

HARCOURT NEWS

THE C^ÖRE

December 2014

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 12

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

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

Tour de Bress Success!



Adam Marks, founder of Bress Winery presents the cups to the winners of the criteriums, Nicole Whitburn and Shannon Johnson. Each winner received \$3,000 prize money donated by Bress.

The Core spoke with Sue Anderson, Cellar Door Manager of Bress Winery about the very successful Tour de Bress which took place on Friday 21 November. About ninety cyclists took part in the fund raising ride. Sue said "We have raised \$136,000 over the last three years for Save the Children and the Mirabella foundation with the tour. This year we are hoping to bring the total to \$200,000. Between \$35,000 and \$50,000 has been pledged this year and the money is still rolling in, so we have to wait and see." It was a busy couple of days for the winery. After the races finished

Nearly 300 people attended Twilight on the Green

Sue had organised a dinner for 100 of the participants and supporters, followed by a breakfast and lunch for forty. Save the

Children provided a play van for the children attending the lunch on the Saturday. Sue also thanked local sponsors for the the Tour: Castlemaine Bus Lines, The

Bike Vault and Tonks. Nearly 300 people attended Twilight on the Green an event organised by the Harcourt Progress Association *continued page 2*

INSIDE

- Councillor Report
- Harcourt Lions
- Australia Day 2015
- Harcourt Consortium
- AGM HPA
- CFA & CWA
- Cricket & Bowls
- Playgroup
- Gardening Pages
- Business Update
- Harcourtian
- Crossword

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.

The late ROBERT JACKS was a long term Harcourt resident who is internationally acclaimed in the world of abstract art. Don't miss the retrospective of his work now on display at the National Gallery of Victoria (Ian Potter Centre at Fed Square) until 15th February, 2015.

to take advantage of the Bress Criterium in the centre of Harcourt.

The Lions Club Barbecue (above) had a constant stream of people waiting for the gourmet items on offer and the coffee machine was working flat out.

The crowd was well entertained by Tracey Candy singing disco karaoke. Tracey and her band will be returning for the Applefest.



Everyone enjoyed the music and the inflatable slide was well used by the children during the evening.



The Bress Criterium was hosted by Castlemaine Cycling Club and the riders enjoyed perfect conditions. The equal prize money of \$3,000 attracted riders from all over Victoria.

Robyn Miller



Action shot of one of the races, courtesy of Nicole Whitburn

From the Editor's Desk



Now that The Core has reached twelve editions I want to mark this milestone by thanking our advertisers, contributors and supporters for making this a memorable year. Without their input The Core would not exist.

We are regularly printing 400 copies of 24 pages, with distribution in Harcourt and into various venues in Castlemaine. The online version is kindly being hosted by David Ling of Copyright Transmission. Links to the online version of The Core are to be found on the Harcourt Progress Association blog site.

I also want to thank Genevieve Ward who is our Advertising Coordinator. Genevieve is conducting a professional operation for The Core, keeping in touch with our advertisers and organising the Business Update too. Valuable support has been provided by Jacqueline Brodie-Hans who regularly proof-reads and otherwise further edits the paper before it is ready for print.

Thanks also to Annette Smith, Principal of the Harcourt Valley Primary School and to the Shire of Mount Alexander for providing printing services.

Feedback about The Core has been positive; if you have any suggestions for new items or constructive criticism please email me at rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com.

It was great to receive a quick response to our call for a gardening guru. This month sees the first edition of "Pips 'n' all" by Janyce McMurtrie. This segment is added to Katie and Hugh Finlay's regular segment on fruit trees. And ASQ will feature a plant a month, beginning in our February edition. We are still looking for volunteers with an hour or two to spare per month to assist with distribution.

During October I attended the Country Victorian Newspapers Conference where I learnt much about the production of small newspapers all around Victoria - there is no doubt of their importance to the communities they represent. My thanks go to John Ellis of Chewton Chat who has provided valuable mentoring to me in my first year. Finally on behalf of The Core and the Harcourt Progress Association I wish all our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year, we'll be back in February.

Robyn Miller

Councillor Tony Cordy Reports



Di Selwood
Property Consultant



Castlemaine, Harcourt & Maldon Region

Local Ph: **03 5474 2807**

Mobile: 0488 148 358

Fax: 03 8677 9033

Email: di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au

148 - 152 High Street,
Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555

Hi all,

The weeks are flying by in the lead up to Christmas. Remember to check out the car before heading off over Christmas. Take plenty of breaks if you are travelling long distances. Eating an apple is a healthy snack to have along the way ☺.

By the time you read this the pools will be open. Enjoy the swim and remember the sunscreen. Buying a season ticket is a good way to support your local pool.

Jo and I attended the Tour de Bress last weekend. It was great to see the turn up of locals and it appeared to be well run. Our Lions were doing a nice job of cooking.

Congratulations to all concerned. Sounds like the prize money was excellent so it might be time to dust off the old bike.

At Council on Tuesday we approved the tender for the works at Phee Broadway Theatre. It is expected that the Theatre will be ready for the Castlemaine State Festival. It will be great to have the Town Hall and the Phee Broadway Theatre available for use again.

Over the past few weeks there have been changes to Councillor representation on the various Section 86 committees. If you have a look on the web site you will see which Councillors are on the various Committees.

Over the next few months Councillors will be reviewing progress of existing projects and doing lead up planning to the next Council budget. It is a good time to submit ideas to Council for works that may be required around our Community.

Talking about new projects I recently attended the opening of the new Police Station in Castlemaine. It is an impressive facility and the first purpose built police station since the 1850's.

It will be an interesting weekend with the State election. It does look like a close result, I wonder if the forecasters have got it right?? One of the lessons I am learning through my role as a Councillor is that you have to work with people with a wide range of views. The big picture is not unlike our local community, if we listen to the other's point of view and work together we can achieve a lot.

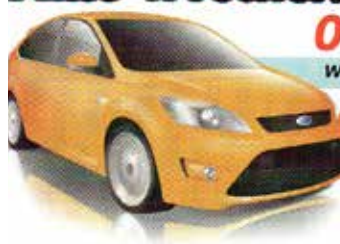
Best regards Tony

AG Cordy
Councillor Mount Alexander Shire
0439 742434

**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

Aussie

Frank De Bono
Dip. Finance & Mortgage Broking Management
Aussie Broker



Aussie Bendigo
Strah Village Shopping Centre, Condon Street
Bendigo, Vic 3550
email: frank.debono@aussie.com.au
tel: 03 5445 2000 fax: 03 5445 2099
mob: 0402 674 712
web: aussie.com.au/bendigo



Australian Credit Licence Number 246796
AHL Investments Pty Ltd ABN 27 105 266 961

HPA AGM: Chairman's Report

It's hard to believe that it has been only a year since the launch of the Harcourt Community Plan. Since then, the Harcourt Progress Association has worked hard across a range of agendas all stemming from the community consultation which formed the basis for the Harcourt Community Plan.

In those early months, we launched the Core newspaper which has been a huge success and we made a major commitment to supporting the Applefest which saw some important changes, generated funds and provided a shot in the arm to this venerable local festival. Over the course of the year, we have seen a steady flow of community events and also behind the scenes committee work. We conducted the amazing Easter Egg Hunt at the Oak Forest which was attended by 350 people. We have hosted a number of enjoyable musical events including a karaoke night raising funds for Applefest.

The HPA worked with, and had representation on, the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park subcommittee in partnership with the Goldfields Trail. This is a very exciting project that has the potential to create employment, stimulate economic growth and drive tourism within the shire. Our proposal was a strong one and resulted in a pledge of \$1,000,000 by the Labor Party towards the construction of the park. Exciting times ahead for Harcourt!

We have been successful in securing funds to achieve a number of key objectives. The Mount Alexnader Shire Council supported HPA with a community grant to purchase equipment to produce our monthly community newsletter, The Core. Bendigo Tourism provided funds to assist HPA strengthen and support the Harcourt Applefest. The Foundation for Regional & Rural Renewal (FRRR) provided funding to purchase chairs and tables which we are using at local events, groups and festivities. We have also worked to support other community groups obtain funding by providing letters of support, advice and the umbrella of our legal auspice. Thanks to all our stakeholders and funding bodies.

I think by any standard, it has been a dynamic and effective year with more hits than misses. The Harcourt Progress Association is a young organisation and the learning we have achieved this year will stand us in good stead for the future.

I'd like to offer my thanks to our steering committee for their hard work and also to thank those who have attended our meetings or supported our events. The Harcourt Progress Association is an open and accessible platform for all community members to attend and participate and we welcome everyone at our monthly public meetings.

David Heath

Chair, Harcourt Progress Association Inc.



Its heads down at the Progress Association as members peruse the Annual Reports.

Harcourt Landscape Plan Update

The Shire has reported that the draft plan is currently being put together, informed by the outcomes of the consultation process which included two meetings and a survey. (The survey closing date was extended by a week until 7 November in response to requests from the community for hardcopy surveys as well as online).

Mary Dunne, Economic Project Development Officer from the Shire said, "The draft will be reviewed internally, before providing the opportunity for the community to provide feedback. Given the proximity to Christmas, we will probably conduct this consultation in mid-January."

Harcourt Consortium Moving to Next Level



Shown at the site of the new bottling line which the Consortium is installing at the Coolstore: L to R: Dianne Baig, Project Manager Harcourt Consortium, Rob Chaplin, President Harcourt District Fruitgrowers Assoc., Senator Bridgette McKenzie, Rod Hamilton and Trevor Peeler, Harcourt Cooperative Coolstores Ltd, Drew Henry, Treasurer, Harcourt District Fruit Growers Assoc., John Wilson (General Manager, Fruit Growers Victoria Limited).

Coliban's \$40M Harcourt Modernization Project will provide certainty and sustainability for orchardists and is driving innovation in the Harcourt Valley. The Harcourt Consortium is consolidating its plans for increasing production and manufacture based at the Harcourt Cooperative Coolstores. Exciting plans are in place to commission a sparkling bottling line and ramp up production, creating new manufacture for demand driven alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages.

Cider, sparkling wine and other beverages are on the horizon with plans to extend the number and variety of lines of cider available from the Harcourt Valley. Orchardists have already started planting cider varieties which will enable different styles of cider – more in tune with the French style - and a welcome addition to the overly sweet offerings of

major brewing companies.

Senator Bridgette McKenzie attended the Coolstores on December 9, to view the project work associated with an Application to Canberra for the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF). The Senator was pleased with the projects ability to pursue the Victorian Government targets for Food and Fibre production as well as the export potential to Asia where burgeoning middle class consumption is driving demand for these beverages.

Fruitgrowers Victoria Limited is actively supporting the NSRF application. General Manager John Wilson was also in attendance and expressed his enthusiasm at the Consortium's initiative, particularly the options for alternative markets for apples and pears. "Value-adding fruit through cider and beverage manufacture is definitely moving Harcourt to the next level" he said.

Harcourt & District Fruitgrowers Association Inc

Do you have an interest in horticulture?

Coliban's \$40M Harcourt Modernization Project will create potential and innovation in the Harcourt Valley.

Now taking New Members: Invest \$25 in our sustainable future.

Please contact: Mark Walters (0408 507 240) if you would like to be part of this revitalized organization and play an important and central role in the growth and planning of the Harcourt District as a sustainable fruit, food and beverage hub.

Cider is just the beginning!

MASH to donate 5Kw solar system to community group Expressions of interest sought by 30 Jan 2015



MASH (Mount Alexander Shire Solar Homes) installed its 100th solar system on Wednesday 12

November 2014. The happy customers are Chris and Hans van der Poel of Barkers Creek who said: "It was important to us that MASH is a community project and that the community can benefit from it. We went to one of the MASH community meetings and made up our minds then and there to go ahead."

To celebrate this milestone, the MASH project is donating a solar panel installation of up to 5kW (20 panels) for a community building in Mount Alexander Shire. The free system will be valued at up to \$7,400. It could be put on a State or local government-owned building or a community-owned building owned by a club or other incorporated association. It is provided by the MASH project and being supplied and installed by Stephen Breheny Electrical Services, the installer for the MASH project.

The Hub Foundation, the not-for-profit organiser of the MASH project, is inviting expressions of interest by Friday 30 January 2015. The installation is expected to be carried out by the end of February 2015.

Community groups need to complete an online application which can be found on The Hub Foundation website at www.hubfoundation.org.au by 30 January 2015. The application should include a statement of up to 250 words explaining why you believe your organisation should receive a free system, including the benefits for the community and the organisation managing the building. Also required are photos of the building and the latest electricity bills.

Neil Barrett, Director of The Hub Foundation says: "We are delighted that we have hit this milestone already and can fulfil our promise. MASH was always seen as a project with a big plus for the community. It's a great opportunity for a community organisation to demonstrate that clean energy is now playing a major role in our energy system because of its very real financial and environmental benefits".

Stephen Breheny says: "It's great to be able to 'give

back' to the community as part of this project. MASH customers are telling me that the community focus of MASH is really important and I am proud to be supporting this free installation. Through the MASH project, my company alone has provided employment to 13 local people on a part-time and full-time basis. I see this as another very important contribution of the MASH project to the community."

The judges will be the three directors of the Hub Foundation and Stephen Breheny. The decision will be announced on the Hub Foundation website and in local media. Conditions and selection criteria are published at www.hubfoundation.org.au

Labor Announces Funding of Mountain Bike Park in Harcourt



In the lead up to the state election both local state members, Jacinta Allan, Bendigo West (left) and Maree Edwards, Bendigo East, announced \$1 million funding for the proposed Mountain Bike Park at the base of Mount Alexander. They recognise the opportunity to support economic development in the area and will be seeking additional partners to meet the \$2 million budget required to construct a professional world class facility.

The Core will continue to monitor this exciting opportunity for Harcourt and bring you more details in coming editions.

Summer season underway at the Harcourt Pool

Hot weather saw the opening of the Harcourt Swimming Pool kick off with strong attendances. The Harcourt Progress Association has been engaged in discussions and planning with the Bendigo YMCA and our local council to improve community outcomes for users of the Harcourt Pool.

MAKE A SPLASH!

Pool volunteers wanted to assist in the kiosk at the Harcourt Swimming Pool.

Hours and day flexible to suit. Must have a Working with Children Check and current police check (no more than 6 months old). Costs for obtaining checks will be reimbursed. Register your interest now on mavn@outlook.com or drop the HPA a line on Facebook

This has resulted in increased opening hours. The pool now opens on weekdays at 3pm and on weekends at 1pm. It is also open later with a 7pm closing time during the week, and during the school holidays the pool is open 1pm to 7pm everyday. During heatwaves there will be occasions when the pool stays open till 8pm so keep an eye on facebook or check at the General Store. The HPA have also been in discussions about planned activities at the pool. Stayed tuned for aqua aerobics classes, lap sessions, pool parties and regular community BBQs.

As we go to print, HPA has been advised by the Castlemaine Lions of our successful application for funding to purchase new aquatic play equipment for the Harcourt Pool. We will be working with Council to see if the legendary mushroom fountain can be installed. Thanks Lions! Our local pool just became an even more fun place to be this summer.

Jacqueline Brodie-Hans



A Community House for Harcourt?

The Harcourt Community Plan identified interest in establishing a Community House or similar community services facility. There are 400 neighbourhood / community houses throughout the state, funded by the State Government who pay a coordinator to conduct a variety of services and activities which may then also generate fees and income. For example, the Lancefield Neighbourhood House runs their local op shop and farmers market which have raised in excess of \$130,000 over the past 3 years, which goes to support other local community groups.

In Mount Alexander Shire, community houses exist in Castlemaine and Maldon while in Newstead they have a Rural Transaction Centre which operates as a community service hub. These centres offer assorted facilities including:

- A community bank
- Centrelink and Medicare agency
- Occasional childcare and playgroup facilities
- Laundromat and op-shop
- Community library
- Public internet access
- Drop in centre for a cuppa and catch up
- Homework club for students
- Literacy support service
- No Interest Loans Scheme
- Community meeting spaces & space for visiting agencies to meet clients
- Training courses in first aid, permaculture, arts classes, IT classes, yoga and fitness classes, music and choirs
- Community garden
- A community bus hire service
- Cooking and community lunch

What sort of activities would you like to see offered at a Harcourt Community House? Visit the HPA Facebook page, complete our online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FWMG5KT> or drop in your thoughts at the Harcourt General Store.

Harcourt Play Group

On the 30th of October 2014 the Harcourt Playgroup celebrated 25 years of play grouping fun in Harcourt. Twenty five years ago Loretta Rice and a group of other young mums got together to form a playgroup as there was a need for somewhere for their children to get together and play with others. It is also turned out to be a great way for new families in the community to get to know one another.

Our celebrations consisted of a cake cutting which was kindly made by Chantal Pratt. A jumping castle and fairy floss were donated by Won Step Jump.



Pictured above are Lynda and Elsa, President and Secretary, respectively, and below: Raelene Elliott and daughter Jessica Anderson with sons Matthew and Jamie. Jess was Raelene's fourth child to attend the playgroup and she has continued the tradition by taking her two sons to the playgroup.



Harcourt Playgroup runs on Thursdays at 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Uniting Church Hall in Buckley Street Harcourt.

Please bring a plate of nibbles to share and come and try out our happy little playgroup.

You get your first two visits for free, after that there is a charge of \$2.50 per family per week. There is a small membership fee which assists to pay insurances.

We have all ages attend, from newborn to kinder ages. So bring your youngsters to build up their social skills. We do activities and have play time.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Jessica Anderson

Harcourt Valley Primary School Melbourne Shopping Trip Fundraiser

Last weekend a bus load of "power shoppers", 48 to be exact, left Harcourt at 6.30am, (no it's not a typo), and went down to Melbourne and spent what one could only describe as a *long day* shopping until we dropped. I say power shoppers because that is what you need to be – 12 factory outlets with approximately 30 minutes in each one means you have to shop with military precision – there is no room for indecision and it is certainly not for the faint hearted!!

I am not normally a person who likes to shop for 12 hours, 2-3 is generally my limit, however I must confess I had a great day and came home with some fantastic bargains. You do get to rest in between outlets on the bus but it is still a big day. We were spoilt for choice with 12 outlets to visit and most of them really were worth visiting.

Best buy, Onkaparinga towels – retail \$65, I paid \$15 – yep I was pretty pleased with myself!! Favourite factory outlet, "Five Star Direct", in Maidstone and I could have stayed there and shopped for the whole day. They have an overwhelming assortment of kitchen wares and if you like to cook, entertain or know someone who does this place is worth checking out. There was something for everyone with Toys, Clothes, Lollies, Manchester, Bags & Luggage, Shoes, and more at the outlets we visited.

We did also stop for a delicious morning and afternoon tea and a pub lunch to refuel in between our shopping.

Overall it was a great day and I know we all came away with a bargain or two because collectively we spent a whopping \$14,365 – I did say power shopping!!!

If you love shopping, want to get some great Christmas presents or just want a day out with a lovely bunch of people then pencil into your diary our shopping trip date for 2015. Saturday November 21st. Just remember you do have to get up early!!!

Di Selwood



Fire Restrictions Have Commenced

Fire restrictions commenced on November 17th in the Shires of Mount Alexander and Greater Bendigo. This

not only means that you are not allowed to conduct open air burning unless you obtain a permit, but also activates a number of other regulations covering use of barbecues, campfires, farm machinery, chainsaws, mowers, welding and cutting equipment. The CFA has for many years produced a brochure titled "CAN I OR CAN'T I?" which covers these regulations as well as what is allowed or not allowed on days of Total Fire Ban. This can be accessed from the CFA website or alternatively if you would like a hard copy, these are available from the Brigade.

With a declaration of a Total Fire Ban (TFB) it is important to be aware of the Fire Weather District you are in, as Mount Alexander Shire is in the North Central District and The Greater City of Bendigo is in Northern Country District. This can mean that residents in the more northerly areas of our valley can have a TFB declared while the rest of the valley may not or vice versa. The electronic fire danger rating sign at Ravenswood has been reactivated recently but keep in mind that this is for the Northern Country District. For the North Central District you can check the weather map in the daily papers, watch the weather broadcasts on TV, access the information through the CFA website or use your CFA app on your phone or iPad.

The brigade has been busy during the first two weeks of November but fortunately with the change to cooler weather with some limited rain it has been quieter, but we cannot afford to let our guard down as there is plenty of cured fuel around that will readily burn due to lack of ground moisture.

Satellite imagery shows that the fuel curing rate is at least two weeks ahead of normal.

As we all prepare for the Christmas season, take care when setting up your Christmas lights as each year we see and hear stories of when Christmas trees catch fire or overloaded powerboards overheat and burst into flames.

As publicised in the November edition of The Core, the Brigade held a Fire Ready meeting for the public. While this was not as well attended as most other years, a very informative session was delivered to those who were there. One of the key points discussed on the night was about warnings. There is NO GUARANTEE

THAT YOU WILL GET A WARNING. Therefore it is important that you do not rely on getting a warning and more importantly do not wait for a warning before activating your fire plan.

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Harcourt Fire Brigade, I wish you a safe and fire free festive season. Please take care when on the roads, in the bush or out in the paddock.

And remember that while Santa can fit down the smallest of chimneys, we need a lot more room to get a fire truck into your property, so ask yourself is my gateway wide enough for a fire truck to fit through? Can it fit up my driveway under the tree branches or do they need trimming? Is there enough room for the fire truck to be able to turn around?

Tyrone Rice
Captain



The
Good
Life
Careers

Get that Job!

Resumes
Job applications
Interview coaching
Genevieve Ward
0409 070 930



SJK EXCAVATIONS
Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks

Stuart King
Owner/Operator
sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au

0407 514 797

ABN: 63708909386



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

Twitter: @LMChesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo





Harcourt CWA

For the past two weeks I have been touring New Zealand with my Beloved and friends from America.

Before we left Australia, everyone who had been to New Zealand told us to go there, see this, climb that. We had an endless list of things to do and see. We have gone there, seen this, done that and climbed that, and just when we think it can't get any better, it does.

We have seen the most beautiful scenery imaginable, and met the most hospitable and friendly people, it's a truly magical place. If you have ever thought that one day you might go to The Land of the Long White Cloud, then don't wait another minute longer as it really is as good as everyone says it is.....even better.



But what has this to do with Harcourt CWA I hear you asking? Well, nothing really, but I do enjoy our monthly chats and just wanted you all to know that although I am not amongst you all at the moment my heart and soul is still with you all because even though I have seen the most beautiful scenery imaginable on this trip, spent days travelling through green hills greener than any green I have ever seen, seen lakes bluer than blue.....

I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of



rugged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains. Our CWA year is coming to a close, but looking back over 2014 I think the Harcourt ladies would agree that we have all laughed, shared, cared, and had a fun year. Come and join us in 2015 on the first Thursday of each month at 1.30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. We love to see new faces! (*continued next column*)



Harcourt Australia Day Celebrations 2015

The Harcourt Lions Club will be continuing the tradition of organising an Australia Day celebration in Stanley Park in Harcourt. The celebrations will take place on Monday the 26th January 2015 and begin with a free breakfast from 8:00am onwards.

Australia Day Awards will be presented to members of the Harcourt & District community members after 9:30am.

The Harcourt Lions are now calling for nominations for **Youth of the Year** and **Community Member of the Year** Awards. Details of eligible persons are listed on the nomination form on the next page.

Anyone wishing to nominate someone can fill in the form on Page 7 and post it, or download the form and email it to the Harcourt Lions Club by no later than Monday the 12th January 2015.

The Lions postal address is:

- PO Box 100, Harcourt, 3453

The Lions website is:

- www.harcourt.vic.lions.org.au

The Lions email address is:

- harcourt@lions201V1-4.org.au

If you have any queries, please contact Grant at the Harcourt Lions Club on 0410 261 338.

All members of the public are invited to join us in celebrating Australia Day in 2015 and help us to thank those very special members of our Community who have made such valuable contributions to Harcourt and the District in 2014.

Grant Victor-Gordon
President

Harcourt CWA News (cont)

And now the festive time approaches, when we all eat too much, buy too much and worry too much. It is also a time to look back and reflect on the year just gone, to contact friends we haven't heard from for some time, to say hello to your neighbour, and a time to be thankful for this wonderful country we call home.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer



NOMINATION FORM
2014 HARCOURT & DISTRICT
YOUTH OF THE YEAR & COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR
AWARDS

Nominations are open to residents of Harcourt Valley, Faraday, Taradale, Sutton Grange, Metcalfe, and Elphinstone who are Australian Citizens and have lived in the district for at least 2 years. They must have made a significant contribution to their Community in the past or present.

Youth of the Year is restricted to residents under 25 years of age. The Award is for outstanding achievement in the last 12 months. It can be for academic, sporting or community service.

☐ **Youth of the Year**

☐ **Community Member of the Year**

Nominated Person: (Full Name)

Residential Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Person making Nomination: (print).....

Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Signature:

Seconder of Nomination: .(print).....

Signature:

Reasons for nominating (attach extra sheet if needed).....

.....

.....

Return form to Harcourt Lions at PO Box 100, Harcourt, 3453 or download from www.harcourt.vic.lions.org.au and email to: harcourt@lions201V1-4.org.au



Update from the Harcourt Lions Cricket Club

The Harcourt Cricket Club has had a boom year for new signups with lots of locals joining. This reflects some of the great work done by Michael and Tammy Simmins in organising and promoting

a culture where participation and enjoyment are at the core. The Milo cricket program has seen more than 20 youngsters venture down on a Wednesday night for an hour of fun and games. Lachy Mika has been doing a great job entertaining them and the program goes from strength to strength each year.

The picture below shows the Milo Cricket program in action.



The U/13 team has been playing midweek and the kids are having a great time. We have had four first timers join the team for the 2014/15 season. Zara and Avalon Game, Caleb Kilpatrick and Lochlin Haebich have been as keen as mustard showing great determination to improve their batting and bowling skills. Lachlan Ellison, Tyler Brereton and Alister and Owen Brasher have returned for another year and continue to be enthusiastically involved in anything to do with cricket!

C grade (U/16) has continued to increase numbers throughout the season. We have been fielding a young team light on for experience but high in enthusiasm. The boys have been training twice a week and the effort is paying off. Great individual performances with half centuries from Cooper Laragy-Walker and Ash Woodman over the first few rounds have seen our scores improve every week. Our bowling is continually improving and most importantly everyone is enjoying themselves.

The seniors work on the field with the bat has left a bit to be desired. Harcourt is providing the platform for the rest of the competition due to our inability to bat for long periods of time. The shining light of the season

for B Reserve is their 6/260 last weekend. The old stalwarts of Mark Yensch and Rod Watson combined for a hundred partnership to set up a probable win against Kyneton. The old boys have lead from the front this year and worked hard to develop our younger players. Jordan Gartside and Harley Brereton have been promoted to the seniors after consistent performances in the seconds. In A Reserve the bowling has been strongly lead by Cooper Laragy-Walker with 9 wickets at an average of 13, only bettered by Josh Brown with 10 wickets. The batting in A Reserve has plenty of room for improvement and hopefully the second half of the year will provide us with some highlights. One real positive is, like the juniors, that we have seen locals come out of years of retirement like Steve Carroll, Brian O'Connor, Matt Carpenter and Kane Allen to really bring that local flavour to our teams. Any further additions to that list are welcome!

Brian Brasher

Secretary

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 | *Where your great outdoors begin!*



REMEDIATION MASSAGE and NATURAL THERAPIES

Lara 0403 528 416 and Michael 0447 338 088

Business Update - Kaido Ryu Martial Arts



Michael Thompson runs Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts in Harcourt where he teaches classes every Wednesday night.

Originally from country Victoria, Michael moved to Melbourne in his early 20s and recently moved back to the country, living in Bendigo for a while before settling into Harcourt. Michael and his partner have been able to move their jobs to Central Victoria and are now enjoying the fresh air, views and a quieter way of life.

Michael first started in the martial arts at the age of 12. He says "After a few lessons I began to get the hang of some of the different things I was being taught and started to enjoy what I was doing. Before too long I was grading through the ranks and after a few years a black belt was mine." He said, "Since that time I have had the pleasure to bring many students up through the ranks and watch them transform themselves as they achieve

things that they thought were beyond them when they first started in the martial arts."

Michael was teaching in Berwick before coming to Harcourt and has been running classes this year at the Harcourt North Community Hall on Wednesday evenings for ages 12+, male and female, beginner or experienced.

Classes work on a variety of different aspects of the martial arts. In Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts stand-up and ground techniques are included, combined with traditional forms (Kata). They also utilise the Bo (staff), escrima sticks (2' stick) and in higher ranks traditional Kobudo weaponry (Tonfa, Nunchaku, Sai).

Kiaido Ryu also teaches breathing and relaxation techniques, sometimes known as Qigong which can be likened to Tai Chi. Qigong has been used for thousands of years to assist people with their wellbeing.

The instructor will invite students to 'grade' when they are ready and have a good understanding of the syllabus for each belt level. As a rule of thumb it will take about five years to grade through to black belt in Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts. There are numerous gradings to view that have been uploaded onto Youtube and the Kiaido Ryu web page can be found easily at martialarts.co.nz.

Contact Michael to find out more about joining the class on 0414 685 593 or turn up on a Wednesday night at 6.30 pm at the Harcourt North Community Hall.

The first lesson is FREE!



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

Harcourt North Community Hall

www.martialarts.co.nz

Mclvor Rd, Harcourt North

FB: Kiaido-Ryu Victoria

Wednesday Nights 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Harcourt Bowling Club

Firstly, congratulations to Robyn and her team for a very successful 12 months of The Core! We appreciate getting the local news and being able to share our news with the Harcourt locals and beyond. So thanks for providing the avenue for this.

Pennant Teams

Our Weekend and Midweek Pennant Teams have had mixed success thus far this season. Despite this the respective ladder placings are promising for a better finish to the second half of the season.

The strength and team spirit within the Club has been highlighted this year as bowlers have been called upon to fill in and support other sides that have had players away.

Clarkey's bonding session in his Man Shed with the Division 3 players paid off last week as they had a good win at home. *(see photo below)*



Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament a success.

Harcourt turned on some good weather for the Annual Kidman Mixed Fours competition on Sunday 23rd November. This is the third tournament sponsored by former club stalwarts and Harcourt locals Brian and Wilma Kidman who return home for each November for a reunion and some good bowling competition with friends.

Winners on the day were Gary Maddern's Harcourt team of John Starbuck, Chris Anderson and Joan Bath who were delighted to have a second win in this tournament.

Runners up were Ken Marshmans team from Daylesford.

(The winners - Gary, John, Chris & Joan with Wilma & Brian)



Triples Tournament a success.

A successful ladies' triples tournament was held on Wednesday 12th November with teams attending from Golden Square, Marong, Campbells Creek, Castlemaine, Heathcote, Bridgewater and other clubs from the Bendigo region.

Winners of the day were Ruth Pearce's team from Golden Square with 44. Runners up were the Marong team led by Nancy Tate on 43. Lyn Leidle attended to present the prizes on behalf of the sponsors Mount Alexander Funerals. *(see photo below of presentation to winners by Lyn Leidle)*



Sponsors Competition

Round one of the Sponsors Competition began in earnest on Tuesday 18th and amid much laughter and keen competition the winners on the night were WL & JW Smith, ASQ second and Brian Nunn Excavations in third place. President John Starbuck thanked all who attended to make the event a success. Round two will be held on Tuesday December 2nd with the final round taking place in January.

Christmas Breakup

On Saturday 13th December the club Christmas Breakup will be held. This will commence at around 6.00pm. Check the board and the website for further details.

Club History Returns

Recently the Club was reunited with the designer of our club badge and Logo.

More about this in the next issue.

We wish all our members and the people of Harcourt district a very happy and safe Christmas season.

*Christine Anderson
Secretary*

Harcourt Valley Landcare secures Shire Grants

Harcourt Valley Landcare has been informed in early December of its successful application for \$3,300 under the Strengthening our Community Grants Scheme, and was also successful in being granted money from the Shire earlier in 2014 for clearing roadside weeds. Both grants will go towards ongoing activities in 2015.



The Community Grants Scheme funds will be spent clearing weeds and replanting indigenous species, north of the picnic ground which is approximately opposite the Pony Club on Barkers Creek. The group has begun work on this area and this further funding will see more inroads into a mass of weeds including high mounds of blackberries and stands of broome.

The Roadside Weeds Grant will go towards clearing feral fruit trees and environmental weeds.

The picture shows Bonnie (left), and Richie (middle) from Harcourt Valley Landcare and Daryl (right) from Barkers Creek Landcare, collecting cut roadside weeds in winter this year.

Robyn Miller

THE CORE ADVERTISING RATES

The Core Advertising Rates will be changing for 2015. We will be offering discounts for longer term commitments to advertising in The Core.

Our Advertising Coordinator Genevieve Ward will be in touch with our advertisers to discuss options.



WARRICK HARWOOD CONTRACTING

Grass Slashing – 7' to 5' cut
Pasture Renovation & Direct Seeding
Ploughing & Power Harrowing

109hp Deutz-Fahr Tractor with
4 in 1 Loader
(Will fit through 12' gates)

WATER DELIVERIES
13,000 litre tanker for
Town Water & Civil Works

Servicing Harcourt and surrounds
Competitive rates
30 years experience

Call Warrick
0417 036 059
warricka@bigpond.net.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

Pips 'n' all

Hello Garden Lovers,

Welcome to Pips 'n' all! Although, I don't consider myself a garden guru (as requested), I do have horticultural knowledge, am building a garden in Harcourt and can string two words together. So, here goes.

We have been working on our garden for three years. It is coming along slowly but nicely with some roses, salvias, cistus and a vegie patch. We are also fortunate to have a small woodland on our property. The great surprises are a very successful Camellia japonica and some Kurume Azaleas thriving on the south side of the house. I expected that the granite soil and hot summers would be too much for them but they continue to thrive with the protection of the house and just an occasional water.

It is a wonderful time of year for roses and there are some lovely examples of heritage and modern varieties in the area. Our roses, planted on the north side of the house, are starting to provide a lovely display. We selected a range of pink bush roses. They are three years old and are benefitting from a wide garden bed (1.2m), lots of manure, compost and some blood and bone, a mulch of straw and drip irrigation. We are currently cutting off the dead flower heads to extend their flowering period. Although, the rain last week damaged

some flowers, they look and smell magnificent.

Local Harcourt conditions present some issues for gardening. The poor water holding capacity of the soil and the extremes of temperature take some getting used to. The heat of summer and the frosts of winter make plant selection a little complicated. Some plants that we have selected for heat tolerance have struggled with the frost. Failures include Statice and Agave. Successes include Azalea kurume and Roses.

This month we are:

- Staking & feeding the tomatoes;
- Deadheading the roses;
- Mulching the garden beds in preparation for summer;
- Tying down soft new branches of the espalier cherry; and
- Putting bird net on the cherries, apples and peaches.

This month in the woodland:

- Native Spear Grass and Kangaroo Grass are flowering; and
- Wallaby Grass is seeding

Happy Gardening

Janyce



Mobile 0429 968 782

Web www.regionalenvirose.com.au

Email info@regionalenvirose.com.au

For all your small business sustainability needs, revegetation plans or asset management plans.



The Scout Hall

Luxury self-contained accommodation in Harcourt

- ✿ Ideal for couples, families & groups up to 6
- ✿ Short stroll to Harcourt village, 8km to Castlemaine
- ✿ Close to Mount Alexander & Goldfields Track
- ✿ Full kitchen, gourmet breakfast supplies
- ✿ Luxurious deep bath ✿ Laundry ✿ Free NBN wi-fi



138 Victoria Road Harcourt 3453

Ph: 03 5474 3172

bookings@thescouthall.com.au

www.thescouthall.com.au

Fruit Tree Care with Katie & Hugh

Your fruit trees are at their most vulnerable to pests and diseases in spring, and it's a good idea to keep a close eye on them, visiting them to say g'day at least once a week so you have a good chance of noticing any problems that appear and taking preventive measures, before it gets too bad.

This month watch out for pear and cherry slug on...you guessed it...your pear and cherry trees (though they're also not uncommon on plum trees). If you notice them as soon as they appear on your trees (before there are too many) it's easy to kill them by folding the leaf in half and squashing them (without pulling the leaf off the tree). They normally go through two or three generations each season, so the more you can get rid of when you see them, the easier it is to interrupt their normal life cycle.

Also at this time of year make sure your tree is getting enough water as the weather starts to warm up. Even if you don't have any soil moisture monitoring equipment, it's easy to check by digging a small hole a little bit away from the base of your tree and feel the soil—it should be cool and slightly damp. The aim is to make sure your trees always have water available to them, without ever flooding them or letting them dry out. It's best to water slowly over a few hours, with a dripper at each tree.

Hugh and Katie Finlay from Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens grow organic cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears on their farm at Harcourt. They also run the Grow Great Fruit program for home fruit growers. Sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter at <http://www.opt-in.mafg.com.au/> or buy their new book on organic pest control "What's Bugging My Fruit?" at <http://www.mafg.com.au/books/whats-bugging-my-fruit>.

TREAD HARCOURT CAFE & RESTAURANT CLOSED FOR XMAS & N.Y.

CAFE & RESTAURANT
CLOSED FROM 22 DECEMBER. REOPENING 8 JANUARY.
MOTEL
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY ONLY.

92 CALDER HIGHWAY, HARCOURT VIC 3453
T 03 5474 2211



**Rob's
Yard
Maintenance**
0407 666 791

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

Police Checked & Insured



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

maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au

[f @mareeedwardsmp](https://www.facebook.com/mareeedwardsmp)

[t @mareeedwardsmp](https://www.twitter.com/mareeedwardsmp)

www.mareeedwards.com.au



Day of the Morris Minor – Escape to the Country!

2 November 2014

Every two years The Victorian Morris Minor Car Club hosts – ‘The Day of the Morris Minor’ (DOMM).

This year the DOMM was held at the world famous ‘Morris Minor Garage’, located at North Harcourt, Central Victoria.

For the classic cars and their owners it was the perfect Sunday drive for an ‘Escape to the country’.

The granite hills of Harcourt provided a leisurely drive through the Apple centre of Victoria to the event.

This was a very fitting venue to hold such an event, as there is nowhere else in Australia where you can see so many restored and rare Morris Minors, including a Morris Minor Million, a Morris Minor Police car (Scotland Yard) and a Morris Minor Royal Mail Van. There are also many other Morris and classic cars dating from 1925 in the museum.

Over 400 people attended the day and over 80 Morris Minors and many other classic cars were on display.

Adding to the show and shine day, were local produce market stalls, including Henrys of Harcourt Cider Makers, Bryden Manor Conserves, CWA of Harcourt, Kangaroo Flat Lions Club providing BBQ, and the Garage Café serving gourmet cakes from Peddling Pastries Castlemaine and Brewhouse Coffee Bendigo.

The famous iconic Thompsons Foundry Brass Band of Castlemaine provided musical entertainment.

Morris Minor visitors made a weekend of it choosing to stay and dine at Tread in Harcourt.

The long weekend was topped off by famous local historian, George Milford and Diana Cork leading a convoy of 20 cars on a scenic and historic tour of Mount Alexander on the Monday for those lucky enough to have stayed on in Harcourt.

The weather was on the cool side – but it did not hamper the fun and excitement of the day!

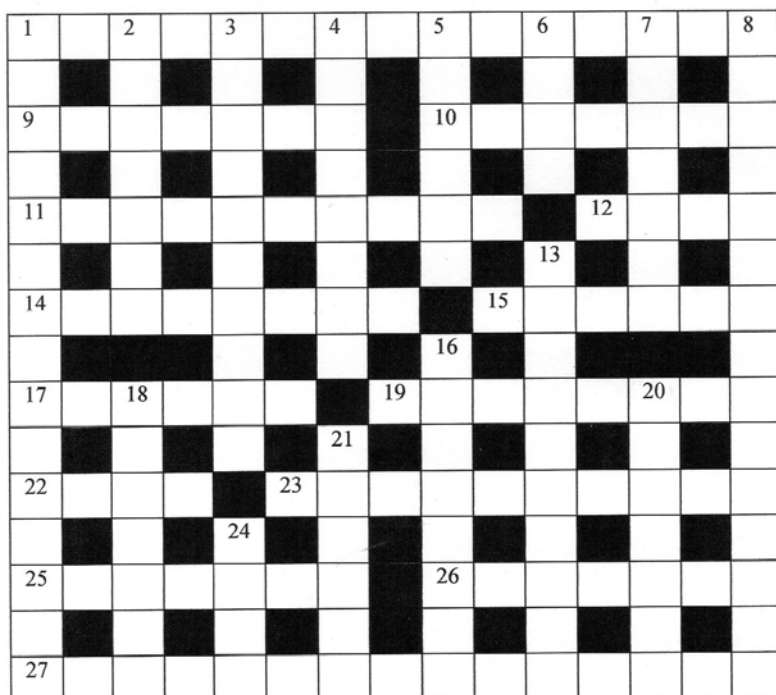
Kim McKellar



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

December 2014 X-word

©McW Aug'14



Across:

- 1 Without rhyme or reason, this clue merely deems neatness OK (could denote sneak mess, too). (6,4,5)
- 9 Stave off in order to reveal indigenes. (7)
- 10 Dog who drills? Not one who lingers. (7)
- 11 Classic bee can be got at. (10)
- 12 Small one could 22. (4)
- 14 Poet lads grow legs a while after coming into being. (8)
- 15 David's a blessing, and it makes a fish. (6)
- 17 Evoke legality on-line? (6)
- 19 Could Dion vote for this sort of commitment? (8)
- 22 Unlucky Russian horse's gait? (4)
- 23 Loud-voiced heart hardware, alternatively Fleming... (10)
- 25 High-ranking hole in the ground in a much warmer 2. (7)
- 26 South American capital and adroitness in emotional situations can be read to warn those who protest. (4,3)
- 27 Could she bequeath sheen of gold in the Middle East? (3,5,2,5)

Down:

- 1 Talented tart men make number session. (6,9)
- 2 Tolkien's slowest character apparently froze and seduced. (7)
- 3 So, vacation here on the SE peninsula. (4,6)
- 4 Sounds as though girl shot, but didn't... (8)
- 5 Often described as black, a different one may contain fish. (6)
- 6 Littorally certain sound? (4)
- 7 Locust tree deconstructed in Africa. (7)
- 8 Premature smoko may be an oily arrangement. (5,7,3)
- 13 Unvaried sounds one-speakered to Greek mind. (10)
- 16 Top drawer on the Titanic? (8)
- 18 Worship hero that is solid. (7)
- 20 I'm Jacques (with an 'e'), and dance to ape. (7)
- 21 Iss dat you, David? (6)
- 24 Bill o' fare for us? (4)

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

Across:

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

Down:

- 1 Three of these [sheets] in [the wind...]
would have breathalyser in a flap... (6)
- 2 Ferrous material in control [IC] 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... [WELL?]
- 5 Swings of these may be mitigated by
something that 24-acrosses them
[WELL?]
- 6 Valiant old, fast horse. (7)
- 7 Gave hand-signal, kneed cobbber half-
way. (8)
- 8 Tractable loch? [Ness...]
- 11 Heavy metal [Lead with royalty [ER] for
one in front. (6)
- 15 Impious, but sounds not worn out
[WELL? No holes...]
- 16 Good drover, possibly crook... [WELL?]
- 17 Sneaks around [ER] for shoes. (8)
- 19 Kissing—ER (del.)royalty leaves
amatory practice. (7)
- 20 One of seven deadlies leaves many
today in this state. [WELL?]
- 21 Fashionable [in] in reputation [fame]
for a thin time... (6)
- 22 Sorely tested, and found “not to like”
is an understatement. (6)
- 24 Another take on Gabriel. [without the
arch...]

The Core's Year in Pictures



December 2013 Max Murphy and Peter Church presiding over the barbecue for HPA.



Chris Teed, Australia Day



Early morning Applefest



Councillor candidate forum



Landcare members and the bridge - before and after.



Anzac Day



Easter Egg Hunt, Lions barbecue



Frank at the General Store, one of this year's Harcourtians



Smoking ceremony at the opening of Harmony Way in July



Lawn bowls Saturday pennant

Harcourtians -

Nathan Mitchell

You may have met Nathan at the Harcourt General Store. He has worked there in various capacities for seven years. Or you may have seen him on a local tennis court or footy ground. Nathan is a young man with lots of energy! He loves sport. "I started tennis at 7 years of age and I haven't missed a season yet. All my junior playing was for Harcourt; I now play in Section 1 (A Grade) in the Castlemaine league. Sometimes I fill in for Harcourt, but last season I played for Newstead. I have played football for Harcourt since 11 years of age. I was overseas last season so I didn't play but I have started training again with the club and I will play in 2015. I like the midfielder positions where I can run."

Nathan's day job is as a Physical Education teacher in Primary Schools. "I'm 23 years old and by the end of 2013, I hadn't had a break in schooling. I went straight from VCE into La Trobe University Bendigo. So this year I decided to try some part time relief teaching and a bit of travel too. I did some research on the internet and prepared a resume as I was interested in a working holiday at an American Summer Camp. I went to a jobs fair in Melbourne where directors of the camps visited. I signed up with Camp Carolina High Adventure Camp for Boys on the spot. This camp has been



running since 1924, and has a good reputation.

The camp is in North Carolina near the southern tip of the Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway. 90% of the staff are from overseas, so it was a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world. I was at the camp for three months. Summer camps are a strong tradition in America, this one is for boys aged 6 – 17 years and many of the boys'

fathers have attended the same camp. Boys fly in from all over the USA, mainly from Atlanta, but we also had one boy from New Zealand. My job at the camp was as a Counsellor. I was responsible for the welfare of four to six of the younger boys, who are called 'Newts'. (An Australian equivalent would be a tadpole). I also taught tennis during the day.

Just about any sport or adventure activity is on offer to the boys including water skiing, rock climbing, rafting, canoeing, hiking, fishing, golf, tennis and music. The camp is mobile phone free and also "candy" free. Some of the boys have been attending for 7 or 8 years. They are given a canoe paddle if they do well and it is branded each year, if they return they bring the paddle with them. Other activities include special days called Cabin Days where for example boys dress like their favourite super hero. On International Day the Australians tried out the boys with Vegemite and (*continued next page*)



**Sound genetics
An asset to your
herd**

Jenny & Keith McKenry

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



- Stud services
- Breeding females
- Pets/Herd Guards



- Packages for New Breeders
- After-sale quality support



- Alpaca yarn
- Member of Q-Alpaca

(from previous page) Australian Rules – they liked the footy more than the Vegemite! One of the special jobs I did each week was to write “mommy letters” so parents knew what their son was doing.



I would recommend it to others although we really worked hard! It's a bit like being on a school camp for 13 weeks. You are teaching from 9 to 5 and on duty 24 hours a day, but we got one day off a week and the food was good. I got positive feedback about my tennis teaching too, so I was pleased about that. After the camp was finished, I was able to do some independent travel on the west coast. I travelled to Las Vegas and saw the Grand Canyon.



Nathan said his mum and dad were excited to have him back in Harcourt. “I appreciate Harcourt a little more, because I saw some rough areas in America with quite a lot of poverty and beggars on the streets. My main aim for 2015 is to get a full time teaching job, but if I don't, I'm happy to continue with relief teaching and I may go back to US for another camp – perhaps just for 4 weeks.”

Robyn Miller

A Better Example...at Harcourt..

Two recent episodes by graffiti artists wielding spray paint have only served to force attention onto the raw concrete bridge beams of Skew Bridge.

The builders of Castlemaine's newest rail bridge have left us with nothing that hints at the creativity so prevalent in the Castlemaine community, just a brutalist concrete structure.

Harcourt people have to see this every time that they drive in to Castlemaine. Harcourt people know that there is a very much more attractive rail-over-road bridge at Harcourt.

The freeway bridge at Harcourt has been given an artistic finish, dressed up with laser-cut metal panelling. A criss-cross pattern on the metalwork adds interest to the drive for motorists using the Calder Freeway.



Presumably VicRoads designers insist on such a finish to reduce driver fatigue. Patterned reliefs adorn the concrete panels alongside through major road cuttings in Victoria's metropolitan area. Artistic patterning of a rail embankment retaining wall at Newport goes further, hinting at the products of the rail workshops in that area.

That there is a better bridge at Harcourt only serves to prove that there is a way to redeem the raw concrete of Skew Bridge.

Why was this ugliness inflicted upon Central Victoria's most artistic community? A laser-cut artwork commissioned and installed at Skew Bridge would put an end to the temptation of graffiti artists to endanger their lives and deface a public structure.

George Milford

Brilliant Barkers Creek – from weeds to wonder!

“A picture speaks a thousand words.” Following months of preparation and liaison with local landholders, work has commenced on the first creek frontage property with fantastic and instant results.

Many landholders have signed up to participate in the project and are anticipating positive results. For some landholders this is part of an ongoing process, for others, this is their first adventure into tackling weeds. The Project, funded by the State Government’s Communities for Nature program, offers landholders assistance to enhance the biodiversity values of their Barkers Creek frontage. Stay tuned for visible improvement over the next year.

For further information email Janyce McMurtrie at info@regionalenvirose.com.au

Before



After



Quilt Winner – Harcourt Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

Harcourt Uniting Church Adult Fellowship held a guessing competition for a lovely quilt at the Primary School’s Car Boot Sale. \$200 was raised for MASARG and the winner was Debra Carpenter. Many thanks to all who took part.

The Swagman's Christmas

by Melva Graham

Through the trees the sun came winking,
Lighting tussocks, sand hills bare,
While the magpies' morning carols
Stirred the sleeping figure there.

From a bed of boughs and bushes,
Covered by a swag and hat,
The swagman rose quite stiffly,
Then on a log he sat.

By the log, as chance would have it,
Was a small plant that he knew;
When a child, his mother told him
Elves lived in those flowers blue

As a breeze stirred trees above him
His mother's face seemed to appear;
Again he heard her soft, sweet voice,
And he wiped away a tear.

His face was brown and weathered,
With wild beard and tangled hair;
His clothes were worn and dusty,
His shoes the worse for wear.

Though long gone from foreign trenches
Where he'd rallied to the cause,
He was still haunted by the horror
Of the War to End All Wars.

So he'd taken swag and billy,
And headed down the track;
Though conscious of his father's tears,
There was no turning back.

For years this lonely figure,
Dark thoughts his shiralee,
Trudged tracks around the farmlands,
Often sleeping 'neath a tree.

Now shouldering swag and billy,
The next farm down the track
Had three stones on the gatepost,
Meaning "Swaggie, don't come back!"

There were visitors at the next farm,
Barking dogs chased him away.
He was hot and tired and hungry,
He'd eaten nothing all that day.

One rock sat on the next post,
He knew he'd called there once or twice;
He pleaded for "a bite to eat",
And "tea fer m' billy'd be nice."

Behind his wife, the farmer called,
"It's Christmas Day, so go!"
"Our inn has room," she pleaded,
"Unlike that one so long ago."

"There's a wash bowl on the tank stand,
And we've food enough for three;
Dump your swag on the verandah,
Come and share our Christmas tea!"



Community Diary Dates

13th December: 6.00pm Bowls Club Christmas Breakup

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

25th December: 8.00am Christmas Morning Service, Uniting Church, Buckley Street, led by Reverend Michele Lees

2015

16th January: Pool Party, with inflatable play equipment

26th January: 8.00 am Australia Day Breakfast and Awards, Lions Club of Harcourt

26th January: Harcourt Star

28th January: Harcourt Heritage Centre open for Wednesdays throughout the year.

3rd February: First edition of The Core for 2015

12th February: 7.30pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall

Late February: Harcourt Star - details in our February edition

6th, 7th & 8th March: Applefest

Volunteer Vacancies on The Core Team

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

What will I be doing? With the rest of the team you will be collating and distributing The Core 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 - you will always get a warm welcome.

Contact Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271 or email: rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com

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 on email: rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com or phone 0467 670 271. 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 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



School Days

The Harcourt School was opened on 19th December 1859 with eight boys & three girls. Henry Hayden was the head and only teacher. The weatherboard building was 30 foot (9.1m) x 15 foot (4.5m) with 8 foot (2.4m) high walls, with a canvas ceiling with shingle roof. Part of this building is now incorporated into a domestic home in Harcourt. By the time this photo was taken in approx 1865 there were 56 students with Miss Hayden as the assistant/teacher to her father Henry.

Harcourt Heritage is auditing the school photos. We have a number of schools in our area, so we are starting with the Harcourt School. We have lots of gaps in the early years, so we hope you might be able to help us fill these omissions. We hope that you might have in your family albums, photos of your ancestors at the Harcourt School from 1865-1900. You might know of a friend or family members who have photos from this time. If you have any, could you bring them to the ANA Hall on any Wensday so we can copy them.

In regards to the previous photo of the young girls in the orchard; we are still none the wiser. No one has been able to identify them.

Harcourt Heritage Centre will be closed from December 8th. We will be open in 2015 from Wednesday 28th January.

Diana Cork

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.