

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

October 2017

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 43

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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

Lively and Informative Forum



Back row from left: Simon French, DirtArt Pty Ltd; Adam Balzan, Maldon and Community Bank; Pete Ashton, Guesthouse and Harvest Restaurant, Forrest; Andrew Mierisch, Victorian Miniature Railway.

Front row from left: Richard Wadsworth, DELWP; Emma Ashton, Guesthouse and Harvest Restaurant, Forrest.

A large crowd of over 70 people recently attended the Harcourt Economic Forum at the Harcourt Bowling Club. Hosted by the Harcourt Progress Association and organised by the Mount Alexander Shire Council, the forum featured a number of key speakers discussing business, tourism and economic opportunities for Harcourt.

The speakers all had a positive message for businesses to take away from the evening. There is food for thought here for businesses seeking to invest in and contribute to Harcourt's economy.

Simon French, Managing Director of Dirt Art Pty Ltd, the company constructing the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park observed that "Mountain bikers have middle to high disposable income; they will stay for a number of days if there are enough activities for them and their partners and children to do. They like quality food, good coffee, beer

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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 Economic Forum

Continued from page 1

and wine and are looking for unique environments in which to ride.”

Emma Ashton, proprietor of Forrest Guesthouse and Bespoke Harvest Restaurant spoke about the impact of mountain bike tourism on the small township of Forrest. “The economy of Forrest was on the decline until the bike park was established,” said Emma. “Early on, there was nothing else but the bike park in the town, but now we have a brewery, a number of places to stay, and a breadth of attractions and events. The mountain bike park was the stimulus – not the golden egg. Be prepared to grow and change. The good news is, ‘the pie gets bigger.’”

Richard Wadsworth, state-wide Recreation and Tourism Coordinator for DELWP noted that Victoria is getting a critical mass of mountain bike parks and they will attract people from all over Australia and overseas. He stated, “Harcourt is well placed on the Goldfields Track between Ballarat and Bendigo; Harcourt will be part of a string

of mountain bike parks stimulating tourism in Central Victoria.”

The Victorian Miniature Railway is a perfect example of a complementary activity to the mountain bike park which will add another novel and affordable attraction to the town. Andrew Mierisch said the Railway will open

“... but now we have a brewery, a number of places to stay, and a breadth of attractions and events. The mountain bike park was the stimulus – not the golden egg.”

in late 2018 and they will be promoting Harcourt to the miniature train community, as well as supporting community groups in Harcourt with the opportunity to have fundraising barbecues on the days that the trains run.

Finally, on a very positive note, the Maldon and District Community Bank representatives, Adam and Karly, indicated the Bank’s willingness to support business in the town in the future.

The evening concluded with a question and answer session where issues around developmental planning for Harcourt, etiquette around the trails, maintenance of the trails, road upgrades and safety, and parking in Harcourt were all discussed. For up to date information on the progress of the Mountain Bike Park see the monthly update in The Core or email: harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au



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Harcourt Progress Association

Harcourt Roundabout Beautification Project

The Harcourt Progress Association has engaged landscape architects, Pollen Studio, to help develop concept ideas for improving the landscaping and appearance of the Harcourt Roundabout. Representatives from Pollen Studio will be in attendance at the next HPA meeting on Wednesday 18th October to obtain community feedback and input into design concepts for the roundabout.

Pollen director Flynn Hart is based in Newstead, and with his co-director, Dan Nunan, Pollen Studio has extensive experience in both local government and private practice. Collaboration is at the core of their design ethic and

they seek to work closely with the community to deliver a carefully crafted result. Pollen Studio aims to realise projects that respond to the unique opportunities of their place.

Pollen and the HPA are keen to get community feedback about proposed materials, design and landscaping of the roundabout and the surrounding embankments. Come along on Wednesday 18th October, 7pm at the Harcourt Primary School for a community meeting to share your thoughts and learn more about this and other exciting community projects.





Heading for the Tonne

Remember the Census of 2016? That's the one where we had to log onto our computers on census night to complete the questionnaire. That's the time that some geek in the computer room at the Bureau of Statistics decided to turn off the machine because of system overload, too many people logging in simultaneously or ... um ... Russian hackers ... or ... um ... (shuffling feet), I got a bit nervous ... or ... um ... whatever, (that's what they said to the Prime Minister).

Once we realized the system was down, most Harcourt residents good-naturedly used a pen to fill in the Census form and mailed it off to Canberra in the old-fashioned way. The computer must have been started up again because the results of the Census are now available on the ABS website.

So, how many people live in Harcourt? The answer is revealing. At Census night 2016 the ABS says that there were 943 people living here. Given the fact that the system was not available and we had then to voluntarily submit our household forms, and house-to-house collection was not done, it is probable that this number is a bit understated.

Of course it all depends on what area is defined as 'Harcourt'. In previous Censuses Harcourt and Harcourt North were separate collector areas. The map on the ABS website is not sufficiently precise to reassure us that the entire community is included in what they call Harcourt.

A first-time visitor from the streets and lanes of inner-city Melbourne might be confused. The tiddly cluster around the war memorial, petrol station, church, ANA hall and post office is not the entirety of the community.

The census area (in Harcourt-speak) appears to have taken in all the dwellings within a line that runs along the crest of the mount, Mount Barker and Mount Prospect, takes in Ford Road, runs across to Porcupine Hill, down to the

Bright Hills, along the ridge to White Gum, through the bush across to Lang's Hill and back to the mount. This imaginary line is the watershed within which are collected the gutters, streams and creeks that run south into the Loddon. Everything inside that line is Harcourt.

According to the ABS website, 943 Harcourt people lived in 394 dwellings in 2016. Five years prior, there were 872 folk in 389 houses and five years before that (in 2006) Harcourt had 752 people in 315 dwellings.

We all know that Harcourt is booming. The addition of 191 residents (and 79 dwellings) in ten years represents a 26 percent increase on the number of residents from 2006 to 2016.

While part of this increased population derived from the construction of new homes after the Freeway route was settled, much of it is simply the result of the attractiveness of the locality, the availability of services, Harcourt's location in between major centres and its proximity to great transport networks, both road and rail. And they are just the physical characteristics.

A recent tourist information leaflet – 'The Visitors' Miscellany – being handed out at Castlemaine's Visitor Centre, says of Harcourt that "less than 500 people live here but they're massively proactive". We can refer them to the ABS website for the number of residents, but we agree about the other bit. Harcourt is a community on the go!

Soon the population will tip over the tonne, If there were 71 more folk hereabouts in 2016 than there were in 2011, what will the next five years bring? Once Harcourt has more than 1,000 residents the area will become more attractive to businesses, the rail station will reopen, the school and kindergarten will expand, the clubs will get more members, and it will be onward and upward!

*George Milford
for Harcourt Heritage Centre*

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Harcourtians: Clair and Craig Nightingale

From the deck of their Harcourt North home Claire and Craig Nightingale look out over apple orchards and gentle hills framing the Harcourt Valley. Their nearly-three-year old daughter Harriet plays with her sister Erica by the wooden cubby house next to the chook shed, which is back in action after a neighbour popped by to help with some DIY repairs.

It's in stark contrast to the life the couple shared together in the bustling 7 million strong city of Yangon, Myanmar, their home until just one year ago.

"We were ready for a break from city life", says Claire, of the decision that brought them to Harcourt in early 2017. "We'd both worked in international aid in Myanmar and Papua New Guinea for seven years. We loved our time in Myanmar but we were craving open spaces."

Asked about the things they don't miss about Myanmar, Craig and Claire instantly offer, "the weather!"

Myanmar temperatures hover around 45 degrees for about five months of the year, and when it cools down and the humidity eases, the rain starts. "It rains for about six months of the year," says Craig. "It's pretty punishing."

But their memories of Yangon are cherished and they describe the city with fondness. "Yangon is a beautiful city. There's lots of green everywhere and beautiful, ancient trees, with crumbling, colonial architecture."

Yangon was also a great place for Claire to experience early motherhood after the birth of their first daughter, Harriet, in 2015. "There was a wonderful network of women with babies around the same age to support me", she says.

Then she adds a laugh.

"People have different ideas about motherhood in Myanmar. I walked a lot with Harriet in the baby-carrier to try and get her to sleep. They worried that being outside would heat up my breast milk and that it wouldn't be good for the baby. Taxi-drivers stopped me in the street to tell me to go home."

The couple experienced great change during their three-year stay, at a time soon after Myanmar had opened its doors to foreigners.



"When we first arrived in 2013 there were few signs of Western influence," says Craig. "There were hardly any foreigners, ATMs were non-existent and cars on the streets were forty years old. But by 2016, there were cafes everywhere, modern cars and mobile phones."

When the couple decided to look for a country home close to Claire's parents in Castlemaine, they found the open space they craved.

"I remember driving over the hill and seeing the colours of the valley and the open space. It's a beautiful part of the world," says Craig, whose own family lives in the UK.

Together with youngest daughter, Erica, born earlier this year, Craig, Claire and Harriet are enjoying the change of lifestyle in Harcourt. "The Reservoir Road community is a lovely little community and we've found friends more easily than we thought we might, great bike riding and good work in Bendigo."

But there's one thing they are yet to do, and until then they will surely not feel quite at home.

"I've never made an apple pie", says Claire. Never mind, Claire – there's plenty of time yet!

Bron Willis



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Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Update



The Victorian Government is building a world class mountain bike park in Harcourt. Located on a former pine plantation and alongside Mount Alexander Regional Park, the bike park will boost tourism and the health and wellbeing of locals and visitors.

What's Happening?

- More than 14 kilometres of bike trails have been built at Harcourt since construction started in early August – only another 20 to go! Local granite has been used in some of the tracks, which will provide interesting and technical rides for users.
- Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation has been engaged to develop a plan, including shelter and toilets, for the site at the top of Picnic Gully Road where most of the bike trails will begin.
- VicRoads has agreed to lower the speed limit on Market Street and part of Reservoir Road from 100km/h to 80km/h, making it safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Council is currently inviting tenders for the off-road path along Market Street and Picnic Gully Road.
- Gates will be installed across the emergency access tracks within the park over the next month to protect the safety of bike riders, walkers and horse riders. Emergency vehicles will still be able to access these tracks but other vehicles will not be able to use them. Of course, The Oaks picnic area remains open to vehicles. Walkers, horse riders and cyclists can continue to use the tracks and paths they have always enjoyed within the park.
- We are now planning the trail and town signage.



Dirt Art have been making the most of the incredible topography and rock on site at Harcourt to create some pretty special trail features.

Photo: Dirt Art

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Update

Committee of Management

Would you like to help manage the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park? Expressions of Interest (EOI) are invited for people interested in volunteering to be on the Committee of Management. The Committee will be responsible for the day-to-day management and future planning of the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park on behalf of the community.

This will be a skills-based committee. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic and have a passion for contributing to their local community in managing this world class recreational facility. Committee members will be responsible for caring for, protecting, promoting and managing the park as well as maximising community involvement and use of the mountain bike trails.

The Committee will need a range of skills and interests including environmental management, business management, technical expertise in mountain bike use, event management, marketing and promotions, legal affairs, cultural heritage and more.

All Expressions of Interest must be submitted on a nomination form by Monday 16 October. More information and nomination forms are available from Lynda Grant at DELWP on 5430 4444 or by emailing harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au

Economic Opportunity Forum

Approximately 80 people attended Mount Alexander Shire Council's Economic Opportunity Forum on Wednesday 20 September at the Harcourt Bowling Club. The crowd heard great insights from the guest speakers about their experiences in creating successful businesses and economic opportunities for mountain bike park visitors.

Simon French from Dirt Art explained some of the facilities that mountain bike riders search for before and after they ride. Emma Ashton from Forrest Guesthouse spoke about how a mountain bike park was just the starting point for Forrest to become a destination town in its own right. Richard Wadsworth from DELWP spoke about the history of mountain bike parks in Victoria and how Harcourt could fit into this network. Adam Balzan from Maldon and District Community Bank talked about the Bank's history in the area and its willingness to further support and do business in the local community in the future. Andrew Mierisch from Harcourt Miniature Railway updated the community about that project and how the facility will contribute to Harcourt's future.

Well done to Mount Alexander Shire Council for a very informative forum.



Have you seen something?

Unfortunately, over the past couple of weeks there have been some cases of trail bikes riding on the newly constructed bike trails and damaging them. Trail bike riders can legally ride on any of the forest, park and reserve roads open to the public but it is illegal to ride off formed roads. While DELWP compliance officers regularly patrol public land, we're also asking for the public to report any illegal activity to DELWP on 136 186 or Victoria Police.

Keep in touch

It's important to us that we are talking with you and keeping you up-to-date with information about the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Project. There are several ways we can keep in touch.

Get on our mailing list and receive regular updates. Email harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au

Call us on 136 186

Like us on Facebook @DELWPLoddonMallee

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Uniting Church — If The Shoe Fits

"If the shoe fits" was the title of our recent Coffee, Craft & Cake morning tea held at the Castlemaine Uniting Church Hall – a combined Castlemaine & Harcourt Uniting Church Adult Fellowship event. There was a wonderful display of shoes and handbags from Pandora's Box in Strathdale in every imaginable colour and most with very high heels. Money raised will be used to support organisations such as Royal Flying Doctor Service, Frontier Services, School Chaplaincy and many more worthy groups.

In recent years our Fellowship group has made a donation to the Seafarers Centre in Port Hedland. When we were on holidays recently, we learnt about their work while visiting Port Hedland.

When the iron ore carriers come in to port the Seafarers Centre sends out a boat to collect crew and bring them ashore where they are taken by bus to the Centre. Services offered to the crew include pastoral care, money exchange, shopping, relaxing in the recreation room, phone cards, recharging phones, internet/wifi, medical appointments, or just a friendly chat. About 1300 crew arrive in port every day and this is a free service offered to them.



Last weekend large bowls of native flowers decorated our Church for the wedding of Aaron Cordy & his lovely bride, Mila, You may have heard George ringing the bell to celebrate the occasion!

Have you heard about the minister who was visiting an elderly lady from his congregation. As they chatted he noticed a bowl of peanuts on the coffee table and asked if he could have a few. They chatted for an hour and as the minister stood to leave, he realised he had eaten most of the peanuts. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts," he said, "I only meant to eat a few." "Oh that's all right," replied the lady. "Ever since I lost my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off them!"

Jan Jenkin



Harcourt Progress Association

Meeting to discuss
and receive feedback on the

Harcourt Roundabout Beautification Project

Wednesday 18th October 7pm
Harcourt Primary School

share your thoughts
learn more about this and
other exciting community projects



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Harcourt CFA

Summer Is On Its Way ... Are You Ready?

Saturday 23rd of September was the first burst of real warmth this spring with a temperature of 28.6°C being officially recorded for Castlemaine. It was also a day of very strong, gusty winds blowing from various directions throughout the day. It was not a good day for burning off, with many fires escaping throughout Victoria, requiring assistance from the CFA to bring them under control.

Some fires in Gippsland were not contained on the day and, at the time of writing, one had burnt out over 7500 hectares and was still out of control. What this highlights is that, as predicted, we have the potential to have a bad fire season. One might say, "We hear that every year", and while this may be true, it is only when the fire is in your own backyard, does it really matter to you.

In the Harcourt brigade area, we have been fortunate in not having any large, out of control fires for a number of years. So, as the years pass, it becomes more critical to not become complacent or adopt the "She'll be right" attitude, but ensure we all do what we can to clean up and prepare our homes and property before the Fire Danger Period (FDP) commences.

If you are going to do some burning off, make sure you check the weather forecast to see what temperatures and wind details are predicted and please register your burn on freecall number **1800 668 511** and tell your neighbours.

So, with the football and netball season finished, now is the time to pick up the tools and prepare for Summer before picking up a cricket bat, tennis racket or lawn bowl. Practice your fire plan before practicing that winning shot.

New Tanker Has Returned

The new tanker is back with the brigade after the latest modifications and rectification works and members are familiarising themselves with it throughout September. The current plan is for it to become operational mid-October, in preparation for Summer. Hopefully there are no more problems.

Excessive Hoarding Problems Identified

The CFA has identified cases where excessive hoarding has become a problem for brigades attending house fires, and is currently running an awareness campaign highlighting the risks.

Residential fires involving high levels of clutter are dangerous for both occupants and firefighters. High levels of clutter increase the risk to occupants and firefighters becoming trapped, it hampers search and rescue efforts, increases the risk of structural collapse and makes the fire tougher to fight, requiring additional effort and resources to extinguish. Neighbours can be quickly affected when a fire occurs, due to excessive smoke and fire conditions, which can result in the fire spreading to the neighbouring exposures.

External hoarding can restrict access by brigade vehicles. This is not limited to private residences either, with large tyre storage dumps being identified in various locations throughout Victoria which not only are a problem if they catch fire but also an environmental concern.

*Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

North Central Landcare Groups Recognised

Three North Central Landcare groups have been recognised for the significant contributions they have made to the local environment.

Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards, congratulated Ian Higgins of the Friends of Campbell's Creek Landcare Group, the Tarrangower Cactus Control Group and Connecting Country on their awards following the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards ceremony at Government House.

Ms Edwards said it was pleasing to see the community members recognised for their pivotal work towards the conservation and preservation of important land, vegetation, agriculture and waterways in the area.

The awards included:

- Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award – Ian Higgins

- Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award – Tarrangower Cactus Control Group
- Landcare Network Award – Connecting Country



Maree Edwards (in blue) with members of Tarrangower Cactus Control Group, Connecting Country and Ian Higgins (second from left)



Scenes from HVPS End of Term Concert

Well done to all our students on a terrific performance. It was very pleasing to see so many families and community members attend the evening and support our students. The concert was the culmination of a lot of work from many enthusiastic members of the school and wider community.

Thank you to all for offering great support and contributing to the cost of hiring the Leisure Centre with gold coin donations totalling \$330.

*School Principal, Andrew Blake
(taken from the School Newsletter)*



Core Editorial News

Dear Readers,

Award Nominations for Core Writers

I am pleased to announce that once again, writers for The Core have been nominated for the Annual Country Newspaper Conference Awards. Winners will be announced at the annual conference, which this year will take place in Traralgon on October 14th.

Writers who have been nominated are: Jenny McKenry for Best feature story, Harcourtian – Ian Johnson; Scarlett Berger, Best article by a person 18 years or younger, for her piece on Hygge (a Danish life philosophy); George Milford for Best History Story for his article “Reparation for Past Wrongs” about indigenous land rights. And the April 2017 edition has been nominated for Best Community Content.

I was very proud to be at the conference last year where I collected finalist certificates for two of our writers – I’ll be there again this year!

Thank you Amanda and Frank - Donations

Nearly \$200 has been raised from donations to The Core from the collection tin at the Harcourt Shop. Amanda and Frank watch over the tin and remind me, every time I go to the shop, to empty it. Donations, along with advertising, keep The Core in production. We are very grateful to Frank and Amanda for providing this service to our newspaper. Thank you both.

The Core Team

The team at The Core has grown recently with the addition of Bernie Schultz, who is now largely responsible for putting the paper together using the IT package InDesign. The editing team now consists of Bernie, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns and me. Advertising is looked after by Genevieve Ward and the folding team is: Liz Bini, Liz Ward, Moira McLennan and Sha Cordingley. We are grateful to David Ling who, while not on the team, assists by putting The Core on line on the Harcourt Valley website.

Robyn Miller



The Harcourt Lions Club

Firewood and Film Night

The Harcourt Lions Club has continued its sale of firewood in response to this very wet, very cold start to Spring. We have split the last remaining 10 metres of 'long' (60 cm) pieces of red gum and they are now ready for sale. These pieces are ideal for larger fireplaces. So, if you would prefer to light a fire rather than exercise to keep warm, then get in while it's not so hot, and place an order with Gary.



The price is still \$120 per metre delivered, and call Gary Selwood on 0400 156 660.

The Lions Club continues to seek new members to help with fundraising activities to support the Harcourt Community. The Club meets once a month on a Friday evening and is very family orientated. It currently has 18 members with 9 children/grandchildren regularly attending. 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 next month.

Over the past month the Club has been in discussions with the Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR) on how we might be able to support this fantastic local project, to develop Victoria's newest and longest miniature railway. After much discussion, the Club members have agreed to organise a Community BBQ & Movie night on the lawn at VMR. This will give everyone a firsthand look at how far the VMR members have come and what still needs to be done, before they can open to the public. Details of the event will be announced in the next edition of the Core!



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. This includes set up costs. Bookings are essential, particularly for Spring and Summer events. Call the Lions Club secretary, Sue Nash on 0418 372 336 or visit our website on: harcourt.vic.lions.org.au

Grant Victor-Gordon

Carpet Bowls Season Roundup State Country Champions For 2017

Saturday 16th of September saw two teams from the Harcourt club head to Kyabram for the Victorian Country Carpet Bowls Championships.

Both teams got off to a good start winning their opening games in the knockout competition and when the tea break arrived both teams had worked their way into the semi finals.

With one team in the top half of the draw and the other in the bottom half, all was looking good for an all Harcourt grand final but unfortunately the number 2 Harcourt team of John Barty, Georgie Kontos, Kevin Earl and Des Rice were not able to defeat Horsham 1.

In the grand final, the Harcourt number 1 team of Shu Code, Daryl Norminton, John Jenkin and Tyrone Rice got out of the blocks early and continued on to a comfortable win to bring home the winner's trophy.

On the local front, the club's grand final was held on Wednesday 20th September with Heroes defeating New Breed on the night. The winning team was John Barty, Doug Baker, Nathan Rice and Tyrone Rice and the runners up were Narelle Jenkin, Shu Code, Des Rice and Norm Jenkin.

During the 2017 season a dedicated number of members gathered each Wednesday night at the Leisure Centre to keep our club going. At times we have struggled for numbers, but to achieve the success for our small club at state level is not only rewarding for the club and its members, but adds to the successes of our little town.

If you would like give carpet bowls a try, keep an eye out for our Come and Try night in 2018. Age is no barrier and everyone is welcome.

Tyrone Rice

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Share Your Thoughts on the Needs of Children and Families

What support do young children and families need in Mount Alexander Shire?

That's the question at the heart of a survey that will help shape an Early Years Plan for Mount Alexander Shire.

Feedback from the survey will help to guide the development and co-ordination of early years' services, programs and partnership activities throughout the shire.

"We want to hear from children, parents, carers and service providers about what is important to them," said Gaynor Atkin, Manager Community Partnerships, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"We want to make sure that all our residents are well supported – regardless of age – and feel there is more that we can do for families and their children," said Ms Atkin.

Three separate surveys have been developed for children, parent/carers and service providers.

The surveys open on Friday 6 October and will close on Friday 20 October. They take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

All survey participants go into the draw to win either a \$100 book voucher or a \$100 massage voucher.

Complete a survey online from the Have Your Say section of Council's website or collect a survey from the Civic Centre, Maternal and Child Health Centre, Castlemaine Library, kindergartens and community centres.

Survey findings will be shared with the community at an Early Years Forum planned during Children's Week at the end of October.

For more information contact Gaynor Atkin, Manager Community Partnerships, on 5471 1700.



Embrace Mental Health Week at Mondo Lounge!

Young people in Mount Alexander Shire are invited to come together to celebrate Mental Health Week at Mondo Lounge youth space on Friday 13 October.

Youth mental health has been identified as a top priority by young people in Mount Alexander Shire. Mount Alexander Shire Council's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is putting on a fun afternoon of activities to promote positive youth mental health and wellbeing.

The slogan for this event is Mental health begins with Me. The event aims to encourage young people to focus on their own mental wellness, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and raise awareness of pathways that are available to support the community.

This event is held as part of a series of community events and activities across the shire during Mental Health Week from 8-14 October, coordinated by a partnership of local services and organisations.

So come down and hang out at **Mondo Lounge** from 3.30pm to 6.00pm on Friday 13 October at the rear of Castlemaine Continuing Education, 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine.

Try your hand at tie-dyeing or the mural wall, or just chat with friends while enjoying free coffee, hot chocolate, live music, show bags and free food.

For details of all associated activities and events during Mental Health Week visit www.livelifewell.net.au/mentalhealthweek.

For more information about Mental Health Week at Mondo Lounge contact Sharna Cropley on 5471 1842 or email s.cropley@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Youth Mental Health First Aid for Parents and Carers

Parents and carers of children and young people in Mount Alexander Shire are invited to attend Youth Mental Health First Aid training in October in Castlemaine.

The course teaches mental health first aid skills to parents and carers to help them recognise a possible emerging mental health concern or a mental health crisis.

The 14 hour course will be held over four sessions, on Tuesday 10, 17, 24 and 31 October from 9.30am to 1.00pm at the Ray Bradfield Room, Forest Street, Castlemaine.

Morning tea will be provided at each session.

A registration fee of \$50 will cover the cost of all course materials and catering.

To book, visit www.eventbrite.com.au and search 'Mount Alexander'.

For further information contact Sharna Cropley, Coordinator Youth and Community Services, on 5471 1842 or s.cropley@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Bird walk with Tanya Loos

Do you know about the beautiful Harcourt Bushland Reserve? This area of about 30 acres is accessible off Peelers Road. It is signposted, but its understated entrance belies what can be found there.

On Sunday September 17, Barkers Creek Wildlife and Landcare Group and Harcourt Valley Landcare Group enjoyed a bird walk with Tanya Loos, Connecting Country's bird expert. Not only were numerous bushland birds heard and identified (29 species); many of the spring wildflowers were in evidence. So, for participants, there was a feast of observation in the trees and at their feet.

Barkers Creek Landcare group have done extensive weed removal and the quality of the bush is a credit to many working-bees. At the bottom of the track is the last area where gold sluicing was carried out and the erosion is spectacular (while a little disheartening).

All in all, this is a very special asset in Harcourt's natural heritage, and while it is spring wildflower season, it is well worth visiting here, as well as the Harcourt Flora Reserve at the end of Bingham's Road.

Robyn Miller



Porsche Club of Victoria

The Spring Run of the Porsche Club of Victoria included a visit to Harcourt Valley Vineyard and Winery. As usual the Winery turned on a great event, with a barbecue and music.

Left: Porsches line up at Harcourt Valley Vineyard and Winery – photo Kye Livingstone. Right Club members enjoyed the spring sunshine at the winery – photo Porsche club web site..



Business Update - The Good Life Careers

The Good Life Careers is a consulting firm which provides career coaching services to support people through their career change and help people find fulfilling work that complements their lifestyle.



Company founder and director, Genevieve Ward is a Career Coach who enjoys helping people manage change and develop their job search skills. The Good Life Careers' services include resume development, interview techniques, writing key selection criteria, creating a LinkedIn profile plus guidance and strategic planning to help find your ideal role. Gen also provides career

transition services to people affected by redundancy, and managing job loss.

Gen loves to contribute to the local community where she coordinates the advertising for The Core, plus she's on the committee of Business Mount Alexander which runs regular networking events in the shire.

Gen has run her small business in Harcourt and Castlemaine for nearly six years and her clients include tree changers, parents returning to work and anyone who is feeling inspired to change careers. She has worked with people from Gisborne through to Echuca, and really loves hearing the news when her clients have secured the role they want. Gen works out of the Cohoots co-working space in Castlemaine.

Get in touch for a confidential appointment at:

gen@thegoodlifecareers.com.au

0409 070 930

www.thegoodlifecareers.com.au



Little Habitat Heroes Tree Caring Day

Please join us for the first Little Habitat Heroes 'Tree Caring Day' on: Sunday 22nd October 2017, 9:30am–12 noon at Mount Alexander Regional Park.

Following a really fantastic planting day back in June when over 100 heroes planted 900 trees on Leanganook, we will be meeting again to do some maintenance. It's really important to us that we continue to nurture these trees, and teach our kids the value of caring for the local environment.

Actually, the trees are looking fantastic! We guess about a 98% survival rate, with many of them thriving (some reaching the tops of their guards). On the day, we'll replace any missing guards, fix up any guards and do a little weeding. We'll also have morning tea together (provided) and stop to have our picnic lunch (BYO).

Based on some of the feedback we received after the planting day, we're also going to throw in a half hour information session from one of our Little Habitat Heroes' Dads on things like why we chose these species of plants, the importance of ongoing maintenance and the significance of biodiversity (this may help you with your own garden and land).



A few things to note:

- No toilet on site. The closest is at the Leanganook Campground (approximately 1km away)
- Park at Leanganook Campground or the Koala Park parking area (a few hundred metres away) and walk down the hill. Please take lots of care when walking on the road.
- BYO: gloves, sturdy shoes, wet weather gear, warm weather gear, sunhat, sunscreen, pen and paper (if staying for the talk), picnic lunch.
- Provided: tea, coffee and morning tea snacks.

Donations – If you'd like to donate please go to www.givenow.com.au/littlehabitatheroes

Funds will be used for ongoing maintenance of the already planted trees and future plantings to further enhance the site.

Feel free to pass on this invitation to others that might be interested. The more the merrier! So that we can cater adequately, please RSVP through Eventbrite by 14 October. You can also RSVP and share the invitation at our Facebook event site.

We look forward to seeing you there. And don't hesitate to contact us with questions:

Meg: 0466 333 419

Jodi: 0410 838 083

Little Habitat Heroes Team

Councillor Comment



Hi all,

It has been a busy couple of weeks with the Harcourt Economic Forum, and some very complex issues faced at Council.

The economic forum highlighted business opportunities that will flow from the Harcourt mountain bike park. It was great to hear the visitors from Forrest talk about what worked for their community. It was also good to hear more about the potential of the miniature railway. Later in the evening, questions were raised about getting some certainty around planning for Harcourt.

My view on this is, planners will find it difficult to manage the interface between township expansion and the horticulture sector. For those with a plan or a vision my advice is get going with it. Develop your plans and submit them to Council. There is a good level of support at Council for development and if Council does not approve,

then VCAT is the next step for those wishing to challenge Council planning decisions. Like everything, those that procrastinate may miss out.

Some other issues that have been before Council are complex and I am not able to talk about them. Needless to say I am doing my best for the broader community while subscribing to the Australian tradition of a fair go for all, and listening to the other point of view.

This week I attended the Beverly ram sale at the Barty property at Sutton Grange. The sheep were excellent in quality with many on offer having wool of 100 percent comfort factor. The rams sold to a range of destinations, including Tasmania.

In recent times, wool prices have got to around 1988 levels. Growing wool is a bit like barracking for the Tigers – a long time between premierships!

*Best regards Tony
A G Cordy*

'Newstead and District Remembers' Exhibition

Newstead Railway Station Arts Hub

The official opening of this exhibition is at 5.00 pm Saturday 11 November 2017.

Over 300 men and women connected to the old Newstead Shire volunteered for service in the Great War. Many of them had attended the local schools in the district. Newstead and District Historical Society members have created an exhibition to honour their contribution.

The book 'Newstead and District Remembers' will be launched at the official opening of the exhibition.





Di Selwood
Sales Consultant
Castlemaine & Harcourt



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If only for one night!

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This may read like a cheesy ad – but it's for real...

So lock-in this date
6pm, Saturday 21st October 2017
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Whichever one of the above is you, it simply won't matter on the night. If you've never had an uplifting karaoke experience this is where to start. Release those feel-good endorphins!

Still need just a little bit of tempting? This link has it all for you to prep! And you still have 30 days to countdown!

www.wikihow.com/Sing-Karaoke-with-Confidence

So glam it up a little for the spotlight, all you divas! Maybe don't count on being 'discovered', just come for the maximum of fun.

It's a great way to connect with friends and strangers and you might even surprise yourself, sing your heart out.

The super-friendly, intimate setting of the Elphinstone Hotel is the venue for this convivial and liberating entertainment (and some great people watching.)

Crowd participation, clapping for everyone and sing-along is encouraged.

Come out of your comfort zone.
Support the brave – no matter how corny or cool.
Burn the place down!!
Commit!

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\$10 entry / \$15 curry
With all proceeds going towards achieving community goals



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Harcourt Bowling Club

Bowls Season Opening Day

It was a perfect spring day for the Harcourt Bowling Club Opening of the new Bowling Season on Sunday 17th September.

President John Starbuck warmly welcomed State Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards, representatives from Castlemaine and Campbells Creek Bowling Clubs, Geoff and Susan Howes of the Bendigo Bowls Division, and Club members.

Presentation to Retiring Pennant Player

The President paid tribute to Grace Jenkin on her retirement from pennant due to an injury. He noted Grace's skill on the green, and thanked her for taking on the many and varied positions within the Club over many years. A beautiful potted orchid was presented to Grace.

On declaring the season open Mr Starbuck wished all present a happy and successful season and invited Maree Edwards and secretary of the Division Geoff Howes to roll the first two bowls of the Season.

Obviously pleased to be bowling together again, much laughter and frivolity could be heard during the social game of 2x6 ends of bowls. The usual sumptuous afternoon tea was enjoyed following bowls. Winning team of the day was Alan Harris' team with Wendy Chaplin, Heather Harris and John Starbuck.

October Is Play Bowls Month

Harcourt will again be promoting the game of bowls by participating in the Play Bowls Month initiative of Bowls Australia.

Watch Out For Our Posters Around Town.

Come And Try Bowls

On Sunday 8th October, between 1.00pm and 3.00pm, anyone interested in having a go, or learning about bowls is warmly invited to come to the club and try bowls. The Club have the bowls and people to help you, just wear flat-soled shoes or thongs.



Maree Edwards and Geoff Howes roll the first bowls of the season

Barefoot Bowls

Tuesday October 10th, 17th and 24th you can have a game of Barefoot Bowls from 6.00pm to 8.00pm for just \$5. Sausage sizzle provided and drinks available at bar prices. A great fun game for all the family.

Pennant

This year Harcourt will again field teams in Weekend Pennant Divisions 3, 6 and 8 and in Midweek Pennant Divisions 4 and 5. Pennant Round 1 will start on Monday 16th October for Midweek, and Saturday 21st October for Weekend Pennant.

The draws for the season have been completed and are available on the website: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au and at the Club.

Club Championships

The draws for Club Singles and 100-Up Championships have been done and are well underway. Members compete in these championships to hone and test their skills against fellow bowlers. Club winners of the singles and pairs are then entered in the Bendigo Divisional playoffs. Awards are presented at the end of the Season.

Vale Ron Jenkin

Members of the Club were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our esteemed friend Ron Jenkin. Ronnie was a mentor to many and will be sadly missed. Our love and sympathy are with Joan, Kerrie and Murray and family and Glenn.

Community Shade Grant received

Thanks to the State Government Community Shade Grants Program the Club has received a significant grant to install new shade systems around our green, and for hats to support our Sun Protection Policy.

It is hoped to have the Shade installed before the end of October.

A big THANK YOU to all of our hard working volunteers for the works completed around the Club. We are lucky to have such dedicated members and supporters.



Coming Events

Sun, October 8	Come and Try Bowls 1-3pm
Tues, October 10	Barefoot Bowls 6-8pm
Mon, October 16	Midweek Pennant Commences
Tues, October 17	Barefoot Bowls 6-8pm
Sat, October 21	Weekend Pennant Commences
Tues, October 24	Barefoot Bowls 6-8pm
Sun, October 28	President's Day
Wed, November 8	Ladies' Invitation Triple Tournament



LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

I was playing a tune on my 'cello,
I was peaceful, and soulful and mellow.
When a girl with a flute
And a lad with a lute
Burst into my room shouting "ello"

Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes

'Come and join us at the Old Castlemaine Gaol'



Affordable – Relaxed – Friendly

Tue	9:30am-10.30am	Power Bar
Wed	6:05pm-7:05pm	Power Bar
Thurs	6:15am-7:15am	Power Bar
Fri	9:30am-10.30am	Aerobics
Sat	9:30am-10.30am	Power Bar

\$10 per class – All fitness levels welcome
Children welcome under parent supervision
Classes run during school terms

Mandy Chilcott 0409 866 279

mandchilcott@gmail.com



Play Bowls MONTH

OCTOBER 2017

at your local club!

COME & TRY DAY
Sunday 8th October, 1pm to 3pm

BAREFOOT BOWLS
Tuesday 10th, 17th & 24th October, 6pm to 8pm

Contact the club for more information!

Harcourt Bowling Club
www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au
1 Warren Street, Harcourt, VIC 3453
For more info, contact Chris on 0417 341 814 or harcourtbowls@outlook.com

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What Weeds are Good For

The ground is warming up, and weeds are well and truly growing. To decide how to manage weeds around your fruit trees, you might need to do a cost/benefit analysis. The 'cost' of weeds is that they compete with the trees for water and some nutrients, but the benefits are many!

Weeds help to increase the amount of carbon in your soil, they provide habitat for the all-important soil microbes, and they provide food for worms and other lovely underground garden helpers. Many weeds are edible (or if you don't fancy eating weeds you can replace them with herbs or veggies), or have medicinal uses, and they also help to keep the soil cool in summer, which can actually help to conserve water.

Some weeds are also very good at 'mining' the soil for nutrients and making them available to your fruit trees, particularly the ones with a deep tap-root. Flowering weeds also provide important habitat for insects in the garden (particularly yellow and white flowering plants).

Can you tell we like weeds? For all but the youngest fruit trees, we reckon the balance is firmly in favour of having a living mulch under your fruit trees. However, they still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are (1) mow them regularly, (2) plant the things you want to grow there, like legumes to pump nitrogen into your soil (e.g. clover, or peas), herbs, or vegetables, or (3) use animals (geese, sheep, chooks, guinea pigs ...) to mow them for you!

If you decide to mulch instead, be aware that it can be just as effective at stopping water soaking into the soil as preventing evaporation. It's also a great idea to put some compost or worm castings underneath your mulch before you lay it, to help kickstart the biology in your soil. And a couple of words of warning – use straw rather than hay, because straw should be relatively free of seed, and don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed."

Hugh and Katie Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They also offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips (that includes info about upcoming workshops), and run online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to www.growgreatfruit.com for details.



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Maldon & District
Community Bank® Branch



Free Breakfast for Farmers ... and how to nab a farm thief

Start the day with a free breakfast, hot cuppa and hear experts on farm security.

Farmers and producers from around the Mount Alexander district are invited to a morning dedicated to farm security and protection of farm assets. The Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch has teamed up with Rural Bank to run this free event on Friday, 13 October from 7.30 – 10am.

Third and fourth generation farmers, Robert & Pam Oxley and Mark & Jen Oxley, will host the morning at their feed mill in Strangways near Newstead (643 Guildford-Newstead Road).

Victoria Police agricultural liaison officer, Leading Senior Constable Dan O'Bree will entertain and inform with his tales of police and farmers working together to nab crafty thieves. Newstead police officer LSC Grant MacDonald will give a local perspective and handy tips on safeguarding your farm property and assets. Federation University's farm crime investigator Dr Alistair Harkness will outline his latest research. There will also be displays of farm security technology.

Guest speaker Alexandra Gartmann, CEO of the Rural Bank and former CEO of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Birchip Cropping Group will discuss trends in farm diversification and innovation. Ms Gartmann is a member of the Victorian Agriculture Advisory Council and former member of many state and national rural advisory groups.

The Oxleys will share their story of innovation and diversification that has seen their farm change from a livestock and cropping business to a thriving and sustainable manufacturing agribusiness. They are suppliers of chaff, grain & hay suppliers to the domestic industry and employ a number of locals at their mill.

Everyone that comes along can enter the draw to win a Weber barbeque. And you'll be well fed with a delicious breakfast of egg and bacon rolls.

To register to attend (for catering purposes) or to find out more about the day, contact the Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch on 5475 1747 or maldonmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au



ASQ Plant of the Month

Whether you are just looking for some shade, or you want to grow your own fruit for delicious dishes and summer beverages, ASQ Skydancers is sure to have the right lemon or lime tree for you!

If you are looking for a delicious, juicy and seedless lime then you can't go past the Tahitian Lime, or for something a bit different you must try their native Finger Limes! These limes produce small bead-like crystals filled with tangy juice which is used in desserts, as a garnish and even to make marmalade!

If you're searching for the perfect lemon or lime tree for your garden, make sure you visit ASQ Skydancers in Harcourt to see their range!



Cactus Warriors Maldon October Field Day

This month's cactus field day will be on Sunday 29th, starting at 10.30am. All welcome, including children if accompanied by at least one parent.

Hoes and/or injection equipment will be provided for the morning, as well as a tasty BBQ lunch afterwards.

Wear a hat, good outdoor footwear and suitable clothing – long sleeves and pants are recommended. Safety goggles and gloves will be available.

For our October venue or for any other information, please ring Ian Grenda on 0412 015 807.

And for this month only – we'll be holding a stall at the Maldon Agricultural Show on Sunday 15th. Why not call by and have a chat with us?

To find out more about us, visit our website: www.cactuswarriors.org.



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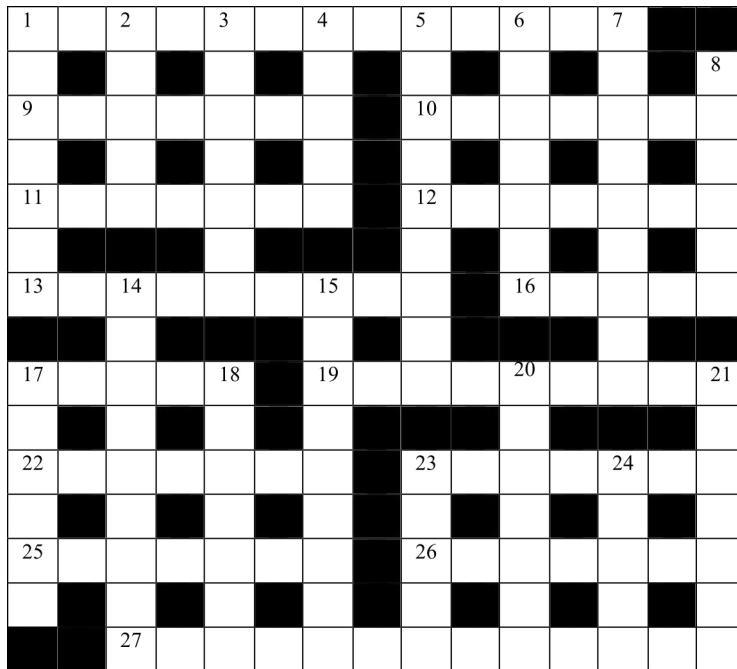
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- Rubbish removal
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Down:

1. Strange chap, like the fifth delivery... (7)
2. No right to ensure that it will come. (5)
3. Sixteenth Greek in bulb of skins gives a position on what will 2. (7)
4. If rotten, Spike would tell it to get knotted. (5)
5. Highly observant? (5-4)
6. Danish Hans Christian (without UK GST no longer hyperbolic) would be a physicist. (7)
7. Pull two houses apart? (9)
8. I get into a lettuce, or a rose, or a hydrangea: I am flexible... (6)
14. Toreador's nemesis could skewer author. (4,5)
15. African state took a dire path last century. (9)
17. Old Turk to take out NaCl and stir? (6)
18. Vegetable sound of Dad's snort? (7)
20. Can base gas come from this pulpy residue? (7)
21. Smell of sodium not yet mature. (7)
23. Tear the wrong way for 23d? (3,2)
24. I roam up the North Island. (5)

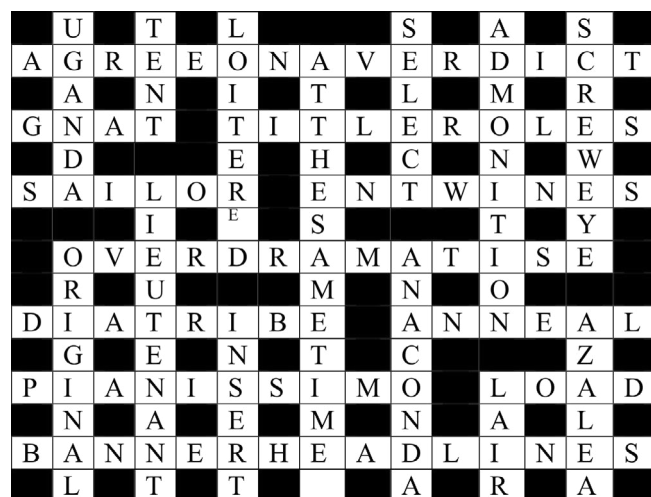
Across:

1. A truly bituminous Shiraz? (3,3,3,4)
9. Could give a kid his African shirt. (7)
10. So: a girl might get one from Coober Pedy? (7)
11. A need in all human tissue for a component base in DNA. (7)
12. Can a text remain within these bounds with such large and small values? (7)
13. Lady Green was of the "lay" gender, noted for her randy glee whilst waving any red leg at passers-by. She was almost mythical in her narrative arc. (9)
16. Back redactor bath to come out. (5)
17. Part-descriptor for substitute for legal tender. (5)
19. A banal red (but a heavenly body!) in a bland area twins with another for bullseye. (9)
22. Lt. Reeve might serve one juggled.... (7)
23. Prevailing systems; i.e. germs. (7)
25. Moderately slow, and even upping the ante won't change tempo. (7)
26. Doubloon shot through? (7)
27. He takes the politest pride in entomology. (13)

September 2017 Xword

©McW Jan '15

SOLUTION



Down:

1. Goose addresses mate in Africa. [Well?]
2. Motivation [intent] unfashionable camping equipment? [4]
3. [Leo tried] to look innocent as he waited by the corner... [8]
4. [Elects] to choose. [Well? Fooled you! Too easy.]
5. [No idiot man] would offer this advice. [10]
6. Turn needle aperture to pass cord through. [Well?]
8. [Taste me—I am the] essence of simultaneity! [2,3,4,4]
12. [An elite nut] gets commission, plays [innate lute] (lute in a net!). [10]
14. [Go in, liar] You're the first! [8]
15. [No Canada] snake, this. [8]
17. [Shove] nitres in. [6]
19. A gardener has [a laze; a flower] emerges. [6]
21. A hundred dinars **back** flash old Bogan. [Well?]

Across:

7. After one barrister [overacted in rage] the [coverage trained] on him from the press gallery caused him [on greater advice], to come to terms with the prosecution. [5,2,1,7]
9. Can you remember an inn, Miranda? The bloody insect brings back the last note [ting, tong, tang] of the guitar... [4]
10. Headliners' parts? [Well?]
11. Dead loss all at sea for some tarts! [Well? "What a dead loss you turned out to be, sailor!"]
13. Tolkien's tree [ent] grog [wines] curls around.
14. [Avid smearer] to exaggerate the potential for tragedy. [4-9]
16. Revoke help [aid] for early group [tribe] in polemic. [8]
18. Queen [Anne], et al put the heat on to toughen up... [6]
20. [Impassion] the piece, but softly... [10]
21. [Lo] First two of five (dn) carry the burden.
22. [Bland, inane—here's] to those that shout from papers' opening pages! [6,9]

Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	Monday to Friday		
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



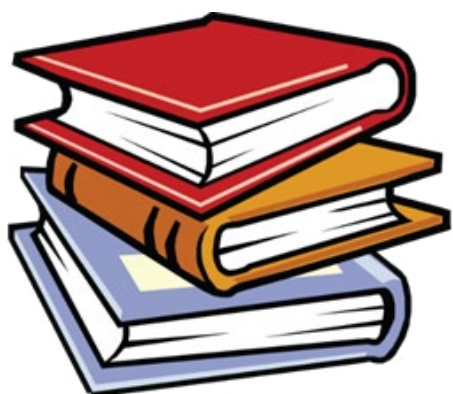
Maree Edwards MP
State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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

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Tel: (03) 5444 4125 Fax: (03) 5441 8140
maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au
@mareeedwardsm
www.mareeedwards.com.au





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

Monday October 9th: 4th School term commences.

Thursday October 12th: 7.30pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall.

Monday 16 October: Expressions of Interest (EOI's) close for positions on the Committee of Management for the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park. More information and nomination forms are available from Lynda Grant at DELWP on 5430 4444 or by emailing harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au

Wednesday October 18th: 7.00pm Harcourt Progress Association Meeting, Harcourt Primary School.

Sunday October 22nd: 1.30 pm, meet at Heritage Centre for tour of Swiss-Italian Region & Lavendula.

Sunday October 22nd: 9.30am – 12pm, Little Habitat Heroes, Tree Caring Day, park at Leanganook Camp Ground – details page 14.

Tuesday October 31: Applications close for Loddon Murray Leadership Program. For information and online application see: www.cllm.org.au

Bowls Club Dates: See page 17.

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. Next to swimming pool.

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

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



**Castlemaine District
Community Health**
Facilitating Better Health

Harcourt walking group keeps expanding

Castlemaine District Community Health's walking group in Harcourt started in May 2014. Since starting, it has expanded so that now there are more weekly sessions and more attending. Annual participation data for 2016/17 has shown the group walked on 66 occasions, with an average of 5 participants at each walk.

"Castlemaine District Community Health would like to thank our Harcourt Walking Group volunteers. Their support has allowed us to make a genuine difference in the health and social wellbeing of people who live in Harcourt with limited resources", says CEO Anne Bates.

The group meets at 9.30am 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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New funding round open for children's resilience projects

Applications for round two of the Building Our Children's Resilience (BOCR) grant are now open.

The Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch's grant program supports projects that build resilience in our region's children. The program seeks to build children's resilience by focusing on the wellbeing of those closest to them – parents, educators and carers.

"We want this program, ultimately, to nurture the children in our region so they are resilient and able to withstand challenges as they grow and learn," said Bank Chairman Genevieve Barlow.

Funding of \$20,000 is available in the second round of funding.

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

- Build resilience in 0-14 year olds in Maldon, Newstead, Dunolly and Mount Alexander region.
- Focus on the wellbeing of parents and/or teachers and/or carers.
- Be able to demonstrate community support.

Two projects received funding in the inaugural grants round in 2016. Workshops on resilience are under way at schools across our region.

The 'Uncovering Rural Resilience' program will run next term at six primary schools in Maldon, Newstead, Baringhup, Dunolly, Tarnagulla and Bealiba. Castlemaine Community House received funding to run parent & teacher resilience workshops for Chewton, Taradale and Langley primary schools. Both projects focus on supporting teachers and parents, giving them skills and support to nurture resilience in the district's children.

Lead applicant for the six-school project, Newstead Primary School principal Andrew Frawley said the grant was an exciting opportunity for local schools. The grant has enabled the schools to engage experienced facilitators, The Resilience Project, to work with teachers and parents as well as students on building resilience.

Andrew congratulated the Community Bank for its initiative in setting up the special grants program.

Applications for the current round close on 12 November 2017. Successful applicants will be announced in early December.

The application form, guidelines and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are available at the Community Bank's website www.maldoncb.com.au. Alternatively you can contact the Executive Officer Karly Smith for a copy of the application form, guidelines and FAQs on 0478 435 110 or executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au.

Farmer's Breakfast *Friday 13 October 2017* *Innovation & Farm Security*

Learn about farm security & how
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7.30 am breakfast, for 8 am start
Mill tour at 10 am

At Oxley's Feed Mill
643 Guildford-Newstead Road
Strangways

FREE EVENT

LUCKY GATE PRIZE - WEBER BBQ

Guest speakers:

CEO Rural Bank Alexandra Gartmann
Victoria Police Agri. liaison officer LSC Dan O'Bree
Newstead police officer LSC Grant McDonald
Federation Uni Senior Lecturer Dr Alistair Harkness

RSVP for catering purposes or to find out more about
the day contact the Maldon Branch

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