

HARCOURT NEWS

THE CORE



Edition 119 – September 2024

Produced by: Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news or harcourt.vic.au/news

HARCOURT'S NEW CAFE

COOLSTORE.

~ Harcourt ~



HARCOURT'S NEWEST CAFE IS drawing increasing custom since it opened a month ago. Bonnie and Remy Sowman have chosen Harcourt as their home town and love living here. Previously, they ran a busy cafe in Woodend, but had always intended to live somewhere smaller and quieter.

Remy said, 'Moving to Harcourt

has made it possible to have a more balanced lifestyle. I love the early mornings, so I'm on duty at 6 am and we both benefit from an early finish. Early afternoon closing gives us time to pack up and prepare for the next day and importantly we are on hand to collect our children from Harcourt Valley Primary School which is just across the road.'

Remy and Bonnie's business has become increasingly busy since

opening. One of Bonnie's early morning tasks is to light the welcoming wood fire. 'I think it adds to the aesthetics of the space,' she said. 'We've worked on the interior design to create a 'cosy-industrial-country' style, utilising the amazing character of the existing building. There are mixed timbers, the floor is concrete and we have used touches of green as a calming

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish online 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.**



mainFM is an award winning radio station based in Castlemaine, broadcasting music, community news, talks and specialist programs and events throughout a large area of Central Victoria, serving our community.

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Community Diary

Wednesday September 11: 2 pm Memorial for Lyn Rule at Harcourt Heritage Centre.

Thursday September 12: 7 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare meeting, Heritage Centre.

Sunday September 15: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare, Wildflower Walk, Flora Reserve, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Saturday September 21: Grand opening of Le Coq Door.

Thursdays in October: Activities at Harcourt Community House. All welcome. See the back page for details.

Friday October 18: Seniors lunch at the Community House. See the back page for details.

Friday 25 October: Postal voting in this year's council elections closes at 6 pm.

Harcourt Celebrates Save the dates on page 6

Friday 25 October: Postal voting in this year's council elections closes at 6 pm.

Carpet Bowls: 7.30 pm Wednesdays, Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Harcourt Valley Community House: Open each Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm. Closed during school holidays.

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, 1.30 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's 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: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

Harcourt Lions Club: Third Thursday of the month at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way at 6.30 pm. Gathering for dinner (something to share) followed at 7.30 pm by general planning and discussion.

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.

Harcourt Valley Community House Activities to Commence in Term 4

The Harcourt Valley Community House (HVCH) is now governed by a Standing Committee dedicated to managing the Community House.

As reported in previous *Core* editions, the Harcourt Progress Association secured a grant of \$50,000 from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, with gratitude to the Hon. Maree Edwards MP, for her support and advocacy for this project. This grant was provided specifically to establish the Community House in the old Harcourt Railway Station at 23 Station Street, Harcourt. The grant has enabled a number of infrastructure projects to set up the Community House so that the HVCH Standing Committee can run courses and activities for the community. It has also covered some of the many, ongoing overheads we need to maintain the building such as water, electricity, security, Wi-Fi, insurances, rates, rent, etc.

The Community House has been open for several months now on Thursdays from 10 am–2 pm (closed during school terms and public holidays), staffed by volunteers. This time has been provided for the community to just 'drop in', have a look around and have a cuppa.

Regular Activities to Start

From Term 4, beginning on October 10, every Thursday the House will offer dedicated activities and will advertise these in the *Core* each month. See the timetable on page 3. This will be an evolving schedule of activities, as we plan to respond to whatever the community wants their Community House to be! Follow us on our Facebook page for any up-to-date changes or new one-off events: www.facebook.com/HarcourtValleyCommunityHouse

If you have a skill to share, bring us your idea for a class. If you require remuneration, that's ok, class fees will be set to build in something for the tutor and something for the Community House (to help keep our doors open).

Please note, we will always ask for a small fee for self-paced activities (no tutor/leader) and a minimum 'gold coin' donation for other activities, as we are an unfunded Community House and we have those overheads to cover!

Fundraising

Fundraising will always be a part of our operations and we are seeking community support for our first venture. We propose to act as a collection point for bottle and cans eligible for 10c refund at Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) venues. A wheelie bin (with signage) has been placed at the car park at the station. Please deposit your cans (intact, do not crush them or they are not eligible for refund) and bottles in the wheelie bin and we will take them to a CDS for refunds that will be used to pay for HVCH costs or fund activities. If you have a very large number of eligible bottles/cans, we have a volunteer who can pick them up from you, just email us on communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au to arrange this.

**We hope to see you soon at YOUR local
Community House!**

Do you need some space to meet?

Are you a part of an arts group or a support group? Perhaps you meet in each other's homes. Would you like some community meeting space?

Let us know if you would like to make the Harcourt Valley Community House your place to meet? There will be some charges but we will try to keep them to a minimum for community based groups. Call us on 4417 8742 or email: communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au

Jigsaw Library & Book Exchange

We would like to set up a jigsaw library and book exchange. Donation of jigsaws and books would be gratefully received! Once we have a collection, we will advertise "library" drop-in times and you can borrow books and/or jigsaws.

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer at the Community House, we would love to hear from you. Volunteer tasks would include things like gardening, cleaning, photocopying, administration, helping with events, fundraising activities, etc.

Phone:

Jeanette: 0438 579 987

email:

communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au

or drop in on a Thursday (10 am–2 pm) to have a chat, if you would like to be involved.



**You can assist Harcourt Valley Community House
by placing bottles and cans eligible for the 10c
refund in the bin outside the house.**

Harcourt's New Cafe

continued from page 1

colour and added plants to bring life to the space. When we first began the building was raw and empty, we absolutely loved the building and saw the potential' added Bonnie.

The business hours have been arranged to give them the work-life balance which they didn't have in their previous business, which was located in the old Macedon Ranges Council building at Woodend. Remy said, 'It was called "Fox in the Chamber". It was also an art deco building which was quirky, and similarly challenging, because we had to turn an older building into something functional. We began in a small way but finished with 18 staff and the capacity to seat 45 people inside and 25 people outside. We specialised in hiring and training young people from the local community.'

With a background in hospitality, Bonnie told the *Core*, 'I was working for Jesuit Social Services and opened training cafes for them which had a focus of training long-term unemployed people. While we were at Fox in the Chamber, we trained many young people in basic hospitality by partnering with Woodend Neighbourhood House. We both feel that working in hospitality is a great way to build confidence and to learn essential life skills. It's not just about

COOLSTORE.

~ Harcourt ~

being able to make a coffee; hospitality is about how to present yourself to others, serving with care and taking pride in your work'

Remy's background is in coffee and Melbourne coffee culture. 'Starting out in hospitality, I became interested in coffee and was able to obtain a job with a mentor at Code Black Roasters. I learnt about managing staff and establishing fast paced, high volume coffee shops. I believe there is every opportunity for good coffee venues to flourish outside the city.'

Other aspirations for the business include the up-cycling of waste from daily operations. Remy said, 'There's a lot of potential value in waste that would normally go in the bin, so we've been experimenting with some things, like making briquettes for the fireplace from our coffee grounds and shredding our cardboard for garden mulch.'

The couple has further plans for the other space in the building, including training for young people in hospitality (where they hope to partner with Harcourt Valley Community House) and a multi-purpose studio.

Many people have come by and told the pair stories about the classic

art deco building and the various businesses which have occupied it. These stories indicate that for the community, the Coolstore building is a special place. Bonnie said, 'Some folks have dropped off photos of it in its time as the timber yard and the Co-op shop. The Co-op was apparently where you could get everything and anything that you needed.'

Since purchasing their Harcourt block five years ago, Bonnie has discovered that she has an ancestral connection to Harcourt. Her great-great-great grandparents settled in Harcourt in the 1900's. There was a marriage between her family, the Lovelands and the Milfords (see photo page 22). 'No wonder I feel at home here!' she said.

For coffee loving locals and visitors, the Coolstore Café is another excellent hospitality business we are fortunate to have in the town and the region. In the spirit of serving good coffee, customers should take note of the sign on the coffee machine. It says: 'Your coffee; tell us how you would like it.'

Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 6:30 am to 1:00 pm. Bonnie and Remy are looking forward to welcoming you!



Great Southern Bioblitz 2024

Beginners Guide to iNaturalist

Organised by Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club

Wednesday 11th Sept at 7-9:30 pm

Castlemaine Senior Citizens Hall, Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine

Bookings Essential <https://www.trybooking.com/CUPWG>

or scan this QR code

In preparation for the Great Southern Bioblitz 2024 (20-23rd September) Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club is running an introduction to the iNaturalist citizen science application with tips on how to load your observations of flora and fauna for identification and how to help identify observations made by other people.

No prior knowledge of iNaturalist required.



Graffiti is Ugly and is a Crime

The newly formed Castlemaine Graffiti Busters has taken to the streets, beginning its epic battle to eliminate graffiti from Castlemaine and local communities, including Harcourt and Chewton.

While it is usually difficult to locate the offenders, graffiti is classified as vandalism and is an indictable offence which can be punishable with imprisonment. In extreme cases of criminal damage, the sentence can be up to ten years.

Graffiti removal, for many years, has been the passion of two locals, Bill Wiglesworth and Marli Wallace. They attacked the problem by themselves, out of a strong commitment to restoring the aesthetic amenity of our beautiful community.

Recently, this commitment has started to gain serious momentum. A few months ago, Castlemaine Graffiti Busters (CGB), was born, modelled on the highly successful Beaumaris model. CGB is auspiced under the Neighbourhood Watch umbrella, which is also starting up again locally. Watch this space for Harcourt.

The anti-graffiti movement in suburban Melbourne was created by Beaumaris Graffiti Busters (BGB), a

small group that began removing tags and unsightly graffiti from prominent locations in that bayside suburb. Their success over a couple of years

was demonstrated by the almost complete removal of graffiti there. This has spawned start-up groups in Hampton, Brighton and many other local areas across Melbourne. Judging by observations on a recent Melbourne trip, however, suburbs across the CBD have a long way to go to catch up to the Beaumaris standard.

The success in Beaumaris inspired Jane Cafarella, who is now the convenor of the group of twelve members, to invite the BGB to help start a similar group in the Castlemaine district. The removal of ugly graffiti, which is criminal vandalism, was initially focused on the Castlemaine CBD, but, more recently, attention has turned to Harcourt, and will soon include Chewton and Campbells Creek.

Limited resources means that it will be a slow process, especially when vandals repeat the graffiti. However, as in Beaumaris, it comes down to repeatedly and rapidly removing fresh graffiti. Sometimes it takes many removals until the vandals move elsewhere. The removal process denies perpetrators the reward of seeing their handiwork on display.

I am a local Harcourtian, a member of the Harcourt Progress Association, a founding member of the Castlemaine Graffiti Busters and have been active lately removing graffiti from road signs in Harcourt.

Through the phone app, **Snap Send Solve**, I photographed and reported ugly graffiti defacing the wall of the men's toilets next to ANA Hall. Within two weeks, Mount Alexander Council had removed the graffiti and repainted the wall.

The phone app, **Snap Send Solve**, is available free on the Google store app, and is very easy to use. The more people who use it to report graffiti to Council, or VicRoads and other government departments, the more likely it is that action will be taken. Mount



Alexander Council has now appointed a Graffiti Officer and is starting to take its responsibility in this area more seriously.

The recent repainting of the railway bridges in Castlemaine was also provoked by many citizens bombarding VicRail with **Snap Send Solve** reports over a couple of months. It takes more than one report to get attention!

Castlemaine Graffiti Busters now has a fully equipped trailer of its own, financed by a fundraiser held a few months ago and from many donations. Many volunteers have signed up to attend graffiti 'busts', but there are also many who are supporters, but unable to help physically.

If you are interested in being involved in any way, donations of any amount, large or small are very welcome. Graffiti removal chemicals are expensive, and though a quantity of paint has been donated by a business in Castlemaine, donations in kind are also welcome. Please visit the website **Castlemaine Graffiti Busters** (or search on facebook) for more information.

The group thanks Castlemaine Rotary, Maxi IGA, Central Carpets Castlemaine, Mount Alexander Timber and Hardware, Castlemaine Travel and Cruise, Das Kaffeehaus, Grist Wesley Hill Bakery, Stoneman's Book Room, Jodie McLean's Hair Design, Clifford's Quality Cuts, The Bridge Hotel, Castlemaine Fresh and Castlemaine Central Wine Store for their generous support, and the many people who donated cash via EFT or personally.

David Dean



Harcourt Celebrates



November 30: Gather Harcourt Christmas – a Twilight Christmas Market with local entertainment including Alexander and the Apple Dumplings. Children’s entertainer Tim Tim the clown will also be visiting with bubbles, balloons and fun.



December 28: Gather Harcourt Summer – a Twilight Holiday Market and Jazz in the Park. The well-known jazz band, Pip Avent’s Mouldy Jazz, has been booked for this party night. Bring picnic blankets, chairs and enjoy local produce and music.



March 8: Applefest – all the fun of the Festival. Volunteers are needed to help run this long established event. Please get in touch if you can volunteer your time either on the day or in the lead up to March 8. Everyone is welcome!



March 29: Gather Music & Food – the ABBA Tribute Band SOS will be performing in James Park. Food and beverages will be available so you can picnic while dancing, dressing up and singing the night away. Family Fun for everyone!

Volunteers Please!

All these events are run by volunteers – however, we need more. If you would like to be involved with the events team in any way, please contact Ruth Hay on 0433 633 093.

Vendor Contacts

Any vendors that are interested in attending please email:

market.gatherharcourtvic@gmail.com

or

harcourtapplefest.market.vic@gmail.com



Harcourt Lions

All quiet for the Harcourt District Lions Club at the moment, but with the coming of spring and better weather, we will be getting the BBQ’s out to flip a few burgers and sausages at various local events, so keep your eyes out for the Lions Club BBQ’s. The most important ones to watch out for and support are the Gather Harcourt events coming in **November** and **December**. So, ‘Be there or be square’, as the saying goes.

The Harcourt District Lions Club meets on the third Thursday of the month for a shared meal at 6.30 pm at the VMR site, followed by a discussion time at 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

Talk to a member at an event and get involved!

Or contact: Ray Rice (President) 0409 957 429

Harcourt District Lions Inc, P.O. Box 100, Harcourt 3453

Loretta Rice



The Lions' new clubhouse in the refurbished Signal Box A from the Bendigo station has new windows and roof.

Nominations for Mount Alexander Shire Council open on September 9.

Mount Alexander Shire Council will have a new electoral structure at the council elections this October. It will change from 5 wards with 7 councillors, to 8 wards with one councillor in each ward.

Local government elections are held every four years. The elections are managed by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), with all voting done by post.

Voting closes at 6pm, Friday, 25 October 2024.

Mount Alexander Shire Information for Prospective Councillors

Put your hand up to become a Councillor in 2024

Nominations for Council open on September 9 and close at 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September. Becoming a

Councillor is a great opportunity to represent your community and to help make decisions for the benefit of all residents and ratepayers.

Candidate information sessions

One-on-one information sessions between potential candidates and Council's Chief Executive Officer, Darren Fuzzard, and/or Mayor Matthew Driscoll, and/or Deputy Mayor Rosie Annear are available.

They are an opportunity for potential candidates to ask questions and have an informal discussion to understand the role properly and find out more about Council.

To book: email: standforcouncil@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or call the Governance team on 03 5471 1700. Read more about the one-on-one sessions for potential candidates: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-information/Council-elections#section-2

Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) candidate resources

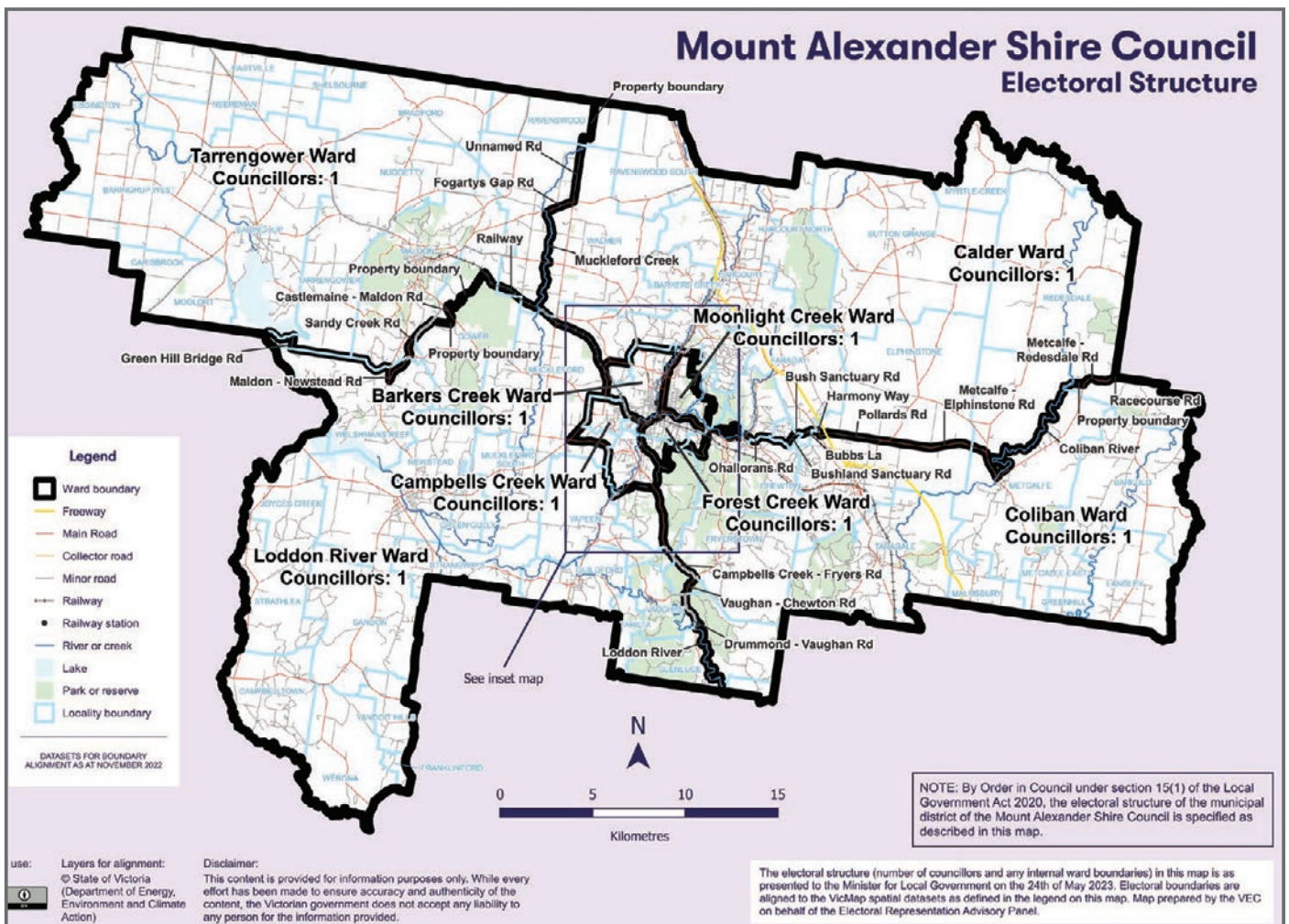
The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has put together information and a detailed handbook to help candidates understand the nomination process. (Some process are mandatory – Ed)

Visit the [VEC Become a local Council candidate page \(www.vec.vic.gov.au/candidates-and-parties/becoming-a-local-council-candidate\)](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/candidates-and-parties/becoming-a-local-council-candidate).

Victorian Local Governance Association

Visit the [Victorian Local Governance Association \(VLGA\) website \(www.vlga.org.au/events-training/special-events\)](http://www.vlga.org.au/events-training/special-events) for further online information sessions including, Standing for Local Government and Local Women Leading Change.

Information sourced from the Shire of Mount Alexander's website and the Victorian Electoral Commission's website.





Harcourt CFA Brigade Awards Celebration



L-R Back row. Captain Andrew Wilson, John Jenkin, Colleen Marchant, Sharon Ranger, Peter Church, David Murdoch, Peter Wilson, Commander Paul Turner, GGM Kylee Bates. Front row. David Jenkin, Roland Hiemstra, Bryn Carney, Lynda Wilson.



Captain Andrew Wilson, National Medal recipient Lynda Wilson and GGM Kylee Bates.

During August, our brigade took the opportunity to present service recognition awards to our members at a brigade dinner at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club. Brigade members were joined by CFA representatives Commander Paul Turner, Group General Manager, Support Services Kylee Bates and Brigade Administration Support Officer (BASO) Mel Dole.

CFA gives recognition of five years of service with a framed certificate and thereafter a long service medal every five years.

Five-Year Certificates were presented to Roland Hiemstra and Stephen Upton (unable to attend on the night).

Recipients of Long Service Medals were awarded to Colleen Marchant (10 years), Bryn Carney (10 years), Sharon Ranger (15 years), David Jenkin (30 years), Peter Church (40 years), David Murdoch (50 years), John Jenkin (55 years) and, topping off the list, Peter Wilson with 65 years of service.

A special presentation of a National Medal was bestowed to our brigade secretary and treasurer Lynda Wilson by Group General Manager Kylee Bates. The National Medal is presented for 15 years of diligent service and is awarded by the Governor General to personnel in Australia's emergency services.

All together there was a total of 285 years of service recognised on the night and 170 of those years by three of our more senior members who are still active members of our brigade.

A Quiet Month for Turnouts

August was another quiet month for turnouts with only one – supporting the Chewton brigade to a shed fire on the evening of Thursday the 8th. Our role was to provide water to the primary tankers set up to fight the fire. This scenario is something that we regularly train for and therefore the operation ran efficiently.

September means it's spring



As August drew to an end, there was a distinct change in both the day and night temperatures with warmer weather indicating that we were approaching spring. This is a timely reminder to look at what we want to achieve this year in preparation for the coming summer. Once again, indicators are predicting a hot summer with an increased fire risk.

A review of your fire plan is a good place to start.

Remember that green grass in spring will be dry in summer.

More photos are available for viewing on the Harcourt Fire Brigade's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/search/top?q=harcourt%20fire%20brigade

*Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

Di Selwood
0488 148 358
Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon

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Covid restrictions apply Member of BAA & BTAA



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

As many of you will be aware Councillors receive weekly briefings on matters relating to Council, and we have a monthly Council meeting that is open to the public. At that meeting Councillors make decisions on matters that have not been delegated to Council staff. I was on holiday for the August Council meeting, so I have been busy catching up on what has been going on.

Some big issues dealt with at the August meeting include the following:

- The Planning Scheme Review was adopted and forwarded to the Minister for Planning for sign off. From my perspective, our planning scheme needs a lot of work and getting that work done remains a big challenge.
- Planning Scheme Amendment C94MALX (Plan Harcourt) amendments including the results of the biodiversity audit were adopted, and that document will also be forwarded to the Minister for Planning for sign off. When finalised this will result in an increase in housing land and, eventually, houses in Harcourt. Let's face it Harcourt is a great place to live, so as expected, people will be keen to join our community.

There were a few other issues dealt with at the meeting, including policies around nature strips and rural roads. Sometimes it seems like our rural people get pushed around without consultation. You be the judge!

Seeing we got home safely, I should share with you a couple of highlights of our recent trip. Flying into the USA via Chicago we spent time in USA and Canada. Chicago exceeded expectations. Coming from our dry land I was impressed with the gardens and what can be done when you have unlimited water.

Niagara Falls, Ottawa and Quebec were impressive. New York was much bigger than I expected, and we saw a couple of Broadway shows that were amazing. Washington DC was impressive. Probably the best part for me was the Smithsonian where we saw the Wright Brothers' planes as well as the Apollo capsule that took people to the moon and brought them home again. Lastly we went to Nashville where I saw a lot of bands play.

Unbelievable is the only word to describe the experience.

My darling wife Jo did all the bookings for flights, accommodation and rail. Everything worked perfectly so that's about as good as it gets.

Best regards to all.

Tony
AG Cordy

Spring Firewood Collection Season Opens

The 2024 spring firewood collection season is open from Sunday 1 September until Saturday 30 November.

Designated firewood collection areas in state forests in Central Victoria will be restricted to residents of specific local councils, including Mount Alexander Shire. This is to ensure that local communities have greater access to available firewood into the future.

While firewood is free to collect, supply is not unlimited. This means firewood needs to be managed responsibly to ensure environmental sustainability.

The map showing the area for firewood collection for residents of Mount Alexander Shire and the rules can be found here: www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region

From the Forest Fire Management Victoria website.



KNIGHTMOVES
 R n B - 4 Piece Band
 60s 70s 80s +
 BOOKINGS
 Trev: 0421 957 168
 Tony: 0439 742 434
 Lou: 0416 146 417
 knightmovesband@gmail.com

Maldon District Financial Services Ltd

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th October

5.30pm for 6pm start

All welcome

RSVP to executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au

or speak to a branch staff member

Maldon RSL, High Street, Maldon



Maldon & District
Community Bank



AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Central Victoria ACF Community Forum Saving Nature: Saving Ourselves

Central Victoria ACF Community Group held a successful forum on Saturday 31 August 2024. The forum drew a large crowd of local environmental groups, all deeply concerned at the inadequacy of action to halt species extinction in our region. Having said that, there was also a tremendous sense of optimism in the gallery with representation of such a broad range of environmental groups so well represented. This included Landcare and Friends Of groups, environmental activists, representation from Biolinks Australia, Trust for Nature, Birdlife Australia and the Central Victorian Bat Alliance, just to name a few. Any number of conservationist groups stretching across the entirety of Central Victoria were present here. There is, of course an enormous strength of purpose when groups like ours unite in one voice. I was deeply heartened by the enthusiasm and dedication in the building. However, will it be effective enough to move political will? That is the question that arose for me and others.

The forum focussed on the reforms proposed to the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) currently being debated in parliament. The Act is the main vehicle for protecting habitat and threatened species. Essentially, the Act is broken and no longer functions as the main deterrent to halting further destruction. The Albanese Government proposes to recreate the EPA Act to ensure effective protection of species, assuring us that this Act will prevent further species loss through stronger prevention methods. However, the EPA Act is not yet complete and our unique species continue to be devastated through destruction of habitat by mining and deforestation. These bureaucratic delays simply exacerbate the rates of extinction. It's mind-boggling really. ACF Central Victoria has made it clear through an open letter to Prime

Minister Albanese and Minister Plibersek that further delays are intolerable. The letter was presented to Lisa Chesters MP who attended the forum.

It is no secret that state and federal governments collectively pay \$14.5 billion in subsidies to fossil fuel companies, which provide little return in tax or royalties while continuing to inflict damage to our environment. No amount of protest from our community has been able to penetrate the deaf ears of parliamentarians. The Nature First Forum came as a response to the Labor Party's inadequate response.

Like so many of us, I feel such a sense of grief at the continued loss of our unique wildlife. Birds like the iconic Gouldian Finch are now seriously threatened by mining and land clearing. The very symbol of Aussie wildlife, the koala is also under threat. A report in the Guardian today has listed the Waratah that borders NSW and Victoria as also on an endangered list. That was unimaginable in my lifetime really. In Central Victoria, we see the swift parrot now listed as critically endangered, severely reduced due to continued loss of habitat.



Photo supplied by ACF

These exquisite parrots have now declined to 200 individuals. One of their main nesting sites was recently cleared, without any thought to the consequences for its survival, just highlighting the inadequacy of current nature laws. Sean Dooley from Birdlife Australia gave the audience a clear message. As a child,



Photo supplied by ACF

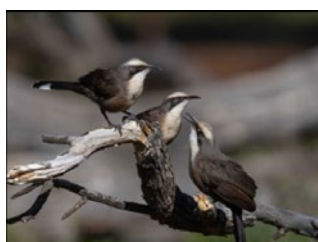
Sean had been enamoured of the grey crowned babbler. A beautiful bird with a haunting call that was his childhood favourite, but now extinct in our region. Extinct! ... Extinct. As a young person on the panel, Kelsley Macdonald was asking us what would be left for younger generations as numbers of species continue to decline.

All in all, I was heartened by the community representation but many of us felt that the Labor Party, and indeed, Lisa Chesters had let us down.. The Federal Member for Bendigo indicated she didn't have much say over changes to the Act. One would have hoped that she would give us a stronger sense of urgency and genuinely support her community, which had turned out in such numbers to the forum.

The fact remains that this is a matter of urgency. We can no longer wait on the slow motion of parliamentarians. Mammals, plants, insects, birdlife, fungi, etc are being driven to extinction. There's no time to wait or listen to endless empty political gesturing.

What can you do?

- 1. Sign the petition** to help create a new generation of national laws to protect nature and funding to restore ecosystems to bring our wildlife back from the brink.
- 2. Send a quick email to your local Member of Parliament (MP)** urging them to address the extinction crisis happening in our big backyard by championing strong nature laws and an EPA to enforce them.
- 3. Join the mailing list of Central Victoria ACF Community group:** www.acf.org.au/central_victoria_acf_community and join in our activities and actions.



Grey-crowned Babbler

Photo: Geoff Park

In many areas, populations have declined because of clearance or other modifications of habitat, especially in the last 30-40 years ... as groups become isolated, their numbers decline to where they are too small to breed successfully, and remaining birds eventually die

HANZAB Vol 6 (2002)

Vera Hemkes on behalf of Central Victorian ACF Community Group
centralvictoriaacf@gmail.com



In late August, Council endorsed the newly updated planning scheme amendment for Plan Harcourt, the document that shapes future development in our town. The amendment included a number of environmental protections that did not appear in the amendment initially proposed to Council back in 2020 when Harcourt Valley Landcare filed our submissions with the clear message that Harcourt's biodiversity needed far better protection.

Since that time, Harcourt Valley Landcare's call for a biodiversity audit to be completed **before** planning and development begins, was heard. A two-stage audit, which included on-ground assessments of the potential for our local landscapes to offer habitat for threatened species like the golden sun moth, the brown toadlet and the brush-tailed phascogale.

We now know so much more about the species and habitat around us in Harcourt – and we have evidence to inform planning decisions that will affect them. Read the Stage 2 biodiversity audit [here](#).

We worked closely with Mount Alexander Council, providing feedback and tightening the wording of protections, as well as ensuring that surveys for biodiversity continue as development in Harcourt progresses.

Ahead of last week's meeting, we sent the petition – containing 1,655 signatures – to the Mount Alexander Shire Council. The inclusion of 98 signatures from the Shire meant that the petition met the criteria for being accepted.

Landcare members, Terry Willis (president) and Bron Willis attended the meeting and were pleased to hear that all councillors voted to accept the updated planning scheme

Harcourt Valley Landcare Engraves Environmental Protection into Plan Harcourt

amendments, including the biodiversity protections.

This included protection of wildlife corridors such as Elys Lane, Douglas Lane, Shady Lane and Eagles Rd, and waterways such as Barkers Creek and Picnic Gully Creek.

This is not the end of our work advocating for Harcourt's wildlife and its habitat. We are pleased the council has committed to ongoing surveys for species like the brush-tailed phascogale and golden sun moth so that any expansion in the northern part of the township, which the biodiversity audit identified as so important, is fully informed about the creatures that call this beautiful part of the world home.

We'll continue to keep an eye on the development process, and we'll use our strong relationship with Mount Alexander Shire Council to advocate that council ensures the planning controls are understood by the local community and that they are effective.

While development of a place as special as Harcourt can be difficult to witness, better environmental protections are the best way to ensure that the nature we know and love has the best chance, while new homes are built for our growing population.

There is one final step before the planning controls are formally adopted – and this is for the minister for planning to approve the amendment. We anticipate this to happen in the coming months (we are advised that this is highly likely but not assured). Whatever the outcome, we will continue to advocate for wildlife and habitat in our beautiful part of the world.

Bron Willis

Working bee with Barkers Creek Landcare

On September 25, Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare joined forces to work on our Barkers Creek site which runs beside the creek.

The site is a nice spot for a walk which begins at the bridge opposite the CFA and runs north.

Very shortly there will be a picnic



table in place which will enhance the spot for visitors. The two groups worked together to remove broom and gorse, to weed around the tree guards and to replace dead plants with some new seedlings.

As always there was a delicious morning tea which the hungry crew demolished in no time.

A big thank you goes to Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group for lending us a hand to maintain this important natural asset in Harcourt.

Some Time Ago

Harcourt
7th February

At 7 o'clock last night a terrific windstorm, about half a mile in width, passed over the town. Residents residing here for 55 years say that they have not seen anything like it before. Orchards that came in contact with it suffered severely, and trees were uprooted. Mr. John Douglass had hundreds of cases of peaches and apples stacked, and they were all blown over. Mr. H. McDougall's orchard also suffered severely, a dozen and a half trees being completely uprooted, whilst apples were strewn all over the ground. The local case factories also had a bad time. Mr. A. E. Horton's factory had the roof blown off, whilst a great deal of other damage was done. Mr. Woolnough had his pony severely cut with the roofing iron. Great giant gum trees had their tops cut off with the wind just as if men had done it with an axe. The timber was blown from the post office to Wilson's store, making the road impassable. The highest shade temperature during the day was 104 degrees.

From The Bendigonian 10 February 1914 via Trove.

Book Launch: A History of Vaughan

Ken, Jon and Jeannie invite to join them in celebrating the launch of their book on

Sunday 10 November 2024 at 2:00 pm

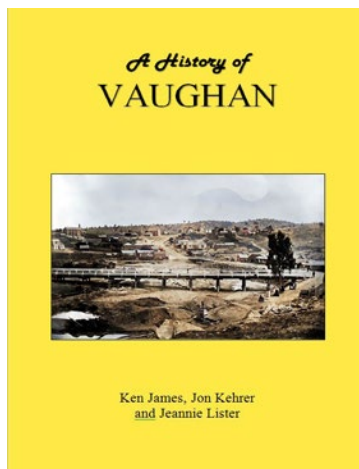
at Vaughan Springs

(if inclement weather, at the Guildford Hall)

The book launch will be held in conjunction with a fabulous family fun day at the Vaughan Mineral Springs reserve. The kiosk will be operating and the miniature train will be running on the day.

This 634-page book focuses on the fascinating history of Vaughan from about 1851 to the mid-1900s. It includes a chapter that describes the founding and establishment of the much-loved Vaughan Mineral Springs Reserve. Historical photos, maps, newspaper articles, diagrams, charts, memoirs and mini- biographies combine to provide a remarkable glimpse into the dynamics of this once large, vibrant goldfields town and the people who lived there.

A History of Vaughan is \$60 per copy. While some copies will be available for purchase on the day, securing a copy can only be guaranteed if you pre-order and pre-pay by 30 September 2024 as this will be a limited print run. Pre-orders with pre-payment are needed to help defray the



printing costs. Pre-ordered books can be picked up at the launch and fun day at the Springs. Please include an additional \$13 if you require the book to be posted.

Pre-orders to Jeannie Lister – please email: ahistoryofvaughanbook@gmail.com

All profit from the sales of this book will be donated to the Friends of Vaughan Springs group.

Nature Photography at Newstead Arts Hub

Throughout September, Newstead Arts Hub is hosting an exhibition showcasing the fabulous work of four local photographers entranced by and enthused about nature.

Photographers Marte Newcombe, Daryl Fleay, Patrick Kavanagh and Bronwyn Silver will present some of their most striking discoveries of the wild – visual testaments to, and explorations of, the natural world.

The exhibition will be launched by Geoff

Park on Saturday 7 September at 11 am. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

The show will be open every weekend in September from 10am to 4pm.

For more information and to see the full Newstead Arts Hub program: <https://newsteadartshub.org>

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Lisa Chesters MP
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Flight Guarantee for Regional Rex Customers

The Albanese Government has today announced it will guarantee regional flight bookings for Rex customers throughout the voluntary administration process.

Travellers can continue to book regional flights on Rex during this process with certainty that they will either fly or get their money back.

Rex operates one of Australia's largest regional air networks and provides essential connectivity to move people and critical freight on 41 routes to regional and remote communities, including 21 routes that are only serviced by Rex.

Rex's continuation is in the best interests of Australia – and the Government is working closely with the administrators to ensure a strong regional aviation presence now and into the future.

The guarantee is for all regional flight bookings with Rex made after it entered voluntary administration at 9:31pm on 30 July 2024.

This will give customers confidence to continue booking regional flights with Rex – flights that allow them stay connected to family, friends, healthcare and other services – while also helping to maintain regional aviation in Australia.

My department will continue to work with the administrator on their plans for the continuation of services to regional communities.

We also expect the administrator to honour and prioritise the entitlements of Rex employees.

This guarantee is a message to regional Australia that we know how important reliable air services are to you and that we are not going to allow your communities to be left behind.

*A Press Release from:
The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.*



Harcourt Uniting Church

Recently we celebrated the 159th Anniversary of our church in Buckley Street Harcourt. George Milford gave us his usual entertaining history from 159 years ago, which I have included below. I believe readers of *The Core* will find this history interesting. It sounds as if there were large crowds in attendance with food, food, and more food provided by the ladies and all served in the church. Well, we didn't have multiple sittings at our 159th celebrations, but we did enjoy Marie's beautiful fruit cake for morning tea and sang Happy Birthday to ourselves.

159 Years of Church History – George Milford

159 years ago, on August 13 1865, the Rev William Hill opened the Wesleyan Church at Harcourt. There were two services on the day and a large congregation attended. The church foundation stone had been set in place four months before and, using granite carted to the site by volunteer labour, the church was quickly erected, becoming one of Harcourt's landmarks in Buckley Street.

August 9 2024 marked 100 years since the brick hall next to the church was opened. The opening was a *big* affair.

For some reason the congregation at that time thought it was the 60th anniversary of the church (it was actually the 59th). To celebrate the diamond jubilee and the opening of the new hall a program of activities over several days was arranged. The weekend began on Saturday with a 'back-to' reunion tea meeting during which the Honorable HSW Lawson ceremonially opened the new hall. On the Sunday three services were held and on the Monday there was a social evening in the new hall.

Prior to the construction of the hall, tea meetings were held in the church or in the ANA Hall. In the early days, the quarterly tea meetings had been held under the awning on a temporary bough structure in the church grounds. Sunday School classes were held inside the granite church. In the first quarter of the

20th century, the tea meetings generally featured multiple sittings as the numbers attending could not all be seated at the same time. With large families, good attendances at worship, a flourishing Sunday School and an active Young Peoples Guild, the granite church was 'bursting at the seams'.

The new hall had cost £1,263/11/9, including £40 for purchase of the land, £12/9/0 for three memorial tablets, erection of a gravestone for CL Hawkins £28.13.00, gas lighting plant £23/3/9, and payment to the builder, Donald H Gunner, £1,072/0/0. The congregation had been fundraising since 1914 to pay for a church hall, but their plans had been thwarted by a lack of finance. The hall only became a reality in 1924 after the church trustees received a bequest of £1,000 from the late CL Hawkins.

Some 300 people attended the Saturday night opening of the new brick hall. The only way that the crowd could be fed was to hold five sittings for tea. The meal was served without a single hitch. On this celebratory weekend, the *Mail* reported that the repasts which the ladies had provided, day after day, were a veritable eye opener, a banquet in fact.

The idea of the trustees to make it a 'back to' was a very happy one. The *Mail* published long lists of those who had come back; many of these had attended Harcourt's Sunday School more than fifty years prior, before 1874. The *Castlemaine Mail* reported that it was a treat to witness the smiling faces of the old scholars as they greeted each other by their Christian names. Men and women who had known the Sunday School half a century earlier were quite happy to mount the platform, old scholars who were unused to public speaking expressed their delight at being present, recalling happy memories of the church and Sunday School and of the men and women who had done so much to mould the character of the district. Many lives had been formed and influenced in the Harcourt Sunday School.

The present day congregation

marked 159 years since the church was opened and 100 years since the great celebrations of 1924 with a special morning tea on August 18.

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday September 29 we invite everyone to join us in the 'Blessing of the Animals' at the Harcourt Uniting Church at 10.30 am. Come along with your pets at about 10.20 am and join in the fun. There will be treats for your pets, and we will begin the service outside so that all animals (and their owners) feel happy. Last year our minister Sarah had one of the dogs jump up onto her knee while the bible reading was being read, and another dog, Heidi, decided that the man sitting opposite was more interesting, so she sat at his feet and enjoyed lots of pats. We would love to welcome you to this special day – and a reminder that we don't dress up with hats and gloves like they would have at that first Church Service 159 years ago.

A man took his dog to the vet and was sitting in the waiting room with other dog owners. Suddenly the door opened a few centimetres and a stern voice said: 'Better get a tight hold on your animal.' Everyone grasped their pet protectively, wondering what type of brute was being led in. The door opened slowly and in strolled the postman, dropped the letters on the counter, grinned and walked out!

Jan Jenkin

Linda Newton



Drying out



Harcourt Valley Primary School

There have been many exciting projects begun and achievements to celebrate so far this term.

New playground seating

All those apple pies baked so enthusiastically for Applefest have brought in enough money to purchase two new bench seats for the yard. The school thanks the Newstead Men's Shed for constructing them.



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden – do you have some spare worms for the vegie patch?

The Healthy Loddon Campaspe for the Healthy School Project has enabled the school to move forward with their Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden infrastructure. The new apple crate wicking beds in the outdoor classroom have been steadily coming along and some strawberries have already been planted. As spring weather arrives, more seedlings will be put in the wicking beds. The worm farm is up and running and the school is looking for donations of worms to add into the farm. The school thanks parent helpers, Bonnie, Remy and Mel for helping to get these projects up and running.



Art Room News

Mrs Maddaford has reported that the students began the term with gusto and have continued to enjoy their projects. She said, 'The Prep/1 class has embraced ceramics with gusto, making some



fantastic work. We have learnt how to roll a slab, create a pinch pot and what ceramic terminology means including, 'kiln' and 'glaze'.

'The 1/2 class has loved constructing with cardboard. They are creating a range of inspiring architectural forms to complete a class city. The 3/4 were mesmerised by some abstract work we saw in Bendigo last term and have created works in response. They have used the art elements of colour, line and shape to create a feeling. These works are on display near the office. The 5/6 class has been looking at Op Art and techniques influenced by the work of Bridget Riley. They must create an artwork that uses two optical illusions.'

The work will be judged by Mrs Simpson and the most creative pieces put on display in her office.

Footy and Netball Achievements

Raf wins Auskicker of the Year

The school is very proud of Raf's achievement in this year's Auskick program. A number of students participated and enjoyed this year's Auskick program which is held at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve in after school hours.

Some students who play for Harcourt Football Netball Club have also been recognised for their efforts. Chevelle and Charlie came away with encouragement awards for football, Evie was named



player of the match and Ada was the winner of the Best and Fairest for Netball. Principal, Andrew Blake said, 'We are always so proud of all our students who participate in local sporting teams.'

School Chaplain

The school has a new member of staff with the appointment of a School Chaplain. Marc Cowan has joined the wellbeing team at the school and will be working on Mondays and Tuesdays. Principal, Andrew Blake said, 'Marc's wealth of wellbeing experience will be a great addition to our wellbeing team here at HVPS.'

Marc introduced himself to the school community via the school newsletter. Marc has a background of ten years in Community Services with at risk youth experiencing mental health issues and has been a chaplain for nearly three years. He mentioned that his experience includes supporting people with a disability, coordinating youth mentoring programs, working with and supporting individuals and families access vital services and obtain access to stable housing, income support, education, vocational training and a range of allied health services. Marc provides support which extends to students' families and is not limited to school related issues. All conversations are treated in a private and confidential manner. Marc explained that the conversations and support are not religious in nature and are provided in a friendly, non-judgement and safe environment.

Term 3 Camps

Grade 3-4 camp at Billabong Ranch, Echuca is approaching rapidly. All Grade 3-4 students and parents will be eagerly preparing for the camp which will be held from Monday 11 September to Friday 13 September.

Grade 5/6 students will be attending Halls Gap from Monday 16 September to Wednesday 18 September.

Vale Lyn Rule



Lyn at her best with husband Mike Rule as Applefest Royalty in 2014. Photo supplied by Katherine Seppings.

Where do you start when you are asked to write about a special person who has just passed away, especially when that person has led such a rich and fulfilling life?

I first 'met' Lyn Rule when I moved to the area and joined Harcourt CWA, and so my tribute here will be largely CWA focussed. I say 'met' because I heard a lot about Lyn before I met her. She and Mike were overseas housesitting (as they frequently did in those days) and I got to know Lyn initially from afar via the interesting, newsy letters that she would send us. We enjoyed Lyn and Mike's adventures vicariously! I so looked forward to meeting this mystery woman who seemed to so full of life and fun.

Lyn had lots of interests and hobbies. As well as her beloved Mike and family, she loved her garden. Upon finding her present home, she told us all that it was her dream place: 'a garden with a house attached!' It bordered a walking trail and she was in heaven, walking and enjoying nature as often as time allowed, accompanied by her pet dog. She also joined other local groups such as U3A where she became a keen petanque player.

Lyn was very involved in 'all things Harcourt' and wrote monthly articles for the Harcourt Core since its inception. She was also a member of the Harcourt Applefest committee, liaising with judges for the apple pie

competition and encouraging many, especially the quieter reluctant cooks and students, to enter. It is partly due to her that this event is now a very popular part of our annual Applefest celebrations.

Lyn was a long-time CWA member, having joined in 2007 when she got chatting to Harcourt CWA ladies at Applefest. She soon got into the swing of things and contributed to many a tasty afternoon tea at our events. She was bright, witty and bubbly and she always helped make our guests feel very welcome.

Lyn was one of a kind. Whatever she did, she did it well, thoroughly with a touch of class. Thoughtful and articulate, she could hold

her own in a discussion or debate. She was a smart, intelligent person who always had lots of good ideas to offer, and was not scared to offer constructive suggestions, even criticism, when it was warranted. She was a straightshooter who told the truth; an ideal person to seek out if you had a problem and needed someone to listen empathetically, before offering her suggestions or advice.

Lyn loved to dress up and act. She was the driving force behind many of our CWA yearly concerts. She coached reluctant dancers and encouraged quieter members to let go and have a bit of fun being silly. Lyn and Mike together enabled us to have colourful, semi-professional performances with lots of fun. The audiences loved it and so did we. Her acting aspirations were on show when she was chosen as the narrator and CWA judge in the KR advertisements, seen by thousands in the state on commercial television. You can revisit it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV9aYdjrNsQ

Lyn was talented and creative, and she displayed her sculptural talents at our 'All Things Art' exhibition and, also, by designing and preparing numerous posters and displays to advertise CWA events. She was a very able, prolific photographer whose pictures provide a terrific record of Harcourt in general and CWA in particular. She was our official publicity officer for many

years, using her special art talents and photographic skills in a special birthday display at the Market Place building in Castlemaine.

We, the Harcourt community and Harcourt CWA in particular, are so much richer for having known Lyn. She has left an abiding legacy in her writing, her photographs and in our memories and stories we shared. She will be sorely missed, but she will never be forgotten. Vale Lyn. We are so glad that you were a part of our lives. Thank you.

Bev Orgill
Harcourt CWA

Lyn Rule Memorial Gathering

Harcourt Community Members

Are invited to gather to remember Lyn and share their memories of her.

2 pm Wednesday 11 September

Harcourt Heritage Centre

Vale Lyn Rule

We at *The Core* sadly acknowledge the passing of Lyn Rule who was a long time contributor to our local paper. She was an enthusiastic member of CWA and promoted it in her articles which were always lively and informative.

Lyn wrote for *The Core* from its outset. I found her first article for the February 2015 edition in the archives. As members of the CWA have noted, Lyn was passionate about the Apple Pie Competition at Applefest. Her first article in 2015 is about this very subject.

Her contributions were always presented in a professional manner; her writing style was conversational and carried the message about CWA, and readers could discern her friendly and open hearted nature in her messages. We will remember Lyn for the work she did for *The Core* so graciously.

The Core Editorial Committee wishes to pass their sincere condolences to Mike and family.

Robyn Miller
Editor



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello again, everyone. Well, spring has definitely sprung 'and

the grass is riz ...' It is great to see more of the sunshine and to get outside in the garden again.

Last month was another action-packed one for us Harcourt CWA ladies as we hosted our 2024 Branch Association Day. Every year, each branch (or CWA club) is obliged to hold a special event, the funds from which are sent on to help the work of the CWA of Victoria.

Last month's Core advertised that our Association Day theme this year was Flowers and Friendship, and we invited everyone along to join in the fun. Members dug deep in their cupboards and brought along a great collection of vases to display, many of which held special memories for their owners. The good, the bad, the ordinary (the vases I mean, not their owners). It was an impressive display.

At Harcourt, we knew we already had lots of friendship in our little CWA branch, and some of us are already green-fingered garden types, but we knew we could do with help on the floral arrangement front. So we went to an expert and invited Stacey from ZALA Floristry, in Barker Street, Castlemaine!

Stacey brought along her friend and colleague Robyn, and together they informed us and answered our questions about all things horticultural

Garden Herb Biscuits

(makes 40)

Ingredients

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 75g Cheddar (or Gruyere or other mature cheese) | 125g flour | 1 tsp thyme leaves |
| 75g Parmesan cheese | 1 tbsp sage, chopped | Salt and pepper |
| 100g cold butter | 1 tbsp rosemary, chopped | Herbs to decorate |
| | 1 tbsp parsley, chopped | |

Method

- Roughly chop the cheddar and grate the parmesan.
- Cut the butter into cubes and put into food processor with the cheese, herbs, flour and pinch of salt and pepper.
- Blitz until mixture resembles breadcrumbs, then add 1 tablespoon of water and blitz again so that a dough ball forms.
- Shape the dough into two 4cm logs.
- Wrap the dough logs in cling film and chill in the freezer for 30 minutes.
- After 30 minutes, preheat the oven to 180C (or 160C fan forced).
- Unroll the dough logs and cut into 5mm thick slices.
- Arrange slices on a baking tray lined with baking paper and pop a herb onto each biscuit for decoration.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes.
- Serve warm or put onto a wire rack and leave to cool.

Note: Don't forget to sing or hum 'Are you going to Scarborough Fair...' as you bake!

or floral. Each starting with large empty bowl-shaped vases, they both expertly demonstrated how we could use anything at hand to create impressive displays. Using bark, blossom stems, twigs, a bird's nest, seasonal blooms like daffodils, tulips, poppies, herbs and other garden bits and foliage ... they used anything that might be growing in the garden.

Six audience volunteers were invited to the stage to have a go at arranging their own lovely bouquet of flowers. From the photos here, you can see them at work and see their efforts.

It was a great day – fun, friendly and full of information for all, followed by our fabulous, famous Harcourt Afternoon Tea spread. Lots of marvellous door and raffle prizes were won. Lots of chatting and catching up was done and a great time was had by all.

Thanks, Stacey and Robyn, for helping us make our 2024 Association Day a special one. And, in keeping with the event, I've included a recipe with a flower and herb theme.

Until next month ... Beverley Orgill for Harcourt Country Women's Association



Robyn's creation.



Jill and the posy she made.



The six volunteers arranging their bouquets.



Stacey and Robyn from ZALA Floristry, our guest presenters.

Community Bank
Maldon & District

B Bendigo Bank

Let us introduce you to ...

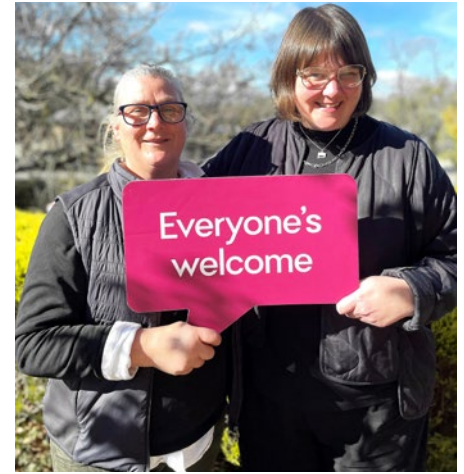
There have been some changes behind the scenes of our Maldon & District Community Bank. Let us introduce you to Nicole and Sophie.

Nicole Funston has been appointed to our Executive Officer role which also encompasses the role of Company Secretary, and Sophie Guerin (pronounced Geeren) holds the new position of Community Partnership Lead. Both positions, along with Communications Officer, Nicki, are employed by Maldon District Financial Services Ltd, which is the board that oversees our Community Bank branches in Maldon and Dunolly.

Nicole has been a part of the Maldon community for around twelve years, after her family moved here to run the Kangaroo Hotel, and then, after retiring from publican life, Nicole has

spent several years managing weekend accommodation and working at LeSel. 'I'm excited about taking on this role of Executive Officer as it will give me the opportunity to get back into working in this amazing community while also contributing to it,' said Nicole.

Sophie Guerin is very new to Maldon, in fact she and her partner moved into the town the same week that she started work with us! Sophie is stepping in to a newly created position of Community Partnership Lead which will coordinate our community partnership funding process, grants and other community projects and programs. Sophie said, 'We were drawn to the Maldon area because it was bustling with activity, holds incredible events and there are so many warm, welcoming people here working hard to contribute to their community. I'm looking forward to meeting as many people as I can, and to working with the community to see some exciting



Nicole and Sophie..

projects come to life.'

Nicole and Sophie will be working from our office at the old Shire Offices in the Park in High Street, Maldon and will be on site Tuesday to Thursday, so feel free to pop your head in the door and introduce yourself. Alternatively email them ...

Nicole: executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au
Sophie: community@mdcb.com.au



CWA Group President Dani and her door prize.



Chief vases arranger, Joy, with daughters Angela and Joanne.



Friends Betty and Val enjoy the arvo tea.



Chewton Phoenix CWA members came and joined us.



One of Stacey's bowl arrangements.

Supporting your community

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Harcourt Heritage Centre

We will drink no wine: The Rechabites

You may accuse the writer of stating the obvious when you read that, for the first 120 years of Harcourt's existence, sellers of alcoholic refreshments were not required to prove that they had been trained in Responsible Serving of Alcohol, nor were they at risk of a fine if they served an intoxicated person. Liquor Licensing Laws were constantly amended, but the underlying issue was that public drunkenness was not uncommon and over indulgence led to many unfortunate situations. Aggression, traffic accidents, wasted lives, lack of money to buy food and broken relationships were features of society.

It was against this dark background that the temperance movement was formed to promote total abstinence from alcoholic beverages. A strong component of the temperance movement was the Independent Order of Rechabites (IOR), founded in England in August 1835. It was the first Friendly Benefit Society to be composed exclusively of teetotallers.

The name Rechabite, which seems odd to modern folk, is the name of a tent-dwelling clan of the Middle East whose story of triumph over temptation was acknowledged by the leading men of the day as an example for all to follow. You can find the story of this clan in the book of Jeremiah, chapter 35 in the Bible. You could say that the Rechabites demonstrated 'won't' power. Minority groups throughout the world have been (and are being) persecuted for such behaviour, but, according to the legend, the sons and daughters of Rechab were held up as a shining example of faithfulness.

The Harcourt branch of the Rechabites was formed in July 1869 at a meeting in the home of William Symes. The founders named their branch the 'Hope of Australia' tent. They were a small part of an Australia-wide order which soon became Australia's largest Friendly Society, offering its members a funeral fund and refunds of medical expenses, sick pay and hospital benefits. That the friendly society benefits would be feasible and sustainable became obvious early in the life of the Order, when they calculated 'the superior longevity of abstainers'. Statistics for English abstainers showed that the average Rechabite could expect to live nine years longer than the average life expectancy of the general population.

Access to the Rechabite benefits was open to persons of good moral character, who were free from disease, not under sixteen nor over fifty years of age and had abstained from all intoxicating drinks for one month prior to initiation. At initiation the new member signed the pledge to abstain from alcoholic beverages. Harcourt Heritage Centre possesses the ledger in which new members of the Hope of Australia tent signed upon initiation.

Tent meetings were held at quarterly intervals involving ceremony and ritual. Colourful sashes were worn by the Chief Ruler, Deputy Ruler, Superintendent, Secretary, Writing Steward, Money Steward, Treasurer, Guardian and the Levite. All these sashes from the Harcourt Tent are now on display at Harcourt Heritage Centre. Discussions at meetings included anything to do with temperance, but religious and political discussions were prohibited. A small hall was built in which to hold these meetings.

Not everyone agreed with the ideas being promoted by the Rechabites. On 27 February 1877 the *Mount Alexander Mail* reported that the Rechabite Hall had been destroyed by fire. It was suspected that the fire had been deliberately lit, as brushwood had been piled against the stone walls, with the flames quickly reaching the wooden shingles on the roof. The hall, which was uninsured, was soon gutted.

The hall was quickly rebuilt – the Heritage Centre collection includes a Bible presented to George Symes in July 1877, 'for his services in helping to rebuild the hall.' Using voluntary labour, the new hall was built mainly of slate from the Specimen Gully quarry.

The Rechabite Hall served many useful purposes. The Church of Christ met there until they built their own church nearby in 1890. After this, the Church of England met in the Rechabite Hall until they, too, constructed a church across the road in 1907. From 1877 until 1937 the Rechabite Hall was the district meeting place, hosting many happy gatherings. The fifty year Jubilee of the Hope of Australia tent was celebrated in 1919.

A Junior Rechabite Lodge was formed with Isaac James (Jr) as Superintendent. Many district boys and girls enjoyed the social activities as they learnt the benefits of abstinence. Some, not all, went on to



join the IOR and sign the pledge when they turned 16. In his notes on the Rechabites, Hedley James states:

'Unfortunately the Lodge gradually declined until, in 1937, the cost of keeping the Hall exceeded the income, and the District Office advised the local Tent to sell it. The Rechabite Hall was sold to Harold Thompson who converted the building into a very fine residence which still stands.'

Hedley James also pointed out that the construction of a public hall in McIvor Road, Harcourt North and of the ANA Hall in Harcourt contributed in no small way to the decline in usage of the Rechabite Hall.

After the sale of the Hall, Harcourt's Rechabites met in private homes, providing Friendly Society benefits to a membership of about fifty people. Harcourt's Hope of Australia Tent celebrated its centenary in 1969.

Members of the IOR rejoiced as the Victorian Government took courageous steps to improve the conditions in which liquor could be sold, as well as introducing penalties for sale of liquor to intoxicated persons, outlawing public drunkenness and mandating the training of bar staff in Responsible Serving of Alcohol.

Harcourt's Rechabites continued to meet socially, but the temperance movement seems to have run its course, and its local building has been repurposed. We owe a debt of gratitude to groups like the Rechabites who, like yeast in the loaf, helped to transform society.

This is another in a series of articles drawn from Harcourt Heritage Centre's CH James Collection.

Historical Walking Tour of Harcourt

On August 29 an enthusiastic crowd gathered (despite the wet weather) for a walking tour of central Harcourt's historical landmarks. The tour was led by the Heritage Centre's long-time volunteer Wendy Barron.

The history of some of the buildings in Harcourt demonstrates the re-purposing of buildings and sites over time, while some have disappeared altogether.

Wendy led the way to the historical sites as described below:



The photo of the bridge is taken from the north, looking south at what was the main road to Bendigo. The bridge was the only way over Barkers Creek to get to Bendigo and was a toll bridge. Fruitgrowers would take apples and pears to Bendigo by cart via the bridge.

Getting to Bendigo required an early start. Mr Ely, one of the earliest to grow fruit in the valley, would leave home at three in the morning to begin the day's travel to Bendigo.

Cattle were herded from the football/cricket ground (now the Pony Club) to Bendigo for market. To avoid the toll charge, local cattlemen would group their herds together and make a wild rush over the bridge.

The 'new' bridge over Barkers Creek was built in 1928 with great fanfare. This has since been replaced with the bridge we see today.

The first post office was on the corner of Bridge and High streets and can be seen in the background of the photo above.



The original Harcourt Hotel at the corner of High and Bridge Streets was started by James McLaren. A later licensee was John Slattery. During Slattery's time it was a lively Irish pub. To the south of the hotel was Mr Hugh McLean's blacksmith shop, where the CFA is now located.

On the next corner (Market and High Streets) was the Talbot Inn. It operated until 1882 when it was sold to the blacksmith Mclean who bought it to house his family of daughters. At the



close of the auction, the inn's barrels of beer were tipped out down the drain. This was a memorable day in our history. It was, after all, a time in Harcourt when the Rechabites held sway. (See page 26 for George Milford's article on the Rechabites in this edition of *The Core*.)

The Talbot Inn later became a guest house, then the Franklin family resided there before moving to the house next to the ANA Hall. The Vescovi family, who migrated from Italy and owned and ran one of the granite quarries on Mount Alexander, made the inn their family home and stayed for some years before demolishing the house to build a beautiful cream brick home on the site.

In 1928, a garage (located in the Stanley park area) owned by Monot Motors was shifted and built with cement blocks made in the brick and pipe factory. Its new location was by the bridge over Barker's Creek built in the same year. The garage was later run by Mr Haywood, and others including the late Howard Grant. It is now a private residence.

The service station site was originally where the tennis club was located until courts were built at the north end of what is now the Pony Club. (The tennis courts are now located at the Leisure Centre.) The service station was built and opened in 1959 by the Fruitgrowers Cooperative.

It was run by Jock Comini and called Adams Apple.

Before the motel was built in the late 60s, a gravel road ran down to the Castlemaine road. There was a small house facing north on the corner which was run as the post office.

In the late 1920s, Jim Ely moved a homestead from Ravenswood to the block where the Produce Store is now located. It was a boarding house run by the Moxom family. It was then purchased by the Brown family and later had a succession of owners.

The kindergarten was originally in the church hall in Bagshaw Street, until the new building, an annex to the church hall, was finished. The first teacher was Miss Patsy Delminico, whose married name was Thompson. After seventy years of operation, the kindergarten moved to a new building in Mills Road in 2021.

Harcourt Primary School, established 1859, was located in Market Street and consisted of three rooms with three teachers in the 1950s and had up to 100 students.

The building was sold as part of the unification of Harcourt Primary and Harcourt North Primary. It still stands and has been renovated and used as a home. The merged school opened at the Wilkinson Street site in October 1995.

The Heritage Centre is housed in the ANA Hall, Harcourt's first public hall, built in 1911. The growth of Harcourt was such that, by the 1980s a new public hall was needed. The Harcourt Leisure Centre at the Recreation Reserve was opened in 1991, which is when the ANA hall became the home of the Harcourt Heritage Centre.

The current post office is on the site of one of Harcourt's early hotels, the Royal Hotel. It dates from a time when there was a hotel on nearly every corner.

The above does not cover all the changes of building use or record the demolition of others in Harcourt. If you are interested in learning more about Harcourt's history, call in at the Heritage Centre, on a Wednesday. The Heritage Centre is located in what was once the ANA Hall in High Street, and is opposite the Post Office.



Call for Classes for 2025



U3A Castlemaine Class Coordinator Anna Macgowan.

Around U3A Castlemaine there is an air of anticipation as we issue our Call for Classes for 2025. In a few short months, our U3A community will be flicking through the 2025 Course Prospectus to discover what new delights are available for them.

In 2024 we have had some fascinating presenters and diverse new courses and we are looking forward to more of the same in 2025.

'We are seeking enquiries from non-members as well as members interested in leading a class for 2025,' said Class Coordinator Anna Macgowan.

'If you have an interest or a passion you would like to share, then you will no doubt find a receptive and enthusiastic audience within the U3A Castlemaine community.'

We have a variety of spaces available to host classes. We can accommodate class sizes from as few as 6 and up to 30 or more in formal or informal settings, and even outdoors. Classes can be one-off, run all year, or anything in between. Classes can cover a diverse range including (but not limited to) photography and art, computers and technology, history, indoor activities, languages, music, dance, film, current affairs and outdoor activities such as bushwalking and croquet.

U3A Castlemaine is a volunteer-run local organisation of retired and semi-retired people who share their experiences, expertise and passions.

Most classes are available free of charge to U3A Castlemaine members. There are opportunities to learn a little more in the company of likeminded friends in non-threatening environments.

The 2025 Application to Run a Class is available online at tinyurl.com/5df7kcc7, or contact Class Coordinator Anna Macgowan on 0407 925 636 or u3acm.courses@gmail.com.

For more information:

Janet Cropley, President 0419 539 142 u3acm.pres@gmail.com

Terry Murphy, Publicity 0425 712 362 u3acm.ictwg@gmail.com

Harcourt Carpet Bowls

The winter Carpet Bowls season is coming to an end with the top four teams now decided.

New Breed finished on top followed by Maine Four, Rebels and RSL. The next games to be played will be New Breed v Maine Four and Rebels v RSL. The grand final will be played on Wednesday 18 September. Our end of season celebration will be held the following week on 25 September at the Five Flags Hotel.

55 years of Legacy Tournaments

The Legacy Tournament proved to be successful with 25 Legacy and Carpet Bowls members attending and having a fun night playing three games of bowls, followed by the drawing of the raffle and a delicious supper. It was pleasing to see this event continuing with good attendance.

Chairperson of Castlemaine Legacy, Dennis Cox was presented with a cheque for \$249.00 from John Jenkin, President of the Carpet Bowls Association, being the proceeds from the evening. These Carpet Bowls Legacy Tournaments have been held continuously for 55 years, the first being held in 1969. Harcourt is one of the few Carpet Bowls Associations continuing in the State of Victoria.



Dennis Cox, Chair of Castlemaine Legacy receives a cheque from the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association President John Jenkin.

Summer Carpet Bowls

A decision will soon be made as to whether the Association will run a summer bowls competition this year. Check out next month's Core.

New members are always welcome.


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Harcourt Football Netball Club



Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

The preliminary finals on Sunday September 8 will see a number of Harcourt's football and netball teams play at Princess Park in Maryborough.

Results: Semi final rounds played on Saturday August 31

Football

B Grade- Maryborough Giants v Harcourt: A win for the Giants; Harcourt out of the finals.

17 & under Carisbrook v Harcourt: A win for Carisbrook; Harcourt out of the finals.

15 & under Harcourt v Maryborough Giants: A win for Maryborough; Harcourt out of the finals.

Results: Semi final rounds played on Sunday September 1

Football

Seniors: Harcourt v Carisbrook – Win

Under 14.5s: Harcourt v Maldon - Win

Preliminary finals September 8 Seniors Harcourt v Natte Bealiba

For the Lions, a win here will keep their chances of a premiership hat trick alive and well, but this will arguably be their toughest test yet.

Having won one game each in the two match ups so far, it's anybody's guess which team will come out on top and go into the grand final.

This will be the second preliminary final meeting between the two clubs in three seasons, with the Lions victorious by 41 points in the 2022 game.

Reserves: Harcourt v Talbot: Talbot defeated Lexton in the preliminary final to gain a spot in the semi final against Harcourt.

U14.5s: Harcourt vs Carisbrook: This team enters the finals after a crushing defeat of Maldon in the preliminary final played on September 1.

Netball

Semi Finals Rounds September 1 & Preliminary Finals September 8

B Grade: In the semi final, Maryborough defeated Harcourt, 48 goals to 25. It was a tough game and the Lions women put their best in, but it wasn't to be. Suzi Rinaldi was recognised as the best player in the match for Harcourt. Harcourt look forward to coming back stronger in 2025.

17 & under: On September 1. Harcourt 35 defeated Carisbrook 33, to go into the preliminary final to be played on September 7 where they will come up against Maldon.

15 & under: Harcourt v Talbot: Harcourt will play Talbot in the semi, after a satisfying win 24 to 18 against the Maryborough Giants in the preliminary.

In Matthew's gospel we read this account of Jesus' ministry...

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

As Christians therefore we are all obliged to spread the good news of God's grace and unconditional love for all mankind, and the availability of redemption and the freedom from the penalty of sin for all those who place their faith and their trust in Christ Jesus the Lord, the Saviour of all mankind.

You might say that all Christians are to function as mini evangelists! It is commonly thought that an evangelist is someone who has a passion to lead people to the Lord. But every believer should have a passion to lead people to the Lord. An evangelist is someone who has a supernatural gift to bring people to the Lord. All believers should share their faith with others, drawing on the power of the Holy Spirit. But an evangelist ministers under a special anointing and does this as a vocation.

'What of us mere mortals? I hear you say. The Apostle Peter has answered that question. Here is what he had to say...

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

This is Christ's minimum expectation for any of us. Some, enabled by the Holy Spirit, are much bolder!

Ps Roger Thurecht

SEEKING PLAYERS

HARCOURT CRICKET CLUB WOMENS SIDE

The Harcourt Cricket Club is seeking interest from women in the area who may like to compete for our women's side this season. Please contact this page or email harcourt.cricketclub@gmail.com for more info



Weather & Water

There were early signs of spring in the opening days of August. Wrens began tapping at the window, and in the slightly warmer nights, frogs at the dam were croaking while a magpie sang in the early morning pre-dawn.

Firetails have been very active all month, and early on I heard Horsefield's bronze cuckoo calling. Pardalotes of both varieties have been busy nesting.

Prior to August 18 we had two weeks of mild weather, and I was able to hang clothes on the line and get them dry. There were some frosts lower down in the valley.

Only 14 mm of rain was received up until 17 August. By the end of the month we'd had 41 mm of rain. The best rain day was 20 August when we received 17 mm, and the garden seemed refreshed.

Total rainfall to date was 374 mm which is the lowest count since 2019 with 248 mm and 2018 with 270 mm. In 2017 the reading was 400 mm. It seems we may be heading into a drier year. Certainly in the south west of the state, the rainfall has been exceptionally low.

Thunderstorms broke out towards the end of the month, but little rain fell here. In August's final days, blossom was bursting everywhere, and the happy wanderer plants were out in full throughout the bush.

The weather bureau reported that this month was the warmest August on record and the 'area averaged rainfall' was 41.8 mm (so Harcourt was right on this average), which was 55.4% below the 1961-1990 average. In addition, the bureau noted that 'the mean maximum temperature was very much above average.' This is a worrying pointer to a potentially bad bushfire season.



The Loveland family and the Milford family enjoy a day out at the Harcourt Reservoir at a Hospital Sunday Picnic, in November 1912. See our front page story to discover the reason why this photo has been included this month.

Left to right: Mary Ann Loveland (seated), Henry Loveland, Leslie Milford (on buggy), Irene Milford (on step), Eliza Milford nee Loveland (seated), Tom Milford, Edgar Milford (on buggy), Eleanor Milford nee Symes (seated).



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KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Fruit Tree Care in Spring

Hi everyone, how great is spring? It's such a glorious time of year with almonds, apricots, plums and peaches already bursting into flower. Spring is the make-or-break time in your garden, when the right care and prevention can make the difference between whether you get fruit or not. Knowing what to do can be elusive, so we've decided to hold a new course called Spring Fruit Tree Masterclass: Protect and Prosper (here's the link to sign up: growgreatfruit.com/product/spring-masterclass-24)



A multi-graft crab apple tree

One of the main things that can go wrong is disease in your trees. While rain is very welcome at this time of year, we're always secretly relieved if we don't get too much while the apricots in particular are flowering. Harcourt is a marginal climate for apricots at the best of times, so fingers crossed for a bumper crop this year.

Other fruit trees are vulnerable to fungal diseases as well. The worst culprits are leaf curl (peaches and nectarines), blossom blight (apricots, and sometimes peaches and nectarines) and black spot (apples and pears). What they have in common is that they need wet conditions in order to thrive.

Some of these diseases are more destructive than others. A bad case of leaf curl in your peach tree can set its growth back significantly. It can even infect the fruit which then falls off the tree. It's preventable by using an organic fungicide like Bordeaux (see instructions below) on the trees at budswell. Some peach and nectarine varieties are already in flower and so it's too late to spray them, but some later varieties are just getting to budswell now.

If you are spraying it's OK to use a copper spray like Bordeaux, but be very careful with it because copper is an effective fungicide which can accidentally kill your soil fungi (which are highly precious) if you use it too often. As a guide, don't put on more than two copper sprays in one season. It's also fine to use a copper

spray such as Kocide, but Bordeaux is better because it has a bit more 'stickability'.

To make Bordeaux, mix 50g each of copper sulphate and builder's lime in 5 litres of water. It's a bit messy, and the mixture doesn't store well, so it needs to be mixed on the day you plan to use it. (There's a video on our website showing how to mix and use it in the short course called 'Better Fruit with Wise Organic Spraying'.)

Following are some extra tips for your fruit trees at this time of year:

1. Start thinking about getting your fruit fly traps ready to put out (if you're not sure how to prevent fruit fly, check out the free Fruit Fly Action Pack on our website).
2. If you've just planted new fruit trees, make sure you protect them with tree-guards.
3. If you planted new trees this winter but haven't pruned them yet, prune ASAP so they put their energy into growing branches in the right place (i.e. where you want them).
4. Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch young trees or start planting a diverse understory around them. If you're mulching, remember that fruit trees prefer woody mulch like wood chips, or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes. The main drawback to

mulching is that it's really good at stopping the rain from getting to the trees.

5. Make sure you've got your irrigation system set up and ready to go. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below. Alternatively, wait until the weather really starts to get hot before you mulch the trees.

One of the best things about living in the country is room to have lots of fruit trees in the garden – we hope you enjoy yours this spring. Happy gardening and stay well
Cheers,

Katie and Hugh

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op. Head to growgreatfruit.com to sign up for their FREE Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter, and register for a free online workshop.

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Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

| | am | pm | pm |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt) | 8:55 | 12:10 | 2:25 |
| Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt) | 8:56 | 12:11 | 2:26 |
| Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt) | 8:57 | 12:12 | 2:27 |
| Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt) | 9:03 | 12:18 | 2:33 |
| Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine) | 9:05 | 12:20 | 2:35 |

From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday

| | | | |
|---|------|-------|------|
| Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine) | 8:45 | 12:00 | 2:15 |
| Wimble St/Barker St ((Castlemaine) | 8:48 | 12:03 | 2:18 |
| Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt) | 8:53 | 12:08 | 2:23 |
| Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt) | 8:54 | 12:09 | 2:24 |
| Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt) | 8:55 | 12:10 | 2:25 |



THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10AM TO 1PM

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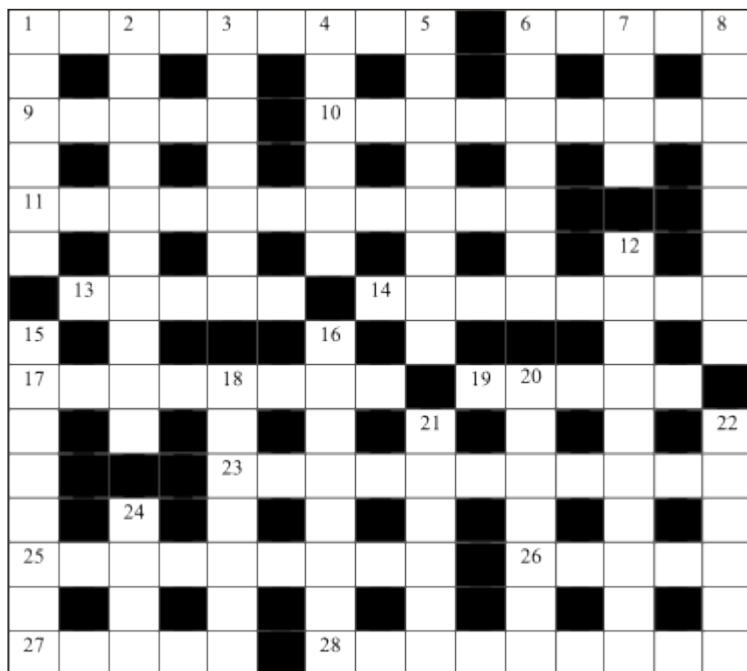
Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3 frame contains every number from 1 to 9.

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August Solution

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 |

September 2024 Xword © McW '15



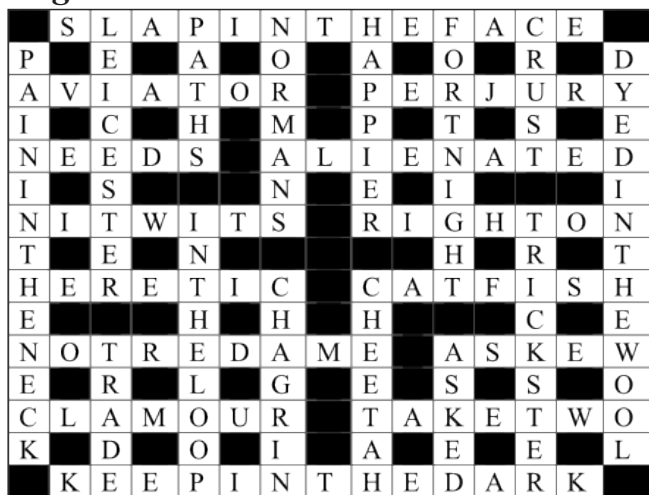
Down:

1. All predicates are middle terms, and all predicates are also subjects in these treeless plains. (6)
2. Sensible, hard-headed version of Carroll left him sadly depleted... (2-8 or 2,8)
3. Business with large trucks sounds fit to rub out gangster. (7)
- 4, 8. Demonic, dire men may have decried traditional cures, but I recommended, in the current hurly-burly, that we at least scrutinise this. (6,8)
5. Bird on the lookout for tossers. (8)
6. How Montaigne weighed things up? (7)
7. One of these would be near enough to a contest. (4)
8. see 4dn. (8)
12. Primary school a teeny realm. (10)
15. Check a BA for type of pain. (4-4)
16. Maddened indeed by how she asked so forcefully. (8)
18. 110-leg cause of desuetude? (7)
20. Poorly-paid abstainer in the hay-press is having a go... (7)
21. After the king-tide, brisk removal of the mess in the middle would clear it. (6)
22. Climb a departing email, by the sound of it... (6)
24. Often seen vying for what the rich have, and the central motivation? (4)

Across:

1. Crap! I moan at the mess that obscures this view. (9)
6. Drop short rule from egg for stamps. (5)
9. Least said without hesitation is just a drop. (5)
10. German animal sounds a sprinter in English. (9)
11. It might vary in saner ways to mark the occasion. (11)
13. Apportioned pine ending at junction. (5)
14. Bland boy might go to pieces and lobby for muso. (3,5)
17. Extreme extremes not there. (8)
19. Boa constricted mum for one in high office. (5)
23. War is a gross event that requires many of these. (11)
25. One who fights swindle is not tough. (9)
26. One's life may get a new one after successful treatment. (5)
27. Where a square-based Apex club may have originated? (5)
28. Totally wrecked by warship? (9)

August 2024 Xword Solution © McW 23 Oct '15



Down:

2. Steer lice away from this cheese!
3. Wear quiet [P] hats on these little roads...
4. Bates' 1066 influx? [Well?]
5. For the infidel, just about all times before the apocalypse? [Well?]
6. Darkness under the stronghold every couple of weeks? [Well?]
7. Earth has one; we try to make one; old wine leaves one; beggars these days sniff at one... [Well?]
8. At 21ac, bread [le pain...] roll stuck in throat might cause this [petit pain in the neck, perhaps...]
9. Exposition on why odd elite is out-and-out colour-fast to the skin?
15. [Phone toil] keeps us connected.
17. Carl's counter to treater? [Well?]
19. Mortification in [Charing] Cross! (7)
20. Fast animal heard to embezzle? [Well?]
22. American swap? [Well?]
23. What other 23 did when we left? [Well?]

Across:

1. What merely seems a pleasant chief might stifle panache with this sort of brusque treatment.
10. Biggles, or a Vita Sackville in tatters?
11. Lying for each group of twelve [Well?]
12. Under diabolic motivation, what must? [Well? When the devil drives...]
13. A dateline missed made us feel cold-shouldered.
14. Can droll head-lice be complete idiots?
16. With sinister off to one side, give a hot grin or thing to say!
18. Eric the unorthodox?
20. Feline swimmer? [Well?]
21. Our womanly place of worship? [Well?]
23. Obliquely brings us [We...] back to make a request...
24. Loud shouted demands for rum (&) cola
25. What movie thief got the second time? [Well?]
26. ASIO advice on fungal culture? [Well?]



Council news

We love supporting community projects and events

One of the ways we support community projects and events is through our grants programs. We help deliver music, workshops, cultural programs, training and much more across the shire.

We're currently reviewing our Event Grants program to make sure it's meeting the needs of our community.

We're committed to maintaining and improving our program, and we want to hear from you about what's working and what suggestions you have.

Feedback closes Friday 13 September.

Find out more and have your say at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

It's Dum and Bundjil time

It's Dum and Bundjil time according to the Dja Dja Wurrung seasonal calendar.

From September to mid-November the weather warms and the peak flowering season for many wildflowers begins. Frosts and rainy days are often still common.

Learn more about this season and what's next at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Calendar.

Help us curb graffiti

We're working to remove and prevent graffiti across our shire, and we need your help.

You can report graffiti and learn more about what we're doing to address it at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/ReportGraffiti.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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



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Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

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You Can Help ...

If you know someone who would like to get a copy of *The Core*, either in print or online, but is having difficulty accessing it, let us know. We can make sure they get their preferred version – we can have it put in their letterbox, or we can send a copy by email.

Let us know by sending the person's details to: news@harcourt.vic.au

Harcourt Valley Community House

Program of Activities

(subject to change according to demand)

October 2024

| Thursday 10 October | 2nd Thursday of the month |
|--|--|
| <p>Community Morning Tea (10:30–noon) Drop in for morning tea, make new friends and tell us what kind of activities you would like to see happen at your Community House. <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i></p> | <p>Craft-a-noon (12:30pm–2:30pm) Have you got UFOs (Un-Finished Objects) in your cupboard? Bring your UFO along and finish it off in like-minded company, you might learn a trick or two from other crafty folks! <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i></p> |
| Thursday 17 October | 3rd Thursday of the month |
| <p>Card/Board Games (10:00am–noon) Do you like playing card or board games? Fancy a game of old faithfuls like 500, backgammon, scrabble, etc, all in good company? Have you got a new game you'd like to try. BYO your own game or we have some you can use. We would also like to set up a jigsaw library/exchange, see details next page. <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i></p> | <p>Community Chat (12:30pm–2:00pm) Each month we will present either a community member with an interesting story to tell or vital information you may need to know from a local organisation, government body or health provider. Send along your suggestions, in the meantime look out for our guest speaker details in the October Core.</p> |
| Friday 18 October | Special Event |
| <p>Special Event – Seniors Lunch at Harcourt Valley Community House Arrive at 12 noon to be seated and grab a cuppa. Lunch will be served from 12 noon. It's Senior's month and we would like to celebrate our seniors in style with a community lunch. Bookings are essential as numbers will be limited. Phone: 4417 8742 or email communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au This is a funded event, but a gold coin donation would be appreciated.</p> | |
| Thursday 24 October | 4th Thursday of the month |
| <p>Community Lunch (working group) 11am We would like to offer a community lunch once a month but this is entirely dependent on gathering willing volunteers to help make this happen. Come along on 24th October if you are interested in being on the team to cook a lunch once a month, help with set up, clean up or bring your great ideas for simply nutritious meal ideas. Morning tea will be provided for those who come along.</p> | |
| Thursday 31 October | 5th Thursday this month |
| <p>Community Garden Group (10:30 am onwards. Finish by 2pm or earlier, self- paced) BYO lunch!</p> <p>Do you love to garden? Do you wish you knew more about gardening? Do you want to see home-grown food available to give a helping hand to anyone needing a helping hand to put good, nutritious food on the table and/or have HVCH run healthy eating cooking classes using home-grown produce?</p> <p>The HVCH is establishing a community garden, and we need a small army of volunteers to get involved and progress this community project. A Community Garden consultation was held back in March, so we can build on the great ideas that came from that evening plus get new great ideas from you!</p> <p>Behind the scenes, the Harcourt Progress Association is currently applying for grants to establish the community garden, and it is only a matter of time before we have grant success (again)! Previous grants have already secured a container to store equipment and materials and buy some basic garden necessities (e.g. lawn mower and whipper snipper). Donations from the community of your excess garden implements (shovels, rakes, forks, etc.) would be gratefully received.</p> <p>The Community Garden Group (once established) will manage their own frequency of meetings/working bees/ gardening days etc.</p> | |

Le Coq Door



Grand Opening

From noon

Saturday 21 September

Charcoal chicken
Beer on tap
Cellar door

Open Fridays Saturdays and Sundays
from noon 'til late

THE HEART OF HARCOURT

Phone: 0412 035 545 for bookings

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