

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 99 – November 2022

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Boost for HPA & Neighbourhood House



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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.**



Maree Edwards (centre) with HPA members (from left) Sha Cordingley – acting HPA president, Bronnie Dean, Robyn Miller and Vera Hemkes at the funding announcement.

MEMBERS OF THE HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Neighbourhood House sub-committee gathered outside the old Harcourt Railway Station on Wednesday 2 November to receive some very welcome news from Maree Edwards, sitting member for Bendigo West and Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

Should the Labor Government be re-elected after the state elections, it has pledged \$50,000 to HPA to help the Harcourt Railway Station Neighbourhood House become a reality for the Harcourt Community.

HPA stalwart and highly respected Editor of *The Core*, Robyn Miller said, 'This is a dream come true for the Harcourt Progress Association which has been working on the concept of a community house for our community since 2017.'

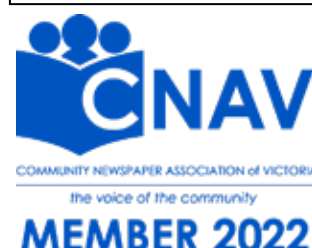
'In 2018, the money set aside for renovations was deployed elsewhere and the project went into limbo. The pandemic exacerbated the inability to move on the project, however, in

May 2021, Maree Edwards announced that the project was "alive" again. Thanks to the tenacity of the HPA committee, VicTrack's willingness to honour its original intentions and Mount Alexander Shire's commitment to the project, it looks like we will be installed in the station within a matter of weeks.'

The old Railway Station has now been completely renovated and it is only a matter of time until the complicated business of signing leases and sub-leases is finalised. Mount Alexander Shire, as the head tenant, will need to go through some legal procedures to sub-lease the station building but hopefully these are only formalities.

Once the leasing arrangements have been completed, the HPA will be consulting with the Harcourt community to find out what can best be offered. 'We are already brimming with ideas' said Vera Hemkes. 'Many of us are looking forward to setting up a community garden in the land next to the station.'

Continued page 3



Floods in Harcourt



IT'S FRIDAY, 21ST OF OCTOBER, 2022. The rain has started up again. It's coming in waves of gentle showers then turning to pounding torrents. The VicEmergency app on my phone is trembling constantly, alerting me to floods and fleeing. This is the second wave of severe downpour to be experienced here.

Last week, on the Thursday, our Harcourt village witnessed floods of a type I'd not seen before. Our traditional dry landscape had turned into swamps, raging creeks and flood plains. Our mighty red gums were immersed in metres of water and some had given way as their roots washed from under their foundations. Nothing is sacred here in these floods – just a relentless downpour. This is La Niña in its full thrust. Rather than fear, it gave me a greater respect for the replenishing powers of water on the earth.

For the Dja Dja Wurrung, the seasons were marked by the elements and the natural movement of creatures and growth of plant food. In the Dja Dja Wurrung seasonal calendar, we are now moving from Lawan and Murnong time (the season of growth) to Wirap time (seed harvest). These are times of vitality and growth and flowering. The Jarra First Nations people recognise the six seasons that are far more relevant to the Australian landscape, representing the appearance of different bird species, plants and other natural phenomena. And it is a time for us all to draw on First Nations' knowledge.

In this season of replenishment, I had ventured out that Thursday afternoon to see how high the Barkers Creek had risen.

I went to the bridge near the playground as that would give me a measure of the flood's strength. At the little arched bridge, I met a like-minded flood watcher. We marvelled at the height of the creek, which had already gone over the walkway.

It made sense then, for us to go down to Liyaka Court, the little housing development that hugged the creek. The locals had scoffed at this estate getting the go-ahead given its nearness to the creek. It was obvious that this area had the potential to flood. I'd already been down to the council offices some weeks prior to see where the flood overlays were located on maps only to discover there were none!

There were no surprises then, when we saw the creek's flood waters already creeping into the court. There was a flurry of residents in the pouring rain digging and manoeuvring sandbags into place with a tremendous sense of urgency. ASQ had already delivered two loads of sand, and residents were working frantically to shovel sand into sandbags to cover doorways and garage entrances. I was taking photos for *The Core* when a fellow called out, 'Instead of taking photos, why don't you come and help!' The message was clear – both of us joined forces with the others. As I shovelled sand, my raincoat became saturated and my hair plastered against my face as the rain seeped into tiny crevices under my coat, but that all seemed irrelevant now. Everyone worked hard together – really hard. The discomfort of the cold and wet was disregarded as we worked. People cajoled and made light of the intensity of the moment. To me, this was now about



community and working together in a spirit of help and support.

I think that's what we've witnessed across Victoria – the bonding of community to save houses and precious objects.

But what we really need to reflect on here is the impact of climate change. The floods are a direct result of this change. The climate scientists have been telling us this for a number of years. With the extra warming of the oceans, there is a greater accumulation of moisture in the atmosphere which, in turn, brings on exceptionally high rainfalls. So, it's a time for all of us to think more deeply about what we can do to reduce the impact of climate change that is upon us now. And we need to now take that on board to create a renewable and sustainable world.

Vera Hemkes



Saturday 11th March 2023 - 9am
Experience the best of the Harcourt Valley

Stall Holders Wanted
Food Vendors, Coffee, Fresh Produce, Crafts,
Collectables, Plants, Tools, Clothing etc.

To find out more go to
www.applefest.harcourt.vic.au or
email: stallholder@harcourt.vic.au



Boost for HPA & Neighbourhood House

Continued from page 1

Maree Edwards said, 'For years, the HPA has brought Harcourt locals together to help make the community a fairer and better place to live, work and raise a family. They have backed important local projects ... like repurposing the Harcourt Railway Station.'

If you are interested in becoming part of this amazing opportunity for Harcourt, or have ideas you think should be considered, please contact us at news@harcourt.vic.au

Sha Cordingley, Acting President HPA

THE CORE 100th Edition INVITATION

The December 2022 issue of
Harcourt Newsletter/The Core
will be the 100th edition, and you are cordially
invited to be part of the celebration.

Thursday 8 December 2022
At 5.00 pm at the Harcourt Bowling Club
Refreshments provided

To help with catering please drop a note to
news@harcourt.vic.au



More information can be found online in the
October issue of The Core at
www.harcourtprogress.org.au/news



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.'

This month's column is written by Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky OAM

Walking Together. To travel, physically or metaphorically, side by side, to a destination. Let's call it towards Equality, Dignity and Respect – though we need Dignity and Respect to even begin.

And who's walking? On the one hand there's Indigenous, Aboriginal and First Nations people of various tribal/language groups.

But what should we whitefellas call ourselves? For surely to dignify ourselves alongside Aboriginal/Dja Dja Wurrung people, we need a good name?

Europeans? Colonists? Migrants? White Australians? Settlers? None of it works, does it? We're the post 1788 people without a proper name. How undignified! Aboriginal people have called us many things, including 'Balanda' (Hollander) and 'Gubba' (government man) – but the name we most often use for ourselves is 'Settlers'.

However 'Settlers' is a colonial conceit. Our coming was, and is, very unsettling for Indigenous people. So before we take a first step, let's be honest and call ourselves the ... Un-Settlers. The first Un-Settler in Djaara country was Major Mitchell in 1836, followed by squatters, gold diggers, industrialists and now us.

And, before we stride out, so as to begin with appropriate humility, a timeline: Aboriginal footprints have marked this land for at least 60,000 years; transfer that to an hour on the clock and the Un-Settlers of 1788 arrived at six seconds before the hour. And by God – yes, by Him! – they made rapid work of clearing the trees, changing the

rivers and imposing our story on this continent. However, Indigenous stories pre-date Adam and Eve by millennia, so of course in this Walking Together it's surely Indigenous people who should be leading the way.

For a start, they're writing arguably the most powerful television (Redfern Now), theatre (Blackie Blackie Brown), literature (Dark Emu), dance (Bangarra), history (The Australian Wars) as well as the most generous and evolved political documents (Uluru Statement from the Heart). They are the natural teachers, we the natural students, in this land.

However, digesting all the knowledge that Aboriginal people have to offer is not going to be enough to get us to the end of the walking, as equals. Hanging a dot painting on your wall or buying a ticket to First and Forever, A Celebration of Blak Excellence at Hanging Rock on November 27 – not worth missing! – cannot in itself get us there.

There's another side to this – knowing *who we are* and *who we have been* in this country. And in the centre of that is a mighty moral and practical problem: the original sin for Aboriginal people is that the British came and took their land; and now it's us Un-Settlers who have inherited that land; and even though we might support Sovereignty, Land Rights, Self Determination, Justice and Truth Telling, we're not giving back our house blocks, are we? I'm not. And you?

So, to walk together as equals we need to resolve this problem, in our hearts and politically. For a start, it was colonial governments that sanctioned

this original theft, so this nation has a massive reparation bill to pay. Maybe then we can really start to walk together.

But, to take heart, we've come a long way. At high school in the 1960s, I was given an essay topic with a preamble which stated that, 'when the First Fleet arrived, Aborigines, who had weaker genes, simply melted away, like mist in the morning sun.' Then came the question: 'For the remnants, which is best – assimilation or integration?' I dearly wish I still had my essay to read, but at least those who wish to keep telling those lies are now discredited.

Once, we were not on the walking together journey at all. Now, some of us are making steps as best we can. One day we'll catch up. And to get there, what we Un-Settlers need, desperately and deeply, is to come to terms with *who we are* and *what we have been*. Then we can begin Walking Together, in dignity and respect, as equals.

And to finish: how many Indigenous people died in Queensland's Frontier Wars? Approximately 62,000. And 61,519 Australians died in the First World War.

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

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

Harcourt's Little Library

Harcourt's Little Library is outside the ANA Hall
It's available any time.



Lisa Chesters MP
FEDERAL MEMBER
FOR BENDIGO

5443 9055
lisachesters.org

Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP
16 Myers St, Bendigo



Flood Safety and Clean Up

Fact sheet | October 2022



Health risks from flood water

The heavy rain, floods and storms over the last days may carry pollution into waterways.

Floodwater is often contaminated by sewage from overflowing sewerage or septic systems, and by agricultural or industrial wastes and chemicals.

If possible, avoid contact with floodwaters to avoid contact with polluted water or soil.

If it's unavoidable, follow these tips to avoid infection:

- Don't wade through water, even shallow water.
- If you must enter shallow water, wear solid boots or shoes for protection.
- Try to avoid contact with mud and dirt; and wear gloves when handling items contaminated with floodwater.
- Cover cuts and scratches with waterproof bandages

Always wash your hands with soap and running water after contact with floodwater and after handling pets or other items that may have been in contact with water or soil. Always wash your hands thoroughly after participating in clean-up activities.

In certain conditions, our waterways and beaches can be home to disease-causing bacteria or other contaminants that may pose health risks to swimmers.

In areas of flooding, water is likely to be unsuitable for swimming for a longer period of time. Similarly, it may not be safe to use flood water for irrigation, watering your garden, or animals.

Flood affected septic systems

If your property has a septic system and has been affected by floodwater, a licensed plumber or service technician should assess your septic system for safety and function.

If you use a damaged system, there's a risk that sewage could back up into your house or garden. This could cause a human health and pollution risk.

There may be damage to:

- Shallow PVC pipes, which may be blocked
- Plastic tanks and sumps (concrete tanks are less likely to be damaged, but should still be inspected)
- Disposal/irrigation system and pipework
- Pumps and other equipment with electrical components.

If you need to replace your system or find out about regulations and approval process, visit epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmentalinformation/water/about-wastewater/onsitewastewater-regulatory-framework

Managing waste after a flood

Floods can cause harmful materials to shift or react. Be cautious when assessing and working with flood-impacted property.

Asbestos can be found in some fibre cement sheeting and pipes, vinyl floor tiles, electrical parts and vehicle brake pads. It is not always possible to tell whether a material contains asbestos by looking at it.

If in any doubt:

- Do not disturb the material
- Take steps to prevent others from disturbing the material.

EPA is supporting local government and clean up operators in ensuring the right waste goes to the right places. For more information, visit localgovernment.vic.gov.au

Waste levy and gate fee waiver

There will be no waste levy or gate fees at landfills accepting flood-affected waste from 46 flood-affected local government areas. This will apply until 31 December 2022.

Flood-affected waste means any material:

- Deposited on a property by the floods, or
- Damaged by the floods.
- Needing to be disposed at a landfill.

The list of 46 flood-affected local government areas (LGAs) is available at: premier.vic.gov.au/fees-waived-flood-waste

Fees

If you are taking your own waste to a landfill, you will need evidence to show your address is in one of the affected LGAs. You can bring your driver's licence or a recent rates notice.

Environment Protection Authority Victoria epa.vic.gov.au

This content is for general information only. Obtain professional advice if you have any specific concern, EPA Victoria has made reasonable effort to ensure accuracy at the time of publication.

Castlemaine and Surrounds Repair Cafe

27 November, 10am–1pm.

— Last Sunday of the month —
(February to November)

Castlemaine Community House
30 Templeton Street (behind the Town Hall)
Enter via the back door from the car park.

Participate as a volunteer or join a workshop.
Come along for the day and see what we're all about!
Website: castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

Climate Conversations

Do you have concerns about climate change? ADAPT Loddon Mallee wish to support communities in the region to build resilience, be ready to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities of a changing climate.

ADAPT Loddon is hoping to hold climate conversations in Harcourt to provide advice and directions for talks. Here are some opening questions that may lead you in that direction:

- What do you value about living in Harcourt/the Shire?
- How is what you value at risk from climate change?
- What actions are you already doing?
- What would you like to do as an individual or as a community?
- What support do you need?

If you're interested to find out more contact Vera at verah53@gmail.com



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

All good things must come to an end, and, in many ways, it's very sad when they do.

Last month our members had a farewell afternoon tea for Ayrton Teed who is leaving Harcourt, and at our October CWA meeting, we once again said farewell to another of our members, our lovely Alma Chaplin.



Alison Curtis, Joy Robertson, Marie Twyford and Marlene Thompson join with us all in thanking Alma for her 50 years of service to our Branch

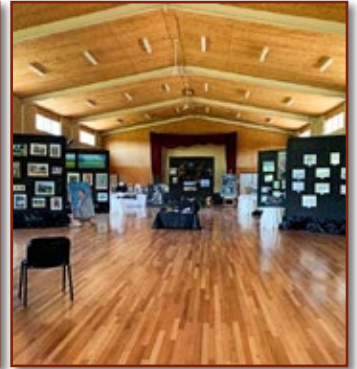
Alma joined our Branch in October 1972, and if you do your sums right, that's fifty years ago. What a wonderful achievement, fifty years of baking her famous Sour Cream Apple Slice and Savoury Scones to serve at Harcourt CWA's afternoon teas. Fifty years of pouring tea and coffee at our various functions, and fifty years of going out into her beautiful garden to pick flowers to make the posies which are given as gifts to our many office bearers and visitors.

Alma was always willing and able to lend a hand, to participate in concerts and fundraising events, always had a smile, and in true CWA fashion, Alma was a friend to us all. We are going to miss you Alma.

And now a few words about All Things Art which was this year's Harcourt CWA Branch Fundraiser. It was a huge success. It was a success because one member had an idea and another



Setting up the hall begins.



One day's hard work later.



Some of Jenny Steiner's work.



Some of Judi Kent's work.

member turned that idea into All Things Art, then other members contributed their amazing talents to make it happen.

And it was a success also because, when you put on an exhibition, it's the people who come to see it that make it so, and in this instance it was the locals of Harcourt and surrounds who did just that. The members of Harcourt CWA want to thank the many locals for your support. It was wonderful to see not just Central Victoria CWA branches in attendance but so many familiar faces from our own local community.

Harcourt CWA meets in the Harcourt Leisure Centre on the first Thursday of each month so why not drop in at 1:00 pm and get to know us. We would love to see you.

Lyn Rule, Publicity Officer

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Harcourt CFA Fire and Floods

October certainly delivered predicted heavy rainfall causing local creeks and rivers to swell. This resulted in the Harcourt brigade supporting sandbagging and pumping operations to protect the power sub-station at Winters Flat (Castlemaine) on Thursday 13 October.

Good work was done throughout the afternoon, and with a small drop in water levels, all was looking okay for a successful outcome. Unfortunately, further rainfall later in the day caused the creek level to rise again and flooded critical infrastructure at the site. This resulted in Powercor having to shut down the network and black out Castlemaine and surrounding communities, including Harcourt. Early indications had a power outage of approximately 24 hours, but with another drop in water level, an inspection showed water inundation and damage to be less than expected, and power was restored in stages that night.

As this was happening, a number of brigade members were assisting in local flooding activity around town while other members had relieved Elphinstone members manning road closures on the Pyrenees Highway at Elphinstone.

With Central Victorian storage systems at capacity, the water in the Campaspe and Loddon rivers went charging north towards the Murray River, flooding communities along the way. Echuca became a major focus needing support and, in the early hours of Sunday 16 October, Harcourt Tanker One, with a crew of four, joined Huntly, Kangaroo Flat, Campbells Creek, Gisborne and Romsey tankers to form a strike team to head to Echuca to support sandbagging and pumping operations beside the Campaspe River for the next three days.

Campaspe Esplanade was an area of major concern, and this was where Harcourt and Campbells Creek tankers were posted. This was also the focus for local and national media, resulting in Harcourt Tanker One and crew appearing on the front page of the Monday edition of the Herald Sun as well as in TV news footage.

Because this flooding event is ongoing, requests for assistance have also been ongoing. The Harcourt brigade has been able to provide further support through to the end of October, with members doing 12-hour day and night shifts pumping out water and seepage back over the levee banks, and providing drivers to transport personnel to and from Echuca.



Requests for support to Rochester were also planned, but then cancelled before deployment.

And a Fire

In the middle of all that activity, at 9.10 am on Thursday 20 October, the brigade was paged to a house fire in Coolstore Road. On arrival, smoke was starting to billow from the roof space where the fire was actively burning. An initial internal attack with firefighters wearing breathing apparatus confirmed the fire was burning mainly in the roof and in an upper room. Support from Castlemaine and Elphinstone brigades, as well as the ladder platform from FRV Bendigo station, resulted in control and containment of the fire before the house became fully involved. Unfortunately, there was significant roof and structural damage to the house, and the afternoon was taken up with overhaul and ensuring total extinguishment. Fire investigation indicates that an electrical fault was the likely cause.

There was one other callout for the month, which was support to the Castlemaine brigade for an alarm at the Don KR factory. The Castlemaine brigade was able to quickly determine it was a false alarm and put a stop on our brigade before turning out our tanker.

Brigade Training

October also included compulsory entrapment drills and BA skills maintenance training being completed, as well as brigade participation in the

successful Mount Alexander Emergency Services Expo, which was relocated to the Camp Reserve due to the rain.

The brigade provided participation and entertainment for the kids with our very popular squirty trucks activity (as seen at several Applefests).

Turning our Focus to Summer

In preparation for summer, the brigade will be hosting a Fire Safety Essentials presentation on Sunday 27 November at the Harcourt Fire Station starting at 10.00 am. The planned time allocation is just one hour during which a trained CFA presenter will provide vital information on fire safety, preparation and planning. Brigade members will also be available to answer questions and provide local relevant input.

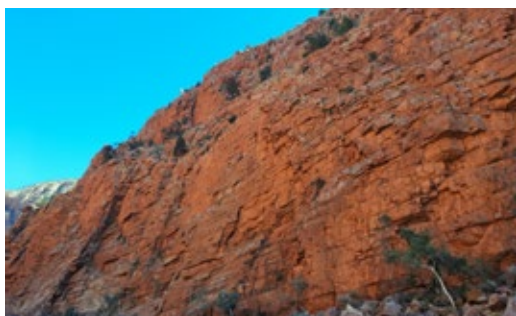
There have been some expressions of interest in our current recruitment drive, so, if you have been contemplating in joining us, come along to the fire station on a Sunday morning to have a chat, and take that first step in becoming a volunteer firefighter.

In the meantime, keep preparing your property for summer, even though the weather forecasters predict continuing rainfall right up to Christmas. Hot weather will come!

Stay safe and stay dry.

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Safety Coordinator

Walking the Larapinta Trail and Other Adventures



Readers may remember that in the May edition of the *Core* I invited them to attend an Art Auction Fundraiser for Act for Peace and mentioned that there was a group of us from various Australian states who were raising money for this organisation. Each person in the group of seventeen, an 'all age group', had fundraising targets they wanted to achieve before we met in Alice Springs in mid-August to undertake a guided walk along the Larapinta Trail.

We were walking in solidarity with refugees and displaced people around the world, and we were accompanied by the Act for Peace CEO, its fundraising coordinator, and a board member. They provided us with stories and insights into the amazing work Act for Peace does, in co-ordination with other organisations, to assist refugees and displaced people. Our group raised over \$84,000 for Act for Peace and I raised more than my target of \$3000.

The Larapinta Trail is overseen and managed by the Arrernte people. It stretches over 200 kilometres west of Alice Springs, in the the Tjorita/West McDonnell Ranges which consists of the Chewings and Heavitree ranges. I am aware that there are *Core* readers who have walked the length of the trail, all twelve sections, whereas our group walked five sections: The first, from the Alice Springs Telegraph Station to Wallaby Gap, then sections 8, 9, 11 and 12.

We were guided and supported by three excellent guides from Walkabout Tours. Before starting the tour, our group and two of the guides met at the Doubletree Hotel in Alice Springs. Our chief guide, Immy, has conducted over thirty-five walks along the Larapinta, undertaken extensive cultural training and has a special interest in local botany. The guides gave us an overview of our walk and some of its highlights and challenges.

A Welcome to Country was given to the group by Arrernte elder Uncle Craig in the beautiful Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, about a fifteen minute walk from the hotel. He is a great storyteller. As well as informing us about his ancestral links to the country, I

particularly liked the Dreamtime story he related about the creation of the Tjorita Ranges. As I walked the Larapinta Trail, I reflected on this creation story and how it explained much of what I saw (key aspects of the story have been supported by Western geological findings).

The cultural connection to country provided by Uncle Craig certainly helped to enhance the walk, as did Immy's botanical and cultural knowledge. Immy often stopped to point out the beautiful wildflowers and the culturally significant plants, rocks, and landmarks.

It is stunning country, with its rugged red ironstone ranges and deep cool water-filled gorges. The land provides a home to more than 200 different species of plants, and many varieties of mammals, reptiles, insects and birds. Each section of the walk had more than a few awe-inspiring sites. If you want to experience the country from your armchair, look at the paintings of the Albert Namatjira and his family who, in their artwork, capture this country so well.

As mentioned in my previous article, my maternal grandmother was the first white woman to climb Mount Sonder in 1937. During her trip, by camel, in the Arrernte Country with an Aboriginal guide, my grandfather, an aunt, and another person from Hermannsburg mission, she kept a travel diary. Along the way she took photos with a Box Brownie camera and later inserted them into the diary.

I took a copy of her travel diary with me to share with my fellow trekkers. It provided several interesting campfire discussions. Every time we crossed a section of the track that she had written about I was very moved but, much to my surprise, I was most moved by her account of her stay at Glen Helen homestead and the photos she took of the landscape which is still clearly recognisable. Glen Helen is now a major campsite with a hotel, cafe, and other amenities. In her day the 'amenities' were very basic! Glen Helen Gorge is now a very popular tourist destination and local swimming hole.

Fortunately for us our hottest day of 27

degrees Celsius was on the day we walked through the stunning Ormiston Gorge (see photo). The coolest day was a pleasant 22 degrees, hot enough when carrying three or more litres of water as well as other bits and pieces and walking uphill.

The exhilaration of walking the trail with a group of like-minded people helped get me through the few days when a couple of blisters on my feet niggled away. Our guides were all very supportive and went out of their way to provide delicious food at our campsites and generally help make the trip a memorable one. Along the way, the value of stretching stiff muscles was reinforced, as was the use of good quality blister bandaids. Additionally, preventative measures, such as keeping well hydrated and the use and value of electrolytes in the prevention of stiff and sore muscles made for a better recovery after a day of walking on uneven ground (most of the trail is rather rocky).

One thing I will always remember is sleeping very snugly on cold desert nights in a bushman's swag under the starlit skies with the Milky Way and the Dark Emu above me. Just magic.

Apart from walking the Larapinta Trail, my trip to the Red Centre also included other significant events: meeting up with a dear friend from Adelaide who also walked the trail, visiting the Hermannsburg Historic Site, the Hermannsburg Potters, the Araluen Arts Centre in Alice Springs, and my cousin Peter Latz who lives about fifteen kilometres out of Alice Springs. He grew up in Hermannsburg, and is a renowned Central Australian Botanist and has the most amazing Central Australian plant collection on his property.

A quite unexpected bonus for me was that during my last day in Alice Springs, a Saturday, I watched the Henley on Todd races and participated in the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Telegraph Station with a cousin and his partner from Perth who just happened to be in Alice Springs at the time!

It certainly was a trip to remember.

Lois Denham

Maldon & District Financial Services Ltd (MDFSL)

Director recruitment 2022

MDFSL, the company which owns and operates Community Bank Maldon & District, is seeking applications for new Directors to join our talented and motivated Board.

We are after people who are community minded, have broad interests and have the time and commitment to give back to our NFP organisation. Anyone in the Harcourt region (or across the Mount Alexander Shire) can apply, and we would love applicants from youth, indigenous or people from diverse backgrounds.

The role of board members includes supporting and driving the company's strategy, goals and objectives and to have a real say in the direction of our



branches and the community investments that we make. In the past some of the organisations that have benefited from our profits are:

Harcourt Progress Association,
Harcourt Valley Primary School,

Harcourt Pony Club, Harcourt Football Netball Club, and a number of local businesses have participated in our Small Business Action Program, including Blume's Bakery, Twisted Snake Distillery, Goodness Flour, to name a few.

We have invested over \$3.6 million back into our region over our 21 years of operation, and it's really rewarding to contribute to the development of our towns.

For more information, head to our website: maldoncb.com.au/about-us/our-directors. To apply, please send a resume and letter

outlining your interest and skills to Board Chair Ross Egleton chair@mdcb.com.au. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact our Executive Officer by phone 0478 435 110

Central Victorian Clubs Score \$1.28m State Government Funding Towards Projects

Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP today announced that three sporting venues in the Mount Alexander Shire will receive important facility funding.

Venues to receive funding are:

- \$1million for the Bill Woodfull Reserve to construct gender-neutral netball and tennis change facilities including two change rooms, two umpire change rooms, accessible toilet, administration office, first aid and storage. Accessible paths, ramped netball court connections and minor carparking work are included.
- \$250,000 for the Harcourt Recreation Reserve Oval upgrade of sub-standard sports oval lighting at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve to provide a 50/100 Lux LED switchable lighting system on the sports oval.
- \$30,000 for the planning of Chewton Small Sided pitch design and development which includes the development of a small format synthetic pitch at Chewton and upgrading infrastructure to support the participation growth of football in this community.

The Victorian Budget 2022/23 provided an additional \$88 million to deliver new and improved community sports infrastructure and programs to boost participation in local sports clubs and organisations.

This includes continuing the flagship Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, game-changing Female Friendly Facilities Fund and the popular Country Football and Netball Program.

Since 2014, the Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$1.6 billion in community sport and recreation infrastructure.

It's backed by the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, a Government initiative to ensure women and girls get equal access to community sport facilities across the state.

Initiatives like these are about levelling the playing field, creating jobs, stimulating local economies, and improving the health, wellbeing, and social outcomes for Victorian communities.

A 2020 report by KPMG commissioned by Sport and Recreation Victoria put an annual value of \$7 billion on the economic, social and health benefits of community sport and active recreation infrastructure



in Victoria. For more information about the Fund and grant recipients visit sport.vic.gov.au

"Congratulations to Mount Alexander Shire Council, Maldon Football Netball Club, Maldon Tennis Club, Harcourt Football Netball Club and the Mount Alexander Women's Sports Club - this boost will go a long way to support the growing number of people in central Victoria keen to get involved in local sport and recreation."

"It's a great example of how the Andrews Labor Government is making sport and recreation more accessible, welcoming and inclusive for all Victorians."

From a Press Release by Maree Edwards



Harcourt Uniting Church

No doubt many of you will have family or friends affected by the floods that have ravaged Victoria recently and which will continue to affect communities for many months. Families have had their homes inundated, farmers have seen their bumper crops destroyed, roads have been made impassable and communities are feeling helpless. However, despite all this devastation, it has been heart warming to see the way communities have pulled together to help each other, along with the reassurance of assistance from emergency services.

The Uniting Church in Victoria has an Emergency Response Fund which provides support for communities in times of major disasters such as floods, bushfires, storms and other crises. Members of Harcourt Church have been encouraged to support this fund as a way of showing our care for others and to provide hope to those in need.

Dare I remind you that Christmas is fast approaching! In recent years, Harcourt and Castlemaine Uniting Churches have been involved in giving presents to families who may be experiencing financial stress. In the last two years, donated money has been used to give vouchers to these families, giving them the dignity of buying their own gifts. A concert held in late October helped raise funds for the Castlemaine Church of Christ program which will provide local school principals with these vouchers to distribute to families in need at Christmas.

The Harcourt Uniting Church congregation may be small in number, but our members are always willing to support the wider community in showing that we care.

Jan Jenkin

Here's a true story telling of the May 1974 floods.

We were married on May 18th 1974 – the day the floods peaked in Numurkah – at the Methodist Church (the Uniting Church now) beside the Broken Creek – and whatever could go wrong did!

- John (the groom) wasn't sure if he'd get through from Harcourt the night before – he had to drive through several lots of water and detours.
- Jock McOrist, the minister, had to travel those same roads from Bendigo.
- The Church organ was in Shepparton having a service so that it was in tip-top shape for 'Janice's wedding', and it had to stay there.
- The photographer was from Shepparton – he couldn't get through either – so we have no official photos. Several friends went to buy extra film and gave us copies of their photos. Only recently, our daughter Kathryn motivated me to enlarge some photos and create an album.
- Most of Dad's relations lived in the Kyabram-Merrigum area and couldn't get through.
- Aunt Lorna was to sing at the wedding, but she was flooded in at Kyabram.
- Many local guests had to drive through flooded roads to get to the Church and weren't sure if they'd get back home afterwards.

- As we stepped into the bridal cars, out on our farm, the water lying in the yard was increasing.
- Mum did the 'biblical thing' and went out on the streets (well she rang actually) inviting friends to 'come to the wedding feast'.
- During the wedding ceremony Rev Jock McOrist (the minister) said, 'This is Jan and John's special day which many will remember for other reasons.' In the background, we could hear trucks laden with sandbags driving back and forth outside the Church.
- Dad stood up at the reception and ended his speech with the words, 'It's good to see you all but I think you better get going!' no wonder it was often referred to as 'the rushed wedding'.
- Aunt Nan and Uncle Tom from Gippsland, were determined to be at our wedding so they drove as far as Nagambie and then came the rest of the way by train. The next day, the line flooded so they had to stay with Mum and Dad for a week.
- Friends from Rainbow also had to stay with their parents in Numurkah longer than planned.
- After the guests left, the Church ladies (who had catered for the wedding) left everything and headed for home while they still could – they cleaned up later the next day after Church.
- Our honeymoon in Bright was not to be, so we had to go through Tocumwal just as they were closing that road and spent our first night at Jerilderie with fish & chips and Tim Tams, then across the Hay Plains with the wind blowing a gale, back into Victoria and home to Harcourt.
- In those days the bride and groom (assisted by the bridesmaids) traditionally opened their gifts at the reception, however, there was no time for that, so Mum and Dad came over the following week laden with presents for us to open – we sat on the lounge floor opening them.
- The top tier of our wedding cake even went mouldy after a few months because of the damp conditions.

Despite all that, we had a perfectly sunny winters day, with friends and relations who made us feel special, and Mum and Dad took it all in their stride (well on the outside anyway). We certainly gave everyone something to talk about – we often laughed when someone said – 'do you remember the '74 floods?', and my Dad would reply, 'Do we what!'

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A Happy Life-Affirming Photo

VMRUpdate



‘What does a photograph do? It captures a moment. And sometimes, if you’re lucky, it captures a mood. This one does that incredibly well. For all its simplicity, it’s just a lovely shot of a kind man on a model train with his passengers (the family behind) having a wonderful time. It’s a happy

“life affirming photo” that makes you feel good just looking at it. If you were feeling down or sad, this photo would lift your spirits!’

Congratulations Andrew Mierisch! The photo (on the right above) was a finalist in the CNAV* Awards and was taken by Andrew with his iPhone 13 which has twin cameras. The photo was featured on the front page of the May 2022 edition of *The Core*. It shows Brian Noonan driving the train with family members on board at the Easter weekend getaway at the Australian Association of Live Steam Annual Convention in Wagga Wagga. Brian Noonan, or ‘Buzz’ to those who know him, is a well-known Harcourt resident who has joined the group and has become a dedicated member.

The judge’s comments about the photo are as follows:

‘Sometimes if you’re judging photographs, there will be a “quiet achiever”, one that doesn’t immediately announce itself, but just keeps coming back to you as you think about the entries.

‘This is one of those shots. It’s a simple one with no gimmicks, no trickery, but one I kept being drawn back to.



Buzz and Andrew next to the A66 Victorian Railways locomotive used in the photo taken at Wagga Wagga. Andrew built the engine from scratch in three years, before he was 21 years old. He said with a smile, ‘I was single and living at home then, typically a build like this could take ten years.’

For Andrew Mierisch, miniature trains are a lifelong interest. At the age of ten, Andrew was a member of the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway at Eltham, and his father Colin was a member for thirty-five years. He said, ‘You couldn’t walk ten paces at the Eltham site without touching something made by a Mierisch, from engines to steelwork to signals. It was very difficult to leave Eltham, I spent every Sunday there, I didn’t want to leave, but I just couldn’t be at both VMR and Diamond Valley.’

Both Andrew and Colin have built miniature trains from scratch, or renovated replica trains and related equipment; they regularly meet with other enthusiasts in Australia and have been overseas to visit famous miniature train parks, such as Train Mountain in Oregon, USA. Their interest is so intense that to call it a hobby would be dismissive.

Andrew, his family and other aficionados have been working on establishing the VMR at the Harcourt site since 2016, and the enthusiasm of the volunteers at the Victorian Miniature Railway has rubbed off on many people, attracting enthusiasts locally and from across the state, some of whom have settled here.

There are many more stories for *The Core* to relate about VMR, the Mierisch family and the members of VMR; keep an eye out for these in future editions.

Robyn Miller

Note: CNAV Awards are run annually by the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria of which *Harcourt News/The Core* is a member.

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MICA GRANGE

Open Garden Sculpture Exhibition



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10 am to 4.30 pm**

Group bookings available weekdays only

Morning Tea, Light Lunch, Afternoon Tea,
Garden Art, Plants, Preserves available

Entry: \$8, Children Free

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For further information:
web: www.micagrangecommunity.com
phone: 0499 897 242 / 0409 322 413
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MICA GRANGE

Open Garden Sculpture Exhibition

The sun is shining, birds are singing, flowers are blooming and the scent of roses is everywhere. YES, Spring is in the air, beauty abounds, and it is time to spread your wings at the Mica Grange Open Garden Sculpture Exhibition.

The spacious gardens are full of creative ideas to enjoy or enhance the beauty of your own garden. Sculptures from Victoria, NSW and Adelaide plus a wide array of garden art adorn the gardens. There are also plants and preserves for sale.

Morning tea, light lunches and

afternoon tea are served on the spacious decking or around the garden between 10 am and 4.30 pm. No matter where you choose to partake of your refreshments, you will enjoy the vast panoramic views across the Sutton Grange valley. Entry is \$8, children free.

Whether your interest be in traditional gardens, rose walks, proteas, Australian natives, rockeries, vegetable gardens, fairy gardens, or simply meandering through beautiful scenery and relaxing with good food, you will find something to spark your imagination at Mica Grange.

What: Mica Grange Open Garden Sculpture Exhibition

When: Each weekend 10 am to 4.30 pm from Saturday 29 October to Sunday 11 December. Group Bookings are available weekdays only.

Where: 373 Faraday Sutton Grange Rd, Sutton Grange

Entry: \$8, Children free

My Home Network

Vision and Mission

The My Home Network (MHN) believes that everyone has a right to safe, affordable, secure, sustainable and appropriate housing that recognises their place in and connections to community and country

The Network's mission is to support a strengths-based approach in housing delivery and reform that is linked to community health and wellbeing, social inclusion, gender equality, Indigenous self determination and climate change adaptation, indeed part of a broader and deeper system change that builds a more equitable society.

Underpinning the My Home Network's work is a whole-of-community approach, embedding values of collaboration, being strengths based, capacity building, intersectional approach, innovation and learning, acting on lived experience, acting now and a commitment to best practice principles in housing design including advocating for energy efficient standards and Gold Level according to the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines in all housing.

Background and membership

The My Home Network is a network of over 120 members – community and government organisational representatives and community members, formed in 2019 in the Mount Alexander Shire in response to increasing local concerns about the lack of affordable, safe, secure and sustainable housing in our Shire.

The network is coordinated by Dhelkaya Health.

Membership includes those with lived experience of housing crisis and homelessness, community members with many years of expertise in the delivery of social and innovative housing programs and a diverse range of relevant expertise and networks, community organisations and state government representatives.

Formal organizational members of the network include:

- Castlemaine Community House (CCH)
- Dhelkaya Health
- Haven Home Safe
- Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group (MASARG)
- Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG)
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Nalderun Aboriginal Education Cooperative
- Castlemaine Institute



The network also works closely with the Mount Alexander Shire Council (MASC)

Strategic objectives

We will advocate, collaborate, engage community, communicate, share information and build capacity to achieve our vision based on the following strategic priorities:

- Improve community awareness and understanding of local and national homelessness, housing crisis and housing dynamics in Mount Alexander Shire
- Build on local supports for people experiencing housing crisis and homelessness
- Improve availability of emergency and transitional accommodation
- Increase affordable housing options and security, including social housing stock
- Advocate for a fair, sustainable and strong housing system

There are My Home Network working groups – Vacant dwellings, Tiny Homes On Wheels, Advocacy, Communications and Tenants' Rights/ Home Share driving the work.

For more information contact Kaz Neilson kaziwnt@gmail.com



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Sluicing

The Coliban system of reservoirs and channels, so vital to Harcourt's agricultural economy, was designed to supply water to Bendigo. It was not originally planned to provide water to the Harcourt valley.

From 1877 there was agitation to petition for a water supply for sluicing. Specimen Gully, known to be a rich source of gold. The easily located alluvial gold had long been found, and the shafts dug to recover gold trapped in quartz reefs were becoming the special preserve of cashed-up mining companies, but there were still layers of alluvial gravels to be worked.

Many Barkers Creek residents had visions of washing down these walls of gravel. In dreams they saw torrents of water rushing head-long through wooden sluice boxes, had visions of the clean-up each day and took pleasure in imagining the joy of recovering glittering gold specks from the riffles in the sluice box. But the question was, how to obtain sufficient water to start the process?

In October 1880, after four years of public meetings, sufficient momentum was gained to encourage the Minister for Mines to come to Specimen Gully to hear from the would-be sluicers in person. While admiring the view from the high ridge overlooking the Harcourt Valley, the Minister agreed to include one thousand pounds in the State Government estimates to construct a water race from Faraday to Specimen Gully. Once the expenditure was authorised, it was arranged that forty parties of ex-miners, each of two men, would excavate the channel along the contours, around the shoulder of Lang's Hill, in and out of the intervening gullies up to the head of Specimen Gully, taking the longest route possible, almost to North Castlemaine. The channel was to be two feet deep and two feet wide. While the channel was being dug, the hopeful sluicers were busy preparing sluice boxes, dams and tail races.

The first sluicing parties positioned their operations at a considerable distance below the available water, either direct from the channel or from a dam filled with water from the channel. The process relied mostly on the pressure obtained by gravity. The torrent of water was directed across or against a wall of gold-bearing



gravels. The effect was to send the wash-dirt into the sluice box where any gold was caught in blanket-covered ridges.

There was concern, even in those days, over the amount of gravel that was being washed into the creeks. The *Mount Alexander Mail* 21 July 1881 warned of '... the depositing of tailings which must find their way into Barkers Creek. The sludge would raise the bed of the creek.' It was suggested that some thought should be given to 'remedial measures that will not check enterprise.'

The water was turned on in October 1881. The men went to work in groups of two, three or four. Each party paid for the water it intended to use. In 1882 and 1883, water charges collected by the Water Supply Department amounted to £800 per year. Large areas of Specimen, Launceston, Black Jack, Mosquito and Cappers gullies were sluiced to recover gold.

Harcourt Heritage Centre has the names of some of the sluicing parties. These teams were headed by J Armstrong (Launceston Gully), W Archer (Black Jack Gully), S Maddern (Specimen Gully), C Carr (Uncle Billy's Gully), Gaylard and Sons (Specimen Gully), W Worley and D Normington (Launceston Gully), Michell Bros (Specimen Gully), H Pritchard (Launceston and Cappers gullies), H Smith and G Hill (Black Jack Gully), A Williams (Specimen Gully), Llewellyn and Normington (Black Jack Gully) and J Peeler (Black Jack Gully)

During the late 1890s, improved equipment became available and was soon put to use by those who were prepared to invest more heavily. Two types of steam-driven pump were required: a clean water pump to feed a high-pressure sluicing jet, and a gravel pump. The wash-dirt and overlying material was washed down by

the sluicing jets into a pit or sump from which it was sucked up by the gravel pump and delivered into sluice boxes. This setup was used at the workings of the Specimen Gully Dredging Company, which was the largest concern, taking out 6,354 ounces of gold from 1905 to 1910. Another well-funded company, Barkers Creek Gold Dredging, started with all the right equipment in 1904 but was closed down and sold up in late 1905.

The second largest concern, and longest lasting, was that of

Chas McKindley and his family, three generations obtained 939 ounces from 1909 to 1919, working to the south and the west of the slate quarry. One of their last sluice holes can still be seen just north of the junction of Specimen Gully Rd with Blakely Rd.

In these thumbnail sketches, Harcourt Heritage Centre has attempted to cast a light on the doings of individual pioneers. However, when it comes to the sluicers of Barkers Creek, we have to assess and describe the work of almost an entire community of men. Men who, with little capital and rudimentary equipment, entered into handshake partnerships to earn a living through the worst years of the 1890s economic depression, altering the landscape in the process. The removal of the alluvium by sluicing was so comprehensive that later generations would be puzzled by the stories of gold nuggets lying there for the taking, because today the landscape of Barkers Creek is rather unprepossessing.

The Specimen Gully water race can still be seen, unused, along the contours of the many gullies of Barkers Creek. The channel carried the first Coliban water to be brought into the south end of the Harcourt Valley. Agitation by Harcourt's fruit-growers for an extension of the channel system came after this first initiative by the sluicers. By winning a permanent water supply, the sluicers of Barkers Creek pioneered the construction of a complex system of irrigation channels that would bring prosperity to hundreds of acres of orchards throughout the Harcourt Valley.

This thumbnail sketch was compiled for *The Core* by Harcourt Heritage Centre using handwritten note of the late C H James.

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc.

Summer Bowls Competition

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc will be running a Summer Competition commencing:

Wednesday 2 November 2022

Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Rd

Arrival time: 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

Yearly registration: Adults \$6.00, U/17 \$3.00

Nightly game fee: Adults \$5.00, U/17 \$2.50

This is a game for all ages from 8 years old and up.

The rules are easy to learn and everything is provided – just turn up and enjoy a night of bowls and friendship.

A Competition Game is played from 7.30 pm to about 9.00 pm so, not a late night for the young and not so young!

It is intended we will play from 2 November, have a break for Christmas and recommence on Wednesday 18 January 2023. The Summer Season will run to approximately mid-March.

It would be great to see a good turn up to keep Carpet Bowls continuing in Harcourt after its 70th year!

The start of the Winter Competition will be announced in *The Core*.

For more information on the Summer Competition, contact Peter on 0408 305 325.

For further information on Carpet Bowls contact Loretta on 5474 2453 or John on 5474 2226, or come along to the Leisure Centre at 7.30 pm on a Wednesday night during the summer or the winter playing season.



Top – The winning team for the winter season competition: Rebels – Kaye Francis, Brian Cornish, Dawn O'Haire, Kevin Earl, Tyrone Rice.

Middle – Runners-up: New Breed – Narelle Jenkin, Faye Hards, Sushil Code, Loretta Rice.

Bottom – The members wind-up dinner at the Cumberland Hotel in Castlemaine.

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LISTEN LOCAL

THE FAYRE IS BACK FOR 2022

The much-loved Malmsbury Village Fayre is back with the theme *A Bush Fairyland*. Come along and join us at the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens, on Sunday 20 November 2022 from 10am to 3pm.

More information: malmsburyvillagefayre.org.au



Harcourt Bowling Club

Season Opening

Harcourt Bowling Club members got together to enjoy the Opening of the 2022-2023 Bowling Season on Saturday 15 September.

President Ken Tribe welcomed all the members, including Life Member Ron Douglas. He especially welcomed new members Tim Carr, Rick Williams, Rod Watson, Darren Cunningham and returning member Chris McAuliffe. Ken noted that returning from injury this season were Frances Collins and Vinka Maltby.

Declaring the season open, Ken introduced our local State Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards and thanked her for finding time at short notice to join us for the day. As she has over several years, Maree rolled the first kitty and first bowl for the new season.



Bowlers then took part in a ditch-to-ditch, and the afternoon continued with Maree joining the bowlers. We played two games of eight ends and a third game of six ends before a shower of rain spoiled the fun.

Ditch-to-ditch winners were Fairley Harman and David Jefferies. Other winners on the day were: in third place, Dave Jefferies, Tim Carr and Diane Marsh. Runners-up, Barry Marsh, Brian Leech, Ken Tribe and Mary-Anne Doyle. Overall winners, Chris McAuliffe, Seth Bird, Kaye Grant and Heather Braid.

As is usual, the day was made complete with all sharing a delicious afternoon tea provided by the members.

Pennant Teams

Midweek

Harcourt Midweek bowlers enjoyed a successful start to their season on Monday 10 October with both Divisions Two and Four scoring wins in their first game in the higher divisions. In round two we were not so lucky, and round three was cancelled due to rain and floods. Let's hope this does not continue.

Weekend

The Weekend Pennant Teams were lucky to get on the green for their first game on Saturday 22 November. After the Friday evening downpour, the Harcourt bowling green was more like a swimming pool. However, with a lot of work by our greenkeepers, the good drainage and morning sunshine, the Saturday Pennant was able to go ahead.



Our thanks to Volunteer Greenkeepers Ron, Darrell and David for their preparation of the green.

Although all divisions were not able to score wins we welcomed new bowlers Tim Carr; Rick Williams; Rod Watson; Darren Cunningham and Wayne Walsh and hope they enjoy playing at Harcourt.

Jackpot Bowls

Jackpot Bowls commenced on Wednesday 28 September and is continuing weekly. This is open to all bowlers. Games will commence at 12.30pm – names in by 12.00pm (on the sheet on the Notice Board). All welcome.

The Kidman Mixed Fours

The Kidman Mixed Fours Tournament scheduled for Sunday (October 23rd) was postponed due to impending rain and thunderstorms. The new date has yet to be determined.

Coming Up In November

Wednesday 16 November

Ladies' Invitation Triples Tournament.

Tuesday 22 November

Sponsors Night (first of two).

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

It's Been Wet

At this point in time, I think we would be hard-pressed to find a place in Victoria that has not been affected by this extraordinarily wet spring.

Speaking with Andrew Blake (headteacher HVPS) late this month, I discussed with him the impact of this wet spring on the school community. Like most community groups, the school has had to adapt its program to the weather. Andrew mentioned that the students and staff have been adaptable and resilient in their ability to cope with modifications in the school timetable that have been necessary.

Because of the incessant rain and the impact of flood waters, the week of October 11 to 14 was particularly challenging. That was when it rained and rained, and various parts of Mount Alexander Shire were impacted by flood waters.

The grade 5/6 student School Camp at Tandara Camp, Halls Gap had to be shortened by two days. The students, however, made the most of their time they were on camp. On the Tuesday after they arrived, they were able to do the Pinnacle Walk in the Grampians and in the evening undertake the scheduled activity along the Lake Bellfield dam wall. On Wednesday 12th, on their way home, they enjoyed a visit to the Halls Gap Zoo.

All the school community was affected on the 13th when, because of the very wet

conditions, parents were asked to collect their children from school early and then keep them home safe on the Friday. What a week that was!

The following week, the Prep's twilight camp, which was to be held on the 20th, and the Prep/1 excursion to local orchards on the 21st had to be cancelled, again because of the bad weather. Andrew reported that, nevertheless, the children spent two stimulating and fun-filled days at school. The highlight, it seems, was making marshmallow creations on Thursday 20th. On Friday 21st the children had another enjoyable schoolday playing sport, reading under their desks, and having hot chips for their recess snack.

World Teacher's Day was on the 28th October and the school community treated staff to a delicious morning tea with acknowledgement and thanks to them for all their hard work.

Friday School Breakfasts continue to be appreciated by students. In addition to the efforts of a band of volunteers who oversee the breakfasts and make sure there is enough food for the students, the school is very grateful for the donations of fresh fruit it receives every Friday from the McKern Foundation of which there is always more than enough for all students. Students have also enjoyed the opportunity to have a hot lunch on Fridays.

The main academic focus for this

term has been practical Maths skills. Staff have undertaken further professional development on the topic, and students and parents have been provided with examples of how to include Maths in everyday life.

Meanwhile, Grade 6 students have been gearing up for their transition to high school. Those attending Castlemaine High next year have already attended one transition day and will attend a few more in November. Prep transition to HVPS begins on the 22 November and will continue for a few weeks. Further details are on the HVPS website.

Community members are invited to attend the Slime Run Colour Spectacular Fundraiser for the school to be held on the school oval from 2.30pm on December 1st.

Students are seeking sponsorship for this fundraiser from community members, friends, and family. Money raised will go towards the next stage of landscaping at the front of the school. The money which has been raised previously and used for the improvement of the school oval has paid dividends, as even with all the recent rain, students have been able to use the oval in school break times.

Andrew informed me that after the Slime Run Colour Spectacular, the oval will be reseeded and restored over the summer school holidays.

Lois Denham

Advertisement

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Maree Edwards MP
Labor Member for Bendigo West

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Jacinta Allan MP
Labor Member for Bendigo East

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[jacintaallan.com](https://www.jacintaallan.com)

Authorised by Chris Ford, Australian Labor Party, Victorian Branch, 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands 3008.



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Great news about the funding of our lighting upgrade for the recreation reserve. This project will improve opportunities for training, particularly winter sports.

Talking about winter, the rain just keeps coming.

Our thoughts are with those in areas affected by flood. While we were expecting a good season for cropping areas, it seems you can have too much rain.

There have been a few tough planning decisions at council. These things do not always turn out how you think they will. On planning matters, Councillors must listen to the debate before making a decision so no-one knows the outcome until there is a show of hands.

Last week I attended a councillor planning day at Buda. The house and gardens are looking great. What a fabulous committee they have.

Pat Grumont outlined the master plan and they have great ideas for the future. All they need now is funding!!

Council has been advised, along with about half the council's in the state, that our ward structure will be reviewed prior to the next council elections.

There are several likely outcomes with a shire-wide single ward or it could be Castlemaine ward is split in three. Time will tell on this one, but while our existing structure has worked well, it will change.

At the end of the day, councillors are there to do the best job they can for the community, so I am sure it will be fine.

Best regards Tony

AG Cordy
0439742434



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Saturday November 19, 2022, 8am-2pm*

Grace Church Matters of Faith

Jesus bequeathed us the Lord's prayer; it is precious to many. Jesus told us not to be like the hypocrites who liked standing in the synagogues and on the street corners publicly praying in a showy, self-righteous fashion. Rather, Jesus said, we are to go to our prayer closet and pray to our Heavenly Father in secret, and we shall be openly rewarded.

What is a prayer closet? Well, it is that place where you can withdraw to communicate with Father God through His Son Jesus Christ, through prayer, uninterrupted! Christians have coined the phrase 'quiet time' to describe this time spent alone with God. This may include a time of bible reading and reflection.

Regarding avoiding interruptions: It pays to turn the phone off and draw the curtains. What you are seeking to create is an environment where nothing will distract you from the holy task of praying. Nothing through the eye gate and nothing through the ear gate.

Personally, I like to start my devotions with the Lord's prayer, and then branch out from there.

Here, once more, is the Lord's prayer

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

We recently had occasion to visit a sick parishioner in hospital. We wanted to pray for him, but he was in a shared ward. Whilst not ashamed of our faith we did not want to be like the Pharisees, making a show of praying.

God made a way. The fellow patient was wheeled out for the room for treatment elsewhere, and we had our opportunity. Praise God!

Pastor Roger Thurecht, Grace Church

Grace Church

**Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome**

**Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897**

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

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The Faraday Community Association Committee is considering ways to assist our local community in times of emergency. Some areas being investigated are:

- Information sessions with Emergency Services, i.e CFA, SES, Mount Alexander Shire, etc.
- Phone Trees – to pass information through the community in an effective and efficient manner
- Establishment of lists of equipment and resources available within the community

As a start, a CFA representative from North-West Region Community Safety will be at Dunstan's Flat at 4 pm on Saturday December 3 (before the BBQ) to provide information on fire safety essentials.

All are welcome to come along to this session, prior to the Christmas BBQ.

Your Faraday Community Association **Invites you to a Christmas Barbeque**

at

Dunstan's Flat

5pm Saturday 3 December 2022

**All you need to bring are
drinks, a chair and a donation.**

Enquiries: Chris Brooke: 0428 192 335

Council news

Flood response update

Thank you to our community, local emergency workers and volunteers, and Council staff for working together to support one another through the recent flooding event

To help residents clean up, we are waiving disposal fees at the Castlemaine Transfer Station for residents with flood-damaged materials.

For details on flood recovery support and resources, visit our website or call 5471 1700.

Volunteer this Christmas

Lend a hand on Christmas Day and volunteer with the Castlemaine Community Christmas Lunch.

Find out more at www.cch.org.au or call 5472 4842.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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

Boorp Boorp Boondyil

Get along to the Castlemaine Market Building to see the new permanent exhibition, Boorp Boorp Boondyil. Developed by senior Jaara cultural custodian Uncle Rick Nelson, the exhibition invites people to share in Jaara stories and teachings.

Visit our website for more information.

16 Days of Activism

Show your support for the prevention of gender-based violence by getting involved in the global 16 Days of Activism campaign, which starts on 25 November.

Find out what's on and how to get involved on our website.



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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Hi everyone,

What a wet, wet spring we're having this year – it's reminding us of the big flood of 2010/11 (though not that bad). Our thoughts are with everyone in northern Victoria who is dealing with the terrible aftermath of the floods. All this rain has given the stone fruit a bit of a battering, so if you have apricots, peaches, or nectarines in your garden, hopefully you have at least a small crop on them. A year like this is a good reminder that the more different varieties of fruit you grow in your garden, the more likely you'll get at least some fruit every year. It's easier to carry losses in some trees if you've got a good crop on other trees. Diversity really is the key to self-sufficiency!

Now that flowering has finished, it's definitely time to start thinning your fruit. Thinning is the process of pulling some of the tiny fruit off, and it's one of the most important jobs in spring for all deciduous fruit types except cherries (i.e. apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears). There's no need to thin your cherry trees.

It can be a hard job to do! It feels wasteful to be throwing all that fruit on the ground, but rest assured, if you do it early (that's now) you won't reduce the overall size of your harvest (or not much anyway). In theory, you'll get almost the same volume of fruit, but in fewer pieces.

Here are four excellent reasons to thin.

1. Most fruit trees have a natural biennial bearing cycle – a heavy crop one year,

followed by a light crop the following year (sound familiar?) Thinning makes the tree react as if this is its 'off' year, so it will set another full crop next year. Once you understand that, it's obvious why you have to do it every year!

2. To protect the structure of your tree, and make sure no branches or laterals break from carrying too much fruit.
3. To grow larger fruit, because the tree's energy is put into fewer pieces of fruit (you get more juicy flesh and less core).
4. It helps control pests and diseases by allowing the fruit to dry faster after rain (so fungal disease has less opportunity to spread), and by removing habitat for pests in the lovely dark spaces where fruit hangs in bunches.

In deciding how much fruit to remove, first assess whether the overall crop load (heavy, medium or light), the age of the tree, how healthy the tree is, how much water you have available, how long the growing season is and the ultimate size of the fruit. We have charts inside the Grow Great Fruit program that help you work out exactly how much fruit to remove.

And finally, it's also definitely time to get your fruit fly traps out. Some fruit flies will have over-wintered as adults, so it's important to start monitoring early in the season so you can spot if they turn up or



start to get active in your garden. Then you can be ready with your next line of defence (e.g. netting, female traps, or an organic spray).

Happy 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.



Weather & Water

October 2022 has proved to be the wettest month ever in my records with a total of 283.5 mm, followed by November 2010 with 201 mm and 196.5 mm in November 2016.

I began keeping rainfall records at the end of the ten-year drought which broke in a spectacular manner with a total of 1108 mm at the end of 2010. If readers have earlier rainfall archives with a higher rainfall, *The Core* would be interested to hear from you.

The total rainfall at the end of October here at Reservoir Road is 902 mm over 17 rain days. Will this year's rainfall break the 2010 record?

The Weather Bureau says that La Niña is continuing, and we will continue to experience a wetter than usual spring and summer, however, La Niña is predicted to become neutral in early 2023 which should lead to more settled and drier weather.

Reservoir Levels:

As at November 1:

Malmsbury Reservoir: 111.20%

Upper Coliban: 97%

Lauriston: 95.4%

As at October 23:

Barkers Creek: 102%



The rain has not deterred this Rufous Whistler, which has been singing constantly around the house and attacking the car mirrors and house windows.

Photo: Robyn Miller



INVITATION

Harcourt Valley Landcare Annual General Meeting

Thursday, November 10 at 7.30 pm
North Harcourt Hall,
McIvor Road, Harcourt

Supper – please bring a sharing plate

Enquiries:

Secretary: Robyn Miller 0467 670 271

Remember the Diggers' 1851 Monster Meeting

*20th Birthday of the Castlemaine Diggings
National Heritage Park*

Sunday 11 December
Chewton Monster Meeting Site Golden Point Rd

1.30 Junior Rangers Program

3.00 Traditional Welcome,

Music & Words From The Dray

Bring a hat, water and, maybe, a chair

Organised by Chewton Domain Society & Parks Victoria.

First Peoples Exhibition Opens in Castlemaine



A Revised Action Plan for Local Landcare

Past, present, new and potential members are cordially invited to attend Harcourt Valley Landcare's AGM on Thursday, November 10 at 7.30 pm at the North Harcourt Hall.

We've celebrated our 25-year anniversary and completed over 50 projects since we began, join us to continue the Landcare adventure – become a Landcare member! If you love meeting fellow Harcourtians in the outdoors or you want to learn more about the natural beauty of Harcourt Valley, come along – we'd love to meet you.



Join us at the AGM to hear about our achievements and objectives for the future. Harcourt Valley Landcare's action plan for 2022–2027 has the following vision: **Harcourt Valley Landcare group aims to inspire, inform and support the community to protect and enhance our local environment.**

The new membership brochure and action plan can be found on the group's website at www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org and are available on request from the secretary.

For up to date news about Harcourt Valley Landcare, see the group's Facebook page.

Robyn Miller

Secretary, 0467 670 271

Visitors to Castlemaine can learn more about the Dja Dja Wurrung people and immerse themselves in a new interactive and cultural exhibition, thanks to a \$400,000 investment from the Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards today represented the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, to officially open the Boorp Boorp Boondyil exhibit. Boorp Boorp Boondyil translates as 'passing knowledge to our children.'

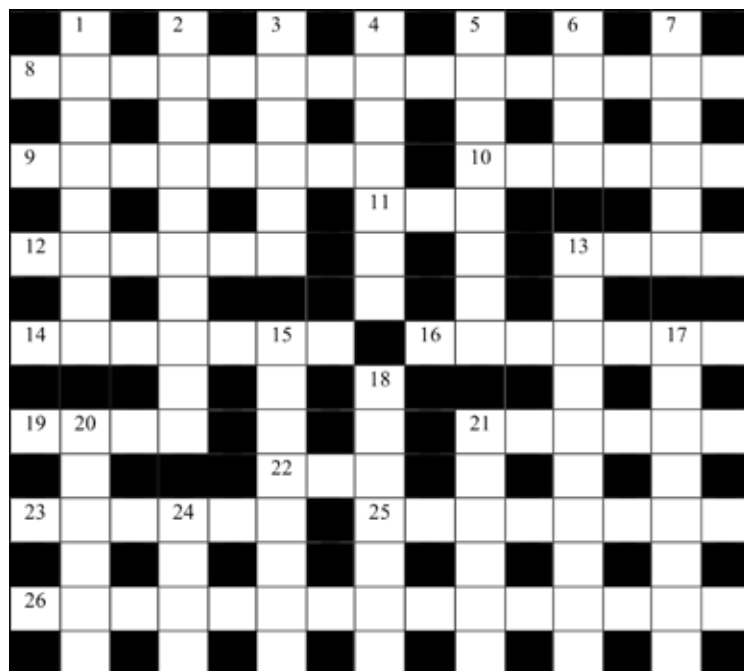
Situated within the iconic Castlemaine Market Building, the experience provides visitors with historic and contemporary stories from the local Dja Dja Wurrung people.

The exhibit illustrates the importance of caring for country, bush tucker, the eagle, bat, crow and the volcano to the cultural life of the Dja Dja Wurrung. It will also include a Welcome to Country sound installation from Jaara Elder Uncle Rick Nelson, and artworks and craft from local First Nations people.

'The Boorp Boorp Boondyil exhibition provides another significant attraction to Castlemaine, attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer and enjoy the many experiences the town offers.'

From a Press Release by Maree Edwards

November 2022 Xwd © McW Oct '18



Down:

1. What Scion of Opus Dei arrives at, having made up his mind? (8)
2. The spirit of their logos (Geist, one might say) is found underground, but the miners have most of them on their payrolls... (10)
3. Pours over the junction of sense and catatonia... (6)
4. Ah, to take off just like him. It ate away at the original in the same way. (7)
5. Coffee not available at intermediate stations? (8)
6. Fix blokes with symbol for no-trumps. (4)
7. Study once for each utilisation. (6)
13. Various CIA members are greedy. (10)
15. Tractable, and possible to be signed-off to, esp. by the clergy? (8)
17. Tightwad, say, could be a diplomat. (8)
18. Aply better than the opposition! (3-4 or 7)
20. After 18, the opposition might shed tears the same way to create an uproar. (6)
21. Thickhead is not a cute character... (6)
24. Wiz's pet name in Shorty's fiefdom? (4)

Across:

8. Forty-nine dwarves? (5,5,5)
9. Swiftly indeed could one be tied down here! (8)
10. We hear a pie has this multiplied by itself to show the extent it can splatter over... (6)
11. Copy one before (or after) the 10th... (3)
12. Writer moves and points? (6)
13. The 10th eleven is the high point. (4)
14. Not the standard solution. (7)
16. Looks for tucker over a long, long time. (7)
19. What to do with a pot if one "allus has 'un at eleven"? (4)
21. Genesis of the energy crisis? (6)
22. Shelled god? (3)
23. Audited nirvana for circle-workers? (6)
25. Of least moment is physical education timetable—that is beatified. (8)
26. Pigeon spotted top seaman here... (9,6)

October 2022 Xwd solution © McW Aug '18



Down:

1. Thin out to say you had a late breakfast. (9)
2. Stops [i.e.] with nothing added the different forms of the element.
3. For, as used to indicate reason, it admonishes God to initiate [cause...] everything.
4. Just to breathe induces snake anger... [Well?]
5. All who come into the church (or us) help make up the choir. (6)
6. Old Greek water man [Thales] dropped the first element for stories. (5)
8. Early alphabetical CEO under sheep station [run]. (5)
13. Two-legs good for Greek plane figure? [Well?]
15. [Yen] to exhaust [tire] the learner mixes absolutely. (8)
17. Musically diss the briars? [Well?]
18. Low art suggests obvious answer: scratch it! [Well?]
20. Almost beyond Hal's dumb reach to go into it another time... ["Once more into..." Henry IV...]
22. Regale louts by chopping tail and backing into their favourite tippie. (5)
23. C'mon, Bruce, the info yer missing to correctly identify and name the entrance, or vestibule, or sort-of hall, or front room, or whatever, is in there somewhere, okay? (5)

Across:

7. [Atheist asserted]: "Godlessness is way out in front!" (3,7,5)
9. Gibson [Mel...] the heavyweight in outer Melbourne... (6)
10. Birds arise via inner space here. (8)
11. Golden [Au++++] piquant qualities of patronage? [Well?]
12. Not that special, so it takes in as well. (4)
14. [Sad Seth] had sets of them, but they've been put away in a safe place... (7)
16. Scots river [Dee] nuisance is also the most unfathomable. (7)
19. Next to a demurrer? [Well?]
21. Spare Scots dam for putative state of dole-bludgers? [Well?]
24. It makes for [rage if so] many snouts in the trough don't allow fair goes at the starters.
25. Beginner pilot [L] gets shakily over the [ridge] in this... (6)
26. [Help saner prince] in order to supply blade for writer. (6,9)

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For placement of advertising please contact *The Core* via email at: 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 The Core is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: harcourt.vic.au/news

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		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

Thursday November 10: 7.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare, AGM at Harcourt North Hall, McIvor Road, Harcourt. Contact: Secretary: 0467 670 271

Thursday November 24 – 28: Mountain Bike National Round at La Larr Bar Gauwa Mountain Bike Park.

Saturday December 3: Shire swimming pools will be open for the summer season.

Thursday December 8: 5 pm, Celebrate 100 editions of *The Core*. Venue: Harcourt Bowls Club. All volunteers including contributors, family and interested community members are invited.

Carpet Bowls: 7 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, Leisure Centre, Bingham 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 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 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.

Correction

In last month's print edition of the *Core*, there was an unfortunate error on the Xword page. The solution grid did not tally with the written solution hints. Readers of the print edition missed out on many of the solution hints, too. It was an oversight, which we (I, the layout person) regret and apologise for.

If any reader would like to see what the solutions actually were, please send an email to news@harcourt.vic.au and I will send you a copy in your preferred form (digital or print). The online version is correct: www.harcourtprogress.org.au/news.

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.