

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



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Push to Get Commonwealth Games in Harcourt



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The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), Commonwealth Games Federation and the Victorian Government need to agree to include mountain biking in the 2026 sports program, but, if it is, then both Councils are advocating for La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park to be the host venue.

Mount Alexander Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Darren Fuzzard said his organisation had submitted an expression of interest to be part of history.

'We have been working on this pitch for several weeks and when the Victorian

Government opened the EOI process last week for additional sports to be considered, we were quick to submit La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park as the perfect venue to host mountain biking,' Mr Fuzzard said.

'It is located in the township of Harcourt, 25 minutes south of Bendigo towards Melbourne, and provides 34 kilometres of purpose-built mountain bike trails set against the beautiful Mount Alexander Regional Park.

'Spectators would also be treated to a great regional experience, as the park is located close to accommodation, cafes and restaurants, retail and cultural venues at nearby Castlemaine, Kyneton and Woodend – all of which are located along the trainline between Bendigo and Melbourne.

Continued on page 2.

INSIDE

- Byf Update-3
- HPA-3
- Nightingales of Bright-4
- Nalderun-5
- Margaret Grant-6
- Harcourt CFA-7
- Community Banking-8
- HVPS-9
- Harcourt Uniting Church-10
- Pioneers of Harcourt-11
- HFNC-12
- Harcourt Bowling Club-13
- Harcourt Carpet Bowls-13
- Stay Well-14
- Dhelkaya Health-16
- Grace Church-16
- Shire News-17
- Gardening-18
- Weather & Water-19
- Want a Community Garden?-19
- Crossword-20
- Community Diary-21

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

Push to Get Commonwealth Games in Harcourt

Continued from page 1.

'As a neighbouring shire and close to the host city of Bendigo, we are really excited by the possibility of being involved in the 2026 Commonwealth Games.'

Mount Alexander Shire Mayor Cr Bill Maltby said La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park already attracted more than 30,000 visitors each year.

'The park is hugely popular and defies all expectations when it comes to how much it is used. If we were able to host mountain biking, it would unlock the park to host future international competition and present an opportunity to undertake minor upgrades so as it could continue to be a key economic driver for the region,' Cr Maltby said.

To support the expression of interest process, both Councils have jointly written to the UCI and national body AusCycling to press their case and promote La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park as a world-class venue.

The application is also supported by Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung.

DJAARA CEO Rodney Carter said the potential to host competition at La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park would be another opportunity to share Dja Dja Wurrung culture with the world.

'This application has our full support for the park, a fantastic cultural, natural and recreational asset, to be a key part of the 2026 Commonwealth Games. DJAARA looks forward to remaining involved in the planning and featuring in the cultural program for the Games,' Mr Carter said.

City of Greater Bendigo Chief Executive Officer Craig Niemann said he was supportive of any way to share the benefits of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

'We first need mountain biking to be included in the program but if it is, we are really excited by what we have to offer in our region,' Mr Niemann said.

'From the City's perspective, it is important that the benefits of the Games are shared. If sports can be hosted in nearby shires and they can have the

opportunity to put their name on the international sporting map, then we want to be able to help them achieve that.'

City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf said there were approximately 1,340 days until the Commonwealth Games and there wasn't a moment to waste.

'Every host city wants to host the best Games ever and that is what our regional cities will be striving for in a few years' time,' Cr Metcalf said.

'We are really fortunate to have such a diverse range of sports facilities in and around Bendigo, and we believe the addition of mountain biking to the Bendigo program would make for an exciting offering for spectators and the many residents who enjoy track and road cycling and mountain biking as a hobby.'

Mountain Biking is part of the 2022 Birmingham program and was also included in the 2018 Gold Coast and 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

From a Mount Alexander Shire Press Release



Passion. Opportunity. Change

National Student Volunteer Week is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate student volunteers and promote volunteering to young people across Australia.

This year National Student Volunteer Week is celebrated from 8-14 August 2022 with the theme: **PASSION. OPPORTUNITY. CHANGE.** which explores how students can realise their dreams and effect change across the world ... starting with giving their time, energy, and skills to a cause they believe in. Find out more by visiting www.govolunteer.com.au

Fireside Chat

**AT THE HARCOURT HERITAGE CENTRE,
SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST AT 1:30 PM
TOPIC: THE FOLK WHO WENT AWAY**

From the earliest years of settlement, as children grew they often had to leave the district for work.

Most returned to Harcourt to start families.

The adventurous roving of Harcourt folk provide plenty of interesting stories.

As always there will be a blazing fire, plenty of chat and afternoon tea.

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Byf.

Backyard Fest



Harcourt Progress Association

G'day Harcourt, Alex here from Backyard Fest. Just a quick update about festival news.

A community meeting was held at Harcourt Valley Winery recently and we want to thank everyone for making the effort on a Monday night to come down and get involved. It was a great night! Special thanks to Quinn for hosting us and to Doug for emceeing. There were roughly fifty people in attendance, with local Harcourt and Castlemaine residents, CFA representatives, folk from MainFM, festival organisers, local musicians and music lovers, sound engineers and neighbours.

The night kicked off with a bit of history of Backyard Fest and our vision for the future. We screened a showcase reel of some of the artists performing at Backyard Fest. We introduced Campbell's Creek local, Thea Lang, who is playing at Backyard Fest this November and we were rapt when Thea performed her beautiful song 'Still Life'. We introduced our PR manager, Mon, and we explained how the community, including local clubs and community groups, could get involved with the festival, whether that's setting up a stall, performing, or just becoming part of the family and volunteering for the festival.

Everyone who attended had the opportunity to ask questions about the festival and give us some feedback. Some of the points raised included waste, noise, fire, BYO, dam safety, traffic, artist payments, indigenous acknowledgement, getting involved, food stalls, upcoming council meeting and how support could be shown, and accessibility.

Since the meeting, we have amended some of our Event Management Plans to accommodate the discussions we had around these questions. These include shortened running hours of live music, tighter traffic control measures, changes to our waste policy, removal of swimming in the dam and removal of BYO to allow for a more controlled supply of liquor to ensure patron safety.

There is a further meeting to be hosted by council – the date is to be confirmed. This will be an opportunity for submitters of all persuasion – those for and those against the festival – to present their position. If Backyard Fest is something you are excited about and would love to attend in any way, we welcome and encourage your support. You can make a submission to council via info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au (reference Planning Application 043/2022) and let them know why you'd love to see a live music festival in Harmony Way, Faraday.

To stay connected and find out more about what's happening, you can reach out to us on Facebook (Backyard Fest), Instagram (@backyardfesta) and via email: hello@backyardfest.com.au.

Until next time, rock on!

We're delighted to be working in collaboration with the Applefest Committee on the Gather Harcourt event on August 27. Proceeds from the stall fees will go towards Applefest 2023. The Harcourt Progress Association will be running the bar again, with drink sales helping to fund more community projects.

If you're interested in taking a stall, you'll find Application Forms on the HPA website. More volunteers are welcome – there's always a lot to do to create a great event. Do get in touch if you'd like to contribute. And everyone please put the date in your diary now – a successful event will increase our chances of making Gather Harcourt a regular, seasonal event showcasing the local producers, makers and musicians of our region.

Stay tuned for news on the old Harcourt Station building project. We're working with MASC and VicTrack to resolve lease arrangements in a way that works for all parties.

Our very sincere thanks go to our outgoing treasurer, Pauline Wilkinson. Thank you for bringing us up to date. All HPA finances are now on a digital platform. Thank you for tidying up all outstanding invoices and for creating a strong foundation for our next treasurer. You're a star, and we'll miss you. We are delighted to welcome our new treasurer, Katie Petrusma, and are very grateful to her for taking on the role. Welcome on board, Katie.

David Foley (President) & Leisl Malan (Vice President)



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

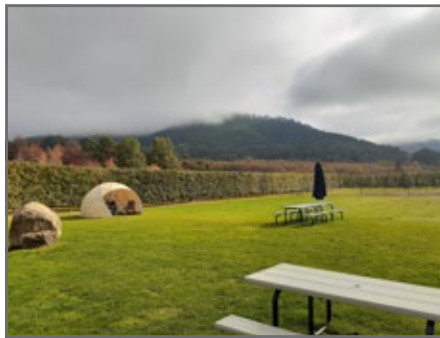
Brilliant Marketing in Bright

Many of us know Bright as a tourist destination for its crisp air in autumn, and the autumn show of colours from the many deciduous trees planted on the majority of its streets. In winter it is a stepping off point for the snow fields of Mount Hotham, and in summer it attracts tourists because of the cool mountain air and the Ovens River.

Like Harcourt, Bright has strong visitation for mountain biking and, like Harcourt, there are orchards to be found on the valley floor of the Ovens River near Bright. Chestnuts, berries, cherries, apples and hops are grown in the area and the nearby towns. The hops have taken the place of the tobacco plantations that were once predominant. There is also an unusual business in nearby Ovens called Pepos Pumpkin Seeds – a visit to their farm shop is well worthwhile, either in person or on-line.



The merchandising is professional and colourful, with related products, for example glasses and travel mugs and much more. To top off the experience there is a coffee shop right in the building. Outside there is a green lawn area which is suitable as an events venue – it has a small building with refrigeration which serves as a bar and food outlet.



I found it an interesting experience to visit here and see how this business has promoted itself and the other businesses in the area. It demonstrates how a business can work with others for the betterment of all businesses in the area.

Is this a possible model for Harcourt? When many of us put our heads together for the Shine project (see the Harcourt Progress Association's website for the document) we were excited at the

possible projects which could eventuate. The Twilight Markets, now called Gather Harcourt came out of Shine.

Harcourt producers of all kinds of products have shown they are eager to participate in the Gather markets (see the back page for information on the next Gather Harcourt on August 27) and the Applefest; many Harcourt products are featured at the Produce Store, at the Little Red Apple and at markets in the region, but now our challenge is to further build cooperation between Harcourt businesses to further boost our town.

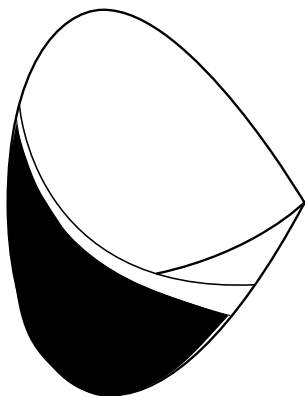
Robyn Miller



One of the most successful orchard businesses is Nightingales, near Wandiligong. It features not only its own produce but also that of many other growers. The business has a fine location in the valley and its coolstore and shop are cut out of the orchard. It is a picturesque setting with a mountain backdrop.



As well as selling their own fresh fruit in a variety of packaging they feature their own cider products, and also other producers' honey, soaps, jams, chestnuts, cordials, and fruit products such as freeze dried fruits and fruit straps.



Gather Harcourt

James Park, Saturday 27th August 2022, 1 - 4pm



WALKING TOGETHER

Towards Makarrata

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

The Seven Sisters

The Seven Sisters dreaming story is widely known by First Nations people. Although it has many names and variations, the theme remains constant: a story of a forbidden pursuit and a daring escape, of desire, magic and family bonds.

The star cluster named the Seven Sisters, or Pleiades, consists of about 300 stars, with seven of the brightest named for the daughters of Atlas and a nymph, Pleione, from the Greek myth about the Pleiades. To save the women from Orion's attentions, Zeus transformed them into doves.

Seen from southern skies, the constellation is part of the Milky Way and rises above the horizon near Orion in the warmer months.

Desert people know the Seven Sisters as a creation story. As they flee from their pursuer, the sisters form features of the landscape, rocks, water holes and springs. They escape by transforming into stars.

The song line for the dreaming story goes from deep in the Central Desert out to the west coast, travelling through many different language groups. It teaches vital skills and lessons of surviving on the land, of changing seasons, of the bonds of family and relationships – how to live with each other, how to live in the environment and how to be in tune with the spiritual realm.

An evil sorcerer, Yurlu (Orion), admired the beautiful sisters. He wanted one as his wife, but he was not of the correct skin group, so marriage was forbidden. In spite of that, he pursued the sisters back and forth across the deserts. To capture them, he would turn himself into a snake, tree or animal. But they escaped every time; once they dug a hole through the back of the cave where he had ambushed them.

Yurlu sent a magic carpet snake slithering over the rocks. The sisters grabbed it, thinking it would be good to eat. But the moment they saw Yurlu prowling they realised it was magic and threw it away. Desperately, they sought refuge in the sky. The trickster followed them and the pursuit continues today, with the Pleiades stars being chased across the sky by the Orion constellation.

Amongst many uses, the story teaches that when Orion can be seen appearing above the horizon in Central Australian springtime, the snakes come out. Beware they don't catch you!

Yolngu people in Arnhem Land have a story about three brothers fishing, who break a kinship law and are lifted up to the sky by a waterspout, becoming the stars of Orion's belt. Another Yolngu story teaches of Pingal, the moon lusting after the sisters. They flee from him, climbing up to the sky where he still pursues them.

In a version from the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, the hunter Orion is attracted to the bright-eyed Seven Sisters

stars when they come to earth to follow the Snake as it makes wavy sandhills. Orion chases them to Port Lincoln and back, to the Blue Mountains and back, but he can't catch them. They escape up to the sky and he, earthbound, lies down to rest at a rock formation called the Eagle's Nest.

Around Lake Eyre, the ancestral being trying to capture one of the sisters was prevented by a great flood and, in a story from New South Wales, a man catches two of them by a trick and makes them his wives, until they escape to the sky and become the Pleiades.

Here in Dja Dja Wurrung country Orion is Kulkan Bulla. He is an old man teaching a younger one how to dance a special dance, part of men's business. The Pleiades, or Seven Sisters, might be the women playing their possum skin drums for the dancers at public ceremonies.

In other countries, stories also link the Seven Sisters with the neighbouring constellation Orion. One example is of the Hopi, who built villages mirroring Orion in the sky and held ceremonies for each of the seven sisters. The shamans of Peru told that humanity came from the stars and honoured the Seven Sisters in their temples.

Creation is made visible through such teaching stories, song lines, ceremony and art.

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

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



Photo of the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) by Bryan Goff on Unsplash.

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Margaret Grant

I met Marg in her role as Secretary at the Barkers Creek Hall in November 2021 on Remembrance Day. She was quietly serving cups of tea and ensuring that everything was 'just so' for that part of the afternoon. On that day the community and dignitaries gathered at the Hall to recognise the service of Barkers Creek residents in World War I. Dr Geoff Courtis organised the event after completing historical research about those who served. As a result there is an informative and enlightening permanent display at the hall which honours the ANZACS of Barkers Creek. Alec Grant, Marg's father in law is one of the men whose war history is documented in the exhibition.

Margaret Grant, better known as Marg is a long time Harcourt resident and has been an active volunteer of long standing in the Harcourt and Castlemaine community for many years.

Marg told *The Core*, 'I was born Margaret Bolitho in Castlemaine; Bolitho is a Cornish name. My family lived in Castlemaine until I was six years old and then we moved into what was then known as Grant's Lane, off Blackjack Road.

'I went to Harcourt Primary School in Market Street; I was the second eldest of five daughters. My father Bill Bolitho worked at Blight's Quarry and then Leyton's Quarry. Year 9 was my final year of high school in Castlemaine. As a young newly employed person I worked in Miss Flemming's Needlecraft Shop selling tapestries, wool and doyleys. The shop was well known for good quality artificial flowers.

'I left that job and began work packing apples and pears at the Coolstore. That was where I met my husband Ron, who was a truck driver. Ron had also attended

Harcourt Primary School. Working at the Coolstore was like being part of a big family. I stayed there until I was married in 1964.

'When the children were small, I volunteered at the Harcourt Pre-School and I was in the Mothers' Club which raised funds to support the Pre-School. For my efforts there I was given a Life Membership. I remember that in 1969 we saw the first moon landing on the black and white television. I remember that because that was the year when Ian was at kindergarten. At Harcourt Primary I was also in the Mothers' Club and assisted at lunch times. At the same time I worked packing fruit at the Coolstore and for different growers including the Frankling, Chaplin and Rennie families. Ron continued work as a truck driver with various employers; he also spent some time working at the 'bacon factory' (now KR Castlemaine).

'We got involved in the local sporting clubs when our children Ian, Nicole and Simone variously joined Brownies, Scouts, Guides, footy, tennis, cricket and netball. Once when I took the kids to hockey, I finished up being the Goalie!

Margaret has long been involved with Barkers Creek Community Hall and Reserve Committee (home of the Barkers Creek Cricket Club) and the Tennis Association in Castlemaine. She said, 'This year I will have been on the Barkers

Creek Hall and Reserve Committee for 39 years.'

Another long standing volunteer commitment for Marg has been with the Castlemaine and District Tennis Association. 'I was President of the Association for 30 years. My volunteering at the club began in 1958. I am still a member and attend meetings and only recently I gave up playing tennis.' For the season 2011/2012 she was presented with the Richard Southby Award for services to Junior Tennis. She also won the perpetual award which she was able to keep for a year.

Ron and Marg were married for 50 years. Ron has since passed away, but Marg enjoys her growing family of six grandsons, one great grandson and one step great granddaughter. On top of her ongoing volunteer commitments, Marg still works for a few hours a week at The Little Red Apple and she often enjoys a cup of coffee at the Produce Store.

Robyn Miller



An anniversary card from Marg's family marking 50 years of marriage to Ron.



Ron and Marg at their son, Ian's wedding.



The Sports Star Award for services to Junior Sport presented to Marg for the 2011/12 season.



Harcourt CFA

New Australian Fire Danger Rating System

On 1 September 2022, you will see new standardised Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) across Australia.

The semi-circle we are all familiar with is changing from six FDR levels to just four categories. Each level will have action-oriented messages, logical colours and simple descriptions to encourage you to take action to protect yourself, and others with you, in the face of bushfire risks.

The new ratings are:

MODERATE: On a green background – Plan and Prepare

HIGH: On a yellow background – Be Ready to Act

EXTREME: On an orange background – Take Action Now to Protect Life and Property

CATASTROPHIC: On a red background – For your Survival, Leave Bushfire Risk Areas

An FDR will be issued on days when there is a fire risk. If the FDR is below Moderate, the indicator will be positioned pointing horizontally to the left below the Moderate Zone. Further information can be found at Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities (AFAC) websites: [cfa.vic.gov.au/About Fire Danger Ratings or Prepare and Get Ready – VicEmergency](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/About-Fire-Danger-Ratings-or-Prepare-and-Get-Ready-VicEmergency). A state-wide media campaign will begin in August ahead of the launch and some preliminary messaging has commenced through social media.

You will continue to be able to check the daily fire danger for your area on the CFA website. You can also use the VicEmergency smartphone app.

New Tanker Training

As mentioned in the July issue, our new Tanker 2 has been made available for members to train and familiarise themselves with this new vehicle. July saw many training hours spent on the apron of the fire station and brigade drivers negotiating various roads and tracks around the brigade area to ensure we are ready for when the vehicle is ready to go online.

While it has a lot of similar features to our Tanker 1, it has some new



differences, as well as being built on a different cab/chassis with its different layout of cabin controls. This training has been in addition to normal training commitments including Breathing Apparatus skills maintenance, inter brigade training hosted by the Maldon Brigade and normal Sunday morning maintenance and checks.

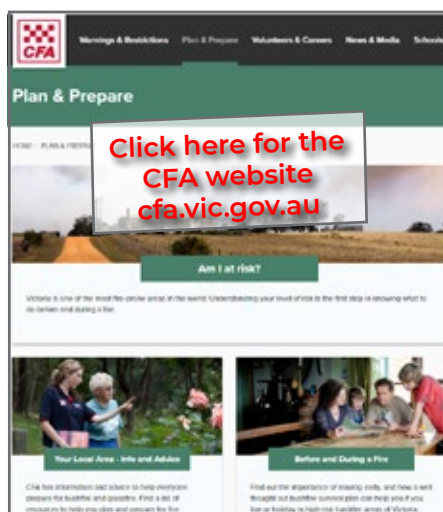
Turnouts

Luckily, the month of July was reasonably quiet for turnouts, but still added four more to our total. The breakdown was: one support to Sutton Grange for a washaway as a result of a vehicle accident, one abandoned campfire in the Oak Forest, one assist police with a vehicle that was issuing smoke and one false alarm turnout to a private burn off. This still averages to one per week, which would tally to 52 for a full year. This is a figure we have been aiming to reduce and continue to strive to achieve.

The above turnouts include only one with flames, but we continue to have turnouts to motor vehicle accidents, which has been a bit of a trend of the last few years, especially post Covid lockdown. Community safety relies on everyone doing the right thing. Unfortunately, police statistics do not reflect this. Wet and frosty roads in winter add to the inherent dangers when driving. Just like fire prevention, steps can be taken to reduce the risk. Maintaining our vehicle in good condition is the first step. Do all the lights work on your vehicle? How is the tread on your tyres? Are we alert, ready and prepared to drive? Have we allowed enough time to travel to our destination and, do we know what the intentions are of the other vehicles we are sharing the road with?

Be prepared and stay safe.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



Our most recent school holidays saw another intake of learner drivers into our Driver Training Program. Participants drive in groups of three during the five-day course with a qualified instructor, in a range of different environments and traffic conditions, including un-sealed country roads, highway and city driving and defensive driving.

“The highlight for me was learning how to reverse park – I could totally nail it now” said Blake, one of the most recent graduates. “I recommend the course because it helps with everything you need to know about driving and increases your confidence. Gary’s a great instructor and puts you at ease.”

The Community Bank Maldon & District subsidises the majority of the \$900 per participant program costs. There is a charge to participants of \$150 however each graduate receives a reward of a \$50 bank account with the Community Bank Maldon & District on completion of their course.

Branch manager, Paul Simmons says: “Young learner drivers across our catchment (Maldon, Dunolly, Newstead, Harcourt and Mount Alexander Shire) are invited to participate – this is a program we are very proud of. Not only has it been running for almost 20 years, but also in that time, we have supported over 400 young people to be better drivers.”

The course can add up to 15 hours of supervised driving experience per participant. Two sessions are run during most school holiday breaks.

For more information:

- **Chat:** to staff members at any of our branches
- **Phone:** 5475 1747
- **Online:** maldoncb.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Application-form-Learner-Driver-Training-Program-2020-21-MDCB.pdf



Instructor Gary with recent Driver Training graduates – Tayah, Sophie & Blake

Castlemaine and Surrounds Repair Cafe

28 August, 10am–1pm.

— Last Sunday of the month —

Castlemaine Community House

30 Templeton Street (behind the Town Hall)

Enter via the back door from the car park.

This month we have crochet, darning and basic bicycle maintenance workshops happening during the Cafe. If you want to learn one of these please call Chris to book on 5470 5508. The workshops start at 10.30. Or, if you have a broken household appliance or sewing repairs, bring them along. It's first in, first served and one item per person then return to the queue with a second one. If the Cafe is very busy the last item in is at 12.30.

Gold coin donation appreciated. For further info call Chris and, if you leave a message, please include your number.

Website: castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com



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Harcourt Valley Primary School

What a month it has been for us all, dodging the weather, COVID, the flu and colds. Some of us have succumbed, and others have managed to stay healthy and maintain our normal routines. Headteacher at HVPS, Andrew Blake, told me that the school has been very fortunate in that only few students and teachers have had to take sick leave. Children over eight years of age and staff have been wearing masks, hand sanitising and social distancing, all of which helps to keep those viruses and germs at bay. RATs (test kits) are available to families if they feel unwell and need to confirm whether they have COVID, or not. This has meant that on Thursday the 28th, school photos took place at the school with few, if any, absences of staff or students.

Academically, the focus this term is on applied functional maths skills. Grades 4,5 and 6 have been using their maths and science skills in their STEM activities, with the focus on engineering. Two of the projects students have been working on are a mouse trap powered car and a balloon powered car. I would love to see how they work.

The school is continuing with their

Positive Behaviours Program. The emphasis this week has been on being respectful and following instructions carefully. A Friends with Worry course has also been undertaken by students this term. The aim of the project is to provide students with strategies to deal with their anxieties.

This term, Grades 1 and 2 had their annual excursion. The students spent two nights sleeping at the school. On the first day they visited the Deborah Mine and the Dragon Museum in Bendigo. On the morning of the second day they undertook a Parkour course at the school. Parkour is a physical education activity which encourages a variety of movements, co-ordination and teamwork skills. After that they learnt the art of building bush huts. They have another event to look forward to in the next week or so – an incursion with Melbourne Museum about dinosaurs. Apparently other grades would love to be part of that incursion!

Andrew informed me that this term a few of the smaller schools in the region are visiting each other to exchange ideas and broaden student social networks. This term, both Elphinstone and Chewton Primary Schools will be visiting HVPS.

The school is presently undertaking a Pie and Slice Drive to raise money to purchase new readers for students. And yes, the school's famous apple pies are for sale. An order form has been included in this month's *Core* (see page 23). Complete the form and drop it off at the school's office by the August 12. Your orders will be available to be collected from the school on Friday September 2.

Lois Denham



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Harcourt Uniting Church

What's Your Talent?

What's your gift/talent? Often when people are asked they reply: 'Oh I'm not good at anything.' We may not be a famous artist, a well known author or a renowned actor, but we all have talents and the bible reminds us that we should use them. Our Harcourt Community has many people who use their talents to make Harcourt such a great community to live in.

Like many organisations, Harcourt Uniting Church has members who are willing to use their talents to help clean the Church, arrange flowers, welcome people at the door, do the bible readings,

provide music for singing, enjoy singing, take time to listen and care for each other, take leadership positions and most importantly fill the pews on a Sunday morning.

A much loved member of our congregation, Iris Howarth, passed away recently. She was a faithful member of our Church and Adult Fellowship group for many years. Iris would be one to say she didn't have a talent, but she was a quiet lady who was known for her lovely baking – sponges and jelly slice were her specialities. Her funeral was held in the Castlemaine Uniting Church as our Harcourt Church would have been too small. The family invited Harcourt congregation to be part of the



service by asking me to play the organ and Diane Dooley to arrange some flowers. She used her talent to create an amazing vase of flowers gathered from some of our Harcourt gardens.

Harcourt Uniting Church always welcomes visitors to join us at 9 am on Sundays. The weather might be cold but the welcome is warm and so is the Church. A cuppa and chat following the service gives us an opportunity to catch up with each other.

The teacher set the class a problem. 'Suppose there were a dozen sheep and six jumped over the fence. How many would be left?'

'None' says little Billy.

'None?' says the teacher. 'Billy you don't know your arithmetic!'

Billy replies: 'And you don't know your sheep. When one goes they all go!'

Jan Jenkin

Advertorial

Save \$\$\$ on your electricity bills

Gas and Electricity prices are on the rise. Here's how to avoid the price hike – FOR FREE!

Local plumbers and electricians are teaming up with the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program to be able to offer residents of the Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander regions free upgrades to a heat pump hot water system for eligible households.

This free scheme helps Victorians cut power bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by giving households and businesses access to discounted energy efficient products and services.

FREE FULLY INSTALLED BRAND NEW HOT WATER SERVICE, VALUED AT \$3000.

Local representative under the VEU program, Tom Calvert, explains how this free upgrade can save the average household over \$600 per year on their electricity bill.

'Traditional household hot water systems typically use between 3600 and 4800 watts (3.6 and 4.8 kilowatts), whereas an upgraded heat pump system uses just 820 watts (0.82 kilowatts). The new free heat pumps are valued at \$3000, installed by local contractors and come with a

five-year warranty. Eligibility for the free upgrade is simple, your existing unit must be located outside, not connected to gas and not connected to solar water heating panels (connection to solar electricity is okay).'

Tom advises against engaging with out-of-town door knockers or overseas call centres. 'Take the initiative to claim your free heat pump system with me and my team and you'll be supporting local businesses. Current waiting periods are only a couple of weeks – although this may increase as more people register – so we recommend you book in by giving us a call on 0488 047 596.'

Still using a traditional electric water heater?

You're paying \$600 extra on your electricity bill!

Upgrade to energy-efficient Heat Pump Water Heaters

FREE hot water upgrade**

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Uses **3-4X less** electricity

5-year warranty

in partnership with **The Green Guys** Group

Installed by local electrician & plumber
Call Tom 0488 047 596

**Based on annual running costs **T&Cs apply



Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Men who Built the Railway

From 1859 to 1863 the railway contractors provided steady employment to hundreds of men engaged in the construction of the Melbourne to Murray River railway. As the railway snaked north, construction camps were established. One of which was on the hill near the Harcourt railway station and another a few miles to the north at Porcupine Hill.

Newspaper accounts, court cases (usually assaults) and inquests provide the names of some of the 'navvies' – the railway construction workers. But there were hundreds of men who came to Harcourt, lived under canvas, pocketed their wages, and then moved on.

For just a short time, Harcourt had a surge in population which it has never since experienced. In January 1862 there were 548 men working for the railway contractors between Castlemaine and the Porcupine, most living under canvas. Pick and shovel men, draymen, stonebreakers, and quarrymen were employed in and around Cutting No. 164, the most difficult and costly on the line.

The fireplace was the centrepiece for the men living in tents. Small pieces of local stone were used to make a fireplace surround. The tents themselves would have been framed with bush poles. We can begin to picture the rows of tents, the smoking fires in morning and evening. As darkness falls, we can imagine the sound of men talking at a nearby fireplace, a drunken argument in the distance, mopokes calling in the trees, horses snorting in the nearby paddocks and the heavy snoring of tired men in nearby tents.

The railway workers were exposed to many risks. The long days and hard labour were often dangerous. The proximity of so many men, some with families, lack of a regular supply of water, and ignorance of good hygiene, ensured that sickness was a common feature of daily life.

A tragic story, found in the columns of the *Mount Alexander Mail*, chronicles twelve hours in the life of a railway worker at the Harcourt camp. On returning to his tent one afternoon, he was told by his wife that their little child was sick – would he go for the doctor? The doctor's tent was some distance away. The father found the doctor to be drunk, so much so that he was incapable of attending the child. Returning to his home, the father found that the child was visibly weaker and his

wife more desperate. Two more visits to the doctor were unavailing and the child died that night.

A brief mention of the Porcupine camp can be found in *Forty Years in the Wilderness* by John Chandler. Twenty-four-year-old Chandler had bought a horse and spring cart to carry butter, eggs and poultry to Bendigo

'They were making the railway from Castlemaine to Bendigo, and when I got to the Porcupine I stopped near the line, then I would be surrounded with navvies and did a good trade in butter cheese, eggs, etc'

Thomas Stevens' store (at what is now the corner of Harmony Way and McIvor Road) also did a busy trade.

The railway encampment at Harcourt lasted for as long as it took to cut through the sandstone, build the station, heap up the embankments and lay the huge granite blocks for the three-arched viaduct over Barkers Creek. Most of the stonemasons were German and Danish, though there were other nationalities.

The railway encampment at the Porcupine was almost permanent. It was the largest and most enduring of all the wayside camps on the whole line of the railway. The sheer scale of the tasks carried out at the Porcupine ensured that the camp would persist. The contractors, Messrs Leslie & Ross, occupied a site about 1.6 kilometres alongside what is now Leversha Road plus a triangular area that extended almost a kilometre to the west of the rail line.

Men were busy building embankments, quarrying to form 'cuttings' setting out the wooden sleepers and laying out the rail. In the meantime, other men were opening six quarries in the hills cutting stone that would be carted to the siding, where it would be crushed and then spread around the sleepers as ballast.

The cutting at Porcupine involved drilling and quarrying granite to a depth of some ten metres. Two strikers and their mate (holding the chisel) made the drill holes, explosives were then used to break the stone which was then winched into wagons to be carted off to an embankment or a dump. Some of the stone dumps can still be seen alongside the line to the north.

In the meantime, parties of four men were assigned to open quarries in the high

ridge to the west of the line. There was rivalry among the men. The Welshmen were suspicious of the Irish working in the next quarry, suspicions that, one Sunday morning, erupted into an all-in, hours-long brawl at Harcourt's Talbot Inn.

In the steep gullies, driller and striker worked to break out the tough stone in lumps of about ten kilograms, placing it in small trucks on a tramway. It was hard work and, for most of the day, all that would be heard would be the sound of hammer blows on drills, and the crash of stones heaved into the tram trucks. The tramway carried the stone to a siding where it was fed into the jaws of steam-driven crushers. The methodical opening and closing of the jaws crushed the tough stone into walnut-sized pieces, small enough to pass through the inspector's gauge, then to be placed as ballast on the new line.

For a short time the hillsides were vibrant with people and tents, then, as the work was completed, the camps were moved, leaving deserted clearings, soon to be absorbed into the landscape of town lots and farmer's holdings.

The typical worker at the Harcourt and Porcupine railway encampments was male, unmarried, aged between 20 and 40 and foreign-born. Many of the quarrymen and construction workers had been gold-diggers. Sometimes, news of a new gold discovery would result in an exodus of workers – some of the men went off to the New Zealand gold rushes. It was an era of transition, as goldminers from Forest Creek became wage earners on the railway construction, laying up savings for the future, soon to become land owners and small farmers on their own account.

We cannot begin to imagine what the effect would be of a sudden influx of about five hundred workers on our small settlement. These pioneers, temporary residents of the Harcourt valley from 1859-1863, helped to shape the community infrastructure that we enjoy today.

This is another in a series of Thumbnail Sketches of the pioneers compiled by Harcourt Heritage Centre for *The Core*. Some of this article was first printed in *The Diggings News* and is reproduced by kind permission of the Friends of the Mount Alexander Diggings.

George Milford



Harcourt Football Netball Club

Not all Plain Sailing

The senior footy didn't go as well as it could have in July.

There were three home games, and we lost to Navarre on July 16, which is obviously not ideal.

The remaining games of the season are against teams lower on the ladder, so a top four finish is likely and then improvement needed to challenge further.

The Reserves are in the top four with a big chance to challenge for the flag

The Junior teams continue on with the improvement of this vital part of our club.

Netball was again a strength with five of the seven teams realistically placed for a chance at the flag.

There are four more home-and-away games remaining and three of them are at home in August.

I hope to see many barrackers at the Lions Den leading up to a finals challenge starting the weekend of August 27 and 28.

Attendance numbers have been great all year. Thanks for your support of the Lions footy and netball.

Daryl Gale

Football Results

Round 10 — July 9

Harcourt Seniors 16.18 - 114

Talbot Seniors 4.5 - 29

Round 11 — July 16

Harcourt Seniors 12.9 - 81

Navarre Seniors 14.10 - 94

Round 12 — July 23

Royal Park Seniors 2.1 - 13

Harcourt Seniors 20.14 - 134

Round 13 — July 30

Harcourt Seniors 33.12 - 210

Campbells Creek Seniors 5.1 - 31

Round 14 — Saturday August 6

Dunolly v Harcourt at Deledio Reserve

Round 15 — Saturday August 13

Harcourt v Maryborough Rovers at Harcourt

Round 16 — Saturday August 20

Harcourt v Newstead at Harcourt



Round 10 — July 9

Harcourt Reserves 10.8 - 68

Talbot Reserves 6.5 - 41

Round 11 — July 16

Harcourt Reserves 9.11 - 65

Navarre Reserves 2.2 - 14

Round 12 — July 23

Royal Park Reserves 0.1 - 1

Harcourt Reserves 27.13 - 175

Round 13 — July 30

Harcourt Reserves 29.17 - 191

Campbells Creek Reserves 1.4 - 10

Netball Results

Round 10 — July 9

Harcourt A Grade vs Talbot A Grade 56 : 36

Round 11 — July 16

Harcourt A Grade vs Navarre A Grade 61 : 24

Round 12 — July 23

Royal Park A Grade vs Harcourt A Grade 37 : 41

Round 13 — July 30

Harcourt A Grade vs Campbells Creek A Grade 81 : 31

The Ladders

Football — Seniors

- 1 Trentham
- 2 Carisbrook
- 3 Natte Bealiba
- 4 Harcourt**
- 5 Navarre
- 6 Maldon
- 7 Dunolly
- 8 Talbot
- 9 Lexton
- 10 Newstead
- 11 Royal Park
- 12 Avoca
- 13 Campbells Creek
- 14 Maryborough Rovers

Football — Reserves

- 1 Trentham
- 2 Harcourt**
- 3 Talbot
- 4 Maldon
- 5 Newstead
- 6 Carisbrook
- 7 Navarre
- 8 Natte Bealiba
- 9 Lexton
- 10 Avoca
- 11 Dunolly
- 12 Royal Park
- 13 Campbells Creek
- 14 Maryborough Rovers

Netball — A Grade

- 1 Avoca
- 2 Natte Bealiba
- 3 Carisbrook
- 4 Harcourt**
- 5 Lexton
- 6 Trentham
- 7 Newstead
- 8 Maldon
- 9 Royal Park
- 10 Maryborough Rovers
- 11 Campbells Creek
- 12 Navarre
- 13 Dunolly
- 14 Talbot

Netball — B Grade

- 1 Natte Bealiba
- 2 Carisbrook
- 3 Avoca
- 4 Maldon
- 5 Harcourt**
- 6 Lexton
- 7 Trentham
- 8 Newstead
- 9 Royal Park
- 10 Maryborough Rovers
- 11 Navarre
- 12 Talbot
- 13 Dunolly
- 14 Campbells Creek



Harcourt Bowling Club



Harcourt Bowling Club women have a tradition of celebrating each other's significant birthdays, so we welcomed the occasion during winter to get together to celebrate the 70th birthdays of Heather Braid and Frances Collins on July 8.

With our green undergoing repair, it was a great opportunity to make use of the clubhouse. Members brought along goodies to share, Kay Francis baked the two delicious birthday cakes, and all enjoyed the celebration. Pictured are Heather Braid and Frances Collins enjoying some bubbles.

Board Matters

The new Board have been busy confirming the subcommittee membership and setting dates in place for the upcoming bowling season. As the club is run entirely by volunteers, members are asked to participate in a committee to share the load.

Congratulations to secretary Diane Marsh for taking on her new role with enthusiasm and willingness to share her skills. Members are benefitting from the regular information emails we receive from Diane.

Season Opening and President's Day

The official Club Season Opening Day and President's Day will be combined this year and held on Sunday September 22. Members are asked to put this date in their calendar and will receive further details on the structure of the day closer to September.

Draft Pennant Dates

The Bendigo Division have set **DRAFT PENNANT** commencement dates for **MIDWEEK** – Monday 10 October 2022 and for **SATURDAY** – Saturday 22 October 2022.

These dates are yet to be confirmed.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association is enjoying being able to get together for our Competition games and everyone is having a good time.

Our next special games night will be to raise money for Castlemaine Legacy with games fee of \$5.00 and raffle money being handed over to the Legacy Group. This Tournament has been held for many years in Harcourt to support the Castlemaine Legacy Group and the great work they do to support families of Service men and women.

Legacy Tournament –

Wednesday night

August 10 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Rd

Cost \$5.00 per player.

The night will consist of a Round Robin event with team winners and runners-up receiving a prize.

There will be a raffle on the night and we will conclude the evening with a supper.

Anyone who wishes to attend the games night – on 10th August 2022 - to support the Castlemaine Legacy will be most welcome to join in a team.

Victorian Country Carpet Bowls Championships

After having to cancel the event for two years we are finally in the process once again of planning to hold the Championships in Harcourt.

Unfortunately, due to Covid and the two year wait, a number of Clubs over the State have now disbanded so only four Clubs have shown an interest in meeting to have an afternoon of competition. Teams attending will be from Horsham, Geelong, Girgarrie and Harcourt. Even with reduced numbers the games will be hotly contested as bowlers are very passionate about playing their Carpet Bowls!!!

This event will be held on Saturday afternoon 17 September 2022 at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre commencing at 12 noon.

The public are welcome to attend and watch the teams competing for the shield and prizes.



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Take Care and Stay Well



Council urges the community to help reduce the spread of the flu and COVID-19 by taking extra care this winter.

All Victorians are encouraged to wear a mask when indoors and when you cannot physically distance from others, including outdoors, and to work from home if you can.

Council's Emergency Management Coordinator, Luke Ryan, said that COVID-19 cases are increasing across the state and that we all need to take the necessary measures to keep our community safe.

'The recent increase in the number of cases within the shire caused by the two new COVID-19 variants is a strong reminder that the virus is still a very real danger in our community,' said Mr Ryan.

'The new variants are highly infectious and more capable to bypass our immune defences than previous variants. This includes people who have had COVID-19 and have been vaccinated.'

Recent changes to Pandemic Orders have included a shortening of the immunity period from 12 weeks to four weeks. This means that if you develop symptoms four weeks or more after having had COVID-19, you need to stay home and get tested. All Victorians are also encouraged to wear a mask when indoors and when you cannot physically distance from others, including outdoors, and to work from home if you can.

'Prevention is our best protection,' said Mr Ryan.

'Some people in our community are more vulnerable to severe illnesses from COVID-19 and the flu because they are older or have other health problems.

'We can all take steps right now to protect ourselves, those close to us and vulnerable people, and reduce illness in our community.'

Wear a mask

- wear a mask when meeting other people indoors and when you cannot physically distance, including in outdoor areas
- good quality face masks can stop viruses spreading.

Let fresh air in

- good ventilation comes from opening windows and doors, using fans and air purifiers, and meeting outside
- you are less likely to catch COVID-19 in places that are well ventilated

Stay home if unwell

- stay home if you have any symptoms, even if you test negative for COVID-19.

Get tested

- get tested as soon as you develop any symptoms
- if you test positive you must isolate for seven days and tell people you have had contact with that you have COVID
- if you test negative you should stay home until your symptoms have cleared

- a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) is the quickest and easiest way for most people to test if they have COVID-19.

Get medication if at risk

- Victorians who are more at risk from COVID-19 may be eligible for medication that reduces severe illness if taken soon after symptoms appear
- to be eligible, you need to:
 - have a positive RAT or PCR test
 - be over 70 years of age
 - be over 50 years of age with other health problems
 - be over 30 and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander with other health problems
 - have a severe disability or are immune-compromised
- if you have a positive test and are eligible for COVID-19 medication, speak with your GP or a GP Respiratory Clinic as soon as possible.

Get vaccinated

- being up-to-date with your vaccinations is the best protection against severe illness
- book your third dose or winter fourth dose with your GP or pharmacist now
- you can get your flu vaccination and COVID-19 booster at the same time.

Persons testing positive to COVID-19 must report their result to the Department of Health www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report-your-rapid-antigen-test-result, or call 1800 675 398 and immediately isolate for 7 days.

Isolation Support payment has also been reintroduced and available to eligible Victorian workers who have to self-isolate at home after testing positive to COVID-19.

Local residents, businesses and community groups can also find more information or make an online request at our virtual emergency relief centre at www.connectmountalexander.com.au.

For the latest state-wide information, general information on coronavirus and statistics visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

From a Mount Alexander Shire Press Release



Footprints in the Colonial Landscape

Ian Davies was a surprise visitor to the Harcourt Heritage Centre on Wednesday July 20. Ian had driven from Concongella, a tiny settlement east of Stawell. He is the secretary of the Concongella School 150th Celebration committee. Ian said the 150th anniversary of the school is becoming a celebration of the hard work and professionalism of the first head teacher at Concongella, a man named Henry Hayden BA (Trinity College, Dublin).

This pioneering educator had not one, but two, primary schools to his credit, as he had also been the first head teacher at Harcourt when the first school in the valley was opened in 1859.

Ian Davies had discovered that the school's founder was truly a pioneering colonist and an intriguing character. Prior to opening the Harcourt School, he had immersed himself in the Land Convention of the 1850s. His pioneering agitation for freeing up the land from the immense squatting leases would eventually result in the release of plots of land for smaller landholdings. Young families moved into the newly surveyed areas leading to a demand to open country schools. This had happened at Harcourt and, subsequently, at Concongella. Henry Hayden could hardly have foreseen that his political agitation at the Land Convention would lead to the opening of two remote country schools under his leadership.

Harcourt Heritage Centre was able to supply Ian, and the Concongella committee, with photographs of Henry Hayden with his pupils at the weatherboard, shingle-roofed Harcourt school. Ian also obtained copies of the book *The People's Hero* – a life of Henry Hayden, published by the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Henry Hayden left some big footprints in the colonial landscape. Not only was he involved in the politics of the times, he also conducted the first auction in the colony, at Portland in the early 1840s, as well as being a passionate educator.

The celebrations at Concongella will be held on the weekend of October 15 and 16 with a 'Back to School', a procession, music, a film night, fireworks, historical displays and a church service. Ian Davies expressed his gratitude to the Harcourt Heritage Centre for its comprehensive help in bringing to life the fascinating story of this small community's pioneering headmaster.

George Milford



Henry Hayden with his students in front of the Harcourt primary school. The young lady to the left is Henry's daughter Mary who was a very competent teacher.

A Thought Story

Bernie Schultz

A couple of years ago, while I was helping him with his book *From Devon to Devonshire Vale*, George Milford invited me to volunteer at the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

I accepted the invitation and turned up ready to contribute whatever skills I have to the Centre. It turned out I arrived at more or less the right time.

There were murmurings about updating the hardware. As a consequence, the software would need updating, too. However, the cost to update the current database software would have been exorbitant. The small team decided that a much more economical option would be to use Microsoft's suite of software as it included a database program.

So, in a nutshell, I spent the last eighteen months pushing, poking and prodding to get the database software to do what I wanted it to do without losing any of the existing data.

While doing that, I got to browse the 6,000 or more images that have been digitised by the volunteers at the Centre over the last thirty years or so. I kept coming across this picture of a young girl sitting demurely in the grass.



Ernest Hemingway was once bet that he couldn't write a complete short story in fewer than twenty-five words. He won the bet with the extraordinarily poignant:

'For sale. Baby's shoes. Never worn.'

In the description of the photo of the young girl, the volunteer cataloguer has written what is just as heart-rending:

'Susan Leversha, daughter of Robert and Maria Leversha, Woodbrook, died on the 1st of February 1911, aged 14 years.'

I realise that this story has, as all good stories should, a beginning and a middle. Alas it does not have an end – or the end is a bit up in the air. Over the years, have you noticed the many 'calls to volunteer' in the *Core*? What can you offer your community? Of course, if you already immerse yourself in the community, thank you so much.

There, that's an ending.

Great Relationships Make it Work for Learner Drivers



Great local relationships are helping to keep the TAC L2P Program in central Castlemaine ensuring the program continues to be easy to access for learner drivers and volunteers.

The TAC L2P Program was previously run by CHIRP Community Health. However, But following

integration with Castlemaine Health in 2021 and Maldon Hospital in 2022, Dhelkaya Health is now the organisation responsible for L2P. The L2P Program is also supported by the Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Lisa Cavallaro, Dhelkaya Health's L2P cCoordinator, says: 'When Community Health moved to Spencely House in at the Cornish Street site, we were keen to maintain a presence for L2P in town. With the support of Castlemaine Community House and the Castlemaine Police Station, we've managed to do this.'

Martyn Shaddick, manager of Castlemaine Community House, was keen to offer his support for the arrangement. Martyn said: 'New learners can meet their driver mentor at Community House. We are just a few minutes' walk away from the school bus stop.'

Dhelkaya Health's Community Health Information Hub recently opened at Community House, so the two organisations already had a co-location arrangement in place.

The L2P vehicle is now located at the Castlemaine Police Station for convenience and security. Senior Sergeant Darren McQueen says: 'From the Victoria Police's perspective, the L2P Program means safer young drivers on our roads.'

The TAC L2P Program matches young learner drivers with a trained volunteer to help them achieve the necessary 120 hours of driving practice.

The program is currently looking for learners who face a barrier acquiring 120 hours to apply, and volunteers with driving experience to help learner drivers gain on-the-road driving experience through the TAC L2P Program.

Anybody interested in becoming a volunteer mentor or joining as a learner driver should contact Dhelkaya Community Health on 03 5479 1000.

The TAC L2P Program is funded by TAC and managed by the Department of Transport. To find an L2P Program in your area, visit the VicRoads website.

For more information

Online at chirp.org.au/programs/mount-alexander-l2p-program or www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/tac2p

Contact Mount Alexander L2P Coordinator, Lisa Cavallaro on 0429 708 707.

Grace Church

Jesus and Peter Walk on Water

The boat was a considerable distance from the land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it is you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Notice that whilst Peter had his eyes on Jesus he miraculously walked on water. It wasn't until he took his eyes off Jesus and began to ponder the squall that he began to sink. But notice also that Jesus was there at the ready to save him.

Dear readers it is just the same today. We can accomplish amazing, even miraculous feats for God whilst our attention is focused on Jesus Christ his Son, our Saviour. However, the moment we allow ourselves to be distracted by the difficulties of this world we too begin to sink. But Jesus is ever ready to come to our rescue, when we cry out to him.

The bible tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Let us therefore place our trust in Jesus Christ, God's Son, who paid the price for all of our sins. Then you will find that you too can "walk on water", living above your circumstances, rather than subsisting below them.

Ps Roger Thurecht

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
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Council news

Events Grants now open

Our Events Grants program offers funding to individuals and organisations in our community to get their events up and running.

The last round of grants supported 13 events including the Castlemaine Jazz Festival, Run the Maine, Goldfields Gothic and many other successful initiatives.

There are three funding streams available: \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000.

We're really looking forward to seeing what community events we can support this year.

Find out more on the Grants page of our website or call 5471 1700.

Applications open on Monday 8 August and close on Monday 29 August.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

mountalexander.vic.gov.au (03) 5471 1700

Bid for La Larr Ba Gauwa

We've joined City of Greater Bendigo to push for Harcourt's La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park to host mountain biking, should the sport be part of the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games.

It's an incredible opportunity for the Goldfields region to welcome people from all over the globe to our beautiful part of the world.

Find out more on the News page of our website.

Rates notices delayed

Rates notices are expected to arrive in the mailbox of property owners in the shire at the end of August, which is one month later than usual.

We apologise for the inconvenience.



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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Hi everyone,

If you've planted any fruit trees recently - well done! When properly looked after, fruit trees can live for a very long time so it's a great legacy to create for your family, and the families that will eventually inherit your fruit trees in years to come.

If you bought your trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU, we love our local customers. Our 2022 season has finished, but we're already working on growing the trees that we'll be selling over the next two years. Next year you can look forward to lots of pears, multi-grafts and mature trees, as well as all the varieties we usually have.

So, how to give your new trees the best start in life? Firstly, make sure you protect the trunks from being eaten. The sorts of pests that like to eat bark that are common in Harcourt are rabbits, hares, kangaroos and wallabies. If sheep, goats (or even the odd deer) find their way into your garden, they can also do damage. This type of damage to the trunk can seriously stunt or disfigure your tree. If they eat the bark all the way around it can even kill the tree. Your trees may need protection for the first two or three years or until the bark has hardened enough to lose its attraction (though even old bark can still be attractive to sheep and goats).

Tree guards, fencing or dogs can all be effective deterrents. If the problem is hares (common around Harcourt!) you can make an organic hare-deterrent paint by mixing animal fat with any strong smelling stuff like peppermint oil, garlic, lavender, eucalyptus, tea tree etc, and painting it on the bark. Hares are

herbivores and don't like strong smells so the combination works well to stop them eating the delicious tender bark on your baby trees. However, it's not very permanent so you'll need to re-apply it after heavy rain or heat. Tree guards are usually a more effective solution that you only need to put up once!

The type of tree guard you choose will depend on the type of animal you're preventing, and also the shape of the tree. If the limbs of your tree start very close to the ground (up to knee height), a tree guard just around the trunk won't be enough to protect the tree adequately. You'll need to look at a taller structure around the whole tree. Traditionally, old metal drums were used for the purpose and you can often see the remnants of them around old fruit trees - which is one of the problems with this option! When the tree has grown, the drums are hard to remove. A mini-enclosure (ie fence) around each tree works well, but is time-consuming and expensive to build if you have a lot of trees, and leads to the same problem of having a redundant enclosure that's hard to remove once the tree is mature.

So, what's the solution? There are four we recommend, and the one you choose will depend on your budget and dedication. The first is the full "repel all enemies" enclosure fence around your property, built tall enough and engineered highly enough to keep out both kangaroos and rabbits. This is the dream solution and something we've started to build around our farm.

The second option is much more practical and multi-purpose, and works particularly well for single trees in the garden or short rows of trees. A simple hoop structure erected over the tree using star pickets and 2" poly pipe provides an affordable framework that can be used to support frost cloth, bird netting or fruit fly exclusion netting. It can also be simply reinforced with a strip of chicken wire around the base for a year or two to stop the 'roos and rabbits from eating the bark. The third option is somewhere in between; a simple tree guard made from a length of chicken wire rolled into a hoop and attached to the ground with a stake on either side. The fourth and last option is to use three wooden pallets to form a triangle around the tree. Simply wire the pallets together and then wire them to at

least one stake to hold them in position and stop the structure from falling over.

Here is a couple of other tips to make sure your young trees get a good start in life:

✿ If you didn't prune them when you planted, prune now (or before spring) so they grow into a useful shape right from the get-go. We reckon a classic vase shape suits most backyard trees.

✿ Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch young trees or plant a living understory. Fruit trees prefer a woody mulch like sawdust or wood chips or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes. Once the trees are established, they're better with a "living mulch" or even just weeds, as long as you mow them regularly. For the first year or two it's definitely better to reduce competition from grassy weeds so it's OK to use mulch while you get the understory plants established.

✿ Fruit trees don't need watering in when you plant them, except in very dry conditions. This year there's plenty of soil moisture so you don't need to water your trees yet. However, make sure you've got the irrigation set up and ready to go because it's not unusual to get a sudden hot spell in spring. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below.

Happy fruit growing!

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

Workshop

We have a workshop coming up:

Grafting workshop: Learning the craft of three techniques,

Saturday 20 August 2022, 2 pm–5 pm.
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CAKIK



Local fruit growers Anthony, Christine and the kids buying fruit trees in 2021.



Weather & Water

No matter where one lives, the weather is one of the main topics of conversation. Will we have enough rain? Will there be too much, will it flood? When will it come and will it rain at the wrong time? Then there is the talk about frosts and storms. Was it minus four at your place and did the frost ruin the crops? Did you see all those trees that the storm blew over near the highway – or whatever road – and was your power out for long? In the summer, there is always the threat of bushfire and the worry when one sees smoke on those hot windy days.

All of this is pretty commonplace, however, it wasn't until I moved to Harcourt about six years ago that I became acquainted with Rainfall Envy Syndrome (RES). RES is largely confined to property owners who have dams.

We had a friend in Barkers Creek on a forty-acre property with dams who always felt affronted and hard done by if we had more rain than him, as measured by our rain gauges. It was a different matter if he had more rain than us! What were we to do about it except tell him he needed help to manage his RES or move into Castlemaine, which is what he did!

And by the way, at our place at the end of Bingham's Road, we have had 44 millimetres of rain so far this month. How much have you had?

Lois Denham



Photo by Kathryn Seppings (from *The Core*, April 2018)

Water Levels 31 July 2022

Malmsbury:	61% down 48.9% from 31 July 2021*
Lauriston	82.5% down 12.3%
Upper Coliban	95.3% down 5.8%
Lake Eppalock	93% up 5%
Barkers Creek**	67.9% up 10%

* On 31 July 2021, Malmsbury water level was recorded as 109.9%

** Barkers Creek level is for 24 July 2022.

Is There an Appetite for a Community Garden in Harcourt?

I remember when I first prepared a submission to council all that time ago when Harcourt came together to come up with ideas to grow our community. Some of these ideas included a playground, mountain bike park, a local community market, expansion of Applefest, a local newsletter, and a miniature railway. The success of those ideas have well and truly borne fruit. And we now enjoy the benefits.

In my original submission, I'd put forward the idea of a community garden for Harcourt. The idea still appeals to me. Why? Well, it's a way of drawing a community together. As you know, Harcourt does not really have a town centre where people can meet, chat, chew the fat and work or play together. It's true, we do have a pony club, tennis courts, Landcare groups, cafe, etc. But does a community garden serve a different kind of function? A place that grows things, grows people and creates a space for contemplation, socialisation and good fun.

Of course, many people have gardens of their own, and another piece of dirt to work on does not appeal to everybody. But there are also many people who



would like to reach out to other locals and share ideas and have a space to grow a garden. The very act of growing food and flowers is good for us all. It's a lovely way of sharing and caring for others, finding new friends, and sourcing fresh food.

I've seen a number of successful community gardens. Newstead would have to be a good example. Over the years, they've grown their piece of earth into successful fruit and veggie plots. They've accumulated funding to build a pizza oven and they hold events to share food, socialise, learn new skills like composting and pruning, etc. They've also had to overcome inertia, and that can indeed take hard work at times. But that can also be a growing thing.

To start a community garden requires commitment and perseverance. It's a place for children, families, retired folk and people who would just like to learn something new. It can be a healthy and vibrant patch of paradise, a place to draw breath and share food, fun and toil. It can be a place to strengthen the Harcourt community. It is, in fact, a place for people like you!

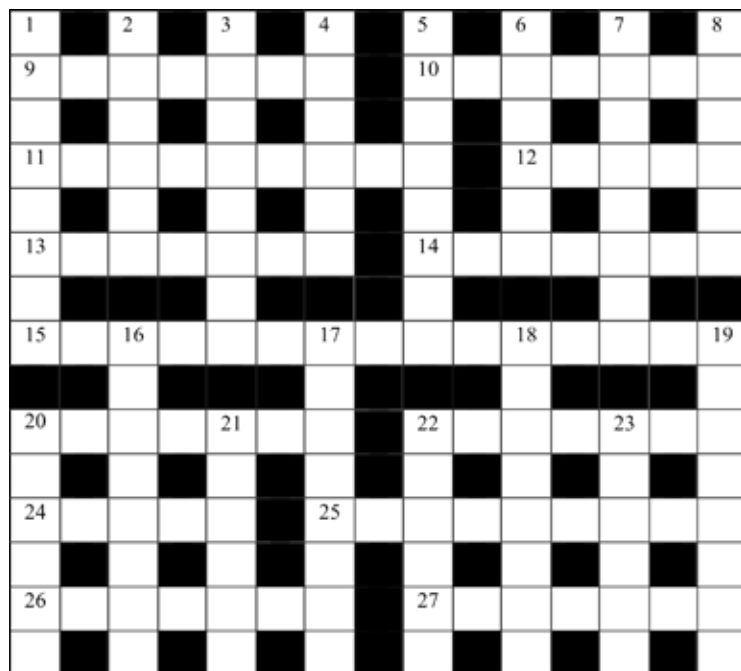
If there are others who would be interested in 'seeding' a community garden, please feel free to contact me through *The Core*. I would love to hear your ideas.

news@harcourt.vic.au

Vera Hemkes

August Xword 2022

© McW June '18



Down:

1. Rap a spring onion in Ireland for a rascal. (8)
2. Brahms, Liszt—second-rate Tatts. (6)
3. Mum over novice? (8)
4. — mortar to render? (6)
5. Extravagantly romantic pursuit of renewable energy? (8)
6. To avoid harm, a good way is to adopt correct behaviour. (6)
7. Galactic marathon? (4,4)
8. Completely sacrosanct by ear. (6)
16. Plan B: gas the blighters precisely in the middle! (4-4)
17. Desmond au naturel at the zoo? (5,3)
18. Regal tin incorporated as necessary part. (8)
19. Pointless to add point to the pointed. (8)
20. K compounded after dope finished. (6)
21. Orchestra member found, perhaps, on 23? (6)
22. One of these Misses featured earnestly. (6)
23. Fairy satellite IV of William by 2? (6)

Across:

9. Arts in a petri dish? (7)
10. How to detach a Christopher from Paris? (7)
11. Where you're contactable in landlord's container? (9 or 6-3)
12. Sort of idiocy found outside Sydney. (5)
13. Put in salt additive, rather messily, and first look up to one's hero. (7)
14. What a twinkling bat looks like in the sky? (3-4)
15. Little old hopping chook that's lost its drive... (2,6,7 or possibly 2-6,7...)
20. Bird that wouldn't rise twice? (7)
22. Underground river-bed system a nuisance on back road. (7)
24. To observe 6, beware the tote and nothing twice—it's a no-no. (5)
25. Acting water-source is carrying it off nicely. (5,4)
26. Cat interrupted by the final gets back and parodies. (5,2)
27. We saw demo in them: after they all left, they seemed as mowed. (7)

July Xword 2022 SOLUTION

© McW June '18



Down:

1. Won't he melt in this sun? Needs a hat of some sort. (6)
2. I declare that all EEG readings have been falsified. (6)
3. "Brutal vet" sic tosses out civets. (6)
4. For the meanest sum, entertainments may be put on your mates' menus. (8)
5. Alas! I may forget the name of the new old PM's country. (8)
6. Verne, updated in 1954, went nuclear... [Well?]
7. He wets tees with the most sugary drink at the 19th hole. (8)
12. Feature [chin] cold spell [chill] over a cat. (10)
14. Got a base mined? That should set them back. [Well?]
15. O-u-t how to? [Well?]
16. Boil green in a cool crib. (8)
18. Cassidy's long square brother? [Well?]
19. Acid stirs itself approximately [Ca.] every seven years to make a racket.
20. Friday makes sure firm [Co.] is on the island.

Across:

1. Strong disagreements in the sauna? [Well?]
8. Lit yo text pill where Swiftian was tied down. (8)
9. Cat's defence contains a verb, we hear. [Well?]
10. The genie is out of the bottle now, te-heeing off to vote this time (8)
11. Harvey might spy tit in the pool [sorry]
13. Nope, the cheque isn't cashed by these methods... (10)
17. Air taken in at hopes of shooting for the stars=aspiring. (10)
21. Irish time o' day? [Well?]
22. No longer running around with the Rabbi, she has much more run-down housing. (8)
23. There were three Magi, so they must've been friends, surely? (6)
24. As Lorna's coming in 15th, a snarl so nasty comes in behind her... [Well? even further back...]
25. A tongue-lashing for the empire! [Well?]

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

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

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Harcourt News/The Core is a member of the CNAV, the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria.

Advertising rates

Business Card Size (55x90mm) pre-paid for:		Larger ads invoiced monthly	
3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday			
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25

Community Diary Dates

Wednesday August 10: Harcourt Carpet Bowls Legacy Tournament. See page 13 for details.

Friday August 12: Deadline for Pie and Slice orders to HVPS. See order form on page 23.

Saturday August 13, 20: HFNC are playing at home.

Saturday August 27: 1 – 4 pm, Gather Harcourt, presented by HPA. See the back page, HPA website & Facebook for updates.

Sunday September 25: 10 am – 12 pm, 25th Anniversary Celebration, Harcourt Valley Landcare. Venue: Leanganook Camping area, Mount Alexander. Contact Secretary for details: 0467 670 271

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 more 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.

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



HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member-based organisation which encourages active participation and contribution and conducts regular public meetings to further a variety of goals and projects. Members are able to join working groups and sub-committees and pursue specific areas of interest or initiate projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

- Support and encourage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Strengthen community connections by promoting local sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities.
- Encourage, support and acknowledge the role and contribution of volunteers within Harcourt.

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners in Harcourt and the surrounding areas of Barkers Creek, Ravenswood, Faraday, and Sutton Grange – some exceptions apply, do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the Committee. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year. Any renewals or new memberships paid in 2021 will be valid until the end of June 2022.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become or renew my membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. (please circle one). I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

☐ Financial member: full fee \$20 ☐ Financial member: concession fee \$10 ☐ Non-financial member: no charge

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

SIGNED: DATED:

☐ I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 concession for Annual Membership

Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 135, HARCOURT, VIC 3453

OR

☐ I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.

Please indicate your name and state 'Membership' when paying online.

This application will be submitted for determination by the Harcourt Progress Association Committee and the applicant will be advised of the outcome of their application pursuant to the Rules of the Association.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

3 Wilkinson St, Harcourt 3453

Phone: 03 5474 2266 Fax: 03 5474 2706

Email: harcourt.valley.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Hot and Crusty Bakery Pie and Slice Drive

Funds raised will go towards new readers for students.

Please return your forms and money to the office by Friday 12th August

Orders will be available to pick up from the school on Friday 2nd September

Student Name:		Grade:	
---------------	--	--------	--

Family Pies	Price	Number Ordering	\$ Total
Meat Pie	\$11		
Potato Pie	\$13		
Meat Pastie	\$13		

Single Serve Pies (4 pack)

Meat Pies	\$14		
Veg Pasties	\$14		
Meat Pasties	\$15		
Potato Pies	\$15		
Steak, Cheese & Bacon	\$15		
Steak Curry	\$15		
Steak Cheese	\$15		
Steak Mushroom	\$15		
Steak Onion	\$15		
Fetta, Tomato Spinach Quiches	\$14		
Bacon & Egg Quiches	\$14		
Sausage Rolls	\$14		

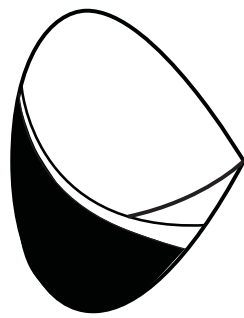
Slices (4 pack)

Vanilla Slice	\$13		
Jelly Slice	\$13		
Caramel Slice	\$13		
Hedgehog Slice	\$13		
Muesli Slice	\$13		

This year we are also offering our famous **HVPS Apple Pies for sale!** These pies are handmade and always sell out at Applefest, here's your chance to grab one!

HVPS Apple Pies	Price	Number Ordering	\$ Total
Large	\$15		

\$ TOTAL
PAID



Gather Harcourt

James Park, next to the ANA Hall
Saturday 27th August, 1 - 4pm

Come and join a celebration of our region
Live Music, Food, Cider, Wine & Market Stalls

A food, drink & live music experience, with quality local produce and craft, it promises to be both a great social event, and a gateway to the local producers and makers of the region.

- Kick back and listen to live music from Pure Black & Bill Barber
- Taste food from our region – available from a range of stalls
- Enjoy mulled cider, wine and beer from the Harcourt valley
- Shop local at stalls selling hand crafted products

Proceeds from the stall fees will go towards Applefest 2023. The Harcourt Progress Association will be running the bar again, with drink sales helping to fund more community projects. It's a win-win all round!

Find out more

www.harcourtprogress.org.au

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/gatherharcourt

