

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

June 2017

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 39

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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

Over 44 Years in Primary Education
"I'd do the same again."



***Harcourt Valley Primary School Principal,
Annette Smith will retire at the end of the June. There
will be an open invitation Community Afternoon
Tea, at the school on June 27 from 4- 5pm, for
Annette. (See story page 2.)***

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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





Harcourt Valley Primary School

Annette Smith, retiring

Principal, reflects on her career

How would you like to be a new teacher in a primary school of 700 children? The thought would throw a lot of people into a cold sweat. But take a family history of teaching and a passion which began at seven years old and you have one Annette Smith braving Burwood Heights Primary School as a first year out teacher, teaching Grade 2.

"I learnt a lot, even though I was totally petrified for the first few days," said Annette. Clearly this feeling didn't last long as Annette went on to teach in a number of schools around Victoria, concluding with 23.5 years at Harcourt Valley Primary.

"The single teacher schools were a challenge. Early on I had to close two schools and both of those experiences were demanding, but also developed my skills in dealing with small communities. One of my most difficult experiences was being at Lanview Primary School on Ash Wednesday, with the sole care of seven children."

Annette began her career with a studentship at Toorak Teacher's College; this was followed by an Education Degree and an Arts Degree.

"All my training was paid for by the Education Department. I am grateful for the opportunities my job has given me. I was fortunate to be involved in leadership training for women through the department. I didn't aspire to being a principal, but the training plus the opportunities offered to me by Gary Griffin at Harcourt Valley Primary gave me confidence to take on the role."

Teaching has brought memorable moments with children. "One of the Chaplin boys decided to try being Superman and leapt out of a tree. He was badly hurt and I called the ambulance. When the ambulance arrived, it drove over the septic tank which collapsed. A tractor was called to pull the ambulance out. Sometime later at the "new" school a student was hurt and the ambulance called. When I was chatting with the driver, I discovered it was the same driver; he didn't have happy memories of North Harcourt Primary!"

"Harcourt Primary and North Harcourt Primary were in every sense traditional rural schools; we had snakes, lizards and possums in the roof. When these two schools closed it was a significant opportunity for the teachers and parents to have a say in the development of the new school. Teaching is more demanding than ever, but we have been blessed with our staff at Harcourt. I just love the energy and ideas our young teachers bring to the school. I feel that our parents are very supportive too. Our school is growing; this year we have 97 enrolments and Harcourt is ideally placed to be a hub between Castlemaine, Bendigo and Melbourne."

"What would I say to someone who is thinking of being a



primary teacher? It's a great and rewarding career; there are moments of extreme frustration and it's a lot of work. Don't do it for the money, do it for the love of it. Passion is necessary and of course you have to really like children."

"And now as I look forward to retirement and I look back on my career I can say that I would do it all again!"

Principal's Report

The school has been very busy yet again this month. Our Mother's Day breakfast was very successful with nearly all our mums turning up and some grandmothers as well. NAPLAN was on during the second week of May and I'm sure everyone was glad when it was over.

Last week, Grade 3-4 spent three great days at camp in Anglesea. They had the opportunity to visit the Maritime Museum and the Marine Studies Centre in Queenscliff as well as spend some time on the beach in Anglesea and to stroll along the waterfront at Geelong.

This week is Education Week and we have been celebrating State School Education. The theme for this is "Healthy Mind, Healthy Body". We started the week with some meditation, mindfulness and yoga to tune up ourselves for the week. On Tuesday we had a Pirate Dress Up day to celebrate the start of our Book Fair. After our parade, we had a special treasure hunt around the school and the students demonstrated exceptional pirate treasure hunting skills. On Thursday, we have a Healthy lunch day, concluding the week with Active Friday, when everyone will wear their active wear to participate in some aerobics and other physical activities.

And finally... this will be my last article for the Core as I am retiring from HVPS at the end of this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Harcourt community for their support of the school during my time as principal. I have loved working in Harcourt and it has been great to get to know so many people outside of the school as well as the wonderful school families. Harcourt is a lovely place; it has a great sense of community as well as so many other attractions and opportunities. I wish everyone in Harcourt well and also ...goodbye.



Harcourt Progress Association

Castlemaine Health *Still time to have a say*



The consultation phase of Castlemaine Health's community roundtables ends by July 13.

HPA auspiced the Castlemaine Health round table consultation in Harcourt on May 17. The discussion they are taking to the various communities around Castlemaine is about options for health services in Mount Alexander Shire.

The main site at the hospital is not easy to access or to get around. Maintenance of the existing buildings is eating up valuable funds which could be better spent on services.

Castlemaine Health has proposed three options for the future:

Option 1: Redevelop the current site. This would create a new hospital and aged care accommodation for 160 people. The main hospital building would be converted into aged care accommodation.

Option 2: Split the services between the current site and the old hospital site. This would create a new hospital and aged care accommodation for 160 people. In this option, aged care would separate from the hospital.

Option 3: Buy a new site, which we haven't yet identified. This would create a new hospital and aged care accommodation for 160 people.

There is still time to have your say by completing the on line or paper survey at:

www.engage.vic.gov.au/Castlemaine-health

If you wish to join in a conversation about this, community consultation sessions are continuing throughout June. Go to the Castlemaine Health website for dates and locations.



Planting Day, Saturday June 17th

Little Habitat Heroes planting day is on Saturday the 17th of June 2017, 9am-1pm. Open to all to participate, this ongoing initiative envisions 10 hectares of habitat regenerated on this historic site over the next few years.

This project was born by a group of new mums who met at a Mothers' Group in Castlemaine in early 2016. They shared a dream to create something unique for their babies' first birthdays and wanted to contribute to the restoration of the local environment and give their children the gift of a personal connection with nature. The plan is to regenerate a 10 hectare site of the East side of Leanganook (Mt Alexander). The inspiring mums at Little Habitat Heroes are also working with local artists, Harcourt Landcare Group and Parks Victoria to make this great community project happen for our future nature lovers.

"It's amazing what a small group of committed people can achieve", says Connecting Country Director Krista Patterson-Major. "From the start, when we were approached by the mothers' group, we could see how closely aligned the project idea was with our organisation's core objectives. We have been delighted to support the initiative, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the planting day, it will be a lot of fun."

The site was selected by Connecting Country in association with the Harcourt Valley Landcare Group. As the site was recently cleared of pine wildings it is in need of revegetation to ensure that indigenous species populate the site in the future. It has the potential to support a mix of trees that used to be endemic to the area, but which are now rare (such as banksia trees). In turn this habitat will support a range of wildlife such as wombats, koalas and woodland birds.

For many, especially the nearly-two year olds, the planting day will be their first-ever tree planting experience, and an opportunity to see a habitat emerge that will support fauna such as sugar gliders and woodland birds. The location is exciting to local ecologists too, as it is uniquely suited to trial the return of indigenous species such as the Silver Banksia which once occurred on Mt Alexander and large areas through central Victoria before the gold rush.

"Just by living their lives, our children will no doubt contribute to environmental loss, so this is a chance for us to give something back," says Little Habitat Heroes mother Meg Barnes, "The planting day will also offer a way to meet like-minded people and spend time at a gorgeous site."

Little Habitat Heroes Planting Day Details: 9am-1pm, Saturday 17 June, meet at Leanganook Picnic Ground in the Mount Alexander Regional Park. Everyone and all ages welcome. Morning tea provided, BYO picnic lunch which we'll eat together. More information visit:

www.littlehabitatheroes.org

To join the planting day or learn more, RSVP to:

littlehabitatheroes@gmail.com

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

Project Update

May 2017

Situated on a former pine plantation next to Mount Alexander Regional Park, the Harcourt mountain bike park will provide around 34 kilometres of dedicated trails with magnificent views, alongside a natural forest setting. When its fully operational, the park site will be enhanced with more native plantings and reduction in weeds.

The park is expected to inject substantial funds into the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors each year. This will provide opportunities for existing and new local businesses to thrive, generating local jobs.

Built to International Mountain Bicycling Association standards, the park will be consistent with future development plans for the Harcourt area.

We promised you world class ...



The trail design has been finalised and will provide an unforgettable experience for riders and visitors to Harcourt. The unique trail design will set apart Harcourt from other parks across the country.

The design includes access to the northern knoll and parts of the southern knoll where there are spectacular views over Harcourt Valley and across to the west, as far as the Grampians.

We have finalised design following input from neighbours, the local community, mountain bikers, Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation and environmental experts.

Project Manager, Russell Manning said all feedback has been considered and incorporated.

"This is a really excellent design and includes feedback from the Technical Reference Group, Community Reference Group, adjoining landholders and community members.

"I would like to thank everyone who gave their time and provided suggestions. We have been able to work with our contractor, Dirt Art, to arrive at a design that will give Harcourt an edge over other mountain bike parks by taking in the unique landscape and characteristics of this beautiful part of the region.

"Dirt Art has listened to all ideas and advice as part of our commitment to work with the community and stakeholders." Russell said. The final design has been submitted to Mount Alexander Shire Council as part of the planning approval process.

delwp.vic.gov.au



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

Project Update

May 2017

What's next?

On the 12 May, we submitted a planning permit application to Mount Alexander Shire Council. A planning officer is assessing the application as we work through the next steps in the planning process.

An Environment Effects referral is also in progress which DELWP officers are assessing. This step is needed when a project could potentially have significant environmental effects. A written referral is sent to the Minister for Planning asking if an Environment Effects Statement is required. We'll keep you posted on the progress.

In other news ...

- We are reviewing plans for a possible off-road path from the Harcourt township to the site
- Weed control targeting blackberry and gorse has been completed
- Maintenance work is underway on main emergency access track
- We are working with Harcourt Landcare and Picnic Gully Road residents regarding funding to remove woody weeds and revegetate the north side of Picnic Gully Road

It's all about the view

Over the past few months our project team has been capturing the stunning attributes of the site alongside Mount Alexander Regional Park. Here's just a few ...



Northern steep terrain and rocky outcrop



Harcourt Valley across to the west



View from southern knoll

We're getting there ...

June	July	Aug – Early 2018
Commonwealth and State environmental planning approvals underway	Planning approvals finalised Construction begins, weather permitting	Construction underway and completed

Keep in touch

Russell Manning is the Project Manager. You can register your interest at harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au, call us on 136 186 or check progress on delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp



Harcourt Pre-School

OPEN DAY

Wednesday 7th June, 2-3pm

As passionate Early Childhood Educators we aim to provide a program of high standards in a nurturing play-based environment

Emphasis is on fostering imaginative play using natural resources



Please come along to chat with staff and wander through our lovely kinder

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2018 are open from June 1st

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Email: harcourt.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



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HOW TO ENROL



- 1** Enrol online at www.kindercluster.ymca.org.au or
- 2** Ask your kindergarten or Ballarat YMCA for an enrolment form

KEY DATES

30 JUNE 2017

Closing date for first round enrolments

1 JULY 2017

Enrolments after this date go into second round offers

22 JULY 2017 ONWARDS

Enrolments still open



- **NO FEE PAYMENT** until March 2018
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**NEED HELP
or HAVE
QUESTIONS?**



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Email: ykcm.enrolments@ymca.org.au





CWA International Day



Each year CWA Branches appoint an International Officer whose role involves monthly talks on the country of study for that year. Members learn about the culture, dress, location, history and, of course, the food of that country. The International Officer plans a variety of activities which are always enjoyed by us all. **See above: The ladies all dressed in the colours of the Danish Flag and ready to enjoy the festivities.**

This year our International Officer is Bev Orgill and our country of study is Denmark. We all thought that Denmark would be an interesting country to learn more about and we were looking forward to our Branch International Day.



Above: Our guest speaker, Tom Comerford, entertained us with very interesting facts about the history of the Danish Royal Family.

Our International Days follow a familiar pattern. Members prepare dishes from the Study Country which are served and enjoyed by us all. Usually a guest speaker with experience in that country is invited and we appreciate his or her stories and photographs. There are often special displays such as posters or interesting objects related to the country and, of course, our International Officer gives her talk on some aspect of the country or its culture.

And this is indeed what happened a few weeks ago.

So far all was going as expected.

It was after our delicious Danish-themed lunch when we were all invited to sit back and relax and enjoy the afternoon's entertainment that alarms bells started ringing.

Now as you all know, Hans Christian Anderson was Danish, so what could be more appropriate than the performance of one of

his well-known stories, The Emperor's New Clothes.

You all know the story. A vain Emperor who loved clothes was tricked into believing that he was wearing a sumptuous new set of clothes that only he and other intelligent people could see. Now it was when the Emperor appears in public naked (supposedly wearing the new suit) that had us concerned, but as that had been left in the reliable hands of our producer and storyteller Marie Twyford to sort out, we were not really too worried. After all, this was a CWA event, nothing risqué ever happens at our events.

All went according to plan, the story line was being followed perfectly, the Emperor had been tricked into thinking that he had on a set of beautiful new clothes (when in fact he was naked), and the audience held its breath as they waited for the Emperor to appear and parade in his beautiful new clothes.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I will say no more.



The Emperor in his beautiful new suit. You are one in a million Melva Graham.

Lyn Rule Publicity Officer

Heritage Festival at Harcourt

Who was Henry Hayden BA?

Henry Hayden was the son of a Church of Ireland Rector and nephew of an Archdeacon. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and had a Bachelor of Arts. Henry emigrated to Tasmania from Ireland in 1840. He married at 30 and then moved to Portland and was the first person to conduct a public auction in Victoria. He moved to Woodlands near Sunbury and, later, to inner Melbourne. After a short spell of teaching he joined *The Age* in 1856; he was an active reporter and became close to many politicians; soon he was in the thick of party politics. He was a friend of Charles Gavan Duffy who had been an Irish member of House of Commons. Duffy migrated to Australia in 1855; he was an agitator for the Irish to be free of England and was elected to the first Legislative Assembly in Victoria. Duffy wanted to change the land system whereby land was virtually handed out to the squattocracy. The Victorian Land League was formed with a platform to allow the sale of land to ordinary people. Henry Hayden spoke for the Land League at the Land Convention held from 15 July to 6 August 1857. Henry was part of a deputation from the Land League to the Premier on the need for equal-sized electorates. He was also involved in the movement for "manhood suffrage", that is the right for the ordinary (male) person to vote for parliamentary representatives.

Henry switched careers and on the 12 December 1859 he became Headmaster at Harcourt. The school regularly had between sixty to eighty pupils. He had a hard life: he had to build his own home of wattle and daub. In 1865 he was so hard-up he had to take pupils as boarders to get more money. The pupils came from the families of new settlers and from a floating population living in tents at two construction camps- one for the railway and the other for Barkers Creek Reservoir.

Apart from leading the school, he contributed to the local community in Harcourt and Castlemaine in substantial ways. He established "Penny Readings" to support the hospital. These consisted of five or six readings and five or six songs. He would walk in and out to Castlemaine to organise and perform at these. He was instrumental in getting the Harcourt Cemetery established - the first person to be buried in the cemetery was a 9 year-old, Robert Young, with the boy's head teacher - Henry Hayden - conducting the funeral.

Hayden led public meetings in Castlemaine during the teacher's pay dispute of the 1860s. In the Victorian Parliamentary Deadlock of 1865-1867, he became the prime mover in protest meetings of upwards of one thousand people in Castlemaine's Market Building and at the Theatre Royal.

In 1870 he was dismissed by school council due to a dispute over requisites. Hayden had purchased all requisites for the school out of his own pocket. They settled the matter in 1872. It is recorded that he died suddenly in Melbourne on 14 April 1878. Henry and his wife had four

children, but they all died childless.

Harcourt was fortunate to have Henry Hayden, a democratic agitator who had a strong social conscience and yet he is not well known in Harcourt's history, there is not even a road named after him.

George Milford



George Milford shares an anecdote about Henry Hayden during the Heritage Festival at the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes

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mandchilcott@gmail.com





Lions: Youth Development Program for Trades

The Club's new office bearers have been focused on preparing a new Youth Development Program (YDP) that will involve a select number of students from the Castlemaine Secondary College. The Harcourt Lions Club is awaiting approval from the Castlemaine Secondary College for this YDP to proceed. It is hoped that the Program will commence in Term 3 with the support of the Secondary College, parents, local tradesmen and members of the community.

The YDP is aimed at supporting students between the ages of 14 – 17 yrs who are interested in a trade. The Lions Club in collaboration with the Castlemaine Secondary College will be offering a select number of students the opportunity to participate in a program that involves Community fundraising work alongside some of the District's best

The Club extends an invitation to all the readers who may be interested in supporting this Program...

tradesmen and community workers. It will provide them with the opportunity to develop their individual trade skills and their abilities to work with others. Certificates of recognition will be provided to the participants and their achievements actively promoted in the College newsletter and in the broader Community. Through developing their skills and abilities and recognising their achievements, it is hoped that the YDP will also build the students self-respect. Through their commitment to the Program they will earn the respect and admiration of their fellow students and the local tradesmen, which in turn, may lead to more formalised work experience and pre-apprenticeship opportunities for the participants.

The students, Lions Club and local tradesmen have proposed two fund raising projects for Term 3 and 4 this year. The first involves running a movie night at the Cas-

tlemaine Secondary College, using the Lions Club 8m x 8m inflatable cinema screen in the Sports Stadium. This will provide the students with the opportunity to develop their organisational, communication and leadership skills as they take on different roles and responsibilities to organise the event. Funds raised from the event will be used to assist the students to undertake construction induction training. The second project involves the students being assisted to build a high spec Cubby House that will become one of the major prizes in the Harcourt Lions Club Christmas raffle. This Cubby House will give the students the opportunity to learn framing, roofing, insulating, door and window installation, electrical cabling, switching, lighting, plumbing, plaster boarding, tiling and painting skills.

Programs of this nature require the support of many individuals and local businesses. For this reason the Club extends an invitation to all the readers who may be interested in supporting this Program, to contact the Lions Club to discuss how they may be able to help. We need more mentors for the students, more tradesmen and more material suppliers to support this Program and our secondary students. We need your help between 11am – 2pm on two Fridays a month or 9am -12 noon two Saturdays a month until December 2017.

***For more information , please contact:
Grant Victor-Gordon, Harcourt Lions Club:
0410 261 338.***

The Harcourt Lions Club has been cutting and splitting firewood for winter and will announce a 'Big Sale' in the next edition of The Core!



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CFA Remains Committed Despite Restructure

CFA Restructure

The Victorian Government has announced a restructuring of the CFA which I am sure you are well aware of. The detail and implications are unavailable at the moment as it presented to the Lower House. While there is concern and worry about what the new CFA will look like and how it operates, the most important thing to remember is that we are still committed to providing the best fire service we can to the Harcourt Community and beyond.

On May 23rd over 100 fire fighters gathered at the Castlemaine Fire Station to listen to our Chief Officer Steve Warrington address those present on what he sees how the future may look and fielded a barrage of passionate questions from concerned members.

Car Prop Returns

The car prop has returned to the Castlemaine Fire Station which will allow local brigades to once again participate in "Hot Fire" training drills. The prop simulates a car fire scenario by burning liquid gas inside a purpose built car body. The Harcourt Brigade will be taking advantage once again to hone our skills during the month of June. If you happen to be driving passed and see a glow in the sky or flames above the fence, do not be alarmed.

Turnout Activity

We have been fortunate in having a very quiet period of callouts from the end of fire restrictions leading up to winter. It would be fantastic if this can continue and your assistance in registering your burn offs, taking all precautions around and in your home and driving safely on our roads is very much appreciated. So keep up the good work, stay warm and stay safe.

Tyrone Rice
Captain

Combining Street Art With Community Safety

Castlemaine Fire Brigade in conjunction with the Mount Alexander Shire and CFA Community Safety Department have launched an innovative way to promote the importance of having working smoke alarms by unveiling an image of a burnt building on the blank wall of the tattoo shop in Forest Street Castlemaine. (*See below*) The inside of the tattoo shop was photographed inside and the images were then overlaid and treated so that it appears to be damaged by fire. The image was then mounted on the outside wall to give the appearance that the building had suffered substantial fire damage. Alongside is the important message that **ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES**. It is very realistic looking from further up the street and is a timely reminder as we enter into the winter months where there is a higher risk of house fires. When was the last time you checked your smoke alarm?





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Bowling Club - Two Grants Secured

Championship Results

Women's Nominated Pairs

The final of the women's nominated pairs took place on 4th May with Kay Francis and Judy Hall vying for the title against Heather Braid and Chris Anderson. Although Heather and Chris got an early lead Kay and Judy bowled well to take over with a healthy margin. A strong tussle between the two saw the lead change a number of times, resulting in a draw on the last end. A lucky break in the play-off saw Heather Braid and Chris Anderson take the championship title by a point. Congratulations to both teams for an exciting game. (*see below*)



A New Club Veteran

Congratulations are extended to Joan Jenkin on reaching Veteran Status. A family gathering was held at the club for her Birthday and fellow bowlers joined Joan for a celebratory afternoon tea at Sky Dancers with a cake baked by Wendy. (*see below*)



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Bowling Club - Life Membership at AGM



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd May was well attended. President John Starbuck thanked the members for showing their support to the Club.

In presenting the Annual Report Mr Starbuck congratulated members on the success of the Club both on and off the green.

He noted that many of the items in the Strategic Plan have been achieved and others in process. The priority this coming year will be to complete projects already underway and to increase the playing membership, with an emphasis on connecting with younger people interested in the game of bowls.

John thanked the many volunteers who gave of their time and expertise to the planning and organisation of improvements around the club.

Of particular note was the successful submission of two significant grants this year: the State Government Community Shade Grants Program (\$40,240) for the installation of shading around the four sides of the Green; and the Commonwealth Solar Communities Program (\$16,500) for installation of Solar Panels.

Mr Starbuck outlined the significant achievements and dedication to the Club by Ron Douglas over a long period. A motion put to the members

to grant Life membership to Ron Douglas received an overwhelming endorsement, the pin presentation will take place on the season opening day in September.

Retiring Board member and Vice President Moira Straw was thanked for her valuable input to the deliberations of the Board over a number of years. Moira will continue her involvement on the catering committee.

As there were six nominations received to fill the five Board vacancies this year, an election was held.

President John Starbuck congratulated John Grant, Russell Timmins, Joan Jenkin, Heather Braid and Kay Francis on their appointment. He also thanked Grahame Pogue for accepting a nomination and showing his willingness to support the Club.

Members were treated to a barbeque lunch and an opportunity for some social time together.

At a subsequent meeting of the new Board, nominations and votes were taken for the Board Executive positions, the results are:

President John Starbuck; Vice Presidents Chris Anderson and Russell Maltby; Treasurer Joan Jenkin; Secretary John Grant; Publicity Officer Chris Anderson.

Chris Anderson



Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

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Winter - plan for diversity in your garden

Tips from Katie Finlay of Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens

Thinking about what fruit trees to plant this year? If you're short of space, consider either a multigraft (more than one variety grafted onto the same rootstock, e.g. a Granny Smith and a Pink Lady apple). This not only provides a wider range of fruit in a compact space, but also takes care of pollination if you choose compatible varieties. The disadvantage is that one variety is often more dominant, but that can usually be managed with some detailed pruning.

Winter is also a good time to reflect on the past season, and do some planning for your garden. As a guiding principle, try to add more diversity to your garden each year—different varieties of fruit trees, different understorey plants around and near your fruit trees (e.g., herbs, vegetables or shrubs—or even just weeds!), and even different microbes in your soil. Believe it or not, biodiversity is one of our best defences against the risks we face from the weather!

How does that work, I hear you ask? Well the more varieties of fruit trees you have, the more likely you are to harvest at least something every year. A particularly wet spring, for example, may lead to disease in the stone fruit but the apples and pears will thrive! And having a diverse collection of plants in your garden (especially flowering plants, and yes—even weeds) provides good habitat to attract lots of beneficial insects that will do at least half your work of cleaning up the pests!

Adding more diversity to your collection doesn't have to mean planting more trees. It's also easy (and lots of fun) to graft new varieties onto existing trees, which is a great solution if you've run out of good places to put new trees. It's also a great way of turning a useless tree (e.g., a seedling or sucker that has come up, a cherry plum, or a huge tree that produces a glut of fruit that you can't use) into a useful tree that is earning its place in your garden.

Grafting is a late winter/early spring job, but over winter (once the trees are completely dormant), you need to collect the grafting wood—we'll have more details in next month's Core.

Hugh and Katie Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They also offer two different online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit and until June 9 are giving away the first 2 weeks of their Organic Short Course for FREE. Go to www.growgreatfruit.com for details.

For regular tips about how to look after your fruit trees, join the Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter at www.mafg.com.au, where you can also buy bare-rooted fruit trees (www.mafg.com.au/trees). Orders must be in by June 30 for pick-up from the farm on the weekend of July 8 & 9.





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ASQ Plant of the Month Tea Camelias

Tea Camellias are a spectacular evergreen which can be used for hedging or as a small ornamental tree. The fragrant white flowers open up to display a yellow centre and are complimented by the glossy leaves, which can be used to make Chinese tea! Native to Asia, Tea Camellias are grown across the globe in tropical and subtropical regions. Although this beautiful plant prefers to grow in moist conditions, they are easy to grow in Victoria with the right love and care. Visit the friendly staff at ASQ Skydancers during the month of June to pick out a Tea Camelia for your garden!



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Calling all local Gardeners Seeking expressions of interest.

OVER MELBOURNE CUP WEEK 2016 the Castlemaine and District Festival of Gardens celebrated 25 years presenting open gardens to locals and visitors alike.

We enjoyed more than 10,000 garden visits across the Shire of Mount Alexander.

THE SMALL COMMITTEE OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS has already begun to plan for the fifteenth Festival, to be held once again during Melbourne Cup Week — Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th November.

Share your garden

We are always on the lookout for new, interesting and unusual gardens.

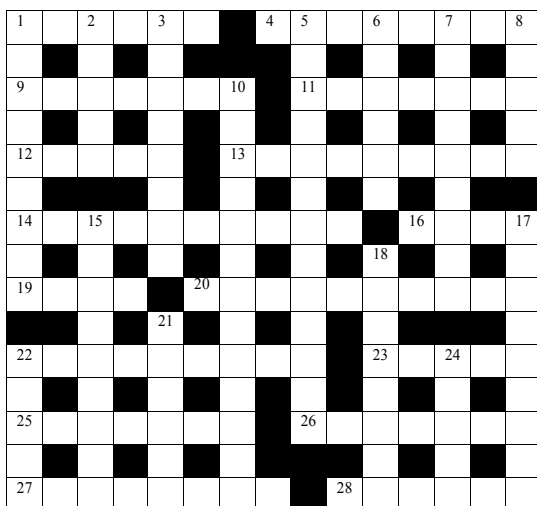


If you would like to become involved and be part of the Festival of Gardens in 2018 please contact us at:

email **terrymoloney44@hotmail.com**
or on the web **www.festivalofgardens.org**

Opening your garden is a great way to become involved in a like-minded community.

June 2017 Xword ©McW May '15



Across:

1. Interfere with digger the animal way. (6)
4. Consumer loses point but gets steak to become just another consumer... (8)
9. Sports car on twisty route could reinvent itself as a discernor par excellence. (7)
11. Eleven have the exact opposite of incidents exposing their sexuality. (7)
12. Ox with swinging offspring? (5)
13. Sick at heart, on main route from there, carrying big guns... (9)

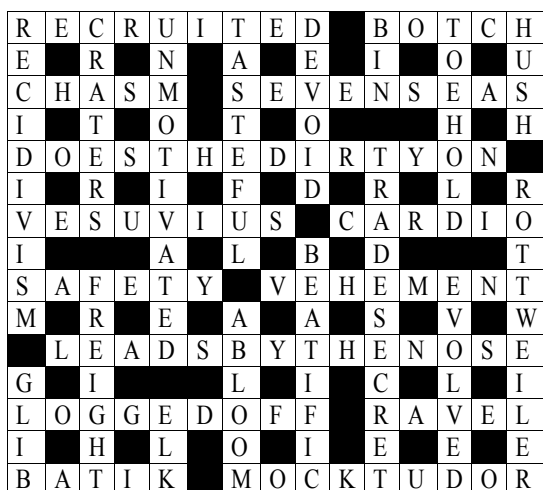
14. Crease in the middle nude? (10)
16. Cleansing drama? Hardly... (4)
19. Locus I see one hears. (4)
20. Happenstance that gangster arrives after the crash. (10)
22. What the odd-jobbing brickie artist might cobble together? (9)
23. Sound of clerk on roof. (5)
25. Gaining this on the cliff, he told nothing. (7)

Down:

1. Largest rodeo gets huge financial rewards. (4-5 or 9)
2. Chief French fly guy? (5)
3. Nary a big truck above the religious hangout. (8)
- 5 & 10. Alert new fault-finding cretin into revenue-collection and ticketing, but definitely lacking in IQ. (13,7,6)
6. Spanish insect flies back into a mess? (6)
7. Pulse of the food-Nazi parent? (5-4)
8. Crowe's old iron? (5)
10. See 5. (7,6)
15. A probable story? No way! (3,6)
17. Revise pulp: drop half the sound-deadening and whale the tripe out of it! (9)
18. Gram to be extracted and used by earl. (8)
21. Where it goes in the car as well? (2,4)
22. Blast! Tinkering with this method will even out when fabric is waxed for first ten. (5)
24. Mammalian engineering and church for two? (5)

26. Given the drum, I'm painting last three away. (7)
27. Opener's timbre of silly constables. (8)
28. The near—well, almost—armed owl. (6)

May 2017 Xword SOLUTION ©McW May '15



Across:

1. Are you texting [ru] while he recited and enrolled? (9)
6. Cadge a chapter and make a mess? [well?]
9. Chas. Manson in the abyss? (5)
10. Having seen vases he's brought back, we know where the sailor's been. (5,4)

11. Destroyed in hot reaction when he plays mean trick on his friend... (4,3,5,2)
14. Active Mediterranean smotherer [well?]
15. A hundred [C] radio waves at heart.
17. Best match out of harm's way. [well?]
19. Macho chaps [he-men] interrupt animal medico in ardent, forceful way. (8)

Down:

1. Repeat offending lands one in viscid mire. (10)
2. Stage Irish creatures in holes... [well?]
3. It moved Aunt that I moved taunt at the state of the dole-bludging youth. (11)
4. Play a fast lute with conventional aesthetic discernment. (8)
5. Defence was down and delight was out in the abyss, quite, quite lacking... (6)
6. Backward way to pen stuff one doesn't want? [nib...]
7. The vanguard of footing? [well?]
8. To quieten, you really only need the second half.... [well?]
12. Exchange covert datum for market advantage. [well?]

13. Get dog out of litter, or we might decompose! (10)
16. Outdo [beat...] (iff in charge) — blissful. (8)
18. Her gift to the fighter was just so much baggage, really. (7)
20. Darwin developed thus? [well?]
21. A Harold in flowering meadow? (6)
23. With even a little gravity, Australian Tory is still smooth and slight. (4)
25. One might shovel kangaroo-substitute off Scandinavian road after hitting it with a very large truck... (3)

22. Cajoles to comply, but should win in photo-finish... [well?]
24. I'm a lumberjack and I don't care about the laptop? [well?]
26. French one [un-] of these might undo composer. (5)
27. Blast pink pigment onto waxed fabric, oddly enough. (5)
28. Scoff at Henry for his house style. [well?]



Harcourt Valley Landcare



Bonnie Humphreys, (second from left), President of Harcourt Valley Landcare, cuts the ribbon on the new Toll Gate Park sign. The sign was designed by Trevor McKay with input from the Heritage Centre and members of the group. The group extends thanks to Les Chaplin for the production of the sign.

Barkers Creek Wetland Project

Over the past few months, work has been progressing on the Harcourt Valley Landcare wetland project. The wetland project is located on the north side of Victoria Road as you come into town from Castlemaine or the Freeway. This area frequently holds water in wet times as the creek fans out. The project aims to improve the quality of the wetland and to educate local school children about wetland ecology, catchment hydrology and water quality. The project is funded by the North Central CMA Project Grants 2016-2017. It is a valuable part of the restoration of

the 17km length of Barkers Creek and was identified in the Barkers Creek Action Plan.

The project includes installing fences to exclude live stock from the wetland area, restacking historical weed piles for burning and weed management of Blackberry, Gorse, Thistles and Spiny Rush in preparation for planting of locally sourced terrestrial and aquatic plants. The project also includes sourcing and placement of logs throughout the site to increase habitat for birds, amphibians and fish.

Harcourt Valley Landcare will work with local children from Harcourt Valley Primary School to raise awareness of the interactions between plants, animals and water bodies. The project will engage the children in activities including planting local plants, water quality testing and photo point monitoring.

Janyce McMurtrie



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JUNE WHEEL CACTUS FIELD DAY

The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group field day for June will be held on Sunday 28 starting at 10.30 am.

The morning will begin with a talk and a demonstration of cactus injecting technique for newcomers, followed by an hour or so attacking the weed itself. We will finish at about midday with a luscious free BBQ lunch, a cup of tea/coffee and a sociable chat.

Equipment will be provided for the morning. Just dress for the outdoors and don't forget a hat and stout footwear.

The location will be finalised and announced later this month on the Cactus Warriors website www.cactus-warriors.org. Alternatively, you can ring Ian Grenda on 0412 015 807.

Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

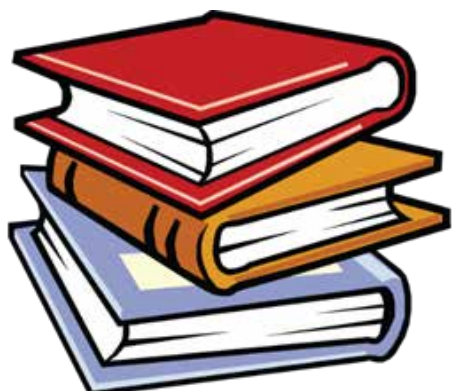
From Harcourt to Castlemaine

Route 3 Castlemaine

	Monday to Friday						
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	pm				
Market St/Calder Hwy (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25				
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26				
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27				
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:03	12:18	2:33				
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35				

From Castlemaine to Harcourt

Morning (am)/Afternoon (pm) >	am	pm	pm	
+ Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15	
+ Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18	
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23	
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24	
Market St/Calder Hwy (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25	



Harcourt's Little Library

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

*Leave a book, borrow
or take a book to keep,
on Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm.*

Community Diary Dates

June 8: 7.30pm ANA Hall, Harcourt Valley Landcare, monthly meeting.

June 17: 9am - 12pm. Little Habitat Heroes Planting Day. At the Silk Worm Farm historic site. See page 17

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

June 18: 1.30pm. Heritage Centre tour to Vaughan & Tarilta. Meet at Heritage Centre. Cost: \$5; please bring a plate of afternoon tea.

June 27: 4-5pm, Harcourt Valley Primary School. Community Afternoon Tea to mark Annette Smith's retirement.

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

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

Uniting Church: Every Sunday at 9am in

the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea and all are welcome to join us anytime.

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



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Small Grants for Community Groups through Mt ACE

Mt Alexander Community Enterprise Inc (Mt ACE) annual round of SMALL GRANTS is open mid-June.

Local eligible community groups can apply for \$500 towards their projects.

Mt ACE community group raises funds for local projects through a contribution from Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Telco. Anyone who uses these services and asks to link their accounts will help fund local projects. These companies pay a small commission to Mt

ACE for each account which means we have money to spend on local projects. The staff at Castlemaine Bendigo Bank branch can answer any queries and it doesn't cost you anything.

SMALL GRANT guidelines and easy application forms are available online at: www.communitygrants.com.au or at Bendigo Bank Castlemaine branch.

Applications close mid-July and successful groups will receive their funds at the group's Annual Report to the Community night.

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

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

news@harcourt.vic.au. Contributions of news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs. For placement of advertising please contact Genevieve Ward via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au or phone 0409 070 930.

Circulation is currently 450 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple and in Castlemaine: Run Rabbit Run, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital, Castlemaine Community Information Centre and Castlemaine Visitors' Centre plus a number of other sites.

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

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

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.



HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member based organisation which encourages active participation and contribution and conducts regular public meetings to further a variety of goals and projects. Members are able to join working groups and sub-committees and pursue specific areas of interest or initiate projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

- Support and encourage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Strengthen community connections by promoting local sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities.
- Encourage, support and acknowledge the role and contribution of volunteers within Harcourt.

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners within a 20kms radius of the Harcourt township - some exceptions apply - do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the Steering Committee. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year. Any renewals or new memberships paid in 2017 will be valid until the end of June 2018.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become or renew my membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. (please circle one). I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

☐ Financial member: full fee \$20 ☐ Financial member: concession fee \$10 ☐ Non-financial member: no charge

NAME:.....

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

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

☐ I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 Concession for Annual Membership

Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 135, HARCOURT, VIC 3453 **OR**

☐ I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151337409.

Please indicate your name and state "Membership" when paying online.

This application will be submitted for determination by the Harcourt Progress Association Steering Committee and the applicant will be advised of the outcome of their application pursuant to the Rules of the Association.