

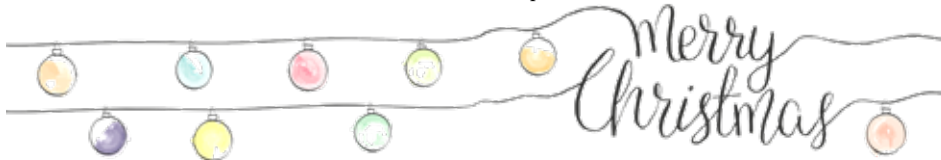
HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

December 2018

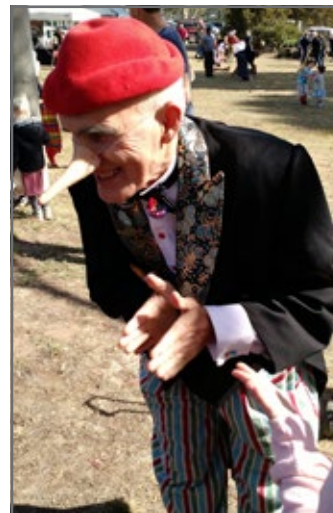
HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 56

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

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



First Twilight Market a Hit



The gods certainly smiled on Harcourt – and how could they not? They blessed the town with a perfect evening for the very first Harcourt Twilight Market.

A huge crowd of 1,200 people converged on James Park to enjoy the 28 stalls of local produce including Harcourt grown flowers, cherries, and honey, garlic from Sutton Grange, preserves and jams from Maldon, soap from Guildford, and home grown plants from Castlemaine. Harcourt's

own Goldfields Track Cafe and Nazar Turkish Cuisine churned out hundreds of meals to keep the throng fed, whilst Harcourt Cider, Mount Alexander Wines, Blue Elephant Beverages and Shedshaker Brewing helped keep the whistles wet!

The kids enjoyed clowning from Piccolo and Lilly Pilly Green and lined up patiently for face painting and balloon bending. The live music from the very classy Los Impenetrables put a smile on everyone's face and ensured a great festive atmosphere.

All in all, the Harcourt Twilight Market was a huge hit and we can't wait till the next one!

The Market will run on the 4th Saturday of each month: come along to the Christmas celebration on **SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER** to enjoy local duo THE RATTlers and giants of ska, KING STONE.



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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

Tell us your vision for Harcourt

Mount Alexander Shire Council has launched an eight week consultation period to inform a strategic plan for Harcourt and is encouraging the community to get involved.

“Plan Harcourt provides the overarching long term strategic plan for the town to set the scene for future development,” said Dominique Trickey, Coordinator Strategic Planning, Mount Alexander Shire Council. “It builds on previous plans developed in consultation with the community and will establish the planning processes needed to help shape the growing town.”

Plan Harcourt focuses on the area within the township boundary. It also includes land adjacent to Harmony Way as far south as Elphinstone as this is an important southern gateway to the town.

“We recently held two information sessions to launch the project and there are plenty more ways for everyone to get involved,” said Ms Trickey. “A good place to start is by reading the discussion paper, or by having a chat to our strategic planning team at pop-up office spaces at different locations around town.

“We’ve also created a survey and an online interactive map where you can share your ideas and inspiration on what you love about Harcourt and what you would like to see,” she said.


The project team is meeting with community groups and is encouraging locals to set up their own kitchen table meeting to discuss the plan with family and friends. The team would love to join you to hear your ideas.

Harcourt is identified for residential expansion and population growth in the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme and the Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan.

The main township area currently has a population of approximately 450 and could accommodate an additional 2,500 people depending on different development scenarios.

Strategic planning is needed to ensure there is enough land supply and infrastructure to accommodate the predicted growth while protecting the surrounding agricultural land uses, irrigation network and other natural and cultural features.

The project will be completed in three stages. The first stage presents a consolidated set of



Plan Harcourt sessions

Council is putting together a plan to grow Harcourt and we need to hear from you. Head along to a Plan Harcourt information session to learn more. Sessions include:

- 2.00pm - 2.45pm on Tuesday 4 December at Harcourt Pre-school
- 2.00pm - 2.45pm on Wednesday 5 December at Harcourt Pre-school
- 6.00pm - 7.00pm on Thursday 6 December at Harcourt Bowling Club
- 3.15pm - 4.00pm on Friday 7 December at Harcourt Valley Primary School
- 11.00am - 1.00pm on Thursday 13 December at Goldfields Track Café
- 1.00pm - 3.00pm on Saturday 15 December at Harcourt Swimming Pool
- 2.00pm - 4.00pm on Friday 11 January at Harcourt Swimming Pool
- 11.00am - 1.00pm on Friday 18 January at Goldfields Track Café.

Complete an online survey, read the discussion paper or let us know your ideas on an online interactive map at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt. For more information contact our Strategic Planning Team.

Prepare now for summer

There are a few things you can do to protect yourself, your family, property and neighbours in the lead up to the Fire Danger Period. Make sure you have an emergency plan that outlines when to leave, where to go and what to take. To prepare your property clear rubbish away from around your home, cut grasses, clear gutters and relocate woodpiles away from buildings. Don't forget to check what your insurance covers. For more information visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FirePrevention.

Pool opens 1 December

Council's four outdoor pools, including the Harcourt Pool, open on Saturday 1 December. See our website for opening times and entry fees. Sign up to our online newsletter Shire News by Friday 8 December to go into the draw to win a season family pool pass valued at \$155. Sign up at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/ShireNews. The pool season will continue through until Labour Day, Monday 11 March. Pools will be closed on Christmas Day and on Code Red days.

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

t (03) 5471 1700
e info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

plans to the community and stakeholders to test if they still represent everyone's aspirations for the growing town.

For more information visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt or contact 5471 1700.

You can also pick up the survey and discussion paper around town.

5 ways to get involved

- Read the discussion paper and answer some questions to tell us your vision
- Complete the Plan Harcourt survey
- Let us know your big idea for Harcourt using an interactive map
- Drop in to a pop-up project office or set up a meeting to chat with the project team
- Make a written submission

From a Press Release

Harcourt Pool Opens – Win a Season Pass

Saturday December 1 was a perfect day for the pool season to begin. While the numbers attending weren't high on the day, those who were there enjoyed our wonderful local facility.

The Core spoke with Poppy, mother of Henley. "I love swimming!" she said, "And the pool is well located for us. We have recently moved into Pippin Court and we are really enjoying getting to know the Harcourt community."

Poppy and family have recently moved from Melbourne and chose to live in Harcourt after deciding the demographic suited them and that they were able to get to work with reasonable travel times. The Harcourt Kindergarten proved an attraction as well. The family attended the first Twilight Market and enjoyed it so much that they are looking forward to the next one in December, especially with the aim of purchasing last minute Christmas gifts.



Poppy and Henley enjoyed lots of water play at the pool's opening day

On opening day Isaac and Jonte were on Life Guard duty. This is Jonte's third year; he has returned for the summer from his university studies in Geelong, while for Isaac it's his first year on duty at Harcourt. "I've finished all my training and I'm hoping to get shifts at Harcourt and Castlemaine," he said.



Isaac (left) and Jonte are looking forward to a busy pool season at Harcourt

Life Guards must have completed a Life Guard's Course and have a First Aid Certificate. In addition they have to pass Working with Children and Police checks.

Bendigo Regional YMCA manages and operates pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead. This year the YMCA is offering a free season pass at each of the local pools if you buy your season pass for the summer by 21 December. It's great value and you could win your purchase back and swim for free all summer long. See the YMCA website for opening times of the pools www.bendigo.ymca.org.au

Ben Grounds, Manager Community Places and Spaces, Mount Alexander Shire Council said "With the weather warming up, local pools are a popular destination. They are a great place to cool off in summer and spend time with friends and family. Patrons may see some changes in the kiosk options, with a greater selection of healthier choices. We heard loud and clear from the community that they would like a better range of food options, and we have listened."

The pool season will continue through until Labour Day, Monday 11 March. Pools will be closed on Christmas Day and on Code Red days.

Some information for this article came from a Shire Press Release

A promotional poster for the summer pool season. It features a close-up of a young boy's face wearing blue swimming goggles. The text on the poster reads: "Get ready.... It's SUMMER and it's POOL SEASON!", "WIN", "SWIM AT ALL 4 POOLS WITH ONE PASS", "BUY YOUR SEASON PASS AND GO INTO THE DRAW TO WIN!", and "ONE LUCKY PERSON AT EACH POOL WILL WIN A FREE SEASON PASS". At the bottom, in small text, it says: "* Winner will be drawn at each pool on December 21 2018. The winner will be refunded the value of their season pass purchase."

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Blume's Historic Bakery Opens

After a year of renovation on the original bakery buildings and oven, Blume's Historic Bakery opened for business on Wednesday 21st November.

Jodie and David Pillinger are delighted to be selling their sourdough bread baked in the newly refurbished wood fired oven. They are getting into the swing of baking large batches with the process to produce a batch of loaves taking from 24 to 36 hours depending on the proving time of the dough.

The bakery will be operating from Wednesday to Saturday 8 am to 6 pm and Sunday 8 am to 1 pm unless sold out. The bakery is located on the corner of Harmony Way and Victoria Road and customers can drive in to the property from Victoria Road and then exit via Warren Street at the rear of the property.



Look for the sign in Victoria Road near the entrance to the bakery



Lorella Burns was excited to be the very first buyer of Blume's bread.



Sam and Stephen Upton were delighted to be at the bakery on its opening day. In January next year it will be a year since they bought their block in Bingham's Road.



Terry Willis, (right) chats over the counter with Jodie and David.



A Christmas Message

Harcourt Progress Association wishes readers of The Core a very Merry Christmas and New Year. We have finished the year with a flourish as our Secretary Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns has taken on the organisation of the Twilight Market, with the first one being a huge success. The next market is on December 22nd and everyone I have spoken to is looking forward to the evening and also to being able to find the last minute Christmas presents they need. And don't forget that in the New Year, there will be another market on Australia Day, January 26th. What a big day that will be for Harcourt with the Australia Day Lion's Breakfast and Youth and Community Awards in the morning and the Twilight Market in the early evening.

One of HPA's recent initiatives is to develop a New Residents Kit. These will be available at the December market and subsequent markets. HPA encourages new residents to pick up a kit and have a chat at the Association's market stall.

Design of the new Play Space in Stanley Park North is underway and an effort has been made to take into account Harcourt's history and unique features in the design. Once the proposal is developed, community consultation will occur with the intention of this happening before Christmas. If not then, we can expect

the design to be publicly available in the New Year. HPA thanks the community representatives who are putting their time and energy into this exciting project.

Planning is the buzz word in Harcourt at the moment. HPA recommends community members take up the opportunities being offered by Council to have input into the Plan Harcourt process which is focussed on the development of the township zone. More information on the process and the opportunities to have a say are in this edition of The Core.

The Community Plan developed in 2013 by the Association in consultation with the community has been updated once, and we intend to update it again next year. A number of the aspirations in the plan have been achieved; we need to celebrate these and look ahead and plan for the future. A major anniversary will take place next year as we mark 10 years since the new freeway opened. HPA plans to mark this event as it has been a major stimulus for change in the town.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Regards,

Robyn Miller

Chair, Harcourt Progress Association



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Love your pet? Send us a picture!

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

Christmas Carols in Stanley Park



Come and join in some lively carol singing to the accompaniment of the fabulous Thompson's Foundry Band.

Thursday December 13th
from 7 – 8 pm

Bring a rug and chair and family and friends.

Stanley Park is directly opposite the Service Station on High Street, Harcourt.

Brought to you by the Uniting Church, Harcourt.

PLAN AND PREPARE

The reasons are black and white

emergency.vic.gov.au
Download the VicEmergency app

It's your responsibility to be fire ready this summer, so prepare your property, fire plan and emergency kit now. When hot, dry, windy days are forecast, check Fire Danger Ratings in your district daily and monitor conditions via local radio, the VicEmergency website and app.

On high-risk fire days, leaving early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option.



Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Harcourt CFA

Fire Restrictions Reminder

This is a reminder that even though we have experienced some very cold days, as well as some rain, fire restrictions are in force for the Mount Alexander Shire and The Greater City of Bendigo, and will remain in force until the end of the fire danger period. It is worth noting that the rain we had in November has done very little in providing soil moisture and therefore has made little difference to the fuel loads and fuel dryness. Grass that is cured (dried out) and the bush, which you will notice is experiencing some amount of stress, will burn. The seasonal outlook for summer is for below average rainfall through to January, warmer than normal temperatures and a 70% chance of entering an El Nino period. It is still not too late to do that extra bit of preparation and it is also time to give your angle grinder a holiday. Angle grinders are a regular cause of grass fires over summer so if you must use one, make sure you take all of the required precautions. Use the grinder as far away from dry grass as possible. The immediate area of at least 1.5 metres must be clear of all flammable material. Use spark shields and wet down the surrounding area. Be prepared so you can quickly put out a fire if it starts: have either a hose connected to a reticulated water supply or a water spray knapsack containing at least 9 litres of water and have an observer watching for fire. It is not uncommon for fires to start 15 to 25 metres away from where angle grinders are being used.

Angle grinders are a regular cause of grass fires over summer

of concern and one example is a Christmas Wreath Candle Holder sold by Big W from 21 September 2017 to 7 November 2018 which can catch fire and remain alight longer than permitted. For a complete list, go to www.recalls.gov.au

This last one is a timely reminder to check all our Christmas decorations and lights for damage and if in doubt – throw them out - it is much safer to do so, than setting fire to your Christmas tree inside your house. Also, take extreme care if using candles and ensure that if you are leaving the room or the house, blow them out before you leave. Do not leave them unattended.

Community Meeting

The Brigade held a successful community information meeting at the fire station on Monday 26th of November. Our target audience was newer residents to the Harcourt area but it was also pleasing to see five attendees that had been to a previous meeting. All those who attended learnt some valuable fire safety information and we thank them for taking the time to learn how to be better prepared.

The Harcourt Brigade wishes to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, fire free Christmas and New Year and please take extra care on the roads over the holiday period. Thank you for reading the monthly articles and for providing positive feedback on them. We cannot exactly measure any reduction in the number of turnouts by having an informed and prepared community, but we know it does make a difference.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Safety Recalls

At this time of the year there is generally a spike in product recalls as retailers stock up on a variety of different products with different qualities of manufacture that have the potential to start a fire due to faults. For example, Primus Australia Pty Ltd has recalled the Companion Portable Butane Stove (both single and double burner models) purchased from 11 January to 23 October 2018. These stoves have failed the overpressure tests and may explode if they overheat. Life Fitness Australia Pty Ltd have recalled the Life Fitness Power Mill Climber (exercise equipment) with serial numbers starting with PMA100001 or PMD100001 or between serial numbers PMH100001 to PMH102649 due to the risk of electrical arcing occurring if liquid enters the power inlet at the front of the equipment. Christmas decorations are always a matter



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Harcourt
A Growing Place

**International Volunteers' Day
Morning Tea**

To acknowledge the fabulous work
of volunteers in our community,
Harcourt Progress Association
invites all volunteers in Harcourt
to a free Morning Tea

**10 am, Sunday 9 December
Goldfields Track Café**

**RSVP: Thursday 6th December
HPA Facebook Page or Ph: 0467 670 271**



Harcourt Uniting Church

Our Uniting Church Adult Fellowship group celebrated its 65th birthday last month after our AGM. We enjoyed a birthday cake and afternoon tea shared with some Church members from Castlemaine and Bendigo as well as Rev Bruce.

Originally Harcourt had two Methodist Churches – one at Harcourt North (the weatherboard building on the corner of Reservoir Road and McIvor Road) and the other being the present building in Buckley Street Harcourt. Both Churches formed Ladies' Guilds who met for fellowship, to fundraise for the Church and to support wider Church organisations. In 1977 the two Churches became part of the Uniting Church.

When the Harcourt North Church closed, their Fellowship joined with Harcourt Fellowship and the combined

group is still going strong today with 16 members.

Four of the members from the 1950s are still part of our fellowship – Alma Chaplin, Dorothy Gartside, Dorothy Jenkin and Thelma Wilkinson.

Our Fellowship continues to support local organisations including Castlemaine Secondary School Chaplaincy and MASARG (Respite House) along with organisations such as The Royal Flying Doctor, Frontier Services, Christian Blind Mission and Mission Liaison Group with our School backpacks to the Pacific Islands.

Are you prepared for Christmas? When our grandson was three he was enjoying playing with our nativity scene on a table in the lounge and chatting with the shepherds. Later I noticed that the shepherds were missing – I asked Cooper where they were and he said: "They've gone on a holiday Nan" – I later

found them standing on the window sill in the bedroom! I suppose Christmas is a time for holidays.

On Christmas Day at 8.30 am there will be a Service at the Harcourt Uniting Church in Buckley Street and we welcome everyone to join us.

Carols in Stanley Park – Thursday December 13th from 7 – 8 pm
Bring a rug and chair and family and friends.

Christmas can be a hectic time but we hope that your Christmas is a special time of sharing in the love of family and friends as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Jan Jenkin



Harcourt Uniting Church Adult Fellowship members celebrate the group's 65th birthday.



Four members who attended the Church during the 1950s are still going strong: Alma Chaplin, Dorothy Gartside, Dorothy Jenkin and Thelma Wilkinson.

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Chatting with CWA

Merry Christmas to everyone from all of us at Harcourt CWA. We have enjoyed sharing our year with you and if you would like to join us on a regular basis, our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. Make 2019 the year that you became a CWA member.

And here are just a couple of fun things that you missed out on last month by not being a member of the Harcourt Branch in 2018.

It's always fun to dress up and enjoy the company and friendship of other Branch members and this is exactly what we do whenever we can. On this occasion it was Oaks Day and hats were all the go. Thanks to the Newstead Branch we all enjoyed a delicious lunch - and a cocktail too of course.

Our final group get-together for the year was organised by Dingee CWA to celebrate ninety years of the Victorian CWA. Now I have never been to Dingee, never seen the Pathos Plains or Terrick Terrick National Park and had no idea that this area was a part of the Victoria's Northern Plains Grasslands. It really is quite unique and, if you don't know much about that area, I can recommend a visit.

We boarded a V/Line train in Castlemaine and joined members from CWA Branches from Melbourne in a carriage reserved exclusively for our use. We stopped in Bendigo to pick up more members and then arrived in Dingee to be met by ladies of the CWA and a magnificent platform morning tea. How often do you step out of a train onto a platform and be surrounded by ladies offering slices, sandwiches and cakes? Well maybe in the movies, but now I can say, in Dingee.

Then off we went in the Loddon Transit Bus on a tour of Terrick Terrick National Park ending our journey at Prairie Park for lunch. Prairie Park is one of the area's original homesteads and is now an upscale B&B.

Back at Dingee Station it was a race to see what would arrive first; our V/Line train or a huge dust storm blowing in from the plains. The dust won.

Until next year, stay safe, be kind, and give hugs.

*Lyn Rule
Harcourt CWA
Publicity Officer*



Oak Day Lunch Newstead



Gathering at Castlemaine Station



A Dingee CWA Welcome



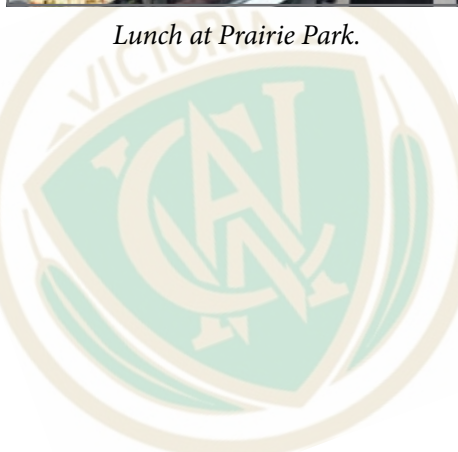
Fun on the Bus to Prairie Park



Lunch at Prairie Park.



A Dusty Farewell from Dingee.



Dingee's Cake Celebrating 90 Years of CWA in Victoria

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Scholarship program for local Uni & TAFE students

Are you heading to university or TAFE in 2019? Need a little extra financial support?

The Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch is offering two scholarships, \$2,000 (winner) and \$1,000 (runner-up), to support young tertiary course students from the Maldon, Harcourt, Newstead, Mount Alexander and Dunolly districts.

“We’re pleased to be offering two scholarships in 2019 to encourage and support young people from our region to undertake further study,” said Karly Smith, Maldon & District Community Bank®’s Executive Officer.

“We ran the scholarship for the first time this year and were impressed with the calibre of applicants. We’re looking forward to receiving applications for this round of funding. We particularly invite Harcourt students to apply, as we’re keen to strengthen our relationship to the town.”

“Our scholarship programs help young people achieve their dream of further study. The scholarship can be used to cover costs associated with tertiary education, such as course fees, rent, purchasing computers, books, equipment or other resources associated with your course.”

Applications are now open and close 31 January 2019.

Applications are sought from young people aged 25 years or under starting or continuing a TAFE-based apprenticeship, a TAFE Certificate course, a diploma, advanced diploma or university undergraduate degree.

Find out more at <https://maldoncb.com.au/tertiary-scholarship/> or contact Karly on 0478 435 110 or executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au.

Community Bank’s \$150,000 community grants program

We’re turning 20! The Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch is celebrating this milestone with a grants program of \$150,000 to support our local communities.

The 20th Birthday Community Grants Program opens at the end of January 2019 for four weeks.

The Bank’s Executive Officer Karly Smith encourages

We particularly invite Harcourt students to apply, as we’re keen to strengthen our relationship to the town

community groups to start planning now for projects and initiatives that could be supported by the Maldon & District Community Bank®.

“Now’s the time for community groups, schools, preschools and clubs in Harcourt to be thinking about and discussing how funding from the Community Bank could help your organisation with an

event or project. It could be small – such as new books, tools, equipment or a defib machine. It might be for something bigger such as shade sails, water tanks, play equipment, help with an event or festival, training for volunteers or new heating for your clubrooms,” said Karly.

“We’re holding an information night at the end of January to launch the grants. We’ll keep you posted on these key dates and contact community groups to invite them along.”

To go on our mailing list, email your group’s details - contact name (and role in organisation e.g. president, secretary), phone number, email and postal addresses - to Karly Smith executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au.

Since 1999 the Community Bank has invested over 2.7

The Bank’s Executive Officer Karly Smith encourages community groups to start planning now for projects and initiatives that could be supported by the Maldon & District Community Bank®.

million dollars back into our local communities, from the profits of people, businesses and organisations banking locally. That’s a mighty achievement that we should all be proud of!

So if you don’t already bank with the Maldon & District Community Bank® drop into our branch at 81 High Street Maldon or call 5475 1747 to find out how banking with you local Community Bank is great for you and the community.

Look out for grant information in the local press, our website – maldoncb.com.au/ or Facebook page.



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Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm

94.9 MAIN fm



LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

Today I went out for a sing song.
But instead I played golf and then ping pong.
It didn't seem right
It should end in a fight
But it did, t'was an absolute ding dong.

Some Time Ago

HARCOURT.—This pretty little village bids fair to be a pic-nic resort by the holiday makers both of Castlemaine and Bendigo, for yesterday, nearly three thousand persons from the two places paid it a visit. From the earliest streak of day, conveyances were en route from Castlemaine, and the railway conveyed hundreds more. Indeed, so great was the traffic, that extra carriages had to be put on to the first trains from Bendigo, though the numbers were not quite so large. A great many availed themselves of the holiday to come down by rail, and pic-nic parties, of all sizes, from the quiet quartette, to the hundred strong, could be found enjoying themselves on the sides of Mount Alexander. To the attractions of the "Mount," indeed, may be attributed the good fortune of Harcourt, so far as attracting the attention of tourists goes, for without its beauties, Harcourt *per se* would be as commonplace a township as well could be found. If tea gardens, or some really good and comfortable public accommodation were instituted, we should imagine the proprietor would make a handsome thing out of it, for then, after enjoying a stroll over the hills, dinner, tea, or other meals, *al fresco* or otherwise, could be provided to appease the appetites that would be provoked. Whether a house of the kind would pay on the Mount itself, may be a question, though there can be no doubt that during the summer season it would do well.

From Mount Alexander Mail,
Friday January 2nd, 1863 – via Trove

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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

Are you ready for the coming Bushfire Season?

Pretty much all of Victoria outside major cities is designated at risk from bushfire and we who live in rural areas are more at risk. *Every* summer we should be preparing for bushfire.

Here are some points taken from the Fire Ready Safety Information Session led by Sue Bull, Community Liaison Bushfire Engagement Officer.

- **Fire Danger ratings** give an indication of how difficult it will be to control a fire if it starts.
- A **Code Red day** means it is not possible to defend your house and property should a fire start.
- **To wait to leave a property on a Code Red day puts lives at risk.**
- **Most fires** come from a northerly or north westerly direction.
- **In Victoria** it is common for a cool change to come through at the end of the day. If a fire has been travelling from the north-west a cool change means that the wind will swing to the south or south-west. Properties which have been safe during the day will be in the path of the fire if it hasn't been put out.
- **Most property and lives are lost after a cool change comes through.**
- **The basketball stadium** at the Harcourt Primary School will be designated a "PLACE OF LAST RESORT" in the event of a bushfire in Harcourt.
- On a day when there are a number of bushfires, **it is unlikely that a tanker will get to your property**, so you need to know what to do.
- **Find out** about how to plan for bushfire and how to protect your property by calling in at our local CFA on a Sunday morning. They can advise and direct you to resources.

Use the following websites for information:

- How to prepare your property:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property
- How to prepare your property if you plan to leave early:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan
- How to prepare if you plan to stay and actively defend your property:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/stay-and-actively-defend

Robyn Miller



Presenter Sue Bull and Harcourt residents at the Fire Ready Safety Information Session held at the CFA on Monday 26th November.



News from Harcourt Bowling Club

As we come to the end of this calendar year, Harcourt Bowling Club members and volunteers can be pleased with the many improvements achieved at the club throughout the year. The most recent of these being new the new club shirt design, installation of new modern score boards and the impending replacement of the signage on the front of the building.

Pennant News

The Midweek and Weekend Pennant sides have had a mixed start to the season so far this year. Although we are not all dominating the higher ladder orders, a lot of promise and enthusiasm from members is sparking renewed optimism for a better show when we resume after the Christmas break.

Barefoot Bowls and Barbies



There were over 50 social bowlers enrolled for Barefoot Bowls on Tuesday 20th November and despite a heavy shower early, they all arrived for a great evening. The winning team on the night consisted of Ron

Frankling, Tristan Evans, Martin Evans and Jacob Smith.

The next Barefoot Bowls is scheduled for Tuesday 4th December. This will be the final one before Christmas and will be a good opportunity for people to get together over a social game of bowls, a drink or two and a barbeque.

To help with arrangements please put your names on the list on the board at the club and arrive before 5.30 pm to allow time to put the teams together, find bowls etc to allow for a 6 pm start.

President's Day - Sunday October 8th



President's Day winning skip gets directions from the President!

An enthusiastic crowd celebrated President's Day in glorious sunshine, with an afternoon of Social Bowls followed by the usual delicious afternoon tea. The winning team was skipped by Jean Pogue with John Grant and Sheila Oxley.

Sponsors' Night - 13th November

It was a warm and balmy evening on Tuesday 13th for the first night of the Sponsors' Challenge; the weather added to the success of the night with all 7 rinks in play. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, with lots of laughter and banter. ASQ were winners of the night on 30, followed by Robinsons

on 28 and closely behind on 27 were Bendigo Bank in third place. Peter Douglass' team were delighted to be winners of the raffle. A delicious BBQ eaten on the rear patio completed an ideal evening. It seems everyone is looking forward to the next night on February 19th.

Shire Community Consultation Night

The Club hosted the first shire community consultation night on Thursday 15th November and it was good to see so many locals making use of the clubrooms. It was estimated that around 50 people attended the evening which concluded with a barbeque of sausages and onions in bread provided by the Shire. Thanks to President Russell Maltby for cooking the barbeque and to Bryce for tending the bar.

Ladies Invitation Triple Tournament

This annual tournament was held on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st November and is usually well attended. This year was no exception with 42 players from visiting clubs competing. The winners on the day were the Golden Square team of Yvonne Robinson, Ronnie Groves and Ruth Pearce who are back to



back winners having won this event last year. The Eaglehawk team of Denise Power, Mavis Read and Margaret Guthrie were the Runners Up. This very successful day was generously sponsored by Di Selwood from Bendigo Property Plus.

Kidman Invitation Fours Tournament Rescheduled

The annual Kidman mixed fours tournament has been rescheduled to 17th March 2019. It was decided that a date after the Pennant season was more suitable for all players.

Wednesday Social Bowls will continue each Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.00pm. Members and visitors are all welcome – names on the Board by Tuesday please.

The Club Christmas Party will be held on the evening of Saturday 15th December – the format yet to be finalised.

The Harcourt Bowling Club Board extends warm wishes to all club members and our community for a very happy, safe and healthy Christmas.





Harcourt Valley Primary School

Kickball

On Friday 9 November ten primary schools from around the Shire gathered for the morning at the Harcourt Leisure Centre to take part in Kickball which teaches basic soccer skills. As readers may be aware, soccer has the greatest number of people participating in any sport in Australia. Students at Harcourt Primary had been practicing for three weeks before the day and enjoyed learning how to kick, field, run and throw a soccer ball.

The event was organised through the local Primary Physical Education network and as Harcourt was the host school, teacher Ben Walter took the reins for the event. About 350 children participated and the oval was fully occupied as students moved around in a round robin type of competition.



Students from Harcourt Valley Primary shake hands at the end of a kickball round.

From the School Newsletter

iPad Fundraising Barbecue Great Result

Funds raised at the Election Day stall totalled \$948.54. The school extends a big thank you to all the families who supported the fundraiser. The money raised from this stall will be directed towards supporting the purchase of 20 iPads for the school.

End of Year Celebration and Activity Dates

Monday 10th December

School Choir

The school choir will be undertaking their annual visit to Castlemaine Health.

Morning Tea for Volunteers of Harcourt Valley Primary School

All volunteers who have supported and assisted the school throughout the year are invited to a morning tea at 10.45 am at the school. This is a thank you to the volunteers in recognition of their valuable support.

Monday 17th December

Graduation Ceremony and Dinner

Immediate and extended families of the students are invited to the Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony which will take place at 2.00 pm. The afternoon will see the Grade 6 make speeches after which they will be presented with their graduation certificates. At the completion of the ceremony, all families are most welcome to stay and enjoy afternoon tea.

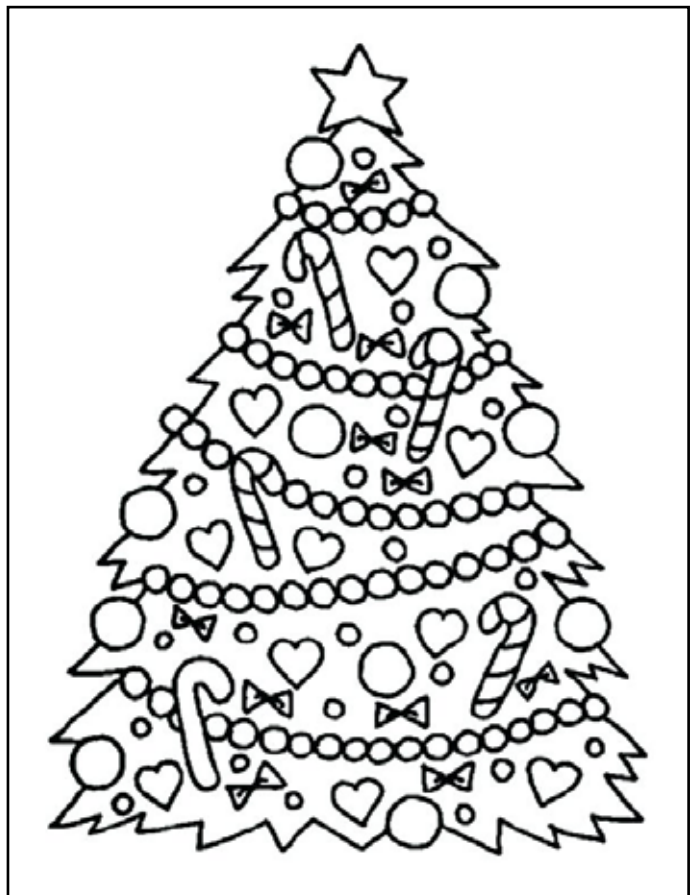
Grade 6 Graduation Dinner

The formal Grade 6 graduation dinner will commence at 7:00 pm sharp. Prior to entering the school building, families will have the opportunity to take group photos. Families are requested to arrive at 6:50 pm allowing time for photos prior to the commencement of formal proceedings.



The students gathered in the centre of the oval for morning tea.

Colour the picture



Remembrance Day, November 11, 2018

When the Henderson family moved from Williamstown to Harcourt, they wanted to keep alive a tradition they had observed in Williamstown as members of the RSL. So they decided to institute a Remembrance Day Service in Harcourt. This year's service is the eighth year they have conducted the ceremony.

November 2018 marked 100 years since the Armistice of World War I. The Armistice ended fighting in all theatres of war between the Allies and Germany and came into force at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

A number of people including Councillor Tony Cordy laid wreaths at the cenotaph. The crowd stood in silence at 11 am and then listened to the traditional bugle calls Reveille and The Last Post. An historic recording was played describing the events in 1918 when the Armistice was signed and to end the formalities Advance Australia Fair was played.

The significance of the 100th anniversary and the fact that it fell on a Sunday brought more people to the service than in the past.



The gathered crowd relaxed and socialised for a while after the service.



(left to right) Kirshy McAinch, Pam Henderson, her son Andrew and Councillor Cordy take part in the wreath laying ceremony at Remembrance Day.

Walter Peeler VC

This dedication was prepared and read at the unveiling of the memorial to Walter Peeler VC by Mick Hanrahan, Chairman of the Western Front Association, Central Victoria Branch. The Core thanks Mick for making the text available.

“Walter Peeler was a married man with children when war came in August 1914. He was not amongst the first to enlist and chase the great adventure, before it was all over before Christmas.

By the time he enlisted in February 1916, the war was more than 18 months old, he was 28 years old, and Gallipoli had come and gone. He knew from the casualty reports about his friends that it was not a great adventure, and that it would not end soon.

He was not a ‘natural’ soldier. He was charged with misdemeanours three times in France in early 1917. But he was there, and just to remind him in later life, he kept an injured right eye from his time at Messines Ridge later in 1917.

A little over a year after he enlisted, he was leading a Lewis Machine Gun Team when his mates were being pinned down by German troops. Thinking of his mates rather than himself, he moved forward of the first wave of assaulting troops with his Lewis Machine Gun and charged three separate German

positions. Later he encountered a German Machine Gun Post, and again charged that. It's estimated that he would have killed over 30 Germans during these actions.

He was injured again that month and sent to the UK for treatment. There, he was presented with the Victoria Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace.

He came home in October 1918, just before the end of the war, as one of ten VC recipients called on by Prime Minister Billy Hughes to boost recruitment.

There was a civic reception for him when he got back to Castlemaine, in the Faulder Watson Hall. There he said: “Many have gone from Castlemaine to do their bit, and every one of them, although some did have the luck I have had, were just as worthy of praise.”

Walter Peeler was a humble man. Look at the photos of him.



This black and white photo of Walter Peeler was downloaded from the Australian War Memorial site: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C73702>

He's never in the front row – with Albert Jacka – but more likely to be in the back row, near George Ingram VC, his mate from Bagshot, north of Bendigo.

After the war he worked for the Lands Dept in Melbourne, and the McKay Harvester Works at Sunshine until 1934, when he was appointed to the Corps of Commissioners as the “Custodian” of the Shrine.

Sir John Monash was the driving force behind the Shrine during the 1920's, but he died in 1931 and never saw it. But Walter was the original ‘Custodian’ – the manager overseeing ceremonial and protocol issues. Custodians are still there. Today they are younger men – no more than their mid 30s, and they wear plain blue shirts and trousers – and their campaign decorations, their gallantry awards, and probably an Infantry Combat Badge. These are our young men of Iraq and Afghanistan.

When the Shrine was dedicated in 1934, over 300,000 people – a third of the Melbourne population – attended. This generation would never travel to the Western Front to see the graves of their men, so the Shrine became the only place they could visit and pay their respects to their loved ones. Walter's focus at the Shrine was to help these people come to grips with their loss – and to remember his own mates.

He worked at the Shrine from the time it was dedicated in 1934 until he enlisted again in 1940. This time he had to lie about his age. He was then 52 years old and he served as a Company Quartermaster Sergeant for his beloved Assault Pioneers.

He got into trouble in Syria for having the kitchens too close to the front line. He was just trying to look after his lads and provide them a hot meal. He arrived in Java in February

1942 – two days after Singapore fell. So, he and thousands of Allied troops were taken as POW's of the Japanese - many to die on the Burma Railway.

Walter's incarceration was “relatively” free of serious incident. The Japanese understood the honour attached to the Victoria Cross, so for most of his time he was physically separated from the men working on the railway, and he was at times able to go into the villages and collect vegetables and eggs for his fellow POWs.

He did not get home for 3½ years, until October 1945, and immediately returned to his work as the Custodian of the Shrine, honouring not only his fellow veterans from the First World War, but now also those of the Second World War. He worked at the Shrine for the next 20 years.

In 1961 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (BEM) for services to the Shrine. That is, to his efforts in remembering the dead, the injured, those that were never found, and those that survived, and their families and loved ones.

In 1959, the Soldiers Club at the School of Military Engineering at Casula, Sydney, was named in his honour, because he was the only Assault Pioneer to receive the VC in WWI. The club is still there today.

This was an extraordinary man who lived an extraordinary life across two World Wars. And through it all he retained his dignity, his humility, and his remembrance and compassion to his fellow soldiers and their grieving families.

It's just over 101 years since Walter Peeler was awarded the VC, and just last month we watched and were fascinated by the Invictus Games for the current generation of servicemen who have been injured in war.

I think Walter would have liked that.

Note: In addition to his VC and BEM, he was also awarded the British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal 1939-45, War Medal 1939-45, Australia Service Medal 1939-45, George VI Coronation Medal 1937, and Elizabeth II Coronation Medal 1953. The Africa Star was awarded posthumously when service in Syria was recognised for this award. His medals are held by the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. From: vconline.org.uk/walter-wally-peeler-vc/4587855716



The memorial: Left to Right: Mitchell Stephens, Max Grant, Bill Peeler and Bev Cue. Mitchell is a great, great, great nephew of Walter Peeler, Max is a great –nephew, Bill is a cousin, Bev is a great-niece. The youngest attending was a babe-in-arms but Mitchell stepped in at the request of Mayor Bronwen Machin. The oldest attending was Max Grant, 89 Years (of Harcourt). The furthest-travelled was Kerry McGovern from the Blue Mountains, Kerry is Walter's granddaughter.

Over 100 people attended the unveiling of the memorial which is located at the corner of Specimen Gully Road and Peelers Road just outside the border of the Barkers Creek Recreation Reserve.



Welcome Home Banner: Mick Hanrahan of the Western Front Association and George Milford, who was the MC for the event, display the Welcome Home banner used to greet Walter Peeler as he stepped off the train at Castlemaine in 1918



General View of the Harcourt Valley (From Mr J H Lang's Orchard. Weekly Times, 19 April 1913, via Trove)

HENRY OF HARCOURT

Come and enjoy a traditional cider or perry

Our festive table is laden with goodies including delicious farm made goods, fortified wine, Limoncello and our seasonal, limited edition Xmas Spirit.

Avoid the shopping malls and visit for a relaxing drink with the Henry family instead.

Cheers!

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Harcourt Heritage Centre

Edward O'Keefe –

“In a wild part of the world like Harcourt ...”

Edward O'Keefe was born in 1814 in County Kilkenny, Ireland. After marriage in 1841 the O'Keefes settled in Scotland where Edward was employed as a railway engineer. They migrated to Victoria in 1854.

At the time that he came to Harcourt, Edward O'Keefe had been a prominent figure at Sandhurst (Bendigo). He had vast experience in public works using men on pick and shovel work for road and railway construction. He had been a councillor, and later Mayor, of Sandhurst. In February 1867, he won a contract to construct the immense embankment of the Barkers Creek Reservoir. O'Keefe immediately retired from the Sandhurst council and set up home, about 800 yards from the worksite, in the homestead formerly occupied by Dr William Barker.

Work at Harcourt reservoir commenced on March 26th 1867. Sixteen years-old Miss O'Keefe turned the first sod and there was a big feast for all present, including eighty workmen. The trees had to be cleared from the site, then a trench was dug and extended vertically with timbers, to be filled with pugged clay, the whole to be backfilled on both sides with earth and sown with grass. The northern slope had to be faced with granite pitching. The embankment is about 699 metres in length and fifteen metres high at the centre.

At the same time rumours were circulating about 'cronyism' pointing out the past association between the main parliamentary proponent of the Coliban scheme, the local MLA and the successful tenderer. An angry complaint was made by local storekeeper against O'Keefe, alleging that O'Keefe was in breach of the terms of his contract in favouring an on-site storekeeper, who just happened to be the local parliamentarian. This complaint provoked a Parliamentary Enquiry. The members of the Board of Enquiry were appointed 12th August and went to work with all due haste. The Report of their Enquiry was tabled in both houses of the Victorian Parliament on 30th August 1867. It provides valuable insight into goings-on at the Harcourt construction site.

William Smith, a carpenter, told the Enquiry “It was very slave-driving work where I was. I worked a ten-hour day. You could not straighten your back or else you were discharged directly.” There were 120-130 men and about 70 drays working, on average. There was a butcher's shop and stable on the site. A local farmer delivered milk to the workmen each morning. Two blacksmiths worked day and night. The workmen lived in tents, sometimes four to a tent. A boarding house was erected, with O'Keefe's consent, on reservoir land; the boarding house-keeper then added a shanty and a dancing saloon and brought out bands of music and women of ill fame. The men's wives went to O'Keefe complaining that their husbands spent all their pay at the shanty bringing no money home. One Saturday, which was payday, as O'Keefe was

walking about the site, there was a man coming along with a bullock bell, announcing some wonderful performances at the dancing saloon that evening. O'Keefe regarded this as inflammatory. The enraged contractor sent for his foreman and told him to get twenty or thirty men with picks and shovels. In less than half an hour the men dug around the shanty blocking up the doors and windows, preventing ingress or egress for that evening.

Edward O'Keefe said that he would not keep cash on site to pay off workers who left their job between paydays; stating “the reason for this is that am frightened, in a wild part of the world like this, without protection, to keep money in my office”. O'Keefe had built a lockup and other offices at his own expense, so that police could be stationed at the worksite.

The Report of the Enquiry stated that several witnesses asserted that they were compelled, by their ganger, to desist from dealing at the neighbourhood store under pain of dismissal and were therefore obliged to deal at the store belonging to one of O'Keefe's parliamentary friends, a Mr. Burrowes. But there was no evidence to show that O'Keefe authorized such conduct, or that Burrowes was aware of it. Following tabling of the Report, no sanctions were ever applied to Contractor O'Keefe because no collusion between O'Keefe and his parliamentary mates had been found.

On February 25th 1868 there was a tree planting and speeches were made to mark the completion of the Barkers Creek Reservoir. Edward O'Keefe invited all present to a grand banquet at his nearby residence.

Edward O'Keefe left Harcourt after completing the Barkers Creek Reservoir. He then purchased the 1,600 acre 'Adelaide Vale Station' at Barnadown, on the Campaspe. He busied himself with local affairs as a councilor on Huntly Shire Council.

O'Keefe visited Ireland for most of 1871 and may not have been aware of public criticism of Barkers Creek Reservoir which suggested that it was flawed in design and had been too costly to construct. An expert report concluded that there was no hope of remunerative returns from this 'white elephant'. Some of this criticism was simply the wisdom of hindsight. Earthen, clay-puddle dams had a tendency to fail due to subsidence, seepage or overtopping and were being superseded by mathematically-designed concrete dams. This information had not been available at the time of awarding the contract to Edward O'Keefe.

Edward O'Keefe was in poor health by 1872. He retired to Melbourne to be near his daughter who had entered the Abbotsford convent. He died at Abbotsford on 16th April 1876 age 62 and was buried at the White Hills Cemetery.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers drawn from the CH James Collection, Harcourt Heritage Centre.



AUSTRALIA DAY 2019 COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

**Saturday 26th January
8:00 am – 10:00 am
Stanley Park Harcourt**

Free Community Breakfast (8:00 am – 9:00 am)

followed by:

**Australia Day Awards
Flag Raising Ceremony
Guest Speakers
Children's Activities
Free Native Plant for families
Free Local Entertainment**

Proudly organized by the **Harcourt & District Lions Club** with
the support of the following businesses:

Harcourt Valley Vineyard

Little Red Apple Harcourt

Harcourt Auto Wreckers

Harcourt Valley Landcare Group

BP Service Station Harcourt

Goldfields Track Café

Hot & Crusty Country Bakery

Bendigo Property Plus

Victorian Miniature Railway



Australia Day Awards will be presented to members of the Harcourt & District community members after 9:30am.

Please submit all nominations by no later than Monday the 14th January 2019 to the Harcourt Lions Club. Nominations can be by post or email to the address details below. If you have any queries, please contact Sue Nash on 0418 372 336.

All members of the public are invited to join us in celebrating Australia Day in 2019 and help us to thank those very special members of our Community who have made such valuable contributions to Harcourt and the District in 2018.

NOMINATION FORM

2019 HARCOURT & DISTRICT

YOUTH OF THE YEAR & COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nominations are open to residents of Harcourt Valley, Taradale, Sutton Grange, Metcalfe, Faraday and Elphinstone who are Australian Citizens and have lived in the district for at least 2 years. They must have made a significant contribution to their Community in the past or present.

Youth of the Year is restricted to residents under 25 years of age. The Award is for outstanding achievement in the last 12 months. It can be for academic, sporting or community service.

- ☐ **Youth of the Year**
- ☐ **Community Member of the Year**

Nominated Person:

Residential Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Person making Nomination:

Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Signature:

Second of Nomination:

Signature:

Reasons for nominating (attach extra sheet if needed)

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

M: PO Box 100 Harcourt VIC 3453

E: harcourt@lions201v1-4.org.au or visit our

W: www.harcourt.vic.lions.org.au



Councillor Comment

Hi all

It's a busy time of year as we head towards Christmas. An important message to heed over the festive season, is to drive carefully and look out for others.

As we head into December, at Council we are busy putting together budget bids for next year's budget. Projects need to have a lot of support at Council to get over the line. Please feel free to contact me if you know of a project that Council should consider for our community.

Congratulations to our Mayor Cr Machin for being elected Mayor for another year. Mayor Machin has worked very hard for our Shire and will continue to do a great job.

It has been a big week in State level politics. I would like to congratulate our hard working member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards on being re-elected. Council has a sound working relationship with Maree and we wish her every success.

Plan Harcourt is in progress and I would like to thank our Strategic Planners lead by Dominique Trickey for the way they are engaging with our community. There have been several sessions where Community members have been able to meet our Planners and discuss ideas for the future of Harcourt. Please introduce yourself to our Planners when they are visiting Harcourt. This is our opportunity to have a say about what Harcourt will look like in the future.

Council is busy putting together budget bids for next year's budget ... Please feel free to contact me if you know of a project that Council should consider for our community.

It has been great to get some rain and it gives us a few days extra to prepare for the fire season. It is a good idea to clean up around the house and make sure all of the family knows what to do in the event of fire. Also think about frail or elderly neighbours and offer them a hand to clean up around their properties.

What a great afternoon and evening the community had at the Twilight Market! I know this would not have happened without the Harcourt Progress Association and in particular Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns. It was such a great success and enjoyed by all. I am looking forward to the next one!!

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy
0439 742 434

THANK YOU

Liz and Pete deeply appreciate the gentle kindnesses and support of the community since the loss of their son in late October. What a privilege it is to be living in a small country town.

BLACKWOOD ORCHARD CHERRY BERRY FARM
Spray free strawberries and cherries
Pick your own cherries and strawberries by appointment

Open mid November to mid January, 9am until 6pm

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ELPHO JAM SESSIONS

You are invited to our monthly Jam Sessions at Elphinstone

These sessions are informal get-togethers of people who want to make some music and have some fun!

Aimed at the over 50s, but open to all.

**Sessions: 3rd Saturday of the month
(1:00pm-4:00pm)**

We play Electric Blues, R'n'B, '60s, Rock & more

**For more information
Email: elphojamsessions@gmail.com**

VOLUNTEERS TEAM UP FOR WEED CONTROL AT BARKERS CREEK RESERVOIR

Coliban Water and a group of volunteers have taken steps to control the spread of the South African Weed Orchid at Barkers Creek Reservoir in Harcourt.

Members of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and three Indonesian youth delegates from the Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP) were on hand for three days in mid-November as part of a concerted effort to control the invasive weed.

Manager Community Operations Mick Dunne said the South African Weed Orchid had been present around Barkers Creek for a number of years and it was important to continue working towards its eradication from the area. "The weed grows in bush, pasture, roadside reserves and grazing land. It is tolerant to fire, frost and drought and can exclude the growth of smaller indigenous flora, such as orchids, lilies and grasses" said Mr Dunne. "Each plant produces tens of thousands of seeds which are spread by wind, water or accidental introduction by vehicles, machinery, clothing, shoes or camping equipment. "We are grateful to have the help of the CVA volunteers and AIYEP participants to remove them and limit further spread of seeds. Many hands have certainly made this an easier task," Mr Dunne said.

Indonesian AIYEP participants Haggi Fianda, Barep Alamsyah and Usman Dzulkarnaih were involved in digging out the weed orchid and bagging them for safe disposal. Mr Fianda said he had a new appreciation for conservation work and weed

control. "It's a tough job. The exchange program has been a great experience. Indonesia is a close neighbour of Australia so it's been great to visit and make connections with people," said Mr Fianda.

AIYEP Project Coordinator Eloise Dolan and CVA Conservation Officer Brydie Murrihy were also pleased that a large number of orchid plants were successfully removed and they agreed that the experience for all participants was invaluable.

For information on CVA see www.conservationvolunteers.com.au and for information on Coliban Water's reservoirs see the Visiting our Reservoirs web page at www.coliban.com.au



A group of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) members and the Indonesian AIYEP youth delegates with Coliban Water Reservoir Officer Kylie McLennan.

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.

Our focus will continue to be on **ongoing relationships, excellence in service** and **continuity of care**.

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.

We look forward to continuing to service your hearing needs.

Phone: 1800 627 728



Locations: Benalla, Bendigo, Euroa, Gisborne, Kerang, Kilmore, Kyneton, Seymour, Woodend.

Email: hello@thehearingclub.com.au



**Call us on 1800 627 728
to check your hearing
health today!**



Fruit Fly News

The Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Regional Action Plan was taken to the Mount Alexander Shire Council meeting on 20th November 2018. It was well received by the Councillors, and a meeting was organised with the new Director of Infrastructure and Development, Phil Josipovic. Murrang Earth Sciences' Jess Drake attended the meeting and discussed the four key aspects of Council involvement in the plan:

- Funding for a Fruit Fly Officer in Council
- Community education and register of known fruit fly sites, including a webpage
- Host tree removal program
- Emergency outbreak plan

The Council is working towards possible resolutions for Fruit Fly in the region, including potential collaboration and meeting with Agriculture Victoria, whilst considering the Action Plan outcomes.

The group thanks Dr Jess Drake for generously giving of her time at the Twilight Market in November. A good number of Fruit Fly pamphlets were given out. At least 24 people (probably more) approached to chat and take information, with the 'How to Make Traps' the most popular item.

On December 22nd at the next Twilight Market we plan to sell Fruit Fly Traps for \$2 each and also to demonstrate how easy it is to make traps from items readily available at home.

All households in Harcourt will have received a leaflet about fruit fly and we hope residents will use the information to assist in keeping Harcourt fruit fly free as it is so important to protect our commercial orchards and our home gardens. See Katie Finlay's article in this edition for more ideas about combatting Queensland fruit fly.



Landcare member Robyn Miller at the stall with the Fruit Fly information. Photo supplied by Dr Jess Drake.

Plan Harcourt

Several members met with Council Planning Officers on Thursday November 22 to discuss issues important to our group when considering changes to the planning scheme for the town centre. Members are urged to be part of the process and put in comments via the interactive map or complete the survey which is available on line and in hard copy.

For more information visit <https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt> or contact

5471 1700. You can also pick up the survey and discussion paper around town.

Christmas Celebration

Thursday December 13th is our Christmas barbecue at Secretary Robyn Miller's home. Contact Robyn for details, if you would like to attend. Phone: 0467 670 271



Members relaxed with a cuppa after clearing weeds around recent plantings along Barkers Creek on Sunday November 25th. We like to think that the two babies recently born to member families are young Landcarers! Baby Nina Powney made her first visit to a working bee with her Mum, Bonnie, and the President of the group.

Weeds Tackled at Roundabout

Harcourt Valley Landcare has assisted the Progress Association in its bid to fight the weeds on the freeway roundabout by funding weed spraying. Below is Matt Mceachran of Bush Tech shown doing a first pass of spraying which will be followed up with a second session. Adopt A Roadside volunteers will follow up with weed removal and watering over the summer.



Controlling Fruit Fly

Your fruit trees are at their most vulnerable to pests and diseases at this time of year, so keep a close eye on them. Visit them once a week or so, to ensure you notice any problems that appear and can take preventive measures when necessary.

Now that fruit fly is on our radar, you should definitely have some fruit fly monitoring traps out in your garden by now. If you're planning to net your trees then do this sooner, rather than later. Surprisingly, white nets can help against fruit fly as well as birds - even if the holes are big enough to let flies through! They're not enough on their own though. Please read the letter you'll receive from the local Landcare group, as it contains really useful strategies.

Fruit fly is a whole-of-community issue, so help to prevent it getting into our community by learning about it, talking about it, and taking action. If you've got fruit trees that you can't look after, then please remove them. The most important thing we can all do (and luckily also the easiest!) is **DON'T BRING FRUIT TO HARCOURT!** Remember the old fruit-dumping bins that used to be on the road to Mildura? Let's agree there's an imaginary border around Harcourt and we won't let any fruit from outside cross the line, particularly if it's coming from an area (like Bendigo, or Maldon) where we know fruit fly is already established.

Fruit fly can't actually fly very far, so the main way they travel from one area to another is in infected fruit, carried by people! The best defence we have against fruit fly getting established in Harcourt is **you**, so please think about what you might be accidentally bringing into town.

*Fruit fly is a whole-of-community issue ...
The most important thing we can all do,
and also the easiest! is ...
DON'T BRING FRUIT TO HARCOURT!*

On a less serious note, also watch out for pear and cherry slug this month. If you notice them as soon as they appear on your trees it's relatively easy to kill them by folding the leaf in half and squashing them (without pulling the leaf off the tree). They normally go through two or three generations each season, so the more you can get rid of early on, the easier it is to interrupt their normal life cycle.

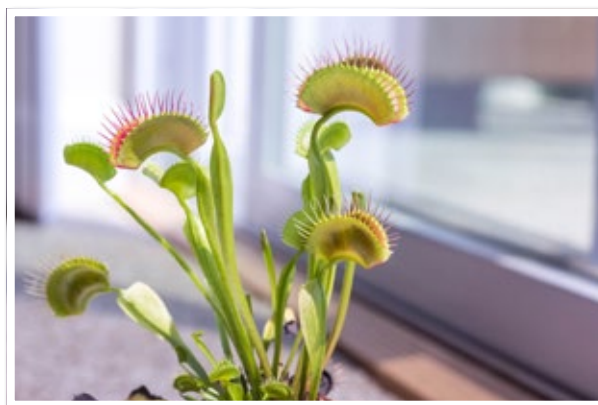
Lastly, it's time to get your irrigation system up and running on your fruit trees if you haven't already. We've been watering for a month or so, even though we had reasonable spring rainfall. Young trees in particular can dry out quickly as the weather starts to warm up, particularly on windy days, and trees with a crop on them will need regular watering from now on. You dramatically improve your chances of getting a good crop from your fruit trees by making sure they get a regular drink, and it's often much simpler (and cheaper) to set up a system than you may imagine.

Hugh and Katie Finlay manage the heritage apple orchard and fruit tree nursery at the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op and have 20 years' experience as orchardists in Harcourt. They offer a free newsletter called **Weekly Fruit Tips** (mafg.com.au/fruit-tips), coach organic fruit growing (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).

ASQ Plant of the Month

Venus Fly Trap

The Venus Flytrap is a small carnivorous plant that catches and consumes insects! Displaying splashes of vibrant red and green colour, it will be a stand out amongst your plant collection...as well as keeping your insects at bay! Once an insect rests on the trigger hairs found inside the trap, the plant closes and begins to tighten its hold on the prey before spending the next 12 days digesting! Visit ASQ Skydancers to pick up your very own Venus Flytrap for the whole family to enjoy.



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



ENJOY OUR FREE WEBINAR "5 Key Steps to Quick Success with Fruit Trees"

- ◆ Register at: www.growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/
- ◆ Sign up for free "Weekly Fruit Tips" newsletter at www.mafg.com.au

Support the Young Makers' Christmas Market

If you're looking for unique and locally-made Christmas presents head along to the Young Makers' Christmas Market in early December and support our creative young people.

"Whether you've got some last-minute Christmas shopping to do, or you're looking to enjoy some retail therapy, we'd love to see you there" said Jade Bujeya, a member of Mount Alexander Shire's Youth Advisory Group. "There'll be relaxing live music and you'll also be able to grab a bite to eat," she said.

The Young Makers' Market will be held from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday 8 December at the Theatre Royal courtyard, Hargraves Street, Castlemaine.

Young people aged between 12 and 25 are encouraged to register for a stall to showcase their unique talent and creativity.

The stalls are free and may be booked by contacting Shannon Lacy, Mount Alexander Shire Council's Youth Development Officer, on 0429 369 894 or email the market sub-committee at youngmakersmarket@outlook.com.

From a Press Release



Cr Machin re-elected as Mayor

Councillors re-elected Bronwen Machin as Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire for a one year term at a Special Meeting of Council on the 20th November.

Mayor Machin is in her third term as a representative of the Castlemaine Ward. She was first elected as Mayor in October 2017. "It is an honour to be re-elected and continue another term as Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire," she said.



Councillor Tony Cordy was elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2018/2019 term. Deputy Mayor Cordy joined Council as the Calder Ward representative in May 2014. As Deputy Mayor he may be deemed to be the Acting Mayor or Acting Chairperson during absences of the Mayor. Councillor Cordy said he was very pleased to accept the position of Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months. "It's a great opportunity to serve the community and I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support," said Councillor Cordy.

To find out more about Council and read the latest meeting summary visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

From a Press Release

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

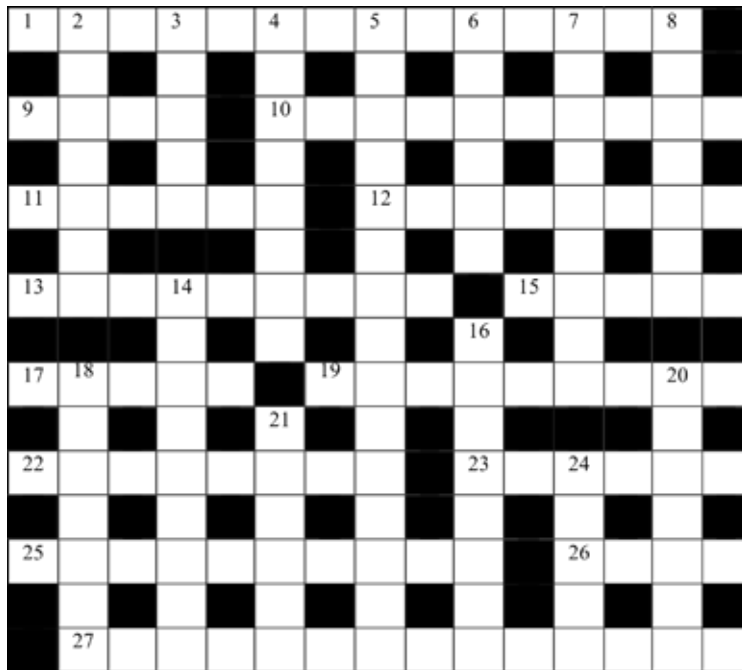
	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday			
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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December Xword 2018

© McW June '17



Down:

2. A mere lad from the auld country could be re-clad in this colour. (8)
3. 2 could feature, but not the boy, in headgear. (5)
4. Turn tine of fork in inert nut to derive some food value from it. (8)
5. During the robbery (1st & 4th) the 2nd and 3rd are what you need to 1st and 4th... (4,4,5,2)
6. Charming volley for pretty woman (Pommy sexism on display?) (6)
7. MP is able to bounce back. It might make the nit resile from his outrageous gaffes. (9)
8. One third of 5 with weapon used. (4-3)
14. I'm in laced drink to make you better. (9)
16. Short black unavailable at many stations? (8)
18. The same nice filmic places back headlessly. (7)
20. *Ecce homo*? Rather *Op homo* for this horny-handed son of toil... (7)
21. The remise, in two back-steps, of losing the lot. (6)
24. A problem with taipans disrupts the move north. (5)

Across:

1. Corbyn et. al. deserted? (4,2,3,5)
9. To do with technology of 10, often regarded as second-rate. (4)
10. Box transmitting? (10)
11. When he goes afar, I think he's in Africa on one. (6)
12. No matter how you, a mere learner, glue soy beans together, you'll probably not come up with Christmas firewood. (4,4)
13. He was not even excluded! (3,3,3)
15. Start refigured as existing. (5)
17. Low pH, as captured the capturer of Valencia. (5)
19. City of 25s? churning out celebrities' stories... (5,4)
22. Killed (2,6) leads to (8).
23. Return to former state (French?) about green. (6)
25. Maybe not so spooky as denizens of 19, but helps the writer in many ways... (10)
26. Comfortably Floyd? (4)
27. Amusing me in a productive way? (4-10)

November Xword 2018 solution

© McW June '17



Down:

2. Leave your interlocutor **minus** any idea of what you're on about? [Well?]
3. Trademarks developed from the word? [Well?]
4. Tiffin in America used to be revolutionary; now it's quite right. [Well?]
5. If Angel 13 appears in the fleeting rain post-nuclear strike, you can bet your **all** that it's **dangerous**! (4-11)
6. Hitler's bunker in charge of some uni students? [Well?]
7. It didn't pay in Rolls-Royce areas to be this way... (2,7)
8. Crazy poet [T. S.] lines up for duty. (7)
14. Come out **Nancy**, without a single article, in a crisis situation. (9)
16. *G'day Lynn*—sounds like a **plant**. (4,4)
18. Will **it clasp** the little fish in its noxious embrace? (7)
20. Candidate for 21? (7)
21. The nice little dog in the Datsun goes across the floor... [Well?]
24. **Cheat** to inculcate lesson. (5)

Across:

1. When to expect solutions forthcoming **within all elite** groups. (2,1,6,5)
9. You can put your arms **guns** back in this comfortable bar. (4)
10. **Affable**, embracing one of the stock market's elements **All Ords** usually lumped together, but **can be bought**. (10)
11. The place is every bit as **real** as **kayaks** and trappers make it. (6)
12. **Rosie the** philosopher might **put her thoughts together** thus. (8)
13. When the donkey comes in, all are yes-men! [Well?]
15. **Atlas so** loved holding the world up, but needed a **rope** to secure it... (5)
17. The work **[Op.]** Edward **chose**. (5)
19. **Stoically** abraded to form **thick skin**. (9)
22. **Again** I leave **glue** to frame speech. (8)
23. Café Van Gogh won't serve sautéed **ear**, yet they do smashed avo! (6)
25. **Peace, or anything under these conditions**, probably extends the dollar value to the **limit**... (2,3,5)
26. What WWII turned on, or one side of it? [Well?]
27. To unscramble **crappy short erg** might require **these**... (14)



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.



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0468 543 589

ABN 598 902 99975
Real Estate Agents License 3776765



**Castlemaine District
Community Health**
Facilitating Better Health

Harcourt Walking Group Summer Plans

Castlemaine District Community Health's Harcourt Walking Group plans to continue walking throughout the summer, with only a two week break over the festive season.



"Our last walk for 2018 is on Thursday December 20, and we will return back to our normal schedule on January 7. We want to keep our Christmas and New Year break short as we really appreciate these opportunities to get out of the house and have a great chat while doing something healthy," says volunteer Wendy Barron.

The group meets at 9.30 on Monday and Thursday mornings at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum and welcomes new participants. There is no cost for the walk, but a \$1 donation is collected for post-walk refreshments. Bookings are not required, just turn up ready to walk.

For further information phone Castlemaine District Community Health on 5479 1000.

*Liza Shaw
Health Promotion Officer*



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Genevieve Ward

Career Coach

Job Search Strategist

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Castlemaine Vic 3450

Community Diary Dates

Saturday 8 December: Beer and Cider Festival, 4 – 8 pm, Barkers Creek Cricket Club, Specimen Gully Road

Thursday 13 December: 7 – 8 pm Christmas Carols with Thompson's Foundry Band

Saturday 15 December: Bowling Club Christmas Party

Friday 21st December: Last day of school for Harcourt Valley Primary School

Friday 21 December: Winner of one Free Season's Ticket will be drawn at the Harcourt Pool. To be in the draw you must purchase your Season's Ticket – you might get your money back!

Saturday 22 December: 4 – 8 pm Twilight Market, James Park.

Christmas Day 25 December: 8.30 am Service at the Uniting Church

Note: For end of year school activity dates see page 26.

2019

Monday 7 January: Walking group commences for 2010. Meet at the ANA Hall at 9.30 am

Monday 14 January: Australia Day nominations for Youth of the Year and Community Member of the Year close. See pages 18 and 19 for information and the nomination form.

Monday 21st January: Bendigo Bank Tertiary Scholarship applications close. See page 6 for information

Wednesday 30th January: Grades 1 to 6 return to HVPS

Thursday 31st January: Grade Prep commences at HVPS

Tennis Club: Thursdays 7 pm Social night tennis at the Leisure Centre courts. Cost is \$2 per person.

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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HARCOURT TWILIGHT MARKET

- ❁ Over 30 market stalls featuring local produce
- ❁ Grab your last minute gifts
- ❁ Enjoy live music from the Rattlers and giants of ska, King Stone!
- ❁ Kids' entertainment
- ❁ More food trucks, licenced bars



Saturday December 22nd
from 4pm to 8pm
James Park,
High Street Harcourt

4th Saturday of every month