

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 94 – June 2022

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## Milestone Events at Harcourt Leisure Centre



Members of the Harcourt premiership team of 1971 with the current Harcourt Football Club seniors, before their match on Saturday 28 May. The players wore a commemorative uniform for the day consisting of white shorts and a jumper listing the names of the 1971 team. **Standing:** Phil Moore, Neil Wilson, Merv Cribbes (Graham 'Snowy' Cribbes brother), Gary Moxom, (back row) Peter Lovell, Colin Douglas. **Seated:** Graeme (Golly) Grant, John Grant, Ian Robins, Trevor Gough, Grahame Hill, Barrie Guest, John Whitlock, Terry Knight, Ian Wilson. Photo by Kathie Teasdale.

THE WEEKEND OF 28 AND 29 MAY marked three milestone events for the sporting groups that call the Harcourt Leisure Centre home.

Harcourt Lions football celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the 1971 Premiership win. Steve Tonzing, son of Captain/Coach Trevor Tonzing, had planned the event for 2021, but COVID caused its cancellation. Surviving members of the 1971 team, family and friends celebrated with a memorial dinner, and the current seniors' team wore a commemorative uniform for their match on the afternoon. Read more on pages 12 and 13.

On Saturday 28 May new female and umpire facilities were unveiled by Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards. The modern, spacious amenities provide access to all women and nonbinary players participating in netball, football, cricket, tennis and other events. See page 13 for the full story.

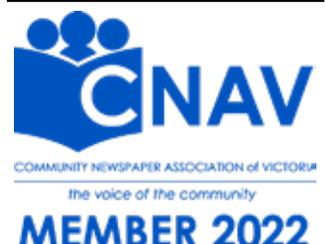
The Falcons Women's Football team now call the Harcourt Leisure Centre home. Saturday marked their first home game and first win, in a round of practice matches for the team. See the back page for the Falcon's fixture and a summary of the game.

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### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 6th of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and community groups will be sent reminder emails. **There is no edition in January.**



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2022

# A Letter to the Harcourt Community from Backyard Fest

G'day Harcourt, Alex here from Backyard Fest. Hope you're all doing, great? Just wanted to introduce myself and the crew and talk a little bit about where we've come from and what we hope to achieve. We are very excited about bringing our little music festival to your wonderful town.

So what is Backyard Fest all about? Let me take you back to 2016. My mates Blake and Simon and myself, were heading home after a music festival and a bit of a road trip up north, reminiscing and wishing we could go back. Before we knew it, we were all housemates and were planning a mini festival in our backyard. The pipe dream came to fruition in November 2017. We booked in 6 bands and 3 DJs, set up a stage and lighting, a sound desk, marquees; Dads on the BBQ and Mums on the door counting numbers. This event hosted about 150 of our friends, and friends of friends, and neighbours, some even watched from their balconies and had their own BBQs. Word must have gotten around quickly as the year after saw about 400 people crammed in like sardines. Backyard Fest had arrived!

Since then we have been booking venues around Melbourne and hosting gigs, day parties and mini fests. We've been working hard to get our love child off the ground and into a fully-fledged, camping, music and arts festival. Which now brings us to Harcourt and to our hopes, dreams and vision for November 2022.

But first, a bit about us...

Alex has a background in carpentry and event hire, and is currently working as a landscaper. A bit of a jack of all trades and master of none. He makes his own furniture for the love of it, collecting old hardwood from demolition sites. He has a record collection that's slowly building and is on the hunt for Captain Beefheart's 1967 album, 'Safe as Milk', if anyone is selling a copy?

Blake is a qualified electrician and is studying a Bachelor of Counselling. He loves to get out into nature, to hike and to explore - even a swim in the Yarra isn't off the cards. One of his favourite activities is to head to the local and jump on the pool table for a few hours. 'My absolute favourite artist is Bob Dylan - I'm a little bit obsessed, my collection of his records is well over 15 albums (still nowhere near all of them though).'

Blake and Alex are both working hard at managing the event: booking bands, food vendors, bars and breweries, all the contractors, a little promoting and social media work and getting our faces out there as much as possible. Simon is our tech guy and working in the background on the technical and electrical side of the event. We've recently added 3 new members to

the BYF family: Abby, Monica and Pantjiti. Abby has an incredible magazine label, has worked on various festivals, and is organising the arts precinct for Backyard Fest. Monica has completed her Event Management diploma, has worked on a number of festivals, and will be running the social media platforms and helping us promote BYF. Pan has been working in the industry for a few years, working on various music festivals, and running the volunteering side of things. She's also our volunteer whizz so if you'd like to get involved, reach out to Pan.

One of our most cherished parts of life is the privilege to experience live music with friends. Backyard Fest is our way of expressing our love for music and sharing it with everyone we can. We are striving to create a safe space for all of you to enjoy this experience. To enjoy the great music that Australian musicians have to offer, the great wine, cider and beer that your region is known for, the tasty food that our vendors will be dishing up and hopefully a stranger that makes you smile. Backyard Fest brings good music and good people together.

This year's inaugural regional event will feature 30 acts spread over 2 stages with lots of local performers. The musical style is pretty diverse from folk to jazz, African fusion to rock to funk; there's a little something for everyone. Abby is creating a mini arts precinct situated under some beautiful gum trees along the bank of the dam. We're also on the hunt for a yoga instructor for some Saturday morning yoga, anyone out there who might be interested, please hit us up! The campsite will have an awesome view to wake up to, with the sun coming up from behind Mt Franklin (if you're up that early). The site is on private land set on a ridge above Harmony Way with the flanks of Leanganook behind us. There is a natural slope providing a perfect position for our staging. Our technical audio specialists will be working to ensure contained and directed amplification which targets our attending audience and minimises audio spill to the surrounding area. We have also engaged professional traffic management experts and a contingent of security guards to help manage our crowd.

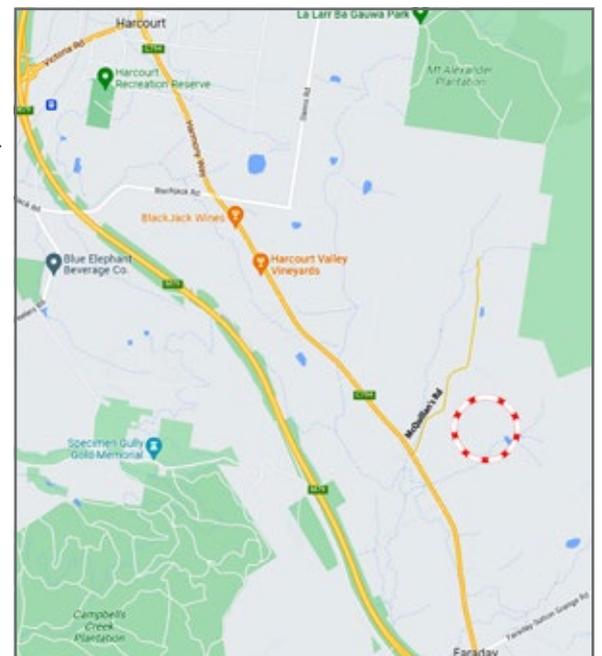


*THE MAES, local singers Elsie Rigby & Maggie Rigby who will be performing at Backyard Festival in November*

A Backyard Fest crowd is a pretty mellow crew: they are here for good music, good company and good times. They – and we – have a solid commitment to the environment, to respecting the place we are on and the people we are sharing this space with. Backyard Fest is a 'leave no trace' event with a commitment to minimal waste. With our new Harcourt location we are really hoping we will bring a great opportunity to the people of Harcourt and surrounds. Come and enjoy our mini fest, come and be part of it, be a vendor, be a volunteer, be there! We'll let you know how to get involved over coming months. Keep an eye out for our socials and we look forward to meeting lots of locals.

If you would like to get in contact with us, please email [hello@backyardfest.com.au](mailto:hello@backyardfest.com.au).

*See you in November!  
Alex Kavenagh*



## Editor's note: Backyard Fest

The organisers of Backyard Fest have put in place an extensive plan for the event as required by Council. The Fest will be held at Harmony Farm, 3120 Harmony Way, Faraday. The weekend will cater for 1,000 – 1,500 patrons who will be camping. Food, beverages and other amenities will be provided on site. The plan covers all aspects of managing an event of this kind, including traffic management, noise, security, no drugs policy, acceptable behaviour, emergency plan and environmental considerations, amongst others. The full set of documents relating to the event is on the Greenlight Permit Managing System for the Shire. The Permit Request is PA043/2022 and can be viewed by clicking on this hyperlink/QR code:



A meeting of Council representatives and affected residents occurred on 23 May and their concerns were raised about the following: loss of amenity, noise, traffic congestion and possible road blockages, disturbance to farm animals and to wildlife including endangered birds which nest nearby. The known threatened species nesting near the site is the powerful owl. Wedge tail eagles (not considered threatened in Victoria) also nest on the nearby ridge.

Authorities other than the council, such as the police are also involved and as a result of the meeting on May 23, some changes are required, for example, to the traffic plan. Because of the time needed to work through feedback from the meeting of 23 May, a decision is expected at the Council meeting on Tuesday 19 August. It is expected that an objectors' meeting will take place two weeks before that.



The council provides an Event Kit which is available via this QR code/link.

The Event Kit provides an event application form and government agency guidelines. *The Core* noted that the proposed hours of operation for the music at Backyard Fest are outside the EPA recommended hours as outlined on page 12 in Shire Council Guidelines.

Objectors can send comment any time up to the Council meeting where the matter is determined. Objections/submissions should be sent: via the Permit Application PA043/2022 in the Greenlight system. The submission form can be found at the foot of the document. Community members may also write or contact their councillor or the council itself.

For those who are excited about Backyard Fest and want to volunteer, please see Alex's letter in this edition for contact details.

### Festival Operating Hours and Proposed Activities:

Activity at the site will range from 8 – 14 November, 2022. Traffic movement will peak on Friday 11 November as patrons arrive, and Sunday 13 November as patrons leave. The pack up is to be completed on 14 November. It is proposed that live music will run until 1 am on Friday 11 and until 3 am on Saturday 12 November.



# Harcourt Progress Association

## HPA President's Report

This past month unfortunately saw the cancellation of the Gather Harcourt event due to unforeseen logistical challenges. The HPA does hope to hold more events in the future and we would request that anyone who is interested, please volunteer. These events require a lot of people power and we may be able to avoid future disappointment with more involvement from the community.

The HPA's work on Plan and Shine Harcourt continues. We have been corresponding and meeting with Council to advocate for the position we articulated in our submission to Council in March.

The Railway Station project is also progressing well, with works expected to conclude in the coming weeks. The operating model which will be pursued at the Rail Station post construction is the Community House model. This is a well understood and successful model for such buildings across Victoria and is compatible with the lease terms from VicTrack. The Railway Station Working Group, with members from HPA and Council, continues to work on delivering this project.

### Community House Plans

Of course a Community House can only grow with the support of the community itself. Over the coming months we will be seeking personnel and volunteers to build and support the Community House. More information will follow here and on the HPA website: <https://www.harcourtprogress.org.au>

David Foley  
President



*The Core* online has live links to the website or to open your email software. QR codes can be scanned using your phone.



# WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

## Be Brave – Make Change

Reconciliation Week is not new. We've been observing it since 1996 – five years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody laid bare the ways that historic racism had embedded itself in Australia's institutions.

Since then, the deaths have continued. Despite the ongoing strength and resilience of Australia's First Nations, Australia has not 'closed the gap' in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There was a national apology to the Stolen Generations, which we acknowledge each year on 13 February (not to be confused with National Sorry Day on 26 May), yet Aboriginal children are being separated from their parents at record levels.

So what is reconciliation? Is it, as the dictionary would have us think, that it's about two parties 'restoring friendly relations'? Can we legitimately claim that relations have been friendly except in rare cases? Perhaps this year's theme of Reconciliation Week – 'Be Brave – Make Change' – presents an opportunity to think a little differently.

Rather than Black and White Australia coming together, perhaps Reconciliation Week could be about White Australia reconciling ourselves with this nation's history in an honest and open way.

To that end, there is some good news. The Yoo-rook Justice Commission is underway. Modelled somewhat on South Africa's post-apartheid truth and justice commissions, it is the first formal truth-telling process, which is looking into past and ongoing injustices experienced by Traditional Owners and First Peoples in Victoria in all areas of life since colonisation.

The power of truth-telling cannot be underestimated. As a forty-something white Australian, I know just how little of Australia's treatment of its First Nations has been taught to children (a failing which is, thankfully, being remedied in more recent times). An ongoing, open and public opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to tell their stories of injustice can help Australia grapple with its own failings, and how to bravely change.

Of course, there is a great deal of good news, and progress to celebrate. One of the major parties contesting the federal election supports adopting the Uluru Statement From The Heart (by the time of publication, we will know the election's outcome).

Likewise, progress continues towards Treaty between the Victorian Government and the Aboriginal Nations on whose Country the state sits. The Treaty will be belated, but the first in Australia, and will hopefully drive a similar Treaty process in other states, and eventually, the entire nation.

More locally, here in Castlemaine, the local community, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the Shire Council are formally observing Sorry Day at the Botanical Gardens at 10 am Thursday 26 May, alongside a huge array of events during Reconciliation Week, from film screenings at the Theatre Royal, to Story Time for kids

at the Castlemaine library with Aunty Kerri Douglas, to an exhibition in the Market Building, and walking tours hosted by Uncle Rick Nelson.

Later this year, the Shire will see the opening of Boorp Boorp Boondyil (which loosely translates from Dja Dja Wurrung as 'passing knowledge to our children') in the market building. Boorp Boorp Boondyil will be a permanent exhibit welcoming visitors onto Jaara Country, and provide a space for all visitors to learn about Dja Dja Wurrung culture and history, directly from Traditional Owners.

Supporting these initiatives, among many others, are small ways we can make change. But this year's theme for Reconciliation Week calls for us to be brave. This year we are being asked to make change beginning with brave actions in our daily lives – where we live, work, play, and socialise.

How can you be brave, and make change?

*Ed Butler*

**Nalderun is a service that supports the Aboriginal Community, led by Aboriginal people. Many people and organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire contribute to Nalderun; the name is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.**

More information can be found at [www.nalderun.net.au](http://www.nalderun.net.au)

**Members Night & Strategy Launch**

**When & Where?**  
Wednesday 15th June  
5:30pm for a 6pm start  
Maldon Community Centre

- meet the Staff and Board
- hear about the 2022 - 2027 MDFSL strategic plan
- see the updated website
- learn more about the impact we are having in our local communities
- enjoy a casual catchup with free food and drinks provided

**RSVP**  
Shannon- 0478 435110  
Nicki- [marketing@mddb.com.au](mailto:marketing@mddb.com.au)  
or drop into a branch at Maldon, Newstead or Dunolly

[www.maldoncb.com.au](http://www.maldoncb.com.au) Community Bank Maldon & District

# The Core Team Expands



Some of The Core team during their visit to Chewton Chat. L to R: Lois Denham, our school reporter; John Ellis, Editor of the Chewton Chat; Max Slessor, Chewton Chat supporter; Bernie Schultz, Design and layout for The Core; Alison Curtis, Core Admin and Michele O'Brien, Core proofreader. Photo taken by Core editor, Robyn Miller.

During May, we visited *Chewton Chat* to pick up some tricks and tips, and we came away with some very helpful ideas. John Ellis, has been the editor of *Chewton Chat* for nearly 20 years and the June edition of the *Chat* was number 280. John said, 'I think that if a small town doesn't have a local newspaper, then it will be struggling for social cohesion.'

There is a lot to admire about the work of the *Chewton Chat* team. John is growing his team, which has been enabled by Max Slessor who has kindly offered a space for the team to work in. A few computers and some willing volunteers, mean that the *Chat* team is able to learn together thus ensuring the

*Chat's* long term viability, which is often a challenge for small town papers which rely on volunteers.

Both newspapers are members of the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria. There are a number of benefits in joining the CNAV. It gives community newspapers a network where ideas and skills can be shared. The CNAV is volunteer run and does a fantastic job of organising an annual conference where professional journalists and CNAV members share tips and address issues which affect all community papers. This year's conference will be held in October at Macedon.

## So...advertising in *The Core* works!

Thank you to our new *Core* team members, Michele O'Brien, Alison Curtis and Vera Hemkes. Michele is taking on proofreading, Alison has offered to assist with some admin and Vera is our new roving reporter.

Our next *Core* sub-committee meeting will be held on June 16 at 10 am at the ANA Hall. The usual topics we look at are: What's in the next edition and what stories could be included, our finances, and our administrative tasks.

Committee member Sha Cordingley has developed some new, improved policies which are our foundation for how we work with each other. Our HPA Treasurer and Advertising Coordinator, Pauline Wilkinson, does a great job keeping our books for us and keeping track of our advertisers. We work to improve our processes continually and Bernie Schultz, our design and layout person, has recently created Guidelines for Contributors. This was met with very positive feedback from our writers, who uniformly said it will help them with getting their contributions written. Thanks to Bernie, web links and QR codes used in *The Core* are live and will work from the digital copies. The QR codes will work from the printed copies.

This year, we have two special projects:

1. A Writing Award for graduating students from Grade 6 – thank you to our committee member Lois Denham for liaising with the school about this.
2. We will have published 100 editions in December and we are planning for our celebration to take place on 14 December.

The other team who assist every month is our folding and distribution team: Liz Bini, Liz Rowe, Liz Ward, Moira McLennan and Sha Cordingley.

Without all these volunteers *The Core* would not be able to function, thank you!

Robyn Miller



## Proposed Budget Update

Council has released its proposed budget for 2022/2023, which outlines the resources necessary to maintain and improve infrastructure, and deliver projects and services which are valued by our community.

View the draft budget at [Shape Mount Alexander](#).





# Looking back, looking forward with Landcare



The photo on the left taken during the 2011 flood shows the footbridge over Barkers Creek, opposite the CFA in Bridge Street. The photo below shows the new footbridge commissioned and paid for by Harcourt Valley Landcare some years later.

The Landcare group will be celebrating its 25 years in existence on September 25 this year. The group has made continuous contributions to Harcourt's environment over that time. We will be contacting as many past members as possible about the celebration. If you are a current member or a past member please look for photos of Landcare activities which you may have and send them to: [rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com](mailto:rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com)



## Next working bee

Our next working bee will be on Sunday June 26 from 10 am to 12 pm. The venue is once again the Picnic Ground on Barkers Creek, which is north of the bridge in the photo. The entrance is opposite to the entrance to VMR. It's not easy to see, but a sign is always placed nearby to indicate where to enter.



*The Eastern Yellow Breasted Robin can be seen near the creek at the Picnic Ground. (Photo, Bonnie Humphreys).*

The aim of the working bee is to cut and paint gorse, which is taking over our previous plantings to the north of the site.

**Enquiries for Harcourt Valley Landcare:**  
Secretary, Robyn Miller, 0467 670 271.



## Call someone who gets it.

Every year we help thousands of people control their gambling. So, we get that every story is different. To change the way you think about gambling, call Gateway Health on **(02) 6022 8888**.





## Vermin Warning

Recent reports in the media show an increase this year of rats nesting in cars. These rodents along with mice can not only cause thousands of dollars of damage by chewing on the vehicle's wires but also can cause the vehicle to catch fire, which we as a brigade have experienced on a couple of occasions. These same pests can also do the same damage in our homes so it is very important to ensure we all take the necessary steps to make sure this does not happen to us. The recommended procedure for vehicles is to use bait stations nearby to where the vehicle is housed. They are looking for warm spots to nest in winter so these locations are the best locations for treatment. The roof cavity especially near combustion fire flues / chimneys are also very popular spots. Keep in mind the safety of your pets when using any type of vermin bait and this is why bait stations add that level of security.

## Change of Fire Danger Rating for Victoria

The Fire Danger Rating (half Circle) is changing in Victoria to a national symbol in September this year. The main changes is that it will go from six ratings to four, losing Low to Moderate and Severe and changing CODE RED to Catastrophic. This means that there are a number of CFA publications that are now out of date and we have started the process by removing our current stocks of the affected brochures we have at the fire station and putting them in the recycling bin. CFA will be producing new updated publications ready for summer. If you have filed CFA brochures or have them with your fire plan, please review and discard appropriately. I assume this will

# Harcourt CFA



be a focus of CFA's publicity advertising closer to the change period.

## Virtual Training

Brigade members were recently able to witness and participate in some virtual training at the Castlemaine Fire Station. This training utilises modern technology to enable participants to safely run through up to 60 different scenarios in the comfort of any large room or the engine bay of the fire station. The equipment includes a pair of virtual goggles, a hose with branch attached, a laptop computer (to run the scenarios), two camera sensors on stands to provide real time positioning and connection to a TV screen enables others to see what the participant is seeing in the goggles. The system has reality built into it so that when the branch is opened up when set on a large volume of water it creates a reverse thrust just like the real thing. Also it reacts to whatever the participant is doing, so the fire only goes out when the correct actions are undertaken. Likewise if you put water on a fuel fire, it reacts accordingly. Included in the package is a fire extinguisher component which will be a very valuable tool and has the advantage that it can be used without the need to recharge unlike a real extinguisher. The brigade will be utilising this equipment later in the year.

Late May also saw the brigade utilising the car fire hot prop which was located in the yard of the Castlemaine Fire Station.

This prop simulates a car fire by burning LPG gas in jets strategically placed inside a replica car shell. This sort of training enables members to hone their skills as well as participating alongside other brigades assists in providing teamwork and cross brigade training.

## Winter Risks

Winter time provides a variety of risks in the home. Many of these have been covered in previous articles as well as in CFA advertising on TV, radio and print media. Any step you take helps reduce the risk and is critical in ensuring the safety of you and your family. Working smoke alarms are part of any home fire plan. Are your smoke alarms working and if they are the older ones, were the batteries changed when you changed your clocks for the end of daylight saving?

The safety of you and your family is in your hands. If we are turning out to a fire at your place, then your prevention plan has failed. So what does your suppression plan look like? Do you have a fire blanket in your kitchen? Do you have fire extinguishers in your home, garage and in your car? Do you have an evacuation plan? If you need further assistance, talk to a brigade member.

Stay warm and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*

*Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*



**mainFM** is an award winning radio station based in Castlemaine, broadcasting music, community news, talks and specialist programs and events throughout a large area of Central Victoria, serving our community.

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# Students Write

## The Vacuums

### Launch of MDFSL 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

Dear Maldon & District Financial Services Ltd members and friends,

We hope everyone is keeping well in these unusual times.

We sincerely appreciate all of the feedback and comments we received regarding our strategic planning process conducted throughout last year and earlier this year and are now so very excited to launch the MDFSL 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

To celebrate the input from so many, we are hosting a Members Strategy event night. While we will have copies of the strategy present which we will chat about, we also are really looking forward to seeing you all as we know it has been a long time between drinks.

Our Staff and Board members will be present, along with grant recipients and supporters of our organisation. We will briefly show our new website and talk through the amazing \$3.4 million community contributions we have made since opening in 2019. We hope you can make it.

Wednesday 15 June  
5.30 pm for a 6 pm start  
Maldon Community Centre

Please RSVP for catering purposes to, Nicki Renfrey (marketing@mdcb.com.au) or drop into a branch at Maldon, Newstead or Dunolly.

Many thanks and we hope to see you there.

Warm regards,

Shannon

Shannon Burdeu

Executive Officer | Company Secretary

All you can hear is the dreadful sounds of screams of the small people crying as vacuums controlled by humans coming to take over the land the small people live on. And the giants see the small people running for their lives. 'Why are they so scared?' All the giants...

It was the year 1601 and the giants were looking for a bigger land than they already had. The giant's population was only getting bigger and their land felt like it was shrinking. They had to do something urgently... The giants were filled with panic.

They have searched high and low to find a perfect land to start a new fresh chapter in a bigger land. Some of the giants went to different Lands. All the other lands were smaller than the one they actually had! There was one more land to discover... their only hope. Beep! Beep! They landed on the new land, they had an explore, they even stayed for a night to be 100% sure. It was the middle of summer and they searched all over and no one was there, that was a good sign. The only thing they found was a tiny old looking building, they figured it was deserted. They went back to their own land. 'We found a land. It is beautiful.' They announced. Everyone cheered with excitement.

The giants were there for six months. It was coming into winter and everything was built. They had to get wood supplies. They tried to dig into the ground to make a wood pile, but it was as hard as a rock. It was the middle of winter now. On a Friday night when the kids were in bed the parents were sitting around the campfire. Then the ground started to shake and the kids started to cry. 'What's happening?' everybody asked worrisomely. Suddenly people started shooting up from the ground. There were tiny people coming.

'What do we do?,' 'We have to think fast!' the giants said. They ran into the hallway and saw the maid vacuuming. They looked out the window and saw how small the small people were. 'Give me the vacuum,' they said. They stood hardwiring over the small people with the vacuums sucking them up. The giants had a brainwave to put them on the giants' old land. They got in the space-ship to send them to their old land. They sprayed them out. To this day they have gone through many generations and still keep in touch.

Jorja, Grade 5

(As written by Jorja with some minor edits.)

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Federal Member for Bendigo  
**LISA CHESTERS MP**



PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552  
Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550  
T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736  
E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au  
@LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo



# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Second Term in Full Swing

Second term is now in full swing at HVPS. The educational focus this term is on maths skills, while reading and literacy skills continue to be encouraged and learnt. On 3, 4 and 5 May, students were given the opportunity to select books they would like to read and purchase at the Scholastic Book Fair held at the school. All classes were given the opportunity and were guided to do so.

The morning of 6 May was a busy morning for staff and students at the school. It began with a Mothers' Day pancake breakfast. Staff, some parents and senior students prepared and cooked pancakes for mothers, grandmothers, fellow students and preschool siblings, and did the cleaning up afterwards. I was invited to attend this well organised function of adults and excited children, which was enjoyed by those who attended. It was a long day for some of the staff who were already at the school by 6.30 am to assist with the organisation of the event. After breakfast, a group of parents and some staff drove selected students to Bendigo to participate in the Area Cross Country competition. One Grade 6 student qualified to compete in the Regional Cross Country competition, which will be held on Tuesday 31 May at St Arnaud.

Grades 3 and 5 completed the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) tests on 10 and 11 May. This year much of it was completed online. The whole school celebrated the end of the NAPLAN tests on Friday 11 May, which was 'Talk like a Pirate Day'. Staff and students had fun dressing up as pirates, talking like them and parading their costumes.

The following Friday 20 May, was Walk to School Day. Parents, pets, staff, students and Danny from Castlemaine

Police all joined in, walking from Stanley Park to the school wearing their snazzy socks. School principal, Andrew Blake arranged for the school bus to run on a slightly earlier schedule so the students who caught the bus could join in with the walk from Stanley Park. A sunny day and the relaxed atmosphere made for a very enjoyable walk to school.

Earlier that week on 16 May, HVPS Out of Hours School Club (OHSC) saw its first group of students attend the service. A permanent staff member has been employed to provide care for students before and after school. The service is also currently taking bookings for the staff Curriculum Development Day, which will be held on 3 June and the staff's Professional Development Day, which is on 22 June. Please note that if parents and carers are still seeking before or after school care, OHSC is presently continuing to accept enrolments for students of parents/carers who live in and around Harcourt. I have heard that students who are attending OHSC are having fun.

Enrolments are also being accepted for next year's prep class, and Grade 6 students have received their information packs for Year 7 placements - so planning for next year has already begun.

Did you know the Education Week (22 May to 27 May) marked 150 years of Public Education? In the middle of that week on Thursday 26 May it was also National Sorry Day. The highlight of the week for HVPS was its Open Day on Wednesday 26 May. From 9.30 am until 11.30 am that morning, present and prospective parents were given a tour of the school by grade 6 students. The school also opened its doors that evening from 5.30 pm until 6.30 pm to parents and prospective parents. Pizzas were provided, and I was told that the evening was very

well attended. Staff were delighted to be able to welcome prospective parents and students to the school on both of these occasions. During the week, senior students had fun attending AFL clinics and grade 6 students did a great job with their presentations at school assembly on Sorry Day.

This May, School Council members were pleased to finally meet face-to-face for the first-time, in over a year. Currently, Council is awaiting a decision from the School Grants Program if the application for replacement sails for the school's playground was successful. Also being investigated are suitable options for watering the school oval in the summer months. Council members also work with parents and other volunteers to organise and run the Friday Breakfast Club and provide lunch orders to students.

This week, as I complete this article for *The Core*, it is the beginning of National Reconciliation Week. The theme this year is Be Brave Make Change. All students will be reflecting on what this week means to them. Junior school students will be attending the Castlemaine Market to see the Reconciliation Display to gain some information on how this week is being acknowledged locally.

By the time my next article is published in *The Core*, half the year will have disappeared and students will be taking their mid-year winter holidays! Meanwhile, teachers are busy completing student reports to have them available by 17 June. The school is also taking bookings for parent teacher interviews which will be held in allocated times, either face to face or on line, on 20 and 21 June. 24 June will see the end of Term 2.

We wish all staff and students a happy, safe winter holiday break.

*Lois Denham*

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# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## Maurice Normington: Quarrying for Slate

In 1852, a reporter from the *Argus* newspaper described the countryside between Harcourt and Castlemaine as featuring great slate reefs jutting out of the hills in narrow ridges due north and south. These ridges were pushed into position when, millions of years ago, a molten mass of granite welled up to form Mount Alexander. Incredibly, the stony reefs, which run north-south, have been cut through in an east-west direction by a creek so as to form a deep, steep gully. Specimen Gully provides convincing proof (if any were needed) that running water is a highly effective tool in shaping the landscape. It was in this gully in mid-1851 that gold nuggets were discovered. It was in a solid quartz reef at the narrowest, steepest part of this gully that the first private gold mining company set up operations in 1859. Another quartz mining venture, the Fortuna Quartz Mining Association, was started in 1861 on the north side of the gully nearer to the newly constructed railway line.

Two Welshmen, Jones and Roberts, were not so interested in the search for gold. They could see the potential in the near-vertical reef of toughened slate that lay across Specimen Gully near the Fortuna Reef's claim. Jones and Roberts extracted slate from a mining claim in Specimen Gully from 1857 onwards. They split and sawed sufficient stone to supply an area of flagstones to be laid as a footpath in Castlemaine's Market Square.

By 1862, Jones and Roberts were heartened by the prospect of selling slate to the Melbourne City Council. The two Welshmen felt the need to employ extra hands. This is when Maurice Normington first became involved with the soon-to-be-famous Specimen Gully slate works. By October 1863, the quarry was able to consign 100 yards of paving stone to the Melbourne corporation. Each paver was about 5' long, 3'6" wide and 2½" thick. It was becoming obvious that machinery would have to be brought onto the workings to saw and plane the slate. The extraction and sale of slate was proving to be a profitable venture, so the Castlemaine Paving Company was formed. The production of the quarry was in strong demand for street paving, mantelpieces, billiard tables and doorsteps. The men working at the quarry felt secure in their employment. In 1868, Maurice Normington married Eliza Bonar and set up home near the slate quarry. In 1869, the paving company and the quarry were sold to a Melbourne firm Wilson, Corben & Co. The new



owners immediately added to the machinery by installing two circular saws and, with their Melbourne connections, found a ready demand for the quarry's output.

Specimen Gully and Barkers Creek became closely settled in the next few decades. Homes and gardens were to be found up and down the gully, with steady nearby employment in mining, sluicing, quarrying and timber-getting. It was a good place to have a family: Eliza and Maurice Normington raised eleven children, with the head of the household earning steady wages at the slate quarry.

When a reporter from the Mount Alexander Mail visited the slate workings in 1884, he found that the entire undertaking since 1883 had been under the supervision of Maurice Normington, then described as a practical quarryman. Second-in-charge was George Symes, who had been recruited in 1882 to deal with the clerical side of the business, while Harry Pritchard was the leading hand. It was a big undertaking. Forty-four men were employed and, on the day of the reporter's visit, they were working at their tasks with a will, using hammer, chisel and drill. A twelve-horsepower engine drove a pump to keep the groundwater at a low ebb. Other machinery, saws and planing machines were housed in a shed on the west side of the quarry. At that time, the workings consisted of five shafts spaced out along approximately 500 metres of reef, the deepest shaft being 225 feet (70 metres) deep. Each shaft was provided with a jib crane. The workers accessed the shafts on rope ladders with wooden rungs. By 21st century

*Continued next page*

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## Maurice Normington: Quarrying for Slate

Continued.

standards, these conditions would not be considered particularly safe, but the reporter was obviously impressed, describing the venture as an immense, well laid-out slate quarry.

Maurice had stepped easily into leadership roles in the little community of Barkers Creek. He was president of Barkers Creek Cricket Club in 1886. The club presented him with a handsome photo album as a token of their esteem and gratitude for his valuable service to the club. Maurice was called to chair local meetings; he had a strong voice and a thoughtful manner

Some very real worries assailed the quarry and its workmen in 1889. Astonishingly, heavy rainfall on New Year's Day flooded the slate workings. All the workers had to be laid off for eight weeks while the shafts were pumped dry. At that time, Melbourne was experiencing a building boom and the order books of Wilson & Corben were full. Slate was in heavy demand. The quarry had fallen far behind in its deliveries. After quarrying resumed in March, the pressure to meet the owners' requirements was such that Maurice had to put on extra men. Soon there were fifty-six quarrymen, stonemasons and carriers employed on the undertaking. Dray loads of paving stones were taken to the Barkers Creek rail siding for consignment to the yards of Wilson & Corben, and the stacks of offcuts and discards alongside Specimen Gully Road grew ever higher. Maurice Normington found the pressure and the incessant demands too much to cope with and, in October, he stepped down, handing the lead role to Harry Pritchard. George Symes was to become more active in management, while Harry Pritchard was left to direct the men.

On his stepping down from the management role in 1889, the quarry workmen presented Maurice with an illuminated address printed on silk. The address referred to his kindly and courteous manner as supervisor. It appears that he continued working at the quarry for, in 1899, upon the unexpected death of George Symes, he was reappointed quarry manager.

Demand for slate fell in the great depression of the 1890s. Fashions were changing also, with mantelpieces being constructed in timber instead of slate. The numbers working at the quarry were gradually reduced.

By 1900, Maurice and Eliza's family had been enlarged by the marriages of their children. This was followed by the birth of grandchildren. It must have given great satisfaction to Maurice and Eliza to live alongside Maurice (junior) and his wife, Alice on one side of Specimen Gully Rd, with their family of five girls and one boy, while Joseph and Katherine Normington lived directly across the road with their three girls and five boys. Maurice (and Eliza's??) children were all brought up to play an instrument. The girls from both sides of the road would play together-with games like hopscotch. At times the children would swarm through the bush like a flock of red-browed finches, trooping up the gully on long afternoon walks.

Under Maurice's management, the quarry was carried on in a reduced fashion until 1912, when the quarry walls collapsed. Maurice was then aged 75. He lived for just four more years, dying in 1916. Maurice Normington had been associated with the slate quarry for fifty years. His story is inextricably linked to the quarry's history of the rise and fall of a major employer and a unique undertaking, in Barkers Creek's Specimen Gully.

**This is another in a series of Thumbnail Sketches of the pioneers compiled for *The Core* by Harcourt Heritage Centre.**

George Milford

## Fireside Chat



A Fireside Chat will be held on the Third Sunday in June, with guest speaker Peter Flinn AM, of Dunkeld.

Peter, who spent much of his childhood in Harcourt, is a great grandson of Henry Ely "The Father of Harcourt".

We are looking forward to Peter's reminiscences of Harcourt as it was long ago.

He will share his memories of the Ely, Bastow and Smith families and their homes.

Please note the date on your calendar,

June 19, 1.30 pm, at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street, Harcourt.

Afternoon tea will follow; please bring a plate to share.

There will be a small charge in support of the Heritage Centre.

**1.30 pm, Sunday 19 June.**

All welcome.

## Can You Help?

Do you have photos of current or past Harcourt Junior Football Teams?

Harcourt Heritage Centre is keen to compile an album of photos of Harcourt junior football teams. While the museum collection holds lots of school photos and team photographs for adult sports there are not many junior football team photos.

The centre's collections of school and sporting team photographs are amongst the most popularly requested and keenly searched aspects of the Heritage Centre collection.

Wendy Barron of Harcourt Heritage Centre is keen to hear from you.

Original photos may be donated. Alternately, they can be scanned by the Heritage Centre, with the original returned to the owner. The attached photo surfaced on Facebook.



We are certain that there are many more such photos lying forgotten in drawers or proudly framed on the lounge-room wall. Allowing Harcourt Heritage Centre to copy your photos is an excellent way to ensure that precious memories are preserved.

Please contact Wendy Barron on 0419 642 569 or bring them to the Harcourt Heritage Centre (ANA Hall) any Wednesday between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm. Please help to build up the collection in our community keeping place.

George Milford



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

The past couple of weeks have been busy. The highlight was the opening of our female friendly change rooms at the Recreation Reserve. The new facilities will support increased female participation in sport and is long overdue.

The Falcons lined up for their first game on Saturday 28 May, so I am sure they will go well. Go Falcons!

Our Council CEO Darren Fuzzard and Council staff played important roles in the change room project by securing funding and delivering a high quality build. Also, thank you to the Leisure Centre Committee for their tireless work.

I would also acknowledge the leadership of Kathie Teasdale at the Harcourt Football Netball Club for bringing the lack of female facilities to my attention. Sometimes you 'sort of know things' but until someone stands up for change, nothing gets done.

Thinking back, I remember the discussion at Council when the price tag for the new change rooms came in. I thought all was lost and I was certainly ducking for cover, but managed to hold my nerve. At the time not all Councillors were in agreement but when it comes to the crunch it is all about the numbers. Thank you to Maree Edwards for securing the extra funding we needed to make this happen.

When we work together we can achieve great things.

It was also great to see members of the 1971 Seniors Premiership team at the game as well. To see club champions like Peter Lovell, Graham Hill, Neil Wilson and John Grant, who are still fit and active was quite inspirational.

Back to work for me now. Stay well.

Regards, Tony

AG Cordy 0439742434



## Harcourt Football Netball Club

At the time of writing, both the senior and reserves teams are undefeated, though there is still scope for improvement from both.

Four wins is a handy start to the season, but sterner tests are coming over the next several games. The big match is on May 28<sup>th</sup>. It is the 50-year premiership reunion match against Natte Bealiba. It's at home and will be of great interest.

I also hope that we can get a good crowd to the Lion's Den on June 18 when we take on the always strong Carisbrook at home.

By the end of June we will have a pretty good indication about whether possible success in 2022 is realistic.

All are invited to the Thursday night selection and meal. And all are encouraged to come to the home games at the Den.

Go Lions!

Daryl Gale

## Harcourt Football Club 50 Year Premiership Anniversary

Harcourt Football Club held a 50 year reunion of the 1971 seniors' Premiership on Saturday May 28. Steve Tonzing son of the Captain/Coach of the premiership Harcourt team of 1971, made a decision some years ago to honour the players, coaches and club officials associated with the winning team. The significance of the win was that it broke a 34 premiership drought for the club and was a key contribution to the club's ongoing existence.



Steve Tonzing (wearing his father's 1971 jumper) and his brother Craig stand in front of the premiership memorabilia. Members of the extended Tonzing family were present at the dinner.

The club was established in 1888 and originally played in the Castlemaine District League and won its first premiership in 1937. In 1952 the club moved to the Bendigo District Association, later the Golden City Football League (1960). In 1970 the club became affiliated with the Maryborough District Football League, where it remains today.

Last year in expectation of the reunion taking place in 2021, Steve Tonzing produced a yearbook for 1971 which describes the lead up to the premiership, using a week by week, game and player description. The book is well researched and is illustrated with photos, newspaper reports and memorabilia and is an outstanding record of one year in the life of the Harcourt Football Club; (now the Harcourt Football/Netball Club). He worked with the club to coordinate the day's events which included the production of memorial jumpers, photographs of the teams, and a silent auction for replica jumpers of the winning team and a dinner.

The celebratory dinner was attended by past players, their families and friends, current club members and community



The 2022 seniors' team ran onto the ground flanked by past players. The players wore a commemorative uniform for the day consisting of white shorts and a jumper which listed the names of the 1971 team.

members. Norm Jenkins co-hosted the festivities with Steve who produced an entertaining slide show using the contents of the book. He also interviewed some of the past players who spoke of their memories of the grand final. Club President Kathie Teasdale worked tirelessly through the day, taking photos, being everywhere when needed, and even made the desserts! Wayne Mitchell coordinated the cooking and catering

for the dinner and worked closely with other club members and Steve Tonzing to ensure the event was a success.

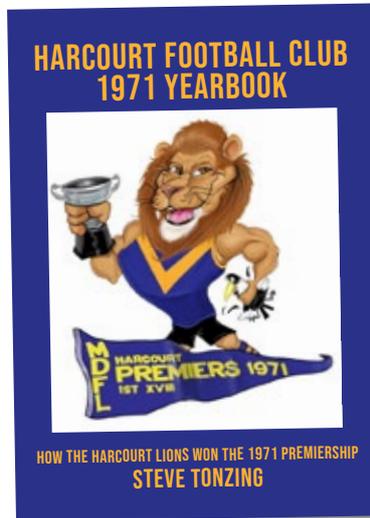
The dinner began with a minute's silence in memory of the players from the 1971 team who have passed away. Quiet laughter followed at the sound of an umpire's whistle (thanks Norm!) In all, 14 past players were able to attend the memorable day. Absent were: Adrian Code and Rex Odgers. Trainer of the 1971

team, Ken McDougall was present. Club Secretary of the time Graeme Gillatt was absent; 1971 Club President Kenneth Neil 'Barney' McMahon passed away in 2005.

1971 premiership team players who have passed away are: Trevor Tonzing (Captain Coach), (1999); John Docherty, (2014); Lester Culpitt, (2020) and Graham 'Snowy' Cribbes, (1979).



Club President Kathie Teasdale with a framed memorial jumper.



The Harcourt Football Club 1971 Yearbook is available by contacting the Harcourt Football/Netball Club on its Facebook page, or ring Norm Jenkins on 0419 605 673.



## New Pavilion At Harcourt Leisure Centre Valuable Addition For Local Sport

Harcourt Lions football, netball, cricket, and tennis clubs along with the Mount Alexander Falcons (Women's Football Club) can look forward to preparing for the big games in a new female friendly pavilion, thanks to the completion of works at Harcourt Recreation Reserve.

Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards officially opened the new facility on Saturday, 28 May which has been made possible by over \$370,000 from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Up until recently, the Lion's women's and girls' teams had to resort to using an old toilet block at the ground or to get changed in their cars. In addition there were no rooms for home or visiting team umpires to change. Now that the Mount Alexander Falcons Women's Football Club call Harcourt home, it is even more important to have these new changerooms and toilets.



The new pavilion is a game changer, providing the first female friendly player and umpire change rooms and amenities at the ground and they complement the existing social spaces at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. Ms Edwards said, 'It will go a long way to inspiring even more locals to join local sporting teams, with the community now having the facilities they need to welcome more women and girls. The new facilities will allow the 270-strong Lions to grow teams and host more competitions and events, with



nearby Harcourt Valley Primary School also able to access the new building.'

Ms Edwards acknowledged the Mount Alexander Shire Council and the local community for their financial contributions to the project.

For more information about infrastructure grant opportunities available through the Victorian Government visit [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au).

*From a Press Release*



# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

## Harcourt CWA gets Creative

May has been a very busy and creative month for our Branch with the Central Victoria Group Creative Arts Exhibition held at Campbells Creek Community Centre on 13-14 May, and our own International Day Lunch held at the Harcourt Leisure Centre on the 19 May.

Harcourt members did very well in all categories at the Creative Arts Exhibition, especially in sewing, knitting, painting, floral arranging, garden produce, preserves, and of course cake and sponge making, with many First and Second Prize place cards appearing next to their entries.

What a fabulous exhibition with Harcourt winning Branch Aggregate for Branches with 15 or more Branch membership.

Congratulations to Group President Dallas Giles and our very own Craft Leader Lynette Carter for such a successful Exhibition, and to Phoenix-Chewton for their excellent catering, what would we do without you?

40th wedding anniversary in 2017.

Having spent three and a half years living in Malaysia, Helen knows a bit about using chopsticks and after a few demonstrations as to correct procedure, we were all invited to try our skill, with the prize going to Jenny Steiner who was the first to pick up five cashew nuts, using chopsticks, and placing them in a small container.

### Association Day

But the fun doesn't end here because on June 16, Jenny Steiner will be our Association Day guest to tell us all about her work as a leading Australian sculpture artist.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Leisure Centre, at 1.30 pm for this unique presentation.

Lyn Rule

Publicity Officer, Harcourt CWA



Marie Twyford and Helen Hand proudly display the Branch Aggregate Trophy

### Branch International Day

Then on to the Branch International Day Lunch and once again the ladies of Harcourt excelled themselves and cooked up a feast that would not have been out of place on the menu of a top restaurant in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is our Country of Study for 2022 so we were looking forward to exotic Asian flavours, which we got.

Many thanks to Bev Orgill, our International Officer, who suggested the delightful menu and organised such an enjoyable day. Many thanks also to the wonderful cooks who made it all happen.

Helen Johnstone and Diane Dooley entertained us with stories of their visits to Malaysia - Helen as a 22 year old wife of an Australian serviceman in 1972, and Diane as a tourist whilst celebrating her



Helen Johnstone won first prize for her Australian Floral Arrangement



Bev Orgill putting the final touches to our lunch



And it tasted every bit as good as it looks



[Jenny Steiner displays her skills with the chopsticks]



## Harcourt Uniting Church

### The work of the Uniting Church's Frontier Services

For those of you who attended Church as a child, you may remember having some money to put in the collection each week. There have been stories of children keeping the money to spend at the shop on the walk home. One of my cousins was fooling around with his brother and actually swallowed his two shillings collection money by mistake, so he had to own up to his Mum about that.

At Harcourt Uniting Church we still take up the collection to pay for the ongoing costs of our Church and Parish. However, we also support many Christian organisations throughout the year. Frontier Services is one example. I have written about this organisation before, but with the recent devastating floods and droughts in New South Wales and Queensland, the work of Frontier Services has become more important for the people living on remote cattle stations and isolated towns. Most farmers in the Carpentaria-McKay area have battled through seven or eight years of drought, only to have devastating floods and cyclones tear down everything in their path.

The Bush Chaplains employed by Frontier Services are there to support farmers by just being there: to be a listener and to even help with overdue bills, to provide children with the chance to attend school camps, assist with access to medical services and to conduct weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Chaplains drive thousands of kilometres to visit families, others fly their Cessna planes and cope with having to land on bush airstrips. One of Frontier Services programs, Outback Links, seeks volunteers prepared to stay with a station family for a short time and help with whatever needs to be done. Outback Links connects volunteers with people in remote Australia doing it tough. Volunteers might help in maintenance, gardening, painting, building or even helping in the home, allowing the women time to work on the station, do the bookwork, be with the children, or simply to take the pressure off for a while.

Volunteers bring hope by showing that they care. Type in: 'Frontier Services Outback Links' on your search engine, to read more about this amazing work. Frontier Services is an agency of Uniting Church in Australia.

Our Harcourt Church donation goes towards such practical things as fuel for the four-wheel drives and planes, as well as day to day support for the Bush Chaplains.

**An elderly woman returned home from Church to discover an intruder in her home robbing her valuables. She yelled, 'Stop! Acts 2: 38 – turn from your sins.' The burglar stopped and the woman calmly rang the police and explained what she had done.**

As the policeman handcuffed the intruder he asked, 'Why did you just stand there when the woman yelled? All she did was yell a passage from scripture at you.'

'Scripture?' replied the intruder. 'She said she had an axe and two 38s!'

Jan Jenkin

# Grace Church

## Fruit of the Spirit

The Harcourt Valley is a fruit bowl – apples, grapes, pears and cherries all grow well here. So, the valley produces its produce for the benefit of the growers, the workers employed in the orchards and vineyards, those in the distribution and marketing chains, and ultimately the consumer!

Christians also are supposed to bear fruit! The Apostle Paul writing a long time ago listed nine of these 'fruit of the Holy Spirit'. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Paul goes on to say that against such there is no law.

Jesus explained in John's gospel that it is in fact imperative for Christians to bear fruit. Here are a few of the things that Jesus had to say:

'I am the true vine and my Father (God) is the gardener.'

'He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.'

'Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.'

And finally:

'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'

The hallmark of a fruitful life led for the Lord is close fellowship with the Lord – as close to him personally as the apple is to the apple tree, physically speaking.

Every year in Harcourt the apple trees are pruned. Similarly, the Christian also must yield to the vinedresser, Jesus, if we are to bear much fruit in the kingdom of God and thus prove that we are Christ's disciples.

*Pastor Roger Thurecht*

## Pick up a Sustainable House Kit from your Local Library

*Goldfields Libraries have four sustainable house kits available for loan.*

The kits help residents identify ways to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Each kit includes:

- thermal camera
- PowerMate energy measuring device
- copy of *The Energy Freedom Home*.

To borrow a kit, search 'Sustainable House Kits' in their [catalogue](#).





# Harcourt Bowling Club

## In strong Position for Next Season

At the Annual General Meeting of the Harcourt Bowling Club on Sunday 15 May 2022, the Annual Board Report and Audited Financial Statements were presented to members in attendance.

Presenting the Annual Report president Ken Tribe highlighted the success of the midweek and weekend pennant teams and commended members for their adherence to COVID restrictions and requirements. He thanked all of the volunteers on each committee for their hard work and willing contributions throughout the season, and all of the sponsors of the club. Ken noted that the proposed changes to Midweek Pennant for next season by the Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region will require careful planning and contribution by members.

On presenting the Treasurer's Report and Audited accounts, Judy Ewing noted the strong position the club is in financially, despite COVID restrictions.

Special thanks were extended to Russell Maltby, retiring board member of eight years, which included two years as president. Russell will remain a significant volunteer to the club as Co-ordinator of Sponsorships and on other committees.

Nominations for board members for seasons 2022-23 and 2023-24 were received and voted upon. Ken Tribe and Judy Ewing were re-appointed; elected were Heather Braid, David Jefferies and Diane Marsh. Kaye Francis was co-opted as catering manager. They will join on-going board members, Russell Timmins, Wendy Chaplin, Ron Douglas and Brian Buchanan.



The new board – (L-R) **Back:** Judy Ewing, Wendy Chaplin, Russell Timmins, Kay Francis, and Ron Douglas. **Front:** Brian Buchanan, Ken Tribe, Heather Braid [absent: Dave Jefferies and Di Marsh].

with Bendigo Dragons. On 12 April, Seth Bird - Harcourt, Nick Rowley - Bendigo South and Brad Fuller - Bendigo East, competed in the knockout rounds of Triples at Bendigo East. Despite a good show and a couple of wins, they were not able to advance to the finals.

Along with Nick Rowley from Bendigo South Club, Seth Bird competed in the under 18 Pairs on 14 April though they were unable to get to the final round.

At just 15 years old, Seth has displayed bowling skills beyond his years and it was great to see him in his Harcourt colours competing with Bendigo Dragons. Seth will be eligible to compete again in these championships for another two years. Well done!



Nick, Seth and Brad.



Russell Maltby.

The newly elected board met immediately following the AGM and subsequently elected the following office bearers: President, Ken Tribe; Vice Presidents, Brian Buchanan and Heather Braid; Treasurer, Judy Ewing; Secretary, Dianne Marsh.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a sausage sizzle and social bowls.

### Under 18 State Championships

Back in April, Harcourt Bowling Club junior player, Seth Bird competed in the Triples and Pairs under 18 Championships

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# Swordcraft in Harcourt

During the last weekend of May, I ventured down to Henry of Harcourt Cidery to witness an extraordinary spectacle. The cidery's main paddock had been transformed into a mediaeval village, and there were rows upon rows of tents ...the kind you see in ye olde England settings. Young men wandered around decked out in brigandine (body armour) and metal leg guards, brandishing swords and staffs. There were maidens wearing gowns with colourful plaits and pointed ears. It was like leaping into a Dr. Who episode where, in an instant, I had moved back in time to the 16th century.

The Swordcraft weekend featured battles and impromptu village scenes with vibrant characters that belonged to ancient England. The backdrop of the apple orchard seemed fitting for such an event. In fact, as well as the tent city, there was also a line of shops supplying costumes, swords, mock weaponry, potions and other paraphernalia. There was also a tavern where one could buy Henry's cider, including mulled ciders. Michael Henry looked very much at home as the tavern bar host. He and his partner, Brandie, joined in with the throng of the young folk.

What I had dropped into was the Bendigo Chapter of Swordcraft battle games. Over 100 people had gathered to play mock games and enjoy the conviviality of gathering with other kindred spirits to have some good old-fashioned fun. Most participants were from Bendigo, but there were some from Ballarat, Melbourne, Mildura, Bacchus Marsh and Geelong.



Photo by Vera Hemkes

Swordcraft has its origins in England with the LARPing (Live Action Role-Play) community, and is set in the Warhammer universe. Swordcraft is Australia's largest mediaeval battle game and Live Action Role-Play community.

Once a year, the Bendigo Swordcraft members spend a weekend role-playing in large scale field and forest battles, sieges and skirmishes. All skirmishes are conducted with authentic looking foam weapons and steel armour, chainmail, leather and high-quality costumes. All interactions are about having fun and there are solid ground rules to ensure inclusivity, passivity and mutually consensual role-play. There is an attention to what an organiser called, 'Carecraft' included in all Swordcraft activities. Certain formalities underpin the games to make sure everything remains good fun. Swordcraft legal and insurance requirements are maintained to allow people to maintain respectful interactions. The Swordcraft community stresses the importance of non-discrimination and does not tolerate mistreatment of others. All players have the right to participate equally in the games.

The characters I saw included loyal peasants, mysterious elves, intimidating witch-hunters and some bright-eyed knights, and lordly folk tossed in for good measure.

During the day I met Olli and Simon who planned the weekend's activities. Once the groundwork for battle games was laid out, events take on a life of their own. Olli explained how she, along with other members, creates the storyline. On the day, the storyline plays out through people's own creative fantasies, where others can develop layers of themes and role-play scenes. 'We try to organise the space where the players are free to fill it with their own questlines and shenanigans; it's really a communal experience that is made richer with each player,' Olli said.

I met Eleydia the Elf, who explained that the games allowed her to do things she wouldn't do in her normal day-to-day existence. It created a way for her to explore different ways of being.

Michael Henry said, 'I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend's activities and acting as the tavern barman. I found the mediaeval enactment groups very entertaining. I was pleased with how well-organised the events were and the way participants left the place neat and tidy after the weekend was over.'

For Michael, holding the event here in the Harcourt Valley created a welcoming community spirit for the Swordcraft folk. Michael saw this event, 'as a means of helping a local group to hold a large event. These new groups draw others back to Harcourt and all that the township has to offer. It encourages young people to filter their experiences to a wider network of friends who would learn more of what is on offer here in our valley.'

All in all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend events. I thought the program was very creative and it was clear that participants set out to have an entertaining time in a fantasy world of their own making.

If Swordcraft is of interest to you, you can contact the chapter through their website: [www.swordcraft.com.au](http://www.swordcraft.com.au) or find them on Facebook at 'Swordcraft Bendigo'

Vera Hemkes



Photo by Vera Hemkes



Locals might recognise ye olde tavern keeper (aka Michael Henry of Henry's Cidery). With him is Brandie Storie as an untitled noblewoman, known as a Jonkvrouw in Germanic mediaeval times. Photo provided by Yvonne Summer



Photo provided by Yvonne Summer, Dragon Playground, M: 0475 705 525, [hello@dragonplayground.com.au](mailto:hello@dragonplayground.com.au)

# Time to Plant at VMR



Two trailer loads of cuttings mean a great deal of planting! Part of the team at VMR has made it their goal to get as many plants as possible settled into the terraces created by the retaining walls below the station platforms.

Karen Mierisch and her mother Heidi started their challenge by planting 100 *Lomandras*. Karen said, 'We put down 10 square metres of mulch before we started. The aim is to fill the spaces between the walls with green cover, to prevent erosion and to deter weeds.'

The cuttings were grown by Heidi, who said, 'They are mainly a small succulent call "sunrose", which is a prolific grower. I grew the cuttings in pots at home to save money. I am also trying out *Aeoniums* which are very easy to grow from cuttings. Some members are growing seedlings of

the gum trees which grow here. We want to retain the open bushland feel of the site.'

Karen concluded by saying that another important aim of the project is to make the view from the town centre as attractive as possible.

## Colin makes a point or two...

*The Core* chatted with Colin Mierisch about the progress of track laying. Colin said, 'We have 64 acres here at VMR. At the moment we have enough rail sections made to make 5 kms of track. In 10 or 15 years we could have 20 kms of track. We are nearly ready to start laying more tracks. We bought a laser controlled grader bar which is attached to the bob cat. It will make the job of preparing the ground for tracks so much easier!'

Colin is also making sets of points. These are used when a train has to change direction, for example, to pull off the main track into a station. He said, 'I have made 10 full sets of points suitable for the main line. The points have to take into account the bend in the track, which is called the radius. The main track has a radius of 30 metres. There is a single track from the station which leads to the engine storage under the station building. This

single track divides into six tracks (so six engines can be stored). Splitting the tracks requires 5 sets of points which have approximately an 18 metre radius, as the bends are more acute than the main line track sections.'

## Interested in VMR?

Colin concluded, 'At the moment we have 40 members. We hope to increase our membership numbers and if we can do that, the tracks will be laid more quickly.'

See the VMR website: <http://www.vmr.com.au/> to find out more, and/or email at [info@vmr.com.au](mailto:info@vmr.com.au) for details on becoming a member.



Colin stands next to a full set of points for the main track.

## The Repair Cafe

The Castlemaine Repair Cafe is a successful venture that aims to fix and repair and mend. You are welcome to bring your household items that need fixing to the Repair Cafe and a team of experts are on hand to help repair fixable items... There is no charge for this service although donations are gratefully received.

A dedicated team of volunteers is on hand to offer their professional skills to repair electrical items and household items and mend clothing. The ultimate goal is to reduce items being taken to landfill. Every item that comes to the cafe is weighed and the total is recorded and tallied up. In this way, items are restored and in so doing the cafe is reducing tonnes of materials going to landfill.

The cafe is located at the rear entrance of Castlemaine Community House in Templeton Street. You will need to enter through the community garden. The cafe runs from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on the last Sunday of the month.

The Repair Cafe also offers special one-



off events that are advertised through their Facebook page. Recently, there was a bicycle maintenance program. On occasions, a knife sharpening service is offered. They regularly hold darning workshops, so that you can get a bit



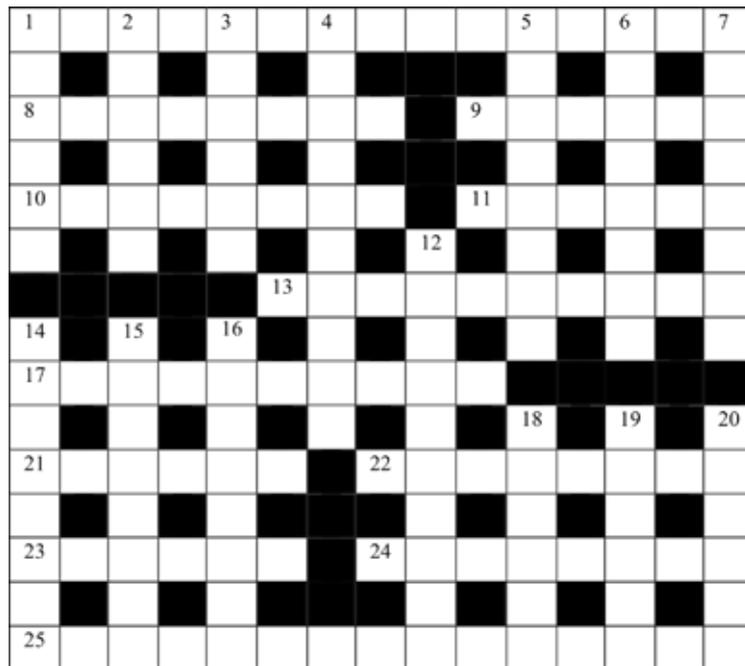
more wear and tear out of those socks and jumpers.

This is a great opportunity to reduce your footprint on the planet!

Vera Hemkes

# June Xword 2022

© McW June '18



### Down:

1. Old, weak and rickety—in company. (6)
2. Additional slug the government wants to abandon sounds like the Impost Knight. (6)
3. Alight on gold carriage. (6)
4. I sign up age-cohort as trial subjects. (6-4)
5. Making shipping magnates (like Onassis) into royalty. (8)
6. Six balls on what the apostles did for what a ham does... (8)
7. Shown by simple, tasteful and ingenious clue? (8)
12. I open region, losing nothing my frontiersman spirit can make of it. (10)
14. From him you might get drunken shouting, or a curse, perhaps. (8)
15. Substitute comics on the night? (5-3)
16. How to get a couch through a doorway—sway drunkenly through the 15th? (8)
18. ABC listener under enabling technology to show up. (6)
19. The right tool to use in brickies' mud? (6)
20. Fungal wood-lurgi like a Rechabite function in a state of decay. (3,3)

### Across:

1. Legal termites OK the boilerplate in privacy policies, but I can't make it out. (3,3,5,2,2)
8. Combs the conifers in legal investigation of evidence. (8)
9. Add an extension to make an extension. (6)
10. A keen war would gee us up anew! (8)
11. African mob wants a name... (6)
13. 'I'm its topic!' says Pollyanna. (10)
17. Stern giant sucks lemons for same effect. (10)
21. Old Oz lightweights. (6)
22. Double old canola to come back into view. (8)
23. Tap for rock film? (6)
24. Film chap made to record it. (8)
25. What the perpetual motion man was charged with? (9,6)

# May 2022 Solution

© McW May '18



### Down:

1. An old 10c [a bob] harbouring Kim's final solution? (1-4)
2. Blokey talk aural version of evil eye? (11)
3. [Furious] I turn red and get out. (6)
4. [Rude men sob] at the weight of this load. (10)
5. Other half needed by Chinese ladies? (4) [Well?]
6. Hafta possess wild celebration (just [gotto own] it...!) (2,2,4)
7. Brown vowel-change for 26. [Well?]
8. If only we could get a [decent rep] in the house it would certainly set something up! (9)
13. [Bill-taunter] calls [Bill a nutter] for suggesting fast rail, to put [it real blunt]... (6,5)
14. Smooth Harvey from Perth? [Well?]
15. Expect high-flyers at raptors' do. [Well?]
17. Justin has the job on a long [term loan], at least here. (8)
20. The [Iceman] Cometh, and then in cometh Mr [M. Caine] to put him on screen... (6)
23. Summer is i — in, spicily? [Well?]
24. (See 27ac)
26. Pull little [Aus]tralia off Pommy car [Austin] for metal. (3)

### Across:

1. [Barmy, laid] out in crowd-pleasing style. (9)
6. Fancy costume to protest in? [Well?]
9. See 19. (3)
10. Take a foreign stance and get an example out of it. [Well?]
11. Makeup laid on with a trowel, she goes for gold [Au] between bunks. (8)
12. [Bleats] emanating from seemingly horseless housing? (6)
15. Drop 10ac rarely seen these days. [Well?]
16. [Coward lies] to please his dad and puts **him** (*ambiguously*) in gaol. (5,5)
18. Anything but roll own couture... (6-4)
19. Tidy 9 used to dress leather? [Well? In full, 'neatsfoot oil']
21. Let me [paint] a picture for you: the kids' party will simply destroy it! (6)
22. These days it can be modular. 'Tis tickling the fancy of gallery-goers... (8)
25. Orchardist might [plan tree-top] spraying to turn the corrupter out of the case. (6,5)
27. 24dn. Dark history wear for some. [Well?]
28. Jewish trans film [gently] beheaded and turned tail. (5)
29. He was [grand at an] old sport, one of three who were... (9)



# Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



## Plant a Tree You've Never Heard of ...

Welcome to winter! Most of the crop is harvested (unless you still have any late apples or pears to come off) and fruit trees are well on the way to going dormant. It's a beautiful time of year to be in the garden, and there's plenty to do!

It's time to be thinking about ordering new fruit trees for planting this winter. First, you need to have a think about which varieties you want to plant. This year, we're encouraging everyone to 'Plant a tree you've never heard of' and we're particularly talking about heritage apple varieties.

At our on-farm nursery (see the link below), we're specialising in growing heritage varieties that are in danger of becoming lost - this year we have more than 40 different varieties! With Harcourt being one of the oldest apple growing districts in Australia, it feels like we all have a special responsibility to help preserve these old heirloom varieties. A lot of them only exist in collections, which is like keeping them in a museum. They need to be grown in people's backyards, eaten, shared, talked about and loved so we can all get to know them again.

When you're thinking about getting new trees, you also need to decide where you'll plant them. One of the benefits of living here in Harcourt (and one of the reasons many people make the 'tree change') is because there's so much space for a decent-sized garden. But even if you have a large garden, it often makes sense to keep your fruit trees together in one space in the garden, rather than spreading them out. It's easier to net the trees under a single structure, rather than having to create a separate structure for each tree. Having said that, the hoop structure that is commonly used to protect a single fruit tree, is quite easy to construct from star pickets and poly-pipe, so this need not be a limiting factor.

The other reason for grouping fruit trees together is that it's easier to set up a simple, but effective, irrigation system if all the trees with similar needs are in one place. Again, it's not that difficult to irrigate individual trees that are scattered around your garden, it just might take multiple pipes and offshoots to reach them all.

One of the things we're often asked about at this time of year is if it's still OK to prune apricot trees. The short answer is yes, it is. Our philosophy with pruning fruit trees is that there's no 'right' or 'wrong', there are just 'cuts' and 'consequences'.

So, what are the consequences of pruning apricot trees at the moment? Well, if you have fungal disease in your apricot trees (which is very common) there's a higher chance that you'll spread it around the tree. You can minimise this risk by choosing a fine, sunny day to do your pruning with a few fine days' forecast ahead. That means your pruning cuts are likely to heal and dry quickly.

The other reason we usually recommend pruning apricot trees in late summer is because they tend to be very big, vigorous trees and pruning them in summer is likely to create a smaller growth response to your pruning cuts. Pruning your trees in winter is likely to stimulate a bit more growth in the tree, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just important to prune them thoughtfully so you don't encourage your tree to get too



bushy. (We cover how to do this in our free online webinar. You can find the link at the end of this article.)

The good thing about pruning your apricot tree after the leaves have fallen off is that you can clearly see the shape of the tree, which makes deciding how to prune it much easier.

Now is also a good time to reflect on other ways of improving the health of your garden. As a guiding principle, try to add more diversity each year - different varieties of fruit trees, different understorey plants around and near your fruit trees (e.g. herbs, vegetables or shrubs - or even just weeds!), and even different microbes in your soil.

Believe it or not, biodiversity is one of your best defences against the risks you face from pests and diseases, and even the weather. Are you wondering how that works? Well, the more varieties of fruit trees you have, the more likely you are to harvest at least something every year. A particularly wet spring, for example, may lead to disease in the stone fruit but the apples and pears will thrive.

Having a diverse collection of plants in your garden (especially flowering plants and, yes, even weeds) provides good habitat to attract lots of beneficial insects that will do at least half your work of cleaning up the pests. There is a lot of science emerging about the incredible impact that multiple plants growing in the same soil can have on each other. It's kind of an extension of the old idea of companion planting, but we now know that plants communicate with each other, they swap nutrients and microbes and they help to make each other healthier.

**Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than 20 years and offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips. They have more than 50 online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to [www.growgreatfruit.com](http://www.growgreatfruit.com) for details. They also run free online workshops - sign up at [growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing](http://growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing). Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is now open for orders at [openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop](http://openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop). Orders taken until 30 June and trees will be available to pick up from the farm Open Days on 2, 3, 10 and 11 July from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.**



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Merv Carr ~ Katie Finlay ~ Liz Carr





# Orchard Keepers Complete First Season and Welcome New Team Members



Left to right - Yoann Le Guen, Alex Kelly, Brian Morris, Rachel Cilauro, Ingrid Phyland and Megan Roberts. Photo Randi Wagner

And now we are six! The Orchard Keepers collective expanded to welcome three new members as we rounded out our first season as orchardists in Harcourt.

After a steep learning curve The Orchard Keepers are proud to have finished our first season at the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-operative. With some early changes to the team and with the challenges of La Niña, it has been an eventful first season.

La Niña meant lots more rain which in turn meant we saw a later start to the season and a range of challenges including leaf curl, blossom blight, freckle and even pear and cherry slug. This impacted on fruit production - for example we saw far less peaches, nectarines and apricots than in a standard season. Prior to La Niña and its associated effects, our predecessor Ant Wilson, from Tellurian Fruit Gardens harvested over 300kgs of Briggs Red May peaches and we picked less than 30 kg. Thankfully the plum, apple and pear harvest was significant, ending the season with some more abundance.

We opted to keep the Community Supported Agriculture program that Ant established, but with the shift to focus on local members. We had sixty new households join, which brought the membership to 80 CSA boxes feeding over 200 people in the local area for 23 weeks.

Here is what some of our CSA members had to say when asked what they enjoyed most about being part of the farm this year:

'[We love] knowing that we were working together to make organic fruit available in this region.'

'[CSA] further connects you to how food is produced, who produces it, the time that goes into it, and dropping out of the digital world into the natural world. Great therapy!'

Katie and Hugh Finlay, who lease the orchard to us and are our mentors, are converts to the CSA model. Katie said 'We'd never heard of CSA before, but now that we've seen how well it can work we think it's fantastic. We've really enjoyed working with The Orchard Keepers for their first ever fruit season, and are feeling very proud of how well they learned their new trade and managed the many challenges. We love that they've taken Ant's CSA model and improved it by keeping it more local. We think there's a lot of scope for other farms to use the same model.'

We also started a partnership with Castlemaine Harvest at the Mill who sold our fruit in store, increasing its availability in the community. Harvest Fruit and Veg became a CSA pick up depot and they took excess fruit to the wholesale market for us when they were driving down in their empty truck.

The Orchard Keepers had a number of schools in the area visit

throughout the season, with students learning about the production of organic fruit and local food distribution systems. The latest visits have seen the students have hands-on experience juicing apples and taking home the juice to share with their families.

We finished the season with an open day for our CSA members and caught one of the last sunny autumn afternoons where participants played games, shared a lot of cake and had a tour of the orchard.

We are now thrilled to introduce Megan Roberts, Brian Morris and Rachael Cilauro to the team. Meg, Brian and Rachael all bring a wealth of skills, experience and enthusiasm to the partnership and we are excited to see what the next season brings to our new team dynamic!

This winter we will be again offering a range of workshops including pruning and grafting and will again be opening our CSA memberships later in the year. People can follow us on social media or sign up for our newsletter via our website [theorchardkeepers.com.au](http://theorchardkeepers.com.au) for updates.

Alex Kelly



## Weather & Water

The last Weather and Water report was in February and it summarised 2021. Since then *The Core* has been so full of other content we sacrificed this report to give space to other news.

January and February were relatively cool, as evidenced by the low number of callouts to fires for the Harcourt CFA. We have often experienced searing heat in the last two weeks of February, but this year there was no sign of it. In March, an autumn chill was felt as early as March 11. It was fine and calm for Applefest on 12 March. Humidity rose for the two to three weeks following Applefest with dewy mornings and temperatures in the high 20s. By 23 March, it was noted that it was dark at 7 am, and by the end of March the southerly winds began and the temperature dropped to usher the end of daylight saving. There were only three rain days in April and the temperature continued to drop during April, but some days were still in the low 20s. May was mild and lulled us into a gentle end to autumn, winter weather arrived with unerring timing as May ticked over into June with icy blasts covering Victoria and into central Australia. So far the year is relatively wet with the total rainfall higher to date higher than last year's total of 246 mm.

2022 Rain totals to date:

Month	Rainfall mm	Cumulative Total mm
January	77.5	77.5
February	26.0	103.5
March	45.5	149.0
April	91.5	240.5
May	39.0	279.5

### Reservoir Levels

Malmsbury: 31 May 11.5%

Lauriston: 83.9%

Upper Coliban: 92.7%

Barkers Creek: A blue-green algae warning is current.

Mount Alexander Shire Council  
**Council News**



### Our small towns are looking good!

We've been busy-at-work making improvements to our small townships.

Taradale, Newstead and Guildford are all looking good with fresh footpaths, kerbs, signage, trees and more.

Chewton is the next town on our to-do list, with the following works planned for the coming weeks:

- Improving the entrance to Ellery Park including landscaping and directional signage.
- Sealing the car parking area near the former General Store on the Pyrenees Highway.
- Creating a paved courtyard space with seating between the Chewton Town Hall and Ellery Park.
- Installing shelter and seating at existing bus stops.

These improvements are part of our Small Town Streetscapes project.

Find out more on the Small Town Streetscapes page of our website.

### All aboard the Small Business Bus

Our Small Business Bus will be stopping in Castlemaine and Maldon next month to give out free advice, support and business expertise.

**Wednesday 22 July, 10.00am-4.00pm**

Outside Market Building, 44 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.

**Thursday 23 July, 10.00am-4.00pm**

Outside Kangaroo Hotel, 89 High Street, Maldon.

Find out more and book your place at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Business\\_Resources](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Business_Resources).

### Do you need planning advice?

Our planning team is available to assist with queries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.30am-4.30pm.

Stop by the Castlemaine Civic Centre, corner Lyttleton Street and Lloyd Street, Castlemaine for expert advice.

Learn more on the News page of our website.

Civic Centre  
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd Sts  
P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700  
e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)  
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For placement of advertising please contact Pauline Wilkinson via email at: [advertising@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:advertising@harcourt.vic.au)

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

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**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

**Community Diary Dates**

**Thursday, June 16:** 1.30 pm, CWA Harcourt Association Day, Harcourt Leisure Centre. Jenny Steiner will be our Association Day guest.

**Sunday, June 19:** 1.30 pm, Fireside Chat with Peter Flinn, AM: 'Harcourt Memories' at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street, Harcourt.

**Sunday, June 26:** 10 am–12 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee, at picnic ground on Barkers Creek; for details contact the Secretary on 0467 670 271.

**NAIDOC Week 2022 will be held 3-10 July.**

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

**CFA:** Brigade meeting night is the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; Siren is tested at 9.15am. Contact – Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

**CWA:** First Thursday of the month, 1.00 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

**Grace Church:** Tuesdays at 10.30 am: Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm: Zoom Bible Study: A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link: [pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au](mailto:pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au).

**Harcourt Bowls Club:** See page 16.

**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 924 000. The Pony Club is located 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 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 and 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**





# First win for the Falcons on Home Ground

The Mt Alexander Falcons played their first home game at Harcourt Reserve against Kerang on Sunday 29 May and capped the day off with their first win. The match was one of eight practice matches the new club is playing this season ahead of the Central Victoria Football League's 2023 season.

The afternoon match was played in front of an enthusiastic and jubilant crowd, who were also treated to pies from Woodley's Pies food truck and a cameo halftime appearance from the club's young Auskick players.

Falcons came away with the win 6.9.45 to Kerang 2.0.12. The margin would have been wider if the Falcons had not had such accuracy for the posts! Falcons' goal scorers were Mads Toohey and Bronte Ashworth each with two along with Julia Walsh and Lauren Peeler. Players and supporters from both clubs enjoyed a BBQ together after the game.

The first home game and first win continue the Falcons' momentum having been founded 12 months ago, signing over 60 training and playing members, starting a successful Auskick

program and a whole lot of love growing around the new club.

Founded on the principles of inclusion and participation the club is fostering a welcoming environment for all women and nonbinary people who want to come and try the sport. They train Mondays and Wednesdays 6.30 pm at Harcourt Recreation Reserve and welcome new members.

The Falcons' next game at Harcourt Reserve is at 2.30 pm, Saturday 11 June against North Bendigo.

*Provided by the Falcons*

## WINTER 2022 SCHEDULE

Sat 11 June	2.30 pm	Nth Bendigo	Home
Sat 25 June	2.30 pm	Golden Square	Home
Sun 10 July	2.30 pm	Eaglehawk	Away
Sun 17 July	2.30 pm	Bendigo Thunder	Home
Sat 23 July	5.15 pm	Kyneton	Away



Photo by Robyn Miller.



Photos by Michelle Dunn.