

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

October 2018

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 54

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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

## VMR at Harcourt celebrates \$198,000 in Pick My Project Funding



Everyone associated with the Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR) is celebrating the awarding of Pick my Project funding to the tune of \$198,000. The successful project has so many attractive elements to it, it would seem to be a “no-brainer” to attract government funding, but it has taken a concerted effort which has been rewarded. How has this success story come about?

In conjunction with the Harcourt Lions Club, VMR has been helping to grow and foster the Castlemaine Secondary College (CSC) Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) program including students from the Flexible Learning Option and Nalderun Project programs.

Earlier this year VMR Club President Andrew Mierisch, Lions Club Projects Coordinator

Grant Victor-Gordon and Steve Carroll from the school met with the idea to host a work shop day on Fridays.

The enthusiasm was so strong from the students; they had more keen and interested students than jobs.

To date, the students have made well over 1.5 km of track, inserted over 15 thousand screws and worked in the field on specialised projects with tools and equipment. With such a strong interest, the VMR and Lions have been finding it tough to keep up with suitable projects to work on.

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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.



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

the voice of the community

**MEMBER 2018**

Continued from page 1 ...

With the opportunity to gain funding for the Club through the Pick My Project Scheme, Harcourt Lions, VMR and Students decided to apply. The selected project was the construction of the VMR station building – a replica of the Maryborough Railway Station built to a 1:3 scale. They hosted several public stands spruiking to the public and students also took to the street to spread the word. After weeks of hard work and encouraging people to vote for the project, VMR received word they were successful.

### ***Engaging Trade Orientated Secondary Students in Community Based Work Experience***

The aim of the training component of the project is to provide engaging, off-Campus, hands-on work experience for 25 CSC students. The grant money will enable the students to be trained as they help to build the replica station. Students will have a range of work experiences in the trades under the supervision of qualified tradespersons, CSC staff, and community mentors.

The project will contribute to a new tourist attraction for the Harcourt community and support local businesses, including the trades' people involved. Students will also learn the importance of displaying respect, resilience, engagement and creativity. The aim is to foster confidence and self-esteem which will help them to establish their place in the workforce and in the community. For more information on the project, see: [www.facebook.com/9NewsCentralVictoria/videos/1875308139428807/?t=52](https://www.facebook.com/9NewsCentralVictoria/videos/1875308139428807/?t=52)

VMR Club President, Andrew Mierisch said, "Gaining this funding injection allows us to speed up activity, providing a much greater variety of work skills in the construction of our main station. The VMR is setting many firsts in this hobby Australia wide, and this magnificent project is another example of that. The station building will stand proud on the hill and those involved, in years to come, will say with pride, 'We built that!'"



*Steamrail Victoria's Vintage Train crosses Vick's Viaduct in Harcourt on Saturday September 8. The train travelled from Melbourne with a stop at Castlemaine, on its way to Bendigo. This photo was provided by Nick Quirk.*



## **Advertising Coordinator Harcourt News – The Core**

The Harcourt Progress Association is seeking someone to become a vital part of The Core's editorial team by contributing to a newspaper that supports local Harcourt community and business. This is a volunteer role for someone who is able to dedicate up to five hours per month as Advertising Coordinator.

**This position would suit someone with an interest in writing and wishing to develop their skills in news media, business and advertising.**

### **Key responsibilities:**

- Generate new advertising sales
- Maintain relationships with existing advertisers
- Manage accounts administration
- Work collaboratively with the editorial team
- Write articles to feature advertisers' businesses

### **You will have:**

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook
- Good organisation and time management skills
- Experience in administration and accounts

Training and mentoring will be given to the successful applicant.

**To apply**, send your resume to [news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au) outlining relevant skills and experience and a short letter explaining why this role interests you.

Photo source: Clem Onojeghuo on Unsplash

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# Harcourt Roundabout

## The good news

After much planning and many hours of volunteer labour the Harcourt Progress Association is pleased to announce that the Harcourt roundabout is nearing completion.

First came the clearing of trees and grass, then the delivery of large rocks followed by the two-tone gravel, then spreading the gravel, digging holes for the plants, followed by planting. It sounds OK when you say it quickly! But every one of those steps has involved significant negotiation, planning and physical labour by volunteers.

The last two Sundays in September have been devoted to digging holes and planting according to the Landscape Architect's design. It was established that the ground beneath the gravel was so compacted that powered augers were needed. About 700 holes have been dug and most of the plants are in and watered.

HPA has established an Adopt a Roadside group which means the future maintenance of the roundabout is assured. The group sincerely thanks the volunteers who have given their time and energy to date. We also thank Vic Roads for its support via the budget and technical advice and Flynn Hart, Landscape Architect from Pollen Ltd, who has gone above and beyond and worked on the job at every critical stage.



*Sunday 23 Sept: Some of our fabulous volunteers set up the augers in preparation for digging the holes for plants. From left: Pip Stork, Jarrod Coote, Archie & Richard Thompson and Trent Gibson.*



*Sunday 30 Sept: That was a big morning's work! From left: Ada Milley, Ken Holden, Sha Cordingley (hiding in the back), John Baldock, Geoff Freeman and Pru Wallduck.*

## But here's the bad news!

Police have been notified about hooning at the roundabout. This has occurred regularly and was happening before the recent improvements. Photos have been taken of tyre marks across the roundabout and given to the Police who will be keeping a watch. Nearby residents are able to hear cars travelling at high speeds, despite advisory signs to slow to 35 kms per hour. Emergency services have been called on one occasion where a car taking the roundabout too quickly finished up sideways on the bridge approach towards Castlemaine.

What is hugely disappointing is that no respect is shown for the work of members of the community. After the most recent working bee, signs were left on the roundabout to protect the plants from being crushed if someone decided to hoon their way across. The signs have been removed; probably stolen. This latest incident will also be reported to police.



*Drive through tyre marks on the eastern and southern edges of the roundabout. Castlemaine Police have been notified.*



## Seed Raising Workshop

Growing Abundance is back with all new workshops on the calendar, the 1st of these new workshops will be on Saturday the 13th of October. See you in the garden!

Learn how to raise your seeds and seedling successfully with Growing Abundance. You will learn hands on techniques and practical tips to help you grow your own food.

**INCLUDED:** take home seeding pack and Morning Tea cooked by the Growing Abundance Kitchen & Ingrid Button from FFF creating delicious delights for you.

E-Fact File on Seedling Raising available also in ticket options

Places limited and booking out quickly, so secure your spot now to avoid disappointment. All proceeds to The Growing Abundance Project (TGAP) Harvest Program

Saturday 13th October

10am-12pm @ The Hub Garden 233 Barker St Castlemaine

[www.facebook.com/events/331768754236160/?ti=cl](http://www.facebook.com/events/331768754236160/?ti=cl)

## Community Supported Agriculture: Harcourt Organic Fruit Orchard Trials New Sales Model

Tellurian Fruit Gardens, an organic fruit orchard in Harcourt, Central Victoria, has opened sales for its Community Supported Agriculture program. Commonly called 'CSA', the emerging model of sales and distribution is indicative of a fast-growing movement of consumers that want to be more connected with the source of their food.

Tellurian Fruit Gardens (previously known as Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens) is a well-known orchard that's been rebranded under new owner Ant Wilson, as part of an exciting organic farming co-op in Harcourt.

"What's not changing is our priority to provide a wide range of delicious and nutritious organic fruit for our customers," said Ant. "But I'm excited to be introducing a new way for people to connect directly with the farm and get great value at the same time."

CSA customers, or 'members', sign up for a 'share' before the start of the growing season, which gives their local farmer the security of some pre-sales. The member then receives regular deliveries of fresh produce throughout the season. What makes a CSA different to regular 'box schemes' is not only direct interaction between farmer and member, but also commitment and risk sharing.

"Agriculture is at the whim of nature and CSA is a way to spread that risk across the community so farmers don't bear the full brunt when things go pear-shaped," said Ant.

The CSA model is mutually beneficial. The farmer secures a market in advance, and the member knows exactly how and where their food is grown, gets first access to limited and heritage varieties at the best price, and gets the "feel good" joy of knowing they're supporting their local farmer. Starting in Japan and popularised in the US, it is based on a framework of 10 principles. Ethical and conscious eaters across Australia are seeking out CSAs as an alternative to conventional systems, such as supermarkets, that are non-transparent and impersonal.

"CSA lets the community participate and have ownership over their food supply, by holding farmers directly accountable to their customers," said Ant, "I am supported by the community to farm in the ethical way they expect."

The sign-up process on their website, [tfgardens.com.au](http://tfgardens.com.au), is open from now until 25th November. Adding an additional twist on existing sales models, members are given a 'suggested' price but can then decide, themselves, what to pay. The Harcourt-based orchard will deliver organic fruit to several regional and metro locations weekly between December and March.

More Info: Ant Wilson, 0457 140 001,  
[hello@tfgardens.com.au](mailto:hello@tfgardens.com.au)



## Harcourt Valley Primary School Pollinator Bee and Butterfly Garden Established

On a warm Friday in September Grade 6 students with staff, parents and some Landcare volunteers, spent the morning planting 100 plants designed to attract pollinators. The planting was carried out as part of a Junior Landcare Grant applied for by Kirsty Skilbeck, a parent at Harcourt Valley Primary. "We plan to make some bee houses and to have a speaker talk to the children about local bees," Kirsty said. "We will also install some artwork. We hope to be able to see the butterflies and bees in action very soon!"

Previously the area was a little neglected but is now bristling with special plant species. A few nesting boxes have also been installed as part of Harcourt Valley Landcare's nesting box grant.



*Kirsty Skilbeck, who organised the grant for the planting under Junior Landcare, gets ready to pack up after a successful morning.*



*Ruben and Hunter, both in Grade 6, enjoyed the morning and said "It's fun to be outside, to be able to talk, and help the environment as well."*

# Mel Willard Young Farmers' Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to organic vegetable grower Mel Willard of Gung Hoe Growers in Harcourt who has been awarded a \$10,000 Young Farmers Scholarship!



*Thirteen young Victorian farmers were presented with their scholarship awards at Parliament House Victoria by Jaala Pulford MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development on September 20. Mel Willard is second from the right, Jaala Pulford centre in grey suit.*

The scholarship is split between \$5,000 for education and skills improvement and once training is complete, \$5,000 is available for investment into the business. Mel and Sass Allardice make up the Gung Hoe team who are into their fourth year of business. Both are looking forward to their selected training in Holistic Management and Bio Intensive Growing. The scholarship will cover Mel's training and the business will pay for Sass's participation. "At this stage we plan to use the \$5,000 investment money for a mobile poly tunnel so we can keep some crops going through colder weather. But that idea may change after we complete our courses. We are so excited about this opportunity to really examine the structure of our business and learn more in the organics field," said Mel.

The business supplies vegetables to the Red Hill Hotel, Red Beard Bakery, Lola at the Theatre Royal, the Bridge Hotel and occasional

caterers. For six months of the year Mel and Sass also provide veggie boxes in Castlemaine; the on-site farm shop is due to open in November.



*Sass and Mel in their pea and broad bean patch.*

Four years ago Sass and Mel discovered they had a passion for growing local organic food, but were faced with the problem of finding suitable affordable land with an adequate water supply. They were fortunate enough to find Katie and Hugh Finlay of Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens who were open to the idea of leasing land and water to other organic farmers. This has attracted others with similar farming principles and has led to the formation of the Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative which will be launched with an Open Day on October 28th.

See the previous page for news of another young farmer in the cooperative, Ant Wilson, who is now running the orchard under the name of Tellurian Fruit Gardens.

Full coverage of the launch and the structure of the Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative will appear in the November edition of The Core.

## New Season Harcourt Tennis Club

The new tennis season for the Harcourt Tennis Club will start with the first day of competition tennis on October 12.

### Juniors

This year we have increased numbers for the Junior competition. Donna Parsons and Jill Atkin have been busy organising six junior teams for participation in the Castlemaine District Tennis Association. Coaching of the Junior teams will take place on Wednesday and Thursday's with our wonderful coach Jill Atkin. Please contact Donna Parsons 0419 705230 if you have a junior who would like to join the Harcourt Tennis Club.

### Seniors

Our Senior team of B Grade and A Grade is looking forward to participating in the Marong District Tennis Association. The club has matches against Newbridge, Leichardt, Marong, Lockwood, Derby, Wilsons Reef and Woodstock on Loddon. Each week we have a team of twelve Harcourt members of all ages play in the competition which is played in a home and away format, so we have some fun as a team travelling

together. At our home games, opposition team members and their families travel to our wonderful Harcourt courts.

### Community Social Night Tennis

The social night tennis will start on Thursday Oct 25th at 7 pm. This happens each Thursday night in the season for anyone who just loves having a hit of tennis. There is no commitment to have to play each Thursday; all comers are welcome on any Thursday. The cost is \$2 per person to cover the cost of the lights.

Please contact Sharon Blake 5474 2680 or Faye Hards if you would like any further information in regard to the Social tennis.

**Harcourt's Little Library**  
is at the Heritage Centre  
Leave, borrow or take a book.  
Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm



# Harcourt CFA

## Spring brings an increase in activity

The month of September resulted in an increase in the number of turnouts for the Brigade as well as a change in the types of fires from house and chimney fires to bush fires, which gives an indication of how dry the fuel load currently is. The first of these was on the 14th of September at 6.30 pm when the Brigade was paged to support Lockwood Brigade to a grass and scrub fire just off the Calder Highway at Ravenswood which was burning under trees in a mix of green and dry grass. It was easily extinguished but was the first indication of the transition from winter to summer.

The second incident was the sighting of a column of smoke at the back of the mountain bike park on the 24th. After navigating the top track at the back of the Oak Forest, we located the source of the smoke in the old granite quarry above the track. While originally it had been burning within the confines of the quarry, it had started to spread above the quarry as a result of embers dropping onto the surrounding ground and into a nearby tree. The surrounding fuel was green in appearance but was dry, as well as the soil it was growing in.

It appears that the cause was an abandoned small campfire. This type of fire activity is more in line with summer fire behaviour. The brigade was able to utilise our newly purchased plantation hose for this event. A plantation hose is smaller in diameter and stored in a back pack which makes it easier for carrying up the steep terrain that we encountered while trying to get to the fire.



The third event was the next day when the brigade attended a fire which started from a re-ignition of a small burn off conducted two days earlier. All it needed was a little bit of breeze and the green grass with dry undergrowth became fuel for the spreading fire. The timing for both these fires was at lunchtime on warmer days. What this shows is how important it is to not only maintain a vigilance after completing a burn off but also how vital it is to ensure you have extinguished your burn or campfire properly.

It was concerning to discover that when we spoke with a couple of the mountain bike riders in the park, they were unaware of the fire. The emergency app on a mobile phone can be a valuable alerting tool for a fire or other emergency. But it is important to ensure your watch zone is set according to your location. If you are visiting another area of the state, make sure you have reset your location watch zone and likewise visitors to the Oak Forest and mountain bike park need to do the same. It is no advantage to be alerted to a grass fire on the outside skirts of Ballarat when tackling the black diamond trail at La Larr Ba Gauwa.

The other incident the brigade attended was a report of a tanker on fire on the Calder Freeway. This initial information conjured up images of a fuel tanker burning fiercely with billowing

black smoke as we have seen on the evening news. But as more information was relayed through, it was a B Double bulk tanker carting flour back to Melbourne. While this can still be a very serious fire, the quick thinking driver was able to extinguish most of the fire in the engine bay of his vehicle with the two fire extinguishers he had on board. The brigade only had to finish off the job. This demonstrates why there are fire regulations and requirements to have the necessary equipment present but also in good working order.

## *How is your fire season preparation going?*

The grass is still growing and the sound of mowers and whipper snippers can be heard echoing up and down the valley. The days are getting longer and warmer and we need to be thinking more and more about being prepared for the coming fire season. Sunny spring days are ideal for getting outside and getting stuck into cleaning up fire hazards around the home. Don't leave it to the last moment. No doubt the Mount Alexander Shire Municipal Fire Prevention Officer will be out and about soon conducting annual property inspections. Doing your clean-up work now will avoid getting a clean-up notice later on and possibly at an inconvenient time. Mount Alexander Shire residents can dispose of green waste for free at the Castlemaine and Maldon waste facilities from Saturday 20th October to Sunday 4th November. Green waste includes grass clippings, wood and tree branches less than 10cm in diameter.

Keep up the good work and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

**Please note: Mount Alexander shire residents can dispose of green waste for free at the Castlemaine and Maldon waste facilities from Saturday 20th October to Sunday 4th November. Green waste includes grass clippings, wood and tree branches less than 10cm in diameter.**



# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Seniors Week highlights all that is good about being a senior, and this photograph of our ladies enjoying an International Day Lunch says it all.



*We have fun at our International Day Lunches.*

We do have a lot of fun at Harcourt. We appreciate coming together each month to laugh, share and enjoy the company of others. We look forward to catching up with other CWA Branches in Central Victoria throughout the year and, of course, we enjoy our interaction with the local community.



*The Harcourt CWA Stall at Applefest last year.*

Now I know the Royal Melbourne Show has come to an end, but that doesn't mean you can't make it Show Day every day in your home when you whip up these Royal Melbourne Show CWA scones.

The CWA members staffing our Royal Melbourne Show kiosk make 100 dozen of these scones each day and they and started making scones and selling them to the public

back in 1935. That's a lot of scones. Here is how to make some for yourself.

## CWA Show Scones

### Ingredients:

8 cups self-raising flour  
1 tsp salt  
500ml cream  
750-800ml milk  
melted butter for brushing

### Method:

Preheat oven to 250°C and grease baking trays.

Add the cream to the sifted flour and salt with enough milk to mix to a soft dough. Roll out and cut into a decent size. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes.

When cooked, brush tops and bottoms with melted butter. It removes any flour and helps to keep them nice and soft.



*Irresistible - The CWA Melbourne Show Scones.*

Harcourt CWA has a display in the Castlemaine Market Building during Seniors Week so please pop in and have a look at our Seniors having fun. And, if you would like to join us, our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1.30 pm. We would love to see you there.

*Lyn Rule  
Harcourt CWA  
Publicity Officer*



*Phil Carlyle*

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## Harcourt Uniting Church

An invitation is extended to join the Harcourt Uniting Church Fellowship group as we present Blumes Fashion Parade (with nothing over \$59.95) on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

October at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. The morning will begin with a delicious morning tea at 10 am followed by the Fashions at 10.30 am.

In my September article I mentioned the ongoing drought in many parts of Australia. Frontier Services is an organisation of the Uniting Church in Australia which employs ministers (known as Patrol Ministers or Bush Chaplains) who travel to the outback stations in their Patrol area to visit isolated families. They see their job as "being there for the families." A cuppa and chat around the kitchen table or helping with the fencing is just as important as celebrating an outback wedding, christening or funeral. When asked about their work with Station families, one minister commented: "Their pride often keeps them from asking for help especially during this long drought." However during those cuppas and chats they can often identify when someone needs some extra support. They not only need "feed" for their stock but also someone to "listen" and ask R U OK?

One form of practical support arranged by Frontier Services consists of teams of skilled volunteers who visit stations to help with repairs to machinery, servicing tractors and utes, fencing, repairing out buildings and painting homesteads.

Harcourt Church supports Frontier Services with an annual donation towards the work of Patrol ministers as well as Early

Childhood and Aged Care services in remote areas.

Rev Bruce Gallacher (who is our supply minister for a few months) has worked as a Patrol minister in several Patrols – the Kimberley and Flinders regions in Northern Australia and the Snowy River Patrol in Far East Gippsland. In a recent article for our Parish magazine he spoke of his time based in Kununurra: "... being bogged for hours whilst out of UHF range, and having forgotten my satellite phone gave me an opportunity to have a really open and frank conversation with God (he laughed at me, I'm sure). Experiences pile up, like getting close up and personal with salt water crocodiles, then performing a magical wedding at Sturt Station, followed the next morning by their son's christening: Sturt was baptised in the Sturt Creek water, at Sturt Creek Station, beside Sturt Creek."

In summing up the people of the outback Rev Bruce says: "Their faith may be simpler but often it's a lot deeper."

*Jan Jenkin*

## LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

I wonder what happened to Doris.  
I think she eloped with young Horace.  
They won't have got far  
'Cos I know that their car  
Is a 1908 Bullnose Morris



## Thinking of selling?

I have a buyer looking to relocate to the area

He is relocating from Melbourne

He is hoping to keep within a budget of \$400,000-\$450,000

He is a member of the Victorian Miniature Railway and as such has a keen interest in trains so something close to the railway line is quite desirable.

He is looking for a modest home for himself with a large shed for his miniature train.

Do you or someone you know have something that would suit this man?

Call me now to arrange a **free** market update so that we can make this happen for you both.



PO Box 62, Harcourt, VIC, 3453  
sales@paulinesrealestate.com.au  
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# HARCOURT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB IS LOOKING FOR PLAYERS FOR THE 2019 SEASON

## Junior Football

Under 11.5, Under 14.5 & Under 17.5

Contact: Amy Ardley – 0406 314 378

## Netball

Under 13, Under 15 & Under 17

Contact: Jacqui Searle – 0438 569 884

## Reserves Football, Senior Football & Senior Netball

Contact: Kathie Teasdale – 0447 305 343

**If anyone is interested in a coaching position  
at Harcourt for any of the above age groups  
for the 2019 season they can also contact  
Kathie Teasdale – 0447 305 343**



## Harcourt Valley LANDCARE

As of September 28 Harcourt Valley Landcare has a new member born to Bonnie Humphreys and Richie Powney. Baby Nina Powney was 3.3 kg. Congratulations Bonnie and Richie!

Our AGM held at Goldfields Track Restaurant had the biggest attendance yet – 21 people! Members enjoyed the lovely food prepared by Donna and crew. Election results were: Bonnie Humphreys, President; Trevor McKay, Vice President; George Milford, Treasurer and Robyn Miller, Secretary.

We met with Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group for our joint working bee on Sunday September 16th at the Flora Reserve. For some time members have been aware that asbestos has been found at the reserve. Member Terry Willis identified two large asbestos piles in the south eastern corner. I have taken photos and I will be reporting the piles to the EPA. Members of the public who are in the reserve during wild flower season should avoid disturbing these piles and keep an eye on young children who may think the pieces are playthings.

Members have also participated in the HPA's "Adopt a Roadside" working bees at the roundabout. Important contributions were made when our members provided and operated augers to get into the extremely hard dirt. Planting has taken place; follow up watering will be needed in the months ahead.

### *Dates for October:*

We will have our regular meeting on Thursday October 11 at 7.30 pm at the ANA Hall.

This month's working bee will be on Sunday October 28 at 10 am. The starting site is at the footbridge opposite the CFA. We will clean around plantings along Barkers Creek and cut and paint broom. If you are planning to attend, please bring something for morning tea and wear appropriate clothing and shoes and bring drinking water.

*Robyn Miller, Secretary  
0467 670 271*



*One of the illegally dumped asbestos piles in the Flora Reserve. The EPA will be notified.*



*Members of Harcourt Valley and Barkers Creek Landcare after the working bee at the Flora Reserve in Bingham's Road. A good time was had by all as much broom and gorse was cut and poisoned or removed by hand*



# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## James Gibson Gartside

James Gibson Gartside was christened 22nd October 1830 at St Peter's, Liverpool. He was the eldest of the eight children of Abram and Elizabeth Gartside of 'Trio Brook Lodge', Liverpool. The Gartside family origins are in Saddleworth, near Oldham, England and the family traces its ancestry back to a Yeoman Farmer, Henry Gartside, who died there in 1663.

Later in life James Gibson Gartside wrote that he had interests in property in Manchester, Liverpool and Saddleworth. However, at the age of 25, he came to Victoria aboard the sailing ship "Columbia" arriving in March 1857. On the voyage he met the Irish-born Bowen family of two brothers and their sister, Frances 'Fanny' Bowen, whom he married.

James Gartside worked on the construction of the Melbourne to Bendigo Railway Line from 1859 until early 1862 when the line was opened. The first two children of James and Fanny Gartside were born in Gisborne. The other children were born at Wyndham (Werribee). After the finish of the railway line James became a Stationmaster. James and Fanny Gartside reared three sons – Robert, John and Abram plus one daughter Elizabeth. By 1881, James Gartside was stationmaster at Windermere, near Ballarat. He then transferred to Harcourt.

The three Gartside boys were teenagers when they arrived in Harcourt. Enthusiastic cricketers, they were soon a vital part of the then-small community. R, J and A Gartside, routinely appear in reports of cricket matches throughout the 1880s, playing for Harcourt United. Robert started his working life as Railway Clerk at Kyneton but left that position at age 23 in May 1885 "to enter upon a fruit-growing speculation at Harcourt." Both Robert and Abram joined the militia. Daughter Elizabeth married Ed Pritchard in January 1887. Abram Gartside was a key player for Castlemaine when it fielded a team against the touring English eleven in November 1887. The children stayed behind when, after six years at Harcourt, James Gibson Gartside transferred to the role of Stationmaster at Ivanhoe. Soon after this move he died at Ivanhoe aged 57. His widow came back to Harcourt and resided on the property where her sons were well established in fruit growing. Their orchard was opposite the railway station (west side) as well as over the Midland Highway. Robert and John operated a saw-mill near the railway gates from 1901 to 1919. Trading as 'Gartside Bros, Box Makers', they were the first in Victoria to make commercial use of Radiata Pine.

We know a great deal about eldest son Robert. He was a distinguished soldier. He was noted in the "Mail" in June 1888 as a corporal in the 4th Battalion, Victorian Rifles. Robert Gartside served as a lieutenant with the Victorian Bushmen contingent in South Africa. He saw action in many battles of which the most notable was the siege of Elands River. An immense stockpile of supplies was defended for twelve days and nights by 229 Australians and 200 Rhodesians against a relentless campaign by Boer snipers. Lt Gartside recalled "We had orders to hold the post against all-comers.

*I asked the men if they were all prepared to stop there in the face of all risks...they all said they would stick to me through thick and thin."*

Robert continued his army career as a senior officer in the Castlemaine Militia from 1904. Robert Gartside was one of the first Victorian officers to volunteer in 1914, despite being 52 years of age. He landed as a major at ANZAC Cove on 25th April 1915. During the following week he was promoted, in the field, to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He and his battalion were then moved by boat 25 km south to Cape Hellas from where they proceeded to the Front Line opposite Krithia. Australian war historian C E W Bean was 'embedded' with the ANZACs at this time and observed the advance at Cape Hellas from the safety of the rear trenches. On 8th May 1915, while leading his men of the 7th Battalion AIF, Lt-Col. Gartside was killed by enemy fire. He was buried where he fell. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission established the Redoubt Cemetery on that spot in 1919; Lt-Col. Gartside's being the first grave.

Robert Gartside's brothers – John and Abram – carried on the orchards at Harcourt. John Gartside lived at 18 Station Street, Harcourt. Their sister Elizabeth, (Mrs. Pritchard) of "Cairnsfoot" on Faraday Road was a tireless worker for the Castlemaine Hospital, the Red Cross and St Andrew's Church of England. She was a prominent figure in the formation of Harcourt CWA.

James Gibson Gartside died at Ivanhoe 6<sup>th</sup> June 1888 aged 57 (buried at Harcourt).

Frances (Fanny) Gartside died 21st October 1911 aged 82 years.

Their children were:

Robert married Eliza Drummond;

Elizabeth married Ed Pritchard;

Abram married Mary Jane McAlpine;

John married Janet McPhee.

The lands owned by the Gartside brothers have been changed beyond recognition in the years since Robert went to Gallipoli. The bridge which carries the Midland Highway over the new Calder Freeway now occupies the site of his home and orchard. A separate parcel of land in Coolstore Road was sold after Lt-Col Gartside's death and has been developed into the industrial hub of the district.

Harcourt Railway Station was not then the busy place it later became. However, the stationmaster had an important role with passenger and goods traffic. The Gartside family rapidly became known when the children threw themselves enthusiastically into community life.

**This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers taken from the C H James Collection, Harcourt Heritage Centre.**

## October Fireside Chat

The September Fireside Chat at Harcourt Heritage Centre was fully interactive, with a fascinating exchange of information among those who attended. The 2018 season of Fireside Chats was, in reality, a history marketplace, with a lively exchange of anecdotes and new information which has added to our collective knowledge of the Harcourt valley. Thank you to all who have contributed to these happy sessions. During the September Fireside Chat a local couple presented the Heritage Centre with a memento of Lance-Sergeant Ernest Ely that they had come upon, by chance, during a recent visit to France. It is clear that recent arrivals in the district have an interest in the past doings of the valley's inhabitants.

All of the Core's readers are invited to join the next Heritage Centre event on Sunday October 21st. Meet at 1.30 pm at the ANA Hall to car convoy to Bendigo's Dai Gum San Museum. This museum has been enriched by some amazing donations in recent years. Our guided tour will give an insight into another culture. Cost of the tour is \$10 per head. As usual we ask that you bring a plate of afternoon tea to share by the cascades in Rosalind Park after the one-hour tour.



  
Federal Member for Bendigo  
**LISA CHESTERS MP**

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## Bike Safety and Maintenance Workshops

The Rocky Riders mountain bike club is running a series of community workshops for both adults and kids. Kids workshops are an earlier time slot and parents are requested to stay for the workshop as well.

*The scheduled sessions are:*

- Thursday 18 October (Adults)

*Topics to be covered during the workshops include:*


- Setting up your bike so it's comfortable and safe to ride
- Riding your bike safely - on and off-road
- Basic bike maintenance eg. tyre pressures, looking after your chain, changing a tyre, bike cleaning

**Venue:** Castlemaine Tennis Club, 2 Hargraves Street Castlemaine

The workshops are free and for everyone - no need to be a Rocky Riders member.

Spaces are limited

Register at [www.rockyriders.com/workshop](http://www.rockyriders.com/workshop)



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# News from Harcourt Bowling Club

## Bowling Season Open at Harcourt

On Sunday 16th September the opening of the new Bowling Season was celebrated at Harcourt Bowling Club and despite the cold weather, an enthusiastic crowd turned out for the occasion.

A warm welcome was extended to Maree Edwards, Member for Bendigo West; Marian Craze and Geoff Howes, President and Secretary respectively of the Bendigo Bowls Division; visitors from Castlemaine and Campbells Creek Bowling Clubs; new bowling member Judi Miles and all Harcourt bowlers.

Particular mention was made of the new shade structures installed around the green. These were funded by a State Government Grant as part of the healthy community and Sun Smart initiative. The new shade will give bowlers much needed protection from the summer sun as will the hats available for members.

On display also was the new Club pennant shirt. Thanks were extended to Brian Leech for arranging the sponsorship for the new Club shirts from CMV MACK Truck & Bus; Tyrepower Bendigo; Ediface Construction; K&J Bagely Painting & Decorating; Leech & Sons Transport and Scott Male Stonemason. Thanks also were extended to David Jeffries for the colourful design and to Heather Braid for co-ordinating the manufacture and distribution of the shirt.

Maree Edwards congratulated the Club on receiving the grant for the shade structures and extended good wishes to the Club for the new season. Vice President Chris Anderson invited Marian Craze to bowl the first kitty of the season followed by the first bowl from Maree Edwards. All present enjoyed a social game of bowls.

Winners on the day were Geoff Howes (Skipper) Wendy Chaplin, Judi Miles and Sheila Oxley. Runners Up were Bernie McConnell (Skipper) Geoff Maddams, Chris Anderson and Pam MacGregor.

Following the welcome afternoon tea, President of the Bendigo Bowls Division, Marian Craze addressed the gathering and wished Harcourt Bowling Club continued success in the new Season.



*Maree with bowlers displaying their new shirts*

### **Midweek Pennant Commences**

The first Midweek Pennant game will be on Monday 15th October when Division 4 will meet Castlemaine at home and Division 5 will travel to Castlemaine.

Midweek Pennant practise has commenced and will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10.00am until start of Pennant in October and then continue on Wednesdays.

### **Weekend Pennant Commences**

The first Weekend Pennant game will be on Saturday 20th October. Divisions 3 and 8 will play host to Kangaroo Flat and Castlemaine respectively. Following the magnificent pennant grand final win last year in Division 6, the newly relegated Division 5 will travel to Marong. Practise is as usual on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

### **Social Bowls**

Social games of 2 bowl triples commenced on Wednesday 26th September at 1.00pm. Visitors and social members are welcome. It is possible to enter a Team or as an individual; names in at the club by Tuesdays please.



*Marian delivering the Kitty*



*Maree Edwards bowling the first bowl with Marian Craze watching on.*

# SPECIMEN GULLY CAIRN, BARKERS CREEK

The Specimen Gully Cairn, which commemorates the discovery of gold in the Barker's Creek area on 20th July 1851 by Christopher John Peters and three of his associates, was made possible "through the handsome generosity of Mr. R. Owen Owens"\* His donation of 60 pounds, during the depressed economic times of the early 1930s, was a significant gesture.

Richard Owen Owens was born in Barker's Creek on 12 November 1864 to Eliza and Owen Owens, proprietors of the Union Hotel and General Store on the Castlemaine-Bendigo Road, and the adjacent "Lincoln House" residence.

He was an ambitious industrious lad, who attended the Barker's Creek State School and did an early morning milk round, as well as helping in the family Barker's Creek Bakery run by his step-father James Millar. His goal was to earn enough for a bakery apprenticeship in Melbourne.

This he achieved, and after his subsequent return to the Barker's Creek area, in 1887 he married Louisa Symes, daughter of George and Mary Henrietta Symes, (when he was 22 and she was just 17), and they established their own bakery and shop in Castlemaine, on the corner of Hunter and Barker Streets, where he and Louisa raised a family of 7 children. (Unfortunately the original family home is no longer there.)

They were very involved in local life, particularly in the Barker's Creek Church of Christ, and often organised musical occasions, in which "Owie", as he preferred to be called, played the cornet, and Louisa played the organ. Owen was also a member of the Thompsons' Foundry Band, and for many years organized the Annual District Band Competition held at the New Year's Day Carnival.



*Original photo of Richard Owen Owens unveiling the Cairn he donated, 12 October 1931*

Life presented many challenges for Owen, including the sad early death of Louisa in 1906; Owen was left a widower with seven children ranging in age from 18 down to 2 years. He eventually re-married to Julie Isabel Spooner, (a friend from the church) in 1909, and took his entire family to Melbourne, where they all became involved over the years in his successful city bakery, "Owens & Dixon" in Victoria Street, Carlton. Owen had three more children with his second wife.

However, Owen never forgot his years in Barker's Creek and Castlemaine, and wanted to do "something of a permanent nature for the district". With encouragement from his Castlemaine friend, Senator Harry Lawson (who had been Premier of Victoria from 1918-1924), and the involvement (among others) of the Barker's Creek School Committee, and

the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association, it was decided in 1831 to build a cairn at Specimen Gully made from Barker's Creek slate, about 3 metres high, with an engraved plaque of Mt Alexander granite. It was to be placed near the old slate dwelling previously occupied by John Worley, one of the discoverers of gold mentioned on the plaque.

Owen's gift "acquired the site, erected the cairn, and preserved the old adjacent building from further dilapidation" \*\* The Barker's Creek school children undertook to plant the area with native trees and generally look after the area, to provide a tourist attraction that would benefit all.

Richard Owen Owens personally unveiled the completed cairn on 10th October 1931, in the presence of various dignitaries, including Senator Harry Lawson, and a report of the ceremony appeared in the Melbourne Age newspaper on Monday 12 October 1931, p.13.



*Sue Smith and son, Tony at Cairn, 2008*



*Inscription on Cairn*

The striking cairn still stands proudly, reminding us of a local discovery, which unleashed the flood gates and triggered an instant rush of hopeful gold prospectors to the Mt Alexander district ... a pivotal part of our history.

**This article was written by Sue Smith, Harcourt North, in close collaboration with Wayne Jackson, Canberra; both of whom are direct descendants of Richard Owen Owens (their great-grandfather).**

\* Hedley James Report Harcourt Heritage Centre

\*\* Harry Lawson (Federal Senator 1929-1935)

*August 2018*

For all your banking needs

# Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch



**Bendigo Bank**  
03 5475 1747

With a new financial year comes a new budget, and Maldon & District Community Bank® started the 2018/19 Financial Year with a whopping budget of \$85,000 to put into the community.

Each year the amount we have available for community grants is dependent on the profit we made the year before, which in turn depends on the number of accounts we hold and the amount of banking business we do for local people.

Some of this year's budget is already earmarked for existing programs we fund, like round 3 of the "Building Our Children's Resilience" program we set up back in 2016 after asking the community what was the one Big Issue they wanted us to take action on.

Then there's our annual commitment to keeping the much-loved Driver Training Program going (which is about to have its 400th graduate during the September-October school holidays, and the current group includes a participant from Harcourt, so we just might take out the honours!).

Back in 2012 we committed to buying community buses, and we've set aside the final \$10,000 for them in this year's budget. The Community Bank has provided over \$150,000 to improve local transport options, supporting the leasing (and eventual community ownership) of these buses. (And by the way, the buses are available for use in the Harcourt community, find out how to access them here: <https://maldoncb.com.au/banking-with-us/resources-available-community-use/>).

Every year we set aside \$2,000 for a tertiary scholarship to help a young person under 25 years old from the region access higher education (TAFE or university) more easily. Students from Harcourt are also eligible and this year's program will open in November, so keep your eye out for when we call for applications.

Then there's the new Community Emergency Fund that we're helping to set up, to start accumulating funds in case of emergencies like flood or fire.

So there's plenty of calls on our budget—but there's always a portion left unallocated that we can use for community projects and requests that come our way during the year.

What will help your request succeed?

Well, the bank has more money to give if we do more business, so the things we look for are whether your group and its members bank with us, and how you can

help spread the word about the work we do by telling your members, publicity, social media and referrals.

Connecting Harcourt and the Maldon & District Community Bank® is still a pretty new idea; most of us haven't thought of ourselves as part of that 'Community' yet—for example, only four of the people who "Like" our Facebook Page come from Harcourt! There's a pretty easy opportunity right there to strengthen the connection and make Harcourt projects stand out! Just go to Facebook, search for "Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch" and LIKE the page. Feel free to say g'day while you're there!

So if your community group has a worthy project that you think the bank might be able to help with, get in touch with our Executive Officer Karly Smith (0478 435 110 or [executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au](mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au)) or download the application forms from the website at this link: <https://maldoncb.com.au/investing-back-community/sponsorships-grants/>.

*Katie Finlay  
Director, Maldon & District Community Bank®*

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## Local Landscapers Secure Playground Contract

In another positive step towards realising the Harcourt Play Space, the contract for the design of the play space has been awarded to a local firm.

Karoline Klein from Klein Landscape Architecture lives in North Harcourt and will be assisted in the project by Sentient Design's Justine Image from Elphinstone. Their connections to the local community run deep. Karoline has a long association with the North Harcourt / Sedgwick Landcare group and Justine was until recently the Secretary of the Harcourt Pony Club. Klein Landscape Architecture was responsible for creating Bendigo's Bushfire Memorial, designing a plan for Elphinstone's town centre streetscapes and the Strathdale Park play space. This is a great opportunity for the Harcourt community to work with one of its own to progress this long held community aspiration.

Congratulations to both Karoline and Justine and thanks to the Mount Alexander Shire Council for their well-considered appointment.

## Mental Health Month at the Castlemaine Library

Castlemaine Library will house a piano in the library foyer for the whole of October for Mental Health Month, with a simple invitation to Play Me, I'm Yours! The idea is that spontaneous music making in shared community spaces is good for our well-being, and overall mental health, on a number of levels. Come make some music in the Library!

In addition to a program of local singers and choirs, we're strongly encouraging flash mobs, random acts of Library Singing, and spontaneous singalongs around the Library Piano. Come make some noise or listen to some!



## Some Time Ago



*The Weekly Times, 25 April, 1931. Via Trove*

A picnic party at Harcourt Reservoir, Vic.



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## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

It is a busy time of year for those of us who farm: shearing, followed by haymaking (if there is any to cut), then preparing stock for sale. Hopefully we will get some rain soon. If shearing does not bring it on, we could be in for a long tough year ahead.

Many of you will have cleaned up for the fire season and it is still not too late. Be careful with any burning off though, as it has dried off quickly and consider taking advantage of Council's free green waste disposal. Refer to the website for details.

Last week I spent a few days in Mildura. It is great to get out and have a look at what other communities are doing. I was particularly interested to look at playground designs. Mildura has some beautiful areas along the river. I am not sure if it is warm enough at Harcourt for a water based place space!

It is pleasing to hear that Harcourt community representatives are working with Council to get our new Harcourt playground designed. Along with many of you I look forward to seeing what the team comes up with.

I also attended the Elmore field days this week. This was followed by an inspection of vintage tractors at Corop and then onto our own Morris Garage at Bill and Clare McKellar's place at North Harcourt.

I have watched the careful restoration and collection of Bills cars over the last 55 years and the result is something to behold. Inspection is by appointment only. If readers would like to visit, Google Morris Garage for details. Bill is my cousin and because he is a few years older he has known me all my life!!! Well done to Bill and his son Richard for putting together such a brilliant collection and display.

Yesterday I spent the day in Melbourne with Councillors Henderson and Lessor. We were learning about meeting procedures; some of the rules and issues are quite complex. It was also interesting to hear about issues confronting Councils across the state. As a rule I find that Councillors are trying to do the best they can for their respective communities and are a pretty good bunch.

We are having a mid-term review of our Council plan next week so it will be interesting to see how we are going against the plan which was put together with extensive community consultation.

There are still many big questions relating to our Shire to be answered.

A few big ticket things spring to mind:

- Can we afford an indoor heated pool?
- What to do about poor facilities at many of our ovals?
- How do we accommodate the rapid expansion of soccer?
- What might Council do in relation to aged care services and do we need a retirement village?
- How might we facilitate affordable housing?

The list goes on; so there are interesting times ahead in our wonderful community.

Very best regards to all, regards Tony

AG Cordy  
0439 742434

## 39TH Annual Beekeeping Field Day at Harcourt Leisure Centre

This Annual event, presented by the Bendigo Branch V.A.A. Inc. (Beekeepers) is being held on Sunday 14 October 2018 at the Harcourt Leisure Centre, 63 Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

The Beekeeping Field day attracts interest from a wide variety of geographical areas. It offers open-hive demonstrations and discussions for the beginner by experienced professional beekeepers, including small scale honey extraction, a hobbyist or beginners' corner, demonstration of hives and frames – and 'everything bee related'. Pre-ordered mated queen bees will be for sale, as will sales of bee equipment, machinery, protective clothing and manuka plants etc. Candle products, bee inspired jewellery, cosmetics, soap and beeswax polish are also for sale. An auction of 'Previously Loved' Bee materials will be held. Purchasers will need to abide by the Biosecurity Guidelines which will be read out by the Auctioneer prior to sales. Guest speakers will present information on varied bee industry related topics.

This annual event is presented with the aim of promoting beekeeping skills within the industry. It is designed to be of interest to both novice and experienced beekeepers, offering support to all. Trade stalls, demonstrations of bee husbandry and catering (breakfast and lunch) are available.

It is open to all interested people wanting to meet other beekeepers and industry members. Honey will be available for purchase. This event, of course, provides opportunities for beekeepers and others interested in learning about bees and honey production to get together to compare notes on how the season is going and 'what's budding' and when.

Open from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Entrance fee \$10 per adult Concession \$7. Children free of charge. All members of the public are welcome.

Interested Trade Stall businesses or those wishing to order mated queen bees are invited to contact Carol, the Secretary on (03) 5446 7911 for further information.

### BEEKEEPING FIELD DAY

**Sunday October 14**  
**Harcourt Leisure Centre**  
**63 Bingham's Road**

Trade stalls,  
Demonstrations &  
Catering available

**ALL WELCOME**

Adults: \$10 (\$7 Concession)  
Children: Free

**Phone: Carol 5446 7911**

# Harcourt Carpet Bowls

This year we invited members of the Castlemaine Carpet Bowls Club to join us which boosted our membership to 30; as a result we were then able to form 6 teams. The Grand Final in the weekly competition was played with good spirit between Heroes and Main 4, with Main 4 winning after a close game.

The Harcourt Lions Club Shield was presented to Main 4 by Ray Rice. Before presenting the shield, Ray spoke of the Harcourt Lions Club support for many sporting activities over the years for both clubs and individuals. Members of the winning team were: Georgie Kontos, Heather Braid, Peter Henderson and Kevin Earl (Captain)

We entered 3 teams in the State Championships this year and managed to win Back to Back titles so we brought the shield home again! The winning team members were Tyrone Rice (Captain) Daryl Normington, Des Rice and John Jenkin. See photo below: Team members with Raymond Rice on the right.

Our end of year break up dinner was held at Goldfields Track Café where we enjoyed great food in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Special thanks to Donna McMahon for her hospitality.

Thanks to all our players for making the season so enjoyable and we look forward to playing again in 2019. Why not come and join us next year?

*John Jenkin*



## Growing from Graves By Anita Le Lievre

Resolute  
and crushing sunshine  
Perfect breeze  
idling time  
with broken rhyme  
Despite the sublime  
freedom of nothing  
of dreaming of something  
bizarre and resolute  
drifting in the ashen soot  
on notes that rejoice  
the silence of the hum  
there is no one  
that can give gifts  
like the breeze  
That wipes the heat  
of the sun  
in a perfect position  
to let the afternoon glisten

The picture this month is available in A3 print for \$20. Contact Anita La Lievre at [anitachoof@yahoo.com.au](mailto:anitachoof@yahoo.com.au)

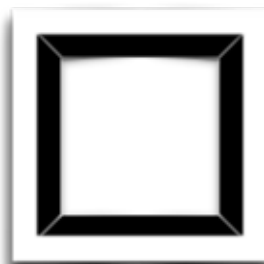
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# Another Mountain Bike Park for Harcourt

At Henry's Cidery there's a new bike park near completion; the family is building a mountain bike skills training course on its land to the south and east of the cidery.

Michael Henry said, "We believe that there is a market for beginning riders who want to acquire skills before their first ride in a mountain bike park. Our park has up to 3.5 kms of looped trails with green (beginners) and blue trails and two advanced trails with big "rollers" jumps, drop offs and burns."

Trail builders Russell Eckersley and Michael McCallum, who were part of the team employed by Dirt Art to build the La Larr Bar Gauwa Mountain Bike Park have worked at Henry's for the past six weeks. The tracks are nearly ready; currently the ground is looking disturbed and bare, but is expected to settle in when the grass returns to soften the edges. Granite rocks have been located to form the drop offs, rollers and bridges. "We have begun screening planting for the neighbours and expect that we'll get 200 plants in this season. In autumn the bigger trees will go in. We hope to create walking trails through the re-vegetation to give access up the side of the tracks for visitors," Michael said.

"We think our market could be schools, and clubs looking for activities. We would like to provide parking here on site and possibly provide overflow parking for big events at La Larr Bar Gauwa. Parking still seems to be an issue for people riding at La Larr Bar Gauwa, especially now "the triangle" at the corner of Picnic Gully, Market Street and Reservoir Road is cordoned off. We need to increase our parking for

the cidery as we get busloads of visitors and the drivers find it difficult to park. We have a petition underway to present to the Management Committee of La Larr Bar Gauwa about a link between our park and theirs," he concluded.



Granite has been used for bridges and jumps. The trails wind across and down the block towards Reservoir Road.

## New name, same excellent service!

TO OUR DEAR PATIENTS,

We would like to advise that Woodend Hearing Centre and the Hearing Aid Specialists Bendigo have merged and changed the name to **THE HEARING CLUB** - your local independent audiology clinic.

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Our phone number has been updated to **1800 627 728**. We are still located at the Brooke Street Medical Centre and 60 Bridge Street, Bendigo and our business hours are 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

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# Weather and Water

## Did I Miss Something?

We received 8.5 mm of rain in September here at Reservoir Road. Looking back through my records this is the lowest I have recorded, but then I didn't start noting the rainfall until halfway through 2007.

Readers may remember that I commented that run off to our dam had ceased towards the end of August. The Barkers Creek Reservoir in McIvor Road Harcourt is 37% full which probably reflects the poor inflows of the last months. Information about Barkers Creek Reservoir can be found here: [www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/sites/state?storage=Barkers Creek](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/sites/state?storage=Barkers+Creek)

The Bureau of Meteorology has said it's the second driest September on record since 1914 and September continued the run of nine months in a row of below average rainfall for Victoria. Night time temperatures were below average for northern and central Victoria. In fact the mean minimum temperature was the lowest since 1994.

Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/vic/summary.shtml>

### Coliban Water Rural Season 2018/19 Kicks off Shortly

The Coliban Water 2018/19 rural season will start mid-October as weather continues to warm and in light of below average rainfall in recent months.

Manager Regional Liveability Steve Healy said rural water customers were keen to access water, and that both raw and recycled water customers were entitled to a



*This photo shows virga – rain which falls and doesn't hit the ground. This was taken on 2nd October.*

100 per cent allocation this season. "We are starting the rural season slightly earlier to meet customer demand and in response to recent climatic conditions."

From a Coliban Water Press Release 5 October, 2018  
Coliban irrigation and potable water storages in the reservoirs at Malmsbury are shown below:

### Storage volumes

Below is a summary of storage levels and rainfall for our three major catchment storages near Kyneton. These storages are required to supply the townships and areas of Castlemaine and Kyneton, and to supplement supply to Bendigo.

| Storage       | Capacity at full supply | Current volume |              | Volume same time last year |               |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
|               | megalitres              | megalitres     | % full       | megalitres                 | % full        |
| Upper Coliban | 37,770                  | 37,651         | 99.7%        | 37,850                     | 100.2%        |
| Lauriston     | 19,790                  | 19,140         | 96.7%        | 19,870                     | 100.4%        |
| Malmsbury     | 12,034                  | 4,047          | 33.6%        | 12,069                     | 100.3%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>69,594</b>           | <b>60,838</b>  | <b>87.4%</b> | <b>69,789</b>              | <b>100.3%</b> |

Source: [https://coliban.com.au/site/root/water\\_security/reservoirs.html](https://coliban.com.au/site/root/water_security/reservoirs.html) as at 4th October, 2018

## Growing Great Fruit Using Weeds as a Living Mulch

The ground is warming up and weeds have started growing. To decide how to manage weeds around your fruit trees, you might need to do a cost/benefit analysis. The 'cost' of weeds is that they compete with the tree for water and some nutrients, but the benefits are many! Weeds help to increase the amount of carbon in your soil, they provide habitat for the all-important soil microbes, and they provide food for worms and other lovely underground garden helpers. Many weeds are edible (or if you don't fancy eating weeds you can replace them with herbs or vegies), or have medicinal uses, and they also help to keep the soil cool in summer, which can actually help to conserve water.

Some weeds are also very good at 'mining' the soil for nutrients and making them available to your fruit trees, particularly the ones with a deep tap-root. Flowering weeds also provide important habitat for insects in the garden (particularly yellow and white flowering plants).

Can you tell we like weeds? For all but the very youngest fruit trees, we reckon the balance is firmly in favour of having a "living mulch" under your fruit trees.

However, they still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are (1) mow them regularly, (2) plant the things you want to grow there, like legumes to pump nitrogen into your soil (e.g. clover, or peas), herbs, or vegetables, or (3) use animals (geese, sheep, chooks, guinea pigs...) to mow them for you!

If you decide to mulch instead, be aware that it can be just as effective at stopping water soaking into the soil as preventing evaporation. It's also a great idea to put some compost or worm castings underneath your mulch before you lay it, to help kick start the biology in your soil. And a couple of words of warning - use straw rather than hay -because straw should be relatively free of seed, and don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed."

**Hugh and Katie Finlay manage the heritage organic apple orchard and fruit tree nursery at Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens and have 20 years' experience as orchardists in Harcourt. They offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips ([opt-in.mafg.com.au](mailto:opt-in.mafg.com.au)), run online courses teaching gardeners how to grow their own organic fruit ([www.growgreatfruit.com](http://www.growgreatfruit.com)), and offer a free weekly online workshop called "The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit" (sign up at [growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing](http://www.growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing)).**



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## CACTUS WARRIORS FIELD DAY

The Cactus Warriors will hold their final field day for 2018 on Sunday the 28th at 10.30 am.

Tools, injectors, chemicals, safety goggles and gloves will be provided for the morning. Wear stout footwear, long pants and a hat. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

As usual we will finish with a BBQ lunch, a cuppa and a chat.

The location will be confirmed later this month on our website [www.cactuswarriors.org](http://www.cactuswarriors.org) closer to the day. Click on NEWS & EVENTS.

Watch the Core in autumn 2019 for our first field day in 2019. Have a happy and safe summer!



## ASQ Plant of the Month Roses

Roses are a plant no garden or courtyard should be without!

Said to be the world's most popular flower, there are so many rose varieties and styles you can't possibly pick just one. Choose from climbing, bush or standard, yellow, pink or purple and almost every colour in between! With so many options there is sure to be a type for your garden.

Visit ASQ Skydancers this month to see our range of roses.



### Youth Mental Health training

Council is offering Youth Mental Health First Aid training in October and November for parents or carers of young people aged between 10 and 25 years. Over four evening sessions you will learn how to recognise possible emerging mental health concerns or a mental health crisis. We have received very positive feedback from this course and we invite you to register now. A registration fee of \$50 will cover the cost of all course materials and catering. Find out more at the training section of Council's new youth website <https://mountalexandershireyouth.com.au/> or contact Sharna Cropley, Coordinator Youth and Community Development, on 5471 1842.

### Walk to school in October

Eleven local primary schools, including Harcourt Valley, have signed up to participate in Walk to School Month. Council is again supporting this VicHealth initiative that aims to build healthy habits for life. We'd love to see families put their best foot forward and join thousands of other Victorian kids as they walk, ride or scoot to school. Part way is ok! If you can't walk the whole way, try parking the car a few blocks from school and walk, ride or scoot the rest. Walk to School helps get kids active, and gives you a chance to talk and teach road safety skills while spending quality time together and getting active yourself.

### Free green waste disposal period

Shire residents can dispose of green waste for free at the Castlemaine and Maldon waste facilities from Saturday 20 October to Sunday 4 November. Green waste includes grass clippings, wood and tree branches less than 10cm in diameter. The waste must be free of rubbish and declared noxious weeds. Residents are encourage to use this opportunity to prepare their property for the fire season.

### Seniors Festival in October

Help launch this year's Seniors Festival at 11.00am on Saturday 6 October at the Market Building on Mostyn Street, Castlemaine. Enjoy live performances including the infamous Bendigo Chinese Association Lions and Drums. There are many activities and events planned as part of the festival throughout October. Collect a Seniors Festival program from community hubs or online at [www.cch.org.au](http://www.cch.org.au).

### Council meetings

- 6.30pm, Tuesday 16 October
- 6.30pm, Tuesday 20 November

Meetings are held at the Civic Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**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)**

## Castlemaine Bus Lines

### Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

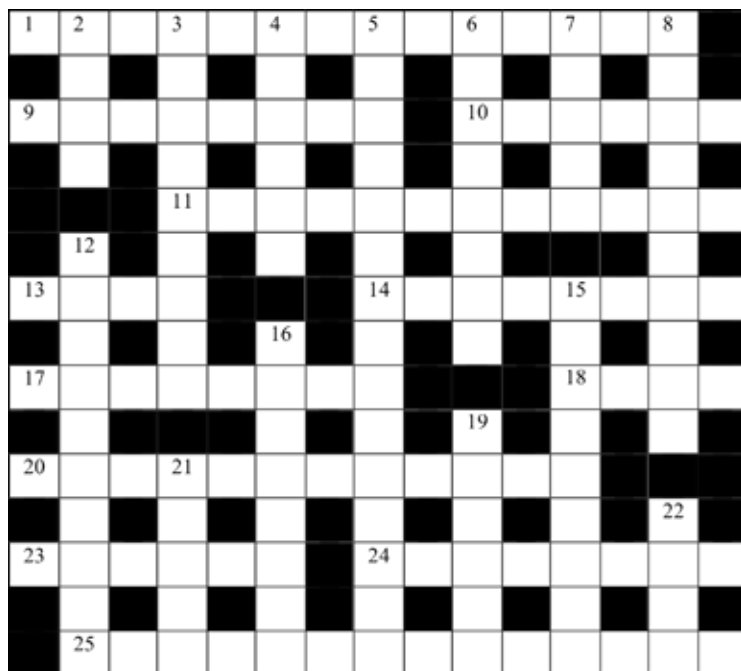
|  | am   | pm    | pm   |
|--|------|-------|------|
| Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)                     | 8:55 | 12:10 | 2:25 |
| Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)                | 8:56 | 12:11 | 2:26 |
| Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)                | 8:57 | 12:12 | 2:27 |
| Blackjack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



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# October Xword 2018

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## Down:

2. Cheese from internet reservoir? (4)
3. Period of remorse in the past? (2,3,4 or 5-4?)
4. Beginning of power rip-off? (6)
5. Oh dear! An odd alias for one totally without aspiration! (4,2,1,8)
6. Burner Corporal dance? (8)
7. Simple knot for recent contrarian? (5)
8. The attritions that could collapse time? (10)
12. The feel of Goldfinger? (5,5)
15. Indian 18 sans half a grand for the big island. (9)
16. Why doppelganger can't be heard? (8)
19. Island high on shun-list for '40s Oz? (6)
21. Where to find early Peruvian after shooting with Cecil? (5)
22. Oils ain't oils in the grain bin... (4)

## Across:

1. Often good to cop an eyeful of wood before winter... (3,1,4,2,4)
9. Can alpaca join a flower? Only by bumping off gangster. (8)
10. Rodent neck-wear not limited to neck. (6)
11. Do they drink absinthe, laze about and speak only French? Not likely—they were centuries earlier. (12)
13. I'm taken aback twice by N-W spirits. (4)
14. Footage, quality, etc., of records covered in dust. (8)
17. How heir entered fortune? (4, 4)
18. Acts for the ladies in northern forests. (4)
20. Divest evidence of Leak for Phantom's hunting ground? (5,7)
23. Smallest change in union makes for big Mick's ambassador. (6)
24. Two donkeys in line for one killer. (8)
25. Portable abacus for counting workers? (4-10)

# September Crossword 2018 solution © McW May '17



## Down:

2. Would leap into the unknown offer a supplication? (4)
3. Practice heals rare memory-lapses. (9)
- 4 and 15. If staid heretics, with dirtiest as chief, were thrown into the sadistic fire they'd have had their needs met by the number [3...] of anagrams. (6-9)
5. One of 25 and complement needed for some of 25 clue. (6,3,6)
6. Xenophobia might not alter a more liberal attitude. (8)
7. (see 19)
8. Stick to the basics, or on even the sanest isle, where the sea listens, you'll not eat sinless... (10)
12. It might produce a pasty flame, but it won't burn you... (6-4)
15. (see 4)
16. A (sweet) dreamer? (8)
- 19 and 7. If coarse bet begets super-aggressive skiting, can I force beast in to briefcase? (6,5)
21. Was Diana eco-friendly in comeback all at sea? (5)
22. Perhaps a tremolo greets the nasty one of 19 and 7? (4)

## Across:

1. Repeat bloating may land you on this! (9,5)
9. Could this canter where she retails shells [...ON THE SEA-SHORE]? Certainly jumps about a bit.
10. Communicate, co-operate: [i.e. sail] into his office and talk... (6)
11. How to trace angelic speeding-up? (12)
13. (see 17)
14. In go cats among pigeons of religion, but this one won't rock the boat much, 'cos he just doesn't know... (8)
- 17 and 13. A dweller near the library could be like this—if she accommodates dwellers, alas! (4-4, 4)
18. Cash-register of prankster. [Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks...courtesy Dick Strauss.]
20. Hey, conscript—make free with the napalm! (12)
23. Could provide visual evidence of a Merc., a boot-load of guns, a gangster—anything, if you look carefully. (6)
24. Longings drop annual bit [the 'y'] for pay.
25. Dense pain lends itself to dressmaking phenomenon. (4,3,7)

# Community Diary Dates

**Monday 8th October:** 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting of the Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre Inc will be held at the ANA Hall.

**Thursday 11th October:** 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall.

**Tuesday 16th October:** 10.30 am An invitation is extended to join the Harcourt Uniting Church Fellowship group as we present Blumes Fashion Parade (with nothing over \$59.95) at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. The morning will begin with a delicious morning tea at 10am followed by the Fashions at 10.30am

**Saturday 20th October to Sunday 4th November:** Mount Alexander shire residents can dispose of green waste for free at the Castlemaine and Maldon waste facilities during this time. Green waste includes grass clippings, wood and tree branches less than 10cm in diameter.

**Sunday 21st October:** 1.30 pm Heritage Centre event. Meet at the ANA Hall to travel to Bendigo to visit the Dai Gum San Museum. Cost is \$10.

**Tennis Club:** 7 pm Social night tennis at the Leisure Centre courts will begin on Thursday October 25th. Cost is \$2 per person.

**Saturday 28th October:** 10 am to midday, Working Bee Harcourt Valley Landcare. Meet opposite the CFA in Bridge Street at the footbridge. Secretary: 0467 670 271

**Bowling Club Dates:** See page 12.

**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.

**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; 1.30 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre.

**Harcourt Lions Club:** Meetings every third Friday of the month at 7.30pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way. For further information, contact Di Selwood 0488 148 358.



## 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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## Adult Day Service visits Blume's Bakery

We all enjoy the smell of freshly baked bread, but if you are elderly the aroma invokes memories of a childhood when all bread was baked using a wood fire in the home or at a local bakery.

For Keith McShanag who in his working life was a small goods baker the memories are indelible; and baking is still in the family as his son bakes and operates McShanag's Cake Shop in Castlemaine. Keith is a member of a men's group which enjoys activities together on a weekly basis. The group is organised by Castlemaine Health's Adult Day Service. They often come to Harcourt to enjoy a lunch and gentle exercise at the Leisure Centre. Leanne Edwards and Colin Appleby of Castlemaine Health accompany and support the men on their weekly outings.



*Keith and his birthday cake.*

When Keith realised that Blume's Bakery with its wood fired oven was being revitalised he made a special request for a visit to the bakery as his birthday fell on the same day. Jodie and David Pillinger at Blume's were delighted to have the group in for a tour and morning tea which they provided, including a cake and candles.

As an apprentice Keith worked at Rasmussen's bakery (now Klua Sathorn Thai Restaurant) in Castlemaine. When he

worked there two full time bakers were required to keep up the supply of bread while he worked on the small goods with Halson Webb. All of these baked goods were produced using two huge wood fired brick ovens.

I had the opportunity to talk with other members who enjoy their weekly outings. John McEwan had been a gold and silver smith, then a trade teacher in a technical school but later worked shoeing Clydesdale horses and travelled to the Oklahoma Farriers' College in the USA to learn the craft. Geoff, who is 80, told me that at the age of 70 he went to the Black Saturday bush fires near Marysville and Kinglake. He lost two fingers in the fire. He is still a member of the Fryerstown CFA.

What a wealth of knowledge and experience resides with our elderly community members. Let's celebrate and acknowledge the senior members of our community during the Seniors Festival in October.



*Castlemaine Health's Men's group enjoyed their visit and tour of Blume's Bakery courtesy of Jodie and David Pillinger.*

## Big launch for Mount Alexander Seniors Festival 2018

This year's Seniors Festival opening on Saturday October 6th will be quite spectacular. Performing on the steps of the Castlemaine Market Building will be the fabulous Bendigo Chinese Association Lions and Drums, providing a great opportunity to see this celebrated troupe of performers in action. As well, the opening ceremony will include musical entertainment from the 'Maine Ukuladies' and the choral group, 'The Blenders'.

The entertainment will begin at 10.35am and will be officially opened by the Mount Alexander Shire Mayor, Bronwen Machin and Bendigo West MLA Maree Edwards at 11am.

As part of the event there will a Seniors Expo in the market building. Various organisations will provide information about the many activities available for seniors in their community. This begins immediately following the official opening and continues into Sunday.

The organising committee has put a lot of effort into planning the 2018 Seniors Festival and they believe it will be the best ever. Numerous events are planned and programs will be available at a variety of outlets throughout the shire. As well as funding from the state government and the shire,

the committee has attracted financial and other support from local traders and individuals which has enabled the program to be expanded.

It will be a festival of many highlights and all residents, not only Seniors, are welcome to support it.

For more information Contact

Marilyn Bennet

Chairperson

Seniors Festival Committee

0457 676 327



*Bendigo Chinese Association Lions troupe in action.*