

HARCOURT NEWS

THE C^{ORE}

May 2014

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 5
<http://theharcourtprogressgroup.blogspot.com.au/>

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

ANZAC DAY

Harcourt 2014



The Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band led by Drummajor Tony Mathers played Green Hills and Battles O'er as they marched along High Street to begin the ceremony.



Over forty people gathered at Stanley Park at 3.30 pm on Friday 25 April to remember and honour those from the Harcourt community who fought in wars from World War I through to the present day.

The short but moving ceremony, which was led by George Milford, included a solo bag pipe performance of Amazing Grace by piper Alison Brown during the wreath laying.



After the wreath laying (above right).

Flag bearers, Peter Trounson and son Lachlan (left)

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 3rd of the month except January. The deadline is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and Community Groups will be sent reminder emails.

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$10
Double Bus Card	\$20
1/4 Page	\$50
1/2 Page	\$75
Full Page	\$150

CALDER WARD BY- ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM, TUESDAY 6 MAY, 7.30 pm

CANDIDATES STATEMENTS - pages 2, 3 & 4

CALDER WARD BY- ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM, TUESDAY 6 MAY, 7.30 - 9 pm

HARCOURT LEISURE CENTRE

Hosted by Harcourt Progress Association

Harcourt Progress Association invites members of the community to hear from the candidates in the coming Calder Ward By-election.

The evening will commence at 7.30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre and will be moderated by Stephen Carthew, a former Councillor and Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire.

Harcourt Progress Association asked the candidates to address four questions; the responses to be printed in The Core, to initiate discussion for the Forum

The questions were:

1. What has motivated you to stand for Council?
2. What skills do you bring to this role?
3. What do you see as the key challenges and opportunities which face Calder Ward?
4. If successful, what would you like to achieve in your time on Council?

Candidates responses and photos (if received) are shown here in the order of the names on the ballot paper.

Readers of The Core can view and print the official Candidates Statements and preferences from the Victorian Electoral Commission web site at:

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/Current/MountAlexanderNominations.html>

Irene Yerman: no response

Ian Braybrook:

1. I believe that the present council has made a number of questionable decisions, possibly based on poor advice. I believe council's role should be more focused on Roads Rates and

Rubbish and the use of expensive consultants considerably reduced. I feel also that Council needs an injection of people more representative of the older and long established residents. Many of them are loath to speak up and many feel ignored and shut out. They need a voice on council. That said, I will however represent all residents of the ward.

2. My skills lie in my ability to communicate with people from all walks of life and from the experience I have gained from a community active life. Marilyn and I lived in Harcourt for many years and our record of community service overall is pretty well known.

3. The Calder Ward offers opportunity for growth and development, particularly in the Harcourt township which the Progress Assn. represents. It will certainly grow considerably as already demonstrated. My concern is that it will develop into a "village" of coffee shops like Castlemaine and lose its Australian township (not village) character. I would hope to address that.

4. I will work to promote with all levels of government the desires and wishes of all residents of the ward and the shire. The position of Mayor is one of considerable and increasing power and influence and I will work towards a change in law to allow election of Mayor by popular vote.

David Heath:



1. I really want to see stronger communication, consultation and cooperation between council and grass roots community groups. During my time working with the Harcourt Progress Association, I have seen first-hand how council

and community often don't work well together. I believe that I can provide a voice for community concerns and initiatives at a council level ensuring better cooperation.

2. I bring dedication, vision and the ability to cooperate. As Chair of the Harcourt Progress Association, I worked with other volunteers to put together the Harcourt Community Plan. As part of the Applefest Committee, we saw an excellent and reinvigorated event. As part of the committee promoting the Harcourt Mountain Bike park, we hope to bring a major tourist draw card to our region.

3. The local economy needs to be strengthened and diversified following the loss of trade following the bypass. With food growers, wineries, cideries and outdoor recreation opportunities, Calder ward can become a magnet for tourism and the jobs and opportunities this brings. An opportunity exists to get the Harcourt entrance and Town Centre right. This will require wide consultation with our community.

4. I would like to see the reopening of Harcourt Station and better transport links to Castlemaine and other centres. I would like to see a major boost in tourism coming from the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park with follow on benefits to our growers and businesses. We need more people visiting and staying longer providing employment and business opportunities to local residents. I would like to see better cooperation between council and community on things that matter to residents.

Tony Cordy:

1. My family (on my mother's side) have been residents in the district since early settlement and

I have always had a home base in Harcourt when I have worked interstate and overseas. On this occasion friends suggested I stand for Council and after due consideration I thought it would be a good way I could contribute to the local community.

2. I am an Engineer by profession and I have a lot of experience working with people in diverse and complex settings. I have worked in four states and territories of Australia in heavy industry, consulting, food processing and the Health sector. In 2008 I worked in large hospitals in Malaysia and Thailand and this involved training and development of groups from those with limited English through to highly educated members of the team. My Health Sector experience includes working in aged care, psychiatric services and acute hospitals. I have been actively involved in farming in the district from an early age and operate a wool growing farm situated at North Harcourt and Woodbrook. I have been a member of Landcare for many years and I have been working with Connecting Country to control woody weeds and erosion. My wife, Jo and I have three adult daughters who have completed their studies and are in the workforce.

3. •We have an ageing population with limited access to transport, suitable accommodation and health services. • We need to provide better recreational facilities for our young people. •There are significant cost pressures all sectors of the community. •Promote expanded production of our clean and green world class agricultural products. •Promote value adding as a way to generate employment opportunities. •Promote the community as a place where new residents and industries are welcomed. •Improve educational opportunities for the broader community.

Continued page 4

Harcourt Co-operative Cool Stores Ltd.

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Calder By-Election Candidates Statements

From Page 3

4. •Assist the council and the staff to work together as a team for the benefit of the community. •Provision and retention of better community services and facilities. •Represent all sectors of the broader community. •Responsible financial management.

Ben Keogh: No Response

David Petrusma:



1. I am concerned about the direction Council is taking and the impact this has on Calder Ward residents. In particular, council spending and constant rates increases above CPI. There are several recent examples where Council has ignored the wishes of residents (even after being consulted!). I would like to see this addressed and feel that now is the right time for me to stand again.

2. I previously served a 3 year term as a Councillor and I am familiar with the responsibilities of the role and the time commitment required. I am a police officer and have an excellent knowledge of the entire Calder Ward. I am also a police prosecutor which gives me an edge for cutting through mountains of information and varying opinions to reach sensible decisions.

3. The diversity within our Ward is both an opportunity and challenge. Changes in farming and agriculture need particular attention to maintain a viable industry. Similarly, business and residential development must be carefully planned and managed. Lastly, we will need to meet the challenges associated with developing, improving and maintaining facilities for families, children and visitors.

4. This is only a two year term; so my efforts will go into returning good governance and decision making practices to Council. With a stable Council, I can represent the diverse

needs of constituents and advocate for families, farmers, business and property owners and residents of the ward.

Jake Webb:



1. I am motivated to stand in this by- election to ensure that Harcourt and the whole ward approaches the future with a plan that people of the ward are happy with.

2. My professional work as a builder has taught me to ask people what they want, listen to their answer and try my very best to deliver -skills that would be very useful as a Councillor.

3. There are a number of challenges and opportunities in this ward. The future is bright for the whole ward if township growth, transport, housing, agriculture, social services, infrastructure, waste management and tourism are handled well. However less densely populated parts of the ward may need extra help to feel included in a Shire where they pay rates but wonder if they are getting value for money in return.

4. There are projects already planned or underway that whoever is elected will need to see completed. Into the future I would like to keep the council on a good footing, going forward, building our small towns and making them more resilient and adaptable. That would have to happen as in challenges and opportunities mentioned above, but if elected, I am keen to unite the people of the Calder Ward so we can tackle these challenges together.

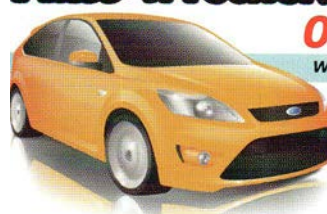
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Major Mitchell's party camped for the night,
Painted by Eliza Tree

Major Mitchell

Centenary

The centenary of the Major Mitchell memorial at Expedition Pass was celebrated with due ceremony on Sunday 27th April.

The funding and construction of the memorial cairn was an initiative of Charles Long, the-then-editor of the Victorian school paper and many textbooks. A local committee was formed with Mr. George Ellery as Secretary. The Faraday School community threw its weight behind the efforts.

The monument, complete with commemorative plaque, was unveiled on 22nd April 1914. It was unveiled again during this year's festivities.

The unveiling was performed, in the presence of about forty onlookers, by Major Mitchell (a.k.a. Neil Charter) in full ceremonial costume, who had arrived in Terry Collins' horse-drawn cart. Also present was Harcourt's Alma Chaplin, niece of the original secretary Geo. Ellery.

Afterwards the crowd moved to the pretty

little picnic ground a few hundred yards along the road at Dunstan's Flat. The Faraday ladies had set up tent, tables and seats, the bubbly flowed, lunch was consumed and Eliza Tree engaged the crowd with a talk and visual display of the country as it was when Mitchell's exploring party came through. Eliza's business card describes her as 'artist and expeditioner' and directs us to a website; www.majormitchellexpedition.com where we can see the paintings exhibited at Dunstan's Flat on 27th April.

The re-enactment was a positive step towards closer relations between the communities that are physically separated by Lang's Hill. Community equipment was shared, a worthwhile event was staged and everybody enjoyed each other's company.

Eliza Tree and Major Mitchell (Neil Charter) unveiling the cairn at Expedition Pass for the Centenary of Major Mitchell Memorial.



Join us during National Volunteer Week with a community celebration

Thursday, 15th May from 6pm – 8.30pm at the Harcourt Bowling Club.

Enjoy live music from MOOD SWING and a delicious BBQ dinner.

Let's get together and thank the great work of volunteers in our community

RSVP to Jacqueline 5474 3172 takandjak@bigpond.com



Harcourt Progress Association

The Harcourt Progress Association has hit the ground running this year with lots of community involvement. First up, the HPA partnered with the Heritage Centre to help deliver the 2014 Applefest. We were really proud to help move the festival market to a new location where we were able to generate \$1800 on gate donations to help the cost of next year's event. We also conducted hands on workshops and demonstrations over at the Tavern and represented local producers at our HOMEGROWN HARCOURT stall. It was a great day and showcased Harcourt at its finest.

Thanks to everyone who got on board and helped support the 2014 Applefest. Hope to have you involved again for the next one.

Hot on the heels of Applefest came our inaugural Easter Egg Hunt at the Oak Forest. What a great day this was with over 250 people turning up on Easter Sunday. Thanks to the Harcourt Valley Landcare and the Harcourt Lions for partnering with the HPA and thanks to Jacqueline for the

idea and impetus to make it all happen. Planning is already underway for what is set to be an annual event. See pages 10 and 11 for photos and more about the Easter Egg Hunt.

The Progress Association is keen to involve any and all community members interested in seeing things happen in Harcourt. If you have an idea, a project, an event or would like to achieve something positive for your community let us know how we can help. We would love to have broad community involvement in realising the goals identified in the Harcourt Community Plan. Any contribution you can make - no matter how big or small - would be gratefully appreciated. For more information, you can email harcourtprogressassociation@gmail.com

NEXT HPA MEETING:

Wednesday 21st May 7pm - 9pm at the
Harcourt Valley Primary School
ALL WELCOME

Harcourt CWA

Harcourt CWA is renowned for its afternoon teas full of cakes and sandwiches but after an enquiry as to whether any of our delicious offerings were gluten free, we had to admit they were not. Well that is a thing of the past and now we are offering delicious gluten free goodies and the feed back from our visitors has been very pleasing.

Laurel Jeffrey, a Harcourt CWA member, is one of the many in our community who suffer from Coeliac Disease, and will be the guest speaker at our Association Day in June.

We invite you to attend this informative afternoon, listen to Laurel as she talks about her own personal journey with Coeliac Disease, and then indulge in a Devonshire and gluten free afternoon tea.

Perhaps you have friends and family who suffer from Coeliac Disease and you want to bake them something special. See the next column for a recipe for "oh-so-good" gluten-free Banana & Pecan Muffins topped with a deliciously sweet orange icing a try.

Come and join us on Thursday, June 5th, at Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1.30 PM.

There will be a trading table and a raffle, admission is by gold coin donation.

RSVP 22/5/14, Bev Green Ph: 5474 3027

Email: dinz1234@bigpond

We looking forward to seeing you.

Lyn Rule, Publicity Officer.

LIVE AT THE HARCOURT TAVERN

THE EXIT CROWD

Sunday 18th May

1pm - 3pm

Inspired by CAT EMPIRE and FLAP!

Comprising 6 very talented local musicians, this very funky, danceable band performs a mixed up blend of jazz, gypsy, world, funk and blues.

NOT TO BE MISSED

Banana & Pecan Muffins

Prep Time 15 minutes

Cook Time 25 minutes

Serves Makes 16

Ingredients

1 egg

2 medium ripe bananas, mashed

125 ml (1/2 cup) skim milk

70 g (1/3 cup) brown sugar

1 tbsp olive oil

2 medium carrots, peeled, coarsely grated

30 g (1/4 cup) pecans, coarsely chopped

1 tsp orange rind, finely grated

265 g (1 3/4 cup) gluten-free plain flour

1 tbsp gluten-free baking powder

1 tsp ground cinnamon

2 tbsp pecans, coarsely chopped, extra

Orange icing

2 tsp orange rind, finely grated

1 tbsp orange juice

Orange Icing

150 g (1 cup) pure icing sugar

1 tsp melted butter

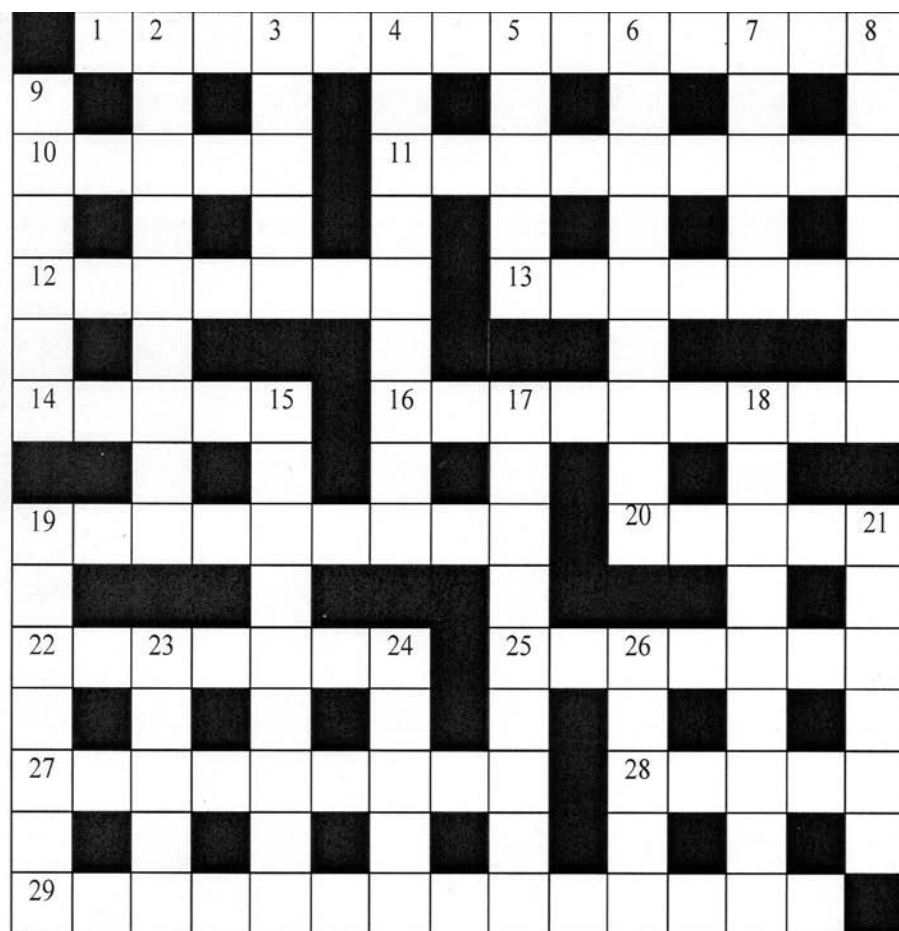
Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Line twelve 80ml (1/3 cup) capacity muffin pans with paper cases. Whisk the eggs, banana, milk, sugar and oil in a large bowl. Add the carrot, pecans and orange rind and stir to combine. Add the flour, baking powder and cinnamon and stir to combine. Spoon evenly among the prepared pans.

Bake in preheated oven for 20-25 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centres comes out clean. Turn onto a wire rack to cool completely.

To make the orange icing, sift the icing sugar into a medium bowl. Add the orange rind and butter and stir to combine. Add orange juice and stir to a smooth paste. Drizzle icing over muffins and sprinkle with pecans. Set aside for 30 minutes to set.

Cryptic Crossword Challenge - crack the code of the cunning McW!



Across:

- 1 The sound of Slava! Slava! Slava! (9, 5)
 10 Clerics with one degree in arts and in science. (5)
 11 Stupid collage of oriental neat sins. (9)
 12 Short bandit and his instrument? (4-3)
 13 Born communists mixed up, now poor. (7)
 14 Neuropath rendered thus by pointless, disordered hunting. (5)
 16 Chappell among the Italians in Eastern Europe. (9)
 19 Fishy low-pitched beginnings of staffs. (4, 5)
 20 Become a doctor! (Featured in church architecture.) (5)
 22 Car to unbutton blouse. (4, 3)
 25 Bovine nemesis mixes measure of spirit with Chinese metaphysics. (7)
 27 Repeal hem – it won't hang about! (9)
 28 Come apart, lose the point, produce more beef. (Sounds as though you're cutting it!) (5)
 29 A definite straightening-up that shows lack of interest. (14)

Down:

- 2 Tarry marathon practices. (9)
 3 Gadget ran away with organism. (5)
 4 Hold police in check by providing backup. (9)
 5 Offspring of rare gas lights this up. (5)
 6 Interested, relevant to news boss. (9)
 7 Paths & hedges surprise greatly. (5)
 8 Collection of distinct entities, and its plural, flies about. (7)
 9, 21 Pavarotti's mobile home? (a Datsun...) (6, 6)
 15 Sirens' chants may destabilise this chap. (9)
 17 Smelly common gourd. (9)
 18 Provide weapon for drongo with nothing and get a bony-plated mammal. (9)
 19 Ornamental prop finale of novel. (7)
 21 See 9.
 23 Jangled so the characteristic spirit shows through. (5)
 24 Persian fairy with tyro at grave risk. (5)
 26 Understood one with tact. (5)

April Cryptic Solution: Across: 1 Newcomer, 5 Funnel, 10 Go out like a light, 11 Enchanting, 13 Star, 15 Tea Leaf, 17 Eternal, 18 In House, 19 Rampage, 21 Leer, 22 Respondent, 25 Community Charge, 27 Titfer, 28 Set Piece.

Down: 1 Neglect, 2 Woo, 3 & 4 Outrageous Edict, 6 Ugly, 7 Nightingale, 8 Lateral, 9 Reindeer, 12 Crash helmet, 14 Penmanship, 16 Frenetic, 18 Illicit, 20 Extreme, 23 Payee, 24 Cure, 26 Rue

Country and Metro Road Race

Championships

Harcourt 17th and 18th May

Castlemaine Cycling Club is again looking forward to bringing some top level cycling to Harcourt. On Saturday 17th May the Country Road Race Championships for all country riders from across Victoria will compete for Championship medals, then on Sunday 18th all of the Metropolitan riders get their opportunity to race the challenging circuits in the area. All permits are now in place for these events, with race headquarters in the ANA Hall open from 8.00am with racing to start at 9.00am on both days.

Racing will be held on a combination of 2 courses and there will be no road closures required for these events. The small 12km course goes from Market Street, to Reservoir Road, McIvor Road and Harmony Way. This will be used for junior riders with the number of laps depending on the age of contestants. This course will also be used in combination with a 56km course starting in Harcourt going south on Harmony Way to Elphinstone, left over the Calder Freeway then all the way back up to Harcourt North via Sutton Grange. At Harcourt North, riders will swing south back past the Barkers Creek Reservoir, onto McIvor Road then left onto Harmony Way to finish back in Harcourt.

The day will begin with the Under 11's doing a 6 km journey, progressing through to the Elite riders who will be traversing the big course twice, a total of 112 kms. Competition will be for all age groups both Male and Female, from under 11 riders through to all Masters age groups with all racing to be completed by 5.00pm.

As in past years, Cycling Victoria is expecting over 200 riders each day. These riders and their families will travel from every affiliated club in Victoria, from clubs as far away as Albury, Mildura, Camperdown, Sale and every club in between, including all of the Metropolitan Clubs. This will mean a considerable influx of people

into Mount Alexander Shire, not only on this weekend, but in the days and weeks before as riders slip quietly into the area to check out the challenges ahead.

The Castlemaine Cycling Club appreciate the considerable support received from local organisations. Already the Harcourt CFA are mustering their members to assist with marshalling, and the local Primary School are preparing to cater for the hundreds of extra visitors to the area over this weekend. On Sunday afternoon from 1 - 3 pm, The Exit Crowd will perform live at the Harcourt Tavern - see advertisement bottom of page 7. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and enjoy some of the top class racing expected.

Shirley Amy



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Harcourt Lions 30 Year Charter Celebratory Dinner



Photo at left shows the gathering at the Lions Dinner with the inflatable cinema in the background.

Below Harcourt Lions Club President Grant Victor-Gordon (left) and current District Governor Stan Falloon.

On Thursday 24th April, 70 people gathered at the Harcourt Leisure Centre to celebrate 30 years of Lions activity in Harcourt.

The large silver screen ran visuals of the history of the club, while members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.



Lions Lend a Hand at the Oak Forest Easter Egg Hunt



The Lions barbecue and supply of hot cross buns, tea and coffee were a big hit with those who attended the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20.

It was without hesitation that the rejuvenated Harcourt and District Lions Club took up the invitation from the HPA to join them and Harcourt Landcare to support the “Easter egg hunt at the Oak Forest’ on Easter Sunday.

This was the first opportunity to bring the new Harcourt and district members together to support a local event. It was very exciting to be part of the inaugural event and as word spread throughout the community there was anticipation that attendances would be good. And they were..... beyond expectations. Despite this we were well stocked with the traditional Lions fare of sausages with onions and bacon and egg rolls.

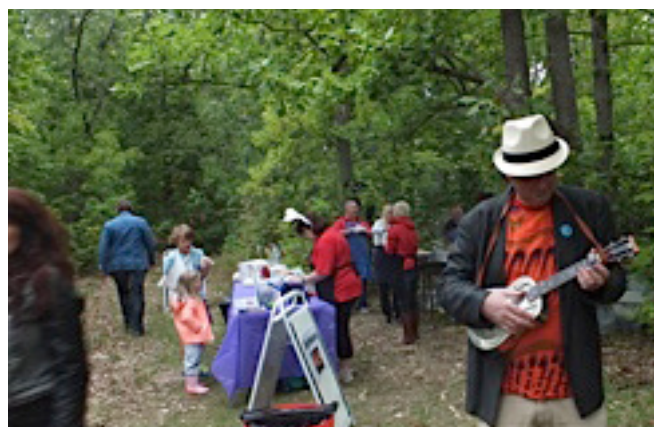
It was a magical morning in the Oak Forest, filled with families and kids brimming with enthusiasm to get the Easter Egg Hunts started. Situated in a small clearing we were surrounded by musicians entertaining the crowd, tables with activities for kids, hot coffee and hot cross buns for sale and an unmistakable atmosphere of fun.

As the morning progressed we were busy serving the hungry hunters and by 12.30pm as the Egg hunting was winding up we had sold out of food. The feedback we received from families was positive and it seems that most people would love to see this become an annual event.....and we know the Lions members had a great time too and would certainly be happy to support this event in the future. Thank you to the organisers who did a wonderful job getting the community groups together and promoting the event and let's hope we can do it again next year.

Donna McMahon & Di Selwood



Children were kept busy at the activity table, the music was provided by Jim Brannan and Tony Alan.



Some of the crowd of 250 who attended the Easter Egg Hunt organised by Harcourt Progress Association, Harcourt Landcare and Harcourt & District Lions Club on Easter Sunday.

From the Editor

Thank you Harcourt!

Contributions this month are at an all time high. Each edition has grown...We began with 4 pages in December 2013, and this month, for our fifth edition, we have 20 pages.

There is so much happening in our community and it shows how active and productive we are.

If you have a story you want to tell about Harcourt, be it about a person, a club, a sporting achievement please send it in. We also encourage creative writers to submit a story or poem.

And to date, we have had no letters. I wonder why that is? Until next month...

Robyn Miller



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552
Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550

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E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au

Twitter: @LMChesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo



News from Harcourt Bowling Club

The Presidents and Friends Day on Saturday 29th March was held in perfect Autumnal weather.

A keen gallery of spectators was treated to some fine bowling displays in the final of the Ladies 100up played recently. Vice President Moira Straw with 102 was the winner from Heather Braid at 86.

The Jackpot Pairs will be held on Sunday afternoons commencing at 1.00pm for 1.30pm start. These are drawn teams of two playing with 4 bowls – a great way to test/ hone those bowling skills. All are welcome. Please have your name into the club by midday on Sundays if you want to play in this competition.

The End of Season break-up which is to be held on Saturday 3rd May will commence with social bowls at 2.00pm (weather permitting) followed by shared casserole meals in the evening. Members are asked to bring a casserole or similar.

Nominations are being called for Board members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 17th May. At this meeting all Board positions will become vacant with 5 of the 9 Board members elected to sit for 2 years and 4 elected to sit for 1 year. This is in keeping with the new constitution and to ensure stability and continuity of the governance of the Club.



The winning team at the Presidents and Friends Day on Saturday 29th March
Left to right: Leo Moloney, Moira Straw, Andrew Berry and Amy Rice



Left to right: Moira Straw (winner) and Heather Braid, (runner up) in the Ladies 100up.

Innovation Workshops with “Minds at Work”

The previously advertised Innovation Workshop has been postponed.
Please watch this space for further notices.

For further information contact:
Karoline Klein: kla@netcon.net.au or AH: 5439 6080

Picnic for Refugees a Major Success

Perfect weather greeted us at the Botanical Gardens on the Tuesday before Easter, setting the stage for the community's welcome to Tamil refugees visiting from Dandenong.

A banner saying WELCOME, *Vanakam*, in Tamil script swung from the Tea Rooms verandah. Tea and coffee were set out, cricket bats and other games equipment were ready, and many local folk had brought activities and instruments for our guests to enjoy.

The excitement when the bus arrived turned briefly into shyness on the part of our volunteer hosts: how would we greet these people who have suffered so terribly in Sri Lanka, and continue to have it hard even now that they have reached safety? But we soon felt at ease as we admired the gorgeous clothing of the women and girls, smiled at their beautiful babies, and spoke with the men and boys about cricket, mending bikes, and the countryside they had driven through.

The Tamil people had a wonderful time, playing or resting, meeting local folk, eating up big at lunchtime. It was a lovely event for us all. Everyone really relaxed in the autumn sunshine; kids and adults took part in various games and races - cricket, volleyball, tug-o-war, egg'n'spoon and three-legged races, balloon-twisting, exchanging friendship bracelets, face-painting, clay pottery and making music. The mums were able to select from piles of donated clothing and toys, the babies did what babies do, and towards the end of the visit when the adults were sitting back exhausted, the kids had a new lease on life at the playground. Our friendly bus driver got them home safely to Dandenong, actually dropping some off at their homes



because they had loads of 'new' luggage they had acquired. At the final stop, those who were left cleaned the bus out for him.

It was a day of friendship and cooperation, goodwill and inclusion, and we hope it's the forerunner of other visits, when hospitality will help build valued bonds between refugees and the people of the Castlemaine district.

The Harcourt Uniting Church folk are proud that it was such a happy occasion. The Bush Dance on 1 February raised the funds to make it possible, and many additional donations were gratefully received.

To everyone who did anything towards making the picnic such a success, whether it was providing food or funds or encouragement, or doing the physical labour of setting up, preparing or serving food, helping the women select clothing, participating in the activities, tidying up afterwards, or - most important of all - interacting with the Tamil visitors and the numerous people from the community, *Nandri*. THANK YOU.

Solway Nutting, for Harcourt Uniting Church

HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION INC.

COME AND TRY NIGHT

WHEN - 7th May 2014

WHERE - Harcourt District Leisure Centre.

TIME - 7.30pm - 9pm.

COST - FREE with supper to follow.

ALL WELCOME

Everything provided to play bowls. Just come along and have some fun.

See page 15 for more information on Harcourt Carpet Bowls Inc

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park – the Master Plan is almost done...

Since the last update in The Core, the Steering Committee for the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park (HMBP) has been working hard. The appointed consultants, Free Running and World Trail are close to completing the Master Plan, and the Steering Committee is now working with the Mount Alexander Shire to develop accurate costs for the entire project.

A key component of the Master Plan is the documenting of the proposed trails throughout the HMBP, and to that end 30kms of international standard trails have been designed. These trails will provide for riders of all skill and fitness levels, meaning the HMBP will be a great drawcard for a range of visitors to the area. From family groups looking for a quality outdoor adventure to suit both big and small, to groups of friends looking to explore the area, and experienced mountain bikers looking for their next adventure.

World Trail, who developed the design concept, has designed and built mountain bike parks all over Australia. They are saying this is one of the most exciting parks they've seen. The combination of stunning scenery, interesting topography, and proximity to Melbourne and major regional areas all bodes well for the success of the Park and the local community.

It is widely agreed, this project is going to be great for Harcourt. It will bring visitors to the town, they'll shop local, eat local, stay local and enjoy the area. The project will also deliver a quality natural asset to the area. Much of the Park site is in a sorry state of repair, with significant weed infestation; apart from the much loved Oaks area, which is maintained as best can be by local interest groups. The Park will see the whole area revitalised, improved and opened up for the enjoyment of all.

Harcourt already has an excellent reputation within the cycling fraternity. Due to the topography, wide roads and undulating landscapes, Harcourt bike courses prove challenging, providing opportunities for the hill climbers but also plenty of opportunities for seasoned sprinters. Castlemaine Cycling Club conducts many events each year on courses centred on Harcourt. The town hosts a number of events on the winter calendar of Cycling Victoria, including the annual Victorian Country Road Championships, the Victorian Metro Road Championships and, on occasion, the Masters International Road Time Trial and Road Race Championships. These events attract cyclists from all over Victoria. The Mountain

Bike Park will be yet another feather in the cap for the town, and a reason for people to travel to, stay in, and enjoy the area.

“George Milford, Steering Committee member, believes this mountain bike park will be great for the community of Harcourt. He says “ There were several business closures that occurred when the bypass was opened. But now house construction is increasing, the cider business is taking off, the Tavern has reopened and we can see the prospect of a mountain bike park on the lower slopes of the mount. The proposal is a perfect fit to the regular cycling program we already host. I'm very impressed about the progress to date, and looking forward to the next stage”

The Park planning has been carefully discussed and managed in consultation with representatives of the Mount Alexander Shire and various Harcourt Community Groups (who are represented on the Steering Committee). The Consultants have reviewed and considered Plans including Harcourt After the Bypass (2009) Strategic Action Plan, Harcourt Town Centre Master plan (2011) - to ensure this project delivers not only a great outdoor experience for visitors to the region and the local community, but also real benefits for Harcourt and the surrounding area.

Keep an eye on The Core for further updates, or speak to your local representative: from the Harcourt Progress Association – David Heath, from the Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre Heritage Committee – George Milford, from Harcourt Valley Landcare – Jarrod Coote. Or contact Goldfields Tourism by email, info@goldfieldstrack.com.au

Project Manager, Goldfields Track Development Project

Jo Pincus



Mt Alexander from Reservoir Road

The Road to Mount Alexander

There are no tourist signs on Mount Alexander. The average motorist could drive from one end of the Mount to the other without realizing that there are marvelous points of interest to be found along the way. Parks Victoria seems unwilling or unable to erect signage. Bushwalkers and orienteers routinely scale the heights, Rock climbers tell each other about the trad laybacks, jam cracks, chimneys and arêtes. Caravanners in-the-know are to be found at the Leanganook facilities. Connecting Country is plotting to assassinate the mount's wind-sown pine trees. Landcare is busy protecting the moss beds. The Jaara people have deep and genuine concern for the place. Mountain bikers are planning great improvements on the lower slopes. Lookouts and places of interest abound. But there is no signage.

Ordinary citizens are powerless when it comes to placing signage on the Mount. What we can do is to give out literature to indicate points of interest. Recognising this long-felt need, Harcourt Heritage Centre will be launching a detailed map of Mount Alexander. The map, in A3 format, which has been drawn up by cartographer Jase Haysom has brief notes of the mountain's history on the reverse. This guide to points of interest and aid to tourists, walkers and climbers will be published on May 18th as part of the Victorian National Trust Heritage Festival. The map launch will be the central focus of this month's heritage centre tour, to places of interest on Mount Alexander. A car convoy will leave Harcourt Heritage Centre, High St, Harcourt, at 1.30 pm on Sunday May 18th to visit sites across the mountain that are important in the history, exploitation and geology of this much-valued regional park. The National Trust Heritage Festival booklet tells us that 'your guide-with-a-passion is George Milford'. There will be a small charge. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share. A billy will be boiled atop the mount so there will be a cuppa for all comers while we get our copy of the map. Families and children especially welcome. No need to book. Just turn up at High Street, Harcourt on Sunday May 18.

Incidentally, if you want to read more about the Mount, have a look at the website <http://www.chockstone.org/MtAlex.htm>

It isn't just the locals who are keen on Mount Alexander.

Harcourt Heritage Centre

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc.

Looking for a Family Activity that won't cost you the earth?

Looking for a Family or Singles activity that is held in a safe warm environment during winter, May to September, in a team?

Looking for a family activity where there is a great social get together for both children and adults?

Looking for a family activity where all children from 8 years up can join in and play the game?

THEN CARPET BOWLS MAY BE THE GAME FOR YOU.

We run a Competition - home & away season - all played at the Harcourt Leisure Centre from May to September - no previous experience needed. Heated Hall.

For the competitive person we have a singles & doubles competition to test your skills against the other players. We also enter a Team & Singles players Lady & Gent & Juniors in the State Country Championships.

TO GIVE IT A GO COME TO THE "COME & TRY NIGHT". 7th May, 7.30 - 9.00 pm, Harcourt Leisure Centre

HOME & AWAY SEASON starts 14th May 2014. \$5.00 registration, (less U17) & \$4.00 per player per night.- where else would you get a night out for the whole family at such a low price, have fun and a chance to win a trophy at the seasons end?

Games played on Wednesday night at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

Games start 7.30pm to 9pm approx. - not a late night for the family.

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN SEASON.



Harcourtians –

Wendy Barron

An interest in recording her own family history led Wendy into a greater public service. She is now one of four volunteers who gather at the Harcourt Museum every week with a keen focus - to assemble the history of Harcourt. From old maps, photographs, school records, people's memories and other sources, they are methodically putting together the rich history of this community and its people.

'It all started for me in the 90s,' Wendy says. 'In 1995 Harcourt was celebrating its 150th anniversary and a call went out for family histories. I did our own family history for the celebration and then one thing led to another and I have been part of the heritage centre on and off ever since.'



Wendy & brother Greg with parents in 1958.

Wendy & brother Greg with parents in 1958

Wendy was born a Robins in 1949. Her father, Ken, one of 17 children, was a shearer and her mother, Thelma, was from Campbells Creek. Wendy spent the early part of her life in Barkers Creek. By the time she started primary school the family had moved to Harcourt. Since then, despite working outside of Harcourt for periods of time, she has always returned to live at its core.

'In 1965 I got my first job at Jeffries Garage in Castlemaine, now Mitsubishi Motors. I met my first husband there and lived in that town until the eldest of my two children started school. Then we moved back to Harcourt. In 1976 we bought 50 acres, where Henry's of Harcourt is now, from the Broadbent's sub-division. It wasn't an orchard in those days. We had a few cows and sheep and grew tomatoes which we sold for sauce. We added onions and garlic to the tomato packages to make it more interesting.

'My husband and I separated and I was back in Harcourt again. I worked packing fruit and later got a full-time job working in the store at Cannie Ridge Pottery. Unfortunately the pottery closed in the late 80s as people's tastes changed. At its peak the pottery made a huge range of tableware. Families from Melbourne would come up to order dinner sets. After Cannie Ridge I worked for McClure Earthmoving for just over 12 years.'

Wendy, second from the left, with friends on her 10th birthday.



By now Wendy had bought and settled on 6 ½ acres, with its wild flowers and orchids, on the edge of town where she still lives with her second husband, Trevor. Even when she and Trevor went into partnership in an IGA in Greensborough she kept the place and would return to Harcourt every weekend. Such is her passion for Harcourt she wouldn't live anywhere else.

Continued page 17

(from page 16)

'Why would you? The place is quiet and Castle-maine and Bendigo are just down the road if you want to go there. Melbourne, too, isn't far.

'You don't miss out on much either. When I was a kid, the Queen went through the town in 1954 and I remember the Olympic torch going through in 1956.

'Yes the place has changed. There is no longer a saw mill, a pottery, some businesses have gone, there are fewer orchards and there's a freeway. I doubt people still go worming on Mt Alexander or have Guide camps there planting flowering gums on the other side of the oak forest, as we did. The changes impact on the way people live. But there is a quality of life here that is priceless.'

When talking to Wendy you can see that a family's history is akin to a town's. There is birth, newness, growth, new members, change, separation, loss and rebirth, but on a bigger scale.



Jenny McKenry, Dandura Alpacas



Harcourt work features at Bendigo Art Gallery!

A superb Harcourt work has been incorporated into the redevelopment of Bendigo's View Street Art Gallery. The Gallery was reopened to the public early in March 2014. Curious to see the extensions and anticipating crowds and queues, your correspondent arrived early in the day and was able to wander at leisure through the various gallery spaces. The building is clearly fit-for-purpose but, I suppose, the

focus has to be on the works on the walls, not the buildings themselves. As a result the architecture is not very striking. But wait – when you arrive at the back of the premises, out in the sunlight - there is an outstanding feature. Some curved retaining walls catch the eye. Yes, they are of Harcourt Granite!

Scott Male, Harcourt's heritage stonemason, completed the work in February. Scott says, while they look like dry stone walls, the stones are actually set in mortar at the rear, to prevent the stones being extracted from the walls by passing vandals. A dry stone wall is a three-dimensional jigsaw. Scott's skill, hard work and strength are demonstrated in the placing of the various-sized stones. The retaining walls, on the edge of Rosalind Park, behind the gallery, perform a useful, essential function, yet are pleasing to the eye, a sophisticated construction built by a professional.

Harcourt people will note this new feature of Bendigo as another example of the means by which Bendigo is enhanced by the product of Harcourt quarries. Some of the buildings for which Bendigo is most famous have been embellished with columns or pillars of Harcourt granite. The Alexandra Fountain is a fantastic construction of Harcourt granite. Now Bendigo's most publicized attraction has its very own feature piece, a superior object of craftsmanship, built of Harcourt stone by a Harcourt craftsperson!

George Milford

The Harcourt Granite walls at the Bendigo Art Gallery (left and below).





Celebrate National Volunteer Week

with a

25 YEARS OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
12-18 MAY 2014

Volunteer Training Day

Learn the secret to successful volunteer groups:

- How to recruit and retain volunteers
- Future proof your group by planning for succession
- Know the legal issues in managing volunteers
- Tips and techniques for effective decision making

Saturday 17th May 2014, 10am–4pm

at Continuing Education, Templeton Street, Castlemaine

Registrations and morning tea from 9.30a.m.

Lunch and Refreshments provided.

Free to all Landcare members. \$20 for non-Landcare members.

Please RSVP by 9th May:
by email to ftla@vff.org.au
or phone 03 9207 5527



This project is funded by the
Australian Government Department of Agriculture



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture



**Castlemaine District
Community Health**

Facilitating Better Health

‘Come & Try’ Walking Group in Harcourt

- Up to one hour walk, followed by a cuppa and chat.
- Fitness not necessary
- Regular ongoing walk will be established if enough interest

Where: Outside Harcourt Museum and ANA Hall

When: 9.30am, Mondays in May (5th, 12th, 19th & 26th)

The walk will be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

Local George Milford will lead the May 5 walk, and showcase the history of Harcourt’s new walking trail and footbridge.



Please contact Liza Shaw if you have any questions:

Phone 54791000 or via email: lshaw@cdch.com.au

www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au

Community Diary Dates

May - Various Dates - Mondays, 5th, 12, 19th & 26th, Come and Try Walking Group, 9.30 am, ANA Hall. See page 19 for details

May 7 - Harcourt Carpet Bowls, Come and try night, 7.30 pm - 9 pm, Harcourt Leisure Centre- heated.

May 8 - Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, 7.30 pm, ANA Hall

May 14 - Harcourt Carpet Bowls - Home & Away Season commences, 7.30 - 9 pm

May 17 & 18 Bicycle Races

May 17 - AGM Harcourt Lawn Bowls Club

May 18 - The Exit Crowd - band at Tavern 1 - 3 pm

May 18th - Harcourt Heritage Museum monthly activity. The journey to Mount Alexander, A car-convoy tour of our much valued Regional Park, with the launch of a new and detailed map of the mountain. This is an activity of the National Trust Heritage Festival. Commences 1.30 pm at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High St, Harcourt.

May 21 - Harcourt Progress Association Meeting, 7.00pm, Harcourt Valley Primary School

June 22nd - Harcourt Heritage Museum monthly activity. Keith McKenry, Australia's foremost folklorist and performance poet, will give a talk on "Australia's Lost Folk Songs" 1.30 pm at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High St, Harcourt.

The Harcourt News/The Core is published by the Harcourt Progress Association.

For inclusion in Harcourt News/The Core contact the Editor Robyn Miller 0467 670 271 or rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com. Contributions of ideas news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

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A full colour Harcourt News/The Core can be accessed via the Harcourt Progress Association blog at: <http://theharcourtprogressgroup.blogspot.com.au/>

The Harcourt News/The Core wishes to advise that the views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association and no endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.



Anzac Day photos: Clockwise from upper left:
Part of the crowd
George Milford leads the service
Wreaths laid on the World War 1 Memorial