### HARCOURT, NEW ON ATO SOLO CON SOLO CON SOLO CON SOLO CON Produced by: Marcourt Progress Association Inc

# Blume's Bakery will be a legacy for Harcourt



*The changed entrance to Blume's Bakery, including the parking area. (Amended photo: Neil Tate of Tait Decorative Iron, Castlemaine.)* 

THE HARCOURT COMMUNITY will be delighted to hear that Blume's Bakery will be reopening for business from its site in Victoria Road in the near future.

The business has been operating at the Farmers' Market in Castlemaine on the first Sunday of each month, and now the good news is that the amended permit to operate a bakery and licensed food premises has been granted. The permit ends a long process of negotiations with the Shire since mid-2020.

Owners, Jodie and David Pillinger, are to be congratulated for their determination to pursue their goals and to reinstate an important business for Harcourt and the region. Jodie said, 'A bakery was a feature of Barkers Creek from 1862 and then moved to Harcourt in 1921, when Harcourt was considered to be a growing town. The Blumes moved into an old house on the property and continued the bakery business (called Coronation Bakery) once the Scotch oven was moved from Bakers Creek. In March 1922 Ernest and Pearl Blume engaged Tonks Bros to build what was to be one of the finest homes in the district, Calrossie. We are pleased that we have created a legacy for Harcourt in the form of the historic bakery, which can hopefully operate for another 100 years.<sup>2</sup>

Continued page 2





#### INSIDE

- HPA-3
- Nalderun–4
- Harcourt Play Space-5
- Harcourt CWA-6
- Community Banking-7
- Local Author-8
- Councillor Comment-9
- Harcourt CFA-10
- Harcourt Uniting Church-11
- HVPS-12
- Linda Newton-12
- Pioneers of Harcourt-13
- Salute to Corrugated Iron-14
- Dhelkaya Health-15
- Harcourt Bowling Club-16
- Harcourt Valley Landcare-17
- Grace Church-18
- Shire News-19
- Gardening-20
- Weather & Water-21
- Crossword-22
- Community Diary-23

#### 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.** 





### Blume's Bakery

Continued from page 1

The house and the bakery were built circa 1921-1922 when the original Coronation Bakery moved its business to Harcourt from Barkers Creek. In 2016, Jodie and David Pillinger purchased the house with the defunct bakery and wood-fired stove. To recognise and honour the history of the site, they decided to undertake a full renovation of the old buildings and Scotch oven. In 2018, *The Core* tracked the history of the house and the renovation of the oven and buildings through to the opening of the bakery in November that year.

As the renovation proceeded, Jodie's fascination with the bakery led her to develop an extensive archive of the history of the house, bakery and the prior use of the original buildings as Harcourt Co-Op's Apple Drying Factory. In the course of this she discovered her passion which set her on a quest to learn everything there is to know about bread and baking in a Scotch oven. In the intervening years, Jodie has attended conferences and workshops and has liaised and collaborated with many in the artisan food industry. Not long after moving into Calrossie, Jodie and David were contacted by Karen Blume, granddaughter of Ernest and Pearl Blume, offering to share her family's history. An amazing friendship has been formed with Karen and other family members, with Karen's son recently designing Blume's new logo. In June 2018 Karen and her cousin Joy were honoured to be the first to light the Scotch oven after its extensive refurbishment. The oven is affectionately known as 'Pearl', after Jodie heard stories of how Pearl would place a pavlova just inside the oven door when the temperature was cool enough.

In June 2019, the bakery was visited by a UNESCO representative as part of the successful bid for Bendigo to become a city of gastronomy, so it seems only fitting that, finally, the business can operate as it was intended by its founders and by its new owners.

Jodie said, 'We are excited to begin the next steps which include carparking, landscaping and shop fit-out to enable the bakery to begin operating as soon as possible.' *The Core* will follow the changes and the re-opening in following editions.



## Damage at Memorial Garden Stanley Park

In the early hours of Sunday May 21, a driver unfamiliar with the layout of the Harcourt town centre came straight down Market Street towards Harmony Way expecting that the intersection was a straight T. The car ploughed into the cyclone fence on the cenotaph side of the



memorial garden, mounted the fence and finished on the Market Street side, having snapped a number of granite posts and knocking others over. The car was a writeoff. Police attended and, fortunately, no one in the vehicle was hurt.

Two memorial plaques were damaged: one has a bent corner, the other was completely ripped off, but George Milford was early on the scene and rescued it, so it can be re-fitted.

George said, 'The granite posts and cyclone fence date from around 1946, which was the time that the WW2 monument gates were erected. The granite posts have been fashioned by a stonemason. Their finish can only be achieved by working all over the stone with a stonemason's axe.'

Parks and Gardens were at the site first thing the following Monday and made a very good job of tidying up the garden and the fence. The damaged fencing and dislodged and broken posts were taken away and the crushed plants straightened.

George also noted that the original road layout had Market Street terminating at High Street in a T-intersection. He said, 'The intersection now is unusual in layout, with its curved road connecting Market Street to Harmony Way.'

#### Something to consider for Town Centre Plan

The Shire is producing a Town Centre Plan for Harcourt which has an accompanying traffic strategy. Input to the plan from community members who attended the first meeting included a surface treatment for the intersection which will slow traffic, for example an expanse of blue stone pitchers laid in a similar manner to the intersection of Bull and Hargreaves Streets in Bendigo. Better street lighting at the intersection may have also helped prevent this accident.

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





# **HPA Progress Report**

Most of our energy this month has been focussed on producing *The Core*, catching up on last year's AGM (at which we were

delighted to accept two new members to the committee, Faye Hards and Phillip Hay), and of course the neighbourhood house.

The Neighbourhood House Sub-committee met with our local member, Maree Edwards, who came to deliver the welcome news that the \$50,000 promised to HPA prior to the election had been announced in the state budget. We also had a visit from Darren Fuzzard, CEO and Merryn Tinkler, Manager of Economy and Culture from Mount Alexander Shire Council, both visits were most appreciated.

We are slowly furnishing the neighbourhood house and putting out an Expression of Interest (see below) for tutors and teachers. We hope to start running some classes and events in the near future. Thank you to all who filled in the survey regarding the types of courses you would like to see delivered through the neighbourhood house. I'm looking forward to some gardening tips myself.

Finally, look out for notices about the next Gather Harcourt Market to be held at the end of July and an NBN information session. Both events will be advertised on the Hardcore Harcourt and HPA Facebook pages. Stay safe and warm in the chilly weeks to come.

#### Sha Cordingley

President, Harcourt Progress Association



Maree Edwards, State Member for Bendigo West (second from left) met with HPA representatives of the Neighbourhood House Sub-Committee. Maree said: 'I am proud to deliver funding that matters for Harcourt and I'm delighted with the renovation of the station. I congratulate the Harcourt Progress Association on securing this funding and for their advocacy over many years to make Harcourt a better place to live. HPA's plans to develop a neighbourhood house for Harcourt are exciting, and will provide even more opportunities for the community to come together.'

### **Expression of interest** Harcourt Valley Community House

We are taking expressions of interest from skilled and qualified people who wish to be involved in providing courses at the community house.

Contact Paul Mizzi: paul.mizzi@harcourtprogress.vic.au

# Este riseas Repair Café

The next Repair Café is on June 25 at the Castlemaine Community House, 30 Templeton Street from 10 am to 1 pm.

Enter from the carpark and garden at the rear of the building.

Bring along broken household appliances, sewing repairs, get help with wiping info from mobile phones, learn basic bicycle maintenance. Join the Mending Circle to learn darning and crochet.

A gold coin donation is appreciated.

For further information call Chris: 5470 5508.

The Repair Cafe is held on the last Sunday of each month February to November.



#### In memory of Dallas Keogh-Frankling

Castlemaine Football Netball Club 1 June at 11:44 · 😚

We have spoken to Dal's family about how our larger sporting community can show their love and support. You can

**#putyourbootsoutforDallas** by taking a photo, sharing to your socials and using the hashtag so that our community can see your support in real time. Let's create a movement to honour Dal and show his family that we are thinking of them *I* 





### WALKING TOGETHER Towards Makarrata

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

### Mabo, native title, land rights and acknowledging Country.

Pardalotes are busy under the newly replaced eaves outside my window. The beautiful birds may be looking to build a nest there. I consider my family's journey to this place, struggles and privileges that brought us to Djaara Country and our impacts on land and life. Connections of 'Country' are inseparable from First People's culture and lore. I think about how this relates to autonomy, community, resilience and well-being. With respect to the elders past and present, their sovereignty never ceded, I acknowledge Country.

In my second contribution to Walking Together, I revisit the topic of native title and land rights. Mabo Day on June 3rd, during Reconciliation Week, is the anniversary of a momentous turning point in the land rights movement, acknowledging First People's ongoing connections to their lands and culture.

The far-reaching Frontier Wars that occurred after 1788 resulted in vast displacement of First Nations people. Much truth telling is needed, but awareness is building. We know First Peoples have defended their rights to their lands, waters and self-determination since the beginning of colonisation.

During the 19th and 20th centuries many were forced onto missions, stations and reserves, working under horrendous conditions. There were many deaths and family separations. Culture and language were usually disallowed. This occurred under government 'protection' boards. Forced into these areas, some eventually obtained land leases as happened locally in the 1840s in Franklinford. However almost all that lived here were then moved onto Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve.

In 1966, hundreds of Gurindji Peoples walked off Wave Hill Station in the Northern Territory in protest. In 1975, the Commonwealth Government transferred land to them in an historic first. The Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act was established, leading to further hand backs. Some States followed, introducing land rights legislations, though greatly limiting lands that could be claimed.

In 1992, the Mabo Case, mounted by five Torres Strait Islander Meriam People including Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo, was successful in overturning the myth of 'Terra Nullius' (land belonging to no one). The High Court recognised they had lived on their lands for thousands of years according to their own laws and customs. In 1993 the Native Title Act was passed with a promise to 'rectify past injustices'. In the years that followed, a series of High Court decisions tested the implementation of Native Title legislation. Claims proved to be very difficult. Those that had been removed off their lands now had to demonstrate their People's continuous practice of lore and customs there since pre colonisation.

In 1996, in response to the Wik Peoples of Cape York Peninsula, the High Court Wik Decision ruled pastoral leases of Crown Land could co-exist with Native Title. These leases could now be more easily preserved over the rights of First Peoples. The extinguishment regime was furthered in the Native Title Amendment Act of 1998 and the 10-point plan.

The Timber Creek decision of 2019 was the first time the High Court considered and confirmed how compensations should be assessed for cultural and economic losses from violation of native title rights.

The South West Native Title Settlement was approved by the Noongar Nation in Western Australia. It was described by some as 'Australia's first treaty', being the most comprehensive and largest native title settlement yet, commencing in 2021.

Here is a mere glimpse into a very complex history. The ideals of Mabo are yet to be fully recognised. I centre my acknowledgements, hopes and efforts in the truth of Mabo.

I am always moved by the strength of First Peoples and the love poured into self-determination and community. Here locally, Nalderun, with the support of Friends of Nalderun and the broader community, are an inspiration as they strengthen connections throughout many areas of community, culture, grow proud generations, connect to the land and waters and nurture Country. I look forward to sharing more as I learn.

Mabo day is on the last day of Reconciliation Week running from 27th May - 3rd June. Sorry Day - May 26th. Look out for the guide offering many locally run Nalderun events. The Reconciliation Week stall and exhibition will be on again this year at the Castlemaine Market Building.

Floria Maschek is an ally and member of Friends of Nalderun (FoN). FoN members are guided by Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation and are diverse individuals and representatives of many local community networks supporting Nalderun's visions and work. Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation supports the Aboriginal Community and is led by Aboriginal people while providing many learning and cultural opportunities to the broader community. Nalderun is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'all together'.

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

## **Airport Bus Stop Comes to Harcourt**

From Monday 10th July 2023 the Castlemaine and Chewton airport bus stop will be replaced with a new stop in Harcourt. Passengers travelling to the airport will be picked up at the bus stop opposite the General Store on Harmony Way. Passengers travelling to Harcourt will be dropped off at the bus stop adjacent to the General Store on Harmony Way.

The new stop in Harcourt will be the closest stop for passengers travelling to and from Castlemaine and Chewton to the

airport. Bendigo Airport Service made the decision to consolidate the Castlemaine and Chewton stops in to one new stop at Harcourt after careful consideration, appreciating that the change may cause some inconvenience due to the extended travel distance for a few passengers.

Most passengers board the service at either Bendigo or Kangaroo Flat and stopping at Castlemaine and Chewton extends the journey by at least 15 minutes for those passengers. A flexible timetable was considered by the company and rejected as that could mean an additional 20-minute wait at either stop.

The total travel time in either direction should now be reduced to approximately 2 hours. In many instances, the travel time will be further reduced to around 1 hour 50 minutes. For further information, contact Bendigo Airport Service on 5444 3939 or visit the website <u>bendigoairportservice</u>. <u>com.au</u>



### Harcourt Play Space is an Award Winner



Mount Alexander Shire Council is leading the way in innovative infrastructure, celebrating an industry award win for the Stanley Park North Play Space in Harcourt.

The LGPro Community Assets & Infrastructure Initiative (\$5 million and under) is a prestigious award that recognises initiatives that benefit the community, showcases partnerships and manages community assets.

Council worked in partnership with the Harcourt community on the design and development of the play space, which sits in the centre of Harcourt.

The play space was designed by local landscape architects, Karoline Klein and Justine Image who developed a bespoke park especially for the Harcourt community.

The park includes a natural feel play space with established trees, accessible swings, a climbing wall, a wheelchair accessible carousel, and a rock and spinner.

Nature play elements include a timber footbridge and steps, pathways and climbing logs.

Creative elements include an oak leaf seat and apple star footstall which was crafted by a local artist.

Mount Alexander Shire Council's Manager of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, Karen Evennett,

said that Council is honoured to win such a prestigious award.

'We're proud that the hard work we put into the Stanley Park North Play Space has been recognised.

'We couldn't have created such a beautiful and welcoming space without the community input that we received.

'We spoke to local primary school students to make sure the park reflected their wants and needs, which is evident in the huge tower slide we installed.

'This important consultation means that the park ultimately reflects what



Hooray! Attendees at the official opening of the Harcourt Play Space in November 2021.



the community asked for – an accessible and fun space for children of all ages and abilities.

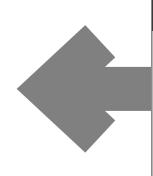
'Our community told us that minimising environmental impact was important to them. So we ensured the play space was nestled into the natural slope of the park, meaning that minimum earth works were required.

'Our community also told us that incorporating Harcourt's unique character was important to them. We took this into consideration and included apple boxes in the space which is a nod to Harcourt's apple farms.

'We're proud of the Stanley Park Play Space, and how Council and the community worked together to create a space that benefits everyone.

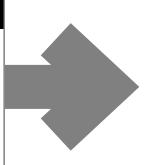
'I'd like to thank the community working group for their contribution to this project and their help in consulting the wider community. Thank you to Tricia and Bryan Balmer, Veronica Budnikas, Kirshy McAinsh, Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns and Robyn Miller.

'Congratulations to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication in creating a thriving community space.' *From a Shire press release* 



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## **Chatting with Harcourt CWA**

Hello, everyone. It's been an enjoyably social month at our branch with special

birthdays and an International Day luncheon giving us the opportunity to sit back, enjoy each other's company, and indulge in delicious food – two things that we really like doing at Harcourt.



Marie Twyford (right) enjoys her 80th birthday celebration with Bev Orgill and Robyn McConville.

Two of our members, Marie Twyford and Meryl Adams, recently celebrated their 80th birthdays, which we also celebrated in style with a delightful afternoon tea and birthday cakes made especially for the occasion by our very talented Marlene Thompson. Unfortunately, Meryl was not able to attend our May meeting, but Marlene made sure

As mentioned in previous editions of *The Core*, our Country of Study this year is Namibia and our International Officer, Bev Orgill, organised a branch luncheon with members cooking up a variety of Namibian inspired dishes, all of

that she also received her special

birthday cake.

which were thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

Now, when visiting Namibia, you might be surprised to find that, due to its colonial heritage, there is a wide variety of international cuisine available – mostly German and English. This was a great relief to us chefs when we found out

> that the gastronomy of Namibia is based mostly on meats, with ostrich, antelope, giraffe, zebra, oryx and kudu being the most common. Despite diligent searches of both IGAs in Castlemaine, we discovered that all of these meats are in short supply locally. Bev did suggest a tripe dish which is popular in Namibia

but, although there was plenty of tripe available locally, it was no surprise that no-one put up

their hand to prepare it for the feast. Those childhood memories run deep.

Meat skewers, another Namibian favourite where chefs use ostrich and



The members really enjoyed the meal.



supply locally. Bev did Robyn McConville and Meryl Adams select food for suggest a tripe dish which the feast.

crocodile, were unfortunately not prepared as, again, we couldn't find any ostrich or crocodile meat locally. Must be a seasonal thing. Thankfully, beef and lamb are also widely eaten in Namibia so our chefs cooked up a very tasty beef dish, and at the local IGA we were able

to improvise the famous Landjäger smoked sausages with a very nice substitute. With a few added side dishes, possibly more English than Namibian, and a wonderful milky custardy dessert, we certainly dined well at our Namibian inspired lunch.

If you would like to come and join us, we meet on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. Please pop in and say hello.

Lyn Rule Harcourt CWA Publicity Officer.





M is an award winning radio

Community Bank Maldon & District Bendigo Bank

### The Good Coat Drive We want your coats!

Community Bank Maldon & District lending manager Lara Mulholland recently bought a new coat but didn't want to go through the bother of trying to sell her old one privately, send it to landfill or drop into op shops which are often overloaded. She enquired about



*Customer Service Officer, Emma Beadle watching on as Communications Officer, Nicki Renfrey donates the first coat for the Good Coat Drive* 

a coat drive online and couldn't find anything in our local area, hence The Good Coat Drive was born.

Community Bank Maldon & District is partnering with The Good Op Shop in Castlemaine and Haven; Home Safe (the regional housing support service in

> Bendigo) to run The Good Coat Drive throughout May and June.

We are inviting the public to donate their old, but good condition, coats to The Good Coat Drive so that those sleeping rough or struggling to keep warm this winter will have a little bit of extra help. 'It was important to partner with experts like Haven; Home Safe who are already connected to those that need the support and it was great that they were open to being part of this initiative' said Maldon Community Bank's Executive Officer, Shannon Burdeu. 'Being a local Community Bank, we can have an immediate and direct impact in our region, and it makes such a difference when we can partner with organisations which support some of our most vulnerable residents'.

Tiffany Inglis, Director of The Good Op Shop in Castlemaine was thrilled to be approached to get involved in the Good Coat Drive.

'We have partnered with the Maldon Community Bank in the past for funds for a machine for Castlemaine Secondary College to shred plastic bottle lids, melt them down and turn them into a new product to sell,' said Tiffany, 'so we feel very lucky to be a part of this team of different groups that are working together to get more to those in need. There are already enough clothes in the world now for many generations to come, so it's just a matter of getting them to the right people. The Good Op Shop is keen to play a part in that - in sharing what exists so we don't have to make new clothes, and take the pressure off our natural resources."

The Good Coat Drive is running now until June 30th and your good coats can be dropped at any of the following collection points:

- Maldon Community Bank, 81 High Street Maldon (Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm, Sat 9am-12noon)
- Newstead Branch, Community Bank (RTC), 45 Lyons Street, Newstead (Mon-Thu 9am-1pm)
- Dunolly Branch, Community Bank (RTC), 109 Broadway, Dunolly (Mon-Fri 10am-2pm)
- The Good Op Shop, 4 Lewis Drive, Castlemaine (Thu-Sat 10am-4pm)

### Improvements at the Harcourt Heritage Centre

Last year the Heritage Centre at ANA Hall saw the introduction of a new database/ cataloguing system, a substantial rebuild of the kitchen and the installation of bright new LED lighting.

Following these improvements, the

committee has now installed speedy and reliable broadband. This will enhance the research capabilities of the Heritage Centre users. It will also make for a big improvement in connectivity for Applefest and similar gatherings.

Two attractive glass-fronted showcases, recently donated by the Korumburra Historical Society, have made a great improvement to the museum displays. Korumburra Historical Society had to relocate and downsize and they advertised the showcases. One of Harcourt's quick-thinking volunteers spotted the advertisement and, within a week, had arranged to pick up the two-metre-high display units. Positioning the new units in Harcourt's museum took all of our personpower and quite some rearrangement. This has been quickly done and, if you pop into

the Heritage Centre any Wednesday between 9 am and 3 pm, you will see that the layout has completely changed, presenting our valley's past in an entirely new way and in an entirely new light

The next improvement on the Committee's list is the construction of a stage for outdoor performances. The plans have been drawn up and the site marked out. Be on the lookout for further news from Harcourt Heritage Centre. *George Milford* 



### **Ron Edwards and the Fight for Australian Tradition**

Back in the early 1950s, popular wisdom had it that as a 'young country' Australia had few, if any, folk songs and little national culture or tradition. England was our mother country - that was where our roots and history lay - while for our security and popular culture, we looked increasingly to the United States. It was into this world that twenty-year-old artist Ron Edwards, with poet John Manifold, embarked upon a radical project, the production of broadsheets of Australian folk songs - songs few believed existed. They called them Bandicoot Ballads, thereby setting in train Australia's ongoing folk song revival.

Initially, Manifold and Edwards had difficulty finding just eight songs with known tunes. The challenge set Edwards on a lifetime quest to collect and publish through his independent Rams Skull Press, songs alive in the memory of ordinary Australians. He was concerned not for the current generation of Australians few of whom showed any interest in their evolving folk heritage - but rather for their children, grandchildren and beyond. In 1954, he published Colonial Ballads, the first book of Australian folk songs with music, and began a series of pioneering folk song chapbooks\* and songbooks.

A passionately independent free spirit, Edwards moved in 1959 with his family to far north Queensland to live in the tropical sun and made his living painting nudes and bush landscapes for the burgeoning tourist trade. He discovered, however, locals all around him who knew marvellous old songs. Determined to ensure these songs were not lost, he became an irrepressible field collector eventually making Cairns, in a strictly numerical sense, the folk song, yarn spinning and bushcraft capital of Australia. Between 1966 and 1971, he published in

#### by Keith McKenry

his monthly magazine Northern, later National Folk, scores of songs he had collected in north Queensland. He discovered, too, a wealth of ancient Aboriginal rock art, identifying a hundred and seventy separate sites, each of which he documented meticulously.

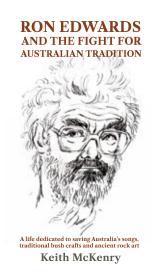
In the 1970s, Edwards' research culminated in the publication of The Big Book of Australian Folk Song, The Australian Yarn and Australian Traditional Bush Crafts, three major works that remain standard references - still the most comprehensive books in their field.

In 1977, Edwards made the first of fourteen trips to China just after the end of the Cultural Revolution. He also made five visits to Japan, completing the famed eighty-eight temple Shikoku pilgrimage. He wrote many books on his travels.

In 1984, fed up with the continuing focus of the government-funded Australian Folk Trust on folk song *performance* and its lack of interest in folklore *collection*, Edwards activated his Australian Folklore Society; a body he established exclusively for folklore collectors, and began his Australian Folklore Society Journal publishing over the next two decades sixty issues containing in sum over 700 songs and ballads.

In his later years, Edwards continued to document traditional culture; his work culminating in the 1990s in the production of his monumental twelve-volume index of Australian folk song with over two thousand entries, and a series of major books on leatherwork and traditional bushcraft. In total, he published over 300 titles - the overwhelming majority of which he wrote and illustrated himself.

Edwards also travelled extensively





to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities teaching art and craft and recording the communities' traditions. His Songs of the Torres Strait was published in 2001.

Despite contracting a terminal kidney disease, Edwards continued to write and publish prolifically. His last major work was Aboriginal Rock Art of Cape York and the Gulf Country, a book based on over forty years' meticulous field research. He died peacefully in January 2008.

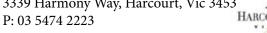
Ron Edwards is a towering figure in the field of Australian folklore.

Ron Edwards and the Fight for Australian Tradition is being published by Australian Scholarly Publishing under its Arcadia imprint and is being released in hardcover with many illustrations - a number in full colour. Its recommended retail price is \$49.95, and it will be available from all good booksellers (or pick up direct from the author for \$39.95).

A chapbook is a small publication of up to about 40 pages, sometimes bound with a saddle stitch [staples].

Wikipedia







# Councillor Comment



#### Hi all,

I'm almost up to date with my jobs. The sun has been shining this afternoon, so I have done some mowing. There are lambs to mark later in the week, so always plenty to do here.

On Friday, I attended a statewide meeting of Municipal Association of Victoria in Melbourne as our Council representative. Lots of issues on the agenda, but one that took quite a bit of time was discussion around behaviour of the public at council meetings. For me, Council is a great example of democracy. We debate the issues; we welcome those with a different view, but all in attendance at the MAV meeting agreed that we would not accept threatening behaviour towards our officers, councillors or the general public. Our local law is quite specific in this regard. If you get ejected from our council meeting the fine is ten penalty units. That is a pretty hefty fine and not too many of us would like that. Fortunately for us, our council meetings are running well and we do hope that continues.

Last night we had a special meeting of Council to hear submissions to our draft budget. Of course there are lots of great ideas on how we can spend more money. Those that spoke last night did a great job, and it was nice to hear the gallery applaud all of the presenters.

At the June meeting of Council, we will see what our elected councillors make of those submissions.

Well, the chief has just walked in and caught me typing away on the phone. It looks like there is time for more outside jobs while the sun is shining.

Best regards to all, Tony

THE CORE

AG Cordy 0439 742 434

PS: The band will be playing at The Taproom Friday 16 June. Thanks Jacqueline. Hope you can all make it.



# Save the Date **Gather Harcourt** Sunday 30 July 1 pm – 7 pm **James Park** Market and Food stalls Lantern Making Live Entertainment Fire Buckets Lantern Procession ather larcourt Fireside Chat

Harcourt Heritage Centre June 18th I.30 pm

Historic Fruit Box Labels and Stencils.

Blazing fire Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.

#### Supporting your community

Community Bank Maldon & District Bendigo Bank

> 03 5475 1747 MaldonMailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au



### Harcourt CFA Meeting Interrupted by Callout

The brigade's monthly meeting was drawing to a close on

Monday 15 May when it was interrupted by a chorus of pagers going off. The brigade had been paged to support the Lockwood brigade attending to a semi-trailer on fire on the Calder Highway at Ravenswood. Being at the station ensured a quick turnout and we arrived on scene to find the prime mover was fully involved but the refrigerated trailer was not. The monitor on the tanker was deployed on arrival, while hose lines were set up and members donned the breathing apparatus to attack the fire more closely. As the refrigeration unit was still



operating, it was sucking in smoke and flames from the fire and it was therefore vital we stopped the fire spreading to the trailer which was carrying grapes. Lockwood and Kangaroo Flat brigades arrived soon after to assist and, while the trailer was saved, the prime mover was destroyed.

#### From One to Four

That was the first callout for the month, but the following week saw the brigade called out three times to three different vehicle accidents. On the morning of Tuesday 23 May at 6:47 am we were paged to respond to the incident where a B-double truck carrying shipping containers had hit the rail bridge on Victoria Road. Road closures were put in place and with the arrival of police, traffic diversions were instigated. The first trailer was firmly wedged under the bridge and required extraction by local heavy haulage which took place during the following hours.



On Thursday 25 May at 4:47 pm, along with all other emergency services, we were called to attend the Calder Freeway on-ramp to Bendigo as a vehicle had slipped off the road in the wet conditions and it was reported that the occupant was trapped. Fortunately, a local paramedic was in attendance and was able to safely get the occupant out of the car before ambulance personnel attended. A quick recovery by the tilt tray and the scene was cleaned up quickly and the road reopened.

The following day at 11:25 am we, along with the Elphinstone brigade, responded to an accident, once again on the Calder Freeway,

where a utility towing a caravan had hit the wire rope barrier in the centre before veering across both lanes and ending up on the wrong side of the Armco metal railings on the side of the road.

While not knowing all the information about the causes of the accidents, it can be said that speed was a contributing factor in at least two of them and, perhaps, could have been avoided if travelling that little bit slower and driving to the conditions present at the time. There is a lesson there for all of us.

#### Prevention better than Cure

Preventing a fire or accident is far better than dealing with the aftermath. With this in mind, CFA are recommending the installation of a smoke alarm where Light Electric Vehicles (e.g. e-bikes, e-scooters etc.) are charged. A smoke alarm in the garage may also give you an early warning to other fire hazards.

Use electrical tools with caution, don't overload circuits and do not use cooking equipment or generators in the garage.

More information can be found at the CFA website: <u>www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/charging-and-battery-safety</u>

Remember only working smoke alarms can save lives.

With recent wet weather, clothes driers in the home will be being used more regularly. It is important that the lint filter is clean in your dryer and should be checked and cleaned after each use. Always let the clothes dryer complete its cool down cycle before stopping. Ensure that the lint filter is not loose or damaged. Clean the back of the dryer regularly to prevent a build-up of lint and make sure it has adequate ventilation to prevent overheating. Only use your clothes dryer under supervision and don't let it run when you are not at home or when you are sleeping.

Simple steps can reduce the risk of a fire or accident. Making a commitment to your everyday safety will assist in ensuring we are not called out to attend to you or your property. The month of May went from zero to four turnouts within eleven days. This is not a good statistic. Let us work together to make each month a zero and not have to call triple zero (000).

Stay safe and warm. *Tyrone Rice Brigade Community Safety Coordinator* 





# **Harcourt Uniting Church**

We sometimes forget to say thank you or to be thankful for what we have. Recently

we had a few days' holiday in South Australia including some time in the Flinders Ranges enjoying the spectacular scenery. It reminded me that we are so thankful that we live in such a great country and, in particular, our district of Harcourt of course. Sometimes we're so caught up in our daily lives we can forget to appreciate what we have.

God gave us a gift of 84,400 seconds each day – have you used one of those to say 'thank you?'

Mothers' Day was an occasion to say thank you for our mothers, including those who have been a mother figure to



*Mothers Day morning tea made by the blokes* 

extended family, and to remember the mothers no longer with us. The men of the Church prepared a special morning tea with a delicious spread of food baked by them, on a table adorned with a cloth and flowers, and the best bit – they even washed the dishes.

On 'Welcome Sunday' (which was put on hold over Covid), we welcomed newer members to our congregation – some more recent than others. We promised to ensure that we continue to be a welcoming Church. We enjoyed a special morning tea plus a birthday cake for our 'ever busy' Marie Twyford who celebrated a very special birthday. Bob



*Marie the birthday girl with her cake and flowers.* 

and Marie also celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in the same week.

At present, members from Castlemaine and Harcourt congregations are working on updating our Castlemaine and District Uniting Church website. It's a work in progress with many decisions: 'what information is needed and how much to include'. We want to inform, but not overload those searching for information.

Each Friday at 10.30 am, we meet informally for a cuppa and a chat at the Harcourt Produce Store, so why not join us some time. Sunday morning services at our Church are at 9.00 am, which can be a little chilly these frosty mornings, but we have good heating in the Church and a warm welcome.

A minister was visiting an elderly member of his congregation. While he was chatting, he noticed a bowl of peanuts on the table. 'Mind if I have a few?' he asked. 'No, not at all,' she replied. The pair talked for a while, and as the minister stood to leave, he realised he'd eaten most of the peanuts. 'Thank you so much for the tasty peanuts, but I'm terribly sorry I've eaten them all. I only meant to eat a few.'

'Oh that's all right,' said the woman. 'Ever since I lost my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off them!' Jan Jenkin

Celebrate National Refugee Week - 18 to 24 June 2023

Join award-winning author Arnold Zable and Iranian-born writer Pirooz Jafari for the event 'Footsteps of Longing' at the Castlemaine Library as part of Refugee Week celebrations.

Pirooz Jafari migrated to Australia more than two decades ago, and his experience of witnessing violations of human rights in Iran ignited a passion in him to study law, graduating in 2003.

His first literary fiction novel, Forty



rnold Zable. Photo: Sabina-Hopfer

THE C<mark>Ò</mark>RE

*Nights*, was recently longlisted for the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Arnold Zable is refugee advocate and award-winning writer of novels, short stories and memoir.

His books include Jewels and Ashes, The Fig Tree and novels including Café Scheherazade, Sea of Many Returns, Violin Lessons, The Fighter and The Watermill.

The pair will be in conversation with

Suzanne Donisthorpe to discuss themes of home, freedom and longing.

The event includes a special guest performance from storyteller and local musician Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky.

Refugee Week is held nationally from Sunday 18 June to Saturday 24 June. Coordinated by the Refugee Council of Australia, the week highlights the contributions refugees bring to our community, as well as focusing on current needs and challenges of those seeking asylum.

This year's theme is Finding Freedom.

#### Footsteps of Longing

Wednesday 21 June, 5.30pm to 7pm

Castlemaine Library, 212 Barker Street, Castlemaine

Entry is by donation, with all donations distributed to refugee support agencies.

#### To book, visit

www.goldfieldslibraries.com

The event is presented by Friends of Castlemaine Library (FOCAL) and Castlemaine Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR).



# Harcourt Valley Primary School There's a lot happening ...

In the last week of May and the first week of June, it's National Reconciliation week. The theme this year is 'Be a Voice for the Generations'. HVPS

has a number of activities planned to raise student awareness and knowledge about the importance of Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day (May 26). Throughout Mount Alexander Shire there are a number of activities currently taking place to mark these events. At HVPS one of the main events for Grades 3 to 6 was a visit to the Bendigo Art Gallery.

The school has had a busy start to the beginning of second term. Anzac Day ceremonies started the term and at the end of that week, students from Grades 3 to 6 competed in an area Cross Country event. Six students did well in their events; one student, Ada Webb, did well enough to be selected to compete in the Loddon Murray area Cross Country Competition which will be held in June. Later in May the school held its Inter-House Cross Country competition. Prep to Grade 2 had their special sporting event on 12 May, which was an inter-school Tabloid Sports activity held at Wesley Hill Stadium. HVPS students were ably supported by Grade 6 who encouraged cautious students to participate in the activities.

This month has seen an incidental focus on the benefits of physical exercise. Statewide, 19 May was Walk to School Day. It was well supported by students and their families wearing their snazzy socks and colourful shoelaces. Students who usually catch the bus to school were collected a bit earlier and dropped off at Stanley Park in Harcourt, so they too could participate in the walk.

Several annual events were held in May. The first of which was the annual Book Fair held from the 2-4 May. Students, with help from their teachers and parents, enjoyed selecting books to purchase and read. The second statewide event was Education Week, from



15-19 May with its theme 'Active Learners: Move, Make, Motivate'. As advertised in last month's *Core*, the main focus of Education Week was the Open Day on Wednesday 17 May. They were very well attended, especially the morning session when a number of new families to the area visited the school. A week earlier, on Thursday 11 May, the school hosted its annual Mothers Day breakfast. Mothers, grandparents and a special friend were invited along to enjoy pancakes cooked by the staff and students.

One very special event which took place for students this term was a visit by Claire Saxby who is the great aunt of HVPS students Ada and Billie Webb. Claire is a well-known and regarded author of children's books. She spent several hours at the school meeting students and reading some of her stories to them.

Now, there are just three weeks left before the end of second term! We hope that students and staff keep healthy and enjoy their mid-year break.

Lois Denham







### Harcourt Heritage Centre The Immigrant Experience

John (Johann) Hermanson Pellas was born at Jungsund, near Vasa in coastal western Finland on 15 March 1863. The people of the village had always spoken Swedish despite being annexed into the autonomous Finnish Grand Duchy of Russia in the early years of the 19th century. John Pellas became a ship's cook and it was aboard the ship *Bendoran* that he landed in Melbourne on 20 January 1885. This was at the tail end of the age of sail and we may profitably reflect on the experiences of anyone who ventured from Europe to Victoria at that time.

A fully rigged sailing ship was an impressive sight. To be aboard one in a storm was a terrifying experience. At one moment the ship would be riding the crest of the waves, the next, swooping down a great incline of water, peppered by rain and hailstones, the ship moving off course and taking seas over her bow, knocking the sailors flat by the deluge of water coming aboard while the helmsman wrestled the wheel. With as much sail as he dared, the captain needed to cover many miles across the trackless ocean.

John Pellas had heard of the prospect of steady work at Bendigo and asked to be paid off at Melbourne. Stories were circulating about the fabulous riches to be unearthed in the deep mines if only you could strike a rich vein. Bendigo in the 1880s was in its gold mining heyday.

Leaving his seaboard career, John determined to walk to Bendigo seeking work. He spent several days camping by the wayside or under bridges. Family legend has it that John Pellas was camped by the



Enza jane Trevean.

THE CÖRE



The Trevean family and servants.

bridge at Harcourt when he met twentyyear-old Eliza Jane Trevean, known as Lily, who introduced him to her father Philip Trevean, landowner and orchardist.

Philip Trevean's birthplace was Cornwall, England. He arrived in Victoria in 1856 and was at Ballarat for three years, and at Sandhurst for eighteen years, after which he moved to Harcourt where he purchased 200 acres of land on what we now know as Reservoir Road.

Philip had planted out 25 acres of orchard and was gradually adding to it. He needed a man to help with the orchard work. He had a fruit storing room able to hold 1,000 cases, and he sent large quantities to Melbourne and Sandhurst.

The upper portion of his garden was irrigated by means of a windmill, and an open water race ran through the lower portion.

John Pellas' letter back to his parents and family in Finland was enthusiastic. The climate in Victoria at latitude 37 degrees south is vastly different to the climate of Finland at 63 degrees north. There were opportunities to acquire land and to create your own farms and orchards. John Pellas' younger brother August Hermanson Pellas, who was working as a ship's steward, booked his passage to Bremen where he joined the mail steamer *Nurnberg*.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 shortened the sailing time from England to Melbourne from twelve weeks to six weeks. August's voyage as a steerage passenger on the mail steamer must have been interesting, as, after leaving Bremen, the ship called at Antwerp, Southampton, Genoa, Port Said, Aden and Colombo. Monsoonal storms were encountered as the steamer sailed around Western Australia, on to Adelaide, and ultimately to Melbourne, arriving 1 August 1889.

Joining his brother at Harcourt, August soon found work as a labourer. In later years he was described as a farmer. In the meantime, John had married Lily Trevean. After Philip Trevean's death, the couple carried on fruit growing on the orchard at the north end of the Trevean holding and



*Commemorative locket: Frank and Ivan Pellas, both killed in WW1.* 

raised nine children to adulthood. August married Stella Faull and had five children.

With their Swedish accents, John and Gus Pellas were marked out as foreign. One more step was required of them to complete their odyssey from Jungsund to Harcourt in the Victorian colony. Papers that can be accessed in the online collections of the National Archives of Australia reveal that John Hermanson Pellas was naturalized in March 1896 while August Hermanson Pellas was naturalized in 1906. To be naturalized required an application to the Governor in Council, accompanied by a testimony as to good character, a declaration that the applicant intended to reside permanently in the Australian colonies, together with an Oath of Allegiance, in John's case, to Queen Victoria, and, in August's case, to King Edward VII.

If we needed further evidence of the family's loyalties, we need look no further than the fact that three of John Pellas' sons volunteered to serve in the Australian Imperial Forces during the First World War. Frank and Ivan Pellas were killed in action in Belgium and France respectively. Percy Pellas was wounded at Gallipoli.

The early settlers of the Harcourt valley came from many nationalities and backgrounds. In the latter part of the 19th century, society was seemingly divided into groups: solid British stock, foreign born and native born (who had their own Friendly Society, the Australian Natives Association). But Australian society has always been big enough to assimilate all these groups into a harmonious whole.

By studying the immigration experiences of those who came here from foreign parts, such as the Pellas brothers, we can begin to understand the richness of our history.

This is another in a series of Thumbnail sketches of the pioneers written for the *Core* by Harcourt Heritage Centre.

# A View of the Central Victorian Landscape

There's something quintessentially Australian in our Central Victorian landscape that immediately reminds one of country life. In the open expanses of grasslands there is nothing more symbolic of a bygone era than the omnipresent collection of corrugated iron sheds. That faded workhouse blue and rusty tawny shade of farm-shed was indeed a nostalgic sight. They are a mark of times past when folk worked the land to survive, basically. These corrugated sheds exemplified that quality of hard work, frugality and making do. Most of them stood out like sentinel work fellows in multi-dimensional forms bent and flexed as they aged, their powdery forms coated with a russet shade through years of weathering in rain, sleet and wind.

I've roamed along the country lanes in Harcourt and admired the eccentricities of all our remnant sheds. There's something about these old sheds with their slow dilapidation being a way of marking the decline of an era. They wilt like the old farmers, bending and bowing to the earth, giving in to their own aging.

My wanderings often took me to one local road. On one property I'd seen the remains of a small chimney stack in danger of falling, propped up by that ubiquitous Harcourt grey granite-stone. In the yard a large old shed with its roof half gone was drooping at a precarious angle; the floorboards were weathered or missing completely. Of the array of buildings, the smaller corrugated shed was rusted and frail. A large bunya pine, at least 200 years old was the one solid landmark.

More than a year ago, I'd noticed that the fence line had begun to straighten out with strong timber posts to support the collection of corrugations and shades of weathering rust. The fence now stood firm and sure, and I quietly admired its clean line. Over time I became conscious of changes in the farmyard from distorted and weathered iron to the more clearly defined lines of a working shed. The smaller shed gradually took on form. It now boasted a sturdy roofline. Pots of plants appeared, and a concrete slab added a sense of solidity. What was once the original lean-to was now an honourable shed with a clean roofline that housed the remains of tractors and farm machinery. I became tantalised and more than a little curious at these ensuing changes.

The larger shed now began

to take on a stronger form. At first, the foundations were resurrected as the structure was steadily being restumped. A window was rebuilt and glass louvres reinstated. From its original wavering shape, strong straight lines now defined the large shed. Steadily onwards and upwards it was being resurrected into its former glory. Even a collection of fruit boxes were neatly stacked within the recovering structure.

On one of my wanderings, I saw a fellow working in the yard. As is my want, I was enthusiastic about the work being carried out and stopped to admire the sheds' progress and asked further. And in this way, I came to meet Gary. In his own laconic way, he started to fill in the tale of the resurrection of this old farm menagerie. And what a tale it was to be.

You see, the land where the sheds were housed had belonged to an orchardist called Frank. Frank's family went back generations. His grandfather had lived near Walmer and was renowned for his skills and inventive skills with orchards, however it was Frank's father who was one of the early orchardists to take up land in Poplar Road to begin an apple orchard.

Gary had worked in Frank's sheds as a young fella. His childhood was filled with the energy and productiveness of those years. Gary recalled making the fruit





boxes that awaited the picked fruit. It was hard labour but he thrived on this work and with it was borne a nostalgic longing for the past.

Gary and Frank had a very close friendship. In fact, it was said that they were as close as a father and son. (This was told to me by Frank's daughter, Mary Edquist.)

To me, these resurrected sheds had come to hold a deeper meaning.

Perhaps it tells us something about the marking of time; the bonds and relationships that forge our future in some more enduring manner. It gives us much more than an historical perspective. It tells us about the strength of friendships and connection to country and place.

Next time you go past some of those old rickety corrugated sheds, think of the resilience that folk developed and the bonds that drew them together.

As we stood talking over the iron gate, Gary told me a little more of Frank's lifestory.

It opened up an entire story that will be continued in another instalment.

#### Vera Hemkes

#### Note:

Corrugated iron was invented in London in 1829. The material was lightweight, easy to build with and easy to transport. The advent of the corrugated ribs added to the strength of the material. By adding zinc to the metal, they were resistant to rust, a clever invention of the French.

Corrugated iron first appeared on Australian shores during the goldrush era. Cheap and readily constructed materials were necessary to house the thousands of gold seekers who rushed to our shores. Later they became a ubiquitous item for the farmyard. By the 1850s corrugated iron was used for shearing sheds and water tanks. They were so common that indigenous peoples referred to them as manmade bark.







Computity Health OUR NEW BRAND LAUNCHES 2023

## In Praise of First Responders

Staff and volunteers from the CFA, SES, Ambulance Victoria, Dhelkaya Health and others involved in responding to emergencies in Mount Alexander Shire gathered at Castlemaine Art Museum on Sunday 30 April. They were gathered together for the 'In Praise of First Responders' event presented by Castlemaine Art Museum and Dhelkaya Health.

Cr Bill Maltby thanked these everyday heroes for their



contribution to our community on behalf of Mount Alexander Shire Council. Sue Race, CEO of Dhelkaya Health, acknowledged the extraordinary teamwork and collaboration between services in times of crisis.

Sue said in her address, 'I know from experience that with service often comes risk and a burden of stress. Despite this, you carry on, and for that I want to express the deep gratitude and admiration which we all feel for what you do.'

Christine Nixon AO spoke about how she valued her own involvement with art as a way of maintaining wellbeing and the pleasure of making and learning about mosaics. She passed on the advice given to her when she became Commissioner of Victoria Police: 'This isn't a race, it's a marathon, and you need to take time out to care for your wellbeing to stay the distance?

For Naomi Cass, Director of Castlemaine Art Museum, who initiated the idea for the event: 'We were delighted with the attendance, particularly on a sunny Sunday in beautiful Castlemaine! Visiting Castlemaine Art Museum is free and has so much to offer First Responders looking for a quiet and uplifting experience, as an individual or as a group, children are welcome. Visitors are invited to experience the art and the museum collections in any way they wish, there's no right or wrong way to experience art!'

There was very much a party atmosphere as guests and their families enjoyed both the gallery and each other's company. Many families had two generations of first responders in attendance and many guests had served their community for thirty to forty years.

From a press release.





# Harcourt Bowling Club



#### Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 21 May, the outgoing board presented its annual report at the Annual General Meeting of Harcourt Bowling Club.

Treasurer Judy Ewing reported that the significant works undertaken during the year to upgrade facilities and equipment had an impact on the bottom line. She noted however, that the club is still financially healthy.

President Ken Tribe announced that he will not stand for the position of president, though he will remain as a board member. The five vacant positions on the board for 2023-2025 were filled by the five nominees: Wendy Chaplin, Ronald Douglas, Judy Ewing, Les Harding and Rod Harris. They will join sitting members Ken Tribe, David Jefferies, Kay Francis and Heather Braid.

Immediately following the AGM, the new board met to elect office bearers for the upcoming year. They are: President David Jefferies; Vice Presidents Heather Braid and Les Harding; Secretary Diane Marsh and Treasurer Judy Ewing. Chris McAuliffe was also appointed to the board.

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



HBC board for 2023-2024. Absent: Les Harding and Heather Braid.

#### **Retiring Members**

Prior to the AGM, sitting board members Brian Buchanan and Russell Timmins had announced their retirement. On behalf of the club and the board, President Ken Tribe paid tribute to them both for their outstanding contributions to the deliberations of the board and to the club, over many years.



Brian Buchanan, one of the retiring board members.

#### Friday Social Nights

The Social Nights will continue throughout the winter months with the Members Draw and raffles being drawn at the earlier time of 6.00pm.



Newly installed soundproofing.

#### Installation of soundproofing success

Visitors to the clubrooms will be pleased to know that the installation of soundproofing to the ceiling has made a marked difference. Thanks to Barry and Ken and their band of helpers.

#### **Ongoing works**

We thank our many volunteers who have been/are busy around the club. Having completed the soundproofing, they are currently concreting and adding drainage to the barbeque area, paving the western seating area beside the green (repurposing the pavers from the BBQ area) and installing new aluminium seating with backs where required around the green. A grant from Mount Alexander Shire Council will assist with the installation of infra-red radiant outdoor heaters under the roof of the back deck. This will be completed within a couple of months.

#### Volunteers

The Harcourt Bowling Club is entirely managed and supported by volunteers. Throughout the year – in all kinds of weather – most of our members run and cater for programs, tournaments, pennant games, prepare the green and maintain the building and grounds via our Board of Management Committees. Members volunteer for these committees. Thank you to all those who have so far nominated to help – there are still vacancies to fill on most of the committees.

#### Jackpot Bowls

Social games on Wednesday afternoons will continue while the weather allows. All bowlers are welcome, and we ask that you have your names in at the club before 12.30 pm to allow time for the draw and to commence at 1.00 pm.

**The Ladies' Nominated Champion Pairs** final between Judy Ewing & Wendy Chaplin; and Mary-Anne Doyle & Fran Corstorphan will not be played until later in the year.





# LANDCARE

Harcourt Valley Attractive New Web Site

https://www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org/

Harcourt Valley Landcare is developing a new and very attractive web site. A big thank you goes to Vanessa Chiang for her work on this. It complements the brochure produced last year to mark our 25th anniversary. The web site has been developed with the support of a grant from Mount Alexander Shire.

Do you have any amazing landscape or nature photos of Harcourt Valley? We are looking for images for the new website. Please email any images to info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org,we will be sure to give you a credit.

#### The Buzz Pollinator Project

In early June, Hadley Cole – Mount Alexander Region Landcare Facilitator, announced that Harcourt Valley Landcare will receive 50 pollinator plants (and guards) as part of the Buzz Project: promoting pollinators of Central Victoria. The plants include a mix of herbs, grasses and shrubs and will include a mix, but not all, of the following species:

SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Arthropodium strictum	Chocolate Lily
Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Cynoglossum suaveolens	Sweet Hound's-togue
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily
Dianella tarda	Late-flowered Flax-lily
Dichondra repens	Kidney Leaf
Hydrocotyle laxiflora	Large-leaf Pennywort
Melicytus dentatus	Tree Violet
Senecio sp.	Fireweed
Themda triandra	Kangaroo Grass
Xerochrysum viscosum	Sticky Everlasting-daisy

#### Landcare Dates

#### Next Meeting:

Thursday 8 June at 6.30 pm at the Heritage Centre ANA Hall.

#### Next Working Bee:

Sunday 25 June 25, 10 am-12 at Barkers Creek. The main activity will be staking and covering existing plantings. And there's weeding ... there's always weeding!

#### July and August Statewide or Australian Landcare dates:

- Schools Tree Day: 29 July
- National Tree Day: 31 July
- Landcare Week: 7-13 August



Bursaria spinosa

# **Bumper Entries for Rotary Art Show**

The 2023 Castlemaine Rotary Art Show will be a bumper show if the number of entries is any guide.

'We are so pleased at the support of the show by the art community, enthused Castlemaine Rotary Art Show committee convenor, Robert Cordy.

'The number of entries is up by nearly fifteen percent, eclipsing last year's post-COVID recovery show,' he said.

Bendigo artist Darren Crothers, a joint winner at last year's show, gave us a sneak peek at one of his entries for this year.

# THE CORE

The show will open daily at 10 am across the King's Birthday weekend, from Friday 9 June to Monday 12 June, with a Gala Opening and presentation of prizes on Thursday 8 June at 7 pm. Tickets will be available at the door.



Mr Cordy thanked local businesses Belle Real Estate (formerly Wallers), Pyrenees Quarries, Gunangara, Maltby Property, Castlemaine Office Supplies and Parsons Motor & Body Shop for their sponsorship of prizes for this year's show.

'Rotary appreciates the enthusiastic support of local businesses for our events,' he said.

The Rotary Club of Castlemaine Art Show raffle this year features limited edition artwork Rubicon Valley by artist Jeff Makin as first prize. Tickets are \$2 and available from Rotary members and at the Rotary table at Maxi IGA.

# Celebrate National Tree Day with Connecting Country, Sunday July 30



GiveNow - Trees for the next generation: National Tree Day 2023

Connecting Country is raising funds to purchase local native plants and host a Community Planting Day on National Tree Day, 30 July 2023. We will connect people to nature whilst restoring degraded bushland.

www.givenow.com.au

For more information go to our website



To share the campaign please see the link: https://www.givenow.com.au/fundatree

In partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council (MASC), we (Connecting Country) are running a campaign to raise funds for a community planting day for 2023's National Tree Day, Sunday 30 July.

A couple of months ago MASC early years and youth project officers approach us about supporting them in a grant application to run a community planting day. They had recently surveyed the younger generations of the community about how they wished to contribute to action for climate change and they said they want opportunities to plant trees, make homes for wildlife and to undertake practical actions to address climate change.

Unfortunately the grant application for the planting day was not successful. We had a think and thought, 'Why don't we take action into our own hands?' Local action for our local people. And from here we have put together the 'Trees for the Next Generation' campaign.

We are aiming to raise \$5000 to purchase plants and guards for a community planting day. We will team up with Post Office Hill Action Group to co-host the community planting day for 2023 National Tree Day. Any additional funds made from the campaign will go towards purchasing extra plants and guards for Landcare groups.

Hadley Cole Mount Alexander Region Landcare Facilitator.

# Grace Church Pentecost

The day of Pentecost was followed by a similar happening in Acts chapter ten.

A Roman captain, Cornelius, had a vision in which an angel appeared to him and instructed him to summon the apostle Peter. Peter, in turn, had a vision which encouraged him to share the Christian faith with gentiles. Peter arrived at Cornelius's household together with some Jewish men. Here is what happened next:

While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been given even to the non-Jewish people. These Jewish believers heard them speaking in different languages and praising God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did!' So Peter ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ [i.e. by full immersion in water].

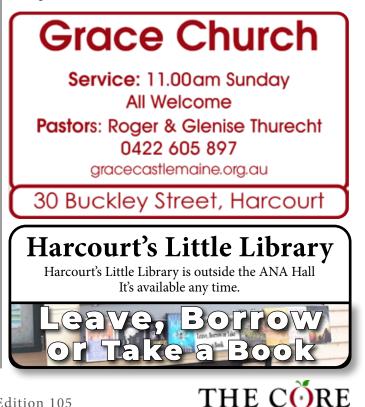
The parallels with what occurred on the Day of Pentecost are remarkable. Once again, we see this phenomenon of people being enabled to speak in languages other than their own, praising God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Peter, recalling this event, said,

When I began my speech, the Holy Spirit came on them just as he came on us at the beginning. Then I remembered the words of the Lord. He said, 'John baptised in water, but you will be baptised in the Holy Spirit!' God gave to them the same gift that he gave to us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. So, could I stop the work of God? No!

This experience of being enabled to praise God in another language is still available today and has become known as 'the baptism in the Holy Spirit'.

Ps Roger Thurecht, Grace Church





# Rail trail feasibility study needs your input

We've partnered with the Central Goldfields Shire Council and Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Inc. to determine the feasibility of a shared rail trail between Castlemaine and Maryborough.

The proposed trail is 55km and passes through the communities of Campbells Creek, Guildford, Newstead, Moolort and Carisbrook. Residents living in proximity to the trail are invited to provide feedback on the proposal at this early stage.

The survey will be open until Friday 23 June and can be accessed at <u>surveymonkey.com/r/cmrailtrail</u>.

Find out more about the project at <u>cmrailtrail.org.au</u>.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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

#### It's game on at sports reserves

We're continuing our commitment to improve sports and recreation reserves across the shire.

Over the last few years we've upgraded facilities at Harcourt Recreation Reserve and Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve, and we're planning for improvements at Camp Reserve and Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve.

Works to upgrade facilities at Maldon's Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve are also on the way, with construction of a new pavilion and improved sports lighting set to begin in the coming months.

These improvements will make local sport accessible for all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds.







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Welcome to winter!

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

It's time to be ordering any new fruit trees you want to plant this winter. We're encouraging everyone to plant an apple tree this year. Harcourt has long been known as the Apple Centre of Victoria; we're adding a twist and suggest we think of ourselves as the HERITAGE APPLE CENTRE OF VICTORIA.

Why the focus on heritage apple varieties? At our on-farm nursery (Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery: <u>openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-</u><u>fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop</u> we're trying to protect heritage varieties that are in danger of becoming lost. This year we have a massive 58 different apple varieties!

Harcourt is one of the oldest apple growing districts in Australia, so it feels like we have a special responsibility to help preserve these old heirloom varieties, and you can help. A lot of the old varieties only exist in collections, which is like keeping them in a museum. They need to be grown in people's backyards, eaten, shared, talked about, and loved so we can all get to know them again. So, if you're thinking about planting an apple tree this year, we'd encourage you to choose a variety that's new to you.

When you're thinking about getting new trees, you also need to decide where you'll plant them. One of the benefits of living in Harcourt is having enough space for a decent-sized garden, with lots of room for fruit trees. But even if you have a large garden, it might make sense to keep your fruit trees together in one area of the garden, rather than spreading them out. For example, it's easier to net the trees under a single structure, rather than having to create a separate structure for each tree. It can also be easier to set up a simple but effective irrigation system if all the trees with similar needs are in one place.

But neither of these things are deal breakers if you'd rather have your fruit trees scattered throughout your garden. It's quite easy to protect a single fruit tree from fruit fly and birds with a simple hoop structure that is easy to construct from star pickets and poly pipe. Similarly, it's not that hard to irrigate individual trees that are scattered around your garden, it just might take multiple pipes and offshoots to reach them all.

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

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

The other reason we usually recommend pruning apricot trees in late summer is because they tend to be very big, vigorous trees, and pruning them in summer is likely to create a smaller growth response to your pruning cuts. Pruning your trees in winter is likely to stimulate a bit more growth in the tree, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just important to prune them thoughtfully so you don't encourage your tree to get too bushy (we cover how to do this in our free online webinar – you can find the link at the end of this article).

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

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

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

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

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than 20 years, and offer a free weekly newsletter called *Weekly Fruit Tips*. They have more than 50 online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to <u>www.growgreatfruit.com</u> for details. They also run free online workshops - sign up at growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is now open for orders at <u>openfoodnetwork.org.au/</u> <u>carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop</u> Orders taken until June 18, and trees will be available to pick up from the farm. Open Days on June 24th & 25th and July 1st & 2nd from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.



# Weather & Water



The rainfall for May was 41.5 mm over 9 days. The heaviest falls were 8.5 mm and 13 mm. From 5 May to 20 May (16 days inclusive),

there was no rain, and I watered pot plants and vegetables planted in raised beds. There was often mist and dew on the otherwise dry days, but this was not enough for the plants. Inflows to the dam have ceased and the water level is down somewhat. I was grateful for the 13 mm that fell on 27 May which was followed by light rain for four days until the end of the month. Total rainfall for the year to date is 211 mm which is the lowest since 2019 (138 mm). 2019 was the last year of severe bushfires. It remains to be seen whether the Bureau of Meteorology prediction of a dry winter will follow. On June 1, I noticed that the soaks on Mount Barker were running, which is a good sign.

Mean temperatures for the month of May, as recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology, show a mean maximum of 15°C and a mean minimum of 6°C, however, the overall feel on many days was noticeably cooler, both overnight and during the day.

On 1 June, the Bureau of Meteorology predicted a warm dry winter for nearly all of Australia. It reported that Victoria is expecting an unusually dry winter, and that the entire state is likely to have warmer than normal temperatures both day and night.

The BOM said, 'Climate drivers to the east and west of Australia are indicating an El Niño event, but currently the prediction is at a 50% chance for El Niño. The current conditions

# Earthquake in Sunbury felt in Harcourt

Geoscience Australia's website has all the facts on the recent earthquake which had its epicentre in Sunbury. The last days of May have proved 'busy' in terms of seismic activity in Australia. There were 27,016 felt reports\* of the 4.0 magnitude Sunbury quake on 28 May. While people were disturbed and shocked there was no reported damage.

There were two reports about this quake to Geoscience Australia from Harcourt and five from Castlemaine/Chewton. The furthest towns from the epicentre which registered felt reports for this quake were Swan Hill, Albury and Orbost. The magnitude 4.0 earthquake was followed by another two minutes later and was located north-east of Sunbury. This was at 2.6 magnitude and 25 people reported that they were aware of it.

Other seismic activity in Victoria around the date of the Sunbury earthquake includes a 2.3 magnitude earthquake felt by 393 people in Croydon on 30 May. In addition, a magnitude 3 quake at Crystal Brook happened in South Australia on 28 May at 6.53 am and a magnitude 3 earthquake at Tenant Creek in the Northern Territory on 29 May. The latter two quakes had no felt reports or shake map available.

\* A 'felt report' is made by visiting the Geoscience website and reporting the quake by answering a questionnaire. From this information basic data is gathered about the numbers of people who were aware of the quake, the description of what they felt and the amount of damage, if any. The information is collated and can be used, for example, to develop a 'shake map' which shows the area of the reports and a scale of severity from 'not felt' to 'extreme'.

For further research go to: earthquakes.ga.gov.au

THE CORE

plus forecasts were "close" to those required for shifting from a "watch" to "alert" for El Niño, but atmospheric conditions were keeping the odds at 50 per cent for the moment.

#### Reservoir Levels (from Coliban Water and BOM websites)

Barkers Creek as at 21 May: 47.3% Malmsbury as at 23 May: 52.3% Lauriston as at 23 May: 92.2% Upper Coliban as at 23 May: 80.6%



*This pair of Australasian Grebes has made the dam home for the third season. We are hopeful of seeing some chicks in the spring.* 



	1	2	3	4		5		6	7			own:	
0										9	2.	At the zoo, I'm the apes; in the garden, I'm the peas—I identify easily with them.	<ul><li>17. All in all at sea? (2,3,4</li><li>18. Trust that git, Ernie, the stove going again</li></ul>
0				11							3.	(9)	19. If you're cunning, and on a few years, you ca
2						13					4.		with things philosopl (6) 21. Useful for 8 on early- saws? (3-3)
14			15	18	16				17		5.	I wouldn't fancy a silver gelatin compound on muesli! (8)	<ul><li>22. Serpent—it is writ: he twist and turn forever</li></ul>
19							20			21	6.		24. Get a prick from this direction? (5)
23		24				22 25		26			7.		26. What to look for if ig quality? (5)
23		24				25		20			8.	Useful for convicts, or vehicles on Hotham. (6)	
27								28			- 9.	Head church? (6)	
	20										15	5. One doctor leaves the highest climb and turns out smartest. (9)	
	29												

- 10. Saintly wallower? (5)
- 11. S. D. came south for easy facial recognition... (9)
- 12. Fashionable hospital birds? (7)
- 13. Cat back around finish satirises. (5,2)
- 14. Alternate power supply? (6)
- 16. Old mice I find in residence. (8)
- 19. Run through redactor, run through... (8)
- 20. Wiped out at second-rate Tatts? (6)

#### May 2023 Xwd Solution

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#### Across:

- 1. Because I can't shift her, [I'll claim (pitiably)]that <u>it's a</u> key mother-lip-[law <u>trait</u> [capability].
- 10. Dance US producer to the end of the alphabet. [Well? This was the original clue, and it was far too easy, so...]
- 11. Dodge rent to make way across swamp?
- 12. To come forth again about the edition?
- 13. [He just rang, explaining] how odd the leftof-centre bit was. (7)

#### © McW November '18

- Down:
  - 8dn might die in the tumult if climatechange hits! (9)

4)

27. It isn't clear who steals clarinets. (9)

than it's worth... (5,8)

28. What Drake faced, played, loses a play. (5)

- Artist loses a bit of weight [g] over his surfaces as he lolls in a deckchair... (5)
- 4. What not to use on your brain if you don't get the graveside joke? [Well? 'Thy dull ass will not mend his pace with beating'... Act V Hamlet]
- 5. Thick [*NZ='huck'*] sudden weep [*sob*] broadcast from (Kiwi) cartridge? (8)
- 6. Bra, thinly disguised in an amazing way. (9)
- Joint [*T*-] precipitation off bride's head?
  (5)
- World's bottom [S, as cf North] on top heats lots of insects... (6)
- 9. <u>Stick</u> commercial [*ad*.] in this place.
- 14. Amerindian potassium bird-noise? [Well?]
- 16. Toot + smoke = dance. [Well?]
- An 'R' in front of it might lead to spitting it out if you lose the 'R'... [Well? "Spit the dummy..."]
- 20. Regularly recurring sequence without a single vowel. [*Well?*]
- 23. Who didn't pay out on small reservoir ruin?
- 25. Oxidised country bumpkins? [Well?]

15. Posterior [*after*] imperfection [*flaw*] unpacks as a <u>deluge from on high</u>. [*As bad as Arstle...*]

25. If you read Law only to make a real wad, your clients might get it! (3,

29. Wheel the paint-machine out to the skip: it's useless and more trouble

- I don't really claim to be a mindreader, but I've got it in the Parisian night [*nuit*] [Sorry: verb form very distracting...]
- Circuit and bumps round the airfield in an old Messerschmitt? I do, Jerry Cest moi!
- 19.  $\text{Er} \dots \underline{59 + 1}$  inside could be <u>a tonic</u>! (6)
- 21. <u>Slim</u> redactor <u>took us up the garden</u> <u>path</u>...
- 22. Outback ways up junkies' arms? (6)
- 24. Eve is up for going through a <u>fine</u> sorter.
- 26. Rare judge at the bar? [Well?]
- 27. Cecil and I could talk about Old Norse until we thawed out. (9)
- Heard on [pool-] tables round various coves and inlets... (5)
- 29. <u>Ninety-eight year-old in good nick</u>—like a <u>hole in the ground *before* it's dished up?</u>

# THE C<mark>Õ</mark>RE

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For placement of advertising please contact *The Core* via email at: advertising@harcourt.vic.au

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# **Community Diary Dates**

**Thursday June 8:** 6.30 pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare meeting, Heritage Centre/ANA Hall, High Street.

**Sunday June 18:** 1.30 pm, Fireside Chat: Historic Fruit Box Labels and Stencils Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street.

Saturday June 24 – 9 July: Term 2 school holidays in Victoria.

**Sunday June 25:** 10 am-12 pm, Working bee Harcourt Valley Landcare, on Barkers Creek. Enquiries to: info@ harcourtvalleylandcare.org

**Monday July 10:** Airport Bus Service comes to Harcourt. See page 4 for details.

Sunday July 30: 1.00 pm–7.00 pm, Gather Harcourt at James Park.

**Carpet Bowls:** 7.00 pm Wednesdays, Carpet Bowls, summer and winter, Leisure Centre, Binghams Road, Harcourt.

**CFA:** Brigade meeting night is the third 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 9.15 am. 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, Binghams Road, Harcourt.

**Grace Church:** Tuesdays at 10.30 am: Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11.00 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm: Zoom Bible Study: A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link:

#### pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au

Harcourt Bowls Club: See page 16.

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

**Heritage Centre:** Every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9.00 am–3.00 pm or by appointment: 0400 916 527.

**Pony Club:** Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 902 400. The Pony Club is located next to the swimming pool.

**Uniting Church:** Sundays at 9.00 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 9.00–10.00 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 PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



#### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

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

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners within a 20kms radius of the Harcourt Township, plus North Harcourt and South Ravenswood- some exceptions apply - do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the committee. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> July each year. Any renewals or new memberships **paid in 2023 will be valid until 30 June, 2024.** 

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

□Financial member: full fee \$20 □ Financial member: concession fee \$10 □

NAME:....

ADDRESS:.....

TELEPHONE:..... EMAIL: .....

SIGNED:.....DATED:....

□ I have paid \$20 online using the HPA website.

□ I have made an online deposit of \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.

I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 Concession for Annual Membership
 Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 135, HARCOURT, VIC 3453

Please indicate your name and state "Membership" when paying online or when handing cash to the bank.

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

