

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 90 – February 2022

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news

harcourt.vic.au/news

Applefest Royalty

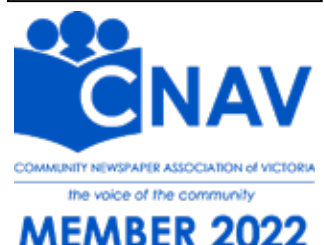


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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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.**



AS RELATIVE NEWCOMERS TO HARCOURT, Ruth and Phillip Hay, who have accepted the role of Applefest Royalty for 2022, have a philosophy: 'Don't expect the community to come to you; go to the community.'

Since moving here, Ruth has taken volunteer roles in Harcourt, Castlemaine and Maldon, and Phillip, a long-time member of Rotary, has transferred to the Castlemaine Rotary branch. In their new roles as King Jonathon and Lady William, Phillip and Ruth have joined in the Applefest meetings and have been keen to learn the traditions of Applefest.

For thirty-plus years, Phillip and Ruth lived in Melton which served as a base to bring up their family and for work. When retirement came along they decided they wanted to move to a rural area.

While Phillip's work as an industrial chemist took him all around Australia and the world, Ruth took on the homemaker role. Ruth said, 'Our four children arrived in the space of six years, so I had my hands full at home, but once the three older children were at school, I decided to go to university, and I completed a Bachelor of Arts.'

Continued on page 16.

Plan Harcourt

Mount Alexander Shire Council is undertaking an amendment to the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme to help guide the future growth and development of Harcourt.

In July 2020, Council adopted Plan Harcourt, a Council document that explores spatial land planning, town centre design and activation, and local economic development initiatives through both the Harcourt Framework Plan and Shine Harcourt.

The plan, informed by consultation with the Harcourt community, recommends changes to the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme, including changes to planning policy, the introduction of new zones to manage future residential and commercial land uses, and overlay controls to achieve preferred design and development outcomes.

'Harcourt is identified as a town that can accommodate growth in the region, and it is important that this growth is carefully planned to ensure we promote and preserve the local character and other important features of the town,' said Michael Annear, Council's Director Infrastructure and Development.

Public exhibition of the amendment will take place from 11 January to 6 March 2022 to give the community an opportunity to view and make a submission on the proposed changes.

Council's Strategic Planning team is running two drop-in sessions in Harcourt to provide more information to residents and other interested stakeholders:

Tuesday 15 February 2022

4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the ANA Hall, Harcourt

Tuesday 1 March 2022

4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the ANA Hall, Harcourt

To register for a drop-in session, please contact the Strategic Planning team via email at strategicplanning@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or call 5471 1700.

The amendment documents can be viewed at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt or during business hours at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine.

Any person who is affected by the amendment may make a written submission by Monday 7 March 2022.

For more information about the planning scheme amendment process, see below or visit: www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme

What is the Harcourt Framework Plan?

See the Framework Plan on Page 28.

The Harcourt Framework Plan is a strategic planning document that forms the basis for future changes to the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme.

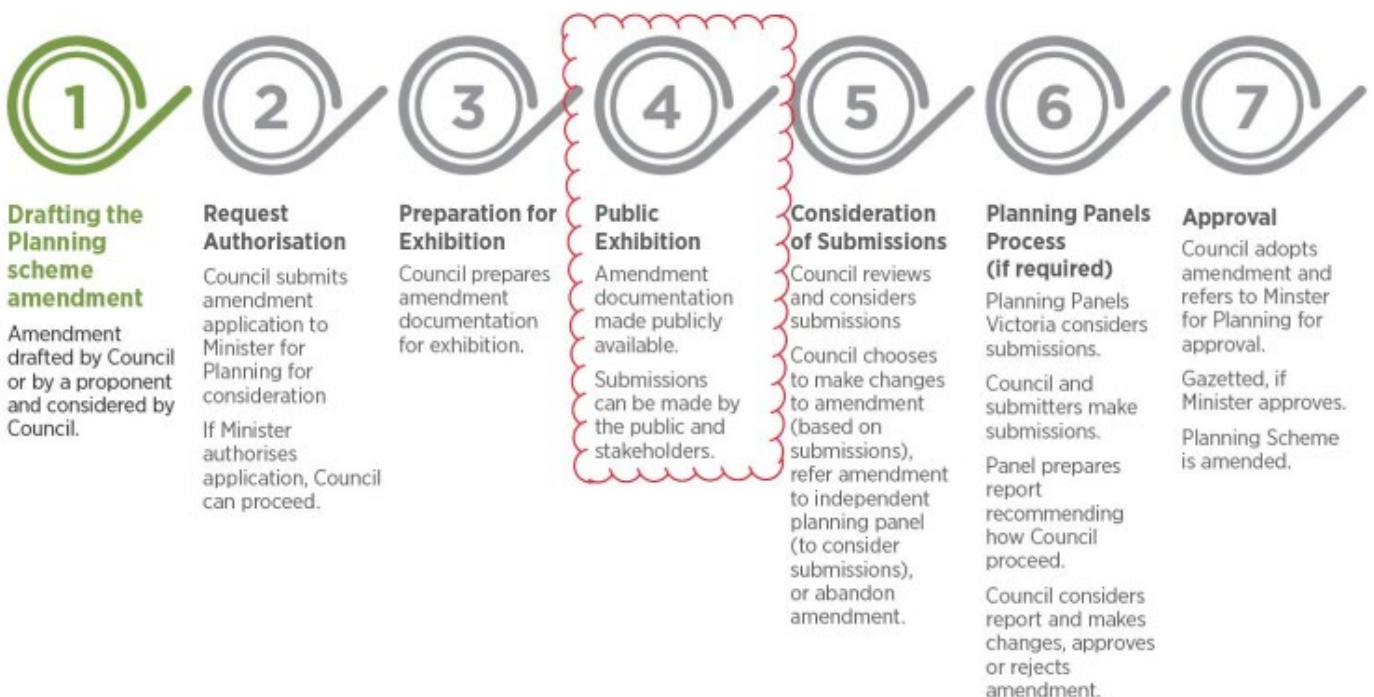
The Plan includes policy directions and a graphical map that designates future growth and change in the township, including the rezoning of land and the application of overlays.

The Planning Scheme currently includes policy and a framework (graphical) plan for Harcourt. It is proposed to update the policy and the framework (graphical) plan with the new policy and plan prepared by this process.

Timeline: Where are we now?

Plan Harcourt was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 21 July 2020. The Strategic Planning team has submitted documentation to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning seeking authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence a planning scheme amendment (known as C94malx).

On 11 November, 2021 the Minister for Planning and DELWP authorised Council to proceed with the Amendment, subject to conditions. This amendment will seek to introduce new policies, zones, and overlay controls, along with the framework (graphical) plan demonstrating residential and commercial areas, into the Planning Scheme. Now that the amendment is authorised, the public exhibition process is underway.



HPA President's Letter in Response to Plan Harcourt



Dear Harcourt Community and HPA Membership,

After two years of preparation by Council, we have reached the point where the Harcourt Community have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the local planning scheme. The Public Exhibition phase of the Plan Harcourt process has begun, with two public information sessions and a four week window for submissions remaining.

The scope of the proposed planning scheme amendments is broad and much has been considered by Council, community and the HPA throughout the process. In general, the amendments are focused in worthwhile directions, and they attempt to be constructive in seeking solutions to the challenges of Harcourt's projected future growth. However, the robustness of controls on development and harm mitigation in relation to environment and agriculture is yet to be proven. The three main areas of concern, as expressed to me by community members, are:

Preservation of the town's character and the valley's natural amenity.

The density of housing in Harcourt is low, there is a feeling of space and the ribbons of native vegetation connect people with the flora and fauna. Many will tell you how they enjoy the rural charm of Harcourt and how they do not want to see residential development distort the sense of space or interfere with trees and other natural assets.

Of course, development is not inherently destructive, however, more comprehensive planning controls are required to ensure development does not come into conflict with the environment, ensuring Harcourt's natural appeal and its significant indigenous flora, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors are protected, preferably expanded. Such controls could also be used to ensure that: the density of proposed developments is appropriate, the buildings are sustainable, the development provides a mix of housing, while also providing new public space and remaining sympathetic with the town's character.

Management of the expanding town's impact on agriculture and the environment.

The proposed town expansion areas will result in 30-100ha of land being rezoned from farming to residential land. More consequential than the rezoning is the interface between the expanded town, agriculture and the environment and potential conflicts which can arise. The town's boundary will be approximately 9 kilometres in length under the proposed amendments. That is 9,000 metres where a compromise between agricultural use and residential use must be reached. The proposed town boundary is often aligned along natural features in the landscape which invariably host native vegetation and wildlife.

Caught in the middle, these habitats need protection.

A buffer zone is mentioned in the proposed planning amendments, yet there is no definition or suite of protections which are targeted at resolving the inherent tensions between these land uses.

Harcourt needs a cohesive town centre which provides for retail, services and public space.

Harcourt has a long history, and the de-facto town centre has had many shapes. Plan Harcourt acknowledges the need for an urban design and attempts to provide a planning framework for the town centre. However, there are some areas which need more

attention: The need to review the placement/size of the proposed retail zoning; a comprehensive plan to remove the dominance of old highway, create cycling and walking connections across the town and interconnect public green space; the need to review alternate town centre options based on historic development or emerging opportunities. Many aspects of a plan for the town centre are beyond the scope of the planning scheme amendments, and the authors should be given credit for pursuing any of these issues, however, the planning scheme does provide a basis and has a strategic impact on the development of the town centre.

For anyone with suggestions or concerns about how Harcourt grows in to the future and the character of the valley after it expands, now is their final chance to give voice to those views. Let's plan Harcourt's future and realise its fantastic potential as a place of natural beauty, with thriving native flora and fauna, sustainable development, productive agriculture and a vibrant community.

Thank you to the Council and the Community for their contributions to this process so far.

Visit www.harcourtprogress.org.au/plan for more information.

Regards,

David Foley

Restoration of Harcourt Station Building to Commence

Maree Edwards, MP for Bendigo West, has announced that the Bendigo-based construction company BLR Provincial will carry out works to restore the historic Harcourt Station which is to be transformed with new spaces for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Works are to begin in February and include carrying out structural repairs and refurbishment, as well as installing a kitchenette and accessible toilet so the building can be used for community events and meetings.

Once the works are complete, Mount Alexander Shire Council will be the head tenant of the Harcourt Station building, and the building will be managed by the Harcourt Progress Association as a community neighbourhood house with meeting, training, office and performance spaces.

BLR Provincial was awarded the contract for the works on both the Harcourt Station and the Newstead Station goods shed, following a competitive tender process. The company has experience carrying out heritage restorations on many buildings in Bendigo and last year completed works to upgrade the Bendigo Station waiting room.

Maree Edwards said, 'We're now one step closer to restoring the Harcourt Station building and the Newstead Station goods shed, which will not only bring these buildings back to life, but it will also give local people new community spaces.'

Both projects will be delivered in conjunction with an expert heritage architect, to ensure the restorations are sympathetic to the historic values of the buildings.

Works to restore the buildings are being carried out through the Andrews Labor Government's *Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program*, which involves refurbishing vacant station buildings across the state so they can be opened and used by local communities.

From a Press Release

The Core online has live links – Click a link to go to the website or to open your email software.



Harcourt Lions

Community Service Awards 2022

Happy New Year 2022!

What a challenging year 2021 was for the community and the Lions! The sixteen members of the Harcourt & District Lions Club have contributed more than 1,200 hours of community service in 2021 amid multiple lockdowns and restrictions on activities relating to Covid-Safe planning.

Members of the Club cut and delivered firewood to several members of the community in need. Members also set up, cleaned and then packed up marquees for several events towards the end of 2021. They also provided support and made donations to local community projects, including the Victorian Miniature Railway. They established a new project working with the Castlemaine Motocross to provide catering to the riders and their families.

The members then finished off the year by helping Santa make a very special visit to the children of Harcourt in Stanley Park on Christmas morning.

More than thirty children and parents came down to meet Santa when he arrived in a big red truck (generously provided by Ian McClure). Santa handed out some



very cute and cuddly Lions toys to the newborns in attendance, and the children and adults all received an icy-pole along with a bit of early morning cheer!

In 2022, VMR will continue working on getting the footing permits approved

by Council for the restoration of the 101-year-old, eight-metre high, timber railway signal box that VMR acquired.

The signal box has now been transported to the VMR site and will become the new club rooms for the Harcourt Lions. It needs to be reconstructed and restored with assistance and donations from the community. So, if this project interests you, please contact us for more information on how you can donate money, materials or some of your time to help us get settled in during 2022!

Lions Club members will continue to support the Castlemaine Motocross events in 2022 by providing catering. We also look forward to increasing our presence at local community events throughout the year and to returning the Lions Club Community Service Awards to Applefest in 2022.

To submit your nominations for the Harcourt & District Community Service Awards, please fill in the nomination form on the next page and submit it to the Harcourt & District Lions Club by Friday the 25th February 2022. Nominations can be made by post or online to the Club Secretary at harcourt@lions201v1-4.org.au

Grant Victor-Gordon



New Staff wanted at The Core

Are you interested in writing, reporting, taking photos and/or editing?

The Core is looking to expand its editorial and reporting team.

If you have an interest in our community – sports/ events/issues etc please consider joining us.

You will need some confidence in talking to people, taking notes and using computer skills.

Training and support will be on hand and paid for when needed.

Attendance will be paid for the annual Community Newspapers Association of Victoria Conference – learn more about community newspapers.

Contact the editor, Robyn Miller: 0467 670 271 or by email: news@harcourt.vic.au



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

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Harcourt – Castlemaine – Maldon



Awards. Details of eligible persons are listed below.

Please submit all nominations by no later than Friday 25 February 2022 to the Harcourt Lions Club. Nominations can be sent by post or via email to the Club Secretary at harcourt@lions201v1-4.org.au

All members of the public are invited to join in celebrating Applefest in 2022. Please help us to thank those very special members of our Community who have made such valuable contributions in 2020 and 2021.

The celebrations will take place on Saturday 12 March 2022. Community Service Awards will be presented by the Harcourt & District Lions Club to community members as part of the Applefest event program.

The Harcourt Lions are now calling for nominations for Youth of the Year or Community Member of the Year

NOMINATION FORM
2022 HARCOURT & DISTRICT
YOUTH OF THE YEAR OR
COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

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

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

Second of Nomination:

Signature:

Reasons for nominating (attach extra sheet if needed)

Nominated Person:

Residential Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Person making Nomination:

Address:

Phone/Mobile:

Email:

Signature:

Mail: PO Box 100 Harcourt VIC 3453

Email: harcourt@lions201v1-4.org.au

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

Mount Alexander Photographic Society

(umbrella of Castlemaine Camera Club Inc)

The club aims to foster photography in this district and support photographers for self-development and participate in community activities and simple enjoyment.

Some features of the program:

- Encouragement of beginners, mobile phone camera users and people who want to better their 'snaps'
- Saturday morning and evening photo shoots – a plus for working people
- Competitions for people who like them – Open and Monthly themes
- Speakers from members and guests
- The program for 2022 is outlined in an email to members which is in the form of a calendar of events for the year.

Please see the poster to the right

Mount Alexander Photographic Society

Do you want to ...

- * Explore more about the Art of Photography?
- * Meet like-minded people?
- * Attend programs to learn new techniques?
- * Take field trips to exciting local photo locations?
- * Enter photo competitions?

Photographers of all levels and ages are welcome

Starting in February, we meet on the
2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm



A single ember can spread bushfires as far as 30km.

Burning embers from bushfires can travel up to 30km, starting new fires in seconds, destroying homes and making escape impossible. If the Fire Danger Rating is ever extreme or above, don't hesitate. Leave early.

How well do you know fire?

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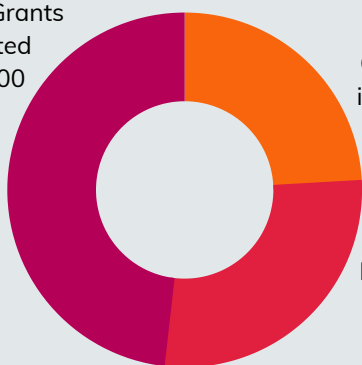
Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

VICTORIA
State Government

Supporting your community

Over \$300,000 in partnerships, grants and donations distributed in 2021 and another \$100,000 invested for future grants

2021 CEF Grants
distributed
\$200,000



CEF future
investment
\$100,000

2021
Partnerships
\$115,000

2021 Partnerships - \$115,000

55 community projects through our community partnership program:

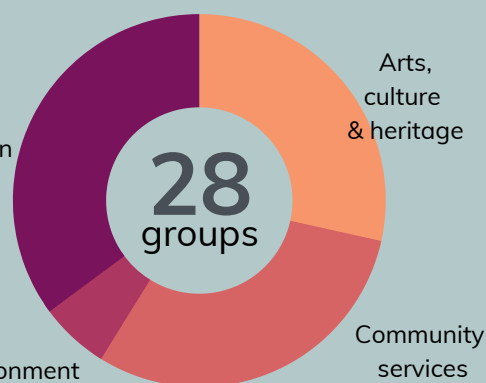
- Local sporting groups
- Community organisations
- Small Business Action Plan
- Driver Education Programs
- 12 AED defibrillators to local schools

2021 CEF Grants - \$200,000



Sport &
recreation

Education, environment
& animal welfare



Over \$3.4 million has been returned to the region since 1999

A huge thanks to all of our customers banking with the Community Bank Maldon & District - we could not do it without you

*Thank
you!*



WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Reconciliation

Treaties Between Indigenous Peoples and Governments

A treaty is not merely a consultation, but an agreement reached after a process of negotiation. The parties sit and talk together as equals, working towards a mutually beneficial resolution.

Besides its symbolic and practical benefit, a treaty between Indigenous peoples and settlers promotes collaboration and reconciliation. It both advances the Indigenous peoples' goals, and gives governments legal clarity about traditional land and other matters.

Treaties concerning land, health care, education, hunting and fishing rights have been established in British dominions since early stages of colonisation. Nevertheless, Indigenous peoples were usually subjected to British law, economic systems and policies of assimilation.

Australia is the only Commonwealth country that has no treaty with its First Nations' peoples.

Colonists in North America negotiated and signed several treaties with different First Nations groups from the 17th century onwards. Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are now sovereign peoples living under their own laws.

Canadian Indigenous peoples believed the early treaties said that they would share the land, while the colonisers saw it as their possession. Now, the Canadian Government allows First Nations, Inuits and Metis to express their identity as distinct peoples.

In Australia and British Columbia, the *terra nullius* myth justified the absence of treaty-making.

In New Zealand a treaty was signed in 1840 between 540 Rangatira (Maori Chiefs) and the British Crown, and subsequently circulated for more signatures. The English version of the Treaty of Waitangi said that Maori were agreeing to hand over their sovereignty to the British. The Maori translation of 'sovereignty', *kawanatanga*, meant governance. So the Rangatira signing it believed they were allowing the British to set up a government but that they would retain their sovereignty and their rights to manage their own affairs.

The Treaty was frequently breached, particularly by land dispossession and denial of cultural rights. Up to the 1940s many Maori petitions and even deputations to the British monarch had brought little change.



Maori National flag

Once political structures were set up, such as the Waitangi Tribunal in 1975, Maori have been able to tell their stories, resolve grievances and advance reconciliation. Maori now comprise nearly 17% of the population.

In Australia, demands by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for a treaty or treaties persist, in spite of constant refusals. By contrast with Maori, hundreds of Indigenous languages are spoken and

First Australians make up only 3.3 % of the population.

The 2015 land settlement with the Noongar people in Western Australia is seen as a classic treaty. Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory are on paths to developing a treaty process. The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is working with State Government to create a Treaty Negotiation Framework for negotiations and for the processes by which treaties can be agreed in Victoria.

Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation 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 Tennis Club – Top Ranking

There are two teams playing: A Grade and B Grade. Scores are calculated as if there is one team and scores are added together.

15 January 2022:

Our first game back after the Christmas break was Harcourt versus Lockwood. The score was 12 sets 85 games to 6 sets 73 games

22 January 2022:

We played at Newbridge with one lady short and still won: 10 sets 77 games to 8 sets 74 games

29 January 2022:

We won 18 sets 108 games to Woodvale 0 sets 25 games

5 February 2022:

Had our first loss: Wilson's reef 10 sets 79 games to Harcourt 8 sets 78 games

At the time of submission of results: We are top of the ladder with two matches to go.

Faye Hards



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Pennant

Harcourt Bowling Club Pennant teams are tracking well and have generally improved their ladder positions in both Midweek and Weekend competitions. At the time of going to print (completion of Round 8) Weekend Pennant ladder positions were: Division 2 – 6th; Division 6 – 4th; and Division 8 – 4th. Also, after Round 8 Midweek Pennant positions were: Division 3 – 1st and Division 5 – 4th. Well done and a good effort to all teams.

Club Championships

Since the December issue of *The Core* both the Ladies' and Men's Club Singles Championships have been played. The Ladies Singles Championship was awarded to Carrol Frost, with Wendy Chaplin runner-up. The match was played just prior to Christmas.



Singles Champion Carrol Frost with Wendy Chaplin.

The Men's Singles Championship, played out on January 23, went to Tony Olsson who defeated last year's winner Rod Harris in an exciting game.

The Club Champions will now compete in Division Championships in February. The winners of these Division

Harcourt Bowling Club



Singles Champion Tony Olsson (r) with runner-up Rod Harris and President Ken Tribe.

Championships then go on to compete in the state finals. We wish them all good luck and good bowling.

Other Championships

- The Club 100-Up competitions are well underway and are due to be completed by the end of March.
- Club Women's Nominated Pairs and Men's Nominated Pairs Championships are due to be started.
- Club Women's Drawn Pairs and Men's (Gough) Drawn Pairs will be in March.

Christmas Breakup

Mindful of the COVID rules, the Club Christmas break-up on Saturday 18 December was a more casual event of a barbeque with delicious salads and desserts. Although the numbers were decreased, the enjoyment factor was at the usual high standard.

Volunteer Thank You

During the Christmas break, and in the searing heat, our Club maintenance volunteers spent a lot of hours resurfacing, grooming and watering the green to improve the surface for our bowlers. Grounds volunteers also maintained the gardens and surrounds and installed new seating.

Thank you to our volunteers for generously giving of your time and expertise.

Friday Social Nights

It is so good to have our Friday Social Nights back. The bar is open from 4.30 pm, ideal for that after-work drink and catch up at the end of the week.

There are, of course, the usual raffles offering around nine worthwhile prizes which will be drawn after the Members' Draw at 6.30 pm.

Visitors will be made most welcome at the Club with the usual requirement of QR-code or sign in and double COVID vaccination.

Barefoot Bowls and Barbie

The first of the BBQ-Bowls nights was held on Tuesday 25th January which we hope will be a success. Management have noted a decline in interest since the pandemic and are looking at ways to encourage bowlers to utilise our facilities.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Sunday 6th Feb

Men's Invitation Fours Tournament

Thursday 10th Feb

Ladies' Fours Tournament

Tuesday 15th Feb

Sponsor's Night

Sunday 20th Feb

Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament



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Harcourt Football Netball Club

Training got underway in mid-January with good numbers and, importantly, some new faces to help replace those who have moved on.

Coaches Alex, Wridgy and Heath are fully aware that last year, though successful, needs to be backed up with an even stronger performance this year.

So far, both numbers and quality are good and need to be linked with effort and commitment.

Junior footy is yet to start, but things are looking positive for our first U-17s team for many years. Which means that a transition from juniors to senior footy is looking positive.

Our AGM will be on Wednesday February 16 at 7.15 pm.

While our off-field position is also okay, a few more numbers on the committee and lending a hand on match days would ease the pressure on our dedicated and long-serving volunteers. Make yourself known to the people around the club. We are a welcoming mob, and, with even more help, our current success can continue.

Lions Roar

Daryl Gale





RECRUITING JUNIORS NOW

COME ALONG TO OUR MEET & GREET

THURS 10th FEB @ 4:30 pm

SUN 13th FEB @ 3 pm

HFNC are on the hunt for players to continue the growth of our junior football teams for season 2022.

CURRENT	NEW in 2022
U11.5 (11 yrs @ 30 June 22)	COACH PAUL CHAPLIN
U14.5 (14 yrs @ 30 June 22)	U17.5 (17 yrs @ 30 June 22)

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Harcourt Lion please get in touch for further updates



Junior Coordinator - 0407314378



Harcourt Pony Club Christmas Rally

The Pony Club's Christmas Rally was a fun day with games, fancy Christmas dress, presentations and a Christmas lunch.

Lots of new members had a great day, and every new rider got a ride on either ponies or horses thanks to the members and friends who brought along extra horses so that no one missed out.

Presentations were:

Best attendance for 2021: Pearl Williams and Elsa Haebich,

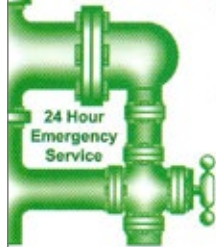
Most improved rider for 2021: Isabella Kunde and 'Bronty'

DC's award: Elsa Haebich. The DC Award is for someone who is always available and happy and willing to help out with everything that is going on in the club and especially helping me out when needed.

Peggy Mills



Pony Club members in the Christmas Parade.



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Grace Church

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gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



Harcourt Heritage Centre

William Eagle's Great Trek of 1859

In 1910, William James was looking back to the foundations of Harcourt's fruit-growing industry. He recalled William Eagle's 'almost impossible feat' of bringing the first apple trees to Harcourt. This was a most important event in the future of Harcourt. The trees, which were brought from Greensborough on Mr Eagle's tip dray, were divided up between William Eagle, Henry Ely and William Ely.

The words 'an almost impossible feat' deserve to be teased out a bit.

In deciding to use a tip dray, William Eagle had chosen a very uncomfortable ride. Indeed, on many sections of the road (and I use the term 'road' very loosely) William would have walked alongside the horse while holding the reins.

Rough gravel roads do not make for a comfortable seat when you are perched on the front edge of an unsprung dray. The 'corduroy' road through the Black Forest was a particular hazard. Potholes, deep muddy ruts and abandoned equipment littering the roadside, make for difficult choices: Should you suffer the endless corrugations of the formed roadway (with its bed of saplings laid across the track), or should you follow someone else's off-road tracks which might wander in and out among gum trees only to lead you into a boggy stretch?

Then there were the hills. Horse and driver often had a long, uphill trudge. For every uphill slog there was an equally worrying downhill stretch in which the dray threatened to overtake the horse.

Memorable uphill/downhill sections of the road were at Faraday, Malmsbury, Gisborne, Corkscrew Hill and Gap Hill. The track leading to Whatmough's orchard in the Plenty River gorge at Greensborough was worst of all!

William Eagle must have taken the best part of three days to reach Greensborough.

William's horse was a well-tempered, much-handled beast. No doubt it enjoyed the chaff when William put on its nosebag at midday and when he took it out of the shafts at the end of each day's trudge. Such a long journey was a far cry from the shorter travels that the horse was used to – carting timber and stone from the foot of Mount Alexander to the Eagle family home site on what is now Reservoir Road, Harcourt, or drawing the plough back and forth on the hillsides cultivating the soil ready for the planned apple orchard.

William Eagle was born in the apple-growing village of Cowlinge, Suffolk. He

migrated to Sydney as a married man of twenty-two in 1851 and, with his wife and his schoolboy friends, Henry and William Ely, soon made his way to the Mount Alexander diggings. It was Henry Ely who scouted around the diggings and found land at the foot of Mount Alexander that was suitable for fruit growing.

In July-August 1859 the land was ready for the first fruit trees. We know that it was winter when William Eagle made the journey to Greensborough to purchase the young apple trees – transplanting fruit trees can only be done when the young trees are dormant.

William Eagle, who was 30 years of age in 1859, left behind his wife and three infant children when he set out. The reasons for the journey to Greensborough were two-fold, partly commercial and partly domestic. William would also visit his widowed mother, his brothers Joseph (24) Ebenezer (22) and his sister Mary Ann (19) who were living at Greensborough.

In 1855 William's widowed mother had followed her eldest son in migrating to Sydney with her three younger children. The new arrivals did not linger in the harbour city but came to Victoria soon after landing, settling at Greensborough.

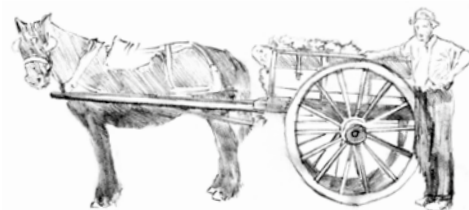
Other families, by name of Jolley and Braddy, who had also emigrated from Cowlinge, were living at Greensborough at that time.

All of these ex-Cowlinge folk must have found Greensborough to be quite congenial, because it was already famous as an apple-growing district.

John Batman had planted apple trees at present day Docklands during the earliest days of European settlement of Victoria, and after Batman's death in 1839, several fruit trees from his orchard were transplanted in the Greensborough district.

Robert Whatmough held the lease of the famed Greensborough orchard from 1842 and was a significant figure in horticulture, developing, growing, and exhibiting many prize-winning fruit varieties. In his time, the Batman tree was known as 'Whatmough's Fancy'. He was a founding member of the Victorian Horticultural Society. It was from Robert Whatmough that William Eagle purchased the dray-load of young fruit trees.

The acquisition of young fruit trees to start what was then called a 'plantation'



A tip dray

was a big investment. The purchase of the young trees would have cost a lot of the gold that had been gained by William Eagle and the Ely brothers at the Forest Creek diggings.

Having loaded up the tip-dray with heeled-in young apple trees packed in soil, William farewelled his mother and his siblings and turned his horse homewards to make the three-day trip back, over hill and gully, over muddy pot-holed roads, to Harcourt. He must have endured some very cold winter nights sleeping under the tip-dray – under the precious cargo – as he camped each evening on the homeward journey.

Writing in his book *Forty Years in the Wilderness*, John Chandler stated on page 115:

The early pioneers of this colony had often to go through great hardships: 'Many cold nights, wet days and dangers I have had to go through, and yet was spared.'

William Eagle may have used these exact words if he had left a written account of his 'almost impossible feat'. But it was left to William Eagle's son-in-law, WE James, to remind us of this foundational event – a venture which had a big influence on the landscape, the development and the prosperity of the Harcourt valley.

This is another in a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers written by Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre for *The Core*.

Accounts of travel in the 1850s all agree on one point: The roads were very bad. Howard Carr's 2006 book *The Calder Highway* gives a graphic account of the dangers and difficulties.

A short biography of William Eagle is in *Bridging the Generations*, 2002 by Howard Carr.

Victoria's oldest apple tree, often referred to as the 'Batman' or 'Whatmough' apple tree, still survives at Greensborough near the Plenty River. It is only accessible from Hamish Court. The tree, which is strong and healthy, is of the Rymer variety, an early-season apple with good keeping qualities, used for both cooking and eating.



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

New Office Bearers

Well, we made it into 2022. Last year was not the easiest year for any of us, but, as you can see from their happy faces, these three ladies were very excited to be elected to be our Office Bearers for 2022 at our AGM last year.



Marie Twyford (left) was elected President, Robyn McConville (middle) is once again our Treasurer, and Helen Hand (right) will record our monthly meetings as Secretary. Thank you ladies, Harcourt CWA is in good hands.

ACWW International Meeting via Zoom

I had an interesting experience late last year.

As you might imagine, we are not at the cutting edge of technology in our little bush branch of the CWA, so I was very excited to take part in my first real Zoom meeting.

The Associated Country Women of the World – or ACWW as it is more generally known – is an international organisation with headquarters in London and with members from most of the women's organisations around the world. It represents nine million members in over 80 countries, and the Australian CWA is a member. It has consultative status with the United Nations and its agencies and represents rural women generally, facilitates better access to information resources and funds community development projects and training programmes. If you would like to know a little more about ACWW, visit its excellent web page at www.acww.org.uk.

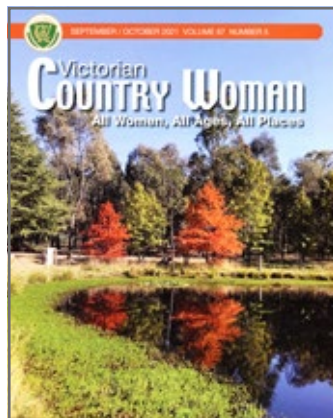
One of the issues that it is researching is food sovereignty, a system in which the people who produce, distribute, and consume food also control the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution. Increasingly, food production and distribution is controlled by large agricultural companies and food businesses and, for example, a small number of companies already control the seed business. Apart from the monopoly aspects,

this is a bad thing because, as the companies concentrate on the most profitable seed lines, less profitable food plants will almost certainly become extinct.

ACWW has begun to research the problem and is conducting a series of forums using the Zoom meeting system to collect information about the need for food sovereignty and to discuss possible solutions. Ayron Teed is a member of Harcourt CWA and has also been involved with the ACWW for many years – in 2017, she was ACWW International Community Support Committee Chairman. Always up for a challenge, Ayron jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the Food and Agriculture Forums being offered, and she invited Marie Twyford, Judi Kent and me to also be involved. Ayron had connected her laptop to her television set so we were all able to sit back in our comfortable chairs as the proceedings took place.

The forum was led by a lady in Scotland; there were two participants in England, one in America, and three Australians from Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Not having used Zoom seriously before, I was amazed at how easy the whole process was. It seemed at times as if we were all in the same room together despite being thousands of kilometres apart on three different continents. I can now appreciate how useful this technology is – particularly in rural communities.

Talking of Ayron, have a look at this prize winning photograph.



These two beautifully reflected Dawn Redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), were photographed by Ayron on her property at Faraday back in autumn last year. With the CWA State Photography Competition deadline for entries approaching, Ayron snapped away. There are various categories to enter and Ayron entered her photo in 'For the Front Cover', and, as you can see, took out first prize. The September/October cover of our CWA Magazine has these two magnificent Dawn Redwoods reflected in the lake on its cover.

This species was thought to have been extinct until being re-discovered in China in 1942. These two beauties were a gift to Ayron's husband Dan twenty years ago and they have now been immortalised on the front cover of the CWA Magazine. Well done Ayron, and wouldn't Dan be thrilled.

Friendship Day

So here we are at the start of a new year. A time to reflect on a previous year like no other, a time to congratulate ourselves, congratulate our friends and families, workmates, shopkeepers, supermarket check-out operators, and our kids and their teachers. You have all done a fabulous job in surviving a very difficult year.



Friendship Day at The Goldfields Track Cafe

We always start our CWA year with Friendship Day, a day to get together with other branch members and catch up with everyone's news after the Christmas and New Year break. The Goldfields Track Cafe once again provided the perfect venue for our lunch and we decided that 2022 was going to be a good year.

CWA at Applefest

We will be starting off the year's activities with Applefest in March and we will have our usual stall and raffle. As well as our branch, other CWA branches from central Victoria will be present to provide information about their branches and activities and we are all looking forward to chatting with you.

This year's Apple Pie Baking Competition is going to be well worth entering with excellent prizes to be won, and there is also a Craft Competition being offered for the first time for primary school children, so keep your eyes open for entry information coming in February on the Harcourt Applefest website and in *The Core* (see page 15), *The Mail* and *The Express*.

How nice it is to be back chatting with you all again. See you at Applefest.

Lyn Rule

Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer

The Place to Be – Applefest – Saturday March 12

Once again, Applefest promises to be an all-in community showcase. We hope that you have marked Saturday March 12 in big letters on your calendar. James Park in High Street, next to the ANA Hall, will be the place to be.



Another new feature of the Applefest will be **PREPAID PREMIUM PRODUCE HAMPERS** of Harcourt's finest. These will ONLY be available online, pre-ordered, to be picked up at James' Park on March 12.

While you are on-line, check out the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse for the Applefest listing, and be sure to check the 'Harcourt Applefest' Facebook page for event updates.

The Applefest Features

- ✿ the annual Art Show and Sale,
- ✿ the on-stage entertainment from some top bands,
- ✿ Cookery and Craft competitions
- ✿ the Fruitgrowers' Information Tent with sales of fruit fly traps,
- ✿ CWA displays,
- ✿ Indigenous information,
- ✿ children's story-telling, face painting and other family-friendly activities,
- ✿ plant, fruit and craft stalls,
- ✿ local craft beer, wine and cider stalls,
- ✿ Harcourt's famous apple pies, and ...
- ✿ the opportunity to meet Harcourt Applefest Royalty.

Applefest Competitions

Entries are starting to arrive for the annual Applefest Art Show and Sale. There is still time for you to submit an entry. The works shown must be 'smaller works' less than 40 cm x 40 cm, including the frame. There are ten award categories including adult and student awards. The not-to-be-missed opening night is Friday March 11. Entry forms can be found on the Harcourt Applefest website and must be submitted (by post or online) by February 23, with art works to be delivered on Monday March 7. Once again, we are sure of a great display by the region's most talented artists. And, of course, all the works are for sale.

Let's not forget the nail-biting judging in the finals of the cookery competition. This is a shout-out to all cooks, to come early to the Fruitgrowers' Tent to get a ringside seat as our mic'd up judges select the most outstanding apple pies, apple muffins and chutneys.

A special addition this year is the Craft Competition (see separate information on page 14), which is open to all primary school-age children. There are graded sections and great prizes for pet painted apple rocks and miniature apple orchards.

Premium Produce Hampers



Volunteering Opportunities

The committee would also like you to look at Volunteering Bendigo's Facebook page which provides details of how you may be involved with the set up and take down of all the props that are needed to stage a successful once-a-year event. See the description of other volunteering opportunities on page 16

If you can help, please phone Diana on 0427 396 211.

Regional Community Events Funding – Visit Victoria – The Best of Everything

The Applefest Committee was greatly encouraged on December 24 when the Hon Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Regional Development announced that she had approved government funding for the 2022 Harcourt Applefest. This funding will be delivered by the Regional Community Events Fund (RCEF). This initiative is part of the Visit Victoria campaign and has the tagline 'the best of everything' – a tagline which fits perfectly with the Harcourt Valley.

The Victorian Government has recognised that it is inevitable that there will be added costs to conduct a community festival in a COVID-safe manner. The major expense for the Applefest will be the hire of extra shade umbrellas to ensure that the audience can be seated at proper social distancing, rather than congregating in the shade of the few trees in James Park (as happened at the March 2021 festival).

The RCEF funding extends to other behind-the-scenes activities such as the costs of ticketing and of employing COVID monitors. You will be aware that the latest variant of COVID is extremely contagious. Social distancing, mandatory vaccination for volunteers and attendees, hand hygiene and pre-booking will be required and enforced. The committee is keen to hold the Applefest. It is even keener to make it a COVID-safe event.

Ticket Sales Commence Mid-February

Harcourt Applefest is a fully ticketed event. Watch our website, Facebook and print media for details of on-line ticket sales, which will commence mid-February. Don't be put off by the need for ticketing, this is just the 'new normal' in a COVID-safe environment. Be sure to book early.

Thank You to Our Applefest Festival Partners

In bringing together a rebooted Harcourt Applefest, the organising committee is pleased to partner with Harcourt Heritage Committee, Harcourt Progress Association, Harcourt CWA branch and Regional CWA groups, Harcourt Lions Club, Rotary Club of Castlemaine, Harcourt Fruitgrowers and Harcourt Valley Primary School. You may be assured that this year's Applefest will definitely be the best of everything, and an unforgettable community gathering on Saturday March 12.



CRAFT COMPETITION PRIMARY SCHOOL



Please complete the bottom of this form and present it to the Fruit Growers' Tent on March 12th before 10 am

A trophy will be awarded to first place in each section.

Sashes & place cards will be awarded for first, second & third in each section

GRADE TWO AND UNDER

PS 1 Floral Art – Miniature Apple Orchard

Base to be a large dinner plate.
Greenery, small flowers and accessories allowed

PS 2 My Pet Apple Rock

Painted Rock with Apple Theme.

GRADE 3 & 4

PS 3 Floral Art – Miniature Apple Orchard

Base to be a large dinner plate.
Greenery, small flowers and accessories allowed.

PS 4 My Pet Apple Rock

Painted Rock with Apple Theme.



GRADE 5 & 6

PS 5 Floral Art – Miniature Apple Orchard

Base to be a large dinner plate.
Greenery, small flowers and accessories allowed

PS 6 My Pet Apple Rock

Painted Rock with Apple Theme.



NAME TELEPHONE

ADDRESS

Please tick which section you are entering.

PS 1

PS 3

PS 5

PS 2

PS 4

PS 6

All entries can be picked up after 2 pm

For more information, please contact Mrs Lyn Rule, phone 0418 994 067



COOKERY COMPETITION



Please complete the bottom of this form and present it to the
Fruit Growers' Tent on March 12th by 10.00 am
LIVE JUDGING will begin at 10.30 am.

OPEN SECTION

☀ 01 Apple Pie – 1st \$50 + \$50 Voucher

\$25 Vouchers 1st prize will be awarded in the following sections

- 02 Apple Muffins (4)
- 03 Apple Cake
- 04 Apple Chutney
- 05 Apple Jam Over 50% of fruit to be apple.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

\$20 1st prize in each section

- 06 Apple Pie
- 07 Apple Muffins (4)

PRIMARY SCHOOL

\$20 1st prize in each section

- 08 Apple Pie
- 09 Apple Muffins (4)

Conditions of Entry

Apple Pies

1. Must be baked in a 20 cm pie dish.
2. Must have a bottom and a top crust.
3. Pie top must be whole.
4. Homemade pastry only.
5. Do not add other fruit to the apple.
6. To be presented on the plate or dish on which it was baked.
7. To be covered in clear wrapping.

Apple Muffins & Apple Cakes

1. No packet mixes.
2. Four (4) muffins for judging.
3. To be covered in clear wrapping.

Apple Chutney & Jam

4. Jars 250 – 350g only.
5. Labelled & dated.
6. Jars – clean & polished (with Windex).

NAME TELEPHONE

ADDRESS

Please tick which section(s) you are entering.

OPEN 01
02
03
04
05

JUNIOR 06
07
08
09

SASHES WILL BE AWARDED FOR FIRST AND SECOND IN EACH SECTION

All entries can be picked up after 2 pm

For more information please contact Mrs Lyn Rule, phone 0418 994 067

A Shout-out from the Applefest Committee



Applefest Royalty

Continued from page 1.



A free ticket to the Harcourt Applefest is offered to those volunteering in the behind-the-scenes work that is involved in staging this year's community, once a year, Applefest.

The committee has identified a number of roles in which extra pairs of hands will be gainfully occupied.

These tasks will not consume much of your time or effort but will be of inestimable help to the success of the event.

Most of these tasks can be carried out by a pair of buddies who can alternate, or support each other, and the stints need not be more than, say, one or two hours at a time.

On Applefest Saturday, there is a need for people to **meet and greet** arrivals AFTER they have checked in (we already have check-in staff). This 'meet and greet' role is an opportunity to hand out the program of events, to point out (and up-sell) the main attractions, talk about the artists on centre-stage, location of toilets, etc.

Also on the Saturday, there is a role for **stage and performer managers** to do the backstage lining up of the next scheduled acts. This will help the emcee keep to a tight timetable, because there are lots of happenings crammed into the one day event. You might even get a gig organising the apple pie eating competition!

Do you fancy a short session as a **sales assistant**? There will be some Applefest merchandise, secondhand books, etc, on sale at the Fruitgrowers Tent. The committee would definitely value some help at this task.

Some might prefer to offer their services as **Set-up, Bump-in, Bump-out** personnel on the Thursday evening, Friday morning, 8.30 am Saturday or at 4 pm Saturday. This will involve marking out stall sites, setting up tents, tables, chairs, umbrellas and the like. This would suit any able-bodied person. The old saying still holds good – many hands make light work.

And, the easiest task of all – you can help with **publicity**. Just go to Facebook, find the Applefest Facebook page, and share the latest posts with everyone you know. Or, go to Instagram and keep the comments flowing. It's that simple!

Applefest is a highly anticipated and well-attended event. The festival relies on the goodwill and volunteer support of Harcourt residents and friends to ensure a wonderful, safe and happy community event every March.

Please let us know if you can help out for an hour or two. Just email info@harcourt.vic.au and we will be in touch with further particulars. The Committee would love to hear from you.

Your community needs you!

'I moved into a career in desktop publishing and became a packaging expert, creating labels for Fast Moving Consumer Goods otherwise known as FMCG. I still see some of the labels I created when I shop.

Even before moving here, Phil and Ruth had connections with Harcourt, through family and by coincidence.

Phillip has a long standing family connection with Harcourt. 'Heather Braid, a member of the Harcourt Bowls Club, is my cousin and godmother of our eldest daughter.'

Ruth said, 'When I took on the job of organising flowers for our daughter's wedding I selected some proteas from a supplier at Woodend. We discovered that the flowers were supplied by Val and John Blake, who are well known locally for their protea growing. John and Val are now our neighbours.'

Phil is on the board of the Castlemaine Rotary Club and is the Environment and Sustainability Officer. He said, 'This is a relatively new area that Rotary has taken on globally within the last two or three years. My challenge is to translate the big picture to the local area, and while Castlemaine appears to be very active in this field, Rotary is seeking to assist in a unique way.'

Ruth volunteers at CHIRP and is a Nordic Pole Walking Helping Volunteer. She said, 'As of February 19, I will have completed my training as a teacher volunteer. At the moment I am participating in Nordic Pole Walking three times a week, and Phil and I are both social members of the Harcourt Bowls Club.'

Phillip and Ruth's four children and seven grandchildren all live in the western suburbs.

Ruth said, 'Our children are all musical, one daughter sings in the Australian Women's Choir, while the others all play brass instruments. I was involved in the Moonee Valley Brass Band for twenty years as either president or vice-president and was known as the 'Mother' of the band. Our son is the drum major, and I was the tune percussionist in the band, which includes the glockenspiel, the bass drum, the timpani and triangle –anything which is needed to add an extra sparkle to the band's music.'

'In 2018 the band won the Australian Marching Bands Championship. We were very proud of this, not only for the band as a whole, but for the fact that our two sons and one son-in-law put the marching routine together.'

Ruth and Phil realised as soon as they retired that they wanted to move to the country and are relishing their new life in Harcourt. They have made new friends and have become volunteers and are very pleased to be able to take on the roles of King Jonathon and Lady William at the 2022 Applefest.

Robyn Miller



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Grade 6 Graduation 2021



The student body, staff, parents, relatives and friends, gathered on December 13 to celebrate the graduation of Grade 6, 2021.

A feature of HVPS graduation ceremonies is that the students are expected to speak, and each produces a video clip of their time at the school with a favourite track of music. This makes for an entertaining hour or so and even kept the Preps awake during the warm afternoon.

Principal Andrew Blake welcomed all to the graduation saying, 'We are here to celebrate the success of our students in a challenging year. Thank you to teachers and families who have supported their students this year. We wish Shelby, Jack, Ellie, Amina, Abbey, Tobias, Kyle, Fletcher, Shannon, Jock, Talise, Alicia and Kate all the best at secondary school next year.'

President of the School Council, Natalie McCarthy, also wished the students well for the future and said, 'When adults ask you what you want to do, it's okay to say you don't know. Put your head down and do your best and then good things will happen.'

Grade 6 Teacher, Miss Rowlands, noted that it had been an 'interesting journey' in the last two years and thanked the families for their support. She said, 'You have shown independence and have developed critical and creative thinking. Teaching you has been fun and rewarding and you have taught me along the way.'

When students had completed their speeches and presentations, the Harcourt CWA and Literacy Awards were presented. CWA representatives presented Talise and Amina with their awards. The girls were recognised for consistently upholding the school values of Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Integrity. They participated in all school based activities with 100 per cent effort and were outstanding role models to their peers.

The Literacy Awards went to Fletcher McAinch and Abbey Denahy. These awards are presented for the level of reading engagement and for meeting reading goals regularly. These goals include reading a variety of texts and for taking guidance.



Harcourt Uniting Church

Happy New Year seems a bit out of date now that we're into February. We hope that you have been able to enjoy some family time, at a slower pace, over the Christmas-New Year period.

In the December issue of our Uniting Church Adult Fellowship magazine the following article appeared. It was titled: 'A letter to Santa' written by a mum, however I think all parents with young children would relate to this at any time of the year!

Dear Santa,

I've been a good parent all year so here are some of my wishes for Christmas (and 2022). I'm writing this on the back of an old receipt while waiting in the laundry for the washing cycle to finish.

I'd like a pair of legs that don't ache after a day chasing kids, and arms strong enough to carry a screaming, struggling toddler out of the lolly aisle in the supermarket. I'd also like a waist, since I lost mine in month seven of my last pregnancy. If the reindeers are hauling large gifts I'd love a car with fingerprint resistant windows, and a television that doesn't broadcast programs with talking animals. It would also be nice if the television turned itself off when the kids leave the room to save on the power bill.

On the practical side, I could use a potty-trained toddler, two kids who don't fight and some jeans that zip up effortlessly. A recording of Tibetan monks chanting: 'Don't eat in the lounge room; stop fighting; turn off the lights and shut the door', because my voice seems to be only heard by the dog. Oh, and please don't forget the Playdough Travel Packs – make sure they come in fluoro colours and are guaranteed to crumble on any carpet, making the in-law's house seem just like ours.

May I have a few Christmas-New Year miracles too? Can you declare tomato sauce a vegetable? It will clear my conscience immensely. It would also be helpful if you could coerce the children to help around the house without demanding payment as if they were the bosses of an organised crime family.

Well the buzzer on the machine is ringing, the children have worked out where I am hiding and the washing needs to be hung on the line.

Have a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2022.

Yours truly,

'Mum'

Harcourt Uniting Church always welcomes visitors to our weekly service every Sunday at 9 am in Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea and a chat.

Jan Jenkin

Have Your Say

On 16 November 2021, I attended the Harcourt Progress Association's AGM. There was a mix of long-time Harcourt residents as well as some new arrivals.

I went with the set purpose of joining the committee. For the last couple of years I've become increasingly concerned about the future of our town and its natural surroundings.

I moved to Harcourt ten years ago and was captivated by the open rural landscape with its red gums, native grasslands and natural waterways. I enjoy wandering on Mount Alexander (Leanganook). I am awed by the Dja Dja Wurrung's spiritual roots to this land. I have seen the remains of the Mindi stones. I have seen the valley where the Kulin tribes gathered from the surrounding lands and where they built stone ovens and feasted on local food, holding ceremonies that lasted for days.

Many have come with a passion to make a difference and have worked incredibly hard to establish environmentally sensitive methods of working the land. Outstanding economic ventures have evolved in Harcourt and surrounds, including the Harcourt Organic Cooperative, Henry of Harcourt's Cidery, award winning vineyards, The Little Red Apple with its Harcourt Cider products, the Harcourt Produce store, the Goldfields Track cafe and the soon-to-be-completed miniature Railway. We have the excellent La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park, and camping and bushwalking can be enjoyed on Mount Alexander. I am also inspired by artists who have chosen this place as their creative inspiration.

The HPA, over time, has actively engaged with the shire council and with the Harcourt community. HPA has led the way on the Twilight Market now known as Gather Harcourt, hosted public sessions on the development of the mountain bike park, supported the growth of Applefest, has developed a regular newsletter and is a major party in the renovation of the railway station with the potential for a community hub. I have high regard for the Heritage Centre that has such respect for its historical foundations that it provides regular talks and articles on the history of the region.

Essentially, what we have is a thriving community. And there's a peacefulness here, where country folk live a country life and just get on with the raising of children and gardens, with respect for the abundant land that provided for them ... there's so much to celebrate here.

However, I do see unwelcome change in this little town ... and an unsettling atmosphere. In May 2020 Plan Harcourt was released: which amounts to a decision to start reshaping Harcourt into a new growth area. Under the projected amendment to the Planning Scheme, a proposal has been put in place to expand the township area with a change from rural zoning to residential zoning. Discussions have arisen on the kind of change that may come here.

There's a belief among some in the community that some of the changes may damage this township. The proposed changes that Council are advocating have the potential to develop another dormitory suburb with a soulless heart. The development of such new estates could change Harcourt into a suburban heat bank where dark roofs, concrete roadways and limited vegetation will exacerbate the impacts of climate change.

Council invited community participation in the future planning for our town. Like many others, I wrote a considered submission highlighting the potential to extend what is already well established with our boutique wineries, cideries and farm enterprises. I envisioned a healthy, open environment that retained the beauty of its natural elements that would include large blocks where people could grow things or develop hobby enterprises. Harcourt has so much potential, and we as a community must not lose our way.

Here are my thoughts, and I know I speak for many.

Let's get creative. Future development needs to emphasise sustainability. We can and will stress with Council that new properties need to look at retrofitting.

It is possible in this day and age to standardise building requirements where water tanks, grey water systems and solar panels are installed as a matter

of course; where passive solar elements are factored into house design. Imagine if all homes and infrastructure had solar panels: there would be the potential to create off-grid solar community hubs where we manage and control our energy. Our community could work together to encourage native plantings that provide habitat for birds and wildlife. We have the space and energy to build community gardens ... it's already being done in many towns across Australia. The nation is in the grip of changes to the climate, and we need to build a strong community with a focus on renewable energy, community gardens, creative outdoor activities as well as the maintenance of tennis clubs, bike parks, children's playgrounds, open space and a solid community hub.

Why not? Why not have a creative vision that sits at the core of our community.

Currently there is an exhibition of amendments to Plan Harcourt both online and at the shire offices. Submissions need to be made by Monday 7 March, 2022. See pages 2 & 3 for more information.

I would encourage members of our community to consider the future for our town. As stated in the guiding document, Harcourt Shine, the following rings clear.

'Change is coming to Harcourt. Our population is set to increase dramatically over the next 15 years, our existing economy is evolving and new enterprises are emerging. It is time to engage with the forces of change to make sure we end up with the kind of town we can be proud of and that reaches its full potential. It's time for us to come together, roll up our sleeves and grab opportunities with both hands to create the economic future that we want. It's time for Harcourt to shine!'

I encourage locals to make a submission to the Council and demonstrate our community priorities.

Thank you.

Vera Hemkes



Successful **slime Run** raises \$3596 towards the School Oval

With COVID restrictions eased early in term 4 the Harcourt Valley Primary School Council was keen to bring the community together for an end of year celebration. On Thursday December 9, which felt like the coldest summer day on record, the HVPS Council hosted a Slime Run Spectacular and Community BBQ which was attended by over 100 people including the majority of the school kids. The first aim was to bring the community together and farewell the year, to reconnect our families and to have a laugh. Secondly, we hoped to raise some much needed funds.

A slime run is like a normal fun run with one key difference. Volunteer parents and teachers are stationed at key positions with buckets of non-toxic colourful slime with blasters to shoot the slime at runners as they complete the course.

Despite the unseasonably cold day, a huge contingent of parents, teachers and students set off from school on a 'Walking School Bus' and travelled from the school to the Pony Club. There they met up with parents, additional students, spectators and the Harcourt CFA truck which supplied

water for slime mixing and kindly washed down all the obstacles at the end of the event.

Earlier in the day, a course was laid out at the Pony Club by some imaginative parents who work in agriculture. They set up just over four kilometres of temporary fencing and two trailer loads of soft obstacles. Imagine a large, roughly circular labyrinth of paths with hurdles to jump over, coloured nets to crawl under, tunnels to crawl through and the finale of a major mat slide in the centre where all the participants gathered while buckets of slime were reloaded. Then the course was completed in reverse.

There was lots of laughter and smiles as the children, accompanied by some teachers and parents, ran the course while being blasted with slime. Afterwards, we

moved to Stanley Park where we enjoyed a community barbecue of free sausages in bread, drinks and homemade cupcakes.

Many children were sponsored by friends and family to run the course, and we raised \$3596 which will go towards improving the school oval.

The HVPS Council would like to sincerely thank the following:

- KR Castlemaine
- Hot and Crusty Bakery
- Harcourt Pony Club
- Phil Mawson Concreting
- Harcourt CFA
- And our community members, who sponsored, participated or cheered on this event.

Natalie McCarthy, School Council President



Scenes from Gather Harcourt December 2021





Councillor Comment

Budget Suggestions Welcome

Hi all,

I hope everyone has cooled off with the rain. I have heard reports of 70 mm locally so that should fill a few tanks and put some water into the storages.

I attended Australia Day at Castlemaine, and that went well. As a Councillor it is great to be involved in the Citizenship Ceremony. We do this a few times a year, depending on demand, but the Australia Day ceremony is a bit more public. It is really good seeing people take that step to join us and commit to our fabulous nation and community.

I had the opportunity to inspect the new female-friendly change rooms at the Harcourt Leisure Centre recently. This has been a long time coming, but it will give female sport a huge boost locally. Looking around the oval, I see further opportunities for improved facilities, so we will keep working on that. Thank you to all of our community members who have contributed to this project and the Leisure Centre over many years.

Councillors will be fully immersed in the budget process by the time you read this. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any suggestions for the budget.

Like all of you we hope for a better year post-COVID. Will that be a reality? I do wonder what the new normal will look like.

Wishing you all the best for 2022!

Regards Tony
0439 742 434

Grace Church

Grace Church will be supporting the Voice of the Martyrs this month. VOM has been supporting persecuted Christians around the world for over fifty years, and Grace Church has been partnering with them for over twenty years.

VOM was founded by Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand after World War II. Richard and Sabina were a Jewish couple living in Romania who came to Christ as a result of an outreach from just one Christian gentleman.

Richard went on to become an ordained priest in the Anglican Church, subsequently becoming a Lutheran pastor. He spent many years in prison for his faith, suffering terrible torture at the hands of the communists. Sabina was persecuted also for her faith but, like Richard, remained steadfast. The upshot was the founding of the ministry known today around the world as the Voice of the Martyrs.

Our support this month is taking the form of screening the movie *Sabina, The Nazi Years*. This movie is a prequel to the other VOM movie, *Tortured for Christ*, which has been out for several years.

The *Sabina* movie is set in Romania and covers the period 1935–1945. During this period, the Wurmbrands rescued Jews from the Nazis, and then, ironically, Nazis from the Russians who invaded Romania in 1944.

The movie is based on fact and is very entertaining. It will be showing at 1.30 pm on Sunday the 20th February at 30 Buckley Street – in the red Sunday School Hall at the front of the property. All members of the public are invited to attend. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be taken up to support the work of the VOM.

All are welcome: Please do come and see the movie! A representative from the VOM will also be speaking at our service at 11.00 am that day.

Pastors Roger & Glenise Thurecht

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING AN EMERGENCY

As part of a new national warnings system, the way incidents are shown is changing. You'll see these icons on VicEmergency website and on the VicEmergency app. Know what to look for and know what to do.

EMERGENCY WARNING
This is the highest level of bush fire alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

WATCH AND ACT
There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now protect you and your family.

ADVICE
A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Never solely rely on receiving a warning during emergencies!

You should never wait to receive an official warning before you leave.

Fires can start quickly and threaten homes and lives within minutes.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-warnings

Paul Tangey Community Engagement
Coordinator
CFA North West Region –
Community Safety p.tangey@cfa.vic.gov.au

KEEP CALM AND VOLUNTEER

Harcourt NEEDS YOU



Harcourt CFA

Learning from Fires

Modern Cars and Dry Grass

One of the actions brigades do after most fires and incidents is to conduct an After Action Review (AAR). While not privy to all the facts of the recent fire in the carpark at the Great Western Annual Race Day, where the cause was reported as a car's catalytic converter coming into contact with hay, there are a few obvious basic lessons that those present will have firmly etched into their mind.

The first, which is part of CFA's regular safety messaging, is about the dangers of modern cars driving in long dry grass. With a quick look at what the CFA calls 'the fire triangle', the three components of heat (catalytic converter), fuel (dry grass in the form of hay) and oxygen were all present, and so a fire started very easily.

The modern car has lots of components that burn easily and so will readily catch fire from burning grass. In a carpark environment, where spacing of cars is kept to a minimum for maximum capacity, radiant heat and/or a fuel tank rupture will assist in the spread of the fire to the other vehicles. And this is exactly what happened.

People's safety was at the forefront of the racing officials' minds and therefore a number of cars were burnt, but there were no injuries or burns suffered by those present. What would you have done if you were in the carpark at the time? How would you have reacted? The hay was put down to assist with dust suppression. This one action has led to the chain of events which became a major fire for the fire brigades that attended.

Recent call outs

December saw the Harcourt Brigade respond to four fires, two accidents (yet another truck hitting the rail bridge), one gas leak from a house supply (a 45 kg cylinder) and one assist to Ambulance Victoria with a patient lift. The largest of the fires was as support to the Walmer brigade

at a fire in a paddock which was started by a ute towing a trailer in...long dry grass.

January was a quieter month with only two turn outs. The first was a hydrochloric acid incident at the swimming pool and the other was a fire in North Harcourt started by a slasher. While not a windy day, this fire spread quite rapidly, but with quick notification and a quick response, the fire was stopped before it crossed Eagles Road. Good support from our neighbouring brigades, as well as air support with a water bombing helicopter, ensured the fire was extinguished in daylight hours. The close location of the reservoir was a bonus for our aerial support.

Apparently some negative comments appeared on social media about the time it took for the emergency warning to be activated. The brigade, in our AAR, had a look at this and considered the time taken: from the initial call to notification, to responding to the fire, to conducting initial size-up on arrival, to formulating the plan of attack and executing the initial attack. We found that the timing for the request that a public warning be sent out was in line with standard operating procedures.

The process for sending out a warning from the fire ground has a clearly defined procedure which requires the request to be relayed to the Regional Duty Officer (RDO) for approval before being forwarded to a designated person to process and send to the public. The RDO assesses the level and type of warning required and the areas where the warning will be sent. The zone has to be very well defined, so that not only the correct area of potential impact is notified, but, also, areas not affected do not receive the warning.

The main point to remember is that it has been clearly stated in Bushfire Preparedness Public Meetings conducted by the CFA, that

you **may not** get a warning before the fire is at your doorstep. So what can we learn from this?

Being prepared well before the onset of fire is the safest option

Download the Vic Emergency App to your phone, iPad or other electronic device. Set up your watch zone around where you live and activate the types of incidents you want to receive notification about. This means that if a fire starts within your watch zone, you will get notifications of this event at the time we do.

On hot windy days, we recommend that you do not shut yourself up in your house with all the curtains drawn, the air conditioner pumping away and the television on – this isolates you from what could be happening right outside your house. Be aware of what the conditions are like outside and, depending on your triggers, have your fire plan already activated or ready to activate.

The State of Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the whole world

Central Victoria, is as the name suggests, right in the middle of a fire prone state. We get hot summer days with low humidity and strong northerly winds. This is the perfect weather for a fire. Add fuel load and an ignition source and you have a recipe for a disaster. We cannot change the conditions, but we can prepare our properties before summer starts and then take all the necessary precautions to avoid accidentally starting a fire.

Remain vigilant and do not let your guard down as we move through February and into March. Stay safe and stay cool.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

More information and resources can be found on the CFA website:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/





Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

Achieving the Best Harvest of Summer Fruit



Happy New Year everyone

Hopefully you've had a peaceful and relaxing break. We've definitely enjoyed having a summer that's been much more 'normal' than we've all felt for many months.

The wet season has an impact on summer fruits

We hope you've enjoyed a productive harvest of summer fruit like apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines and plums, with loads of apples and pears still to come.

Unfortunately, as we know only too well, it doesn't always work out that way. As much as we wish it didn't, nature keeps happening to our fruit. This year, it was an extremely wet couple of months in spring that did the damage, not just in Harcourt but in many fruit-growing regions. The stone fruit crop was particularly affected and has been much smaller than usual, along with high pressure from various fungal diseases. Plums, apples, and pears are enjoying a bumper crop despite the wet conditions.

There's been the usual unwelcome sharing of our crop with birds, earwigs, beetles, possums, and kangaroos. The good news is that after the disheartening arrival of fruit fly at our place last season, this year we've only found two flies in traps, and NONE in the fruit. We continue to keep fingers, toes, and everything else crossed that our good luck holds for the rest of the season.

Fruit Fly Expert to attend Applefest

However, eternal vigilance is required! We're really pleased to announce that Colin Bain from Biotrap will be attending this year's Applefest. He'll be setting up shop inside the Fruit Growers tent so that he's easy to find. He'll have a full range of traps and baits available – which is handy – but what's most useful is that he'll be available all day to answer all your fruit fly questions. It's not often that we can get access to a fruit fly expert for an extended period like this, so please make time to drop into the growers tent on March 12, replenish your fruit fly supplies, and have a chat to Colin to help build your understanding about how to prevent this pest from getting hold in our beautiful valley. So far, everyone's doing a brilliant job, please keep up the great



work – the only way we can beat this pest is together.

Here are our top three tips for your fruit trees this January:

1. If you still have fruit on your trees, it's not too late to net. Even a simple drape net provides at least some protection from hail damage and can really help prevent damage from birds, particularly cockies. Smaller and more persistent birds like musk lorikeets and other parrots may need a net that goes all the way to the ground and is secured. Now that fruit fly is a real threat, if you're buying new nets consider getting nets that also exclude fruit fly, as this is the most effective prevention technique for backyard trees.
2. Keep a close eye on how much water your fruit trees are getting, particularly in the 6-8 weeks before the fruit is ready. While we've just enjoyed some wonderful summer rain, be prepared to water a bit more often than usual if the weather gets hot and windy again. Once a tree has been harvested, you can cut back the amount you're watering it to about half. Most of its work is done for the year, though early fruiting trees should keep growing for a while after the fruit has been picked, so don't cut off the water completely if you have enough to spare.
3. It is important at this time of year to closely monitor your trees. Try to visit them at least once a week to say g'day. You'll notice whether they're getting enough water and whether the fruit's almost ripe. It also gives you a better chance of catching the culprit if something's having a nibble on the fruit, which will help you figure out how to prevent it.

Free, Live, 3-Day Course

Finally, we just wanted to let you know that we'll be running a free, live, 3-day course in March (online) called Learn. Plan. Succeed. In the course you'll design a personalised fruit tree action plan, which is a yearly calendar that lists all the jobs you need to do for your fruit trees. We ran it last year and more than 400 people signed up! There's clearly a big need for this sort of workshop, so we've decided to do it again. We haven't announced the dates yet, but you can put your name on the waiting list here: growgreatfruit.com/fruit-tree-action-plan and we'll let you know when it's open for registrations.

Happy harvests!

Hugh and Katie

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Willow Meets Her Idol

Harcourt tennis player Willow Kelly was thrilled to be selected as an ANZ Coin Crew member and was part of a once-in-a-lifetime experience when she stepped onto Rod Laver Arena for the pre-match ANZ Coin Toss at the 2022 Australian Open.



Willow, 11, was elated to flip the ANZ Commemorative Coin to commence the Round 4 match between Australia's Ash Barty and American Amanda Anisimova on Sunday January 23.

Willow, a talented young tennis player in her own right who plays A-grade tennis for Harcourt in the Marong Association and Junior A-grade Tennis in the Bendigo competition, said it was an incredible

experience.

'I just got given a date and time, and as the day got closer, we realised there were only three matches to be played that evening, and Ash's was one of them. When I found out I was doing the coin toss for Ash and Amanda's match, I couldn't believe it! I was worried I was going to muck it up, but I did okay. It was unbelievable to be that close to the action,' Willow said.

Willow is among 150 lucky youngsters given the opportunity to flip the coin at the grand slam.

On its 'head' side, the 2022 ANZ Commemorative Coin features the Australian tennis legend Margaret Molesworth (1894-1985) who won the inaugural women's singles title at the Australasian Championships one hundred years ago in 1922, and successfully defended her title the following year. The 'tails' side of the coin features a tennis ball alongside the ANZ logo.

This is the fifth year of the ANZ Commemorative Coin – with previous years featuring newly named Australian of the Year Dylan Alcott OAM, Rod Laver AC MBE, Evonne Goolagong Cawley AC



Willow was able to keep the commemorative coin as a souvenir of her experience and had the chance to enjoy the first set of the match from the side of the court

MBE, Kerry Melville Reid MBE and Judy Tegart Dalton AM.

Thank you to Lisa Dennis, editor of the Castlemaine Mail for this text.

Lmct:10769





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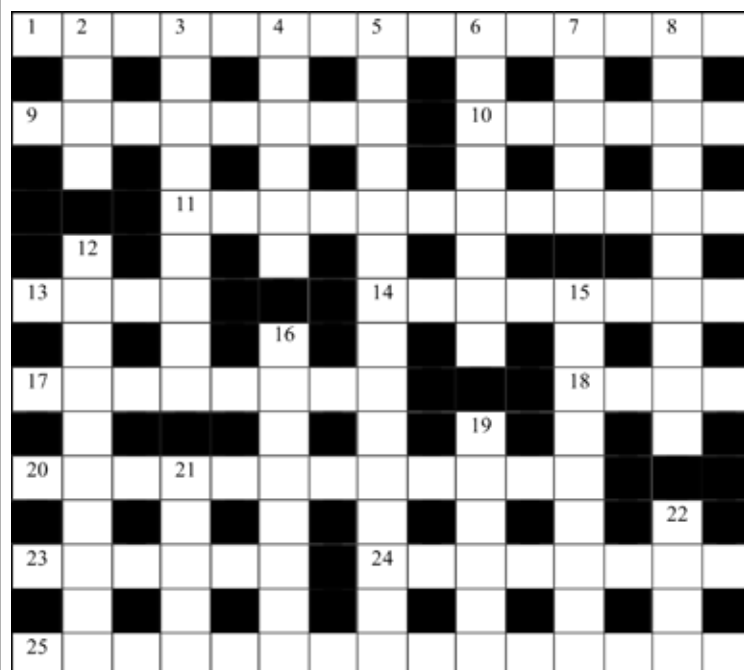
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Address: 16 Lockwood Road (PO Box 1238), Kangaroo Flat, Vic 3555

www.mareeedwards.com.au



February Xword 2022 © McW April '18



Down:

2. Ralph's bird's a bit of a climber. (4)
3. Liverpuddle's song just past? (9)
4. Back-formation from Yang's other with ten is ten fewer than what would be ten more. (6)
5. What I could be said to have done after I redecorated the hallway myself? (6,2,7)
6. Dutton or refugees? Because I take the latter on trust I am less judgemental. (8)
7. Falling out with Dickens character is just not appropriate for beginners. (5)
8. It's about "are you, unfashionably, inciting the signing-up of people?" (esp. by text.) (10)
12. Astronaut perhaps holds spawn of the denizens of his landing area. (6-4)
15. So, empires come and go, but there are more spies when one of them takes back control over things (like posturings, etc.). (9, or 2-7)
16. In conversation, throw all the celebs you know over the cliff... (4-4)
19. Albeit topless, he cures himself of aquaphobia by becoming part of the surf lifesaving mission. (6)
21. Bloke to leave fruit for the women? (5)
22. Musos in triangular relationship? (4)

Across:

1. I contrive to wipe a filthy grin off the arsonist's face while he's doing this... (7,4,4)
9. In the second place, if you replace the 'r' with an 'o', you begin to see why he's been put here... (8)
10. Consequence of mixing clay, for example. (6)
11. The French don't have a word for it, according to George... (12)
13. Murphy wouldn't want one in his pudding, one hopes! (4)
14. Either I'm tiny, or I am in Timor and New York at the same time. Either way, there aren't many of us! (8)
17. Not liking one across, miner might use one down. (4,4)
18. Does not exist shortly. (4)
20. Blake's lad goes to pieces when my stove isn't lit. (7-5)
23. Taking nothing away from the bloke* who looks at the autopsy might get him into a tight spot... [*or the sheila] (6)
24. Really early dot-com becoming trendy again? (8)
25. What Moonshine Prince reveals when asked a hard question. (15)

December Xword 2021 solution © McW April '18



Down:

1. [I tug five] blankets off the old trailer and uncover the runaway.
2. These days, some idiot with not a [neuron can] become an ABC disc jockey! (9)
3. God! He thounds like heeth hurting! (4)
4. Seeing the same facial feature twice cheers the drinkers in a Parisian bar. (4-4)
5. Degree of one B[Sc] not [prim] in order to scrape together the means to live. (6)
6. Footman makes [cupid resit] to deal with them. (10)
7. Top group backed into the [tilers].
8. Salty state [S.A.] queue. (6)
13. Perhaps it's this type of conditioning that makes for a misogynist force? [Well? Girls pink...]
16. Be brilliant, and [et] French back off for just a spark. (9) [i.e. scintillate]
17. Filthy [lucre, Tia] Maria and sex crime renders up a Roman legend.
18. Features lit up on the [main date]
21. [Vary] unnatural breeding program [AI] for the birds. (6)
22. Run and then drive all day here. [Well?]
24. Annoying computer come-on that should be pronounced as the two words that it is... [Well?]
26. What the Usher of the Black Rod does back in the boxing troupe? [Well?]

Across:

1. How could a [fan crit] me in such a manner? (7)
5. Engineers [spear] postscript. (7)
9. One-armed oarsman? [Well?]
10. Excavate sick [ill] [docto] (5)
11. Fish has no right to solicit. (4)
12. Turn up [come...] immaculate and spill the beans? (4,5)
- 14 and 15. Gong to make the old queen angry? (8,5) [Well?]
19. Speedy way to sign up an insurance client when chance of losing money is second alternative? [Well?]
20. Should be plural if used as revision tool... [Well? A clever one? Or nasty?? "Twenty questions"]
23. Official designation of a guinea-pig in nuclear testing in Stalin's day? [Well?]
25. Minuscule male cat? [Well?]
27. Previous NZ PM [Lange...] from first to last one of the Cherubim. (5)
28. Cruise control on plane might get the [tail up too] high. (4-5)
29. One could [seek nay]-sayers behind the stand watching baseballers. (7)
30. Blitz the [ain] out of [arid] formation and put it first. (3-4)



Weather & Water

Total rainfall for 2021 at Reservoir Road was 663 mm. This was not far short of the total in 2020 of 682.5 mm. In short, it was a good year for gardens and crops. December's rainfall was relatively modest with only four days of rainfall and a total of 25 mm.

Towards the end of the first week of December, temperatures dropped due to cold southerlies, and for a couple of days, the wood fire was back in service. Within a week it was warm again – over 30°C and humid, then the temperature dipped again caused by strong winds. Fortunately, in time for Christmas celebrations, the weather was settled – it was warm and pleasant for all to enjoy.

Reservoir Levels as at 5 February

- Upper Coliban: 97.1%
- Lauriston 94.9%
- Malmsbury 52.6%

<http://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs>



This cockatoo had plenty of friends (out of shot) eating the prunus plums

Labor Election Pitch off to a Flying Start for Bendigo

\$4.5 million Bendigo Terminal Upgrade

On January 14, Federal Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters kicked off Labor's plan for Bendigo, announcing that a Labor government will provide \$4.5 million to fund the Bendigo Airport terminal upgrade.

Ms Chesters said, 'There will be a Federal election in 2022. Central Victorians deserve a government with ambition, vision, and a plan for economic recovery.'

'Whether it is vaccines, quarantine arrangements, Rapid Antigen Tests or the booster rollout - Scott Morrison and his government have proven that they are simply not up to the task.'

'This upgrade will deliver immediate benefits for Bendigo, with modelling commissioned by the City of Greater Bendigo finding the new service would inject \$3.9 million into the regional economy during its first year alone, creating jobs and associated economic opportunities.'

'While Scott Morrison has continually ignored the Airport upgrade, Labor will fund this important project. The Liberals have had five years to fund this project and they have failed to get it done. That is despite it consistently being a top priority for the City of Greater Bendigo.'

'Only a vote for Labor will ensure this project actually gets done,' she concluded.

From a Press Release.

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Community Diary Dates

Monday 7 February: 7.00 pm Applefest meeting, Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street.

Thursday 10 February: 7.30 pm Landcare meeting, Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street.

Tuesday 15 February: 4.30 – 6.30 pm Plan Harcourt Drop in Session, Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street.

Wednesday 16 February: 7.15 pm Harcourt Lions Football Club AGM at Football Club rooms, Harcourt Leisure Centre.

Sunday 20 February: 1.30 pm Grace Church, Movie: Sabina the Nazi Years, 30 Buckley Street.

Tuesday 1 March: 4.30 – 6.30 pm Plan Harcourt Drop in Session, Heritage Centre, ANA Hall, High Street.

Monday 7 March: Submissions for Plan Harcourt close.

Saturday 12 March: 9 am – 4 pm Applefest, James Park, High Street.

Carpet Bowls: 7 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

CFA: Brigade meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 8.00 pm. Sunday morning equipment check and maintenance run at 9.00 am. Siren tested at 9.15am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for details 0428 387 339. CFA is in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

CWA: First Thursday of the month, 1.30 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Grace Church: Sundays 11 am, 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt.

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 9.

Harcourt Lions Club: Meetings every third Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way.

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

Pony Club: Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 902 400. The Pony Club is next to the swimming pool.

Uniting Church: Sundays at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street, Harcourt. The service is followed by morning tea. All welcome. Donations of food and other household needs for St Vinnies can be left at the Church door on Sunday mornings 9–10 am or contact Jan on 5474 2226 to arrange for collection.

Walking Group: Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am. Meet at the ANA Hall. The one hour leisurely walk is usually followed by morning tea. New members are always welcome.

Harcourt's Little Library

For some years now, Harcourt's Little Library has been inside the ANA Hall and only available when the Hall was open. Now, the Little Library has grown up, so to speak, and moved outside, into a repurposed office locker. And it's available any time.

Leave, Borrow or Take a Book



Harcourt News/The Core is published monthly by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc

For inclusion in *Harcourt News/The Core* contact the Editor Robyn Miller on news@harcourt.vic.au or 0467 670 271. Contributions of news items, articles, photos, stories, poems and letters are welcome, as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

For placement of advertising please contact Pauline Wilkinson via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au

Circulation is currently 350 and hard copies can be obtained at the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Post Office, Goldfields Track Café, Harcourt Produce Store, ASQ Skydancers, The Little Red Apple, and various outlets in Castlemaine.

A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Progress Association website and readers can receive a free copy by subscription at: harcourtprogress.org.au/news/sub The Core is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: harcourt.vic.au/news

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

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3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

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

Our first meeting will be held on Thursday February 10 at 7 pm at the ANA Hall. Planning for the year and for our 25th Anniversary will continue at this meeting. We meet once a month for planning and discussion every second Thursday of the month. Working Bees, walks and activities are held on the fourth Sunday of every month. All welcome.

Contact the Secretary, Robyn Miller: 0467 670 271.

From the February 2022 North Central Chat – NCCMA's Landcare & Waterwatch News Clean Up Australia Day March 6

Learn more about the issues, what you can do to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill each year and join a local Clean Up Australia Day event in your area by visiting Clean Up Australia (cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)



The Christmas get-together at the 'picnic ground' was enjoyed by all – once we moved away from the nest of inch ants!

Having trouble with Rabbits?

This month's edition contains a Rabbit Buster Feature.

The Art of Environmental Photography with Alison Pouliot

When: Saturday 26 February 2022 from 10am to 4pm

Where: Pilchers Bridge Nature Conservation Reserve Axe Creek.

Book online via: The Art of Environmental Photography with Alison Pouliot Tickets, Sat 26/02/2022 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite

For more details of these and other news see: www.nccma.vic.gov.au/landcare#node-27



Realise your dream with a grant

Got a great idea for an event or project in the shire but need some support to make it happen? Apply now for the next round of Council grants.

Our Community Grants program is open for applications until Monday 14 February, with our Events Grants program due to open on Monday 14 February.

For more information or an application form, call 5471 1700 or visit mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants.

Reminder to go slow at the Res

Visitors to Expedition Pass Reservoir, also known as the Res, are reminded that the summer seasonal speed limit of 40km/h is now in place.

The reduced speed limit is in effect from December to April each year along a one kilometre stretch of road near the reservoir.

Find out about other safety measures we're looking at for the area via shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Take a dip in our outdoor pools

There's only a few weeks left of the summer outdoor pool season! Grab your towel, sunscreen and togs and take a dip in one of our pools at Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead before 14 March. For details on opening hours, fees, activities and more, visit mountalexanderpools.com.au.

Fire Danger Period reminder

Mount Alexander Shire is now in the Fire Danger Period. This means there are restrictions on the use of fire in the community to help reduce the risk of fires starting and spreading. For details on restrictions during the Fire Danger Period visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au/can.

Australia Day - Survival Day update

Congratulations to the winners and nominees of the Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day Awards, which were announced at a community event on 26 January. Learn more about our Australia Day Award winners at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay.

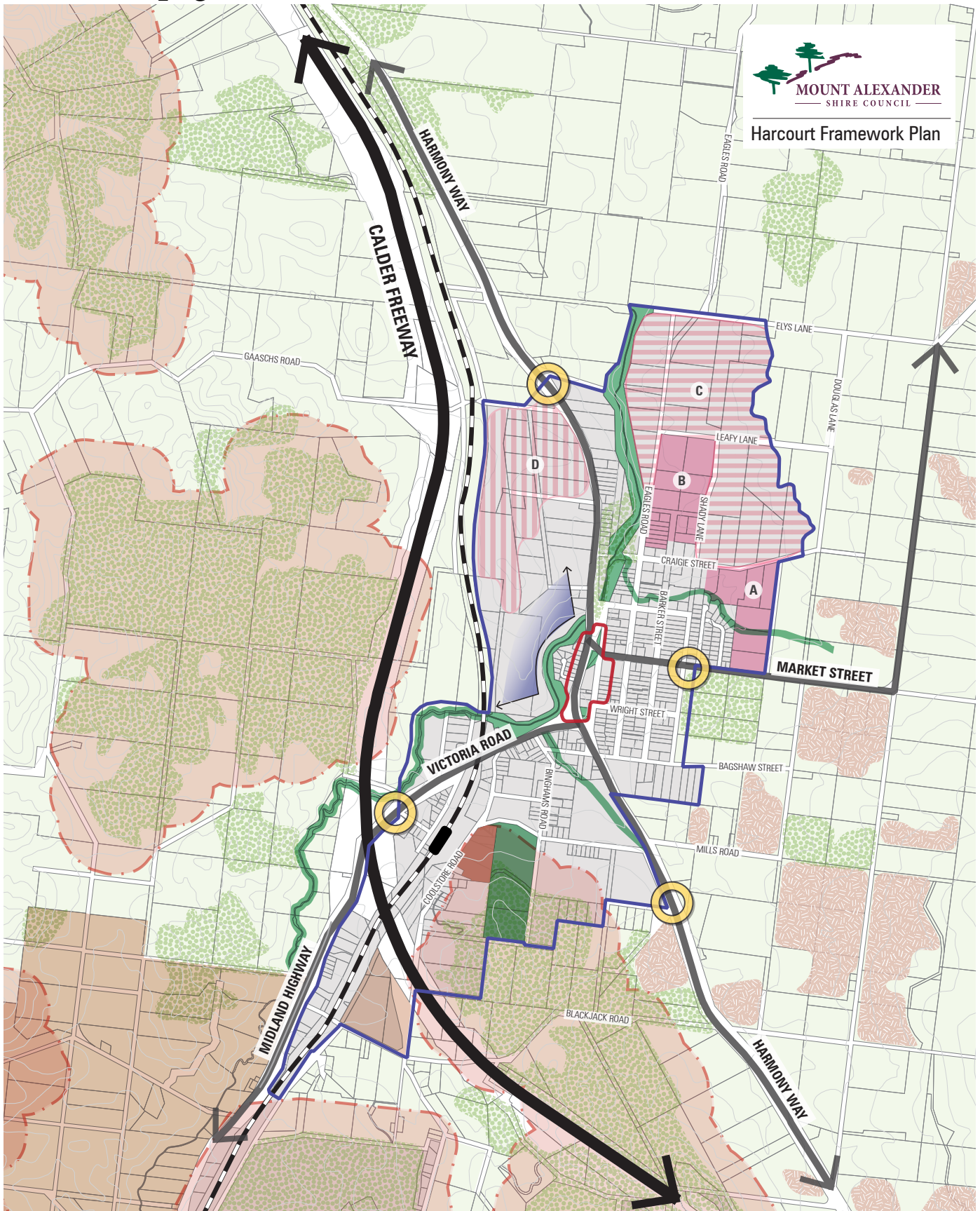
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Harcourt Land Use Framework Plan

See page 2 for more information about Plan Harcourt



Harcourt Framework Plan

Legend

- Township Boundary
- Town Centre
- Freeway
- Main Roads
- Train Station
- Rail Corridor

- Township Entrance
- Retain hillslope and landscape background to Town Centre
- Rural Living Zone (RLZ)
- Industrial Land
- Public Open Space
- Bushfire Management Overlay

- Future Town Expansion Areas A and B
- Potential Future Town Expansion Area C
- Potential Future Town Expansion Area D
- Existing Canopy Vegetation
- Existing Horticultural Land



Project Ref:
Dwg No.:
Scale:
Date:
Revision:

2019376
UDD-001
15000 @A3
20.04.20
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