

# HARCOURT NEWS

## THE CORE

November 2014

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 11

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

<http://theharcourtprogressassociation.blogspot.com.au/>

### The North East Rovers Motor Home Tag Along Tour



The Core spoke with Heather the secretary of the group about this annual tour which this year set off with 11 motor home owners participating. Members of the group come from Benalla, Beechworth, Shepparton, Tongala, Barnawartha, Walla Walla (near Wagga Wagga NSW), and Ballarat. Members can join the tour and drop out as needed over the course of the 11 day tour covering over 700 kms. Heather said, "We like to go to the small towns, we can park, walk around and check out the shops and we are always looking for tourist attractions. We are well aware that we contribute to the economy of these towns."

Members are all retired and go bush camping once a month. This year's Tag Along Tour began in Elmore and passed through many towns including Echuca, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn, Boort, Wedderburn, Stawell, Ararat, Avoca, Maryborough, Newstead and all the towns in between! The provision of the RV dump at Harcourt was definitely an attraction. Unable to camp at Maldon because of the Folk Festival they drove to Lockwood

*A local abused them when they pulled up near the RV dump.*

for an overnight stay. This was partly because they were uncertain where they could park overnight in Harcourt. (Something to comment on for our Landscape Plan!) This decision was also made because when members visited Harcourt to plan the tour someone, they believe to be a local abused them when they pulled up near the RV dump.

How disappointing it is that this happened. Harcourt prides itself on being a friendly welcoming town and we should extend this courtesy to all visitors to our town. Visitors and tourists are extremely important to the economic well being of Harcourt and its local businesses.

Happily the group did return to Harcourt and after enjoying a lunch- time barbecue in Stanley Park had a tour booked of the garden at Woop Woop followed by their famous afternoon tea. The Core will be forwarding copies of this edition and the link to the on-line edition to Heather, so she can distribute them to the group.

*Robyn Miller*

#### INSIDE

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#### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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

#### ADVERTISING RATES

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

## Councillor Tony Cordy Reports



Hi all,

Thanks to the team preparing the Core; they are doing a great job! Please remember to let them know if you have any events or news around the district.

Talking of events the Sutton Grange Hall Committee is having its Christmas function on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Kick off will be 7 pm and Santa will be in attendance. After Santa a local group of musicians from our own local recording studio will entertain you. The last big act to play at Sutton Grange was Fleetwood Mac and this show will be bigger. All welcome.

During the last week I had the opportunity to meet with local fruit growers. They are a dedicated band doing their best to keep the fruit industry in Harcourt viable. There is so much to do but we must all get on board with our orchardists and appreciate the good work they do.

I checked the agenda for next week's Council meeting earlier. One of the main agenda items is the Council decision on the proposed broiler farms for Baringhup. There has been a lot of debate about this issue. It is difficult to balance development and jobs against environmental aspects and concerns of local residents. I am sure this matter has a few more chapters to be written before it is resolved.

Another significant item will be the election of Christine Henderson as our new Mayor. Christine is in her second term on Council and I am sure she will do a great job as Mayor. Many of you will know that the fortnightly Council meetings are public meetings and members of the community are welcome to attend. See the Council website for details.

I have been in Borneo recently for two weeks. During this period there was a lot of discussion about the operation of the swimming pool. I am pleased that the contract has been extended and our local community will be working with the operator with the aim of improving the pool operation. We all need to get behind our pool and support it to make sure it runs well. The pool is a fantastic asset to our community.



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

Many of our older residents will remember what it was like before this pool was built.

It was terrible. It is a wonder any of us survived. As a community we must do what it takes to keep the pool operating safely and efficiently.

Let's try not to be too critical of the people employed to operate the pools. Often this work is picked up by students on vacation. If we don't give young people in the community a chance, who will?

Thanks to the Bowling Club for allowing us to use the club rooms for the transport forum last night. It was well attended and I found the presentation about the reconstruction and re-opening of Talbot station particularly interesting.

The session reinforced the need for the community to work for common goals. If we set joint goals for our community and work together you will be surprised what can be achieved.

*Best regards Tony*

AG Cordy  
0439 742434

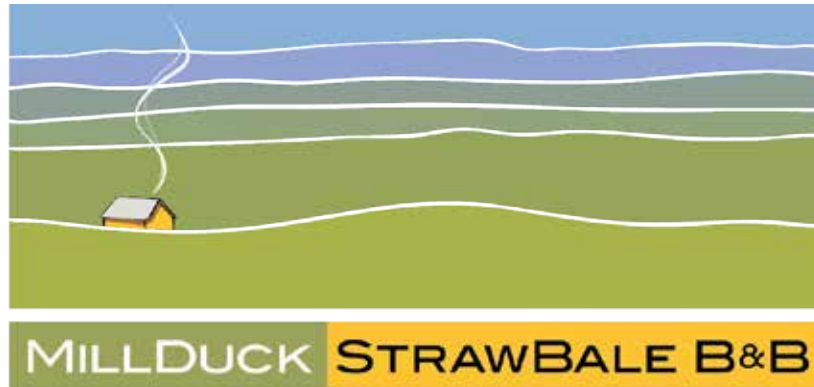
## Harcourt Landscape Plan Survey **Closes 7 November**

Harcourt's Landscape Plan Survey closes on November 7<sup>th</sup>. There are a number of important questions about the signage, footpaths, plantings, facilities and more in our town, including the location of the proposed new playground.

Go on line to:

[www.mountalexandershire.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexandershire.vic.gov.au) and enter "Harcourt Landscape Plan Survey" in the search box and complete the survey. Have Your Say!

Read the Landscape Plan update on Page 4.



*Hideaway in the hills*

Nestled snugly within Harcourt's rolling granite hills, with breathtaking views of the Sedgwick ranges, lies "MillDuck", a secluded, StrawBale retreat:

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## SUMMER IS COMING – ARE YOU READY?

The summer fire season is fast approaching with continuing warm / hot days and no significant rain when writing this article. So are you ready?

As part of being prepared, the Harcourt Fire Brigade will be hosting a FIRE READY SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION at the Harcourt Fire Station on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm and invite the wider Harcourt community to attend. These meetings are the perfect opportunity to gather “must have” information for the fire season and how to prepare yourself, your family and your home. So if you live in Harcourt, Barkers Creek, Faraday, Harcourt North or Ravenswood South, we would love to see you there. Members of the Brigade will also be in attendance to assist with localised questions and issues you may have.

The ground is very dry and the grass is curing fast. Keep an eye on local media for when fire restriction commence and in the meantime keep up with preparing your property. Be careful when mowing or slashing as it only takes a spark from a blade striking a rock to start a fire. Also continue to take precautions if using angle grinders or cutting equipment.

DEPI have been conducting their pre-summer burns and there have been plenty of activity in both Mount Alexander and Greater Bendigo Shires recently. More information can be found on their website at [depi.vic.gov.au](http://depi.vic.gov.au). On the home page, click on “Fire and Emergencies” and then “planned burns” to view details on existing and planned burns.

**Tyrone Rice**  
Captain

## Harcourt Landscape Plan Project Update

Two public consultation sessions were held during September, with more than 50 residents coming along to share their thoughts and ideas on ways to enhance the environmental and visual amenity of Harcourt and highlight what makes it unique. Following these sessions, an online survey was set up to give people who were unable to attend an opportunity to have their say. When the online survey was launched, Council received requests from residents asking if hard copies could also be provided, so this was organised and hard copies were distributed to the Post Office, Bowling Club, Tread Café, General Store and the petrol station. To allow enough time for people to complete the surveys, the closing date has been extended to Friday 7 November. Many thanks to the Post Office for agreeing to be the drop-off point for the completed forms.

As at the time of writing almost 70 survey responses have been received, which is a great result! So far, the key priority themes emerging from the consultation are:

- Street trees and planting;
- Good quality footpaths;
- Information and directional signage; and
- Town entry statements.

Upgrading the playground and provision of trees/garden areas were also frequently expressed priorities.

Once the results from the consultation sessions and survey have been analysed, Spiire (the landscape consultants engaged by Council for this project) will develop a draft Landscape Plan, which the Harcourt community will then be able to provide feedback on prior to it being finalised. The cost of works outlined in the Plan will be built in to Council's 2015-16 budget, with funding sought from state and/or federal governments as appropriate. The budget preparation process starts in February.

Council is also proposing to carry out some works in Stanley Park prior to the 2015 Applefest. This will involve laying a drainage pipe along the culvert which runs from Market Street to the Creek, and infilling the area around the new pipe. An uneven patch of ground adjacent to the culvert will also be levelled. These works will improve access around Stanley Park North. Thanks to the Harcourt Progress Association for making a direct submission to Council to undertake these works.

Any questions regarding the Landscape Plan project can be directed to Mary Dunne at Mount Alexander Shire Council on:

5471 1805  
or [m.dunne@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.dunne@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

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**IF YOU ONLY DO ONE  
THING THIS FIRE SEASON**

**Speak to CFA Thursday  
13<sup>th</sup> November in Harcourt**

**What:** Free Fire Ready Safety information session

**Where:** Harcourt Fire Station – 56 High St Harcourt

**When:** 7:00PM – 8:00 PM Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Find out:** Must-have fire information for this season

**For more information:** CFA District 18 Office (1800 820 118)

Don't understand English?  
 Require an AUSLAN interpreter?  
 Need assistance to access the venue?

Let us know and we'll do our best to help.

If you belong to a community group or club, talk to us about arranging a customised session.

Please note that CFA postpones all community meetings when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe.

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[cfa.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/meetings)

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# Art Show

## Harcourt Pre-School Happenings



Since returning for term 4 the children have been busy in creating their art canvasses which were showcased at our art exhibition at Tread Cafe last weekend.

The children were given lots of materials to create with and lots of colour and collage materials to use. With the removal of paintbrushes a more abstract form of expression was achieved.

### Some completed canvases



The paintings were sold in a silent auction whilst families enjoyed a lunch at the tavern. As a fundraiser for our kinder it was a most successful day. Thanking the Harcourt tavern, fundraising committee, kinder families for participating and our very clever and creative children in producing the works. It was lots of fun for all and an event which is sure to become an annual affair!



**Rosie (3year old kinder) working on her canvas**

## Launch of book - Granite Houses of Harcourt and Faraday

On 10 October a crowd packed the Harcourt Heritage Centre to mark the launch of the book, the Granite Houses of Harcourt and Faraday. This book showcases the talent of a number of Harcourt residents. It was written by George Milford and project managed by Diana Cork, with the assistance of Wendy Barron and Neil Charter. The book was prepared for publishing by David Jeffries of Pomme Graphics. Diana Cork began the proceedings and noted the advance in the publication from a modest photocopied text without pictures to an impressive glossy publication with photos which demonstrate granite building methods in a most attractive manner.

Peter Maddison, architect, who hosts Australia's Grand Design television show was to officiate, but was unable to attend as he was filming elsewhere. He sent an email in which he congratulated the Harcourt Heritage and Tourist Centre on the production of the book and praised it as a valuable reference document. In it he mentioned that Grand Designs is tracing two houses: one in Faraday and one in Harcourt. The one in Harcourt is in a granite quarry at Mount Alexander. To find out more, readers will have to watch Grand Designs in October 2015 on Foxtel.

Well-known local writer and historian, Peter Cuffley then officially launched the book. He spoke affectionately of a number of the homes in the book that he has visited over the years and congratulated the team.

The book is on sale at the Harcourt General Store, at the Heritage Centre on Wednesdays from 9am – 3pm and is also available at Stoneman's Bookroom in Castlemaine.

*Robyn Miller*



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## CWA Harcourt

My how time flies when you are having fun. Here is it November already, then Christmas and the end of another year.

And it has been a fun year at Harcourt. Our country of study this year was Mongolia and with our International Officer, Margaret Gaal leading the way, we explored its history, its customs and of course indulged in some very tasty dishes at our International Day lunch.

We knitted, we sewed, we made beautiful greeting cards, we listened to guest speakers, went out for the odd coffee or three, rehearsed for our annual concert and visited other branches to see what they were up to, and found they were up to much the same kind of thing we were up to, women coming together for the greater good and supporting each other.

Recently we have had either one of our members or our members loved ones experience health problems, which have caused much distress to the member and their families.

My husband spent a few days in hospital recently, scary at the time, but he is now home and well on the road to recovery. How I appreciated the phone calls and cards from my CWA friends. You see, so often it is the little things that create a difference, a little bit of kindness.

Which reminds me of lines from the Collect, which is what we say, altogether, at the beginning of each monthly meeting.

*Lyn Rule*

*Publicity Officer*



We recently had a CWA get together at Woop Woop, another Harcourt treasure, well worth a visit. As I sat and listened to the chatter and laughter at the table I thought of The Collect, and how often I see it put into practice by the members of a Harcourt CWA.

Come and join in the fun, laughter and good times with these lovely ladies. We meet at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30 PM



## Get that Job!

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## THE CWA COLLECT

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness;  
Let us be large in thought, in word and deed,  
Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self seeking.  
May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face,  
without self-pity and without prejudice.  
May we never be hasty in judgement, and always generous.  
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
straightforward and unafraid.  
Let us take time for all things;  
Make us grow calm, serene and gentle.  
Grant that we may realise  
that it is the little things that create differences;  
that in the big things of life we are one.  
And may we strive to touch and know  
the great woman's heart common to us all:  
and O Lord God let us not forget to be kind.

Marie Stuart



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Authorised by Damien Mantach, 51 Bull Street, Bendigo 3550.



# Business Update

## ASQ Skydancers

Nestled amongst the trees just off the highway at Harcourt, ASQ Skydancers is a charming locally owned and operated business that is sure to delight!

The expansive garden centre features a delightful array of plants and flowers, along with great garden ideas, pots, statues, water features and landscaping displays. Here you will find inspiration for your own garden and landscaping projects, and the friendly qualified staff can help you with expert advice on enhancing and caring for your garden.

Stunning giftware and homewares are scattered throughout, making it easy to find the perfect gift for a friend, or even just a little something special for you. There is an exquisite range of jewellery, clothing, shoes, bags and scarves. You'll be surprised at what you will find!

The fully licensed café at ASQ Skydancers is the ideal place for breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea. It offers both indoor and outdoor seating areas, and can cater for group bookings and functions. Serving a delicious range of meals made from fresh local produce, it's the perfect place to sit back and relax whilst soaking up the atmosphere! There is also a beautiful range of cakes and slices to accompany a nice hot tea or coffee, as well as a traditional Devonshire tea with homemade scones and jam.

A promotional banner for ASQ Skydancers with a green background and white snowflake patterns. The text "Book your Christmas function with us today!" is written in white. A red ribbon is tied around the middle. Below the ribbon are the ASQ logo (with "GARDEN & LANDSCAPE" underneath), the Skydancers logo, and contact information: "a Cnr of Blackjack Rd and Midland Hwy, Harcourt | p 5474 3800" and "f /ASQ.SkydancersGardenGiftCafe". At the bottom, the website "www.asq.net.au" and the tagline "Where your great outdoors begin!" are displayed.

**Book your Christmas function with us today!**

**ASQ** GARDEN & LANDSCAPE *Skydancers*

a Cnr of Blackjack Rd and Midland Hwy, Harcourt | p 5474 3800  
f /ASQ.SkydancersGardenGiftCafe

[www.asq.net.au](http://www.asq.net.au) | *Where your great outdoors begin!*

The display of live butterflies in warmer months is simply gorgeous, and they are just starting to arrive now! Come in and watch these delicate creatures dance among the plants and flowers and discover what you can plant in your own garden, to attract butterflies at home.

ASQ Skydancers in Harcourt is both lovely and local. It offers that little 'something different' with its delightful café, gorgeous array of giftware, live butterflies and accompanying nursery gardens. So call in at ASQ Skydancers today and experience it all for yourself!

Address: Corner Blackjack Road & Midland Hwy, Harcourt | Telephone: 5474 3800

Opening Hours: 7.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am – 5.00pm Saturday and Sunday

## Harcourt Bowling Club

Round one began with mixed results for Harcourt Pennant teams. Divisions three and eight had good wins on Saturday with Division seven unable to out-bowl Kangaroo Flat.

Midweek Division four enjoyed their first win in this new rank over Eaglehawk while Division five had little joy from the trip to Dingee.

The results are:

### **Weekend Pennant Results Round 1 -18<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

#### **DIVISION 3**

Bendigo Golf 2/81 lt Harcourt 16/100

Gary Maddern 26/25; Tony Olsson 31/18; Leo Moloney 19/20; Kevin Holshier 24/18

#### **DIVISION 7**

Harcourt 2/51 lost to Kangaroo Flat 14/78

Grahame Pogue 27/21; Rob Chaplin 13/30; Peter Thomas 11/27

#### **DIVISION 8**

Harcourt 14/83 d Bendigo East 2/60

Brian Nunn 30/17; Russell Maltby 33/14; Alan Harris 20/29

### **Midweek Pennant Results Round 1- 20th October 2014**

#### **DIVISION 4**

Harcourt 14/75 d Eaglehawk 2/67

Moira Straw 33/11; Kaye Grant 24/23; Lorna Davey 18/33

#### **DIVISION 5**

Dingee 14/54 d Harcourt 0/42

Janne Fowler 21/25; Sue Tribe 21/29

Members are encouraged to bring a friend to President's Day this Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> for a great day of bowls with prizes - names on the Board by Saturday please.

The very popular BBQ and bowls fortnightly events commence this Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm. We encourage anyone who may enjoy a barbie and some barefoot

bowls to put their names into the club and to join us for a great family night of fun.

Friday social nights continue to be popular and an invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us.

*See you at the Harcourt Bowling Club.*

### **HARCOURT BOWLING-ROCK AND ROLLING**

Last Saturday the Harcourt Bowling Club departed from the traditional role of a bowling club and held a very successful Rock and Roll night.

In a one off situation, Club President, John Starbuck, scored a coup when he was able to sign Castlemaine based international rock band, Sweet Rock for a night of fun at the club.

Club member Joe Candy and his daughter Lisa, backed by a band of four had the crowd of close to 100 members and local rock and roll devotees, rocking the club rooms like never before.

The founders of the club back in the late 50's would never have expected an event like this at the club when they started the club

The night was topped off by the wonderful supper provided by the club catering committee.



**Alan & Val Timmins strutting their stuff.**



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## ♪Harcourt's Karaoke Christmas♪

### Your chance to be a star. ♪

Community Christmas carols will be sung in Stanley Park on the evening of Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thompson's Foundry Band will provide the music as it has in other years. But brass band players need a spell from all that blowing.

A few items from local performers have to be strategically placed in the program so as to give the band 'a breather.' So, here's your opportunity. If you play an instrument or can carry a tune and you would like to participate, the organizers would like to hear from you.



Just phone Marie on 5474 2739 or George on 5474 2426 to snare a slot in the program.

If you don't feel like getting up in front of the crowd, come along with your chair or blanket to join in the singing of old and new Christmas carols.

There is always a lot of crowd participation. Some of the best carols are part-songs, fun songs, calling for two, or three, groups of voices.

This is Harcourt's Karaoke Christmas event! Singing Christmas carols with our neighbours helps us all to get into the spirit of the season. The children's items are always a crowd favourite.

Harcourt Community Carols are held in the open air at Stanley Park, 7.30 pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Come and join with Thompsons Foundry Band. Mark the date. ♪

*George Milford*

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**Maree Edwards MP**  
State Member for Bendigo West

*Putting Community First*

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## HORTICULTURAL CONSORTIUM FUTURE VISION

The establishment of new horticultural ventures in the Harcourt valley is being encouraged by a group of industry leaders. Those who have set up orchards, vineyards and other enterprises around Harcourt testify to the valley's potential.

*"Soil of the right type, the climate, proximity to major roads and the availability of irrigation give the valley a sustainable competitive advantage"* said Dianne Baig, spokesperson for the Harcourt Consortium. Dianne points to Coliban's \$47m Harcourt Modernization Project as a very real expression of her belief in the future of the valley.

Newly-elected councillor Tony Cordy agrees.

*"Protection of the valley's prime horticultural land is an important aspect of Mount Alexander Shire's Planning scheme and Municipal Strategic Statements"* said Cr. Cordy. *"This causes issues when folk want to build on 'lifestyle' allotments in the valley. Somehow we must accommodate new enterprises as well as the people who want to set up here"*

The call for new investment has already drawn a response, with a recently-acquired bottling plant soon to be set up at the Coolstores. This will enable local production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

A prime mover in the new investment is Drew Henry. Recently Henry of Harcourt's 2013 Kingston Black won a silver medal at the Australian Cider Awards – open to overseas and local brands.

*"Harcourt is 15 years ahead of any other cider-producing district. Harcourt cider is produced from the real McCoy, proper cider apples, not your normal desert apples."* said Drew.

Directors of the Coolstore are keen to see this

growth. Harcourt already has the basic infrastructure to support further expansion of the industry.

Shareholders in the Coolstores will have the opportunity to learn more at their upcoming November AGM.

Coolstore Chairman of Directors, Robert Chaplin, said that there are many shareholders, not now growers, who might like to come to the Coolstore Annual Meeting to learn the detail of the plans to accommodate the bottling plant on the premises.

Dianne Baig has a great vision for the future, saying *"The natural and sustainable horticultural advantages of Harcourt must result in a transition to a complex mixture of orchards and higher value, intensively-produced horticultural crops including hydroponic hot-house production. This growth will make Harcourt a major food and beverage production centre and a base of increased activity leading to more employment and money flowing into Harcourt from export markets."*

**George Milford**



## Harcourt Co-operative Cool Stores Ltd.

Est. 1917

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# Harcourt Transport Forum Report



On Thursday 23rd October the Harcourt Progress Association convened a Transport Forum to look at the needs and wishes of Harcourt residents.

Transport has been an ongoing issue for Harcourt and there have been multiple community requests to examine the possibility of re-opening the Harcourt station and improving bus services to and around the town. Last year's community plan contained a specific objective to improve sustainable transport options for Harcourt. The Transport Forum was organised to reignite these conversations and kick start some planning for improved services. Many thanks to HPA Inc Secretary Jacqueline Brodie-Hans for pulling the night together.

On the night guest speakers were Carolyn Wallace, who is Council's Director for Sustainable Communities, Sandra Wilson, Transport Coordination Manager for Department of Transport and Chris Meddows-Taylor, former Mayor of Maryborough and a resident of Talbot. The speakers provided information and insight into how the Council is trying to raise matters with state government, how state government priorities are determined and some of the processes that Talbot went through to re-open their station.

The evening featured some frank and robust discussion about different types of transport services eg: how buses would work in the community. The meeting also talked about the number of times that surveys have been taken and feedback given to Council and other official bodies without any action. Building on the information provided by the speakers, it is going to take more than talk to achieve an outcome.

Regardless which option or options are pursued, the path to achieving a result is to have:

1. Consistent support from the community
2. A documented business case that is informed through research



3. Support from local council, elected and executive
4. Support from state government, elected and executive
5. A PR Strategy

A volunteer Transport Working Group has been formed under the auspices of the HPA so that we can investigate different ways of improving public transport for the Harcourt community. The group will meet in the next few weeks and begin working toward improved public transport for Harcourt. If you would like to join this working group or would like any more information, please contact Paul Mizzi by email on [paul@intermizzi.com.au](mailto:paul@intermizzi.com.au).

*Paul Mizzi*



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### **Making a Splash this Summer**

The Bendigo Regional YMCA will again operate the Harcourt Outdoor Pool this summer.

YMCA Operations Manager David Flint says the team is ready to make a splash.

“We’re looking forward to a great season of fun at the Harcourt pool and we’re happy to be doing our bit to bring the community together,” David says.

Outdoor pools are part of the Australian way of life – and the Harcourt pool gives local children, families and swimmers an easily accessible and fully supervised option for leisure and learning.

Facilities have been upgraded and the whole community is invited to attend a meet and greet day on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 4pm – 6pm.

The YMCA has worked to ensure that the right team is in place to create some great summer memories.

“We’ve reviewed our operating procedures and made the necessary changes to improve customer service, prompt opening and closing hours and reliable supervision by qualified lifeguards,” says David.

“There’s going to be a lot of fun had at the pool this year and we’ll be offering VicSwim classes in January which means that Harcourt’s kids can learn from experts in water safety. We’ve also extended our operating hours which makes the pool more accessible than ever,” he says.

The Harcourt Pool reopens on Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> with Season Passes and ticketed entry available for purchase on site.

<<<end>>>

**For further information, please contact:**

**David Flint**

**Operations Manager – Bendigo Regional YMCA**

**(03) 5444 3360**

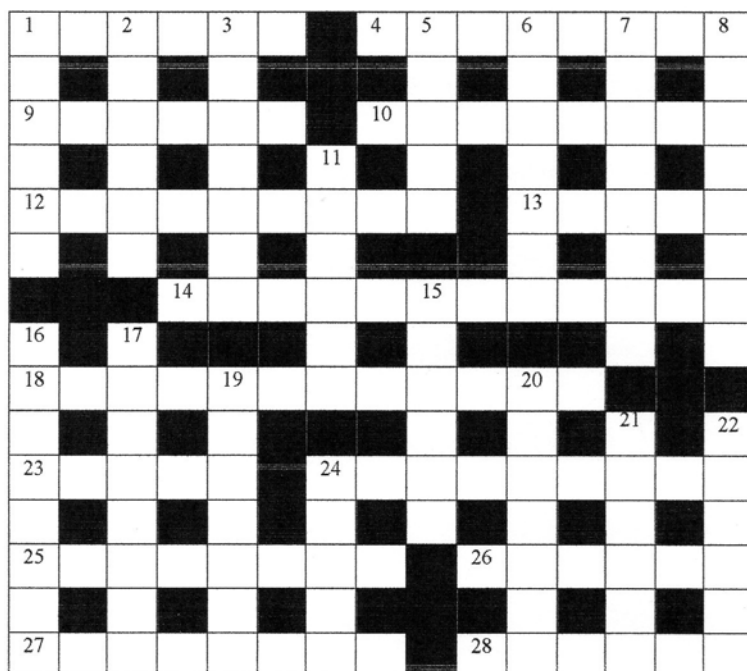


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# Cryptic Crossword Challenge - crack the code of the cunning McW!

November X-word 2014. ©McW Jan '14



## Across:

- 1 Wine hard to remove after dinner? (6)
- 4 Large rope after friend is friendly. (8)
- 9 Second book leaving. (6)
- 10 Lepidopterous rulers. (8)
- 12 Loch of a fair width? (9)
- 13 Low sound of pain from peak, we hear.  
(Certainly a major player...) (5)
- 14 Where the military mind might be housed?  
(12)
- 18 Othello's fabric of metaphor. (12)
- 23 What Claudius does, or appears to do,  
sounds laudatory. (5)
- 24 Meditation may do this to swings of 5dn.  
(9)
- 25 Twilights for Sam 'n Janet? (8)
- 26 Cell not rooted to the spot. (6)
- 27 Not concur with replacing one in  
disgrace/disarray. (8)
- 28 Climb in the guise of a single item of  
currency. (6)

## Down:

- 1 Three of these in a gale would have  
breathalyser in a flap... (6)
- 2 Ferrous material in control of this type of (un-  
American?) humour. (6)

- 3 One can do this down, or do it under, but get  
too close to it and one is risqué, almost  
indecent... (7)
- 5 Swings of these may be mitigated by  
something that 24-acrosses them... (5)
- 6 Valiant old, fast horse. (7)
- 7 Gave hand-signal, kneed cobber half-way.  
(8)
- 8 Tractable loch? (8)
- 11 Heavy metal with royalty for one in front.  
(6)
- 15 Impious, but sounds not worn out (6)
- 16 Good drover, possibly crook... (8)
- 17 Slinks around royalty for shoes. (8)
- 19 US statesman without a shred of royalty  
leaves amatory practice. (7)
- 20 One of seven deadlies leaves many today in  
this state. (7)
- 21 Fashionable insert in reputation makes for a  
thin time... (6)
- 22 Sorely tested, and found "not to like" is an  
understatement. (6)
- 24 Another take on Gabriel. (5)

## October X-word 2014 SOLUTION



### Across:

- 7 Pleased [GLAD] worn scraps of clothing are appropriate for the ball. [Well?]
- 9 Tell the cow to walk! [Well?]
- 10 Code [Morse] left [L] a small bit.
- 11 [A] huge [OS] airscrew [prop] about anything. (7)
- 12 Those of the land of western promise are Satanic with an 'e'. (10)
- 13 G-e-r-e leaves 27 for vessel. (4)
- 14 Fix broken relationship? [re-pair-up?]
- 16 Does Lorraine ...this place? [Well?]
- 19 To whom he gives book? [to me...]
- 21 Able racist correlates readings with standard. (10)
- 23 Hello [Hi], J S(Bach)—I produce b-b-q pot. (7)
- 25 I owe [IO] a dag a mixture for an easy passage, perhaps by J S... (6)
- 26 Seduce Tolkien's tree-being [Ent] with hard water [Well?]
- 27 All change! Now there's a dog where the line of plants was... (8)

©McW'14

### Down:

- 1 Deal out local tea. (8)
- 2 & 22 Is filmy, sounds fishy—but is neither Brand X nor Brand Y... [Well? How d'ya like Brand 'O'?]
- 3 Stare at this goddess for long enough... [...and you'll get the anagram]
- 4 Tea [Char] is mother [Ma] for what Hawke (who was rich as Ma...) used to spread over the first six rows when he spoke. (8)
- 5 & 6 Camp spoof I get with splendour, vainglory and humiliating failure.
- 8 Even a tired sap could get a rapid set out of this sort of heterogeneous collection—as pirated! [THREE clues!]
- 13 Change one [the 't'] in 8 to put down. (9)
- 15 Cowboy might use an ice torch to get a glancing effect from his Colt. (8)
- 17 Director, owed, cried "Rot!" (8)
- 18 & 20 Performance of magician is only half-honest. Dig? (7, 2, 4)
- 22 (see 2)
- 24 Robber bandsman\*—and off to the cooler on board! [\*Brigand...]



## Harcourtians -

### Monique Thomson

Monique Thomson is an enthusiastic Harcourtian. Surrounded by beautiful open scenery with great light and quietness, and accompanied by her dogs and chooks, she tends her garden, fruit trees, and keeps down the grass on her 10 acre property. And she is a writer. Her book, dedicated to the memory of her nearest and dearest, Ron, who died not long ago, is a novelised history of his ancestors who arrived in Bendigo in 1859.



"I've been researching and writing for 4 years now and really enjoying it. Writing is my time. It is a combination of relaxation, creativity and therapy. I'm not a set-hours writer but intersperse my writing with the work on my property and other activities. What makes the writing more enjoyable is that Ron's family's records are at my fingertips. I don't have to go hunting across states and continents for my sources.

"Initially I had thought of writing about my own family but accessing records across 3 continents of people living during times of occupation and war made sorting fact from folklore almost impossible.

"I was always attracted to my parent's story, particularly my father's. My father was born Robert Thomson in Indonesia – but was known as Loekie; he was part Indonesian. The country was at that time a Dutch colony and Dad's family identified strongly as Dutch rather than

as native Indonesians. A curious kid, who rode around on his bike, my father was interned by the Japanese during the Japanese occupation as a suspected spy. He was put in front of a firing squad, but as a cruel tease or warning, the bullets fired at him were blanks. When the Japanese left, the Indonesians didn't treat him kindly and he was sent as forced labour to a rubber plantation in Java. He was eventually released in a prisoner exchange between the Dutch and Indonesians and made his way back to his family. The family had assumed him dead and were grieving his loss. He found a shrine to himself in the home. Shortly thereafter, the Dutch government repatriated to Europe many of its citizens and Dad arrived in Holland, a country he had never known, as a 20 year old. With little education, he was despite his age forced to attend high school where he met my mother who was six years younger than he was.

"My mum, whose name was Nancy van Rees, was born of Dutch parents in Buenos Aires. Her father worked for the Shell oil company. The family returned to Holland before the Second World War broke out. Unlike many in Holland who died of starvation as the Nazis appropriated food for their own people, they managed to survive by living in a country house, growing just enough food to get by."

Monique describes her two sets of grandparents as being very different from each other. Her father came from a cheerful fun loving home whilst her mother's parents were reserved and strict. "When I was on the horizon, they married, and I was born in 1951. The following year they decided to emigrate – their options were either Canada or Australia. They chose Australia and in 1952 we arrived in Melbourne. My mother always regretted the decision to immigrate to Australia. She never felt really at home here, regarding the environment as too dry and harsh.

"I grew up in Aspendale and Edithvale near the beach.



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Dad worked as a commercial artist and Mum stayed at home raising the family. I have 3 siblings. I never remember us wanting for food but it was a barren childhood with few toys and books. I remember being



Monique and her mother Nancy, 2012

embarrassed by my clothes and about having holes in my shoes. I had a passion for books and would take the train to the State Library to be amongst books and read.

"I sat an entrance exam for Mentone Girls High School and was successful. It took me ages to get to school. I had to walk, take a train and then a bus. During weekends I struggled socially. I was a long way from school friends and we didn't have a phone so I couldn't keep in touch. But then, if I had caught up with my friends it might have been awkward as my wardrobe consisted only of my school uniform and old clothes.

"I matriculated and got into speech therapy at Melbourne University. This was in 1969. I found however, I couldn't afford the fees so did not finish the course. I left uni and went to teacher's college, taking a bursary, which bonded me to the Department of Education for two years. I married Paul in 1972, taught and had two boys. When the boys were older I worked as a vet nurse, ran a cattery in Hampton and completed my University degree. I learned a lot about cat breeds, the loveable ones, the aggressive and the loud.

"After the cattery I got a job in Community Health managing some 200 health centre volunteers, then went on to become a Community Educator for a Problem Gambling organisation. During this period Paul and I went our separate ways. I lived around Melbourne for a while but decided to leave after I became ill. I was familiar with Castlemaine as I had visited friends there so I decided to look for a place in the area. In the year 2000, I found a house in Harcourt and later moved on to my current home.

Monique said she fitted easily into what she called 'a like-minded Harcourt Community'. "Initially I made jams, chutneys and other produce to sell at local markets and later got involved with community work. I wouldn't go back to Melbourne in a pink fit." These days Monique clearly sees herself as a Harcourtian!



**Jenny McKenry**  
**Dandura Alpacas**

## Wrap Up on Harcourt's Whole Town Garage Sale

If you were driving through Harcourt on Saturday 25th October you would have seen balloons tied to letter boxes around the town alerting people to 'drop in and buy stuff'. Harcourt was hosting its first Inaugural Whole Town Garage Sale and you couldn't have picked better weather with blue cloudless skies. There were 26 home garage sites as well as stalls set up at Harcourt Valley Primary School (HVPS) along Mills Road. The event was introduced as a fundraiser for the school where vendors paid a site fee and I saw this as the perfect opportunity to de-clutter my house and put some wares up for sale.

My stall was positioned at the school alongside a mate of my son's which worked out nicely for the boys as they swapped toys they had grown tired of. There was a sausage sizzle set up not far from us and people could purchase maps with directions to the sites throughout the town.



A trickle of customers wandered through and many walked away finding they had grabbed a good deal. I found there was a strong sense of community and it was quite a social day. I caught up with some of my neighbours, was introduced to some lovely local Harcourtians and chatted with a friendly stall holder from Lockwood. One of the bargain hunters I met told me she travelled from Macedon and had shopped at many of the town sales before coming to the school stalls. She said it was a great way to check out Harcourt having never been here before.

Once the stalls were packed up I met up with parents from HVPS and spoke with Di Selwood, the school's Fundraising Coordinator about her thoughts on the garage sales. Di summarised the event by saying: "It was really great chatting to people as I was selling maps and to learn that they were from out of town and that many of them, as you say had never been to Harcourt. The feedback from those people I have managed to speak to has (continued next page)

## Well Organised Children Defeat Pines

The Mount Alexander Regional Park got a big helping hand on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October when a group of over 150 adults and children took part in the second Landcare Camp Out on The Mount. Most people who attended came from Harcourt, Chewton and Castlemaine to take part.

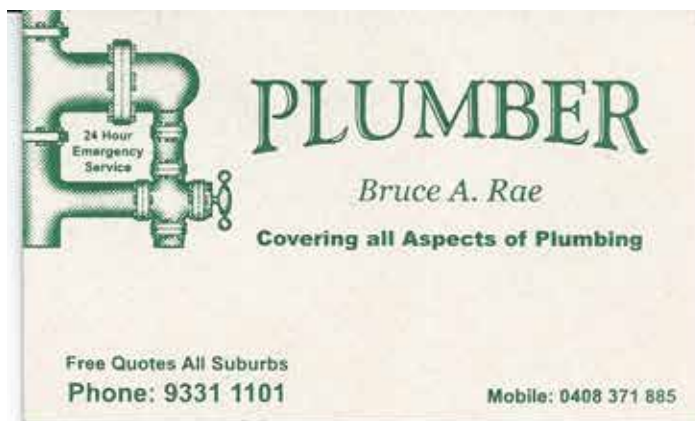
Armed with saws, loppers, drills and Glyphosate, the group was bused from the Leanganook Camp ground to a site just north of Dog Rocks Saddle to dispatch invasive Radiata Pine trees growing in the Park. The pine trees are a threat to the native forests found on Mount Alexander and participants in the Camp Out are helping to protect important habitat for native plants and animals.

It was hard to tell exactly how many pines were removed amidst claims of 'hundreds' by some individuals who were still in early primary school, but a very conservative estimate would be 600 trees.

The Camp Out is a project of the Harcourt Valley Landcare Group and the organisers would like to thank the Mount Alexander Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Connecting Country for their support, and also Big Tree T-shirts, the Harcourt Lions Club and Hancocks Victorian Plantations for their contributions.

**Max Schlachter**

**Mount Alexander Region Landcare Facilitator**



**Below: Beck Edwards letting the mob finish the job.**



(from page 16) been great – with some excellent suggestions for next year's event already being put forward. Tread and the General Store said business had profited from having the Whole Town Garage Sale which is fabulous.

We will be emailing or calling all those who had a sale at home or car boot stall as we want to get as much feedback from the community as possible, so we can improve on the day and make

it a successful annual event for everyone involved. If people do have comments or suggestions I would love to hear from them and can be contacted on 0488 148 358 or [di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au](mailto:di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au). It really was a fantastic effort by all the people involved and just another way we can promote Harcourt and bring people to our wonderful town."

**Genevieve Ward**



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## Start your week with a walk in Harcourt

From Kerry Calcraft, Registered nurse

The Mount Alexander Foothills walking group has been walking on Monday mornings since May this year. Up to eleven people walk weekly, and the group caters for a variety of walking speeds. A casual approach is taken to decide the route and length of the walk depending on the desires of the walkers, some of whom stay for a cuppa at the ANA hall after the walk.



Joining a walking group can be a wonderful motivator to make healthy changes. One walker, Graeme, was encouraged to attend by his wife Kay, an avid walker herself. When Graeme joined the group in mid winter, he was doing very little exercise after having a knee replacement earlier in the year. The first week Graeme was surprised at how tired he felt after the one-hour walk, yet it gave him the motivation to make some changes. He and Kay (and their dog) started to walk every day... sometimes walking 6 to 8 km daily around the streets of Harcourt. Their neighbor, also in the walking group, would offer Graeme and Kay a lift to the ANA hall, where the walkers meet each Monday morning. Graeme did not accept the lift as he was determined to walk there... and walk back home after the walk with the group.

"I am no longer as tired as I was when I first came to the walking group. I have also made some healthy changes to my diet, and am happy that I can now walk 9 holes of golf", says Graham.

Castlemaine District Community Health welcomes you to join this walking group and enjoy the health and social benefits. The Mount Alexander Foothills walking group meets at 9.30am every Monday at the ANA hall in Harcourt and walk for an hour. A cuppa at the hall is enjoyed afterwards (50c donation appreciated). A Registered Nurse from Castlemaine District Community Health attends and offers blood pressure checks pre and post walking to help you determine a suitable walking pace.

We look forward to having some new walkers join us.

## Tour de Bress – Major Charity Cycling Event in Harcourt

The Bress Criterium will be held in Harcourt on the evening of Friday 21 November. This Bress Winery and Cidery sponsored event is run in conjunction with a major fundraising ride for Save the Children.

Harcourt will be open for business with a festival atmosphere, with a "Twilight on the Green" event (see page 21) from 5.30 to 8.30 pm with music and entertainment in Stanley Park. Tracy Candy will entertain with sassy disco music and the Lions Club will provide a barbecue, coffee and drinks.

The 800m course circumnavigates the Stanley Park block in the centre of town providing excellent vantage points for spectators to view the action while enjoying the open grassed area of the park. It will be raced in a clockwise direction with the start / finish line on the old Calder Hwy, half way along the straight, allowing for a fast open sprint finish.

### Residents should note:

- A traffic management map will soon be on display in local businesses for the information of the community
- Traffic management signage will start to be erected at 3 pm.
- The only road closures are the actual course, but there may be minor delays.
- 1 lane of Market St will be open to traffic
- BP access and exit will be from Market St only
- Racing starts at 5.00 sharp

Come along and enjoy the night with music, entertainment, food and fast quality cycling!!

*Robyn Miller*





# TWILIGHT ON THE GREEN

A HARCOURT HAPPENING

Friday 21st November

5.30pm - 8.30pm

Join us on the lawns of Stanley Park for a night of community celebration featuring the sultry sounds of disco diva...

## TRACEY CANDY

With DJ music thanks  
to Rich Thompson

- ★ Free jumping castle for the kids
- ★ Lions BBQ, coffee and drinks

Leave the car at home or park at the Harcourt Pony Club. Catch the Castlemine Cycling Club's Tour De Bress criterium races circling the town whilst relaxing on our very own "village green". Bring your family and friends and enjoy a *Harcourt Happening*.

Presented by the Harcourt Progress Association, supported by Harcourt Lions, Bress Winery and FRRR. Printed by Lisa Chesters, Federal Member for Bendigo.



# Community Diary Dates

**6 November:** 1.30pm, CWA, Leisure Centre

**7 November:** 6pm, Relay for Life, Castlemaine

**7 November:** Landscape Plan Survey closes today.

**9 November:** 10am, Landcare working bee, meet opposite Harcourt CFA

**9 November:** 2pm, Concert & Book Launch, \$15, 121 Fenton Drive Harcourt North

**13 November:** 7 - 8pm, Fire Ready Safety Information Session, Harcourt CFA, 58 High St.

**13 November:** 7.30 - 9pm, Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall

**21 November:** 4 to 6pm, YMCA Meet and greet your local lifeguard at the Harcourt Pool

**21 November:** 5pm, Tour de Bress and Twilight on the Green, Stanley Park

**23rd November:** 1.30 pm, Heritage Centre outing "A Hidden Treasure of Barkers Creek"

**29th November:** Harcourt Pool Opens

**3rd December:** 6.30pm for 7pm HPA AGM and Celebration, see next page for details

**5th December:** 6pm launch of the swimming season with free community BBQ,  
Harcourt Pool

**14th December:** 7.30pm, Community Christmas Carols, Stanley Park

## Volunteer Vacancies on The Core Team

**Can you give 2 hours a month to assist with distributing The Core?**

This involves collecting copies from The Shire Offices collating and distributing them in Castlemaine and Harcourt. **Benefits:** coffee and cake when you meet to collate and you get out and about to chat to people when you drop off the papers as they are gratefully received.

## Do you know a gardening expert?

The Core received a supportive email from Glenys Downing with a suggestion for a Gardening Guru for Harcourt. We have Katie & Hugh Finlay keeping us up to date on fruit trees, but we would like to hear from you if you successfully grow plants, flowers and vegetables in our climate and would be prepared to write about it once a month. Contact details for The Core are in the box below.

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

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

[rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto:gen_ward2@hotmail.com) or phone 0409 070 930.

Circulation is currently 400 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, Tread Harcourt, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, The Little Red Apple and in Castlemaine: Run Rabbit Run, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital, Castlemaine Community Information Centre and Castlemaine Visitors' Centre.

A link to a full colour version of the Harcourt News/The Core can be accessed via the Harcourt Progress Association Inc 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.*

## Photo Mystery From the Heritage Centre



### WHO ARE WE?

This picture of a group of female friends/family members have posed for this picture. There is no date/ place on the photo, it looks as if it was taken in the early 20th century. The horse drawn cart is not hitched & might have transported the girls to the orchard.

Does anyone have any ideas as to whom these girls might be & where the photo is taken?

The Heritage Centre is open on Weds 9-3pm, we look forward to seeing you or email Wendy, [tbarron44@bigpond.com](mailto:tbarron44@bigpond.com)



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## Harcourt Progress Association Inc

### Annual General Meeting Wednesday Dec 3rd

**6.30pm for refreshments,  
7pm meeting**

**Join us in celebrating 12 months  
of great community achieve-  
ments.**

at the new Scout Hall B&B,  
138 Victoria Road (Midland Highway)

Help us establish priorities for the upcom-  
ing year (and beyond!)

Drinks and catering provided

**ALL WELCOME: HOPE TO SEE YOU  
THERE**



## 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 151796620 – 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.*