

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

Edition 91 – March 2022

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Art, Song and Apple Pies



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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.**



MEMBER 2022



Front row, left to right: Granny Smith (Kay Francis) Bonnie, Ryah, Remi, Harry, Arlo and Ellysia.
Back row, left to right: Art Teacher, Mrs Hargreaves holding Sophie's art work, Niko, Emma and Principal Mr Blake.

THE CORE, ACCOMPANIED BY GRANNY SMITH, went along to Harcourt Valley Primary School to take stock of preparations for the 2022 Applefest.

Principal Mr Blake said, 'The Art students have been inspired once again by their teacher Mrs Hargreaves to produce some inventive and colourful work for the Applefest Art Show. The school choir, led by Mrs Hood, is excited to be presenting the National Anthem and a bright song or two at the official opening of the Applefest on Saturday March 12. Parents have been working behind the scenes to produce between 200 and 300 apple pies for sale.

We are so pleased to be able to return to this major fundraising effort for the school, which was thwarted by COVID last year. In addition, there will be other homemade goods for sale at the school stall. All funds raised will go towards upgrading the school oval.'

Come along to Applefest to see, hear and taste the efforts of staff, students, parents and family volunteers from Harcourt Valley Primary School.

For more about school activities go to page 5.

For more information on Applefest attractions and volunteer opportunities, turn to pages 8, 9 and 16.

Landcare response to Plan Harcourt Vegetation Assessment is Required

Harcourt Valley Landcare members have been sharing information about the areas marked for housing development in Harcourt with the purpose of responding to the Council's proposals in Plan Harcourt. The information shared is focused around the need for a vegetation assessment to be carried out in order to highlight the value of preserving existing native vegetation near and within proposed developments. The existing large trees and bushy undergrowth support a wealth of birds and some important animal species.

In our response to Plan Harcourt we have emphasised the value of the mountain and its connectivity to the surrounding natural areas of Harcourt which extend into the wider shire. We have highlighted the value of indigenous vegetation, including established trees and large old trees, connectivity of the creek lines, and pockets of intact ground storey flora which are declining due to weed invasion, development and humans.

The group has advocated for the inclusion of indigenous vegetation within any development and for any future plans around Harcourt in order to protect larger areas of remnant vegetation (both public and private), and for those areas to be improved and expanded, keeping in mind the connectivity to existing remnants and movement of fauna across the landscape.

People are living in Harcourt for the natural feel and connection to nature: the mountain and the 'space' that Harcourt currently has. One member in Eagles Road has reported 150 species of birds – mainly woodland birds. We also have confirmed the importance of the linkages in the vegetation which runs from the mount into the valley which provides habitat for threatened Phascogales. Some birds which are on the decline but which are to be found in the area include Powerful Owls, Scarlet Robins and Crested Shrike-tits – these need the protection of the vegetation along the lanes and roads which lead into and are part of the area of proposed development. This does not preclude some dense housing development in order that the connectivity of the vital bush links can be preserved.

Coming Events

Harcourt Valley Landcare will get together on Thursday March 10 at the Goldfields Track Cafe at 6 pm for dinner and a meeting.



Phascogale.

Landcare information will be available at the Applegrowers' Tent at Applefest. Members will be in attendance over the day to provide assistance.

The first working bee will take place on Sunday March 27. For details see the group's Facebook page. Working bees take place on the fourth Sunday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm.

For further information about Harcourt Valley Landcare, see our Facebook page or contact the Secretary, Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271.



Eucalyptus camaldulensis

NEW STAFF WANTED AT THE CORE

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

Are you interested in reporting, taking photos, proofreading or editing?

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 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

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

Harcourt Progress Association

Dear Harcourt Community and
HPA Membership

The Public Exhibition phase of the Plan Harcourt process has concluded. Thank you to the Mount Alexander Shire Council for hosting the process and to the Community, HPA Committee and Members for their participation.

Received written submissions will now be considered by the Council, amendments will possibly be made and the entire process, including the submissions, will be reviewed by an independent planning panel. This is a robust process with a guarantee that the community's perspective will be considered by the planning panel.

The HPA met with council on a number of occasions to understand exactly what is being proposed. Taking this information and considering the views of the Community, HPA Committee and members, the HPA's written submission addressed a number of issues:

- Environmental protection through policy and proposed overlays.
- Appropriate placement of new zoning and development overlays to minimise negative impacts on agriculture and the environment.
- Preservation of Harcourt's character, open views and rural charm in the context of residential development.
- Sustainable development which ensures that the community's growth is diverse, resilient and inclusive.
- The primacy of Shine Harcourt's Leanganook as a vision for Harcourt's community and economic development.

In my view the Plan Harcourt process has been a success to date. Council have engaged directly with the community and HPA resulting in genuine consideration being given to the issues raised. I have come to understand that the job of council's strategic planning department is difficult. Most of the planning scheme and bureaucracy is in tension with many other parts. This is a deliberate attempt to ensure that constituencies are included and a middle ground is arrived at in strategy and policy making. The Community and its high level of participation in these processes is essential to ensure a satisfactory outcome for the community.

The final decisions on residential development, environmental protection, heritage protection and economic development get made on a case-by-case basis in applications to the relevant authorities. All these application processes have a public consultation opportunity. I would encourage all Harcourt residents to pay attention to the proceedings of the various planning processes and make your voice heard when these important decisions are made. There is still much to play for when it comes to Harcourt's future.



In this same vein, the Harcourt Roundabout Working Group has concluded its work. The group, which was chaired by Regional Roads Victoria and had Mount Alexander Shire Council, Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation and the HPA amongst its participants, has produced a design which will be exhibited to the public soon. For information on this and other HPA initiatives visit www.harcourtprogress.org.au.

The Harcourt Railway Station Working Group, composed of representatives from HPA and Council, have met to begin the establishment of an operational model for the **Harcourt Railway Station Building**. The working group will be examining the Community House mode of operation as this is VicTrack's designated use for the building. This can include not-for-profit activities that provide services to community members.

Renovations are expected to be complete after mid-year, but it will take some time after that to become operational and open to the community.

Regards
David Foley
HPA President

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James Park – The Gathering Place

The venue for the Harcourt Applefest is James Park, High Street, Harcourt. The park was established in the 1970s following the realignment of the-then Calder Highway and the demolition of the historic General Store, which stood at what is now the intersection of Victoria Road and Harmony Way. The park was named for Harcourt's Colonel WE James, renowned as a commander with the AIF in World War I.

Mount Alexander Shire Council adopted a Public Open Space Strategy in 2016. This strategy reminds us that the provision of public open spaces has many benefits, as they facilitate increased participation in physical activity, social gathering and active recreation, each of which is strongly aligned to health and wellbeing benefits.

James Park was acquired by the Shire of Metcalfe for use as public open space and is now administered by Mount Alexander Shire Council. Many community gatherings

have been held in the park. Even before the inauguration of the Applefest, it was used for markets, and most recently was the venue for the popular twilight gatherings. In a post-pandemic resurgence of community life, it was the scene of Harcourt Progress Association's popular Gather Harcourt.

The park has sufficient slope to provide a natural amphitheatre for musical performances, which always add to the ambience of community get-togethers. For each event, the organisers must bring in a temporary stage.

Performers at community gatherings always need shade from the afternoon sun. The committee is keen to have a shade sail erected. But attempts by local groups to provide shade can only ever be temporary and unsafe.

Use of the park would be enhanced by the construction of a permanent performance stage with a veranda-like structure fitted with a roof or, at least, with

fixing points for shade cloth. Wouldn't it be good if James Park had a permanent stage and sound shell?

A stated goal of Mount Alexander Shire's Public Open Space strategy is for council to consider opportunities to improve the appeal of existing public spaces. The Applefest committee has therefore written to the Shire Council seeking this enhancement of James Park. It is understood that there may be government funding for the provision of shade. As this is Council-owned land, it is necessary for the community to seek Council support to thus improve the park.

Harcourt residents and community groups value the use of James Park. It is in the centre of town and is a great venue for the Harcourt Applefest. Be sure to come along on Saturday March 12th, listen to the on-stage entertainment, and see for yourself!

George Milford

Lifeguard Shortage at All Shire Pools

Season ends Sunday March 13

Due to lifeguard staffing issues, operating hours at Council's outdoor swimming pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead will be adjusted for the remaining four weeks of the pool season.

Changes to hours of operation will be in place from Monday 14 February to the end of the pool season on Sunday 13 March.

- **Weekends** – all outdoor pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead to open as per normal operating hours.
- **Weekdays** – each outdoor pool will be open at least two weekdays, allowing for programming such as Aqua Aerobics and lap swimming to occur as usual.

Details of revised pool opening hours are:

From a Shire Press Release

Operating hours from week commencing Monday 28 February 2022				
Day of week	Castlemaine Swimming Pool	Harcourt Swimming Pool	Maldon Swimming Pool	Newstead Swimming Pool
Monday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	Closed	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Closed
Wednesday	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Closed	Closed	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm
Thursday	Closed	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Closed
Friday	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Closed	Closed	Open 3:00pm – 7:00pm
Saturday	Open 1:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 1:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 1:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 2:00pm – 8:00pm
Sunday	Open 1:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 1:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 1:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 2:00pm – 6:00pm


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Harcourt Valley Primary School

Principal Andrew Blake reports that the school is off to a good start this year and is almost back to pre-COVID functioning. He said, 'I am reasonably certain that there will be no remote learning this year. We are missing parents and volunteers being on site within our school community because of ongoing COVID regulations. I am hopeful that this will change before the year is out. COVID restrictions mean that, presently, school assemblies are linked to parents via Webex, and the Parent Teacher Information Exchange had to be held via phone calls. COVID protocols continue to be followed in the classroom and at the front office.'

Seventeen prep students are in the process of being transitioned into school. So far, they have adjusted well to school life. This week will be their first full week of school, prior to this they have had Wednesdays off at home or with carers.

The first two weeks of school have concentrated on the students being introduced to or revisiting the school core values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Resilience and helping students set learning goals and establish solid learning

routines. Parents have been encouraged to have a regular reading routine with their children at home. Grade six students are busy preparing their speeches to support their nominations for school leadership roles. They will be delivering them to the school assembly on March 3.

In the class room, teachers are continuing to use the State Wide Education Department Positive Framework guidelines to encourage positive student behaviours. The framework is designed to encourage respect, responsibility and curiosity in students. At HVPS when students have accumulated one hundred points they receive an apple picture to place on the 'apple tree' in the foyer. Andrew said, 'Students have responded well to this program.'

Teachers have also been encouraging students in their artistic endeavours. All students are entering some art work into the Applefest Art show. School choir members have been practising their songs for the Applefest. They will be on stage at 12.35 pm. Come and listen to them!

At the end of February, students from grades 3 to 6 enthusiastically participated in the Victorian Space Science Educational Centre's program called '**Reach for the Stars**'.

In one day they designed, built and launched rockets. All the rockets were successfully launched (see photos). Well done students!

The school's Friday breakfast program, which is organised by volunteers, has been very well supported this year. This will hopefully be continuing through-out the year.

A school initiative that Mr Blake is hoping will be underway next term is Outside School Hours Care (OSHC). He said, 'We are currently in the process of selecting a registered OSHC provider.'

The one disappointment for students this year has been the cancellation of two weeks of their swimming program because there has been a shortage of life guards at local pools.

Apple Pie Baking for Applefest



In the meantime, behind the scenes, parents have been busy baking apple pies for the school's Applefest stall on March 12 (and for some folk who have pre-ordered them). The baking is happening mostly in school councillors' homes, as parent volunteers are not allowed on school premises.

The aim is to sell at least two hundred pies and maybe bake up to three hundred apples pies before Applefest. Money raised will go towards upgrading the school oval.

The pies are very popular, so come early to the school stall so you won't miss out! Other families are busy making their favourite goods for this stall. It will be a great stall and your support is always appreciated.

Lois Denham





Harcourt Bowling Club

Pennant and Tournaments Wrap Up a Successful Season

Pennant

March is when the Finals of the Pennant Bowling Season are held. By the time this goes to print, the die will be set and finals well underway.

Midweek Pennant Division 3 has had a successful season and is expected to fare well in the finals. Division 5 has battled well all season and is hopeful of a finals berth.

Weekend Division 2 has put in a good effort, although they are not expected to be in the running. Divisions 6 and 8 are both hopeful of a crack at the finals.

We wish them all Good Bowling and good luck. More on this in the April Core.

Club Championships

Singles Champions

Harcourt Bowling Club Singles Champions, Carrol Frost and Tony Olsson competed in the District Champion of Champions on Sunday February 27. Although putting in some great bowls, Carrol was unable to win her first round – just missing out on the last bowl. After a bye in the first round, Tony had a close win in the second round, going through to the quarter final and just missing out. Well done to both Carrol and Tony for their great efforts.

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 have started.
- Club Women's Drawn Pairs and Men's (Gough) Drawn Men's will be held in March.

Ladies Triples Tournament

Di Selwood of Property Plus Real Estate has again sponsored the Harcourt Ladies Triples Tournament held on Thursday 3rd March. Results of this 2-bowls triple game event will be in the April Core.

Men's Fours Tournament

Another successful Harcourt Men's Fours Tournament was held on Sunday February 6. Eighty bowlers from around the state competed in two separate 'fills'.

Each fill played 3 games of 10 ends with a lunch break after 15 ends, finishing the day with afternoon tea. Although not on the winner's list, one team did score an '8' during the tournament – congratulations to Colin Foster, Geoff Ace, Joe Candy and Graeme Blease.

The first Fill, Sponsored by Kosmac and Clemens, was won by the Auburn 1 team of Bernie Gallagher, Don Clancy, Ben McKenna and substitute Seth Bird.



Winners, 1st Fill Auburn 1: Bernie, Don, Ben and Seth, with sponsors, Katie and Sophie.

Runner-up was the Slingo/Golden Square team of John Bush, Willy Tingay, Mark Peterson and Jack Reid. Prizes were presented by Katie and Sophie from Castlemaine Kosmac and Clemens.

The second Fill, sponsored by Maxi IGA was won by Auburn 2 team of Greg Thomson, Eddie Rush, Mick Walker and Ray Shortis.



Winners, 2nd Fill Auburn 2: Greg, Eddie, Mick and Ray with Ron Douglas.

Runner-up was the Talbot team of Golly Grant, Pete Radstock, Peter McLoughlin and Paul Adcock.

Harcourt Club President Ken Tribe thanked both sponsors of the day for their generous donation to this tournament over a number of years.

Ladies' Fours Tournament

A successful Harcourt Ladies' Fours Tournament, sponsored by Mount Alexander Funerals, was held on Thursday February 10. The day commenced after morning tea with the usual Ditch to Ditch won by Sue Lawson

(Lead, Bendigo), Jenni Holborn (Second, Golden Square); Lorraine Rowley (Third, South Bendigo); Aileen Fiedler (Skip, White Hills). Overall winners on the day were the Eaglehawk team of Pam Hughes (Skip), Jan Conder (2nd), Dawn Gibbs (3rd), Eilish Whelan (lead).

Runner-up was the Calivil team of Shirley Hope (Skip), Noelene Ralphs (3rd), Janine Wiltshire (2nd), Meghan Greaves (lead). Our thanks go to Brian and Lyn Leidle for their generous sponsorship of the day.

Sponsors Night

Round one of the Annual Sponsors Challenge was held on Tuesday evening February 15. Harcourt Bowling Club holds this social bowls and barbeque night as an opportunity for our sponsors to get to know the club members and each other in a relaxed environment. Over a social game of bowls, our sponsors compete for the Chappie perpetual trophy in memory of past member and sponsor Rob Chaplin. A great night was had by all eight teams competing.

Winners were Brian Nunn's Team with 30 points. Last year's winning team, Castlemaine Mini Diggers, was a close second. The date of the second round is yet to be decided.



Sponsors Challenge winners: Brian (Buzz) Nunn, Rod Watson, Brian O'Connor and Adrian Boyle.

Kidman Four's Tournament

The Annual Kidman Invitation (mixed) Four's Tournament, held on Sunday February 20, was a great success with all rinks filled. Participants were treated to the usual delicious meals that Harcourt is renowned for.

Overall winners on the day were Leo Moloney's Harcourt team of Darrell Normington, Mary-Anne Doyle and Fran Corstorphan.



Kidman Fours winners, Fran Corstorphan, Darrell Normington, Leo Moloney and Mary-Anne Doyle with Wilma Kidman.

Runners-up were Allan Eddy, John Jackson, Jeni Eddy and Vicky Tierney from Golden Square.

Wilma Kidman travelled from Kaniva to present the prizes and gave a personal account of some of the history of the Harcourt Bowling Club and her and late husband Brian's involvement over many years. The Tournament has been held since the 2013-14 season when Wilma and Brian moved to Kaniva. President Ken Tribe acknowledged the generous sponsorship and presented Wilma with flowers.

Calivil Tournament success

Two teams of Harcourt bowlers participated in the recent Annual Calivil Tournament with some success. Runners-up on the day were Jean Pogue, Judy Ewing, Kay Francis and Di Marsh as 3-game winners.



Runners-up at the Calivil Tournament: Jean Pogue, Judy Ewing, Kay Francis and Di Marsh with sponsor.

Retiring Volunteer

A Salute to Our Retiring Bar Manager

After 13 years as the manager of the bar and coordinator of bar staff and rosters, John Starbuck has retired from this voluntary position at Harcourt Bowling Club.

John, affectionately known as 'Starry', coined the phrase 'everyone's a winner at Harcourt'.

Not just a bar manager, Starry organised the Friday raffles and members' draw, personally ordered and collected the bar stock, ensured the bar staff had their RSA, and made sure that members and visitors were made welcome, and, whilst doing all that, John also had four years on the Board as President of the Club.



A devoted clubman, John's presence behind the bar will be missed, though he is still making his mark on the green in the Weekend Pennant team.

What's On in March/April

Thursday March 3

Ladies Invitation Triples Tournament

Thursday March 10

Ladies Drawn Pairs (evening)

Sunday March 13

Grant Mixed Pairs

Thursday March 17

Men's Drawn (Gough) Pairs (evening)

Saturday April 9

Rice Memorial Mixed Triples

Saturday April 9

End of Season Presentation and Breakup.

Christine Anderson



Harcourt Football Netball Club

Prospective Players Wanted

The season is coming around fairly quickly and our first home game will be at the Den on April 23. First up, our hope is that we have a season free from interruptions caused by COVID.

Pre-season preparation has been solid with good numbers at training since early January. As is usually the case, a few players have moved on but the coaches are happy with those who have been added to the squad.

If you are considering playing with the Harcourt Lions, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Coaching Staff.

We need numbers for practice hit-out/bonding trip at Dookie on March 13.

We are especially looking for boys and girls for our new U17½ team led by Coach Paul Chaplin. Training is on Thursdays at 4.30 pm along with other junior teams.

We had an encouraging AGM, with Kathie Teasdale returning as President and a strong support team in place. Aims for the year are to increase our membership, especially before the season starts and to follow up sponsors promptly.

We hope you are able to get on board to assist the chase for a competitive assault on the premiership to make up for the last two COVID affected years.

The Harcourt Bowls/Footy group is underway again for double club members.

And keep in touch for the Lions' Fiftieth Anniversary Premiership Reunion at an early home game.

Lions Roar!

Daryl Gale

Applefest Art Show and Sale



The annual Applefest Art Show and Sale is an integral attraction at the Applefest and a fundraiser for the Harcourt Heritage Museum. It is held in Harcourt's 1911 ANA Hall within James Park and next door to the market stalls, food vans and on-stage entertainment. The work of talented local artists will be on offer.

The unique feature of the Art Show and Sale is that each work is an original painting, a 'smaller' work, limited to 40 cm by 40 cm. These one-off art works are always reasonably priced

The Art Show gained record attendances and sales last year, drawing patrons (and purchasers) from as far afield as Melbourne. Central Victoria's most talented artists submit their work in several award categories, ensuring that high-quality paintings are on display. Each artist brings their individuality to the subject, and it is always fascinating to see the world through the eyes of those who would capture with pen or brush what they see before them. The exhibiting artists range in age from primary school children to 100 year-old Mrs Peggy Shaw. Peggy Shaw has been painting for more than sixty years. Just because she has reached the century doesn't mean that the prolific painter has any plans of slowing down anytime soon. Peggy Shaw's art work will be on show alongside the work of artists from far and wide, including many who are exhibiting at Harcourt for the first time this year. The organisers are pleased to report that a large number of entry forms were submitted by February 23rd and they are expecting some interesting art works to be delivered on Monday 7th March.

The Official Opening and Presentation of Awards will be held on Friday 11th March at 7.30 pm. This is always an opportunity to meet the artists. The Art Show is open to the public from 9 am to 4 pm on Applefest Saturday. Light refreshments will be available, courtesy Chewton Phoenix CWA, who will be operating Tearooms adjacent to the Art Show.

We know that there is lot to see and do on Applefest Saturday, so if you wish to take more time to view the art, then come along on Sunday March 13 from 10 am to 4 pm, or on Monday 14 March from 10 am to 2 pm. The works on offer will enhance your home and are designed to fill that little spot on your wall. For newer residents, this is your chance to acquire some quality local art to decorate your new home. Come along and have a look at the 28th Annual Art Show!



Saturday 12th March from 9am
Experience the best of the Harcourt Valley

Stall Holders Wanted
 Food Vendors, Coffee, Fresh Produce, Crafts,
 Collectables, Plants, Tools, Clothing
 You name it we need it.

To find out more go to
www.applefest.harcourt.vic.au



Out and About with Applefest Royalty



Look who I saw chatting to stall holders on the Western Oval today: our very own King and Queen of Applefest. Coliban Valley Wines are looking forward to chatting to many more locals and visitors at Applefest on March 12. For more details go to www.Applefest.harcourt.vic.au

From a Facebook post by Lyn Rule. Photo by Lyn Rule.




 Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP

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 @LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo

Free Ticket for Applefest Volunteers



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!



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

At the February meeting of Council there was robust debate and some difficult decisions made.

The proposed Castlemaine supermarket was before Council again. VCAT will determine the matter, but they will be interested to know that Council rejected the recommendation to approve the development. I was on the wrong side of this vote and was surprised by the outcome.

The contract for upgrade works to Fogarty's Gap Road was awarded to local contractor Leech Earthmoving. Council has policies in place to preference local contractors, so in this case it will be great to see some of the money stay in our community. Council has applied for black spot funding for the second stage of this work. Hopefully that will be forthcoming.

The local law relating to cats and dogs was adopted with some amendments. Curfew hours for cats were adjusted, and dogs are not allowed on the playing surface of our sports ovals. My sporting days are just about done, but I don't want parents and children who use our sports ovals having to deal with doggy do!

Feel free to give me feedback on how Council goes with these decisions.

This week we start budget discussions for the next financial year. Costs keep rising, so it is not easy getting the balance right.

Stay well,

Regards Tony

AG Cordy 0439 742 434

 HARCOURT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB	HFNC Junior Netball 2022
	Training on Thursdays (starting Feb 24) at Harcourt Valley Primary School
	Training Times 11U & 13U: 4:30–5:30 pm 15U & 17 U: 5:15–6:30 pm
	We are still looking for 11U and 15U players to join our 2022 teams
	Please contact Kirrily: 0421 353 710



Harcourt Heritage Centre

JR Warren: *The Export of Fruit*

In the early years of the twentieth century, the office of Lohmann & Company, importers and exporters, was next to the Rialto at 493 Collins Street, Melbourne. Inside the office, among mounds of paperwork, besuited accountants and shipping clerks were busy with instructions from growers and producers, consignment notes from wheat and wool growers, orders from clients, telegrams from German manufacturers, correspondence with Australian customs clearing agents, bills of lading for goods to be shipped to European ports, letters of credit to be lodged with bankers and, of supreme importance, the lists of ships in port, ships expected in port and ships soon to depart, providing essential daily reading.

Harcourt orchardist JR Warren had sent several consignments of fruit to Europe via Lohmann & Co and, when he retired from the orchard in 1906, he was hired by Lohmann & Co. He was to travel the state to develop the export trade in apples and pears. The new recruit must have been single-minded and enthusiastic to achieve what he ultimately did in the frenetic and specialised environment of the office of Lohmann & Co.

The German-oriented export agency had many lines of business. It was heavily engaged in shipping thousands of sacks of wheat and thousands of bales of wool destined for Antwerp, Hamburg and Bremen.

At the time that JR Warren joined Lohmann & Co, the firm was also engaged in the import of locomotives from a Munich-based manufacturer. Krauss locomotives were specialised steam-driven locomotives for small industrial or light rail use. In the years 1906-1908 Lohmann & Co oversaw the import of thirteen Krauss locomotives for clients as diverse as the Mount Lyell Mining & Railway Co (Tasmania) the Plane Creek Central Sugar Mill (Queensland) and the Kalgoorlie Goldfield Firewood Supply Company. Lohmann and Co also took orders from various Melbourne councils for patent steel tramway rails of German manufacture.

All this activity is an indicator of Germany's large and growing population, as well as its increasing prosperity. It is also evidence of an aggressively expansionist policy of Lohmann & Co that, while handling all these major contracts, the firm set out to expand operations into

the export of Victorian apples and pears to England, Germany and other foreign markets.

JR Warren brought enthusiasm and application to his new role. Soon after he commenced his new employment, Mr Warren authored a booklet entitled *The Export of Fruit*, published by Lohmann & Co and widely circulated to 'drum up trade'. Harcourt Heritage Centre has a copy of the pamphlet.

By consigning their fruit to Lohmann & Co, Harcourt orchardists were able to access the Hamburg market. Up to this time many of the orchards of Harcourt were on small holdings planted with apples, pears, plums, peaches, figs, almonds, apricots, and cherries, all destined for local consumption. But some growers had planted larger numbers of apple trees of just a few varieties, aiming to produce large quantities of uniform-sized, fancy grade (unblemished), juicy and flavoursome apples.

JR Warren promoted the growing of high-quality fruit in large quantities. He wrote that this would ensure a dependable demand for Harcourt apples. He advocated unlimited plantings. He said, 'As civilisation advances, the demand for apples will be insatiable'.

At the end of each season, for the next few years, the Harcourt correspondent for the *Mount Alexander Mail* was able to report long lists of the prices obtained for Harcourt fruit in European markets, noting the varieties that had achieved high prices and commending the successful growers. Not all the export fruit was handled by Lohmann & Co. Growers chose their own shipping agents.

Unfortunately, the growers bore all the risks. Sometimes, fruit shipments were delayed on the London or German wharves and became unsellable and, at times, shipping freight, wharfage dues, onforwarding cartage and agent's commission cost more than the proceeds from selling the fruit. Even worse, due to the lack of available ships, Harcourt's fruit could not be exported during 1915-1918.

But, by adhering to JR Warren's advice, Harcourt orchards were expanded, and the growers became more prosperous. The opening of the German market, coupled with an expansion of the irrigation channel network, resulted in a vast increase of acreage of apple trees in the Harcourt valley. In 1913, the *Mount Alexander Mail* reported that a

remarkable change had occurred in the carting of fruit to the railway station. In 1908, only four growers had a horse-drawn lorry able to carry 120 cases of fruit, but in March 1913, twenty growers brought their fruit to the station in this type of vehicle. In 1913, an extra siding was constructed at the Harcourt Railway Station. It was soon in regular use as long trains of louvred goods vans were loaded with boxes of apples and pears, securely packed, nailed down, wired up and stencilled, destined for the port.

A large fruit storage and packing industry grew up near the railway station to facilitate the export of immense quantities of fruit. In the inter-War period, and well into the 1950s, a saw mill, case factory and packing shed were in full operation.

Statistics for two years further illustrate the enormous expansion of the apple growing industry in the thirty years following JR Warren's promotional efforts. For the 1911 harvest, the Harcourt Railway Station handled 116,585 cases of fruit, of which 51,328 were consigned to London and European markets.

In 1941 it was estimated that Harcourt produced 473,000-bushel cases of apples and 96,000 long-bushel cases of pears. Some 400,000 cases had been railed for export. While overall production had lifted by nearly 400%, exports had risen 680%.

James Rowe Warren was 59 years of age in 1906 when he retired from fruit-growing. He leased his Harcourt orchard, and relocated to Camberwell to take up the role with Lohmann and Co.

He retired from the firm at about the time of the outbreak of the Great War. He lived to the age of 77 and regularly returned to Harcourt to visit his family.

JR Warren had come to Barkers Creek as a young man in the 1850s. Visiting Harcourt as an older man, he would have noted with satisfaction the coolstore, the packing shed, the railway sidings and the vast acreages of productive fruit trees, established following his efforts to promote the industry.

Today, a century later, Harcourt still boasts vast acreages of orchard and continues to produce fancy-grade, juicy and flavoursome apples and pears.

This is another of a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneers compiled for The Core by Harcourt Heritage Centre. The information on the Krauss locomotives was sourced from Light Railway No 153 of June 2000.

Firewood Collection Season is Open

Firewood can be collected from:

- 1 March to 30 June (autumn season) – The autumn firewood season is now open
- 1 September to 30 November (spring season)

New Rules for Central Victorian Firewood Collection Areas

New changes to firewood collection regulations in Central Victoria will take effect on Tuesday 1 March 2022. Designated Firewood collection areas in state forests in Central Victoria will be restricted to residents of specific local shires.

These changes aim to ensure that local communities have greater access to available firewood into the future. While firewood is free to collect, supply is not unlimited. This means firewood needs to be managed responsibly to ensure environmental sustainability.

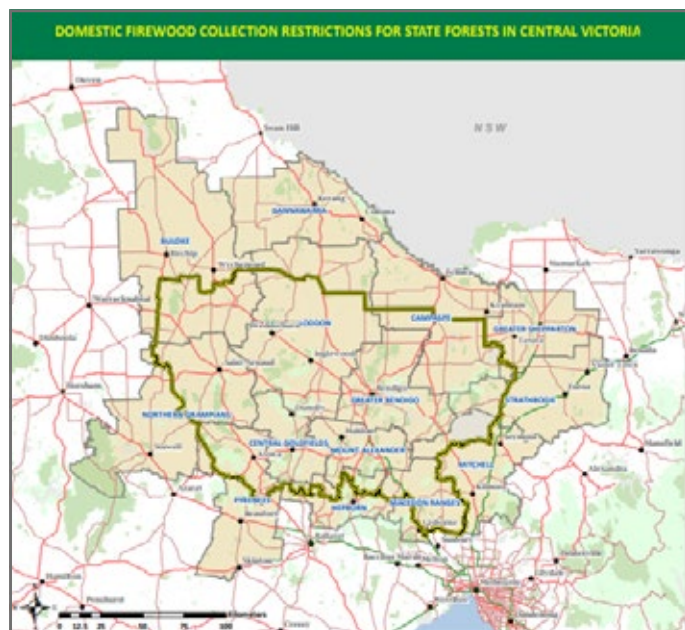
Only residents from the following Local Government Areas will be allowed to collect firewood from state forests in the bordered region on the map below:

- Buloke Shire Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- **Mt Alexander Shire Council**
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Loddon Shire Council
- Pyrenees Shire Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Strathbogie Shire Council
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Mitchell Shire Council

Some rules for firewood collecting

Firewood cannot be collected outside the designated times to minimise risks to people, the environment and infrastructure during winter and periods of highest fire hazard. Wood from last year's June and October storms will be among the firewood available in some parts of Victoria with the opening of the State's Autumn Firewood collection season.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) aims to carefully manage access to firewood from public forests for domestic purposes in a fair and sustainable manner,



with an emphasis on availability for local communities and those who depend on firewood as their primary source of heating.

The provision of firewood this season has required balancing the need to ensure the wood doesn't pose a fire risk with the desire to provide the community with firewood and ensure fallen logs are still available to wildlife. Uncontrolled firewood collection can lead to the loss of important habitat such as hollow logs and dead trees.

Habitat loss can have a serious impact on iconic native species that rely on our forests to survive, such as the powerful owl, south-eastern red-tailed black cockatoo, greater glider, pygmy possum and many others.

It can also make firewood resources unsustainable, impacting regional communities who rely on firewood for energy during the colder months.

Most people follow the rules. Anyone breaking firewood collection rules should be aware that the chances of getting caught are high, given Authorised Officers regularly patrol state forests and use surveillance cameras and other methods to detect offences.

It's illegal to sell firewood you collect from domestic firewood collection areas. It's also illegal to use it in commercial business or enterprise.

For full information about the firewood collection season see the Forest Firewood Management Section on the DELWP Services website: ffm.vic.gov.au

From the DELWP website.

Local Sightings

Bearded Dragon

This bearded dragon visited on a very humid day. It seemed to appreciate some time under a sprinkler. We haven't seen one of these for quite a while. In recent times, we find that wildlife is moving in or across the property more often.



The Red Spotted Jezebel Butterfly

The following information has been sourced from the Museums Victoria website: collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/species/12254

'The Red spotted Jezebel (*Delias aganippe*) is found from the South-Eastern corner of Queensland to Western Victoria... These butterflies are common in summer. They breed on mistletoe plants.'

Having checked on the above site for comparative photos and information, the butterfly pictured is a male because it had mostly white with a grey edge on the forewings, while the female forewings are cream with more grey spots than the male. It was not possible to capture a photo of the forewings as it fluttered very quickly but when settled closed its wings. While this butterfly is said to be common in summer, I don't believe I have seen them before, but I was delighted to see it in the garden.

Robyn Miller



Gavin McDougall

From Harcourt to Hong Kong and Home Again



In 1992, Gavin McDougall was the Applefest's first King Jonathon with Nicki (Bright) Renfrey as Lady William. Nicki has remained in the area and pursued her career in public relations. She is a stalwart at the Barkers Creek Cricket Club and has been instrumental in the push for female friendly facilities at the club and for Women's Cricket in the district. Gavin has pursued a career in TV news and journalism both here and in Hong Kong. For the past 14 years he was the Director of Public Affairs at The Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong.

At the time the above photo was taken, Gavin worked at Channel 9 as a reporter and journalist. Later he worked as a Correspondent and Assistant Chief of Staff. In December 2003 opportunity called. For the last 18 years he has lived and worked in Hong Kong. Initially he continued his career in television at STAR TV (Satellite Television Asia Region) as a Senior Producer and then as Executive Producer of Network News and current affairs.

He said, 'STAR TV was similar to SBS in Australia in that it ran channels in different languages. There was a potential audience of 220 million across most of the Asia region: east Asia, northern Asia and, south east Asia into the Middle East. I worked on the English language channel which was an entertainment and news channel similar to Channels 9 and 10 here. I produced a nightly news program called STAR News Asia. We also had mini-news reports throughout the day and

produced ad hoc special Current affairs reports. For example we did an in depth cover of elections in Taiwan. STAR TV is no longer based in Hong Kong, it has been sold a couple of times; it is now owned by the Walt Disney Company India and is based in Mumbai.

'In 2008 I took up the position of Director, Public Affairs at the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong. This is a public diplomacy position and involves making cultural connections and community liaison via visits and events. It also covered media and communications (social media) and promotion of Australian culture which has spin offs into business and tourism. We worked to link like-minded groups in Hong Kong and Australia. For example one thing I am proud of is that we linked the Hong Kong Life Saving Society with the two Life Saving Societies in Australia. This led them to learn about Life Saving accreditation and to introduce a sports component into Life Saving which is important for retention of members. A breakthrough was that they adopted similar water safety programs in schools. Hong Kong had never done this before. They continued to bring Australian experts to Hong Kong eg in fast boat rescue and they would bring lifesavers from other Asian countries eg Vietnam, Taiwan, Macau and China to learn that expertise from Australian life savers. That's one of the things you don't hear about in terms of cultural connections.

'We were also responsible for bringing and entertaining notable Australians to Hong Kong, although I don't want to drop any names! We organised Indigenous art exhibitions and performances, contemporary art exhibitions and comedy performances. We established a tour by the Melbourne International Comedy Festival into Hong Kong.

'There are deep connections between Hong Kong and Australia which began in the gold rush. The Chinese who came to Australia mostly came from Cantonese speaking areas. Cantonese was the second most common language

spoken in Australia; it is now the fourth most spoken after Arabic and Mandarin. In Bendigo, the Chinese were/are Cantonese speaking; I attended the blessing of their new dragon Dai Gum Loong before it left Hong Kong. The depth of Australian business, technology and knowledge connections in Hong Kong is extraordinary and cultural connections are strong. There are 100,000 Australians resident in Hong Kong. It is one of our largest populations of Australians overseas and Hong Kong has always been a popular destination for Australians. It used to be that there were about 120 flights per week on Cathay Pacific alone between Hong Kong and Australia. At any one time there would 10 or 15,000 Australians visiting as well.

'Recently we have worked at the



Consulate within the changing political situation. We have seen the freedom of the press curtailed and the Consulate officials have been busy assisting Australians. The Consular team has been working hard during the time of protests and COVID. At one time we received relief teams from mainland China and also from Canberra to assist with monitoring the situation and assisting citizens. The safety of Australian citizens is the priority of the Australian government.

'As I mentioned it used to be easy to move in and out of Hong Kong as there were multiple flights to and from Australia and until COVID you lived by the maxim that you were never more than 24 hours away from Australia. I used to come home once or twice a year.

Continued next page ...

Gavin McDougall
Continued from previous page

I've done a lot of interesting work, had some amazing travel experiences and built friendship networks. But like many others I found that COVID bought a lot of things into perspective and it was time to come home. 'My partner has a new job in Darwin and so we have decided that's where we will settle. And yes it has to do with the weather; we have got used to not being cold. I am attracted by the visible diversity in the community – that pleases me and makes me feel comfortable – it is similar to Hong Kong. The proximity to Asia is a benefit as well. I'm between engagements and taking a break. I will look around but I'm not in a hurry. It's fair to say it will be in communications which is where my expertise is.

Gavin's family lives in Harcourt but when he was a youngster they lived in Castlemaine and had strong connections with Harcourt.

'Mum used to work at the motel and I would come out with Mum before school. Dad used to pick apples and he was the trainer at the Harcourt Football Club and is a life member. I recall there was a long time between finals for the club and there is a photo of me when I was probably four years old and going to the Grand Final dressed in blue and gold. I loved footy and played one season, but I have to admit I wasn't great. We used to fish at the reservoir all the time and collect wood on the mountain – it was allowed back then. I recall seeing sunrises from the mountain, hunting for worms for bait, and going to the Oak forest when no one was there.

I can see that the community has come together after the freeway bypass with great ideas about what is possible. The Heritage Centre and the Harcourt Progress Association should be proud of what they have achieved. Mountain biking, camping in the oak forest, the miniature railway, and the community get-together -Gather Harcourt are all great developments. It's very pleasing that Harcourt is now a destination. Having been the first King Jonathon makes me really proud to be nominally a Harcourtian. Future looks great for Harcourt with the positive attitude which I have seen here it's a credit to those in community who have worked to ensure that Harcourt isn't an afterthought it's a place that's recognised and enjoyed.'

Robyn Miller



Harcourt Uniting Church Easter Preparations

While Harcourt is busy preparing for the Applefest, the Christian Churches are preparing for an important time in the Church calendar – Easter. No doubt you would have heard of Pancake Tuesday which marks the beginning of Lent. This day was traditionally the last day to eat up luxury foods in the pantry including flour, eggs and dairy products. These were then made into pancakes. At Harcourt, we celebrated with a 'pancake morning tea' and welcomed members of Grace Church who joined us.

Farewells

We were saddened by the recent passing of Thelma Wilkinson. Thelma was 94 and had been a regular at Harcourt Uniting Church and Adult Fellowship until mobility problems made it too difficult for her to join us. We send our sympathy to her daughter Faye, Jack and family.

Brenda and Ross Warner are moving to Melbourne later in the month, and they will be greatly missed. Brenda has been our Church Chairperson and Fellowship President for many years. She has also made sure that members received a card for any special occasion and held a little

book with all the birthdays recorded. We wish them God's blessing in their new home.

Leadership

The Castlemaine and Harcourt Congregations met recently to discuss 'Leadership for our times.' It may sound a little boring, however there was great discussion on the need for us to have courage, energy, compassion and vision in this modern, changing world. It certainly gave us much to think about.

A New Baby Brother

We were delighted to welcome our third grandchild, Lachlan, on Valentine's Day. We were staying with the other two grandchildren when Lachlan arrived home the next day.

Five-year-old Hannah was watching as her Dad was changing Lachlan's nappy. Baby brother wasn't impressed by this and was letting us all know.

Hannah looked up at Mark and said: 'Dad, you better Google how to look after a baby!'

Jan Jenkin



With elections just around the corner, we have the opportunity to vote for a government that is willing to find ways to reduce carbon emissions. This includes stopping any further fossil fuel extraction and instead using renewable energy, which I believe will have enormous benefits for all of us.

It is urgent that we pay more attention to what we are doing to the planet, so we can start to care for all creation. We humans are only a part of the whole, and if the whole goes up in flames, we will too.

Solway Nutting

A New Health Service for Mount Alexander Shire

The Victorian Government has approved the proposal put forward by the Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health boards to come together as one organisation.

The boards of Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health have welcomed the Victorian Government's approval.

The new health service will officially commence on 1 March 2022. The integration follows more than 42 years of strong collaboration and partnership between the two health services.

Sue Race, Chief Executive Officer for both Castlemaine Health and Maldon Hospital, will continue in her role as Chief Executive Officer for the newly integrated organisation. Ms Race said that staff, residents and the community can expect the same excellent care they always have, with local teams focusing on the needs of patients and residents at each health service.

Ms Race said: "I'm excited to be leading this transition to a unified health service. Both Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health have a long history together and we share the same intense desire to serve our communities. We have listened carefully throughout the consultation process and understand the concerns and hopes of our communities. We have a historic opportunity to shape a better health system with the scale to think big about health and wellbeing with local teams in place to deliver individual care."

Following through on the Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health boards' commitment to develop a new overarching entity name, they have worked with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, trading as DJAARA, to find a name. DJAARA's Language Repatriation Officer, Harley Dunolly-Lee and the Djali Balak Language committee have provided their leadership to help define a name in Dja Dja Wurrung language.

The new overarching entity name will be 'Dhelkaya Health'. Dhelkaya's English translation means 'Good/Being Healthy'. The choice of an Indigenous name acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung's traditional ownership of the lands on which we live and work and expresses our gratitude to the Dja Dja Wurrung for sharing them with us.

The Djali Balak Language committee state: "Language is one of the most significant aspects of the culture and heritage of any group. Aboriginal culture and knowledge systems are largely expressed verbally, through vocalising place names, stories and songs. Aboriginal languages express not only culture, but also kinship, relationship to the land and water (oceans and rivers) and environmental knowledge. They contain a complex conceptual framework for the living things on the land, the landscape and natural resources. Without language, the link between Aboriginal people and Country would be compromised and the benefit of Aboriginal knowledge may be lost."

The Minister for Health has appointed the new board of directors, which is made up of a balanced mix of directors from both Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health.

Ms Vanessa Healy, previously Maldon Hospital Board Chair, has been appointed to the combined board as a Board Director. Ms Healy said, "I am honoured to be appointed to the board of this health service. Working as one, our new organisation has the capacity and ambition to deliver the safe,



(L to R) Board Member Peggy Ronnau, Chief Executive Officer Sue Race, Board Member Vanessa Healy. Note that this group will formally become Board Members and CEO respectively of Dhelkaya Health from 1 March 2022.

high-quality healthcare our communities deserve well into the future. I am excited about advancing community health and wellbeing in Mount Alexander Shire and will continue listening to staff, volunteers, patients and residents as our work progresses."

Ms Peggy Ronnau, previously Castlemaine Health Board Chair, has also been appointed to the newly combined board as Board Director. Ms Ronnau said: "The extensive consultation has shined a light on our individual strengths and how we can work as one to build on our legacy of cooperation. We have great relationships, strong connections with our communities and long-standing and trusting relationships with those we care for. This is a move from strength to strength."

On day one, patients, residents and families will not experience any changes to the services they receive or the staff delivering their care. There will be no significant changes to how each local health service is run day to day.

Over time the integrated organisation expects to find natural opportunities to combine and grow services. The first key step in this process will be development of a new strategic plan. Staff, volunteers and communities will be consulted to help define a shared vision and plan for the future.

Ms Race said: "By working as one we can ensure the patient and resident care these much-loved health services deliver is sustainable well into the future. Together as one we can enhance services while reducing the need for patients to travel. We can create career pathways for staff and make more efficient use of resources to more effectively deliver frontline services. The future is bright for health and wellbeing in the Mount Alexander Shire."

Further information on the transition to one organisation and how the community can get involved in helping to shape the future of health in Mount Alexander Shire will be published at www.castlemainehealth.org.au and www.maldhosp.vic.gov.au

From a Press Release



WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Reconciliation

Makarrata – Australia's Way Forward

Makarrata = 'coming together after a struggle, facing the facts of wrongs and living again in peace.'

The Statement from the Heart, generously offered to all Australians in 2017, contains these words:

'Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs.'

For too long, so many First Nations peoples have been exiled from their homelands. With ocean levels rising, now a new kind of exile threatens.

The Uluru Statement calls for a VOICE to Parliament, TREATY with Government, and TRUTH about their sufferings. MAKARRATA would be 'the culmination of our agenda: *the coming together after a struggle*... We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations, and truth-telling about our history.'

The Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land have used the principles of Makarrata for centuries. It may seem similar to conflict resolution but is so much more:

- Firstly, the disputing parties are brought together.
- Each party, led by their elders, must speak carefully and calmly about the dispute. They must put **the facts** on the table and air their grievances.
- If a person speaks out of turn or recklessly, he or she is sent away and is not included any further in the process.

The leaders must always seek a **full understanding** of both parties' sides: what lies behind the grievance, who is

responsible, what each party wants. In past times a leader came forward and accepted a punishment. This leader, once punished, was then taken into the heart of the aggrieved clan. His wounds were healed by men and women of the clan; they gave him gifts and showed him respect; and he then lived with them, the very people he had harmed.

In this way, peace was made. The dispute was settled not only for both parties, but for future generations, as if it never existed.

The 2017 gathering at the geographical centre of Australia came to consensus over the Statement from the Heart. It says, Makarrata 'captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination'.

A rather different gathering began outside the *political* centre of Australia on 26 January 1972, an election year. Over the decades since colonisation Aboriginal pleas for better conditions had fallen on deaf ears. Now a new style of objection was employed.

Protesting about the government's adamant refusal to acknowledge Indigenous land rights and native title, four young Aboriginal men travelled to Canberra, put up a beach umbrella on the lawns of Parliament House, with a sign saying 'Aboriginal Embassy'.

During the following weeks, many First Nations people joined the four activists, erecting tents and making clear they were there to stay.

The Aboriginal Embassy Cabinet Committee presented a five-point

plan for land rights to Parliament on 5 February 1972. It called for the restoration of ownership of reserves and settlements, rights to mining, monetary compensation and preservation of all sacred lands.

When Labor, led by Gough Whitlam, came to power that December, some of these demands were met. Many of these responses have since been eroded or ignored during subsequent changes of government.

The longest-running protest in Australian history, the Aboriginal Embassy is back on its original site opposite Old Parliament House, and continues the struggle for First Nations land rights, sovereignty and self-determination.

Surely IT'S TIME to establish a Makarrata Commission or Tribunal that would enquire into the historical circumstances in a process of truth-telling, supervise and facilitate a process of agreement-making, and oversee the implementation of the agreements made.

The process of Makarrata has already begun, as the Uluru Statement tells the truth of the position of the aggrieved party. It is now up to the leaders of the Second Nation of Australians to come forward and meet with them.

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

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Email: info@harcourt.vic.au

Harcourt Applefest 2022

Harcourt's long-anticipated community festival – the Harcourt Applefest – will be held, for this year, on Saturday March 12 at James Park, right in the centre of the growing community of Harcourt.

The Victorian Government's Regional Community Events Fund (RCEF) is supporting the 2022 Harcourt Applefest to help build community confidence in staging COVID-safe regional events. The funding is targeted to help events in regional Victoria to recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The assistance from the RCEF will 'give a leg up' to the local economy through its support of grass roots community events such as ours.

Harcourt Applefest is now in its thirty-first year. It has been held every year since 1992, celebrating the apple harvest. This year there is much to celebrate, with bumper harvests in recent years due to back-to-back La Niña weather conditions. But the people of the valley gathered every year, even during the years of the millennial drought.

Everyone pitches in to stage the Applefest, which engages with approximately sixty diverse local groups including the Primary School and Preschool, CFA volunteers, Country Women's Associations, Harcourt Valley Landcare, Harcourt Progress Association, Harcourt Lions Club, sole-trader orchardists, cider producers, vignerons, artists, musicians and craftspeople.

The event is designed to cater for all abilities, all interests and all cultural groups. The Applefest provides an opportunity for the whole community of the valley to meet, to work alongside each other and to develop community cohesion.

CWA has a Prominent Role

A special feature of this year's Applefest will be the display by the CWA aimed at promoting international understanding under the auspices of Associated Country Women of the World. (ACWW) Harcourt CWA will also be hosting an indigenous information service. The CWA site will encompass a rest space for mothers and little children. Chewton Phoenix CWA, will be operating from the ANA Tearooms adjacent to the Art Show.

Hundreds of Apple Pies

Harcourt Applefest is a great fundraiser for the local primary school which intends to sell its famous family-size apple pies. These will be eagerly snapped up.

Art Show

The annual Art Show and Sale is a fundraiser for the Harcourt Heritage Museum. The works of talented local artists will be on offer. The unique feature of the Art Show and Sale is that each work is an original painting, a 'smaller' work, limited to 40 cm by 40 cm. These unique art works are always reasonably priced. Light refreshments will be available courtesy of Chewton Phoenix CWA, who will be operating from the ANA Tearooms next to the Art Show.

Plenty of Apples

Harcourt is famed for its apples. The picturesque valley at the foot of Mount Alexander is a unique climatic and geographic niche, making it just the right place to grow crunchy, juicy, rosy apples. The apple harvest for 2022 has just commenced and you may be assured that the fruit on offer will be direct from

the tree. Local produce outlets found at the Applefest include several who are producer participants in the Bendigo UNESCO City of Gastronomy.

Dinosaurs at Harcourt Applefest

Harcourt Applefest is known for its family-friendly program which includes traditional children's activities such as face painting and storytelling. A special initiative for this year is an appearance of Toby the T-Rex with some dinosaur babies. James Park will be the scene of a unique dinosaur experience, usually only to be encountered in the world of fantasy. Toby the T-Rex dinosaur will be making an appearance at around 10:00 am – so be on site early!

Being COVID safe

The committee has paid careful attention to the need to make the event COVID safe. Social distancing will be encouraged. The committee has arranged extra umbrellas for shade under which patrons may relax, catch up with their neighbours and friends, listen to the onstage entertainment, and enjoy the great variety of food on offer.

The Gathering Place – James Park

The venue for the Applefest is James Park, High Street, Harcourt. James Park is a welcome green space with sufficient slope to provide a natural amphitheatre. Many community gatherings have been held in James Park in the centre of town, just a short distance from the Calder Freeway interchange. It is an easy drive from Melbourne, from Bendigo, from the

Harcourt Applefest acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government Regional Community Events Fund.



Macedon ranges and, of course, from all points north, east, south and west within the Mount Alexander Shire.

The Applefest was scaled down in 2021, for obvious reasons, but the organisers are planning for a resurgence in 2022. Come along to the many stalls in the Applefest market, buy your apple pies, cider and local crafts, try out the competitions, and, of course, you will have the opportunity to sample famous Harcourt apples, savour renowned wines and immerse yourself in a high quality selection of the visual arts as well as enjoying a great selection of on-stage music.

The People Who Make it Happen

Paul Mizzi

Harcourt Applefest is a community festival brought to you by people like Paul Mizzi.

When Paul and Vicki arrived in Harcourt in 2004, they heard about the Harcourt Applefest and said, 'Right kids let's get into the community.' So their two children were onstage at Harcourt Applefest 2004.

Paul has a degree in maths and computer sciences and is working in IT and telecommunications. He is the Applefest Master of Ceremonies.

While he enjoys compering the musical acts onstage, Paul takes a particular delight in organising the apple pie eating competition. Each contestant has to eat just one pie filled with cream. It's all about how quickly a competitor can eat it – it's a lot of fun.

Paul says there are so many incredibly talented people living in the Harcourt valley and that it's a joy to work with them.

To entertain the crowds on Applefest Saturday, Paul has lined up some amazing talent. Pure Black Music is brother and sister Bendigo duo, Em and Jimmy Black. They play a variety of covers and originals to suit every taste from rock, pop, funk, blues, soul, jazz and more!

Oliver Northam will be performing onstage at the Applefest as a solo artist and as the front man of his seven-piece folk/blues band The Elsewheres. Oliver made a strong entrance onto the music stage in pre-COVID times performing at a string of festivals and Harcourt Applefest is fortunate to have booked Oliver and the Elsewheres, because they are much in demand.

Ayron Teed

Ayron is another person you might encounter at the Harcourt Applefest.

Mrs Teed is well known internationally, regionally and locally for her work with the Country Women's Association. This sort of thing comes naturally to Ayron, who was once named Harcourt's Citizen of the Year. It is due to a lot of behind the scenes work by Ayron that the Applefest features a mother's rest area, has stalls demonstrating various crafts, and has an indigenous information area featuring the local Dja Dja Wurrung.

Diane Dooley

Diane Dooley is running the Children's Crafts Section of the Applefest for the first time this year. Diane is a new arrival in Harcourt after moving from Maffra where, for 20 years, she was the secretary of the Maffra Agricultural Society. It has been a great win for Harcourt that Diane, and her husband Des, chose to downsize to Harcourt.

In recent months Diane has worked as a volunteer every Wednesday refreshing the displays in the Harcourt museum.

For this year's Applefest, Diane has challenged local children to produce handcrafts for display in the Fruitgrowers' Tent. Diane also wishes to remind people of the Cookery Competition which has been a feature of Applefest for many years. Don't forget to make your apple pie or apple muffins and apple jams. They will be judged at 10:30 am on Saturday March 12.

Ruth & Phillip Hay

It is fitting that the choice of Applefest royalty for 2022 fell to two relative newcomers to Harcourt.

Ruth and Phillip Hay have willingly thrown themselves into the roles of Lady William and King Jonathon. It is less than two years since Ruth and Phillip moved to Harcourt. They feel that they represent the many new residents of the valley. Harcourt is Mount Alexander Shire's designated growth area. An entire new housing estate has been built in central Harcourt since last year's Applefest. With the new homes, there are scores of newcomers. Ruth and Phillip say to them:

'Here's your chance – be involved. It is a great way to get to know people and to see how things work around here.'

Diana Cork

Diana has been living and dreaming Applefest ever since last year's successful event. Although the 2021 festival was a pared-down happening, due to COVID constraints, it saw strong sales of apple

products, a happy and profitable day for local not-for-profits, record sales at the Art Show and good results for farm-gate enterprises. Diana, who volunteers with Harcourt Heritage Committee, says:

'While it might seem strange that the local Historical Society stages a community festival, this can be explained by the fact that ever since its beginning in 1992, the Heritage Committee has "punched above its weight". We have made numerous contacts, auspiced various initiatives and provided a base from which the Applefest can operate. It is very rewarding to be involved in this way. You meet so many talented people with lots to offer who are willing to step up and get things done.'

'Can do', is Diana's motto.

A Taste of Harcourt

Diana has put together the **Taste of Harcourt Hamper** which is available exclusively via pre-order, when buying tickets at: events.humanitix.com/harcourt-applefest-2022/tickets. It includes:

- **Blackjack Winery** Cabernet Merlot
- **GingerKid** Ginger Beer
- **Goodness Flour** Wholegrain Premixes
- **Harcourt Cider** Sparkling Apple Juice & Apple Cider
- **Henry of Harcourt** Original Cider
- **Larsen** Smoked Salt
- **The Jamsmith** Mulberry Jam
- **DMC** Honey
- **Harcourt Valley Vineyards** American Pale Ale

These prepaid premium produce hampers must be ordered online for collection on Applefest Saturday, 12 March at the Fruit Growers Tent from 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Diana Cork said:

'This hamper and the products in the hamper, speak volumes about the stunning growth of Harcourt since the Applefest started. Only one of the producers was in business thirty years ago. Look at how far Harcourt has come, with new farm gate enterprises, cellar doors, restaurants and new products, all grown and produced in Harcourt.'



Be Prepared for Weather Emergencies

The Shire would like to say a big thank you to residents for their patience while we work through more than 200 requests for assistance following the severe thunderstorm in January.

To help prepare for future weather emergencies, including floods and bushfires, visit:

- **Red Cross** [www.redcross.org.au/emergencies] to create an emergency plan
- **Bureau of Meteorology** [www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings] for weather updates and warnings,
- **VIC Emergency** [www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond] for current information on emergency incidents and warnings.

From the Shire

Regional Climate Ready Plan Launches Into Action

State Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP launched the Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in Bendigo on Thursday March 3.

The plan is one of six Regional Adaptation Strategies across the state, with the Victorian Government committing \$1.5m (\$250,000 per region) to support regional communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Loddon Mallee will use its funds to implement 13 adaptation projects across the region, 11 of which are based in Central Victoria.

Ms Edwards said, 'The Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan is the collective voice of the community. It builds hope for the future, and supports individuals, communities, organisations and business in taking action to build local climate resilience.'

The grassroots projects in the Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan address energy, food security, extreme weather responses and improved social justice outcomes for First Nations' people and migrant communities.

The projects will kickstart delivery of the plan, to support individuals, communities, organisations and businesses to get 'climate-ready' and enable a healthy and resilient future for central Victoria and the entire Loddon Mallee region.

Over the next five years, the Loddon Mallee will support the implementation of these initiatives through annual delivery plans and continue to ensure local voices are represented in planning for climate change.

To view the Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan, visit: www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/supporting-local-action-on-climate-change.

From a Press Release



Grace Church

Sunday February 20 will go down in history as a top day in the life of Grace Church. The day commenced with an invitation to morning tea hosted by the Uniting Church, Harcourt. The pancakes were delicious and the fellowship was sweet!

Mr Ettienne McClintock, Head of Communications, from the Voice of the Martyrs (hereafter 'VOM') spoke at our 11.00 am service. He was ably assisted by Marcel Enuica – Marcel is the recently appointed Relationships Manager for Victoria.

Marcel and his wife Ruth are interesting in that both are of Romanian descent, giving them a connection with Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, the founders of the VOM – Romanian Jews who became Christians.

At 1.30 pm we screened the movie 'Sabina, Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years.' This award winning movie was well received by the thirty or so in attendance.

Thank you to all those who came from Castlemaine, Harcourt and Bendigo – your presence made the day a great success. Admission to the movie was free but I am pleased to say that folk contributed generously to the free will offering that was taken up to further the work of the VOM.

I would also like to thank Life FM, 105.1, the Christian radio station in Bendigo, who promoted the movie through their Community Service Announcements. Well done!

I would also like to thank our landlords, the Uniting Church at Harcourt, for use of more facilities than usual, on the day. Much appreciated.

Lastly, for those who would like to see the movie but missed out, it is likely that you will be able to catch another screening at the Maldon Baptist Church in the months ahead. Please contact Ps Gavin and Julie Alexander – contact details may be found on their website.

Ps Roger and Glenise Thurecht





Chatting with Harcourt CWA

I joined Harcourt CWA back in 2005. We had just moved from Melbourne to Barkers Creek and I was looking forward to my first country fair that the locals called Applefest.

Applefest lived up to all my expectations and, as I wandered around enjoying the atmosphere and the stalls, what should I see but the Harcourt CWA stall. I stopped to have a chat, and that was that. I became a member on that day.

Every year since I have enjoyed the atmosphere and smiling faces that come to our stall to say hello. This year we will again be having our usual stall at Applefest and will be raffling a magnificent fruit cake and a CWA Hamper jammed packed with goodies.



CWA Stall at Applefest 2020

We have many talented members at Harcourt CWA, some knit beautifully, some create delightful craft items, some sew and quilt, some paint, some take amazing photos, and some bake. But no-one comes close to baking a cake better than our Marvellous Marlene.

Marlene Thompson joined our Branch a few years back and it wasn't long before we were tasting cakes and muffins at our monthly meetings previously only thought possible in a dream.

This year our first prize is a magnificent fruit cake made by Marvellous Marlene.

So, do yourself a favour and buy a ticket or two. Marlene will also be offering her famous Marlene's Marvellous Muffins on our stall – without doubt the best muffins that I have ever tasted.

And something just a little bit different this year is that there will be representatives of other Central Victorian CWA Branches available to have a chat about what their Branch has to offer in their community. Maybe this will be the day you sign up to become a member of CWA just as I did all those years ago.

A Rest Area for mums and little ones will be available too. Back in the day, mums and their children would accompany dad into town and, while dad was loading up the truck with provisions, the mums would seek companionship and a cuppa at the CWA Rest Room. Our Rest Area is a large tent, complete with mats on the ground and comfortable cushions, so if you need a place for the little ones to relax for a while, pop into the Rest Area.

I have mentioned ACWW, Associated Country Women of the World, in previous chats. If you would like to know more about this organisation, have a talk with the ladies at the ACWW stall and check out the beautiful painting by indigenous painter Judith Nelson which is to be raffled on the day.

As you can see, we are all very excited about Applefest, and look forward to seeing and chatting with you on March 12th.

Applefest is now 31 years old. Happy 31st Birthday Applefest from Harcourt CWA.

Lyn Rule

Harcourt CWA, Publicity Officer



Here we were 11 years ago walking in the Applefest Street Parade, banner flying high. You will see some of the same faces at this year's stall.

YAG & FREEZA PRESENT

COSCARS YOUTH FILM COMPETITION

FOR 8-25 YEAR OLDS

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Short: 1-5 minute film
(Snapshot and Short have 5 age categories 8-15, 14-18 and 18-25 years)
Short Film: 5-10 minutes
(14-25 years)

Cash prizes of \$50 - \$150
Entries close → Midnight 20th March 2022

Competition entry forms and guidelines can be downloaded on Council's youth website
www.mountalexandersireyouth.com.au or picked up at the Castlemaine Library and Castlemaine Secondary College reception.

For more information contact Shannon on 5471 1700 or youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday

All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht

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gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



Harcourt CFA

Can We Get To You In An Emergency?

Have you thought about emergency access to your property?

Thirty Years ago, you had about 17 minutes to escape a house fire. Today it is around three to four minutes. While it's important that everyone in your household can get out of the house in an emergency, **it is also important that fire trucks and/or an ambulance can get in.**

Firstly, **have clear and visible property identification.** Whether it's a property number or a property name, it should be of such a size that it is readable and can be viewed from either direction. Consider night time visibility as well – this may be a reflective material, or perhaps some form of illumination.

Next to consider is **the type of gate** you have. Is it an electric gate that operates via a remote? Does it have a manual override feature? If it requires a code to be punched in on a keypad, remember to pass this on when you have dialled 000. Manual gates can also be an issue if they have been poorly maintained and do not open easily, or if they are padlocked with a chain. If we are unable to cut the chain or padlock, our only option, if it will help us gain access, will be to cut the fence.

Once we have the gate open, **will our vehicle fit through the gateway and up your driveway?** The average fire truck is three metres wide and 3.5 metres high. It is recommended that driveways should be four metres wide and have a four-metre height clearance so the vehicles can access them. Ensure that there are no low overhanging branches and no structures such as archways that could impede our access. Bridges over creeks or large drains may also not be substantial enough to support a fifteen tonne truck.

Parked cars and other vehicles may be a problem in narrower streets, but also in wider streets and driveways if they are parked too close to both sides of your driveway and can impede our travel to your property. One or more cars left in your driveway can also stop us getting closer to your home.

February Turnouts

January finished off with a callout to a car with a fire in the engine bay on the Calder Freeway. Fortunately, a passing motorist stopped and used a small dry powder extinguisher to put out the flames, so we just needed to finish extinguishing and make it safe for removal. This shows the value of having a fire extinguisher in your vehicle.

We were concerned that passing motorists did not slow down to the required regulated speed of 40 kph when passing a stationary emergency vehicle with flashing lights activated.

Our first turnout for February was another car fire at Ravenswood South. This incident was a lot more serious and the car was well alight when the first fire truck arrived. We were able to save the occupant's cricket bat and gear which were on the back seat of the car and so, he was pleased that he could play cricket on the Saturday.

The rest of the month was quiet until a lightning strike on the afternoon of Thursday 24 February started a fire on the steep hill on the west side of the North Harcourt Road near Fords Road. Access was initially a problem and so another six

CAN WE FIT?

**Through your gates
Under your trees
Can we turn around (30 m)**

**We need more room
than the dimensions
of our truck.**



tankers and three ultralight vehicles were called for as well as air support from Bendigo to back up the initial five tankers. This was enough to bring the fire under control and secure the edges before concentrating on the difficult mopping-up phase.

It was a challenge getting access to hazardous trees towards the middle of the fire. These were left to burn overnight. The most challenging was the tree that contained a hive of bees!

It was planned that crews were to return the next day at 8.00 am to continue mopping up, but a call was received at 7.00 am, so they started earlier and spent most of the morning completing the task.

It was not long after that there was a re-ignition on the north-east side and the fire took off again. It was determined that more resources were needed, so the call was made for twenty tankers and aircraft support. All the brigades in attendance stayed until a relief strike team from the Macedon Shire arrived around 6.00 pm to patrol the area for a couple of hours. A grader and large bobcat were also called in to put a 'mineral earth break' around the perimeter of the fire to help make it safer. Early Saturday morning saw the return of some vehicles at 7.00 am to complete mopping up and for monitoring.

They were assisted by using two Thermal Imaging Cameras, to detect hot spots that required further attention. Late Sunday morning saw the return of our Tanker 1 to put out the last smouldering tree, the one with the bees in it. The bees had decided that it was better to relocate.

To finish off the month, we had a support call to Lockwood brigade, to powerlines sparking at Ravenswood.

So summer has ended, going by the calendar, but the fire season is not over yet, and fire restrictions are still in force. March can produce hot and windy days and as recent rains have been very patchy, there is still plenty of dry fuel around. Now is not the time to let our guard down. We have all done an excellent job in preventing fires in our area.

And let us not forget the communities in Queensland and northern NSW experiencing extreme rainfall and flooding, and consider your preparedness if heavy rainfall was to happen here. Are you prepared for all types of emergencies?

Stay safe and aware

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Scenes of the North Harcourt fire.



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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

Early Autumn Fruit Tree Tips



Hi everyone,

It's been another refreshingly mild summer this year, after a wet spring. At our orchard (under the care of the Orchard Keepers) plums, apples and pears have been abundant, with smaller crops of stone fruit this year. Apple and pear harvest has started, and the cooler evenings we've been having are pretty much exactly what's needed to help the pink apples colour up nicely before harvest.

Fruit fly sighted

After a fruit-fly free season up until now, unfortunately we've had the first sighting for the season at the farm. If you're an Orchard Keeper's customer they will have been in touch with you directly to explain what they're doing, and how you can help. Clearly, the danger period is a long way from being over.

So, if you have a fruit tree in your garden (which still has fruit on it), here's what you can do:

- 1 Put your traps out if you haven't already. Biotrap is one that's recommended for monitoring. You can buy them from Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware in Campbells Creek, or online at biotrap.com.au.
- 2 Monitor your traps at least every week
- 3 If you find flies in your trap, or infected fruit, let Terry Willis from the Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group know. The most effective way to protect your fruit is to net your trees, so it's worth having some nets on hand in case you need them.
- 4 Continue to practise excellent hygiene by picking all your fruit, including picking up all the fruit from the ground.

Fruit fly traps and advice available at Applefest

Colin from Biotrap will also be at this year's Applefest on March 12 with traps for sale, plus we'll have some brand-new, locally produced Fruit Fly brochures available. They're the

brainchild of the wonderful Nicole Porter from the Bendigo Fruit Fly group, and are a handy one-page guide to everything you should be doing.

Summer pruning

On other topics, it's just about time to start thinking about summer pruning of apricots and cherries. These trees are particularly prone to fungal disease. Pruning them in the warm, still weather of late summer/autumn can minimise the risk of disease, rather than waiting until the cold, wet weather of winter (when most other fruit trees are pruned).

Before you start any pruning, make sure your secateurs are very sharp and clean, particularly if they've been used on diseased trees. It's easy to clean them in a 1:10 solution of bleach, or wipe the blades with eucalyptus oil. Some gardening experts recommend painting the pruning cuts, but we've found it preferable just to let the cuts dry naturally. Therefore it's always best to avoid pruning if there's a threat of rain.

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

- 1 If you've drape netted your trees, remove the nets as soon as you've picked the fruit. The heavy nets can weigh down the growing tips of your trees, and make it harder to prune them into a good shape, and it's also easier to get the nets off while there's still some leaves on the tree.
- 2 If you want to try growing your own peach trees this year (and save yourself the expense of buying trees), save the seeds from any peaches or nectarines that you eat. We usually use clingstone peaches, but any peach or nectarine will do. At this stage all you need to do is save the seed every time you eat one and just let the flesh rot off them. Then store the seeds in damp sand, keep them moist over winter, and they'll be ready to plant out next spring to grow your own rootstocks (which you can then graft).

- 3 Pears are one of the few fruit that need to be picked before they're ripe, and then ripened off the tree (some varieties can go floury if you ripen them on the tree). However, you still need to make sure they're mature before you pick them. A great way to tell is to cut one open and look at the seeds – they should be dark brown and plump.

Learn. Plan. Succeed.

And finally, our next Learn.Plan. Succeed live online training will be kicking off on Tuesday 22nd March. This is a 3-session live course, held over a week, designed to help you figure out exactly WHAT jobs you need to do for your fruit trees and WHEN you should be doing them. There's a Workbook provided, and throughout the course you'll be filling it out to create a personalised Fruit Tree Action Plan. The course is completely free, and you can register here: growgreatfruit.com/fruit-tree-action-plan.

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their free Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for one of their free online workshops.

Grow Great Fruit

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



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Book now for business workshops

Local businesses are invited to book for a range of free workshops aimed at helping them develop, up-skill and network. The next workshop, Starting Your Small Business, is on Monday 7 March from 9.00am – 12.00pm.

Discover more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources.

Small towns on the road to success

Additional bike racks, seating, improved drainage and more are in the pipeline for Newstead. Works begin in late March, and are part of the Small Town Streetscapes program, which is taking place in townships across the shire.

Find out more at bit.ly/Streetscapes22.

Find your cycling community in Newstead

We're partnering with a number of local groups to deliver a range of bike-related activities in Newstead. This includes community bike rides, workshops for tweens and teens, and basic maintenance workshops.

Register at trybooking.com.

100% renewable electricity

We're delivering on our promise to work locally to address the climate emergency, by signing on to VECO, the largest ever emissions reduction project by local government in Australia. Since January, we've been using 100% renewable energy to power our streetlights, public toilets, community facilities and more.

Find out more at bit.ly/MtAlexVECO.

Thanks for a fantastic pool season

We'd like to thank our lifeguards and the community for the fantastic pool season we've had this summer.

Although operating hours were affected by lifeguard shortages in the final few weeks of the season, we were fortunate enough to be able to keep all pools open on the weekends. See you next summer!

Subscribe to the Shire News

Read the latest in local news, events and opportunities across the shire, sign up at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/ShireNews.

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Supporting your community

Community Bank
Maldon & District



There's been a changing of the guard at Community Bank Maldon & District with Adam Balzan leaving the position of Branch Manager after almost five years at the helm.

We are thrilled to announce that the position will now be taken up by our previous Customer Relationship Manager, Paul Simmons.

Paul has spent most of his life in the Maryborough area, apart from a stint in Brisbane after he qualified as a bookbinder when he got a job with Spicer's Papers in Queensland. He is also an avid sports lover, and as a young person played footy, cricket, basketball and golf. These days his preferred participation is in golf and he's currently off a neat handicap of 10, so his aim is to get into the single figures.

Paul has been a part of the team based at the Maldon branch for the last two years and is ready for this next step. He said, 'Adam left some big

shoes to fill, but I know we have a great team here and I'm excited about the opportunities ahead, not only for our small team, but also for the ways we can give back to our communities – after all, that's what Community Banking is all about.'

While we are talking about banking, Paul started his banking career with the ANZ bank based at the Castlemaine branch. While with ANZ he also did some time in the St Arnaud branch and Wendouree branches. With the announcement that the Castlemaine branch would be closing, Paul took the opportunity to continue his career at the Maldon Community Bank. 'I started as the Customer Relationship Manager in November 2019 and now have the opportunity to take the reigns as the Branch Manager to continue the great work for the community.'

Next time you are in the area feel free to call in and introduce yourself to Paul.



Practice Water Safety on Local Reservoirs

Executive General Manager Service Delivery Danny McLean said, 'The four reservoirs; Barkers Creek, Upper Coliban, Malmsbury, Lauriston are now popular spots for recreational fishing and vessels such as kayaks and, canoes and small portable craft.'

'It's great to see so many central Victorians out and about utilizing these beautiful spaces, but we're also seeing a significant increase in people not following the rules at the reservoirs.'

'Life jackets must be worn at all times while out on the water and swimming is never permitted, as these are our drinking water sources.'

'The reservoirs offer walking tracks, shoreline and on-water fishing, kayaking and recreational facilities in a beautiful part of the world, but it's important to remember these are large bodies of water like any lake or river, with ever-changing conditions,' Mr McLean said.

The reservoirs can have strong winds, strong currents and hazards above and below the water.

'There have been several instances where users have become stranded and needed rescuing due to a change in wind or water conditions. Make sure you plan ahead,' he said.

Blue Green Algae at Barkers Creek Reservoir

Coliban Water reminds the community that Blue Green Algae is currently present at Barkers Creek Reservoir and while on-water recreation is permitted, users are urged not to make contact with the water.

Check for safety updates – high water and strong winds

'We recommend that before any trip to one of our reservoirs, users jump on our website and check for any updates or safety notices. There are often times when they are closed due to high waters or strong winds so it's important to have safety front of mind,' he said.

The Coliban Water [coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs](http://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs) features a range of helpful maps, information and tools to make sure your trip to a reservoir is as pleasurable as possible.

From a Press Release

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Send a picture of your pet to the editor:

news@harcourt.vic.au

and tell us why you love your pet.

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Weather & Water

We have come to accept that this has been a second summer where La Niña has held sway. La Niña is likely to persist until mid-autumn. The Bureau of Meteorology in its Climate Drive Update, accessed on 4 March, says,

'[The] 2021–22 La Niña is past its peak, with outlooks indicating a return to...neither La Niña nor El Niño—during the southern hemisphere autumn. As La Niña weakens, it will continue to influence global weather and climate.'

Rainfall in January of 77.5 mm nearly matched January 2021, which was 80 mm. February saw a fairly typical amount of 26 mm. Last year's total for the same month was 14 mm. In January, there was a hot spell for about two weeks which eased off as we moved into February, since then there have been no extremely hot days. Humidity has been high recently with temperatures under 35 in the daytime most days.

Reservoir Levels as at 4 March 2022

Upper Coliban: 91.8%

Lauriston: 91.6%

Malmsbury: 47%

Barkers Creek: 64.1% A blue green algae warning is current.

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



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Community Diary Dates

Thursday 10 March: 6pm Landcare dinner and meeting, Goldfields Track Café, High Street.

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

Sunday 13 March: Pool season ends.

Friday April 15–Tuesday 19: Easter

Saturday April 23: First home game for the Harcourt Lions Football team.

Monday April 25: ANZAC Day

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

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, 1.00 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

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

Harcourt Bowling Club: See page 6.

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

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Business Card Size (55x90mm) pre-paid for:		Larger ads invoiced monthly	
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

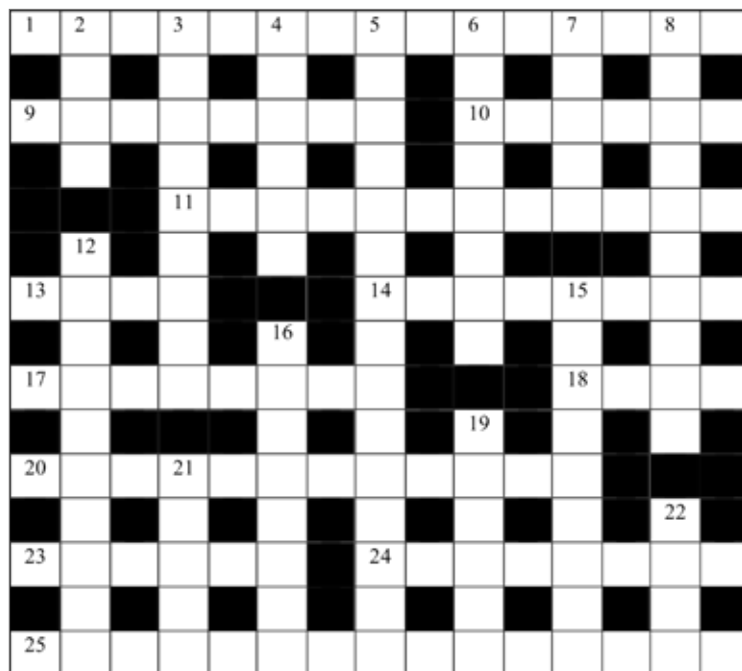
	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35

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

March Xwd 2022

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Down:

2. He played music for arsonists. (4)
3. Lettuces not in the dictionary, but sounding like you'd have snails with them if you got the Spanish flourish out... (9)
4. Observe how the region of mind reorganises. (6)
5. And, bringing up the rear, but still considerable, the "Total Talents Bus"! (4,3,3,5)
6. Shoot timber to keep out the chill. (8)
7. We hear there's a gradual thinning-out of the nocturnal vegetation-chomper. (5)
8. Many people don't like them, so some quit verandas as the day wears on... (10)
12. They could steal their different way into the compound because, comparatively, they were better at it... (10)
15. It doesn't have to be a trial, Jack. You'd get a bundle for the Customline these days! (9)
16. A nervous tic and a very nervous heist makes it most likely to scratch. (8)
19. Savage fire rages over the Christian centuries. (6)
21. Vague trace of packaging. (5)
22. Diabolical scheme for the vegie patch. (4)

Across:

1. Would be a rare opportunity indeed if it came thus unhyphenated... (4,2,1,8)
9. Goes forward with the takings. (8)
10. Meal about bygone era. (6)
11. Heavenly French arch and a bit of Schubert make a lovely occupant of some Oz flowers. (7,5)
13. After a literary lunch, perhaps, the other authors came back late... (2,2)
14. Denizens of the 4. (8)
17. Sort of voice to sing 18? (8)
18. Spoke first 5 of 17. (Maybe a German counter-tenor?). (4)
20. Told shocking news about shares. (5,7 or 12)
23. I get stuck into commerce to deliver a rant! (6)
24. Drat! Skilfully mixed with oily bits. (8)
25. Superbly well-equipped army oral surgeon? (5,2,3,5)

February Xwd 2022 solution

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Down:

2. Ralph Vaughan Williams's bird flies higher.
3. Beatles song just past? [Well?]
4. Back-formation from Yang's other [yin...] with ten less than a century. (6)
5. What I could be said to have done after I redecorated the hallway myself? [Well?]
6. Dutton or refugees? Because I take the [latter on] trust I am less judgemental. (8)
7. [Fall]ing out with Dickens character is not for learners. (5)
8. It's about [re:] "are you [in]citing the signing-up of people?" (esp. by text.) [An Artile of a clue!]
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 reasserts control over things (like posturings, etc.). (9, or 2-7)
16. In conversation, throw all the celebs you know over the cliff... [Well?]
19. Albeit topless, [he cures] himself of aquaphobia by becoming part of the surf lifesaving mission. (6)
21. Bloke to leave fruit to the women? [Well?]
22. Musos in triangular relationship? [Well?]

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' in the solution with an 'o', you begin to see why he's been put here... (8)
10. Consequence of, for example [eg], clay mixed in it. (6)
11. The French don't have a word for it, according to George [W]... [Well?]
13. Murphy wouldn't want it in his [pudding, one hopes!] (4)
14. Either [I'm tiny, or] I'm in [Timor] and [New York] at the same time. Either way, there aren't many of us! (8)
17. Not liking one across [1a], miner might use one down. [Well? Down the mine, not 1d...]
18. Does not exist shortly. [Well?]
20. Blake's lad goes to [pieces when my] stove isn't lit. [Sorry: hard anag. to find...]
23. Taking n0thing away from the bloke who looks at the autopsy might get him into a tight spot... (6)
24. Really early dot-com becoming trendy again? [Well?]
25. [Moonshine Prince] shows it when asked a hard question. (15)



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



Saturday 12 March from 9 am
Experience the best of the Harcourt Valley

Local businesses, producers, makers and community organisations all
join in sharing the hidden treasures of the Harcourt Valley.

The festival opens Friday 11 March with the Art Show Awards at the ANA Hall

**To find out more and
purchase your \$5.00 tickets go to
www.applefest.harcourt.vic.au**



This is a COVID safe event and pre-booking is essential