

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 100 – December 2022

Produced by:

Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: [harcourtprogress.org.au/news](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/news)

[harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)

## Planning Panel Advises: Biodiversity Study Required



**T**HERE HAS BEEN a significant win for the environment in Harcourt Valley. The Planning Panel overseeing submissions relating to Plan Harcourt, (officially titled Mount Alexander Planning Scheme Amendment C94malx) has said that for a number of reasons their recommendation is that the amendment be abandoned. The Panel said in its report: 'Biodiversity is a key feature and environmental asset of Harcourt. The Amendment did not take into account the full range of elements required to assess, understand and protect biodiversity values.'

Both Harcourt Valley Landcare and Harcourt Progress Association made submissions to the panel around biodiversity, climate change and environmentally sustainable development. Other matters of significance addressed by submitters included the interface and buffers between residential and agricultural land, the township boundary alignment, and issues relating to proposed residential development areas such as: appropriate land use zones, lots size, housing diversity, built form etc.

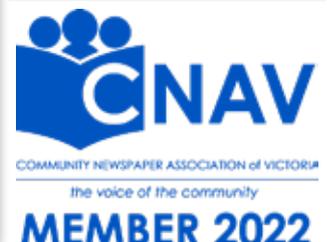
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### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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.**





**HARCOURT  
APPLEFEST  
2023**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.applefest.harcourt.vic.au) or  
email: [market@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:market@harcourt.vic.au)



# Harcourt Progress Association

Well, here we are at the end of the year already. The Progress Association has been busy working with Council this month to finalise arrangements for the new neighbourhood house to be housed at the old railway station. We hope to be operational by Easter 2023; sooner would be better, but we'll see how it goes. We have many ideas for the neighbourhood house and plan to consult widely, however, before we open the doors.

We were pleased that our submission to the Mount Alexander Shire Council Small Towns Christmas Celebrations grant scheme on behalf of Harcourt was successful. As a result, we received \$1,000 to spend on a **Christmas BBQ on December 18 in the play space in Stanley Park North from 2:30 to 5 pm.** Your invitation is at the back of *The Core*. For catering and Santa purposes RSVPs to [info@harcourtprogress.vic.au](mailto:info@harcourtprogress.vic.au) are essential. Any volunteer assistance will also be most appreciated.

Speaking of volunteer involvement, 5 December is the United Nations International Volunteer Day and what more appropriate time to thank all those who have supported the Harcourt Progress Association and every other community organisation in Harcourt. When you read the articles in *The Core* I think we can agree that Harcourt punches well above its weight.

This month HPA attended the MASC planning consultations, and the planning report is now available. (See our front page story for feedback from the Planning Panel.) We are also hopeful that MASC will receive funds to look at traffic flow in our small town. HPA has partnered with MASC in this submission to TAC.

We have applied for an extension to hold the HPA annual general meeting to allow us to plan for 2023 and beyond. We hope many of you will see the value of a progress association and consider joining as a member and as a committee member as well. The new year is an excellent time for a resolution to get involved in town activities in a formal way.

From all of us at Harcourt Progress Association and the whole team at *The Core* we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season and hope to see you at the Christmas BBQ and the AGM next year.

*Sha Cordingley*

*Acting President, Harcourt Progress Association*



TOGETHER AS

**Dhelkaya Health** OUR NEW BRAND LAUNCHES 2023

## DHELKAYA HEALTH DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-26

*Now open for comment from our patients, residents, clients and community*

Dhelkaya Health is your local health service. It was created through the integration of Castlemaine Health, Maldon Hospital and CHIRP Community Health in 2022.

In the last few months, Dhelkaya Health has been working on a strategic plan to guide our health and wellbeing services, for those living in and around the Mount Alexander Shire, for the next three years.

We have a draft plan ready and now we'd like to hear what you think. Why? Because we want to make sure we're delivering what's most important to you, your family and your community.

Commenting on Dhelkaya Health's draft Strategic Plan is easy. You can complete a 5-minute survey by scanning the QR code.

Or visit our website at [www.dhelkayahealth.org.au](http://www.dhelkayahealth.org.au)



## Harcourt's Little Library

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



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

## Biodiversity Study Required

*Continued from page 1*

The following information is taken from the Executive Summary of the Planning Panel Report

### Biodiversity

The Panel considers the Amendment should not proceed until further strategic assessment work is undertaken in relation to biodiversity values. This further work is likely to result in changes to the proposed local policy and planning controls. As an area with significant biodiversity values, it is critical that work is undertaken to strategically plan for the protection and conservation of areas of biodiversity.

The Panel also said that, 'The strategic biodiversity assessment recommended by the Panel should identify significant native trees in Growth Areas A, B, C and D, and make recommendations for appropriate protection mechanisms which may include planning controls.' 'The Panel was satisfied the Amendment adequately provides for provision of trees in new development.' '... development should provide for at least two canopy trees. At least one of those trees should be in the dwelling or residential building's front garden.'

### Climate Change and Environmentally Sustainable Development

'As far as Climate change adaption and mitigation, the Panel considered that these would be adequately addressed through relevant State planning policy and proposed planning provisions.'

The panel also said, 'The panel supports Council's post-exhibition changes to include

additional environmentally sustainable development requirements.'

### Agricultural Buffer Zones

John Baldock submitted his concerns to the Planning Panel about the placement of protective zones between residential and agricultural land. John, who is a member of both Landcare and the Harcourt Progress Association said, 'I'm pleased to see that the Panel has considered the arguments put forward in relation to the buffer zones, although I believe this issue should have been properly addressed before the panel hearing. The issues of inconsistencies within the Planning Scheme Amendment have been addressed. The report acknowledges that the developers must be made responsible to establish buffer zones within the township boundaries, not for the buffer zones to be established in adjacent farm zone properties which would have impacted on the use of these properties despite them being unrelated to the Township development.'

### Further outcomes from Planning Panel Hearing

#### Commercial Zoning, Town Boundary, Building Height and Parking

- The Panel requested that further work be done on the extent of land proposed for commercial zoning in the town centre.
- The Panel recommended that the Eagles Chanel should not be the north eastern township boundary, but that the boundary should be related to property lines.
- There is no mandatory building height in the commercial zone. But: 'A future permit application for taller built form above 9 metres in the town centre would be assessed with consideration of design

objectives and decision guidelines in the commercial overlay. The Panel considered this to be appropriate.'

- There will be a mandatory two storey, 9 metre limit in the residential zone.
- The Panel concluded that the proposed car parking provisions in the Amendment are appropriate especially in the light of a further study which Council is undertaking. A Town Centre Action Plan has commenced. This, plus a proposed traffic study for Harcourt, will investigate priority capital works for public realm infrastructure requirements including car parking.

### From Council's Website

Council received the planning panel's report on 31 November 2022. The report can be viewed at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt). The report includes maps of the areas of potential development which were designated residential development areas as well as areas of potential commercial development.

The Panel also makes the following further recommendations. That Council should:

- Prepare a strategic level biodiversity assessment and revise the Amendment to ensure proposed planning provisions adequately consider biodiversity protection.
- Prepare a commercial land demand assessment to inform the area proposed for rezoning to Commercial 1 Zone in the town centre.
- Update Plan Harcourt to ensure it is consistent with the further work and updated Amendment.
- Council must now make a decision within 40 business days on whether or not to adopt the Panel's recommendations.

## Harcourt Valley Landcare's response to Planning Panel Decision

Terry Willis, Deputy President of Harcourt Valley Landcare (HVL) said, 'It's a massive win for the biodiversity of Harcourt Valley and everyone who lives here. We are part of the natural world, not separate from it. A diverse mix of plants, birds, animals and even microbes in the soil, will make our ecosystems more resistant to global warming.'

'We are all surprised, in a good way, by the report's recommendation to abandon the amendment till there is a biodiversity assessment. From the start, HVL has advocated for council to undertake an ecological assessment to map Harcourt Valley's biodiversity values and native corridors as part of the planning process.

We've put in long nights writing our original submission and employing an expert witness, ecologist Paul Foreman, to present to the panel. We used funds that have taken us years to raise and feel the expenditure was justified.

'As to who will complete the strategic biodiversity assessment, we'd like to think we would be consulted on the appointment. But we would be happy for a local who has fantastic knowledge of all the parts of the local ecosystems to do the assessment.'

'This is the exciting part of the whole planning process. As the panel has stated, 'Biodiversity is a key feature and environmental asset of Harcourt.' So, let's discover where and what these assets are, so

we can celebrate, protect and enhance them. For example, Harcourt has been identified as one of the last remaining strongholds of Phascogales which are vulnerable in Victoria.

'Nurturing a diverse mixture of plants and animals is our best asset against ecosystems collapsing. We all want to live in a place of natural beauty, and Harcourt Valley has that in spades. But, going forward, we need to strike a balance between future development and the environment. We aren't just talking about saving trees; it's taking in the bigger picture. A biodiversity assessment will help guide us to see this potential of the place we love to live, Harcourt.'

## Independent panel recommends further work for Plan Harcourt

The independent planning panel has released its report on Mount Alexander Shire Council's Amendment C94 that seeks to implement the recommendations of Plan Harcourt (2020).

While the panel is broadly supportive of the amendment and considers it important to establish contemporary growth and development directions for Harcourt, the panel recommends abandoning the current amendment process until further work is completed. This includes a strategic level biodiversity assessment and a commercial land demand assessment.

In July 2020, Council adopted Plan Harcourt - a blueprint for land use planning, town centre design, and a

number of economic development initiatives for the town.

The planning scheme amendment implementing Plan Harcourt was on exhibition for a period of eight weeks from 11 January 2022 until 6 March 2022, during which time submissions were received from the public. Council considered all submissions at its meeting on 21 June 2022.

As not all matters raised within submissions were resolved, Council referred these to an independent planning panel to review and consider the outstanding issues. Over the course of three days in September 2022, the panel hearing was held and a number of submitters and Council presented their submissions to the panel.

Council now must decide whether or not to adopt the recommendations

of the panel within 40 business days, as required by the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Council can adopt an amendment, or part of it, with or without changes.

Council will review and consider the panel's report and recommendations in detail at a future council meeting early next year.

**To access a copy of the panel's report visit: [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/PlanHarcourt).**

**For more information about the planning scheme amendment process see below or visit:**

**[www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/amending-a-planning-scheme).**



## WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

### Boorp Boorp Boondyil – another step towards Reconciliation

*"This is a story my father told me. It's hugely important to pass it on to our children, and our children's children."*

—Uncle Rick Nelson

The Mount Alexander Shire community has taken a huge collective step towards Reconciliation this month with the opening of the extraordinary Boorp Boorp Boondyil exhibition. The exhibition, which now has a permanent home in the historic Market Building in Castlemaine, is the result of nearly a decade's work of Uncle Rick Nelson and his father Uncle Brien Nelson, along with numerous other First Nations community members and allies.

Boorp Boorp Boondyil, which loosely translates to 'passing knowledge to the children', was produced by Uncle Rick with support from local children themselves, alongside Nalderun Aboriginal Education Corporation, Sharing Stories Foundation and Mount Alexander Shire Council.

The exhibition also features artwork by First Nations artists Alvin Darcy Briggs and Aunty Marilyn Nicholls.

Boorp Boorp Boondyil is pronounced 'Boorp' as in 'torpedo' and 'Boondyil' as in 'book', and is a name gifted to the project by Uncle Rick.

This permanent exhibit will provide

residents and visitors with an opportunity to walk through an interactive space, where they will learn the history of the area, including the story of the Eagle, the Bat and the Crow, the Creation Story of the Dja Dja Wurrung in the Mount Alexander region, as told by the Nelson family. The exhibition also includes important cultural lessons about living on Country and bush foods, medicine, waterways and weaving.

It welcomes visitors onto Jaara Country, and serves as a starting point to learning more about the rich history of this land's traditional custodians. Boorp Boorp Boondyil also includes immersive and interactive opportunities to discover Dja Dja Wurrung language, and Jaara stories and teachings.

Vitaly, this was first and foremost a Dja Dja Wurrung project – Uncle Rick was hired as a Council staff member for a full year as project leader, overseeing the design and development of the exhibition and its content. A demonstration of self-determination, with the institutional backing of the local Council, is a

wonderful example of how far this community has come in recent years.

The exhibition was launched by Uncle Rick, Mayor Bill Maltby, and Maree Edwards MP in front of a huge and enthusiastic crowd, featuring performances by Alvin Briggs and Justice Nelson.

The region's journey towards reconciliation continues, and has a long way to go. A permanent exhibition, created and led by an Elder, that shares – and enhances – the space of the historic Market Building, will serve as a central space on which residents and visitors can begin or continue their own journeys for years to come.

*Ed Butler*

**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](http://www.nalderun.net.au)**



# Applefest 2023

## Saturday March 11, 2023

Applefest will be on again next year, bigger, brighter and with some new attractions.

Headline performers are:

- Eliza Hull [www.elizahull.com](http://www.elizahull.com)
- the Australian Women's Choir [www.australianwomenschoir.com.au](http://www.australianwomenschoir.com.au)

Eliza is a musician, speaker, writer and advocate – changing the way that the world views disability. Recently Eliza was awarded the Music Victoria Amplify Award, the APRA Mentorship for women in music, the National Leadership Award from the Australia Council and Arts Access Australia and the Women in Music Award.

The Australian Women's Choir provides a unique opportunity for women of all ages to experience the joy of singing and performing Pop, Rock and Contemporary music. The Australian Women's Choir is based in Essendon, Victoria under the directorship of Wendy Stapleton and the guidance of some of Australia's most experienced vocal coaches.

Come along and see all our performers across two stages in James Park.

The 2023 royal couple will be Phil Muscat as King Jonathon and Di Lederman as Lady William. They will be crowned at the Harcourt Christmas party in Stanley Park North on December 18. Don't miss

this event, details of which are on the back page of this edition of *The Core*.

This year Applefest has employed a Market Stallholder Manager, Michelle Pollard. Michelle was selected after the committee decided to advertise for a dedicated and paid person to manage the market, thus relieving committee members of a major task.

James Park will be full to the brim of activities on the day. As a result of the high demand for sites in 2022, there is an expanded layout for the event which will spread to both sides of the ANA Hall and will include two stages.

The main stage will be in a slightly different position – a new permanent stage is to be built in James Park. We are not sure the new stage will be ready in time for Applefest, but there will be a substantial stage on the south side of the ANA Hall. Market stalls and a second stage will be located to the north of the ANA Hall, so the full extent of James Park jumping with activity.

The committee is excited to announce that they are investigating providers of headline children's entertainment; last year it was dinosaurs! We are also pleased to announce a Lego competition which is open to all ages. Themes for the competition will be decided soon. Surely apples and apple growing will be included? Wait and see.



The usual attractions will be there too: the Art Show, the apple pie baking and the apple pie eating competitions, the CWA, cider, toffee apples, a children's story teller and much, much more.

Are you new to Harcourt? Our 2022 Lady William was Ruth Hay, a new resident, who said, 'Being involved in Applefest was a great way to get to know many people in the town.'

Please consider assisting on the day; volunteers are essential to the success of this event and you will have the opportunity to meet and work with others who support this key event in Harcourt. If you are interested in volunteering, contact: Diana Cork on 0427 396 211.

**Now in its 32nd year, each year's Applefest is different!**

**Mark the day in your calendar: Saturday, March 11, 2023.**

*George Milford*

### Editor's comments 100th edition

It will be plain to readers when they extract the centre liftout of this edition of *The Core*, that it has taken the input of many people to make Harcourt News/*The Core* what it is today.

I want to express sincere thanks to them all and thank our advertisers including Mount Alexander Shire, without whom we could not survive. There were some early editions of papers in Harcourt: The Harcourt Valley News prepared by Barry Constable in the 2000s and a few early editions of *The Core* after the Harcourt Progress Association was established. And, as some may be aware, the first edition of *The Core* which I produced was a single double-sided A3 sheet. I believe that after the community building process which resulted in the formation of the Harcourt Progress Association, we had a platform and a reason to feel confident that we could call on institutions, clubs and

associations in Harcourt to contribute to the new newspaper. And people in Harcourt responded. They may have done so wondering, 'Will this last?' I have wondered the same, but over time, *The Core* has been established and I believe people trust it, if for nothing else, its reliability.

Making a local paper reliable is a challenge, but I have found great support from our volunteers who assist in the production and distribution of the paper. These people are: Firstly, Bernie Schultz who does the design and layout of the paper so professionally, and our production team: Sha Cordingley, Alison Curtis, Bronnie Dean, Lois Denham, Vera Hemkes, Michele O'Brien and Katie Petrusma, advertising coordinator. Our folding and distribution team of Liz Bini, Moira McLennan, Liz Rowe and Liz Ward have been on board since the very beginning when I was producing copies in the back room at home, and we

would meet around my dining table to put the paper together. Thank you also to our past advertising coordinators, Genevieve Ward and Pauline Wilkinson.

Succession is always a challenge in local newspaper productions and I have had great support from John Ellis the editor of *Chewton Chat*. John introduced me to the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria which provides collegiate support. With continuity in mind, I especially want to thank Sha Cordingley who is stepping up to share the editing, month about, from 2023.

Thank you to our readers who give donations to *The Core* when they collect their paper; donations are used to help cover running costs.

The last nine years have been nothing, if not challenging, but here we are at 100 editions and trusting that with good planning and willing hands we have set *The Core* on the path where it is seen as viable and worth continuing into the future.

*Robyn Miller*



# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

This month we are celebrating the 100th Edition of *The Core*.

Recently, I spent a few pleasant hours going back over old issues of *The Core* and it reminded me of reading a well-kept diary with its history and memories in its pages each month. Harcourt CWA has been proud to be a part of that history and a part of the memories.

Congratulations to all who have made this 100th Edition of *The Core* possible; you have done a wonderful job.

At our AGM in November, we elected new office bearers for 2023, and last week at our Syllabus Meeting, we planned next year's activities for each month. With one year coming to an end, we are already looking forward to the next; to leave memories of events at our Branch in the pages of our Minute Book for future members to read, just like *The Core* does each month for the community of Harcourt.



Ayrone Teed and Alma Chaplin said their goodbyes this year.



Enjoying the feast at our Malaysian International Day.



Creative Arts Exhibition Branch Award.



Ayrone Teed welcomes our Malaysian guests to promote CWA at Applefest.



Dallas Giles (Group President of Central Victoria CWA), Alison Curtis (Treasurer) Helen Hand (Secretary), Robyn Mc Conville (President).]

Looking back over this past year, we have had a lot of fun, cooked up a feast or two, said our farewells to friends, won awards at the Creative Arts Exhibition, promoted our Branch at Applefest and ended the year with a bang-up Christmas Lunch.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, from all of us at Harcourt CWA.

Lyn Rule  
Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer

## Harcourt Carpet Bowls

Firstly, I would like to say congratulations to the team at *The Core* on making this their 100th Edition of the Harcourt News "*The Core*".

Your dedication to the production of the Monthly Edition has meant that organisations like us have been able to advertise and notify the people of Harcourt, and those newly arrived, of the happenings in the township and beyond. Keep up the good work and thank you to the editors, those who deliver *The Core* each month and everyone working in the background, to bring the paper out on time.

Secondly - A reminder that even though our Summer Bowls competition is well underway, we will always make welcome any newcomers who wish to come and join in each Wednesday night at 7.15 - 7.30 pm start at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt. We are an all- inclusive club and

welcome everyone to come and play whether a family or single adults, anyone eight years old and upwards. It is not a late night for the young and young at heart, usually ending by 9.00 pm approximately.

We will break for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 14 December and recommence on Wednesday 18 January 2022, playing until mid-March when finals will be played.

The start of our Winter Competition will be notified in *The Core* after our AGM, usually held in April with start in May.

For further information on Summer Bowls, 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 on Wednesday nights during the summer or winter playing season.

Loretta Rice



# Harcourt CFA

## Where is Summer?

This year's spring weather has been wetter and colder than previous years leading to ongoing grass growth, and, as a result, many people question when the warmer weather will arrive.

Weather forecasts still refer to wet weather through December up to Christmas. So what does this mean? Soil moisture content testing is showing moisture in the ground down to one metre. Cooler weather cycles will delay the drying out of the finer fuels and the forest areas will remain moist, reducing the fire risk. This fire season is likely to feature an increase in fast running grass fires rather than raging bushfires. This is why it is important to maintain management of the finer fuels around your home. It is these fuels that will dry out quickly when hotter summer days do eventually arrive.

Preparing your property for this fire season may reduce the impact of a fire on your home. Ways to prepare your property include cutting the grass around your house and property, clearing roof gutters of leaf litter, removing any flammable items from decks and verandas, moving wood piles away from your home, cutting back overhanging branches and removing dry grasses, leaves, twigs and loose bark from around your home. Further information can be found at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare)

These topics were part of the presentation of our Fire Safety Essentials community meeting where nine residents took the opportunity to learn more about how to identify their fire risk and steps to take to reduce that risk. If you were unable to attend our meeting, but want to know more, you can call in at the fire station of a

Sunday morning after 9.00 am for more information.

### Recruitment Update

Our recent recruitment drive has seen a new group of residents joining our brigade. They have commenced training sessions on getting to know the various pieces of equipment we have, where it is kept on the truck and how to use it. This will form part of the General Fire Fighting Course, which all new members must complete before becoming an active fire fighter. This process does take a bit of time as it is important that all members are fully trained in safety and operations so it is likely to be towards the end of this fire season before they will be able to join us in turning out on the truck. We do look forward to the time when this can occur.

### Turnouts

November was a quiet month for turnouts with only two incidents. The first was around lunchtime on November 21 when strong wind resulted in a tree falling over power lines in White Gum Road Barkers Creek. The powerlines did not break and were still live, resulting in the canopy of the tree smouldering and the leaves burning randomly as they came into contact with the powerline.

This is a dangerous situation, as the area around the powerlines and the tree can become energised, which could result in an electric shock. Also, there is a risk of the powerlines breaking and coiling back across the ground. Unfortunately, someone's car had veered off the road and under the powerlines to get around the tree to get



wherever they were heading, unaware of the risk they were taking. Remember, you can't see electricity; **stay away from fallen powerlines.** The power companies are the experts in dealing with these situations, and that is exactly what happened on this occasion.

The second incident was a reported stump on fire one evening later in the month. This was an investigation only, but highlights the importance of registering any burning off, and also accurately specifying a start and finish time. End times can be extended with a follow up call if you are going to go past that time. This will assist the brigade in not having to turn out unnecessarily.

### Fire Restrictions

The timeline for fire restriction in Central Victoria has not yet been determined. Keep an eye out in local newspapers, or check out current restrictions on the CFA website. Fire restrictions have commenced in the north-west of the state and will progress down towards our area as we move through summer.

Be prepared and stay safe.

*Tyrone Rice*  
Brigade Safety Coordinator

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## Oral History Project Would you like to be involved?



[During WW2 drought.] Bertuch Property, Harcourt, 1940. Creator: International Harvester Co of Australia Pty Ltd (IHC). Museums Victoria Collections <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/1469176>

Oral historians, Professor Katie Holmes and Dr Karen Twigg, will be visiting Harcourt periodically over the next few months. They are part of a three-year project (La Trobe University and University of Melbourne) exploring the history of drought in regional Victoria.

We are interested in speaking to people in Harcourt about how they have lived through and managed dry seasons, including the Millennium drought. Changing land and water use, personal and community responses to drought and the sights and sounds of dry seasons are all areas in which we are keen to find out more.

For more information about the project, see the website: [parchedresearchproject.com.au](http://parchedresearchproject.com.au)

If you would like to participate in an interview or find out more about the oral history component of our project, please contact Karen Twigg:

**Email:** [parched@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:parched@latrobe.edu.au)

**Telephone:** 9479 3327.

(Interviews will be recorded at a time and place of the interviewee's choosing).

## Join us for a Free Community Christmas Lunch

Residents in Mount Alexander Shire are invited to a free Community Christmas Lunch and celebration at Castlemaine Town Hall on Sunday 25 December.

Book your place now and be part of this special day. The Community Christmas Lunch (an alcohol-free event) will include a delicious main meal and dessert. There will also be music and activities to keep everyone entertained.

To find out more about volunteering on the day, contact Castlemaine Community House on 5472 4842 or [reception@cch.org.au](mailto:reception@cch.org.au)

Other ways to contribute to the day include donations of:

- small gifts for children
- produce and food (e.g. garden surplus of fruit and vegetables, a bag of rice, a bottle of olive oil) to help add to the meals
- art and craft supplies such as textas, craft paper, goods, etc.
- cash donations to support the event.

For more information and bookings, call Castlemaine Community House on 5472 4842, email [reception@cch.org.au](mailto:reception@cch.org.au) or visit [www.cch.org.au/community-christmas-lunch](http://www.cch.org.au/community-christmas-lunch)

### Event details

**What:** Community Christmas Lunch

**When:** 12.30pm to 2.00pm, Sunday 25 December

**Where:** Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine (entry via Frederick Street)

**Bookings:** Call Castlemaine Community House on 5472 4842 or email [reception@cch.org.au](mailto:reception@cch.org.au).

**Cost:** Lunch is free. Donations accepted on the day.

Castlemaine Christmas Community Lunch is proudly brought to you by Castlemaine Community House, Mount Alexander Shire Council, HALT (Hope Assist Local Tradies), The ELM Network, Dhelkaya Health, Salvation Army, and would not be possible without the generous donations of many local business and community individuals.

## Christmas/New Year Contacts

We know that for some people the Christmas and New Year period can be difficult particularly those who feel isolated, lonely or unwell.

Below is a list of local organisations who may be able to assist you with counselling or other services.

**Castlemaine Community House:** 54724842

- Christmas Day Luncheon
- Safe Space who will have counsellors available on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
- HALT (Hope Assistance for Local Tradies) 0409 756 274
- ELM (Every Life Matters) 5472 4843

**Castlemaine Salvation Army** 5470 5389

**Castlemaine Vinnies** 5470 6091

**Dhelkaya Health** (Chirp Community Health) 5479 1000

Feel free to phone or leave a message on any of these numbers. However, as some of them rely on volunteers who take a break over Christmas/New Year below are some 24 hour phone services where people are available at any time

**Beyond Blue:** 1300 224 636

**Lifeline:** 131114



# Harcourt Uniting Church

Christmas is approaching at a fast rate and we are often greeted with: 'What are you doing for Christmas?' or 'Have you finished your Christmas shopping?' Waiting for Christmas Day to arrive can take such a long time in a child's life.

In the Christian Church, Christmas is a very special time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The four weeks leading up to Christmas are known as Advent. Advent means 'coming' so we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming as a baby to Bethlehem.

At Harcourt Uniting Church, an Advent wreath of native flowers, and 5 candles, will be the centrepiece of our worship. Each week we will light a candle for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love with the centre candle, the Christ candle, being lit on Christmas Day.

'Carols in the Park' will be a feature of the wider Christmas community celebration at Stanley Park which will be held on Sunday 18 December.

Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December, will be celebrated at 8.30am at Harcourt Uniting Church in Buckley Street - nice and early - so you can be home to put on the roast, light the barbie or open presents.

At our Harcourt Uniting Church Adult Fellowship AGM in November, we made the decision to formally close our UCAF



group, but continue to meet socially for morning tea or lunch. This group was formed in 1953 (as the Methodist Guild), and has been meeting on the third Tuesday of the month ever since! Two of the original members, Alma Chaplin and Dorothy Jenkin, have continued as faithful members of the group for the 69 years of our Fellowship, and were at both the first and final meeting. What a record! The original members included Winsome Cordy, Rona Gaasch, Gwen Leversha, Olive McKindley, Mrs Rex Warren, Bertha Warren, Dorothy Gartside, Mrs V Straw, Betty Leversha, Thelma Wilkinson, Ida Milford, Eunice Brown, Ann Field, Alma Chaplin and Dorothy Jenkin. The group began with the purpose of raising money to build the preschool, which was behind the Church Hall, until recently moving to the new building near the primary school. Money raised was also used for improvements

to the Church and, in recent years, we have donated funds to many organisations including Castlemaine Secondary School Chaplaincy, MASARG Respite House, vouchers for families needing support to buy Christmas presents for their families, Frontier Services, Flying Doctors, Uniting Care, Christian Blind Mission, Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Whilst writing of milestones, the Harcourt Uniting Church members wish to congratulate *The Core* on their 100th edition. Thank you to the group of people who work to produce each edition with so many interesting articles about Harcourt and district. Thanks also to everyone who contributes their articles each month. The 24th of the month deadline for articles seems to come around very quickly.

In the rush of preparing for Christmas, we tend to forget that it's a time for sharing in the love of our families and friends as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Happy Christmas to you all.

**A small child climbed onto Santa's knee and Santa asked: 'What would you like for Christmas?' The child stared at him for a minute in disbelief, and then said: 'Didn't you get my email?'**

**A boy ran into the kitchen and called out to his Mum: 'Hey Mum, remember I said I'd like Santa to bring me a bike? Well you don't have to worry now because I just found a bike behind your wardrobe.'**

Jan Jenkin

## Linda Newton

Linda is an artist who lives locally and has a studio at The Mill in Castlemaine. Linda has very kindly offered a piece of her artwork for publication in *The Core* each month. We, of course, are delighted to accept and we welcome Linda as another regular contributor to *The Core*.

Robyn Miller

With a pot of loose leaf tea thick slices of toast, a mess of pencils pens brushes, paper, ink acrylic watercolours, music on, dog content, drawing begins.



Alert and Waiting on Harcourt Fencepost



'Creative solitude' - Linda Newton

## Some Time Ago

HARCOURT. The holidays on Christmas and Boxing Days were celebrated very quietly locally. On Boxing Day a team of cricketers visited Bendigo, and, winning the toss, sent the visitors in to bat, which they did right merrily, on what was supposed to be a bowler's wicket, scoring 268, and treating their hosts, who had first choice in the matter, to an afternoon's leather hunting. The remainder of the Harcourt residents were apparently congregated in family parties, both small and large, at the local reservoir, where the delightful weather conditions made the day's outing a most enjoyable one. As in former years, and more particularly of recent ones, the lack of conveniences for the supply of hot water was felt ...

Transcribed from the Mount Alexander Mail 30 Dec 1914 p. 1 Via Trove

# CNAV Conference 2022

On 15 October three Harcourt Progress Association delegates attended the one-day Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) Conference and Awards night held annually for like-minded people who are all involved in the production of community newspapers within Victoria.

The Mount Macedon Victorian Emergency Institute was an ideal venue with lovely indoor and outdoor comforts to enjoy. We had a chance to visit a nearby waterfall and passed some beautiful historic homes...and we became slightly lost. Robyn (*The Core* editor) and I managed an extra-long walk home because we found the gate to the adjacent golf course locked and we thought by climbing the fence we might attract unwanted publicity!!

Because of the floods at the time of the conference, attendance was lower than usual and some of the listed presenters were also unavailable, however, as a first time attendee I found the guest speakers relevant and interesting. Networking with others over breaks also gave me some good insights into the possibilities and

problems of community newspapers.

The first of the workshops was on newspaper photography presented by Paul Rovere (Deputy Picture Editor at *The Age* newspaper). After his talk, his words: 'get in close...then even closer', became the catch phrase for anyone with a camera. He had some good hints on software and cameras and confirmed that a lot can be achieved without sophisticated equipment.

Another good workshop was conducted by Heather Arnold who recently retired after 16 years as the local history librarian for the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation. Heather's focus was on Domestic History with lots of hints on how to access Victorian archives for social history, particularly for women.

Jeanette Severs, who is an award-winning freelance photojournalist, taught us a lot about the legalities for the media on covering elections, which was very topical with the election due in November in Victoria. Both the Victorian Electoral Commission and Australian Electoral Commission provide helpful insights for editors of local newspapers to

ensure honest and open reporting about prospective candidates. Whilst *The Core* is quite small compared to some of our inner city counterparts, there were still insights to be gained.

At the awards dinner *The Core* was successful in being a finalist in the award for Best Photograph. The picture was taken by Andrew Mierisch of the Victorian Miniature Railway and was featured on the front of the May 2022 edition of *The Core*. The judge summed up Andrew's effort as 'a happy life affirming photo.' The story of the photo was further followed up in the October edition of *The Core*. It proves that with a good phone camera, much can be achieved by willing volunteers.

Having attended my first CNAV conference, I would recommend anyone who would like to learn more to become involved. It gave me insights into the bigger picture and relevance of community newspapers and their ongoing importance, considering many people now get their information through technology.

*Alison Curtis*

Community Bank  
Maldon & District  
Bendigo Bank

## Community Bank Scholarships Close 18 December 2022

Community Bank Maldon & District is pleased to be offering four scholarships in 2023 worth \$2,000 each. The purpose of each scholarship is to support students in the Maldon, Newstead, Harcourt, Dunolly and Mount Alexander districts for new or ongoing studies in 2023. Eligibility also includes students who attended a secondary school in this region.

Scholarships are awarded to cover costs associated with education, such as course fees, rent, purchasing computers, books, equipment or other resources associated with your course/training.

Community Bank Maldon & District branch manager, Paul Simmons said 'it's fantastic that we can offer more scholarships to encourage applications from all types of students, and not just those who take the traditional university path. It's important to us to include other areas that matter such as TAFE and traineeships, helping people with agriculture training programs and encouraging and supporting further study for indigenous students.'

Further information is available on the Community Bank's website, and includes the application forms and detailed guidelines with further information on eligibility criteria.

Otherwise, to chat about the program in further detail, please contact Executive Officer, Shannon Burdeu on 0478 435 110 or [executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au](mailto:executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au)



*Some of the 2022 scholarships recipients pictured with Paul Simmons, Branch Manager and Shannon Burdeu, Executive Officer.*

# CELEBRATION OF THE 1851 MONSTER MEETING OF DIGGERS & THE 20<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE CASTLEMAINE DIGGINGS NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK

- Sunday 11 December 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm
- Monster Meeting site at Golden Point Road Chewton
- Organised by Chewton Domain Society and Parks Victoria

This year, on Sunday 11 December, there will be a double celebration for the 20th birthday of the Heritage Park and to remember the 15,000 gold diggers who held their Monster Meeting there on the banks of Forest Creek in 1851.

Twenty years ago the Park was granted national heritage status because it is the only place where we can still see the landscape of the great gold rush that began there in 1851 and started the transformation of Australia

from an agricultural economy to a modern nation. The Diggers' 1851 Monster Meeting had a crucial role in that transformation. When 15,000 gold diggers met at Forest Creek to defy the quasi-military government of Governor La Trobe, they ignited a social and political protest movement that spread across the goldfields and kick-started the march to the Eureka Stockade and finally to parliamentary democracy in Victoria.

In the Park, we can still walk through the landscape of that Diggers' Meeting and see the impact left by the thousands from all over the world who tramped to Mount Alexander to pan and dig on the richest shallow alluvial gold field ever discovered. They are still here in spirit.

On Sunday 11 December, we will begin our celebration with a Welcome to Country from the Dja Dja Wurrung, we will hear Gus Read Hill declare the Diggers' Words of Defiance and listen to the Castlemaine Brasslemaine Brass Band. Maree Edwards MP will tell the Diggers' story and from Parks Victoria and Mount Alexander Council, we will hear the story of the Park and its part in our local community. Also, Parks Victoria Rangers will be there to help us pan for gold as the diggers did.

And, what is a birthday without a cake? The members of the Chewton CWA will make the 20th birthday cake and present it to the Park Rangers with the music of



Happy Birthday from the Brasslemaine Brass Band.

## Program: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

1.30 pm: Gold panning for Junior Rangers with Parks Victoria

3.00 pm: Dja Dja Wurrung Welcome to Country followed by:

- Music from the Brasslemaine Brass Band
- The Diggers' Words of Defiance from Gus Read Hill
- Maree Edwards on how the Diggers' Meeting kick started Victorian democracy
- The story of the Heritage Park and its part in our local community
- Presentation of birthday cake from the CWA

There will be marquees with displays on site, and a port-a-loo will be available but, in true diggers' style, it is BYO water, hat and chair (or sit on the grass).

For more information and to arrange photos or interviews, contact Pat Healy at [pathealy1908@gmail.com](mailto:pathealy1908@gmail.com) or phone: 0422 759 661.

**MEETING OF THE DIGGERS AT MOUNT ALEXANDER.**  
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)  
Monday, 15th December, 1851.  
SIR, - In my report of the former meeting on this Creek, I promised to give you the answer of the Co mmissioner. It was intended to have held the meeting near the Commissioner's Tents, but subsequently the body met at the Shepherd's Hut, near the Post Office. At an early hour

an righteous proposition of the Government compelled me to appear before you on a former occasion. You all know what was said and done at that meeting, and the decis on come to, to call the present, and though I expected to have the pleasure of addressing a large concourse of my fellow-diggers, I must say I was quite unprepared for the present assemblage. I see before me some 10,000 or 12,000 men, which any country in the world might be proud to own as her sons. The very cream of Victoria, and the sinews of her strength. Now, my friends,

The Argus December 18 December 1851.  
Via Trove.



**CHEWTON DOMAIN SOCIETY**  
(INCORPORATED)  
Reg. No. A0034364L  
P.O. Box 85, Chewton, 3451.

## Health and friendship with Harcourt Walking Group



The Harcourt Walking Group, established in 2014, welcomes anyone wanting to join their leisurely walk on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Local Wendy Barron is a Dhelkaya Health volunteer and she has been leading the group from its beginning.

"We meet at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum each Monday and Thursday morning at 9.30am and then walk for approximately an hour." said Wendy. "The walking

group is popular. It's great for our health and improves mental wellbeing for members. We have fun exploring Harcourt, and then we have a cuppa and chat afterwards. The group is also great for making new friends and staying active."

Bookings are not necessary; interested participants can meet at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum at 9.30am on Monday and Thursday mornings.

For further information, please call Dhelkaya Health on 5479 1000.



# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## William Peeler Speaks Up

Harcourt's pioneer historian, the late Hedley James, carefully read every issue of the *Mount Alexander Mail* and the *Castlemaine Mail* from 1857 to 1937. He then copied every news article that referred to Barkers Creek, Harcourt or Faraday. These transcripts by Hedley James form the core of the collection of Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Among Hedley James' notebooks is one he titled 'Inquests'. It contains copies of news reports of eighty-eight sudden deaths, accidents, and (a few) murders that took place in those eighty years. Each unexpected or unexplained death required a coroner or a magistrate to enquire, 'on the part of our Lady the Queen, when, where, how, and by what means the deceased came by his, or her, death'. The witness statements and the verdict were sent to the State Government. The inquest papers are now lodged with the Public Records Office of Victoria. Hedley's interest, however, lay in the news items referring to the deaths and the events that followed.

The news reports surrounding one death stand out from the rest of the eighty-eight. The coverage given to the inquest, and the aftermath, of the accidental death of Thomas Peeler is notable, because it touches on workplace safety. In the nineteenth century, this was not a matter that received much newspaper attention. Anyone who reads the *Mount Alexander Mail* reports of this incident will be struck by the hostile attacks on the dead man's relatives and the tactics adopted against them.

It was 1.00 pm on 13 October 1883, Saturday lunchtime. Tom Peeler, 38 years of age, was climbing a ladder out of the slate quarry, with his coat on his shoulder and his billy in his hand. When stepping onto a landing he fell. It was later proven that he fell sixty-five feet to the bottom of the quarry hole. Other men rushed to his aid, a box was fetched, into which Tom was placed, and he was hoisted to the surface by the crane. Mr Walter's cart was brought to the quarry, and the unconscious man was taken to the Castlemaine Hospital where he remained, insensible, until his death on Monday morning.

A magisterial enquiry was convened by Mr Tolstrup JP at the Hospital on the following day. Many men attended the enquiry, including a police constable, one of Tom's workmates, Tom's brother and brother-in-law, the quarry manager and Mr Nicholas, Senior Inspector of Mines.



*The precarious nature of the workings around the slate quarry are obvious. Note the scale of the operation – there are five workers in this photo.*

The first witness was the police constable who briefly outlined the official view of the man's death and the facts that he had gathered from the men at the quarry. The next witness was the man who was above Tom on the ladder. This witness had seen him fall. As soon as this witness mentioned the ladder, Tom's elder brother, William Peeler, spoke up. He obtained permission to ask questions. The purpose of the questions was to determine if there was anything faulty with the ladders, or the manner in which they were fixed. He pressed one witness for an answer as to whether the landings would be safer if they had railings around them and obtained the answer, 'yes, they would'. More questions followed. The magistrate was then told that the ladder tended to sway, it was fastened by a chain on one side and by a spike to a log at the top and bottom. (A photo of the quarry workings shows the ladder to be a rope ladder with wooden steps.) The Senior Inspector of Mines, who had visited the quarry after the accident, told the magistrate that the ladder 'was *not as would be required* under the Regulation of Mines statute but may be considered *fairly safe* for quarrying purposes." William Peeler also questioned this inspector as to how the ladder could be made safer?

The assertion by William Peeler that the rope ladder was unsafe was intended

to expose quarry management to a claim for damages. This was robustly deflected by quarry management, both privately and by statements to the newspaper such as the following: 'It would stifle and chill public sympathy if compensation was going to line 'the pockets of the legal profession.' William Peeler's remarks were criticized by the *Mount Alexander Mail* as being 'hasty and injudicious'. It is not hard to figure just who it was that put that idea in the editor's head. By such tactics, the well-to-do defended their unfortunate safety record. Much credit should go to William Peeler.

It was the custom in such tragic cases for a subscription to be collected for the widow and children. The effort to raise funds for the Peeler family was closely followed by the *Mount Alexander Mail*. The newspaper assured the public that the money raised was to be placed in the hands of trustees for the benefit of the family, so that it would not be dissipated in lawyer's fees. This was another move by quarry management to ensure they would not be sued. The newspaper went on to add: 'Mrs. Peeler and her young family, being left utterly destitute, will receive commiserations from all charitable persons. Subscriptions for the appeal may be left at the Mail Office.'

Historian Stan Yorke writes:

## William Peeler Speaks Up

Continued ...

The Victorians failed to understand the concept of safety. Victorian society was run by the wealthy who for generations had viewed the poor as expendable. Their careless attitude to loss of life was, frankly, the norm. To the bosses it was just inconvenient. To the poor it was just part of life. This way of thinking goes some way to explain why improvements took so long to be applied. Workers implicitly took responsibility for the hazards of their employment. Access to compensation only came after a successful court action.

This inability to obtain compensation for the injured or the relatives of deceased workmen is clearly in evidence in most of the inquest reports collected by Hedley James. It was only after the rise of worker organisations that Workmen's Compensation laws were enacted. I believe that Victoria's first such law was enacted in 1911.

In the 19th century, the era of Workers Compensation and of WorkSafe inspectors was way off in the future. The requirement for employers to provide a safe method of working was not even thought of. Thomas Peeler was unprotected, by railings or by any legal notion of safety when he started to climb that swaying rope ladder to ascend the sheer face of the slate quarry on that Saturday in October 1883.

This is another Thumbnail Sketch written for *The Core* by Harcourt Heritage Centre.

The quotation from the writings of Stan Yorke is from *What the Victorians got Wrong* published in 2008 by Countryside Books.

# LIMERICK POEM

by The (former)  
Bard of North Harcourt

## 100 Not Out

The 100th issue of *The Core*  
Has hit the press, it's in your store.  
It's full of news, ideas, and fun.  
In cricket terms it's made a ton.  
There's lots of folk who make it work  
They all work hard and never shirk.  
It's very hard to name them all  
But most of you are in this hall.  
I will not read out every name  
In case one's missing: such a shame.  
To all you faithful volunteers  
We thank you all and shout three cheers.

## THE FAYRE IS **NOT** BACK FOR 2022

The Fayre Committee have met at the Botanic Gardens and have come to the unfortunate decision that due to the waterlogged condition of the grounds, accessibility concerns and predicted weather, **the 2022 Malmsbury Village Fayre is cancelled.**

Planning for the 2023 Fayre begins now!



## Grassfires move so quickly, it's **impossible** to outrun them.

This summer, significant pasture growth in paddocks and roadsides means that fast-moving grassfires will be a serious risk across Victoria. Rural grassfires can be just as dangerous as bushfires, and can actually spread even faster, travelling at speeds of up to 25km/h. If you live close to open paddocks or grasslands, you could be at risk and need to be prepared. On Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rated days, the safest option is to leave early.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [vic.gov.au/knowfire](https://vic.gov.au/knowfire)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# The Evolution of The Core

## An Interview with Robyn Miller

In this our 100th edition of *The Core*, I would like to acknowledge Robyn Miller's nine years of work as editor. Maybe you, like me, are curious as to why and how Robyn became interested in being editor of *The Core*?

As many readers would know, Robyn is an active community member who loves living in Harcourt. It is her home. She is deeply connected to the local environment and the community. That connection, plus her generosity and particular skill set, have been the driving force in the production of a successful, sustainable newsletter. When did all this happen, and how did she acquire these skills? In brief, this is her story.

Long before she moved to this area, Robyn knew that she had a family connection to the Central Goldfields area through her mother's side of the family, the Robbins. The Robbins migrated from England in 1852 and bought some land at Barnadown on the Campaspe River where they established a farm and grew vegetables for the gold miners in nearby Bendigo. They had a large family and Robyn informed me that some of their descendants continue to live in Central Victoria.

She said, 'I grew up in Balwyn at a time when it was on the outer edge of the city with orchards to the east, and an abundance of vacant blocks in my street and bushland nearby to play in. My family loved music and enjoyed musical theatre, ballet and opera, and we often went to see shows in the city.'

'I completed my primary school and high school years in Balwyn. After high school I worked for a year with a stockbroker, during which time I was encouraged by the family to continue my studies. Subsequently, I was accepted into Commerce at Melbourne University.'

'I had always wanted to be a teacher and so, at the end of my first year of uni, I was very happy to be awarded a teaching scholarship. I enjoyed my uni years, particularly my teaching practicum at Castlemaine High. It was this experience that helped form my attachment to the area and determination to live in the region.'

Robyn's wish was granted when, after two years of teaching at Doncaster High School, she applied for and was offered a position at Bendigo Senior

High teaching legal studies, accounting, shorthand and typing.

Before the beginning of the teaching year, Robyn bought an old miner's cottage on five acres in Maldon – her first of three homes in this area. Her love of music drew her to join the Castlemaine Musical Theatre where she met Nicholas (Nick) Quirk. A romance blossomed and they married. The move to Harcourt cemented her attachment to central Victoria. She had arrived home.

She continued her teaching career, and after their two daughters were born, Nick became the stay-at-home dad until the girls went to school, after which time he returned to work.

In 1989, an opportunity came up for her to transfer to Kyneton TAFE as their Campus Coordinator. By this time Robyn was ready for a career change, and because she loved teaching and felt that TAFE offered her more opportunities, she leapt at the chance. Her career in TAFE began with an empty desk in the staff room at Kyneton High and a computer in a box!

It is unlikely that Robyn would have thought that one day she would be the head of the Business and Arts Centre of Bendigo TAFE, nor would she have envisaged becoming one of four faculty heads, as happened in 2006.

In 2010, having decided to scale back her working life, Robyn took a part-time position. She now had time to pursue a Professional Writing course that she had always been interested in, thus adding more skills to those she had acquired in her education and work. The course also gave her the opportunity to learn the desktop publishing application, InDesign, which she used to produce the first 'new' *Core*.

By 2012 Robyn was ready to retire and take the next step in her life. I doubt she was thinking about being editor of a community newspaper.

In late 2011, the Mount Alexander Shire Council (MASC) received State



Government funding to develop Community Action Plans for small towns in the Shire. MASC recognised that it was important for communities to have a voice, an identity, and to be connected. Consultants were contracted to work with local communities to help them develop community plans.

The main outcome of the consultation process was the formation of the Harcourt Progress Association (HPA), Robyn being one of its foundation members. After community consultation, the HPA published Plan Harcourt in late 2013. The document includes five vision statements, one of which was titled Connecting Community, recognising the importance of informing the community about local events. To improve communications within Harcourt, the following recommendations were listed: a community newsletter, a website, enhanced use of social media, improved signage, local bulletin boards and a community business and service directory. All of these aspirations (except a physical bulletin board) have been achieved through the cooperation of skilled individuals and organisations in the town.

At a HPA meeting in late 2013, Robyn was encouraged to become the editor of *The Core*. At that stage it was an occasional production of a double-sided A4 newsletter produced by Kelly Aitkin and JP Frappier (JP designed the *Core* logo).

Robyn produced the first trial edition of *The Core* in its current style in December 2013. I wonder if she foresaw that she would oversee its hundredth edition? She told me she had no idea what it would really involve or how *The Core* would evolve, but evolve it did.

Robyn showed me a copy of the first edition. The front page story featured the Meg Causon Jazz Trio performing at a fundraiser at Harcourt Valley Winery on 8 December 2013. David Heath wrote a story about the launch of the Community Plan and Robyn wrote about Janet Goodchild-Cuffley's paintings of the Kelly Women. The CFA, Bowling Club, and the Heritage Centre all contributed stories and there were classified ads – ten scanned business cards.

Through Robyn's dedication and hard work, *The Core* quickly grew into a 24-page newsletter. Robyn contacted and encouraged local organisations to contribute articles. For the first few editions, Dianne Baig organised the advertising then Genevieve Ward took over the task. Until recently, Pauline Wilkinson was the advertising coordinator, and now Katie Petrusma has taken on this vital role.

In those early years of production, there were many challenges, especially completing the editing and printing of each edition in a timely manner. Robyn was always looking for ways to improve the paper. She said 'I used the Chewton Chat as a model. I would often call up John Ellis, the editor, and pick his brains.'

Robyn conducted interviews, wrote

stories, edited the paper, did the layout and arranged for its printing and distribution. She recruited a dedicated team of volunteers to fold and distribute the newsletter, many of whom continue to help to this day.

At first, MASC provided staff and photocopying facilities for printing some copies of *The Core* each month, others were printed at a local copy centre. By the end of 2014 about four hundred copies of the newsletter were being printed monthly. The only decrease in numbers occurred during the COVID years when many venues were not allowed to handle paper.

David Ling established the Harcourt Community Website (owned by the Heritage Centre), which was highly commended at the Australian and New Zealand Internet Awards in 2016, and made each edition available online. He also set up *The Core* email accounts. Later, the newsletter was added to the HPA website, and digital copies are now sent to subscribers.

In 2014, *The Core* joined the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria and Robyn attended its annual conference where she gathered information, gained inspiration, and exchanged ideas. Since, then she has attended most of their conferences.

In 2019, it was decided to lease a photocopier. Robyn negotiated with the Heritage Centre to house the copier. Having easy access to a photocopier has eased the stress of the monthly print.

Robyn soldiered on for almost three years as *The Core* editor doing much of the production work herself. She said, 'In August 2017, Bernie Schultz retired from the post office. I was chatting to him at his retirement lunch and learned that he was using InDesign for book publishing. I asked him if he would like to join the team. To my delight, which continues to this day, he said, "Yes"'

That September, Bernie used his design and layout skills to enhance the look of *The Core* and significantly reduce Robyn's workload. More recently, a strong editorial team has evolved which shares the work of proofreading, reporting and subediting, working in collaboration with Robyn and Bernie.

The growth and longevity of *The Core* is assured through the combination of the loyal and dedicated contributors and the editorial team working together to produce an outstanding local newsletter under the guidance of our editor, Robyn Miller.

Thank you, Robyn, for your skill, determination and dedication to Harcourt's newspaper: *The Core*.

Lois Denham



Mount Alexander  
Shire Council

## Climate Change Response Survey

Council is asking residents to share their views on climate change to help inform the development of our new 10-year climate change strategy.

Through this survey, we're hoping to get a strong sense of the areas our community are most concerned about when it comes to climate change, and areas they'd like Council to focus on.

The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and provides an option to go in to a draw for a \$100 voucher from a local business. **Survey closes on Sunday 11 December.**



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# PLUMBER

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Email: brucerae3@bigpond.com



# Harcourt Bowling Club

## Teams showing strong competition

Harcourt Bowling Club extends our congratulations to the Editors, contributors and everyone involved in the publication and distribution of the *Core* - on the 100th edition.

This monthly publication provides the Club an opportunity to connect with our community and share the news and activities of the Harcourt Bowling Club. Well done and thanks to you all!

### ***Pennant Teams***

Rain has disrupted bowls throughout the Division to varying degrees so far this season. Let's hope it all settles down in the New Year.

### **Midweek**

Both Harcourt Midweek Divisions 2 and 4 are providing competition to their opponents in their first year in these higher grades. At Round Seven, Division 2 is in fourth spot and Division 4 is in sixth place. Each week there have been changes within the teams in accordance with the availability of players.

The new Equal Opportunity format implemented by the Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region has provided both opportunities and issues for the selectors

who have the unenviable task of selecting teams on merit and ability rather than gender. However, the Club bowlers are adjusting well to this change.

### **Weekend Pennant**

At the end of Round Five, all Weekend Pennant teams are showing promise. There have been a few changes each week with bowlers unavailable etc. however, we are lucky to have reserves to step in. The Selection Committee have also been able to give our new bowlers opportunities in various positions.

At the time of printing, Division 2 held sixth ladder position, Division 6 sits on top and Division 7 in its first year at this higher level sits on the bottom rung but is showing promise.

### ***Ladies' Triples Tournament***

A successful Harcourt Annual Ladies' Triples tournament was held on Wednesday November 16 with teams from Castlemaine (2), White Hills, Eaglehawk, Kyneton, Golden Square, Campbells Creek, South Bendigo, Inglewood and Harcourt (2) competing. In perfect bowling weather the afternoon commenced with Ditch to Ditch which was won by Kaye Tranter Eaglehawk (Lead), Jenni Holborn Golden Square (Second) and Maureen Harris Castlemaine (Skip). The winners were presented with a beautiful potted Kangaroo Paw plant.

Bowlers then played three games of eight ends before returning to the clubhouse for the usual sumptuous afternoon tea.

Di Selwood from Property Plus, our generous sponsor of the day over several years, attended to present the prizes. Winners of the day were the Golden Square team of Lorraine Clarkson, Sue Flint and Jenni Holborn. Runners Up were the Inglewood team of Marilyn Chamberlain, Bev Taige and Chris

McEwan and in third place, the Harcourt 1 combination team of Wendy Kays (Gisborne), Libby Harris and Kaye Grant.

### ***Women's Triples State Championship***

Harcourt Bowling Club was well represented on Sunday November 13 at the Women's State Triples with two teams competing. Both teams were competitive and displayed some fine bowling but were unable to overcome a stronger opposition. The two teams consisted of Carrol Frost, Wendy Chaplin and Kathy Parsons and Judi Miles, Diane Marsh and Mary-Anne Doyle. The State Competition is not for the faint-hearted, so we congratulate them all for their efforts.

### ***Sponsors' Challenge***

Round one of the annual Sponsors' Challenge was to be conducted on Tuesday November 22 with teams competing for a mention on the coveted Chappy's Shield. Unfortunately, due to the weather the evening had to be postponed. A future date has yet to be determined.

Club Singles Championships are well underway for women and men and already there are some surprises showing. They all need to be completed by the end of the year.

### ***Jackpot Bowls***

Jackpot Bowls is continuing weekly where weather allows. This is open to all bowlers. Games will commence at 12.30 pm - names in by 12.00 pm (on the sheet in Notice Board). All welcome.

### ***Christmas Break-Up***

The club Christmas Breakup will be held on the Saturday December 17 and will be a casual evening designed for the enjoyment of all members.

The Clubrooms will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

Pennant will recommence after the break on Saturday January 14 for Weekend Pennant and Monday January 16 for Midweek Pennant.

**We take this opportunity to wish all our members and supporters a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.**



*Triples - Winners with sponsor.*



*Triples - 2nd place with sponsor.*



*Triples - 3rd place with sponsor.*





# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Busy End to 2022

I am sure that many readers feel as I do, that this year has slipped by very quickly. As I file this report there are fewer than three weeks of the school term left. The school term may be ending but there is still a lot happening at the school! The 2023 Prep pupils have begun their transition into school, and Year 6 are completing their primary years and transitioning into secondary school – major life changes for these students.

Principal Andrew Blake informs me that the first three of the four Prep transition sessions have gone well. Each session has been facilitated by Mrs Turner. Fourteen excited Preps have attended the sessions which aim to familiarise students with their classroom and help them to get to know their classmates. The last orientation morning is on December 13 when they will be spending a full morning at school.

Their parents attended a formal introduction and information night on November 23, when Andrew and Mrs Turner were available to answer their queries, and they were introduced to the coordinator of the OSHC club program to hear about its service. Prior to the meeting, some parents attended an informal meet-and-greet morning tea with Andrew.

All Year 6 students have attended an orientation day at their respective secondary schools and, state-wide,

Year 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in a Step Up to Secondary School Day on December 13.

The HVPS Year 6 graduation ceremony is taking place on the afternoon of December 12, and their graduation dinner with families and teachers is at the school that evening.

Robyn Miller and I will be attending the graduation to present the initial *Core* writing awards to two students, nominated by their class teacher, Ms Rowlands. More information about this will be in the February edition of *The Core*.

From November 8 to 11, all students participated in the Scholastic Book Fair, carefully considering what books they would like to purchase.

Years 4 to 6 students have been working in teams using their STEM skills to design and construct billy carts, each team hoping that theirs will be good enough to win the Billy Cart Derby, to be held at the school on December 15. The students have enjoyed and been very engaged with their projects. We look forward to hearing the outcome of this project and the derby race.

On November 23, Years 3 to 6 were able to participate in a mini-robotics lesson. Staff from Melbourne Museum demonstrated and discussed the use of robots, and senior students were able to manipulate the programming of some of the robots.

As a grand finale to this year's STEM program, an excursion has been planned for Years 5/6 students to Quantum where they will learn about 3D printing (I am so impressed).

Staff and students were delighted that the senior school's District Sports Day at Castlemaine on November 11 did not need to be cancelled. This is the first time in three years that the event has taken place. Students enjoyed the opportunity to compete against other schools in all events.

Junior school students (Prep to Year 2) also enjoyed participating in the F2 District Kickball Tabloid Day at Harcourt Oval on November 18. At this event, HVPS Year 6 students, along with



Grades 3-6 learning about robotics.



some of their peers from other schools, acted as tutors, supervisors, and support persons for the junior students. Andrew reported that this system worked well and the Year 6s did a great job.

Another impressive activity the Year 6s undertook this term was a fundraiser at the school on election day. They ran a sausage sizzle and, beforehand, they worked with Jason (a parent volunteer apple pie baker) to bake mini apple pies for their cake stall. The money raised will contribute towards the cost of their End of Year Day Out.

Behind the scenes, parents and carers have continued to cater for Friday morning school breakfasts and organise fundraising events. This term's main event is a Slime Run on the afternoon of December 1 on the school oval. Students have been asking family and friends to sponsor them. I have checked the weather forecast and it looks like it will be a lovely warm day. I will be there to watch and support the students I have sponsored.

On behalf of the *Core*, I congratulate Year 6 students on all their achievements at HVPS and wish them well in their Secondary School years. We wish staff and students a joyous Festive Season and a happy, relaxing and safe holiday.

Lois Denham

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## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Congratulations to our fabulous team at *The Core* on the 100th edition. Our community leads the way when it comes to spirit and teamwork.

As we think about Christmas, spare a thought for those not as fortunate as us. The floods have done a lot of damage further north. Locally, our rolling hills provide a safe haven for most of us.

In the New Year, Council will be working on the next budget. Let me know if you have any great ideas. Remember 'Plan for Success'.

Congratulations to our new Mayor, Cr Annear and Deputy Mayor, Cr Driscoll. I have said it before, but it looks easy when things are going well.

On the local scene, I recently visited our local Bowling Club. What a great group they are. They always make visitors feel welcome.

It's time to make hay on the farm. Luckily I have a four-wheel drive tractor, but maybe tomorrow I will get that sinking feeling. Barry is coming down to drive the rake tomorrow. He will be up for long service soon. We stopped working together twenty years ago and he is still a regular helper on the farm.

There are some tough issues at Council in December. It will be worth watching, or, better still, come along and ask a question.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy  
0439 742 434

# Grace Church

What do you think of if I say the word 'church'? Most people think of a building. The Greek word for church translated actually means 'the called out ones'. The question is, where do these called out ones, these followers of Jesus Christ, meet today?

You might be surprised to know that in the first century Christians often met in homes. Thus, in the letters in the New Testament we find,

... Aquila and Priscilla greet you ... with the church that is in their house. And greet ... Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

It is also true that the apostle Paul lectured in the hall of Tyrannus for two years. Here we have a precedent for churches meeting in rented halls, which is precisely the situation of Grace Church. Most commonly today, churches meet in dedicated buildings. These churches may be seen to be following the Jewish tradition of meeting in a synagogue, a building dedicated to God.

Recently, Glenise and I were invited to teach at a house church in Melbourne on a Saturday! The service was followed by a shared meal. It was a multicultural church and we enjoyed worshipping with these folk enormously. They were attentive and extremely hospitable, even helping us to navigate Citylink on the way home! And the Holy Spirit turned up at the meeting, showering us with His presence.

Many churches these days have a Mid-Week Home Fellowship – an occasion to meet informally for fellowship, prayer and bible study in a house setting. Thus, the experience of the New Testament church is replicated.

How do you meet to worship God? The most important thing, regardless of the venue, is that we love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and all our strength, and love our neighbour as ourselves.

*Ps Roger Thurecht*

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# Council news

## Cr Annear elected Mayor

Cr Rosie Annear was elected the new Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire by Councillors for a one-year term at the November meeting of Council. Cr Matthew Driscoll was elected Deputy Mayor. Read details at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News).

## Merry Christmas from Council

We always enjoy a merry Christmas in Mount Alexander Shire, and this year we have lots planned to spread the festive cheer.

Our small towns are celebrating big with BBQs, picnics, live music, decorations, community events and even a visit from Santa!

There are lots of ways to get involved. Find out what's on at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News).

## Working together for a healthy, connected shire

[mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au) (03) 5471 1700

## Prepare for fire danger period

Prepare for fire danger period by clearing your homes of green waste, creating an emergency plan for you and your family, and downloading the Emergency Management Victoria app.

Find more information at [emv.vic.gov.au](http://emv.vic.gov.au) and [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/News).

## It's time for your togs

As the weather warms up it's time to pop on your togs and get summer started with a splash.

Our outdoor swimming pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead are now open.

Find out more at [mountalexanderpools.com.au](http://mountalexanderpools.com.au).



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# Maree Edwards MP

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Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.  
My office is still available for assistance, please  
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# Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



## So Many Pests and Diseases to Watch out For

Hi everyone

How good is it to finally get some sun? This La Niña has played havoc with all the businesses in the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op, but we're still here and still growing food for you.

The wet spring notwithstanding, the last twelve months have been a time of growth and positivity for the co-op as we've welcomed the new Orchard Keepers team. It's also been another successful year for Grow Great Fruit as more people are wanting to learn about fruit growing. The regularity of climate emergencies and the increasing price of food makes growing your own food look like a really good idea!

We love talking about fruit trees and helping people feel more confident with them, so we'd like to thank *The Core* for giving us the chance to have a chat with you all each month. Our aim is to make abundant, homegrown organic fruit a reality for all, so it's been a great joy for us to be able to help many more people with their fruit trees this year.

One of the things we're hearing a lot about this season is curly leaves and spotty fruit on fruit trees. Leaf curl on peach and nectarine trees, which is caused by a specific fungal disease, has loved the conditions this spring.

The time to prevent leaf curl was back in late winter, so if your trees are affected now there's nothing you can do about it but wait – once the weather starts to warm up, the trees usually grow out of it by themselves. Also, if your trees are affected, don't blame yourself! It was very difficult to prevent it this year, because the trees were wet almost every day through the vulnerable time.

A lot of people are noticing curly leaves on other trees as well. These may be caused by aphids, or other insects. Have a look inside the leaves to see whether you can spot them. In some cases, curly leaves can also be caused by too much moisture or irregular moisture levels – and there's not much you can do about that just at the moment.

Apricots are having a hard year (again!) with many people reporting a small crop (or none). That's because it rained pretty much every day when they were flowering. Even if you were really on the ball with your spraying, there's a good chance your trees got blossom blight, which makes the flowers rot on the tree. The bees have also

been reluctant to get working in the cold and wet conditions.

In summary, it's not a good year for stone fruit. However, the citrus had a good season, and berries, loquats, apples, pears and plums are (mostly) thriving. It shows why it's such a good idea to have multiple fruit varieties in your garden. Diversity is the key to being able to harvest something every year, no matter what conditions nature throws at us.

Another thing you may be noticing on your trees is various kinds of spots on your fruit. There's lots of freckle on the apricots this year, a bit of brown rot is showing up in the stone fruit, and lots of apples and pears have black spot. If your fruit is spotty, don't panic, there's still something you can do to stop things getting worse. Though the main danger period for infection has passed, your fruit trees are still vulnerable to disease spreading at this time of year. Visit them regularly so you notice any problems that appear and aim to keep a 'cover spray' of wettable sulphur on your trees.

### *Fruit fly update*

You should definitely have at least one fruit fly monitoring trap out in your garden by now. The best type at this time of year is one that attracts male fruit flies e.g. the Biotrap. It contains a male pheromone that is specific to Queensland fruit flies, so there's a bigger chance that anything you catch in the trap will be a QFF. You can buy new traps, or re-use last year's traps, and just buy new inserts and lures for them (for example, from Mt Alexander Timber and Hardware in Campbells Creek).

You can also make your own traps, but they're not nearly as good. The bait tends to go off really quickly and need replacing, and they also attract lots of different types of insects, which makes it much harder to know for sure whether you've actually caught a fruit fly, as they can be tricky to identify. If you do think you've caught a QFF, try to get a positive ID. Get in touch with Council at [mountalexanderfruitfly@gmail.com](mailto:mountalexanderfruitfly@gmail.com) and they'll be able to help you with the identification process. If you get a positive identification, find out the next steps by visiting Council's fruit fly page: [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly). If you need a fruit fly refresher, download

a free Fruit Fly Resource Pack from our website: [growgreatfruit.com/product-category/free-stuff](http://growgreatfruit.com/product-category/free-stuff)

If you're planning to net your fruit trees, then the sooner the better. As soon as you've finished fruit thinning, the nets can go on. Surprisingly, white bird nets can help provide some protection against fruit fly (even if the holes are big enough to let flies through), but it's not foolproof, so you do need to trap as well. If you're netting your trees, note that it's now compulsory for households to use net with holes of 5 mm or less (farms are still allowed to use netting with larger holes).

Fruit fly is a whole-of-community issue, so everyone can help to prevent it. If you've got fruit trees you can't look after, it's best to remove them. The most important thing we can all do (and luckily also the easiest) is don't bring fruit to Harcourt from other areas, particularly places like Bendigo, or Maldon where fruit fly is more established. If you can't stop well-meaning friends from bringing you fruit or vegies from their garden, check it carefully, and if there's ANY doubt about whether it might have larvae in it, don't dispose of whole fruit that you don't eat, or scraps, in the compost or the rubbish. It's really important to make sure any larvae have been killed before the fruit is disposed of. Putting it in a black garbage bag in the sun for a few days will easily do the trick.

Also, watch out for pear and cherry slug this month. If you notice them as soon as they appear on your trees it's relatively easy to kill them by folding the leaf in half and squashing them (without pulling the leaf off the tree). They normally go through two or three generations each season, so the more you can get rid of early on, the easier it is to interrupt their normal life cycle.

So many pests and diseases to watch out for at this time of year!

Happy holiday season everyone, and we hope you'll be enjoying some delicious, organic, home-grown fruit for Christmas!

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



Harcourt Valley Landcare finished 2022 with a barbecue near the play space in Stanley Park North.

Free of COVID restrictions, the group has had a very successful year with a 25-year anniversary celebration, the launch of its new five-year action plan and a new beautifully produced membership brochure, a successful submission re the planning amendment to Plan Harcourt, (see page 3) and a number of working bees and, of course, an AGM.

Office bearers for the financial year are: Bonnie Humphreys, President; Terry Willis, Vice President; George Milford, Treasurer and Robyn Miller, Secretary. If you are thinking of joining, grab a membership information brochure at the service station or at the Harcourt Post Office.

In 2023, a new opportunity for the group to explore is the land to the north-east of the old railway station in Victoria Road. VicTrack has confirmed that Landcare can work on Railways land.

In addition, the group will continue to maintain plantings along Barkers Creek, (opposite the CFA), the plantings at Pippin Court and carry out weeding and rubbish removal from the flora reserve in Bingham's Road.

Find us on Facebook  
or contact the Secretary on 0467 670 271

## Help needed this summer!



*Two volunteers pick ripe cherries from a cherry tree; they are wearing a picking harness and box. Both are wearing hats and are surrounded by netted cherry trees. The sky is blue and Leanganook (Mount Alexander) is in the background.)*

Would you like to spend some time outdoors, getting up close and personal with your food?

Some of our volunteers last season liked it so much they even joined the team!

It's physical work, but we try to have a good time doing it, and we love to share our knowledge if you want to learn for your home orchard.

The jobs we need help with are things like: moving compost, picking fruit and thinning. But if you think you have a skill you'd like to contribute, we'd love to hear about it.

We have spots for volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the season. And occasionally we need extra picking help at other times! If you're interested, send us a message at [www.facebook.com/The.Orchard.Keepers.Collective](https://www.facebook.com/The.Orchard.Keepers.Collective) and we'll add you to our Volunteer WhatsApp group where we coordinate things.

We need help!

## VOLUNTEER CALL OUT

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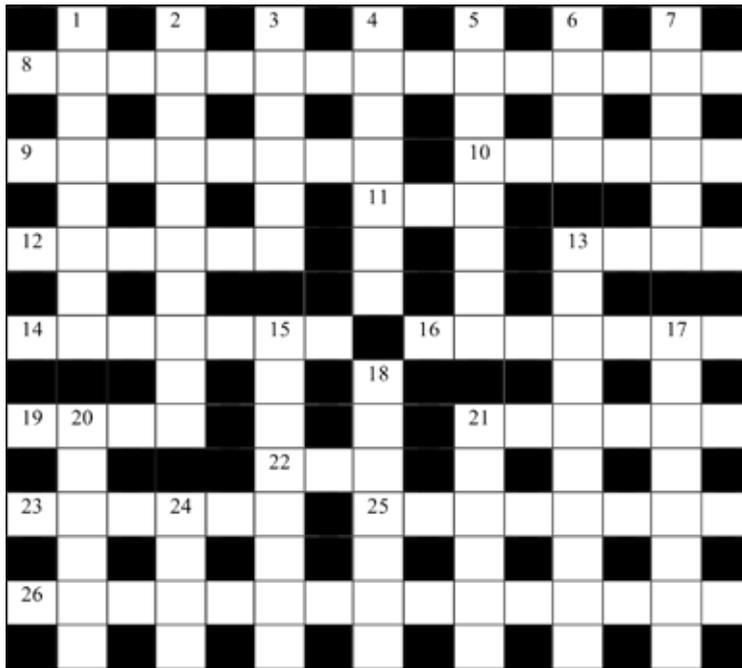
🌐 [lisachesters.org](https://lisachesters.org)



Labor

Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP.  
16 Myers St., Bendigo

# December 2022 Xwd © McW Oct '18



**Down:**

1. Well and truly mired in frog-pond mud, we hear. (4-4)
2. Nero's choir has a horn... (10)
3. Fashionable bird new to hospital. (6)
4. Doesn't need a second serve: art gallery for fake silk. (7)
5. As well and into the bargain, shifter with bauxite on board. (8)
6. Porridge stirred in the portico. (4)
7. I am too confoundedly deep to hamper things. (6)
13. Relatively without a doubt? (10)
15. Absence at one might give polly a chance to deny things absolutely? (3,2,3)
17. Useless to tighten our belts, now that we have fewer wants. (8)
18. Put lid on grain in a whimsical move... (7)
20. A scone might evoke the high seas for some... (6)
21. In the '80s, it might have been a feminis..., but these days it's what the lies are held together with... (6)
24. A crying need, they say, for another level...? (4)

**Across:**

8. Dr Who jailed at the last minute? (2,3,4,2,4)
9. Animal from 10's steering and let rip to create anew! (2-6 or 8)
10. Paint the French horse's hair—in reverse! (6)
11. What is it about zilch? (3)
12. Set up scam for lighthouse? (6)
13. Attest in stoned rave... (4)
14. Bath call not letting too much go? (7)
16. Gift before it was conveyed? (7)
19. How deal with pot: point back to drunk? (4)

21. Where a Hun may be heard on a boat? (6)
22. Friend scrambling madly on peak? (3)
23. Leave, or I'll scramble it, or better it... (4,2)
25. House migrants about sofa. (2-6)
26. I'll meet lunatics because of my propensity to think without feeling. (15)

# November 2022 Xwd solution © McW Oct '18

**Down:**



1. What Scion of Opus Dei arrives at, having made up his mind? [Well? Surely "opus" is an anagram-indicator? Y'gotto work it...]
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 [T-] 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? [Well?]
6. Fix blokes with symbol for no-trumps. [D for Democrats, not the Donald...]
7. Study once for each [per-] utilisation. [6]
13. Various CIA members are greedy.
15. Tractable, and possible to be signed-off to, esp. by the clergy?
17. Tightwad [miser], [say] could be a diplomat.
18. [Apply] better than the opposition! [The anagram-indicator, "out", was in the solution—howzat?!]
20. After 18, the opposition might shed tears the same way to create an uproar.
21. Thickhead is not a cute character...]
24. Wiz's pet name in Shorty's fiefdom? [Well? The "Magic Dragon" ...or the magician's in Id...]

**Across:**

8. Forty-nine dwarves? [Well?]
9. Swiftly indeed could one be tied down here! [Poor Gulliver...]
10. We hear pie has this multiplied by itself to show the extent it can splatter over... [Well?]
11. Copy one before (or after) the 10th... [Well?]
12. Writer moves and points? [Well? Omar Khayyam...]
13. The 10th eleven is the high point. [Well? Well, I s'pose it was a bit tricky...]
14. Not the standard solution. [Well?]
16. Looks for tucker over a long, long time.
19. What to do with a pot if one "allus has 'un at eleven"? [a toss-pot, perhaps?—tosses 'em down...]
21. Genesis of the energy crisis? [Well?]
22. Shelled god? [Well?]

23. Audited nirvana for circle-workers? [Ute-opia?]
25. Of least moment is [physical] education [time] able—that is [i.e.] beatified [S!].
26. Pigeon spotted top seaman here... [Well? The Admiral...]

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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 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.

**Sunday December 18:** 2.30 pm – 5 pm Harcourt’s Christmas Celebration, Stanley Park North.

**Sunday December 18:** Community Bank Maldon & District Commonwealth Bank Scholarships Close, see page 10.

**Sunday December 25:** 8.30 am Christmas Service, Uniting Church, Buckley Street.

**Saturday March 11, 2023:** Harcourt Applefest, James Park, Harcourt.

**Carpet Bowls:** 7 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, summer and winter, Leisure Centre, Bingham’s Road, Harcourt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Pony Club:** Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 924 000. The Pony Club is located next to the swimming pool.

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

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

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# Harcourt's Christmas Celebration

**Sunday 18 December  
2:30–5 pm**

**Near the play space  
Stanley Park North**

**Free barbecue**

**Thompson's Foundry Band (TBC)**

**Carol singing (TBC)**

**A visit from Santa**

**Small gifts for children**



For catering purposes,  
and so Santa knows  
how many to gifts to bring  
RSVP to:

[communications@harcourtprogress.org.au](mailto:communications@harcourtprogress.org.au)

Sponsored by: Mount Alexander Council



# A HUGE THANK YOU

The Core could not exist without the contributions and support of many. We have tried to list those who have contirbuted in some way to the creation and ongoing existence of The Core.

## The People

Kelly Aitken ♦ Shirley Amy ♦ Christine Anderson ♦ Jessica Anderson ♦ Neil Anderson  
Diane Baig ♦ Karen Baker ♦ Dominika Balwin ♦ Richard Baxter ♦ Scarlett Berger ♦ Liz Bini  
Sharon Blake ♦ Andrew Blake ♦ Andy Bos ♦ Brian Brasher ♦ Jacqueline Brodie-Hans  
Veronica Budnikas ♦ Shannon Burdeu ♦ Ed Butler ♦ Serenity Campbell ♦ Steve Carroll  
Ivan Carter ♦ Stephen Carthew ♦ Vanessa Chiang ♦ Judy Coram ♦ Sha Cordingley  
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Robyn Lewis ♦ David Ling ♦ Jill Loorham ♦ John Macintyre ♦ Liesl Malan ♦ Natalie Martin  
Janine McCarthy ♦ Natalie McCarthy ♦ Eileen McDonald ♦ Edna McDougall  
Ken McDougall ♦ Auntie Julie McHale ♦ Ashlyne McInnes ♦ Kim McKellar  
Jenny McKendry ♦ Moira McLennan ♦ Donna McMahan ♦ Janyce McMurtrie  
Tom McWilliam ♦ Andrew Mierisch ♦ George Milford ♦ Robyn Miller ♦ Peggy Mills  
Bella Mizzi ♦ Paul Mizzi ♦ Leah Mow-Yoffe ♦ Solway Nutting ♦ Michele O'Brien  
Lauren Peeler ♦ Janet Phillips ♦ Jo Pincus ♦ Jennifer Plompen ♦ Annette and Bruce Rae  
Nicki Renfrey ♦ Alan Reynolds ♦ Loretta Rice ♦ Tyrone Rice ♦ Lisa Rowe ♦ Liz Rowe  
Lyn Rule ♦ Max Schlachter ♦ Bernie Schulz ♦ Charles Scott The Bard of North Harcourt  
John Munday and Cath Scott ♦ Jacquie Searle ♦ Di Selwood ♦ Katherine Seppings  
Liza Shaw ♦ Amy Simmons ♦ Tammy Simmons ♦ Annette Smith ♦ Karly Smith  
Sue Smith ♦ Marie Stuart ♦ Donna Symes ♦ Kathie Teasdale ♦ Roger and Glenise Thurecht  
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Katrina Victor-Gordon ♦ Francis Wade ♦ Prue Wallduck ♦ Ben Walter ♦ Genevieve Ward  
Liz Ward ♦ Pauline Wilkinson - past Treasurer ♦ Bron Willis ♦ Terry Willis ♦ Ant Wilson

## The Interviewed

Sue Albert ♦ Wendy Barron ♦ Andrea Brasher ♦ Stewart Campbell ♦ Craig Carter  
Jarrod Coote and Rebecca Edwards ♦ Jacq Cue ♦ Suzanne Dwyer ♦ John Flaus ♦ Judy Foster  
Janne Fowler ♦ John Graham ♦ Melva Graham ♦ Kathleen Gray ♦ Ruth and Phillip Hay  
Drew Henry ♦ Michelle Holmes ♦ Ian Johnson ♦ Gavin McDougall ♦ Ken and Edna McDougall  
Bill McKellar ♦ Robyn Miller ♦ Nathan Mitchell ♦ Frank Nicholson ♦ Clair & Craig Nightingale  
Bryce Quill ♦ Cath Scott & John Munday ♦ Charles Scott ♦ George Shinas ♦ Chris Teed  
Monique Thomson ♦ Roger Thurecht ♦ Troy West

## The Groups

ASQ Skydancers ♦ Barkers Creek Cricket Club ♦ Bendigo Food Share  
Castlemaine Community House ♦ Castlemaine Cycling Club  
Castlemaine District Community Health (CHIRP) ♦ Castlemaine Health  
Connecting Country ♦ Dhelkaya Health ♦ Grace Church ♦ Harcourt Bowling Club  
Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association ♦ Harcourt Cricket Club ♦ Harcourt CWA  
Harcourt Fire Brigade ♦ Harcourt Football Netball Club ♦ Harcourt Fruit Fly Action Group  
Harcourt Heritage and Tourist Centre ♦ Harcourt Lions Club ♦ Harcourt Play Group  
Harcourt Pony Club ♦ Harcourt Pre-School ♦ Harcourt Progress Association  
Harcourt Tennis Club ♦ Harcourt Untiing Church ♦ Harcourt Valley Landcare  
Harcourt Valley Primary School ♦ Harcourt Walking Group ♦ Little Habitat Heroes  
MASARG ♦ Mount Alexander Community Enterprise ♦ Mount Alexander Shire  
Mt Alexander Falcons ♦ Nalderun ♦ North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group  
Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group ♦ Rocky Riders ♦ The Cactus Warriors  
The Growing Abundance Project ♦ The Harcourt Company ♦ VMR ♦ Vocal Nosh  
XtremeInc Youth Project ♦ YMCA/Harcourt Pool ♦

## The Businesses

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Dandura Alpacas ♦ Di Selwood ♦ Ecothought ♦ Enviroshop ♦ Goldfields Track Café  
Granite House B&B ♦ Gung Hoe ♦ Harcourt and District Fruit Growers Association  
Harcourt Auto Wreckers ♦ Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op ♦ Harcourt Post Office  
Harcourt Produce and General Store ♦ Harcourt Valley Vineyard ♦ Henry of Harcourt  
Kaido Ryu Martial Arts ♦ La Larr Ba Gauwa ♦ Lewin Fencing ♦ MainFM  
Maldon and District Community Bank ♦ Maldon Market ♦ MASH Mt Alexander Solar Homes  
Mount Alexander Fruit Gardens ♦ Nicola Pilon Naturopath ♦ Regional Centre for Culture  
Regional EnviroSense ♦ Run Rabbit Run ♦ Sacred Postnatal Harmony  
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