HARCOURT NEWS

THE CORE

August 2014 HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 8 HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

http://theharcourtprogressgroup.blogspot.com.au/

Harcourt's World Champion

Will Oliver, calls Harcourt home and attends Harcourt Valley Primary School in Grade 3. His proud mum and dad, Bianca and Troy spoke to The Core after the family returned from the BMX World Championships in Rotterdam, Holland.

Will won the Boys 8 Class in the UCI BMX World Championships after winning nine heats and beating the two-time previous champion from the USA in the semi-final.

While I spoke with his parents, Will leapt on his bike and swooped around the Harcourt BMX track located next to the Swimming Pool. Bianca said the track had been put in by the Council a couple of years ago. "While it is not a racing track, I would encourage other families to bring their children here to use this great facility," she said.

BMX riding is an Olympic sport and the current World Champion is an Australian and an Olympic Silver Medallist. The young champion appears to be taking it all in his stride. Who knows where this sport will take him? ***Robyn Miller***

INSIDE

- Mountain Bike Park Progress
- Harmony Way Ceremony
- CFA
- CWA
- Harcourtians
- Pre-School
- HVPrimary
- Crossword
- Workshops

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

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL

Another Week, Another Cold Day for an Official Gathering - This Time to Announce the Delivery of the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park (HMBP) Proposal.

On Friday, July 25th, MP for Northern Victoria Damian Drum attended the launch, held in wintry conditions at the site of the proposed park on the western slopes of Mount Alexander. Mr Drum is also Minister for Sport and Recreation in the Victorian Government, so is ideally placed to be the plan's champion in Spring Street.

He was welcomed by Peter Skilbeck, former Mount Alexander Shire Councillor and Mayor, who is Chair of the Mountain Bike Park steering committee. Last year, the State Government provided $40,000 to the Goldfields Tourism to undertake a feasibility study and preliminary design for the proposed Park.

Mountain biking is one of Australia's fastest growing sports, attracting riders of every age and skill level, families and groups. It has been recognised that cycling and tourism are synergistic, and that such a Park would have significant economic and social benefits to Harcourt and the region. Estimates of visitors are of the order of 50-100,000 annually, leading to an economic boost to the region of up to $10 million. This is supported by the experience at other bike parks at Mount Buller, Forrest and the You Yangs.

The Park is proposed for the existing Hancock pine plantation which extends over 550 acres to the west of the Mount Alexander Regional Park, including the two lower peaks of Mount Alexander and the popular Oak Forest picnic and camping area. Hancock's lease on the area expires in 2015 and there had been real concerns about what would become of the land beyond this point. Tenders were called for the design of a number of tracks of varying difficulties to suit riders of all ages and skill. Highly regarded Australian company World Trail were selected to develop a master plan based on international standards. They delivered an exciting design offering 18 trails ranging from easy family runs to difficult and challenging rides for more experienced riders. Remarkably, the trails can be ridden for their entire 34km without repeating any one section. No trail enters the Oak Forest, which would remain available to locals to use and visitors to explore.

Peter Skilbeck (left) hands over the completed Harcourt Mountain Bike Feasibility Study to Damian Drum, MP for Northern Victoria

Construction of the trails and signage, and provision of trail head parking, toilets and picnic areas is estimated to cost in the order of $2 million, and this is the figure that is being sought. Hopes were high that Mr Drum would make an announcement regarding this funding, but these proved unfounded. He did however make undertakings to vigorously support the plan to his colleagues in Government so that funds from either this or next year's Regional Development Fund could possibly be made available.

Doug Falconer

Mountain Bike Park Public Information Night

Later in the evening of July 25th, an information session was held at the Leisure Centre, convened by the HPA. Seventy people attended and were able to examine plans for the HMBP.

The meeting was addressed by Peter Skilbeck, Chair of Goldfields Tourism Inc. and the Park steering committee, who outlined the process by which the proposal came into existence and the benefits the region can expect if it goes ahead.

A lively discussion followed, with people asking questions about the likely impacts on town amenity, fire and emergency access, other uses of the Park and access to the Regional Park.

Doug Falconer

Below: Meeting attendees enjoy a glass of wine and peruse the information about the Mountain Bike proposal prior to the start of the meeting

Harcourt Co-operative Cool Stores Ltd.

Est. 1917

Serving Harcourt District and Orchardists with cool storage, packing and processing facilities

Wine processing and warehousing plus off-season cool and ambient temperature storage for fruit and wine available.The most advanced, state-of-the-art cool store in Australia - meeting the needs of the 21st Century

Harmony Way Naming Ceremony

On July 10, during NAIDOC week, around fifty people braved an Antarctic day to attend a ceremony acknowledging the renaming of the old Calder Highway between Elphinstone and Harcourt after a respected Aboriginal figure of the late 19th Century.

Mount Alexander Shire Council made the decision in 2012 to rename the road Harmony Way after Henry "Harmony" Nelson, one of the 'apical' elders of the Dja Dja Wurrung clan. The Dja Dja Wurrung are recognised traditional owners of the area, and Henry was one of only eighteen individuals whose descendants can be regarded as members of the clan.

Appropriately, the ceremony was held beside the scar tree in Stanley Park, where new signage explaining the name and Henry's association with the region has also been erected. He was born around 1855 and spent much of his youth in the area and travelling between major centres of traditional activity throughout his long life. Despite being removed under duress to Cummeragunja and Framlingham, he and his descendants maintained a connection to the area, and several generations of Nelsons now reside here.

The suggestion to rename the highway came about as a result of community consultation and representations made to Council and VicRoads from several local people, as well as the Nelsons and the Dja Dja Wurrung. An alternative suggestion, Mount Alexander Road, gained support in a survey but was not supported by submissions, leading the Council to lean toward Harmony Way.

Mayor, Michael Redden, rather dryly outlined the somewhat lengthy process undertaken to first decide on a name, and then guide the decision through State Government and VicRoads channels. However he spoke with clear pride of his and other Councillors' support of the result and its significance to both indigenous and non-indigenous Shire residents and visitors.

"This significant honour provides lasting recognition of Henry Harmony Nelson, a prominent figure in the history of the Dja Dja Wurrung people," he said.

Uncle Rick Nelson, an elder of the local Jaara Jaara people and a direct descendant of Henry, agreed the decision had meant a lot to the Nelson family, the Jaara Jaara and all the Dja Dja Wurrung.

"If my father (Brien, Henry's great grandson) could be here today he would be beaming with pride, happiness and honour," he said. "I thank the Mount Alexander Shire and Mayor Redden for supporting such a monumental proposal."

Doug Falconer

Member of the Nelson family, descendants of Henry Harmony Nelson stand proudly with the Mayor, Michael Redden at the sign which shows the extent of Harmony Way and commemorates the story and achievements of their ancestor.

The Story of Henry Harmony Nelson

Henry Harmony Nelson was born in Dja Dja Wurrung Country in 1855, probably near what is now Majorca close to Maryborough. Henry moved widely across the traditional lands, mostly away from his own country due to the government policies of the day. An energetic and intelligent man, he actively searched for solutions to the challenges facing the Aboriginal peoples of his time.

Today, Henry would be called an activist and he formed an important part of a story that, as residents of central Victoria, we can and should acknowledge and celebrate. In the tradition of Australians who speak of the rebellion of Eureka as signalling the upwelling of our democracy, we can recognize and applaud the efforts of this man and his leaders in protesting against the government strictures of their time. He was an early part of a tradition of protest by the aboriginal community, culminating in the referendum of 1967. This resulted in a change to our constitution that saw Aboriginal people acknowledged for the first time as citizens, to be counted as Australians in our national census.

Henry and his wife were also committed volunteers - they were known as the "Soup Angels" of Cummerangunja. When disease and hunger were common in their community, they freely offered provisions to those in need. Three of his children fought in the world wars, despite the fact that Aboriginal people were not yet given equal rights in the nation which had been forged from their traditional lands.

Doug Falconer

Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts

KRMA INTERNATIONAL

BODY MIND SPIRIT

Learn effective **self defence, lower stress and improve health** on your journey to become an authentic Martial Artist

Ages 12+, male & female, beginner or experienced

1st lesson free

Michael: 0414685593

www. martialarts.co.nz

FB: Kiaido-Ryu Victoria

Harcourt North Community Hall

McIvor Rd, Harcourt North

Wednesday Nights 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

The Core has gone international!

Shown here is Keith McKenry, avid Core fan, reading the paper with New York in the background.

Mount Alexander Shire Council Sustainability Workshops

Green Cleaning the Easy Way - Saturday 23 August 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Join Bridget Garnder to learn quick & easy ways to clean your home without harmful chemicals. Workshop is informative, a little thought provoking and lots of fun. Venue: Ray Bradfield Rooms

Keeping Chooks - Saturday 27 September 10.30-12.30 pm

This is a great chance to further your eggucation! Learn what you need to get started, how to care for chickens and how to integrate them into highly productrive backyard food systems. Venue: The Hub Plot 233 Barker Street, Castlemaine

Electric Bikes and Conversions - Saturday 25 October 10.30 to 12.30pm

Come along and learn about the e-bike revolution. Better batteries mean electric bikes have empowered many people to return to cycling in a serious way with benefits to their health and to the environment. Venue: Ray Bradfield Rooms.

Bushland of the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens - Saturday 22 November 10.30-12.30pm

Come for a walk on the wild side of the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. An informal walk for you and your family where you can spend time with an ecologist and learn some interesting facts along the way.West side of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens - meet at the Barkers Creek Footbridge near the Botanic Gardens Tea Rooms.

To book: contact Dallas Giles at Mount Alexander Shire Council. Phone 5471 1768 or email:

d.giles@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Garden, gift and café

Breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.
a Cnr of Blackjack Rd and Midland Hwy, Harcourt | p 5474 3800
/ASQ.SkydancersGardenGiftCafe
ASQ GARDEN & LANDSCAPE
Skydancers
Where your great outdoors begin!

HARCOURT Auto Wreckers
Anthony Burns
Owner
harcourtwreckers@bigpond.com
03 5474 2432
Wrecking most makes and models
Used Car Sales,$500-$10 000
Towing & car body removals

Midland Hwy
Barkers Creek
Vic 3451
www.harcourtwreckers.com

Happenings…

We are a small rural Preschool located within a beautiful setting. We offer an individualized play-based program for 3 and 4 year old children.

Our philosophy values play spaces which encourage imagination and creativity. With gentle guidance and encouragement each child is supported to grow in confidence and esteem. We encourage the use of natural materials and the appreciation of simple beauty within the environment

We are currently taking enrolments for 2015 and invite any prospective families to visit us on the operational days of Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

We are located at 28 Buckley Street, Harcourt and can be contacted on 54742391.

Story Time at Preschool

On: Friday, August 8th at 10am

We invite all interested families to come along to our forthcoming community event.

In conjunction with Goldfields Libraries we will be hosting a story time session with Jess from Castlemaine library. The story time is suitable for families with children under 5. It will be held at the preschool and followed by morning tea.

We look forward to keeping you updated with the happenings at Harcourt Preschool and also using this space to provide information pertaining to quality early childhood education.

Lisa Gray (Directress)

REMEDIAL MASSAGE
and NATURAL THERAPIES

Lara 0403 528 416 and Michael 0447 338 088

Harcourt CFA

The winter period has seen some Brigades in our Shire attending to house fires. Fortunately we have been quiet locally, but it does reiterate the greater risk of house fires during these colder periods. If you have an open fire, it is important that logs are placed on the fire in a manner that does not allow them to roll out and that fire screens are properly in place. Also how clean is your chimney or flue? If you did not change your smoke alarm batteries at the end of daylight saving, then do it now.

It is also important to be aware of fires starting in the kitchen when cooking. I had a personal experience of this just recently when heating up a little olive oil in the frying pan, which starting smoking and by the time I had lifted it off the hotplates, it had burst into flames. The $10 fire blanket came in very handy in dealing with the situation. A fire blanket is a good investment if you do not already have one.

You may have noticed some publicity recently in the local papers about the National Emergency Medal which was created as a result of the Black Saturday fires and wondered, "Where was Harcourt?" While the Harcourt Brigade was heavily involved with the fire at Redesdale, most members did not meet the criteria specified. But it is pleasing to note that Peter and May Wilson, through their work at the Metcalfe Group Headquarters during this fire, were presented with the National Emergency Medal in Bendigo recently.

So on these cold frosty nights, still be fire aware and stay fire safe. Remember that it only takes a spark to start a fire. As the comedian Jimeon once said. "How ironic is it that the only thing left standing after a house fire is the chimney, when most times that is where the fire started in the first place."

Tyrone Rice

Community Conversations

Join us for a series of meeting and discussions about some exciting possibilities for Harcourt.

Harcourt
A Growing Place

Wednesday 13th August, 2pm, Harcourt Valley Primary School- Meet with David Perry- networker for the Regional Association of Neighbourhood and Community Houses to explore establishing a community house in Harcourt!

Saturday 16th August, 2pm at Tread, Harcourt - Meet with representatives of Chewton Pool to hear about a community managed model for our local pool.

Wednesday 17th September, 7pm - 8.30 pm - Transport Forum - let's work to get our train station re-opened! Venue TBA.

Everyone welcome - we value your ideas and input.

For more information, contact Jacqueline on 5474 3172

HARCORT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Find us on Facebook!

Harcourt CWA

See an Aladdin's Cave of Collections! September 18, 1.30 pm, Harcourt Leisure Centre

Who likes collecting things?

I like collecting tins of all shapes and sizes. Tins are great for storing things, filling with cakes to take to CWA meetings, and loved by my three year old grandson when packed full of crafty stuff. Oh, and they make excellent tea caddies too. I have a Yorkshire Tea tin that my son gave me years ago of which I am particularly fond.

Now many of our members at Harcourt CWA have spent a life time collecting things, and not just tins, they have collections of spoons, everything lavender, handbags, owls, and I believe someone mentioned a collection of 'unmentionables'.

The 'unmentionables' and many more beautiful collections will be on display at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on September 18th at 1.30 pm and you are invited to come along and enter into Aladdins Cave of Collections to see for yourself the many displays that have been put together by our members.

Entry is $6.00 which includes a scrumptious afternoon tea. There will be raffles, lucky door prize and a trading table.

Do come and join us, who knows, you may be inspired to start your very own collection.

Lyn Rule
Harcourt CWA
Publicity Officer.

Harcourt Progress Association

NEXT HPA MEETING:
Wednesday 20 August, 7pm - 9pm
at the Harcourt Valley Primary School

ALL WELCOME

Business Update
run, rabbit, run

Last October, Harcourt residents Kelly Aitken and JP Frappier, hit the ground running when they opened their cafe Run Rabbit Run, 24 Hargraves Street, Castlemaine. They offer breakfast 'til 3 as well as lunches and morning and afternoon tea. Being open until 6.00pm means you can sit back and enjoy a leisurely coffee with a house-made cake, muffins, brownie or maybe one of the afternoon treats that new chef Nigel Pickup likes to whip up - such as spiced apple strudel or rice pudding. Next on his list is the classic favourite lemon delicious pudding. The menu has a rich selection of "English comfort food". Simple, down to earth, provincial style meals is the way they describe it. Familiar favourites done well, although with JP's Canadian background you're going to find some novel twists such as waffles with bacon, or how about a maple latte?

As much as possible, their produce is sourced locally with fresh fruit from Uncle George's orchard in Harcourt itself. Try the delicious and buttery pear tart made with Harcourt Valley pears. They have a good selection of gluten free treats, including 'burnt butter blondie with pistachio and cranberry', plus they always have at least one gluten-free and vegan dessert. This week it was mixed berry and orange crumble, with toasted almonds - perfect with a morning or afternoon coffee. Or if you prefer tea you might be interested to know they use the organic tea range from Maldon, called SIP.

As you enter the doors you're promptly greeted and seated by their friendly staff, three of whom are Harcourt locals, including orchardist Katie Finlay's son, Daniel. With JP at the helm, pumping out finely brewed coffees, Kelly oversees the running of the kitchen and front of house, making sure meals are served to a high standard.

You cannot help but feel at home with the rustic charm of the wood panelled walls. When asked about the interior design Kelly said, "JP and I were given some old fruit crates, packing benches and original apple box stencils by our neighbour Ron Frankling of Frankling's Orchard. They are one of the original orchard families, having farmed in Harcourt for over 100 years. The rusty metal buckets that we've converted into light shades come from the paddock behind our house and are actually original 'smoke pots', so we really feel that we've carried an element of Harcourt, then and now, with us into the café."

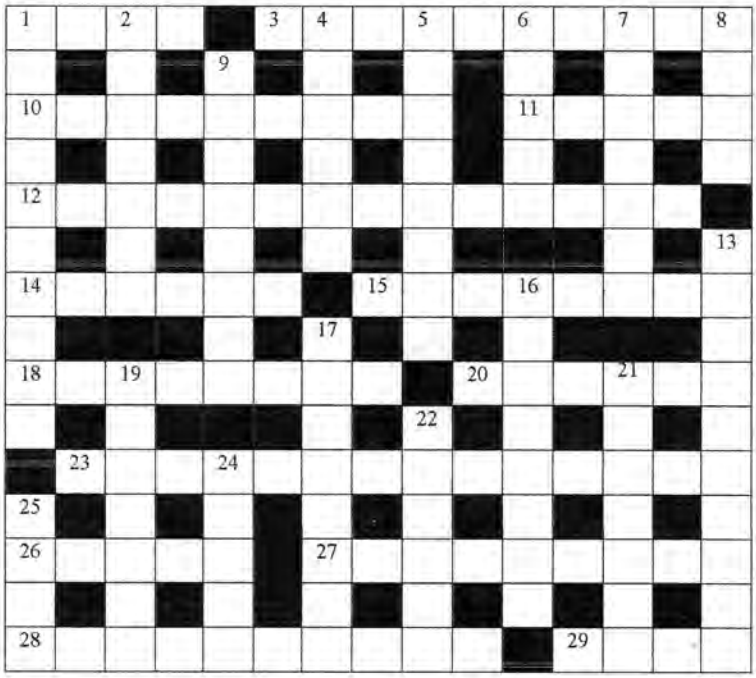
Run Rabbit Run is open 7.30am to 6.00pm Wednesday to Friday and 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturday and Sunday. For bookings contact 03 5470 5712, 24 Hargraves St, Castlemaine.

Genevieve Ward

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

August X-word 2014

© McW August '14



Across:

1 Found on an Orwellian bill of fare? (4)

3 Edenic accompaniment to 1*ac*. (5, 5)

10 How to tread the primrose path of pre-nuptial bliss? (4, 2, 3)

11 & 15 Snap at the pinnacle? (5, 8)

12 Not complex appreciation. (6, 8)

14 Is back in the stench in order to be painted. (6)

15 See 11, but friend holds font-size for extra clue… (8)

18 Noticed a re-submission, perhaps. (8)

20 Concerning the body? Sounds revenue-related… (6)

23 Doubtful whether these mass observers would approve of 1 and 3… (6, 8)

26 Usually brass, & without which one is insolvent. (5)

27 Conservative newspaper and TV magnate surely wouldn't need to behave in this manner? (9)

28 What might ensue if the ugly duckling fought the Snow Queen for a dairy product? (6, 4)

29 Limping, but shot through with gold… (4)

Down:

1 He—from Lodz; she—from Gdansk. He—conservative; she—radical. He—Ireland; she—Brazil… (5, 5)

2 Improves about unscrupulous flirts. (7)

4 The same chap—after, that is, he delivers. (6)

5 Floor-covering variety for composing. (8)

6 & 25 State and climate for a dry argument? (5, 4)

7 First a dense grey metal, then listen spasmodically for cooking implement. (7)

8 Where ice is in the sky. (4)

9 A French one would be unlikely to make or stock English ones… (8)

13 Circle-mode copy. (10)

16 Gossip about invoice? (4-4)

17 Large tear in crowd for demo. (4-1-3)

19 Tower-dwelling caller to knees. (7)

21 The froth on coffee in Lombardy. (7)

22 Bring gold ashore in this carriage. (6)

24 All of the remuneration is disgusting, all of it! (5)

25 See 6 (4)

July X-word 2014 SOLUTION

© McW June'14

L	E	F	T	A	L	O	N	E	■	B	O	G	U	S
E	■	E	■	R	■	N	■	R	■	U	■	R	■	T
E	N	T	E	N	T	E	C	O	R	D	I	A	L	E
C	■	L	■	E	■	H	■	T	■	G	■	N	■	V
H	O	O	D	■	D	E	L	I	B	E	R	A	T	E
■	■	C	■	A	■	A	■	C	■	R	■	D	■	D
T	A	K	E	P	A	R	T	■	V	I	R	A	G	O
R	■	■	■	O	■	T	■	O	■	G	■	■	■	R
A	L	S	A	C	E	■	E	N	T	A	N	G	L	E
V	■	L	■	A	■	G	■	E	■	R	■	R	■	■
E	M	O	L	L	I	E	N	T	S	■	B	E	E	S
R	■	V	■	Y	■	N	■	O	■	E	■	N	■	E
S	W	E	E	P	S	E	C	O	N	D	H	A	N	D
A	■	N	■	S	■	V	■	N	■	D	■	D	■	G
L	I	E	G	E	■	A	C	E	T	Y	L	E	N	E

Across:

1 Marxists, Socialists et. al. **[the Left]** as a solitary group **[alone]** —given their solitude.

6 False map of swamp might get **[us]** deep into the mud. (5)

9 Early C20th **[1904]** understanding of Frogs and Poms sometimes described as too much of the second and not enough of the first. (7,8)

10 Robin likely neighbour—this head-covering can finish all. **['likely' needs to inflect to 'likeli-']**

11 I'm not an idle beater about the bush: I dealt beer—it was what I meant to do. (10)

13 Steal role to be in it. **[Well?]**

14 Gravid mess loses penny **['d']**, gains **[0]** for how a PM was characterised. (6)

16 France got it back after WWI, to produce CSA Ale—on a scale of ten, it rates a distracting **[☺]** seven. (6)

18 Mystic star forgoes its silence **[P-]** to ensnare in nets. (8)

21 I note smell of these softeners: they leave smell on tie if dropped. (10)

22 Their knees are the cat's whiskers. **[Well?]** **[or 'pyjamas'...]**

25 Old **[second-hand]** chimney **[sweep]** useful for accurate time-piece, giving new, odd cheapness

26 Vassal in Belgium, or his boss. **[Well?]**

27 Eyelet can be warped to stop half oxymoron's gas diffusing. **[Well? Other half is O_2]**

Down:

1 Dam vampire slug? **[Well? ☺]**

2 Depth of creek at ford for pelican nest-building trip. **[Well? *5th-Grade Reader*]**

3 Thomas near enough for patriotic theatrical muso... **[C18th composer]**

4 What big cat consumed on her tea is all each of us gets by way of a pump. **[some cats are gutses]**

5 Could parts of Cicero tickle one's fancy in this way? **[sorry—should've been an adverb...]**

6 His ilk often sketched dead. **[Monty Python]**

7 Moors' C13th glory. (7)

8 He deserves to be voted seer at the docks.

12 **...Now!** for the smell of napalm. **[Well?]**

13 The lying-across of P L **[Travers]** & aluminium.

15 Ratio of paired interaction: the US version **[one-on-one *(yuk!)*]** would wreck 21across

17 Countryman discourses on elves. (7)

19 Swap a vowel **['a' for 'e']** twice for what could not have been lobbed at 7. (7)

20 Victory sign **['V']** replaces **[Rd]** in 19 for city

23 Remove (and delete it) from degrees and stir for plant in area of 6, perhaps. (5)

24 Fast water-swirl, this wide boy... **[yes, I know he's usually 'Eddie', but it'll do, okay?]**

Harcourtians -

Janne Fowler

Janne Fowler in front of some of her work at her recent exhibition.

While Harcourt and its surrounds are renowned for their wonderful core industries – apples, wines, ciders, etc – it is less well-known that the district has also become a haven for artists, writers, poets and crafts people who find the beauty of its environment an inspiration. One such artist is Janne Fowler, a Harcourtian whose work has been inspired by the local fauna visiting her garden.

At the age of 52 Janne recently had her first exhibition, a joint one with her artist partner Kevin Holschier, in the Contemporary Art Space above Stonemans in Castlemaine. 'I didn't have full-time employment and was at a bit of a loose end,' explained Janne. 'Kevin suggested that it might be a good opportunity to focus on my art. To really spur me on he said he'd booked the exhibition space above Stonemans for us in June. I produced 22 pieces hoping to sell 3 or 4 but I have sold 20 to date. I can't believe it.'

Ten years ago, Janne and Kevin, who met in Melbourne, chose Harcourt as a place to enjoy a more tranquil life. 'We were both looking for some hills,' said Janne. 'Kevin had grown up in Moama and I was originally from Rokewood in the Western District - both very flat places. I remembered, when I was a kid, we use to stop at Harcourt on our way to visit Grandma in California Gully. We'd buy apples and Castlemaine Rock – a good teeth combination – and I thought it a place worth considering. We had friends in Castlemaine, so looked around both towns, but in the end Harcourt won.

My parents met in Mildura after the war. Mum, Ethel, had been in the Australian Women's Army and Dad, Chick, in the Army. Dad at the time was working at the Stuart and Harrison garage and Mum worked initially at a fruit growing place in Merbein and then got a job in Bowrings and later Shilladays department stores. Dad had come from generations of sheep farmers. He eventually qualified for a soldier settlement property in Rokewood where he moved the family and commenced farming sheep. I was one of three children and was born in Rokewood.

At the age of 19, I left home and went to Chisholm art school in Caulfield where I qualified as a print maker. I didn't pursue print making but concentrated more on getting a full-time job. I eventually got a position with the St Kilda City Council supporting families who had kids with special needs. It was rewarding, enjoyable but also emotionally taxing. The kids ranged from a few months of age to 19 years. I was able to use art with the kids as a form of therapy.

Most evenings I'd go to the St Kilda Sports Club. It was a nice place you could meet and have a drink. The Club which was really a bowling and pétanque club was under threat because of its diminishing membership. The Council wanted to knock it down and turn it into a car park. To keep the club alive, most of the bar patrons joined it. We encouraged our friends to join and before you knew it, it became one of the fastest growing bowling clubs in the state with the youngest demographic. A lot of the members were in their late 20s and 30s. I ended up as its chair.

One of our issues was that women were barred from playing Saturday pennant. Women could play mid-week. This didn't suit our female demographic as most had paid full-time jobs. The Royal Victorian Bowls Association wouldn't budge on its rules so we ended up taking the RVBA to the Equal Opportunity Commission and winning.

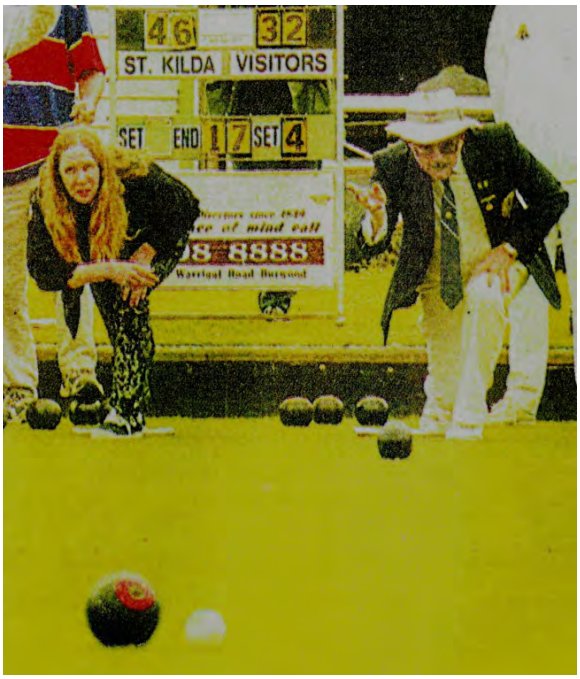
As you might imagine this was all a bit revolutionary for an institution with such a conservative history. However a lot of clubs with failing numbers embraced the changes. Happily the St Kilda Sports Club is still there today.

When we moved to Harcourt, most country bowls clubs were still resisting picking women for "men's pennant". But Harcourt Bowls Club welcomed me with open arms and immediately selected me to play. For a few years I was the only woman on the green on Saturday afternoons.'

Janne explains that revolutions in bowling clubs are behind her now and she wants to direct her efforts into her art. 'I can't wait to do more pieces,' she says. 'The exhibition has given me confidence. I can see my skill developing over the last 22 pieces. I want to try some different styles and bigger works. At 52 I feel I have really started on my art journey.'

Jenny McKenry,

Dandura Alpacas



COMMUNITY The Age, 21/9/98

New greer

It's run-down and raggedy, but the St Kilda Bowling Club is a cause celebre for young locals.

'inside' Feb 2001

Funeral directors used to be the major sponsors, but Australia's second-oldest bowling club has vibrant new blood coursing through its veins.

[highONbowls]

Think Nimbin goes Quaker: Germaine Greer

Above: Janne in an intense game of bowls

Left: Media coverage about the changes at the St Kilda Bowling Club. Janne in the picture, bottom right hand side.

Dandura Alpacas

Sound genetics
An asset to your herd

Jenny & Keith McKenry

03 54396525
0428 479 050
Harcourt North, Victoria
alpacas@dandura.com

- **Stud services**
- **Breeding females**
- **Pets/Herd Guards**

- **Packages for New Breeders**
- **After-sale quality**

- **Alpaca yarn**
- **Member of Q-Alpaca**

Mount Alexander's Precious Plant

2013 was a good year for Ballantinia Antipoda.

Never heard of it?? Paul Foreman from Blue Devil Consulting gave an informative talk on this special and endangered plant to members of Harcourt Valley Landcare on July 10 at the ANA Hall in Harcourt.

Ballantinia Antipoda or Southern Shepherds Purse is endemic to Mount Alexander. This means that this is the only place in the world that the plant is found. It was found in similar climate and soil conditions in other places in Victoria and Tasmania, but these areas no longer show evidence of the plant. Baron Von Mueller the famous botanist who planned out Castlemaine's Botanic Gardens, collected samples of Ballantinia in 1878.

The Action Statement 102 (2004) from the DSE (now DEPI) states: "The loss of the species at Mount Alexander would constitute a world-wide extinction event."

A good year for this plant means that there is sufficient cool and moist air and a constant supply of sub-soil moisture in the shallow soils which support the moss beds where the Ballantinia grows. The plant is found on granite sheets on Mount Alexander above 225 metres above sea level. As the altitude increases, better conditions for the plant means it grows more easily. However, it also requires a particular slope and lack of disturbance for it to flourish. The plant dies off in September/October and throws seeds which germinate in the autumn providing there is sufficient rainfall.

Paul has conducted a number of surveys of the plant and states that it is under pressure from two things – climate change and disturbance from human activity. "As the weather becomes drier the lower reaches of the mountain will become inhospitable to the plant and as human activity increases on the mountain, it will take special care and planning to preserve the plant's particular environment," he said.

What else is special about this plant? It is tiny! (See the picture below). It is so small it can be hard to see. So the next time you are exploring on Mount Alexander in the cool weather, keep your eyes down and take care where you tread and help preserve this extra precious plant. ***Robyn Miller***

Rendezvous Roundabout

It is 6.30 am on a dark, frosty morning. A small car enters the Harcourt interchange from the Midland Highway. At the roundabout the car can be seen to brake, indicate, veer to the left, cross the kerb just before the 'no-standing' sign and reverse across the muddy, unmade verge. Moments later, a workman's vehicle enters the roundabout from Victoria Street. a fellow scampers from the car to the tradie's truck, pressing his remote to lock the car. The truck then goes down the freeway ramp and disappears. The car will remain there all day. This is a common occurrence at Harcourt's "rendezvous roundabout".

Unobserved by most, and contrary to its usual practice, VicRoads has made a pedestrian gateway in the chain-wire fence at the side of the roundabout. The gateway would permit people to park in Station Street and link up with their workmates at this freeway interchange. No-one uses this gate. Everybody parks their car in the road reserve within the interchange. This was unforeseen by the designers and is supposed to be discouraged by the "No-Standing" sign. Custom and practice have taken precedence over the designer's wishes.

The original design for the Calder Freeway/Midland Highway interchange was a *'serious problem'* and *'a very awkward proposition'* in the eyes of the Independent panel appointed to review the environmental effects of the Calder Highway duplication between Faraday and Ravenswood. On page 250 of the Panel's September 2001 Report, it is stated that the original design, if implemented, would result in an interchange that would be too big, too high and too expensive. Relocation or major modification was required. Following this finding, Vic Roads' designers devised a four-part solution involving (1) a deep cutting commencing in Black Jack Gully,(2) a rail-over-road bridge,(3) a Midland Highway road-over-freeway bridge and (4) a much lower road surface. In this way the designers were able to apply a design that had previously been used at an interchange north of the Avenue of Honour (of beautiful oak trees) at Woodend.

At the time of construction, Harcourt Heritage Centre applied to have the Midland Highway Over-freeway Bridge named for Lt-Col. Robert Gartside. Robert Gartside, who was killed in action at Gallipoli, had previously owned the land on which the bridge is now situated. VicRoads has not actioned this request. The interchange is now known locally as 'the roundabout'.

The intersection of the Midland Highway and Victoria Street is definitely a roundabout. Only the whole assemblage of roundabout, bridges and ramps qualifies as an interchange. From the Harcourt point of view-- roundabout it is and roundabout it stays-- Rendezvous Roundabout.

George Milford

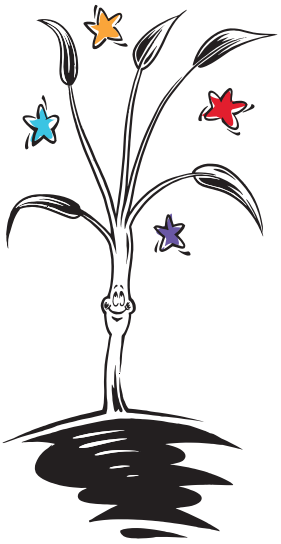
Have you done the same old, same old for a few years with a faithful, but exhausted committee? Are you looking for a fresh approach and new ideas for engaging with your community group? Would you like to get creative about Landcare work and membership? The North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group is getting creative with the way we engage with our community and we want to share ideas and learn from others experiences.

FREE

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION + PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOP

Please join us for an exciting
INNOVATION WORKSHOP SERIES with expert innovation facilitators "Minds at Work".

Dream, think, laugh and be creative
and develop new ideas for Landcare or your community group. No answers will be presented, we will be thinking outside the square to find a fresh approach and new solutions



WORKSHOP 1
Rebooting your brain + Scheming for a better way
Sunday, 17 Aug. 2014 - 10:30 am - 3.30 pm incl. lunch
Morning session: BRAINSTORMING session designed to help understand:
- What engages people in Landcare and community volunteering?
- Ideas for increasing group membership?
- What new activities can we undertake?

Afternoon session: SCHEMING FOR A BETTER WAY
- A selected group of concepts to pursue.
- Develop these concepts into feasible ideas for further consideration.

WORKSHOP 2
Making great decisions
Thursday, 04 Sept. 2014 - 7.30 pm - 10.00 pm incl. supper
A 2-hour EVALUATION session where we will:
- Test the concepts and make final decisions about which ideas to proceed with.
- Include risk analysis to ensure that the option/s selected have the best chance of success.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Anybody interested in Landcare or community work. The workshop will be loosely based on Landcare activities; however, as principles of engagement are universal, representatives of any community group or organisation are most welcome to attend.

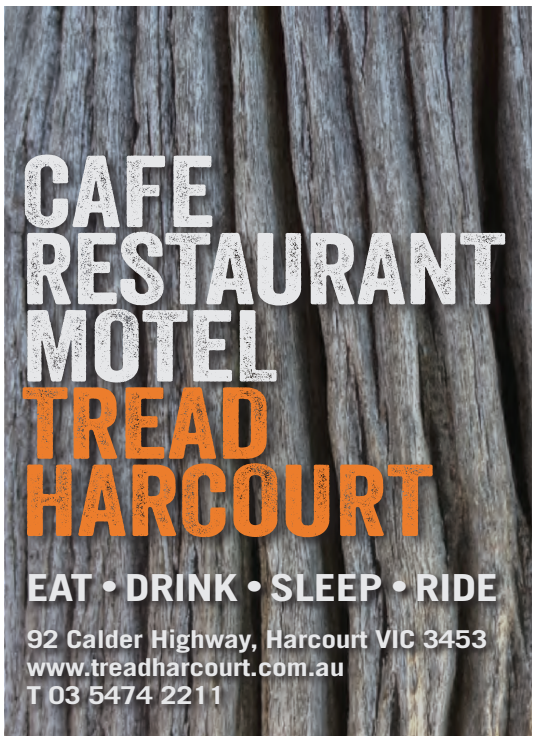
THE VENUE/BOOKINGS
North Harcourt Hall, McIvor Rd, Harcourt.
Registration is essential, places are limited. Please register by Wednesday, 13 Aug. 2014 via email to **kklein7@bigpond.com** or phone **0427 417 498**
Good food will be provided during all workshops, please nominate any dietary requirements.

NO COSTS
This is a free workshop series sponsored by the NCCMA - Victorian Landcare Grants and the North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group.

THE FACILITOR
The workshop will be led by Lisa Smith, innovation facilitator with "Minds at Work". Lisa holds an MBA in Organisational Change and Innovation and has worked with schools, international corporations, lawyers, miners, farmers, nurses and the police. Check Lisa out at **www.mindsatwork.com.au.**

NORTH CENTRAL Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

Landcare Victoria



Mount Alexander in history

You are invited to the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests AGM at **7.30 on Monday August 11th** at the Castlemaine Continuing Education Building.

George Milford will provide a presentation on Mount Alexander:

- an important place to the Jaara people;
- grazed by sheep for nearly 100 years;
- listed as having been entirely denuded of useful trees by 1876;
- burned out by bushfire in 1901, and then washed out by a heavy thunderstorm which stripped the bare slopes of soil and dumped it into the Bendigo water channel and
- now a Regional Park much loved by campers, walkers, photographers, picnickers and cyclists who regularly grind their way over Joseph Young Drive.

Through all this it remains the biggest landmark in our district and its history is the subject of a talk to be given by George with time allowed for questions before supper.

Further information www.fobif.org.au or (03) 5472 2892

The Good Guys

(no they're not selling anything!)

Jarrod Coote, Trevor McKay, and Philip Hopley, of Harcourt Valley Landcare Group.

The Oak Forest

A couple of weeks ago I received a phone message and photos of a fallen tree and rubbish at the Oak Forest, from Judy Foster and Genevieve Ward.

I passed these on to Jarrod Coote, President of Harcourt Valley Landcare.

Jarrod swung into action and called on two members – Trevor McKay and Philip Hopley to assist.

Not only did they take away the rubbish, they felled the tree, cut it up and part of it now forms a seat.

Judy was so pleased she has written a letter of thanks to publicly thank, Jarrod, Trevor and Philip.

This is the first letter The Core has received! And it's very pleasing that it records positive community action in caring for our iconic Oak Forest.

Robyn Miller

Dear Ed.

May I, through your community news, extend thanks to the three Landcare members who gave of their time and effort to remove the rubbish and chop up the tree that had fallen recently in the Oak Forest. They have made a new seat !

The Oak Forest is a beautiful place for recreation.

Yours. etc. Judy Foster, Harcourt.

From this ↑

To this →

And ↑

→

Maree Edwards MP

State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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

8 Panton Street (PO Box 326)
Golden Square VIC 3555
Tel: (03) 5444 4125 Fax: (03) 5441 8140

maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au
@mareeedwardsmp
@mareeedwardsmp
www.mareeedwards.com.au

Red Cross - Free Speakers

Red Cross is able to provide free guest speakers for community organisations/ clubs and groups.

Most people are aware of the presence of Red Cross and are interested to learn of the breadth of our work within our local communities and overseas.

Red Cross is offering free presentations that provide a brief outline of the work of the Society including:

- History (in 2014 we celebrate 100 years in Australia)
- International Humanitarian Law
- Social Inclusion Programs e.g. Telecross, Patient Transport, Breakfast Clubs
- Emergency Services
- How you can help?

We will also provide a range of printed information which make good reading and provide a wonderful insight to the work of Red Cross both locally and globally.
To discuss a possible speaking date or for more information please contact Raechel Gleeson on 0439 348 554 or by email: rgleeson@redcross.org.au .

KSD Fabrication
& Steel Sales

TODD O'GRADY

32b Coolstore Road
PO Box 37
Harcourt VIC 3453

Tel: 0428 461 039
Email: ksdfabrication@bigpond.com
Web: www.ksdfabrication.com.au

Harcourt Valley Primary School

This month we have some snippets from students at Harcourt Valley. The students spoke at the assembly marking the end of Semester 1. The Core encourages all young readers and writers to send in a story or poem - have a go - see your work in print! ***Robyn Miller***

Jade

First, I would like to start with something that happened last week and that was the grade 1&2 camp, where the 1/2's enjoyed staying at the discovery centre. Some of the things that children really liked were the art gallery, the vertical slide (at the discovery centre), climbing the poppet head, a Chinese lunch and a play at Lake Weroona.

The 1/2's also recently had a maths day, at Castlemaine north school, where the children played maths games. They played games in groups with other children. They had a great time, and met some new friends, too.

Another thing that we did (and this is why I love being school captain) was the harmony day. The school captains ran the activity, where we painted the children's and teachers' hands orange and white and they made their hand prints on paper of the other colour. The paper was put up on display at Grandparents day.

Caitlin

This year we celebrated Pancake Day. Each class got to have a pancake each whether they made it or the teachers. It was a chance to also learn the different ways to make pancakes. It was a yummy treat which everyone loved.

Something else important each year is mother's day, which at our school is celebrated by our mother's day breakfast. This year it was a great turn out and lots of mothers came. The food was awesome and it was great to see lots of children showing their mothers around the school. It is one of the big celebrations each year and it's something we do well.

Avalon

On book week, the school dressed up as their favourite book character. I went as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, but there was a whole lot of other book characters. It was incredible! There was the Cat in the Hat, characters from the series "Dork Diaries", Diary of a Wimpy Kid and many more.

This year, to celebrate the day that several thousands of Australians and new Zealanders went to war and gave their life to save us, we made Anzac biscuits to thank them for protecting us, and the recipe we used tasted really good!!

Sports Reporter Needed!

The Core requires a person interested in sport in Harcourt to write up activities of local sporting groups on a regular basis. To support and promote our local sportspeople - contact the Editor, Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271

Rob's Yard Maintenance
0407 666 791

- Lawn mowing
- Garden maintenanc
- Pruning
- Weed control
- Rubbish removal
- Clean-ups
- Gutter cleaning
- General handyman

Police Checked & Insured

Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP
PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552
Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550
T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736
E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au
@LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo

Community Diary Dates

8 August: 10 am, Story time and morning tea at HV Pre-School. Suitable for families with children under 5.

11 August: 7.30 pm, Friends of the Box-Iron Bark Forests AGM at Castlemaine Continuing Education, George Milford presents a talk on Mount Alexander (see page 8)

13 August: 2 pm, Discussion about establishing a Community House for Harcourt with David Perry at Harcourt Valley Primary School, organised by HPA. (See page 6)

14 August: 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare meeting, ANA Hall.

16 August: 2 pm, Meeting with representatives of Chewton Pool to hear about their community management model, organised by HPA. (See page 6)

23 August: 10.30 - 12.30 pm, Green Cleaning the Easy Way, Ray Bradfield Rooms. For details of how to book and other workshops in September, October and November, see page 4.

24 August: 1.30 pm Fireside Chat, Harcourt Heritage Centre; Kent Bates "The Australian Flag"

6 September: Kenneth Maddern Memorial Cycle Races.

11 September: 7.30 pm AGM Harcourt Valley Landcare, ANA Hall.

17 September: 7 - 8.30 pm, Transport Forum - let's work to get our train station re-opened! Organised by HPA. (See page 6)

18 September: 1.30 pm, CWA Aladdin's Cave of Collections, Harcourt Leisure Centre (see page 6)

21 September: 1.30 pm Harcourt Heritage Centre activity; Stanley Park Centenary Celebration with special guest, Mr. Peter Cuffley, the well-known author and garden historian.

19 October: 1.30 pm Monthly Heritage Centre activity: Tour to Eddington.

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 email rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com . Contributions of news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs. For placement of advertising please contact Genevieve Ward via email at: gen_ward2@hotmail.com or phone 0409 070 930.

Circulation is currently 350 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, Tread Harcourt, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital and Castlemaine Community Information Centre.

A link to a full colour version of the Harcourt News/The Core can be accessed via the Harcourt Progress Association blog at: http://theharcourtprogressassociation.blogspot.com.au/

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

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.

HPA MEMBER JOINING / RENEWAL FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association was created to support and progress the objectives of the Harcourt Community Plan. The Plan was prepared in 2013 with contributions by members of the Harcourt community and reflects the goals, vision and aspirations for our town and surrounding region.

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

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

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

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners within a 20 kms radius of the Harcourt township (some exceptions apply so do ask!) There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of $20 per person / $10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is able to formally vote. Annual subscriptions full due on 1st July each year. The Harcourt Progress Association is facilitated by a Steering Committee elected by the members annually.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become a member or renew my membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. (*please circle one*)

I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

☐ Financial member – full fee $20 ☐ Financial member – concession fee $10 ☐ **Non-financial member – no charge**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

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

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

☐ I enclose the sum of $20 / $10 concession for Annual Membership OR

☐ I have deposited $20 into BSB 633-000, account 0031009384/1601 – Harcourt Progress Association Inc.
Please indicate your name and state "membership" when paying online.

Please mail this completed form and cheque (if paying by mail) to: HPA, PO Box 132, Harcourt, VIC 3453

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