

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

February 2018

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 46

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

<http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

## Popular Pick for Harcourt's Community Member of the Year



Narelle Jenkins with Lions Scott Victor-Gordon (left) and Gary Selwood (right)

Narelle Jenkins was greeted with cheers and hearty applause when her selection as Harcourt's Community Member of the Year was announced. MC Scott Victor-Gordon read from a long list of achievements for Narelle, who has worked for a number of years at the recently closed Copy Centre. Whilst at the Copy Centre, Narelle completed a number of TAFE certificates and enjoyed working with the public and her fellow employees.

Narelle has a great record of community participation and volunteering. She has long been involved in serving meals at the Castlemaine Community Lunch sessions.

She frequently assists in the kitchen at the Leisure Centre, working for many hours without stint or complaint. Carpet bowls is her sport of choice and she has been a team member for a number of years.

When Narelle travels with her family she loves to write of her experiences to family and friends in Harcourt. Scott said, "Last year while on holidays she posted over 100 post cards; Narelle is Australia Post's favourite customer!"

More Australia Day news on page 2.

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### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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



## Australia Day

George Milford chose tornados as his topic for his Australia Day speech and referred to the two storms which hit Harcourt on the 19th and 29th December, 2017. Why did he choose tornados as a topic? He used it to highlight how we pitch in to assist when disaster strikes, our objectivity when assessing situations and our decent building standards (which mean less structural damage is done.) According to George's insurer, Castlemaine and surrounds is known as "tornado alley". During the storm on the 19th many trees were brought down across roads and on properties in Harcourt and there was some damage to roofs. (See the Uniting Church article for a photo of the huge gum felled in Barker Street – fortunately it missed the Pre-school building.) On that day Taradale bore the brunt of the storm.

In May 2106 a tornado caused severe damage in Harcourt – the path was wider and many more trees and buildings were damaged. "Then, and in December, as usual," George said, "we just got on with cleaning up and assisting others." George finished his address with a prayer which spoke of the values of respect for each other and the environment and sharing our heritage with others.

## International Visitors

Judy Coram of Harcourt brought some special guests to the Australia Day Breakfast in Harcourt. With her were her son in law Michael and his parents visiting from Germany for the first time.

Michael's parents, Andreas and Karin Jurack run a hotel/restaurant in the east of Germany. Built in 1930, the restaurant features traditional German food such as wild boar and venison which Andreas hunts for in the local forests. It's about two hours from Berlin in wooded hills and is close to the Czech and Polish border. The area is known in the English language as Upper Lusatia and the nearby village of Sora has 23 inhabitants. Karin said, "On our first day in Australia it was 40 degrees, back home our winter temperature is varying between minus 5 to positive 10 degrees, your summer is a bit of a shock!" (Later on in the week the overseas guests were seen enjoying swimming at Golden Point Reservoir.)



Left to right: Michael and his son Toby, Karin, Judy and Andreas

## Entries are now open for the Applefest Art Show

This annual exhibition is to be held in Harcourt ANA Hall over the four days 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Over many years the Applefest Art Show and Sale has gained a reputation for the quality of the works on offer. The Art Show has a rather unusual requirement in that entries are to be submitted in the format "Small Works" (maximum dimensions of 40 cm by 40 cm including frame.) There are several award categories for paintings, including

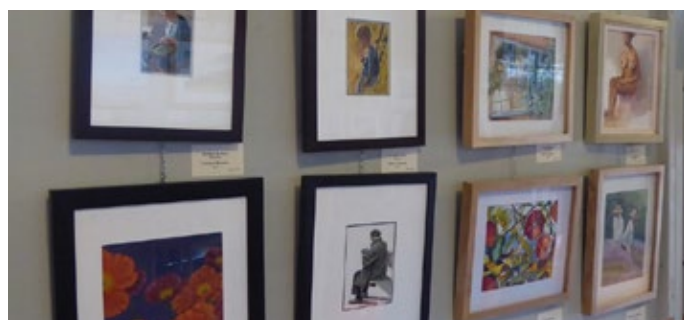
- "Best Local Subject" (*a work, in any medium, depicting an object, event, person or place within the Mount Alexander Shire.*)
- "Best Oil/Acrylic" (*Cameron Lang Memorial Award*)
- "Best Watercolour" (*Shirley Stewart Memorial Award*),
- "Best in Show" and
- "Best Other Medium."

In addition, the Applefest Art Show includes a display of senior and junior student works together with a themed display from the pupils of Harcourt Valley Primary School. It was not hard to pick the theme of "stones and mountain" for this year! In selecting this theme, the committee was aware that the 2018 Art Show and Sale will be held at about the time of the official opening of 'La-Larr-Ba-Gauwa', the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park. (The name, which derives from the Dja Dja Wurrung language, means "stones and mountain".) The Art Show organisers believe that aspects of this major local development will prompt the creativity of the Primary School children and of local artists generally. Visitors to the Applefest Art Show are sure to spot some aspects of the lively state of things in Harcourt among the works on display.

Every year there are changes to the format of the Applefest. This year's Applefest will have an expanded layout, with market stalls and food stalls in High Street nearer to the ANA as well as the Show'n'Shine which is to be staged in James Park. Thus the Art Show will be an integral aspect of the festival.

The Art Show Committee invites all local artists to display original art work as part of the festival. An electronic copy of the entry form may be found at [applefest.harcourt.vic.au](http://applefest.harcourt.vic.au) The paperwork is to be submitted by 23rd February 2018 with art works to be delivered on Monday 5th March.

***The Official Opening, an event not to be missed, is on Thursday 8th March at 7.30 pm.***







Congratulations to Veronica Budnikas and David Ling, the Queen and King of Applefest 2018.

David and Veronica each run businesses from their Harcourt home, and they spend a lot of time volunteering.

Veronica is Vice-President of the Harcourt Valley Primary School Council and regularly works on events and fundraising activities. She was central to ensuring that local students were some of the first in Australia to get access to the Google-sponsored digital licence, and has now been selected for the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

David developed and maintains the Harcourt Valley Community website and has served on the Progress Association Steering Committee. He also supports The Core by publishing our online version to the web, and has recently been appointed to the Committee of Management for the La Larr Ba Gauwa Bike Park.

Say "Hi" to Veronica and David when you see them around town in their Applefest ambassador roles.

## Fundraising for Applefest

Fundraising is underway to deliver another bumper Applefest.

The first fundraiser for the year took place at the Victory Park community gathering for Australia Day where members from the Harcourt Heritage Centre and the Harcourt Progress Association provided fresh fruit to attendees. Mount Alexander Shire Council contributed generously to this initiative which was also supported by local fruit growers: a special thanks to Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens, Castlemaine Fresh, Maxi IGA and Castlemaine IGA plus Liquor.

Thanks also to Jacqueline, Doug, Helen, George, Josie, Joan and Neil for their time on the day raising \$800 towards this year's Applefest.

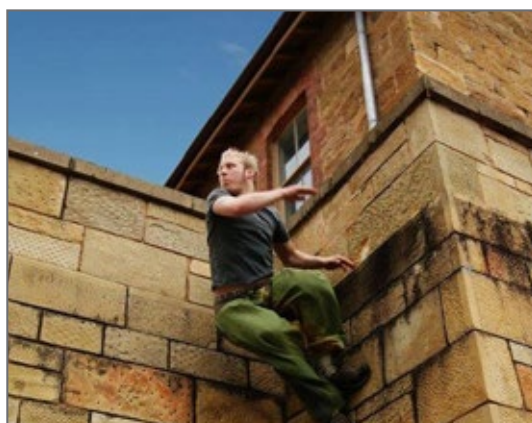
A fundraising BBQ is scheduled for Victory Park at the Castlemaine Farmers Market on Sunday 4th March. Come and say hello, buy a snag and support our much loved Applefest. Volunteer helpers gratefully appreciated!

## Parkour Features at Applefest Kids Karnival

### Country Parkour by Xtreme Inc Youth Projects with Walk the Walls

Parkour, the global trend that originated in France, is usually something you would see in an urban setting. As part of this year's Applefest Kids Karnival, local youth arts companies Xtreme Inc and Walk the Walls are bringing this unique activity to Harcourt.

A 30 to 40metre circuit designed by Xtreme Inc will feature as part of this year's Applefest Kids Karnival on Saturday 10th March. The course uses recycled and agricultural materials including pallets, hay bales, tractor tyres, bars and vaults. This innovative course encourages active and physical participation for all ages, promoting healthy risk taking, all whilst having fun doing so. Country Parkour is inclusive for young people of all ages – from beginner to advanced levels.



Parkour is an exciting way to exercise and challenges participants; it improves body awareness, coordination and confidence. This is achieved by facing obstacles that push the body and mind. Parkour is all about moving through the environment efficiently and naturally, getting from A-B, inspiring the body to push the very limits of its capabilities. Xtreme Inc and Walk the Walls parkour instructors Flynn Patrao, Cameron McLaren and Sarah Cook will guide participants through the course and help ensure everyone has a fantastic experience.

The opportunity to try Country Parkour will be at Harcourt at the Applefest Kids Karnival on Saturday 10th March. Visit the Applefest facebook page for more information.





# Harcourt CFA

## A Fire Closer to Home

On Monday the 22nd of January, the Brigade was paged at 11:26am to a fire close to home. Contractors working on the access path from town to the new mountain bike park had accidentally started a fire on the corner of Danns Road and Picnic Gully Road while cutting concrete. The initial response saw tankers despatched from Harcourt, Castlemaine and Elphinstone Brigades along with Helitak 335 water bombing helicopter and Firebird 305 air surveillance helicopter from Bendigo airport. Harcourt Tanker 1 was first on scene and conducted the initial attack in the paddock which was previously part of McLean's orchard. Apart from the usual heat and smoke encountered during a fire fight there was the additional challenge of the very rough profile of the hilled rows from the former orchard. Success in containing the fire early was impeded by an old larger drain in the paddock hiding among the smoke.

By this time Harcourt Tanker 2 had joined in the fire fight and both tankers chased the fire into the neighbouring paddock as it then travelled into Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens orchard. It was about this time when the air support arrived along with Castlemaine, Elphinstone and Comini's private tankers, and slip on units from DEWLP. These latter smaller units were deployed to the orchard sector of the fire due to their better manoeuvrability in tight terrain.

The water bombing from the air came at an opportune time as the old Coliban water concrete channel had blocked access for the tankers chasing the fire. Further support then arrived from Campbell's Creek, Chewton, Guilford, Kangaroo Flat, Lockwood, Maldon, Metcalfe, Sedgwick, Sutton Grange and Walmer Brigades, who assisted with the suppression and mopping up phases. As can be seen from the above list we are fortunate to have a good number of brigades not that far away that we can call on when bigger fires occur.

This fire had the potential to be a much larger fire but the early reporting, closeness to the fire station (short travel time), a quick response and escalating resources early ensured a better outcome under the circumstances. There was damage done to fruit trees and fencing which is unfortunate, but the threat to housing and shedding was averted.



## Returning the Favour

The Brigade has recently supported some of the brigades listed above with grass fires in their area.

These were Lockwood, Sutton Grange and Walmer and it is interesting to note that while there were different circumstances, all three had power lines involved. Quick responses also kept these fires to a manageable size. It was a little different on Saturday 20th of January where Harcourt Tanker 1 was responded as part of the Mt Alexander Group Strike Team to the 280 hectares grass fire at Smeaton. Due to the volcanic rocky nature of the area the fire was in, 8 aircraft were used to assist the ground resources to bring this fire under control on the same afternoon. The second occasion of our tanker being used for Strike Team duties was to a grass fire at Turpin's Falls as a result of a lightning strike on the 19th of December. This was the evening when the same storm went through the Harcourt area on its way towards Taradale where it unleashed its full destructive force. While our tanker was trying to negotiate all the fallen trees on the road home (2 hours travel time including time spent cutting and clearing), Harcourt Tanker 2 was joined by Walmer and Campbell's Creek brigades to assist the Castlemaine SES in attending to the many calls received.

The support and network of emergency services working together produces the benefit of getting the job done as quickly and efficiently as possible. It is this Aussie mateship and helping your neighbour out in their time of need that the CFA was built on back in 1945 and something that we continue to uphold no matter what else is going on in the background.

Keep safe and cool as we endure this hot period of summer heat and look out for each other.

*Tyrone Rice  
Brigade Community Safety Officer*





# Big Thanks To CFA

Hugh and Katie Finlay managed to salvage something positive from the fire in their orchard last week by holding a fundraiser for the Harcourt CFA. "We were left feeling very grateful that the fire services had responded so quickly and efficiently," Katie said, "and we wanted to do something to show our appreciation."

After the fire, which burnt about 300 trees in the Finlay's orchard, Hugh and Katie were left with a big clean up job. Hugh explained that "a lot of the trees were burned or singed to various degrees, but much of the fruit still looked okay." The Finlays knew they had to get the fruit off the trees because of the potential risk of pest and disease from leaving fruit to rot on the trees or the ground. Hugh continued: "We decided it was too risky for us to sell though, because you couldn't see whether the fruit was damaged or not until you cut it open."

Katie continued "With Queensland Fruit Fly on our back door in Bendigo we're aware that we have to be really fussy with hygiene in the orchard. We can't afford to leave any fruit lying around because that's one of the main ways that fruit fly takes hold in a district."

Left with a big clean-up job, the Finlays decided to turn it into an opportunity by donating the fruit to the public, in exchange for a donation to the CFA. "It worked really well," Katie said. "Everyone was very generous both with their donations to the CFA but also, lots of people spent a little extra time picking up damaged fruit from the ground and taking it home for their chooks or worm farms. It was a good chance for people to see the real after-effects of a fire and to be aware of just how careful we need to be in the hot, dry conditions we get in summer around here."

"This fire could have been so much worse," Hugh explained. "It came screaming up through the neighbour's paddock, and at one point it looked like the wind was going to take it straight through our shed, our house, and up on to Mount Alexander, which would have been a real disaster. It was actually a relief when the wind turned and took it into the orchard instead. We'd had the water on that morning, and the combination of such a quick response from the fire crews as well as the green trees and grass meant that the fire was stopped pretty quickly after that."

Ant Wilson, the Finlay's intern who will be leasing their

orchard next year and taking over the business was also there when the fire happened. "As a new farmer I was shocked by how quickly something like this can happen. One minute everything was fine, the next minute 5 percent of our orchard was damaged, but I'm just grateful they put it out so fast."

Though the fire was attended by multiple brigades and the Forest Fire Management crew, the Finlays decided to keep it simple and donate the money to the Harcourt CFA. "We raised more than \$600 from cash donations and a donation from the Victorian Farmers Market Association, and we didn't want to split it into lots of small amounts – plus, we didn't want to risk leaving anyone out," Katie explained. "We have a big list of people we want to thank – all the CFA volunteers, the Forest Fire Management crew, the Cominis who turned up in their private truck, Mel and Sas from the Gung Hoe Growers who donated veggies to the fundraiser and helped us on the day, our friends who came and helped us run the fundraising day and everyone who came and picked fruit or donated time or money to help us. It was also wonderful to receive so many messages of support; we feel very grateful to live in this community."

If anyone would like to express their appreciation to the Harcourt CFA for the wonderful job they do, donations can be made to BSB 633-000; Account 109531517.




*Hugh and Katie hand over the donations from their fundraiser. Left to right Ant Wilson Trainee Orchard Manager, Katie and Hugh Finlay, Andrew and Linda Wilson*



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## Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello to you all and it is lovely to be back with news and information about our wonderful Branch. We are very excited about this year but, before I go into some of the 2018 details, I would like to go back to December 2017.

Each year we donate the money that we raise throughout the year to various local organisations and community groups, and last year we elected to present an Encouragement Award to two children graduating from Grade 6 at Harcourt Valley Primary School.

School Principal, Andrew Blake said that the students that received the Harcourt CWA Awards had both demonstrated the school's core values of integrity, resilience, responsibility and respect and our President, Helen Hand, was delighted to present the Awards to Breanna Symes and Kaden Unthank.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon listening to each of the twelve graduates tell of their school years at Harcourt Valley Primary School. Well done Breanna and Kaden and congratulations to you both from all of us at Harcourt CWA.

And now back to 2018. This year the CWA of Victoria is celebrating its 90th Birthday, and any organisation that is still going strong after 90 years deserves a round of applause.

Today, the Social Issues Committee research the issues which effect women and children in our community, and lobby State and Commonwealth Governments to change things for the betterment of women. These issues include Problem Gambling, Farm Safety, Aged Care, Suicide and Domestic Violence - issues which are now unfortunately so common in our everyday lives. This year's focus is on Elder Abuse.

Well done to the ladies who ninety years ago saw the need to support and assist women and children living in remote country areas and also to the women in country and city branches today who continue to uphold the traditions of the CWA as they relate to our modern day needs.

Our first fund raiser for the year is always Applefest and we are looking forward to meeting and greeting you all, selling

you our preserves, crafts, cookery books and raffle tickets and enjoying this much loved event.

In April we have Castlemaine based Australia author Robyn Annear, who is guest speaker at our Association Day Fund Raiser. We don't know what the topic will be, but, if it is as half as entertaining as the talk she gave us a couple of years ago about aprons, we are in for a fun-filled afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend our Association Day and I will remind you all again in March.

Our country of study this year is Peru. Apart from the Incas and Machu Picchu, I know very little about Peru, but I'm sure I will be much better informed by our International Officer, Bev Orgill, as to its history, culture and food by the end of the year.

So, with visits to other branches, conferences to attend, international lunches to attend, representatives from Headquarters to listen to and our concert in October, I can't wait to get this year rolling along.

Please come and roll along with us at 1:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

*Lyn Rule  
Harcourt CWA  
Publicity Officer.*



*Harcourt CWA President Helen Hand, with Breanna Symes and Kaden Unthank, this year's recipients of the CWA Encouragement Award.*



*International Officer Bev Orgill on the left with Secretary Mary Tigg at our Friendship Day at Skydancers. Happy 90th Birthday CWA of Victoria. Hip hip hooray from us all.*

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## Harcourt General Store

Now that settlement has been finalised, we are very pleased to announce that we are the new owners of the Harcourt General Store.

Firstly, we'd like to wish Amanda and Frank all the best for their future as they start a new chapter of their lives. We hope they will be happy in their new surroundings.

We are excited and positive about our plans to renovate and upgrade the buildings. We have a new concept for the Harcourt General Store and will reopen as soon as possible. Collaboration and good communication are core values for us. It's an exciting time for Harcourt and we believe that if people work together, we will all get great results.

The General Store is part of our community history and we hope to continue this tradition by creating a hub where local residents and visitors can meet, buy milk, fresh bread, local produce and groceries.

Our focus will be on serving great food and produce using fruit and vegetables grown on our land and the best seasonal ingredients from the area. Our Harcourt Produce will include a range of 'in house' produce, delicatessen small goods, cakes and bread. Annette is looking forward to sharing a little of her heritage and some items will have a Danish twist.

We're also looking forward to supporting other small-scale local farmers and makers by stocking their products in The General Store. We will have fresh food, great coffee and excellent local produce.

Everything will be served with a smile and both local residents and visitors will be welcome.

There's a lot of work to be done before we can re-open, but we hope to see you soon.

*Annette & Bruce*



## Meet Sarah Cook



Sarah Cook of Extreme Inc has always had a passion for dance and hip hop. This interest in expression through movement has led Sarah and Extreme Inc to develop Country Parkour courses in conjunction with Walk the Walls. Parkour appeals especially to the young as it is a high energy action sport. (For more information on Parkour see the article "Parkour Features at Applefest Kids Karnival" on page 3.) Sarah will be working with juniors at Applefest and there will be a training area for first time participants in Parkour on the day.

Sarah has worked for ten years with Extreme Inc and is justly proud of the achievements of the organisation and of the young people who have participated over that time. Many have gone on to successful study and careers assisted by their experiences with the organisation. Two young members are appointed to the Board each year and decision making always involves them. She feels Extreme Inc has won the respect of young people – this is shown by the attendance at their events – which is regularly 500 to 700.

Sarah began her advocacy when she herself was a student at the Castlemaine Secondary College. She pushed for the school's participation in the Rock Eisteddfod and was successful. She has worked as a full time Youth Worker but said, "This year I have taken a leap of faith and opened my own dance studio in Castlemaine where I teach dance and dance therapy."

Come along to the Applefest and meet Sarah and the team from Extreme Inc and Walk the Walls, you will be impressed and excited by the Country Parkour course.





## Harcourt Heritage Centre

### Thomas Stevens

#### An early Harcourt Landowner

Thomas Stevens was the purchaser of twenty allotments at the 1856 and 1858 government land sales in Harcourt. The total area of these allotments was 796 acres, located between what are now known as Harmony Way and the Harcourt North-Sedgwick Road.

He conducted a butcher's shop /bakery/ general store and hotel at the crest of the hill where today's McIvor Rd meets Harmony Way, an area that was in its heyday when the railway was constructed 1860-1862. When the railway line was opened Stevens roasted a bullock to celebrate the occasion. After the navvies packed up their tents and went away, Thomas Stevens farmed his extensive acreage.

In 1866 a large section of Stevens's land was acquired for the construction of the Barkers Creek Reservoir. Thomas Stevens then, at great expense, erected a store on his own land adjacent to the works. Mr. Richard Sharpe was appointed to assist in the running of the store.

To Stevens's intense annoyance another store was opened nearby by a Mr. Burrowes, who was a Member of Parliament and a crony of both the contractor Edward O'Keefe and of the Minister for Public Works. Allegations of unfair practices were made by Stevens, resulting in a Parliamentary enquiry which was conducted in August 1867. The Parliamentary report was a whitewash of the parliamentarians (of course). After

the Reservoir works were completed the large population of workers went away. Thomas Stevens farmed his land locally for some years before moving to Riddell's Creek; later coming back to Ravenswood then moving to Walmer where he died on November 20, 1901 aged 83. Mrs. Stevens died on January 20, 1907 age 76.

Thomas Stevens (junior), son of the above, married Ruth Young. He farmed at 'Hillston', a 215 acre property fronting Chaplin's, Chellew's and McIvor Roads at Harcourt North. He also leased and farmed 'Pinchgut' a nearby property owned by the Young family. Ruth and Thomas Stevens had three daughters, Charlotte, Lily and Ruby, who became Mrs. Wirth, Mrs. Reilly and Mrs. Comini respectively.

This brief life story has been compiled from a loose-leaf binder in the C H James collection at Harcourt Heritage Centre. These loose-leaf books contain Hedley James' family history files and are a comprehensive source of information about the early days of Harcourt. The story has been augmented by details gleaned from the Victorian Parliamentary Papers of 1867. In his retirement Hedley James set himself the task of typing up a "thumbnail sketch" for each of the pioneers. There are 47 of these "potted biographies" (as my secondary-school history teachers would call them). Hedley started by telling of those pioneers who had descendants living in Harcourt in the 1970s. Over the next few issues of *The Core* we intend to bring to you a sample of these concise biographies.

*George Milford  
Harcourt Heritage Centre.*



### Major renovation for Harcourt Pre-School

Renovations have been a long time coming for the Harcourt Pre-School. Teacher Lisa Gray said that due to the efforts of the Committee, and in particular to President Natalie McCarthy who "did a power of work", the pre-school was successful in securing State Government funding of \$262,500. Although essential upkeep has been maintained, no major changes to the building have been made since 1950.

The renovations will begin in the next few weeks. The renovations will be completed within the existing structure, with a major reorganisation of the internal layout. Improvements include wheelchair access, a working kitchen which children and parents can access, new toilets, an office giving privacy for parent/teacher conversations and a new deck and undercover area. Lisa said, "We hope to be able to open up to the community so the the kitchen and the adjoining hall can be another venue for meetings and events."

The official announcement was made on 31st January by State Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards, who said, "There's nothing more important than investing in our children's future especially in those early and formative years of education."

The funding has come from the 2017-18 round of the Labor Government's Children's Facilities Capital Program designed to improve, build and expand early childhood facilities in order to create 3,300 more kinder places across Victoria.



*Maree Edwards chats with pre-schoolers at Harcourt.*



# Blume's Bakery

Many people in Harcourt will be familiar with Calrossie the grand Federation Style home on the south west corner of Harmony Way and Victoria Road. According to its new owners Jodie and David Pillinger it was named by Ernest Blume in honour of an Australian clay pigeon shooter. Ernest built and started the bakery on the property after purchasing it. David said, "Ernest was fascinated by John William "Calrossie" Sutherland." Calrossie lived from 1878–1968 and had 50 years of world-wide success in shooting championships. This is one of the many historic details about the property which makes it so intriguing.



*Jodie and David Pillinger.*

Of great interest to the community will be the news that David and Jodie intend to resurrect the bakery and run it as a going concern. They have already made many improvements to the garden and surrounds, and have taken special care in rescuing the huge bakers oven. The rear of the oven was collapsing. David sourced handmade bricks for the renovation and even had a new steel brace made for the outer wall. Inside the bakery with its amazing original timber ceiling is the massive oven set in the brick wall with various openings covered by steel doors. The cavity of the oven measures 3.4 metres by 3.8 metres and its maximum height is 1 metre.



*The walls of the bakery oven.*

All the members of the family have crawled into the oven to experience the space! It's not something everyone would enjoy to say the least. Sand is packed above the roof of the oven to give thermal mass. The old fire bricks on the floor of the oven have been removed and new fire bricks are waiting to be installed. Various doors and the damper of the oven have had to be remade in solid steel.

Another fascinating small brick room behind and at the side of the oven is an apple drying room. This has a solid brick floor with a fire box and pipes inlaid to heat the floor. Apples would be laid on racks, the fire lit and the apples would eventually dry.

The stables at the rear of the property are an interesting example of the art of making do. This has outer walls of flat tin about which David said: "The walls of the stables are covered in Morewood and Rogers iron sheets which came from a hotel not far away which burnt down; except these pieces of tin would have been originally used for roofing." (Morewood and Rogers was an English firm. During the 1840s they developed sheets of zinc-coated iron with a rolled edge intended for roofing.)



*The bakery stables.*

Jodie and David are brimming with ideas about how the bakery can be developed. One thing which they are really pleased about is that Jodie managed to contact Laura Blume, the last surviving child of Ernest Blume's family, before she passed away. Laura gave her permission to Jodie and David to use the Blume Bakery name. They both agree they are prepared to devote the rest of their lives to this project, which will restore and renew a vital piece of Harcourt's history.

*Robyn Miller*



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# Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Update

## February 2018



The Victorian Government is building a world class mountain bike park in Harcourt. Located on a former pine plantation and alongside Mount Alexander Regional Park, the bike park will boost tourism and the health and wellbeing of locals and visitors. The Park will open in March 2018.

### What's Happening?

- It's the question on everyone's lips – when can we ride?! Work is progressing well and we're on track to have the mountain bike trails ready for riders to enjoy in March. Keep an eye on the DELWP Loddon Mallee Facebook page for updates.
- There has been excellent progress on the shelter at the entrance of La Larr Ba Gauwa Park. Dja Dja Wurrung have constructed a stunning structure that is striking while also blending into the landscape. The shelter will be completed in February. Rock work and landscaping will also be undertaken near the shelter using local granite.
- Contractors Dirt Art are putting the finishing touches on the 34 kilometres of trails. The Park remains a construction site so please do not ride the trails.



*Above: Shelter under construction at La Larr Ba Gauwa Park*



# Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Update

## February 2018

- ✓ The off-road pathway linking La Larr Ba Gauwa Park to the Harcourt township, along Market Street and Picnic Gully Road, will be completed in early February. While the State Government has funded the construction of the compacted granitic sand pathway, the community has funded an asphalt finish on the first section of the pathway from town. The Harcourt Progress Association has made this upgrade possible by kindly contributing \$16,100 to fund the asphalt finish on the section closest to town.



***Above: Inspecting the new path into Harcourt are Maree Edwards, Member for Bendigo West, Darren Fuzzard – CEO, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Cr Tony Cordy, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Adam Melis - DELWP, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns - Harcourt Progress Association and Bronwen Machin - Mayor, Mount Alexander Shire Council***

- ✓ Work on signs for the Park is well underway. Wayfinding signs for the trails have been manufactured and will be installed soon. A welcome sign at the Park entrance is under construction. Information boards are currently being designed for near the shelter and in town.
- ✓ The Committee of Management has been appointed and includes thirteen community members with a wide range of skills and experience. The volunteer Committee will be responsible for the day-to-day management and future planning of La Larr Ba Gauwa Park on behalf of the Victorian community. The Committee includes: Rodney Carter; Tony Cordy; Benjamin Fox; David Ling; Michael Scott; Jason Tolland; Annette Rae; Dustin Lavery; Janine McCarthy; Hugh Finlay; Frank Forster; Andrew Nicolas; and Jane McQueenie.

## Keep in touch

It's important to us that we are talking with you and keeping you up-to-date with information about the La Larr Ba Gauwa Park Project. There are several ways we can keep in touch. Get on our mailing list and receive regular updates by emailing [harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Call us on 136 186

Like us on Facebook @DELWPLoddonMallee

# Building a Mountain Trail

*An interview with workers from Dirt Art, the firm of contractors employed by DWELP to design and construct the trails.*

When the sun hits the slopes of Mount Alexander on a cool summer's morning, Mick McCallum breathes in the smell of the pines and wonders why he'd ever choose to be anywhere else. As a trail builder constructing the La Larr Ba Gauwa Harcourt Mountain Bike Trails for the past six months, Mick has seen the mountain in all kinds of weather.

"We've been out here in hail, we've worked in the frosts, then in forty-degree heat – last week we even had a fire coming at us, with the smoke billowing into the sky not far from us."

(The fire burnt some of the nearby Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens, but was put out quickly by over 20 CFA vehicles, including two helicopters, before it could reach the park.)

Today, Mick is working with Russell Eckersley and Brad Odgers and together, they are putting the final touches to the mountain bike park, due to open in March. The tools of their trade include shovels, rakes and chainsaws, but today they're wielding whipper-snippers, brush cutters and of course – their bikes.

Although there were a few workers in the team who didn't come from bike riding backgrounds, it is mountain bikers like these three who've stayed on to make the biggest contribution to the physically demanding work of constructing world-class mountain bike trails in tough, granite country. Brad has been riding "since [he] was a kid" and Mick "since he can remember". Russell has dedicated his professional life to the pastime and hopes that members of the Harcourt community will become new riders.

"Mountain biking is about a connection with nature," says Russell. "It's an opportunity to take yourself away from the stresses of everyday life."

The work is challenging, and the men cover many kilometres every day.

"We eat a lot," laughs Mick.

The initial design was done by landscape architects and designers from Australian trail design and construction company Dirt Art, using maps and information from surveys, and taking the contours and vegetation into account, as well as environmental and cultural heritage values identified in an extensive survey project. But there's a lot that is changed and finessed as the trails are constructed.

"You have to work with what's here on the ground," says Russell. "And you have to ride the trails as you're building them to really know what's working and what's not."

Is it a mountain bike rider's dream job then?

"Yeah, pretty much," says Russell.

The trail builders are part of a bigger team working for Dirt

Art, a company with an impressive portfolio of trails to their name, including bushwalking and bike riding trails in the Grampians, Tasmania, Thredbo and even Northern China. Trail builders offer a unique mix of skills that prepare them for a very niche job. "There are probably less than a hundred people working regularly as trail builders in Australia," says Mick. There's not a lot of money in the trade, but Mick, Brad and Russell have other motivations. They cherish the opportunity to work outdoors in beautiful settings, and have a genuine desire to share their love of riding with others.

"It's a pretty great feeling to know that our work becomes part of others' fun," says Russell. He takes an obvious pride in his work and is keen to share it with riders from Harcourt and further afield. He's particularly proud of parts of the track featuring beautiful stonework – from granite cuttings that they hauled from the surrounding bush and Harcourt quarry remains. The result is a treat for trail users, a little work of art set in the bush – and one that you don't have to be a bike rider to appreciate.

As well as the stonework, the trails reward riders with sweeping views of Harcourt valley, and with twists and turns that frame the mountain scenery as riders approach. The manna gums and yellow box trees cloaking the mountain's western slopes provide picturesque views in the other direction.



Russell is impressed by the number of trails that fit into a small space, as well as the range of riding levels catered for. "There's stuff that anyone can do," he says (including an easy, flat three-kilometre circuit around the Oak Forest). "And there's some really hard stuff too. There's a lot of altitude. It's a mountain – so yeah, riders are going to be puffing. But as a trail designer, you want everyone to enjoy the trails. It's got a good mix of styles."

Russell is also a Woodend resident and has noticed a change for the better since the town's Wombat trails were formally



opened. "Before then, parents wouldn't have let their kids go roaming around the forest. But now that the trail is there, people feel safe. You get all sorts – runners, riders, dog-walkers. The riders now keep it clean, whereas before there was a lot of rubbish."

Russell, who was also instrumental in creating the Mount Tarrengower trails in Maldon, hopes that the region will become known as a mountain biking destination, where riders can combine the Maldon trails with the 34 kilometres of trail at Harcourt, over a weekend.

Although 34 kilometres of trail may not sound a lot, there are more tracks than even the most elite rider would usually complete in a day, which means overnight visitors and greater economic opportunity for Harcourt.

The trails are weeks from opening, but Mick, Brad and Russell have plenty to keep them busy, working on signage, an important job to ensure users can ride to their abilities and stay safe.

So what have the guys got planned for when the work is done? They'll take the steel-capped boots off, put the helmet on and ride those beautiful trails.

*Bron Willis*



## Harcourt Valley Primary School

### Enrolments up at Harcourt Valley Primary

While Principal Andrew Blake told The Core that twelve Grade 6 students graduated in 2017, he also noted with pride that the school has 14 new prep students in 2018. "To date the school has 98 students enrolled and we hope to have 100 or more by Census Day which is the 28th February."

Numbers have grown sufficiently to allow a new stand-alone Grade 2 enabling the employment of Laura Parkhill who has previously taught at Maldon.

Grades this year are: Prep; Grade 1; Grade 2; Grades 3/4; and Grades 5/6..



## Harcourt Valley Landcare

2018 will be the year that the dream of rescuing the genetic material of local banksias may become a reality for Harcourt Valley Landcare. Testing for viability of the genetics of remnant banksias from Harcourt is being undertaken and the results will be known soon. President, Bonnie Humphreys has been leading this project and is working with a Banksia network that stretches across much of Victoria. Stay tuned for an invitation to an important event where the geneticist carrying out the testing will visit Harcourt to announce the findings.

The Landcare group will as usual be participating in regular activities, meetings and working bees throughout the year. For information about Landcare membership and activities contact the Secretary, Robyn Miller, 0467 670 271.



*Laura Parkhill and Grade 2 testing the play equipment at Harcourt Valley Primary*



*Landcare members at the Christmas break up.*



*Grade 6 students who graduated in December 2017. Grade 5/6 teacher Matthew Watkins is on the right.*

## THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURE KICKS OFF WITH A LOVE LETTER TO THE HEART OF VICTORIA ON VALENTINES DAY



Victorians are invited to celebrate the start of the inaugural **Regional Centre for Culture** program that kicks off in Bendigo's Rosalind Park on Wednesday, February 14, from 6:00pm to 9:30pm.

The event, **Love Letters to the Heart of Victoria**, will celebrate the wonder of Central Victoria with the unveiling of a commissioned large-scale sculpture, a music stage, street performers and interactive installations. Visitors are invited to bring a rug and a picnic or enjoy a bite from one of the on-site food trucks.

This free public event heralds the beginning of an unprecedented showcase of local creativity set to enliven the cultural communities of four municipalities in central Victoria across 2018 - **The City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Hepburn Shires**.

The evening will feature a large-scale artwork **Heart** - an enormous sculpture created by **Felipe Reynolds** and Traditional Dja Dja Wurrung Owner and artist **Racquel Kerr**. Inspired by the rivers, country and mountains of Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Heart will be the centrepiece around which thousands of love letters written by people from the region will be incorporated into the sculpture.

Regional Centre for Culture producers **Jo Porter** and **Elizabeth Walsh**, have put a call out to local community groups, residents and visitors to share their insights and passions for the region in which they live, love and call home.

'Everyone is invited to write and bring their love letters to Rosalind Park where they will be incorporated into the huge artwork that celebrates the region and will be kept as a record of the Regional Centre for Culture,' said Porter/Walsh. 'Write or draw your letter on A4 paper and post them from February 10 in the giant letter box in Rosalind Park or bring them along to the event on Valentine's Day'.

The free Valentine's Day program will also feature a smoking ceremony from the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the announcement of additional RCC 2018 program elements.

The band stage will showcase Victorian talent including family based rock band **Leeway**, live electronic duo **Rachel by the Sea**, Balkan brass band **Seduceaphons** and a **Dja Dja Wurrung Presentation**. Other attractions include **Dudu Gudu Silent Disco Tours** and the interactive performance art installation **Gherkin Khan's Amusement Alcazar** and animal sculptures from Clunes based artist Tom Ripon. **The League of Kindness** and a big entrance from members of **Bike Bendigo** will bring additional colour and wonder to the event.

**Love Letters to the Heart of Victoria** is the first event of the **Regional Centre for Culture 2018** program to be delivered under the headline, **Wonder**. The year-long program is divided into themes that align with the six seasonal times observed by the Dja Dja Wurrung people and celebrates the region's vibrant culture and diverse communities.

**Larrka Dja Dja Wurrung Kundingja - Home of the Dja Dja Wurrung People**

**Love Letter to the Heart of Victoria event details:**

**Date:** February 14, 2018

**Time:** 6:00pm – 9:30pm

**Place:** Rosalind Park, Bendigo





## Cloud gazing

By Anita Le Lievre

Clouds come here to die  
It's nice to sit and watch them trying  
To expel all of their tears  
They might have travelled here for years  
To arrive here in this sky  
And finally reach a place so high  
That they can release for once  
The tears encased in their trust  
The precious droplets of time  
Given to them to care for  
When all of the moments have gone  
Clouds disappear into air  
And show the sun that has shone  
For all of time's moments  
I hope that when my time  
Has come to disappear  
I can end up in a sky  
Like this place here



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

It's been a busy start to the New Year, and wasn't it pleasing to get 25mm of beautiful rain to give the garden some relief after those hot days? With the heat I have made a couple of trips to our local pool to cool off and spend some time with the grandchildren. How good is our local pool on a hot day?

Australia Day went well and congratulations to all those involved. Our community and the way we get things done is a model that others would do well to consider.

Many of you will be aware there has been discussion about whether it is suitable to hold funerals in our local parks and gardens. What I can say about this is that at this stage the matter has not been formally discussed by your elected councillors. I am sure when councillors meet in February there will be an appropriate solution to this important issue. Now that I am middle aged (only 60) I realise how important it is for those who lose loved ones to celebrate their lives in an appropriate manner.

At the time of writing, so far as I am aware, the opening date for the new mountain bike park has not been locked in yet. Watch out for that as I am sure there will be a lot of interest. I have got the tyres pumped up on the bike so it is ready to go; I don't own any Lycra so that could be a problem! It will be interesting to see the visitor numbers to Harcourt build as word gets around about the new bike park.

Council will be back into budget mode over the next couple of months.

Don't forget that Community grants are now open and submissions must be in by 23rd February, so it is a good time to put forward your club or group's ideas and apply for grant funding.

*Best regards to all, Tony  
AG Cordy*

## LIMERICK *by The Bard of North Harcourt*

Each Feb when the sun's warm and shining,  
I go out and do water divining.  
For what it is worth,  
Deep down in the earth  
Is the water for which we are pining.



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## Harcourt Uniting Church

In my last article we were preparing for Christmas and now we're into the second month of 2018 so it's back to school, back to work and back to meetings. I often think the best part of January is a lack of organisation and few or no meetings!

Thank you to all who came to enjoy the Carols in the Park and BBQ – especially to Patrick and Tracey who provided items, M.C. George and Harcourt Progress Association for putting on the BBQ. And thanks to the Thompson Foundry Band which always makes the night so special. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of December was their last appearance for the year after having played for many carols in the area.

Members of the Harcourt Church visit some of our older friends each Christmas to sing carols at their homes. When we visited Marion Rennie their steers decided to join us at the fence. I'm not sure if it was our singing or the fact that George and Peter were sitting on the lawn that interested them?



*George and Peter with Marion's cows*

Many Harcourt residents would have experienced the two rather severe wind storms recently. At the Church block behind the Preschool was a very large old gum tree which was dropping limbs and nearing the end of its lifetime. We were concerned that it might fall on neighbouring land one

day and what were we to do with it? Well the wind "answered our prayers" (so to speak) when the whole gum tree was wrenched from the ground and dumped in the paddock. The Harcourt Fire Brigade has begun to cut it up and will use the wood as a fundraiser at the Applefest – there should be enough for several years of raffles so please remember to buy a ticket.



*Big gum tree down behind church*

Have you heard about the minister who said: "At your age you should be thinking of 'the hereafter?'" I told him, "Oh, I do, all the time! No matter where I am – in the kitchen, in the pantry or in the shed – I ask myself – 'Now what am I here after?'"

*Jan Jenkin*

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# Harcourt Bowling Club

The New Year has started well for the Harcourt Bowling Club. Our Green has responded well to the intensive treatment during the Christmas break; many of the outstanding jobs have been finalised and we are enjoying the benefits of much hard work that has been done around the Club by a very generous and enthusiastic band of volunteers.

## Barefoot Bowls

We are pleased to see a renewed interest in barefoot bowls and especially delighted that some new-comers to the district have been testing their skills and having some fun on the green. Members and guests have enjoyed the new format of 2 x 6 games of bowls followed by themed barbeques. The winning team for December of Graham Leech, Lesley Cassidy, Jenny Leech was well skipped by Brian Leech.

We had a perfect evening for barefoot bowls on Tuesday January 16th with another a good crowd attending. The winning team on the night was skipped by John Grant with Vinka, Gary and Julie who put in a superb effort.

## Junior Barefoot Bowls



A group of Grade 6 students from Harcourt Valley Primary School also visited the club in December for some barefoot bowls and fun before having a sleepover at the school. It was great to see the younger generation taking to the greens and we encourage them to return.

## Christmas Party

A great night of good food, fun and entertainment was held on Saturday night 16th December at the Club Christmas party. After a delicious dinner by Graeme and Kay Francis we were well entertained by Tracy Candy. Tracey put on a great show, entertaining us all as she interweaved bowlers and various local names and bowling terms into her many clever and witty renditions of popular songs.

## Ladies Singles Championship

An exciting Ladies Singles Championship was played out on Wednesday 13th December between Wendy Chaplin and Joan Bath. Wendy got the lead early with some fine bowling. After a close match of 30 ends and some very fine shots they were 22 all. With some good bowling



Wendy (L) and Joan (R).

and steely determination Joan Bath scored a 3 to take out the Championship win 25/22. Unfortunately due to ill health Joan was not able to participate in the District Champion of Champions in January.

## Men's Singles Championship

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December another exciting Championship was played for the Men's Singles title between current Champion Tony Olsson and Phil Clarke. Phil had the lead up until they were 18 all then Tony got in front until they were level at 23. A 2 point score to Phil gave him the Championship.

On Sunday January 21st Phil Clarke did himself and his club proud with an outstanding effort in the Bendigo Bowls Division champion of champions matches played at South Bendigo.

In his first match, against his Calivil opponent, Phil was down 16 to 22, came back to 23 all and then scored a 2 to win 25 to 23.

In his second round match, he led early before being pegged back by his Castlemaine opponent to eventually go down 25 to 18.

On at least 2 occasions Phil was holding 3 or 4 when his opponent drew the shot with his last bowl.

Comments heard around the green all indicated that the quality of bowling from both bowlers was exceptional, and the excellent draw bowling a pleasure to watch. Well done Phil!



## Sponsor's Night Final Round

The final round of the Sponsors Challenge will be held on Tuesday 20th February. Winners will have their names placed on the inaugural Chappy's Sponsorship Trophy. The trophy was donated by last year's Sponsorship winners Chaplin's Orchards and Signs in memory of their brother Rob Chaplin. 'Chappy' was a keen Harcourt bowler, a valued clubman and Board member.

*Christine Anderson  
Publicity Officer*

## Calling Young Regional Artists

If you are a young person in Central Vic aged 12-25 years and interested in Visual Art, Street Art, Graffiti, Photography and Film, this project is for you!

FAST! Film and Street Art is an innovative visual art project organised by XtremeInc Youth Projects, which aims to engage regional young people in collaborative, self-devised visual art projects covering mural installations, photographic documentation and a short film. FAST participants will work with local contemporary artists and engage with current issues in art and culture. This series of Visual art projects will be designed around the themes 'Being, Belonging and Becoming'. The outcome will be a public event and exhibition at the huge youth festival 2 The Xtreme and also at Theatre Royal Castlemaine.

The lucky 25 young people from across Central Victoria will meet weekly during Term one to plan, design and create their visual art masterpieces, guided by the talented Tara Kingston, Fuzz Gazzardi and Stewart and Cath Carter (People Pictures). FAST kicks off on Thursday February 8th, 4:30-6pm in Castlemaine. To register or to find out how you can be involved, please contact Sarah Cook at: [info@xtremeinc.org](mailto:info@xtremeinc.org) or go to [www.xtremeinc.org](http://www.xtremeinc.org)

FAST! Is supported by Creative Arts Victoria, Regional Centre for Culture and People.



**FAST! FILM & STREET ART**

FAST is an innovative visual art project for regional young people which includes: mural installations, digital print, film making & photography, using the latest online media tools & working with professional leaders in these fields.

FAST series of visual art projects will be designed around the themes:  
**'Being, Belonging and Becoming'.**  
The outcome will be a public event, exhibition and fashion show!!  
If you want to be a part of this collaboration & workshops, XtremeInc are offering 25 places for Regional Young People aged 12-25 years.

**The groups will be:**  
1. Visual/Street Art  
2. Photography  
3. Film Making

**First meeting:**  
Thurs, 8th February 2018  
4:30-6pm @ 'The Big Shed'  
Corner of Kennedy & Walker Street, Castlemaine

[xtremeinc.org](http://xtremeinc.org)  
[info@xtremeinc.org](mailto:info@xtremeinc.org)  
[www.xtremeinc.org](http://www.xtremeinc.org)

Register your interest now by emailing: [info@xtremeinc.org](mailto:info@xtremeinc.org)  
Please include name, age, contact details.  
Sarah Cook (coordinator) Ph: 0402 087 949

## Maya in Regional Finals Battle of the Bands

Local singer Maya Pearson is to compete in the Battle of the Bands, Northern Country Regional Final on Sunday the 4th of February from 12pm to 4pm at Karova Lounge, 15 Field St, Ballarat.

Maya is as a singer-songwriter, composer and musician with a smooth, soulful, jazzy voice which she uses to great effect to express emotion. She began writing her own songs in 2013; her work is influenced by soul, pop, 90's R&B and contemporary classical soundtracks.

Maya was the winner of Battle of the Bands, Castlemaine heat in 2017. She has performed at Castlemaine Fringe Festivals, Harcourt Applefest, private parties, functions, musical theatre, open mics and several central Victorian and Melbourne venues.

The winner of the regional final will compete at the grand final at The Push Stage at St Kilda Festival on Sunday the 11th of February, from 12pm to 4:30pm.

Good luck Maya! If you don't get to see Maya in the Battle of the Bands, you can catch her performance at the Harcourt Applefest 2018 at 10am, Saturday 10 March.



Maya performing at the Battle of the Bands, Castlemaine round.  
Photo by Katherine Seppings



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## BMA Committee Update

Welcome to another year of business! Business Mount Alexander looks forward to bringing more networking opportunities to you in the the shire in 2018.

On Tuesday 6 Feb a FREE information session will be held at Mt Alexander Shire Council offices about the current Victorian and State Government funding available for businesses. Register here or find out more in this month's BMA eNews.

If you're a current BMA member and would like your business to be featured in our monthly eNews and on our social media pages - please email [gen@businessmountalexander.org.au](mailto:gen@businessmountalexander.org.au)

Below: BMA Committee Members - Ron Snep (Treasurer), Carina Bouch, Rob Jennings (Secretary), Gen Ward, Trent McGregor (Chair)



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# UNDERSTAND THE RATINGS

## THE REASONS ARE BLACK AND WHITE



There's no questioning the facts. During summer, you should check Fire Danger Ratings daily via local radio, the VicEmergency website and app. The higher the rating, the more uncontrollable a fire would be if one started.

Ratings can be different across the state, so know your fire district. **Decide what rating is your trigger to take action.**

**[emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)**

Download the VicEmergency app



Authorised by the Victorian Government,  
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# Summer Harvest Tips

Happy new year everyone! How's your harvest going? Hopefully it's completely problem-free, and you're getting masses of healthy, delicious, unmolested fruit from your trees--you wish!

The nature of growing food in an environment where lots of other creatures live (birds, earwigs, beetles, possums, kangaroos ... just to name a few) is that we often end up sharing more of it than we would like. If you've lost fruit this season it might be completely obvious what's caused the problem, but if it's a mystery, then it's time to do some detective work. This time of year is a great time to really notice what's going on with individual fruit trees - and record it! Monitor closely, write it down, and take photos - whatever it takes to help you get to the bottom of what might be causing fruit losses, so you can work towards solutions next year.

Meanwhile, here are our top three tips for January:

1. If you still have fruit on your trees, it's not too late to net - and even a simple drape net can really help prevent damage from birds, and provides at least some protection from hail damage. If small birds are a problem, make sure you secure the net firmly at the base, either to the trunk of the tree or peg it to the ground. Growing Abundance (a community food project in Castlemaine) has affordable bird netting in various sizes available through their website at <http://www.growingabundance.org.au/shop/>
2. Once a tree has been harvested, you can cut back the amount you're watering it to about half. Most of its work is done for the year, though early fruiting varieties should keep growing for a while after the fruit has been picked, so don't be too lousy with the water if you have plenty to spare.
3. Wind can be as drying for the soil and your fruit trees as very high temperatures, and the worst conditions are a combination of the two. In very windy weather, keep a close eye on how much water your fruit trees are getting, particularly in the 6-8 weeks before the fruit is ready, and be prepared to water a bit more often than usual.

On a final note, thanks so much to the CFA crews from Harcourt and surrounding regions, and the Forest Fire Management crews, for getting onto the little fire in our orchard on Monday so quickly and efficiently. We lost a few hundred trees, but are just so grateful that they managed to limit the damage to a corner of our orchard. Thanks also to the many well-wishers in our wonderful community - we feel very well supported!

Happy harvests!

*Hugh and Katie Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips, and run online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to [www.growgreatfruit.com](http://www.growgreatfruit.com) for details. They also offer a free weekly webinar (online workshop) called "The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit" - sign up at [growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/](http://growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/)*

## Valentine's Day Degustation

Join us at ASQ Skydancers in Harcourt this Valentine's Day for a delectable six course meal designed by our chef, paired with the finest local wines and a refreshing palate cleanser.

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

6.00 to 9.30pm

\$70 per person or \$115 with matching wines

Please call 03 5474 3800 to make a booking.

*Skydancers*

## ASQ Plant of the Month

Nerium Oleanders are a hardy, upright shrub which grow to approximately three metres in height. Commonly used for screening and hedges, this versatile plant is a popular choice in tropical regions due to its high tolerance of heat.

Its vibrant flowers put on a stunning show from early summer through to late autumn, making it a long-lasting statement piece for your garden. Oleanders are often used for their ornamental value and were featured in many of the ancient Roman wall paintings in Pompeii.

Visit ASQ Skydancers during February to see their stunning range of Nerium Oleanders!

## Castlemaine Group Fitness Classes



Affordable - Relaxed - Friendly

Monday	9:30am	Rebalance
Monday	6:00pm	Power Bar
Tuesday	9:30am	Power Bar
Thursday	6:15am	Power Bar
Friday	9:30am	Aerobics/Tabata
Saturday	8:15am	Rebalance • Term 1 only
Saturday	9:30am	Power Bar

\$10 per class - 60 minutes

Suitable for all fitness levels

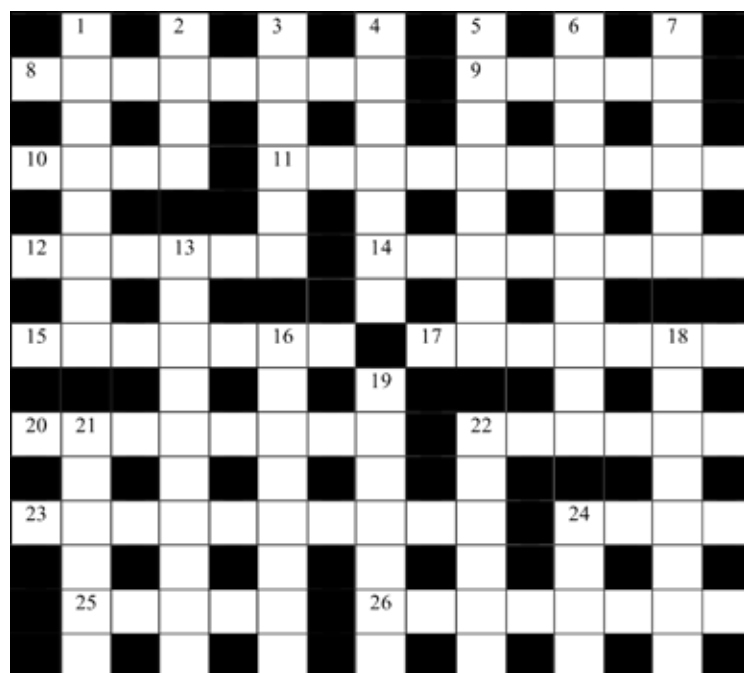
Children welcome under parental supervision

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





## February 2018 Xword *McW November '16*



### Down:

1. The whole idea of a holly boa is complete nonsense... [8]
2. Perth off-course bookie could sting you. [4]
3. To long for what begins the Beguine is confusingly close. [6]
4. Letter/city/crime involves the head. [7]
5. When I get into the ivy it's more unpleasantly sinister. [8]
6. Some can display lush morals at this time of day. [5,5]
7. Cause of upper-class sticky-nose? [6]
13. Sometimes, when rivers rose, they became quite full. [10]
16. Because of past cocoa sin, there is no coca on this feast day. [8]
18. The dish as served caused the food-writer's ratings to collapse. [8]
19. Non-metallic wood-muncher collects Merit, et al. [7]
21. Slightly review a mother of all places to hide money? [6]
22. Hard, in aiding those who wanted to end poverty and establish a secular state, she lost—had gin instead. [6]
24. 9's homonym was one, early on. [4]

### Across:

8. A sad pen, a terrible mess, and we can write off the Superbowl. [8]
9. We heard the French version smoked his pipe upside-down and got off with a poet, but this US version is just macho... [5]
10. Failure to sit unceremoniously? [4]
11. Put up an attic to carry the hero off the field? [5,5]
12. Spikily in rut after that finishes. [6]
14. Lemonade-light landed without sucking anything to take the smile away. [8]
15. Arrow distance construable as warning? [7]
17. Apparently 26, or 12 without that finish. [7]
20. Replicas of the respiratory opening in whales, etc. conjure up a winding miracle mash-up. [8]
21. Entomologically fashionable church? [6]
23. Anorexic's snack rather like Milton's ever-burning deluge? [10]
24. (See 25)
25. A cool romp for Italian traveller. (5,4)
26. 12 without that finish, or apparently 17. [6,2]

## December 2017 solution *McW Aug '16*



### Down:

1. Puts up a hundred less than 15ac. [Well?]
2. Not many about cicatrice after Christ [CE] [A very nice double-cross? "About" is not 're' and 'after' is not 'after'... @!]
3. It had a Siamese component in C20th. (4)
4. Not mad [sane], but scattered with first knowledge and last news of writhing ones. (6)
5. Public offence causes are interchangeable with [rants off] (8)
6. He might work for the [Erecting Co], but he's too self-regarding to actually [get cornice] into place. (10)
7. [A dry iron] is the usual thing. (8)
8. Judged by a donkey? [Well?]
13. Coalition hope—by and by we'll [level Aunty] (10)
15. 24's throwaways? [Well?]
16. Four related their stories—we heard it was prophesied. [Well?]
17. Would-be PM abbreviates tautological [en-]rules. (8)
21. [Cacti] deployed under the [T-] junction make a good ploy. (6)
22. Very small change under standard electricity supply [AC] is both grave and acute. (6)
23. Tsiolkas' quiet [sh!] novel [The Slap] mixes a hit (...in water) for Barracuda? (6)
26. American bloke runs into [earner—not very pretty... (4)]

### Across:

9. [A sacred stuffing] of data satisfies economists, empiricists and other pragmatic types... (5,3,7)
10. Set aside identifier. [Well? On sheep...]
11. Lie back about [re:] sequence of differences within a species. (7)
12. We hear [Well? sp. ('v' for 'ph')] rocket man in south seas. (9)
14. [Earns] a bit of a shake-up and comes closer. (5)
15. A hundred more than one's miserly efforts could help fill these. (7)
18. Not a [dry seat] in the house when the cat's shot through. (7)
19. Semi-trailer covers brought back over small swimmer. (5)
20. I endure [stoic pain] with failing sight for these... (9)
24. [Scout at] other side of river will get his fly further than yours. (7)
25. The only part of government you might hear advice from. [Well?]
27. [Lads kill, and fans] applaud Maggie's aggression. [Well?]

# Castlemaine Bus Lines

## Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	Monday to Friday		
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Rd/ Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt			
	Monday to Friday		
Morning (am)/Afternoon (pm)	am	pm	pm
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/ Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25



## Harcourt Progress Association

### Harcourt Community House on track!

After 12 months of lobbying and negotiations, the Harcourt Progress Association was delighted to receive confirmation from the Victorian State Government that the Harcourt Railway Station building will be restored for use as a community house. An architect will soon be engaged to assess the building and design works required to provide multi-purpose use. HPA will establish a Management Committee and invite other community groups and interested parties to inform decisions about how the space is to be used. The works themselves will commence 1st July with the building ready to occupy by approximately October.

Very exciting news for Harcourt! First we reclaim the station for community use; then we bring back a train service for EVERYBODY'S use!

All a-board.



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# Community Diary Dates

**Monday February 5th:** 7.30 pm Applefest meeting, at ANA Hall

**Thursday February 8th:** 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, at ANA Hall

**Monday February 19th:** 7.30 pm Applefest meeting, at ANA Hall

**Friday February 23rd:** Art Show entry forms to be submitted

**Monday February 26th:** 7.30 pm Applefest meeting, at ANA Hall

**Monday March 5th:** 8.30 am Art Show art works to be delivered to ANA Hall.

**Monday March 5th:** 7.30 pm Applefest meeting, at ANA Hall

**Thursday March 8th:** 7.30 pm Art Show opening at ANA Hall

**March 9th to 12th:** 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Applefest Art Show

**Friday March 9th:** from 3pm an Australian Hearing Audiologist will conduct free hearing screening at the Harcourt Bowling Club. All Welcome, no need to book, just turn up at the club.

**Saturday March 10th:** Harcourt Applefest, central Harcourt

**Thursday March 22nd:** Harcourt District Leisure Centre committee meeting

**Sunday 1 April:** 11am – 5pm Harcourt Valley Easter Festival, Harcourt Valley Winery, Harmony Way, Harcourt.

**Heritage Centre** tours and talks program will commence in April.

**Bowling Club Dates:** See page 17.

**Heritage Centre:** Open every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 10 am to 4 pm or by appointment. Call : 0400 916 527

**Pony Club:** Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30 am to 12 midday. Next to swimming pool.

**Night Tennis:** a social hit at 7pm every Thursday at the Harcourt tennis courts, Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road.

**Walking Group:** Every Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am. Meet at the ANA Hall.

**Uniting Church:** Every Sunday at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea. All welcome.



## 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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A full colour version of *Harcourt News: The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: <http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

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2018 HARCOURT



APPLEFEST

**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

central harcourt • 9am–4pm

[applefest.harcourt.vic.au](http://applefest.harcourt.vic.au) •

