

HARCOURT NEWS

THE CÖRE

May 2015

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 16

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

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

Oak Forest Perfect for Easter Egg Hunt



The band played, the sun shone and people came in their hundreds to the second Harcourt Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, organised by the Harcourt Progress Association.



These photos were supplied by Richard Baxter, local Harcourt artist. See: www.richardbaxterartist.com

Country and Metro Road Race Championships are on Saturday May 16 and Sunday May 17 - see Page 3

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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.



That was exciting - but now it's time to go home.

Gallipoli Centenary Anzac Day 2015

“On the morning of 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand troops landed under fire on Gallipoli. It was then, and in the battles which followed, that the Australian tradition was formed. On this day, above all days, we remember all those who served our nation in times of war.” (*Quote taken from the Order of Ceremony.*)

The weather one hundred years on was ominous - appropriate really. Descriptions of rain bucketing down in Campbells Creek and Castlemaine were confirmed by the wet uniforms worn by members of the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band. However, for those attending in Harcourt the weather remained dry.

Locals, their relatives and friends – and people from other places near and far - were there to remember. They gathered in the Harcourt Heritage Centre as a blazing fire warmed the room, for afternoon tea and a commemoration for the ANZACS, those men who on the same day, one hundred years before, fought for King and country. Whilst an occasion for sombre and sober reflection, the commemoration brought people together in a happier way, many seeing each other, for the first time in a long while.

As is usual on such commemorations, an afternoon tea (with ANZAC biscuits, lemon cake, sandwiches and other treats) started things off well. A hubbub of conversation filled the hall as old friends and their families met catching up with each other's stories... and then, the formalities of the afternoon began.

Two quite different reflections of war were contributed by Julie Pellas and George Milford.

Reading and reflecting on letters written home by young soldiers at the front, Julie stirred hearts and minds as words written by men a hundred years earlier were spoken again. George Milford also

talked about the at-home efforts in Harcourt, which resulted in fund-raising to ensure comforts were sent to the young soldiers so far away from home. An endowment was put together by Harcourt people, to ensure farms were cared for in the absence of their farming men whilst away at war – and also, for when they returned home, if help was needed.



The presentations concluded. Everyone fell in behind the Castlemaine Pipe Band. As tunes such as ‘It’s a long way to Tipperary’ were played, the contingent marched slowly towards the Monument where The List of the Fallen was read by Neil Charter, wreathes were laid and the bugle sounded the Last Post and the Rouse.

Lest we forget.


“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, or the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.”

Jill Loorham



Photo top: Drum Major Tony Mathers wheels the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band into Stanley Park followed by Harcourtians, friends, family and visitors.

Photo bottom: All these men attended Harcourt State School: (left to right) Ivan Pellas, Ern Plumridge, George Milford, Robert Mactier, John Jenkin, Ken James, and Russell McKindley. Traditionally medals worn to the left belong to the wearer, whereas medals worn on the right are worn by a family member of the service person.



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Reflections on ANZAC Day, 2015



Trudi Clark of Barkers Creek came to the ANZAC Day service to honour her Grandfather who served in World War II in Papua New Guinea. Trudi remembers a very gentle man, who like many returned service people didn't speak much about his war experiences.



A number of Vietnam Veterans attended. Above are: Neil Campbell and Edward Nicholson, preparing to march in the parade.



Before the laying of the wreaths, the cenotaph was decorated with crocheted poppies as were the individual monuments in Stanley Park. The poppies were crocheted by Wendy Barron.

For more stories of ANZAC Day see page 6

Another Big Weekend of Cycling in Harcourt

Castlemaine Cycling Club are looking forward to hosting another big weekend of racing in the Harcourt area. The weekend of May 16th and 17th will be the Country and Metro Road Race Championships, based at the ANA Hall in Harcourt. Saturdays racing is open to all age groups from regional Victorian clubs and on Sunday the Metropolitan clubs will take to the challenging Harcourt circuits.

The program will be the same for both days and racing will be under permit from Cycling Victoria, Mt Alexander Shire Council and Victoria Police. Events will get underway at 9.00am with most of the junior racing first on the program. It is anticipated that racing will be over by about 3.30 on each day. There will be no road closures and racing will take place on 2 circuits in the areas. The 12km circuit from Market St to Reservoir Rd, McIvor Rd and back to Harcourt via Harmony Way will be used by most divisions. The 56km circuit from Harcourt to Elphinstone, Sutton Grange, Harcourt Nth, McIvor Rd and Harmony Way will be used to give extra challenge and distance for the older riders.

The Cycling Club appreciates the opportunity to team with local organisations to make this another very successful weekend to the mutual benefit to the Harcourt and the Cycling communities.

Shirley Amy

Events Secretary

Castlemaine Cycling Clubs



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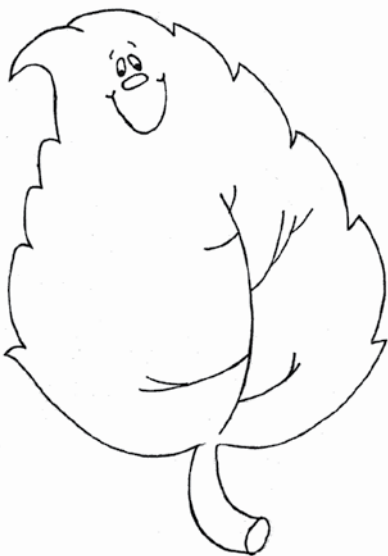


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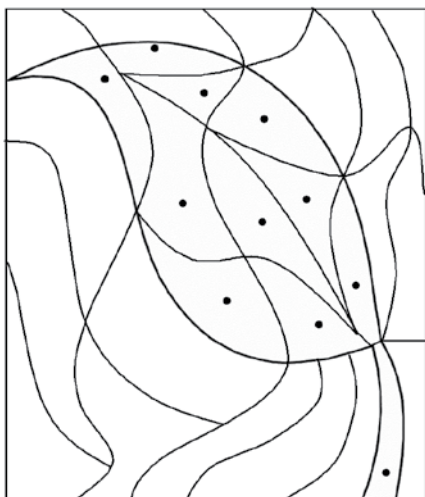
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Colour us in!



Autumn Leaf

Leaf Puzzle



Colour the areas with dots green and the areas without dots blue



We are All Abuzz at Harcourt CWA

Each year all CWA Branches throughout Victoria support a product or a resource through inclusion in activities and

advocacy - and this year the product is honey.

Did you know that honey is the only food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life, including enzymes, vitamins, minerals and water; and it's the only food that contains "pinocembrin", an antioxidant associated with improved brain power? Now at any age, brain functioning is very important, but at my age even more so.

Two of our CWA members were chatting over a cup of tea recently and one confided in the other that as she gets older she spends a lot more time thinking about the hereafter. She explained that she frequently finds herself standing in the middle of the room wondering what she came in hereafter. Now if honey can do something to prevent me wondering about the hereafter, count me in for a jar or three. And how fortunate are we to be living in Central Victoria with many local producers supplying us with their honey. Keep your eyes open for Goldfield Honey and Grandpa's Honey, two generous supporters of Applefest and producers of great honey.

At our Central Victoria CWA Group Conference held in Maryborough in February, the Mayor Wendy McIvor proudly announced that Capilano's decision to reopen their factory in Maryborough was very exciting for the town, and that mentoring programmes being established with local bee keepers would ensure that a younger generation of bee keepers would continue this fascinating and vital work.

I spend many hours in my garden and I often chat to the bees and tell them what a splendid job they are doing pollinating my flowers and vegetables. One of the best things you can do to encourage bees to your garden is to plant colours that attract them such as blue, purple, and yellow. My lavender hedge is alive with the sound of buzzing bees on a sunny day, and the blue spikes of echiums are a drawcard as well. Add a few blossom trees, forget me-nots and nasturtiums, and your garden will be buzzing too. And of course honey and lemon juice is the best thing for a cold and with the flu season upon us. Add a teaspoon of cinnamon to your honey and lemon drink each morning to keep you in tip top shape throughout the winter. Well, I'll be buzzing off for now, I'll bee in touch again next month.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer



Harcourt CFA

Since fire restrictions finished on the 30th March, the Brigade has had to turnout to five burnoffs. This was because these burnoffs

were not logged into the Burnoff Notification Line and were reported by a passerby or the actual burnoff had gotten out of control. If you are going to conduct a burnoff, please log this on the freecall phone number 1800 668 511.

With a tiny amount of rain falling in the Harcourt Valley, there is a tinge of green showing through which is a most welcome sign after the dry Summer. This change of weather has allowed DELWP to commence their Autumn burn program. One of their programmed burns was conducted at the back of Kalimna Reserve in Castlemaine. These burns generally create quite a bit of smoke. Further information of these burns can be found on their website at www.delwp.vic.gov.au. This will show the planned burns for the next ten days. Our area is listed under the Loddon – Malle Region. If you have not changed your smoke detector battery with the end of daylight saving, then you need to do it now. Also it is a good idea to give the outside a clean with a damp cloth or a vacuum cleaner. Also as we approach the winter period, which is the traditional time for an increase in the number of house fires, it is important to minimise the risk by taking some simple steps. Firstly ensure electric blankets are in good condition and have not been damaged during storage. It is suggested by the

CFA that electric blankets should not be left on for more than 30 minutes. Ensure heaters are off before going out and never overload powerboards. Clean chimneys and flues and ensure that a fire screen is used in front of open fire places. If you have young children in your house, place all matches out of reach. Don't forget to clean the lint filter if you have a clothes dryer. Candles and oil burners are also responsible for starting house fires, so keep them away from anything that burns, especially curtains.

You may have noticed some building activity has commence at the fire station. The Brigade received some VESEP (Volunteer Emergency Service

Equipment Program) in 2014 for a storage shed and after a delay in getting through all the necessary "red tape" and a few other hiccups, this project has been started. VESEP

funding is an ongoing program from the Victorian Government which sees them providing \$2 for every \$1 put into the project by the Brigade. For those that don't know, this was how Harcourt Tanker 2 was obtained.

April is the month that we hold our AGM and is the reference point also for counting of our turnouts for the last 12 months. The Brigade responded to 73 calls during this time. 35 of these were in our Brigade area and 38 were in support of other brigades. It is pleasing to note that we did not have any illegal burns in the brigade area. We just need to work together on reducing the overall number.

Stay fire safe.

*Tyrone Rice
Captain*

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More ANZAC Day Reflections

(from page 3)

Ivan Pellas
Veteran World War II



Ivan Pellas, left at Enlistment, and today at 92 with his Distinguished Flying Cross (far left of medals). The DFC was awarded for completing a mission with one engine out of action - in the citation it notes that this was "a typical example of the courage which this officer has displayed throughout his operational career."



Flight Sergeant Ivan Pellas

was born in Reservoir Road Harcourt and named after his uncle Ivan who died in World War I. Ivan married Ethel Quirk also from Harcourt. This ANZAC Day, Ivan was accompanied by his daughter Julie Pellas who wore a locket (pictured) owned by Ivan's grandmother, Eliza June Pellas (nee Trevean). Eliza had nine children, two of whom, Frank and Ivan are shown in the locket. Both died in Europe in World War I. Eliza wore the locket every day, Julie wears the locket on special occasions, such as ANZAC day. Before the service Julie regaled the gathering in the ANA Hall with the story of the locket and other family stories of World War I and World War II service by family members.

Frank and Ivan Pellas were both buried overseas. The National Archives show the following:

Frank: Sergeant, 46th Australian Infantry Battalion, died 1 October, 1917, aged 27 at Ypres, Flanders Belgium.

Ivan: 37th Lance Corporal, Australian Infantry Battalion, died 12 August 1918, aged 20, France, Villers-Brettonneux.

Ken James
Veteran Vietnam War



Ken's medals, left to right: Vietnam Medal, Australian Active Service Medal, Australian Defence Medal – Vietnam, and National Service Medal.



Private Ken James

was conscripted for National Service between the years 1968-1970 and was in the 7th Royal Australian Regiment. Ken served for three months in Vietnam from February to May 1970. He was a Food Steward in the Officers' Mess so rarely worked as a rifleman. On one occasion however he was ordered on to Night Patrol, at which his commanding officer commented: "I won't sleep very well tonight, Private James!"

Ken attended all three welcome home parades for Vietnam Veterans, the first of which took place in Sydney in 1987, others in Brisbane and Melbourne followed.

2015 marks the fifty-third year since Australia joined the war and also the fiftieth year anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. There are ninety eight Victorian grave sites of soldiers who served in Vietnam and in 2015 during the anniversary year, a memorial will be conducted at every grave site.

Vietnam Veterans day is celebrated on August 18th.

Robyn Miller

A Growing Relationship



The President of Harcourt Progress Association, David Heath hands over a \$1,500 cheque from the gate at this year's Applefest to George Milford of the Applefest Committee.

The Applefest of 2015 was rated the most successful in its nearly twenty five year history. It was estimated that 4,000 people attended.

Harcourt Progress Association looked after the gate again this year as part of its considerable contribution to the event and as a result was able to hand over \$1,500 to the Applefest Committee to assist with covering costs.

Harcourt Progress Association, through its Secretary Jacqueline Brodie-Hans conducted an extensive evaluation process which was written up and also presented to the Applefest Committee at the same meeting. Some of the **findings** include the following:

- The major effort by HPA of organising the Kids Karnival proved to be a great success. Financially it broke even, and the overall effect of increasing the size and activity at the Applefest, proved a winner.
- Harcourt Lions played an important role by providing supporting funding of \$800 to other community groups who took part in the Kids Karnival.
- The Art Show was deemed a success as it opened for an extra day resulting in extra sales of paintings.
- The market was increased to 85 stallholders and our traditional products of apples and apple pies proved very popular. The addition of cider for sale this year was also very well accepted.

"The 2015 Applefest Evaluation Report is comprehensive and helpful."

- Extra tables and chairs around the band stand made it easier for patrons to stay and relax.
- The choice of music was popular, especially Tracey Candy and her band.
- The parade was a bit smaller than expected, and the addition of the decorated bikes, so that children and parents can join in should be included next time.

George on behalf of the Applefest Committee remarked that "The 2015

Applefest Evaluation Report is comprehensive and helpful. We are interested in the recommendations, and will seriously consider them."

Recommendations from the report include:

- Improve the site preparation,
- invigorate the parade with more participation,
- consider a site manager for the market,
- and share proceeds of the market more equitably between those organisations which participate and contribute.

Robyn Miller



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Councillor Update

It has been a busy period at Council with the development of the 2015/16 budget.



There is a lot of work that goes into the budget process and the efforts of our staff are appreciated. In many respects Council is between a rock and a hard place when deliberating over the budget. There is genuine concern about rate rises and this is balanced against requests for maintenance to infrastructure and provision of other Council services. There is no shortage of ideas for capital and maintenance works that people need. It is noted that the budget will be on display over the next few weeks and I would like as many residents as possible to make the effort to look at the budget and provide feedback as appropriate.

The budget in its present form does include a 4.5% increase in the general rate. With CPI running at around 2.5% it is an increase of 2% in real terms. I do not support any increase in rates as I feel they are already too high. You might be asking what is all the fuss about rates?? Rates in Mount Alexander Shire have been increased on average by 7.59% over the past nine years. The result of this is that in real terms rates have more than doubled. The State Government went to the election with a commitment to cap rates. All rate payers are waiting for that to be delivered. I wonder if it is a "Core" promise??

Many of you will be aware that I tried to have the farm rate adjusted to bring the MAS Farm rate into line with surrounding municipalities. Some of you will be surprised to learn the surrounding municipalities have a farm rate at 80% of the general rate. MAS has the farm rate at the same level as the general rate and farmers have access to a Land Management Rate which has a 10% discount. The bottom line is our municipality is a farming area and our farmers are not getting a fair go in terms of rates. Remember many farmers are paying rates on multiple properties and rates on farming properties can be \$10,000, \$20,000 and more.

On a general note it has been nice to see a little bit of rain around. Our surrounds will soon be looking green and fresh. We do enjoy a fabulous lifestyle in this district. All we want is a fair go.

Best regards Tony

AG Cordy
Councillor

0439 742434

Harcourt Uniting Church

Easter eggs have disappeared from the supermarket shelves and no doubt there will be Christmas decorations to replace them very soon! Modern life moves at a hectic pace, however on Easter morning some members of the Harcourt Uniting Church gathered at Stanley Park BBQ area to pause for a while and celebrate Easter with a service followed by bacon and eggs - and Easter eggs of course. We were also joined by lots of birds warbling as the sun rose on a beautiful day. As you drove to the shop or service station you may have noticed the cross of flowers leaning on a gum tree in the park - a very important symbol of Easter. Later in the year the Harcourt Uniting Church will celebrate our 150th Anniversary of worship in Harcourt. We are planning a special service to mark this milestone. Speaking of Anniversaries, we congratulate George and Josie Milford on their 40th Wedding Anniversary celebrated recently.

If you would like to join us any Sunday you would be made most welcome. Our service is at 9am each Sunday followed by a cuppa and chat.

You will find us in Buckley St Harcourt (the street above the Service Station.)

Jan Jenkin



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Business Update – Dandura Alpacas

Jenny and Keith McKenry live on a picturesque 51 acre property in the hills of North Harcourt where they breed alpacas. Retiring from their government jobs in Canberra, they moved here ten years ago where they balance their farming with other interests such as writing, folk music and family. I visited Dandura Alpacas and met with Keith who showed me around the farm. According to Keith, his wife Jenny is the alpaca expert and he describes himself as the semi skilled farm hand, fixing fences and feeding the animals. I have to say that Keith certainly had a wealth of knowledge to share and I came away feeling very informed.

At Dandura, they have 30 alpacas as well as some Wiltshire sheep. I was lucky to meet their three day old baby alpaca called Ailia and there were a couple of other babies due to be born any day. Keith explained that the objective with breeding is to get the best quality fleece by choosing the best males to breed with the best females. I learnt many facts about the breeding process whereby ovulation is induced. Keith and Jenny choose to mate their alpacas in the moderate seasons of Spring and Autumn given the gestation period is 11 and a half months, and the weather is not too extreme for birthing.

When they are six months old the young alpacas are ready to go in the show ring and Jenny enjoys getting them ready for this. The quality of the fleece can evolve from six months to twelve months and what the judges are looking for are fineness, density, variability/consistency and crimp factor. To find out the quality of the animal's fleece the McKenry's send samples to the lab for fibre testing.

Keith and Jenny shear their alpacas once a year and they sell their larger bulk fleece to the woollen mills or a professional wool spinner. At Dandura Jenny sells their alpaca yarn that has been professionally spun and packaged, and it's available in various natural shades.

Historically, alpacas are native to Peru and Chile and were initially imported to Australia. Their prices have come down as the industry has grown. Whether you're after a pet or guard animal, a stud male, breeding female or show animals with high quality fleece, the price you pay will vary. Keith says they are an easy animal to look after and it's a very satisfying industry to be in but it's not about "getting rich quick".

Jenny really loves the alpaca business and is highly regarded with her knowledge. At Dandura, they pride themselves on their after sales service and people often come back to them because of this. National Alpaca Week runs from 2nd May until 9th May and people are invited to visit Dandura Alpacas. Keith and Jenny enjoy showing people around, giving tips on alpaca care and husbandry and well as helping people make informed decisions when buying an alpaca. People are welcome to visit anytime during daylight hours.

To find out more, contact Jenny and Keith at Dandura Alpacas on:

5439 6525 or 0428 479 050 | alpacas@dandura.com | www.dandura.com

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Harcourt Heritage Centre Monthly Tours

Visiting the Great Stupa

I wonder how many people know that the amazing Great Stupa exists. You may say (as I did), 'What is the Great Stupa?' A group of us found out about it recently on a Harcourt Heritage Centre monthly tour. Its full title is the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion and it is located in Myers Flat between Eaglehawk and Marong. It is a Buddhist retreat complete with a huge, not-yet-finished temple, formal gardens, a visitors' centre, regrowth eucalypt forests – and a small village of houses – and a lot more is planned.

It was a sunny but very cold day when we arrived at the Great Stupa. We watched and listened to a film which provided the background about how the place began. Our guides then took us into the Great Stupa, an immense place which whilst incomplete, will become colourful and beautiful as progress on the internal finish continues.

Afternoon tea completed the day. We sat in the visitors' centre munching on sandwiches, cakes and pikelets as numerous cups of tea and coffee were polished off.



The Great Stupa is immense

Every month, it's possible to see something you've never seen before, if you are one of the lucky people who attend the regular Harcourt Valley Heritage Tours. The tours are



The sunken garden is a picture now but in a few years, it will be beautiful.

coordinated by the Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre and published in a calendar available from the Centre which is based in the ANA Hall. Apart from the monthly tours the Centre is open every Wednesday. For anyone who hasn't been on one of these terrific days, don't delay, there are still eight opportunities to join in the fun, before the concluding event, the Christmas meeting and supper on 7th December.

George Milford leads many of the Heritage Tours. As most local people know, George is a story teller of some note. His anecdotes include a large dose of humour which ensures the tour-goers might even learn a thing or two as they enjoy a jaunt in the bush or a guided tour to a local or regional attraction.

The next Harcourt Valley Heritage tour will be to Malmsbury on Sunday 24th May. Activities commence at 1.30pm at the Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street, Harcourt. Please bring along a plate of afternoon tea to share. There is a small cost - \$5 per adult, or \$3 if you bring food. Children are free. Enquiries 0400 916 527 (or 5474 2426 after business hours). Come along. You will not regret it. You will learn a heap about our locality and perhaps even meet a new friend.

Jill Loorham



Maree Edwards MP

State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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

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Brilliant Barkers Creek – from Weeds to Wonder!

Autumn is the perfect time for planting! We are very excited that planting is about to start on private properties with Barkers Creek frontage. After months of liaison, weed control and some fencing, our first plants are about to go in the ground.

If you own property adjacent to Barkers Creek and have been working on your weeds, contact us now. There is still time to benefit from the Communities for Nature Grant which can provide you with plants for your creek frontage. For further information email Janyce McMurtrie at info@regionalenvirose.com.au

In support of our positive start, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is starting weed control on crown land along Barkers Creek between Merrifield Street and the Auto Wreckers in Barkers Creek. Work will have started on Sunday 26th April.

Janyce McMurtrie

PROGRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Before



After





John Flaus, Archibald Portrait entry. Reproduced with Taradale artist, David Purdon's permission.

Harcourtians – John Flaus

You might have seen him as the Afghan camel driver in the film, *Tracks*, as one of the football pub tragics in *Jack Irish*, launching Paul Shapcott's book at the Harcourt General store or simply around the neighbourhood; for John Flaus, actor, film critic, academic, script editor, story teller and much more, has chosen with his partner, Natalie, Barkers Creek as the place to continue living his rich life.

John was born in 1934 in Maroubra and spent his childhood around Sydney's Bondi Junction at a time when kids played in the street, the rabbit, milko, iceman visited and travelling salesmen hawked vegetables, clothes and haberdashery in carts. A time too, when the arrival of the new novelty, the refrigerator, was an occasion for a neighbourly visit.

John grew up with dichotomy in his life. "My Dad was a Blue collar worker who painted signs for stores. His father had been a foundation member of the Communist Party and his mother a devout Irish Catholic. My father believed in the rights of the worker and being able to survive in the school of hard knocks. He didn't go to church. He was dead set against the upper classes, never wanted me to betray my class or my accent and would have been proud if I won a championship in sport. He couldn't relate to my secondary education.

"My mother was a demure, gentle woman and a faithful, practising Catholic. She never questioned anything, and believed it was important to be good. Her brother was a Christian Brother. She had high aspirations for me and my education. I was brought up a Catholic and used to

serve mass every morning at 6 am. I was sent to Waverley College run by the Christian Brothers. The school focussed on high achievement. It wanted its students to become doctors and lawyers. Being a teacher was considered a lowly occupation and a trade was out of the question. I learned a new accent and how to survive in that environment. I also started to question my faith which I eventually lost. I saw great gaps between the church's doctrine and its application. However, I did well academically. I remember however failing admission to the school choir along with school mate John O'Keefe; interesting, given that John went on to make a career from singing.

"My teachers had mapped out a future for me but I disappointed them. I wanted to be a teacher. In looking back, later my choice of acting would have disappointed them too. The Christian Brothers thought wisdom could be transferred through the Arts. Films were not considered high art. They were regarded a bit like sweets. You could indulge in a few but shouldn't make a diet of them."

Ironically it was a fight in a school yard when John was eight which left him permanently short-sighted and killed off any aspirations he had of a teaching career, saved him from serving in Korea after he lost a case as a conscientious objector, and obliged him to take up unskilled labour; work his father understood.

"From the age of 16-19 years I became a milk carter. I delivered 800 bottles every morning. I'd start at 2 am and have to be off the road by 8 am or I'd be sacked. I saw the sun rise every morning for 3 years. When we designed our house here I said to Natalie that the only thing I wanted was to be able to see the sun rise through our bedroom window.

"During these years I did some classes with WEA, the Workers' Education Association in NSW. I wanted to become a candidate for University. In 1953 I began my undergraduate course at Sydney University. There was no time-limit on how long you could take to do a degree then. I was a student from 1953 to 1971. It was a stimulating and exciting time in my life. I worked a number of blue collar jobs, including as a plastic moulder making phonograph records from shellac. I also worked in the NSW Public Service as Secretary to the

Conciliation Commissioner and later as Secretary to the Prison Psychologist These latter jobs were temporary because of my eyes. Whilst working in Long Bay I met a female prisoner, Judith, with whom I later lived and had four children. Associating with an ex-prisoner was enough to cost me my job with the prisons department.

“Whilst at University, I joined the Libertarian movement known as The Push, but it was the WEA Film Study Group that set me on my path to acting. WEA established a Film Study Group in 1961. Not only did we watch and critique films but it also gave people an opportunity to try their hands at screen writing, film making and acting. Film weekends were held and eventually WEA produced a number of film publications, notably *Film Digest*. I sort of fell into acting. In 1969 I was present at the filming of *The American Poet's Visit* written by Frank Moorhouse and directed by Michael Thornhill. I made a comment and was asked to step into a role. I played the character as I would have reacted to the situation being portrayed in real life, and it all started, initially slowly, from there.

“I was enthusiastic about film and one of a growing vocal number of people who believed in an Australian Film industry. In 1969 I went to Melbourne to attend UNESCO's Conference on the Arts. Amongst others, I met Phillip Adams, and Patricia Edgar who was very keen for me to finish my degree and work with her at Latrobe University.

“In 1971, with my parents still alive, I graduated from Sydney University. Judith, the kids and I headed for Melbourne and Latrobe University where I designed the first Cinema Studies course in Australia. I worked there 4 years. During this time, I was also contributing to the establishment of the National Film and Television School. In 1976-77 I went to work there. It was challenging bringing together diverse philosophies on acting, film, academia and bureaucracy. In the end all that passion was tough training for entry into a tough new industry.

“I went back to lecturing part-time at Swinburne from 1980-84, while at the same time getting more involved in film, stage acting and script writing. I can do accents but I don't need to fake a fair dinkum Aussie accent. I don't sound like a grotesque stage Ocker. I've been in film since 1969 and staged on the stage since 1983 and I

still love it. This year, however, at 81, I decided to give in gracefully to age and not commit to more stage work. Stage is not as forgiving as film. But I have more film coming up.”

When I ask John about his favourite stage role he doesn't hesitate. “Valdimir in *Waiting for Godot*. I've played him a few times in different productions now and still love the character.” When it comes to a film role, John mentions one of the leads he played in John Ruane's 1975 film *Queensland*. “It's a film about a couple of losers moping around the streets of Melbourne dreaming about going to Queensland for a better life. They never make it.

“I love the power of film. The 1947 American film noir *Nightmare Alley* made me realise that film could be a different form of drama from theatre - different and artistically equal. Not necessarily inferior as my teachers had impressed upon me. In *Nightmare Alley* there is suffering but no baddies. Not like classical literature where you have baddies.” John smiles, sits back and gazes out the window at the native vegetation which surrounds the beautiful home he and Natalie have created.



Jenny McKenry,
Dandura Alpaca



John & Natalie



John in character

Harcourt Bowling Club

Tournaments and other events

The Annual Rice Triples event was held on Sunday March 29th. This keenly contested event is held in the memory of former club members Ben and Amy Rice and was well attended.

A perfect autumnal day provided a backdrop for some fine bowling and a lot of fun. The winning team with a magnificent shot from the Skip on the last end in a playoff was Rod Hamilton, John Bassett and Lorna Davey from Terry Chisholm's team of Grahame Hill and Chris Anderson.

The trophy was presented by Ron Richardson on behalf of the Rice family. (see photo below)



The weather was perfect at Harcourt on Saturday 18th April for the Annual President's Day event. The afternoon started with novelty events *Closest to the Spider* and *Ditch to Ditch* which were won by Joy Starbuck, Darrell Normington, Lorna Davey and Leo Moloney.

In a close contest the winners of President's Day were Super Veteran Grahame Hill's team of Lorna Davey and Heather Braid. (see photo next column) Second prize went to Moira Straw's team of Mick Evans and Wayne Smith. Third prize went to Ken Tribe's team of John Bassett and Cliff Wybar, with the Encouragement Award going to Mal Grant's Team of Geoff Maddams, Doreen Phillips and Joan Jenkin.

President John Starbuck thanked the sponsors Peter

Douglass Excavations and Workforce for their generous support of the day and thanked all who attended to make it such a successful afternoon. The laughter and smiling faces across the greens showed that members were having a great time.

In a break from tradition, the day's bowling was followed in the evening by the end of season Presentation Night.



End of Season Presentation Night

A sumptuous meal provided by the members and the catering committee set the scene for a great night of celebration of the end of the Bowling Season and for the Presentation Night. A very proud President John Starbuck extended special thanks to the Greens Committee and Secretary John Grant for all his assistance. The President also paid tribute to the diligence of Joan Jenkin as Treasurer for the past 11 years. He noted the importance and effectiveness of the work the Board and members do to ensure the smooth running of the club and grounds. John then announced and presented trophies to the winners of the various Club Events. (See photo next column of those present.)

These were:-

Men's Singles – Winner Tony Olsson, Runner up – Terry Chisholm

Men's Nominated pairs – Gary Maddern and Stephen Douglas, runners up Tony Olsson and Ron Frankling

Men's Gough (drawn) pairs – Mick Evans and John Bassett



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Women's Singles – Winner Kaye Grant, Runner up Lorna Davey

Women's Drawn pairs – Winners Kaye Francis and Chris Anderson, Runners up Kaye Grant and Jean Pogue

Grant Pairs – Winners Leo Moloney and Joan Bath, Runners up Garry Maddern and Doreen Phillips

Rice Memorial Triples – Winners Rod Hamilton, John Bassett and Lorna Davey, Runners up – Terry Chisholm, Grahame Hill and Chris Anderson.

Men's 100 up - still to be decided

Women's 100 up – still to be decided

Women's Nominated Pairs – still to be decided



Sunday Jackpot Pairs is continuing while the weather is good. We are always keen to welcome bowlers from other clubs to join us for this social game. Sunday's games start at 1.00pm so please have your names in by Friday Night to help with the draw.

Greens Café – alternate Friday nights - bookings essential

Commencing at 6.00pm Kay and Graeme will once again host the Greens Café to provide us with delicious affordable meals on alternate Fridays throughout the non-bowling season. Each fortnight there will be a set menu of 2 courses of wholesome country cooking.

To avoid disappointment bookings are required – call the Club on 54742494

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 17th May commencing at 10.00am. All members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be followed by a social game of bowls (weather permitting) and a barbecue.

Christine Anderson

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Grandparents!!

Are you a full-time or part-time carer for your grandchildren?

We have been running a grandparent support group for three years now and are now looking to expand the group.

We would like to invite you to come along to our morning tea to discuss what it would take for you to join a support group for grandparents raising your grandchildren.

- ◆ What you would like to happen in a support group?
- ◆ How can we help you still feel part of the community?

Two of the grandmothers who have been in the group from it's conception will share with you what it means for them to be in the group with other grandparents caring for their grandchildren.



An information session will be held on:

10am Wednesday, 6 May, 2015

at Castlemaine District Community Health,

13 Mostyn St Castlemaine (CHIRP).

Contact: Gabrielle 5479 1099 or 0400 531 325



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Harcourt Walking Group Celebrates One Year of Walking

As May 2014 marked the beginning of the Harcourt Walking Group, members of the group have been enjoying the benefits of regular walking for one year.

The walking group offers many health benefits. In addition to providing opportunity for fresh air and exercise, a registered nurse offers participants blood pressure checks and health advice. The group provides an opportunity to socialise, and this is very important in preventing many chronic conditions including heart disease and dementia.



*Photo:
Members
of the
Harcourt
walking
group enjoy
a cuppa
afterwards*

Walking group volunteer and registered nurse Kerry Calcraft says that "regular walkers occasionally just drop in for a cuppa when they don't have the energy for walking. I strongly encourage this, as getting out of the house and socialising can be just as important for your health as exercise."

Walkers meet at the Harcourt Museum and ANA Hall at 9.30am each Monday morning. A cuppa is available for a small donation upon returning from the walk, and all are most welcome.

Further information about the Harcourt Walking Group is available from Castlemaine District Community Health on 5479 1000.

Landcare Camp Out on The Mount 2015 – It's on Again!

The Landcare Camp Out on The Mount will be back for its third year in 2015. The date for this year's Camp Out is Saturday 26th September.

Last year's Camp Out was a huge success with over 150 people attending the big working bee to remove introduced pine trees from Mount Alexander. The working bee was followed by a special activity for the kids, talk on the history of Mount Alexander by George Milford, BBQ dinner cooked by the Harcourt Lions Club and wildlife spotlighting walk with a Parks Victoria Ranger. It finished with the incredibly popular Campfire Dessert Banquet!

One of the great things about the Camp Out is how many families come along. Kids of all ages get right into the activities and have a lot of fun. They're also doing something really good for the local area by helping to remove the pines which are invading the beautiful native forest on Mount Alexander.

The Camp Out is a project of Harcourt Valley Landcare Group and is supported by Parks Victoria and Connecting Country. It is organised by a group of volunteers from Harcourt and surrounding areas.

The committee is currently looking for local businesses or individuals who can help sponsor the Camp Out so that we can keep this great event going. If you think you can help, contact Harcourt Landcare President Jarrod Coote on 0438 069 849 or jarrod@connectingcountry.org.au

Max Schlachter



Anthea, Elwyn and Maisie at last year's Camp Out



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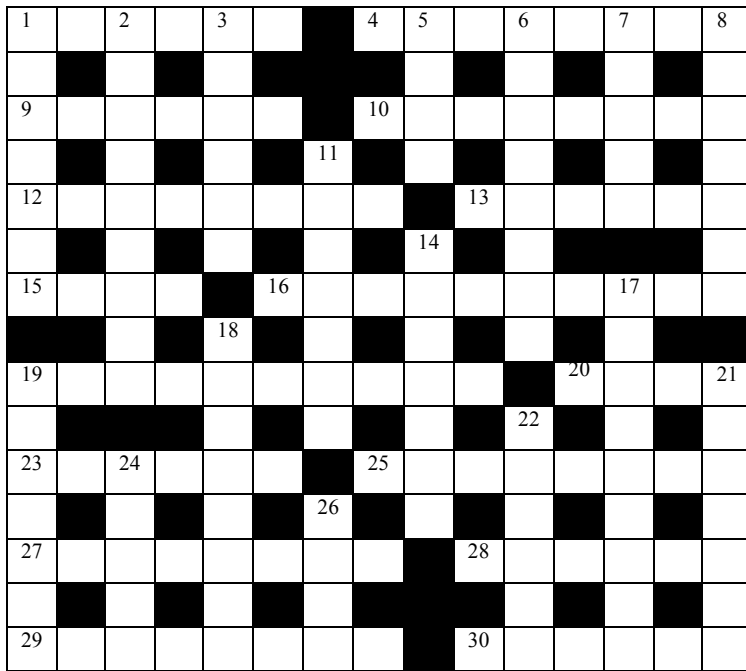
Tuesday	9.30 am – 10.30 am	Power Bar
Wednesday	6:05 pm – 7:05 pm	Power Bar
Friday	9.30 am – 10.30 am	Cross Trainer
Saturday	9.30 am – 10.30 am	Power Bar

Classes run during school terms.
\$10 per class. All Fitness Levels Welcome!
Pre-schoolers welcome under parent supervision

Mandy Chilcott 0409 866 279
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KINZOOGRAPH



Across:

1. New-born alternatively not new, but showy. (6)
4. Legible splashing of ale through an illegible set of whiskers. (8)
9. Sundry scuba sorts... (6)
10. What wrecks a new one from 2dn might provide a winner. (3-5)
12. Permitting everything still to be recouped. (8)
13. Two articles and grand antiphonal composition. (6)
15. (Youngish) polar goat slide? (4)
16. Doesn't need three rings to make one scratch? (4,6)
19. Undoing of cobbler's work, and the state it induces? (10)
20. Shortly spell four flash as a rat with a gold tooth? (4)
23. Chardonnay, Shiraz, etc., mixed on board, produce wiriness and strength. (6)
25. Proclamation of UK clock for pious Italian hermit. (8)
27. Desert conditions blown about lead to a face spasm between two Mediterranean states. (8)
28. Cinderella can't be given out after a cancellation, unless the prince catches her. (2-4)

29. Half Pago Pago fell out in order to raise standard. (8)

30. Way to go for Socrates? (6)

Down:

1. Door-seal for call centre drops a call in really difficult times. (7)
2. *Middlemarch*, *War and Peace*, *Ulysses*, etc. incorporate corporate neckwear to produce originals. (9)
3. How Lizzie's chair is pitched, we hear. (6)
5. Sacked computer whiz shows the door. (4)
6. One coming out via radio has cheerful self-assured aura. (8)
7. Sandy tree? (5)
8. Speed reading in empty espresso and pole for cold climate ladies. (6)
11. Get small amount of information after deadline to blow it up. (7)
14. Not bare of nobility. (7)
17. Prison octet to enthrall? (9)
18. Wind illumination? (4-4)
19. The women in a cleft stick? (7)
21. How six add up, if crucial... (7)
22. Hat doffed, or another one. (6)
24. Norman Bates "wasn't quite normal"—Bellini gave us another... (5)
26. English PCs duck part? (4)

	A	D	M	I	R	E	R	S		V	I	C	A	R
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D	I	R	T	Y		G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S	

Across:

1. Sycophantic marketing [*they do* **ads**...] mud [*Mire*] slingers?
6. From pulpit, he gets **vicar**ious pleasure without getting into debt. [*No IOUs...*]
10. Chose work [op] of Edward [*Ted*...].
11. Heather [*ting*] signing on?
12. Backward moon [*luna*] takes in number [n] to cancel out. (5)
13. Sickish is **not** the *near*-side chroma [i.e. **off**-] maybe a bit 28? (3-6)
14. **Vain**, yet there's greenness in it. (7)
15. What the one not hiding does to the sound of beards and turbans? [☺...]
18. Camp necessity with point [E] for point of principle. (5)
19. Valuable old item against [**anti**-] the saintless **quest**. (7)
22. Andean engineer hand-in-hand with Scottish interjection. [*Well?* ☺]
25. If 'V' were inverted and crossed it would be similar to this. [*A-like...*]
26. After 11 on this, you'd be invited. [*Well?*]
27. **Dot** first person twice [*Well?* **L, I**] for **box**?
28. Maybe the state of 13 joke... [*Well?*]

29. Probably not involved with 13 or 28; 6 might mention it in the same breath as mercy, surely? [*Well?* '*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of...*']

Down:

2. The tension **we hear** is palpable over this policy. (9)
3. Ready to overlook faults in **gluten din**. (9)
4. Pupils face off? [*Well?*]
5. (Simon) Templar initially a common occurrence [*rife*] in war. (6)
6. Drop MA [*grad*] from Russian city and replace 4th [g] with a 2nd 'v' for Swedish [*car*...]
7. Common sound of bone-cruncher in Egypt? [*cf* '*chiro*'(*practor*)]
8. Plural 23 these days does for these more respectful sign-offs. (7)
9. **No maid** in her **realm**? (6)
15. **In situ at** nothing [Ø] like the fix we're in...
16. Confused, one German [*Ein*] **squire** makes these to pursue his research. (9)
17. Certainly not a genuine **tot** with a voice this high. (8)
18. Caught on small bits of tree? [*Well?*]
20. Puts up in **secret**. (6)
21. '10' girl and Wagner are **ennui-producing**. [*Well?* *Remember Bo Derek?*]
23. The last hurrah? [*...of three!*]
24. How climate change is debated these days. [*Well?*]

Women's Cycling Group Takes Off in Castlemaine



Shown here in a photo by Max Lesser and first published in the Castlemaine Mail, is a group of women and children out for a family friendly bike ride in Castlemaine. Harcourt community members are involved in this group and we look forward to hearing from them on a regular basis in The Core.

Robyn Miller

Bella Mizzi's Blog Post - May 2015

A review of the movie Pitch Perfect 2 - out in cinemas now.



So, for a while now, I've just been one of those people who enters any competition I see, given that I actually want the prize, and I'm not totally buried underneath uni homework (ok, that last one not so much, but still), and guess what? It's paid off!

That's right, I managed to win a ticket to go to a "special preview screening" of Pitch Perfect 2..... 3 DAYS BEFORE THE PREMIERE!

And so, I offer my review.

Look, I've tried to think of another way to say this for a good 15 minutes now, but this movie was actually ACA-MAZING (ugh, stop it)! With the introduction of a new rivalry acapella team, the brilliantly over the top 'Das Sound Machine', Pitch Perfect 2 has certainly stepped up in the music department, which is what we all really want, I feel. I'm not going to lie though, while there were MANY hilarious moments

that carried on from the first film excellently, a la Fat Amy and her incredibly spot-on Australian references, there were a few too many awkward silences to forget. Not to mention the hard to grasp aspect that a few key characters had moved on without recognition. Apart from that, you'll be gasping for air between the limitless one liners from the world's most prestigious acapella commentators Gail and John (Elizabeth Banks and John Michael Higgins) who pull off social and political incorrectness in the best way possible... if there is such a thing. Overall, you will definitely have many laughs during this movie, and you will not be disappointed with the musical choices, but as they say, a sequel can never quite live up to the original, and trust me, I'm not normally one to say that.

Pips 'n' all

Hello Garden lovers,

Now that a little rain has arrived, it encourages us to start rejuvenating our gardens. Whether you are refreshing an existing bed or creating a new one, Autumn is the perfect time. If you have taken a little time to consider your garden, you may have discovered some areas that need some work. So, now is the time for action.

Preparing new garden beds can mean cultivating the soil, adding compost or composted manure, edging, mulching and possibly installing irrigation. Installing edging now can ease the future aggravation of digging out grass runners from your garden beds.

If you are preparing new garden beds, give some thought to the size of plants you intend to plant. While shrubs may be small in the pot, many grow to be one, two or three metres wide. It is lovely to grow a shrub that has room to reach its potential without needing to be heavily pruned because it overhangs lawn, paths, gates or other plants. This is not to say that plants don't need to be pruned. Most will benefit from tip pruning, shaping or removal of dead wood, but having to remove a metre or two of growth each year can be avoided with a little planning.

To save yourself a lot of pruning in the future, select small plants for narrow beds or create wide beds now. Creating a wide garden bed also provides space for healthy soil, air circulation and mulch, and reduces competition with grass for moisture and nutrients.

Last month, we spoke a little of sun, shade, wind and water. Knowing the conditions within your garden helps create successful garden beds. It means you can select and group plants that cope with similar conditions. If you have a shady, south facing corner that hardly sees the sun, this may be a good site for shade loving plants like Clivia, Helleborus, Heliotrope or Liriope. These plants would also suit the shade and protection beneath some tree canopies.

Alternately, for a garden in the open on the north side of your house, heat tolerant plants are required. You can't go past old favorites like Lavender, Rosemary and Roses or some lesser known Salvias.

Remember that Autumn is a great time for transplanting. So even if a small tree or shrub is struggling, there are ways

to improve its situation. If you are planning to transplant a small tree, preparation can improve your success. Now is a good time to dig a circle around the outside of the roots to create a root ball. Then water the root ball regularly prior to moving it in a few weeks time. Also prepare the new site early, by digging it over and adding composted manure. When you transplant, tip prune the canopy to balance out the reduced roots.

This month we are:

- Preparing new garden beds;
- Pruning spent perennials;
- Planting green manure crops;
- Aerating, topdressing, fertilising and seeding lawns;
- Planting autumn vegetables.

This month in the woodland we are:

- Manually removing Gorse.

*Happy Gardening
Janyce*

ASQ



Plant of the month: Cyclamen

Cyclamen are a great gift that can add colour to any location around the house or patio. You can use Cyclamen to bring colour from the garden inside. Cyclamen are cheaper than a bunch of flowers and last longer. Some varieties of the mini Cyclamen have an added bonus of being fragrant. Cyclamen can be planted in the garden under a tree. Visit our store and talk to our staff about the wonderful range of colour these beautiful flowers come in.



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Preparing to Plant Fruit Trees

With Katie Finlay



If you're planning to plant some fruit trees this winter, now is a great time to do some soil preparation, and the best way is to plant an autumn green manure

crop. Use a mix of a legume (to add nitrogen to the soil), a grass (to add lots of organic matter), and a few herbs (to add more nutrients) Several of the bigger nurseries have Autumn Green Manure seed mixes available. Plant the seed now wherever you plan to plant your fruit trees, then before you plant your fruit trees you can either dig them in to the soil, or just cut them down and leave them lying on the soil.

On another note, if you want to try growing your own apple and pear rootstocks next spring, now is a great time to collect some seed and store it over winter. Granny Smith apples or Packham pears are a reliable source of seed, but needs must—use whatever you can get! The rootstocks can be grown on as fruit trees, but the fruit they produce won't be 'true-to-type'. It's much better to graft them to a known variety. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring.

Hugh and Katie run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They also run the Grow Great Fruit Program for home fruit growers, sell bare-rooted fruit trees and run workshops. All details available in the Weekly Fruit Tips e-newsletter: <http://www.opt-in.mafg.com.au/>.

Website: www.mafg.com.au

Stick on Gardens

These are gardens not in the ground, and include pots, window boxes, and even abandoned cars as seen in the 1970's in East Germany.

Lately wooden crates as originated in besieged Paris in the winter of 1870 have become popular. Wooden boxes with netting or plastic over the top to protect plants from severe weather and birds are a good idea.

When blocks are bulldozed for new house sites, the top soil is removed and is often used with any tree waste from the property to create a style of potting mix, which may have other elements such as a combination of nitrogen, potash and potassium added. This can be returned to the property owner for use in the garden, but may also be sold on as potting mix for "stick on gardens".

Potting mix is not drought resistant and will require regular watering. Compost added to potting mix and some top soil will result in healthier plants with more drought resistance.

Ian Johnson



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Community Diary Dates

6 May: 7.30pm to 9pm. Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc, FREE Come and Try Night. Leisure Centre (heated). Supper to follow.

7 May: 7.30 pm, Western Front Association talk on Major General James McKay as part of the ANZAC Centenary, Venue: Tread

14 May: 7.00pm Harcourt Valley Landcare meeting, ANA Hall.

16 & 17 May: Victorian Country Road Cycling Championships

17th May: 10am Bowls Club AGM followed by barbecue.

20th May: 7.00pm Harcourt Progress Association Meeting at Harcourt Valley Primary School

21st May: 1.30pm, CWA, Leisure Centre

23rd May: Harcourt Lions, Proposed: BeyondBlue Fundraising Luncheon, Tread

24th May: 1.30 pm Heritage Centre tour to Malmsbury, hosted by Malmsbury Historical Society

24th May: 10.00am Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee, opposite CFA, stack bonfires, weeding.

21st June: 1.30 pm Heritage Centre Fireside Chat; Peter Trounsen, topic; "The luck of the draw"

Hunters of the Skies

Images of some magnificent birds of prey are now on display at Bendigo's Capital Theatre. This is a must-see exhibition. Patience, perseverance photographic skill, expensive cameras and, let's face it, some good luck, have all played their part in the process of capturing close-up shots of the raptors as they seek food, rest or take flight in central Victoria. Many of the birds live locally. The exhibition includes Harcourt and Ravenswood photos of wedge-tail eagles, little eagle, powerful owls, and a brown falcon. Hunters of the Skies comprises 24 large-format photos now on display at Capital Theatre, View St, Bendigo, Monday to Friday 9.15 am to 5.15 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 1.00 pm until 29th May.



See more photos like these at the Hunters of the Skies exhibition. These were taken by Prue Wallduck of a Little Eagle at her property Millduck B&B in North Harcourt.



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. 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/>

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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.



HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION INC.

Are you looking for:

- a family or singles activity that is held in a safe warm environment during winter, May to September in a team?
- a single or family activity that won't cost you the earth?
- a family activity where there is a great social get together for both children and adults?
- a family activity where all children from 8 years up can join in and play the game?

THEN CARPET BOWLS MAY BE THE GAME FOR YOU.

ALL WELCOME - Everything provided to play bowls in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

No previous experience necessary. Nothing to bring but yourself and the desire to have a good time.

Just come along and have some fun.

HOME & AWAY SEASON starts 13th May, 2015

- Registration \$5.00 Adult U17 \$2.50. Nightly \$4.00 Adult U17 \$2.00. to play. To help cover hall hire etc.
- Games played on Wednesday night at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.
- Games start 7.30pm to 9pm approx.- It's not a late night for the family.

COME AND JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL FUN SEASON

More information Loretta - 54742453 or Tyrone 54742126.

CAFE RESTAURANT MOTEL TREAD HARCOURT

CAFE:
Thursday - Sunday 9:00am - 3:00pm

RESTAURANT:
Thursday - Sunday 6:00pm - 9:30pm
(kitchen til 8:00pm)

MOTEL: 7 days a week

92 Calder Highway (Entry off High St)
Harcourt, 3453
T: 03 5474 2211

FREE Grant Writing Workshops

Mount Alexander Shire Council is pleased to present 2 free workshops to assist community groups gain skills in grant writing. Delivered by Our Community, these FREE Grant Writing Workshops will be held on Thursday 28 May 2015.

Each workshop will explore the process of writing a successful grant application and how to establish a simple and practical approach to grant writing for volunteers and committee members.

When: Thursday 28 May 2015 - choose either

12.30 pm to 2.30 pm or

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Where: Phee Broadway Theatre, Castlemaine

To register, or for more information, contact Rebecca Smith, Liveable Communities Business Support Officer - 5471 1744 or email grants@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Registrations close Friday 15 May 2015.

Another good reason to slow down on our local roads...



If only this wombat was sleeping, but there is blood on the road and blood on his paws.

A Core reader rang to tell me that there was a dead wombat at the top of Harmony Way just past the North Harcourt turn off. Sure enough this once healthy specimen of the Common Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) was recently hit by a car.

Wombats have been seen on the eastern side of Mount Alexander and tracked on Mount Barker with motion cameras set up by Connecting Country Castlemaine. However, this one was out for an adventure to the west. Possibly their numbers are

increasing and being solitary creatures, this one was about to set up a burrow on the western side of the Mount. The Common Wombat is found in Tasmania, Victoria and eastern New South Wales. There are two other wombat species but these are found in a small area in South Australia and a miniscule area in Queensland.

We are fortunate to have so much wildlife living in and around Harcourt and as we know kangaroos and wombats can do lots of damage to a car if there is a collision. So at dawn, dusk and after dark please take care when driving on our local roads.

Robyn Miller

Harcourt Valley Landcare Continues Work Along Barkers Creek



If you are looking for a pleasant place to picnic, try the “picnic ground” north of the shop along Harmony Way. The entrance is on the right. Landcare is continuing work along this stretch of the creek. The picnic ground is also an easy walk from the footbridge opposite the CFA in Bridge



Street. Ongoing plans include the construction of tables and provision of a barbecue. Shown above is the challenge faced by Landcare members north of Picnic Ground. Why not join us for our next working bee on Sunday May 24 at 10 am at the picnic ground?

Robyn Miller