

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

November 2019

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 66

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourt.vic.au/news

Season of Twilight Markets Commences



*The Sutton Grange Small Farm stall at the October Twilight Market in Harcourt.
Photo: Glynn Jarrett.*

THE WEATHER GODS were not on our side for the first Harcourt Twilight Market on Saturday 26th October. Squalling winds and howling rains prevented a number of stallholders from attending but did not deter the brave souls who ventured out during the wild weather.

By the time things kicked off at 4pm, the weather had settled down and we were even blessed with some brief rays of sunshine.

Stallholders and visitors alike reported a great evening was shared by all.

A big shout out to our special guests Balkan brass band, The Wunderhorns and local duo The Rattlers.

Continued on page 3



INSIDE

- HPA-2
- Harcourt Valley Landcare-4
- Batting for Equity-5
- Harcourt CWA-6
- Harcourt Uniting Church-7
- The Big Apple-8
- HVPS-9
- Harcourt CFA-10
- Councillor Comment-10
- Heritage Centre-11
- Harcourt Bowling Club-12
- Walking Together-13
- VAA Field Day-14
- Community Supported Agriculture-15
- Weather and Water-16
- Feature Article-17
- Gardening-18
- Shire News-19
- Crossword-20
- Community Diary-21

DEADLINES & 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.**





Harcourt Progress Association

This month's roundup is of a general nature given that we postponed our October meeting. Our sub-committees and working groups, however, have been busy. On the front page you will see a great photo taken at the October Market by Glynn Jarrett, HPA Deputy Chair, who, as it turns out, is a fabulous photographer. There are some more of Glynn's photos on page 22.

The next Twilight Market in November will have a mental health focus with the KiT (Keep in Touch) van in attendance. This was designed especially with young people in mind. This van is new and was first put into service in the Loddon Campaspe region during Mental Health Month in October.

Thanks go to Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns for organising our very special Harcourt Twilight Markets and for securing the funding from Bendigo City Council which has enabled us to have the KiT van and other mental health resources at our next markets.

The finance sub-committee has met and made significant headway on how to better present and report our finances, as well as identifying a number of financial policies we need to develop. As previously reported, we also have working groups looking at the Rules of the Association; the policies we need to ensure the HPA Committee is consistent, transparent and accountable to the members; and Shine Harcourt – to ensure that our strategic direction is in alignment with the views of the town.

We have representatives on the Harcourt Play Space Working Group who have been working tirelessly with other community members and Council officers to bring to life what will be a wonderful play area for the children of Harcourt. We sincerely thank them for their efforts. The plans have been developed to concept stage. Construction should be complete by spring 2020.

Sadly, the roundabout is again the object of public scrutiny and complaint. Without a doubt the roundabout is now an eyesore and regrettably well beyond the capacity of the working group to maintain. We have written to VicRoads and Council to resolve the maintenance issue and we hope that it gets addressed before too long because, to quote Shakespeare, 'Sweet flowers are slow, and weeds make haste'. The working group is happy to weed, look after the plants and water them, as well as removing any rubbish off the site and the adjacent road reserve – but that's about it.

Finally, if you haven't signed the petition regarding the resumption of rail services to Harcourt, it's not too late, as the closing date has been extended to the 16th November. Copies are available at the Post Office, the Goldfields Track Café, Henry of Harcourt, the Harcourt Produce Store and Restaurant, Little Red Apple, Castlemaine Train Station Coffee Shop and the Harcourt ANA Hall, which can be accessed on Wednesdays. Remember, every signature counts!

Sha Cordingley, Chair, HPA.



The next Twilight Market in November will have a mental health focus with the KiT (Keep in Touch) van (above) in attendance. Photo: Lisa Dennis, editor, Castlemaine Mail.



Lmct:10769

WRECKING ALL MAKES & MODELS

We buy most cars and utes
Free old car removal

5474 2432 HARCOURTAUTO.COM

PLUMBER

Bruce A. Rae

Covering all Aspects of Plumbing

Mobile: 0408 371 885

Email: brucerac3@bigpond.com

EnviroShop

Energy • 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

Twilight Market Returns

Continued from page 1

The weather should definitely be better for next month's Twilight Market on Saturday 23rd November. Once again we have a fabulous line-up of live music, local produce, food trucks and licensed bars to ensure you enjoy a great night out.

Special thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo and the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services for their support for this event. We recognise the important role that community events like the Twilight Market play in bringing people together and strengthening community cohesion. Our future markets will be attended by mental health resource services including the Keep in Touch (KiT) initiative, recently launched by Mount Alexander Shire Council. Look out for their van and speak to representatives from local community and mental health services.

Sign the Petition

The petition for a resumption of passenger train services in Harcourt will be presented to Maree Edwards at the next Twilight Market on November 23.

The date for submission of the petition has been extended to 16th November. Copies are available at the Post Office, the Goldfields Track Café, Henry of Harcourt, the Harcourt Produce Store and Restaurant, Little Red Apple, Castlemaine Train Station Coffee Shop and the ANA Hall in Harcourt, which can be accessed on Wednesdays.

Nominate 2020 Applefest Royalty: Tear off the back page of this edition of the newspaper and get your nomination in by 27th November at the latest.

Join the fight against fruit fly

You're invited to a free workshop to learn what you can do to help prevent an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly in Mount Alexander Shire.

"Council is working closely with Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group to spread the word of what we can all do to keep fruit fly out of our area," said Tracey Watson, Coordinator Public and Environmental Health, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Two-hour information workshops will be held in Newstead, Castlemaine and Maldon. Sessions will be held in Harcourt in early 2020.

"At the sessions we'll share information about what fruit fly look like, how traps work and things you can do at home. We'll also go over what to do in the event of an outbreak, which is based on the emergency plan developed by Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group," she said.

"Guest speakers include Colin Bain from Bio Trap, Horticultural Entomologist Andrew Jessop and guests with experience in home gardening in areas with fruit fly.

Bookings are encouraged. To secure your place contact Lynne Meldrum at Council's Environmental Health team at l.meldrum@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or call 5471 1866.

If you want to know more visit Council's website at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly.

Council is collaborating with Harcourt Valley Fruit Fly Action Group and Agriculture Victoria to present these free workshops.

Castlemaine fruit fly workshop

When: 10.00am to 12.00noon, Friday 29 November

Where: Town Hall, Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.

From a Shire Press Release.



Did you know bushfires kill from 300m away?

Bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from up to 300 metres away - the distance of two football ovals. Planning and preparing for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



At the October working bee at the Flora Reserve in Bingham's Road behind the Leisure Centre, members enjoyed both spotting late spring wildflowers and ripping out weeds. The main weeds were broome, gorse, Cootamundra wattle and briar rose. Our small group covered a large area of the reserve. It was discovered that as we moved inwards from the roadways, the weeds became less and the vegetation was in good condition. The bird and animal boxes installed last year as part of a project with the primary school were showing signs of occupation with scratch marks on some.

The recent rains will have assisted the recent plantings on the Barkers Creek wetland; the next working bee is likely to be follow-up watering later in November to better prepare the plants for the summer.

Members will enjoy an end of year celebration which will be decided at the next meeting on November 14th at 7.30 pm at the ANA Hall. New members are welcome; Secretary, Robyn Miller, 0467 670 271.



Among the wildflowers spotted at the working bee was the yellow Donkey Orchid. Photograph by Gngarra, CC BY 2.5 au, Wikimedia.

Tips on managing Queensland fruit fly – From Mount Alexander Shire

- Don't bring infected fruit in from other areas.
- Set traps to monitor and reduce fruit fly numbers (see videos on Council's website on how to make a, or talk to your garden supplier about the different types that are available).
- Remove unwanted fruit from trees; collect fallen fruit and dispose of correctly including boiling, freezing or placing it in a sealed plastic bag in the sun for at least five days.
- Keep fruit trees well pruned.
- Place fruit fly nets over your fruit trees and vegetables.

Lost

Lady's reading glasses possibly near the
Harcourt Produce and Food Store

Tuesday 8th October

Reward to finder

Phone Marie on 5472 5450

Christmas Carols in Stanley Park

with Thompson's Foundry Band

Sunday 15th December

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Bring a chair, a rug, family & friends.

Donations accepted to support Act for Peace, an overseas aid agency that provides seed funding for community projects in developing countries.

If the weather is inclement, the Carols will be held in the
Uniting Church Hall, Buckley Street Harcourt.

Enquiries: George Milford: 0440 916 527

Brought to the community by the Harcourt Uniting Church.

This Joint's a'Jumpin'

Goldfields Track Café is a happening place. It's open 7 days a week for coffee, breakfast and lunch, plus dinner Thursday through Sunday. Thrifty Thursday nights continue to be popular with a different theme each week.

Thurs 7th Nov | Roast night

Thurs 14th Nov | Parma night

Thrifty Thursday meals are \$20 per person. Primary school children are \$10, or a kids menu is still available. Meals are served from 6 pm til 8 pm, and it's advisable to book ahead.

Café Manager Donna McMahon has recently introduced Burgers, Bevvies & Beats on Friday nights to coincide with the warmer evenings. An affordable menu includes buffalo wings, mac'n cheese croquettes, oregano & feta crumbed fries and burgers – southern fried chicken, vegie and beef burgers.

They have an awesome line-up of live (and local) musicians each Friday evening:

08 Nov | Peter Reade & Rochelle Sexton

15 Nov | Friends of Wendy Cotton

22 Nov | Karaoke with Rich Thompson

29 Nov | DiG with Dean & Gen

06 Dec | Andrew Garsed

13 Dec | Choir Monkeys

20 Dec | Claire Garret and Benedict J Gallagher

Goldfields Track Café is also taking bookings for Christmas functions and caters for off-site functions. Contact Donna on: (03) 5462 5514 | 0419 138 101 | donna@gtcafe.com.au

HARCOURT
**GOLDFIELDS
TRACK CAFÉ**
ESTD 2016

Open 7 Days a Week

Thurs: Locals Night \$20 dinner

Fri: Burgers, Beers & Beats - Live Music

21 High St, Harcourt
0418 138 101 | 5462 5514
donna@gtcafe.com.au

Batting for Equity

On 18th October a milestone for the Barkers Creek Cricket Club was achieved with the opening of its new upgraded female friendly pavilion at the Barkers Creek Recreation Reserve. This was made possible with a \$96,400 investment from the Labor Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Female Friendly Facilities.

Maree Edwards officially opened the facilities with the Mayor Bronwen Machin in attendance. Bec Henderson, Club President and Nicki Renfrey, Women's Team Representative also spoke. Nicki was the driving force for better facilities for women at the club, which grew out of her year spent in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP). Nicki said, 'Having set out with my project to establish female friendly change rooms, it was a natural progression to the next step of encouraging more women to play cricket. We are batting for equity.'

How fitting that the first night of the women's cricket season included the game between Barkers Creek and Castlemaine at the Barkers Creek historic cricket club which was established in 1855. Harcourt played Muckleford at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. This season sees four clubs playing the game (see the notice this page) which is modified in order to encourage players of all ages and stages in their skill development.

Renovations to the hall include new change rooms, and the kitchen has been extended with a servery to the verandah with an elevated view over the ground. This makes for a pleasant area to relax and watch a game. Treasurer Shane Renfrey said, 'The next task is to raise money to paint the hall inside and out, move the garden and do up the old toilets.'

Some of the content of this article was taken from a Press Release.



The first official round of women's cricket sanctioned by Cricket Victoria took place on Friday 18th October. Barkers Creek vs Castlemaine.



Harcourt vs Muckleford



Geoff & Nancy Courtis and Bruce Hall enjoying the new kitchen and bar facilities at Barkers Creek Cricket Club. Geoff and Bruce participated in the club's Indian Tours in 2002 & 2014.

2019/20

DATES

Rd 1 - Friday Oct 18th
 Rd 2 - Friday Nov 8th
 Rd 3 - Friday Nov 29th
 Rd 4 - Friday Dec 13th
 Rd 5 - Friday Jan 31st
 Rd 6 - Friday Feb 21st
 FINAL - Friday March 6th

GAMES START 6pm

WOMEN'S SOCIAL & MODIFIED CRICKET

CASTLEMAINE & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Barkers Creek Cricket Club - Nicki - 0439559470
 Castlemaine United Cricket Club - Andrea - 0400678988
 Harcourt Cricket Club - Tammy - 0432362619
 Muckleford Cricket Club - Brett - 0439882765

To register with one of these clubs go to playcricket.com.au, search for your club of choice, register for a Senior format, and choose "women's" team.

Grounds and draw to be advised prior to first game.

Registration to play only \$30 per person

No experience or special equipment needed

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT WOMEN'S REP - JO MARTIN 0407 844 093

Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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

T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736
 E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au

@LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo



The CWA's Wild Women of the West

We held our annual concert last month, and what a concert it was.

We always have a theme for our concerts, and this year we decided on Wild West Women. Thanks to Jenny Steiner, we have some beautiful photos taken on the day which best illustrate just how wild our Harcourt CWA ladies can be.

Joy Robertson wowed our audience in her saucy dress as she smooched up to her man singing 'I Can't Say No', and Melva Graham, dressed as a dashing young man about town, was highly delighted with her advances.

In the Harcourt Saloon, there was a near fatality when two of the Harcourt ladies fought a bitter fight with balls of wool after a

disagreement over a knitting pattern. Fortunately a refreshing cup of tea revived the injured Joy much to the relief of her knitting buddy, Robyn McConville.

There was much shooting going on at the OK Corral as members on walkers and horses reenacted that famous Western gun fight, and our audience was very relieved when the Red Cross ladies appeared and quickly dealt with the wounded. Please note, there were no fatalities in the making of our concert.

And of course what better way to end our show than with a Barn Dance?

When I look at these photos I am so proud to be a member of this Branch. It is not just the ladies performing on the day that made our concert such a success, it is the behind the scene activities, the amazing saloon set created by Jenny Steiner, the costumes, re-stitched and resized by Marlene Thompson, the food preparation and as always, the eternal washing up at the end of the day.

Well done ladies, you are indeed a bunch of Wild Women.

If you would like to join us, please come down to the Leisure Centre in Bingham's Road Harcourt on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm and discover your very own Wild Woman.

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer



Diamond Lil (Joy Robertson) and Rhinestone Rosie (Robyn McConville) have a serious argument over a knitting pattern.



The wounded receive expert help from the CWA nurses after the gunfight at the OK Corral.



The ladies finish the concert with a traditional circular barn dance.]



Joy Robertson and Melva Graham illustrate the problems of a girl who can't say no.

LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

A conductor, I know, with his baton
Conducted his band with his hat on.
He wasn't too tall,
In fact he was small.
Had a chair with high legs which he sat on.





Harcourt Uniting Church

At Harcourt Uniting Church there is always something happening!

On Sunday 27th October one of our members Solway Nutting organised a very enjoyable concert held in our Church. Solway, along with many of her friends, entertained us with a vast array of recorders, harpsichord and piano (the electrified version) flute, cello, the beautiful sound of a lyre and some poetry.

Thank you to all who attended our recent Blumes



Fashion morning which was both a social and financial success.

One of my favourite Uniting Church Australia wide support programs is Frontier Services. I have written about their work in previous articles. The ongoing drought in many parts of Australia is putting a huge strain on farming families and their local businesses. The National Director of Frontier Services, Jannine Jackson writes:

"These people need to know that they're not alone, that there are people who care and people who are willing to give them a hand up." Bush Chaplains



travel thousands of kilometres visiting stations doing just that. They spend time chatting with families over a cuppa, being good listeners, offering support services if required, giving them a food voucher or simply showing that "they are loved, cared for and not forgotten in the drought."

If you type Frontier Services into your search engine you can read more of the amazing work being done by Bush Chaplains as well as volunteers who come to stay with families for a couple of weeks and offer practical help in many ways. You can even download a copy of the latest Frontier News.

Dare I remind you that Christmas is not far away? As part of our outreach into the local community, congregations in the Castlemaine and District Uniting Church Parish donate money towards gifts for families struggling to cope with the extra costs of Christmas. The program is called "Share the Joy." Support Agencies in Castlemaine provide us with anonymous details of families who may need some "joy." Gifts are purchased for all members of each family along with a grocery hamper. These are wrapped by members of the Church and then handed out by the Support Agencies.

A little boy was in a Christmas play and had only one line to say. "Behold I bring you good tidings." He asked his mother what 'tidings' meant and she said it meant "news."

The day of the play he was stage struck and forgot his line. Finally he cried out: "Hey I've got news for you!"

Jan Jenkin



The Harcourt Produce & General Store has green waste available to a local. Ideal if you keep chickens or pigs. You need to supply four 30-40 litre plastic containers with lids and pick them up from us each week!

Call in at the store if you are interested, or call Annette on 0430 302 763

Food for Thought – Visit to the Big Apple



The Big Apple looks a bit worn. A stone seat at the base lets visitors have their picture taken with the apple.



The outside of the barn-like main structure

On my recent trip overseas I came across The Big Apple which is at Colborne in the state of Ontario, 139 kilometres from Toronto and 312 kms from Ottawa. It is reasonably close to the shore of Lake Ontario and is on Highway 401 before it branches three ways, all leading to Ottawa. This is a major attraction with buses stopping; they can take advantage of a large population potentially travelling between two major cities. It is an oversized building containing a pie factory/bakery, restaurant, shops, and a range of goods mostly based on apples. The logo on the website is a large red apple with a Canadian maple leaf in white.

Goods for sale include apple flavoured drinks, jams, chutneys, popcorn, biscuits, tea, a range of honeys (not apple related) and the usual apple cider vinegar, cider in bottles and cider in casks (this was a first for me). Bakery goods include apple cakes, apple strudel, apple cheese sticks (I'd never heard of these), apple cinnamon bread, apple peanut brittle, apple fritters, apple dumplings – is there anything they haven't thought of to include with apple flavour? We purchased an apple cake which we consumed over a few days – it was delicious.



The store.



The bakery.

The bakery/factory has large windows so the staff can be seen working with the equipment – all stainless steel and conveyor belts. Pie products include traditional apple pies, apple caramel pies and apple pies without sugar or gluten.

There is a massive range of gift shop apple themed items: cards, calendars, candles, mugs, travel mugs, water bottles, decorated china, key chains, ornaments, plush toys, and apple shaped purses – and so on!

Outside is a variety of animals in paddocks and sheds – alpacas, donkeys, goats, hens and sheep. A petting zoo is planned for next year. And there's a train ride, mini golf, picnic grounds, ping pong and bocce.

I'm not recommending that something on this scale should be attempted in Harcourt, but some of the ideas may be useful and could be well presented. We should take advantage of our location, while still preserving the natural beauty of our town and surrounds. We have seen the establishment of new businesses and attractions and this will see further growth. We just need to be careful how we go about it!

Robyn Miller

Website for The Big Apple: thebigapple.ca The photos of the bakery and the shop were taken from the web site.



GUEST SPEAKER:

**ANDREW SKEOCH -
'HEARING OUR PLACE'**

**SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2019
4:00 - 6:00 PM**

**CAMPBELLS CREEK COMMUNITY CENTRE
45 ELIZABETH STREET
CAMPBELLS CREEK, VIC 3451**

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.

**CONNECTING COUNTRY
AGM 2019**



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Parent Opinion Survey Results

It was very pleasing to report that the families that completed the survey responded very positively, with strong results in many areas.

Listed below is an extract showing three of the areas surveyed:

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING	
High expectations for success- Teachers at this school expect my child to do his/her best.	97% positive
Effective teaching – Teachers provide useful feedback and respond to the learning needs of my child.	93% positive
Stimulating learning environment-HVPS provides diverse programs for my child's interest and abilities.	90% positive

Prep Overnight Stay

Meanwhile the current prep students appeared to enjoy all of the activities held during the overnight camp on Thursday 24th October. The camp included digging for treasure, making pizzas for dinner and walking to the local park. Thank you to Mrs Turner.

Coming Events

The Grade 6 Dinner – Monday 16th December has been planned to be a memorable occasion for the Grade 6 students to participate in a special dinner with their peers, two guests and their teachers.

Breakfast Club to trial extra day

Thursday mornings are being given a trial for the breakfast club. The school has been providing breakfast to students on Fridays from 8.15 to 8.50 am.

2020 Grade Prep Transition

The first Prep transition day was held on 29th October, the next one is on December 12.

Content taken from recent school newsletters and FlexiBuzz, the school's media platform.



Grade 5 & 6 Grampians Camp The photo shows students at the end of day two of the four day camp. They had a big day of walking, having completed the Pinnacle Walk, Mackenzie Falls and The Balconies. Principal, Andrew Blake thanked Mr Fitzgerald, Ms Rowlands, Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Rice for putting in long hours on the camp ensuring all of the students had a safe and memorable Halls Gap Camp.

JUST LISTED

58 Coolstore Road, Harcourt

\$425,000

3 1 1

- Wide double door entry with polished floors & wood heater
- Free flowing living & dining, spacious bedrooms & central bathroom
- Bright kitchen with large island, electric cooking & dishwasher



JUST SOLD

24 Buckley Street, Harcourt

4 2 2



1410
Internet
Views



4
Group
Inspections



1
Offers
Made



38
Days on
Market



What's your
property worth?

Call now to book your free appraisal



Di Selwood

Mobile: 0488 148 358

Phone: 03 5474 2807

di@bendigopropertyplus.com.au



Brigade to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

The Harcourt Fire Brigade is celebrating its 75th anniversary on the 9th and 10th of November.

There will be a special public open day at the fire station on the Sunday between 10 am and 2 pm with a display of brigade history and a combination of historical and current fire trucks, as well as a return of the very popular squirty trucks that debuted at this year's Applefest. There will be commemorative souvenirs available for purchase and a sausage sizzle will be operating during the day.

It is the perfect opportunity not only to see and appreciate what the initial group of members started 75 years ago (just prior to the formation of the CFA) and what it has evolved into today, but also to obtain the latest information for the coming fire season.

The Coming Fire Season – What Do You Need To Know?

As we approached the end of October, there was a change in the weather to warmer, sunnier days and milder nights, indicating the approaching fire season.

Your personal fire prevention activity and preparation should be well underway, and a review of your emergency fire plan should be carried out and tested to ensure that it does work and that every family member knows and understands what

to do. Also check that pets, important documents and valuable items have not been missed in your plan. At this stage, Wednesday 13th of November has been set aside by the Mount Alexander Municipal Fire Prevention Officer to conduct annual property inspections in the Harcourt brigade area.

Fire restrictions have commenced in the most northern parts of the state and parts of Gippsland and will be implemented in shires closer to us in late October and early November. It has been announced that fire restrictions for the City of Greater Bendigo will commence on 11th November. At the time of writing no date has been locked in for the Mount Alexander Shire, so it is important to keep watch for notifications in the local papers, as well as listening to local radio or friending the CFA Facebook pages to receive notification. Alternatively, regularly checking the CFA website page on fire restrictions will provide a list of shires throughout Victoria which have commenced fire restrictions or have a proposed date on which they will be implemented. This is handy when travelling, holidaying or visiting family or friends throughout the state.

Brigade Preparation

Along with preparing for our Anniversary celebration, brigade members have been readying for the coming fire season.

One of the mandatory requirements by our Chief Officer is for every active firefighting member to do a yearly burnover drill on our vehicles.

You may have observed us conducting this drill and wondered what we were up to, as it does look very different to the usual fire drill. Seeing a stationary fire truck with crew protection sprays providing curtains of water, with heat protection curtains pulled down inside the cabin and on the back and with no-one visible, is an odd sight but something that can be a life saver if ever a truck is caught in a burnover situation. It is far better not to be in this situation in the first place. (If you are interested in finding out what a burnover drill looks like, a search on the web will bring up videos of the drill.)

Residents of this fire-prone state need to understand that they if they decide too late to leave their property they could get trapped in a car during a fire. What is your fire plan? Have you decided to leave early, or are you and your property prepared for a stay and defend plan. If you require more information to assist with forming your plan or preparing your property, then take the opportunity to talk to a brigade member at our open day, or call in on a Sunday morning during our weekly maintenance checks.

Stay safe – prepare now.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

It has been a busy time on Council. At our Council meeting last week an approval was granted for a dwelling on a block less than 40 hectares. Perhaps this is not such a big deal but the last two of these in similar locations were refused. In this case the applicants had prepared a detailed farm management plan that got them over the line. It is important to note that our planners do a lot of work on these matters. The planners' role is to make recommendations that reflect the planning scheme and they do that well. Many of you will know that I have supported applications for dwellings on rural blocks previously. While each case

must stand on its merit it can be argued that a dwelling on a small block actually enhances agricultural production. From my perspective there are issues with the planning scheme in relation to blocks of land less than 40 hectares that are in the farming zone. I look forward to a time when we can have a better approach to these types of applications.

By the time you read this the new playground in Victory Park will be in operation. I hope you take the opportunity to try it out.

We can expect the construction of the new Harcourt playground to be finished in September 2020. We look forward to that.

Congratulations to the Harcourt Progress Association for running the first Twilight Market for the summer. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic team

working on this. What a great family event for our community! A big thank you goes to Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns for being the driving force behind the markets.

The other community event that is going from strength to strength is Muckfest. I competed in the Tractor Pull on our Chamberlain tractor. It was a lot of fun and I think we all need to get those old tractors out of the shed and polished up.

It looks like the weather will get hot soon so it is a good time to clean up the yard in preparation for the fire season. Reducing fuel is the key, as the water supply may not be reliable when we need it. Our dedicated and skilled CFA members, whom we rely on to keep us safe, deserve a big thank you in advance.

Best regards to all, Tony



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Thomas and Betsy Facey A Truly Fortunate Life

Thomas Facey had a head start in the race for gold. In the rush to the Mount Alexander diggings he was digging for gold before fortune-hunters from the northern hemisphere arrived in the colony. The discovery of gold at Specimen Gully was published in the *Argus* on 8th September 1851, when Thomas was farming in Van Diemen's Land. After disposing of his farm, he took his wife Betsy and their four children aboard the *Swift* on 25th January 1852 bound for Melbourne, and so arrived at the fabled diggings long before anyone from England or Europe.

We know that Thomas Facey was a successful digger because, during the 1850s he was able to purchase land with a frontage to Barkers Creek and establish himself as a dairyman, supplying milk to Castlemaine. The home block of a little over 40 acres extended from the Little Red Apple to the south end of the creek flat. The homestead was a five-roomed brick house. Possession of this land entitled the owner to grazing rights on the farmers commons (unsold Crown Land) Thomas Facey was able to turn out his cattle into the bush at the rate of one head of cattle per acre of purchased ground for a fee of two shillings per head per year. It was soon clear to the Faceys that the cattle liked to graze on good creekside pastures about a mile away to the north-west. After school each day, the Facey children had a long walk to bring the cows home for milking.

In 1869 a new Land Act permitted Thomas Facey to 'select' more land and buy it on generous terms. The cows had already made the selection, so Thomas Facey applied for three large allotments along what is now White Gum Road. By fencing the land, cultivating a crop and paying annual instalments against the purchase price, Thomas Facey obtained clear title to these blocks by 1884.

In the meantime, he took over the land of another selector and bought an adjacent 91 acres, so that his holdings in White Gum Road totalled 232 acres, in addition to the 40 acres on the Castlemaine road. If Thomas Facey had achieved such a large acreage in his native Cornwall it could only have been as a tenant, probably of the Duchy of Cornwall, paying rent to support the aristocracy. But, here at Barkers Creek, Thomas was king of his own domain.

Thomas and Betsy's family grew to

include four sons and six daughters. Joseph and his brother George married sisters Mary Ann Carr and Elizabeth Carr. Their eldest sister Mary married Phillip Best. The second daughter Elizabeth married James Biggs, the third daughter Emily married the boy-next-door, William Hill Robins, and the fourth daughter Louisa married Roger Kenworthy.

The Heritage Centre files only provide information on the children who lived locally. From those files we can definitely state that there were in excess of fifty grandchildren of this pioneer couple. Many descendants still live in the district.

After a lifetime of steady and rewarding work Thomas died, aged 71, in November 1886. Betsy was ill at the time of her husband's death and died seven months later, in June 1887, aged 60. Both were buried at Harcourt.

Thomas Facey left a substantial estate. Since the ten children were to take an equal share, each only got a modest nest egg. The executor of Thomas Facey's will was third son Joseph Facey, who farmed the home paddocks of his father's farm for about two years. Joseph then sold the land at a profit and moved with his young family to Footscray where he opened a basalt quarry. When returns from this quarry fell, in 1895, during the depths of an economic depression, he left for the Western Australian goldfields where he died prematurely, leaving a family of five sons and one daughter.

The name Facey became nationally known in the early 1980s with the publication of the book *A Fortunate Life* – the memoirs of Albert Barnett Facey. Albert (who lived most of his life in Western Australia) was the youngest son of Joseph Facey and grandson of our Barkers Creek pioneers. Albert's book became a best seller, winning literary awards and selling over 800,000 copies.

Much of AB Facey's autobiography relates to the horrors he endured during his World War I experiences and his vivid recollections of the Australian forces at Gallipoli.

Two of Albert Facey's older brothers were killed during the Gallipoli campaign, a cousin died at Mildura while serving in the 6th battalion, and three more cousins were killed in action on the Western Front in 1917 and 1918. The descendants of Thomas and Betsy who were lost in the Great War were:

- Joseph Thomas Facey,
- Roy Barker Facey,
- Thomas George Facey,
- Bryan Daniel Hart,
- Stephen George Facey,
- David Roland Facey.

Stephen George Facey had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the *Croix de Guerre* (Belgium) in 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. SG Facey, on two occasions, captured a whole garrison of the enemy while engaged in difficult patrols under heavy fire. In March 1918, Stephen wrote to his brother and sister to say:

"I know that Fritz cannot get even with me, if he does get my life it is a mere bagatelle compared with what I have cost him".

Lieutenant Stephen George Facey was killed in action 25th August 1918.

In scanning the story of Barkers Creek pioneers Thomas and Betsy Facey and their family we obtain a cross-section of Australia's story, from Van Diemen's Land in the 1840s, through the gold-rush, settlement on the land, the hardships of the 1890s depression and the appalling cost of the First World War.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers compiled by Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre with information from the C H James Collection and from the book "The World of Albert Facey"



Grow Great Fruit

More than 50 Ways to Take the "Bad Luck" Out of Your Fruit Growing



[**www.growgreatfruit.com**](http://www.growgreatfruit.com)

FREE RESOURCES

① Learn the 5 Key Steps to Quick Success with Fruit Trees in a free webinar. www.growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/

① Get timely tips for your fruit trees in our free **Weekly Fruit Tips** newsletter

READY FOR NEW SKILLS?

① 50 short courses in Online Course Library

① Grow Great Fruit Home-study Program

VISIT THE WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE



Harcourt Bowling Club

Since celebrating the opening of the new Bowls Season it has been all systems go at Harcourt. Pennant

Selectors have been busy sorting out teams and other committee members are preparing for events to come. The draws have been done for Club Singles Championships which need to be completed before Christmas. The Draws for the Harcourt 100 and Men's and Women's 100-Up has also been done, so the green will get a lot of work in the next few months.

Our thanks to Ron Douglas and the Greens' Committee for the work they do in maintaining the green and preparing it for our pennant games each week.



Friday Foodies up and running

Fortnightly Friday Foodies is on again and well attended. All welcome. Dates and menus will be displayed at the club.

Barefoot Bowls

These nights have been very popular in the past, so look out for notices about bare foot bowls due to commence in early November – dates to be advised. All very Welcome.



Ladies Triples Tournament on 20th November

The Ladies Triples Tournament is usually well attended and is again fully booked for this year. This event has been generously sponsored by Di Selwood at Bendigo Real Estate for the past few years. Results will be in December Core.

New Veteran

Bowling member Sheila Oxley gained Veteran status in October. Fellow bowlers held a luncheon at Tread in Harcourt to celebrate with Sheila.



In late October, Harcourt bowling ladies held a luncheon at the Goldfields Track Café for popular local Kaye Grant to celebrate her 70th Birthday. This delicious cake was made by Myra Frankling.

Harcourt Bowling Club Midweek and Weekend Pennant Teams have had a promising start to the season with the inclusion of novice and new bowlers and a bit of juggling of teams with a number of bowlers away.

However the teams have performed well and have shown great promise for the season.

All at Harcourt Bowling Club where delighted to see junior bowler Seth Bird play his first Pennant game in Weekend Division 9 in round one. Paving the way to encourage more junior bowlers, Seth bowled consistently well all day to the delight of his Skip (and proud Grandfather) Russell Maltby. The Club is keen to welcome other junior bowlers to join and hope this will give them encouragement. Interested bowlers can contact President Russell Maltby on 0407301811.

President's Day 27th October

News not available at time of going to print so a report on President's Day will be in the next edition of the Core.



New veteran, Sheila Oxley.

Success in Winter Comp Leads to Summer Season of Carpet Bowls

Following on from its resounding success in the winter season, the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association is running a Summer Competition this year at the Harcourt Leisure Centre each Wednesday night at 7.30pm.

The season will commence on October 30th with a Christmas break from December 18th to January 15th.

Although the season will have begun when the November Core is published, you are still most welcome to join us in November as teams will be flexible.

The competition will finish in mid March followed by our Annual Meeting on 25th March. New members are most welcome to come any evening for a light hearted social game. \$6 Registration fee and \$5 per night.

Further details from John Jenkin Ass Secretary 0408621371

Harcourt PO Bandit Gets Time

Some of you may remember that a bit more than three years ago, Friday July 29 2016, a young man carrying a knife attempted to hold up the Harcourt post office. His trial for this and several other offences came up on 19th September.

During the three years, a police detective has kept me informed of what was happening and what was likely to happen. The offender had been arrested, tried and convicted in NSW for a series of crimes he committed the day after his Victorian ice-fuelled spree. He was paroled early this year and extradited to Victoria to await further trial. When his court case was imminent, the detective advised me that he would plead guilty to all the charges. He also suggested I might like to come and watch the court proceedings. As I'd never been in a courtroom before, I decided to go along and see how things were done.

The first thing that struck me was just how thoroughly things were done. The second thing was how young the legal people were. In my mind, the 'public prosecutor' was hardened and middle-aged. The one I met was in his late twenties, clean-shaven, smartly dressed, certainly not 'hardened'.

There were three cases to be heard – the first was a sentencing. The magistrate, with whiskers down to his belly, took about twenty minutes to read the circumstances of the crime. It was about then I realised what a sad place I was in. Though justice was being done, tinged with mercy, nobody came out of that case elated. I don't remember how many years he got. A small number of supporters called out their love for him. He was led away.

After a brief respite, the second case was underway. This one only took about five minutes as the defendant wanted a continuance. She was defending herself, with help from Legal Aid. She was also helped by the magistrate as he pointed out the potential difficulties of delaying her case, as she was pregnant. The delay was granted.

Then came the case I was interested in. Other than the legal people, the detective and a reporter from the *Advertiser*, there were only three other in the room, one of whom was the owner of a ute that the offender had stolen.

The prisoner was asked four times how he pleaded to each of the charges. He answered 'guilty' to each question. It was noted that there was a victim's impact statement to be read, and one not to be read.

Then began what seemed to be a mathematical quandary. The magistrate had to decide how to fit in all the bits of time that were scattered about. In NSW the prisoner had been sentenced to four years and four months, he was paroled after x number of years and months, so he 'owed' NSW y amount of time and he had been in remand for z number of days. How much more time was to be added to all this to make the final decision a just one? The magistrate returned to his chambers to deliberate. Meanwhile, defence counsel was delving through precedents to see what anybody else may have done in similar circumstances.

The magistrate returned to determine that his course of action was correct. Defence counsel referred to the precedent and advised that the action was indeed correct. So, the magistrate returned to his chambers to do some more arithmetic. When he came back, he had his sums all done, and he tacked another couple of years onto the NSW sentence. It was all over. The prisoner was taken away. I left.

It had been an interesting experience. It was enlightening to see the teamwork among the legal people. They played their roles, not as sporting teams do, but more as teams of contractors might – working together for a common goal, hopefully justice.

I went and had lunch at the RSL – just fish and chips with salad and tartare sauce and a draught beer. Which got me wondering about what sort of meal the convicted man got. Not as nice as mine.

Bernie Schultz



WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation Uluru then and now

Uluru, created by ancestral beings, is part of the country which the *Anangu* Aboriginal people of Central Australia have traditional responsibilities to protect and manage.

Estimated to be around 600 million years old, it was named Ayers Rock by colonial authorities in 1873, after the Chief Secretary of South Australia. In the first half of the twentieth century the land around Uluru underwent reclassification, first as an Aboriginal Reserve and later as a National Park. It was excluded from the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976.

The *Anangu* knew only too well the pressures of pastoral usage, mining, desecration of sites and tourism on their land. After decades of campaigning, the Land Rights Act was amended by the Hawke government to include Uluru. The land was to be leased back to the Australian Parks and Wildlife Service, and jointly managed by a Board with an *Anangu* majority.

On 26 October 1985 the ceremonial handover of Uluru took place, in front of hundreds of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The Governor General Sir Ninian Stephen handed the title deeds to the *Anangu*, who then signed an agreement leasing the land back to the Australian Parks and Wildlife Service.

Anangu could now live on the land to which they belong, and continue to be guided by Tjukurpa (traditional law, custom and culture) which they can pass on to their children and grandchildren.

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 Wurung word meaning "all together".

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

Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group

Barkers Creek Land Carers meet on the third Sunday of the month for several hours, from 9 am in the summer months and from 9.30 am in the cooler weather. Morning tea is always highlight of the morning where ideas for projects are discussed and information is shared.

The group is involved in a number of projects in the Barkers Creek area including restoring the old Barkers Creek tip site. It is an active group of people of all ages. New members are always welcome.

For more information visit our website or to join contact our president Daryl Colless through the Bakers Creek web site: www.barkerscreeklandcare.org.au

Bendigo Branch, Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc.

40th Annual Beekeeping Field Day



L to R: Open Hive Demonstrators, Alan Smith, Ravenswood; Liam Drake Knowsley; and Gareth Maunday Bendigo.

This year is the fortieth year that this annual event has taken place. Harcourt Leisure Centre has been our venue since 2015. Attendance was approximately 500+ people this year.

This event is designed to attract aspiring, beginner, recreational and professional beekeepers to this age-old craft. The Program includes various aspects, practical 'hands-on' demonstrations of beekeeping practices, knowledge, and the legal requirements (bio-security etc.) necessary for successful operation of hives.

Harcourt, as we are well aware has been a centre for the production of mainly Apples and Pears over many years. For the production of perfectly shaped fruit (seed production) it is necessary to have the service of honey bees to pollinate the crop/s.

Thus, also over many years, beekeepers have been hiring out their hives to provide this service. These days, more than a thousand hives are delivered to the orchards during September over the flowering period, and then removed as the blossom's cycle is completed and fruit set begins.

Blossom secretes nectar (carbohydrate) to attract the pollinator (bee). Nectar secretion is only sufficient to provide the bees' individual energy needs to perform the service, no surplus honey is produced in the operation. The pollen (protein) is combed into pollen sacs on the hind legs to take back to the hive to be fed to the developing larvae. Transfer of pollen from the stamen to the stigma of the blossom effects fertilisation i.e. reproduction.

Eileen McDonald, Castlemaine..

Tellurian Fruit Gardens

Community Supported Agriculture



Certified Organic fruit delivered weekly

Name your price!
sign-up closes 15 Nov

online: tfgardens.com.au
phone: 0457 140 001





0408 128 313
phil@thefoliagefellers.com.au



The Foliage Fellers
Keeping your gardens looking good all year round

Covering all aspects of garden maintenance
and fire hazard reduction

Fully insured ABN 46 398 638 178

Circleworks

All Round Assistance

helping | fixing | sorting | doing



CASS EWING | Solutions Junkie

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 all-rounders 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

Community Supported Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) connects conscious eaters directly with local farmers. Appealing to the fast-growing movement of consumers that want to be more connected with the source of their food, the model is rapidly spreading through small-scale farms and their rural and urban communities.

The program differs from ad-hoc sales in that customers, or 'members', make a seasonal commitment by purchasing a 'share' of the produce, which is delivered at regular intervals. By signing up to a share as opposed to a set quantity, CSA Members are asked to share in both adversity and abundance. This risk-sharing element is key to the model's success and to the resilience of the local foodshed.

Tellurian Fruit Gardens (previously known as Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens) is a well-known certified organic orchard that's been rebranded under new owner Ant Wilson, as part of the exciting new Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. The orchard is due to begin deliveries for the second year of its CSA program in December.

"There are so many ways different CSAs are benefiting their communities", said Ant "For example, we introduced 'Name Your Price' as a way for the community to collectively subsidise the cost for less fortunate members".



TFGardens are expanding their connection with the local area by opening new delivery hubs in Newstead, Maldon, Malmsbury and Woodend. In collaboration with the upcoming Castlemaine Farmers Market - Weekly, members will also be able to collect their box of fruit from the market, every Wednesday 3.30 – 6.30 pm. The orchard will continue its existing delivery hubs between Bendigo and Melbourne, including the Coburg Farmers Market.

CSA is mutually beneficial and is often associated with agroecology, or 'regenerative agriculture'. The farmer receives a guaranteed market, and the member gains the ability to participate in their food system. Through transparency and direct communication, CSA farmers are held accountable to their members and must farm in alignment with community expectations. This has



massive implications for environmental sustainability.

"Creating supportive networks around small-scale agroecology is crucial in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss", said Ant. "Regenerative agriculture is a double-edged sword when it comes to halting the Anthropocene".

The sign-up process for Tellurian Fruit Gardens CSA, at tfgardens.com.au, is open until mid-November or until sold. The Harcourt-based orchard will deliver certified organic fruit to several regional and metro locations every week between December and April. Other members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op will also be selling vegetables and dairy through CSA.

MORE INFO:

Ant Wilson, 0457 140 001,
hello@tfgardens.com.au



For all your banking needs
Maldon & District
Community Bank® Branch
 **Bendigo Bank**
03 5475 1747
[#weareyourcommunitybank](https://www.bendigobank.com.au)

 **EVERETT**
Plumbing & Gas
• Residential • Industrial • Commercial
Ryan Everett
0419 875 664
ryaneverett@bigpond.com
Licence no: 47827



Weather and Water

Recent rains have been a welcome relief, with 18.5 mm received in November so far. The garden here at home has responded with alacrity. The newly planted lettuces have tripled in size after the rain – I was surprised to see the growth spurt.

Local orchards are spraying regularly for thinning and codling moth. Netting will have to go on soon as there has been some hail, and no doubt as the country dries out, the birds which

normally feed on nectar up north will flock here to attack the fruit crops.

The figures below are from our home rain gauge and I would expect some variances with other local tallies – but I think the trend of the last three years is showing clearly after a wet year in 2016. These figures are as far back as my reliable records go. I stopped checking rainfall for a few years after the ‘ten year’ drought broke, as it was adequate for our purposes at the time.

Cumulative Totals	August mm	September mm	October mm
2019	289	309	311.5
2018	341.5	350	376.5
2017	395.5	426	457
2016	527	723.5	846.5
2015	294.5	317.5	335
2014	339.5	385.5	408.5

**If any reader has reliable rain fall records for Harcourt pre-2014 and would like to share them, we would be grateful.

Storage	Capacity at full supply megalitres	Current volume megalitres	Current volume % full	Volume same time last year megalitres	Volume same time last year % full
Upper Coliban	37,770	36,625	97.0%	37,572	99.5%
Lauriston	19,790	18,540	93.7%	18,690	94.4%
Malmsbury	12,034	8,461	70.3%	2,673	22.2%
TOTAL	69,594	63,626	91.4%	58,935	84.7%

Data from: <https://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels> – November 5, 2019



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



SJK EXCAVATIONS
Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks

Stuart King
Owner/Operator
sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au

0407 514 797

ABN: 63708909386

Training Ground for a Killer (Part 2)

Robyn Miller

Simpson and Day in their *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (1993) indicate that Brown Goshawks inhabit the entire continent (page 70). But I had never seen one before; suddenly we had three! Every day when I went outside I would check for them; I could tell they were about because the garden remained still and quiet, but I often couldn't find them unless they were calling.

Then one day I realised the parents were gone. While they had stayed with their young one, I had no idea whether they had made any kills. I presumed they had, as they are known for their stealth and I wasn't often outside except in the cooler hours of the day, so I was never witness to a kill.

However, the youngster was becoming bold. I believe it was a female; they are larger than the male. One day as I was checking the netted fruit trees, I felt a presence and turned. There on the next tree she was perched, looking about her. I could see her juvenile brown eyes (the adults have clear yellow eyes) as she watched me; at first she did not seem concerned. I had been decrying the lack of birds but now I was so close to this primal being that I could see every feather and could appreciate the beauty of her barred chest, her fluffy caramel striped leg feathers, the alarming black talons and black beak. She flew to another nearby tree perhaps sensing I was fascinated and may come closer.

We didn't name this bird, it was beyond naming; it inhabited our property, but remained aloof and separate. Traditionally the goshawk is one of the birds trained in falconry in the Northern Hemisphere. Helen Macdonald is a falconer who wrote the story *H is for Hawk* (2014). She trained a goshawk as part of the process of coming to terms with her father's death. In the introduction to an interview with Helen by Simon Worrall (2015), the goshawk is described as "the

wildest and most temperamental of the hawk family". Helen named her hawk Mabel which means loveable or dear. The irony of this is obvious, and seems a little ridiculous out of the context of the book. What Helen Macdonald achieved seemed almost impossible when I considered the wildness of the creature which had chosen our land as its domain.



Our goshawk stayed, moving around the garden, landing silently then flying off into the pines. I grew to know where she might be and looked for her, wondering how long she might stay. I contemplated that our garden may become this bird's home range, and we might never again hear the variety of bird songs which we had become accustomed to. We have two large dogs, but the bird was not deterred in the least by them. In fact, I think they did not even know they were sharing the garden with her, such was her secretiveness.

I became concerned as to how she was surviving. I had not seen her make a kill; I thought she might be starving. Goshawks

kill small birds, rabbits, domestic fowls and sometimes magpies and kookaburras.

About three weeks had passed; the garden was silent – slowly I had become to accept this as normal. I stepped outside one afternoon and there was the goshawk on the ground with a kill. The bird she had felled was so big she couldn't fly with it. She hopped with it in her talons.

She was making her way up our driveway along the side of the wood pile. I hastily grabbed my camera from inside the house and went into the garden and took up a position opposite her at some distance. She knew I was there and stood on top of the kill, digging her talons into it. (Figure 1) The best photo caught her with the classic glare of the goshawk. Her shoulders were hunched; the light was low and the flash of the camera glowed in her eyes. I felt the raw rage of the bird because she thought I was a threat to her food. The look she gave me said, "You're next!" (Photo)

Then, within a day or two she was gone, birds came out of hiding or returned to the garden, and as far as I know she has not returned.

2016 has been a very wet year; the garden is alive with birds and their songs. As summer approaches, I have started to think about the goshawks again and I wonder: will the parents bring another fledgling to this perfect training ground for a killer?

References:

Macdonald, Helen, 2014, *H is for Hawk*, Jonathan Cape, London EPub Version 1.0.

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

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

Wheel Cactus Annual General Meeting in Maldon

The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group (aka Cactus Warriors) will hold its Annual General Meeting at 11 am on Sunday 24 November in the Band Hall at the Maldon Community Centre.

A talk from guest speaker Bec James, Secretary of the Weed Society and member of the North Central Catchment Management Authority will follow, and lunch will be provided afterwards. All welcome.

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

Time to Thin Fruit Trees

Growing Great Fruit in Harcourt

Now that flowering is pretty much done, it's time to think about thinning your fruit. Thinning is the process of pulling some of the tiny fruit off, and it's one of the most important jobs in spring for all deciduous fruit types except cherries (i.e. thin apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears).

Home gardeners are often reluctant to thin their fruit, because it feels kind of wasteful to be throwing all that fruit on the ground, but rest assured, if you do it nice and early you won't reduce the overall size of your harvest (or not much anyway) – that is you'll get almost the same volume of fruit, but in less pieces.

There are four good reasons to thin:

1. Most fruit trees have a natural biennial bearing cycle – a heavy crop one year, followed by a light crop the following year (sound familiar?). Thinning kind of 'tricks' the tree into thinking this is its 'off' year, so it will set another full crop next year. Once you understand that, it's obvious why you have to do it every year!
2. To protect the structure of your tree.
3. To grow larger fruit, because the tree's energy is put into fewer pieces of fruit (you get more delicious juicy flesh and less core)!
4. It helps control pests and diseases by allowing the fruit to dry faster after rain (so fungal disease has less opportunity to spread), and removing habitat for pests in the lovely dark spaces where fruit hangs in bunches.

In deciding how much fruit to remove, first assess whether the tree has a heavy, medium or light crop – the heavier the crop, the more fruit you have to remove to get the results you want.

There are a lot of other factors to take into consideration like the age of the tree (leave less fruit on young trees and none until they're out of the establishment pruning phase), how healthy the tree is, how much water you have, how long the growing season is and the ultimate size of the fruit, but as a (very rough) rule break up all the bunches and leave fruit hanging in single pieces.

In our current climate of being very fruit fly aware, if the fruit is quite advanced in size when you're thinning it's safest to gather all the fruit you're pulling off the tree and solarise it in black garbage bags before it goes into the compost, however if the fruit is still very small (as it should be if you manage to get your thinning done nice and early), then it's fine to drop it to the ground where it will quickly shrivel up without posing a fruit fly risk.

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists, are members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op and teach organic home fruit growing. They offer a free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and a free online workshop called 'The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit' – sign up at growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing. They also offer more than 50 online short courses and the year-long Grow Great Fruit Home-study Program – visit growgreatfruit.com for details.

Fruit Fly Workshops

Sessions will be held in Harcourt in early 2020.

Newstead fruit fly workshop

When: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm, Thursday 28 November

Where: Newstead Community Centre

Maldon fruit fly workshop

When: 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, Thursday 28 November

Where: Maldon Community Centre

Castlemaine fruit fly workshop

When: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, Friday 29 November

Where: Town Hall, Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.



ASQ Plant of the Month

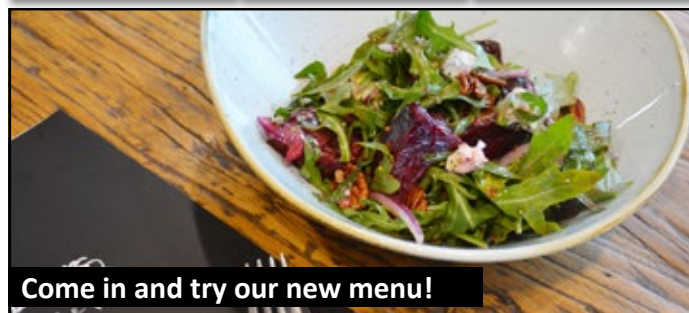
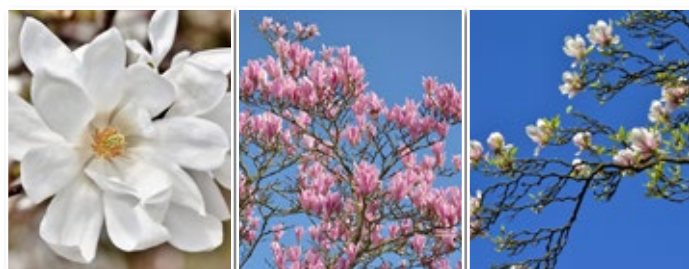
Magnolia

It's always such a joy to see gardens return to their former glory come spring, and one plant that delivers that joy in great abundance is the Magnolia.

With approximately 210 flowering plants in the Magnolia family, there is sure to be a colour, shape and size that suits your garden and personality.

From evergreens with glossy green foliage and fragrant white blooms through to deciduous varieties which display pink blooms on bare branches, choosing one type of Magnolia is near impossible.

Visit ASQ Skydancers this November and see our range of Magnolias. From Teddy Bear to Little Gem, Vulcan through to Black Tulip, you are sure to find one that you love.



Come in and try our new menu!



www.asq.net.au
a Cnr Blackjack Rd & Midland Hwy, Harcourt
p 03 5474 3800 | e skydancers@asq.net.au

Slashing program underway

Council's roadside slashing program is now underway with our Works Unit cutting grass along the sides of sealed rural roads. The program helps to prepare the shire for the Fire Danger Period and increase visibility for motorists. Find a map of the included roads at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FirePrevention. Works will be finished by mid-December.

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. We encourage you to use this opportunity to prepare your home and property 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 include rubbish or declared noxious weeds. Conditions apply.

Fruit fly workshops

Council is hosting fruit fly information workshops for gardeners, backyard fruit and vegetable growers, schools, small scale farms and horticultural enterprises. The sessions will be held in Maldon, Newstead and Castlemaine in late November. Harcourt Valley Landcare Group will host a session in Harcourt in February. The workshops will cover fruit fly identification, traps, what to do if there is an outbreak and more. Guest speakers will share first-hand experience of the impact of fruit fly. Further details will be available in early November at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly. The free workshops are funded by Agriculture Victoria.

Join Council meetings

- 6.30pm, Tuesday 19 November at the Civic Centre
- 6.30pm, Tuesday 17 December at the Civic Centre.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Meetings are broadcast live to YouTube. Search Mount Alexander Shire Council.

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



Genevieve Ward

Career Coach
Job Search Strategist

0409 070 930
gen@thegoodlifecareers.com.au

PO Box 121
Castlemaine Vic 3450

Level Heading

Proofreading • Copy Editing • Book Layout

memoirs, family history, oral history
novels, short stories, anthologies, e-books
negotiable prices

Bernie Schultz
p: 03 5472 3952
m: 0409 52 43 54

e: bernsch@gmail.com
w: levelheading.com.au

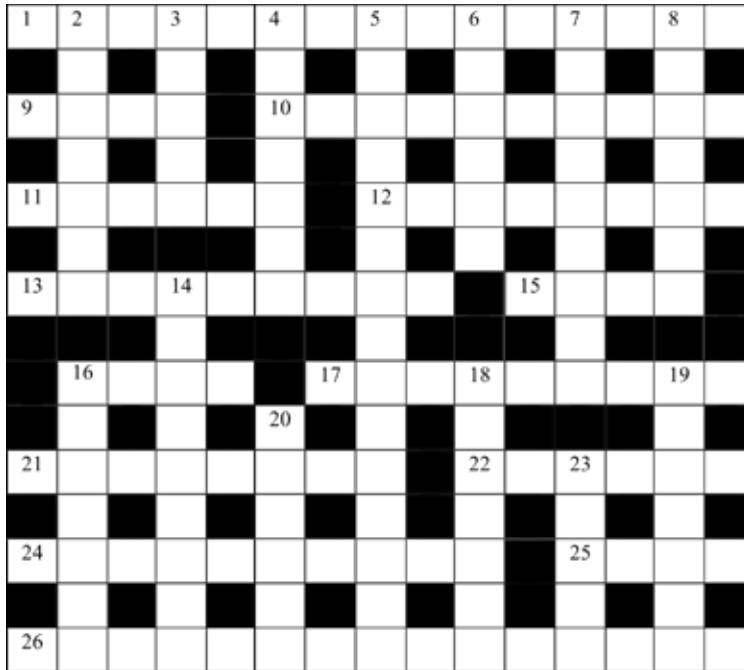
These Businesses Support The Core



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



November Xword 2019 © McW August '17



Down:

2. Heavy task is a sour one. (7)
3. A set of them in a folding ladder, and a dozen of them for drying sots. (5)
4. Saint texts you and himself in Africa, messily. (7)
5. Dawn goddess who kidnapped handsome men in Melbourne, Hobart, Perth, etc.? (6,9)
6. News boss tardily interrupted, but over the moon. (6)
7. People with hooks visit once for these turnouts. (9)
8. Could dress Cummings when he flares angrily. (4,3)
14. Oddly, as Pop dealt, learn it—be the one to take it to higher court! (9)
16. Solo sailor might dive for this. (7)
18. Go round Asia as organ fails to develop. (7)
19. Yellow cloth makes for an avid grandparent... (7)
20. A cheap way to put down some red. (6)
23. At heart, would it fumigate army uniform to be back in civvies? (5)

Across:

- 1 and 9. "Heroes meet nakedness" might mean something on Mars, but not on earth... (6,4,5,4)
9. (See 1)
10. The rant varies with different yarns. (10)
11. Contains dwellings? (6)
12. The one who resents comes back in and opens things up again. (2-6)
13. I'm bald as a modern planned city! (9)
15. PR version of Telstra swamp? (4)
16. Goes round mountains. (4)
17. Two donkeys in south are out to kill. (9)
21. Poll rage these days is like a stretched-out horse! (8)
22. Start on foot, drive for a day here. (2,4)
24. With present government regulations, it's a loser's call to put these up. (5,5)
25. Antony used aircraft to swap to belief. (4)
26. Art hesitates, now, to record wind, rain and the rest of it... (7,7)

October Xword 2019 solution © McW September '17



Down:

2. Wheelchair-bound, [it doesn't matter if both his premises and his conclusion are true—THE VALIDITY DEPENDS ON THE CORRECT FORM OF THE ARGUMENT].
3. Opera not quite [Norman] Bates? (5)
4. Unfathomable Grampians flower nuisance? [Well?]
5. Explosive human groupings. [Well?]
6. [I smile] when I make a metaphor like. (6)
7. Can [able] prevent [avert]: can be reversed!? (9)
8. Cave-dwelling Greek god—a bit of a loner... [Well?]
14. How to solve problems after, friend [ally].
16. [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)
19. How to get a witty remark out of a porker in a backward horse [mar...e]? (7)
20. To mark lamb is only part of the story [esp. for the boy lambs...!]? (6 or 2-4???)
23. A [right stink] on the fork? (5)

Across:

1. Not often got there [delivered] by OzPost, but inked and waxed, at least... (6,3,6)
9. I assert [a very] intermediate position. (4)
10. New Anno Domini [C.E.] backs into what our days should be, and we're saddled with it!
11. A hundred years of time off to render it asunder. [C + leave]
12. Early flint age without [a friend... [not the Palaeolithic...]]
13. Iconoclasts might find their procrastination offensive! (9)
15. Can do—don't put off 7dn? [Well?]
16. When you're emotionally down [pit], you expect me to show this? (4)
17. What tellers have been, these days? [Well?]
21. MP tosses the [die, rails] against the anti-Empress interests. (8)
22. Short doze with rels helps to get [stuff...] off your face? [Well?]
24. Stacking everything on the right [off-side] to get rid of it? (3-7)
25. Blood [gore] spilt by man-eater. (4)
26. [Loyal pigs manage] misery... (4,1,6,4)

Community Diary Dates

Sunday 10th November: 10 am–2 pm Open Day at the Fire Station, CFA Harcourt 75th Anniversary (see page 10).

Monday 11th November: 7.30 pm Applefest Meeting, ANA Hall.

Thursday 14th November: 7.30 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall.

Saturday 16th November: Deadline for return of Petition to reopen Harcourt Train Station, return to the ANA Hall.

Saturday 23rd September: Twilight Market, James Park, 4–8 pm.

Sunday 24th November: 10 am–12 pm; Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee. Details: 0467 670 271

Wednesday 27th November: Deadline for return of Applefest Royalty Nominations, return to ANA Hall.

Thursday 5th December: Mount Alexander Shire Business Awards. The finalists and winners in each category will be announced at this gala event.

Apology 1

Some readers of the print edition of the Core may have noticed an error in the last edition. Someone, not mentioning any names, forgot to change the date and the issue number. By the time the error was found, a large portion of the printing had been done.

It's surprising that with four pairs of eyes looking at several drafts over a period of a week and a half, none of the eyes spotted the error, which, when seen, can't be unseen.

The Core team apologises. System changes have been put in place to minimise the chances that this will happen again.

Bookings can be made at bit.ly/MtAlexBoxOffice

Saturday 7th December: Harcourt Swimming Pool opens.

Sunday 15th December: 7.00 to 8.30 pm, Christmas Carols with Thompsons Foundry Band, James Park.

Saturday 21st December: Twilight Market, James Park, 4–8 pm.

Bowling Club Dates: See page 12.

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

Heritage Centre: Open every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9 am–3 pm or by appointment. Call : 0400 916 527.

Pony Club: Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30 am–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.

Apology 2

There was a factual error in a caption on page 3 of the October edition. The error related to the photo of the Parliament buildings. These were in fact the Parliament buildings in Ottawa, not Toronto. Put it down to jet lag. Ed



Maree Edwards MP

State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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

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



The Harcourt News/The Core is Published by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc.

For inclusion in Harcourt News/The Core contact the Editor Robyn Miller 0467 670 271 or email: news@harcourt.vic.au. Contributions of news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs. For placement of advertising please contact Genevieve Ward via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au or phone 0409 070 930. Circulation is currently 450 and copies can be obtained at the Harcourt General Store, The Harcourt Post Office, the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Valley Primary School, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple and in Castlemaine: Run Rabbit Run, Castlemaine Library, Castlemaine Hospital and Castlemaine Visitors' Centre plus a number of other sites.

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

HARCOURT TWILIGHT MARKET

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

November 23, December 21 2019
January 25, February 22 2020



This event was funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services

CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



SCENES FROM
THE OCTOBER
MARKET





Harcourt Applefest

Royalty Nomination Form 2020

The Harcourt Applefest is an annual community celebration marking the start of the local apple harvest. It is held during the long weekend in March and attracts visitors from throughout the state. The event has been running for 27 years and is renowned for its blend of old and new, combining long held traditions with contemporary events and celebrations. The Applefest Royalty, represented by Lady Jonathan and King William, is a greatly loved tradition and plays a pivotal and fun role in promoting the event and welcoming visitors. Each year the Applefest Royals are chosen for their willingness to:

- Act as ambassadors for the Applefest, both representing and promoting Applefest.
- Attend a Harcourt Twilight Market and the Castlemaine Farmers Market on the first Sunday in March (1st March, 2020) to hand out apples and promotional material.
- Be available for media quotes, photographs and interviews organised by the Applefest Media team.
- Participate in the official openings of the Harcourt Art Show and the Harcourt Applefest and to be on hand throughout the Saturday activities.

Please enter your contact details here

Full Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Are you self-nominating, nominating someone else, or nominating as a pair?

- Self-nominating ☐
- Nominating someone else ☐
- Nominating as a pair ☐



If you are nominating another person, please add their role and contact details below

Lady Jonathan

King William

Email Address

Phone Number

If you are nominating a pair, please add the contact details of the second person and the role nominating for here

Lady Jonathan

King William

Email Address

Phone Number

Why would you or your nominees like to represent the Applefest as Royalty?

Thank you for your interest and nominating as Applefest Royalty. Please feel free to make any closing remarks if you wish.

Nomination forms should be returned at the latest by Wednesday 27th November 2019 to the ANA Hall, or they can be handed in on 23rd November at the Harcourt Twilight Market. Applefest Royalty will be appointed and officially acknowledged at the Harcourt Christmas Market on Saturday 21st December. Enquiries to George Milford: 0400 916 527.

