrival to the this area, albeit one who has spent most of his life in central Victoria. Ben Winspear was born in the U.K., but sensibly talked his parents into emigrating (along with five other siblings) to Australia, settling in Bendigo in the mid-70s. The town they left, Hartlepool, is famous for having tried and hung a monkey, the only survivor from a wrecked French naval ship in the Napoleonic Wars, suspected of being a French spy.

Ben's parents were creative types, who soon realised the local education system was not able to provide the best for their children. They withdrew all six kids from school and home schooled them, right through to school leaving level. After a couple of hours tuition a day, they were free to seek extra-curricular fun and stimulation themselves. Ben began to draw from nature, inspired by his mother, an accomplished watercolourist.

All the brothers and sister liked art, teaching themselves from books and making visits to art galleries and museums. With no TV in the home, they had a lot of time to experiment.

After finishing school, Ben left home and worked in a huge variety of jobs – finding work where it was available and learning new skills, like earthmoving – before moving on. He lived at several towns around central Victoria during that period.

Finding himself needing a hobby in the early 2000s, Ben took up a pencil and drew a bird. Pleased with the result, he took up drawing again, then painting. Interest turned to passion, perhaps obsession, and hobby to career.

His skill levels increased rapidly, and in 2003 he won the James Farrell Self Portrait Prize at the Castlemaine Art Gallery; he has since been a finalist several times. He won the Nada Hunter Prize for Portraiture last year.

Ben's work now ranges across portraits, landscapes and wildlife, figurative work and nudes, as well as abstract pieces, large and small. A fan of Rembrandt, he often adds multiple layers of textured paint to create a deep, sculptural effect.



Sometimes he will work quickly, en plein air or from an everyday object or landmark, at other times he will return to a piece again and again. He always has many canvases in development, "sometimes as many as twenty".

Ben is busy in art education as well. He has private painting and portrait students and runs workshops all over Victoria. He's also been president of the Bendigo Art Society for the last two years and maintains a strong connection to the Bendigo art scene.

His studio has quotes and phrases on the wall exhorting him to 'see the unseen', and to keep work 'soft' as long as possible. It's a fascinating place to visit. Which is lucky for Harcourt residents, because it will be open for all five days of Arts Open! You will be able to see Ben in action and get a real sense of how this dedicated artist works.

Arts Open is on the March long weekend, 12th to the 14th, and again the following weekend March 19th and 20th. Ben's studio is at 272 North Harcourt Road (call 0427 505 793) and he will be in attendance every day from 10am to around 5pm. Shuttle buses that take people to many of the AO venues will stop there, and these can be picked up at the Castlemaine Art Gallery, but bookings are essential – find out more at www.artsopen.com.au or call the Gallery on 5472 2292.

Read more about the hanging of the monkey at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monkey_hanger. Ben is keen to point out he had nothing to do with it, since it happened several hundred years before he was born.

Doug Falconer

Harcourt Uniting Church

The Harcourt Uniting Church congregation enjoyed hosting the 1st Parish Service for 2016. It was good to have a full Church with all congregations represented and the singing was very inspiring. At morning tea a few Harcourt ladies had baked beautiful biscuits for sale with all money raised going to Act for Peace (Christmas Bowl Appeal).

We held our annual Pancake Morning tea the 1st Sunday in Feb raising money for Share. Thank you to all our members who donated generously.

Chris Beggs, of our congregation, organized a very successful Bush Dance a few weeks ago and money raised will go towards the rebuilding of a school in Nepal – Chris will be part of the team who will travel to Nepal to rebuild after the devastating earthquake.

As part of our Outreach program, we will be assisting to host Asylum Seekers from Lentara Uniting Care Melbourne at a picnic in Castlemaine on April 30th. We will also continue to support St Vinnies and a local family with grocery donations each week.

Although we are a small congregation we are involved in supporting many activities both in our community as well as the wider work of the Church. You are always welcome to join us at 9am every Sunday with a cuppa to follow.

Jan Jenkin, Secretary

Local Church Speaks out for Asylum Seekers



One Sunday in February, members of Harcourt Uniting Church set up this group of baby dolls, to emphasise that the 267 asylum seekers under threat of being sent back to Nauru are far too vulnerable - to the dreadful climate conditions, the desperation of the people locked up there, the maltreatment by guards who should be protecting them, illness, poor nutrition and the rest. We need to speak out for them, because they, none of them, have a say.

Solway Nutting

Harcourt Applefest Fundraiser at Duneira, Mount Macedon

A fitting follow-up to Easter in the Oak Forest is a visit to the open garden of 'Duneira' at Mount Macedon on Sunday April 10th. Pack a picnic, put the family in the car and head off, down the freeway, to Mount Macedon for a family outing in incomparable surrounds.

'Duneira' is considered the 'jewel in the crown' of Mount Macedon's collection of hill-stations developed by the wealthy in the 1870s. There is great beauty in the unusual grounds with their 400 metre elm-lined driveway, holly hedges, massive rhododendrons, wooded groves, towering firs, redwoods and cypresses surrounding the formal lawn. West of the residence is a Secret Garden featuring bedding plants and an ancient and most beautiful Mt Fuji cherry tree. Many notable plantings may be seen, including unusual shade-loving plants suited to the particular environmental niche (high altitude, southern exposure, moist, mountain and acid soil) which add interest to garden tours. 'Duneira' garden includes a number of important trees which are either rare in cultivation or outstanding specimens.

'Duneira' was the retirement home of supermarket pioneer, the late Stuart Stoneman. Stuart Stoneman augmented the garden with trees chosen to add foliage and blossom colour to the garden. Scarlet maples, purple dogwoods, copper beech and yellow autumnal colours may be seen in the 38 acres of this hilltop property.

'Duneira' garden is the venue for many cultural, community and public gatherings, including concerts, musical recitals, exhibitions, weddings and guided garden tours. The property is operated by the Stoneman Foundation, a philanthropic trust.

Harcourt Applefest committee is operating an "Open Garden" at Duneira as a community fundraising event on Sunday April 10th. Gates will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, with last entry at 3.30. This is a unique opportunity to help the Harcourt community prepare for a successful Applefest in 2017. Mark the date!

Duneira in spring (from www.duneira.com.au)



We Remember Vietnam Veterans



David Milford's surviving siblings, George Milford, Elinor Maltby and William Milford, with David's medals, photo and regimental shield. (Photo courtesy of Castlemaine Mail)

Many of you will know that we gathered at Harcourt Cemetery last weekend to honour the memory of Harcourt resident David Milford and to recognise the service of those that fought in the Vietnam war. As a child growing up I recall the sense of loss and despair when news came back that David Milford had been killed in action.

I was ten years old at the time and I can remember David attending the Methodist church in uniform before leaving for Vietnam. I can also remember that we all went to the funeral. How does a family cope with the loss of a 22 year old in active service in a foreign land? Seeing the Milford family at the service made me think how much had been lost, how great the sacrifice.

Vietnam Veterans have never been treated fairly or properly since their return. Fifty years on, it is long overdue to see our Vietnam Veterans recognised. Thankyou to everyone that attended to mark this important occasion.

Best regards, Tony

Councillor AG Cordy

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Cycling returns to Harcourt in April

Olympic training for some competitors

Cycling will return to the Harcourt district on Saturday the 16th and Sunday 17th of April 2016 when the Victorian Country and Metro Championships kick off the Cycling Victoria winter calendar. This will be closely followed on the afternoon of Saturday 30th April with the Castlemaine Cycling Club's Open Time Trial event. Cyclists are in preparation to tackle the challenging Central Victorian circuits.

For the weekend of 16th and 17th April, plans are on track for riders to tackle the 56 km circuit starting in Harcourt, heading south to Elphinstone, back through Sutton Grange to turn left at Sedgewick and bring riders home through the tough North Harcourt hills, along Mc Ivor Road to the 4km sprint down Harmony Way to finish in Harcourt. The 12km circuit along Market Street, Reservoir Road, McIvor Road to Harmony Way will also be used mainly for junior riders.

In the past about 200 riders have entered on each day bringing a fantastic economic boost to the local economy as many families stay overnight and visit local attractions and towns.

On the afternoon of Sat 30th April, commencing at 1.00pm, riders will leave the start point at 1 minute intervals, heading south along Harmony Way on an out-and-back course. This event will cater for all age groups as well as different divisions of para-cyclists. With only a few months until the Rio Olympics, locals can expect to see some potential Olympians in the field. Notably Carol Cooke World Champion in her Division. Carol is a regular to this Time Trial event and is currently in full training for Rio.

Locals are very welcome to attend these events and see some top level cycling in their local community.

Shirley Amy, Events Secretary

Harcourtian – Rebecca Edwards



Rebecca, husband Jarrod, and boys Hunter 9 and Archer 5 are currently establishing a farm in Reservoir Road, selling ethically raised beef, pork and lamb as well as duck eggs. In her spare time, Rebecca teaches part-time at La Trobe University and is part of the way through a PhD in Law. Born in the Old Kyneton Hospital in 1973, Rebecca was only 1 year old when her parents, Helen and Ian Edwards, moved to Barkers Creek. 'I attended the Harcourt Pre School, where my youngest son, Archer, went last year. Despite my time away from here I am always drawn back to this area,' explains Rebecca. *Below: Rebecca, back row, 3rd child on the left.*



'When I was 5 my parents went to Singapore to teach English. I was sent to a local, rather than international school, where I picked up some Malay which stood me in good stead to do Bahasa Indonesian at High School and University. On returning home my mother got a job at Girton in Bendigo, so I completed my primary schooling there. When it came to secondary education, my parents, who were now living in Castlemaine, did the opposite of what some parents do – they sent me from a private school to a government school, Castlemaine High. At first I wasn't all that happy as I knew no one, but in time I made friends and came to love the school.

'Between Years 11 and 12, I went on a student exchange to Finland. It was 40 degrees Celsius when I left here and minus

40 when I arrived in Finland. Talk about thermal as well as culture shock! My three host families spoke varying degrees of English and I was immersed in a new language and culture. My high school was next to the Conservatory of Music and specialised in music. Most of my fellow students were highly talented musically. Although I played the flute and the piano, I was very conscious of my limited skills and so gave no solo performances. Sadly, apart from being able to utter polite greetings in Finnish, I recall very little of the language.



Above: Rebecca at 14 competing in a One Day Event in Axedale, near Bendigo.

'Back in Castlemaine I finished Year 12 and went to the University of Melbourne where I completed an Arts/Law degree. Just prior to the beginning my final year I did a three month exchange in Indonesia through the Department of Foreign Affairs. I was based in Ambon where I was paired with an Indonesian and helped build a school library, tidy up the war memorial and worked for some time in the local Environment Department. I was there at a time when religious and ethnic groups co-existed side by side, before the explosive tensions of 1999.

'Back home I finished my degree and went to a law firm in Geelong for my Articles year. I stayed there for another four years and got a good grounding in criminal, child protection and civil law.

'When I was 20 I'd met this young man, Jarrod Coote, at the Criterion pub in Castlemaine. We had kept in touch, but always lived in separate places. Now that I was in Geelong Jarrod decided he wanted to join me and pursue our relationship. We bought and renovated a house. Jarrod had waited patiently for 9 years before I decided I really did want to get married to him. We were married on top of Mt Alexander at Lanes Lookout with the beautiful granite hill below and around us. For our honeymoon we sold up and left our jobs.

'The house sale funded a one year trip to Africa. For part of that time I was based in Tanzania working for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Always I'd had fantasies of working for international aid without any idea of the realities. The organisation and delegation of tasks was haphazard; one day I would be using my skills as a lawyer and the next day I'd be flat out doing photocopying. While there were people who were there for the money, others were passionate about their work and really wanted to help people and make a difference. The horrors experienced in Rwanda and the cruelty were horrendous. After a year I was a bit depressed about international aid and the time it actually took to achieve things.

'On returning to Australia we moved into my parent's house (conveniently they were away), while looking for a home for ourselves. I worked for Legal Aid in Bendigo for a year. We bought the stone house in High Street, Harcourt and a block at North Harcourt.

'It was 2005, and before we had time to settle down in Harcourt I was offered a job in the Kimberly as a Native Title lawyer. This turned out to be the best job ever. As a relatively junior lawyer I was given massive responsibility. I felt I was doing something positive and making a real contribution. I travelled the Kimberly and WA meeting with Aboriginal people living traditional lives, wrote submissions and instructed barristers for Federal Court hearings. Meanwhile Jarrod worked to develop the Indigenous Ranger Program which is now in place all over the top end of Australia.

'While in the Kimberly I became pregnant with our first child, Hunter. We left when Hunter was 2 weeks old. Jarrod always had the pull of home and wanted 'to play'

on our block of land. Having a child, gave him a good excuse to come home and be closer to family. I continued working on one of the native title claims from Victoria and went to Perth with my Mum and baby Hunter, whom I was breast feeding, when he was just 4 months old, to instruct the Federal Court appeal. Eventually it became too difficult to work from Victoria.

'We settled in Harcourt and I worked 2 days a week in a Law firm in Castlemaine and then picked up casual teaching at La Trobe University. When the owner of the

Law firm wanted to return to Melbourne, there was the opportunity to buy the practice. I was tempted but the reality was that I had a child who was a very poor sleeper and I couldn't see myself doing justice to the business and my family. Instead I took on more sessional teaching at University and have been there 9 years now.

'In 2014 we sold our home in High Street, Harcourt and moved to a property in Reservoir Rd. Jarrod and I both love the farm and the land. Within the constraints of running a few sheep, Angus cattle, pigs and ducks we want to farm in an environmentally friendly way as possible; give the animals a low stress free range environment and eventually leave the farm in a better condition than when we arrived.

'I don't know where the future will lead. Perhaps I'll be a PhD farmer? Having kids has certainly affected my career. I don't believe you can

have it all and still strike a balance between being an active part of your

kids' lives and having a career. I used to find that hard to deal with but I find now I am more contented and accepting.'

Jenny McKenry, Dandura Alpacas



Above: Rebecca and Jarrod on their wedding day; amongst the granite on Mt Alexander.



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Harcourt Bowling Club



February was a busy month at Harcourt Bowling Club with a return to BBQ and Barefoot Bowls and the Sponsor's Challenge; as well as the lead up to the end of

Pennant Season, a number of Club tournaments and the commencement of Junior Jack Attack with Harcourt Valley Primary School. All this extra activity has provided a positive energy around the Club. Our new 'Entertainment' deck is taking shape with the roof on and it is well into the final stages. The Club was fortunate to have received an Active Communities Grant for the purchase of new bowls to be used by barefoot/social bowlers and new bowling members.

Board members have also been occupied with research and consultation regarding the submission to the Government for a grant for the installation of Solar Panels being offered in the Mount Alexander Shire. We hope to hear the results of the submission in April.

TOURNAMENTS

Men's Invitation Fours

On Sunday 7th February 96 bowlers descended on the Club for the Annual Men's Fours Tournament Sponsored by Maxi IGA and Kosmac and Clemens. Teams from Talbot, Maldon, Castlemaine, Barham, Geelong, Newstead and Bendigo region attended to make this a successful and enjoyable day of bowls. The Kosmac and Clemens First Fill was won by Auburn Team 2 of Noel Waite, Don Chaple, D Ryan and Mick Dioriettes. The Runners Up were Ken Delmenico's Harcourt Team with Sam Gale, Daryl Gale and Phil Clarke.

The Maxi IGA Second Fill was won by Gary Maddern's Harcourt Team with Terry Chisholm, Doug Hartnett and Malcom Grant. Runners Up were Graham Hill's team with Leo Moloney, Russell Maltby and Darrell Normington.

Ladies' Fours

The greens were abuzz on Thursday 11th with 14 Teams competing in the Mt Alexander Funerals Ladies Fours Tournament at Harcourt. This annual event is keenly contested with teams coming from Castlemaine (3) Campbell's Creek, White Hills, Maryborough Golf, Maryborough Highland, Eaglehawk, Bendigo South, Kangaroo Flat, Golden Square, Marong. The Winners were Trish O'Shea's Castlemaine Two team with Marg Guest, Liz Speirs and Florence Stevens.

(pictured above with Lyn and Brian Leidle) Runners Up were Jenny O'Shea's team from Eaglehawk with Dot Meighan, Joan Watson and Carol Patching.

Grant Pairs

Fourteen teams played with three bowls in 3x10 end games to vie for the popular Grant Pairs Perpetual Shield. This annual club event on Sunday 21st was held in memory of Charlie and Freda Grant who were among the founding members of the Club.

A three-way play-off between Ken Delmenico and Judy



Hall; Leo Moloney and Joan Bath; and Kaye and John Grant determined the winners of Leo Moloney and Joan Bath over runners-up Kaye and John Grant. Leo and Joan, giving a display of beautiful bowling, are no strangers to this tournament having won it three times previously.

The Harcourt Bowling Club is buoyed by the efforts of the five Pennant Teams throughout the bowling season and there is an air of excitement and anticipation about the place with four teams securing spots in the finals.

Midweek Pennant Results

The Midweek Division 4 played out the First Semi Final against an in-form Bendigo VRI on Monday 22nd. Despite a valiant attempt and some good winning ends after the lunch break, Harcourt were not able to get the better of VRI. The results were Harcourt 0/53 lost to Bendigo VRI 16/83.

Weekend Pennant teams played the last home and away round on Saturday 20th and although Divisions 3 and 8 did not secure overall wins it did not hamper their chances for a berth in the finals on Saturday 27th February.

Weekend Pennant Results from Round 14

DIVISION 3 – 4th on Ladder

Marong 16/95 def. Harcourt 2/76

Leo Moloney 17/21; Rod Hamilton 19/28; Steven Douglas 16/28; Gary Maddern 24/18

DIVISION 7 - 1st on Ladder

Harcourt 15/78 def. Bendigo VRI 1/61

Daryl Gale 22/22, Rob Chaplin 25/16, Ron Douglas 31/23

DIVISION 8 - 3rd on Ladder

Harcourt 2/57 lost to Bendigo East 14/79

Grahame Pogue 22/29, David Jeffries 14/32, Russell Timmins 21/18

The first **Weekend finals draw** was as listed below; however the outcome was not determined on going to print.

Division 3

Bendigo East Vs Harcourt at Kangaroo Flat A

Division 7

Harcourt Vs Lockwood South at Kangaroo Flat B

Division 8

Dingee Vs Harcourt at Inglewood

Barbeque and Social/Barefoot Bowls

The last barbeque and barefoot/social bowls evenings for the season was held on Tuesday 1st March.

This has been a popular event and the Club is looking at how we can maintain regular social bowls activity for interested community members.

The Green's Café will return some time around April, in the meantime Friday Night Fish 'n Chips is being planned, watch out for flyers advertising this.

Sponsor's Challenge

A very successful Round 2 of the Sponsor's Challenge was held on Tuesday 23rd with a good turn out from the sponsors and their staff. This keenly contested event is a lot of fun for our Sponsors providing an opportunity for them to mix socially with their staff and other businesses in a relaxed environment. The third and final round will be held on Tuesday 8th March; results and photos will be in the next issue of The Core.

Tournaments

Drawn Pairs

The Club Ladies Drawn Pairs competition will be on Thursday March 3rd with the Men's (Gough) Pairs is to be held on the 10th March. Results and photos will be in the next issue of The Core.

Junior Jack Attack

The Harcourt Valley Primary School has teamed up with Harcourt Bowling Club for a Junior Jack Attack program. From Friday 19th February until 18th March Year 5 and 6 Students from the school will take part in a medley of fun bowling activities each week using the Bowls Australia Junior Jack Attack kit. It is hoped that the parents will be able to join in on the last day on 18th March.

COMING EVENTS AT THE BOWLING CLUB

Tournaments

Mixed Fours Tournament	Sunday 10 th April
Rice Memorial Mixed Triples	Saturday 17 th April

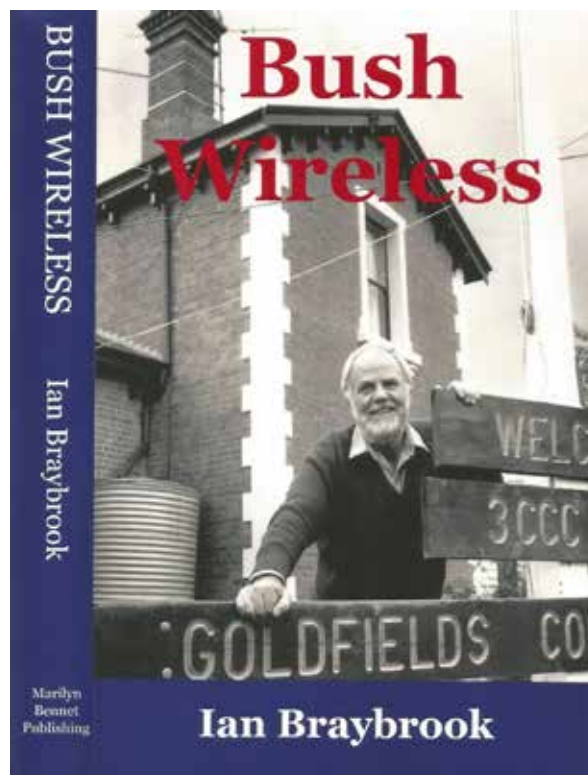
- End of Season Presentation and Break-up night immediately following Rice Triples

Christine Anderson

Below: Runners up of the Maxi IGA Second Fill: Graham Hill's team with Leo Moloney, Russell Maltby and Darrell Normington



Bush Wireless by Ian Braybrook



Community radio was new to country Victoria when 3CCC began in Castlemaine. It actually began its broadcasts on Anzac Day 1982 at Harcourt, from a studio built upstairs in the disused railway building. Most of the locals had heard vague reports of a couple of community radio stations in Melbourne, but not always good reports. FM radio was unknown, therefore 3CCC had to work hard to gain acceptance. Within a few short years it became one of the most notable and respected community radio stations in Australia.

Among those pioneers broadcasters was Ian Braybrook. Ian began as the reader of the 'Newspaper of the Air' reading local newspaper items for the print handicapped,

He went on to present countless radio programs and became a popular broadcaster across the region. On a 35 year journey he achieved several levels in management and had a big hand in establishing three radio stations.

He also met and came to know hundreds of people from all walks of life. His book, "Bush Wireless" just published, tells the story. It contains many stories and is part of the history of radio in Australia.

"Bush Wireless" retails in the local district stores, including Stoneman's Bookroom at \$29.95. It also at is available at radio88castlemaine@gmail.com or phone Marilyn on 0409 333513



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Grow Great Fruit

As summer starts to fade to autumn, now is a great time to do your summer pruning of apricots and cherries. These trees are particularly prone to fungal disease, and it can minimise the risk of exposing the trees to disease by pruning them in the warm still weather of autumn rather than in cold, wet winter weather. Make sure your secateurs are very sharp and clean, particularly if they've been used on diseased trees. Debate rages about whether or not to paint the pruning cuts – we recommend not, but just to let the cuts dry naturally. Here are our top three tips for successful fruit growing in March:

1. If you want to try growing your own peach trees this year (and save lots of money at the nursery!), now is a good time to save peach seeds for growing peach rootstocks (you can use these to graft peach and nectarine varieties onto). We usually use clingstone peaches, but any peach will do. At this stage all you need to do is save the seed every time you eat a peach, and just let the flesh rot off them (maybe store them outside...). Over winter you'll need to store the seeds in damp sand, and they'll be ready to plant out next spring.
2. Pear season has started, and pears are one of the few fruit to pick before they're ripe, and then ripen off the tree (because some varieties can go floury if you ripen them on the tree). However, you still need to make sure they're mature before you pick them. A great way to tell is to cut one open and look at the seeds – they should be dark brown and plump.
3. Start thinking about giving your trees a final feed before autumn sets in. At this time of year they are busily storing nutrients in their buds, bark and roots to store over winter, and these nutrients are what fuels the tree to flower in spring, before they've had a chance to get their roots working, so they're really important. A foliar spray or soil drench with seaweed spray, worm juice or other organic fertiliser will make sure they have everything they need before winter.

Katie and Hugh Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic mixed orchard in Harcourt which is open to the public for farm door sales every Friday and Sunday during the fruit season from 10 am to 4 pm. They also run Grow Great Fruit, an organic fruit growing course online. <http://www.mafg.com.au>



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ASQ Plant of the Month

Bulbs are a must for any gardener that enjoys the burst of colour that spring flowering bulbs bring to the garden, and March is a perfect time to plant them. There is a bulb for all garden situations, and ASQ Skydancers has a great range of bulbs in stock now. Choose from daffodils, jonquils, hyacinths, freesias, irises and many more!



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Pips 'n' All

Hello Garden lovers,

January's rain has disappeared and it looks like we may need to prepare for some more hot weather before feeling the relief of Autumn. Irrigation is still important and any struggling plants may benefit from some extra water in the mornings before the heat of the day arrives.

In the past, I have written a little about garden escapees. I recently noticed that Gaura or Butterfly Bush (*Gaura lindheimeri*) has started establishing along Eagles Road, Harcourt. While Gazanias establishing on road reserves has been a problem around Castlemaine and Bendigo for quite a while, this is the first time that I have noticed Gaura escaping into road reserves. Gazanias provide showy colour and may seem to brighten up our roadsides, but they are actually a threat to native flowers and grasses. Their ability to spread rapidly by seed and survive dry conditions means that they out-compete native plants in one of the few places they have been able to survive in relative safety.

It would appear that Gaura has similar abilities. Gaura is very showy and graceful with weeping stems of small butterfly-like pink or white flowers. It is very popular and a great asset to the garden. However, it appears that we need to treat it with some care. This doesn't mean that we can't still enjoy its grace, colour and beauty. It just means that we need to take a few precautions such as:

- Removing spent heads before seeding;
- Monitoring spread and digging up excess; and
- Disposing of garden waste including seeds by tying in a plastic bag in the rubbish bin, hot composting or burning.

I like to think that we can balance beautiful gardens and colourful, diverse and healthy native roadside vegetation. Native Victorian wildflowers are small but colourful. There is the bright pink of Magenta Stork's-bill, the vibrant purple of Tetratheca, the gold of Everlastings, the Red of Running Postman and the swaying heads of Kangaroo Grass, Spear grasses and Wallaby grasses. Once you have seen a healthy and vibrant road reserve, I think it is easy to appreciate their unique qualities. If so, taking a little time to remove seeds from our garden flowers before they spread to roadsides seems like a simple compromise to achieve beauty both inside the garden and on adjoining roadsides.

But back to inside the garden fence. It will soon be time to start preparing our gardens for autumn and winter. It is a good time to review what is working in our gardens and what hasn't worked. Then comes the enjoyable task of choosing infill plants ready for Autumn.

This month we are:

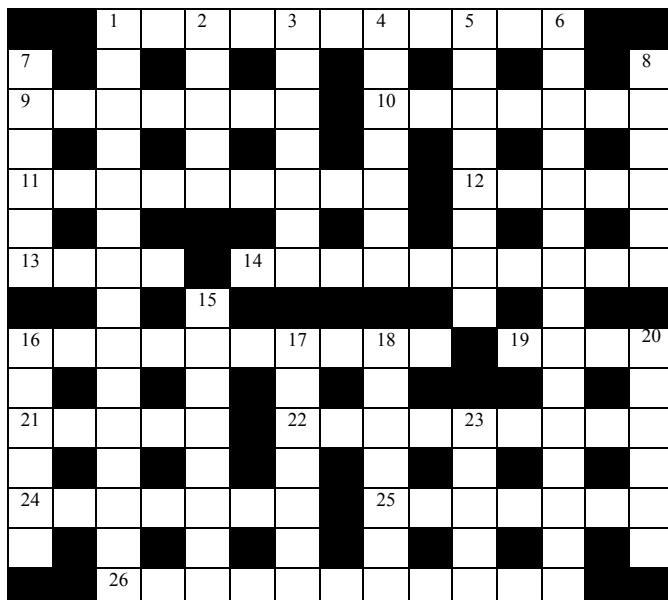
- Deadheading the roses;
- Watering;
- Adding soil wetting agents; and
- Tying up Tomatoes and Raspberries.

Not much is flowering in our woodland as it is too dry, but I did notice in a grassland closer to Melbourne that Magenta Stork's-bill (*Pelagonium rodneyanum*) is flowering.

Happy Gardening, **Janyce**

MARCH 2016 Xword

©McW April '15



Across:

1. Where one might find hidden versions of the mute mutter and daft inhuman obscurers, and (what he long sought) no exam of me! (11)
9. Cattle fodder must pass a flower to do any good. (Or—sight of bulrush caused this?) [Two clues!] (7)
10. Pointless virulent gushing reduces to tiny stream. (7)
11. It's hot, barren and utterly repulsive... (9)
12. Do hens sleep in Wallaby Drive? (5)
13. In it, Paddy's pigs breathe it, we hear. Paddy's bog's there, too... (4)
14. You could excuse this wine: it's an able drop. (10)
16. Smart Robin gets results with this group technique. (10)
19. Company solid to the touch. (4)
21. I escape roof fixture for last fixture. (5)
22. Magician's got tautological boy ducks... (9, or 8'1)
24. Too much of this component might blow the loan, and you'd not heal for several hours the next day... (7)
25. If he wasn't quiet letting it go down the drain, he might receive a box here. (7)
26. Simple elegance—like Gina's tax return? (11)

Down:

1. A well-run Raj? Ha ha! This bloke might give it curry... (10,5)
2. Massey-Harris may have been useful in the Titanic? (5)
3. If the hospital failed to find this area of corruption, should I make 'em pay me? (7)
4. The most atrocious redactor wore this. (7)
5. Little bay and upper 18 for doonas, shrouds, tonneaux, etc. (8)
6. Boldly, or (in this form) wackier, and colourfully laid-out route for 572 people in 1940 to star in 2010 film. (6,5,4)
7. Sister gathers cape for escapade. (6)
8. Discombobulated marble at Tuesday shortly. (6)
15. Predisposed but not vertical. (8)
16. Liar turns aggressor when F's & B's swap. (6)
17. Get a belt of rum in this. (7)
18. Allow phone above to create hair piece (7)
20. Marilyn Manson, Morris Minor, or Miss Monroe herself all lose out internally for believer becoming fearsome for a few. (6)
23. Golf pro gets a reference book from inside to check connotations. (5)

February Xword 2016 SOLUTION

©McW March '15

R	A	P	H	A	E	L		D	E	T	E	N	T	E
E		R		M		A		R		E		U		R
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M		E		E		P		O		H		G		E
S	T	R	I	D	E	S		N	U	T	T	E	R	S

Down:

1. Character of totalitarian regime about [re:] iron [press] [h] have. (10)
2. Needed before [pre-] surmise? (Something to base it on, but not on [sur] for the French.) (7)
3. Take the gravity out of an opening move [gambit] for a claim too far. (5)
4. Bar a lord from left of boat. (8)
5. What tediously protracted meetings do for mother-in-law caricature? [Well?] (7)
6. Camp couture sets trend. (4-5)
7. Number the [north-] [east] mural. (7)
8. Does wrong hesitations. (4)
12. Enthrals shiny poets. (10)
14. With DDT, I creep disconcertedly towards the forecasted... (9)
16. No-go sign denotes all sorts of shenanigans. (6-2)
18. Fitzgerald's "surly" one ("tapster") could change 1a for upright vowel [i] to give racing advice.
20. How old Othello [Moore] was when making fast (secure) boat. (7)
21. Push down coffee [tamp] in vessel [ss] to get postage paid. (6)
23. Sounds a good place for sore eyes. [Well?] (7)
24. ...and the Man has two. [Well?] Title... (7)

Across:

1. Painter might make her a pal. (7)
5. Relaxation of relations after being detained? [Well?] (7)
9. After a big anal rape case reported in a plebeian rag, his lawyer might try for this... (4,7)
10. To spoil, extract metal from [Martin] Heidegger. (7)
11. Erotic drive on notice to quit. (8,5)
13. Railway components Barry [Jones] wanted up [in Sleepers, Wake!] (7)
15. One presumed Leyden jar was quite a mixture of disparate elements thereof. (6)
17. [E] goes into the mangled stove and cans it... (6)
19. None arms the Viking these days. (8)
22. Basic camera for US high schools? [Well?] (7)
25. To dob with a file for a tail? [Well?] (7)
26. Malign sites won't give you these, but Auntie, with giant smiles, does them hourly. (4,7)
27. [Sain] is carried [rides...] into trousers. (7)
28. Mad kernel-seekers? [Well?] (7)

Mount Alexander Shire Council Weed Eradication Grant-Harcourt North Hall and Tennis Club

The Harcourt North community and visitors to the area may notice the roadside by the Harcourt North Hall is in a much improved condition with a significant reduction in gorse, hawthorn, blackberry and broome along the entrance to Chaplin's Road, beside the Harcourt North Hall.

The Harcourt North Tennis Club/Hall Committee were successful in obtaining \$2,200 grant funding from the Mount Alexander Shire. The money was utilised to engage experienced contractors to undertake work to reduce a dense growth of roadside weeds in consultation with the local land care group.

Michael Blake and Lachlan Brown from Maine Environmental Services Pty Ltd were the successful contractors who have efficiently and effectively cleaned up the weeds to the delight of the committee and many community members.

The committee would like to thank the Shire for the funding opportunity and Maine Environmental Services for the excellent outcome.

Chris Mitchell.

Australian Hearing Opens New Centre in Castlemaine

After over 15 years of servicing the Castlemaine community at Castlemaine District Community Health (CHIRP), Australian Hearing has now opened a new permanent hearing centre. Located at 177 Barker Street, Castlemaine, "The new centre is convenient and offers the local community access to a full range of hearing services," Natalie Betts, Manager of Australian Hearing Castlemaine, said. Natalie added that Australian Hearing offers free hearing checks. Those wanting to book a free hearing check should call (03) 5471 7600.

Cut Sugar and Win an iPad or \$1,500 for Your Club or Community Group

Take up the Mount Alexander Shire H30 Challenge for your chance to win an iPad or \$1500 towards their sporting club or community group. All you have to do is sign up to make a 30-day pledge to replace sugary drinks with water. The aim of the challenge is to help residents establish healthier habits with water becoming the drink of choice in the long-term. Sugary drinks include sugar-sweetened soft drinks, energy drinks, fruit drinks, sports drinks, ready to drink iced-tea, flavoured water and cordial.

By making a switch from sugary drinks to water in the long term, you can:

- Help maintain a healthy weight
- Reduce your risk of tooth decay
- Reduce waste (by using a reusable bottle)
- Save around \$1,460 over a year if you switch to tap water instead of a daily purchased beverage (based on the estimated price of \$4 per 600ml soft drink bottle bought daily)

To enter the competition, sign up for the H30 Challenge at www.h30challenge.com.au/MountAlexander, between 7th March and 8th April, then post a photo of you, your club or community group drinking water on Instagram #h30challengeMountAlexander. If you don't have access to Instagram you can email a photo to h30challenge@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or bring it in on a USB to the council office. The Mount Alexander Shire H30 Challenge Competition is funded by VicHealth.

For more information:

www.h30challenge.com.au/mountalexander

To Control Rabbits you need to Destroy the Warren and be MORE Persistent than Rabbits.



46 people attended the Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group's Rabbit Control Field Day on Sunday 14th February.

The day commenced with an introductory presentation from Ben Perry from the Invasive Plants and Animal Operations Branch in the Victorian Government.

Ben provided an overview of Victoria's significant rabbit problem including how quickly rabbits breed and when is the best time to control the numbers. He also explained the laws associated with landowner responsibilities, chemicals use and techniques that can be used to reduce the rabbit population.

The group then moved to a farm site to see demonstrations of warren ripping, baiting, poisoning and ferreting. The event concluded at 12 midday.

The participants appreciated the opportunity to learn and see how to control rabbits. This provided the landholders with practical and effective solutions on how to control their rabbit populations.

One of the participants suggested that there was a need for a strategic district plan and marketing campaign to inform landholders of their responsibility for weed and pest control.

Two key messages that were continually emphasised during the field day

- Rabbits don't recognise boundaries so it is important to work with your neighbours.
- To get rid of rabbits you need to DESTROY the Warren and to be MORE persistent than rabbits. *Tricia Balmer*

Hobo Playhouse Presents "Come Back for Light Refreshments After the Service."

Get ready for lots of laughs and a generous dollop of drama when Hobo Playhouse presents *Come Back for Light Refreshments After the Service* in Castlemaine and Maldon during March 2016.

Directed by Jeff Jones, this beautifully written play by Julie Day is a hilarious comedy with quite a few dramatic twists.

Tickets: \$25 adults/\$15 concession. Bookings now open.

Castlemaine shows: at Trades Hall, 127 Mostyn St., Castlemaine on Saturday, March 12 at 8pm; Sunday, March 13 at 2pm; Saturday, March 19 at 8pm and Sunday, March 20 at 2pm. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/KAZE

Maldon show: at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, corner Church and Edward streets, Maldon on Good Friday, March 25, at 2pm. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/KAZI

Community Diary Dates

10 March: 7.30pm Applefest Art Show Opening Heritage Centre

10 – 14 March: Art Show

12 March: Applefest - Market and Kids Karnival

17 March: 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Group meeting ANA hall

18 March: 6.00 pm Harcourt Co-operative Coolstores Limited. Annual Meeting at ASQ.

27 March: 8.00 am Easter Dawn Service at Stanley Park

27 March: 10am Easter Egg Hunt, Oak Forest Harcourt.

10 April: Duneira Open Garden, Applefest 2017 Fundraiser

Feathered Five Festival - March 19-20, 2016

Join us for a celebration of woodland birds and their habitat in central Victoria





Jacky Winter



Painted Butte-quail



Brown Treecreeper



Diamond Firetail



Hooded Robin

Saturday March 19 – The Feathered Five Drive
 8.30 – 11 am: Bushwalks in search of the feathered five in three separate locations: Blue Hills, Sandon and Glenluce.

Saturday March 19 – Evening Forum
 Campbells Creek Community Centre.
 5 – 6 pm: Speak with experts about attracting birds to your property.
 Kids' art activities with Judy Laycock.
 6 – 7 pm: Vegetarian dinner, followed by a performance by Castlemaine's Chat Warblers.
 7 – 8.30 pm: Andrew Bennett (La Trobe University & Arthur Rylah Institute): *Drought then flooding rains: how do woodland birds respond to climatic change*. Phil Ingamells (VNPA): *"10 things we can all do to help nature adapt to a new climate"*.

Sunday March 20 – Guided Nature Walk
 9.30: Tanya Loos, Connecting Country, and Andrew Skeoch, Listening Earth, with Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests. Strangways.

Come to one activity – or all three! All events are free but booking is essential for the Evening Forum. More information and bookings at www.connectingcountry.org.au/featheredfivefestival or phone 5472 1594. Photos kindly supplied by Geoff Park and Shane Carey.






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Easter Egg Hunt in the Harcourt Oak Forest

Sunday 27th March 10am-1pm

- **Massive Easter Egg Hunt**
(12 age-based egg hunts)
- **Nature-based activities for kids**
- **BBQ, tea/coffee/hot cross buns**
- **Live Music**
- **Free Children's Entertainment**

**Avoid the queues and book
your tickets online:**

www.trybooking.com/JVBM

Find us on Facebook!



Brought to you by the Harcourt Progress Association and Harcourt Valley Landcare

Printed by Lisa Chesters, Federal Member for Bendigo

HARCOURT VALLEY



FESTIVAL

Sunday 27th March 2016

**Live Music - Wines - Cocktail bar
Craft Beer - Cider - Food
Wine Making Demos
Children's Entertainment**

**Where: Harcourt Valley Vineyards
3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt. Time: 11am-5pm
Ticket Price: \$20 Early Bird before March 15
(www.trybooking.com/KCIP) \$28 after March 15**

**Shuttle buses will be running from
Castlemaine Train Station and return
Cost \$10 and must be pre-purchased**

**www.facebook.com/HVVEasterFestival
contact Marie 0431 996 515**