

# HARCOURT NEWS

# THE C<sup>Ö</sup>RE

April 2014

HARCOURT NEWS - Edition 4

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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

For inclusion in the monthly edition of The Core please email: [rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com](mailto: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 - from there go to the Facebook Page

## Applefest Market Day

### INSIDE

- Art Show/CFA
- CWA
- Coliban Water
- History
- Bowls/Landcare
- Crossword
- Harcourt Lions
- Workshops, Celebrations
- Picnic
- Fitness
- Easter Egg Hunt

### 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



Greetings! David Heath & Michael Lane of Harcourt Progress Association (HPA) "on the gate".



Cider? Wine? Demi Barry & Donna McMahon (HPA) were busy all day.



Early morning - before the crowd



Cordial Making with the CWA - L to R Meryl Adams, Danni Kent and Ayron Teed



Busy! The crowd - mid-morning



Katie Finlay,  
Mount Alexander Fruit Garden





Genevieve Ward displays the People's Choice - "Dried Apples" by Colin Brown

## A Whole-of-Community Venture.

The 2014 Applefest Art Show was a whole-of-community venture. Art works were submitted by people in all walks of life and from every sector of the population. Aged from 6 years to 92 years, the artists included a finance manager and a disability pensioner. While there were works from as far afield as Macedon and Bendigo, the vast majority of the 145 entries came from Harcourt folk. Ours is a very talented community, judging by the quality of the works in all mediums.

A new category this year was Tea Cosies. These ranged from the traditional to the quirky, with Chris Beggs' "Barb Makes the Best Cup of Tea" a clear favourite with the crowds.

People's Choice was Colin Brown's "Dried Apples" (pictured) while the overall winner, 'Best in Show', was a semi-abstract painting "Harcourt Impression" by Maldon artist Stephen Phillis. Many art works were sold and now grace the walls of Harcourt homes. Attendances were 'just a smidgin' under the numbers recorded in the previous year.

The committee of the Heritage Centre had faced potentially serious delaying factors with the replacement of a termite-infested portion of the floor just before Applefest, but the work was completed just in time!

Catherine Tait and Leonie Auhl ensured the works were seen to best advantage.

The Art Show Judge was Jennifer Kalionis, newly-appointed Director of Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum. Jennifer's remarks at the Friday night opening were much appreciated. Guest Artist was Harcourt's very own Robert Watson. Altogether, the 20th annual Applefest Art Show was another successful venture for Harcourt Heritage Centre.

*George Milford*

## Fire Restrictions are Still in Place

Fire restrictions are still in place within the Shires of Mount Alexander and Greater Bendigo.

No burning off is allowed without a permit. Watch the local papers for when they will be lifted.

Please continue to exercise care when using angle grinders, welding equipment etc. as there is still plenty of dry fuel still around. The Brigade has had a busier summer than normal and so it is important for everyone to continue to be vigilant in our fire prevention.

The end of daylight saving is fast approaching and this is a good time to change your clocks and change your smoke detector batteries. Winter time is traditional the time for an increase in house fires, so a working smoke detector is a vital part of your safety plan for your home. Now is also a good time to give your chimneys and flues a good clean before the weather cools.

Recent motor vehicle accidents in our area are a timely reminder to always be careful when driving on the roads. Be aware that when we have these showers of rain, the roads can become greasy and slippery.

One other event that can occur when we have rain after long periods of dry weather is that the dust that has gathered on the power line insulators can create an earth across the insulator when it gets wet and then can start a pole fire. We have been fortunate so far to not have any occurring in the Harcourt area with the few showers that we have had, but if you do see sparks falling from a power pole, do not hesitate to ring triple zero.

The Brigade will be out and about checking fire plugs in the weeks to come. While fire plug maintenance is the responsibility of the Shire Council, it is in our best interest to ensure that they are clearly marked, clean and operational at all times. If you have a fire plug near you, you can assist by visually checking that it is clearly marked and has not been buried with dirt or overgrown with grass.

In the meantime, stay safe and don't let your guard down.

*Tyrone Rice, Captain*



## Harcourt CWA

Don't you just love Applefest! And the new location.... what a pleasure it was to be shaded by those magnificent trees. Great to see so many families and friends enjoying the stalls, the entertainment and the atmosphere. Well done to everyone involved.

Each year, the CWA ladies set up their stall, sell raffle tickets and cookery books, and chat with the many visitors who pass by. This year we had a CWA rest area as well, with a few hay bales and chairs on which visitors could sit and relax in the shade as they watched the many happy faces passing by. And then of course there was the parade, which the CWA ladies always enter, and who this year won Best Float in Parade! Congratulations to Dan and Judi for the wonderful idea of the Pink Ladies enjoying a floating afternoon tea.

And I'm sure you all noticed the colourful bunting that surrounded the new site. Well, every now and then we need to blow our own trumpet so I am going to blow loud and long and thank the ladies at Harcourt CWA for the wonderful effort of producing nearly 500 metres of bunting for the occasion. Special thanks to Judi Kent for her hours of cutting each individual flag. We are a tough lot at Harcourt CWA.

Now as you all know, no Applefest would be complete without our King and Queen and of course Granny Smith. This year I was asked to play the role of Granny Smith, a great honour, but to fill the red and white check skirt and mop cap that has been worn by Nancy Curtis for more Applefests than I have had hot dinners, was pretty daunting.

I first met Nancy nine years ago, when I attended my first Applefest. There she was, a vision in red and white offering me an apple! Nancy filled me in with the history of Applefest and every year from then on I would see her performing her duties. Even when her beloved husband Tom was ill, and Nancy was visiting the hospital every day, there she was in March, dressed in red and white continuing her role as Granny.

Many ladies remember Nancy from when she was a member of Harcourt CWA, they remember her wonderful craft work and her tatting skills. Nancy, you are a treasure, thank you for the many years you have been our Granny Smith at Applefest.

And how wonderful to have a new CWA starting up in the area. The branch is called Mount Alexander CWA, and is a day branch geared towards young families. All meetings will be child and family friendly. For enquiries give Samantha a call on 0413 932 904 or email [mountalexandercwa@gmail.com](mailto:mountalexandercwa@gmail.com). For those of you on Facebook, check out their site for upcoming events.

My garden is still surviving...just....how we need rain.

Until next time,

*Lyn, Publicity Officer.*

Chris Beggs, Harcourt Town Crier and Nancy Curtis, Granny Smith



## 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

## **Coliban Water Pipeline Construction Commences for Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project**

The Nationals Member for Rodney Paul Weller was on site on 17 March to inspect the first breaking of ground for the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project.

Mr Weller, who was representing the Minister for Water Peter Walsh, said this was a significant milestone for the Harcourt community, with construction now underway for the 19 kilometre backbone pipeline and associated reticulation system.

“The turning of soil for the pipeline today marks a very significant milestone in this much anticipated project,” Mr Weller said.

“The Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project will provide rural customers in the Harcourt area with a year round pressurised supply through a piped system - replacing the aged and now inefficient concrete and earthen gravity rural channel system that has served this region for over 100 years.

“The project will provide greater water security, for rural residents and the local agriculture industry in the area.

“The Victorian Coalition Governing has a goal to see our farmers double food and fibre production in this state by 2030, and irrigation modernisation projects like Harcourt’s will help achieve that by providing a reliable, efficient water supply,” Mr Weller said.

The \$40 million project will replace 65 kilometres

of open channels with a new underground piped water system, saving an estimated 3,000 megalitres of water per year – comprising an estimated 950 megalitres lost from the channel system and a further 2,000 megalitres from water licences that rural customers sold to Coliban Water in 2013.

Managing Director Jeff Rigby said the 500 millimetre diameter backbone pipeline would be the first section to be constructed.

“The 19 kilometre backbone pipeline will start in McIvor Road and continue into Reservoir Road and on to Danns Road, where it will link up with the Old Calder Highway and then connect to the yet to be built Faraday pump station.

“Smaller reticulation pipelines to service rural customers will then be connected into the backbone.

“A combination of open trenching and trenchless boring techniques will be used during construction.

“Our contractor Redline Group has extensive experience in pipeline construction in regional areas across Australia and demonstrated this through the tendering process,” Mr Rigby said. As well as the pipeline, this project also involves the construction of a balancing tank and two pump stations under separate construction contracts.

“Works on the tank will commence this month, with the first of the pump stations to start in April.

“We anticipate all works to be completed by the end September this year,” Mr Rigby said.

Harcourt Water Services Committee member Gavin Lang, Minister for Water Peter Walsh MP, Coliban Water Deputy Chairman Russell Walker, Harcourt Water Services Committee Chairman Tim Robertson and Coliban Water Managing Director Jeff Rigby at the delivery of the first pipes for the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project





Picture at right shows a typical site where cultural heritage investigations are carried out using archaeological techniques.



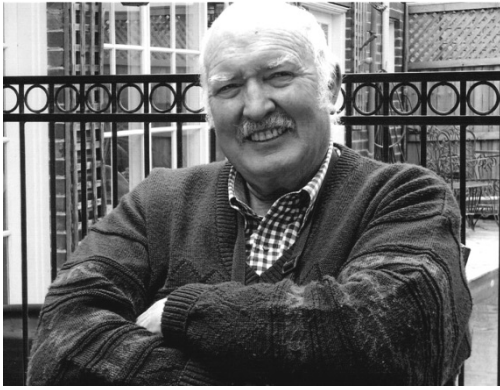
## Cultural heritage

25 MARCH 2014

### Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project

- Cultural heritage investigations were conducted as part of our planning for the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project (HRMP).
- A total of eight aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified along the pipeline route and one aboriginal cultural heritage site at the balancing tank location.
- In our approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan, it sets out recommendations for each of these sites to manage the recovery of any aboriginal cultural heritage artefacts prior to, during and following construction. Our plan was approved by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans, who are the Registered Aboriginal Party.
- The salvage excavation works involve excavating between 2 metres square and 10 metres square of soil within the identified site to a depth of up to 0.5 metres to recover any artefacts and assess the cultural significance of the site.
- Prior to the construction of the pipeline, the topsoil removed from the pipeline route within the identified cultural heritage area will be inspected by the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and cultural heritage advisor to see if further artefacts are present on the surface.
- If Aboriginal cultural heritage material is found and deemed to be of significance, then further salvage excavations may be required. This would be determined between the Project Team, RAP representative and the cultural heritage consultants.
- The aim of this salvage excavation and topsoil inspection is to capture as much information as possible. The works then need to be signed off by the RAP representative and cultural heritage consultants for the pipeline construction to progress.
- Sites identified are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that any artefacts still remaining can be preserved during construction works.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are recorded on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) which is maintained by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV). If landowners are planning future activity on the site they should contact AAV prior to proceeding.

**For information on the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project readers of The Core can go to:**  
**<http://www.coliban.com.au/site/root/projects/Harcourtruralmodernisation.html>**



## ***Harcourtians - Bill McKellar***

Most of us know Bill McKellar as the amazing Morris Minor guru, or as the Castlemaine State Bank of Victoria Manager who retired to the Harcourt Hills. What a lot of us don't know is that in 1937 Bill was taken home to Harcourt from the Castlemaine Hospital in a shoe box with a birth weight of 3lbs and a questionable prognosis about his survival.

Survive he did, spending the first 9 years of his life living in Harcourt.

'I loved my early life in Harcourt', Bill recalled. 'I was one of 3 children then. We lived at the Walters Store next door to the ANA Hall. Two of my grandparents lived in Harcourt. I was surrounded by family and felt very secure. Even my teacher at the local Primary School, Miss Warren, was my cousin. It didn't stop me from getting *the cuts* from the Principal, Harry Larter though', smiles Bill.

'I used to love autumn. The orchards were full of colour. There were lots of small orchards around when I grew up. Walters Store to Barkley Street was all apple trees. My grandparents had a 5 acre orchard. I used to walk from home to their place. Often I'd go rabbiting with my grandfather. When there were surplus vegetables or rabbits I'd take a little cart around the town selling them for pocket money.'

Bill's mother used to say Bill was a street angel but a home devil, but from Bill's bakery story it seems he was a bit of both.

'Snowy Code, the baker, used to leave his beautiful wood fired loaves out for people to buy. I'd sneak one and pull the soft middle out and eat it. I did this more than once. In the end Snowy would make me my own small loaf. I suppose it was a win win.

When dad came back from the war he couldn't get his job back at the Fruit Growers' Co-Op. He worked at the granite quarries for a while and then we moved to Wangaratta to live. I didn't want to leave. I did the rest of my schooling in Wangaratta eventually joining the State Bank there in 1954. Wangaratta is where I met my wife, Claire.

I never lost my link with Harcourt; coming back for school holidays and when I got my first Morris

Minor, coming back for visits.

My job with the bank took me around the state. We had planned to retire near Rutherglen. Claire had established Glen Pottery and had a successful gallery on our block of land. However I was promoted to Castlemaine.'

Claire left behind everything she'd worked for and came with a heavy heart. With time she realised that going back to Rutherglen wasn't an option. It was time to look for an alternative.

In July 1989 Claire took a very reluctant Bill, who thought Harcourt North too far out from town to be suitable for retirement, to 20 acres she had found in the Harcourt hills. The day could not have been less inviting – cold, mist and rain and in the pre-road days they had to trudge through mud. Claire, a country girl at heart, loved the place. Bill was initially unimpressed but his feelings of isolation were relieved when he noticed some traffic on a road not too far away.

The rest is history. Claire project managed the building of their home. They moved in in 1991 and Bill left the bank in 1992. As well as creating a welcoming home for family and friends, they have established an olive grove, surrounded the house with beautiful gardens, built a studio for Claire to paint and began, with their son Richard, what has become a world class Morris Minor Garage with Bill and Richard restoring many of the cars dating from 1925 to 1970.

'We are in seventh heaven. We wouldn't go anywhere else,' Bill and Claire say with big smiles.

***Jenny McKenry, Dandura Alpacas***



**McKellar Family, Harcourt, 1948. Bill on the far right.**

Caption on photo says:

McKellar Family, Harcourt, 1940. Bill is on the far right.



## Family Fun and Entertainment

AT A SMALL COST

### HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION INC.

Come along and join a friendly, family orientated group.

**Meet** - Wednesdays.

**Time** - 7.30pm - 9.pm (approx)

**Where** - Harcourt District Leisure Centre (Binghams Road, Harcourt)

**WHOLE FAMILY CAN PLAY** - 8 year olds to whenever.

Games are played in mixed teams of 4 people.

Rules are easy to learn as you play.

Competition runs from April to September (dates will be decided at Annual Meeting)

**Small registration fee plus game fee weekly.**

Registration: \$5.00 Adult; \$2.50 U/17

Game fee: \$4.00 weekly.

**Dinner and presentation night at end of season.**

Hall will be heated.

**For more information-** Loretta 5474 2453,

Tyrone 5474 2126. John 5474 2226.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the

### HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION INC.

**When** - Wednesday - 2nd APRIL 2014.

**Time** - 7.30pm.

**Where** - Harcourt District Leisure Centre. (Binghams Road, Harcourt.)

**Old & New Players Welcome.**

If can't attend AGM, but would like to play or know more, Contacts as above.

When Matt is working the Bushtech ute will have warning lights operating.



## Harcourt Valley Landcare Roadside Weed Project

Harcourt Valley Landcare is running a program to reduce the presence of fruit trees on roadsides in the local area. Un-maintained fruit trees are detrimental to the local orchard industry and to those who grow fruit in home gardens.

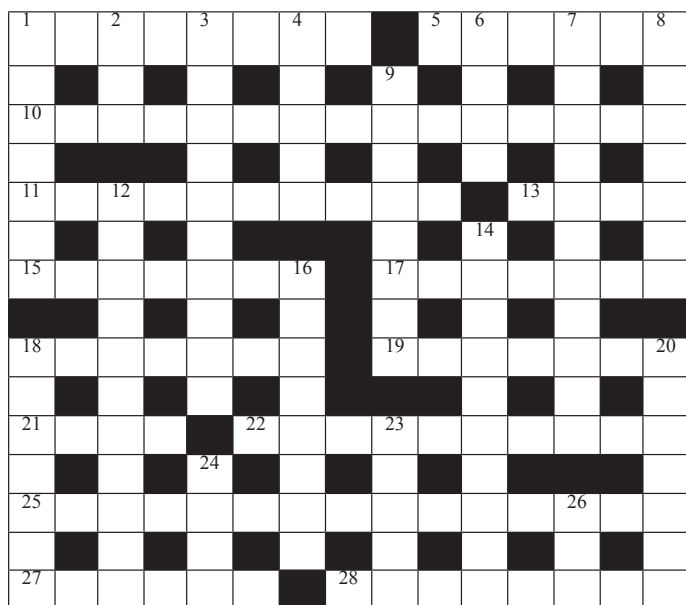
Bushtech ecological land management is carrying out the removal and spraying of fruit trees and other weeds such as blackberries on behalf of Harcourt Valley Landcare until the end of April. Property owners will receive a pamphlet in the week before bushtech will be in the area. Bushtech is operated by Matt McEachran. Readers with queries about the program, please ring Landcare on 0438 069 849.



Neil Charter (left) discusses weeds along his roadside with Matt McEachran

# Cryptic Crossword Challenge - crack the code of the cunning McW!

April 2014 Cryptic Crossword © McW



## Across:

- 1 First-timer in mating season? (8)
- 5 Venturing to smoke? (6)
- 10 Leave house, turn black, drop off— speedily comatose... (2, 3, 4, 1, 5)
- 11 Binding spells. (10)
- 13 Some say there are billions in heavens, and some say they are 17... (4)
- 15 Shoplifter in a brew? (3, 4)
- 17 Parmenides might say 13s are part of this one, and he'd certainly agree with the description. (7)
- 18 Fashionable dwelling dealing with things internally. (2-5)
- 19 Beat down leaf for wild behaviour. (7)
- 21 A look and a word from Cordelia's dad make her reel back... (4)

- 22 The other of the other in divorce or paying attention at the service. (10)
- 25 What the scapegoat has to contend with—a sort of universal invoice. (9, 6)
- 27 Tatty headgear? (6)
- 28 Part of the props, but a contrived and elaborate arrangement. (3, 5)

## Down:

- 1 Benign variety might bring about 24d. (7)
- 2 Owls don't when it's raining... (3)
- 3 & 4 Immoderate and shocking order handed down ex-cathedra in ode to cautious greed. (10, 5)
- 4 See 3.
- 6 American bloke mixed up with tyro like the back end of a tram-smash. (4)
- 7 The nurse to sing all night? (11)
- 8 In the future, Capone, from the side... (7)
- 9 No idea who this blind team-member is... (8)
- 12 If you're going to thresh camel in the Mandurang forest, better wear one of these. (5-6)
- 14 Bloke between writer and large boat displays this ability. (10)
- 16 Frenzied, but in a nice fret... (8)
- 18 It's illegal to be sick and in charge of it. (7)
- 20 Previously a monotreme at the very end? (7)
- 23 Yes in Phys. Ed. contraction will receive the \$29.50 (5)
- 24 Benign 1d can sometimes effect one. (4)
- 26 You'll regret driving this street in Lyons. (3)



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## Mount Alexander CWA...more fun than the Shire can handle!

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March I attended the launch of the Mount Alexander Country Women's Association (CWA). I heard about this new group at Harcourt Applefest, where I was introduced to Natalie Stevens and Samantha Rowe. Natalie, Sam and Pat Pearson have all played a key role in setting up this new CWA group, which covers the whole Mt Alexander shire.

The main focus of the group is to share fun activities with women and their children as well as activities for the whole family on weekends. Sounds good to me!

Before I knew it I was following their new Facebook page [www.facebook.com/mountalexandercwa](http://www.facebook.com/mountalexandercwa) and I'd received an invitation to a photo shoot for the local paper. My car's flat battery meant I couldn't be there but it looked like a bit of fun from the article in the Midland Express.

My motives for going to Wednesday's launch were to meet new people, show my support, and to see whether it was "for me". I turned up at the ANA Hall in Harcourt at 9.30am and was warmly welcomed. A steady stream of people arrived – mostly mums with young ones, and a lovely space was made with comfy cushions and blankets if people wanted to sit with their kids on the floor. There was also craft table set up for the toddlers to enjoy a creative activity.

The meeting officially opened at 10am with Ayron Teed, CWA Central Victoria President, giving some background on the Association and thanking visiting regional members from Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maryborough and Newbridge, who showed their support. Ayron talked about how

the Mount Alexander CWA came about and was excited to hand over to Natalie and Samantha, who shared their enthusiasm for the new group. We also had the opportunity to go around the room and introduce ourselves, before breaking for morning tea.

More mingling ensued and I was surprised to learn that people had travelled from places as far as Bendigo and Trentham. There was such a lovely vibe in the room and I soon got the feeling that their drive was worth it. The topic was raised about where future meetings would be held and it was agreed that they would move around to make it easier for everyone.

The official part of the meeting involved electing the office bearers as follows:

Branch President - Natalie Stevens  
Secretary - Samantha Rowe  
Co-Treasurers - Mandy Chilcott and Pat Pearson

We spent some time in small groups, putting to paper our ideas about what we'd like to do or learn at the CWA meetings. These were shared with the group and it sounds like learning to crochet is number one, amongst other activities such as learning to change a washer and preserving tomatoes.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am for a 10am start. It will be held at the ANA Hall in Harcourt. Bring along a ball of wool, a 4 mm crochet hook and a small plate to share. See you there!

For more information about Mount Alexander CWA contact the Secretary via: [mountalexandercwa@gmail.com](mailto:mountalexandercwa@gmail.com) or 0413 932 904.

*Genevieve Ward*

## Harcourt Lions

In April 2014 the Harcourt Lions Club will be celebrating 30 years of service to Harcourt and the surrounding District.

A detailed photographic history of the Club activities will be displayed on the 24th April 2014 at a celebratory dinner to be held at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. The event will be a set price dinner with a limited open bar. Bookings will be essential as the event is open to the public as well as all past and current serving Lions. So if you are interested in finding out more about the Harcourt Lions Club or simply wish to enjoy a good night in Harcourt, then the booking details of the event are listed below!

The Harcourt Lions Club has recently attracted 21 new members to continue servicing the local community. The new members range in age from 18 years to 47 years. Several of the new members are families with young children and the club is focused on being very 'family friendly'. Consequently meetings to discuss planned activities will be less formal a combined business/social event, so members are encouraged to bring their partners and children.

The Club has exclusive use of the Harcourt Scout Hall and the next meeting will be a BBQ at the club rooms on Friday the 28th March 2014. Meeting starts at 6:00pm. BYO a salad, drinks, partner & the kids!

For more information call Donna Mc Mahon (Membership Officer) on 0418 138 101

### **The 30 Year Charter Celebration Dinner details:**

**Where:** Harcourt Leisure Centre

**When:** Thursday the 24th April (night before ANZAC day)

**Dress:** Smart Casual

**Cost:** Lions Club Member \$40.00 per person / Non Members \$ 45.00 person

**RSVP** by Friday 18th April 2014.

Call Donna on 0418 138 101 or Katrina on 0407 835 705

Grant Victor-Gordon  
President  
Harcourt & District Lions Club  
PO Box 100  
Harcourt VIC 3453  
M: 0410 261 338

## Easter Egg Hunt in the Oak Forest

Sunday 20th April 10am - 1pm

This event is brought to you by the Harcourt Progress Association, Harcourt Valley Landcare and the Harcourt Lions.



- **Easter Egg Hunt - gold coin donation**
- **Nature-based activities for kids**
- **BBQ, tea / coffee/ hot cross buns - low cost**
- **Live Music - free**
- **Children's Entertainment - free**
- **For further details contact:**

**Jacqueline Brodie-Hans: 0425 323 005**



**Castlemaine District  
Community Health**  
*Facilitating Better Health*

### **'Come & Try' Walking Group in Harcourt**

- Up to one hour walk, followed by a cuppa and chat.
- Fitness not necessary
- Regular ongoing walk will be established if enough interest

**Where:** Outside Harcourt Museum and ANA Hall

**When:** 9.30am, Mondays in May (5th, 12th, 19th & 26th)

The walk will be cancelled in case of heavy rain.

Local George Milford will lead the May 5 walk, and showcase the history of Harcourt's new walking trail and footbridge.



Please contact Liza Shaw if you have any questions:  
Phone 54791000 or via email: [lshaw@cdch.com.au](mailto:lshaw@cdch.com.au)

[www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au](http://www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au)



## Celebrate the Centenary of the Major Mitchell Monument

Major Mitchell will arrive at Expedition Pass at midday on 27th April! He is coming in a horse-drawn cart, to the site where his exploring party had the misfortune to break its boat-carriage way back in 1836. You may well ask - Why did the inland exploring party drag a boat on a cart all the way from Goulburn to Portland and back? All will be revealed in a colourful and unusual manner on Sunday 27th.

At 12 noon, on the last Sunday of April, Harcourt Heritage tour group will meet with folk from Faraday to observe a re-enactment of the unveiling of the Expedition Pass monument followed by a b.y.o. picnic luncheon a short distance away at Dunstan's Flat, Golden Point Road, Faraday. There will be a marquee in which there is to be a display of art works by Eliza Tree. Eliza has painted a series on Major Mitchell's expedition into Australia Felix. In her own inimitable style, Eliza combines her passion for nature and history, travel and pre-colonial landscape in her art works. So there will be plenty of interest for all. Portable toilet facilities will be provided, and an alternative luncheon (and display)venue in case of rain. (Yes, it may yet rain!)

It is exactly a century since the good folk of Faraday unveiled the monument beside the reservoir. This is a perfectly acceptable excuse for the Harcourt Heritage Tour group to combine with the Faraday Community Association Inc. Of course the date is a bit out-of-sync; - the monument was unveiled on 22nd April 1914 - and the Harcourt monthly tour is normally on the third Sunday of the

month. However, Easter is a movable feast and, for this year, Easter Sunday falls on the third Sunday of April. So the Faraday festivities are being held on the next Sunday. It is a good excuse for a get-together anyway!

Mark the time, date and place on your calendar. 12 noon, 27th April, Expedition Pass Monument, Golden Point Road, Faraday. Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch. Oh, and it might be a good idea to bring a chair. All welcome!

Expedition Pass Reservoir

*Photos: Robyn Miller*



Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552

Cnr. Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550

T: 03 5443 9055 • F: 03 5443 9736

E: [Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au)

 @LMChesters •  /LisaChestersBendigo



## Innovation Workshops with “Minds at Work”

The North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group will be hosting an Innovation Workshop series facilitated by the highly acclaimed “Minds at Work” innovation facilitators.

This workshop is a rare opportunity to learn about creative approaches in Landcare and community work. Whilst based around Landcare themes, this workshop is aiming to provide Landcare and community groups, as well as interested individuals with an opportunity to get creative about how to generate community involvement.

Minds at Work describe their methodology as: “Our job is to open those minds and get them firing again. We teach, we learn, we play. We laugh a lot. We share ideas and insights garnered over many years of practical experience. Our sessions involve using fun and interactive techniques to foster productive conversations which bring people together.”

Minds at Work has developed workshops for multi-national companies designed to promote innovation and creative thinking. They have also worked with world religious leaders and school children and their teachers examining issues of race and religion. Others assisted by Minds at Work in their specialist fields include lawyers, farmers engineers, nurses, police – this list is extensive.

If you are interested volunteer community work, this workshop will offer truly innovative approaches in an engaging, fun-filled format:

**Workshop 1 - Rebooting your Brain - Sunday, 4th May 2104 - 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM incl. lunch**

A 3-hour interactive BRAINSTORMING workshop designed to help understand the issue of membership, what engages people and then brainstorm ideas and activities that Landcare could undertake in order to increase participation

and engagement.

“Homework” – Look around - ask questions - and brainstorm with your community

**Workshop 2 – Scheming for a Better Way – Thursday, 22nd May, 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM**

A 2-hour DESIGN workshop designed to develop a select group of concepts that would be feasible options for Landcare to pursue. This would involve reflecting on the ideas from session 1, the homework and followed by selecting the ideas deemed most interesting to the group. Once selected the ideas will then be developed into interesting schemes for consideration. A light supper will be provided.

“Homework” – Show people your concepts, get some feedback, add their thoughts to the concepts and test the waters.

**Workshop 3 – Making great decisions - Thursday, 5th June 2014 - 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM**

A 2-hour EVALUATION workshop designed to test the concepts and make final decisions about which concepts to proceed with. This session would involve revisiting the concepts, feeding back on the homework and then selecting the concepts to proceed with. We would also include risk-proofing to ensure that the option/s selected have the best chance of success. This session also includes creating a plan for implementation. A light supper will be provided.

“Homework” – Make it happen!

This workshop is open to Landcare members, community groups and individuals with an interest in volunteer community work. Attendance at all three workshop will provide the best learnings, but is not a requirement.

**Places are limited – please book early.**

RSVP to Karoline Klein, North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group on [kla@netcon.net.au](mailto:kla@netcon.net.au) or AH 5439 6080 by Wednesday, 30 April 2014

This workshop series is being funded by the NCCMA through the Victorian Landcare Grants program and the North Harcourt/Sedgwick Landcare Group.



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# A Welcome for Refugees

Finding yourself called “illegal” by a process that itself is illegal would make anyone depressed, and that’s certainly how many people on Temporary Humanitarian Concern visas feel.

There’s grim irony in the visa’s name when its holders cannot put down roots, will not be given permanent protection in Australia any time soon, and won’t ever be allowed to apply to bring their families here. Many of the asylum seekers living in the community have a mere \$20 per week from the Government for food (after other necessary expenses) and are forced to rely on the generosity of organisations like the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre to provide their basic needs.

Meantime, the vilification continues, labelling as ‘illegals’ those who arrived by boat, the last resort in their attempt to flee persecution in their home countries.

But who else is acting illegally? While it’s illegal to arrive in a country without authorisation, it’s also illegal for any government to penalise anyone claiming to be a refugee for their mode of arrival. To see why, look at the UN Convention on Refugees, Article 31 (1) at <http://www.unhcr.org/419c778d4.html> (pages 186 and 208).

No wonder THC holders, just like those who hold Temporary Protection Visas, suffer from depression and anxiety, uncertainty and

debilitating fear.

How can we change this? What does genuinely humanitarian behaviour look like?

There are several groups in the Castlemaine area contributing in different ways. Though none of us can fix everything, a large number of local people are trying to make Australia the welcoming place the refugees hoped to find.

People from Harcourt Uniting Church are putting their energies into two important activities, the first being the regular sending of letters to politicians, about the treatment of asylum seekers. Sixteen members of Harcourt and Castlemaine congregations are on a roster, each one to write their letters in a particular week. Thus the Prime Minister and other MPs receive a letter from our area every week.

Our second project aims to build friendships between local folk and asylum seekers who are on release in the community. During the coming school holidays, we will bring a group of about 25 Tamil people to Castlemaine for a picnic in the Botanical Gardens, to which everyone is invited.

After the picnic, we hope to continue the contact with the same Tamil people by inviting them to stay a couple of days with families in the area.

On a hot night in early February, we held our first fund-raiser, the Bush Dance at Harcourt Leisure Centre. A staggering amount of money was raised to pay for transport and food for our guests at the picnic, by this function and by donations.

Here are the details of our Welcome Refugee Picnic:

Tuesday 15 April, from 11:30 to 3 pm, around the Tea Rooms in Castlemaine Botanical Gardens.

Bring your own picnic, a rug or chair, some games equipment if you have any (cricket, volleyball, badminton, kites, quoits, horseshoes, etc.), acoustic music, and lots of goodwill.

Anyone who would like to assist with setting up, serving food and drink to our Tamil guests, washing up and tidying up, is welcome to contact Solway on

0410 799 297.

**Solway Nutting**

Photo below shows Fund Raising Bush Dance for Refugees held at Harcourt Leisure Centre in early February.



# Community Diary Dates

15 April - Welcome Refugee Picnic - from 11:30 to 3 pm, around the Tea Rooms in Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Bring your own picnic, a rug or chair and some games equipment and acoustic musical instruments if you can. (see P 13)

April 20th - Easter Egg Hunt in the Oak Forest 10am - 1 pm. A combined event brought to you by Harcourt Progress Group, Harcourt Valley Landcare and the Harcourt Lions. (see Page 10)

April 24th - Harcourt Lions Charter Celebration Dinner - Public invited (see P 10)

April 25th - ANZAC observance, Harcourt. Commences 2.30 pm with afternoon tea at Heritage Centre followed by march and wreath-laying at 3.30 pm.

April 27th - Harcourt Heritage Museum monthly activity. Major Mitchell Cairn centenary celebrations, 12 noon. Expedition Pass Reservoir. (see P 11)

April 27th - Harcourt Valley Landcare, Walk Barkers Creek. Meet at 10 am at Stanley Park. Wear sturdy shoes and suitable clothing, bring a bottle of water. Morning tea provided. 0467 670 271 for details.

May - Various Dates - Come and Try Walking Group (see P10)

May 18th - Harcourt Heritage Museum monthly activity. The journey to Mount Alexander, A car-convoy tour of our much valued Regional Park, with the launch of a new and detailed map of the mountain. This is an activity of the National Trust Heritage Festival. Commences 1.30 pm at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High St, Harcourt.

June 22nd - Harcourt Heritage Museum monthly activity. Keith McKenry, Australia's foremost folklorist and performance poet, will give a talk on "Australia's Lost Folk Songs" 1.30 pm at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High St, Harcourt.

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

The Editor is Robyn Miller 0467 670 271 or [rmillerharcourt@bigpond.com](mailto: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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## "Organic Fruit Growing Workshops"

### Sunday 18 May

9.30—12.30 Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees  
1.30—4.30 Organic Pest & Disease Control

### Sunday 15 June

9.30—12.30 Building Healthy Soil  
1.30—4.30 Yearly Fruit Tree Planner

### Sunday 29 June

9.30—12.30 Grow Your Own Fruit Trees  
1.30—4.30 Worm Farms and Compost Tea

**All info and bookings:**

**[www.growgreatfruit.com.au](http://www.growgreatfruit.com.au)**



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## EASTER SERVICES

### HARCOURT UNITING CHURCH

Harcourt Uniting Church will be holding special services for Easter:

On **Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**, worship starts at 9.00am at the church.

On **Easter Day Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**, we celebrate in Stanley Park with an early morning service at 7.30am, followed by BYO breakfast – BBQs to cook your bacon and eggs will be fired up.

All are welcome to this memorable morning.

*Harcourt Uniting is a small, friendly and very welcoming church – come along and see for yourself!*