## HARCOURT\_NEWS THE (F () Harcourt Progress Association Inc

October 2019

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## **Community plan to** attack fruit fly – first of its kind



THE HARCOURT FRUIT FLY ACTION GROUP has developed an emergency plan to manage an outbreak of Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) specifically for residential backyard growers, schools and small horticultural producers. The plan, thought to be the first of its kind, will take a community-led rather than a commercial grower approach to managing the pest. 'We know there's fruit fly in nearby areas so we wanted to create a plan that helps backyard growers know what they can



do to protect their fruit and vegetables from fruit fly and prevent the spread if there is an outbreak,' said Terry Willis from Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group and Harcourt Landcare Group.

'Part of the appeal of living in the country is being able to grow delicious fruit and veg in your backyard. Fruit fly can absolutely devastate your crop and impact our local horticulture industry.' said Mr Willis. 'A fruit fly outbreak impacts not only backyard and commercial growers. It would also have significant economic flow-on effects for the entire community.

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### **PUBLICATION** DATES

We aim to publish by the 6th 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



### Community plan to attack fruit fly

#### Continued from page 1

The group, supported by a grant from Agriculture Victoria, has worked with Mount Alexander Shire Council to develop the strategy. The emergency outbreak plan is developed for Harcourt but can easily be adapted to other communities. It outlines clear steps on how to confirm that it is QFF, who to contact, how to destroy affected fruit, how, as a community, we'll set up monitoring traps and the recommended approach to baiting and eradication.

Harcourt Valley produces 40 per cent of Victoria's apples as well as pears and stone fruit. Community information sessions are planned for Castlemaine, Newstead and Maldon in November, with a session planned for Harcourt in early 2020. The sessions will detail the emergency plan, give people information about what to look out for, how the traps work and key contacts.

A salutary warning comes from Terry, who has previously lived in places that are rife with fruit fly. Having an entire crop destroyed by fruit fly is absolutely devastating and plenty of people just give up growing their own fruit and veg because it becomes too hard. Harcourt needs to be on the front foot and do what is necessary to ensure this doesn't happen in our town.

The Harcourt Valley Queensland Fruit Fly Emergency Outbreak Plan is available on Council's website at <u>www.</u> <u>mountalexander.vic.gov.au/fruitfly</u> along with other resources including the Ernie the Fruit Fly videos developed by Council and City of Greater Bendigo. More resources will be continually added.

From a Mount Alexander Shire Press Release





## Harcourt Progress Association

### Update from HPA Committee ... and then there were 10

At our last meeting we welcomed new committee member Aunty Julie McHale, which brings our number to ten. We are now looking forward to working collaboratively with all other local community groups and organisations to help make Harcourt thrive. And whilst, along with all other Harcourt residents, we eagerly await the release of the Shine Harcourt report, we are taking the opportunity to focus on the HPA committee structure and policies. It is our intention to publish the minutes of the meetings on the HPA website and to keep members informed of any decisions and actions we are taking or proposing.

One of our immediate concerns is to maintain momentum around the proposed return of rail services to Harcourt, if you haven't signed the petition to the State Government yet, please search one out at various spots around town.

Another growing concern is the huge task of maintaining the Harcourt roundabout. We are hopeful that Mount Alexander Shire Council will take on some of the more labour-intensive work, leaving the volunteers to look after the plants and remove litter.

We hope to see you at the next public meeting when scheduled, but a gentle reminder that you need to be a financial member to vote!

As a postscript, I have just returned from a short holiday in the Flinders Ranges where, amongst other things, we visited the very busy and small settlement of Blinman, the highest surveyed town in SA. The population of Blinman is 18 adults, the Blinman Progress Association, however, has 20 members: a membership percentage to which we aspire for Harcourt! Until next month, kindest regards. *Sha Cordingley, HPA Chair.* 

(E) Encry Sustainability • Efficiency solar power | battery storage | hot water | insulation | eco lighting | paints and oils | eco products for house and garden 49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues-Sat from 10am t: 5472 4160 e: newstead@enviroshop.com.au www.enviroshop.com.au

# ... Meanwhile, from our travelling editor:



Above: The most beautiful church in Montreal. Below: One of the buildings in the Parliament complex in Toronto. The centenary flame is in the foreground.





## **3-Year-Old Kinder Enrolments for 2020**

To all parents and carers who are considering the wonderful Harcourt Preschool for 2020, please complete your online enrolment as soon as possible. The Harcourt Preschool is now full for 4-year-old enrolments and is taking wait-listed places. Early registration of 3-yearold children allows the preschool to plan for the right number of educators, resource materials, and all the wonderful play-based outdoor and indoor activities that Harcourt is renowned for.

A reminder that we have an 'open door' policy and all members of the community are welcome to contact the kinder at at any time to arrange a time to visit, to meet the staff and to see our spacious outdoor and indoor facilities.

For enrolments visit: <u>earlyyears.ymca.org.au</u> and click the link to the 2020 enrolments.





### THE CORE HARCOURT

A Musical Hallowe'en Treat

HARCOURT UNITING CHURCH Buckley Street, Harcourt 2:30 Sunday 27 October

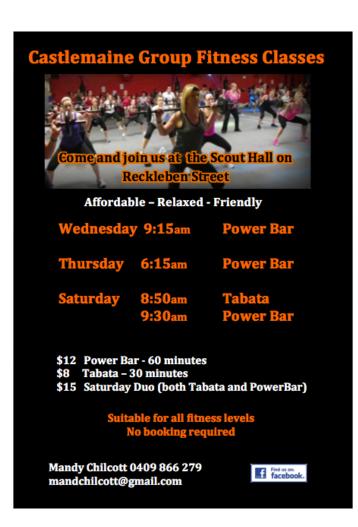
ARTISTS INCLUDE: Castlemaine Recorders – Geoff Hannon *et al* Sarah Tomilson – poems Rosa McArdle-Carrington – 'cello Dorothy Wright – lyre, Keith Fox – recorder Solway Nutting – baroque flute John Tungyep – basso continuo

Afternoon tea by Murnong Mummas and others. Please bring \$12 per head to cover costs.

<u>Bookings essential</u>, for catering purposes. Phone Solway on 0410 799 297 or email <u>solway@mmnet.com.au</u> DIRECTIONS

From Castlemaine, follow Barker Street/Midland Highway northwards. At the roundabout take the Harcourt exit.

After crossing Harmony Way, at T-intersection turn left, then at the Post Office turn right into Wright Street and then first left into Buckley Street. The granite church on your right is your destination.





### Volunteer Central Vic and Mount Alexander Shire Council host 'Spring Into Volunteering!' event

Volunteer Central Vic, in partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council (MASC), invite community groups, volunteers and volunteer managers to their 'Spring into Volunteering!' event this October.

'Spring into Volunteering!' will be an opportunity for volunteers to come together, share resources and participate in the development of an exciting new local volunteer training program for 2020.

The program will include a range of workshops and events to help local community groups develop the skills and access the support they need to thrive. "We know that our community groups and volunteers contribute significantly to community life in the Shire," says Lisa Richards, Volunteer Central Vic Coordinator, "But they sometimes have trouble accessing the right kind of support. By working in partnership with Council on this event and the training program that will come out of it, we can help local groups by sharing resources and offering some practical support and advice."

Volunteer Central Vic (VCV) is the local Volunteer Resource Centre for Mount Alexander. A service of Cobaw Community Health, Volunteer Central Vic works across the Macedon Ranges Shire, Mount Alexander Shire and Heathcote offering resources and training for volunteers and volunteer managers. VCV offers training in areas such as attracting and retaining volunteers, volunteer rights and responsibilities, privacy and confidentiality, and accessing resources for volunteers.

Volunteers, community groups, committees and board members are encouraged to participate in this evening. 'Spring into Volunteering' and be inspired by what is possible through sharing resources and knowledge!

Date: Thursday 31 October Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm Venue: Civic Centre Corner Lyttleton and Lloyd Streets Castlemaine Victoria 3450 Light supper included This event is FREE and children are welcome under parent/ carer supervision. There are limited places and BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL: www.eventbrite.com For more information, contact Lisa Richards, Volunteer Central Vic Coordinator on (03) 5421 1619

or email info@volunteercentralvic.com.au www.volunteercentralvic.com.au.



### Ken Maddern Snr Memorial Road Race

Saturday 14th September saw the running of the Ken Maddern Snr Memorial Road Race at Harcourt in perfect conditions for cycling.

Ken Maddern Snr was a long time member of the Castlemaine Cycling Club and contributed to the Club and to cycling at many levels. His contributions included his encouragement and support of the very newest riders, holding many different club positions, taking a lead role in holding major events, director and supporter of Herald Sun Tour teams and handicapper at state level for a time.

The Club was pleased with more than sixty entries on the day, with both country and city clubs represented. Some riders were using this event to get in some tough racing prior to the Junior National Road Championships – Jackson Hadden, the winner of the major event over 56km, followed up with a win in the M17 National Championship the following week in Queensland. Castlemaine members were well represented in the racing with others in support roles around the course.

In thanking riders for supporting this event, Club President Carl Harris, said that this event was a way of commemorating and celebrating the great contribution Ken made to the club and cycling. Carl also thanked the Maddern family for the continuing contribution that three generations of the Maddern family have made to the Castlemaine Cycling Club. Carl also thanked the Harcourt community for its continued support of the Club's activities in the area, with special thanks to the Harcourt CFA, for assisting with the marshalling on the day, and the Harcourt Heritage Association committee.

This sees the end of our Road Season for the year. Track Racing commences on Saturday 19th October and anyone interested in racing can contact the Secretary on 0418 899 066.

Seniors results

- 1st Jackson Hadden
- 2nd Chris Douglas
- 3rd Jarrod Cook
- 4th Ronan Teese
- 5th Elizabeth Nuspan
- Fastest Time Sam Bradbury
- First unplaced female Olivia Sens

#### U15/17

- 1st Jamie Coles
- 2nd Angus Gill
- 3rd Nate Hadden
- 4th Milana Freer

#### U13/11

- 1st Madi Douglas
- 2nd Toby Jelbart
- 3rd Sebastian Freer

• Fastest Time – Max Gould *Photos courtesy of Dion Jelbart* 





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0404 871 346 hello@circleworks.com.au www.circleworks.com.au Circleworks is an all-round assistance service helping businesses, organisations & individuals throughout Regional Victoria to outsource the tasks & projects they don't have the time, skill or inclination to undertake themselves.

We help, fix, sort and do; we are the reliable allrounders you delegate tasks to so you can keep the other plates spinning in your life. We get the stuff done that you keep making excuses not to do!

"STEP WITH CARE AND GREAT TACT, AND REMEMBER THAT LIFE'S A GREAT BALANCING ACT." - Dr. Seuss

## THE C<mark>Ó</mark>RE



### It's AGM time for the Maldon & District Community Bank<sup>®</sup>

You're invited to come along to the Community Bank<sup>®</sup>'s Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 30th, where you can hear about the bank's activities and results for the year.

And what a year it's been for the bank, celebrating 20 years of banking and investing in our region – supporting our communities, including Harcourt, to become stronger and more vibrant places. We've given over \$3 million in grants and sponsorship funding back to your local clubs, schools and



community groups, which included grants to the Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group, Harcourt Valley Primary School and Harcourt community play space.

We can only do this because our customers have their loans, insurances, term deposits, business banking, superannuation and savings accounts with our branches and customer service centres in Maldon, Newstead and Dunolly.

It's a simple way you can support your community, just by banking locally.

The Maldon & District Community Bank<sup>®</sup> is managed by a local company called the Maldon & District Financial Services Ltd (MDFSL). We have directors from around the local area, to make sure our company is connected to the communities it serves. Harcourt's local director since 2016 is Katie Finlay.

The AGM starts at 6 pm at the Maldon Community Centre, with refreshments served afterwards. It's friendly and informal, and a great chance to come along and find out more about your local Community Bank<sup>®</sup>.

If you have any queries about the meeting or about the Maldon & District Community Bank, contact our Maldon Branch on 5475 1747 or <u>MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide</u>. <u>com.au</u>.

Karly Smith Executive Officer M: 0478 435 110

### HARCOURT HERITAGE PUBLISHING

Harcourt Heritage Centre has commenced a new aspect of its operations, as a book publisher! Mustering up the skills of its volunteers, the Heritage Centre has edited text, digitised photographs, produced a book layout, identified a quick-turnaround printer, acquired the necessary ISBNs and produced an attractive book of family history – all at a modest cost.

Now that we have done it, we want to encourage Harcourt locals to also try their hand, using the resources, techniques and contacts now available through the Heritage Centre.

At Harcourt Heritage we love stories. Stories of tragedy, bad luck, coincidence and joy; stories about small events and stories that can affect people and places far beyond the Harcourt Valley. Our files are crammed with tales of past and present residents. It is vital to get these into print, to conserve them for the next generation.

Have you ever thought you might like to write down some of your own family stories for your descendants to enjoy? After all, we are all curators of not just personal effects but also our own family history. Your descendants may not have known your grandmother, but to you she was a person of great character, and it's important for her memory to live on.

You might be thinking that it's a good idea to write such a book, but you have no idea how or where to start. Then there is what to do with that box of old photos! How do you put them in a book? Harcourt Heritage can help with answering all these types of questions and can assist you in achieving your goal.

Our volunteers have a wide range of skills and can help you produce your book of memories. Publishing books in small numbers is not as expensive as you may think.

The Heritage Centre is open every Wednesday, 9 am–3 pm. Drop in for a chat, or bring an idea or a box of memories to start your adventure.

For details - Diana 0427 396 211



## **Harcourt Uniting Church**



Harcourt Uniting Church services are held every Sunday at 9 am and we welcome you to join us any time. On the third Tuesday of the month, a group

of ladies meets for the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF). UCAF members also participate in a program of visiting members of our Church, who are unable to attend weekly services due to age or ill health, as well as people from Harcourt who are in care at Castlemaine Health.

Recently, three of our members attended a volunteers morning tea at Castlemaine Health where we heard presentations from a speech therapist and a physiotherapist who gave us strategies for communicating with elderly people – tips which include introducing ourselves as we walk into their room, asking questions to start the conversation, listening carefully, using short sentences, giving the person time to respond, making sure not to push the person to remember information, especially if

## For whom the bells tolled

At exactly 2 pm on Friday 20th September every church in Castlemaine rang its bells for a full minute to mark the beginning of the Climate Change Rally in Victory Park. Noticeable by their absence, many Castlemaine secondary school children had travelled south to join the Melbourne rally. Two of their number had gone to speak at rallies in New York and Paris. But on that beautifully warm, sunny spring day, over a thousand other children, their parents, grandparents and friends stood in for the missing youth.

The moving Welcome to Country by Uncle Rick Nelson was followed by singers, poets, rappers, speakers, a recording from Greta Thunberg, the Peace Choir and very musical primary school kids. And for a brief time, Victory Park was awash with colour and movement, adults and children together holding their home-made signs and banners, some with their dogs sporting sandwich boards – all with the same message: Save Our Planet.



Climate Rally in Castlemaine

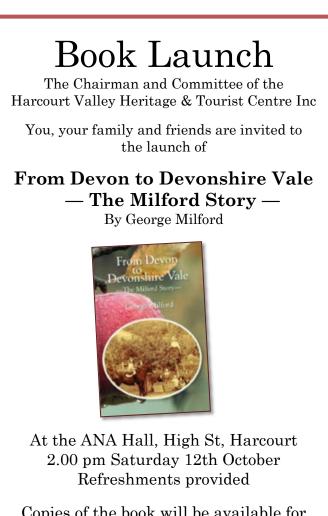
they are suffering from dementia, and just making the visit as enjoyable as possible.

We were also shown safe ways to assist elderly people to sit down and stand up using their body to balance the move and to prevent any risk of falls. Have you been able to watch the ABC program Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds? It has been wonderful watching the way the children have been able to motivate even the 'grumpiest old person' to get out of the chair and 'be silly' with the children. When I was teaching at the Preschool I was 'being silly' with a group of children on a dress-up day when one little boy said: 'Don't be too silly, Jan, or you'll get a very bad headache!'

As I mentioned in the September Core, on Tuesday 15th October at 10 am we are hosting a Blume's Fashion morning at the Harcourt Leisure Centre, only \$8 entry for a delightful morning tea followed by fashions at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome, all clothing is for sale and there is no pressure to buy.

Ĉhurches sometimes have a sign out at the front to catch your attention. I like this one:

'God help me to be the person my dog thinks I am.' Jan Jenkin



Copies of the book will be available for purchase at \$18

For more information: heritage@harcourt.vic.au





### Harcourt CFA The Time To Prepare Is Now

Recent fire activity in New South Wales

and Queensland highlights that now is the time to prepare for the coming fire danger season.

Fire restrictions have started in Victoria, with East Gippsland commencing on the 23rd September. Last year the Gippsland area was also the first to in Victoria introduce restrictions whereas, previously, they have started in then north-east (Mildura) area. This is due to conditions being drier than expected, and in order to minimise the risk of grass fires and bushfires being started by private burn-offs and campfires escaping. Unfortunately, below average rainfall is forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for the coming months. Doing preparatory work in October means you will be well advanced in being ready before fire restrictions commence in our area. If you are going to do any burning, remember to register it by calling 1800 668 511, and that you are fully responsible in abiding by council bylaws and keeping your burn-off under control.

#### Green Waste Disposal

To assist with dealing with green waste, the Mount Alexander Shire Council has once again organised free green waste disposal from 26th October to the 10th November at the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations. Clean green waste, including weeds, will be accepted. See local papers or contact the Shire if you require further information. I am unaware at this stage what arrangements the Greater City of Bendigo may have for 2019.

#### Learning From Nature

I have recently returned from a holiday in Africa and wish to share with you some observations that have relevance to fire safety. The Massai children, who are unable to attend school, are taught by their parents using nature as the main learning tool.

#### Here are my observations.

The grazing animals that are hunted by predators spend their time in the shorter grass so that it is harder for predators to sneak up on them. Likewise, we should have shorter grass surrounding our homes and sheds.

Zebras and wildebeest work together when grazing. The zebras eat the coarser, longer grass first thereby exposing the shorter finer grass for the wildebeest to eat. To knock down longer grass, we need a slasher or heavy-duty mower (zebra) first before using the mower (wildebeest) to trim and shorten the remaining grass.

> Register your burn-off by calling 1800 668 511

To ensure their safety, Zebras, when standing in small group or even just in pairs will face in opposite directions so that they are aware of what is happening around them. This demonstrates how important it is that we are aware of what is happening around us.

Zebras have keen eyesight and good hearing and they use both these senses, as well as smell, for cues of impending danger. Similarly, we should not only use our senses to detect a fire, but also keep abreast of any fire activity in our area by having the Vic Emergency App on our electronic devices such as mobile phones and iPads.

Hyenas and vultures are the scavengers of the land and clean up the scraps of the predators to ensure a cleaner and healthier place. Cleaning up around your home, disposing of unwanted stuff will also mean you will have a cleaner, healthier and safer place in which to live.

And finally, I wish to remind you that if we cannot get our big red fire trucks through your gateway or along your driveway, you need to take appropriate action now to fix any problems so there is no delay in getting to you in the event of an emergency. And importantly check that your house or property number is clearly visible from the road.

Action after the event is too late – act now and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice Brigade Community Safety Coordinator* 



### What's happening at La Larr Ba Gauwa Park and ride has whole new meaning

The Economic Impact of La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park final report, recently released, makes for some interesting reading. In its first year of operation there were 31,000 visits to the Bike Park and visitors spent around \$700,000 in Harcourt. Disappointingly, for us, they also spent another \$900,000 elsewhere in the Shire. The target figure of 25,000 visits in the first year was well exceeded, although it appears many are repeat visitors. The profile of the riders is not unexpected if you happen to be in the town at the weekends, most riders are male and between 35 and 54 years of age.

Though the Bike Park clearly is successful, it seems that the riders themselves have several concerns. Having the car parking facilities in town is a major disincentive for riders with young children; the distance from town to the trail being simply too great for younger children, plus it adds at least 30 minutes to the day. Riders also do not like to be so far from their cars in case of an accident where they cannot ride their bikes.

The lack of potable water is also an issue for those who park in Harcourt and must transport their own water up to the trail. It also seems that some riders do not believe the trails are being adequately maintained, although many are willing to help if working bees are organised.

There are a number of recommendations in the report ranging from parking areas nearer the trail head, camping areas with better facilities, to lengthening the bike trails. The full report will be available on the HPA website.





## Harcourt Valley Primary School 'Carnival of the Animals' Concert

On the evening of Tuesday the 17th of September I was invited

to attend the Harcourt Valley Primary School biannual concert. The Harcourt Leisure Centre was buzzing with the excitement of children anticipating their performances. Parents, siblings, grandparents and family friends filled the hall to hear the children's songs and other musical items. Jan and John Jenkins and their helpers set up a stage at the eastern end of the hall. The theme of the night was 'Carnival of the Animals'. Parents and other volunteers were engaged in making the children's colourful costumes, dressing them on the night, and ensuring they were lined up to perform their pieces

Music teacher, Katrina Hood, had been working hard with the students preparing the evenings program. Each class sang two animal theme songs. The students from Prep, grades 1/2, 2/3, 3/4 and 5/6 classes enthusiastically sang their designated songs and performed the actions to accompany them. They were a delight. A seven-piece band, which included instrument teacher Drew Thorpe on rhythm guitar, provided the rousing musical accompaniment for the children. As well as the class performances, the Lunch Choir opened the evening the with the song 'Roar' and the Auditioned Choir sang the Beatles song 'Blackbird'. A number of children who are currently having instrumental lessons with Drew also performed their chosen pieces. Audience participation was encouraged with a community song, Elton John's 'Crocodile Rock'. All the students performed the finale, 'See You Later Alligator'.

Congratulations to HVPS staff and helpers for providing the audience with a great evening's entertainment and a light supper after the concert was finished.

Lois Denham



## Live Music Returns to Harcourt

Acclaimed blues musician Bill Barber performs live at the Goldfields Track Cafe on Friday 18th October.

Join Donna and the crew for a night of blues, brews and barbecues. Dinner is served from 6 pm, music starts at 7 pm.



## Applefest Fundraiser at Duneira

Harcourt Applefest has been invited to tend the gates at the historic mansion and acclaimed gardens of Duneira homestead, Mount Macedon, for an Open Garden event on Saturday 2nd November.

Duneira is the former home of Castlemaine businessman and philanthropist Stuart Stoneman and is famous for its extensive and beautiful cool climate gardens. With crowds in their thousands expected to attend, this is a timely opportunity for the Applefest to raise some greatly needed funds ahead of next year's event.

Applefest is looking for community volunteers to assist on the gate at Duneira. If you can spare an hour or two on Saturday 2nd November, collecting admission charges and promoting the Harcourt Applefest, please contact George Milford on 0400 916 527.

## THE C<mark>Ò</mark>RE

## The Webb Family's Story on Their Move to Harcourt

Three and a half years ago my husband and I moved towards retirement and brought an eight-acre bush property in Harcourt. Not long before we moved to Harcourt a friend and work colleague of mine, Christine Walsh, with her husband Anthony Webb, also bought a property in Harcourt. They moved from a onebedroom cottage in Preston with twoyear-old Ada and two-month-old Billie to a twenty-acre property in the Harcourt Valley. At the end of last year, baby Jude arrived to complete their family. Both Christine and Anthony were fortunate to find work locally. Anthony is an engineer and works in Bendigo, and Christine is a paediatric physiotherapist and is currently on maternity leave from Cobaw Community Health.

They are one of a growing number of young families who are moving to this area, bringing with them their energy and their skills to revitalise the community. So, what have the last four busy years really been like for them, and what recommendations do they have for young families who have just moved to this area or are considering moving to Harcourt?

They both said that they were attracted to the area around Castlemaine because of the thriving music and arts scene. For Christine the extra attraction is that it is less than two hours drive to her parent's farm at Donald. They also liked the access to the airport (most of Anthony's family live in WA) and regular train services to Melbourne. Having both grown up on farms, they also like being connected to the land.

On their property are two houses, a habitable workman's cottage and a 120-year-old Victorian weatherboard house which required major renovation to become habitable. Mostly through George at ANA, they discovered that the house was built by William Eagle junior who cleared the land and established an apple orchard on the property. William Eagle senior was one of the original orchardists in the area. It is thought that the giant bunya tree that stands near the northern side of the house and dominates their house block was planted about the time the house was built. At one stage the house was also the local post office.

They moved into their almost completely renovated house at the end of last year, just before Jude was born. The renovations were a three-year labour of love, which they originally hoped would only take one year! Anthony commented that all renovations fit the cliché of being 'over budget and behind schedule'. The house is listed on the Historical Buildings register, so it is important that it is being preserved.

Anthony always wanted to renovate a house, and was convinced by the real estate agent that the house was 'a renovators delight'. Both he and Christine grew up on farms where they learnt many of the skills they used in the renovating process, such as resourcefulness and patience. Working out how to restore Few have been grown in the area and their slow maturation meant that it would take a while to see the results from the orchard. From the research they have done, they think that the climate here is suitable, and one of their neighbours has had some success with a few trees they have on their property. They say that they have much to learn about growing pistachios, but, as with the house, they are prepared to give



the pressed metal tin used on the ceiling and walls of the main lounge room, and attached to termite-eaten battens, pushed their problem solving abilities, as did recovering as much as possible of the old floor boards – the shortfall was scrounged from local recycling centres and demolition sites. Both Christine and Anthony are proud of the results.

The biggest challenge and delay for them was the extent of the white ant damage to the structure of the house. The termite man said it was in the top five he had treated. Even the frame of the front door was largely eaten out by white ants. Anthony is particularly proud of the way he has been able to restore this door.

They both said that they have learnt to be patient, accepting of delays, and remembering to look at what they have achieved rather than what still needs to be done.

While they have been working on their house, they have also made sure they have time to enjoy their natural environment and develop the property. A couple of years ago they planted one hundred pistachio trees. Currently in Australia pistachio nuts, a delicious and healthy snack, are mostly imported and are growing in popularity. Pistachio trees are a slow growing, high yielding tree. An agronomist they spoke to was not willing to provide assurances that pistachios would do well in Harcourt. it a go. Currently they are also considering what other food crops they might grow. Their dream is to be able to live off what they produce on their property and live a balanced work/home life.

Both Christine and Anthony are musicians and are members of the Friends of Wendy Cotton band. It is a five-piece folky band. They play a mix of covers and original songs backed by mandolin, ukulele, banjo, guitar and bass. Christine plays the double bass and sings, and Anthony also sings and plays the guitar and banjo. You may have heard them around town.

All the family have enjoyed living in the area and making new friends, 'putting roots down into the community'. Ada loves climbing the trees in the yard and watching the sunsets, particularly as it shines on Mount Alexander. Billie likes all the flowers in their yard, especially the wattles. They all enjoy having space around them, the hassle-free travel, the native wild life, and observing the changes that each season brings. Their advice to young families contemplating the move to the area is: Do your research and spend some time getting to know the local community before making the move to the area ... and check for termites when you consider any building plans, as they seem to enjoy living in Harcourt!

by Lois Denham



### Victory for Harcourt Carpet Bowls team

Congratulations are in order, with the Harcourt No 2 Team winning the State Country Carpet Bowls Championships played on Saturday the 14th September, hosted by Bendigo VRI in the St Laborius Catholic Primary School gymnasium, Eaglehawk.

These Championships are contested between clubs from all over Victoria, including Geelong, Girgarre, Kyabram, Horsham, Bendigo and Harcourt, with most towns entering at least two teams each.

Also contested are the Mens and Ladies Singles, and Junior Boys and Girls under 17 years of age. All games are played over 20 ends and are hotly contested, but in the spirit of the game, with lots of banter between teams.

The Harcourt No 1 team of John Jenkin, Peter Henderson, Vic Rodda and Daryl Normington, reached the preliminary final but were beaten by Geelong. The Harcourt No 2 team of Georgie Kontos, Loretta Rice, Des Rice and Raymond Rice were victorious over Girgarre, Kyabram, Horsham and they finally played Geelong in the Grand Final to win the Championships. With a bit of luck the two Harcourt teams could have played off in the Grand Final, but it wasn't to be.

This is the third consecutive year that a Harcourt team has won the championships. To continue this winning streak, we really need more people to join the Association so carpet bowls can survive in Harcourt and all over the state as, sadly, carpet bowls clubs are closing down from lack of members. The Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association is now in its 67th year having commenced in 1952.

Our dinner and presentation night was held at the Goldfields Track Cafe, ending the season for this year, but notices will be displayed around the town about when we are to commence the season for 2020.

#### The Victorian Country Carpet Bowls Association championships will be held in Harcourt next year.

While talking about the season for 2020, Harcourt has agreed to hold the Country Carpet Bowls Association Championships here in Harcourt at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre on Saturday the 19th September 2020 from 12 midday. This will be a big event for the club and will bring a large number of visitors to the town, many of whom will stay over for the weekend. Hopefully many businesses in Harcourt and surrounds will benefit.



*The State Championships Winning Team, Harcourt No 2 – Georgie Kontos, Des Rice with shield, Loretta Rice and Raymond Rice.* 

#### Home season finals report

We have had a successful season on the home front with a total of six teams, each consisting of four players, plus a number of emergency players. Teams were aptly named: Heroes, New Breed, Rebels, RSL, Castle and Maine Four. Players from Castlemaine have increased our numbers since the Castlemaine club folded a couple of years ago.

The season ended with Rebels and Castle playing the preliminary final, Castle winning 17 to 15. The Grand Final was contested between Castle and Heroes with Heroes winning 23 to 17. At the change of ends, heroes were 20 and Castle 1. Castle then held Heroes to 20 for 8 ends. 20 to 17. Heroes then scored 2, then a 1 to win 23 to 17 producing a thrilling end to the season.

Congratulations to the Heroes team – Doug Baker, Margaret Hansford, Margaret Green and Francis Collins and runners up team, Castle, – Vic Rodda, John Dowler, John Jenkin and Daryl Normington.



Winners – Heroes Team – Doug Baker, Margaret Hansford, Francis Collins and Margaret Green. Lions Club inaugural member and Carpet Bowls member Raymond Rice presented the Shield donated by the Harcourt District Lions Club for presentation yearly to the winning team.

During the year we also held a special bowls night to raise funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group. This was a very successful night with well over \$200 being raised from entry fees and a raffle. This night has been an annual event for many years and has raised much needed funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group. Thank you to all who attended the night.

Loretta Rice



## THE CÖRE



### WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation What was the Bark Petition?

On the 14th and 28th August 1963, two documents written and pasted onto beautifully painted sheets of bark were presented in the Australian House of Representatives.

Created by senior Elders to represent the two major Yolgnu moieties living on and caring for country in north-east Arnhem Land, the petitions protested against leases granted to bauxite mining companies. Yirrkala land was excised for these leases without any consultation with the people living there.

The petitions were asserting Yolgnu Law over Yolgnu Land; the paintings around the edges of the bark were clan designs describing the legal relationship between the Yirrkala people and their land. However, the designs were misunderstood, and in the Euro-centric thinking of the time, were taken to be mere decorations.

The mining went ahead.

Nalderun is a service that supports the Aboriginal Community, led by Aboriginal people. Many people and organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire contribute to Nalderun; the name is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning "all together".

More information can be found at www.nalderun.net.au

#### **Editors note:**

A full transcript of the bark petition can be found at: aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online/digitised-collections/ yirrkala-bark-petitions-1963



Plan B to repent as a sinner.

We're all of one voice,

There's only one choice,

Plan A is the best, it's the winner.





### Volunteer driver mentors needed for local TAC L2P program

CHIRP Community Health\* is currently seeking more volunteer driver mentors for its TAC L2P Program.

The program matches young learner drivers with trained driver mentors who help them achieve the required 120 hours of supervised driving practise. The learners have limited or no access to a supervising driver and/or suitable vehicle.

If you have an interest in the wellbeing of our local youth, why not consider this role? A full driver's licence is required to apply and you will receive special L2P training to assist you in the role. Qualities such as patience, reliability and a genuine fondness for young people are also important. The vehicle and running costs are all supplied by the program. As a volunteer you will be protected with CHIRP Community Health's insurance and receive the ongoing support of the coordinator.



Fiona has been volunteering for the L2P program since 2015. "I set aside an hour or two each week to accompany my learner on drives. Not only are we working towards a clear goal, over time we've also developed a real bond getting to know each other," Fiona says.

The program is a joint partnership between VicRoads and the Transport Accident Commission, supported by the Victorian Government, and came about to ensure that no young learner driver was disadvantaged by the 120 hours rule.

The benefits to the individual personally and to road safety generally are now well established, and TAC has committed more funding, particularly to regional areas. The Mount Alexander program is fortunate to have been granted additional funding for more learner places. This means reduced waiting times for young learners keen to achieve their probationary licence.

So, if you're thinking about volunteering, don't hesitate to call Lisa at CHIRP on 5479 1000 or visit the website <u>www.</u> <u>chirp.org.au</u>. Learners wanting to join the program are also encouraged to contact us.

#### Contact information:

Lisa Cavallaro, Coordinator, Mount Alexander TAC L2P Program. Phone: 5479 1000 or email: <u>lcavallaro@cdch.com.au</u> \**Registered as Castlemaine District Community Health* Photo supplied of Fiona, volunteer

### Spring into Action By Anita Le Lievre

pring is well and truly here. The blossoms are out, the sun is warm and the chilly nights are crisp. As we all awaken from hibernation, the time for spring cleaning has come. But to look around and realise the enormity of it can be overwhelming. Here are some tips to help you clear the decks and prepare for all those summer barbeques you've been dreaming of all winter.

#### Take it one step at a time:

It's not impossible to do it all in one day, just highly improbable. Our busy lives don't allow for a full twenty four hours of productivity in the home, so taking it one step at a time will help you to be methodical and efficient. Start in the room that you've been dreading the most and it will flow on from there. Whether it's the kitchen, lounge or bedroom, once your cleaning fears have been tackled the rest is easy, and before you know it the whole house will be done.

## *Minimise clutter to minimise cleaning in the future:*

We are so fortunate to live among these beautiful hills, and even more fortunate to have so many possessions. But we all know that most of them don't get used, gather dust or we've simply moved on or our style has evolved. From dishes to furniture to clothes, we all have too much, and clearing out dead weight is liberating. Get into your wardrobe and get rid of anything you haven't worn in a year. Take stock of kitchenware, and if you've never used that punchbowl or find you have three platters and only ever use one, get rid of them. Op shops are only too happy to relieve you of your clutter, but for items that cost you an arm and a leg, sell them online or have a garage sale. The cash will come in handy for that summer holiday you've looked forward to all year.

### Get stuck into your garden:

These days it's not uncommon to wake to the sound of lawnmowers and whipper snippers working hard. The winter rain has encouraged everything to grow, whether you wanted it to or not. Keeping the grass short is on everyone's mind, it will be a dry summer and fire safety is paramount. But don't forget your vegie patch, pull the weeds, turn the earth and get your favourite seedlings in. The time is right for peas, beans, broccoli, capsicum, zucchini, lettuce and tomatoes, everything that you will need for those summer salads. As an added bonus, you'll be out in the sunshine, replenishing much needed Vitamin D that was depleted over winter. And getting the kids out there with you will instil a love of growing their own food and get them off their devices.

### Don't forget yourself:

Taking care of ourselves usually comes last in this fast-paced world. We often worry about everyone else and then wonder why we're empty and exhausted at the end of the day, so be sure

### Love your pet? Send us a picture!

Send your photos to the editor: <u>news@harcourt.vic.au</u> with a statement about why you love your pet. to spring clean yourself. Winter is notorious for depression and piling on weight. There's no better time than now to sweep the cobwebs from your mind and body. Start downsizing your meal portions, eat more fruit and vegies and less meat. We all know that processed foods are bad, and prepared meals can contain harmful preservatives and colouring. Get in the kitchen as a family and cook together, and before you know it you'll all be healthier and happier. Look up new recipes, have 'Meatless Mondays', bake your own cookies, and by using nothing but raw ingredients, you know exactly what you're feeding your kids. Exercise your brain by turning off Netflix and read that book, or take a class on that hobby or skill you've always wanted to learn. Your social life will benefit, as you'll have something of substance to talk about, instead of what you saw on Facebook or the latest developments on a reality show. By the time summer arrives you'll be addicted to reading and knee-deep in projects.

Remember, there ain't no time like the present, so get started today! Happy Spring everyone.



Spring Blossom by By Anita Le Lievre

## THE C<mark>Õ</mark>RE



## Harcourt Heritage Centre Ben Bingham JP – Rat of Tobruk

Benjamin Joseph Bingham was born in Warragul, Gippsland in 1905. He was the third child and eldest son in a family of six and was raised on a dairy farm at Lardner, a small settlement south of Warragul. The Lardner farm is still owned by the Bingham family.

Ben left the farm to work at the Imperial Engine Works in Melbourne with AH McDonald & Co. The company holds the distinction of being Australia's pioneer tractor producer. There had been a McDonald tractor – big and rugged – on the Bingham family farm at Lardner since 1918. Ben then moved to Queensland where, at the age of 28, he married Ada Elliot. Ada was born in 1908 at Heathcote, Victoria, where her family had a farm. Ben and Ada had two sons, Bruce, born in 1938 and Rex, born in 1940.

On 4th November 1939, soon after the start of WWII, Ben Bingham enlisted in the Australian Army in Townsville, Queensland. After serving in London defusing bombs, Ben went on to serve in the Middle East and spent most of 1941 under siege with the Australian forces at Tobruk, North Africa. Ben's younger brother Aub Bingham had joined the AIF in Victoria and the brothers met up at Tobruk, neither knowing the other was there. Aub later transferred to Ben's unit.

After Tobruk, Ben served with the 9th Division at El Alamein and was then posted back to Atherton, Queensland for training before more active service in the Japanese conflict at Lae, Finschaven, Morotai and finally Borneo, where he contracted malaria, a serious and recurring disease. He was invalided back to Australia and discharged from the army. For most of the war Ben served with the Army Engineers, 2/13 Field Company, holding the rank of sergeant and the proud title of Rat of Tobruk.

While Ben was overseas, Ada and the two little boys moved back to Victoria to live with Ada's parents at Junortoun. Mr and Mrs Elliot and Ada bought an orchard at Harcourt in their joint names and relocated from Junortoun. While her father ran the orchard, Ada made her own butter and preserves and looked after the two youngsters. When Ben returned from the war he took over his in-law's share of the orchard which he and Ada Ada worked for thirty years until their retirement.

The home orchard covered most of the block between what are now Bingham's Road, Harmony Way, Warren Street and Mills Road in Harcourt. In addition, Ben took over the orchard of Jim Ely (now Black Jack Vineyard) and took a lease on Blume's small orchard, so that he had fifty acres of fruit trees – a large undertaking when most Harcourt orchards were about fifteen acres.

There were two fine draught horses on the property.In the era of post-war shortages, most orchard work – spraying, ploughing, carting props and delivering fruit – had to be done using horsepower. But Ben, with his mechanical experience, soon introduced a tractor to the orchard. This tractor was the very same 1918 McDonald, which Ben brought up from the family farm at Lardner. This tractor also powered a chaff-cutter and sawed wood. This historic tractor was eventually donated to the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Museum where it is routinely started up for visitors.



Ben Bingham built the second privatelyowned coolstore in Harcourt (the first was that of Harold Symes at the intersection of Bagshaw Street and Thompsons Road). Faced with post-war shortages, Ben sourced the timber to build the coolstore from the family farm at Lardner. Originally a two-chamber store, cooled by a Werner compressor, the building was later extended to three rooms.

Ben and Ada were both very active in the community. As well as being an orchardist, Ben was Chair of the Coliban Investigation Committee representing Harcourt interests in the affairs of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. He was a councillor for the west riding of the Shire of Metcalfe and Shire President at the time of the Queen's visit. Ben insisted on the Shire sealing many miles of gravel roads during his term. However, Binghams Road was not bitumenised until after Ben's term of office on council. He was also President of the Harcourt Football Club. Among his many achievements, Ben is perhaps best remembered for having gifted a block of land to the fledgling Harcourt Bowling Club. The present-day bowling green and clubrooms were built on this land.

Ada Bingham, who never sought any prominent role, served on the State School Mothers Club, Anglican Church, the CWA, and was Honorary Secretary of Harcourt Bowling Associates from 1965 to 1973. Ada was a tireless voluntary worker and a Life Governor of Castlemaine Hospital. Because of her wide range of interests, and being highly respected for her personal manner, Ada was called upon from time to time to open a bazaar or to roll the first bowl of the season.

In 1980, having retired from the orchard, Ben and Ada, then living in Castlemaine, decided to move to Esperance, WA, to be near their son Rex. Rex Bingham worked for Esperance Land and Development Company which contracted with the WA State Government to partly develop and sell large tracts of land in the district. The farmed land consisted of eleven stations. In the 1980s EL & D was Australia's largest wool producer, but it also produced sheep, cattle, and cereal crops.

One of the advantages of Esperance for Ben and Ada was the fact that they could play bowls all year round. They were both well known for their bowling skills and won many trophies.

In retirement, the couple became known for their beautiful garden and vegetable patch. They continued to make themselves available to help others and were active in the RSL and the Anglican Opportunity Shop.

Ben Bingham died in Esperance aged 96 while Ada, who lived to be 101, celebrated her 100th birthday in 2008 with her two sons, three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

This is another in the series of thumbnail sketches of Harcourt pioneers compiled by Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre with the aid of information supplied by family members and from the *Esperance Express* of Feb 1, 2008.



### **Annual Report**

#### October 2018–September 2019

Victorian Landcare Awards: Terry, Sonny, Trevor and Rhonda attended Government House in August to receive a certificate in recognition of effort in the Australian Community Media Landcare Community Group Award. Congratulations to Terry who applied for this award and who has led the Fruit Fly Sub-Committee and worked tirelessly to prepare the town for possible Fruit Fly infestation. Much of the preparation involved the use of a range of media including a Facebook page, the making of at least one video in conjunction with AgVic and talking to local and national media.

#### **Projects and Activities**

We have recently had confirmed that the project for Picnic Gully Creek at the end of Pippin Court has been successful. Thank you to Trent for working on this and applying for the grant.

We continue to work with Council on Roadside weeds. Council's approach has recently changed but we have responded to this change.

The Fruit Fly sub-committee has been very active and successfully prevented an outbreak of fruit fly last summer. A new grant sees the group working with Shire to develop an Emergency Response Kit in time for next summer season.

The Wetland project has recently been completed with four sessions in conjunction with the school. The planting preparation for the planting of 400 trees which coincided with National Tree Day was a great success. The area is now bristling with new plants. Thank you to Trent who organised the program.

Members have participated in a range of activities in and near Harcourt. These include: Camp Out on the Mount, Landcare Linkup, Applefest, Easter Egg Hunt, Twilight Markets and Sorry Day held in Harcourt. Members assisted with pre planting activities on the freeway roundabout. The digging of holes for planting with the augers was absolutely necessary and made planting a breeze; members have assisted with weeding the roundabout. Terry attended the BioLink Symposium near Euroa and gave a report to the next regular meeting.

#### Other activities

- December saw a pleasant evening for the Christmas Break up at the Secretary's home.
- Members participated in a session of discussion around Plan Harcourt with Shire representatives.
- The Threatened Species Conservancy has approached us for support and assistance with Ballantinia projects. Members are looking forward to seed gathering on Mount Alexander.
- We now have the capacity to have T shirts printed with the Harcourt Valley Landcare logo. Members are encouraged to choose a T shirt of their preference and take it to Castlemaine Office Supplies for printing the cost is \$8.

Many thanks to our office bearers this year and thank you to members for supporting the group.

Bonnie Humphries President

## Debut single for local young songwriter



Harcourt is renowned for producing wonderful apples, cider and wine, but it seems it also produces and nurtures artistic talent. Although born in Melbourne, Oliver Northam moved with his parents to Harcourt in the summer of 2005. He began piano lessons soon after moving to the country and quickly began writing his own songs. 'I remember going for bike rides near the orchards during summer holidays to get inspiration for my lyrics,' recalls Oliver.

Indeed, even at age 20, not much has changed. Despite moving back to Melbourne to study music at the Australian College of Arts and forming his six-piece band The Elsewheres, Oliver still returns home to visit his parents, buy chips from the servo and write songs on his dad's old guitar.

His debut single, 'Into His Arms' was written the very same way and this inspiration certainly shows. Opening with a subtly arranged verse, the single begins to narrate a regretful tale of lost love. As the strings and horns are introduced, the piece lifts and the drums deliver a steady and intriguing rhythm while delicate and poetic lyricism sit aloft a harmonious wave as the song swells into the final chorus. 'Into His Arms' is a beautiful debut that establishes Oliver Northam's unique brand of rhythmic folk, and we in Harcourt look forward to following Oliver's career.

Find 'Into His Arms' on Spotify, iTunes, Youtube and all other streaming platforms from October 4th.

## OCTOBER CACTUS FIELD DAY

Our final Wheel Cactus field day for 2019 will take place on 27 October at 10.30 am, starting as usual with a talk and a demo for new arrivals before we go out and kill cactus.

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.

We will finish the morning with a tasty BBQ lunch and the opportunity to mingle and chat over a cuppa.

The location will be confirmed later this month on our website <u>www.cactuswarriors.org</u> closer to the day. Click on News & EVENTS.





## Harcourt Bowling Club The new season opens

### Season Opening Day Sunday 15th September

On Sunday 15th September, Harcourt Bowling Club celebrated the official Opening Day of the new bowling season. Club President Russell Maltby, on behalf of the Board, welcomed members and visitors from Campbells Creek and Castlemaine, and, from the Bendigo Bowls District, Chairman Marion Craze, Secretary Geoff Howe, and State Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards. New members Mary-Anne Doyle, Fran Corstorphan, Carrol Frost, David Frost, Terry Robinson, Cameron Bennett were also welcomed.





Maree Edwards in discussion with Russell Timmins after the opening.

Winners of Open Day.



Harcourt Football Netball Club are seeking expressions of interest for coaches for the 2020 season

### NETBALL

- U11's, U13's, U15's, U17's
- C Grade, B Grade, A Grade

#### FOOTBALL

- U11.5's, U14.5's, U17.5's
- Reserves

Applications can be sent to: PO Box 12, Harcourt 3453 or by email to harcourtfnc@outlook.com

Applications close Thursday 31st October, 2019

With the formalities over, Maree Edwards, bowled the first bowl of the Season starting a game of social bowls. The laughter across the green indicated that all enjoyed the day and the delicious afternoon tea provided.

### **Bendigo Bowls Pennant Competition**

In the upcoming Pennant Season commencing on 14th October, Harcourt will field Midweek Pennant Teams in Divisions 3 and 5 to be played on Mondays. The Weekend Pennant teams will be Divisions 3, 5 and 9 to be played on Saturdays, commencing on Saturday 19th October.

### Bowls Premier League (BPL) Cup at Shepparton

The Harcourt team of Brian Smith, Gary Maddern and Tony Olsson travelled to Shepparton to compete in the Regional Final of the Bowls Premier League Cup. Despite a couple of rounds won and a valiant shot at the finals they were not able to progress to the next stage. Well done to them for a great effort.

### Friday Night Foodies

October 11 & 25, November 8, 22

### What's On in October

Monday 14th October Commencement of Midweek pennant

Saturday 19th October Commencement of Weekend pennant

#### Sunday 27th October

President's Day – Open to all members and their guests, 12.30 for 1.00pm start. List on the board 2 weeks prior. Cost \$5 per player – Cash prizes – Members to wear Uniform. Three games will be played of 8 ends each (depending on weather)

## Harcourt Tennis Club Thursday Night Tennis

Starts 3rd October at 7.00 pm

Everyone welcome

Contact Faye or Sharon on 0403967918 or 0438010309.

Our tennis competition in the Marong Tennis Association starts on the 12 October. Anyone interested just give us a call. Any juniors interested in playing or coaching contact the club.

## THE C<mark>Ö</mark>RE

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### Training Ground for a Killer

Outside the windows and doors of our house the natural world waits to come in. We live in Central Victoria near Mount Alexander on a small acreage set amongst larger rural properties and orchards. The sounds I hear each day are the wind, the birds, and the animals in the nearby paddocks. But more prosaically, my day also includes the sporadic noises

associated with farming and apple growing: tractors, four-wheeler vehicles, frost fans on winter and spring nights, and the blasts from gas guns in the lead-up to the apple harvest. The guns deter the flocks of cockatoos and parrots which move into the valley en masse in the growing season. They screech and flash in the sun as they switch their flight path in response to the salvos from the guns. They often rest and squabble raucously in the high trees around our property. Remarkably, despite all this activity and associated noise, there is a feeling of sanctuary on our piece of land.

In summer, skinks play around the back door and, occasionally, a snake makes its way into the house,

attracted by the cool stone floor. At night, in the light through the kitchen window, frogs and geckos leap from the granite sill onto the window, competing for a meal of the insects which flutter at the glass. Some of the fatter frogs slide slowly down the glass, before they jump off, ready to try again. Possums stomp on the roof and kookaburras announce the dawn and dusk.

In nesting season, the blue wrens dance and throw themselves at the windows. Firetails throng on the lawn, and then, when startled, their colours blaze as they vanish into the bushes. Grey fantails twitch and float around the house, chattering and swooping while they collect cobwebs for their nests. Tiny pardalotes, decorated finely with petite spots and splashes of

THE CORE

### **Robyn Miller**

colour, call, mostly unseen, from the bushes. The rufous whistler and the native thrush compete for the sweetest song, while the magpies strut about the lawn like policemen on the beat. In winter, when the giant aloe sends up red spikes of flowers, the eastern spinebills appear to be clipped onto the spikes, like the glass birds we used to attach to the Christmas tree in



my childhood home during the1950s. We are pleased that we don't have pest birds like Indian mynas and sparrows (even though they are on nearby properties), but we do have blackbirds. Their habits are more easily tolerated by the native birds and by us.

During summer, many birds remain in the garden because there is plentiful and reliable water. Is it any wonder that our garden is a haven for birds and other wildlife?

Towards the end of January 2016, a predator arrived which had realised that here was a feast waiting to be had. Rather than a sanctuary, our garden became a training ground for a killer. I first realised something was different, when the many birds in our garden became silent; all usual bird activity ceased. The lone sound was a shrill repeated call. I followed the call and could just make out, high up in a pine tree on the border of the property, three birds of prey. From that day, I started taking photos, many of them from such a distance that it was difficult to identify the birds, until the pictures were enlarged on the screen. The parent birds had one

juvenile bird with them. As they propped about twenty metres above the ground, they appeared to be saying to their youngster: "Here! Here is your kingdom; all this is yours."

By checking reference books against my photos, I decided our visitors were Brown Goshawks (*Accipiter fasciatus*). I listened carefully to their calls and confirmed they were Brown Goshawks by listening to recorded calls online. For a few days there was no particular change in the behaviour of the goshawks. They moved around the tall trees, calling and chattering, but came no closer. I had difficulty in accepting the otherwise silent garden. "Where have all the little birds gone?"

I asked myself. "How could they vanish so completely?" I felt the garden was diminished by their absence.

#### End of Part 1.

Part 2 will be in next month's Core

#### **References:**

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Worrall, Simon (March 8, 2015) *How Training a Wild Hawk Healed One Woman's Broken Heart*, viewed 15 October, 2016: <u>news.</u> nationalgeographic.com/2015/03/150308helen-macdonald-hawk-goshawk-falconrygrief-goering-ngbooktalk/

Simpson & Day, (1993) Field Guide to the Birds of Australia, A Book of Identification, Lifetime Distributors







### Weather and Water Solar project helps Coliban Water reduce its environmental footprint

A major solar photovoltaic project just completed at the Bendigo Water Treatment Plant is expected to save up to \$24,000 in operating costs.

Coliban Water Acting Executive General Manager Service and Infrastructure Danny McLean said the 100 kilowatt system will offset a proportion of the electricity consumption at the facility.

"The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 180 tonnes of  $CO_2$ -e per year," or approximately 1,800 tonnes of  $CO_2$ -e over a 10-year period.

Developed by private partner, Veolia, which operates the Bendigo Water Treatment Plant, the 300 panel system is expected to pay for itself within three years.

Veolia Project Manager Stephen Dickons said the organisation trained three electrical engineers to install the system themselves, saving both time and money.

"It's been a great team building project, with our staff able to follow it from concept to completion.

"The more we do now, the more it's going to reduce our impact on the environment," Mr Dickons said.

Both Veolia and Coliban Water hope to see more treatment facilities following course, with plans underway for a broader rollout across the region.

The project is underpinned by Coliban Water's Strategy 2030, which identifies four strategic directions for the organisation, including Water Security and Zero Carbon as well as Healthy People and Environment.

"Coliban Water is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Our region is critically impacted by the changing climate so we must adapt and grow to meet these challenges.

"We're continually looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and where possible will look to add solar to the energy production of our facilities where possible," Mr McLean said.

The project further bolsters the relationship between Coliban Water and its strategic partner Veolia, which delivers water quality and treatment to the region.

> From a press release at: www.coliban.com.au

\* CO<sub>2</sub>-e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, is a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints. The idea is to express the impact of each different greenhouse gas in terms of the amount of CO2 that would create the same amount of warming.

Storage	Capacity at full supply	Current volume	Current volume	Volume same time last year	Volume same time last year
	megalitres	megalitres	% full	megalitres	% full
Upper Coliban	37,770	37,731	99.9%	37,771	100.0%
Lauriston	19,790	19,360	97.8%	19,010	96.1%
Malmsbury	12,034	9,728	80.8%	4,019	33.4%
TOTAL	69,594	66,819	96.0%	60,800	87.4%

Data from: https://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels - October 3, 2019

### **Castlemaine Bus Lines** Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

am	pm	pm				
8:55	12:10	2:25				
8:56	12:11	2.:26				
8:57	12:12	2:27				
9:03	12:18	2:33				
9:05	12:20	2:35				
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday						
8:45	12:00	2:15				
8:48	12:03	2:18				
8:53	12:08	2:23				
8:54	12:09	2:24				
8:55	12:10	2:25				
	8:55 8:56 8:57 9:03 9:05 <b>onday</b> 8:45 8:48 8:53 8:54	8:55       12:10         8:55       12:11         8:57       12:12         9:03       12:18         9:05       12:20         onday to Fri         8:45       12:00         8:48       12:03         8:53       12:08         8:54       12:09				



## THE C<mark>Ò</mark>RE

### To weed or not to weed ...

The ground is warming up and weeds have started growing. To decide how to manage weeds around your fruit trees, you first need to think about the cost/benefit analysis. The 'cost' of weeds is that they can look messy, they can make it harder to work around your tree, and they can provide a 'ladder' into the tree for annoying, fruit-eating insects like earwigs. A field trip we recently attended really hit home in that the idea that weeds compete with the tree for water and nutrients is just wrong, and that the benefits of weeds are huge!

We were lucky enough to spend a day with Dr Christine Jones (<u>amazingcarbon.com</u>), a highly respected Australian soil scientist who spends most of the year traveling the world lecturing and teaching farmers how to get their soils working and healthy. We've always been in favour of growing 'weeds' or understory plants under fruit trees, but after understanding more of the science behind why plants bring so many benefits to the soil, we've become raving fans!

The simple message is that bare soil is BAD! It heats up (to at least 60  $^{\circ}$ C in summer), loses moisture, loses carbon and the microbes die – in short, it becomes a sterile desert very quickly. The idea that weeds under fruit trees take moisture away from our fruit trees is a myth. The soil needs total ground cover all the time to stay healthy – a tall order in our climate – but in fact there's lots of evidence showing that's what the environment was like pre European settlement.

We've known for a long time that healthy microbes (bacteria, fungi etc) are needed in the soil to convert nutrients into a plant available form – it's called the Natural Fertility System (NFS). The latest science shows that the microbes actually live inside the plants for part of their lifecycle, so they are even more interdependent than we knew.

Weeds help to increase the amount of carbon in your soil, they increase the amount of water your soil can hold, they provide habitat for the all-important microbes, they keep the soil cool in summer (which conserves water) and they provide food for worms and other lovely underground garden helpers.

New science is also showing that the greater the diversity of plants you grow (under your fruit trees, in your garden, or in your pastures) the better. Farmers who are converting their traditional grass pastures to multi-species pastures (with upwards of 18 different grasses and herbs) are finding that their soil becomes more fertile, their pasture is much more drought-resistant, and their animals are healthier and grow faster.

And it turns out that the need for diversity in our diet is true for humans as well. The science was a bit detailed, so I won't go into it here, but Dr Jones spoke about why many of the autoimmune diseases we're experiencing are a result of over-simplification of our diets. This is because we tend to eat the same few things all the time, we eat more processed foods, and because our foods contain way fewer nutrients than they used to.

One large study (over 11,000 people) showed that those who regularly include more than 30 different vegetables, herbs and fruits in their diets suffer very few autoimmune diseases. Wow, 30 is a lot, and probably way more than most of us eat most of the time (just think about which vegies you normally buy). Luckily, many weeds are edible, so chuck a few in the salad, juice or smoothie to increase your weekly intake. It's also easy to replace some of the weeds under your trees with herbs and vegies.

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 an 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 growing

'living mulch' under your fruit trees. However, weeds still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are:

- 1. Mow them occasionally (but not too low),
- 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!

Mulching is better than bare soil, but plants are 5-30 times better at building soil carbon than mulch! If you do 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 kickstart the biology in your soil. And a word of warning – don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed.

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists, and also teach organic home fruit growing. They offer a free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and free weekly online workshops called "The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit" - sign up at <u>growgreatfruit.com/webinarlanding</u>/. They also offer more than 50 online short courses and the year long Grow Great Fruit Home-study Program - visit <u>growgreatfruit.</u> <u>com</u> for details.

### **ASQ** Plant of the Month Clematis

Often referred to as the Queen of Climbers, the Clematis comes in over 200 species – six of which are native to Australia!

This beautiful climbing shrub produces a mass display of striking star-shaped flowers throughout spring and is a popular choice for climbers in cottage gardens.

Visit ASQ Skydancers this month to see our large range of Clematis varieties, including the hard-to-find *Clematis Florida Sieboldii*.



ASQ Skydancers - Garden, Gift & Café



**p** 03 5474 3800 | **e** skydancers@asq.net.au | **0 (** 



#### Free green waste disposal

Local residents and ratepayers can dispose of green waste for free at Castlemaine and Maldon waste facilities from Saturday 26 October to Sunday 10 November. Residents are encouraged to use the opportunity to prepare their homes and properties for the Fire Danger Period. Acceptable items include garden waste, grass clippings, natural wood and tree branches (diameter less than 10cm). Waste must be emptied from plastic bags and not contain rubbish or declared noxious weeds. Conditions apply.

#### **Celebrate Seniors Festival**

Take part in the many activities planned throughout October at the Mount Alexander Seniors Festival. Enjoy a dance, morning tea, free community lunch, movie day and specialty sessions. Highlights include the festival launch at 10.30am on Saturday 5 October; Seniors Expo from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October (both at the Market Building, Castlemaine); and a James Blundell concert at 2.00pm on Friday October 11 at Castlemaine Town Hall. Find festival brochures at key community hubs.

#### **Business Awards**

Congratulations to more than 150 local businesses nominated in the Mount Alexander Business Awards. The next step is to enter the awards by Monday 7 October. Complete your entry and see the list of nominees at <u>www.mountalexanderbusinessawards.</u> <u>com.au</u>. Finalists and winners will be honoured at a gala event in December.

#### Small business workshop

Learn how to launch your business online at our next small business workshop. Find out about technology options, how to manage risk and make the most of social media, along with tools and templates for success. The Taking Your Business Online workshop will be held from 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Monday 7 October at the Civic Centre. Cost is \$20. Book via <u>www.</u> <u>mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources</u>. The workshop is coordinated in partnership with Small Business Victoria.

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



### **Genevieve Ward**

Career Coach Job Search Strategist

0409 070 930 gen@thegoodlifecareers.com.au PO Box 121 Castlemaine Vic 3450

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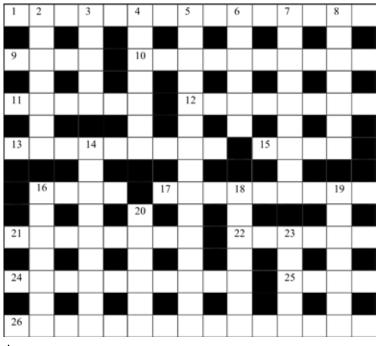
## These Businesses Support The Core



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

## THE CÖRE

### October 2019 Xword © McW September '17



#### Across:

- Not often got there by OzPost, but inked and waxed, at least... (6,3,6)
- 9. I assert a very intermediate position. (4)
- 10. New Anno Domini backs into what our days should be, and we're saddled with it! (10)
- 11. A hundred years of time off to render it asunder. (6)
- 12. Early flint age without a friend... (8)

### 13. Iconoclasts might find their procrastination offensive! (9)

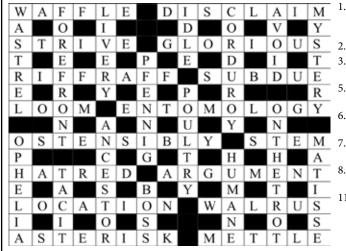
- 15. Can do—don't put off 7dn? (4)
- 16. When you're emotionally down pit, you expect me to show this? (4)
- 17. What tellers have been, these days? (9)21. MP tosses the die, rails against the anti-Empress interests. (8)

- Down:
- 2. Wheelchair-bound, it doesn't matter if both his premises and his conclusion are true. (7)
- 3. Opera not quite Bates? (5)
- 4. Unfathomable Grampians flower nuisance? (7)
- 5. Explosive human groupings. (7,8)
- 6. I smile when I make a metaphor like. (6)
- 7. Can prevent: can be reversed!? (9)
- 8. Cave-dwelling Greek god—a bit of a loner... (7)
- 14. A way to solve problems after, friend. (9)
- I pan flu-shots, but nip a flu in the bud and it's less likely to be this. (7)

- 18. Notch on the belt, and hung from it the cause? (4-3)
- How to get a witty remark out of a porker in a backward horse? (7)
- 20. To mark lamb is only part of the story? (6)
- 23. A right stink on the fork? (5)

- 22. Short doze with rels helps to get off your face? (6)
- 24. Stacking everything on the right to get rid of it? (3-7)
- 25. Blood spilt by man-eater. (4)
- 26. Loyal pigs manage misere... (4,1,6,4)

### September 2019 Xword solution © McW August'17 Down:



#### Across:

- 1. Polly sweet-talk? [Well?]
- 4. Diana's assertion to do the opposite... (8)
- 9. I try to get rivets to go in the right places. (6)
- 10. PR version of 1688? [Well?]
- To convert a barking dog [*ruff-ruff!*] or two Elizabethan neckwarmers to *hoi polloi*, replace "W" with AI! (4-4)
- 13. *Nautilus* expected now might keep them down... [*Well*?]
- 15. Lurk heavily above weaver? [Well?]
- 16. Tolkien research turns on the six-legged? [Well? Lots of ents...]

- 1. The French=le straw, not to mention the family fortune, is
- <u>tossed about</u> by this <u>prodigal</u>... (7)
  Tautological leading edge? [*Well*?]
- I autological leading edge: [*weil*]
   Larundel element [*Li*] very much
- a <u>coachman's finery</u>? (6)
- 5. *Song from Berlin* winds around Eric. (4)
- Trousers make roads over swamp. [*Well?*]
- Turn away from a gaping hole. [*Well*?]
- 8. My st?ry? Well, not exactly: it's unknown, really. (7)
- Capitals of Prussia, France, England, two African [Namibia, Nigeria] and two Mediterranean ones [Italy, Greece] for German small change. (7)

- 14. Unimportant sound of chooks? [*Well?*]
- 17. With all the busy wedding preparations, you could note troth like a horse hurrying past. (2,3,4)
- 18. Your old rellie is non-specific, so-recant! (8)
- 19. Danish girlfriend sounds very kinaesthetic. [*Well?*]
- 21. Young girl [Miss] ate painter. (7)
- 22. Compassionate member of *genus homo*? [*Well*?]
- 24. In utmost discretion=tact, 1 don't have to inform you of our arrangement. (5)
- 26. *We hear you go* the <u>CEO</u> in <u>these</u> <u>suits!</u> (4)
- 19. Outward show to sensibly describe it? (10)
- 20. This cell research met some resistance. (4)
- 23. Emotion strong, headgear scarlet. [Well?]
- 25. You get into this *messy* piece of clothing=garment and you have a <u>dispute</u> on your hands.
- 27. Lo! Doing=action in place, but moving about. (8)
- 28. John L, despite what Paul said... [sorry...]
- 29. In written version, streak is reassembled for a star. (8)
- 30. We hear ferrous zest (or non-). (6)

## **Community Diary Dates**

**Tuesday 15th October:** 10 am Blume's Fashion, Harcourt Leisure Centre. See details page 7.

**Sunday 20th October: 1.30 pm,** Sunday Afternoon Picnic at Barkers Creek Reservoir. See notice page 23.

**Saturday 26th October:** 4 pm–8 pm October Twilight Market, JamesPark next to ANA Hall, High Street, Harcourt.

**Sunday 27th October:** 2.30 pm Musical Halloween Treat, Harcourt Uniting Church. See notice page 4.

**Thursday 31st October:** 5.30 pm–7.30 pm Spring into Voluteering, Civic Centre Castlemaine. See notice page 4

Bowling Club Dates: See page 16.

**Harcourt Tennis Club:** Thursday nNight Tennis, starts October 3. See details page 16

**Heritage Centre:** Open every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9 am to 3 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.

Chased by a Snake.-Harcourt, Feb. 28, 1899.-Dear Aunt Connie,-I am returning my collecting card with the amount I hope it will help to relieve of L2 28. some poor little sufferer. I would have liked to have collected more, but there are several others collecting for a cot for the Castlemaine Hospital. We have two canaries, one pigeon, two cats, and two kittens, one dog, and a lot of hens. My brother killed a big snake. He was going to the reservoir, and it ran out from a bush and started chasing him and the dog. While it chased the dog he got a stick and killed it. I hope Connie and Florrie are better now. I remain, your affectionate niece,-Elsie Ely.

(You have made a good collection, Elsie. I am glad your brother killed the snake. I killed one myself early in the summer. It was about 3 feet 6 inches long.—Aunt Connie). Weekly Times 11th March 1899. Via Trove



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A full colour version of *Harcourt News: The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: <u>http://harcourt.vic.au/news</u> The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

## Sunday Afternoon Picnic

At Barkers Creek Reservoir Sunday 20th October at 1.30



You are invited to bring your picnic for an afternoon of stories about picnics of the past. Many of these events were held on Sundays and always included boating activities. Families might arrive by bus or by horse  $\mathfrak{S}$  cart, all dressed for the occasion in their best outfits, wearing hats, and, in the summer, they dressed in white with a parasol. As in the past, we will perambulate to points of interest

perambulate to points of interest.

Lemon cordial will be served to complement afternoon tea.

Please bring a chair & your picnic to share and if the weather is right, your best sun hat & parasol.

Entry via car park with balloon on McIvor Road.

### Harcourt Lions Cricket Club

The club would like to welcome any boys or girls aged 13–16 years who are interested in joining the Under 16s team for the upcoming season.

Drop down to training at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve on a Wednesday from 5 pm. Meet the coach Ezzy Bloomfield and find out what's in store for this summer.



This is Salem and Sabbath my new bunny's. They are my best friends I love my little bunny, His face is cute and funny. He is not a dummy, and I love him more than honey.

From Craig, age 7

## Its canola time for Harcourt netball team

Harcourt C Grade had a fantastic season finishing second on the ladder. In the grand final they played Lexton who were undefeated for the season. Harcourt had lost to Lexton during the home-and-away games by one point.

In the grand final, however, Harcourt went out strong and managed a 10 point lead in the first quarter, and Lexton were never able to recover. Harcourt pulled away in the last quarter and won by a margin of 17 points: 42 to 25.

Suzi Rinaldi won best on court on the day for Harcourt.



Photos of a team in the canola field is a tradition reserved for teams that win a grand final; a well-deserved photo shoot for Harcourt!



## THE C<mark>Ò</mark>RE

# HARCOURT TWILIGHT MARKET

Market stalls featuring local produce
 Enjoy live music and kids entertainment
 Food trucks, licenced bars

James Park, High Street Harcourt Monthly on Saturdays from 4pm to 8pm

Oct. 26, Nov. 23, Dec. 21, Jan. 25, Feb. 22

4th Saturday of every month (3rd in Dec.)