

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

July 2017

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 40

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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

Organic Alliance Receives Government Support



Maree Edwards, State Member for Bendigo West (second from left, back row) visited Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens in Harcourt on Wednesday July 5, to announce funding to support business planning for the Harcourt Organic Farming Alliance.

The Alliance is the concept of Hugh and Katie Finlay. (Katie with raised glass front row and Hugh standing behind.) The group shown includes Councillor Bronwen Machin (back row second from right), Francis McDonald from Regional Development Victoria (front row far right) and current Alliance members.

Read more on 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.



Opportunities for Organic Alliance

(from Page 1)

Hugh and Katie Finlay run an organic orchard and are setting up the Harcourt Organic Farming Alliance on their farm. Alliance members run their own small enterprise.

The funding announced by Maree Edwards on behalf of Jaala Pulford, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development is for business development planning.

"We've always looked for innovative ways to farm, and forming the Alliance is an exciting way to make the farm as productive and profitable as possible, while giving emerging organic farmers a way to get started," Hugh said.

So far the Alliance includes the orchard, a market garden and a micro-dairy. New Alliance members are Gilles Lapalus and Shaun Byrne, creators of Maidenii the main product of which is vermouth.

Maree Edwards said, "We are proud that the \$9,082 planning grant from Food Source Victoria will be an investment in our world-class growers right here in Harcourt."

Hugh said, "As far as we know this hasn't been done before. We're delighted that the Victorian government is backing the idea with a grant from Regional Development Victoria to fund a Business Development Plan. We'll use this phase to investigate co-marketing opportunities, new products, and how we can share resources to keep the cost of farming as low as possible."

Among the potential opportunities available in the Alliance is that Hugh and Katie are seeking the right person to lease their 5-hectare orchard.

"We see so many young and emerging farmers who want to start their own businesses, but face barriers with land prices. We're looking for the right person with drive, ambition and desire to run their own business, as well as experience in orchards or organics to join the Alliance," Hugh concluded.

Hugh and Katie have set up a web page with more information: www.growgreatfruit.com/expression-of-interest.



Harcourt Progress Association- 19th July

Join us on Wednesday 19th July at the Goldfields Track Café for a public meeting to consider the future of the Harcourt Community Playground.

We will be joined by guest speakers from POLLEN STUDIO, landscape designers who work in public and community spaces, examining what is possible and what has worked for other communities.

Come and provide thoughts, input and ideas into what you would like to see at a new community playground.

Meals and refreshments available from 7 pm. Meeting commences at 7.30 pm.

Bookings for dinner essential: email donna@gt-cafe.com.au

"Sarah's Search - A Silk Odyssey" ***Harcourt Woman's Story Revealed***

For many years Castlemaine's Ian Braybrook and Marilyn Bennet have been researching the story of Sarah Bladen Neill. It is a fascinating story, soon to be told in a new book.

In the latter half of the 19th century Mrs Neill built a silk farm on Mount Alexander, the ruins of which remain largely intact. It was a part of her grand plan to establish a flourishing silk industry in Australia.

Mrs Neill was ahead of her time and had a vision that others unfortunately failed to see. An opportunity was lost.

Sarah Neill's story is of a strong willed, determined and innovative person who showed great strength and resilience.

Titled "Sarah's Search-A Silk Odyssey", the book will reveal a story never before fully or properly told and Mount Alexander is a vital part of its foundation.

Most people will be very surprised and impressed when they read Mrs Neill's story. She holds a unique place in Australia's history.

"Sarah's Search - A Silk Odyssey" will be launched at the Heritage Centre at 1 pm on the 4th August.

Further information:

Ian or Marilyn on 0409 333 513

Little Habitat Heroes Planting a Huge Success



Three big cheers for the Little Habitat Heroes!

The following article was posted on 19 June, 2017 on the Connecting Country Website by Naomi.

A friendly and enthusiastic crowd of nearly 100 big and little habitat heroes came together on Saturday the 17th of June 2017. In perfect weather, we planted, guarded and watered-in 900 indigenous understorey plants at the former silkworm farm on Mount Alexander. Little Habitat Heroes exemplifies what Connecting Country is all about – bringing the community and nature conservation together.

Just over a year ago an group of new mums approached Connecting Country with their idea for a novel and meaningful way to mark their babies first birthday; they wanted to raise funds for a community planting to restore habitat. Connecting Country was thrilled to partner with these capable women as they successfully outstripped their fundraising target and worked hard with us over the following twelve months to see the planting day to fruition.

Fuelled by a scrumptious morning tea and lots of goodwill, the crowd of volunteers put in a great ef-

fort which will create amazing habitat on Mt Alexander into the future. It was an honour for Connecting Country staff to be involved and a thrill to look over what we achieved together at the end of the day.

We congratulate and thank all involved – with a massive well done! Special thanks also to our partner organisations including Harcourt Valley Landcare, Barkers Creek Landcare B-Team, VicRoads, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria, and all of the generous donors and volunteers.

We look forward to seeing what projects our amazing community comes up with next and to continuing to work together to restore habitat across our shire.



The new plantings at the former silk worm site on Mount Alexander.

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New Principal for Harcourt Valley

After 17 years as Principal of Harcourt Valley Primary School, Mrs Annette Smith will retire at the end of June. Mr Andrew Blake—a Mount Alexander local—has been appointed to the position.

Mrs Smith is known for her dedication and efforts to make our school one of the most well-regarded in the area. She's had a hand in the education of many locals, having been principal for 17 years and in other roles at the school for 6 years prior to that. To celebrate her time, the Harcourt community gathered for a send-off on June 27, where she received a parting gift and warm wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Mr Andrew Blake will take on the role from Term 3, beginning in July. He's been a Principal for 6 years—both at Gunbower Primary School and, most recently, as Acting Principal of Darraweit Guim Primary School. Mr Blake introduced himself to Harcourt students, staff and the parent community at a special Harcourt Valley school assembly in June.

School Council Vice President Veronica Budnikas has expressed her delight at the appointment and emphasised her gratitude to the selection panel for their hard work and professionalism. On behalf of the entire council, she extended a warm welcome to Mr Blake and a huge thank you to Mrs Smith.

Spirits are high around the school, as people wait to see how a change in leadership might take things in new and exciting directions.

School Council, Harcourt Valley Primary



On June 27, at the conclusion of the afternoon's activities to celebrate Annette Smith's retirement as Principal of Harcourt Valley Primary School, Annette was presented with a number of gifts including the flowers shown below right.

The day was a huge success with students, staff and community members, both past and present, joining to celebrate with Annette her successful and long career.



LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

*In winter it's cold and it freezes.
We get runny noses and sneezes.
My voice goes all hoarse
But it's winter of course
And Jack Frost does his stuff as he pleases.*

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

Project Update

June 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.

In a spin over funding – in a good way

The Victorian Government has committed a total \$1.99 million to fund the Harcourt mountain bike park.



Minister for Regional Development, Jaala Pulford, was joined by Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards under the stunning canopy of the Oaks Forest for the funding announcement last month.

Minister Pulford said the project is expected to stimulate private sector investment in bike related services and the hospitality sector. “As visitation to the area increases along with demand for accommodation, new businesses will be established in the area to service the growing market.”

The extra \$990,000 and the initial \$1 million commitment is from Regional Development Victoria’s *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund*.

Annual visitor spending is expected to reach \$2.4 million in 2018 and up to \$9.8 million after five years.



Adjoining landholders and locals at the announcement



Minister Pulford with media and Maree Edwards MP

delwp.vic.gov.au



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



War declared on woody weeds

The north section of Picnic Gully Road is soon to become a battlefield! DELWP, Landcare and residents have joined forces to remove woody weeds and revegetate the area. The Harcourt North Landcare Group was successful in receiving a grant from DELWP and you can expect to see woody weed removal commencing soon in preparation for planting of 2,000 native plants in September.

How's the planning permit tracking?

Two submissions have been received about the planning permit application. DELWP will meet with the submitters to resolve any issues before the application is put to the Mount Alexander Shire Council meeting on 18 July. The submissions are now part of the public process and can be inspected at the council offices in Castlemaine.

DELWP has submitted an environment effects referral to the Minister for Planning to decide if an Environment Effects Statement is required. We are also working with the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation to finalise a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

In other news ...

- Plans are progressing for the **off-road path** from the Harcourt township to the site
- **Weed control** targeting blackberry and gorse has been completed
- Maintenance work underway on main emergency access track including mulching and tidying the trail head at the top of Picnic Gully Road
- Mount Alexander Shire Council is following up with VicRoads to ensure **Market Street** is reduced to **80 kilometres per hour** including a considerable distance along Reservoir Road. Currently there are painted 80 kph signs are on the bitumen in preparation for approval and sign installation. This process will take some time but will occur prior to the bike park opening.
- **Dirt Art** has had a tremendous response from locals wanting to join their **construction team** which is great for local employment.
- Dirt Art is seeking a **house to rent** during the construction period, please contact Simon or Luke on 1300 TRAILS (1300 872 457) or info@dirtart.com.au if you know of any opportunities

Timeline

July 2017	August – early 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning approvals finalised• Construction begins weather permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction underway and completed

“Hello Russell”

Join Russell Manning our Project Manager at the Harcourt ANA Hall on **Wednesday 5th July and 12 July between 1pm-4 pm** to find out more about the project. You can also register your interest at harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au, call 136 186 or check progress on delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp



Harcourt Lions - Big Winter Wood Sale!

The Harcourt Lions Club has cut and split several metres of red gum and yellow box for the winter with the assistance of Brian Nunn Earthmoving. We are grateful that Brian has very generously donated his time and machinery to help the Club cut the larger pieces of timber so it can then be split. We sincerely appreciate Brian's commitment to our community. So if anyone is looking for an experienced, competitively priced, local earthworks operator to help with any job large or small, then please give Brian a call on 0409 834 449.

The Lions club will be donating some of the firewood to local pensioners in need. The Club will also be selling the rest of the firewood to help cover the donation costs as well as the fuel and equipment servicing. So if anyone is interested in supporting their local Lions Club by purchasing some firewood, then please call Gary Selwood on 0400 156 660. The price is \$120 per metre.

Can you help Lion's fundraising?

The Lions Club continues to seek new members to help

with funding raising activities to support the Harcourt Community. The Club meets once a month on a Friday evening and is very family orientated. It currently has 16 members with six or more children/grandchildren regularly attending. Members and guests are encouraged to bring their children/grandchildren along and enjoy a shared meal, a few drinks and some great company. After our meal the children play for another hour or so whilst we conduct a very informal meeting to plan forthcoming activities. So if you are interested in learning more about the Club, please contact the Club Secretary, Sue Nash on 0418 372 336 and make arrangements with Sue to come along one Friday.

Marquees for Hire

Finally, The Harcourt Lions Club in conjunction with Castlemaine Rotary Club has two 6m x 9m white Marquees for hire at a cost of \$350 each. They are ideal for weddings, birthdays or other outdoor events for big groups that may be affected by the weather. The hire includes the set up and removal of the Marquees which makes it very competitive. The Marquees are perfect for any outdoor special event and provide the hirers with the option of having sides on or off, depending upon the weather. Bookings are essential and can be made via the Castlemaine Rotary Club or the Harcourt Lions Club secretary Sue Nash on 0418 372 336.

Grant Victor-Gordon

Left: A Lion's member saws up a log, previously cut into a manageable size by Brian Nunn.

Below left: One of the marquees available for hire.



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Harvest 2017 - *It's a wrap!*

Growing Abundance is all about local food and using it wisely to reduce waste and food miles. The Harvest program collects fruit from productive fruit trees which often goes unharvested and wasted. During the harvest season (December to June) The Harvest Project gathers excess fruit from backyards, wild trees and local commercial orchards that would otherwise go to waste. In exchange for the fruit that is harvested, volunteers return in winter and prune the trees as well as removing rotten or damaged fruit.

The following is taken from the Growing Abundance website:

The Harvest kicked off this season with cherries in December and has taken us right through to when the trees have lost all of their leaves and the ground is crisp with morning dew. Thanks to our local fruit tree owners and to Thompson's Apple Orchard we've had weekly hauls of high quality produce; delicious pears, plums, grapes, peaches, figs, feijoas, dutch medlars and an inundation of olives.

This season we have saved and redistributed in excess of 3 tonnes of fruit! Yeah!!

Harvest 2017 has been entirely volunteer run! Over 70 registered volunteers turned up and made picking and gleaning lots of fun. Also thanks to our community contacts who pick up the fruit and nourish those who need it. This year this was Salvation Army, Meeting Place, Community Lunch, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, local schools and of course to our own

Canteens program and The Local Café.

To keep Harvest fulfilling this community project, we need funding! If you know of any philanthropists, organisations or companies wanting to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities we would love to hear from them ahead of the 2018 season.

We are now turning our attention to pruning our registered backyard trees to keep them healthy and productive. If you have some pruning skills and want to get some practice, get in touch:

grow@growingabundance.org.au.

Follow us on Instagram @thefruitcollectors or on Facebook

More info: grow@growingabundance.org.au

(taken from the Growing Abundance website)



Thanks to Thompson's Orchards of Harcourt



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Business Update - Enviro Shop Powering Ahead



Frank Forster is a man who has found his calling! He moved to the shire with his wife Angie nearly 14 years ago with a view to living a more sustainable lifestyle. They revegetated their 21 acre property in Walmer (halfway between Harcourt and Maldon) and became involved with both the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group and the Muckleford Landcare group.

Natural business people, Frank and Angie established and operated the She Sells Seafood shop in Castlemaine for 10 years and became interested in where the fish came from to make sure they were selling sustainable seafood to his customers. In 2013 Frank sold the business, set foot on his dream of walking the Camino de Santiago, before returning to apply his intellect to a new venture.

The EnviroShop in Newstead is part of the EnviroGroup in Northcote and designs and installs residential and commercial solar systems, for grid connect, hybrid and completely stand-alone operations. They sell energy efficient hot water systems – both solar and heat pump – and all sorts of insulation for ceilings, walls and under floor. Whilst the EnviroShop in Northcote is more retail-based with products ranging from environmentally friendly nappies, cleaning



solar power | battery storage | hot water |
insulation | eco lighting | paints and oils |
eco products for house and garden

49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues-Sat from 10am
t: 5472 4160 e: newstead@enviroshop.com.au
www.enviroshop.com.au

products and food packaging, the Newstead EnviroShop is geared towards supporting people's home builds and renovations by consulting and advising on energy saving systems as well as selling products such as environmentally friendly paints, oil sealers and lighting.

The EnviroShop prides itself on value and service as they assess the customers' needs and configure systems to suit their current and future lifestyle needs. They supply high quality panels, inverters and batteries which factor in lifespan and performance. Frank's colleague Nick, a qualified carpenter, brings expertise from the building trade when on-site advising customers in their renovations/building projects.

Frank particularly enjoys the people focus of his job which includes visiting peoples' properties, gaining an understanding of their energy needs and supporting them in their eco-efforts! He keeps abreast of global trends in energy efficient systems and says, "The technology with solar battery storage is moving so rapidly that it can be challenging to keep up with the complex integration of the systems". Frank says that people like the idea of battery storage but at present it's an expensive add-on and doesn't always make economic sense. However, he is firmly of the view that, "battery storage (and electric vehicles) will shape the landscape in due course". So, watch this space!



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Councillor Comment



I hope everyone is keeping warm and dry. It was great to receive the rain in the last few days. (Farmers never complain about the rain!)

Council has been busy with the adoption of the 2017/18 budget and the four year plan. The plan is a really good read and I must congratulate Council staff on its development. The plan is based on three pillars: Our People, Our Place and Our Economy.

With regards to the budget some of you will be aware that two of our Councillors voted against the budget. To me, this demonstrates how difficult it is to get total agreement among the Council. I can assure you all there is significant robust debate on many issues.

Please be assured I continue to work very hard for all residents of our shire.

Of particular relevance to the Harcourt Community, it should be noted that the Council Plan includes the completion of the framework for the growth of Harcourt.

Another important item in the plan is the review of the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme. There are significant challenges relating to farm zone properties surrounding our small rural towns and the many smaller properties that may not be viable for traditional farming, but may be suitable for a lifestyle property.

Best regards to all, Tony
AG Cordy

Free Exhibition of Amazing Local Art

Works from 95 local artists are on display at the recently opened Market Art Winter Exhibition in the historic Market Building in Mostyn Street.

The exhibition includes paintings, sculpture, jewellery, glassware, prints, photography, textiles and more. Artworks start from \$15.

The exhibition is on until Sunday 3 September.

The Market Building is located at 44 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine and is open every day from 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Learn how to Boost Your Business Online - 17 July

If you are looking to grow your small business and find new customers make sure you sign up for the next small business workshop held in Castlemaine in July.

Workshop participants will learn how to develop a digital strategy, understand how to get the best ranking on search engines like Google and achieve their business goals.

“Making the most of social media and optimising search engines can make a massive difference to the reach of your business,” said Eva Parkin, Economic Development Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

“Business operators know they need a professional online presence. However, with so many things to do day-to-day, this important job can often get overlooked,” she said.

“The 3.5 hour session is designed to help business operators get this work underway. “We ran this workshop last year and received fantastic feedback.

“If you’re thinking about coming along book your place soon as spaces are limited.”

The workshop is led by Loren Bartley, a social media strategist, trainer, coach and podcaster. Loren is passionate about educating businesses on how to use social media and automated marketing to help achieve business goals.

Workshop details

What: Advanced Digital Strategies for Your Business

When: 5.00pm to 8.30pm on Monday 17 July

Where: Council Chambers at the Civic Centre on the corner of Lyttleton and Lloyd streets, Castlemaine

Cost: \$30

To book your place or learn more visit the Business resources section of Council’s website

www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Business_resources or phone Eva Parkin on 5471 1805.

Council’s small business workshops are delivered in partnership with Small Business Victoria.



*From a Council
Press Release*



Wetland Project Unites Primary School and local Landcare



In late 2016, Harcourt Valley Landcare successfully obtained funding from the North Central Catchment Management Authority to assist with improving the quality of the wetland situated east of the large freeway roundabout. The project also aims to educate local primary school children about wetland ecology, hydrology and water quality.

Activities have begun which have involved Grades 3 to 6 in testing turbidity, PH and salinity of the water. On 20th June students used a hydrometer to test salinity, (the water has high salt levels). They also tested the PH of the creek which was found to be excellent. Turbidity testing was done by pouring water into a very large test tube to see if it was possible to see the pattern on the bottom. The turbidity of the water was excellent.

Using project funding, Harcourt Valley Landcare has employed an Environmental Educator, Nicole Howie who is taking the sessions with the school children. Janyce McMurtrie is also employed to oversee the venture and has organised weed spraying and removal and the installation of fencing to keep stock from straying into the wetland.

It is expected that photo point monitoring for wildlife activity will be set up soon.

The students have two more sessions in the near future.

Planting will take place on 29th August and will involve Prep to Grade 6 and potentially many Landcare helpers.

Harcourt Valley Landcare along with Harcourt North Sedgwick Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare established the Barkers Creek Action Plan several years ago. The current project makes a significant contribution to the restoration of this section of the creek.



Students from Harcourt Valley Primary School test the salinity of the water in Barker's Creek (above). The equipment for the turbidity test is shown below.





Harcourt CWA - Winter Warmers

I'm in Tasmania for seven weeks, thoroughly enjoying all this beautiful state has to offer but missing out on all the CWA activity back home, so this month I thought I might take the opportunity to warm the cockles of your heart, or better still, stomach, and post a couple of CWA Winter Favourites.

You can't beat a good soup, this is a beaut.

- First the stock: you will need beef bones, a smoked hock, and a few chorizo sausages to add a bit of spice, plus a bay leaf or two.
- Bring bones and sausages to boil and simmer for two hours. Then strain and cool. Remove any fat. Remove meat from bones and chop up sausages.
- Now the vegetables: these can be whatever takes your fancy. I like to add onions, carrots, celery, parsnips, and sweet potato and a cup of soup mix beans.
- Put reserved meat from bones, sausages, vegetables and beans in stock, add whatever herbs you fancy, cumin and coriander are good, simmer for an hour and Bob's your Uncle.

Other than soup, nothing beats a really good pudding, with lashings of cream.

And who doesn't like chocolate? So I have added a self-saucing pudding, a must to brighten any cold winter evening.

Ingredients:

- 1 / 2 cup castor sugar
- 60g butter
- 1 egg
- 1 / 2 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 / 2 cup milk
- 2 dessert spoons cocoa
- 1 cup self raising flour

Method:

- Mix all ingredients together and pour batter into a greased casserole dish.
- For the sauce, mix 1/2 cup of castor sugar and 2 dessert spoons of cocoa together.
- Sprinkle sugar and cocoa over the top of batter.
- Very slowly, pour 1 1 / 2 cups of hot water over the top.
- Bake in a moderate oven for 35 - 40 minutes.
- Serve with cream, lots of cream.

Well, Mount Wellington is covered with snow, soup is simmering on the stove, and a chocolate pudding is in the oven.

How I love winter!

Lyn Rule, Publicity Officer



Be Quick! Small Grants for Community Groups Close Soon

Mt Alexander Community Enterprise Inc (Mt ACE) annual round of SMALL GRANTS opened in mid-June and will close mid-July. Local eligible community groups can apply for \$500 towards their projects.

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

Successful groups will receive their funds at the group's Annual Report to the Community night.



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The Kelly Women Narratives

Arts Space, Wodonga 5th to 26th August



It's only a month to go until Harcourt artist, Janet Goodchild-Cuffley's series of paintings of the Kelly Women goes on show at Arts Space Wodonga.

Janet says of the above painting: "This is one of the paintings from my upcoming exhibition, "Furious Riding: The Kelly Women Narratives", to be held at Arts Space Wodonga from 5th to 26th August, 2017. The painting is titled "The Marriage of Ellen and Red". They were married in Melbourne in November 1850, amid great celebration following the declaration of a separate Colony of Victoria. (Did they elope? Note that Ellen's hand is protectively cradling her belly.)"

Ellen and Red were the parents of Ned Kelly

who became one of Australia's most notorious outlaws. When I visited Janet over 3 years ago, she was busy producing the first paintings of the series. Janet's research has been extensive. Evidence of this was a large timber table completely covered by reference books, stacked up to six layers high.

Most Australians know the basic story of Ned Kelly. But how many know and understand what the women in the Kelly family went through? Janet's research has uncovered stories of struggle, triumph and suffering.

For an insightful and unique interpretation of the lives of the Kelly women, a visit to Arts Space in Wodonga will be well worthwhile.

Note: The Arts Space gallery is not open on Sundays.



CFA - New road law to protect emergency workers

New Road Rule Information

From 1 July 2017, a new road rule commences to improve safety for emergency service responders and law enforcement officers. Brigade members and our Facebook page have had inquiries and questions in regard to the new rule. The following excerpts have been taken from the Vic Roads Webpage which I hope will clarify the issue for you.

Why is the new rule being introduced?

Incidents on our roads place first responders and others involved at a high risk of being struck by passing vehicles or debris. The new rule means improved safety for emergency and enforcement workers who are performing work on the road or roadside, as well as others who are present at the scene.

What is the new rule?

Motorists must slow down to a speed that would enable them to stop safely if necessary when approaching and passing enforcement, emergency or escort vehicles that are stationary or moving slowly (less than 10km/h) and have either:

- red and blue flashing lights
- magenta (purple) flashing lights – Transport Safety Services
- an alarm sounding

You must not exceed 40km/h when passing the vehicle and not increase your speed until a safe distance from the scene.

*A fire truck extinguishing roadside spot fires is an example of a slow-moving emergency vehicle.

What type of emergency or enforcement vehicles are covered by the new rule?

- Police vehicles
- Ambulance Victoria vehicles
- Metropolitan Fire Brigade vehicles
- Country Fire Authority vehicles
- State Emergency Service vehicles

VicRoads Transport Safety Service vehicles displaying magenta (purple) flashing lights

Why are other special purpose vehicles with different coloured lights not covered?

The new rule has been kept to emergency and enforcement vehicles to avoid confusion. Limiting the rule to vehicles with blue and red, or magenta

flashing lights makes it easier to understand and comply with the new rule's requirements. The rule is consistent with existing road rules 78 and 79 that require drivers to move out of the way of an emergency or enforcement vehicle with flashing lights or sounding an alarm. The rule does not apply to vehicles with yellow flashing lights as these lights are present on a wide range of vehicles performing diverse tasks.

Can I be fined for not obeying the new road rule?

Yes, you can be fined. The infringement penalty for breaching the new road rule is 1.75 penalty units (currently \$272.05), with the maximum court penalty of 5 penalty units (\$777.30). No demerit points will apply.

Don't motorists already slow down if they see an emergency vehicle ahead?

We know that most people already slow down when they see an emergency vehicle ahead with red and blue flashing lights, or their alarm sounding. The new rule establishes a required standard for safe behaviour and further ensures emergency workers can get on with their important work without being worried about being struck by a passing vehicle or debris. The rule has been designed to provide maximum safety benefits to emergency and enforcement workers while keeping it simple for the Victorian community to understand. The new 40km/h limit is the maximum speed at which pedestrians are likely to survive vehicle impact.

How common are incidents involving emergency and enforcement vehicles, or workers?

Near misses are common. A recent survey of more than 1,600 emergency service and enforcement workers revealed that in the past three years:

- 17% had a 'near miss' involving a passing vehicle on four or more occasions
- 3% had been injured while evading a passing vehicle.
- 8% had their vehicle struck by a passing vehicle.
- 23% of those involved in an incident had consequential mental health issues.

Is the new rule consistent with other safety speed restrictions?

Yes, the new rule is consistent with existing speed restrictions through school zones, work zones and environments with vulnerable and unprotected road users.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Take care on our roads and keep an eye out for us when we are out and about serving our community.

Tyrone Rice, Brigade Community Education Coordinator



Heritage Centre *Researching your home's history*

If only the walls could talk! Researching your property will uncover hidden stories which may assist with planning for renovations or impressing friends over dinner. It can also explain why that light switch seems to be in the wrong place. Does your home have a name? Do you know when it was built? Who has lived in the house? (ask the eldest neighbours). What stories have you heard about your house? Are there historic photographs of the house?

Harcourt Heritage Centre offers a wealth of resources to assist in answering many of the above questions. The Hedley James collection at the ANA Hall contains many of Hedley's collection of black and white photos of Harcourt houses as well as title plans, newspaper reports, family history files, probate inventories and some books of tips to guide researchers. Fully one third of all enquiries at the Heritage Centre are concerned with tracing a home's history.

On Sunday 23rd July, the Heritage committee is hosting an afternoon fireside talk during which the resources for researching a home's history will be demonstrated with some very interesting examples from our collection. Digitised files of photographs and, in some cases, even the building plans and costs, will be able to be searched. Useful websites will be identified and checklists for researchers will be available.

There is a proven connection between the amount of detail...the story... and the value of a house. The more of the story that can be told, the higher the value. Come along to the Heritage Centre at 1.30 pm on 23rd July. There you will find a cosy fire, a warm welcome, lots of interesting stuff and afternoon tea will be provided.

George Milford



Companionship and Health Benefits for Harcourt Walkers

Castlemaine District Community Health's annual consumer feedback surveys found pleasing results for the Harcourt Walking Group. 100% of the respondents agreed that the program definitely supported them to be both physically and socially active.

The main health motives for attending the Harcourt Walking Group are improved heart health, and to help lose or maintain weight. One person wrote that they would rather walk than see the scales walking up. Other benefits of participating in this group included assisted confidence to be active, strength and flexibility, aerobic ability, and increased ability to undertake daily activities. But when the survey asked respondents to name their favourite thing about the group, companionship was the overwhelming response.

The group meets at 9.30 am on Monday and Thursday mornings at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum. There is no cost for the walk, but a \$1 donation is collected for the cuppa after the walk. Bookings are not required, just turn up ready to walk.

For further information phone Castlemaine District Community Health on 5479 1000.





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Transport in China - *from basic to world-class*

Here in Harcourt when we need to do our shopping or get to work or school, most of us travel by car and possibly by train or bus. Some of us might ride a bicycle or motorbike. Our population is small and transport choices are limited. How then, do the people of China, a nation of 1.3 billion people, get about on their daily business?

On a recent trip to China, I was amazed at the variety of transport. Of course in the big cities (a number of which have more people than the entire population of Australia) people use cars, buses and the train system. Having always thought the bicycle was the predominant mode of transport in China, I was surprised to see thousands of electric motorcycles. These have been introduced to reduce pollution. Silent and speedy they thronged every road in every town. Bicycles are also readily available at the touch of a smart phone. There are many tiny cars, some of which are three wheeled and human powered tricycles are common.

In China the alternative to the aeroplane is the bullet train. These travel smoothly and reach speeds of over 300 kmph. New lines for bullet trains are being built all over remote areas of China. The Maglev train in Shanghai, the fastest train in the world, runs at over 400 kmph.

My impression of China is of a nation constantly on the move and doing so successfully, but the skies were not clean in any of the big cities, and traffic was extremely heavy. In Harcourt we simply look forward one day to the train stopping at our station. As individual consumers our transport choices affect the environment. Should we be using our local bus service more? On a bigger scale, as a nation we need to consider cleaner technology and learn from the experience of other countries - so where to for us in our transport choices for the future?

Robyn Miller



Bicycles for hire in Beijing.



Taken from the middle of a bullet train looking towards the front. The back view was the same; the train was so long it was difficult to see either end.



A typical three wheeled car.

Pedal power!



Creative solutions.



Harcourt Carpet Bowls

Close Competition

The Harcourt Carpet Bowls competition is now in its fifth week. After round five the ladder stands at New Breed, Top Hats, Heroes and Maine Four. The last round played ended with New Breed 20 def. Top Hats 15. Heroes 13 drew with Maine Four 13. The number of players is slightly down this year but we are managing to play with four teams of 3 or 4 depending on the numbers attending on the night. We certainly could do with an increase in players as we have a few grey nomads who like to get away for the colder months leaving us a bit short. (But good on them; we wish them safe travels!) Those attending are having a great social time and enjoying the competition as well.

This year on the 19th July we are joining with Castlemaine Carpet Bowls Association for a social evening of carpet bowls and competitions to be held at the Castlemaine Bowling Club at 7 pm so we will not be at the Leisure Centre that night.

If you have been thinking perhaps you would like to give Carpet Bowls a try by all means come along on Wednesday nights to the Harcourt District Leisure Centre (the hall is heated) for a 7.30 pm start, finishing around 9.00 pm; you will be made most welcome. All ages from 8 years old upwards can play. New bowlers can have a game to get the hang of it and then make a decision if they would like to continue. The cost is not great: it is \$6.00 to be registered and \$5.00 per night to play. The fees cover insurance, hall hire and end of year wind-up dinner and trophies. So come along and give it a go, no pressure, you will be made very welcome.

Contact - Tyrone 5474 2126 or John - 5474 2226



Bowling Club

Although winter is upon us and our Green is in hibernation, there is still plenty of activity at the Bowling Club.

Friday social nights are still in operation with the members' draw and raffles to be won. Our heating is used to full effect so that the clubhouse is nice and toasty. A warm welcome is extended to members and visitors alike.

During winter we take the time to prepare programs for the new Season, catch up on maintenance issues and complete any unfinished projects from the last Season.

Current projects underway are:

- relocation of the equipment Shed and construction of ramp onto the green;
- repainting and refurbishment of seating around the green;
- installation of solar panels;
- construction of a new fence on the south western side of building,
- and installation of shading around the green.

There are many other 'jobs' that the Harcourt Bowling Club relies on our volunteers for, we are lucky to have such dedicated members to take on these tasks. So a BIG thank you to all of our volunteers!

Christine Anderson, Publicity Officer

Book Review: "Harley Loco" by Rayya Elias

I have recently finished reading 'Harley Loco' by Rayya Elias. I picked up this book at my local library after scanning the autobiographies aisle for quite some time. A few pages in, I realized that this book was quite different to the last one I read, with blunt street slang permeating the pages. However, there was just something about it that kept me reading

Harley Loco is a raw tale written by Rayya about her own life and her descent from being a child in an upper class, wealthy Syrian family, to the despair of a drug dependent, lost adult in Detroit. Rayya adopted the name 'Harley Loco' on the streets and in time this was who she was known as. As a talented hairdresser and aspiring musician, Rayya had inspiring dreams and extravagant life goals. Her wild and vivid personality gave her the opportunity to mix with alike personalities in the music industry and ultimately socialize with the rich and famous. However, beyond the glitz and glam parties, there was a dark and horrifying reality of drug use. Rayya's autobiography is a story of honesty, where she openly discusses her own thoughts, emotions, sexuality, ad-

dictions and personality. Rayya talks about falling apart, then finding stability, then falling apart all over again. Does she find light at the end of the tunnel?

A truly gripping story...I highly recommend this book, but it's not for the faint hearted.

Serenity Campbell




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E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au
@LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo

Winter Gardening Tasks

Grafting and Worm Farms

Do you want to do any grafting this year? It's a fantastic way to turn a seedling or a sucker into a useful fruiting tree, or to add a pollinator variety to improve fruit set. It's also a good way to spread your harvest by adding new varieties to a large mature tree that possibly provides more fruit all at once than you can easily use.

Now is the right time to be planning, well before the trees start growing again in spring, because you need to collect the sticks of grafting wood (called scions) while the trees are still dormant, then store them until the sap starts moving in your fruit trees in early spring.

To choose the new varieties, ask around your neighbours to find out what are their favourite and most successful varieties. That way you'll be growing something that you already know will grow well in our district. There's a list of some of the varieties we grow on the farm on the front page of our website (www.mafg.com.au) if you want to see what works for us.

You should only collect grafting wood from trees that are completely dormant (no leaves), and you're looking for strong healthy pieces of one year old wood, i.e., the shoots that grew last summer. It's not hard to spot them—just start at the end of any shoot, and go back to where you can see an obvious join to the older wood that grew the year before. Collect a few pieces, wrap them in plastic (this bit's not essential, but it helps to keep the wood in good condition and stops it drying out), and—here's the really important bit—label it! Then just store it somewhere cool like a cellar, or the fridge, until spring.

On another topic, here's a tip for looking after your worm farm over winter. Worms don't like to be cold, so add an extra layer of insulation by covering with underfelt or old carpet, or if you only have a small worm farm, move it into a shed or the laundry to provide some extra protection from the elements. It's important to look after them or the worms will either die or escape if conditions get too dire!

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. Go to www.grow-greatfruit.com for details.

For regular tips about how to look after your fruit trees, and to hear about upcoming workshops, join the Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter at www.mafg.com.au.



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ASQ Plant of the Month Hardenbergia

The Hardenbergia, also known as a Happy Wanderer, is a hardy climbing plant which produces stunning flowers throughout winter and spring. Thriving in a sunny or semi-shaded spot and being somewhat frost tolerant means the Hardenbergia is suitable for almost any gardener! Hide your fence, cover an unsightly structure or simply use this beautiful plant as a feature in your garden. ASQ Garden & Landscape has a range of Hardenbergia varieties in store now, so visit their friendly staff and pick up some winter colour for your garden!



Image sourced using Creative Commons

Editor's Note:

The Core sincerely thanks Janyce for her gardening contributions. If you want to read Janyce's past columns, which focus on care of native plants over 12 months, see back copies of The Core online at:

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

Pips 'n' All

Hello Garden lovers,

The cold weather has arrived with a snap. Any work in the garden will now require beanies and gloves and a little fortitude. So some turning the soil or digging over the compost may be required to get the blood moving to warm up.

It is a good time to prepare garden beds after summer and autumn; pruning back perennials, trimming hedges, edging lawns and garden beds, removing dead flowers and foliage and mulching garden beds.

It is also a good time to rake up autumn leaves to either put straight on garden beds with a little blood and bone and some mulch or to add to the compost bin. Autumn leaves are a useful and inexpensive source of nutrients for the garden. One variation is Plane Tree leaves. These require shredding prior to composting because they are fibrous and take a very long time to break down naturally. They are still useful but take a little more effort if you don't want them to blow around and around your garden.

Winter is also a time to renew the vegetable patch. Green manures can be planted to revitalise all or part of the vegetable garden. Green manures are quick growing crops often pea and grass mixtures that can be turned in before they flower to increase organic matter and nitrogen levels.

This month we are:

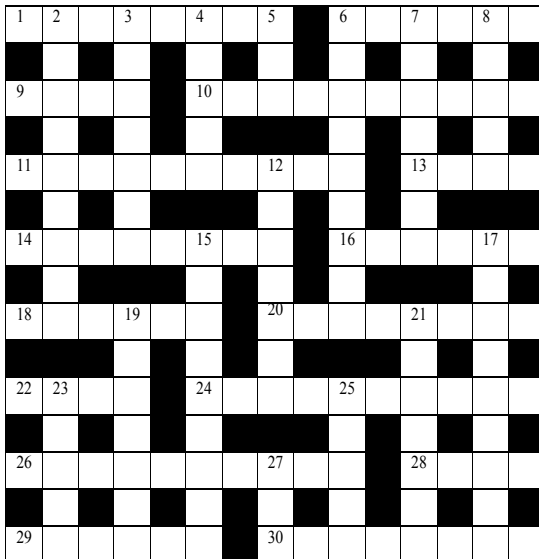
- Edging lawns;
- Planting green manure;
- Pruning spent annuals and perennials;
- Pruning raspberries;
- Planting winter vegetables; and
- Covering frost tender plants.

Now that the garden is quietening down for the winter, I will say my farewell. I have enjoyed writing Pips'n'all for the past two years and I hope that I have shared some of my love for gardening in these pages.

*As always, Happy Gardening
Janyce*

July X-word 2017

©McW Jan '16



Across:

1. Small hat as written hesitation for miscreant spray. (8)
6. Money holds graduate in Arab quarter. (6)
9. Pacify crazy back. (4)
10. A hundred years of physical and logical laws holding, albeit raggedly (pace Hume), puts together the basis for a lawsuit. (10)
11. Only a toff could be this fortuitous. (4,2,4 or 4,1,5?)
13. Alliaceous emblem makes tyro squeal. (4)

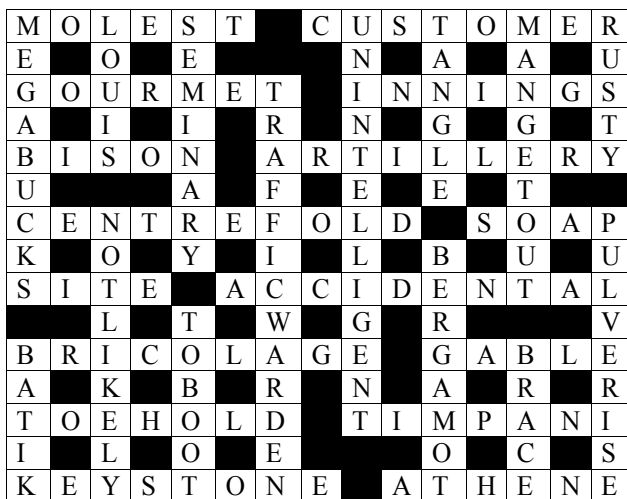
14. Gamely, I voice what I imagine is the case... (1,4,3)
16. Hester's letter enters 6th house, rendering her fiercely abusive. (6)
18. Over-dimensional TV reception equipment is rather strange. (6)
20. States, "again 're' is redundant"—according to OzOED... (8)
22. Sound of distinct period in development wouldn't do this to the laid-back... (4)

Down:

2. The Anti-Bellum Dust Fairy came out of the desert and stopped all arms sales, so how we felt was due to sand! (9)
3. Pale brown flower assembles an MP. (7)
4. Hard to order theory. (5)
5. Small word often big over the counter. (3)
6. Tours fatalism? (1'3,2,3)
7. Red dog accommodates starter to annoy Arabs. (7)
8. A sound to expiate. (5)
12. Descriptive of the champs in the avenue? (7)
15. Shape often opposite 29ac. (9)
17. Very large hoop rotates in the sky. (5,4)
19. The sort of selling that continues in a straight line until you do something... (7)
21. Apart, like that below. (8)
23. All fired up over nothing at the '60s disco... (1-2-2)
25. Crucial principle for a law, in, say, 10ac. (5)
27. A boy from Mali is the absolute end of His reversing Holiness... (3)

June Xword 2017 solution

©McW May '15



Across:


1. Interfere with digger animal way (St).
4. Consumer loses point but gets steak [**T**] to become just another consumer... (8)
9. Sports car [**MG**] on twisty route could reinvent itself as a discerner par excellence. (7)
11. Eleven have the exact opposite of incidents exposing their sexuality. [Well?]
12. Ox with swinging offspring? [Well?]
13. Sick ill at heart, on main route from there, carrying big guns... (9)
14. Crease in the middle nude? [Well?]

16. Cleansing drama? Hardly... [Well?]
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? [Well?]
23. Sound of clerk on roof. [Well?]
25. Gaining this on the cliff, he told no thing. (7)

Down:

1. Largest rodeo gets huge financial rewards. [Well?]
2. Chief French fly guy? [Well?]
3. Nary a big truck [semil] 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 [el gnat?] flies ...mess?
7. Pulse of the food-Nazi parent? [Well?]
8. [Russell] Crowe's old iron? [Well?]
10. See 5. (7,6)
15. A probable story? No way! [Well?]
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 Grey).... (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 (letters). (5)
24. Mammalian engineering and church for two? [Well? How DARE you say this is "sexist"]

26. Given the drum, I'm paint ing last three away. (7)
27. Opener's [key's...] timbre [tone] of silly constables. Cops...
28. The near—well, almost—armed owl. (6)



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Castlemaine Bus Lines

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Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (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			
	Monday to Friday		
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/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25

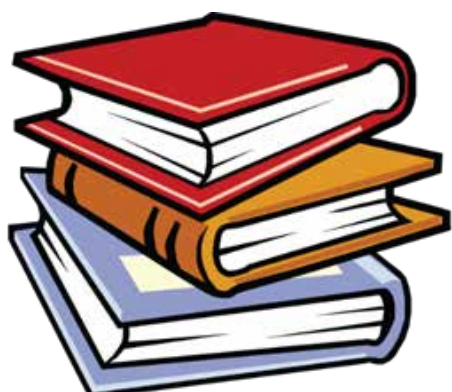


Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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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

13th July: 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Land-care Meeting, ANA Hall.

19th July: 7.30 pm, HPA Meeting -Community Playground. Goldfields Track Cafe

23rd July: 10 am - 12 Harcourt Valley Land-care Working Bee: Planting at Barker's Creek. 0467 670 271 for details.

23rd July: 1.30 pm Researching Your Home's History. Heritage Centre, ANA Hall. \$5 and please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

4th August: 1 pm Launch of "Sarah's Search - A Silk Odyssey" at the Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, Harcourt.

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

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

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

Uniting Church: Every Sunday at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

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

Cactus Warriors Field Day Maldon area, Sunday July 30th

The Cactus Warriors will be out killing Wheel Cactus again on the last Sunday of this month, starting at 10.30 a.m. All are welcome. Any newcomers will be shown the techniques, and equipment and chemicals will be available for the morning. All you need to bring is sturdy footwear and suitable clothing for the outdoors.

We will end up at midday with a free BBQ lunch, a cuppa and a chat.

The location will be announced later this month on our website: www.cactuswarriors.org, or ring Ian Grenda on 0412 015 807.



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

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

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

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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

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

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

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☐ 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.