

HARCOURT NEWS

THE C^ÖRE

March 2014

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 3

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://theharcourtprogressgroup.blogspot.com.au/>

For inclusion in the monthly edition of The Core please email: rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com or call 0467 670 271

The Core will be distributed via the Harcourt Shop & Post Office, The Tavern and the Service Station and will be uploaded to the Harcourt Progress Assoc blog site.

Local Landcare Groups Secure \$86,000 in Funding for Barkers Creek

Jarrold Coote, President of Harcourt Valley Landcare Group has announced the success of a grant application for \$86,000 from State Government's Communities For Nature program to carry out two years of environmental restoration work along Barkers Creek.

This funding is to continue the project called "Barkers Creek Clean-Up", a collaboration between three Landcare Groups – North Harcourt/Sedgwick, Barkers Creek and Harcourt Valley. The program began over two years ago with the assistance of Connecting Country in Castlemaine, and saw some 60 landholders contacted. As a result nearly all these landholders made a commitment to eradication of weeds – particularly blackberries - from their properties. Some spraying work, educational forums and other activities were carried out.

Importantly the first phase of the project saw a Management Plan produced for Barkers Creek. This has allowed the groups to have a vision for the creek and to continue the work which is expected to take a number of years.

Jarrold said, "The groups are looking forward to coming together again on this important work of environmental restoration. A steering committee from the three Landcare Groups will manage the project and we will appoint a Project Manager shortly."

To see some of the work completed by Harcourt Valley Landcare along the creek on Public Land (additionally to the above project); take a walk along the creek (both sides) near the Pony Club and opposite the CFA.

The picture below shows Landcare members from Mount Alexander Shire standing on the bridge over Barkers Creek opposite the CFA. Harcourt Valley Landcare is aiming to have handrails on the bridge in time for Applefest.

Will they make the deadline??



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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 3rd of the month except January. The deadline is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and Community Groups will be sent reminder emails.

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$10
Double Bus Card	\$20
1/4 Page	\$50
1/2 Page	\$75
Full Page	\$150

Welcome - New Residents



Meet Terry & Bron Willis and Sonny who is twelve weeks old.

Terry & Bron moved to Harcourt in the winter of 2013. They originally hail from Brisbane and Perth respectively, but have also lived in Melbourne and Tocumwal. They were attracted to this area and had a "trial" six months or so in Castlemaine looking around for somewhere suitable to settle.

Bron has a marketing/PR/editing background and is enjoying her new job as mother of Sonny. She has found that having a baby has put her in contact with lots of people and she has made new friends as a result. Terry combines his experience in the trades with his current position as a teacher.

Say hello to Terry & Bron when you see them around Harcourt!

Harcourt CWA

We all enjoy our monthly CWA meetings, we discuss the business of the day, plan activities for the following weeks, then it's off to the kitchen for afternoon tea and a catch up with friends. But when one of our friends is celebrating a birthday, it is extra special, a time to reflect, a time for friends to share memories, and of course a time for cake.

Harcourt CWA had an extra special afternoon tea following their February meeting when one of our members, Merle Westlake, celebrated her birthday, and not just any birthday, her 80th Birthday, and on the exact day too.

When reflecting on her 80 years, Merle was proud to announce that for forty three of those years she had been a member of the CWA, her first 26 years with the Mooroolbark Branch, then with Castlemaine, and since 2002, a member of Harcourt, where as Craft leader for many years, she has inspired us with her monthly craft activities and encouragement.

Whether it be moving pianos, sweeping floors, or designing costumes for our yearly concerts, Merle has endeared herself to us all.

Thanks Merle for the support you have given the CWA over the past forty three years and thanks for the opportunity for us to partake of a birthday afternoon tea and cake. Once again we will have a stall at this year's Applefest on March 8th, and the ladies will be more than willing to sell you a ticket in their famous raffle, and answer any questions you might have about our wonderful Branch, so do drop by and have a chat.

And don't forget, you can join us on the first Thursday of every month for our monthly meeting and the third Thursday of the month for our craft day. Both commence at 1.30PM.

Lyn Rule

Secretary

Business is Booming at The Tav

New owners Paula Ewing and Andy Bos are experiencing all the hurly burly of the publican's life as they settle into running The Harcourt Tavern. Paula was raised in Castle-maine and Andy's Father grew up in Guildford. They have now decided on a long term commitment to the area and their new enterprise.

Speaking with Paula and Andy, it becomes clear that they have a passion for this business and want to provide the best service and meals possible to Harcourt residents, their friends and out of town visitors.

With the trusted team of Chef Wayde Sedgwick, Bar Manager Shane Miles and his wife Camille who assists in the bar, bistro and kitchen, Paula and Andy are quickly learning the business.

While Andy and Paula have long term plans to enhance the business, they also intend it to continue as a social hub for the people of Harcourt. With specials which change fortnightly, Wednesday Pot and Parma night (\$15) and Happy Hour on Fridays from 6 – 7 pm **and** a Spit Roast every second Sunday, a great atmosphere is created for customers.

The Bistro has been particularly busy with 90 meals served on one Friday night recently. On the same night, \$190 was raised for the Harcourt CFA in the Meat Raffle. Andy and Paula will continue the Raffle every week and make contributions to local organisations with the money raised.

As Applefest fast approaches, Paula and Andy are supporting the event by providing the venue for the Harcourt Homegrown Workshops and also the Open Mic Competition (see the Program on Page 5).



Photo shows:

Left to right:

Shane Miles,
Paula Ewing,
Camille Miles,
Andy Bos &
Wayde Sedgwick

HARCOURT TAVERN

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

BAR OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY

BISTRO OPEN: WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

Weekly Specials

Wednesdays: Pot & Parma \$15

Fridays: 6-7pm Happy Hour:

\$3 pots, \$3 wines

Every 2nd Sunday: Spit Roast:

8 March Applefest

15th March

NEW PHONE NUMBER: 5474 2211

Like us on Facebook



NEW NBN TOWER IN HARCOURT

The photo at left shows the new NBN tower in Reservoir Road being erected.

It is not known at this stage when the tower will become operational.

Harcourt History - The Advance of Harcourt

In 1914, one hundred years ago, an article in the Mount Alexander Mail trumpeted the advance of Harcourt. With banner headlines in bold font, the reader was enticed by headings "Money in Fruit" "Large Industry Rapidly Growing" "The Advance of Harcourt". The article stated that the growth of settlement in five years in Harcourt North had been phenomenal, with the new settlers claiming to be forming 'the Toorak of the district!' Written by Harcourt's W E James, this was a comment on the Closer Settlement policy of the Victorian Government. The State government was engaged in compulsory acquisition of great pastoral holdings and their subdivision into workable farmlets. It was the old policy of 'unlock the lands'. But, says Wm James, take a leaf out of Harcourt's book. Why embark on a government scheme, with inevitable inefficiencies, delays and regulations? Many families had been settled onto orchards at Harcourt North, all without government aid. Wm James then sets out some history, which it is useful to briefly recount.

Most of the land comprising Harcourt North east of the railway was acquired by just two people at the first land sales. Between them Thomas Stevens, storekeeper, Porcupine Hill, and Joseph Young, grazier, Preston Vale, owned thousands of acres at Harcourt North.

Thomas Stevens soon left the district and his holdings were absorbed into Ravenswood. Ravenswood Estate was broken up in 1891 after the death of Robert Moffat, the absentee Scottish owner. The Harcourt North lands were acquired by pioneer Henry Ely who quickly on-sold the land, mostly to a Collins Street doctor A F Seelenmeyer. Eb Eagle cleared most of this land and acquired a portion when it was subdivided.

In 1905 Joseph Young sold his Harcourt North acreage to Robert Thompson, who had retired from the Foundry to 'go in for agriculture.' 'Going in for agriculture' really meant something else, as we find that in 1913 and 1914 Thompson was advertising the sale of the Harcourt Orchards Estate in choice farmlets.

By these two initiatives the vast deserted sheep runs of the pioneers were broken up into manageable farm and orchard blocks, all without government involvement. As a result, many new families came into the district. By 1914 row upon row of newly-planted apple and pear trees were to be seen along Chaplins Rd, Chellews Rd and the Harcourt North-Sedgwick Road.

By these two initiatives the area of Harcourt North came into being.

In one hundred years the orchard industry has waxed and waned. In one hundred years the population of the area has increased dramatically from a handful of people. Census figures for 2011 reveal that 300 people live in this 'Toorak of the district', a significant and much-valued portion of the total 1,172 people now recorded as the population of Harcourt/Harcourt North.

George Milford (Harcourt Heritage Centre)

APPLEFEST WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm – HARCOURT HOMEGROWN

Cooking workshops at Harcourt Tavern, Dining Room

- 10 am** Making fruit cordial with the CWA - \$5
- 11 am** Tips & techniques for perfect apple pies - \$5
- 1 pm** Cider tastings and masterclass - \$10
- 2pm** Meet the fruit growers forum – Free

Gardening workshops in courtyard of Harcourt Tavern

- 10.30 am** Making wicking beds - \$5
- 11.30 pm** Homemade fertilisers and compost teas - \$5
- 3.15 pm** Caring for your fruit trees: pruning, grafting, mulching, pest control - \$5



**COOKING
AND
GARDENING
DEMONSTRATIONS**

HARCOURT APPLEFEST

Saturday 8th March 2014

**HOMEGROWN
HARCOURT**



FRIDAY 7th MARCH

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm - ART SHOW OPENING -
Enquiries 5474 2426 - ANA Hall.

SATURDAY 8th MARCH

9.00 am to 5.00 pm - ART SHOW - ANA Hall.

**9.00 am to 5.00 pm - HARCOURT HERITAGE
MUSEUM- ANA Hall.**

9.00 am to 3.30 pm - TEA HOUSE - ANA Hall.

9.00 am to 3.00 pm - FESTIVAL MARKET -
Contact Michelle 5474 3283 or 0418 149 459 for
bookings - Stanley Park.

9.00 am to 3.00 pm - YOUTH ZONE - Bridge Street.

9.00 am to 3.00 pm - CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL -
Bridge Street.

**9.00 am to 3.00 pm - CWA REST AREA - Stanley
Park.**

9.00 am to 3.00 pm - FRUIT GROWERS TENT -
Stanley Park.

**10.00 am - BAKING COMPETITION - Fruit
Growers Tent.**

**10.00 am to 4.00 pm - HARCOURT
HOMEGROWN**
Cooking workshops at Harcourt Tavern, Dining
Room
Gardening workshops in courtyard of Harcourt
Tavern

**10.00 am to 10.30 am - HARCOURT'S FAMOUS
FERRET RACE - Stanley Park.**

10.30 am to 11.00 am - PET PARADE - Stanley Park.

**11.00 am to 11.30 am - THOMPSONS FOUNDRY
BAND - Stanley Park.**

**11.00 to 3.00 pm - CIDER MAKING - Henry of
Harcourt, Reservoir Road.**

**11.30 am to 12.00 noon - CASTLEMAINE
HIGHLAND AND CLAN MCLEOD PIPE
BANDS - Stanley Park.**

**12.00 noon - OFFICIAL OPENING CENTRE
STAGE - Stanley Park.**

12.30 pm - STREET PARADE - High Street

**1.00 pm to 1.30 pm - KASHMIRI BELLY
DANCERS - Centre Stage - Stanley Park.**

1.00 pm to 1.30 pm - TRI-APPLE-THON -
Bridge Street opposite Fire Station.

**1.30 pm to 2.00 pm - TOWN CRIERS
CHAMPIONSHIP - Stanley Park.**

2.00 pm to 2.45 pm - MEG CORSON TRIO -
Stanley Park.

**3.00 pm to 4.00 pm - KINGSTONE - Stanley
Park.**

**4.00 pm - OPEN MIC AT THE TAV - Harcourt
Tavern.**

**7pm - OPEN AIR CINEMA - Harcourt Recreation
Reserve, Bingham Road, Harcourt.**

SUNDAY 9th MARCH

**9.00 am to 5.00 pm - HARCOURT ART SHOW
- ANA Hall.**

**9.00 am to 5.00 pm - HARCOURT HERITAGE
MUSEUM - ANA Hall.**

10.00 am to 4.00 pm - TEA HOUSE - ANA Hall.

**11.00 am – to 4.00pm - TOWN CRIERS
CHAMPIONSHIP - Two competitive rounds**
11 am Home Cry / 2 pm Your Festival and Mine

2.30 pm Marionette Display and performance

3 pm Award presentations

3.30 pm Afternoon tea - James Park



www.harcourtapplefest.org.au



North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group



Are You an Ideas Person?

Are you creative? Do you have a great vision for our beautiful landscape, but think it's all too difficult to achieve?

We need you!!!

The North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare group will be hosting a series of Innovation Workshops in early May – dates yet to be confirmed. Funded by the Victorian Landcare Grants program through the NCCMA, there will be 3 innovation workshops:

Workshop 1 - Rebooting your brain

A 3-hour interactive BRAINSTORMING workshop designed to help understand what engages people and what Landcare could undertake in order to increase membership and engagement.

Workshop 2 – Scheming for a better way

A 2-hour DESIGN workshop designed to develop a select group of concepts that would be feasible options for Landcare to pursue.

Workshop 3 – Making great decisions

These will be fun-filled, highly engaging and creative sessions! A rare opportunity to dream away ... and to find a way to make things happen.

Due to the format of the workshop, there will only be limited places available. Please register your interest now:

Via email to kla@netcon.net.au or phone 5439 6080



And they grow, and grow, and grow ...

Blackberries are at the gate! Literally at our farm gates, on the roadside, in the paddocks.

With autumn approaching and perhaps some rain on the way, Blackberries will have a growth period before they slow down again during the colder winter months. Spraying with herbicides works best during active growth of the plant, as the herbicide has to be absorbed through the leaves and circulated through the plant to take effect.

Blackberries are a Regionally Controlled Weed, so by law the onus of preventing the growth and spread is on the landholder. Now is the time to plan the control for the cooler months.

Feeling overwhelmed by the task? Perhaps talk to your neighbours and set up a working bee. Or google Victorian Blackberry Taskforce. Or talk to us.

Via email to kla@netcon.net.au or phone 5439 6080

Karoline Klein – president, North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group.

Harcourt Co-operative Cool Stores Ltd.

Est. 1917

Serving Harcourt District and Orchardists with cool storage,
packing and processing facilities

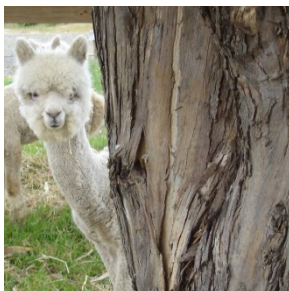
Wine processing and warehousing plus off-season cool and ambient temperature storage for fruit and wine available. The most advanced, state-of-the-art cool store in Australia -meeting the needs of the 21st Century

The Fibre of the gods Available in our Harcourt Hills

Each year during National Alpaca Week the Alpaca Industry celebrates its success in Australia by showcasing its animals and the many items derived from them – fleece, yarn, garments, home wares like bedding and carpet and meat products. A number of alpaca studs throughout the country open their farm gates for this event inviting people to meet these creatures - the Incas believed alpacas produced the fibre of the gods! Visitors can learn the animal's fascinating habits and experience how an alpaca farm is set up and run. Alpacas, fleece, yarn and garments are also on sale at some farms.

Although still a very young industry by Australian stock standards (the foundation of today's herd was imported from South American in 1989) the Australian Alpaca Industry is leading the world with the advances it has made in breeding and fleece production. Australian alpacas are sourced by overseas buyers as foundation or value adding stock in the UK, Europe and New Zealand. Export protocols have been developed recently with Taiwan and Hong Kong, with other Asian countries to follow.

Not only does the Harcourt area produce some of the finest Australian apples, cider and wine but it also plays host to some of Australia's award



winning alpacas. Yes, our area holds its own in the quality stakes with championship ribbons awarded to both animals and fleeces from Harcourt North studs. Alpacas adapt to the hot summers but seem to thrive in the granite hills' cold, crisp and foggy winters, their fleeces responding positively to the environment. There are currently four Australian Alpaca Association registered breeders in Harcourt/Harcourt North enjoying what this area has to offer.

At Dandura, we often think we are blessed to be living where we do. In the evenings there is nothing nicer than sitting on the side of our dam munching home-made apple chips and sharing a glass of either local cider or wine whilst watching the young alpacas chasing each other around the paddock in their last burst of energy before bedding down beside their mums for the night.



We have owned alpacas for 20 years, moving our herd from NSW to Harcourt North in 2005, and we still enjoy working with these delightful creatures. You are welcome to visit us during National Alpaca Week, March 29 – 6 April, or at another time. Just phone us to make an appointment. We and our alpacas would love to meet you.

Jenny McKenry, **Dandura Alpacas**, 121 Fenton Dr, Harcourt North, 54396525



**Sound genetics
An asset to your
herd**

Jenny & Keith McKenry

03 54396525
0428 479 050
Harcourt North, Victoria
alpacas@dandura.com
www.dandura.com



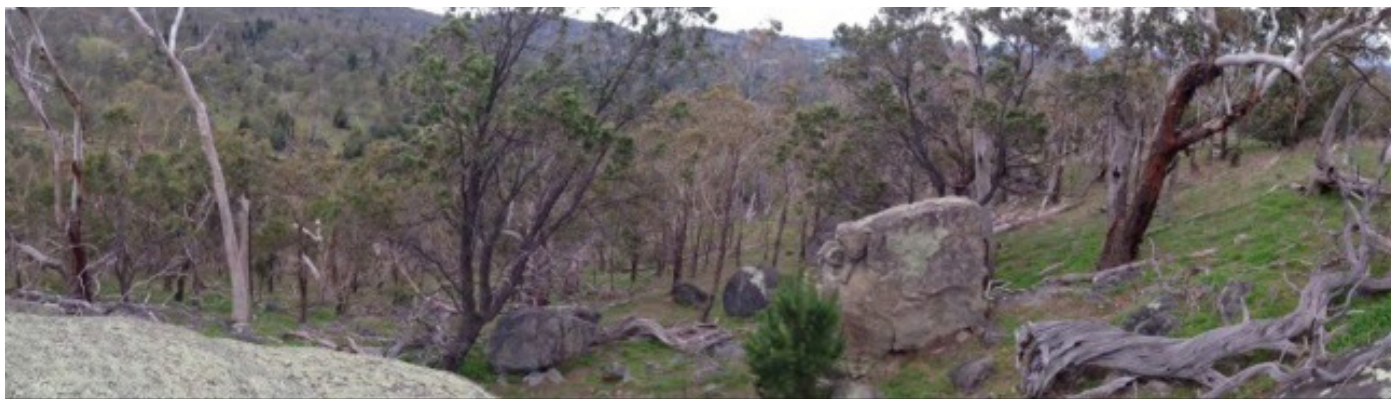
- Stud services
- Breeding females
- Pets/Herd Guards



- Packages for New Breeders
- After-sale quality support



- Alpaca yarn
- Member of Q-Alpaca



Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Project Progresses

The Project to scope a Mountain Bike Park for the now fully logged pine plantation is progressing well. A steering committee for the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park has been established, and has already met twice. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the Harcourt Progress Association, Harcourt Landcare Group, Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre, Castlemaine Rocky Riders Mountain Bike Club, Bendigo Mountain Bike Club, Goldfields Tourism Inc., Mount Alexander Shire, Hancock Plantation Victoria, and DEPI. There is a vacancy for a representative from Parks Victoria.

The project has appointed a speciality consultant - Chris McCormack of Freerunning Enterprises - to work on a scoping study, including dealing with all necessary approvals and reviewing ongoing management structures. Chris brings a wealth of skills and contacts to this project, with over 30 years experience in the public administration sector relating to parks, natural resources and cultural heritage management in urban and regional environments.

The main purpose of the current funding is to develop a master plan for the Park which utilises the hilly terrain for bike riding and leaves the Oak Forest as a shady and child-friendly, community picnic spot. The design concept for the Mountain Bike Park, to show the trail corridors, is being developed by World Trail Pty Ltd. World Trail is a Victorian company with significant experience in the development of environmentally sustain-

able mountain bike parks across Australia. An important component of their research and trail design will include reviewing existing site conditions (including views) and showing how they can be incorporated into an interesting and inspiring trail. The site offers excellent features that will go a long way to making the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park a draw card for riders from all around Australia, and hopefully overseas.

The development of the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park aims to improve environmental values of this land through Landcare activities while delivering economic and social benefits through a new and expanding sport. Highlighting the Aboriginal and historic heritage of the area is also viewed as very important to the success of the project

It is also a criteria of the project that the Park development does not result in a venue that is only accessible, or of interest to mountain bikers. Development must be inclusive of all users groups, such as bushwalkers and family groups looking for a scenic picnic location. The varied membership of the Steering Committee ensures all such groups are considered and a range of factors are reviewed and met as part of the development.

The Master Plan is to be delivered by the end of April.

Jo Pincus, Project Manager

Goldfields Track Development Project

The Harcourt News/The Core is published by the Harcourt Progress Association.

The Editor, Robyn Miller can be contacted on 0467 670 271 or email: rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com. Contributions of ideas news items, articles, photos and letters are welcome as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

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A full colour Harcourt News/The Core (back copies also) can be viewed on the Harcourt Progress Association blog at:

<http://theharcourtprogressgroup.blogspot.com.au/>

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