

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 69 – March 2020

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Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourt.vic.au/news

Making History at Barkers Creek Women's Cricket Final



BARKERS CREEK has been known primarily for being a fully operational club since 1855, but now a new date will be added to club records: the inaugural Women's Cricket Final held on Friday March 6.

The season has been organised by the Castlemaine District Cricket Organisation.

The two teams in the final were Barkers Creek (top photo) and Castlemaine United.

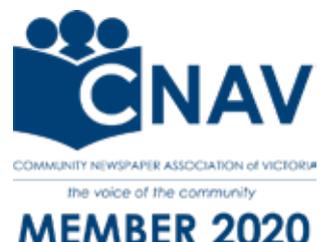
Barkers Creek took out the game, but the real winners are women, particularly those women who now have the option of joining this growing sport.

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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.**



Harcourt Twilight Market

The success of the next three Markets (March, April and May) will determine whether the Harcourt Twilight Market continues.

Recent Markets have been blessed with good weather, new stallholders and great entertainment for young and old. Our Market Manager, Chris Cregan has done an excellent job of organising things beforehand, and on the day. Rich Thompson's guiding hand has kept things running smoothly in the entertainment department. He's booked the musicians; made sure the sound system works well and got the dancing going between sets. Aunty Julie and Al's Australian Aboriginal Games were a big hit and we're hoping to continue the fun in March.

The Twilight Bar has been a huge success. It's a way to make the Market more economically viable, as well as being an opportunity to support and showcase the fabulous beer, wine and cider of our region.

As the evenings get more wintery, we'll be bringing out the lights, mulled cider and gluhwein. Join us, bring your friends and help us make sure the Harcourt Twilight Market becomes a permanent fixture on the calendar.



There will be three more Twilight Markets for the year in March, April and May; get along and support local producers and makers of all kinds at the Harcourt Twilight Markets. Shown here are Mount Alexander Winery and Three Goannas cordials from Maldon. Home grown and made: clothing, food and beverages topped off with a great dose of music and relaxation. See you at the Twilight Markets on March 28, April 25, and May 23.



Harcourt Progress Association HPA Special General Meeting Report

The Special General Meeting on the 26th of February went well, with both long-standing community stalwarts and more recent Harcourt residents joining the Committee in the ANA Hall. The meeting was led by Sha Cordingley (President) and Michael Henry (Vice President), who explained the proposed changes to the HPA Rules and why the changes are needed.

They provided an overview of the new HPA structure, including the Committee, Subcommittees and Working Groups. Discussion focused on ways that community members can contribute to our town.

The Committees and Working Groups are open to both HPA members and non-members, with lots of opportunities to choose particular projects or tasks based on your interests. The proposed new Rules were unanimously approved before breaking into smaller groups with each Committee member available to answer questions and listen to feedback.

Large format posters provided a summary of individual projects, an update on current status and identified needs and / or next steps. Jett Pearson, a younger community member asked about a possible skate park and received an enthusiastic response from other residents. HPA Committee members will work with Jett to investigate opportunities and feasibility. All in all, it was a positive meeting with progress made, opportunities identified and some new connections made.

Liesl Milan
HPA Secretary



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Women's Cricket Competition Grand Final



It was fitting in the lead up to International Women's Day that the Castlemaine District Cricket Association held the inaugural Women's Cricket Competition Grand Final.

Barkers Creek finished top of the ladder with one loss for the season, and played at their home ground against a young and promising Castlemaine United team. The game was played in the spirit that it was created to be played in, and drew a good crowd.

Barkers Creek came out winners on the night and were presented with a medallion each and a cup for their trophy cabinet. It's great to see women of all ages getting behind the modified format of the game, with at least one additional club getting involved next season.



Any women interested in playing can speak to Jo Martin on 0407 844 093 – Jo is the women's rep on the Castlemaine District Cricket Association.

Nicki Renfrey

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Nalderun at Applefest

The local Aboriginal people were well represented this year at Applefest. Aunty Kerri began the official part of the day with a Welcome to Country preceded by a story of the magpies of Australia and how they came to have white or black backs in different parts of Australia.

Layton Barker led the Applefest procession with the Aboriginal flag (see the photo in the centre pages).

Aunty Julie McHale put in a huge effort to set up a display of local indigenous herbs, nuts, seeds and plants. Aunty Julie explained many of the samples she had prepared, describing their uses and health properties. She also explained the uses of the plants that she grows and which she had for sale on the day.

Sharlee Dunolly-Lee had tastings and sales of Sharlee's Dja-Wonmuruk Teas. This enterprising young woman from Bendigo uses Indigenous ingredients mixed with green or black tea bases. This is a new business and you will find Sharlee at local markets, but as she expands her business these teas will become more widely available.

The Murnong Mummas who grow and cook indigenous foods had a stall with delicious samples and items for sale.

Traditional ingredients and products can be used creatively in any number of dishes, and those who were there certainly benefitted from this sharing of ancient knowledge.





Harcourt Valley Primary School

Students and staff of HVPS have settled well into the new academic year:

- Preps had Wednesdays off for all of February and have been involved in a swimming program.
- The Core Learning Focus for all classes for this term's academic work is encouraging student reading. Students are encouraged to read at least ten minutes each day. All students have a reading diary and reading at home is to be entered into the home reading diary. Research has shown that there are many benefits to reading more. Student performance has been shown to improve in: General Knowledge, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Verbal Fluency and Spelling.
- The school community has welcomed three new teachers, Miss Norris (Grade 1/2 Teacher), Mrs Hargraves (Art Teacher) and Mrs Field (Education Support) Student Leadership.
- Positions were announced at Assembly on the 20th of February (congratulations to the students who were elected).
- Several weeks ago, Grade 1 to 6 students enjoyed an excursion to the Ballarat Wildlife Park.
- Friday's Breakfast Club, which runs from 8.20 to 8.50am every Friday, has commenced. It is staffed by parents, and Food Bank provides the food.
- The School Council had its first meeting for the year on the 19th of February at which a number of long serving parents were farewelled. It is anticipated that they will be replaced by new parent members at the Council's AGM on the 18th of March.
- A family BBQ held at the school Thursday evening the 20th February was well attended.



Arrive early at the Applefest if you want to purchase one of the famous Primary School apple pies.

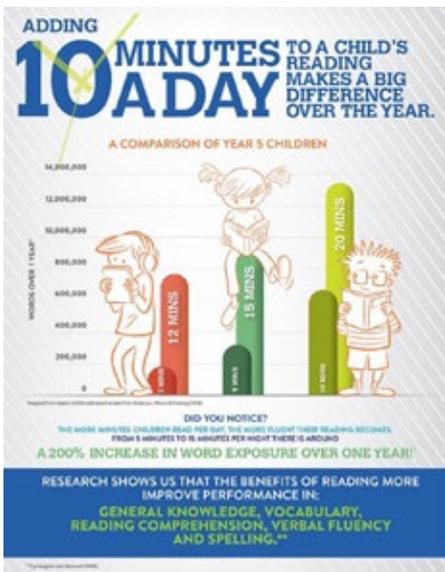
Many of the ingredients were donated by members of the public and by parents of students. Trevor Peeler from the Coolstore co-ordinated the supply of the local apples. The supplies for the pastry and other ingredients were purchased by parents and volunteers.

The volunteers aimed to bake at least 400 pies and have them ready for sale before the Applefest so that pies could be pre-ordered. They were delicious; I was lucky enough to sample a slice one Thursday morning.

This is the fifth year that the school has conducted its community baking of the apples pies. HVPS has discovered the winning formula, and it won the Applefest CWA Apple Pie Baking Competition for the previous four years.

Veronica, the School Council chairperson, said that it's a great effort by the school community and raises between \$3000 and \$4000 for the school. She would like to thank all involved in making this fundraiser a success (especially Trevor).

Lois Denham

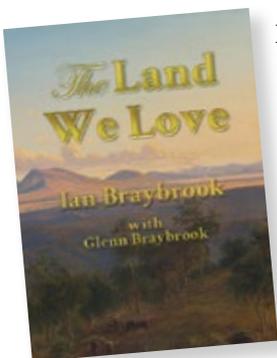


Applefest Preparations

In the weeks leading up to Applefest, volunteers were busy baking apple pies at the school for the major school fund raiser of the year, the School/Apple Pie Stall.

Parents and community members were pie baking on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from the middle of February through to the 5th of March.

The Land We Love



Ian Braybrook and his wife Marilyn are former residents of Harcourt and have a strong attachment to the district. These days they operate a small radio station for Castlemaine seniors, and Ian is on air almost every day. He also finds time to write books and has had five published to date.

His latest, written with important input from his son Glenn from Chewton is titled 'The Land We Love'. Marilyn, who publishes Ian's books, describes it as a

concise account of the events and people that established the heart of Central Victoria.

She says, 'The Land We Love covers many aspects of the growth and development of this region and beyond, from the first white settlers, gold discovery, the establishment of the railway and industries, the people's lives and more. It includes stories of the relationship between the white settlers and the original owners, the Aboriginals. It even covers important events concerning the white settlement of NSW and Tasmania. As well, it is filled with great photographs, many of items rarely, if ever, seen by most of us. I loved it from my first read of the manuscript.'

'The Land We Love will certainly be of considerable interest to people who live in the Harcourt district. For example among the numerous photographs is a very rare colour shot of central Harcourt taken about a century ago.'

Ian says he really enjoyed researching and writing the book. 'Maybe it's because Glenn and I love the subject so much.'

Copies of *The Land We Love* are available from The Harcourt Heritage Centre, Stoneman's Bookroom, Aesop's Attic or from the publisher on 0409 333 513, RRP: \$29.95

Further information: Marilyn Bennet or the author on 03 54705297 or 0409 333 513

One of Harcourt's (nearly) Lost Trades at Applefest— Granite Splitting

David Pratt Stonemason was demonstrating and explaining the art of stonemasonry at this year's Applefest. Visitors were fortunate to see and talk with David; one of Victoria's foremost operating stone masons whose work can be seen in statues and monuments all over the State.

Visitors were able to witness the splitting of a huge granite block into smaller blocks throughout the day. The movement into place of a 3 tonne granite boulder was the first challenge which David accomplished. The great block of stone sitting sentinel in Stanley Park for nearly a week raised a few eyebrows as people went by. It certainly wasn't going anywhere soon!

David began work on Saturday 7th, using a hand-held drill to make two lines of holes) into the stone. Here lies the clue: There is a "freeway" and a "toughway" in this extremely hard stone. Granite rates 6 – 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness with quartz

being even harder. It takes an enormous amount of pressure to break granite if splitting is tried without understanding where the "freeway" lies. David explained: "Harcourt granite has its freeway running east/west so the toughway runs north/south." David was even able to show me which way the rock had been sitting on Mount Alexander, by the stains on it and the structure of the rock. When I say structure – a lump of granite looks the same on all sides to me. But he could see where the stone was laying differently within the block!

After drilling the holes David inserted plugs and feathers into the stone and proceeded to strike these with a sledge hammer until the huge stone split in half. From that point he continued to cut the stone down to smaller pieces with ease. Well, the stone splits with ease, but there is a fair amount of physical effort required in striking the plugs and feathers. I'm pretty sure David will have slept well after the all-day demonstration.



David Pratt prepared this special piece of granite for the day. Incised with gold lettering it demonstrates the highest skills in granite work.

Two of David's sons are also learning this ancient craft and brought along some of their decorative work including a fabulous snake carved from a granite block, and incised slate with gilt lettering.

This was a unique opportunity for all who visited Applefest. Harcourt has had a long and famous history as a source of Harcourt Granite and of slate for use in buildings and monuments. But few people ever get to see the work carried on in the quarries. The Applefest Committee was delighted to have David and his sons add this extra special touch to Applefest 2020.

Robyn Miller
(Some of the information for this article was provided by George Milford.)



David Pratt stands next to the 3 tonne rock which has been drilled and had plugs and feathers placed in in, ready for splitting.



One section of the block has fallen away, David stands beside the other piece.



One of David's sons has carved this snake from a granite block.



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Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Helping and Learning

We have such talented ladies at our Branch but, when it comes to knitting Trauma Teddies, there are few better than Colleen Hall. So, when Ian Smith, the Administration Officer for the Operating Suite at Castlemaine Health, needed Trauma Teddies to give to children receiving treatment at the hospital, he knew who to call.

Colleen has been a member of our Branch for many years and her knitting skills are legendary. Hospital stays for children are made much less frightening when you have one of Colleen's little teddies to keep you company.



Colleen presents some of her hand-made teddy bears to Ian.

I mentioned last month that our Country of Study this year is Botswana and that at our monthly meetings, Marie Twyford, this year's International Officer, will give us a short talk on some aspect of this country – of which I am discovering that I know little. Our homework for this month was to name the capital of Botswana and the names of all bordering countries. I have done my homework and I now know that Gaborone is

the capital of Botswana, and its neighbouring countries are South Africa to the south and south-east, Namibia to the west and north, and Zimbabwe to the north-east.

If you have never been to a CWA Creative Arts Exhibition, now is your chance. This year the CWA Central Victoria Group is holding an exhibition of all things beautiful at Maldon, on March 14th and 15th. It will be held at the Maldon Neighbourhood House at 1 Church Street, between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm on Saturday and from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Sunday. Admission is \$5.00 and includes a cuppa.



Some of the beautiful work on display at a recent exhibition.

If you would like to see what we get up to at our monthly meetings then please come and join us at the Harcourt Leisure Centre in Bingham's Road on the first Thursday of the month, or the third Thursday of the month when we have our Craft Afternoon.

Lyn Rule
Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer



Harcourt Uniting Church

It's a GIRL! There was great excitement in the Castlemaine and District Parish as our wonderful minister, Rev Sarah Tomilson, gave birth to Susanna Beatrice early in February. Congratulations to Sarah and Alex and we wish them all the joys of a baby in their home – changing nappies, late night feeds, lack of sleep, but then the first smile, followed by all the other exciting milestones as Susanna grows.

We look forward to meeting Susanna and giving her a lovely hamper of 'baby goodies' – not that she will appreciate them at the moment.

We are being reminded that Easter is not far away, what with all the Easter eggs and rabbits on the supermarket shelves. Last week was Shrove Tuesday, which is often referred to as Pancake Tuesday. The Castlemaine Secondary School Chaplaincy Committee held their annual Progressive Dinner with nibbles at Castlemaine Uniting Church followed by the main course at St Mary's and then pancakes and pancake races at the Anglican Church to finish the evening. The Castlemaine Secondary College Chaplain Lisa spoke



of her work at the College as being an opportunity to develop a trust with the students and build relationships with them.

A minister was giving a children's talk about families when he asked a little girl: "What does your Daddy do?" She replied: "Whatever Mummy tells him!"

Jan Jenkin

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Meet our New Staff

One of the things we're very proud of at Maldon and District Community Bank is that we provide employment for locals around the whole district.

So we were very happy to welcome two new employees the last few weeks, and you might already know at least one of them!

Nicki Renfrey is our new Communications Officer, and will be bringing you stories about the bank through our social channels (you can see Nicki's work on Facebook and Instagram) and our newsletter (sign up here if you don't already get it: maldoncb.com.au/contact).

Nicki has a strong Harcourt connection, having worked at Harcourt Valley Primary School as the Business Manager for some time—a role she's now combining with her new job at the bank. She also works as the Communications and Projects Officer at the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership, so you can tell she's highly organized, juggling three different jobs!

You may also know Nicki through her community work, particularly the women's cricket events she's got up and running at the Barkers Creek Cricket Ground over the last couple of years. Nicki has focused on creating an atmosphere that's welcoming and inclusive, and as a result, the women's cricket comp has been wildly successful. This year's season has just finished with a great night celebrating the grand final play-off between Barkers Creek CC and Castlemaine United CC.

Our other new employee is Paul Simmons, who took on the role of Customer Relationship Manager at the Maldon branch in December.

Paul has a strong background in banking, sales



Paul Simpson CRM and Nicki Renfrey CO with Ross Eggleton.

and business development, and his role with the Maldon & District Community Bank Branch centres on lending and working with customers to help them achieve their financial goals.

'I have a passion for working with the community and customers in developing new business, creating new opportunities and exceeding customer's expectations. My role at the Maldon Branch is also a great

opportunity to further develop my leadership and coaching skills, and getting involved in community we serve,' said Paul.

Paul has hit the ground running in his new job, quickly getting up to speed with our systems, getting to know customers, and helping people get loans. In his spare time, Paul is a keen renovator and traveller.

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Community Picnic Welcoming Refugees and Newcomers

Over the last few years four community picnics have taken place in Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, sharing our beautiful surroundings with people seeking asylum and refugees, who come from Melbourne support centres for the day.

The fifth picnic will be held on Saturday 21 March, which, fittingly, is Harmony Day.

Everyone in the Castlemaine District is welcome to come to this family friendly and multicultural event. As hosts, we can all offer conversation and friendship, and perhaps an ongoing connection with some of our guests.

We will begin at 12:30 sharp with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony (one of the highlights), followed by lunch. There will be musical entertainment, and diverse activities such as face-painting, soccer and other games, a petting zoo of farm animals (another highlight), and the Tug of Peace.

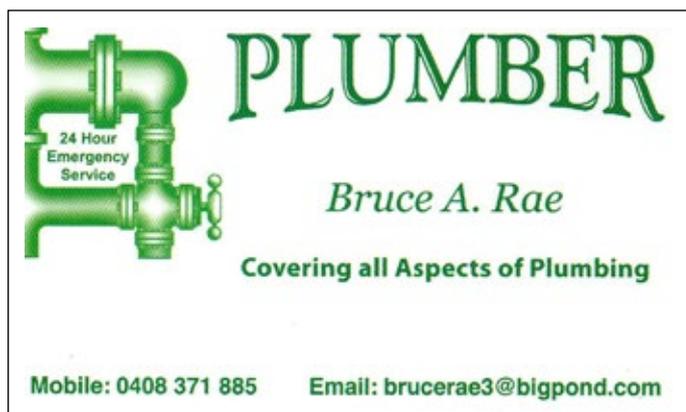
Local people attending the picnic are invited to bring a rug or chair, hat, drink cups/bottles and food to share. As many of our guests are Muslim, all meat contributed to the shared table must be halal.

The Wash Against Waste trailer will be present, as will a drinking station provided by Coliban Water. You are encouraged to avoid disposable containers and wraps, but please label your crockery, and be ready to recycle all rubbish including food scraps.

A number of community groups as well as many individuals help with preparations and the running of the picnic. In 2014 the initiative came from Harcourt Uniting Church in association with Rural Australians for Refugees, and they have since been joined by Chewton Phoenix CWA and Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. Maldon and District Community Bank have contributed funding, as has Mount Alexander Shire Council. We are grateful to the Shire for assistance of many kinds.

A friendly reminder to photographers: Please ask permission to take each person's photo (or ask parents of children), and avoid posting recognisable photos of refugees on social media.

There are plenty of possibilities for volunteers now and on the day, to ensure our guests feel welcomed and comfortable. If you would like to be involved, please contact Solway Nutting on 0410 799 297 or by email solway@mmnet.com.au



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COMMUNITY PICNIC

**Welcoming all, including refugee families
and newcomers.**

Saturday March 21, 11:30 am to 4 pm
Lunch at 12:30 sharp

Castlemaine Botanical Gardens
(near the central car park, Downes Rd)

**Kids activities! Petting zoo! Face painting!
Music and entertainment for the whole family!**

**Bring food early for the shared lunch table.
Meat for sharing: halal only, please.**

For more information contact Solway Nutting 0410 799 297.



Harcourt
Uniting
Church



Rural Australians for Refugees
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CHIRP
Community Health

Enjoy a walking tour of Harcourt

If you'd like to learn more about Harcourt, meet new friends and get some gentle exercise, come on a free, guided walking tour which starts at 10am on March 25th.

Join CHIRP Community health and George Milford as they take you on a fun tour of Harcourt and its new developments.

'The walk starts at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum. Some areas we will visit include the Toll bridge, Picnic Gully Creek, Pippin Court, Geoffrey Thompsons Orchard, Bagshaw Street and also the Harcourt Bowling Club and Bakery,' said George Milford, local history guide.

The gentle, hour-long stroll is part of the monthly community walks organised by CHIRP Community Health. It is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Event details

What: Walking tour of Harcourt
When: 10.00am to 11.00am on Wednesday 25th March
Where: Meet at Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum,
Bring: Hat and water bottle
Cost: Free

No bookings or RSVP is required. For more information call CHIRP Community Health on 5479 1000. Please note the walk will be cancelled if there is heavy rain or it is a Code Red Day.



Harcourt CFA

Summer may be over, but Fire Restrictions are not!

The calendar has ticked over to March, and while the traditional season of summer has passed, fire restrictions remain. Even with unseasonal rain in February and a tinge of green returning, do not be fooled.

One good result of the February rains was the major bushfires in the eastern states being brought under control and some listed as safe.

Victoria is still at risk of fast moving grass and scrub fires. Even as conditions ease in parts of Victoria, the CFA is urging people to prepare for very dry and above average warm conditions to linger into March. The weather bureau's autumn outlook indicates overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average across the state for the next three months, with rainfall also expected to be higher in western Victoria.

The main thing is to remain vigilant and continue to take care. We have had a quiet time locally and, with your assistance, it is hoped to stay that way. Our main turnout activity has been in support for three lightning strikes in the Sutton Grange brigade area.

Thanks for Your Support

The recent community support for our brigade has been amazing and the brigade

would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support. In particular, we wish to highlight three particular events:

- Thanks to the Harcourt BP for hosting a fundraising event on Australia Day with sales of food being donated to the brigade.
- Another thank you goes to Annette and Bruce Rae of the Harcourt Produce & General Store, along with Daryl Fleay and John Clow who donated the proceeds from sales of a photographic exhibition held at the store.
- And a third thank you to the HPA Twilight Market group who decided to have a donation bucket on their information stall in January and February.

When this offer was made, the brigade decided that it would be good to have a cause available so people would know what the money would be used for. For some time, we have been looking at redesigning and shifting our hose-drying rack to the south side of the station. Some concept plans were on display on the night, and thanks to the generous support received, these have now been converted to proper plans, and construction of the rack has commenced.

Insurance Companies – Don't you Just Love Them?

We work on the principle of: 'Where there's smoke, there's fire'. It appears that some insurance companies do not agree.

The recent bushfires have shown up anomalies between insurance companies on what is and what is not covered in house insurance policies.

For example, some policies state that if your house does not catch fire but is damaged by scorching, melting or smoke, then you may not be covered.

Consumer watch dog Choice has highlighted this recently through normal media outlets and, along with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, has taken it to the Federal Government to try and get some standardisation across the insurance industry.

In the meantime, it would be well worth digging out your own policies and having a read of the fine print to see what they say. The Choice spokesperson stated: 'Some do have clear and fair definitions of fire, but others do need to lift their game.'

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Donation to CFA

The Harcourt Produce and General Store was proud to hand over a cheque for \$1,130 to CFA Captain Andrew Wilson. The cheque represented a portion of the proceeds of an exhibition in January featuring the photography of Daryl Fleay and John Clow. Daryl and John have been photographing bird life in this region for many years and they were proud to be associated with the fundraising effort. Their wonderful photography attracted a great deal of attention; store owner Annette Larson Rae donated a proportion of each sale. A special brew of apple cider, made by Annette, was sold by the glass to raise money and in addition there was a large stone jar on the store bench for direct donations. Well done all!



Help to lead the Young Makers Market

If you're a creative young person who would like to get involved in the Young Makers Market, sign up now to become a committee member.

Young Makers Markets are held four times each year and give young people aged 12 to 25 years the chance to host a free market stall to promote and sell their homemade art, crafts, horticulture, food and more.

As a committee member you'll gain the opportunity to develop skills in event management, budgeting, marketing and promotion, communication, meeting facilitation and venue booking.

Afternoon meetings are held in the weeks leading up to each market.

Committee application forms and the Terms of Reference are available on Council's youth website at www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au.

If you'd like to find out more about the committee you can get in touch with Council's Youth Development Unit on 5471 1700 or email youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

To stay up to date on the markets and other local activities for young people follow the team on:

Facebook [@MountAlexanderShireYouth](https://www.facebook.com/MountAlexanderShireYouth)

or on Instagram [@mountalexandershire_youth](https://www.instagram.com/mountalexandershire_youth).

From a Shire Press Release



WALKING TOGETHER –

Towards Reconciliation

The National Apology

The first motion in Federal Parliament on 13 February 2008, put by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, began “That today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in history...”

Apologising to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the Stolen Generation, he said:

“As Prime Minister of Australia,
I am sorry.
On behalf of the government of
Australia, I am sorry.
On behalf of the Parliament of
Australia, I am sorry.”

First Nations people who had been forcibly removed from their families, to the ongoing distress, especially of their mothers, were in the Gallery, and thousands more were assembled outside the Parliament or watching it broadcast all over Australia. Tears, relief and applause followed, in gratitude for the compassion and hope expressed.

An Aboriginal woman delivered a message of thanks inside a glass coolamon to both Parliamentary leaders. Tom Calma, of the Human Rights and

Equal Opportunity Commission, told the tragic story of his great-grandmother being taken from her fiercely protective mother. He said Parliament had laid the foundations for healing, but many of the 54 recommendations of the *Bringing them home* report had not been implemented.

So what were the recommendations, and what progress has been made, twelve years on?

Only two of the seven targets are on track:

On track, the gap in attainment of **Year 12 or equivalent** by 2020 will be halved.

Early childhood education is on track to reach 95% of 4-year-olds by 2025, although halving the gap in **reading and numeracy** is not, nor has the gap in **school attendance** been closed.

Sadly, the gap in **employment** between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people has not been halved, except in one or two States.

The target to halve the gap in **child mortality** rates within ten years from 2008 has not been achieved. Totals for mortality in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations are lower but the gap remains more than half.

Finally, the gap in **life expectancy** was to be closed by 2031, but in spite of a small reduction it is still wide.

In his speech on 12 February this year, the Leader of the Opposition, Anthony Albanese spoke of the three reform priorities needed for Closing the Gap:

Formal partnerships between government and First Nations people

Growing First Nations Community-controlled services

Improving mainstream service delivery to First Nations people.

A start has been mapped out in the Uluru Statement. The new way forward must be led by First Nations people, and Parliament must listen and work with them in meaningful and mutually agreed partnerships.

The way forward is Voice, Truth-telling and Agreement-making.

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

Barkers Creek Recent Works

The Core spoke with Trent Gibson, local resident and Operations Manager of the Djandak Works Team about the recent clearing of Barkers Creek. Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises, known as Djandak (meaning country) were selected for this project after a tender process initiated by DWELP. The works

are located to the west of the bridge over Barkers Creek on Harmony Way (north of Harcourt Produce and General Store). The change is dramatic – the creek is cleared and opened up.

This gives the opportunity for replanting of understorey in the future. The area was infested with willows and other woody weeds and was seen by DELWP as a high priority area needing attention. The willow stumps have been painted to seal them from shooting again. It took four days to do the work with an excavator and hand cutting; the refuse was then loaded onto a truck and taken away.



While the current appearance looks stark, Trent said, “It is possible to see plants shooting even now. If people would like to see the positive result of work like this, head into Castlemaine and look at the creek near the Railway Hotel. This was cleared after the 2011 floods, it was replanted and is now looking great, plus the water can flow more easily, preventing flooding of low lying areas.” Readers may remember dramatic photos of the Railway Hotel during those floods with water running just under the windows.

We will watch with interest as the creek vegetation in that area regenerates and we hope it gets a helping hand with plantings in the future.



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Bridget Worley

French author Alexander Dumas is said to have coined the expression 'cherchez la femme' in his 1859 novel 'The Mohicans of Paris'. The phrase, used by Dumas' character the Detective Mr Jackal, meant in this context: 'There is a woman in every case; as soon as someone brings me a report, I say 'Look for the woman!'' This phrase has since become a cliché of popular detective fiction. Wikipedia provides page after page of instances where this phrase has been employed in film scripts, novels, songs, short stories and TV series. And it has of late been used by feminists as a wry comment on much of history which has overlooked, if not disdained to write about the significant roles which women have had.

A cairn at Specimen Gully, Barkers Creek, commemorates the discovery of gold in 1851 by Christopher Peters, John Worley, George Robinson and Robert Keen. But there was a fifth member of the party, Mrs Bridget Worley. The story of Bridget Worley's part in the drama was written thirty years after the event.

In June 1882, a miner wrote to the *Mount Alexander Mail* inquiring who the first discoverer of gold at Mount Alexander was. In response, Mr JW Pearce informed the editor that in 1851 he had been the manager of Dr Barker's station at Barkers Creek, and had in his employment a Mr Worley, a shepherd,

When passing Worley's camp one day, Mr Pearce was called in by Mrs Worley who told him she wanted to pay for a couple of sheep that John Worley had taken for food. Mr Pearce, however, was a proper Victorian gentleman, with anguished feelings about the propriety of entering the tent of a married woman. He was therefore inclined to push on without delaying, but she insisted that he come inside. Mrs Worley clearly wanted him to look at something. He went inside and she astonished Mr Pearce by showing him a pickle bottle full of gold that her husband



and two mates had picked up that day before lunch. She gave him a nugget out of the bottle, thinking little of such a trifle. Bridget Worley was motivated by basic honesty. But the act set off a tremendous chain reaction, bringing tens of thousands of hopefuls to live in what had been a sparsely populated sheep run.

A week after JW Pearce's report, another Letter to the Editor included the claim that the writer, George Hill, brought the first woman onto Forest Creek. Henry Leversha, a very early arrival on the gold field, was keen to refute this. When Henry Leversha arrived at Golden Point the only women on the field were Mrs Worley, a Mrs Bray and a Mrs Turnbull. Henry stated that, at the time of writing (11th July 1882), Mrs Worley was still living at Specimen Gully, Barkers Creek.

Unfortunately, the Editor never sent anyone to interview Mrs Worley, despite the fact that the most credible witness to the momentous events of 1851 was living nearby.

So, who was Mrs. John Worley? Records reveal that Bridget Worley was born in County Antrim in Ireland, about 1820, to Pat Mulvany (or Mulvaine) and his wife, Rose. Bridget married George Rielley and had one son, Daniel Rielley, born in 1846. George Rielley died, then, in 1848, Bridget married John Worley, a bullock driver, in Melbourne. The couple lived on the Goulburn until John obtained work with Dr William Barker at his Mount

Alexander Station. In 1849, Sarah was born, followed, in 1850, by Mary. Both daughters were baptised at St James Church, Melbourne. Daughter Ellen was born in 1853, followed by James, Mark William and John. James and John died young.

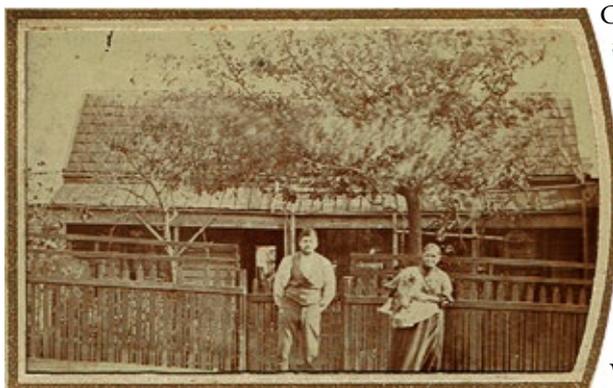
John Worley worked in Specimen Gully for a number of years. In 1866, when John was awarded £250 as a discoverer of gold, his family was still living at Specimen Gully, although John was at Lancefield, working for the owner of a threshing machine. It appears that John Worley had to travel for his work because we have a photo of Mr and Mrs Worley standing in front of a suburban house. This photo, together with a portrait of a seated Bridget Worley (and a portrait shot of Ellen Worley) appears to date from the mid 1870s. In both photographs, Mrs Worley is dressed in a fashionable full-length dress and a tailored jacket, her hair is neatly styled under a pretty be-ribboned bonnet and, what is unusual for photographs of the era, she is depicted with a pet spaniel. These photos came to Harcourt Heritage Centre in an album kept by the McLean family of Faraday. The McLean family lived just over the hill from Mrs Worley and the two families had been friendly.

The stone house in the historic reserve at Specimen Gully was built by Daniel Rielley, who came to Specimen Gully with his mother and step-father as a five-year-old. Daniel Rielley married Susan Portwine in 1874. Daniel and Susan Rielley built their home in Mosquito Gully and had a family of ten children. The house was built after 1870 on the site of what had been the Specimen Gully Chapel. This house is of a distinctive construction, as the slate has been carefully squared and then laid flat to a straight edge to form the walls. It is supposed that Daniel built this house for his mother, Bridget Worley.

John Worley died in Melbourne in January 1889. Bridget lived at Specimen Gully, near her son Daniel Rielley. Bridget resided at Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum for three years until her death in 1898 at age 78.

In tracing the history of Bridget Worley we come to appreciate her pivotal role in publishing the news of what had been a secretive venture. We also link the origins of not one, but two, families – Rielley and Worley. It is interesting to *cherchez la femme!*

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers, compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre.



HARCOURT APPLEFEST



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Dom Luckman



Photo: Dom Luckman



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Dom Luckman



Photo: Robyn Miller

Results Applefest Apple Pie and Chutney Competition 2020

Apple Pie Open	Jane O'Donohue
Apple Pie Junior	Ryah McAinch
Apple Muffin Open	Marlene Thompson.
Apple Muffin Junior	Zoe O'Donohue
Apple Chutney	Marie Twyford

There were 31 entries in total for all categories.



Photo: Robyn Miller



Robyn Yeoward with her paintings.

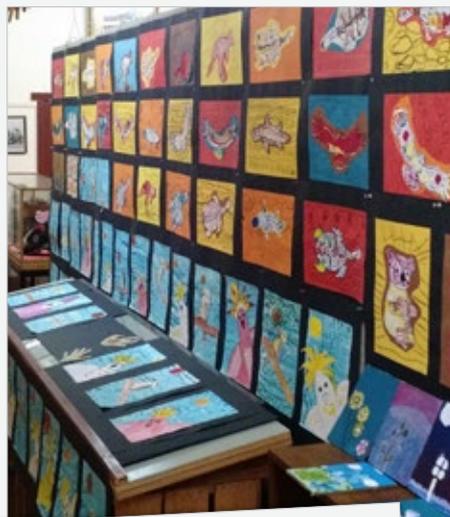


Applefest Royalty, Lady William and King Jonathan (aka Robyn and Mark Mitchell).



The prize winners.

Seen at the Art Show



Apple Pie Judges, Anne Marie Primmer (l), Maree Edwards (MP for Bendigo West) and Ann Marston, tasted all 31 entries and were very impressed with the quality of the entries. Both Ann and Anne Marie have extensive experience in judging at large country shows; Ann has judged regularly at the Royal Melbourne Show.



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Robyn Miller



Photo: Suzanne Dwyer



Photo: Suzanne Dwyer



News from the Harcourt Bowling Club

Veteran

Last month, women from the Bowling Club celebrated with Myra Frankling on her elevation to Veteran status. Moira Straw presented Myra with a gift from fellow bowlers and a beautiful cake which she had made and decorated.



Sponsors' Night Final

The final round of the Sponsors' night for this season was held on Tuesday 18th February and well attended by our valued Sponsors. The overall winning team of the Chappy Challenge Trophy for 2019-20 presented by Brenton Chaplin was Castlemaine Mini Diggers, represented by Garry Devereaux (s), Bernie Gervasoni, Ian Devereaux and Kay Pedretti. Runner Up overall was Peter Douglass Excavations team with Peter (s), Zoe Douglass, Chris Nicholls and Joy Starbuck. A great night was had by all.



Tournaments

Men's Fours Annual Tournament

Another successful Men's Fours Tournament was held last Sunday as the Club welcomed teams from across the District and beyond. Such is the success

of this event that it is held in two fills to accommodate the 28 teams registered.

The Club is grateful to local sponsors Maxi IGA and Kosmac and Clemens for their valuable support of this event.

Winner of the Maxi IGA first fill was Barry Wiley's Gisborne Team with Graham Quaife, John Evans and Dorothy Evans.

Runner Up was Allen Corry's Marong



team with Jim Balkin, Risto Siesmaa and Gary Place.

Winner of the Kosmac and Clemens Second Fill was Brendan Gallagher's Auburn 2 team with Noel Waite, Ray Verzaci and Mick Walker.

Runner Up was Graham Hill's Harcourt



team with Leo Moloney, Steven Douglas and Darrel Normington. (see attached photos of both winning teams)

Ladies' Annual Fours Tournament

The weather held up for the Ladies' Annual Fours tournament, generously sponsored by Mount Alexander Funerals.

The day was a great success with teams attending from across the district. Overall winner of the day was Helen O'Brien's Golden Square team with Faye Davies, Marg Cosack and Joan Brennan. Runner Up was Robyn Shea's combined Bridgwater/ Harcourt team with Jenny



Hosking, Fran Corstorphan and Mary-Anne Doyle. Nearest the ditch winners were Jan Condor Eaglehawk (lead); Pauline Griffin South Bendigo (second); Jenny Holburn Golden Square (third); Carol Patching Eaglehawk (skip). (See photo of winners with Sponsor Brian Leidle from Mount Alexander Funerals.)

Over many years, Life Member and retired bowler, Grace Jenkin, has knitted rugs and other items for our Tournament raffles. Grace attends on the day and has become our chief raffle seller for the ladies' tournaments. This has been a labour of love for Grace and one from which the Club has benefitted and is most grateful for. Thank you Grace.



PENNANT

Although Midweek Pennant teams had a disappointing finish to their season, they can be pleased with the way they have acquitted themselves throughout the year. With new bowlers, changes to their line-up and a few injuries, they have still been strong opponents each week.

At the end of the last pennant day Harcourt ladies met to bid a formal

Friendly Friday Foodies— Fortnightly

The Friday Foodies nights have resumed and will continue each Fortnight until the cooler weather. During February we enjoyed the delights Ossie had to offer in a relaxed atmosphere.

Dates set for March are: Friday March 13th and 27th.

Look out for notices about April dates.

Menus will be displayed at the club and on the website as soon as they are available. Please have your bookings and menu choice in by the Wednesday prior.

CHIRP Exercise Program at Harcourt Bowling Club

CHIRP Community Health has commenced a program for older adults to encourage movement for strength and balance. Led by Carl Harris, you'll practice a range of muscle-strengthening exercises in a friendly group atmosphere. Suitable for people of all abilities.

The program is at the Club on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00 and Fridays from 9.30 to 10.30. Anyone interested should contact CHIRP on 5479 1000. Bookings are essential.

If there is sufficient interest this program will continue for the rest of the year.

What's on in March/April

Barefoot Bowls: March 3rd, 17th, 31st. – Tuesday nights

Friday Foodies: March 13th & 27th - Friday nights (April TBA)

Men's Champion Gough Pairs: March 12th (Thursday) at night (Drawn)

Grant Pairs Tournament: March 15th (Sunday) from 1.00 pm

Ladies' Champion Drawn Pairs: March 19th (Thursday) at night

Kidman Invitation Mixed Fours: March 29th (Sunday) all day tournament



farewell to Joan Bath who will be transferring next season to Woodbury. Joan will still compete in club events until the end of the Season. During her 11 years at the Club, Joan has competed in both Midweek and Weekend Pennant and won many club events in her own right and as part of a team – she will be missed by everyone.

The Weekend Pennant Division 3 finished the home and away season in second place, so they are still in a competitive spot for the finals. Division 5 weren't able to get over their opponents most weeks, finishing a disappointing season. Division 9 retained their top ladder position for most of the season.

So, at the end of the Home and Away rounds we have Divisions 3 and 9 in finals. Well done to all bowlers who got them there. The Finals began with semi-finals on Saturday 29th February and conclude with Grand Finals on Saturday 14th March – let's hope we are still there!

Barefoot Bowls Success

The Barefoot Bowls nights have been a resounding success this year with the club welcoming many new people to try their hands at bowls. Passionate about getting community members involved with the Club, President Russell Maltby has been a driving force behind these events – ably assisted by members of the Club Social Games Committee and other volunteers. The back deck has also been well utilised on these social occasions.

The dates have been set at least until April and they are:

Tuesdays: March 3rd, 17th, 31st.

All subject to the weather of course.

ALL WELCOME for a social game of bowls followed by a delicious BBQ for just \$10 – turn up at 5.30 pm – we start at 6.00pm.

To assist with catering, names in to the club by Monday please, either on the noticeboard at the club or by email to:

harcourtbowls@outlook.com

Bowls are provided. Barefoot Bowls is an opportunity to have fun, try your hand at bowls and meet other locals.

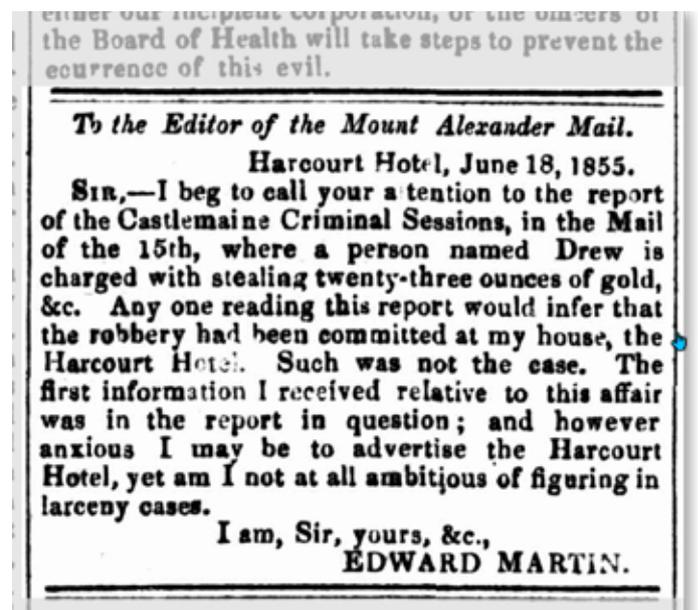
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Some Time Ago



Mount Alexander Mail Fri 22 Jun 1855, Via Trove.



Weather and Water – Autumn has Arrived

The figures below are as at Friday March 6th. Reading further down the page on the Coliban website, it was amazing to see that on the day in the first week of March when we had 30 mm here at Reservoir Road, Malmsbury Reservoir received nothing at all. Also, we noted that there was absolutely no run off – the ground was still parched. In the week since, there is green grass shooting all over Harcourt.

We were naturally hoping for more rain, but it was pleasing to see that many drought and fire-affected areas across the continent received good falls, if not flooding rains. Our rainfall for January was

24 mm. February was better with 57 mm.

January ended with a scorching temperature of 44.2°, but the more moderate temperatures of February were a relief for many of us. By mid-February, I began to notice early signs of autumn. The berries started turning red on the asparagus, and a week ago there was a very cool morning and I thought, 'Autumn has arrived.' This was confirmed when I saw that the crocus flowers had bloomed that same day. Then a few days later I noticed the Nerine had got in on the act. They usually flower a little bit later, so now there is a crazy clash of colours in this little patch of garden.



Current Reservoir Levels

Storage	Capacity at full supply <i>megalitres</i>	Current volume <i>megalitres</i>	Current volume <i>% full</i>	Volume same time last year <i>megalitres</i>	Volume same time last year <i>% full</i>
Upper Coliban	37,770	32,653	86.5%	29,813	78.9%
Lauriston	19,790	14,860	75.1%	14,490	73.2%
Malmsbury	12,034	1,817	15.1%	1,509	12.5%
TOTAL	69,594	49,330	70.9%	45,812	65.8%

Data from: <https://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels> – March 6, 2020

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.



SJK EXCAVATIONS
 Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks

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

0407 514 797

ABN: 63708909386

Join market committee

The Young Makers Market committee is calling for new members aged between 12 and 25 years. Committee members help to promote and organise the quarterly market. Find an application form and the Terms of Reference at www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au.

Register your pool

Did you know that you need to register your pool or spa with Council, following changes to state legislation last year? The Victorian Government introduced the changes to make sure pool fences comply with safety standards and provide a safety barrier to prevent children from drowning. Twenty seven young children have drowned in private swimming pools and spas since the year 2000. In at least 20 of those cases an unsafe pool fence was a contributing factor. Find how to register at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Building_Services or contact Julian Peck, Building Surveyor, on 5471 1759.

Small business workshops

Want to build your business expertise? Come along to our small business workshops run in partnership with Small Business Victoria. Upcoming workshops include:

Finance Fundamentals – Monday 20 April

Commercialising Your New Idea – Monday 11 and 18 May

Taking Your Business Online – Monday 15 June.

Sessions cost between \$20 and \$75. To book or learn more visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources.

Join Council meetings

- 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 March

- 6.30pm on Tuesday 21 April.

Meetings are held at the Civic Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend. Council meetings are broadcast live via 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

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Entries open for the COscars Youth Film Festival

Calling young budding filmmakers! Entries are now open for the first COscars Youth Film Festival hosted by Mount Alexander Shire Council's Youth Advisory Group and FReeZA Committee as a part of the 2020 Victorian Youth Week Celebrations.

The festival is open to all young people aged 12 to 25 years from Central Victoria. Category winners will take home \$150.

Submissions are due by midnight on Wednesday 18 March.

Winning films and a selection of entries will be screened at the festival on Friday 27 March at the Camp Reserve Oval, Castlemaine.

Entry forms and guidelines are available from Council's youth website at www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au, Castlemaine Library and Castlemaine Secondary College reception.

You can also have a chat with Council's Youth Development Unit on 5471 1700 or email youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

From a Shire Press Release



Pruning Time

Hi, everyone.

After a hellish beginning, what a mild summer it's turned out to be, with a distinct feeling of autumn already. It's been a very light fruit season for many growers, with way less fruit being picked than usual on many properties. But the birds and kangaroos didn't get the memo, so they've been just as pesky as usual! The cooler evenings we've already started to get seem to be helping the apples colour up nicely before harvest.

No QFF in Harcourt this season

We seem to have got away with another season without Queensland Fruit Fly, despite a couple of scares that turned out to be the Metallic-Green Tomato Fly. Well done to everyone who's done the work to inform themselves, get on the Harcourt QFF trap register, and practise good habits like picking up all the fruit from the ground – together we've managed to keep Harcourt a Fruit Fly Free Zone for another season!

End of season fruit tree pruning

Now's the time to start thinking about summer pruning of apricots and cherries. These trees are particularly prone to fungal disease, and the risk of disease can be minimised by pruning them in the warm, still weather of late summer/autumn rather than waiting until the cold, wet weather of winter, when we prune most fruit trees.

Make sure your secateurs are very sharp and clean, particularly if they've been used on diseased trees (it's easy to clean them in a 1:10 solution of bleach, or wipe the blades with eucalyptus oil). Some people recommend painting the pruning cuts, but we've found it preferable just to let the cuts dry naturally (so don't prune if there's a threat of rain).

Here are our top three tips for successful fruit growing in March:

1. If you've drape-netted your trees, remove the nets as soon as you've picked the fruit. The heavy nets can weigh down the growing tips of your trees and make it harder to prune them into a good shape. It's also easier to get the nets off while there are still some leaves on the tree.
2. If you want to try growing your own peach trees this year (and save lots of money at the nursery), save the seeds from any peaches you eat. We usually use clingstone peaches, but any peach will do. At this stage all you need to do is save the seed – just let the flesh rot off them (maybe store them outside). Then store the seeds in damp sand, keep them moist over winter, and they'll be ready to plant out next spring to grow your own rootstock (which you can then graft).
3. Pears are one of the few fruit that need to be picked before they're ripe, and then ripen off the tree (some varieties can go floury if you ripen them on the tree). However, you still need to make sure they're mature before you pick them. A great way to tell is to cut one open and look at the seeds – they should be dark brown and plump.

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 online workshop called "The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit". They also offer more than 50 online short courses and the year-long Grow Great Fruit Home-study Program - visit growgreatfruit.com for details.

LIMERICK

by The Bard of North Harcourt

We went for a drive in our car.
It broke down, when we hadn't gone far.
"There's no need to panic
We'll call the mechanic
And then buy a drink in the bar"



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](https://www.facebook.com/LMchesters) • [/LisaChestersBendigo](https://www.facebook.com/LisaChestersBendigo)



ASQ Plant of the Month

Tree Ferns

Grown across South East Australia, Tasmania and parts of northern Queensland, the Dicksonia Antarctica Tree Fern is endemic in Australia.

In the wild, these tree ferns live in moist areas such as alongside creeks, in gullies and occasionally in high mountains. It is important to plant them in areas protected from frost and in a somewhat tropical like climate. The best place for tree ferns is in an established fernery or any position where it can replicate a large tree canopy or forest like setting.

Whether you're experienced in growing tree ferns or you're interested in adding one to your garden, visit ASQ Skydancers to see their range and talk to the friendly staff about the best place to plant yours!



ASQ Skydancers - Garden, Gift & Café



www.asq.net.au

a Cnr Blackjack Rd & Midland Hwy, Harcourt

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



A New Year for VCAL Students at VMR

The first job for this year's Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning Students at the Victorian Miniature Railway is to begin setting up temporary track which will be used to cart equipment in readiness for permanent track to be laid.



Colin Mierisch is shown connecting some temporary track.

Some of the students from last year have already moved on to a career. Hailey so impressed her prospective employer that she was promptly hired at their Diesel Mechanics business in Melbourne. Another student, Bryce, is soon to join the Army. VMR will miss these students but their success demonstrates the effectiveness of the unique experience which students gain in the program.

This year's participants are looking forward to their second year at VMR where they will gain accredited skills in Automotive Engineering and other trades. Chase, as well as being at VMR on Friday mornings, is undertaking a School Based Apprenticeship and spends one day a week at the North Central Catchment Management Authority. He is learning about catchments in Central Victoria as well as endangered flora and fauna.



The first set of signals has been installed.



The new station building is still waiting for some finishing touches but can be seen clearly from some points in central Harcourt - a particularly good view is obtained from next to the cenotaph in Stanley Park.

These Businesses Support The Core



42 Brassey Lane, Welshmans Reef

This property has recently sold and I have buyers who have missed out who are looking for a home on acreage.

If you or anyone you know is contemplating selling I would love to introduce these buyers.



PO Box 62, Harcourt, VIC, 3453
sales@paulinesrealestate.com.au
www.paulinesrealestate.com.au

Pauline Wilkinson
0468 543 589

ABN 596 502 08073
Real Estate Agent's Licence 2179196

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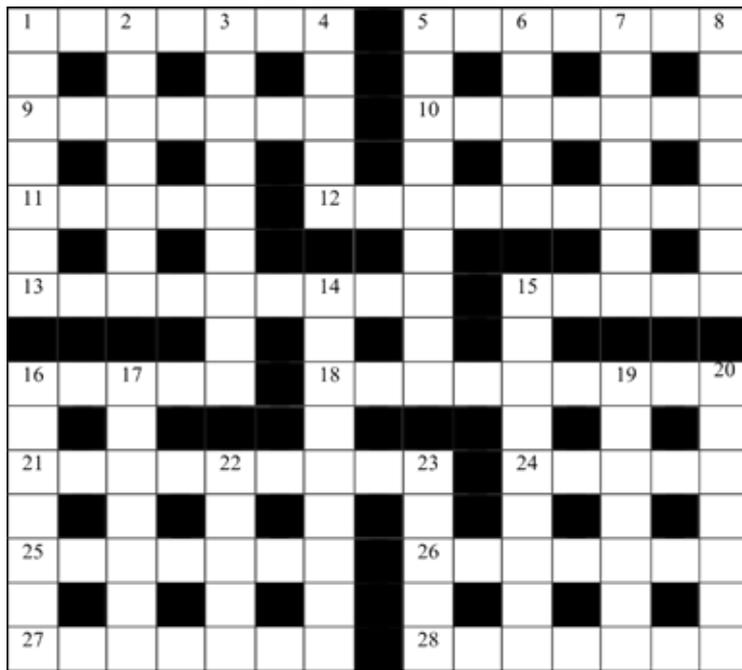
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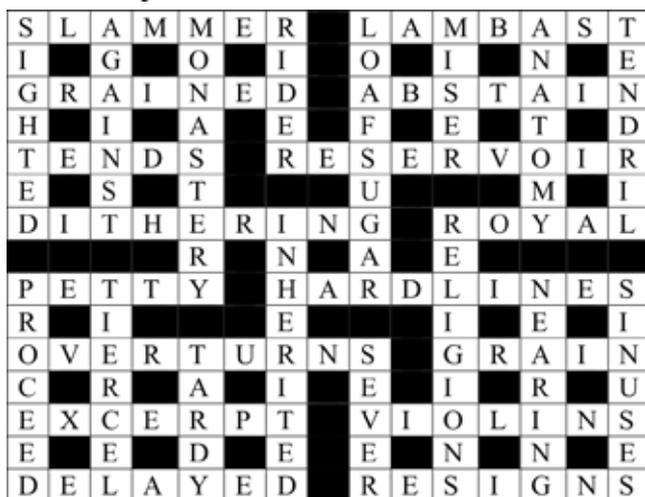
Down:

1. Stomp my evidence, Doc! (7)
2. Anno Domini now over messy engine's retinue is set in concrete... (7)
3. Clear cute ex-pal. (9)
4. Odd sendup of sap for oaf. (5)
5. There's a direness about it, casting doubt on Hamlet's saner side, but he does think it's everything in Act V. (9)
6. Go down pit, children, dig out the black stuff... (5)
7. Look at spine CT scan. (7)
8. Amy offers pardon by incorporating avian home. (7)
14. Supplies with too few rifles where a stink might be kicked up? (9)
15. Agent jabs demon. (5,4)
16. Without supporting evidence, it won't fly... (7)
17. Exit to everything there? (7)
19. Underwater nervous mannerism grows in it or lives near it. (7)
20. Benevolent Shiraz for rellies? (7)
22. Cowboy failed to get up in his event. (5)
23. Narrow back hospital for returned. (5)

Across:

1. Type of rags-to-riches story. (7)
5. That caliper is only a copy of the genuine one on the vehicle, but it's a good one! (7)
9. It's not even me on roof, cocooning the refugees from the African state. (7)
10. Art is an obvious demarcation-dispute area these days, for a craftsman... (7)
11. Early naming of PNG kcart by a liar to a T. (5)
12. This false mob of infidels can be the flashiest! (9)
13. I am true, in all respects, to the original, just a different size. (9)
15. Place to tie painters up can't be without peer, they say. (5)
16. Danger—? Erogenous—? Time—? Smokeless—? No way—just clean air! (5)
18. Bird makes for a way off the boat. (9)
21. If I do this, I'm prettier'n a trans. (9)
24. How he'll treat the heroine after he's spun her a right line? (5)
25. Tidily arranged so as to be tidily arranged. (2,5)
26. Let port expose the schemer—In vino... (7)
27. After melanoma, with sun over-head, I'm anxious. (7)
28. Crude newsman abraded somewhat. (7)

February 2020 Xword solution © McW September '17



Down:

1. Observed footnoting protocol, we hear. (7)
2. I know it's a nag, but I'm not in favour of you lot. (7)
3. My treason makes for a mean story about why I had to leave the pious boys' dorm... (9)
4. Haggard equestrian? [Well?]
5. Petits-fours might be iced, but you could drop Gala-fours in the coffee. (4-5)
6. Moi? Mr Knight, I am so-o-o tight. [Well?]
7. Pick an atom you choose out of it—all part of the body science. (7)
8. 11ac over fill, partly, may cause germination and this questing forth!
14. He can ride in the car Daddy left him (9)
15. Glories in various ways of making sense of fate... (9)
16. Go forth and accept the profit. [Sorry: perhaps just one of the proceeds? Grounds for protest here...]
17. Let Eric reconstruct Bob? [Well?]
19. "N" at the start replaces "th" in grounding ["N"earthing], coming closer... (7)
20. Seuss, in at least one of his kids' books, got up your nose, yes? (7)
22. Hey! Drat! You're back late again! (5)
23. Cut verse off... (5)

Across:

1. Big hitter's in gaol. [Well?]
5. Blast Ma good and proper! (7)
9. Low-GI bread or wood not fashionably wired-in. [ingrained] (7)
10. For sailor [AB] to clean up his indelible mess, he might have to do this for a bit... (7)
11. Join [] finishes [ends] in having a propensity.
12. Rise, Rover and into the dam! (9)
13. Nigh, tired and not making a decision. (9)
- 15, 28. Nazi-sympathiser steps down for a Simpson? [Well?]
16. Bruce can be small-minded at times [Well?]
18. Tough titty if shire land is sold to developers... (4,5)
21. How he spills the dice-shaker by having too many goes? (9)
24. Substance of 9. (5)
25. "...nothing I would more gladly part withal, except my life...except..." Hamlet pushes a [] right into this small part of Hamlet. (7)
26. Musical ways of cooking the books? [Well?—fiddles... a double-take.]
27. Hold back news boss and everything is held back. [Well? Think it thru...]
28. (See 15)

Community Diary Dates

Saturday 14 March and Sunday 15 March: 10:00 am–4:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am–2:00 pm on Sunday. CWA Creative Arts Exhibition by the CWA Central Victoria Group, Maldon Neighbourhood House at 1 Church Street, Admission is \$5.00 and includes a cuppa.

Saturday 21 March: 12.30 pm, Community Picnic Welcoming Refugees and Newcomers, Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Details: contact Solway Nutting on 0410 799 297 or by email solway@mmnet.com.au

Sunday 22 March: 10 am–12 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee. Look for details on the Facebook page.

Wednesday 25 March: 10 am–11 am, Walking Tour of Harcourt, meet at Harcourt ANA Hall.

Saturday 28 March: 4 am–7.30 pm, Twilight Market, James Park, High Street Harcourt.

Bowling Club Dates: See page 15.

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.

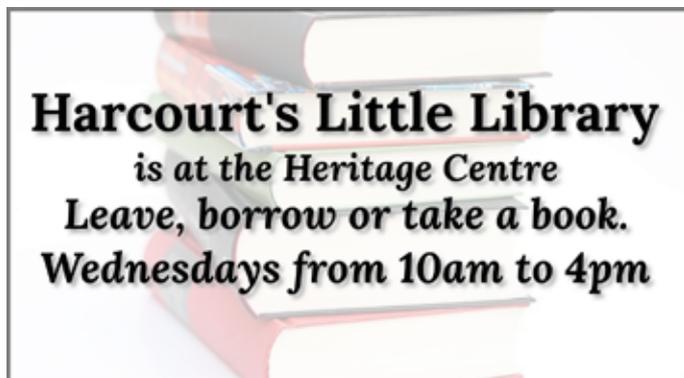
Pony Club: Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30 am–12 midday. Next to swimming pool.

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 7.30 pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way. For further information, contact Di Selwood 0488 148 358.



Harcourt's Little Library
is at the Heritage Centre
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A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: harcourt.vic.au/news

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Success with Asbestos Removal



Before and after photos of one of the asbestos dumps

Landcare member Vanessa Chiang took on the challenge of following up on three asbestos and general rubbish dumps which were identified last year in the Flora Reserve behind the Leisure Centre. She contacted the EPA who passed the task on to Mount Alexander Shire Council. Within a very short time the dumps were gone.

Harcourt Valley Landcare and the community thank Vanessa for this effort and also thank the Shire for responding so quickly. One of the dumps was near nesting boxes put up with the aim of giving the local primary school students the opportunity to observe some of our local bats, birds and small mammals such as phascogales.

New Projects for 2020

In 2020 Harcourt Valley Landcare has at least two new projects on the go: revegetation of sections of Picnic Gully Creek and

the planting of *Dianella tarda* in McIvor Road. The *Dianella* is a very pretty blue flax lily which once flourished in this area, particularly along McIvor Road. Wild apple trees abound in this area and will be removed as part of this project. The project aims to achieve a number of things: the return of *Dianella tarda* to the environment, to improve the population of the blue-banded bee which has a relationship with the *Dianella*, and to reduce the number of wild fruit trees which may attract fruit fly.

Regular working bees will also include maintenance of ongoing projects such as the plantings near the freeway roundabout, plantings along Barkers Creek and the Flora Reserve behind the Leisure Centre.

The group is also doing a review of its plans in early March and will announce further goals and activities soon.

Dates of Meetings and Working Bees

Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month. Working bees usually are usually held on the fourth Sunday in every month in the morning.

For enquiries about activities or membership, see the group's Facebook page or call the Secretary on 0467 670 271.



Blue-banded bee

Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Welcome rain! Things are looking much happier in the garden, and the countryside looks better as well. With the cooler weather, our fire fighters will hopefully get some time off and a chance to relax.

Government at all levels is trying to come to terms with the reality of living in a hot dry land, particularly with regards to land-use planning. There is a serious issue around the appropriateness of living in the bush where there is little or no chance of defending property. Thinking about our local situation where fire trucks are a limited resource, it really gets down to individual property owners taking responsibility for their own situation. Our insurers will certainly take a hit this year but then they will pass on the cost to the community.

Councillors are busy working on the detail of the budget and then the budget

will go out for public comment. There are always competing issues with the budget.

One place where a lot of Council resources is used is in aged and community services. This is certainly an area of high need and is becoming increasingly complex with the NDIS and changes to aged care generally. A factor influencing this is that people have access to better health care and are enjoying better health and longer life. Many of you will know I am on the experienced side of 60. I call it middle-aged to anyone that asks, but people will live longer in the future.

With the dry conditions experienced in recent years many of our sporting clubs are struggling with the high cost of watering ovals. I am very keen to see our sporting and community facilities maintained and developed, as I think sport has benefits right across the community. Young and

old working together to achieve common goals – how good is that! We do not want our ovals to end up as gravel like the one at Queenstown in Tasmania, so we must find a solution around watering sports grounds.

I see my colleague Cr Lesser is writing about the next Council election in a local paper. With proposed changes to the Local Government Act, there is some uncertainty about our ward structure. I am sure we will find out in due course.

The election in November is still quite a way off, but please be assured I continue to work very hard for our local community. Being involved as a local Councillor is a fantastic experience. We have a great Council with a diverse group of Councillors, and there is always robust debate.

Best regards to all

A G (Tony) Cordy 0439 742434





QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

Season calendar of BACKYARD JOBS

SPRING

September	October	November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove QFF host plants if you are not going to control QFF in your garden Design your vegetable garden layout and cropping cycles so that QFF populations don't build up Set up traps to monitor for QFF and check traps weekly 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick and dispose of any excess ripe citrus especially grapefruit and late season oranges Pick up and dispose of any fallen loquats Spray high risk fruit if appropriate and always follow label instructions
<p><i>Remember!</i> In SPRING high risk fruits are late season citrus such as grapefruit and early ripening hosts such as loquats.</p>		

SUMMER

December	January	February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net your vegetable garden or bag individual fruit Pick up fallen fruit everyday Check tomatoes for sting marks Heat treat fallen and infested fruit and vegetables to kill QFF maggots 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trap and monitor QFF population levels weekly Spray high risk fruit if appropriate and always follow label instructions
<p><i>Remember!</i> In SUMMER high risks fruits are stonefruit such as cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines and plums. High risk vegetables are tomatoes, capsicums and chillies.</p>		

AUTUMN

March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick up any fallen fruit to break the QFF lifecycle Heat treat fallen and infested fruit to kill QFF maggots 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor for QFF and check traps weekly Continue to spray high risk fruit if appropriate and always follow label instructions
<p><i>Remember!</i> In AUTUMN high risk fruits are pomefruit such as apples, pears and quinces, early citrus such as mandarins, also other fruit such as pomegranates and ornamental fruiting plants such as feijoa (pineapple guava).</p>		

WINTER

June	July	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prune fruit trees to a manageable height for ease of fruit picking and netting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace unwanted QFF host trees with non-host plants Pick up fallen fruit
<p><i>Remember!</i> In WINTER the risk of QFF fly is lower but winter fruits can provide a food source for overwintering fruit flies. These include apples, pears, quinces and pomegranates left hanging on trees and ripe winter citrus such as oranges, mandarins and grapefruit.</p>		

DPI QFF factsheets for the home gardener are available: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/insects/qff

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