

# HARCOURT NEWS

# THE C<sup>Ö</sup>RE

August 2015

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 19

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

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

## 40,000 Trees planted in 4 hours?

### INSIDE

- Town Centre Activity
- Bike Park Update
- Township Growth
- Grand Designs House Tour
- Councillor News
- HPA & Fruitgrowers
- Business Update
- Uniting Church
- CWA & CFA
- Harcourtian
- School
- 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.



*Thanks to all involved! A group of volunteers prepare to set out in perfect tree planting weather. (see Page 13)*

## Town Centre Landscape Works

Landscaping in the town centre has been taking place over the last week or so.

At Stanley Park, the memorial garden is being refreshed by Council. Red Gallipoli Centenary Roses under-planted with Cerastium (Snow in Summer) are going in on the inside of the fence, while Gallipoli Rosemary and Lavender are being planted outside the fence (top picture).

The mushy bog which appeared during Applefest in Stanley Park north is there again now after the recent rain. Council is preparing to extend the drain so it flows into the creek. (middle picture and bottom right). In the middle picture water is lying in a large pool in the foreground and the new pipes are on the ground at the top centre. This problem was brought to Council's notice after the Applefest by the Harcourt Progress Association and the Applefest Committee.

Indigenous planting has been completed along the reclaimed slip lane. This is part of the Brilliant Barkers Creek Project. Project Officer, Janyce McMurtrie organised the planting. There will be follow up weed control in spring. Janyce received approval for Mount Alexander Shire Council Parks & Gardens to maintain the plants as part of regular town centre maintenance.

The proposal is consistent with the following points in the Harcourt Landscape Masterplan:

- Empower local Landcare groups to continue to champion revegetation of Barker's Creek
- Investigate potential to extend existing granitic sand path in old slip road area, along Barker's Creek to provide recreational opportunities and re-connect town centre with the natural landscape feature of the creek.

*Robyn Miller*





## Councillor Update

Some mornings I see kangaroos everywhere and at other times there is no sign of them. I wonder where they go. Perhaps it is to the neighbours place and then he chases them back again!!

When I was a teenager if we went for a drive we might see three kangaroos. These days we don't have to go far to see a hundred and fifty of them. They are certainly causing havoc on our roads, damaging fences and gardens. They also have a major impact on the bottom line for farming properties. I have raised my concerns about the ever increasing numbers of kangaroos as a problem at Council. I guess this raises the question: How far we can expect Council to go with this?? I would be interested to hear your thoughts.

At last night's Council meeting we adopted Council's new Environmental Strategy. This has been developed over an extended period and lots of people have had input. It will guide Council's approach to environmental matters over the next ten years with regular reviews, feedback and community engagement.

We are very fortunate to have many highly skilled people within our community that are interested in environmental matters. If we can harness that energy and get the community moving in the same direction we are certain to leave the environment in better shape for future generations.

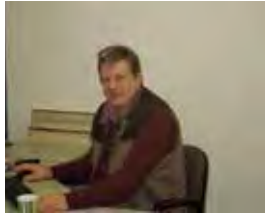
Some ways we can assist with the environment are as follows:

- Turn the lights and TV off when we leave the house.
- Minimise air-conditioning use.
- Reduce the number of fridges and freezers to one. (estimated saving of 700 per year).
- Consider a diesel or hybrid car when it is time to replace the car. Many of the good ones do 1000km on a tank with up to 1700km for some of the high end models. (How good is that!!)
- If possible invest in solar power. It still can be a cost effective investment and my tip is grid connected power costs will continue to rise.
- Minimise water costs through the use of tanks.
- Buy Australian grown food and produce when possible. (Bring on country of origin labelling).

*Best regards*

*Tony*

AG Cordy, Councillor, 0439 742 434



## Supporting Township Growth

A new 14 lot subdivision in the Township Zone of Harcourt is set to be approved by Mount Alexander Council.

While infill housing has been progressing in Harcourt, this proposed subdivision gives new opportunity for families to move into Harcourt, thus supporting our businesses, the school, the swimming pool and other community groups.

The land sits on the edge of the township and runs north from Market Street. While the land appears to be paddocks, part of it is included in the township zone and is therefore suitable for housing. (see photo)

The local proponents were approached by The Core to learn more about the proposed development and was advised the blocks are generally consistent with the average size of existing Harcourt township blocks, averaging approximately 915 square metres and will be in keeping with the character of Harcourt's residential area. There is also a much larger block of 3250 square metres that traverses Picnic Gully Creek. They noted that they have consulted with neighbours and every authority as required including the North Central Catchment Management Authority, the Shire's Planning and Infrastructure Departments and the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved. The proponents also noted that they have worked to protect the creek by establishing an easement of 20 metres and have cleared blackberry and gorse and have begun planting indigenous species. Services will be underground (the power pole in the photo will be removed), the road will be sealed and a footpath will be made to connect to the bus stop outside the old Harcourt Primary School.

The Core also spoke with the Planning Department at Mount Alexander Shire. A spokesperson indicated that while one objection to the proposal had been received by the close of the formal exhibition period the parties were working to resolve issues.

*Robyn Miller*



## Fruit Growers Meeting

Members of Harcourt Fruit Growers Association gathered on July 31 to hear Maree Edwards State Member for Bendigo West, speak about new funding opportunities for the Food and Fibre Sector in Victoria.

She complimented the group for “being ahead of the pack” and said that the efforts of the Consortium were well known in government circles and its aim to value add to production in the valley, including the provision of a new service in the bottling plant, located at the Coolstore, was recognised.

Maree gave an overview of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) which has a total value of \$500m. Within the fund there are three streams concentrating on Infrastructure (\$250m), Jobs (\$20m) and Stronger Regional Communities (\$50m). The program is administered by Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and applications opened on 1 July. Under the various streams there will be different closing dates for applications.

Ms Edwards saw a number of funding opportunities for Harcourt including:

- new manufacturing capability enhanced by the prospects of the freight rail line being re-opened between Mildura and Melbourne, (could the Harcourt railway station be re-opened?),
- facility upgrades - for example the Coolstore could be expanded,
- within the Jobs stream there is \$20m for agribusiness capability and market building
- investment in tourist and cultural infrastructure.

Under the Loddon Mallee Strategic Plan, Harcourt is marked as a potential growth area, so applications under the RJIF fit perfectly. “The Plan identifies the region’s most important issues and presents a framework for federal, state and local governments, communities and industry to work together as a region to maximise opportunities and manage future growth.” (From the RDV web site.) Rob Chaplin President of the Fruit Growers, thanked Maree for taking the time to speak and for highlighting opportunities for Harcourt. More information on the RJIF can be found on the Regional Development Victoria web site at: <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-jobs-and-infrastructure-fund>

Robyn Miller



## Harcourt Progress Association

Darren Heritage, Manager of Community Relations for Coliban Water was the guest speaker at the July HPA meeting. As was to be expected, the main topic of discussion was the Pipeline Project. Coliban has taken back the project and has analysed the remaining work to be completed. It hopes to tender out chunks of the work, while concentrating on re-instatement of properties disturbed by the pipeline installation. Other matters discussed with Darren were Stanley Park north as a village green with irrigation installed and Coliban’s possible involvement in this potential project, and Barkers Creek Reservoir as an under-utilised community asset.

Other items at the meeting included:

- **The Harcourt Pool:** HPA began work with the Council and the YMCA last year to improve communications between the community and these parties. With the new season coming up there are some opportunities to be had. Some money has been identified as left over from the previous community pool committee. This can be put to use for infrastructure for the pool.
- **Tree planting in the town centre:** HPA asked that as part of the Landscape plan that the Council make tree planting a priority. We are waiting to find out whether this has been included in the budget.
- **Community website:** Members of HPA attended the launch of the website and have had some input into its development.
- **Events:** Tour de Bress: A representative of the group will meet with Bress about arrangements; Lions Club Cinema Screening: This will take place as a fundraiser in the warmer weather.
- Memberships are now due (see back page for membership form).
- The next meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7pm at the Harcourt Valley Primary School.

Robyn Miller



**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)  
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***She went beyond her duties of just selling my house, and the service continued long after the contract was drawn.***

***Nothing was too much trouble!"***

- Elizabeth



Di Selwood

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## Grand Design House Tour

On 19<sup>th</sup> July, over one hundred and twenty people took up the invitation to visit the recently completed Grand Design residence at the historic granite quarry in Coopers Road. The visit was arranged by Harcourt Heritage Centre as part of its regular third-Sunday-of-the-month program of tours and talks on subjects relevant to Harcourt.

The home has attracted much interest since it was featured in the TV program “Grand Designs Australia” on the Lifestyle channel.

The architect-designed home is a contemporary symmetrical cube dwelling of 450 square metres over three levels, bound at either end by historic granite cottages just like bookends. Owners Art van Dyk and Troy West have worked tirelessly to create this dream home. Art and Troy had spent the last twenty years at Ravenswood Homestead, a classic Georgian-style mansion, which they operated as a 28 bedroom guest house. When they decided to down-size Art took his designs for the new home to architect Andrew Richardson. The result is stunning, blending contemporary building materials with traditional Harcourt granite. There is much glass in the building, all double-glazed. Granite

paving, Corten steel (rusty cladding) and ‘barestone’ cement sheet add to the range of surface finishes and textures. Metal sculptures made at Castlemaine’s Billman’s Foundry and beautifully built granite pillars give a distinctive and pleasing setting to the whole dwelling.

The seventy-acre home-site has a rich history evidenced by piles of rock, quarry holes and workers buildings. The site had been dormant for fifty years but, for a hundred years up to 1963, had supplied granite to key buildings in Bendigo and Melbourne. Harcourt Heritage Centre’s tour group had previously visited this historic quarry in 2009 and many on the recent tour commented on the magnificent restoration of the quarry manager’s residence and its incorporation into the new design.

The Grand-Design tour was capped off by a stylish afternoon tea at Harcourt Heritage Centre where the tour group was joined by our gracious hosts, happy to respond to questions and describe the building of their dream home.

Harcourt is already famous for its unique granite homes and, judging by the enthusiastic comments of those who joined the 19<sup>th</sup> July tour, is fortunate to have this addition to its housing stock.

*George Milford*



## Harcourt CFA



**Are you taking a risk by using a faulty product?**

Currently Australia wide, there are over 83,000 Samsung top loader

washing machines that have the potential to catch fire due to a fault which allows moisture to get into the electrical componentry and short out. So far there have been more than 200 fires that have been caused by the six models that have been listed in the product recall, which was first listed in 2013. There have been 61,000 machines that have been inspected and fixed or have been replaced, which is less than 50 %. So on average with continued usage, potentially, there could be another 250+ fires in laundries across the country. If you use this brand of washing machine, you can get more information at [samsung.com/au/washingmachinerecall](http://samsung.com/au/washingmachinerecall) which lists the models affected, where you can find the model details on your machine and what to do next. This also highlights the dangers of the potential risk of leaving electrical appliances operating when we are not home or using time delay features.

So what other products are also faulty and how do you find out more about them? The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission has a website set up which lists all products that have been recalled and they are listed in categories. By clicking on the individual product, it will open up showing all the details for the recall of that product. If you have CFA as a Facebook friend, you will receive recall information notifications also.

It is quite surprising to see the number of products that are recalled due to the risk of catching fire and also having the potential to cause an electrical shock. It is well worth the effort in checking this out, especially for such items as power boards, Christmas lights, heaters and the various types of battery chargers which feature all too often in the list. This also iterates how important it is to not use electrical products which have frayed cords, have an electrical burnt smell or make strange electrical noises indicating that there is a fault in the appliance.

Stay warm but stay safe this winter.

Spring is not that far away when it will be time to start preparing for summer.

**Tyrone Rice**  
*Captain*

## Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Progress Report

The Harcourt community is no doubt wondering what's being going on with the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park project. While it may seem like not much has been happening in the last few months, the Steering Committee and Goldfields Tourism have been working with the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning (DEWLP) on the delivery of a number of required investigations and planning progresses.

Right now a couple of investigations are underway, a biodiversity review, and an Indigenous Cultural Heritage investigation. The biodiversity review is happening now, as about this time the winter dormant plants are starting to poke through the soil and so can be identified. The Steering Committee were always aware of the likelihood of some threatened plant species on the site, particularly in the higher areas, but needed to wait for this time to undertake the review.

The Cultural Heritage investigation will involve working with the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation and other relevant heritage advisers to have a full understanding of any culturally significant areas on the site.

Two other equally important investigations need to be undertaken, a Bushfire Statement, and a Land Capacity assessment. The Bushfire Statement will help determine a bushfire management plan for the site, and the Land Capacity gives the Committee a good understanding of things such as the soil quality and depth, and the land slope, aspect and geology.

All these investigations were always a requirement for the delivery of the project and will help inform the final detailed design for all elements of the park.

The Committee also thought this would be a good time to squash a couple of rumours that have been going around on future accessibility to the Park. If you have heard, or do hear any other "stories" on how the park will be used into the future please ask, we'd rather give you accurate information.

The tracks in the park will not be fenced off to prevent access by certain user groups.

The park area will be accessible by all user groups allowed as per the DEWLP/Parks Victoria Guidelines.

We look forward to providing further updates to the community as the project continues through these early, but important stages.

*Goldfields Tourism Inc. and the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Steering Committee. August, 2015*



# Harcourt CWA



Brrrrrrrrrr,

It's cold, really cold, a proper cold winter and I love it. And on such a day there is nothing better than a bowl of Hearty Winter Soup and a crusty bread roll.

So here is the recipe for you to enjoy with your families:

First, make your stock:

1 / 2 dozen beef bones  
1 smoked hock  
3 chorizo sausages  
2 – 3 litres of water  
bay leaves  
salt and pepper

Bring to boil and simmer for two hours. Then strain and cool. Remove any fat. Remove meat from bones and chop up sausages.

Then cut up the vegetables for the soup:

Soup  
Onions  
Carrots  
Celery  
Swedes  
Turnips  
1 cup of soup mix beans

Next reheat the stock and add vegetables, soup mix beans and reserved meat and sausage. Simmer slowly until cooked – approximately 1 hour.

Add a few herbs to your taste and a dash of salt and pepper, and a beef stock cube too.

This is a yummy soup, even better the next day. I hope you enjoy it as much as my family did.

We had a lovely day last Thursday at the Leisure Centre when Kay's Classic Fashions came to Harcourt. Throughout the year we have afternoon fund raisers when other Branch members and members of the public come and enjoy an informative and enjoyable afternoon as well as partaking of our famous afternoon tea.

Kay's Classic Fashions was a great hit and enjoyed by everyone who attended. Being of a certain age, and searching for something nice to wear, can sometimes be quite tiresome especially when fashioner designers don't really want to know of your existence and rack after rack of unsuitable clothes in Myer or similar, can make a lady of a certain age feel very down hearted.

Then along comes Kay with a perfect collection of stylish, well made clothes that fit and look wonderful as you can see by our stylish Harcourt models, Joy Robertson, Helen Hand, Mary Tigg and Lyn Rule. Many lovely outfits were modelled and visitors took advantage of the many 'one off' creations which they could try and buy.

Stay warm, walk the dog, chop the wood, make soup, wear a beanie, enjoy the beauty of the Oak Forest in winter, and before you know it, the daffodils will be dancing in the sun and the rain to let us know that the Springtime is coming again.

*Lyn Rule, Harcourt CWA  
Publicity Officer.*





## Harcourt Uniting Church



Recently we celebrated “Share Sunday” at Harcourt. Share is the fund raising arm of the Uniting Church which raises money to support Uniting Care Agencies within Victoria & Tasmania. Share aims to “restore life, joy and hope to people who are disadvantaged or in crisis.

Share is Australia’s largest non-government provider of community services such as: Emergency relief – food, shelter or clothing /Child, youth & family services/Counselling /Drop in centres/Peer support& Education & Employment programs. All these services provided by Uniting Care Agencies give hope for a person’s future. Share also responds to crises and disaster in Australia and abroad. After the service we shared morning tea and contributed to an offering for the Share Appeal.

Just a reminder: the Harcourt Uniting Church will be holding a special service to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of worship in Harcourt on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Harcourt Church, Buckley St. Harcourt followed by a light luncheon in the Church Hall – everyone is most welcome to join us.

*Jan Jenkin*

## Harcourt Web Site

[www.harcourt.vic.au](http://www.harcourt.vic.au)



A working group has been formed to carry forward the new Harcourt web site. The site has been commissioned by the Heritage Centre and was designed by David Jeffries.

The site is live and under development at the same time. At a meeting in the ANA Hall, David explained the operation of the web site indicating that representatives of interested groups will be given password access.

The site has been set up using WordPress which is known as an easy system for those with some knowledge of computing. WordPress behaves similarly to Word when it is used for editing.

Many of the potential tabs on the site are currently vacant and it will take some time for the information to be entered.

Two main approaches were discussed from a user’s point of view: is the user a local person or a potential visitor? It was recognised that information is needed for both.

A further meeting took place on Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup> for further planning. The group will meet again on August 12 at 7pm.

*Robyn Miller*



### Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes

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<b>Fri</b>	<b>9:30am-10:30am</b>	<b>Cross Trainer</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9:30am-10:30am</b>	<b>Power Bar</b>

\$10 per class – all fitness levels welcome  
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Classes run during school terms

**Mandy Chilcott 0409 866 279**  
[mandchilcott@gmail.com](mailto:mandchilcott@gmail.com)

## Hansel & Gretel - Oz Opera visit

### HARCOURT VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wilkinson Street, HARCOURT 3453  
Ph: (03) 5474 2266 / 67 Mobile: 0418 107 059  
Fax: (03) 5474 2706



Opera Australia visits Harcourt Primary once a year and this year they performed a colourful version of Hansel and Gretel on Friday July 31.

On Thursday the students had spent their peer support time making and decorating opera masks.

When I arrived at the performance the children were sitting in rapt attention watching the antics of the singers. Devised to entertain primary school students the opera is shortened and the words adapted so there is a touch of the modern day, while preserving the best and most entertaining sections of music.

*Robyn Miller*

*A group of peer support students with their opera masks nearing completion*



*Hansel and Gretel's mother (top right) scolds them for not doing their chores*

## Colour us in!





# Business Update – Lewin Fencing



- Rural Fencing – all types
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Kieren Lewin's fence building and business skills were developed from a young age, when his father ran a fencing and timberyard business in Ringwood. By the time Kieren was 16 he was building suburban fencing, but he then went on to a varied career in the music industry as a DJ and a production/tour manager for concerts and festivals.

Kieren now lives on his 100 acre property in Elphinstone and is the Owner/Manager of Lewin Fencing. He moved from Melbourne four years ago and began working with a builder in Castlemaine and also took on some handy man work. About three years ago Kieran started his fencing business and at first juggled his existing job with his new venture. Lewin Fencing grew and he was then able to dedicate his time to his own business.

At Lewin Fencing, Kieren employs a full timer and a team of contractors who he can depend on for fencing projects big and small. When asked about the type of fencing they do, Kieren explains, "We do everything. Mainly rural, post and rail. We build residential fencing, including pretty front fences using heritage wire and picket fences, plus colour bond and timber fencing. We also do industrial security fencing, working with chain link and steel panels."

His workshop is set up to cut up the timber posts,

plus he has welding equipment to build customised gates and pet enclosures. His current project involves building a chicken coop for 1500 free range chickens.

Kieren goes the extra mile for his customers; he has even held horses on his property for a customer whilst their fences were being built.

He acknowledges that when you live in the country you have to expect to travel far and wide for a job. He reports "I've travelled to Olinda to build cat enclosures and I've been to Swan Hill for rural fencing and making up cattle yards".

When putting up rural fencing the land sometimes needs to be cleared. Kieren says, "We have a tractor with a mulcher so if there are bunches of coffee bush or Gorse, we run the mulcher through". This scrub clearing service is also available to people regardless of whether they need a fence built.

**For a quote or to discuss your fencing needs contact Kieren or Steph on:**

**0417 496 332 | [info@lewinfencing.com.au](mailto:info@lewinfencing.com.au)**

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## Harcourtians - Stewart Campbell



Stewart Campbell, who is the Coordinator for Parks and Gardens for Mt Alexander Shire, is another Harcourtian who after leaving Melbourne to settle here found he had ancestral connections to the area.

'Perhaps there is something in the stars that led me here, or perhaps I really followed my partner Janyce, who also has family connections in the area,' says Stewart.

'I am related to George Cribbes who was born circa 1829. He was a landholder and farmer in Faraday and died in 1884 in Chewton. His daughter, Isabella was born circa 1863 and died in Fairfield in 1945. Isabella was one of five children and married William Whipp in Castlemaine. He was my great grandfather and was a railway Station Master at Carisbrook, Castlemaine and Maryborough. Their daughter, Ethel was born in Carisbrook and married Joseph Campbell, who was my grandfather.

'I'm fulfilling a bit of a childhood dream by living in the country. As a kid, I spent holidays with my family on a relative's farm near Balaklava in South Australia. I loved it. I went spotlighting and learned to drive a car and

tractor around the paddocks. It was all pretty exciting 'The hope of a country lifestyle, with a job where I could use my skills and knowledge, never left me even when I first started my career in horticulture as an apprentice gardener in the late 1970s for the City of Hawthorn. I eventually became the Coordinator of Arboriculture with the city of Boroondara and had a comfortable life living in Mount Waverly. I was a keen cyclist and spent many a Sunday climbing the hills of Mt Dandenong or riding around Port Phillip Bay. But the country kept calling. I started country life as, what my neighbour called, a "weekend warrior", working in Melbourne and commuting up to Harcourt for weekends.'

After two years of searching, Stewart found his perfect job and was able to make Harcourt his home. He has now lived here full-time for over 18 months and is enjoying the country air, a small hobby farm, a satisfying job and a very short commute to work.

'I have been lucky with my job. I love working with my small, enthusiastic team to maintain and enhance the parks, streetscapes and open space of Mount Alexander. I also enjoy being able to review and improve systems and standards to better our efficiency and the quality of our service. I want things to run smoothly so that my team can enjoy their work and get things done. I really feel that through my organisation and the people I work with, I can make a difference and contribute to the community.

'My Sundays of donning Lycra are gone. I now don work pants and have taken up fencing, rendering mud brick walls, building garden beds, splitting firewood, digging a vegetable patch, herding sheep, chickens and alpacas and if that's not enough, there always seems to be an irrigation pipe to repair or a fallen branch to clean up. Not to mention, improving the quality of the paddocks and the house renovations. The learning curve is steep but the rewards are many. I like the journey that life has taken me on and I am very glad that I have made a home in Harcourt.'

*Jenny McKenry, Dandura Alpacas*



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Stewart with partner Janyce McMurtrie.



Stewart, no longer the Sunday cyclist.

## 40,000 Trees Planting Challenge

Landcare members and other community volunteers got together on July 11 in North Harcourt, to meet the challenge of planting 40,000 trees in 3 hours.

600 volunteers turned up and headed to 12 sites. Some people made like mountain goats and headed off into hilly country; others planted into marshy flat land. The unifying feature of the properties is that about 150 years ago they had been cleared for grazing. Some of the land is very exposed and has suffered from erosion or is under threat of erosion. The trees, indigenous to the area, were grown by prisoners at Middleton Prison in Castlemaine and were destined for another project which did not eventuate. The Barkers Creek Network then took

# TREAD HARCOURT

## CAFE OPEN SAT & SUN 9AM - 4PM

## ACCOMMODATION 7 DAYS A WEEK

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T 03 5474 2211

up the challenge. The network is made up of North Harcourt/Sedgwick, Harcourt Valley and Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Groups. Connecting Country Castlemaine was a major sponsor and supporter of the event.

Jarrold Coote, spokesperson for the Network said "The day was a resounding success. People enjoyed the planting and then socialised afterwards at Tread Café in Harcourt. It was a challenge to organise in a short time, and the network thanks the volunteers, the volunteer supervisors and especially our sponsors." Tread Café put on extra staff to cope with the many requests for hot drinks and provided the venue for the barbecue run by the Harcourt Lions. The final count of trees planted was over 30,000. What about the trees that weren't planted? They have been planted by keen locals and Prison Work Crews after the big day. "This was a challenge and if a similar opportunity arose, the Barkers Creek Network would be confident to take it on," said Jarrold.

*Robyn Miller*

## Tourism - Business Mount Alexander



Business Mount Alexander Inc. recently held a Tourism Forum at the Maldon Golf Club where around 50 representatives from local businesses gathered to learn more about the role of Tourism in the Shire's economy as well as opportunities, present and future that will help grow the economic strength of the Region.

Katherine Mackenzie, Executive Manager Tourism at the City of Greater Bendigo and David Leatham, Manager Local Economy Mount Alexander Shire discussed the current and long-term growth of the Shire's economy and the current development of the Bendigo Region Destination Management Plan, of which the Mount Alexander Shire falls within.

The Destination Management Plan will provide a strategic framework to guide development and investment in tourism for the region over the next five years with the aim of growing visitation, raising awareness of the region, increasing tourism spending at local businesses, and stimulating investment in tourism products.

Attendees were presented with visitation statistics specific to the Region so that business owners and operators can better understand the opportunities available to them to help service and benefit from the Tourism industry. Information included visitor demographics, purpose of visit, accommodation types used, point of origin and types of activities pursued when in the area.

There is also growing recognition at a local, state and federal government level of the Victorian Goldfields as a premier cycle tourism destination. The region offers tourists an array of cycling experiences including recreational tracks, road cycling, mountain biking, cycle touring, food, wine and history by bike, and organised events.

As such, attendees were also presented with information on the Ride/Walk Goldfields project that, using the Goldfields Track as its spine, will help promote and develop riding and walking activities in and around Ballarat, Creswick, Woodend, Daylesford, Avoca, Castlemaine, Maldon, Harcourt, and Bendigo.

These two presentations were further supported with first hand experiences from Norm Douglas from the township of Forrest in the Otway Ranges. In order to support the local economy when logging ceased in the town, the Victorian Government made funds available for the creation of

dedicated mountain bike trails in the area as an addition to the already plentiful eco-tourism industry. Norm spoke of how mountain biking now makes up a large portion of the economy in Forrest.

Norm's contribution to the forum was well received with parallels being drawn to Harcourt where State Government funding has been secured for the development of a 34km Mountain Bike Park on the old plantation site adjacent to Mount Alexander Regional Park.

Following the completion of the Calder Freeway bypass of Harcourt in 2009 the Mount Alexander Shire worked with the local community to better understand the impact of the bypass on the town. As a result the 'Harcourt After the Bypass' report was produced and a subsequent 'Harcourt Community Plan 2013' was also prepared which identified, among other opportunities, the community's vision of making Harcourt a destination for road cyclists and cycling events, as well as making Harcourt Victoria's premier mountain biking destination.

This community vision is coming to fruition in Harcourt with the impending construction of the trails, a healthy calendar of local and state level cycling events and an ever-increasing popularity of the area for cyclists in general.

The forum was a great success with attendees benefitting greatly from the information presented by all contributors.

Business Mount Alexander Inc. is an incorporated association dedicated to supporting, connecting and promoting the business community in the Mount Alexander Shire. The network created by BMA supports members to fulfill their business objectives.

Membership of Business Mount Alexander is open to individuals and organizations that have an interest in growing our Shire and share our values of collaboration, honesty, innovation, diversity, fairness and our history.

For more information visit [www.businessmountalexander.org.au](http://www.businessmountalexander.org.au)

*Paula Ewing*



## An Evening With Tim Flannery in Castlemaine



The Castlemaine Town Hall will be buzzing on Saturday September 26th. Former Australian of the Year and leading advocate for action on climate change, Professor Tim Flannery, will be speaking and answering questions, local band, the Seducaphones will be entertaining and Growing Abundance will be providing a tasty dinner.

There will also be a buzz of a different kind. The speech and Q&A will be broadcast live over the internet, via popular websites.

Tim Flannery, who is Chief Councillor at the Climate Council, will argue that Australia is ideally positioned to transition towards a decarbonised economy, aided by the growth of Australia's renewable energy sector. He will provide an update on the latest climate science, as well as outlining the current impacts of climate change in Australia.

Before and after Professor Flannery's talk, there will be live music – with a Balkan funk vibe – from local sensation, the Seducaphones. For



those purchasing tickets downstairs, there will also be a light evening meal using locally-sourced produce prepared by Castlemaine's, Growing Abundance.

"We are thrilled that Tim Flannery has agreed to come to Castlemaine. He is arguably Australia's leading protagonist for action on climate change. This event is sure to provoke, stimulate and inspire," said Jo Kaptein, Project Officer at the Hub Foundation, the not-for-profit organisers of the event.

"We have tried to keep ticket prices affordable so as many people as possible can come. Prices start at \$22 for concession ticket in the balcony with the top price of \$45 for adults in the downstairs area which includes a delicious, light meal. To keep ticket prices reasonable, we are seeking sponsorship and support from private individuals. To find out more, please contact me for details," said Kaptein.

Profits from the evening will go to local organisations involved in tackling climate change as well as the Climate Council.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.mash.org.au](http://www.mash.org.au) and, from Tuesday 4 August, at Castlemaine Central Wine Store, 36 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.

The Hub Foundation is pleased to have the following partners supporting this event: Mount Alexander Shire Council, Mount Alexander Sustainability Group and Universal Power and Light.





Market goers are a nutty bunch – heading out in any kind of weather to get their fresh, seasonal and local

produce. Many of the regular Maldon Market shoppers have become addicted to the peanut butter made fresh on-site by Nut Fusion and the fragrant nut snack ranges from Twins Pantry, others wait patiently for the autumn harvest of fresh walnuts from Boonderoo Walnuts. (photo below).

Boonderoo Walnuts have about 6,000 walnut trees on their orchard in Redesdale, Victoria which they have lovingly converted from a sheep farm. They have another 4,000 trees on their orchard in the Murray Valley. When they began this journey, the majority of walnuts eaten in Australia were imported from overseas, leaving a niche waiting to be filled by a quality Australian product. Boonderoo Walnuts offer walnuts in several different ways; Inshell, Kernel – Halves and Pieces, Walnut & Date Roulade or dry roasted with spices, herbed parmesan or Sesame glazed with maple syrup. They also produce specialty walnut oil – one of only three producers in Australia. “Walnuts are one of the original superfoods, and we want Australians to be eating 10 a day!” says Hilary Jankelson of Boonderoo Farms.

Locals Wayne and Kath Hollis are the force behind Nut Fusion, and in their own words “we are nuts about nuts”. They create honest, unique and natural nut based products blended with a mix of real fruit and spices. Market goers can also purchase their peanut butter which is freshly ground on site – and without the additives of regular peanut butter. ‘Moreish’ gourmet treats are available from Twins Pantry – just follow your nose as they freshly roast on-site. Twins Pantry is run by twin brothers Dekel and Tomer Kagan who believe that healthy food doesn’t have to be boring food, their treats and snacks are not only good for you but are bursting with flavour and versatility.

Join us on 9 August for the next Maldon Market: Hand Made, Home Grown and go nuts with the rest of us! The Maldon Market is held on the second Sunday of every month from 9 – 2pm in Fountain St & Shire Garden, Maldon. For more information, please contact the Market Coordinator Phillippa Schuster [market@maldonnc.org.au](mailto:market@maldonnc.org.au) or 0477201654.



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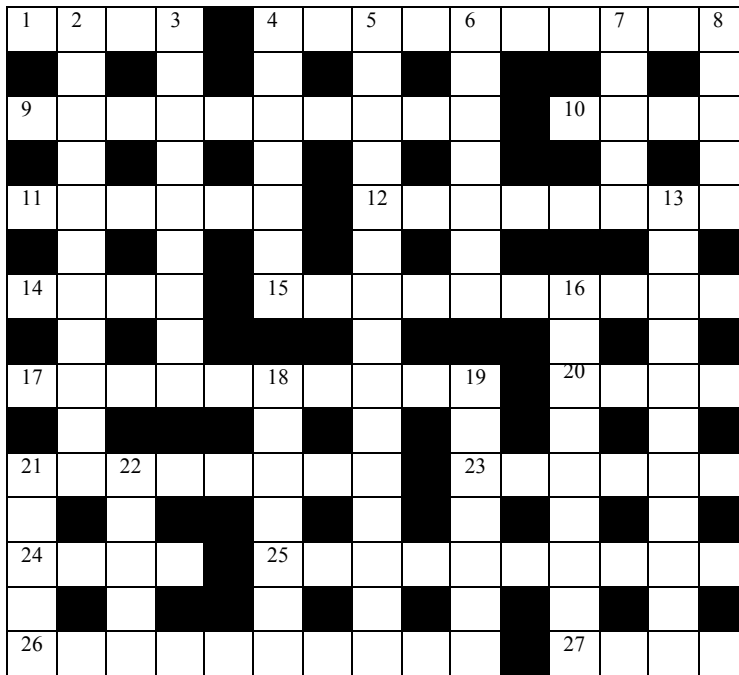
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## Across:

1. Take on board what must be done to halls in December? (4)
4. Complex whole that works by itself? (10)
9. Nous—a game conceived by Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot? (10)
10. Barmy to the end is, as they say, soothing if it's left off... (4)
11. Diamond girl is lisping—kill neonates! (6)
12. Guevara in messy hay has wherewithal to fight. (3-5)
14. Fossil hominid a short black? (4)
15. Robin's old girl has a statement for everyone. (10)
17. Perhaps sommelier is content to bide his time? (4,6)
20. Quiet, smelly way to shape timber? (4)
21. Blunt use? (8)
23. About 40/ for first word of crude expletive ending in 'L' we hear... (6)
24. Male lifesaver? (4)
25. Let rip painted virgin for attention-seeker. (5,5)
26. Certainly not a case of giving a penny to man. (3-7)
27. Fitzgerald in a parallel latitude? (4)

## Down:

2. AA lite grain, fit for breakfast of equals? (11)
3. Seagull to rouse the cat? (9)
4. They say grass, after dental surgery... (7)
5. The white dimwits go with the flow, as the moon turns... (4,4,3,4)
6. Finish the gorse in outer space to say go to the polls, girl! (7)
7. Just a slight touch in the crate... (5)
8. Business came in contact with celestial body. (5)
13. Blanketed fire on and off for message. (5,6)
16. Elephantine statements are well over the trunk! (9)
18. Chiatry missing from self-analysis on those who passed. (7)
19. Deflect light over the coal-seam again? (7)
21. Take steak off head-towel for CBD environment. (5)
22. Three cardinals and two phone-calls bring about unconscious dive. (5)

A	T	T	R	I	B	U	T	E		V	O	C	A	L
C		A		M		K		P		I		R		I
T	A	K	E	A		R	A	I	N	C	H	E	C	K
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D	I	S	S	I	M	I	L	A	R		S	O	D	A
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**Across:**

- This—and by itself it maketh not the whole man—is but attire. (9)
- This part in a duo can create havoc, all right, at least for a bit. (5)
- 9 & 10. Go to Weatherzone if they can't supply what they advertise? *[Well?]*
11. *Double* of 28's royalty is actually not at all like her... *[Well? Di's similar...]*
12. Overdosed [OD] in Adelaide [SA]—wasn't drinking this! (4)
14. Proof of testament in favour of [pro-] the anxious [bating?] of breath? (7)
15. Sulphurous smell might say an awkward [hi] to mollusc's home [shell]. (7)
17. Printer error used in psychology. *[Well?]*
19. Its blast could take [trump] 26 [ET]'s ace
20. [Fleetwood] Mac's ivory work? (4)
22. Loose spanakopita sounds lacking in vital ingredient. *[Well? No feta...]*
25. If we stay late, a bore will spell it out for us. (9)
26. Venusian right over property? *[a lien]*
27. Father any number [n] for AFL noise. *[Well?]*
28. Royalty 25-ed it and removed doubt... (9) *[Well? Di spelled it out...]*

**Down:**

- Performed, so you can take over role of news boss [Ed.]. (5)
- What burglar might do on June 29? *[Well?]*
- I'm a non-PC black woman [GIN], quite competent [able] to comprehend the slur, but such expressions can still be conceived... (10)
- Russian Heron addresses taller bird in this area? *[Well?]*
- Heap haphazardly around [pit] for the inscription. (7)
- Evil on the bench? *[Well? Which bench?]*
- Belief in zero [0] street-prestige [cred...].
- The kit he also pulls apart with alacrity. (4-1-4)
- Friskiness [lust] in angry [irate] shell with tyro [L] to artfully draw attention to the matter.
- Using a circle as compass is futile. *[Well?]*
- I'm much inclined to be disinterested *[Well?]*
- Black & Tan? Dark tan for this mug! (7)
- E-street precariously balances... (7)
- On which the man I met wasn't. *[Well?]*
- 15ac noise [din] edited while we ate.
- French corner the market in 5c, 10c 20c and 50c pieces? *[Well?]*



## More MASH2 Solar Info Meetings Planned



*Above: the well attended MASH2 meeting at Harcourt*

Interest in the MASH2 community solar bulk-buy is proving so strong that the organisers, the Hub Foundation, have scheduled five more info meetings for interested residents in Castlemaine and Kyneton.

Three meetings will be at the Castlemaine Senior Citizens Hall on 10 August, 20 August and 26 August, all at 5.00-6.30pm. Then MASH2 moves south – for the first time – to Macedon Ranges and will hold two meetings at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute on the evening of Wednesday 21 October. The first session will be 5.00-6.30pm followed by another at 7.00pm-8.30pm.


“Around 250 people attended the six info meetings we held in June and July”, said Jo Kaptein, Project Officer at the Hub Foundation. “Probably the most useful part of these meetings for most people is the Q&A. We make sure that at least 40 minutes is allowed for this. We find that many people are extremely well-informed about solar and that they appreciate the chance to ask questions not just of us, the project organisers, but also to put their more technical questions to a solar installer. It was great having heavyweight input from Morgan Kurrajong, the owner of Universal Power and Light, one of the solar installers for MASH2, who came to all meetings. Thanks Morgan!”

Already over 200 people have registered for MASH2 and over 50 orders have been placed – all since June 9. Installations started on July 16 and according to the first customers, Helen and Bob Long, “the installation went very smoothly, it looks great and we’re rapt that we’ve finally managed to go solar.”

For more information about MASH2, and to register, go to [www.mash.org.au](http://www.mash.org.au) or call 0455 589 065.



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## Plant of the Month

### Proteas and Leucadendrons

There are many different types of these hardy, low maintenance plants. Some are low growing, while others can reach heights suitable for hedging. They enjoy life in the sun, and prefer well-drained soil. Add a good bucket of water when planting, but after that, don't water too much as they don't like wet feet. They are drought tolerant and will produce a beautiful display in any garden.

### Inhibitants to Growth

Inhibitants to growth can include predation by wildlife, soils with poor trace elements, and in bush areas rubbish, including human waste, does damage.

In this area our soils have sufficient trace elements. If you notice wattle and fungi about, this is an indication that there are trace elements in the soil, but sometimes our soil is a little too acid for vegetables and decorative plants. In this case manure and compost can be applied, but not too much, otherwise the balance will have to be corrected by applying lime.

New plants can be protected with plastic sleeves. If the plant is eaten when it becomes higher than the sleeve, a small branch resting across the top will deter wallabies.

Feral cats and rabbits dig holes and do more damage than native diggers like the echidna, ants and termites. Plants grow well grouped together to form micro-climates; using ground cover and mulch keeps the soil moist and discourages weeds. Use natural insect sprays for pests so as not to destroy beneficial insects.

*Ian Johnson*



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## Pips 'n' all

Hello Garden lovers,

We have had a lovely month in our garden. Although, we have had some of the coldest days in years, there have still been some fine days when the sun has shone. So, we have taken advantage and are happy with progress. Our new garden beds are looking good. Our new Blueberries are in the ground along with some new and some transplanted perennials. Our roses are freshly pruned and we are looking forward to a colourful display in spring and summer.

We are also pleased to have broken the back of the Gorse creeping into our lower paddocks. It was stealthily spreading along and out from the water channel and although we tackled some of it last year, its progression continued. A few blisters and some sore shoulders are a small price to pay for looking across a Gorse-free paddock. Of course we will need to monitor it, as there will be seed in the soil and a few stray seedlings that we may have missed.

In our garden this month, Daffodils are shooting and Daphne is flowering. Our Daphnes are still very young and are flowering for the first time. In a couple of years, they will provide a colourful and fragrant entrance to the house. Daphne is a wonderful plant. There are many varieties but the best known is Daphne odora. This Daphne is generally a compact, evergreen plant with dark green leaves and heads of small cream, white or pink flowers from mid-winter to spring. It suits a position with morning sun but sheltered from the hot afternoon sun. It needs good drainage and is susceptible to under- or over-watering. It can be used in a mixed border, as a feature plant or as an informal hedge. It has a beautiful, delicate fragrance and its petite bouquets last well in a vase. In the correct position, with a good layer of mulch and some water in summer, Daphne can be a star in your garden.

This month we are:

- Preparing and planting new garden beds;
- Covering frost tender plants;

This month in the woodland:

- Pelargoniums are shooting.

*Happy Gardening  
Janyce*



**Janyce McMurtrie**

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## Growing Great Fruit

If you've just planted new fruit trees, make sure you protect the trunks from being nibbled by rabbits, hares, kangaroos or wallabies, because if they eat the bark all the way around it can kill the tree. Tree guards, fencing or dogs can all be effective. If the problem is hares (common around Harcourt!) you can make an organic hare-deterrent paint by mixing animal fat with any strong smelling stuff like peppermint oil, garlic, lavender, eucalyptus, tea tree etc, and painting it on the bark. Hares are herbivores and don't like strong smells, so the combination works well to stop them eating the delicious tender bark on your baby trees. You may need to apply it more than once, so keep an eye on the trees. Here's a couple of other tips to make sure your young trees get a good start in life:

If you didn't prune them when you planted, prune now before spring so they grow into a useful shape right from the get-go (we recommend vase shaped fruit trees as practical for most backyards)

Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch the trees - fruit trees prefer a woody mulch, but it's a great idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're feeding your soil microbes. Once the trees are established they're usually better with a living mulch, but for the first year or two it's better to reduce any competition for water and nutrients

Fruit trees don't need watering in when you plant (unless it's drought conditions) but make sure you have the irrigation ready to go before the hot weather kicks in.

Happy fruit growing!

### Workshops – August and September

Sun Aug 16, 10am-1pm, Organic Pest and Disease Control (\$44)

Sun Aug 30, 10am -1pm, Grow Great Fruit (general fruit growing workshop - FREE)

Sun Sep 13, 10am-1pm, Worm Farms & Compost Tea (\$44)

All workshop bookings at [www.mafg.com.au](http://www.mafg.com.au)

*Katie Finlay*

# Community Diary Dates

**8th August:** 12 - 2pm, Orienteering: follow signs from Butterfly House, any age, newcomers welcome, free.  
**9th August:** 10am, 150th Anniversary of Harcourt Uniting Church  
**13 August:** 7.30pm, Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall.  
**23rd August:** 10am - 12, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee. Contact: 0438 069 849  
**23rd August:** 1.30pm, Fireside Chat; "Henry Hayden, Harcourt's pioneer schoolmaster" ANA Hall.  
**2nd September:** 7.00pm Harcourt Progress Association Meeting, Harcourt Valley Primary Schools  
**20th September:** 1.30pm Fireside Chat: Kent Bates "The Australian Flag", ANA Hall.  
**18th October:** 1.30pm Visit to FitzGeorge Park and Faraday School. Meet at ANA Hall.  
**6th September:** Vocal Nosh at Newstead Community Centre, 6-8.30pm, Fay 5461 5471  
**10th September:** 7.30pm Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall  
**26th September:** 11.30am Harcourt Valley Landcare, Lunch and AGM.  
**17th October:** Pine Purge and Camp Out, Mount Alexander. Details next edition  
**22nd November:** 1.30pm Visit to "Elysium" Garden, Taradale. Meet at ANA Hall.



*Get ready for the...*

## ***Big Barkers Creek Brew and Bake off!***

*10am Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2015  
Barkers Creek Hall, off Specimen Gully Road*

- ❖ Q&A with (now) local identity, Kavisha Mazzella
- ❖ Smorgasbord of Yummy food
- ❖ Prizes
- ❖ Guest judge – Kavisha Mazzella
- ❖ Please invite your Barkers Creek neighbours to join us

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

For inclusion in Harcourt News/The Core contact the Editor Robyn Miller 0467 670 271 or email [rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com](mailto:rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com). Contributions of news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs. For placement of advertising please contact Genevieve Ward via email at: [gen\\_ward2@hotmail.com](mailto:gen_ward2@hotmail.com) or phone 0409 070 930.

Circulation is currently 450 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, Tread Harcourt, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, ASQ Skydancers, 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.**







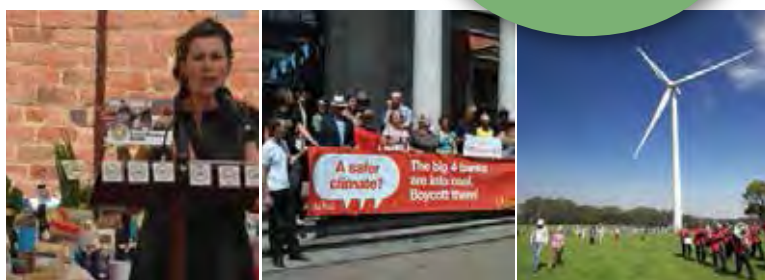
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**Calling for  
sponsors,  
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volunteers.**



Local Lives Global Matters is organised by active community members living in Mt Alexander, Hepburn and Greater Bendigo regions partnering with Local Futures/International Society for Ecology and Culture, OASES Graduate School, Borderlands Cooperative, New Community Journal and a growing number of community groups located across the region.

### For further information:

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### Speakers include:

**Helena Norberg-Hodge** (Sweden/Australia) Founder Local Futures, film maker *The Economics of Happiness* and *Ancient Futures*

**Manish Jain** (India) Alternative educator, film maker *Schooling the World*

**David Holmgren** (Hepburn Shire) Co-originator of permaculture movement

**Dave Rastovich** (Australia) Surfers for Cetaceans and Sea Shepherd

**Camila Moreno** (Brazil) expert on international climate change negotiations

**Raphael Souchier** (France) sustainable local economies, author of *Made in Local*

**Rob Hopkins**, Founder of Transition Towns Movement

**Susan Murphy** (Australia) Writer, teacher, film maker and author of *Minding the Earth*, *Mending the World*

**Jerry Mander** (USA) Founder International Forum on Globalisation

**Plus well known local and regional initiatives**

**More speakers to be announced soon**

### Registration and Tickets

**Early Bird till 31st July, 3 day ticket**  
\$250 waged/ \$200 unwaged

**After 31st July, 3 day ticket**  
\$300 waged / \$250 unwaged

**1 Day ticket**  
\$120 waged / \$100 unwaged

**Saturday Night Dinner**  
\$35 waged / \$30 unwaged

## 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.*