

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

March 2017

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 36

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

Harcourt Progress Association Inc



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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.



The King and Queen of Applefest are Rosie and Neil Critchley. They have been out and about in the district promoting Applefest.

Read inside to find out about what's happening at Applefest - fabulous food, 2 entertainment stages, Kids Karnival with games, rides, a miniature train display and Wild Action Zoo!



See Sandy the Miniature Steam Train at Kids Karnival



Sandy is a 1/3 size scale steam engine, accurately modelled from the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad in Maine USA dating back to 1919.

Owned by Colin Mierisch, this working model is lovingly maintained by his engineering skills. This model is a true working steam engine. Sandy, as named by Colin, will be on display at the Harcourt Applefest along with other friends from the engine shed. Visit Sandy at the stand and learn more about Miniature Engineering in Steam.

You can also learn more about the progress of the Miniature Railway Park soon to be in Harcourt!

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Printing provided by Lisa Chesters, Federal MP for Bendigo

Print Artist Guest at Art Show



Chrisanne Blennerhasset (pictured with one of her large-format prints) is feature artist at the Applefest Art Show.

Entries have now closed for the Harcourt Applefest Art Show and Sale. There has been strong interest by Bendigo artists, trying out their technical skills to compete for the several awards on offer. Judging by the titles of the works many artists have been out in the Harcourt valley with sketch pad, paint brush and canvas. Many lively depictions of familiar local scenes are promised for those who visit the ANA Hall, in High St, Harcourt, during the Applefest and

the entire three days of the March Labour Day weekend. Many of the art works are for sale and are reasonably priced and will make a nice gift for a special occasion.

Guest artist for the 2017 Art Show is Mandurang print-maker Chrisanne Blennerhasset. Chrisanne gave a preview of her folio to the Heritage Committee early in February. The sheer size of the prints is impressive and her choice of subject matter is sure to draw admiration. Chrisanne uses feathers, leaves, mosses and even spiders in her choice of subjects and her works, mainly featuring birds - have been a sell-out at previous Applefest Art Shows. The Committee anticipates that its Guest Artist section of the Art Show will attract plenty of attention.

The Art Show will open on Thursday March 9th at 7.30 pm and will be open daily on March 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th at Harcourt Heritage Centre (ANA Hall) opposite the Post Office.

George Milford



Di Selwood
Sales Consultant
Castlemaine & Harcourt



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148 - 152 High Street,
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Mt Alexander Family Day Care Scheme

Due to demand for Outside School Hours Care at Harcourt Primary School we are looking for a suitably qualified Educator to provide this program under the Mt Alexander Family Day Care "In Venue Program" in 2017.

Interested Educators **must have** a minimum qualification of Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.

For all enquiries and further information please contact Julie London on 5472 3665, or email julie@castlemainechildcare.com.au



CWA - Apple Pie Baking Competition

Applefest is with us again, and when Applefest comes around so do apple pies. As in other years, Ann Marston, a long-term member of CWA, will be our official judge. I recently spoke to Ann about what makes a good apple pie, and appearance, smell, taste of filling and a light flakey pastry that doesn't have a soggy bottom is what she looks for. So come on all you bakers out there, download an entry form from the Applefest web page and get baking.

As in other years the CWA members from Central Victoria will be looking after the Rest Area. This is one of our showcase days, where we offer a place to sit and relax and the opportunity to check out our stall, have a chat to our members, and a place where mums with babies and young children can use our teepee complete with mats and cushions, for breastfeeding and changing nappies.

Our CWA Theme for 2017 is Share the Friendship. This is something that is very obvious at every Applefest I have attended; people coming together in friendship, to enjoy a wonderful fun packed day in our beautiful Harcourt Valley.



ley.

Looking forward to seeing all your friendly faces when you pop over to say hello.

Now get baking.

Lyn Rule, Publicity Officer



Harcourt Primary - Prepares for Applefest

It has been a busy but smooth start to the school year. The "Building Our Learning Community" program is completed. It wound up with an excursion to Castlemaine taking in the Forest

Creek gold diggings, lunch in the Botanical Gardens, followed by a walk to the Theatre Royal where we watched the movie "Inside Out".

Our welcome BBQ in mid February for all our families was well attended. Around half our families came along to share a meal together and welcome our new parents.

We have moved our communications with parents onto an app called Tiquibiz, which means we no longer do a weekly newsletter. So far, this has been well received and gives us the chance to provide parents with up to date information as well as show what is happening in the classrooms at any time.

Currently there is a huge focus on preparing for the Applefest and the school kitchen is a busy place on Tuesdays and Thursdays where apple pie baking is in full swing. We have had a fabulous response from our parents and lots

of people have turned up to work on their apple peeling skills. We anticipate there will be a plentiful supply of apple pies by the time Applefest comes around.

Our School Council election process has finished and the same people were re-elected to council, so we are looking forward to continuing the great work which is being undertaken by this group. They have some great plans for new and interesting fundraising ideas. Watch out for these in the coming months.

Thanks to the arrival of video conferencing equipment last year, we can now take the opportunity to link up with any other services or schools (provided they have the appropriate equipment). The children in Grades 3-6 are undertaking a series of wellbeing programs offered by Kids Helpline, using this facility and it has been well received by everyone. It gives us another opportunity to enhance our Social and Emotional Learning program.

We are looking forward to a busy second half of the term, with many other activities and events planned.

*Annette Smith
Principal*

Applefest Pie Baking





Harcourt Progress Association

Strong community support pedestrian crossing

The HPA presented Shire Councillors with a petition signed by 135 people, supporting the proposed pedestrian crossing on Harmony Way. The petition presented Councillors at the 21st February meeting calls on Mount Alexander Shire Council to install a pedestrian crossing to improve pedestrian safety in central Harcourt.

Harcourt Railway Station - Reimagined

Thirty people attended the meeting about the repurposing of the Harcourt Railway station. There was a good buzz in the room as Jean Parson of VicTrack spoke and took questions from the floor. Planning work and on ground works are expected to begin this year. Jean who is responsible for managing the project stated that the Minister, Jacinta Allan, local MP Maree Edwards and the Shire are all behind this exciting development.

Community Playground and Town entrances

The HPA continues to pursue action on these two matters. Meetings have been scheduled with Shire and Vic Roads representatives in order to progress

both of these issues.

If you are interested in being part of a group to have input on the station development, the community playground or town entrances and freeway exits, contact HPA Secretary, Jacqueline Brodie-Hannas:

takandjak@bigpond.com or 5474 3172

SAVE THESE DATES

April 19:

HPA Community Meeting.

April 16:

Easter Egg Hunt, Fundraiser for the Harcourt Community Playground. Botanic Gardens Castlemaine.

April 30:

Bus Trip to Forrest to see the Mountain Bike Park.

Be a Volunteer at this year's Applefest!

It was 2014 when HPA first became involved in the Applefest. Kay Francis, one of our members is shown here on the HPA stall in 2015. If you can spare some time to volunteer at this year's Applefest, call Sha Cordingley on 0422 206 361 or email: cord-free@hotmail.com



ABC Victorian Country Hour interviews Local Producers



Nikolai Beilharz (centre) interviews Ken Pollock of Blackjack Winery and Prue Walduck of StrawBale B&B and Alpaca Stud. Nikolai also interviewed Katie Finlay of Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens and Drew Henry of Henry of Harcourt.

The ABC Country Hour came to Harcourt on February 23. Presenter Nikolai Beilharz interviewed four local producers on the verandah at Henry's Cidery in Reservoir Road.

The four interviewed were Drew Henry of Henry of Harcourt, Katie Finlay of Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens, Prue Walduck of Millduck Straw Bale B&B and Alpaca Stud and Ken Pollock of Blackjack Wines.

Each of these businesses has unique features.

Drew Henry told listeners that the family use original cider apple varieties to produce individual cider, that is one which is not mixed with other apples. This cider is bottled and sold almost like a vintage of wine. Henry's also produce Apple Cider Vinegar and fortified wine. Pears can also be used to produce a "Perry", this is slightly sweeter than a cider. Drew emphasised that "Slow and careful processes are needed and few if any chemicals are used, unlike commercial varieties." Drew calls their product, "Cider for Grown Ups".

Henry's Cidery will be pressing cider at their property during Applefest. They will have a range of apple varieties on display and varietal ciders for tasting as well. The Henry family of Drew, Irene and son Michael promise a warm welcome any time you visit.

Katie Finlay and husband Hugh run an organic mixed orchard, the only one of its kind in Harcourt. Katie grew up on the farm and was not at all interested in farming as a young person. She "took off" to the city, but the call of Harcourt was too great and she and Hugh plunged into orcharding. She told Nikolai that they work hard to diversify their business and they are interested in collaboration and so have an arrangement with Gung Ho Growers who grow organic vegetables on their land.

Katie and Hugh run an online program called "Grow Great Fruit" and organise hands on workshops as well. Their farm shop is open Wednesday to Friday from 10am – 4pm in the season.

Prue Walduck and Ada Milley, have a Straw Bale B&B and Alpaca Stud in North Harcourt. Prue spoke with Nikolai about the boutique nature of their business. Her interest is mainly in the alpacas which she has been farming for 24 years. She concentrates on breeding fawn and brown colours as these are highly desirable wool shades. They export their genetics. This is a long process which can take seven months from when an animal leaves Harcourt until it reaches its destination, usually somewhere in Europe. Quarantine in New Zealand follows the trip from Australia. Then they are flown to Heathrow and shipped to Europe where they spend more time in quarantine before they arrive at a farm.

"The businesses complement each other as they both have emphasis on respect for the environment. B&B visitors enjoy seeing the alpacas on the property while appreciating the luxury of the straw bale accommodation.", said Prue. The B&B has been rated in the Top 10 B&Bs by the Sunday Age and Favourite Mid-Priced Couples' Retreat by Family Circle.

Nikolai asked Ken Pollock of Blackjack Wines how he first got interested in wine making. Ken replied that this happened when he and his business partner Ian McKenzie met for casual drinks, when they would often play "guess the wine", with the bottle covered by a brown paper bag. In 1988 they planted their first vines. He said, "We chose Harcourt because the soil is not over rich which means the vines do not produce too much leaf. The land is gently sloping and has a good aspect. The Coliban irrigation system was also an attraction."

Ken said that the Shiraz for which the winery is famous "over delivers every time." In addition to a 5-star rating from the James Halliday Wine Companion, Blackjack Wines have won numerous gold and silver medals from, among others, the Decanter World Wine Awards, The Boutique Wine Awards and the Asia Wine Awards.

School Trivia Night - Fun for all the Family

Harcourt Valley Primary School (HVPS) is running its major fundraiser for 2017 – a TRIVIA NIGHT – on Friday 28th April. This family friendly event will be held in the school stadium (with a new carpet for such events) and there will be a sausage sizzle from 6pm to 7pm. It's BYO refreshments and nibbles and please note that this is an alcohol-free event.

School Council Vice President, Veronica Budnikas says that children are welcome to come along and join in the trivia. "It's more of a casual fun atmosphere where the trivia is suitable for both adults and children". The night's MC is the world-famous Grade 5-6 teacher Matt Watkins. There

will be amusing activities in between the rounds. Tickets are \$10 per person, with primary-school-aged children FREE!

Trivia starts at 7pm and runs 'til 9pm. Prizes and raffles are donated by local businesses and the night is planned and run by volunteers, so all profits go to the school. HVPS is raising funds to replace the old interactive whiteboards in the classrooms.

Show your support to Harcourt Valley Primary and put the date in your diary. Bring your relatives, bring your neighbours. It will be a night of fun for the whole family! To book a table call the school office on 5474 2266.



Matt Watkins, Grade 5-6 teacher is the MC for the Trivia Night

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

*I went for a swim in the ocean.
I swim like a shark, in slow motion.
I forgot what I'd learned
And I soon got quite burned
I'd forgotten my sun tanning lotion.*



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Free Pool Party Applefest Afternoon



As the Kids Karnival attractions approach wrap-time, the neighbouring Harcourt Pool is going to host a totally free pool party.

For active aquatic adventure, there will be:

- *body boards*
- *an inflatable pool goal*
- *a basketball ring.*
- *aqua play mats*
- *noodles*

- *dive toys*
- *toddler flotation toys.*

Beside the pool, on the lush green grass, there'll be cricket and giant connect four.

So, all Kids Karnival attendees are encouraged to bring swimmers and a towel.

Mountain Bike Park Update from DELWP

Please note The Core has edited this information, but only to change the order in which the information is presented. We begin with some of the most common questions people have...

Where is the Site?

The site of the mountain bike park is on the old plantation site on the west side of Mount Alexander.

What Car Parking is planned?

The majority of the car parking is planned to be catered for in the Harcourt township and riders will be encouraged to support local businesses and take the short ride to the trail head on the mountain. There will also be limited parking provided at the mountain bike park. The Victorian Government is not purchasing private land to build a car park.

Will the Park be Fenced?

The park will not be fenced and will be open to all recreational users including walkers and horse riders.

What Facilities will be Provided?

Toilet facilities will be provided for the mountain bike park and will be located where they can also be accessible to users of 'The Oaks'. The Oaks

area is not included in the Mountain Bike Park but users of the Oaks have benefited already because three new barbeques have recently been installed, which comply with fire regulations.

What about Road Maintenance for Fire Access?

The access track to the Oaks has recently been graded. DELWP will begin works shortly to upgrade the fire access track.

Tender Process - see timelines on Page 7

Tender submissions for the trail construction are being evaluated and DELWP expects to have a contractor on board in early April.

Forrest Tour January 2017

On 13 January 2017, the Community Reference Group and the Project Control Group visited the Forrest Mountain Bike Trails, touted to be one of the premier mountain bike destinations in Victoria, to learn about the successes and challenges of building a world class mountain bike park.

The town has significantly benefitted economically and socially since the mountain bike park was built approximately 10 years ago.

Also of note, was that mountain bike riders are very willing to ride the three kilometres from town to the trail head. This is approximately the same distance from the Harcourt Township to the proposed trail head of the Harcourt mountain bike park.

Community Consultation 8 February 2017

DELWP and its partners held a Community Information Session on 8 February 2017 at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. More than 40 community members attended the event. It was an important opportunity for community members to ask questions and give their feedback on the early stages of the project.

The majority of community members expressed excitement about the project and expressed their support for the many expected benefits.

Many residents told us that they supported the project and look forward to its economic benefits to the Harcourt community.

There is strong support to retain access to 'The Oaks' and for the park to be available to a range of existing compatible recreational users.

There were also a number of people concerned about ensuring safe rider access to and from the mountain. DELWP and Mount Alexander Shire staff are working together to review various options before

discussing with the community a preferred route.

Russell Manning, Project Manager, HMBP, has also met and will continue to meet with interested people to gather ideas, listen to opinions, provide progress updates and discuss this exciting project.

The next opportunity to have your say, get more information or ask questions about the project will be at the 2017 Harcourt Apple Fest on 11 March in Harcourt. Look out for the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park stall and be ready to share your ideas.

Get involved- ask questions, get updates

Please contact Russell Manning at 5430 4444 or harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au for more information or for any enquiries on the project.

Community members are encouraged to register their interest to receive project updates and become involved in future consultation and engagement opportunities.

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

For more information and updates, visit www.delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp

The next opportunity to have your say, get more information or ask questions about the project will be at the 2017 Harcourt Apple Fest on 11 March in Harcourt.

Look out for the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park stall and be ready to share your ideas.

Mountain Bike Park Update from DELWP (cont)

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Project Description

Situated next to Mount Alexander Regional Park, the Harcourt mountain bike park (HMBP) will provide up to 34 kilometres of dedicated mountain bike trails and magnificent views alongside a natural forest setting.

The project is estimated to inject \$9.8 million into the

local economy, attracting 100,000 visitors each year and generate local jobs.

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

Mountain Bike Park Project Timelines

March	April	May	June	July 2017	August – November
Trail tenderer evaluation.	Contractor appointed. Preliminary design out for public comment and community consultation.	Community feedback included in final trail design. Trail design completed and submitted for Federal and State environmental planning approvals.	Federal and State environmental planning approvals underway.	Trail design approved. Construction begins, weather permitting.	Construction to be undertaken and completed.

Save the Date: Sunday 30 April

Community Bus Trip to Forrest Mountain Bike Park

Bus departs 9am from Goldfields Track Cafe.

More details will be available on HPA Facebook Page and in the April edition of The Core.

One of the new barbecues recently installed by DELWP at the Oak Forest.





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March 8 - Celebrate International Women's Day

How will you #BeBoldForChange?

Come along to a free afternoon tea and hear from inspirational women as part of the local celebrations for International Women's Day on 8 March.

This year's theme is Be Bold For Change (#BeBoldForChange) to help forge a more inclusive and gender equal working world.

Everyone is invited to come together and celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

"Everyone has a part to play in helping drive better outcomes for women – in our local towns and cities, and around the globe," said Mount Alexander Shire Mayor Sharon Telford.

"This is a great day to get together and learn what's happening in our own shire to create a more gender inclusive community.

"We are also asking everyone to think about how you will be bold for change," she said. Hear from celebrated local author Robyn Annear and Mount Alexander Young Citizen of the Year Meaghan Ferguson talk about their bold moment in driving change.

Enjoy afternoon tea and refreshments, along with entertainment by local mum's group MaCappella Singers and face painting for kids at this family friendly event.

What: International Women's Day Celebration

When: 4.00pm – 5.00pm, Wednesday 8 March

Where: Ray Bradfield Room, enter near supermarket car park near Victory Park, Castlemaine.

For more information or to register your #BeBoldForChange action visit www.internationalwomens-day.com/BeBold.

Celebrations continue

Following the afternoon tea, head to the Castlemaine Library and hear local author Ian Braybrook talk about the unconventional, artistic and bohemian Trentham doctor, and subject of his book, Gweneth Wisewould.

Doctor Wisewould was a generous and determined woman who moved to Trentham in 1938 and served as the town's doctor right up until the day she died in 1972.

What: Gweneth Wisewould: Outpost Doctor

When: 5.00pm – 6.00pm, Wednesday 8 March

Where: Castlemaine Library, Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine

Bookings: Visit events at www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

From a Mount Alexander Shire Press Release

Marilyn Nuske BA,LLB

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Connect at Camp Out on the Mount



A big happy mob at the 2014 Camp Out on the Mount. Photo: Bronwyn Silver

Connect with nature and learn more about local cultural heritage at this year's 'Camp Out on the Mount'. Coordinated by Connecting Country on the first weekend of April at the Leanganook Camping Ground on Mount Alexander, an impressive suite of talks and children's activities are on offer.

In the past, this event has attracted a large crowd to share in the joys of eradicating weed pine trees. However, volunteers have already done such a good job that this time campers will be able to celebrate with a range of engaging activities for all.

On the morning of **Saturday the 1st April** you are invited to set up your camp site ahead of a Welcome to Country by a local Dja Dja Wurrung elder. There will be children's environmental activities with Parks Victoria and Aboriginal cultural activities with Aunty Julie McHale, while a small group of 'pine assassins' do further weed control on the Mount.

In the afternoon, campers can listen to a talk about Aboriginal culture from local Aboriginal people and enjoy some time exploring the Mount. Dinner is BYO or bring a gold coin donation for the Har-

court Lion's Club BBQ. In the evening, George Milford from Harcourt Valley Landcare will talk about the history of the Mount. Parks Victoria will lead a night walk ahead of zip-ping up tents and watching the stars twinkle as campers settle in for the night. On Sunday morning, Connecting Country's Tanya Loos will take us on a bird and nature walk.

"I'm really looking forward to kicking off the school holidays with loads of happy campers and having a fun and informative time together on beautiful Mount Alexander," co-coordinator Asha Bannon said.

Camp Out on the Mount is proudly supported by Connecting Country, Parks Victoria, Harcourt Valley Landcare Group and Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests, with funding from the Australian Government.

For bookings and more information visit www.connectingcountry.org.au or contact Connecting Country on 5472 1594.

Enquiries:

Naomi Raftery

Connecting Country

Tel: 5472 1594 or 0422 585 585

Email: naomi@connectingcountry.org.au



Prepare for grassfire

THE REASONS ARE BLACK AND WHITE

If you live in a suburb near grasslands, you're at risk of fire. If you live directly next to parks or paddocks and a grassfire starts, walk at least two streets back. If you live two or more streets away, stay where you are, grassfires are unlikely to spread into built up areas. Stay alert and monitor conditions. Don't drive, visibility may be poor, accidents are likely, and you could block emergency services.

emergency.vic.gov.au

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CFA- Be Fire Aware in Autumn



APPLEFEST ACTIVITIES

The Brigade is fortunate once again to have the support of the CFA Community Education Group in Bendigo for the 2017 Applefest. We will have an information table as well as members on hand to answer any questions or queries you may have. Captain Koala and the replica fire truck will be here again for the kids. We are also planning on having our new heavy tanker available for viewing and will be conducting a wood raffle. Come along and say hello.



Captain Koala gets a lift from Paddy O'Sullivan in the guise of a super hero on one of his cycling contraptions at Applefest, 2016. Paddy and Captain Koala will be back for this year's Applefest.

FIRE SEASON UPDATE

February has been reasonably quiet this fire season and this is partially due to experiencing cooler days with spike days of hotter weather. The concern is that it is still dry and we have had days with strong winds so the risk of a fire starting and spreading quickly is still an ongoing consideration. The outlook for when fire restrictions will be lifted is still undetermined, but while it remains dry and days with temperatures in the 30s, the fire danger rating will still continue to fluctuate between the high and very high categories.

The Brigade has had six turnouts for the month with the most disappointing one being an abandoned campfire on Mount Alexander which had real potential to spread to nearby grass if it had not been detected by some ob-

servant walkers who could smell smoke while hiking up the main road over the Mount. The lesson to learn from this is not to let your guard down as we move into autumn. March as we know can still be very warm and without significant rain, the risk of fire remains.

NEW TANKER TRAINING AND FAMILIARISATION

The brigade members have been very busy familiarising themselves with the new tanker and are impressed with the improvements implemented into this new vehicle. Currently it has gone back for minor modifications and fault fixing – something that is normal in new build programs. As mentioned above, we hope to borrow it back for the Applefest weekend so that the community has the opportunity to have a look over it.

WHICH BRIGADE WILL ATTEND A FIRE? ASSIGNMENT AREAS EXPLAINED

After ringing triple 0 and being transferred to FIRE as your emergency, the information you provide will enable VicFire to plot the location on a map. Depending on where this plot is will determine which brigades will be sent to your fire. Each Brigade has their Brigade Area broken up into a number of assignment areas and then attached to each assignment area is a predetermined response table applicable to the type of fire or incident that you are reporting. All this data sits in the dispatch computers at VicFire and therefore the more accurate a location you can give when reporting a fire the more accurate will be the decisions about which Brigade to send. Nearest crossroads can be very important in accurate plots. This is why on occasions when more than one person reports a fire or incident, there may be discrepancies in the location. When this occurs, it is treated as two separate jobs until it can be confirmed that this is not the case.

One interesting observation is that many houses in our district do not have clear and visible property numbers. As part of your fire plan, have a clear description as to the location of your property so that it can be identified accurately in the event of fire, as not all call outs have smoke billowing high into the sky as a beacon showing us where the fire is. In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice
Captain*



Councillor Comment

Hi all, Well done to the team at The Core. This will be another bumper issue and just in time for the Applefest.

At Council we continue to be faced with difficult decisions. There are rules around how Councillors arrive at decisions and how debate is conducted. One of the requirements is that Councillors have to make decisions that are in the best interests of all of our community. It sounds easy enough but is not so easy in practice.

Another requirement is that we must listen to all of the advice and debate before arriving at a decision. That means we need to be open to ideas and information so the best possible decisions are made. This is not so easy having grown up in our community. We also have strong values and community expectations.

My reason for trying to explain this is that when Councillors are asked how they will vote on a particular issue they should not have come to a decision before listening to all the available information and the debate.

Many of the issues that cause concern at Council relate to planning matters. Our planners and advisors provide expert advice based on what is in the Planning Scheme. Sometimes Councillors make decisions that are contrary to advice from our planners. In these instances it may be that the Planning Scheme is out of step with community expectations or there is some broader need or precedent to consider. We do value the advice we receive, but it is up to Councillors whether to accept that advice or not.

I hope these explanations assist readers to understand council processes better.

The apple harvest is now in full swing, I don't know how they do it but like all business it takes a huge effort to keep everything going and to produce first class fruit. I do wish our fruit growers and pickers a safe and bountiful harvest.

The weather has been hot with a fair bit of wind around. We still need to be on guard against fire. It must be 12 months since I had one at my place which started using an angle grinder outside. That gave me a wakeup call. I had a lucky escape!

It is worthwhile to continue taking fire safety precautions. Yesterday I checked two nap-sack fire extinguishers and made sure they are set to go. Always have one handy or a good supply of water when working outside with equipment.

Vale Rob Chaplin

Like many of you I attended Rob Chaplin's funeral at the Leisure Centre the week before last. It was a wonderful send off to a dearly loved member of our community.

Best regards to all

Tony

AG Cordy 0439 742434

Mount Alexander Shire Small Business Workshops

Mount Alexander Shire Council has partnered with the State Government – Small Business Victoria - to deliver workshops that support and encourage local small businesses.

The cost for each workshop is subsidised and is only \$20 – \$30. Business Association members who attend at least one of the upcoming workshops will receive a 50 per cent discount for business mentoring sessions with the Small Business Mentoring Service.

Mentoring sessions are also offered as part of the workshop series. These comprise of a face-to-face one hour meeting with an experienced business adviser and is offered through the Small Business Mentoring Service and is sponsored by Council and Robertson Hyetts Solicitors.

Starting Your Business Right

When: 4.30pm (for a 5.00pm start), Monday 6 March

Where: Civic Centre - Council Chambers, Enter via Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Business Planning Essentials

When: 5.30pm (for a 6.00pm start), Wednesday 19 April

Where: Civic Centre - Council Chambers, Enter via Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Effective Record Keeping

When: 5.30pm (for a 6.00pm start), Monday 1 May

Where: Civic Centre - Council Chambers, Enter via Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Marketing for Growth

When: 4.30pm (for a 5.00pm start), Monday 5 June

Where: Civic Centre - Council Chambers, Enter via Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Bookings at the Shire Home Page:

<http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/page/HomePage.aspx>

Further workshops to come:

- Develop Your Online Strategy
- Build Your Business Resilience
- Employing and Keeping the Right Staff
- Keep the Cash Flowing

For further information contact Eva Parkin, Council's Economy Development Officer, on 5471 1805 or e.parkin@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



Harcourt Uniting Church

After the celebrations of Christmas and New Year, all of a sudden we're now into autumn and soon we'll celebrate another important time in the Church year - Easter.

In the lead up to Easter, **Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day** was celebrated on Tuesday 28th February. This day was traditionally the last day to eat all the "luxury" foods in the pantry before the start of Lent. These foods included flour, eggs and dairy products. When these were mixed together they made delicious pancakes.

At Harcourt Church we will have a special Pancake morning tea on Sunday 12th March following the morning service.

On March 18th from 11am - 4pm our Church (along with Rural Australians for Refugees) is sponsoring a **Community Picnic** in the Castlemaine gardens welcoming all refugees with lunch followed by games, face painting and an animal farm.

Sunday March 19th is the date for our **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** when we give thanks for the harvest as the title suggests. In Harcourt, the apple orchardists are picking their apples at present and many home vegie gardens are producing bountiful

harvest at this time of the year. As well as fresh foods our table will be laden with non-perishables. These foods are then donated to charities in the area.

If you're shopping in Castlemaine on the 2nd or 4th Thursday in the month you might like to call in to the Castlemaine Uniting Church in Lyttleton St from 10am - noon for a **Drop in Cuppa** and a friendly chat - you could bring a friend along as well. The cuppa will be in the room at the rear of the Church building.

Vale Rob Chaplin

The Harcourt Uniting Church members were saddened by the death of Robert Chaplin better known to many as "Chappy". Rob was the oldest son of Alma and Dave Chaplin who have been active members of our congregation for many years. The Chaplin orchard, originally established by Dave, is one of the few family orchards still operating in the Harcourt area and Rob was heavily involved in the orchard industry as well as the Harcourt/Harcourt Nth community. The Harcourt Uniting Church members express their sympathy to all the Chaplin family.

Jan Jenkin



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Harcourt Bowling Club -Successful Season

PENNANT

All of the Harcourt Bowling Club teams have a place in the finals at the end of the home and away season.

Throughout the year, the pressure has been on the selectors who have done a magnificent job in ensuring that all sides are filled.

LADDER Results at round 14 are:

Weekend Pennant

Division 3 - Harcourt 18/109 def Heathcote 0/77: Steven Douglas 22/20; Leo Moloney 36/14; Gary Maddern 25/21; Phil Clarke 26/22.

Division 6 - Bendigo 4/86 Lost to Harcourt 14/116: Ron Douglas 19/32; Daryl Gale 24/27; Brian Buchanan 35/14; Ken Tribe 38/13.

Division 8 - Campbell's Creek 0/38 lost to Harcourt 14/47: Alan Harris 22/21; Heather Braid 25/17.

Midweek Pennant

Division 4 -Harcourt 16/86 def Golden Square 0/45 - Moira Straw 25/14; Kaye Grant 34/13; Heather Braid 27/18; Next Monday Division four will travel to Calivil to play Calivil/Serpentine

Division 5 - Harcourt 12/52 def Bendigo 2/46. Fairlie Harman 27/20; Joan Jenkin 25/26

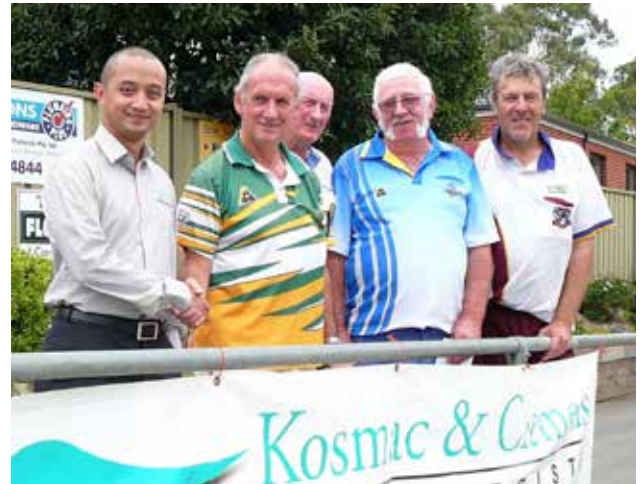
Club Tournaments and Events

Men's Annual Fours Tournament RESULTS

We were lucky that the rain held off for this popular annual event held on Sunday February 5th. The field was a strong one with players coming from Auburn (3 teams) Barham, Kyneton, Daylesford, Talbot, Castlemaine, Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat and Newstead to play in either of the two Fills consisting of one game of ten ends and two of eight ends.

The winning teams were:- Kosmac & Clemens First Fill winners John Kays' Composite team with Mark Smoljos (S) Mo Keeghan and Rod Harris; Runners Up Bernie Gallagher's Auburn(3) team with Brendan Gallagher, Peter Tangey and Bernie McKenna.

Maxi IGA 2nd Fill winners were Laurie Pritchard's Bendigo East Team with Barry Perryman, Daryl Watts and Terry Dalwood. Runners-Up were the Talbot team with Golly Grant, Jason McFadden, Paul Adcock and Peter McLoughlin



Winners of Kosmac & Clemens First fill – L-R (with Sponsor) John Kays, President John Starbuck, Mo Keeghan, Mark Smoljo – Rod Harris absent.



Winners of Maxi IGA 2nd Fill L-R Barry Perryman, Daryl Watts, (sponsor Mark), Terry Dalwood, John Starbuck (Pres), Laurie Pritchard .

Ladies' Fours Tournament RESULTS

The Club hosted a very successful Ladies Fours Tournament last Thursday 9th. Due to the impending heat the format of the day was changed to incorporate an early start and teams were offered cold drinks and watermelon at the end of each of the three 8 end games. The day concluded with a delicious lunch.

Winners on the Day were: Ditch to Ditch - Leads Sue Lawson; Seconds Liza Tangey; Thirds Therese Pollard; Skips Di Walker

Sponsor Brian Leidle of Mount Alexander Funerals presented the prizes to the winning Bendigo Team of Margaret Bennet(S) Helen Champion, Marlene Murray, Sue Lawson who were just 1 point ahead of Runners-Up Calivil team of Di-anne Walker(S) Judy Miles, Maisie Maher, Coral Maxted.

Grant Pairs Tournament RESULTS

A wet Sunday afternoon didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the Annual Grants Pairs Tournament. Despite the rain, the bowlers continued to maintain high spirits on the day. This Tournament held in memory of the late Charlie and Freda Grant is a gold letter event on the Club calendar. The winners were John Kays and Moira Straw from runners-up Rod Harris and Wendy Kays.

Sponsor's Night Round 2 RESULTS



Winners of Grant Pairs being presented with the Trophy: John Grant, Moira Straw, John Kays and Malcolm Grant.

Round two of the Sponsors Challenge was played out in perfect weather on the evening of Tuesday 21st February. Winners on the night were the Top Meats team, with the ASQ team and the combined team from Chaplin's Orchids/ Chaplin's Signs sharing second place. After this second round leaders are Top Meats on 70 followed by ASQ on 62 and Chaplin's Orchids/Signs on 60. The third and final round of this series will be on Tuesday 7th March – results will be in April edition of the Core.

Women's Drawn Pairs will be held on Thursday March 2nd – results in April edition of the Core

Men's Gough (drawn) Pairs will be held on March 9th – results in April edition of the Core

Nominated Pairs for the men and women are currently underway

Men and Women's 100-up is also underway and nearing completion.

APOLOGY

My sincere apology goes to Lisa and Stewart Jamieson for inadvertently giving them the wrong surnames in the February edition of the Core. This does not lessen the appreciation we have for all the work they did to make our Christmas function a delicious success.

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

BBQ Barefoot/Social Bowls

The fortnightly BBQ/ Barefoot Bowls nights will continue on March 14th and 28th. We start at 6.00pm with BBQ, salads and sweets, followed by a social game of bowls, people can choose whether to just bowl, just eat, or do both. Bowls can be provided and willing instructors are always at hand. Harcourt Bowling Club extends a welcoming invitation to anyone interested in attending. To assist with catering please either put your name down at the club, leave a message on 54743494 or email harcourt-bowls@outlook.com

Vale Rob Chaplin



The Board and members of the Harcourt Bowling Club are saddened by the recent death of Robert Chaplin. Affectionately known as 'Chappy', Rob was a current member of the Board and served on a number of committees throughout his many years as a Club member. Rob played in the weekend Penant Division 6 Team and was instrumental in assisting new players in the game of bowls. 'Chappy' was highly regarded by his fellow team members. We extend our condolences to Wendy and Fairlie and all of the Chaplin family.



FAMILY VIOLENCE HAS NO GOOD DAYS.

Family Violence stems from men who think they are better than women. Men who exercise control, and misuse power. And they might think it's only their wife or partner they're harming, and that their children are fine. But they're not.

In fact the violence their children are witnessing or hearing is just as damaging to them, their futures and their future relationships.

**If you need support, talk to a friend,
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or call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188.**



**RESPECT
WOMEN** **FOR OUR
CHILDREN'S
FUTURE**

Book Review: Fay Weldon 'Auto Da Fay' by Serenity Campbell

Over the past few weeks, I have spent many mornings in bed and evenings on trains reading 'Auto Da Fay' by Fay Weldon. One day, I walked into a small bookstore in Castlemaine with a desire to find an autobiography that would capture my imagination and where I would anticipate turning each page. After a quick browse, I picked up 'Auto Da Fay' and saw a quote by the Daily Mail on the front cover stating, "You can't put this terrific book down." I am glad I didn't.

'Auto Da Fay' is a gripping and honest story written by Fay Weldon about her own life from her birth and childhood in New Zealand to life in London as a lover, mother, sister and friend. Fay talks about changes throughout her life as she marries unsuitable men due to convenience or because she thought 'it was the right thing to do', becomes pregnant with her son Nicholas and eventually, after much betrayal and sadness, falls in love with Ron Weldon, the true love of her life and the man with whom she has stayed with to this day.

Throughout her story, Fay spends a significant amount of time reflecting on her relationships, whether current or past, analysing her feelings and finding reason for her actions.

Fay also talks a lot about the societal structure of the mid 1900's and the power that men had in both the workplace and at home. Fay's first-hand experience with this is interesting to read as it gives readers some sort of understanding and empathy towards challenges in her life which generations later, many of us no longer have to face.

Fay Weldon's story is simply this; a brutally honest account of life. A story about grief, discontent, loneliness, sex, happiness, motherhood, family, war, feminism, work, and love.

I highly recommend 'Auto Da Fay' to anyone who enjoys quality light reading with a hint of entertainment.

Pool Season Ends Monday March 13



Tanya Gill has been leading aqua aerobics at the Harcourt Pool on Thursday evenings during the season. This happy group plus a few more have been regular attendees. Tanya is a popular aqua aerobics instructor and runs groups of up to 40 in Bendigo. She has a weird sense of humour, for example: "You can rest tonight, when you are asleep!" The classes have been much appreciated; so if you want to join, there is one more class on Thursday 9 March at 6pm, and then you'll have to wait until next year!

Harcourt Progress Association representatives recently met with Tamara Fawcett from Mount Alexander Shire and Brodie Henderson, Director of Operations from the YMCA to discuss the success of the 2017 Pool Season.

The season across all pools has shown improvement in attendances which was noted as very pleasing. The Shire had its most recent listening post at Harcourt on Thursday 2 March. It is important for users of the pool to attend these and keep the Shire updated on news and views about the pool.

Feedback has suggested that we really need representation from regular users of the pool to attend the Community

Engagement meetings with the Shire and the YMCA. HPA would appreciate it if a couple of people stepped up for the next pool season to take this on.

The swimming lessons, aqua aerobics and pool party have again proved popular this year –but it was felt that reminders are needed about the swimming lessons as they seem to come around quickly after Christmas. The use of local people as life guards has proved a winner.

Overall our pool is in great shape and it is evident that locals and visitors enjoy the pool and its amenities.



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

8 Panton Street (PO Box 326)
Golden Square VIC 3555
Tel: (03) 5444 4125 Fax: (03) 5441 8140
maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au
@mareeedwardsmp
www.mareeedwards.com.au





The Growing Abundance Project's 2017 Harvest program is gearing up for an bountiful season. Growing Abundance is all about redistribution of surplus fruit that we have in our region.

Many properties in the Harcourt area are already registered, please consider signing up as a volunteer or fruit tree owner, and join in the harvesting of Harcourt's own rich produce.

For more info, sign up, or to subscribe to our Newsletter head to our website <http://www.growingabundance.org.au/>

We're looking forward to seeing you under the shade of a fruit tree during Harvest 2017.



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ASQ Plant of the Month

The Acer is a beautiful Japanese maple which can be grown in even the smallest of spaces. A popular choice for Bonsai, the Japanese maple has been showing off its four-season beauty around the world since the 1800's, making it a desirable tree for many. Visit ASQ Skydancers to see our established Acer and find out more about planting this enchanting tree in your garden or courtyard.



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Grow Great Fruit- Pruning Stone Fruits in Autumn

As summer starts to fade to autumn, we can start to think about 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. Some people recommend painting the pruning cuts, but we've found it preferable just to let the cuts dry naturally.

Here are our top three tips for successful fruit growing in March:

1. If you've drape netted your trees, get the nets off as soon as you've picked the fruit. The heavy nets can weigh down the growing tips of your trees, and make it harder to prune them into a good shape.
2. 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 be saving peach seeds. We usually use clingstone peaches, but any peach will do. At this stage all you need to do is save the seed

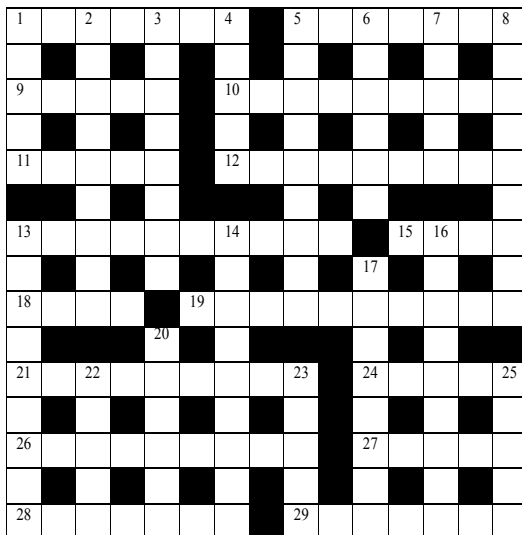
every time you eat a peach – just let the flesh rot off them (maybe store them outside while they rot). Then store the seeds in damp sand, keep them moist over winter, and they'll be ready to plant out next spring.

3. Pears are one of the few fruit to pick before they're ripe, and then ripen off the tree (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.

Hugh and Katie and Hugh Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic mixed orchard in Harcourt – their farm shop is open every Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. You can sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter to get help with looking after your fruit trees throughout the year at <https://www.mafg.com.au/>.

March 2017 Xword

©McW March '15



Down:

1. Give me a back-rub, Mother, and I'll give you a country. (5)
2. One of the flowers of English poetry—for the vain rover no more. (5,4)
3. How to lay out a family? (8)
4. Go over cheap tyre again (5)
5. My "Man Riot" is my main rot in this state... (9)
6. Cruise feline? (6)
7. Casting aside his dread, he risked it... (5)
8. Nun ardour, if put under pressure, might cause sister to give this to Mother Superior.(3-6)
13. It is cruel, Di, the way he gets a lucid rise out of you... (9)
14. Why? To beer here—why not? (3,6)
16. A cute oval decoration graces this tough vessel; this gives a clue to Ava, the chemist using it. (9)
17. New Eng. I student required by Elizabeth Taylor after a short stint of 5... (8)

20. Idle swallowing bulk of Bible to glibly describe Solomon's song? (6)
22. Novel breaker in le film is rather hazy. (5)
23. Unfashionable otter droppings for small fry. (5)
25. Tarnish 19, 21, 12 x 2 and 25. (5)

Across:

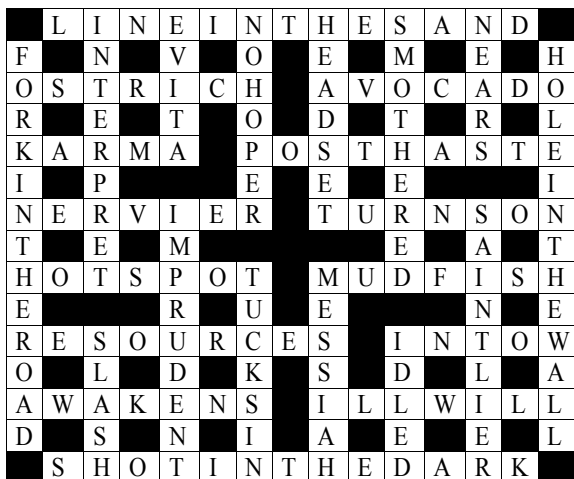
1. He plies his trade in what is (now) rural UK, but was much greater then. (7)
5. It certainly wouldn't be Hemingway who says "You're a toad, Mister!" to this performer. (7)
9. Never more a black bird... (5)
10. A lynx, a human, and the right to be hulled twice in the bay. (9)

11. They ought to give rise to an important network in Oz, they say... (5)
12. Royal couple to play around? (9)
13. Spin a Beatles' song. (10)
15. Bombs here turned into a huge escalation of WWII. (4)
18. Gave a lift on a bike in a dark cold condition? (4)
19. Best way to transport swimming pools across the Nullarbor Plain? (10)

21. Poor Joe* uncovers a trick if the budget hole is not this? (9)
(*sorry—anachronism: remember early 2015?)
24. Bags of sherry? (5)
26. A very long way, but welcome after a heavy 365... (5,4)
27. Bad creek for locals in NSW. (5)
28. Draw unsubstantial alternative to Brand X. (7)
29. Hides solarium? (7)

February 2017 Xword SOLUTION

©McW April '15



Down:

2. After [inter-] ready French I sort-of translate.
3. She adds thanks to endless evil in the Americas. (5)
4. Poor hen doesn't have a show... (2-5)
5. Speakers for a conceptual scheme? (4-3)
6. After the Pole, [S] was maternal to the point of asphyxiation... [Well?]
7. In Strine, arsenic comes close to the middle... (5)
8. Decision-time for kitchen utensil stuck in the bitumen? [Well?]
9. A finger in the dyke won't stop the flow from this outlet in the bank. [Well?]
15. Prim, shunted none-too-quietly into being rash. (9)
17. More Thomas than Thomas? [Well?]
19. At home [he's IN!], Friar eats with gusto. (5,2)
20. Some think we need one, but the shame is to have a false one... (7)
22. Hals's painting might suffer this from a vandal. (5)
23. Dark part of the psyche [Id] to the fore, it ran at less than 900 RPM. (5)

Across:

1. Form up one after the other on beach for a sticking point. Will furrow end in the snail? (4,2,3,4)
10. Wealthy [rich] drunk, [sot] discombobulated, heads into lacross, finally. (7)
11. Same colour as girls watching him ride down the street in his opulent American car. (7)
[Bowie line from "Pablo Picasso": "all the girls go the colour of an avocado, as he rides down the street in his Eldorado"]

12. Motor-Mum the sound of destiny? [Well?]
13. After [post-] the sudden alacrity comes the alacrity? [Well?]
14. More jumpy if [Religious] instruction permeates the big no-no [never...]? (7)
16. Activates offspring [son] through 90°. (5,2)
18. Take pot-shot at temperature concentration. (3,4)
20. Creature that burrows in the ooze, possibly in 18ac—humid SF indeed! (7)

21. About[re:] the origins of rivers, human ones are just humans... (9)
23. I won't be pulled, but I am! (2,3)
24. Aw... snake writhes and rouses. (7)
25. Grudge-bearing sick playwright. (3,4)
26. Photograph of Venus has to be guesswork... [Well?]



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Under 14 1/2

Under 17 1/2

Registration Dates

1st March & 8th March

6:15 to 7:30pm

at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve Bingham Rd Harcourt.

Regos will be taken up to start of season, subject to availability.



FREE REGISTRATION FOR SEASON 2017

For more information contact Harcourt Junior Football Manager, Phil Hawkes on [0437 354 230](tel:0437354230)



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Feel free to bring musical instruments,
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Federal Member for Bendigo
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Twitter: @LMchesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo



Community Diary Dates

March 8th: International Women's Day

March 9th: 7.30 pm Art Show official opening and award announcements.

March 11th: Applefest.

March 13th: Pool season ends.

March 14th: 10 am to 12 Noon, Business Women's Morning Tea, Business Mount Alexander. The Dove Café, 61 Hargraves Street, Castlemaine. Book via: <https://www.trybooking.com/OZTH>

April 1st & 2nd: Camp out on the Mount

April 2nd: 6-8.30pm, Vocal Nosh at Newstead Community Centre; Fay 0447 576 642

April 19: HPA General Meeting.

April 16: Easter Egg Hunt, Fundraiser for the Harcourt Community Playground. Botanic Gardens Castlemaine.

April 30: Bus Trip to Forrest to see the Mountain Bike Park.

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

Bowls Club Dates: See pages 18 & 19

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

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

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

Social tennis: every Thursday at 7pm. This is a social evening for mature players to have a hit and giggle, BYO own refreshment. **Further information, contact Sharon Blake: 54 742680 or Faye Hards: 54 742580.**

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



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

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-  Local cider, wine & beer
-  Harcourt Art Show
-  All day entertainment
-  Kids' Carnival
-  Pet parade, ferret races

Saturday 11th March, from 9am

Full program details and times online at:

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