

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

May 2018

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 49  
<http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

## Exciting Times for our Town

COUNCIL COMMITS FUNDS TO HARCOURT COMMUNITY PLAY SPACE



### INSIDE

- Blume's Bakery Update-2
- Castlemaine Cycling Club-3
- Uniting Church-4
- Henry of Harcourt-5
- Harcourt CFA-6
- Heritage Centre-8
- HVPS-9
- Bowling Club News-10
- Anzac Day-13
- Mountain Bike Park-14
- General Store Update-16
- Councillor Comment-17
- Gardening-18
- Crossword-20
- HVPS-21
- Community Diary-22
- Fruit Growers Assoc.-23

### 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.



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2018



*Where will the children play? Stanley Park and its precinct will be the subject of a study with a subsequent design for a new play space for Harcourt.*

After 5 years of lobbying by the Harcourt Progress Association, we are pleased to report that Council has allocated \$60,000 in this year's budget to undertake a site survey of Stanley Park and the surrounding precinct and to design a play space for the area. They are also actively seeking state government funding for the construction of the playground, which is due to commence in 2019.

This is very exciting news and will be a huge benefit to Harcourt, to our families and to visitors to the region. We are determined that this play space will be designed by the community, for the community and we are seeking your input.

Please share your thoughts, ideas, and inspirations for what you would like to see as part of this play space. Who should

we be catering for, what ages should we accommodate, what extra features should we incorporate? We have an on-line survey and a paper form which is available from the service station, Goldfields Track Café, Harcourt Bowling Club and through the HVP School. We would be very grateful for your input. Visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/XVTYYV6](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XVTYYV6)

Stay tuned for more information; and to follow our progress visit the Harcourt Community Play Space Facebook page.

*Continued on page 3 ...*



# History leaves its mark at Blume's Bakery

Inevitably when someone purchases an old property the buyer finds traces of the previous owners' lives. Sometimes what's left behind is junk, but often there are gems which resonate down the years. Jodie and David Pillinger have made a number of interesting discoveries whilst renovating the house and bakery once owned by the Blume family. These include a signature on a brick written by Ransford Blume, one of the seven children of the Blume family. C. Blume has also painted his name in what was known as the sleep out on the back deck. Jodie said, "Three boys shared that room; it would have been freezing. I have been told it became the bakery shop when Steve and his wife Yolanda took over the house and business from his father Ernest."

Another gem was part of *The Argus* newspaper, located – you guessed it – under some old linoleum. *The Argus* was in print from 1846 to 1957.

Ernest Blume was a baker who ran the Coronation Bakery in Barkers Creek, but moved the business to Harcourt just prior to the start of the 1920s. Despite not being a baker, one of Ernest's sons Steve, eventually took over the business and delivered the bread on a daily basis. The bag he used to collect money on his rounds has been identified and is still in excellent condition. Jodie told the story of how the origin of the bag was determined: "A visitor called Graham James dropped in one afternoon. James Park is named after his family. His mum still lives in Harcourt, but he lives in Mt Eliza and is a baker by trade and taught at William Angliss College. He had looked at the property when it was for sale

and had noticed the bag hanging on one of the timber studs and thought it may have been the one Steve used for his deliveries. We had put the bag aside when we cleaned up, but thank goodness we hadn't thrown it out. Then I remembered we had a photo (the black and white of Steve Blume shown here) from Karen Blume (a descendant of the family) and we confirmed that the bag was in fact the same as in the photo. Graham said that he could imagine Steve had hung it there after his final delivery. We would never have found out about the origins of the bag, if Graham hadn't called in."

Len "Snowy" Code was the baker for Blume's Bakery while Steve and Yolanda ran the business. The Core has been contacted by a descendant of Snowy and in future additions we will feature some of his memories from his childhood from the time when he lived nearby and his Uncle was the baker.

Blume's bakery renovations are coming along. Inside the bakery the epoxy food grade floor is complete as is the tiling on the walls. John Jenkins has been assisting in the rescue of the old Harcourt meeting hall, located behind the bakery, by reconstructing the timber louvres which sit at the very top of each end wall, tucked just under the peak of the roof. For the story and pictures of this building see *The Core* March 2018.

David and Jodie will be hosting a sourdough workshop called Bush Baking at Blumes Historic Bakery, on June 16th. It will be run by Warwick Quinton of the School of Sourdough. See [schoolofsourdough.com.au](http://schoolofsourdough.com.au) for bookings.



*The gleaming floor of the bakery*



*Steve Blume on his bread round*



*A member of the family has literally left their mark, young Ransford Blume wrote his name on one of the bricks in laundry.*



*The bag used to collect money from the bread round, as seen in the photo of Steve Blume*



*Did you know the Romans always shaved on Tuesdays? A page from the Saturday Review in a copy of the Argus newspaper dated Saturday 4 February, 1950.*



## Vic Country and Metro Cycling Championships in Harcourt early June

Castlemaine Cycling Club will once again be hosting the Vic Country and Metro Road Cycling Championships on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June 2018. Racing will commence at 9.00 am on both days and finish by about 4.30 pm. The two courses being used are the same as used previously for these events.

The 12km loop goes from Market Street to Reservoir Road, McIvor Road and back to Harcourt via Harmony Way. The 56 km loop will take riders South on Harmony Way to Elphinstone, left over the freeway then North through Sutton Grange to Sedgewick, left onto the North Harcourt Road back onto McIvor Rd returning to Harcourt via Harmony Way. There will be no road closures for this weekend; however road users may encounter an increased presence of cyclists in the area at time, requiring extra caution.

Cyclists from Under 11 to Elite and Masters Divisions will compete for Championship Medals, with performances taken into consideration for future team selections. As always, riders will come from across the Victorian Clubs to enjoy the challenging racing in the Harcourt area and the wonderful attractions of Mt Alexander Shire. The Club would like to thank the community, organisations and businesses for your continued support.

*Shirley Amy  
Acting Event Secretary*

## CAMP OUT ON THE MOUNT FRIDAY 11TH – SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2018

Here is your chance to camp out on Mount Leanganook in a fun community setting.

Learn about nature and cultural heritage in our area, and water some young native plants that need care after a dry summer.

**When:** Friday 11th–Saturday 12th May 2018

**Where:** Leanganook Camping Ground, Joseph Young Drive, Mount Alexander Regional Park, Faraday

**What to bring:** Camping gear, food (Lions Club BBQ will be available on Friday night for a gold coin donation), weather appropriate clothes and sun protection.

**To book visit the booking website:** [www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=361517&](http://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=361517&)

Registering your interest is the best way to stay updated about any schedule changes.

If you have any questions, please call Asha on (03) 5472 1594 or email: [asha@connectingcountry.org.au](mailto:asha@connectingcountry.org.au)

**PLEASE NOTE:** In the event of severe weather warnings (e.g. storms or extreme heat), the Camp Out on the Mount will be cancelled.

*for direct links to book: [connectingcountry.org.au/landcare/camp-out-on-the-mount-2018](http://connectingcountry.org.au/landcare/camp-out-on-the-mount-2018)*

... Continued from page 1

## WORKS DUE ON HARCOURT ROUNDABOUT

May is an exciting month with beautification works due to commence on the Harcourt/Calder Roundabout. HPA have secured funding from VicRoads to improve the appearance of the roundabout. The weeds and trees will be removed and replaced by granite stone landscaping and indigenous plantings. Bollards will be installed where the current informal car parking occurs in an effort to improve safety and stop the rubbish dumping which routinely occurs here. Our good friends at ASQ landscaping have been very generous in their supply of gravel and rocks and this will enable us to address the verges and median strips surrounding the roundabout.

An Adopt a Roadside group is being established – see our article on page 24 and we'd love to get you involved. Join us at the launch of this new initiative on Sunday 27th May or contact Sha for more information via email [cord-free@hotmail.com](mailto:cord-free@hotmail.com).

## WORKS SOON TO COMMENCE ON HARCOURT RAILWAY STATION

An architect has prepared drawings for the restoration of the Harcourt Railway Station with a plan to turn this valuable heritage building into a Neighbourhood House, providing meeting and training spaces and a range of community programs. Works are due to commence from 1st July and will restore this building as an invaluable community resource. We will keep you posted as works unfold.



### Thank you to all Volunteers in Harcourt

HPA invites you to a Morning Tea and Launch of the Adopt a Roadside Project for the Harcourt Freeway Roundabout and surrounds

Guest: Maree Edwards MP

Sunday 27 May at 11am

Goldfields Track Restaurant Dining Room

RSVP: Wednesday 23 May

Sha Cordingley: [cordfree@hotmail.com](mailto:cordfree@hotmail.com)





## Harcourt Uniting Church joins with Rural Australians for Refugees

### ASYLUM SEEKER PICNIC

More than 60 people seeking asylum in Australia enjoyed a great "day out" at a well-attended community picnic in Castlemaine Botanical Gardens.

On a recent sunny Saturday they experienced the hospitality of the Harcourt Uniting church and Rural Australians for Refugees and the generosity of the wider community in a range of activities, especially those laid on for the 30 children, from toddlers to teens.

The visitors, who came from the Lentara Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre and the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project in Melbourne, were originally from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon, Tibet, Chile, Somalia and Ethiopia.

A welcome to country was extended and a smoke cleansing ceremony conducted by Auntie Paulette Nelson, after telling some history of the tribes in the local area. Mount Alexander Shire Mayor, Bronwen Machin, expressed concern and shame at Australia's refugee policies.

One local participant described the picnic as "a beautiful occasion of warmth and welcome that I wish our federal politicians could have witnessed. This was full hearted human hospitality as it should be."

Banners saying "welcome" in many of the languages of the guests, made by children from St Mary's, Winters Flat, Campbells Creek, and Maldon primary schools, decorated the area.

While the adult guests chatted with locals and built connections, children enjoyed a farm animal petting zoo, face painting, soap bubbles, a balloon artist and, with the adults, a tug-of-peace.

A magnificent lunch of diverse foods was prepared by many people including Harcourt Uniting Church and Chewton Phoenix CWA. Rohan Souter and the Peace Choir sang, followed by international dances. Families received Boomerang Bags containing surprise items, and added children's books from the Friends of the Castlemaine Library.



*Images from the Asylum Seeker Picnic*




During conversations, people heard of the experiences that caused people to seek asylum in Australia and of their struggles with bureaucracy, their hopes to contribute to the life of the Australian community and to build a new life for their families.

One of the organisers summed up the picnic day saying "Thanks to the enthusiasm of those who participated, the awareness of the plight of asylum seekers has increased and the experience of interacting with them, as one human being to another, has been most worthwhile."

*Jim Foley*

The photographer was Alan Reynolds.




24 Hour  
Emergency  
Service

# PLUMBER

*Bruce A. Rae*

Covering all Aspects of Plumbing

Mobile: 0408 371 885 Email: [brucerae3@bigpond.com](mailto:brucerae3@bigpond.com)



*Dandura*  
Alpacas

Sound genetics.  
An asset to your herd.

Jenny & Keith McKenry  
Dandura  
121 Fenton Drive  
Harcourt North, Vic 3453

03 5439 6525  
0428 479 050  
[alpacas@dandura.com](mailto:alpacas@dandura.com)  
[www.dandura.com](http://www.dandura.com)



## New Venture at Henry's Cidery

New facilities at Henry of Harcourt will enhance La La Barr Gauwa Mountain Bike Park

My father Drew Henry firmly believed that Mount Alexander should be used and visited, so it was very gratifying to be at the opening of the La Larr Ba Gauwa Park, and over the past weeks witness the steady increase in visitors to Harcourt.

However, along with the increase in visitors we've received, there has also been repeated feedback from the mountain bikers that the parking areas in town have been stretched to capacity. Currently the overflow is finding its way to the intersection of Reservoir and Market Streets, and up the sides of Dann's Road, creating a situation that could be the cause of a serious accident.

As it's a concern that has arisen swiftly and frequently, Henry of Harcourt has begun plans for converting one of our lesser used paddocks into a simple carpark which would provide a legal and safe second option for those who cannot find space in town. Also in the works is a mountain bike trail cut through our property, which backs onto the La Larr Ba Gauwa Park, allowing for easy, fun, and most importantly safe access to the trails from our carpark, without the need to go back onto Reservoir Road.

To that end we invited some of the Dirt Art contractors who built La Larr Ba Gauwa to examine our property. After a nice long walk through our rocky 100 acres they were very excited and put together a draft proposal. In essence it is a gentle 1 km bike track, which incorporates some of the interesting rocks and treed areas of our property, which links into Trail Number 1 of La Larr Ba Gauwa just 100 metres from the main trail head. A return trail, also linked into Trail Number 1, consists of about 1.5 km of undulating track that twists around both of our small hillocks giving spectacular views of the valley, before dashing down the hill back to the carpark. La La Barr Gauwa lacks an area to stage events for the park and trails, without impacting the sensitive environment of the park itself. Events always require extra parking. With that in mind, our plans expanded to set aside space for events which will be attached to the car parking area.

Over the last two weeks of April, my partner Troy and I have presented the draft proposal to various community groups including the newly formed Bike Park Committee, the Shire, Regional Development Victoria and Local MP Maree Edwards. The feedback from these meetings has been very positive and enthusiasm is high. Our proposal is flexible, with room to expand if visitor numbers continue to increase, and we will have the ability to host a great diversity of events such as the recent Siberian Husky Club Victoria workshop which utilised what would otherwise remain a section of flat under-used paddock. Future plans for the area also include basic facilities such as composting toilets, eco-friendly rinse showers and bike wash stations.

In short we wish to do our part to make Harcourt an attractive destination for visitors to stay and patronise all the amazing local businesses our community has to offer. We have always been staunch supporters of our fellow commercial enterprises and we will continue this. We hope that our carpark, additional trail and extra facilities will not only keep those visitors safe, but help to ensure they become return guests and advocates for the valley.

*Michael Henry  
Henry of Harcourt  
Director and Cidermaker*

## Siberian Husky Club of Victoria finds a venue in Harcourt

Community members and visitors would have seen huskies on display for the first time in Harcourt, at this year's Applefest. These beautiful dogs were on show in the shade of Stanley Park and proved to be a wonderful attraction. The owners of the huskies are members of the Siberian Husky Club. Readers may also remember an article in the Castlemaine Mail saying that husky races were planned for this area.

On Sunday April 29, the club had its first meeting in Harcourt on the block of land which the Henry family have set aside for events and parking with the La La Barr Gauwa Mountain Bike Park in mind. The club's activity for the day was a sledding workshop for new members. A short course of 700 metres was set out at the top of the paddock and tracked through the Henry's pear orchard.

The Core spoke with Peter Gray who has been with the club for three years. "The usual pattern of activity for the club is showing in summer and racing in winter," Peter explained. "The racing on dry land is done on scooters with 1, 2, 4, 6 or 8 dogs. They can reach speeds of 40km an hour on dirt. There's also carni-cross where the owner straps on a harness and runs with their dog. Snow racing uses sleds with teams of up to 8 dogs and the course is usually 4 to 5kms in Australia. This is nothing like the racing done in Alaska which covers a 1,000 miles and takes 14 days!"



*Peter Gray demonstrates scooter racing with two of his dogs.*

The owners' enthusiasm for the dogs is evident; they are much loved and appreciated for their special talents. A number of the dogs in the club are rescue dogs. "They are a challenging animal to own; the husky is born to run and hunt and they need to be kept mentally engaged as well." Peter said, "At 12 months they become feral and at two years they start to settle down." Peter has a passion to educate prospective owners. "Joining a club is a good way to learn about handling the dogs and the sport which engages the entire family and their dog."

The club is Melbourne based and from May to July this year will have monthly races in the state forests west of Bendigo; Harcourt is a little closer and may prove an ideal training and racing ground in the future. For information about the club go to: [www.siberianhuskyvic.or.au](http://www.siberianhuskyvic.or.au)



## Harcourt CFA

# FIRE RESTRICTIONS HAVE ENDED BUT...

Fire restrictions automatically finished at 1.00am on Tuesday 1st May but as we have had no significant rain, any burning off will have a higher risk than normal for this time of the year. A good example of this was the recent DEWLP asset protection fuel reduction burn on the top of Mount Alexander which some brigade members assisted with. Because of the heavy and dry fuel load, more radiant heat was generated causing the stringy bark and candlebark trees to catch alight very easily and creating a lot of extra work to keep the burning under control. This is a timely reminder that even though fire restrictions have been lifted, the risk is still very high. On days of higher temperature or if there is a breeze blowing, it would be advisable to delay any private burning off or lighting of a bonfire until the temperature and wind drops or wait until we get the Autumn break of rain we so desperately need. If you do need to light up, please ensure you notify the Vicfire burn off notification line on 1800 668 511 and ensure you have the resources and manpower to ensure it does not escape. Also you need to ensure you abide by the local council bylaws.

### Smoke Alarms (CFA Press Release)

#### More than a third of Victorians have never replaced their smoke alarms. Is it time you replaced yours?

All smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years, regardless of whether they are hard-wired or battery powered.

If your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old it may not be protecting you, even if it beeps when you push the test button.

This year we're asking you to check the replacement date of your smoke alarms. The replacement date or the date of manufacture should be printed somewhere on each smoke alarm, usually on the base. If you can't see a printed date on the unit it is likely to be over 10 years old and requires replacing.

If your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old please ensure the battery is in good working order. Smoke alarms powered by a 9V battery require the battery to be replaced annually.

Did you know?

- It is law to have hard-wired smoke alarms connected to mains power if your home was built after 1 August 1997. Hard-wired smoke alarms can only be installed by a qualified electrician.
- Even hard-wired smoke alarms have a battery as a backup power source. If the battery is a 9V battery it requires replacing annually.
- CFA recommends you replace existing smoke alarms with photoelectric smoke alarms powered by a 10-year lithium battery. Replacing your smoke alarms with this type means you won't have to remember to replace the battery every year.

And while we are on your safety, below are the details of two product safety notices:

### Gas Safety Alert (5<sup>th</sup> April) – Do you have a VULCAN HERITAGE or a PYROX HERITAGE gas heater?

People with Vulcan Heritage or Pyrox Heritage gas heaters in their homes need to get them checked by a qualified gasfitter immediately. Laboratory tests show that under certain conditions the heaters produce too much carbon monoxide; this is particularly so if homes have poor ventilation and bathroom exhaust fans or kitchen range hoods are used at the same time as the heater. This can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.

If you have one of these heaters, **do not use it until it can be tested by a qualified gasfitter.** In the meantime please use alternative sources of heating. **DO NOT** bring outdoor gas appliances inside such as a patio heater. This is dangerous and can also lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

For residents living in private homes, the manufacturer Climate Technologies will arrange for a test by a qualified gasfitter and provide a rebate of \$150 towards the cost of the test. If the heater needs to be decommissioned, Climate Technologies will assist with the replacement cost. Phone Climate Technologies on (03) 8795 2462 for more information.

For people living in DHHS housing, DHHS has a program to test all such heaters in their properties. Phone DHHS on 1800 148 426 for more information.

### Recall notice for Bio Ethanol Fireplaces

This product is missing a warning that advises consumers of the dangers of filling an alcohol fuelled device when it is lit.

Go to: [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au) for the list of affected brands that were sold since 1st January 2017.

Remember you should never leave an unattended open flame, and always extinguish candles, incense and oil burners before leaving home or going to sleep.

Heed the warnings and keep yourself and your family safe.

*Tyrone Rice*  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator





# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

## Association Day

Well, that was a fun day!

Thanks to a wonderful presentation given by local author Robyn Annear and the many visitors who came to enjoy her stories, our Association Day fund raiser was a great success. Robyn talked to us about the evolution of Op Shops from the old Thrift Stores, Charity Shops and Second-Hand Stores to the modern, well-equipped and well-stocked shops that we enjoy today.



*The stories begin*

Our usual Trading Table was transformed into the Harcourt CWA Op Shop, and visitors were delighted when they came across a long forgotten item just waiting to find a new home and purpose again.

Many visitors arrived wearing outfits purchased in second-hand outlets and the Red Carpet was hotly contested with our very own Joy Robertson being crowned the Op Shop Queen in her little red dress.



*The CWA Op Shop does a thriving business]*



*Preparing for their red carpet performance*



*Our Op Shop Queen in her little red dress*

## Anzac Day

I attended the Harcourt Anzac Day Memorial Service at the ANA Hall and Stanley Park again this year. Judi Kent had made a beautiful wreath from Australian Natives grown in her garden at Faraday which she laid at the base of the Cenotaph on behalf of us all at Harcourt CWA. Let's not forget.

*Lyn Rule  
Harcourt CWA  
Publicity Officer*

# TREAD HARCOURT

**ACCOMMODATION  
CYCLING TOURS  
MTB SHUTTLES**

21 HIGH ST, HARCOURT 3453  
INFO@TREADHARCOURT.COM.AU  
TREADHARCOURT.COM.AU  
0405 680 516

Tread currently boasts six recently renovated, comfortable, affordable twin, double and family rooms each with en suite, TV, heating and air conditioning.

Tread has facilities to meet the needs of all its guests; from bike riders to wedding guests, tourists and visiting friends and family alike.

Visit [www.treadharcourt.com.au](http://www.treadharcourt.com.au) to view rates, photos, availability and to make a booking.

Inspection welcome

**GOT FRIENDS OR FAMILY VISITING?**  
BOOK ACCOMMODATION  
ONLINE USING CODE  
'THECORE'  
FOR A 20% DISCOUNT



Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552  
Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550

T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736

E: [Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au)

[@LMChesters](https://www.facebook.com/LMChesters) • [/LisaChestersBendigo](https://www.facebook.com/LisaChestersBendigo)





# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## William Ward

In 1838 pastoralists C H Ebdon and James Donnithorne employed William Ward as sheep overseer on Carlsruhe Station on the Campaspe River. During that year Donnithorne and Ward first set eyes on the valley at the west side of Mount Alexander. This blue hill, far to the north, must have seemed to be 'better country, further out'. No-one else had grazed sheep in this valley. It was described as rich 'downs' full of emu and kangaroo resembling the park-scenery of an English country house.

The Ebdon-Donnithorne partnership was dissolved at the end of 1839. James Donnithorne took over the northern part of the sheep run and called it St Agnes Station, and appointing William Ward as manager. Ward was to receive a share of the profits rather than a salary. Donnithorne then sailed for Sydney, leaving Ward in charge.

William Ward seems to have been strong and energetic. He had to superintend 22 workers situated at outstations ranging from the Campaspe River to Mt Alexander. He drew large sums of money on Donnithorne's account and spent the funds on wages, provisions, hurdles and sheds. In the meantime James Donnithorne sent (from his New England pastures) a further mob of 2,726 ewes. William Ward took delivery of these sheep at Mt Alexander in August 1840, meeting the new flock with shepherds and hut-keepers (and a few rams) from St Agnes.

Out in the open country somehow or other the calendar went astray so that the shepherds in their isolation lost all sense of time. The older men said that the ewes would begin lambing, calendar or no calendar, when they had to. But the shepherds became restive, then angry and frightened. The sheep were late. Something must be wrong with the pasture. They would die in lambing. All would be lost. It was no help to have time on your hands and no-one else to talk to. While all this was going on William Ward was seen at the races and at public houses and had been involved in a brawl outside a tavern.

The whole Mount Alexander/St Agnes outfit was over extended. The wages bill mounted up and the cost of buildings and improvements was scandalous. Meanwhile sheep were becoming less and less valuable. To cut his losses, Donnithorne sold the Mount Alexander Run, of 3,000 ewes, with huts and hurdles and run thrown in, to Dr Barker, on 5th June 1843.

Then came settlement day; to avoid his obligation to give Ward a share of the profits, Donnithorne started legal action for damages against his former manager. The case of Donnithorne v. Ward became one of the most important, lengthy and expensive legal actions of the pre-gold-rush era. In evidence to the court it was said that Ward 'was supposed to be good with livestock but he did not have the ability to manage his men'. More grubby allegations were made; William Ward was ruined by this action.

William Ward died suddenly and unexpectedly on 10th

November 1848 on the station of Brodie Bros at Deep Creek, Bulla. The inquest was told that Ward had been drinking heavily for three days prior to his death. The jury found that he had died 'in a natural way, and not otherwise'. A letter to the next day's Argus pointed out that William Ward's 'unhappy end affords to the attentive observer the ruinous tendency of an immoderate use of intoxicating liquors'. William Ward was buried at Bulla. Thus ended the career of one who became the first European to occupy, with a flock of 2,726 sheep, the fertile valley we now know as Harcourt.

**This is one of a series of 'thumbnail sketches' of the pioneers, derived from the collection of Harcourt Heritage Centre, by George Milford.**

## Vale Ivan Pellas

28th February 1923–15th April 2018

Ivan Francis Pellas was born in Reservoir Road Harcourt and died in Bendigo at the age of 95 years. In his working life he had a distinguished career in the SEC utilising his skills as an electrical engineer. He was a Senior Manager in Bendigo and Castlemaine branches. He was a math's whiz and the family believes that one of his formulae for the balancing the distribution of electricity with consumer demand, could still well be in use. He was an articulate writer and showed early skills in drawing and painting; in middle age he loved sailing and camping. Ivan served in World War II in the RAAF and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The citation for the medal says that in "September 1944, when detailed to attack an enemy target, one engine of the aircraft failed while still some distance from the target, but flying officer Pellas pressed on and the mission was completed successfully. This example is typical of the courage and determination which this officer has displayed throughout his operational

*Continued next page ...*



*Ivan Pellas as a young flying officer in the RAAF and with his Distinguished Flying Cross and other medals, age 92.*





## The Harcourt Lions Club

The Harcourt Lions Club has had a very busy start to the year providing assistance to the Harcourt Valley Easter Festival and with setting up the Marquees for several local events.

In April we begin the work experience component of the Harcourt Lions Club Youth Development Program. This program will provide a select number of students from the Castlemaine Secondary College with work experience opportunities at the Goldfields Track Café and the Victorian Miniature Railway. Students will be given a 'hands on' experience working in a range of trade activities in the construction of the Miniature Railway. Other students will be involved in developing their knowledge and skills working in the hospitality Industry at the Café. All the students in the program will also learn about the local history, the Harcourt Community and environmental sustainability.

The program has been put together with the very generous support of local businesses, community groups and the Castlemaine Secondary College. To maximise the learning opportunities for the students involved, we invite anyone interested in volunteering 2 -3 hours on a Friday morning, to contact Grant Victor-Gordon from the Harcourt Lions via the Club website: [harcourt.vic.lions.org.au](http://harcourt.vic.lions.org.au) or by phone on 0410 261 338.



### Vale Ivan Pellas ... from previous page

career." Ivan was 21 years of age at this time and went on to fly 37 missions. Ivan and Ethel Quirk had four children. The family is still mainly based in Mount Alexander Shire and gathered on Monday 30 April to farewell a much loved father, grandfather and uncle.

The Pellas family's role in Harcourt began in the 1880s.

Two brothers Johannes (John) Hermanson Pellas and August Hermanson Pellas left Finland for Australia in the late 1870's. They "jumped" ship and made their way inland walking, carrying all their worldly possessions. They eventually camped overnight under a bridge on the Bendigo road (Calder Highway) at Harcourt - a favourite spot of swagmen. Within a week, they were employed by Philip Trevean and on their way to establishing a Pellas family dynasty which grew from a pair of brothers with virtually no possessions in the 1880's to land-holdings, including four large orchards, and some 37 descendants 50 years later, in the 1930's. During the 1930's, the family fielded a district cricket team of 11 males named Pellas.

John and his wife Eliza (nee Trevean) had nine children of whom four were boys: Herman, Perce, Ivan and Frank. Ivan and Frank Pellas were killed in action during World War I. Perce (August Percival Phillip Pellas) married Ethel Leversha and was Ivan's father. Ivan (1923 - 2018) was named after his two uncles killed in WWI. (This historical information is an abbreviated version of family history provided by Frank Pellas, Ivan's son and was written by his Uncle Tas, Ivan's brother who was a journalist in Sydney).



**Proud sponsors  
of the  
Harcourt  
Applefest  
2018**

**Wrecking all makes and models.  
We buy any car or ute\***

**Come and see your local strippers.**

**Midland Highway, Barkers Creek  
Ph: 5474 2432**

LMCT 10769 \*Conditions Apply



**Di Selwood**  
Sales Consultant  
Castlemaine & Harcourt

Mobile: 0488 148 358  
Phone: 03 5474 2807  
Fax: 03 8677 9033  
Email: [di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au](mailto:di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au)

148 - 152 High Street,  
Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555



# Harcourt Bowling Club

April has been another busy month on the green for Harcourt bowlers finalising Championship games before the Presentation Night.

## 100-Up Club Competition Finals

On a blustery afternoon last Friday the finals of both the Ladies and Men's 100 Up club competition was played out to a gallery of interested spectators. John Grant was able to get the better of Brian Smith early in their game and went on to a convincing win despite a valiant effort by Brian.

Meanwhile a close competition between Chris Anderson and Wendy Chaplin maintained the interest of spectators with Chris coming out the overall winner.



*John Grant and Brian Smith*



*Chris Anderson and Wendy Chaplin*

## Ladies' Championship Pairs

The Final of the Ladies' nominated pairs Championship held last Friday was a good contest over 18 ends between Heather Braid and Chris Anderson; and Kaye Grant and Judy Hall. By the 12<sup>th</sup> end Heather and Chris had a handy lead but some fine bowling by Kaye and Judy put them within close contention. After the 18 ends and over 3 hours of good competitive bowling Heather and Chris were overall winners.



*Champ Pairs winners Heather & Chris with Judy & Kaye*

## Men's Championship Pairs

The Final of the Men's nominated pairs Championship was also held last week between Daryl Gale and Ken Delmenico and Grahame Hill and Terry Chisholm. This was another

close contest with championship bowling. The winners by a narrow margin were Daryl Gale and Ken Delmenico.



*Champion Pairs Winners Daryl & Ken*

## Bendigo Bowls Division Presentation Night

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> the Skips of the winning Grand Final Weekend Pennant Division 6 side attended the Bendigo Bowls Division presentation dinner where they were presented with the coveted Premiership Trophy. This trophy now has pride of place in the Clubhouse.

## Rice Memorial Triples

The Rice Annual Club Tournament was held last Saturday afternoon and was keenly contested by a full field. Winners on the day were Terry Chisholm, Grahame Hill and Chris Anderson from Runners Up Leo Moloney, Ron Frankling and Myra Frankling. The Memorial Shield was presented by Wayne Rice the son Ben and Amy Rice in whose name the competition is held.



*Rice Triples Winners Terry, Chris, Grahame with Wayne Rice*



## Club Presentation Night

The end of season Presentation Night was also held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> in the evening following the Rice Triples. A great night of celebration for a successful year for the Club was had by all who attended enjoying lots of laughter and dancing. Thanks to David, Mick and Joe for organising the music, the Catering committee for the food and Quilly for tending the bar. Presentations to the winners throughout the season were awarded to those as listed below:-

**Grants Pairs Winners** – Terry Chisholm & Heather Braid

**Ladies' Drawn Pairs** – Lorna Davey & Wendy Chaplin

**Ladies' Singles Champion** – Joan Bath, R/Up Wendy Chaplin

**Men's Championship Pairs** – John Starbuck & Iain McGibbon

**Men's Singles Champion** – Phil Clarke – R/Up Tony Olssen

**Men's 100-Up** - John Grant – R/Up Brian Smith

**Men's Nominated Pairs** – Ken Delmenico & Daryl Gale – R/Up Grahame Hill & Terry Chisholm

**Ladies 100-Up** – Chris Anderson – R/Up Wendy Chaplin

**Ladies Nominated Pairs** – Heather Braid & Chris Anderson, R/Up Kaye Grant & Judy Hall

**Rice Triples** – Terry Chisholm, Grahame Hill, Chris Anderson, R/Up Leo Moloney, Ron Frankling & Myra Frankling



*Season winners 2017-18*

## Annual General Meeting Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>

The Harcourt Bowling Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am and followed by a barbeque. Nominations to fill 59 positions at the club for the various committees as well as Board positions are now being taken. These positions are all necessary and important for the successful management and maintenance of the Club. Members are encouraged to participate in the running of the Club. Nomination forms are available at the club.

All welcome



**Saturday  
May 12  
7.30  
Castlemaine**

**Tickets  
\$15 at the door  
\$40 for families**

**Featuring**  
song-writers  
& special guests:  
**Saul Roche  
Fay White  
Annie Kennedy  
Caithlin Meave**  
and...  
**Cowboy swing dance band...  
The Tequila Mockingbirds**

**THEATRE ROYAL**  
*The* **CHAT-WARBLERS**  
*let fly*

**THEATRE ROYAL**

## Vocal Nosh 6th May

We will meet at Newstead Community Centre from 6 pm to 8.30 pm for singing and supper.

Our leader this month is Fay White and our theme is "Songs of the land and its people". All welcome including children, who need to be supervised.

To book (so we know how much soup to cook) please call Fay on 0447 576 642

**The  
Good  
Life  
Careers**

**Get that Job!**

Resumes  
Job applications  
Interview coaching  
**Genevieve Ward**  
**0409 070 930**

## The final year of World War I – 1918

When the crowd gathered for ANZAC Day this year, note was made of some events which took place in 1918 in Harcourt. At the ANA Hall Diana Cork read a list of the dead and wounded for that year, but also gave details of significant events which occurred.

In June of 1918 to celebrate Arbour Day there was a clean-up of Stanley Park by residents. School students took part in planting trees which were dedicated to the fallen. There were a total of 252 trees, shrubs and palms planted as well as 33 roses.

The Patriotic Committee convened a public meeting on 16th September 1918 to make arrangements to keep the orchards of all soldiers on active service maintained and in good order. At this meeting it was also decided to plant an Avenue of Honour along High Street Harcourt.

It took at least 6 months for all the returned soldiers to make their way back to Harcourt. On Friday June 13th of 1919 a Welcome Home Social was held at the ANA Hall. A "meat tea" was provided followed by the presentation of framed certificates (supplied by Metcalf Shire Council) to each soldier. Some of these have been donated by families to the Heritage Centre and are on display in the ANA Hall.

November 11 2018, will mark 100 years since the Armistice was declared marking the end of World War I.

## Edward Nicholson – Veteran

Edward Nicholson is a Vietnam Veteran who as young man was plucked from an Electrical Trades Apprenticeship and conscripted into the army. In February 1967 he began a year's training at Puckapunyal; by December he had left Australia on the troop carrier HMAS Sydney III. The ship collected troops at Adelaide and Fremantle – a familiar start for soldiers who had left previously for both World Wars. Ed spent a total of two years in the infantry in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion – a year in Australia and a year in Vietnam. The war continued as he was flown home after his overseas service. While in Vietnam he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

He said, "I was only 20 years of age and at the time it didn't enter your mind how dangerous it was. I lost a good mate in the battle called Coral Balmoral. It was near the Ho Chi Minh trail and lasted for two weeks." Ed and his wife Charmaine will be travelling to Canberra in May to commemorate the 50 year anniversary of the battle. Later in the year they will travel to Townsville for a reunion. "We are like a family after all these years, we have many good friends as a result of Ed's service," said Charmaine.

On his return to Australia Ed completed his apprenticeship and went on to run his own business in and around Castlemaine for a number of years.



## Sometime ago ...

**HARCOURT.**

After the midday recess, the pupils visitors, and teachers assembled round the flagpole, where the Union Jack and Australian flag were flying. The children saluted the flag, and repeated their obligation, "I love God and my country." They then marched into No. 1 class room, where they were addressed by Mrs Rash and Mr A. E. Eagle (school committee), and the head teacher (Mr J. Stewart). Everyone wore Anzac medallions. Patriotic choruses were sung by the children. After three cheers had been given for King and Empire, the visitors, and an old schoolmate, Ivan Pellas, who has just gone into camp. The National Anthem was sung, and the children departed looking forward to their Easter holiday. The decoration of the classrooms was very favorably commented upon by the visitors. This work was carried out by the senior girls with flowers (chiefly roses) from the school garden. Two hundred medallions were sold by the pupils of this school to parents and others within the school district, as there are about 100 pupils on the roll, this far exceeds the estimated sales of 60 per cent.

From the Mount Alexander Mail 22 Apr 1916 via Trove

## Harcourt Walking Group Marks ANZAC Day



*These ladies from the Harcourt Walking Group helped place rosemary and flags on soldiers' graves at the Harcourt cemetery as we have done for the last 3 or 4 years. Thank you to L-R Liz, Valma, Liz and Farley. Photo supplied by Wendy Barron.*



# Anzac Day Observance in Harcourt

Guest speaker at Harcourt's ANZAC Day observance was Ron Lister of Flora Hill, Bendigo. Ron's father and uncles served in the Army during the Second World War, with his father being among the first relief troops sent into Darwin after enemy bombing in 1942. Ron and Jeannie Lister have two adult children, the eldest of whom – Nerida - is a current serving member of the Royal Australian Air Force, based in Adelaide. Nerida is a Squadron Leader who has completed five six month deployments in the Middle East during the past ten years.

Ron drew his remarks from the words of Major General (ret'd) John Cantwell, who was Commander of all Australian forces in Afghanistan and the wider Middle Eastern area of operations. On ANZAC Day we celebrate, with tremendous pride, the men and women of the Australian Defence Forces - they serve with courage, tenacity and dignity as sons and daughters of ANZAC. Another speaker has spoken of "the mix of wisdom, responsibility and restraint that characterises the Aussie soldier of today". This is a maturing

of the ANZAC Spirit distilled by the experience of modern warfare. Major General John Cantwell was quoted as saying "there is something about the Aussie character that is suited to things soldiers are asked to do - It is the spirit of ANZAC."

It was clear to the listeners that Ron looks up to Major General Cantwell. A 'google' search will reveal just why the Lister family respects Nerida's former Commanding Officer. Major General Cantwell is quite frank about the fact that he was, and is, disturbed about what he saw, and felt, in the modern theatre of war. He suffers from PTSD and he identifies readily with the young men and women, and their families, who have had similar experiences to his own.

Following Ron Lister's speech, local bush poet Melva Graham read a poem of her own composing, entitled "Gum Leaves in A Jar". It was with much to think about that Melva's audience then assembled to march to the War Memorial for the wreath-laying.

*George Milford*



*Photo by David Ling.*



*Andrew Blake, Harcourt Valley Primary School Principal and students presented a wreath during the service*



*The crowd was the biggest that The Core has seen in recent years*



# La Larr Ba Gauwa Park, April 2018 Update

La Larr Ba Gauwa Park—including the Harcourt Mountain Bike Trails—opened in March. It's already brought a renewed sense of energy and hundreds of new visitors to the region.

## Early Activity

The park has been boosting local activity levels from the outset. Students from Harcourt Valley Primary School were the first to ride the officially opened trails, and many other folks have explored them in the weeks since.

Of course, riders have come from further afield too. Everyone from beginners to experts have tested the new trails. Weekends and public holidays have been especially busy, and feedback has been extremely positive. It's clear this facility is already becoming a favourite destination for mountain bikers from across Victoria.

## Under New Management

The opening of the park coincided with a shift in management. The State Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) had previously been the main point of contact for park issues. As of the opening, though, what goes on in the park is now managed by a volunteer Committee of Management.

The skills-based committee comprises representatives from the local community, the Dja Dja Wurrung people, mountain bikers, land managers and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.

## Emerging Matters

As La Larr Ba Gauwa's reputation grows, there will be plenty of opportunities for local growth and enterprise. At the same time, we can expect some teething issues.

Traffic management has been a frequent topic of conversation. Such matters are primarily the responsibility of the shire council, but the park's committee of management is also committed to working harmoniously with all stakeholders. While many visitors already follow the advice, others are yet to see the light. People have noted unauthorised car parking on and near the triangle at the Market Street and Reservoir Road junction, and an increased volume of traffic and dust generated on Picnic Gully Road.



*The crowd at the official opening of the La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park – crowds of bike riders have followed the opening, causing some parking issues in and around Harcourt.*



*On the day of the opening of La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park at Harcourt, Tyrone Rice, John Jenkins and George Milford inspect the bike maintenance station installed at park trail head.*

As such, all mountain bike riders are being strongly encouraged to park their cars in the Harcourt Township and ride the purpose-built track to La Larr Ba Gauwa.

## Community, Committee, Shire and State

In April, a number of Picnic Gully Road residents were invited to a meeting with representatives from DELWP, Mount Alexander Shire Council and the La Larr Ba Gauwa Committee of Management.

Having all these groups involved was pivotal: The Shire is responsible for the roads, traffic and parking, DELWP have agreements with council and a stake in the park's success, and the Committee of Management covers everything that happens within the park.

We shared concerns and discussed potential strategies for resolution. Council made it clear that the current volume of traffic on Picnic Gully Road is insufficient to warrant resurfacing, with a number of other gravel roads in the region actually experiencing higher loads. It was also discussed that sealing the road would likely be an invitation to more and more traffic, making it potentially counter-productive.

Productive outcomes from the meeting included:

- a commitment by Mount Alexander Shire Council to address concerns about parking on the triangle, starting with safety bollards, signage and enforcement of parking rules.
- improved signage in the Harcourt township to better encourage visitor parking in the correct areas
- investment to renew the toilet and shower facilities at the Harcourt Pool, to be made partially available to visitors who park their cars in the township.
- placement of traffic counters on Picnic Gully Road to continuously monitor usage.



Everyone at the meeting agreed: many of the issues don't have simple solutions. However, we all made a commitment to co-operate and find outcomes within the existing frameworks that serve the interests of residents and visitors alike.

## Opportunities and Events

Already, locals are developing ideas to leverage this newfound popularity. There has been an obvious uptick for retail and hospitality, and there are still some exciting and ambitious projects to come. Henry of Harcourt has something in the works, and others do too. (See page 5 of this edition)

Community and mountain biking groups interested in hosting events at La Larr Ba Gauwa Park have already began exploring possibilities. If you've got an idea, get in touch with the committee of management (see below).

One of the first events is likely to be a new series of inter-club mountain bike racing held across venues in Bendigo, Castlemaine and at La Larr Ba Gauwa. The series will commence in June and is expected to attract around 200 participants.

## Contact and Feedback

Issues about roads, traffic and parking are primarily a concern for council. Residents can call the Shire Council on (03) 5471 1700, write to PO Box 185, Castlemaine 3450 or email [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

The La Larr Ba Gauwa website is a work in progress. It already includes the Park brochure and map, plus a contact page—but not a lot else yet. Use that contact page to send information and feedback to the park's committee of management: [lalarrbagauwa.harcourt.vic.au/contact](http://lalarrbagauwa.harcourt.vic.au/contact). The volunteer committee meets at least once a month and the subcommittees do more in between. They'll get back to you ASAP.

To stay in the loop, follow the La Larr Ba Gauwa Facebook Page: [@lalarrbagauwapark](https://www.facebook.com/lalarrbagauwapark).

*Marketing Sub-Committee of La Larr Ba Gauwa Park  
Committee of Management.*

## Cactus Warriors Opening Field Day

Our first wheel cactus field day for 2018 will held on  
**Sunday 27 May at 10 a.m.**

The season will be launched by our local Tarrengower Ward Councillor Stephen Gardner and Maree Edwards, State Member for Bendigo West, will also be present.

The location will be announced the week before the field day on our website, [www.cactuswarriors.org](http://www.cactuswarriors.org), or you can email us at [info@cactuswarriors.org](mailto:info@cactuswarriors.org)

## Got a cactus problem? Let us help you get started.

If you want some advice about managing this noxious weed, you can come to one of our field days for a demo and 'have a go' with a mentor. Tools are provided for the morning. The company is friendly and the free BBQ lunch at the end of the session is luscious. If you have a real problem with a cactus infection, we can arrange a visit to your property and we are currently looking for new sites for our field days.




## EPA calls for entries in the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is encouraging businesses, government organisations, community groups and individuals who have shown leadership in environmental protection to enter the 2018 Premier's Sustainability Awards.


Entries for the Premier's Sustainability Awards close at 5pm on Thursday 7 June. Finalists will be announced in mid-August and invited to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday 11 October.

To enter and for more information visit: [www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au)



**BUSINESS  
MOUNT ALEXANDER**  
good business ↔ good community

**AGM + Speed Networking Night**



**SPEED NETWORK**

**When:** 6 to 9pm, May 22, 2018  
**Where:** The Taproom, 9 Walker Street, Castlemaine  
**RSVP:** [gen@businessmountalexander.org.au](mailto:gen@businessmountalexander.org.au)

## General Store Update

Annette and Bruce Rae report that they have made great progress with the renovations on the residence behind the shop and expect that they will begin serious work on the General Store itself in early May. Annette has successfully regained the landline phone number for the store, so for past suppliers and customers of the store there's no need to change that number in their records. The phone will be re-connected from Thursday May 3.

Local businesses have now showed interest and support by wanting their produce on display and for sale in the shop.

As mentioned in last month's article there is a separate retail space being developed at the north end of the General Store. The measurements for the retail space are: W: 4.0m L: 6.7m and it has its own entrance, display window and electricity supply. If you are interested Annette is open for ideas and she can be contacted on 0430 302 763 or [annettefie@bigpond.com](mailto:annettefie@bigpond.com) or the shop landline: 5474 2135.



Photos of a twin Fuji apple which Annette picked from one of her trees.

## Pet of the Month



Rocky and Pluto (black dog) are both part Labrador and are the much loved pets of Robyn Miller and Nick Quirk. Please send a photo of your pet with their name and a bit of a story about them. Human members of the family can be included in the photo as well!!

## A wish and a sigh

*By Anita Le Lievre*

Sending love  
over the hills  
across the treetops  
through the clouds  
To fall on a golden city  
on deaf ears  
like notes falling  
from strings  
floating away  
on wings  
Born from dreams  
that are alive  
in the dark  
like conversations  
in the night  
Sometimes dreams  
take flight  
and become  
dislodged in  
outer space

## LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

I went for a walk with my mother,  
And we talked at great length of my brother  
And then of my sister  
Who'd married a mister  
Who was still going out with another.

## Love your pet? Send us a picture!

Send your photos to the editor: [news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au)  
with a statement about why you love your pet.





## Councillor Comment

### Harcourt features in next Council Budget

Hi all,

There is some great news in the budget for Harcourt: The designs for the new playground, the pedestrian crossing/bus shelter on the west side of Harmony way and the female change rooms for netball are all included. There may be another project for Harcourt that you would like to see included. The budget is now available for public comment; submissions need to be received by 5.00pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018. Rates are capped at a 2.25% increase overall which is not too bad but individual property owners will see some variations due to changes in valuations.

I attended the Anzac service at Castlemaine, Sutton Grange and Harcourt. It was great to see a few cousins as well as some old friends at Harcourt. At Sutton Grange I got some further feedback about the decision to increase the event size allowed at the Sutton Grange Winery. Larger events have a flow on throughout the Shire and it also makes it possible to bring the best possible entertainment. Councillors are required to make decisions that are in the best interest of the whole community so that is why I supported the decision.

I recently attended the Calder Highway Improvement Committee Meeting. This committee includes community

representatives, VicRoads and Council representatives whose Ward is along the route. I passed on concerns about the wire rope barriers. It appears we will have to put up with them for a long time.

From the look of the township the last few weekends it appears the Mountain Bikers have arrived. I have been surprised by the numbers and there must be a positive impact on local businesses. I am sure we will see local business people starting up new ventures as the numbers build. Remember to work with Council to make sure you are on the right track with planning approval and permits. It is noted that Council officers are working hard to resolve some of the parking issues so I would expect to see progress on that front shortly.

Most of will have been enjoying the nice weather but please let it rain. Our gardens and farms need a drink!! Enjoy the mild weather before it gets cold again.

*Best regards Tony  
AG Cordy  
0439 742434.*

See the Shire advertisement on page 21 for information on how to make a submission about the Council budget

### FOR RENT

Sedgwick (15 mins from Castlemaine)  
Small self-contained cottage  
Living room/kitchenette plus bedroom  
Low rent

Contact Simon 0408 666 455

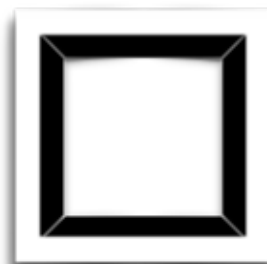
### PROFESSIONAL PICTURE FRAMING SERVICE

Based in Taradale  
by appointment  
or will visit

- CUSTOM FRAMING
- CONSERVATION FRAMING
- EXHIBITION FRAMING
- OBJECT FRAMING

T 0422 168 228

E jeindrans@gmail.com



**BIG BOOK** Poetry  
**Small Book** Novels • Family Tree  
Memoir • Oral History

proofreading • editing • book design  
ebook services  
negotiable rates

**Level Heading**

Bernie Schultz  
0409 52 43 54  
bernsch@gmail.com  
levelheading.com



# Fruit Fly threatens all fruit and vegetables grown in Harcourt

After a long fruit growing history, Harcourt has come up against a new foe. Queensland Fruit Fly is on our doorstep and threatens to abruptly end our fruit production heritage by decimating home gardens and commercial crops alike.

On Thursday 5th April Megan Hill, the project officer for the Fruit Fly Action Plan and Ali Brookes of Maldon Cherry Farm organised a series of information sessions across the Shire to educate the community. A small crowd of farmers and gardeners gathered at the Harcourt Anglican hall for the final one hour session of the day.

...it will take a unified effort from the entire community to safeguard our veggie gardens and our orchards.

We discussed the history of the Queensland Fruit Fly and its march south over the Eastern states, the life cycle of the insect, the diverse range of fruit it will affect, what to do with infected produce and of course, a range of potential defence mechanisms.

Netting, baiting, trapping and hygiene were all discussed at length but the prominent message from the day was that it will take a unified effort from the entire community to safeguard our veggie gardens and our orchards. Every backyard fruit tree and garden must be managed properly or removed. That means installing traps to monitor the population, netting plants or bagging fruit, using baiting sprays if necessary (there are organic and non-organic options available), and even having some chooks or ducks to reduce fly numbers. If any fruit is found to be infected it must be collected immediately

and solarised (placed in a garbage bag and left in the sun for a few days) or frozen. Infected fruit can NOT be composted as this is the perfect environment for the larvae to pupate and hatch.

As a new fruit grower in the area I was keen to attend the session so that I could improve my knowledge of the fly and better understand all the options available to defend my new orchard. It is daunting to be starting a farming enterprise in the face of this insidious pest but I have faith that we can collectively protect ourselves. Also, my current farming mentors, Hugh and Katie of Mount Alexander Fruit

Gardens, hold a wealth of experience and knowledge that I can glean and add to my pest control tool belt.

I am passionate about farming, love growing food for my local community, and feel proud to be the next generation of custodian for Harcourt's fruit production history. These are the things that motivate me to 'fight the fly'. Spread the word, educate your friends, properly manage or remove your fruiting trees/plants and help us farmers stay fruit fly free.

*Ant Wilson,  
Intern, Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens*



Harcourt community members gather to learn about Queensland Fruit Fly.

**ASQ Skydancers - Garden, Gift & Café**

[www.asq.net.au](http://www.asq.net.au)  
 a Cnr Blackjack Rd & Midland Hwy, Harcourt  
 p 03 5474 3800 | e skydancers@asq.net.au

## ASQ Plant of the Month

Camellias are hardy, versatile, flowering plants with an attractive glossy green foliage. They create a fabulous display in the cooler months of the year, adding a touch of class and beauty when many of the other plants in your garden are looking dull and bare! There are many styles and colours to choose from and they grow really well either in garden beds or feature pots.

Visit ASQ Skydancers to see their range of beautiful Camellias!



0408 128 313  
[phil@thefoliagefellers.com.au](mailto:phil@thefoliagefellers.com.au)

Keeping your gardens looking good all year round

Covering all aspects of garden maintenance  
 and fire hazard reduction

Fully insured ABN 46 398 638 178



## Time to plant fruit trees

It's time to be thinking about what fruit trees you're going to plant this winter (because there's always room for one more), and now is a great time to do some soil preparation.

Best practice is to plant an autumn green manure crop, using a mix of legumes (to add nitrogen to the soil, a grass (to add lots of organic matter) and a few herbs (to add more nutrients). You can either buy an autumn green manure seed mix from a nursery, or buy the individual seeds to make up your own mix.

Now that we've had at least a little rain in autumn and the weather is still relatively warm, the conditions are perfect to go ahead and plant the seed wherever you intend to plant your fruit trees, but unless we get some more rain soon, you might need to help the green manure crop with a bit of watering.

Once it's grown, and before you plant your fruit trees, you can either dig the green manure into the soil (which is best), or just cut it down and leave it lying on the surface.

Even if you don't have time to plant a green manure crop, don't let your lack of soil preparation stop you planting trees this year. You could add some rich compost or well-rotted manure when you plant the trees, but if you can't manage that, it's better to plant trees into whatever soil you have, and work on the soil improvement later than miss another year of getting your future fruit supply started.

On another note, if you want to try growing your own trees, now is a great time to collect some apple and pear seed and store it over winter, to be ready to plant in spring. Choose seeds that are dark brown and plump. Granny Smith apples, or Packham pears are usually a reliable source of seed, but it's fine to use whatever you can get your hands on.

The seeds will produce large seedling root stocks that can be grown on as fruit trees, but the fruit they produce won't be 'true-to-type', and it's much better to graft them with a known variety. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring."

Hugh and Katie 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). They sell bare-rooted fruit trees; order trees on their website [www.mafg.com.au](http://www.mafg.com.au), orders taken until June 30, and trees will be available to pick up from the farm from the 18th–22nd July.

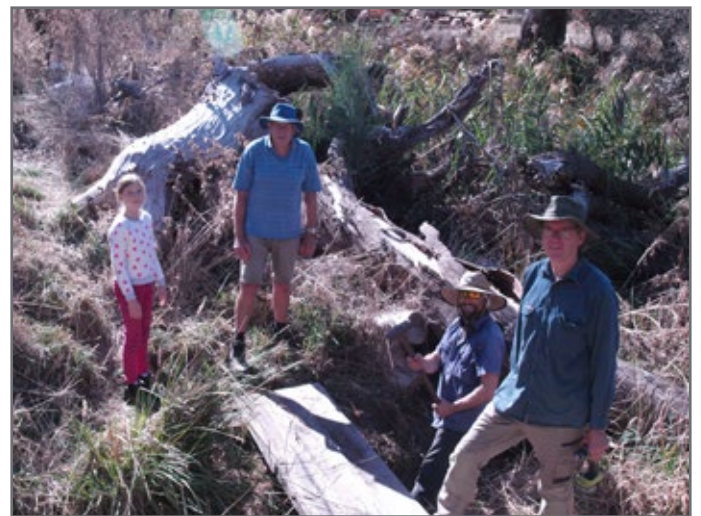


## Harcourt Valley Landcare

At their April Working Bee members of the Harcourt Valley Landcare group replaced a small bridge which was washed away in last year's floods. The bridge spans a tributary of Barkers Creek and was located after the floods tangled in debris; it was repaired and re-installed on the day. The area where the group has been working is on the opposite side of the creek from the Pony Club and is entered from Harmony Way. It is a lovely flat open space by the creek with many indigenous plantings which the group has been tending for a number of years. Council has installed a seat in this quiet place which is good for bird watching. There is a walk along the creek back into town from here and it is possible to cross Barkers Creek via Toll Gate Park Bridge, which is located opposite the CFA in Bridge Street.

The next working bee for Harcourt Valley Landcare will be a joint one with Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, learning how to inject wheel cactus, which is the most efficient means of destroying this invasive pest plant.

For information about this working bee or to join Harcourt Valley Landcare, contact the Secretary on 0467 670 271.



Electrical Maintenance Specialist  
Commercial – Domestic - Healthcare - Solar  
Phone: 0410 921 018 REC. 20096



### SJK EXCAVATIONS

Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks

Stuart King

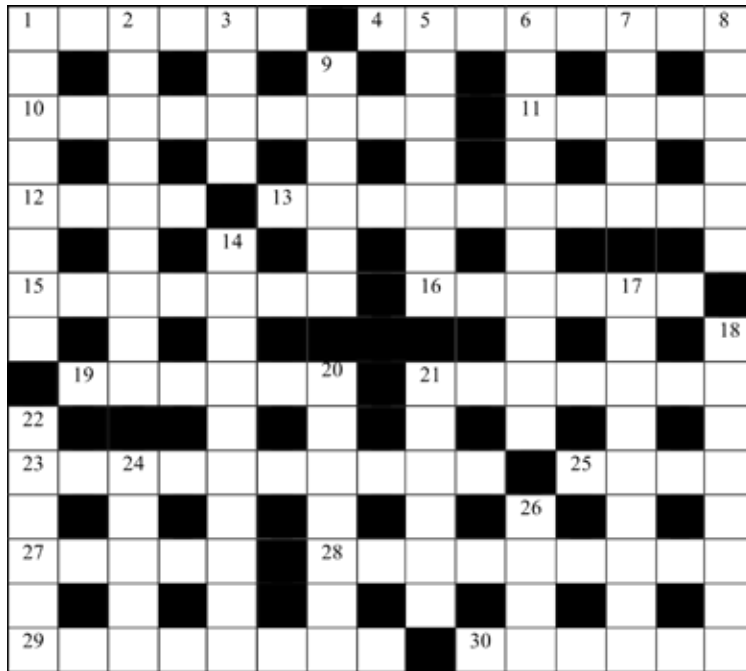
Owner/Operator  
[sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au)

0407 514 797

ABN: 63708909386

# MAY Xword 2018

© McW Feb '17



## Down:

1. Clumsy way to avoid making a profit? (8)
2. Thought I was replaced by firm in fire-starting must-have. (9)
3. To a huge extent the site of US motivation for involvement. (4)
5. Luhrmann, nothing, all right a fowling-piece for really big birds? (7)
6. Delete criminal jargon from snail and add what Kevin got through for the study of getting away from it all. (10)
7. Fit to be picked under the junction? Rubbish! (5)
8. Sees Russians who hacked Hillary? (6, or 1-5)
9. In favour of old heavyweight at the heart of things? (6)
14. Stove you put down this way flower. (10)
17. Dung is an element of it, and power is always tied up with it—Asian idea? (9)
18. Upward female engineering masterpiece over nothing genuine to do with forests. (8)
20. Gaita, clad as one much more out there. (7)
21. Succeed. Attempt chilly demeanour... (6)
22. Date trees' silent P's give holy songs. (6)
24. Drum basic steps into Cuban heels to make them hop to... (5)
26. Drive not starting major cleanout. (4)

## Across:

1. Hot but not! (6)
4. Missing golf equipment is missing a character? (8)
10. A two-wheeled light carriage reverses at one cycle a second to produce something immensely faster. (9)
11. Badly sunburnt camp? (5)
12. Individual from 1B is likely to be a stick-in-the-mud, but flighty! (4)
13. Ditch around royals decomposed before globe gives breathing space. (10)
15. Natal behaviour misconstrued as couch-potato morning routine... (5-2)
16. Assert, with no proof, that a big bird confused a learner. (6)
19. It's all about pins in reverse for the deadeye... (6)
21. It takes nothing for Dick to become a four-wheel driver. (7)
23. Short rules reading seductively are probably singing? (10)
25. Mayday, then nothing: only just par... (2-2)
27. Get the mongrel out of curly old rate of knots for colourless fluid. (5)
28. Four-wheeled version of first 3 of 10 and spine of mountain range produce ordnance? (9)
29. Green herb scattered thinly from the pole. (8)
30. Flammable item in carpet rolls. (6)

# APRIL Xword 2018 solution © McW January '17



## Down:

1. It was only crystals I was dealing with before being brought to this. [Well? Just ice, yer honour...]
2. Animals are involved, but the difference between 2 & 15d is that one hangs onto the place they're kept [keeper], and the other sort-of [logs it]... (3-6)
3. Animal noise from stable after losing its head isn't a horse! (5)
4. Vital to the enterprise, they say it kept Philip[Lynch]'s tie in place. (5-3)
5. Poem of praise on light metal [Al] produces a book. (6)
6. [I drag arms] up to the 4th floor, above this parade, because I'm anti-LGBTQI. (5,4)
7. Chooks won't sleep in Wallaby Ave—they go here instead! [Well?]
8. Pondered [mused], present tense [of...] being [=is] incorporated, ill-treated... (7)
13. Can one depend on there being no deep end to these questions? (4-5)
15. (See 2d.) (9)
16. Lachrymal shape? [Well?]
17. What's [knees] up Mother Brown in a topsy-turvy way [st] is a middle-eastern legislature.
19. Cats, whether you please or no... [Well?]
20. I chase you in my wallet [purse]. (6)
22. Quartz and main bits of sandstone wave about once they get the top off the sauce-bottle. [silica]
23. Cry havoc, all right, let loose the dogs of war—and be free-speaking...

## Across:

1. [Je-suis Beelzebub], but sans am, l'enfant, and the oriental slant—which makes me a C9th BCE princess... (7)
5. Banal to smell unpleasantly before hearing percussion. [Well?]
9. How to get away with an insurance fire at Luna Park? [Well?]
10. Inappropriate asinine Ptolemy... (5)
11. [In shy chat] one could softly evoke the blue flowers. (9)
12. After an epic hour one may feel thus. (8)
14. Cow did it as a matter of course; kid did it to his knee falling. [Well?]
17. The central essence of what Gough said he wanted? [Well? "K-K-Kerrse that man..."]
18. [Uses nouns] No way! Stays locked in the body... (8)
21. We hear previous one [ex-] who tests is now treasury. (9)
23. There it is! [voila!— No, it's not — brings sneers from the uppity [violins...] strings... (5)
24. The personality that shoots oneself in the foot deflects virtues... (4-11)
25. Polly-speak forms a junction [T-] with duck-walk... (7) [Orwell's "duckspeak" springs to mind...]
26. Where to get a taste for art? [Well?]



### 2018/2019 Proposed Budget

Don't forget to have your say on Council's 2018/2019 Proposed Budget. The \$37.04 million budget aims to maintain and improve infrastructure and deliver more than 100 services to the community. For more information including how to make a submission visit [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay). Hard copies of the budget are available at the Civic Centre, Castlemaine Library, local Visitor Information Centres or the Newstead Rural Transaction Centre. Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 23 May.

### Local jobs fair

Council is proud to partner with PeoplePlus Australia on the 2018 Jobs Fair. Job seekers, employers and trainers across the shire can connect at this free expo-style event. It will be held from 11.00am to 1.30pm on Wednesday 23 May at the Market Building on Mostyn Street, Castlemaine. The initiative is supported by the Victorian Government's Engage! Funding for Youth.

### Stay in touch with Council

Keep an eye out for our public notice each week in the Midland Express, read the latest news on our website and follow us on Facebook [@MountAlexanderShire](https://www.facebook.com/MountAlexanderShire) and [@CastlemaineMaldonSurrounds](https://www.facebook.com/CastlemaineMaldonSurrounds). If you have an enquiry our Customer Service Team is here to help. Call us on 5471 1700 or make an online service request through our website. Check out the Current Vacancies section of the website for all the latest job opportunities.

### Fermented foods workshop

Learn how to create healthy delicious fermented foods at Council's next Sustainable Living workshop. The workshop will be led by Nikki Valentini and held from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday 26 May at the Senior Citizens Centre in Castlemaine. Bookings are limited and essential. To book your place contact Tracey Roberts at [T.Roberts@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:T.Roberts@mountalexander.vic.gov.au) or 5471 1700. Bring one or two empty jars.

### Civic Centre

Corner Lyttleton and Lloyd Streets  
P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700

e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)  
w [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au)

### Harcourt's Little Library

Harcourt now has its own  
Little Library based at the  
Heritage Centre.

*Leave a book, borrow  
or take a book to keep,  
Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm.*



✓ RURAL  
✓ INDUSTRIAL  
✓ STOCK YARDS

For all your fencing & yarding needs!



Contact

0417 104 491 | [info@lewinfencing.com.au](mailto:info@lewinfencing.com.au)



**MT ALEXANDER**  
*Fruit Gardens*

### Grow Great Fruit

Online home-study course

Learn how to grow a year's supply of organic fruit in your backyard.

Pruning, pest and disease control, grafting, preserving & more!

[www.growgreatfruitprogram.com](http://www.growgreatfruitprogram.com)



### FRUIT TREES AVAILABLE

- ◆ All details in FREE "Weekly Fruit Tips" newsletter, sign up at [www.mafg.com.au](http://www.mafg.com.au)
- ◆ Free Online Workshop: "5 Key Steps to Success with Fruit Trees". Sign up at <https://growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/>

# Community Diary Dates

**Thursday 10th May:** 7.30pm, Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall. Contact: Secretary 0467 670 271.

**Friday May 11th & Saturday 12th:** Camp Out on the Mount, Venue: Leanganook Camping Ground. For details see page 3.

**Saturday May 12th:** 7.30pm The Chat-Warblers Women's Community Choir Concert, 'Let fly' Theatre Royal Castlemaine.

**Sunday 20th May:** 9.30am, Joint Landcare Working Bee, Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barker's Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group: Learn to inject Wheel Cactus. Contact: Secretary 0467 670 271.

**Sunday 20th May:** 11.00am The Harcourt Bowling Club AGM followed by a barbeque.

**Sunday 20th May:** 1.30 – 4pm, Learn more about the Dja Dja Wurrung. This Fireside Chat is a Heritage Festival event at the Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt. Enquiries: 0400 916 527

**Sunday 27th May:** 10 am First Wheel Cactus Field Day for 2018. See page 15 for details

**Saturday 2nd June & Sunday 3rd:** 9am to 4.30pm. Castlemaine Cycling Club will once again be hosting the Vic Country and Metro Road Cycling Championships in Harcourt. See pages 2 and 24 for details.

Bowling Club Dates: See page 10.

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.

CWA: First Thursday of the month; 1.30pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre.



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

*Putting Community First*

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

8 Pantom Street (PO Box 326)  
Golden Square VIC 3555  
Tel: (03) 5444 4125 Fax: (03) 5441 8140  
maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au  
f @mareeedwardsmp  
t @mareeedwardsmp  
www.mareeedwards.com.au



## **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: [news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au). 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: [advertising@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:advertising@harcourt.vic.au) or phone 0409 070 930. Circulation is currently 450 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, 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 plus a number of other sites.

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

**Harcourt News/The Core is printed with the assistance of the Harcourt Primary School and Mount Alexander Shire.**

***The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.***



# A new direction for Harcourt Fruit Growers' Association?

With Harcourt's rich history in orchard management and fruit growing, the Harcourt Fruit Growers' Association has played an integral part in keeping important traditions alive, not to mention keeping very busy people in a connected network.

However change comes whether we wish it or not, and with the sad passing of both Rob Chaplin and Drew Henry, both executive members of the association, a decision was made by existing members at the last AGM that perhaps a refocus of direction would give some much needed revitalisation.

Rob and Drew were alike in their staunch support of their community. Drew was my father in law, and whenever we had conversations about the businesses in the valley, it would inevitably lead to his declaration that we should all work together to represent Harcourt - a unified front if you will. Drew wasn't about grabbing his slice of the pie, he was about making the pie bigger so that everyone could benefit, and I think that's a pretty solid philosophy.

As I agree with Drew, and want to do my part to support and promote Harcourt, I have put my hand up for President of the Fruit Growers' Association. Once I have my executive

team in place, a quorum of the current association including the Executive will meet in May to make things official and then the real work can begin.

I propose our mission statement will be to refocus, rebrand and rebuild the Harcourt Fruit Growers' Association to better represent a unity with the rest of the existent and future businesses in our valley. The proposed membership of the group may include all commercial enterprises who wish to join and are part of the Harcourt community.

I feel that this wider and inclusive membership will serve to foster partnerships, create more ability and opportunity to seek government funding for projects, and provide a support network that all can benefit from.

We intend to work closely with the Harcourt Progress Association, and the Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre,

I see our focus as:

- Harcourt Fruit Growers Association (rebranded to include all Businesses – name to be decided)
- Business opportunities
- Government funding information/opportunities
- New or Existing Business development education/support
- Business/Commerce Tourism

At times there may be a cross over between the Fruit Growers, HPA and the Heritage and Tourist Centre when a particular item or event requires input from more than one, or all of them, and that is exactly how it should be. I'm looking forward to doing my part to make the pie bigger for us all.

*Troyene Evans, Pommelier and Cider Pirate  
Henry of Harcourt  
troy@henrycider.com*



**solar power | battery storage | hot water |  
insulation | eco lighting | paints and oils |  
eco products for house and garden**

49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues-Sat from 10am  
t: 5472 4160 e: newstead@enviroshop.com.au  
www.enviroshop.com.au

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday			
	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday			
	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



**GRANITE HOUSE B & B  
HARCOURT  
0467 670 271  
WWW.STAYZ.COM.AU**

Find us on Facebook

# Round Up for the Roundabout

How many of us have driven between Harcourt and Castlemaine and silently, or not so silently, grumbled about the state of the Harcourt roundabout? Well, all of that is about to change. Within a couple of weeks landscaping the roundabout will start and the long grass replaced with granite boulders, gravel and native plants and grasses – all according to a plan that the Harcourt community has approved.

This is just the beginning of the story though. If we want to maintain the entrance to our great little town we are going to have to take matters into our own hands. Already we have volunteers for the earthworks and volunteers sourcing funds and in-kind goods and services. But we need more - we need you!

During National Volunteer Week the Harcourt Progress Association will launch an Adopt a Roadside project so we can give the roundabout the attention it deserves – it has been neglected, but not unnoticed, for far too long. The

slogan for National Volunteer Week this year is 'Give a little, Change a lot' and that's what we are hoping the Harcourt community will do – give a little time and change the entrance to our town a lot.

We believe the maintenance of the new roundabout will be minimal, say four times a year, and will require some weeding, removing litter, and a bit of replanting or pruning. Not too much work - but a whole lot of impact.

Join us to launch the Adopt a Roadside project, say thanks to the many volunteers from Harcourt, sign up for a bit of outdoor volunteering over the next few months, and share a bite to eat. Our guest presenter will be Maree Edwards, MP, State Member for Bendigo West.

**Come along to the Goldfields Track Café on Sunday 27 May at 11am.**

The slogan for National Volunteer Week this year is 'Give a little, Change a lot'

Castlemaine Cycling Club hosts the Vic Country and Metro Road Cycling Championships on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June 2018. Below is the map of the 56 km loop that will take riders South on Harmony Way to Elphinstone, left over the freeway then

North through Sutton Grange to Sedgewick, left onto the North Harcourt Road back onto Mclvor Rd returning to Harcourt via Harmony Way.

