

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

December 2019

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 67

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourt.vic.au/news



Harcourt Businesses SHINE at Mount Alexander Business Awards



Congratulations to Harcourt businesses which were well represented at the Mount Alexander Awards on Thursday 5th December.

- The Agri Business Award was won by Gung Ho Growers from the Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative. The sponsor of this award was Business Mount Alexander.
- Gen Ward who has been the Advertising Coordinator for The Core for five years was a finalist in the Micro-Business category for her business, The Good Life Careers. The sponsor of this award was Workspace Australia.
- Cass Ewing of Harcourt with her business Circle Works was part of the winning team of Storyland in the Creative Industries section. Storyland is made up of 8 individual businesses which collaborate to become one entity. The team uses its combined skills to assist businesses to tell their story effectively. The sponsor of this award was Maldon Inc.
- The Tourism and Events category was won by Tread. Paula Ewing and Andy Bos were thrilled with their win, having started their cycling support business and accommodation in Harcourt only a few years ago. The sponsor of this award was Midland Express/Castlemaine Mail.
- The Little Red Apple was a finalist in the Retail and Hospitality award. The sponsor of this award was Maldon & District Community Bank
- Last, but not least, ASQ Skydancers at Barkers Creek carried off the Accessibility Award. The sponsor of this award was Mount Alexander Shire Disability Advocacy Group (MASDAG)
- The Business of the Year was Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware.
- Major sponsors were Mount Alexander Shire and Midland Express/Castlemaine Mail.

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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.**



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
the voice of the community

MEMBER 2019

Petition handed to Maree Edwards, MP



At the November Twilight Market, Michael Henry, Deputy Chair of Harcourt Progress Association presented Maree Edwards with a petition containing 540 signatures supporting the re-establishment of the Harcourt railway station so that passenger trains can stop. Michael said, "When a town of around 900 people delivers a petition with over 540 signatures, I think we can say 'Harcourt would like our train service back!' There's been broad and consistent support for this over the years and we'd especially like to thank Maree Edwards for her help in keeping this on the Victorian Government radar." The petition was to be presented to the Victorian Parliament in the last sitting week of 2019. "But," Michael said, "this is only the first step; we plan to follow up by collecting even more signatures!"

In addition Michael then handed over the **Shine Harcourt Report**. He said, "I am very honoured to be a partner in the Shine Harcourt project, where I was witness to an amazing innovative process whereby Hello City, supported by MASC, listened very closely to the Harcourt Community, then took that multitude of suggestions and ideas and wove them into a meaningful piece of work that encapsulates the wishes and aspirations of our community very well."

"Shine Harcourt provides a foundation that lets us work with MASC to translate our ambitions in positive changes for our town, based on the qualities we value as a community. It allows us to craft a path towards a sustainable future, economically, environmentally and socially. There were consistently strong themes which came out during the process: our strong commitment to recognising and honouring Harcourt's living indigenous culture, and a strong desire for everyone to work in a harmonious and collaborative fashion that benefits Harcourt as a whole."

Michael concluded by thanking Maree Edwards for her support; the State Government for funding the project; Mount Alexander Shire with a special mention of David Leatham, (Manager Economy & Culture), Eva Parkin, (Economic Development Officer) and their teams; the consultants, Hello City who listened to the community's input and finally, "the members of the Harcourt community themselves, who turned up in numbers to drive this process enthusiastically with all their ideas and thoughts on what Harcourt should look like, feel like and grow into."



Harcourt Progress Association

This month we have quite a few things to report. Firstly, I'm sure I speak on behalf of all HPA members when I say that we are very sad to bid Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns farewell from the HPA Steering Committee. After seven years of dynamo activity she has decided to step down from official duties with HPA. For those of us who have enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Twilight Market, Twilight on the Green and many, many, other events we can thank Jacqueline for her energy and expertise in event planning. She was also instrumental in the Harcourt Roundabout refurbish, the upcoming play space and getting us to stage one with the Railway Station. We will miss her energy, commitment to the town and her skill in getting funding for Harcourt projects. Thank you, Jacqueline, and best of luck with next year's ventures.

In a month of change for the HPA committee we also accepted the resignation of Glynn Jarret and elected Michael Henry as Deputy Chair. We also elected Pauline Wilkinson as Treasurer; all other positions remain the same.

This month the HPA Committee was also pleased to support the Blume's Bakery planning application which had both support and objections from local residents and businesses. We understand from Council that the application has now been amended and whilst HPA does not have to submit an additional letter of support, in the spirit of Shine Harcourt, we wish Jodie and David every success in gaining a planning permit.

The Harcourt Roundabout has been causing much comment this month, but thanks to Regional Roads Victoria, the maintenance of the roundabout is at least in hand. Stephen Curwood of RRV told us that the roundabout is about three quarters of an acre, which is quite daunting when you are standing out there with a hand trowel and surrounded by weeds. Stephen organised a works crew from the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation to cut and spray the weeds. However, keeping it tidy is an ongoing challenge and we hope that over the next few weeks a plan of action will be agreed upon between MASC and RRV to keep the weeds under control. Volunteers can then focus on weeding and watering around the plants and picking up the rubbish. Several community organisations (thank you VMR and Lions Club) have offered to help with the weeding and watering so, hopefully, we won't get to witness such a profusion of weeds ever again.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank Karen Mierisch who stepped down as HPA Treasurer after stepping up to help us get the HPA financial reporting in order when she had more than enough to do with VMR. Thanks again Karen, your help was so appreciated.

Sha Cordingley, Chair HPA.

Plan Harcourt Important Dates

Make sure your voice is heard!

Drop in session:

Wednesday 11 December 4.00 pm to 7.30 pm ANA Hall

Final date for submissions: January 6, 2020

Draft plan and fact sheets:

www.mountalexander.vic.go.au/PlanHarcourt

Contact MASC Strategic Planning Team: 5471 1700

Applefest 2020

Get involved: Entry forms now on website — applefest.harcourt.vic.au

Do you have that little extra 'something'?

The momentum created by the popular Harcourt Twilight Markets is rolling along as planning for the next Applefest is getting underway.

In what will be a 'bigger and better' event the Applefest committee expects to host over 70 stalls of food, beverage, fresh produce, boutique arts, plants, jewellery and artisan crafts to make the Applefest Market a major attraction.

Everyone who is interested in having a stall at Harcourt Applefest is invited to fill in the **Stallholder Application form** (available on the Applefest website) and email it back

Entry forms (and the rules) for the **Baking Competition** are also to be found on the Applefest website. Test your baking alongside the region's best in the Applefest Baking Competition. Apple Pie gets the headlines, but there are also categories for best Apple Cake and Apple Muffins too. Get your form in early but don't bring the baked goods along till 7th March 2020.

The Harcourt Applefest Art Show is always a highlight. Regional artists submit 'smaller' 40 X 40 cm works for sale in the hope of winning awards along the way. As with other aspects of the festival, an entry form is to be found on the Applefest website. The form, with related fees, must be received by Friday 21 February 2020. (Completed works must be delivered to ANA Hall, Harcourt at a later date: Monday 2 March. Please make sure the paint is dry and that the works are suitably wired for hanging.)

Harcourt Applefest is in search of 2020 royalty! Nominations are now open for the roles of Harcourt Applefest Royalty and the form is available on the Harcourt Applefest website. Royalty includes the headline royal couple, plus the supporting role of Granny Smith.

Applefest Royals serve as event ambassadors. They represent, celebrate and promote Applefest, connecting

with the broader Mount Alexander Shire community to spread the word about Harcourt and the Applefest. They are important symbols of our premier annual celebration.

The committee is looking for people who would be comfortable representing Applefest at community events scheduled in the months running up to Applefest. They'll get dressed up and play the part at the Harcourt Twilight Market and the Castlemaine Farmers Market. And of course, Royalty and Granny Smith will need to be available and participate in Applefest itself, Saturday 7 March 2020.

Former kings, queens and granny's agree: It's a great way to get to know people and to represent your town. If you know the right royal couple or a zesty Granny Smith, nominate them right away! Self-nominations are also welcome: you can nominate yourself as an individual, or with a friend/partner as a pair. Whether for yourself or others, you'll need to fill out a nomination form:

Applefest is made great by community volunteers. Lots of behind the scenes tasks are needed. Some people go from start to finish, but most give a couple of hours when it's needed most. For 2020, folks are needed both on the day and in the lead up.

In this context, all local community groups have been to a **Stakeholder Launch** meeting on MONDAY 9th DECEMBER, 2019 to sort out what each group can do.

There are some simple tasks that volunteers can help with, such as;

- (a) Set up and pull down.
- (b) Distribution of marketing materials e.g. Postcards, posters, brochures.
- (c) Simple tasks a volunteer can provide on the day e.g. collect money at the gates and help with Wash trailer.

Changes to the funding arrangements have made the committee responsible

for Traffic Management. The committee would love to hear from someone in the district who is qualified to do traffic management. Supervision of the Market Street crossing between the southern and northern sections of Stanley Park is the hot-button issue.

Of course the big gig is what goes on at Centre Stage. **The Applefest committee is seeking Expressions of Interest from performers to play at Applefest 2020.** The day attracts over 4000 people from around the region and our program of live music helps create a vibrant atmosphere. We want lively music that will enhance that festive feel. The program aims for a diverse selection of styles. Previously, we've showcased country folk, jazz, ska, rock, Cuban rhythms and diva tributes.

Acts are engaged for 30 to 45 minute sets between 11 am and 4 pm. A full PA with mics, stands, DJs and an operator are provided.

Submissions by musicians, via the Applefest website, close on 31 December 2019. Successful performers will be confirmed by 12 January 2020

Harcourt's Applefest has evolved into a great day, attracting thousands of people. Please don't be shy about offering a hand to the committee. The basics are all in place; the legal stuff and the insurance and the emergency planning are all in place. The old hands that are on the committee have seen to all the tedious details. Harcourt has done it all before!

What we need, each year, is that sensational extra 'something' that will give life to the day and make the event truly show off our community as the region's lively go-ahead place. If you have some ideas about how the Applefest can be run, or be made better, or how the event can respond to today's audiences, please step forward. Only by the involvement of community members with great ideas will we be able to say at the end of Saturday 7th March 2020 "That was the best ever!"



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.



VMR – the Station on the Hill



The photo shows VMR members and the nearly completed station building on 10th November, 2019. Left to right: Tom, Colin, Andrew, Kevin, Neil, Paul, Mike and Damon.

Members of VMR have worked tirelessly during the week and weekends to see this part of the miniature railway project completed. They have been assisted by students from Castlemaine Secondary College who have been in the VCAL and Flow programs at the school. Students have gained industry experience and qualifications during this ambitious project which was the popular choice for Pick my Project funding.

On 9th December, VMR, Lions, and all associated with the construction of the station will celebrate the finalisation of the Pick my Project Grant which has enabled the construction of the miniature version of the Maryborough (Victoria) Railway Station.

Andrew Mierisch, President said, "This will be the only complete miniature railway station in Australia. Usually patrons walk through a station "front" (like a movie set) to access the tracks. We will have all the facilities under cover including rest rooms and seating."

Remembrance Day

Before the Remembrance Day service, the Harcourt Pre-School children walked to the cenotaph in Stanley Park to lay a wreath. Shown here: Ann Ferguson [teacher] and Tanya McKimmie [co-educator] and the students with their wreath of callistemon flowers.

The small crowd which attended Remembrance Day was a pool of respect and silence in the midst of the morning's hustle and bustle in Harcourt. Andrew Henderson and his family have a tradition of recognising Remembrance Day on November 11 each year. Andrew kindly provides an order of service and the sound equipment with the necessary recordings. This year about a dozen people attended. Wreaths were laid and the service containing the bugle calls – the Last Post and the Rouse, the One Minute's Silence, the Ode of Remembrance and the Australian and New Zealand national anthems – was carried out.



Book your festive get together at the Harcourt Produce and General Store

Share a delicious meal with loved ones
and friends!

If you'd prefer to eat at home, order from our
menu of house-smoked salmon, chicken or ham.

Place orders at
info@harcourtproduce.com

We also have local beer, wine and cider,
and a fantastic range of gift ideas to suit everyone.

Open every day from 8am to 8pm.

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's day.

Australia's Baking Guru Joins Blume's Bakery

John Downes first published the landmark Natural Tucker Bread Book in 1983, which sparked the rediscovery and re-establishment of sourdough baking in Australia. He is excited to be sharing his experience and skills with Harcourt's own baker, Jodie Pillinger.

As many in Harcourt will know, Jodie and her husband David have re-established Blume's bakery beginning with a full restoration of the wood fired scotch oven and bakery area. The range of products now being produced is due to John's willingness to share his knowledge and recipes with Jodie. His eyes sparkled as he told The Core, "I would rot away if I wasn't baking bread!"

For someone who is passionate about artisan bread, John has a long history in the culinary arts including training under Japanese chefs in Australia and Boston. He has worked in soy dairies, a winery and with an organic flour supplier in England. He was also head of baking at Daylesford Organic in England. He has worked all round Australia and was once Bob Hawkes chef, but began his sourdough pilgrimage in 1979 at Feedwell Foundry in Prahran, where he discovered his first scotch oven. John then found and rebuilt a number of wood fired ovens in Australia and established bakeries using his baking and business knowledge. One of the original bakeries, Natural Tucker in Carlton, is still in business and still following the same ethos of bread produced without any artificial ingredients. "Flour, water and salt is all that is needed; the leaven or starter is simply a combination of flour, water and wild yeast and bacteria which can live for years", he said.

Jodie and John met at the Australian Grains Conference this year and John was inspired to make a move from Adelaide



Artisan baking in Harcourt gets a boost. John Downes has joined the Blume's Bakery team headed by Jodie Pillinger.

to Central Victoria. They are now working to produce the traditional Australian bread known as Barm. This is the bread that disappeared in Australia in the late 1950s, as the "sliced white loaf" in plastic bags was introduced by large commercial bakeries. These huge companies proceeded to buy up the then out of fashion bakeries, and "decommission" (read destroy) many of the scotch ovens. The traditional bakery in Australia was effectively wiped out until, as John says, "the 'hippie' (counter culture) era began and old style crafts began to be respected again. Barm bread is much more difficult to make, it's far more complicated than sourdough."

Other products now added to the Blume's bakery range include: Irish Brack (a delicious fruit bread), saffron buns, and a 100% wholemeal Bush Block. A new sourdough Turkish bread was being prepared for the midweek Farmers Market when the Core called by, and Jodie is developing an Orange and Date cake. Jodie attended the recent launch of Bendigo as a United Nations City of Gastronomy. Jodie said, "As I looked around the room, I could see so many exciting things happening in food all around the region and I could see that we are part of a significant development in artisan regional food."

Jodie and David were excited to announce that their son David, would be commencing a baking apprenticeship within the month under John's supervision. Bendigo TAFE is providing the on-the-job training and is planning to build a bakery at its hospitality centre in Bendigo. John said, "I am delighted to be able to pass on my knowledge and skills to a young person who shares a deep interest in the art of bread making."

Harcourt Pool Opens 7th December!

Lap swimming
VicSwim

Aqua aerobics
Pool parties

VicSwim bookings are now open, see:
VicSwim.com.au

The pool season runs until the end of the
 Labour Day long weekend in March 2020.

For more information see:
www.facebook.com/mountalexanderpools
 or
www.mountalexanderpools.com.au/harcourt-swimming-pool

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Harcourt Lions Celebrate Achievements for 2019

What a busy year it has been for the Lions Club! The 16 members of our Club have contributed over 1,200 hours of Community Service in 2019. The members assisted with setting up marquees, BBQs, supervising VCAL students, phone book deliveries, administering the Pick My Project funding for the VMR Station build, as well as many more activities throughout the year. The Club received recognition for its Youth Engagement Program from the Minister for Education this year. The Lions Club District Governor also recognised the Harcourt Lions Club for all the efforts made to promote the importance of Community Service and Youth Engagement.

Now we are working on getting ready for Australia Day celebrations in 2020 and we are now calling for Community Service and Youth of the Year nominations for Australia Day on the 27th January 2020. Please refer to the flyer and nomination form in this edition of the Core.

Progress at VMR

The Harcourt & District Lions Club and Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR) wish to confirm that the Miniature Railway Station building will be completed to lock up stage in December 2019.

The volunteers from VMR and the students from the Castlemaine Secondary College have been working hard to

complete the station building before the end of the year. It is an impressive building with a large underground storage area for the carriages and a 14 metre high clock tower. Visitors will walk up the steps and through two sets of double doors at the front of the building to the ticketing booth and waiting area. They will then venture out onto one of the 80 metre long platforms to board their ride around the hilltop overlooking our beautiful town. It will be a truly wondrous experience.

The volunteers, tradies and students have encountered a significant amount of granite and inclement weather over the past six months. Consequently, they have focussed all their efforts on completing the station building. Once this milestone has been reached, they will then return to the task of completing the railway track to the station, the platforms and the carpark. Then they will be ready to open to the public.

Due to the ongoing construction works, VMR will be looking to schedule the opening of the railway to the public on a date in 2020. We are hoping that it will be around the Applefest weekend, but we will need to see how the other works progress early in the New Year. Thanks to everyone for their continued interest and support for the Lions Club and the VMR Project. We look forward to confirming the public opening of VMR with everyone as soon as we can!

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



AUSTRALIA DAY 2020 – COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Monday 27th January

8:00am–10:00am

Stanley Park Harcourt

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

followed by:

Australia Day Awards

Flag Raising Ceremony

Guest Speakers

Children's Activities

Free Local Entertainment

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

Harcourt Valley Vineyard
Victorian Miniature Railway
Harcourt Auto Wreckers

Harcourt Landcare Group
BP Service Station Harcourt
Goldfields Track Café

Hot & Crusty Country Bakery
Bendigo Property Plus
Little Red Apple Harcourt

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*The Harcourt Fruit
Fly Action Group
would like to gratefully
acknowledge that this
initiative is funded by
a \$500 grant from the
Maldon and District
Community Bank.*

Maldon and District Community Bank Funds Fruit Fly Trap Give-away

Free Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) traps were given away at the Castlemaine Farmers Weekly Market on Wednesday December 4.

The traps were made available by a \$500 grant from Maldon and District Community Bank to the Harcourt Valley Landcare Fruit Fly Action Group, and one trap per household was available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"With summer almost upon us, we're keen to get the community as 'fruit fly ready' as possible" Terry Willis, convener of the Fruit Fly Action Group said. "With this generous grant from the bank, we have been able to get at least 50 more traps out into the community, as well as raising community awareness of the importance of learning about this pest."

The traps are the Biotrap brand, which contain a special scent (called a pheromone) to attract male fruit flies. "We chose this brand because they're very specific to QFF, so you don't tend to get many non-target species in the trap" Terry continued.

"They're the perfect trap for this time of year to monitor whether you actually have any fruit flies. Then if you find one and get a positive identification on it, you can put the Fruit Fly Emergency Outbreak Plan into action."

The Fruit Fly Action Group recently launched the Emergency Outbreak Plan, which was funded by a grant by Agriculture Victoria. Mount Alexander Shire Council has also been very supportive in the development of the plan, and in running a series of fruit fly workshops around the shire. The Plan can be downloaded from Council's website: <https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly>.

Terry continued "The Council has some great resources on their website, including the 'Ernie the Fruit Fly' videos that were produced in partnership with Bendigo City Council and funded by a previous grant from Agriculture Victoria."



Katie Finlay of Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative and of Maldon & District Community Bank and Terry Willis of Harcourt Valley Landcare.

Members of the Fruit Fly Action Group were present at the market to provide information about how to effectively use the traps, and shared other resources such as the Outbreak Plan, links to useful websites, and brochures.

Castlemaine Farmers Market Weekly takes place in Castlemaine each Wednesday from 3.30pm to 6.30pm on the grass verge between the market building and the RSL.

More Information:

Terry Willis: 0403 898 866

Katie Finlay: 0409 706 784

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Christmas Cakes and Apple Pies Chatting with Harcourt CWA

We are nearing the end of another very enjoyable year at Harcourt, and we are all looking forward to spending time with family and friends during the festive season. Our two big fund-raising activities this year, our stall at Applefest and our Annual Concert, both did very well, allowing us to continue to make useful donations to many local charities and organisations. We all work hard to make these events a success, and it makes us very happy

when they are enjoyed by so many.

All CWA Branches have their fund-raising activities and Newstead Branch have an Oaks Day where ladies turn up in an assortment of beautiful hats. A fine luncheon is served and, although the champagne doesn't flow, a delicious fruit punch in champagne flutes fits the bill nicely. Four of our members, Dot Farley, Marie Twyford, Joy Robertson, and Judi Kent were all winners in their Oak Day hats.

Apple pies are not on everyone's lips right now. The supermarkets and bakeries are chock full of Christmas cakes and plum puddings and my favourite, mince pies. And this is as it should be because, after all, Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without them. But let's get back to apple pies, apple muffins and apple cakes because, come next year, this is what we want to see on display at the Fruit Growers Tent at Applefest on March 7th. Applefest just wouldn't be the same without them. More about the Apple Pie Baking Competition will be in the February edition of the *Core*.

Our Branch meeting held in January is a social occasion and is open to all who would like to come and join us. It's called Friendship Day and that's what it is all about – catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. The luncheon will be held at The Goldfields Track Cafe in Harcourt on January 16th at 12 noon. Bring your neighbour, bring your friend or just bring yourself, we look forward to meeting you. There is no need to RSVP.

And now, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us at Harcourt CWA to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA



Harcourt members did well in the Newstead Branch Oaks Day hat competition.

Radiant heat from bushfires can kill from 300m away. Being prepared for fire could save your life.

How well do you know fire?

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

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Harcourt Uniting Church

Are you one of those organised people who have everything prepared for Christmas already? Or are you (like me) thinking about it – I have at least made a Christmas cake and a pudding! Our son's birthday is the 11th December and when he was four, he said to me: "Mum, have you got something in your mind for my birthday?"

In the Christian Church, Christmas is a time to remember the birth of Jesus. Our minister, Rev Sarah, will not only lead us in celebrating the birth of Jesus, but will also be preparing for the birth of her first child early in 2020 – we are very excited for Sarah and her husband Alex. There are lots of offers to babysit!

Recently we held a special morning tea with all money raised donated to the Royal Flying Doctors Service. When we were in Broome earlier in the year, we watched many Flying Doctor planes leaving the airport to travel to the Outback. The RFDS provides Emergency care, including flying patients to hospital for more treatment, regular dental and mental health clinics at stations, along with Telehealth links, so the patient can talk with a doctor via a video link.

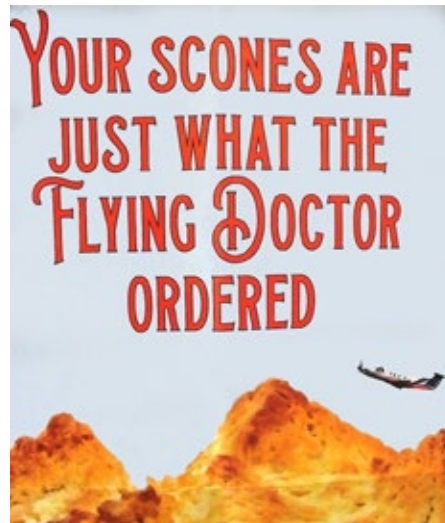
If you have crossed the Nullarbor, you would have seen areas along the highway with a sign showing where the Flying

Doctor plane would land on the road in an emergency. The poster provided to advertise our morning tea reads: "Your scones are just what the Flying Doctor ordered."

The Harcourt congregation was well represented at a Parish Dinner at the Castlemaine Uniting Church – a time to socialise with others in the Church over a meal. The best part was that it was catered for, so we didn't even have to provide food.

When our children were small they would often watch me preparing something special such as a sponge or pavlova and would ask: "Is this for us or is it going out?"

Alma Chaplin, who has been a



member of the Harcourt–Harcourt North congregations for *many* years, will be celebrating her 90th birthday early in December. "Happy birthday Alma" – she is an amazing lady.

Carols in Stanley Park Harcourt will be held on Sunday 15th December at 7pm, with the Foundry Band providing the music. BYO chair or rug – a gold coin donation will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. This is a very informal night for the whole family to enjoy and, as usual, George Milford will be our very capable MC. So come and join us

If by any chance it rains, we will move to the Uniting Church Hall in Buckley Street.

Two quotes for Christmas: "The manger – the 1st King size bed!"

"It's not the minutes spent at the Christmas table that put on the weight – it's the seconds!"

Jan Jenkin

On Dec 25th – Christmas Day Service will be held at Harcourt Uniting Church at 8.30am – everyone is most welcome.

Jan 26th Harcourt Congregation will join in the Interfaith Church Service at Newstead Uniting Church – no Service at Harcourt that day. At this Service different Faith groups speak about their particular faith, provide musical treats and help us realise that we can all share our faith with others.

HALLOWTIDE

Each year celebrations take place around the end of October and early November: Halloween with its 'trick or treat', the Melbourne Cup and Maldon Folk Festival, to name a few. Two Christian festivals, probably pagan in origin, are All Saints Day on 1 November, and All Souls Day on 2 or 3 November (never on a Sunday).

The day before All Saints is All Hallows Eve or Hallowe'en, 31 October. In olden times these three special days were called Hallowtide, and might have been regarded by the Celts as a 'thin time', a time when the veil between this world and the spiritual world becomes transparent. God is near. (I take poetic licence here because if the

Celts had *thin places*,* surely they had *thin times* too.)

At Harcourt Uniting Church an enjoyable concert was held on Sunday 27 October, a little early for Hallowe'en perhaps – that was the Trick – but an enjoyable Treat too. The program began with a baroque flute sonata by Marcello, accompanied by harpsichord and 'cello, followed by some Elizabethan tunes played by the Castlemaine Recorders, their sound reverberating gently in the granite church. Next, a young 'cello student played some of the pieces for her Fourth Grade exam, a salutary if daunting experience of playing to an audience.

The centrepiece of the program was a group of poems read by Rev Sarah Tomilson, two by Wislawa Szymborska, the first about lying awake in the night

(talk about a thin time!) then In Praise of Dreams, and Seamus Heaney's wonderings about St Kevin and the Blackbird. Did he even notice his paralysed arm holding the nest and eggs?

A recorder and lyre ensemble performed with delicacy – a beautiful sound – followed by a mesmerising solo on the lyre dedicated to the people of Aceh caught up in the tsunami of 2004.

The two final offerings, played on baroque flute and piano, were an old folk tune The Night Peece, and Eliza's Aria, a much-loved dance by Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin.

Afternoon Tea, catered for by Murnong Mummas and others, was served by members of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship. There was plenty of conversation and eating and drinking (of tea and coffee) – a successful conclusion to a very pleasant afternoon – which hopefully was the first of many.

Many thanks to all who helped make the concert happen, performers and audience included.

Solway Nutting

* *Thin places*: a Celtic Christian term for those rare locales where the distance between heaven and Earth collapses.





Brigade Celebrates 75 Years of Service

The weekend of the 9th and 10th of November saw the Harcourt Fire Brigade celebrate 75 years of service with a dinner and presentation evening held on the Saturday night at the Harcourt and District Leisure Centre, and an open day on the Sunday, as an opportunity for our community to celebrate with us.

The Saturday evening saw a total of 280 years of service recognised with the presentation of Long Service Awards.

This is quite an amazing figure when you consider it is just over 18 months since the last presentation of this type.

Recipients were:

5 years – Matthew Carpenter and Colleen Marchant,

10 years – Sharon Murdoch,

15 years – Lynda Wilson,

25 years – David Jenkin,

30 years – Raewyn Rice,

35 years – Peter Church,

45 years – Lt David Murdoch,

50 years – John Jenkin,

60 years – Peter Wilson.

The occasion was also the perfect opportunity to recognize special contributions made to the brigade and the CFA with presentation of Brigade Life Membership, CFA Life Membership and National Medals.

Brigade Life Membership was awarded to:

Chris Comini*

Des Rice*

Kevin Earl*

Raewyn Rice*

Ron Everett*

Lt Tyrone Rice*

Jan Jenkin

Captain Andrew

Lt John Jenkin*

Wilson* and May

Lt David Murdoch*

Wilson*.

*Also awarded CFA Life Membership.

The presentation of National Medals saw Chris Comini and John Jenkin receive their 3rd clasp for existing National Medals and Lt David Murdoch, Des Rice, Lt Tyrone Rice, Captain Andrew Wilson and May Wilson presented with the National Medal in recognition of Diligent Service to the CFA over many years.

Sunday celebrations saw a steady stream of locals and visitors take the opportunity to view the display of historical fire trucks the Brigade has had through the years, from an Austin through to our current fire trucks. There were also old photos, documents and equipment on display throughout the station.

The miniature “squirty truck races” were again a hit with the kids and amused many an adult as well.

Commemorative souvenir glasses, mugs and glass coasters were available for sale on the day, and there is some limited stock still available, so if you are interested, contact a member for price and availability.

Call to Assist NSW Fire Services

As the 75th celebrations were drawing to a close, background planning saw the Harcourt Tanker 1 selected to make up a contingent of 55 CFA tankers to make the journey north to assist the NSW fire service. By 4.30pm, Harcourt T1 was on the road with Lt John Jenkin and Raewyn Rice, along with one member from each of the Castlemaine and Chewton Brigades to form the two task forces deployed to assist with fighting the numerous fires in Northern NSW.

Thursday 14th saw Captain Andrew Wilson, Matt Friedrich and Vanessa Robinson (who is registered with the

Castlemaine Brigade but also turns out with us), depart as part of the second composite crew sent to relieve the initial crew. The request for deployment of the 3rd local crew was put on hold while the CFA utilised members from brigades further south to crew our tanker, so as to spread the workload.

Tuesday 25th was when Matt Friedrich (2nd stint) and myself were called on to recrew our tanker. At the time of writing, it is envisaged that this will be the last crew before our tanker returns, due to the fire danger now present in Victoria.

Local Surge Capacity

There has been public concern about how we can respond when our number one tanker is not around. This was the reason the brigade took the steps to fundraise for a brigade-owned tanker many years ago. This was replaced with our current Tanker 2 some years later. This enables local coverage when our Tanker 1 is sent on strike-team duty within Victoria or, as is the current situation, sent interstate.

The other strength the CFA has is its surge capacity to call on our neighbouring brigades for support, and to bring in strike-teams (5 tankers) from further afield.

The support of our neighbouring brigades was made use of when we had a grass fire on Sunday 17th November. Support was supplied by Castlemaine, Elphinstone, Sutton Grange, Taradale and Walmer. Along with Comini's private tanker, we had eight tankers to not only ensure we stopped the fire, but had it mopped up and blacked out within ninety minutes.

Important Fire Ready Community Meeting Details

Our FIRE READY VICTORIA Community meeting is on Tuesday 10th December at 7.00 pm at the Harcourt Fire Station. A trained CFA presenter will impart valuable information on the dangers of fire and how to be prepared.

The evening is scheduled to go for one hour, and there will be the opportunity to ask questions.

Past attendees have found this night most informative, so if you have not been to one, or if it is some years since you have attended one, please make the effort to come and find out what you can do to be more prepared and to ensure that your fire plan is right.



75 years and still going strong. Harcourt CFA members received certificates for their service to our local community.

Continued next page ➡

CFA Continued

As the FIRE RESTRICTIONS period has already commenced, it is also important to know what you can and cannot do during this period. The CFA has a document called "Can I, Can't I" which is available from the CFA website or in from the fire station. It is a very handy document to have. There is a variety of other publications dealing with 'How to prepare you property' and more specific ones like 'Caring for horses in a bushfire' which will also be available at our community meeting.

The print media have been producing a special wrap titled "How well do you know fire". This is a good resource to get you started in Planning and Acting to Survive.

We hope to see you there on the night and remember, a good attendance ensures we can run this type of event in the future.

November's Odd Callout

Over the years, the brigade has attended some odd and unique incidents.

A recent event, a bit out of the ordinary, was a vehicle towing a trailer carrying three cows. The car and trailer jackknifed and rolled on the north-bound lanes of the freeway.

The stunned cows were amazingly quiet. The CFA members temporarily "penned" the cows by holding a hose and making use of the wire rope barrier at the roadside until all three of them could be herded to the nearest emergency exit.

The Officers and Members of the Brigade take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Safe Festive Season. Thank you for your support and assistance in fire preparedness and prevention to make our community a safer place to live.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Mondo Lounge Barista Course & Resume Writing Workshop

Registrations are now open for the two-day barista course and resume writing workshop for young people aged 15-25 years, just in time to get job-ready for the summer break.

The barista course will cover coffee production, grinder functions, stretching milk, customer service and front of house service skills, followed by a pop-up cafe.

Please note, this is not an accredited course.

The resume writing workshop will support young people in identifying their strengths and values, identifying employability skills and attributes, resume writing and refinement, approaching businesses and interview skills.

Barista Course

Tuesday 17th Dec, 9am-3pm: Theory and hands-on practical skills

Wednesday 18th Dec, 9am-1pm: Hands-on practical skills & Pop-up Cafe, (Students are required both days of training)

Resume Writing Workshop

Wednesday 18th Dec, 2pm-4pm: Resume Writing Workshop, (optional, separate booking)

Free of charge Spaces limited - bookings required

To book a place, contact the Youth Team on 5471 1700 or at youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or follow the link to our website training section www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au/training

For more information contact the Youth Team on 5471 1700 or email youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
MondoLounge is a Mount Alexander Shire Council Initiative, funded by the Victorian Government/Engage! Program.



If you are a young person with a disability and need support attending our activities, please contact:
Jodie Hewitt:
5471 1700 / 0429 421 214



LIMERICK *by The Bard of North Harcourt*

I'm off for a walk in the hollow
And hoping that no one will follow.
I am feeling bereft
As my girlfriend has left.
In self-pity I am going to wallow.



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94.9



fm



Harcourt Valley Primary School

There are only four more weeks of school before the summer holidays! The last day of school is Friday the 20th of December. Term 1 of 2020 begins on the 29th of January. We wish all the students and staff happy, safe, relaxing holidays.

This is the time of year when schools are transitioning students out of and into their new schools. The new Preps will have had their transition to school on November the 26th, and the Grade Sixes are graduating on Monday the 16th of December. Local community members are invited to attend the graduation ceremony which will be held at the school at 2pm on the 16th of December. Please bring a plate of something to share for afternoon tea.

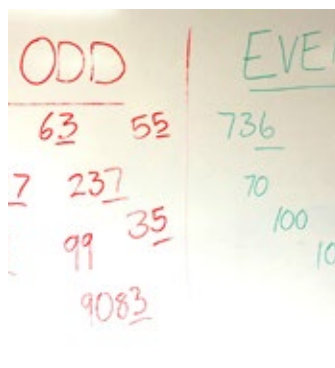
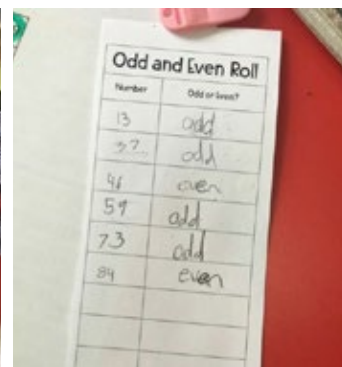
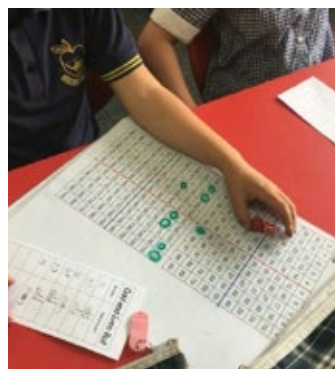
That evening, the Grade Sixes, two guests and staff have been invited to attend the school farewell dinner. We congratulate the fourteen Year Six students on their graduation and wish them and the new students well in their transitions and future studies.

This month, staff have also been busy preparing the students' portfolios, organising the Scholastic Book Fair and the Interschool Cricket Blast for years 3-4 and 5-6 and, no doubt, are looking forward to the school disco which is being held at the school.

Andrew Blake, Principal

From the School Newsletter, Compiled by Lois Denham

Grades 2-3 have been exploring odd and even numbers using an entertaining dice game. Student were encouraged to continue finding and naming odd and even numbers at home.



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

It is a busy time of year for everyone. The weather has been all over the place and the next few weeks we are expecting cooler days with some chance of rain. While it is cooler it is a good idea to do some more clean-up work, as the fire season is upon us.

When mowing or slashing, remember to take fire precautions and preferably do the work in the morning when it is cooler.

It has been a busy time on Council with the election of Christine Henderson as Mayor and Max Lesser as Deputy Mayor; congratulations to them both. Between them they have a great combination of experience and enthusiasm.

I see the new playground in Victory

Park is complete; this is another successful project delivered by Council. I do look forward to our new Harcourt playground at Stanley Park North. I have not been advised of the completion date, but I am sure we will all be pleased to see construction start.

Many of you will be aware that Council granted planning permits on some small allotments in the farming zone at North Harcourt recently. I strongly support these decisions of Council. It appears we need to do some further work on the planning scheme in this regard. It would be a much better situation if we had certainty around these issues. Sometimes things get over-complicated don't they?

I attended the November Twilight market in November. It was great to see local residents enjoying the atmosphere, buying local produce and catching up with friends.

Just a quick reminder to make sure the car is checked out and everything is ready before you do any travel over the Christmas period. Also remember it will be double penalty points for speeding between Christmas and New Year, so slow down.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Best regards to all, Tony
AG Cordy*





Harcourt Heritage Centre

Four Pewter Tankards – John Slattery

A friend – an antique collector – recently showed me a pewter tankard. “You’ll like this – it’s historic” he said. The tankard bears the words “Harcourt Hotel”. He had some other tankards in his showcase. “But those are inscribed ‘Supreme Court Hotel’” he said, thinking that they were not connected.

This set of four, however, definitely belong together. They can be dated to the early 1860s and are relics of John Slattery, who kept the Harcourt Hotel from 1859 to 1862 and then took up the licence of Castlemaine’s Supreme Court Hotel from 1863 to 1884.

The two-storeyed Harcourt Hotel stood at the corner of High Street and Bridge Street. It was well-situated, near the toll-gate, and near the assembly point for drovers making up huge mobs of cattle to be driven to market in Bendigo.

During John Slattery’s time this was *THE* hotel in Harcourt. Community meetings were held there to agitate for the opening of a school, elect trustees for the cemetery, protest against shire decisions and send petitions to the Government.

This was an Irish pub. It attracted the Irish-born labourers employed by Cornish and Bruce to build the railway then under construction. It also attracted the Irish-born Charles Thacker (dairyman) and Henry Hayden (the schoolmaster). It seems that Hayden, Slattery and Thacker were the most public-spirited men in the district. They were definitely the most talkative. When the Governor approved the reservation of land for the Harcourt Cemetery, he appointed Henry Hayden, John Slattery, Charles Thacker and Dr Daniel Young as the first Trustees. All were Irish-born.

John Slattery came to prominence as the Hon. Secretary of the patrons of the Harcourt Primary School. It was John Slattery who wrote the letters and kept the minutes of the small group which agitated and raised funds for our community’s first school.

At the official opening of the school, John Slattery, then a 29-year-old father of three, was the MC. Four hundred people attended the great event and heard Mr. Slattery declare that the State Government had contributed nothing to the school, except the ground on which it stood, the residents having subscribed the whole of the cost (£105).

The railway construction was finished in September 1862 and the floating population of construction workers folded up their tents and went away. This would have reduced the takings at the Harcourt Hotel.

In 1863, shortly after the death of his wife, John Slattery moved to Castlemaine’s Supreme Court Hotel. After that time

his activities were routinely reported in the *Mount Alexander Mail*. The Supreme Court Hotel was a good watering hole for the reporters as they walked from the courthouse to the *Mail* office.

We can gauge a great deal about John Slattery’s interests and influence from the columns of the *Mount Alexander Mail*. These news reports infer that John Slattery gave charismatic leadership to the community. In reporting on a bazaar in aid of the Catholic Church, the *Mail* stated, “the appearance of Mr Slattery and other influential gentlemen gave éclat to the proceedings.”

John Slattery was the chairman of the sports committee for the Wattle Flat Picnic on St Patrick’s Day, where the Irish-born went “to dance hornpipes and three-handed reels in celebration of the day of the Patron Saint of Ireland.” At the Hibernian Ball “Mr Slattery seemed inexhaustible in his variety of steps.” At a picnic organised by the Pioneers and Old Residents, things were slow to start until “Mr Slattery and Mr McGowan broke the ice by dancing in company an Irish reel.”

Meetings of the managers of the Castlemaine Town and Goldfields Commons were regularly reported as being held at Slattery’s Supreme Court Hotel. In 1865 and 1866, Slattery was the Chairman of the Managers. John Slattery was a member of the Castlemaine Agricultural & Horticultural Society and a vocal member of the Hospital Committee. Meetings of mining companies were held at the Supreme Court Hotel and we find that John Slattery was a director (and sometime chairman) of the Cerberus Quartz Mining Company, and the Castlemaine North Devonshire Gold Mining Company.

Truly, John Slattery was a man with many interests and was never lost for a word. It may be said that he had a big impact during his four years in Harcourt. We may credit some of Harcourt’s early amenities to his willingness to take a lead when he saw the need.

John Slattery fell ill in 1884 with a degenerative brain disease (probably Parkinson’s disease or MND) and gave up the licence of the Supreme Court Hotel in October of that year. He died in May 1885 at the age of 55. His obituary says: “In his time he was a straightforward, good-natured man who took great interest in public affairs.”

In 1859, at the opening of the Harcourt School, in what was a truly prophetic statement, John Slattery had congratulated the inhabitants upon “the success of the first movement towards making Harcourt that place of importance which its situation and its many natural advantages must make it within a very short period.”

Nearly one hundred and sixty years have passed since John Slattery was ‘an influential gentleman’ in that frontier community. Both the Harcourt Hotel and the Supreme Court Hotel still stand, although the buildings have been re-purposed. Four pewter tankards remind us of the lively and engaging experience that awaited those who crossed the threshold of those two hotels.

The Harcourt Valley Primary School and the Harcourt Cemetery continue in operation. And the Mount Alexander Shire Council has endorsed John Slattery’s prediction that, due to its situation and its many natural advantages, Harcourt is to be a Place of Importance. To this charismatic, lively Irishman, John Slattery, goes much credit for working towards (and talking up) the optimistic vision for our community.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre. Thanks to the antique collector who has these tankards in his safe keeping.





Harcourt Bowling Club

President's Day 27th October

It was perfect bowling weather for the Annual President's Day and although the numbers were down this year, those who were there made it an enjoyable and relaxed President's Day.

After a social game of bowls, all enjoyed the delicious afternoon tea. Winners on the day were Ron Douglas, Darrell Normington and Fran Corstorphan.



Our Sponsors.



Sponsors Night bowling.



President Russell Maltby, with winners Darrell Normington, Fran Corstorphan and Ron Douglas.

Barefoot Bowls

The Club is pleased to see the popularity of barefoot bowls nights growing. These nights have been very popular in the past, and it was a full house on 12th November with around 50 attending.

Since reporting on junior bowler Seth Bird's debut as a pennant bowler, there has been more of a willingness of younger people to join in our Barefoot Bowls nights.

Bowls are provided. The evening starts with social bowls with a barbeque to follow. Just \$10 each will give you a fun night, bowls, drinks at bar prices and barbeque. All welcome.

So look out for notices about bare foot bowls which are due to re-commence in mid-January – dates to be advised. All will be made very welcome. Please let us know in advance to assist catering.

The Club is keen to welcome junior bowlers to join – in fact we welcome people of all ages - and encourage any interested bowlers to contact President Russell Maltby on 0407301811.

Sponsors Night

It was a full house again on Tuesday night (November 19th) for the first of two annual Sponsors nights. It was a great Social night for the Club and their many sponsors over a game of



Graeme & David Bird from ASQ.

bowls and a barbeque. Castlemaine Mini Diggers and Toyota showed great promise early on but were outdone by Mitsubishi and BuildPro. The winning team from Round 1 with a score of 28 was ASQ with Graeme and David Bird and Maurice and Josh Blackmore. The team with the overall highest score after Round two (in February) will be declared winner of the Chappies Challenge, named after Rob Chaplin former bowler, Board member and sponsor.

Ladies Triples Tournament on 20th November

The Ladies Triples Tournament was another successful event held on Wednesday 20th November with teams attending from Bendigo, Campbells Creek, Castlemaine (2) Eaglehawk, Gisborne, Golden Square (2) Kangaroo Flat, Kyneton, Maryborough, Strathfieldsaye, South Bendigo, White Hills and Woodbury. After the usual ditch to ditch, teams played 3 games of 8 ends each and because of the forecast heat it was agreed to play through. Cold watermelon was served throughout the afternoon to assist players to keep cool. It was a close result with 2 teams vying for first place which was decided on a percentage countback. Ditch to ditch winners were: Shirley McGregor Strathfieldsaye (lead); Rai Craig Bendigo (second); Judy Brown Golden Square (Skip). Winners of the day were the White Hills team of Carmel Janson (skip) Trish Goudge and Mary



Ladies Triples winners

Harcourt Bowling Club

(continued)

Shawyer. Runners Up from Kyneton were led by Chris Plowan with Kath Birmingham and Mick Birmingham. Each year the ladies from the club bring their specialty: be it a cake, sponge, slice, fruit/cheese platter, sandwiches etc which everyone enjoys for afternoon tea. This event has been generously sponsored by Di Selwood at Bendigo Property Plus for the past few years and we thank them for their valued support.

Friday Foodies

Fortnightly Friday Foodies will resume again after Christmas. All welcome. Dates and menus will be displayed at the club as soon as they are available.

Christmas Breakup

The Club will hold its annual Christmas breakup on Saturday 14th December. There will also be a break from pennant from 16th December until Monday 13th January for Midweek teams and until Saturday 18th January for Weekend teams. The Club will remain open Wednesday and Friday nights but will be closed from December 27th.

We wish you all a Safe and Happy Christmas season and look forward to seeing you at the Harcourt Bowling Club in the New Year - we will be open from January 10th 2020.



WALKING TOGETHER – Towards Reconciliation

The Dja Dja Wurrung and the Kulin Nation

Before Europeans arrived, there were approximately 250 different nations of Indigenous people in Australia and its islands, each with their own territory, political system, laws, spirituality and language. Between 500 and 700 separate languages existed.

The Kulin Nation, comprising five groups speaking the same or similar language, occupied the southern and central area of Victoria.

One of those five groups, the Dja Dja Wurrung, belonged in territory covering much of Central Victoria. They were known to their neighbours as the Yes Yes People, as they were willing to trade with the whites. Back in the 1840s, the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate station at Franklinford was a safe place for 127 Aboriginal survivors of food shortages and disease, colonial dispossession of their country and killings.

In Alice Springs, on 26 November 1986, Pope John Paul II addressed a gathering of thousands of Aboriginal people with these encouraging words:

‘If you stay closely united, you are like a tree standing in the middle of a bushfire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn.’

It’s time for all Australians to work together to bring about that rebirth.

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

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Summer Bowls Season

Wednesdays 7.30pm

Harcourt Leisure Centre

No experience needed

Christmas break 18th Dec – 15th Jan

New members most welcome

John Jenkin 0408 621 371

JUNIOR NETBALL TRY-OUTS

WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER
THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER
U11-U13 4:30PM-5:15PM
A U15-U17 5:15PM-6:00PM

All training will be at the Harcourt Netball Courts
Follow our Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date.

Facebook: Harcourt Football Netball Club
Insta: harcourt_fnc

Stunning Exhibition at Harcourt Produce & General Store



A yellow-tufted honeyeater (*Lichenostomus melanops*), (without the picture frame). Photo taken by Daryl Fleay.

Until mid-January, the Birds of Harcourt Photographic Exhibition is on show at the Store. John Clow and Daryl Fleay have combined to present a range of photographs of eagles, owls and other birds in the district. They are framed and are of exceptionally high quality. All the photos are for sale and at the conclusion of the exhibition a donation will be made to the Harcourt CFA.

Proprietor Annette Rae has made it her goal to raise money for the CFA over the Christmas period. A portion of the sales of the bird photos will go to the CFA and patrons will find a sturdy stone jar on the front counter for other donations



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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	34,840	92.2%	37,374	99.0%
Lauriston	19,790	18,670	94.3%	17,040	86.1%
Malmsbury	12,034	7,314	60.8%	1,391	11.6%
TOTAL	69,594	60,824	87.4%	55,805	80.2%

Data from: <https://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels> – December 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

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.



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Work and Friendship

If you belong to Landcare, you have many friends in common all across Australia, and caring for our environment can begin at an early age! Some members are shown here in late November having successfully slashed and weeded plantings along Barkers Creek.



To end the year the group is going back to its traditional haunt, the Oak Forest for a barbecue. Next year we are looking forward to some new projects, one of which includes planting native vegetation at the end of Pippin Court along Picnic Gully Creek.

The barbecue will be held on Thursday 12th December at 6.30 pm. Enquiries? Secretary: 0467 670 271



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VISIT THE WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE

New Mayor and Deputy for Council

Congratulations to our new Mayor Christine Henderson and Deputy Mayor Max Lesser who were elected by Councillors at the Council Meeting in November. A big thank you to Cr Bronwen Machin for her leadership and valuable contribution in the role as Mayor over the past few years.

Join our climate change forum

Council will hold a Climate Change Forum on Monday 9 December to inform its future action on climate change. The forum will take place over a series of sessions held between 9.00am and 8.00pm on Monday 9 December at the Civic Centre. Interested speakers must return the registration form by Monday 2 December. Find the form at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay and the Civic Centre. Written submissions are due by Thursday 5 December.

Bushfire preparedness event

Learn how to prepare yourself, pets and property for bushfires at an information session in Castlemaine. Speak with fire and emergency management experts and hear presentations from bushfire survivors, the CFA, Agriculture Victoria and local animal welfare organisations. The event will be held from 11.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday 14 December at the grassed area between the Market

Building and supermarket near Victory Park. Presentations start at 11.30am.

Draft Plan Harcourt – Have Your Say

The draft Plan Harcourt, incorporating the Harcourt Framework Plan and Shine Harcourt Leanganook, is available for review and comment. Join a drop-in session from 4.00pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 December at the ANA Hall. Read the draft plan and fact sheets at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt or the Civic Centre. Submissions must be made in writing and submitted by Monday 6 January 2020. For more information contact the Strategic Planning Team on 5471 1700.

Services over Christmas

Council offices will close at 5.00pm on Friday 20 December and reopen at 8.30am on Thursday 2 January. For emergencies regarding roads and drains, maternal and child health or stock and animal control (excluding wildlife) call 5471 1700 and follow the prompts. Report missed bins via a service request on our website or call Veolia Environmental on (03) 5820 8500. Residents who normally have bin collection on Wednesday will have them collected on Saturday 28 December (instead of Christmas Day) and Saturday 4 January 2020 (instead of New Years Day).

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

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

The best defence we have against fruit fly getting established in Harcourt is YOU!

Now that fruit fly is on our radar, you should definitely have at least one fruit fly monitoring trap in your garden by now. The best type for this time of year is one that attracts male fruit flies, e.g. the Biotrap, which contains a male pheromone specific to Queensland Fruit Flies, so there's a better chance that anything you catch in the trap will be a QFF. Other types of traps (e.g. the sort you can make yourself) will attract lots of different types of insects, which will make it MUCH harder to know for sure whether you've actually caught a fruit fly, because they're surprisingly difficult to identify.

If you do think you've caught a QFF, make sure you get a positive ID – here in Harcourt we're lucky enough to have the Fruit Fly Action Group, so get in touch with Terry Willis and he'll be able to help you with the identification process. If it turns out you get a positive identification, that will then trigger the Fruit Fly Emergency Response – there's more info about it all on the Council's fruit fly page: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly. You can also download a free Fruit Fly Resource Pack from our website: growgreatfruit.com/product-category/free-stuff.

If you're planning to net; then the sooner the better. Surprisingly, white nets can help against fruit fly as well as birds – even if the holes are big enough to let flies through! They're not enough on their own, though, you do need to trap as well. If you're buying net, buy net with the smallest holes you can find, as this is the most useful, and will also help you avoid prosecution if the new Victorian government regulation regarding a minimum size for home garden netting passes into law.

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

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

General tree care in the fruiting season

Your fruit trees are at their most vulnerable to pests and diseases at this time of year, so keep a close eye on them. Visit them once a week or so, so you notice any problems that appear and can take preventive measures when necessary. For example, keep a "cover spray" or wettable sulphur on your trees, as this will help to prevent Black spot on your apples and pears, and Brown rot on your stone fruit.

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

Lastly, it's time to get your irrigation system up and running on your fruit trees if you haven't already, even though we've had a surprisingly damp month. As that ridiculously hot day a couple of weeks ago showed us, it only takes one day to completely dry things out, so it's good to be able to water your trees when they need it. Young trees in particular can dry out quickly, and trees with a crop on them will need regular watering from now on. You dramatically improve your chances of getting a good crop from your fruit trees by making sure they get a regular drink, and it's often much simpler (and cheaper) to set up a system than you may imagine.

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists, 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 on-line 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.

ASQ Plant of the Month Bonsai

Give the gift of a traditional Japanese art form this Christmas with a unique Bonsai!

These miniature trees come in a large range of varieties, sizes, ages and colours so you are sure to find one that suits your, or your loved ones, personality. Their unique blend of Asian aesthetic and horticultural techniques make Bonsai a truly elegant centrepiece for any room or outdoor space.

Visit ASQ Skydancers this month to see our range of finished and established bonsai just in time for Christmas!



Merry Christmas from ASQ Skydancers!

We will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day



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



What's happening at La Larr Ba Gauwa

Throughout the winter months the trails have received a steady stream of visitors. While the trails have held up well with high visitor numbers, the spring brings a rush of growth and trail maintenance is essential.

Back in October the Bendigo Mountain Bike club held its Gravity Enduro event at La Larr Ba Gauwa. The first of its kind for the central Victorian mountain bike community, the sell-out event attracted hundreds of visitors to Harcourt. Gravity Enduro was first major mountain biking event to be held at La Larr Ba Gauwa. It was a chance for event organisers and the Committee of Management to find out what worked and what to improve for next time.

Feedback from the Bendigo Mountain Bike Club was very positive. Many commented on how much they enjoyed the park and trails. A total of 189 riders took part ranging from 11-year old girls to professional cyclists, as well as elite riders. The Goldfields Track Café and Brew 2 U coffee set up in the event village. It was great to have the Goldfields Track Café on board keeping business generated from the event in the Harcourt community.

While much of the feedback was very positive, improvements around traffic management, parking, and managing driver speed along Picnic Gully Road will all be areas of focus for the next major event. As part of the event, the Bendigo Mountain Bike Club agreed that in lieu of the modest event management fee their club members would instead take part in a working bee. So in October, a group of club members gathered in the park and got busy trimming plants and growth, and repairing minor trail damage. Their work didn't go unnoticed with many people commenting favourably about the results on La Larr Ba Gauwa's social media pages.

The crew from Landmates have also been busy trimming the late spring growth along parts of the trail network. Landmate is a program that gives prisoners the opportunity to develop skills and contribute to local communities by providing labour for environmental projects. Landmates have been formally contracted to undertake scheduled trail maintenance works in the park.

With summer now here, extreme weather conditions such as 'Code Red' or 'Extreme' rated days may affect La Larr Ba Gauwa. All such notices and their impact will be published on the park's social media pages.

Reminder that horses, dirt bikes and mountain bikes don't mix

Please remember that horses are welcome on the pre-existing access tracks throughout the park, but that only pedal-powered bikes are permitted on the mountain bike trails. Anyone who breaches the rules and regulations that govern the park may also face financial and criminal penalties. To report misuse of trails, phone Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Get in touch

If you've noticed anything that needs attention, get in touch with the Committee of Management via the park's website at lalarrbagauwa.harcourt.vic.au or its Facebook page @ [lalarrbagauwapark](https://www.facebook.com/lalarrbagauwapark). Got questions or feedback? Get in touch with the La Larr Ba Gauwa committee of management via the feedback form on the Park's website or email the Committee Secretary Michael Scott at m.scott@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. You can keep up to date with what's happening in La Larr Ba Gauwa by following us @[lalarrbagauwapark](https://www.instagram.com/lalarrbagauwapark) or [Instagram.com/lalarrbagauwamt](https://www.instagram.com/lalarrbagauwamt).

Janine McCarthy



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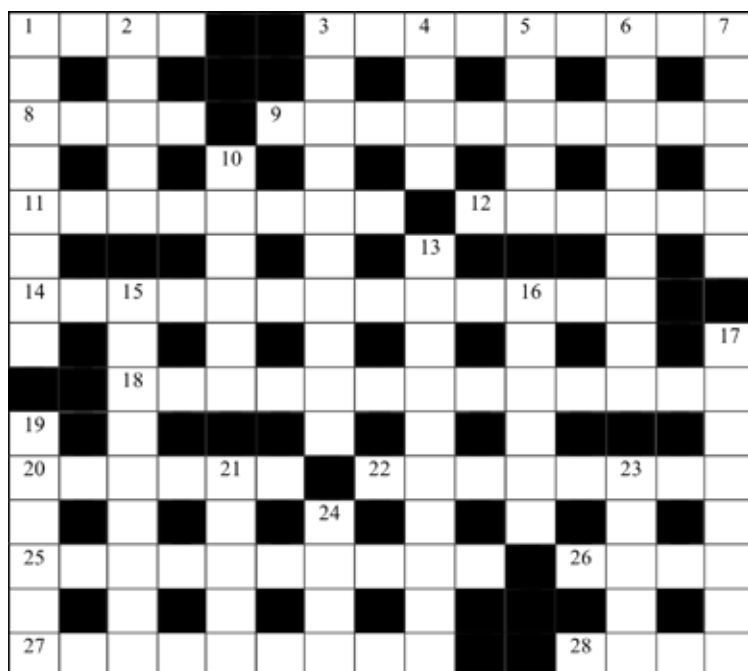


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Down:

1. Rent in a mess carries bowling target for one who takes over the vehicle. (8)
2. Lug a small amount of salt over shoulder in this Soviet hell... (5)
3. Can pimp's bugle clean dirty holds? (5,5)
4. Taken from prompter, used on table... (4)
5. Neither this nor wit can reverse fate... (5)
6. Do female bodies make food blush? (9)
7. They slid so sloppily into weaner's diet. (6)
10. A 1950s kangaroo? (6)
13. Young Turks shoot logos? (10)
15. Cleric, monkeys and pigeons in dregs of milky coffees?
16. To take over extension by adding a letter... (6)
17. Brazen klaxon without Clint's chopper on made cars. (4,4)
19. '80s white sliced is peak of landfill... (3-3)
21. Text you in cesspool to total. (3,2)
23. Heavily ironic coffee? (5)
24. At 10am, avoid what the Sergeant Major shouts... (4)

Across:

1. Stoner's position? (4)
3. Anti-aircraft placements and petrol carry travellers' effects. (4-5)
8. Vegemite and jam transposed for starters might electrify things on a rough road. (4)
9. Be nice: pull apart the writer's errors with its judicious application. (4,6)
11. Small part of gearbox without blokes for the likes of Biggus Dickus? (8)
12. Dairy and 007 boss scatter 10 grand, some think. (6)
14. Speak with divorced partner to disallow bread-breaking or wine-drinking. (13)
18. Aha! Plan repair of all this clobber. (13)
20. Contents of luggage just on the off-chance? (2,4)
22. Fraser substitute situated centrally? (8)
25. Dolomite before Argentinian makes winner ebullient. (10)
26. It's possible not to care how much land there is. (4)
27. Dad mixed with Mick's mob puts it off. (9)
28. Musically liven-up? (4)

November Xword 2019 solution



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 me [I] in Africa, messily. (7)
5. Dawn goddess who kidnapped handsome men in Melbourne, Hobart, Perth, etc.? [Well?]
6. News boss [Ed.] tardily interrupted, but over the moon. (6)
7. People with hooks visit once for these turnouts. (9)
8. Could dress e.e. 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 [A.B.] might dive for this. (7)
18. Go round [lap] Asia as organ fails to develop. (7)
19. Yellow cloth makes for an avid grandparent... [Well?]
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. "Heroes meet nakedness" might mean something on Mars, but it doesn't on earth... (6,4,5,4)
9. (see 1)
10. The rant varies with different stories. (10)
11. Contains dwellings? [Well?]
12. The one who resents [the resenter] 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? [Well?]
16. Goes round mountains. [Well? "laps"....] (9)
17. Two donkeys in south line 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... [Well?]
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)

Community Diary Dates

Now until mid-January: Bird Exhibition and fund raiser for CFA; Harcourt Produce and General Store.

Saturday 7th December: Harcourt Swimming Pool opens.

Monday 9th December: 7.00 pm, Applefest Stakeholders Launch, ANA Hall.

Tuesday 10th December: 7.00 pm CFA Fire Ready Information Night at the Station in Bridge Street.

Thursday 12th December: 6.30 pm Landcare barbecue, Oak Forest. Enquiries: 0467 670 271

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

Friday 20th December: Last day of the school year for Harcourt Valley Primary.

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

Wednesday 25th December: 8.30 am, Christmas Service at the Uniting Church Buckley Street Harcourt.

Thursday January 16th: 12 noon, CWA Friendship Day luncheon will be held at The Goldfields Track Café. There is no need to RSVP.

Monday 27th January: 8 am to 10 am Australia Day Community Breakfast and Awards at Stanley Park.

Bowling Club Dates: See page 14.

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.



Maree Edwards MP

State Member for Bendigo West

Putting Community First

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

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A full colour version of *Harcourt News: The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: <http://harcourt.vic.au/news>
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Applefest 2020

Apple Pie Baking Competition

**Please complete this entry form and present at
the Fruit Growers' tent on
March 7th 2020, by 10.30am**

Conditions of Entry:

Apple Pies

1. Must be baked in 20cm pie dish
2. Must have a bottom and a top crust
3. Pie top must be complete, i.e. no lattice.
4. Pastry of own choice but no commercial mix or bought pastry.
5. Do not add other fruit to the apple.
6. Presentation:
 - Appealing to the eye and appetite
 - May be glazed
 - Presented on the dish in which it was baked

Apple Muffins and Cakes

1. Must be made from scratch. No packet mixes.
2. Judged on evenness of baking, moisture, texture and appearance.
3. Four muffins must be provided for judging.

Judging will begin at 11.00 am.

Prize Winners will be announced at 1.00 pm

Name:.....

Address:

Phone:

What are you entering? (Tick all that apply):

Apple Pie: Open ☐ or Junior under 15 ☐

Apple Muffins: Open ☐ or Junior under 15 ☐

Apple cake: Open ☐

For more information contact Lyn Rule, Harcourt CWA on 0418 994 067



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



**CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO**



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