



Calder Ward: Meet the Candidates

Kerrie Allen

With a long family history in our Shire, I am dedicated to protecting everything that makes this area unique and special.

Our Council must take bold and practical steps to address pressing community issues such as the rising cost of living, better public transport, affordable housing, climate change, and protecting our environment. These are the foundations of a healthy community and economy.

The Shire has 57 endangered and vulnerable animal species, and preserving wildlife corridors and promoting native fauna and flora can boost tourism and stimulate our local economy. Let's adopt

innovative and proven solutions from other regions. This includes recognizing landowners and residents for their conservation efforts, such as weed control and wildlife-friendly fencing.

Vital pollinators like bees are in trouble, but by planting flowered nature strips, we can attract them while reducing Shire mowing costs and fire risks. Wildlife overpasses can reduce animal collisions on our roads while supporting biodiversity. These solutions benefit everyone—people, nature, and the local economy.

I am committed to a fresh, forward-thinking approach that addresses our community's longstanding challenges.



Ken Price

I've had the privilege of being raised, living, studying, and working locally. As our shire's population grows, we have a great opportunity to keep our towns distinctive, and encourage healthy and tasteful residential growth.

With your support, I hope to:

1. Help our town centres and local business adjust to our growing population.
2. See sufficient investment in

maintaining our roads, particularly those outside town and unsealed.

3. Actively and carefully seek the opinions and preferences of ratepayers when considering new projects.

I believe council can make best use of the rates and charges we pay, by focussing first on the good maintenance of our existing infrastructure and services.



Tony Cordy

As your ward Councillor many of you will know me and the excellent work our Council has been doing.

Key projects delivered that I have supported:

- ▶ Lighting upgrade at Camp Reserve, Newstead, Chewton, Harcourt and Maldon.
- ▶ Changeroom upgrades at Wesley Hill, Harcourt, Maldon and Campbells Creek.
- ▶ Playgrounds at Taradale, Victory Park, Castlemaine and Stanley Park.
- ▶ Ongoing support for aged care services.

I have worked to ensure Council is well managed and operates within available funds. I do not support big rate rises.

My wife Jo and I have grown up locally and have raised our family here. We operate a farm business and understand rural issues and caring for the environment. I am keen to see the landscape left in better shape than when we took control.

To continue this good work I need your support.



Meet the Candidates ➔ **Harcourt Valley Community House, Station Street, Harcourt Thursday October 10, 6.30–8.30 pm (see page 6 for details).**

CONTENTS

- HPA→3
- Harcourt Valley Primary School→4
- Fireside Chat→4
- Community Banking→5
- Seniors Festival 2024→5
- Meet the Candidates→6
- Petition to Re-open the Railway Station→7
- Harcourt Valley Landcare→8
- Le Coq Door opens→9
- Harcourt Carpet Bowls→10
- Harcourt CFA→11
- Harcourt Celebrates→11
- Councillor Comment→12
- Book Launch→12
- Harcourt Football Netball Club→13
- Community House→14
- Harcourt Uniting Church→16
- Linda Newton Art→16
- Harcourt CWA→17
- Word of the Month→17
- Harcourt Bowling Club→18
- The Heritage Centre→19
- Dhelkaya Health→20
- Harcourt Lions Club→20
- Local wines are winners→21
- Grace Church→21
- Harcourt Playgroup→22
- Weather & Water→22
- Gardening→23
- Repair Cafe Dates→24
- Sudoku→24
- Crossword→25
- Council News→26

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.

With over 100 local volunteer presenters with a passion for radio, our programs are varied and diverse with over 70 shows across the program grid, transmitting 24 hours a day and streaming online via mainfm.net

94.9
main
FM
LISTEN LOCAL



solar power | battery storage | insulation |
heat pump hot water, heating and cooling |
natural oils and paints | EV charging

49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues to Sat from 10am
t: 5472 4160 e: newstead@enviroshop.com.au
www.enviroshop.com.au

Community Diary

October 1 – 31: Seniors Festival, Mount Alexander Shire, see pages 14 and 28 for details.

Thursday October 10: 6.30 – 8.30 pm, Meet the Candidates in the Council Elections at Harcourt Valley Community House, Station Street, Harcourt.

Thursdays in October & November: Activities at Harcourt Valley Community House. All welcome. See pages xx for details.

Thursday October 17: 11 am – 12 pm, Talking about managing and preventing falls with Dhelkaya Health at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street, Harcourt.

Friday October 18: 12.00 pm, Seniors lunch at Harcourt Valley Community House.

Sunday 20 October 1.30 pm: Fireside Chat – The Thrilling History of Cobb and Co. at Harcourt Heritage Centre. See page 5 for details.

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

Thursday 7 November: 7 pm Harcourt Progress Association AGM, Harcourt Valley Community House.

Monday 11 November: 7 pm Fire Safety Essentials – prepare for the bushfire season: CFA Bridge Street, Harcourt.

Harcourt Celebrates Save the dates on page 11

Carpet Bowls: 7.30 pm Wednesdays, Leisure Centre, Bingham 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 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 Progress Association Update

The HPA Board has had an action-packed four months since the current Board was

elected on May 30 at the 2022/23 AGM. This AGM was later than usual for several reasons, the most important being the development of new Rules of Association that were approved by the members. Since then, our board has been diligently fulfilling the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing grant, to establish a Community House presence in Harcourt, as well as applying for new grants and finding our feet as a new team!

Current Board Members

President	Jeanette Teague
Vice President	Rena Geroe
Treasurer	Alison Curtis
Secretaries (shared role)	Bronnie Dean Di Lederman
Board Members	David Dean, John Baldock, Debbie Lawn and Phil Musat

The 2023/24 AGM is coming

The 2024 AGM (presenting financials and reporting from 2023/24) will be held on:

Thursday November 7 at 7 pm, at the Harcourt Valley Community House, 23 Station Street, Harcourt

All current, past and new members are invited to attend, but please be advised that only current financial members are entitled to vote and/or stand for a position on the Board.

Furthermore, according to our Rules, please note the following:

- 13. General Rights of Members:
- 2.

A member is entitled to vote if: (a) more than 10 business days have passed since the member became a member of the Association (which includes membership renewals), so you must be financial by no later than Thursday October 24.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP or send your apology by emailing: members@harcourtprogress.org.au or phone the Community House on 4417 8742. You will probably need

to leave a message, but it is checked regularly and we will get back to you.

We Need Members to Support the HPA and the Work we are Doing

Whether or not you would like to attend the AGM and/or stand for a board position, we would greatly appreciate support from the community in the form of paid annual membership.

Membership Renewal

A membership renewal form can be found in *The Core* (see the page 27 of this issue). Please complete this to make sure we have your up-to-date contact details. Membership fees stand at \$20 per annum (full fee) or \$10/annum (concession). Memberships become due and payable on July 1 each year.

Payment methods

- Preferred payment is by EFT directly into the HPA bank account.
 - ▶ Account name: Harcourt Progress Association Inc; BSB: 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.
 - ▶ It is essential that you include your surname and the word 'Membership' as a reference so we can identify where the payment came from.
 - ▶ Email your completed membership form to: membership@harcourtprogress.org.au
- Alternatively:
 - ▶ Post your membership form to HPA, PO Box 135, Harcourt, Vic, 3453. As cheques/money orders are being phased out, cash can be dropped off at the Harcourt Valley Community House between 10 am and 2 pm on Thursdays except for public holidays and school holidays.
 - ▶ Drop into the Bendigo Bank (Castlemaine branch) and pay directly into the account (details as above). Again, your surname and the description 'Membership' is essential, please ask the bank teller to make a note of this.

- ▶ Go online to www.harcourtprogress.org.au and pay your full membership (\$20, sorry concession payment is **not** available online). This will be a credit card transaction and the HPA will receive a reduced payment of \$19.36 as a 64c commission is paid to use the credit card option. Therefore, EFT direct into our bank account is preferred, please.

We hope to see you at the AGM,

Kind regards
Jeanette Teague
President HPA 2023/24.

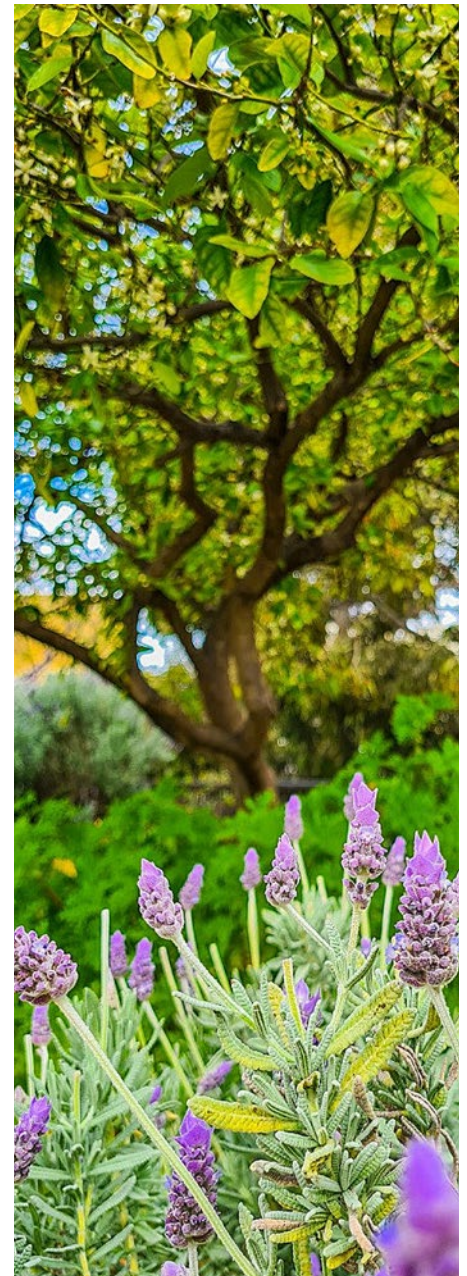


Photo supplied by Katie Finlay.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

School Camps

Grade 3-4 Camp

The principal, Mr Andrew Blake, congratulated the Grade 3-4 students on making the most of all of the adventure activities presented to them while on this camp. He said, 'From all accounts, they had a terrific time and thoroughly enjoyed the horse riding.' He thanked Mr Walter, Ms Norris and Mrs O'Connor for attending the camp.



Grade 5-6 Camp

Grade 5 and 6 went on their camp to Hall's Gap in the last week of term 3. We hope to have some photos from their camp in the next edition of *The Core*.

From the Veggie Patch

Mrs Hargreaves was busy in the second-last week of term organising the Grade 1-2 class to plant sunflower seeds and potatoes. Also planted were rosemary, oregano and thyme, with more herbs to be planted soon.

Mrs Rice and Mel were on hand to help with preparing a new garden,

too. The school was very grateful and thanked the Coolstore cafe for donating coffee sacks to grow their potatoes in.



Third Sunday of the Month at the Harcourt Heritage Centre *Fireside Chat*

1.30 pm Sunday 20 October

The Thrilling History of Cobb & Co.

2024 marks the centenary of the last horse-coach trip of the world-renowned firm of Cobb and Co.

The people of Cobb and Co. and other pioneers who built this great modern Australia have our admiration—especially their unyielding courage, determination, hard work and resilience.

We will hear the story of the firm that ran under the name of 'Cobb and Co.' as it made its way through floods, fire, accidents, bail-ups and the like. We will also examine photos of the Cobb & Co re-enactment visit to Harcourt in 1963.

To find out more, join us by the cosy fireplace at the Heritage Centre on Sunday October 20 at 1.30 pm.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

Support your local paper.

Advertise with us.

Inform your
community.

Gain support for
your business.

advertising@harcourt.vic.au

500 better-prepared drivers on the road

Thanks to customers who have accounts and products with our Maldon and Dunolly branches, the Maldon Community Bank has contributed over \$400,000 to run the hands-on intensive driver training program since 2003. This funds learner drivers to participate in a tailored 5-day program. The participants drive in a group of three, with a qualified instructor, in a range of different environments and traffic conditions, including unsealed country roads, highway and city driving, as well as parking, reversing and defensive driving.

'We are so proud of this program,' said Branch Manager Paul Simmons, 'and now we can celebrate our 500th learner driver! This program was

established back in 2003 – over 20 years ago – and is still as relevant today as it was when it began. Our driving instructor, Gary, is such a knowledgeable and patient man who sets these learners up for success, not just for the week, but for their lifetime of driving.'

The program equips learner drivers with skills and exposure to a variety of driving experiences; to ensure their safety and the safety of everyone on the roads. This program for Community Bank Maldon & District is just one of the ways we support our community and, in particular, our youth.

There is a charge of \$150 per participant for the 5-day program, and each graduate receives a reward of a



Adyson and Claudia completed our July Program – Adyson was our 500th participant.

\$50 bank account when they complete the course. To find out more about the program or to register your or your learner's interest contact the Maldon Community Bank branch on 5475 1747 or go to our website: www.maldoncb.com.au/helping-the-community/sponsorships-grants

Seniors Festival 2024: 1 – 31 October



This year, the Mount Alexander Shire Seniors Festival [cch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Seniors-Digital-Website.pdf] is taking over the month of October. The theme this year is – 'Explore. Engage. Evolve.' – encouraging older Victorians to stay curious and connected by exploring new activities, meeting new people, and changing how we think of ageing.

Hosted by Castlemaine Community House, the Seniors Festival 2024 been informed by community consultation and highlights services, programmes, entertainment and information sessions of interest to older members of the community. Thanks to our partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council and learning opportunities from the Victorian Government, this year's Seniors Festival is to make it inclusive to diverse members of the community.

'Our intention is for the festival to reflect the diversity of the older

residents of Mount Alexander Shire. This has been assisted by partnerships with organisations such as Uncle Rick Nelson's Waaman Tours, Castlemaine Pride and Silver Rainbow Social Club', says Kirrily Flanagan, Seniors Festival Lead at Castlemaine Community House. 'We also have an event for Veterans Come for lunch and entertainment at the Bendigo RSL [events.humanitix.com/entertainment-and-lunch-at-bendigo-rsl] – we will foot the bill and arrange transport.'

After a sold-out season in Bendigo and Kyneton, The Vessel [events.humanitix.com/the-vessel-by-dawn-bamforth] is coming to the Phee Broadway Theatre on Tuesday 22 October as part of the Seniors Festival Afternoon at the Phee event. The Vessel is the story of an older woman, in the latter stages of dementia, living in aged care. The play is a deeply personal account of the small acts of kindness in her final days and hours, as she shares memories from her earlier life with us, the audience.

The Seniors Festival will include our flagship mini-expo [cch.org.au/community/mount-alexander-seniors-festival/] at the Castlemaine Community House community lunch on Tuesday 15 October. 'Come and enjoy a delicious meal, chat to services and programmes at their stalls, and socialise in a friendly welcoming setting. All seniors eat for free!', says Kirrily.

Other key events include:

- Intergenerational Portrait Painting [<https://events.humanitix.com/intergenerational-portrait-drawing-workshop>]: A unique event that brings together older adults and school children for a creative and meaningful experience.
- Pride Trivia [events.humanitix.com/pride-trivia-seniors-festival-edition]: Gather your friends and test your LGBTQIA+ knowledge, covering history, culture and influential figures.
- Planning Ahead and Dealing with wills [events.humanitix.com/seniors-festival-planning-ahead-and-dealing-with-wills]: an information session with Seniors Rights Victoria and Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre.
- LGBTQIA+ Memoir Writing Workshop [<https://events.humanitix.com/ageing-well-jr4bhugj>]: Capture your life stories and memories with expert guidance and encouragement.
- Ageing Well [<https://events.humanitix.com/ageing-well-jr4bhugj>]: A discussion and Q&A with Services Australia and Mount Alexander Shire Council, explaining aged care payments and services.

For listing of all events head to: cch.org.au/community/mount-alexander-seniors-festival

From a press release by:





Calder Ward Meet the Candidates

Thursday 10 October 2024

6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Harcourt Valley Community House,
Station Street, Harcourt

Organised by Really Local (reallylocal.au)

You may have heard that the nominations for the Mount Alexander Shire Council 2024 election have closed and that there are five confirmed councillors and three contested wards. Really Local will be running 'meet the candidates' events in all contested wards.

Meet the Candidates in Calder Ward

(Harcourt, Barkers Creek, Sutton Grange, Ravenswood South and Redesdale)

- ▶ Who are the candidates? Kerrie Allen, Tony Cordy, Ken Price
- ▶ How can I meet them? Thursday 10 October 2024, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm Harcourt Community House (Old Railway Station), Station Street, Harcourt
- ▶ How do I register? [At this link: reallylocal.au](http://reallylocal.au)

Voting is by mail

Voting opens by mail on 7 October and ballots must be posted back (or dropped in a ballot box at an election office) by 25 October 2024.

Key dates

- ▶ 29 September–10 October: Meet the candidates events
- ▶ From Monday 7 October: Ballot papers sent by mail
- ▶ 7 October–25 October: Vote and return ballot by mail or election office
- ▶ Ballots must be received by 6.00 pm Friday 25 October to be counted before 15 November (Results finalised)

Other contested Wards

Campbells Creek: Bill Maltby, Gavan Thomson

Coliban: Max Lesser, Phillip Walker, Kelly Ann Blake

Councillors Elected Unopposed

Five wards are elected unopposed, and three of those five (**Rosalie Hastwell** in Tarrengower, **Lucas Maddock** in Moonlight Creek and **Toby Heydon** in Forest Creek) will be new Councillors.

Current Mayor **Matthew Driscoll** and Deputy Mayor **Rosie Annear** were also elected unopposed.

Really Local is keen to hear from people who want to get involved in any way:

- ▶ Be part of an event in your area: in Harcourt, Chewton or elsewhere in Castlemaine.
- ▶ Help with writing, photography, media, video, running events, sharing the word, organising, promoting on social media, and more.

We are all busy, and your involvement can be big or small. Let's do this together!

Get in touch: www.reallylocal.au/contact-us

Regards

Bryn, Simon, Lexi and the whole Really Local team!

Home Care Packages

At Dhelkaya Health Home Care Packages, we offer comprehensive support to residents of Mount Alexander Shire who are 65 and older, or 50 and older for Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander community members. We guide you through every step of your Home Care Package journey, including navigating government websites, completing assessments, securing and managing your package, and coordinating services. Our goal is to provide you with a variety of services to help you remain comfortably and safely in your home.

Get local support to help you live better at home.

"Healthier Together"

www.dhelkayahealth.org.au/home-care-packages/

For more information call Susan Andrews, Home Care Packages Coordinator
Phone: 5479 1000 or Email: hcp@castlemainehealth.org.au



Petition to Re-open Harcourt Railway Station

What are Harcourt's population numbers?

Is Harcourt growing at a rate to justify the re-opening of the railway station? At the 2016 census there were 943 people counted. By the 2021 census the population of Harcourt had increased by 95 residents to 1,038. Harcourt, as measured in the census, is a small area which is surrounded by Barkers Creek to the west, Faraday to the south, Ravenswood to the north and North Harcourt to the north-east. Further to the north-east and south respectively, are Sedgwick and Elphinstone. I would venture to suggest that people living in these areas would, potentially, make use of a railway station at Harcourt. Perhaps those in Ravenswood would go to Bendigo, depending on convenience, but those living in south Ravenswood, which is included in Harcourt's postcode of 3453, may well be interested, as may those to the south of Sedgwick and those living in Elphinstone.

Population figures for these areas in the census of 2021 are as follows:

Barkers Creek	487
Faraday	194
North Harcourt	291
Ravenswood	443
Sedgwick	614
Elphinstone	633

Adding the above figures to the 2021 census figure for Harcourt, brings the number of people living in and around Harcourt to 3,700 at 2021, many of whom would be likely to access a railway station at Harcourt if one was available.

Malmsbury, which has an active railway station, had 900 people in the 2021 census. It also has a number of rural settlements around it, and at that time, the Malmsbury Youth Detention Centre was operational. Rural areas around Malmsbury include Drummond, Drummond North, Taradale, Metcalfe East and Greenhill. The population figures in these surrounding areas at the 2021 census were:

Drummond	294
Drummond North	203
Taradale	524
Metcalfe East	25
Greenhill	60

The 2021 census figures for Malmsbury and surrounds shows that the population at the time was 2,006.

Both Harcourt and Malmsbury and their surrounds will have had population growth since 2021, but, regardless, the number of people living in and around Harcourt justifies a railway stop.

The simplest solution is to make the stop on the east side of the existing railway station where there is space for parking. This would include making basic improvements to the platform and the installation of a Myki machine.

When the 2026 Census is run, the results will be of great interest for those who would like a railway station at Harcourt.

Harcourt Progress Association and Harcourt Heritage Centre have joined forces to return a rail service to Harcourt.

A petition authorised by HPA and the Heritage Centre is circulating in the town. The petition is the second requesting a railway stop in Harcourt. The first one, containing 500 signatures, was presented to Maree Edwards in December 2019 by then president of the HPA, Michael Henry. The current petition has come about due to the enthusiasm of Ivan Gilbert, former CEO of Mount Alexander Shire and a long time Harcourt resident, who said, 'Harcourt needs a railway station as we are an area designated for growth by the State Government in the Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan which was released in 2014. A railway station at Harcourt will boost the amenity of the township and will also contribute environmentally as it will reduce emissions from car travel.'

The current petition has two aims: a regular rail service for Harcourt and the uncovering of the historical elements of the railway on the Coolstore Road side of the rails. The railway building in Station Street (west of the rails) is now operating as the Harcourt Valley Community House, so the proposed location of the stop is on the east side of the rails, where there is ample parking available off Coolstore Road.

The photo above shows the station in its operational heyday. Opposite the station building (to the east) is the site of another track where Mount Alexander granite was loaded to be shipped both intrastate and interstate. Apples for export were loaded here to be sent to Melbourne and then overseas. This site

Early 1900s view of Harcourt railway station with former goods rail diversion line and platforms.



View of the existing eastern platform (on left) with environmental weed overgrowth damaging heritage infrastructure behind it.

is now overgrown with environmental weeds, mainly tagasaste, commonly known as tree lucerne. A number of historical elements remain, but are being damaged by the weed roots. Removing the weeds will uncover the historical site and give a fabulous view of the station building from Coolstore Road. Removing the weeds will also give access to the platform so the station can be active again.

Where can you find the petition?

The petition can be found at:

- ▶ The Coolstore Café,
- ▶ Harcourt Post Office,
- ▶ Service Station,
- ▶ the Victorian Miniature Railway Office,
- ▶ The Produce Store,
- ▶ Harcourt Valley Community House and
- ▶ The Heritage Centre. The Heritage Centre is open on Wednesdays and is opposite the Post Office.

It is proposed to collect the petition around the end of November for presentation to our local MP, Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards, also a copy will be provided to the Member for Bendigo East, Premier Jacinta Allan.

We intend to present the petition at a public event, either the Twilight Christmas Market on November 30 or on December 28 at the Summer Market.

Robyn Miller

President's Report 2024 AGM

(Financial Year July 2023 to June 2024)

It was another action-packed year for Harcourt Valley Landcare. There was big-issue stuff like the Stage 2 Biodiversity Audit being released, small things like looking at orchids in the Flora Reserve, other stuff like planting trees on a members property; helping out Harcourt Valley Primary School and really important stuff like governance changes.

As an organisation, we gained some new members and some drifted away. But, at our heart, we're a small dedicated bunch who attend meetings and working bees. We laugh with each other; we're inquisitive, asking questions and sometimes getting answers; we care for the plants and animals that live with us; we're fighters, not giving up on our principles; we're fantastic bakers; but most of all we make connections and build stories together in nature.

A massive thanks to the committee members. Treasurer extraordinaire, George Milford, for guiding us through the governance processes. Robyn Miller for once again staying on as secretary and making our meetings run with her wealth of experience. Vice president, Vanessa Chang, for dragging us into the modern tech world. Janine McDonald for her love of plants and leading walks through the Flora Reserve. John Baldock for bringing the right tools to working bees and for questioning the details in the biodiversity audits and submissions. Ann Coffey for persisting with the flora reverse sign and her passionate custodianship of where she lives.

Also, special thanks to Bron Willis for all her hard work and passion on the biodiversity audits and the petition to bring about change for the animals and landscape of Harcourt

And, lastly, a very big thanks to the other members. Without you Harcourt Valley Landcare wouldn't still be here, so please keep coming. One of the beautiful things about Landcare is seeing all the different age groups working together.

Stage 2 Biodiversity Audit

Where do you even start to report on this? It's been a big twelve months of advocacy. The Strategic Biodiversity Assessment Plan Harcourt

(Amendment C94malx) Stage 2 came out in April. There's been more submissions, we've had the Safeguard Harcourt's Wildlife Corridors petition running, newspaper articles, an info tent at Gather Harcourt, kept the community informed in *The Core*, emails and calls to council. Yes, it's been big!

Harcourt Valley Landcare has been working with the Mount Alexander Shire Council since 2020 to protect the Harcourt Valley's native plants, animals and their habitat during the planning scheme amendment.

The goal of our work advocating for the natural environment is to ensure that the proposed development of our town is done in a way that places biodiversity protection and our nature-loving lifestyle at the heart of Harcourt.

We started a petition to Safeguard Harcourt's Wildlife Corridors on Change.org to request the Mount Alexander Shire Council protect such natural assets from inappropriate development to ensure our wildlife and biodiversity thrive into the future. We have over 1800 signatures!!

Flora Reserve

The Flora Reserve is a special place that we know and love. The Stage 2 Biodiversity Audit identified 'the vegetation persisting in this reserve is of the highest quality in the town of Harcourt.'

In late September, we invited community members to join us on a walking tour of the Flora Reserve on Bingham's Road. Janine McDonald, a wildflower enthusiast led about 20 people on the walk.

And in October we went back to the Flora Reserve again. This time, both Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group



joined up for a much anticipated event. We were fortunate to have phascogale expert, Dr Jess Lawton, as a guest to lead camera inspections of the nesting boxes in the reserve, supported by Miles Geldard who makes and supplies nesting boxes in this area.

Landcaring on private property

This year we started doing working bees on member's private property. Lot's of potential members are looking for this kind of help and advice with how to manage their property. We plan to do more in the future.

On a sunny June day, members completed a planting on Ann and Brian's property in Harcourt North. They needed some assistance with rejuvenating the land which once had orchard on it. So, the group pitched in, lending labour and Ann purchased the plants and hosted a delicious morning tea. We're all looking forward to more of these types of working bees.

Barkers Creek

We returned to our usual haunt 'the picnic ground' at Barker Creeks. The group has been doing a lot of work here for over fifteen years with mixed success. The plants have struggled with competing with weeds and being eaten. The metal guards have paid off, though, with plants starting to take off.

One working bee we were part of the Buzz Pollinator project with Connecting Country who provided us with a mix of fifty locally indigenous shrub and understory plants to add to the area. The species were chosen to provide a range of different resources to insects.

Ballantinia Survey

Ballantinia antipoda was endemic to south-eastern Australia, being found



through parts of Victoria and Tasmania. Around the 1800s, it started disappearing and was presumed extinct for most of the 20th century until it was rediscovered at Mt Alexander in 1983. Repeated previous searches across the species' historic range have failed to locate *Ballantinia antipoda* at other sites, and so it is believed that the only surviving population of the species is on Mount Alexander.



In August we went to hunt for *Ballantinia* with Dr Aaron Grinter from DEECA. Members of the group used an online form to record the count, and made observations of the site including evidence of threats, such as disturbance by humans and animals. And we did find some!!

Moving forward

The group has maintained our numbers, but it would be great to have more new members. We're doing all the right things as a group though – build it and they will come!

We can celebrate that we have a strong and respected presence in Harcourt and across Mount Alexander Shire with our advocacy work on the Harcourt Biodiversity Audits. Our website is awesome and we're active on socials. We partnered with the Harcourt Valley Primary School for a working bee. We have a good working relationship with Mount Alexander Shire Council. Shared working bees with Barkers Creek Landcare have started up again. Also, we are kicking goals on our 5-year action plan.

Thanks everyone,

Terry Willis

Le Coq Door is open for Business

Le Coq Door offers a step back in time – somewhere in the sixties – plus a warm welcome.

On September 21, the business opened to the public. The wood fire was glowing and the restaurant was bustling with patrons coming and going. Groups of friends and families enjoyed the charcoal chicken, salads, ice creams and drinks on offer.

Patrons took the opportunity to relax and take in the retro décor, while some headed straight for the pool table for a game.

Le Coq Door is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to late and is located in the centre of Harcourt, opposite the petrol station.



Tim, Steve and Diane enjoyed their meal on the opening day.



Owners Andy and Tina Buchan were excited to be open at last and were busy overseeing the first day of business.



Service with a smile from Georgia and Alice.

The Graffiti Story Continues...

Recently, graffiti was discovered at the Harcourt Valley Community House. It was on an old notice board used when the railway station was operational. It has since been painted out.

The security cameras at the station picked up the offenders just after 9.00 pm on 30 August. The security provider for the Community House has now installed another camera, which

will operate in the area where the vandals gained access.

The same style of graffiti – blue scribbled paint – has now appeared on the sign above the railway bridge on the Castlemaine side.

Graffiti is a crime and the Graffiti Busters are on the job to clear away this damage as quickly as possible.



Snap
Send
Solve



Before and after the graffiti attack. Reminder to get the phone app Snap Send Solve ... and use it.

Summer Carpet Bowls

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Summer Competition will commence on Wednesday 6 November 2024 at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt. The games will start at 7.30 pm, but players are asked to arrive at 7.15 pm so teams can be sorted. New players' registration will be \$5.00 and under 17s \$2.50. Nightly charges are: adults \$5.00 per night and under 17s \$2.50, to cover insurances and hall hire. All players 8 years old and upwards are most welcome.

Winter Competition Finalised



New Breed Winners: Loretta, Narelle, John, Fay, Sushil; Absent Des.

The Grand Final game was played between New Breed (16) and Rebels (15), and it all came down to the second last end when teams were



Carpet Bowls members enjoying presentation night.

15 all and New Breed won by scoring the final shot. The Lions Premiership Shield was presented to the New Breed team of Narelle Jenkin, Sushil Code, Fay Hards and Loretta Rice (Captain) at our wind-up dinner held recently at the Five Flags Hotel.

Passing of Life Member

Life Member Miss Dorothy Jenkin passed away recently. Dot, as she was known, was Secretary from 1975 to 1985 – these positions are never for a short time, as I have discovered. Dot was awarded a Life Membership in 1983 for all she put into running the game of Carpet Bowls in Harcourt. Past members and some current members would remember the dinners when Dot was a very robust singer of 'For

they are Jolly Good Fellows' with three cheers at the end. Memories!

Life Membership Awarded



President John presenting Life Membership Certificate to Loretta.

President John Jenkin presented a Life Membership to Loretta Rice, the current secretary. Loretta has played the game of bowls for approximately 50 years having been 'roped into' playing the game on meeting the Rice family.

Contact John on 5474 2226 or Loretta on 5474 2453, or just come along on Wednesday nights during the playing season.

Harcourt Walking Group

Meet others in our community, get to know the local area, and greatly reduce your risk of chronic illness

Monday & Thursdays at 9.30 am
Meet at Harcourt ANAHall & Museum

A one hour walk followed by a cuppa and a chat

ALTERNATIVELY CREATED

BOWEN THERAPY

Carole Kernohan

Qualified practitioner since 2004

Relieve back pain, chronic fatigue, improve general wellbeing & more.

Suitable for all ages.

Homebased practice near centre of Taradale

Phone: 0407 372426

Covid restrictions apply
Member of BAA & BTAA

Di Selwood

0488 148 358
Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon



Harcourt CFA A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Put **Monday November 11** in your diary, as this is the date of this year's **Community Information Session (Fire Safety Essentials)** allocated to the Harcourt Fire Brigade. This year we will gather in the park just south of the playground and start at 7.00 pm. The session, which takes about one hour, will be conducted by a presenter from the CFA North West Region Community Safety Group and will provide information to assist you about how to be best prepared for the coming fire season. Spending just one hour of your time will teach you how to keep you, your family, pets and friends safe from fire.

We are fortunate in Harcourt to be allocated this session, as cutbacks in funding have led to some rationalising of these events and, therefore, your attendance will also give weight to having these events in the coming years.

Brigade Preparedness

Delivery of the new communication radios has commenced for our brigade with the station radio and portables being delivered and installed in September. Members have familiarised themselves with their operation and

features. Hopefully, the fit-out of the tankers will happen soon.

Training continues on a monthly basis and we will be brushing up on our hazardous trees identification and burnover drills, along with our regular training.

September Siren Scenarios

Our first turnout for the month was on September 1 when we were called to support Castlemaine as smoke was coming from the steam train storage shed in the Castlemaine railyards. This turned out to be a false alarm – the train crew was putting the steam train away for the day after its operation. The month was book-ended by turning out on the morning of the twenty-fifth to exactly the same location as the steam train was being prepared for the day's operation.

Our second callout, on September 2, was to a burning tree in Carrs Road, Barkers Creek. This resulted from the burn-off of a pile of vegetation which was reignited by strong winds.

This is a valuable lesson to ensure you monitor any burn-offs on the following days.

There was an additional support turnout to a vehicle accident on the

Calder Freeway at Elphinstone on August 30 which only required the Elphinstone brigade.

Seasonal Outlook

The Chief Officer's Seasonal Outlook is still indicating a hotter than average summer with increased fuel loads due to predicted spring rains. It is likely that fire restrictions will start earlier this year. Therefore, now is the time to start preparing if you have not already commenced.

Lithium Ion Batteries Warning

Lithium ion batteries continue to be an issue with starting house and shed fires. These batteries, which are used in electric bikes and scooters as well as cordless tools, are regularly determined to be the cause of fires, generally while being recharged.

Steps to reduce the risk include:

- ▶ Do not charge batteries overnight or while you are out.
- ▶ Remove batteries from the charger as soon as they are charged.
- ▶ Never charge a damaged or swollen battery.
- ▶ Install an interconnected smoke alarm near the charging area.

Tyrone Rice
Community Safety Coordinator

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



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

As you will be aware, we are currently in the Local Government Election period. While the election is in progress, Council still operates and while we will have our public Council meeting, there are rules around the decisions the current Council can make. Basically, no major decisions will be made that would adversely impact on the incoming Council.

In the next week or so the postal ballots will come out, and the cut off for receipt of the postal ballots is Friday November 1.

The election results are to be declared by Friday 15 November.

In order to be re-elected, I need your vote. I feel it is extremely important that we keep local people in local government. The role of Local Government is to make decisions that are in the best interest of our community.

Will candidates that are not local and are aligned with political parties serve us or their political masters?

We have had many successes with our Council and there is still more work to be done. My pledge to you is that, if re-elected, I will continue to serve our community to the best of my ability. I will endeavour to have an honest and accountable Council that seeks to raise all of our community up while ensuring all residents get a fair go. Thanks for your support over the journey.

A couple of weeks ago I represented Council at the Municipal Association of Victoria Conference. This was a great event with some great presentations.

On a local note, I bowled the first bowl at our bowling club to launch the clubs new season. I had two goes and put both in the gutter. It seems bowls is not my thing, but the fellowship of the club is fantastic. New members are always welcome.

Best regards to all, Tony

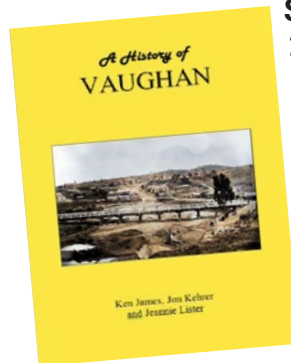
AG Cordy
0439 742 434

Written and authorised AG Cordy Harcourt
3453



Book Launch: A History of Vaughan

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



**Sunday 10 November 2024 at
2:00 pm
at Vaughan Springs
(if inclement weather, at the
Guildford Hall)**

**Full details are available in the
September and August issues
of *The Core*.**



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



Football and Netball Wrap Up Footy Finals



At the qualifying final on August 24, Trentham beat Harcourt Seniors football team by 30 points, with Trentham scoring 14.5 to 8.11. Clearly, the lack of accurate attempts at goal let Harcourt down but it still set them up for the second chance in the semi-final on September 1 when they recovered their determination, and beat Carisbrook Seniors 10.5 to 7.1.

Their run for the year was snuffed out when, in the preliminary final, Natte Bealiba outclassed the Harcourt team, which scored 8 goals 5 points against Natte Bealiba's score of 16 goals 14 points.

Seniors Grand Final Natte Bealiba v Trentham

Natte Bealiba and Trentham went through to the grand final with Natte Bealiba having an impressive win with a score of 20 goals 10 points to Trentham 7 goals 9 points.

Grand Final Success for Harcourt Reserves

The story was different for Harcourt's Reserves who swept through each level of the finals with three wins, beating Maldon Reserves, then Talbot Reserves and finished the season by coming out on top against Carisbrook Reserves on September 14 in a hard fought, low scoring game, with a score of 9 goals 7, to 4 goals 4. Harcourt's Michael Pilcher was awarded best on ground, finishing with two medals to his credit.



Netball Finals Series

With netball teams at every level in netball, Harcourt has strong representation in the league.

Harcourt's A-Grade team finished their season in Round 18 when they lost to Natte Bealiba A-Grade with Natte Bealiba scoring 64 to Harcourt's 21 goals.

In the semi-final on August 31, Harcourt B-Grade was knocked out by Maryborough Giants with 48 goals to Harcourt's 25.

On August 25, Harcourt C-Grade was frustrated by one goal in advancing to the next level of the finals, with Newstead beating Harcourt 27 to 26.

Having won against Carisbrook and Lexton in the qualifying and semi-finals, the Harcourt 17 & Under team had their winning streak stopped in the preliminary final against Maldon, losing 18 goals to Maldon's 38.

The 15 and under netball team had a dream run through the finals but sadly couldn't carry off the cup for the season, losing in the grand final to Natte Bealiba, 37 goals to 20.

Harcourt's 13 years and under, and 11 years and under teams finished their season in Round 18 having put in a great effort for the year.



Jess Chaplin, Netball coach, with Harcourt's C Grade netball team who were knocked out of their run to the finals by one goal.

ADVERTISEMENT

Lisa Chesters MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BENDIGO

☎ 5443 9055
🌐 lisachesters.org

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



Labor

PLUMBER

24 Hour Emergency Service

Bruce A. Rae
Covering all Aspects of Plumbing

Mobile: 0408 371 885 Email: brucerae3@bigpond.com

Harcourt Valley Community House

Program of Activities October & November 2024

(subject to change according to demand)

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
October
18**

Special Event

Harcourt Valley Community House

Seniors Lunch

It's Seniors Month and we would like to celebrate our seniors in style with a community lunch

**Arrive from 11:30 am to be seated and grab a cuppa
Lunch will be served from 12 noon**

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



**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2024**

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>	

Thursday 7 November	1st Thursday of the month
<p>Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) Jess is an early childhood teacher and music specialist. Offering the first 20 minutes tailored for babies & toddlers (under 3 years) @ \$5 per child and the second half hour (from 10 am) for children 3-5 year @ \$8. Caregivers with both under & over 3s can stay for both sessions @\$10 <i>A parent/caregiver must be in attendance with their child/children.</i> <i>Limited numbers, bookings are essential. Please phone Jess on 0401 834 457</i></p>	<p>Basic Mending (12:00pm – 2:00 pm) Do you know how to sew on a button, fix a simple repair or take up a pair of pants? Come along and learn how and bring your mending! A sewing machine will be available (to use under instruction, if needed). <i>Gold coin donation appreciated.</i></p>
Thursday 14 November	2nd Thursday of the month
<p>Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) Community Morning Tea (10:45 – noon)</p>	<p>Craft-a-noon (12:30pm – 2:30 pm)</p>
Thursday 21 November	3rd Thursday of the month
<p>Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am) Board/Card Games (10:45 am – 12:30).</p>	<p>Board/Card Games continues to 12:30 Community Chat (1– 2:30 pm)</p>
Thursday 28 November	4th Thursday of the month
<p>Music Time with Jess (9:30 – 10:30 am)</p>	<p>Community Lunch We hope to offer our first Community Lunch at HVCH subject to getting a working group going on October 24. Look out for confirmation in the November Core.</p>



Fundraising: Container Deposit Scheme

We have begun collecting bottles and cans with the 10c logo for refund which the Community House will exchange as part of the Container Deposit Scheme.

If you have a very large number of eligible bottles/cans, we have a volunteer who can pick them up, just email us on communityhouse@harcourtprogress.org.au to arrange this.

Join us at Harcourt Valley Community House for Activities in October and November

Our BIG event in October - Seniors Lunch – Friday 18 October.

Beginning on Thursday October 10 the Community House will be open for social catch-ups and activities like craft or gardening, and there’s always a cuppa available.

If you have a skill to share, bring us your idea for a class: these can include paid tutorials or classes for self-paced activities (no tutor/leader) and a minimum ‘gold coin’ donation.

Follow us on our Facebook page for any up-to-date changes or new one-off events www.facebook.com/HarcourtValleyCommunityHouse

Would you like a community meeting space for your group?

Do you need some space to meet? The Community House offers a well-resourced space for your group at minimum rates 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

when 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 include things like gardening, cleaning, photocopying, administration, helping with events, fundraising activities, etc. Please call Jeanette on 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.

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



Harcourt Uniting Church

For those with a good memory, you might recall me writing about the Blessing of the Animals in previous years. Recently, we were invited to bring our pets along to Church to be blessed by Reverend Sarah. Almost 800 years ago, St Francis of Assisi started this celebration in recognition of human / animal interdependence. St Francis believed that humans were only one of God's many creatures, and all were blessed in God's eyes. He was known as the Patron Saint of all animals, and he loved all creatures.



We had planned to begin the service outside, however it rained, which was a blessing in itself and most welcome. We had one very well behaved dog attending the service, while others brought along photos of their pets (even on their phones).

There were cats, dogs, budgies, wild birds, animals of our bush and even a miniature horse. This was the last in a series of services celebrating creation in all it's form. The beautiful flowers in the Church also reminded us of God's creation in our gardens.

We are excited to report that our



long-awaited extension to the rear of our Church has begun. When Mark the builder was demolishing the old section (known as the vestry) he discovered that there were no foundations in that section – not even in the chimney – and no historical artifacts either. The new extension will be accessible for all. It will have a meeting area, including a modern kitchenette, and, best of all, an inside toilet!

Once the extension is complete, we plan to sell the hall and the attached former preschool. The preschool section was built onto the Hall in the early 1950s after many



community fundraising events and a loan from the Methodist Church.

Here's a true story by Peter Sumner, who became blind at the age of 19 after an accident while whitewashing an old house in Macedon with lime in 1962. He went on to work for the Christian Foundation for the Blind along with his wife, Pearl, who was blind from birth. Both have had very active lives thanks to their amazing guide dogs. In his book, *I Like that*, he has collected many funny anecdotes, quotations, humour, wit and wisdom to be shared by all readers.

When Peter was travelling through Flinders Street Station, his guide dog would take him up the ramp, and then Peter would tell him to find the nearest open ticket barrier. One day, Peter was taking a blind friend to an appointment in the city and they were running a bit late. At the top of the ramp he said: 'All right boy, find the way.' With tail wagging eagerly, the dog set off at a brisk business-like pace with the friend clutching Peter's arm. They dodged through the crowds, luggage carts and news vendors and seemed to be going at breakneck speed. Finally, the friend gasped between breaths, 'Peter where on earth are we going?' 'I don't know, Graham, but relax, we're making good time!'

Jan Jenkin

Linda Newton



Boobook owl



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello there, everyone

It has been another busy month for

Harcourt CWA. A month of tears and chuckles.

Recently, along with many locals and Lyn's family and friends, we said a sad farewell to our Harcourt CWA friend and colleague, Lyn Rule, at Harcourt's ANA Hall. In a lovely photographic presentation, Mike Rule shared Lyn's life and achievements with us all. What a woman!

Later in the month, we farewelled another great friend of Harcourt and CWA: ninety-seven-year-old Margaret Cramond. She was a very faithful member and Margaret was sure to be at almost every special CWA event held in our Central Victoria Group, supporting the host club and their fundraising or fun activity.



Margaret's mother was a founding member at the Toowoomba CWA in Queensland, and Margaret grew up surrounded by all things CWA. With her banker husband being posted all over

the country, Margaret moved around a lot and always connected with the CWA in the area. Later in life, she settled in Castlemaine, joined CWA there and later joined the Newstead Branch (one of the sister clubs in our CWA Group). She became a CWA Life Member, a very prestigious award.

Margaret held many positions over the years and demonstrated to all that age was no barrier when it comes to service to a branch. She was a skilled craftswoman and became a head steward, then a handicrafts judge at CWA craft competitions. She is already greatly missed by us all. Vale, Margaret.

On a lighter note...

Every now and then, just for fun we at the Harcourt CWA let our hair down and do something a bit different. Recently, we had one of those days. A 'Day of All Things Woolly' led by Judi and Dani Kent. The photos here don't fully do justice to the silliness and fun that was had. Let's hear it from Judi:

Labelled *Pics and Giggles*, Judi writes...

'Our Craft Day in September was all about wool. At our place, we shear coloured sheep and have a great variety of colours, so making wool pictures seemed like a good idea. Armed with small photo frames, we set to work. Some simple animal shapes were provided to inspire the art. What followed was great fun as we developed our pictures and had much laughter. Teddy bears turned into frogs, birds flew away as wool was pulled, twisted and rolled to make the shapes. Fitting them back into the frames was an art in itself, but finally we had it sorted and our 'masterpieces' were ready for display.



A good time was obviously had by all



Woolly "masterpieces" on show

'Our Group President, Dani brought along her spinning wheels and although our secretary, Helen "had a go", it was found that rhythm is everything with driving these devices, and it is definitely harder than it looks...!'

Thanks, Judi and Dani.

That's all for this month. Next month, there'll be more choice chatting from Harcourt CWA but, in the meantime, if you'd like to join in the fun, meet women in your area and find out more about Harcourt CWA, just give our Secretary Helen a call on 0448 510 996.

Beverley Orgill, for Harcourt CWA

Word of the Month: Gallipolis & Gallipoli

Definition: . A Place name

About the Word

I've been reading some American history and came across this story: In the 1790s, a group of 500 French aristocrats, merchants and artisans were enticed to migrate to America to escape the violence of the French

Revolution and make a new start in a new country.

They arrived and soon found that they had been duped. The land titles they'd been sold in France were worthless. However, they struggled on for a while. The new town they established was called Gallipolis.

On reading this, I thought to myself:

Oh, so that's what the name means. That makes sense. But what's the connection between the Turkish Gallipoli and France? Turns out there is none.

Gallipoli has its origin in the Turkish word *Gelibolu* and comes to us via the Greek *Kallipolis* meaning 'beautiful city'.



Harcourt Bowling Club Bowling Season opens at Harcourt

Thanks to our Grounds Committee volunteers for their work at the club during the off-season to improve the gardens and grounds.

Season Opening/President's Day

Harcourt Bowling Club celebrated its combined Season Opening and President's Day on Sunday 14 September in glorious sunshine. President David Jeffries welcomed all and invited Councillor Tony Cordy to bowl the first bowl to mark the Opening. It was interesting to discover that Warren Street, which is where our club is situated, was named after a relative of Councillor Cordy; himself a long-time local.

Going by the laughter on the green, the ten teams of bowlers present enjoyed their three games of 6 ends. The winning team of the day was Judy Ewing, Russell Maltby and Iain McGibbon. Runners-up were Judi Miles, Joe Candy and Mark Swain.

All were treated to the usual sumptuous afternoon tea Harcourt is noted for.

Pennant

Harcourt will field Pennant teams in Midweek Divisions 2, 4 and 6 commencing on Monday 14 October. Midweek Pennant practice has commenced and is being held Thursday mornings from 9.30 am.

The Weekend Pennant Divisions 2, 4, 7 and 8 will commence on Saturday 26 October. Pennant practice is on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4.00 pm.

Grants Received

Harcourt was successful in being awarded three small grants in the past year which have been activated recently.

- Thanks to the Mount Alexander Shire Council grant for 'Everyone's a Bowler', we have purchased four sets of adult bowls and two junior bowls sets to assist in our Barefoot Bowls and other social bowls programs.
- Thanks to the State Government via The Hon Ros Spence MP, Minister for Sport, we received two grants:

- ▶ \$1,000 grant for upgrading and renewing our website, and
- ▶ A grant from the 'Change our Game Community Activation Program' to celebrate the role of women and girls in community sport and active recreation.

The Women in Leadership in Sport Workshop

On Monday 16 September, a very successful workshop was held at the club for Women in Leadership in Sport, conducted by Business Development and Membership Lead Institute of Community Directors Australia. Twenty-one ladies from Harcourt, Castlemaine and Campbells Creek bowling clubs and Harcourt Ladies' Netball Club attended the workshop. This was funded by the 'Change our Game...' grant described above.

Friday Social Meals

During winter the community aspect of the club was maintained by the monthly Friday members' dinners. President David is keen for this to continue, and members have been volunteering their culinary skills. It is hoped that meals will be available on the first Friday of each month.



Girls on the Green

Following the success of our March program, the club will again be running a four-week 'Girls on the Green' competition commencing on Wednesday 6 November starting at 5.30 pm for a 6.00 pm start.

Teams can be formed from your family, neighbours, local sports or community groups, or single entry.

Meet with other locals in a friendly atmosphere at the club.

Four consecutive Wednesday nights: 6, 13, 20 and 27 November at 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm start.

- ▶ No experience needed, novices can be guided by experienced club members
- ▶ Bowls provided, flat-soled shoes or barefoot on the green
- ▶ Nibbles provided, drinks at bar prices
- ▶ Prizes for the winning team after the four weeks are completed

- ▶ It is hoped that each team will play the four nights to ensure that all get a game
- ▶ Entry is \$10 per head per night
- ▶ Entries close at 4.00 pm on the night of play and should include the following:

Team name:

.....

Team members:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Enquiries and entries at the club, 2 Warren Street Harcourt
Or harcourtbowls@gmail.com
Or text Chris on 0417 341 814



Harcourt Heritage Centre

New use for a degraded environment

The Harcourt valley was surveyed in 1853 and parceled up for private development or, in some cases, for long-term public use. The mountain slopes, however, were neither surveyed nor utilised except for timber getting and grazing of livestock. It was not until the late 1860s that the colonial authorities attempted to control exploitation by proclaiming the mountain to be a State Forest. As unsold land, the mountain formed part of the Farmers' Common on which sheep and cattle could be grazed on payment of an annual licence fee. Overgrazing soon followed.

In 1907, an area on the western side of Liyanyanuk was set aside to be planted in radiata pine. The aim was twofold: To combat soil erosion, and to produce softwood to be milled to provide wood for cases for the local fruit industry.

In 1910, the first pine plantation of 20,000 trees was established. Enthusiastic reports in the *Mount Alexander Mail* described the striking effect of row upon row of pine trees, planted in straight, even order up hill and across the slopes. The initial plantings were cut out during World War II, starting a process of cutting and planting which continued until 2015.

Although regarded by many as an environmental weed, radiata pine will thrive in most inhospitable soil, is fairly wind-firm and provides good timber. Unfortunately, a monoculture such as a pine forest stifles native vegetation, is of no value to native animals and acidifies the soil to the point where replacement plantings will not thrive.

In the last quarter of the last century, the Mount Alexander pine plantation was sold to Hancock Victoria Plantations Ltd as part of the Victorian Government's program of privatisation. Hancock's lease of the Liyanyanuk plantation was to come to an end on 31 December 2014.

The community has every reason to be grateful that the end of Hancock's involvement came to be seen as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in a tourism development project. Without this vision the former plantation would remain as degraded public land. Members of the Harcourt Valley Landcare Group and local mountain bike clubs set the ball rolling. From this small beginning the project gathered momentum.

In 2013, Goldfields Tourism Inc. secured funding to scope the development of a world-standard mountain bike park on the site of the former plantation. The project fitted neatly within the State Government's *Victorian Cycle Tourism Action Plan 2011-2015*. Oh yes, there was a grand vision. But how to convert the vision into an on-ground reality? The answer to that question was to form a committee. It is a truism that committees consume hours

and produce minutes, but they also provide a forum for stakeholder discussions, authorise investigations, set deadlines and formulate action plans.

The Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Reference Group/Steering Committee was formed in 2014, comprising representatives of a daunting list of interested parties, to meet under the chairmanship of Peter Skilbeck of Goldfields Tourism Inc. The stakeholder groups were:-

- ▶ Dept of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and Parks Victoria,
- ▶ Mount Alexander Shire Council,
- ▶ Goldfields Tourism Incorporated,
- ▶ Dja Dja Wurring Aboriginal Corporation,
- ▶ Castlemaine Rocky Riders Mountain Bike Club,
- ▶ Bendigo Mountain Bike Club,
- ▶ Harcourt Progress Association,
- ▶ Harcourt Valley Landcare Group,
- ▶ Mount Alexander sustainability Group,
- ▶ Harcourt Pony Club,
- ▶ Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre,
- ▶ Hancock Plantations Victoria.

Included in the work of the committee was the commissioning and review of

- ▶ Cultural heritage management plan,
- ▶ Bushfire emergency management plan,
- ▶ Soils and water assessment,
- ▶ Threatened species management plan,
- ▶ Business plan.

Liaison with other stakeholders included

- ▶ North Central Catchment Management Authority,
- ▶ the Environment Protection Authority
- ▶ Heritage Vic,
- ▶ Parliamentary representatives.

Early documents considered by the committee included a scoping study which advocated the building of a state significant mountain bike facility. This new facility would complete the rehabilitation of the former pine plantation, which at that time was littered with pine tree stumps and decaying pine branches. It would also support the Goldfield Track as a spine for cycling tourism across the goldfields region.

This May 2014 study asserted that visitation would reach 100,000 people per year in five years, with flow-on benefits to the local economy (this prediction was derived from statistics recorded by a similar facility in the You Yangs). The committee also considered a May 2014 Master Plan prepared by World Trail Pty Ltd which discussed the suitability of the site terrain, soils and natural features. The Master Plan identified the maximum length of the trail network that the site could accommodate. Lastly, it calculated the flow-on benefits for Harcourt. World Trail Pty Ltd also put

together a project timeline detailing the steps involved:

- ▶ Developing the contract documentation for construction of the track network,
- ▶ Finalising the detailed track layout design,
- ▶ Community consultation,
- ▶ Permit application and issuance,
- ▶ Contractor tender evaluation,
- ▶ Construction of the trails and trail head.

This timeline was a great help to Goldfields Tourism Inc in seeking government funding to construct the park, as well as simplifying the task of monitoring progress.

By the end of 2015, the reference group had reports on the registered Aboriginal and other heritage sites in the vicinity of the mountain bike park. These reports add much to our understanding of the history of Liyanyanuk.

Community meetings were held in mid-2016 and February 2017 to address residents' concerns regarding traffic issues, emergency access, fire risk, environmental issues and ongoing management of the facility.

In the meantime, DEWLP assumed responsibility of funding the ongoing planning stage, with Russell Manning of DEWLP as the human face of the department. Eventually, in June 2017, in a press release headed 'Bike Park Wheels in Action', the Minister for Regional Development announced that mountain bike riders will have a new world-class trail network thanks to a funding commitment from the Victorian Government.

Dja Dja Wurring's Rodney Carter was prominent in the consultative and planning stages of the project, bringing helpful and inspiring traditional-owner design input for the infrastructure of what was to be known as La Larr Ba Gauwa (stones and mountain).

A contractor, Dirt Art Pty Ltd was appointed, and construction of the trails took place from Mid 2017, with much finessing of the turns and contours of the trails. The Mountain Bike Park was opened on 9 March 2018.

There is an old adage which says 'If you fail to plan you plan to fail.' This short-lived committee developed in-depth, comprehensive plans, plans and more plans which, in general, successfully became reality. Archives in the Harcourt Heritage Centre include the minutes of the Community Reference Group, as well as the multiple official reports. They make interesting reading and should inspire any who have a grand vision for the betterment of the community.

It was a mountainous task that lay before those who first conceived of the Mountain Bike Park. Complexities a-plenty were met and overcome by this Community Reference Group along the path to the development of Harcourt as today's thriving tourist destination.



Dhelkaya Health

Let's Talk about Falls – Harcourt Session October 17

Dhelkaya Health's Exercise Physiologist, Rebecca Dine, will be in Harcourt on October 17 to deliver a free presentation about preventing and managing falls.

All are welcome to attend and learn about this important topic. The doors of the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum will open at 10.30 am to allow the one-hour session to start at 11.00 am.

Falls are Australia's leading cause of injury, hospitalisation and death, representing 43% of injury hospitalisations and 42% of injury deaths. Falls requiring hospitalisation

occur more often in adults as they get older, and are most likely to occur in the home.

Rebecca will talk about how to prevent falls, and what to do if somebody has a fall. Bookings are not required, and all are welcome.

For more information, please call Dhelkaya Health and ask for Rebecca Dine on 5471 3568 or Jennifer Miko on 5479 1000.

Event details

What: Talk about managing and preventing falls

When: 11.00 am to 12 noon, Thursday October 17

Where: Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum

Cost: Free

Bookings No booking required – all welcome



Harcourt Lions

*-Serving the Community-
Marquees for hire*

Another month has gone by, and we are now in spring, and the community is coming alive with markets and spring weddings. The Harcourt Lions Club has marquees for hire locally.

We are also looking for community-minded people to come and join the local Lions Club so we can continue to serve our community helping where needed, either by raising funds to help local organisations or by service.

Harcourt District Lions Club meets on the third Thursday at the Victorian Miniature Railway (VMR) at 6.30 pm for a shared meal and a discussion time from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

To get involved, talk to a member at an event or phone Ray (president): 5474 2453

or make contact by writing to Harcourt District Lions Club, P.O. Box 100, Harcourt. 3453.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

Sunday 13 October at 2:30

Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt

*... All manner of thing shall be well
Julian of Norwich*



The Grandmother Tree
Photo: Ray Stevenson

**Songs and stories, and a surprise or two –
Fay White, a choir, Mannie and Thomasina,
Jean Shannon, Terry White, George Milford**

Afternoon Tea

Donations for Asylum Seekers Welcome Centre
Enquiries to solway@mmnet.com.au or 0410 799 297



Even the unkempt can be beautiful.

Harcourt Valley Vineyards Medal Sweep

Harcourt Valley Vineyards has cleaned up in the Melbourne International Wine Show. Submitting three wines and coming away with three medals and a trophy, their Sparkling Rosé was the highest scoring wine in its category and retails at just \$20 a bottle! Their Old Vine Shiraz won gold with a score of 94 points. Barbara's Shiraz picked up a bronze medal.

The win highlights the quality of the wines that are being produced in the Bendigo region. Bendigo is probably one of the last regions you would expect to win a trophy for Sparkling Rosé.

Winemaker Quinn Livingstone said he was 'very happy with the wine', and when his brother Kye asked him what wines to enter in the show, Quinn thought to enter the Sparkling Rosé as a wild card, certainly not expecting to take home the trophy! 'You don't often get a trophy-winning wine for \$20. It's outstanding value,' Kye added.



The Old Vine Shiraz scored 94 points. The Sparkling Rosé scored 95 points.

Lmct:10769

WRECKING ALL MAKES & MODELS

We buy most cars and utes
Free old car removal

5474 2432 **HARCOURTAUTO.COM**

Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

The Good Samaritan

'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest when he saw the man, passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have,'

Jesus told this parable to define for us who is our neighbour, and the answer is anybody in dire need, as this fellow was. Jesus then enjoined us to go and do likewise.

The Apostle Paul once wrote a letter wherein he described seven leadership gifts which Christians may possess. Of these the Good Samaritan displayed serving, encouraging, contributing to the needs of others, giving generously, leadership, and above all, else doing acts of mercy cheerfully.

That's six of the seven leadership gifts found within the one person. What a splendid example of selfless service and loving one's neighbour Jesus has given us in this parable.

I recently met some young Christians who were moved with compassion when they came across a homeless person. Their reaction was to buy them some food, and offer some comfort. As Jesus said, 'Go and do likewise.'

And tell them about the person who placed this love and compassion within your heart, Jesus Christ.

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

Having come out of a warmer than usual August, September began with a massive wind storm across the state, which fortunately did no great damage here, but thousands of Victorians were without power, and there were some huge tidal surges along the coast. There was memorable vision on the TV news of the Brighton bathing boxes rearing up out of the sand after the supporting sand was washed away.

Generally, the weather in September has been incredibly variable with few calm days. Wind was a feature here with lots of small debris falling from trees, while all around there were signs of spring with flowers coming into bloom and many little birds in the garden preparing their nests. The grape vine burst into bud on September 4.

On September 11 there was a wild storm in the centre of Castlemaine that brought heavy hail which caused some roof collapses. The hail combined with local flooding, which fortunately cleared away fairly quickly. While the weather app gave lightning warnings, here in Harcourt we received no rain at all.

On September 21, the weather bureau predicted soaking rains across the whole state; however, no recordable rain was measured here. Happily, on September 29, we received 14 mm of rain, the best fall for the month. The total rainfall was 24.5 mm over 5 days, bringing the total rainfall for 2024 to 398.5 mm. This shows the continuing dry trend for this year.

The farming areas of the state in the south-west and the north have been very dry and there are some doubts about the success of some crops which suffered frost as well. The bureau has reported that soil moisture is low. It certainly is very low here and we are ready to start irrigating our fruit trees and garden. The bureau is predicting a 50/50 chance of exceeding median rainfall in October in this region.

Reservoir Levels

Upper Coliban:	85.4%	as at September 23, 2024
Lauriston:	81.9%	"
Malmsbury	44.5%	"
Barkers Creek	44.4%	"

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology.

Robyn Miller



Harcourt Supported Playgroup

Are you looking for a fun, FREE playgroup to join with your preschool aged (0-5years) child?

Fridays 9:30am - 11:30am
Harcourt Uniting Church Hall
28 Buckley St, Harcourt

Morning tea provided. We'll enjoy play, craft, songs and stories together.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information contact Libby on 0436 804 583



Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD

Visit Bendigo's Most Awarded Winery

- Weddings, events and functions
- 2021 Brides Choice Awards winner

Open Sunday 12-4 pm or by appointment only

Bookings please call Marie on 0431 996 515

Harcourt Valley Vineyards

3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt, Vic 3453

P: 03 5474 2223



HARCOURT VALLEY
VINEYARDS

KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Hi everyone,

Learn how to grow fruit - join the Fruit Crew

Would you like to get some hands-on experience learning how to grow fruit with The Orchard Keepers Fruit Crew this season? Fruit Crew is our volunteering exchange program where you become part of a fun and active group, and get free organic fruit and daily lessons in exchange for helping us to grow this year's fruit crop (here's the link to find out more if you're interested: theorchardkeepers.com.au/volunteering).

We ran the program last year and our 'vollies' loved it, so we've decided to do it again. We were surprised by how much people enjoyed being part of a group doing meaningful, hands-on work together. The daily cakes made from absolutely delicious Goodness Flour cake mixes probably didn't hurt either! These days we run the orchard as a community-based enterprise, shifting towards a not-for-profit model. Small orchards like ours and the other few remaining in Harcourt are important because we are the only way you can access the amazing fruit grown in the Harcourt valley!

A promising season

How are you feeling about spring? The fruit season is looking really promising, and it's great that we've had a bit of rain. Depending on the variety, most of the flowers on your stone fruit trees should have fallen off by now to reveal tiny cute fruit.

If instead you're seeing shrivelled flowers that have stuck on the tree, deformed leaves, or possibly even some dead shoots, then you might have a case of fungal disease. Due to the rain in the early part of spring, there's still a bit of blossom blight (in apricots) and leaf curl (in peaches and nectarines) about. If you're seeing a lot of dead shoots in your trees, it's quite important to prune these out and get rid of them. It's easy to do this while you're thinning your fruit. The infected shoots can go into a hot compost pile, or you can burn them, or just pile them well away from your fruit trees and let them break down.

The main thing is to get infected wood away from your trees and the young fruit, because the same disease that causes blossom blight can also cause brown rot in your fruit later in the season. If we get any more rain in coming weeks, then a

spray of wettable sulphur before the rain event will help to prevent any spread of fungal disease. Removing any infected or fallen fruit will also help to control it.

It's also time to keep an eye out for aphids on your fruit trees. If you see them, also check whether there are ants in the tree. If there are, put a sticky barrier around the trunk to exclude the ants. The ants 'farm' and protect the aphids in exchange for eating the honeydew they produce. If you can keep the ants out of your trees, the many beneficial insects that love to eat aphids will come and clean them up for you. You can help the 'beneficials' to get ahead by pruning out aphid-infested bunches of leaves, or even by washing the aphids off the tree with a hose.

Good weeds

Meanwhile, the grass and weeds have started growing. A lot of people don't like weeds around their fruit trees because they can look messy, they can make it harder to work around your tree, and they can provide a 'ladder' into the tree for annoying, fruit-eating insects like earwigs. However, plants under your fruit trees (including weeds) are mainly beneficial. It turns out that the common idea that weeds compete with your fruit trees for water and nutrients is mostly just a myth (except for a few tall grasses like *paspalum*). The benefits of letting plants grow under your trees are huge, because your soil needs total ground cover all the time to stay cool and healthy.

The idea of letting the weeds grow under your fruit tree can be a challenge if you have the tidy gene! If you'd like to learn more about it, have a look at one of the master classes we ran with Dr Christine Jones, a globally respected soil scientist. She does an excellent job of explaining why understory plants under fruit trees bring so many benefits to the soil. Just head to the 'courses' tab on our growgreatfruit.com website and type Dr Jones into the search bar.

Mulch versus a living cover under your fruit trees

Most gardeners understand that bare soil is a bad idea because it can heat up (to at least 60C in summer), dry out quickly, lose carbon and go sterile. A lot of people think mulch is the ideal solution and, while mulch is better than bare soil, it's not as good as living plants. Did you know that plants are 5-30 times better at

building soil carbon than mulch? Living plants win!

If you do decide to mulch, be aware that it can be just as effective at stopping water soaking into the soil as preventing evaporation. It's also a great idea to put some compost or worm castings underneath your mulch before you lay it, to help kick start the biology in your soil. And a word of warning – don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed.

Living plants help to maintain the Natural Fertility System (NFS), which is how fruit trees (and all other plants) got their nutrition before we invented artificial fertilisers. It might be hard to believe, but leaving the weeds alone can actually help to feed your trees and hold more moisture in your soil.

Companion plants

If you don't like weeds – and most of us don't – aim to grow herbs, veggies and flowers as companion plants around your fruit trees instead. The more variety the better! Flowering plants also help to attract bees and other beneficial insects into your garden.

So, this month's job! Aim to improve the biodiversity in your garden by putting new plants under your fruit trees. If that feels too overwhelming, start small and aim to create a new bed under a single tree.

Can you tell we like weeds? For all but the very youngest fruit trees, we reckon the balance is firmly in favour of having 'living mulch' under your fruit trees. However, they still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are:

- 1 Mow or prune them to keep them short and growing strongly
- 2 Plant the things you want to grow there, like flowers, herbs, or vegetables, or
- 3 Use animals (geese, sheep, chooks, guinea pigs...) to manage them for you.

Happy spring!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and teach the Grow Great Fruit organic 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 one of their free online workshops.

Harcourt News/The Core is published monthly by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc
(ABN: 22 887 254 268)

For inclusion in *Harcourt News/The Core* contact the editor, Robyn Miller on news@harcourt.vic.au or 0467 670 271. Contributions of news items, articles, photos, stories, poems and letters are welcome, as are advertisements which help to cover production costs.

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

Circulation is 400 hard copies which can be obtained at the Harcourt Service Station, Harcourt Post Office, Harcourt Produce Store, The Little Red Apple, and various outlets in Castlemaine.

A full colour version of *Harcourt News/The Core* is available on the Harcourt Progress Association website and readers can receive a free copy by subscription at: harcourtprogress.org.au/news/sub *The Core* is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: harcourt.vic.au/news

The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the editor, nor of the committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

Harcourt News/The Core is a member of the CNAV, the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria.

Advertising rates			
Business Card Size (55x90mm)		Larger ads	
pre-paid for:		invoiced monthly	
3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

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

Castlemaine Community House
30 Templeton St
(enter via back door/garden)

2024
Oct 27
Nov 24

For Information phone Chris 5470 5508

First in first served, so be prepared to wait.

WE WILL TRY TO REPAIR ALMOST ANYTHING
CLOTHES - FURNITURE - ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
TOYS - BICYCLES - etc

You'll have a chance to join our fixers to learn how to repair your useful items - to take up some new skills and avoid throwing your items into landfill.



Castlemaine Repair Cafe



castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

SUDOKU Difficulty: Hard

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

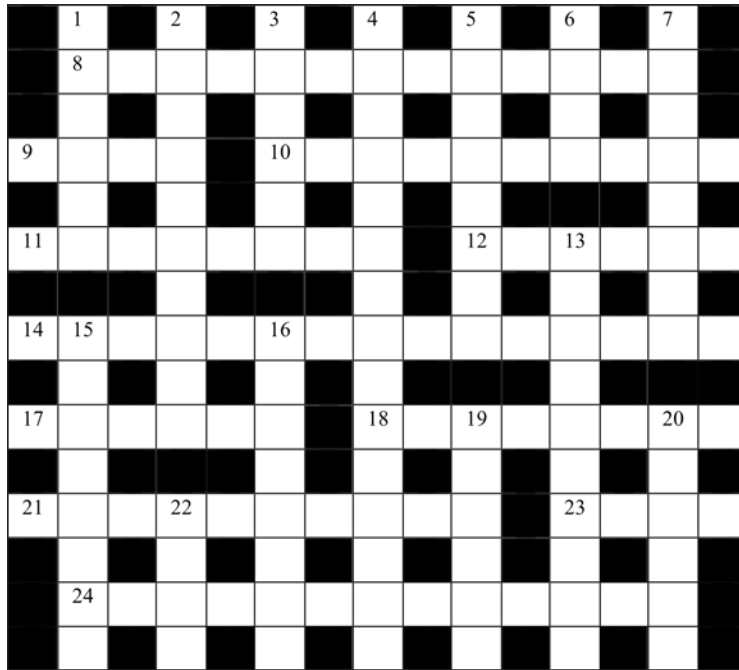
8				6				
	5	6	7				9	1
	4	9		1		7		
		8		4			6	2
7	6			9				
					5	9		
	1	5	4				8	
				7	1	2	5	

September Solution

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

October 2024 Xword

© McW May '15



Down:

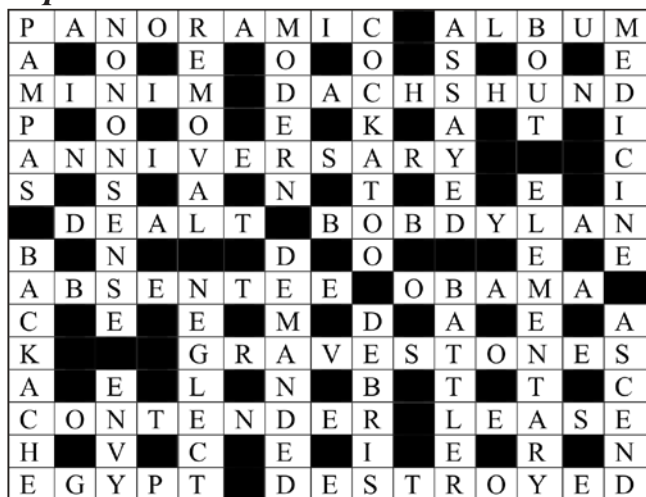
1. A toff, into the bargain! (2,4)
2. City to lasso the endless celluloid legend. (3,7)
3. After a freeway, a highway, an arterial road, a boulevard and an avenue, this is just the slightest one after the pond. (6)
4. Arterial sclerosis might mark this for some... (3,3,2,3,4)
5. One of Woolf's lovers and misc. components make for a positive approach to doing something about the state of things. (8)
6. Depressed county? (4)
7. It has me as I think 'tis pity... (2,1,5)
13. After a quiet interval, a broken cove and splashed spirit spell out nightly singing to the small. (10)
15. "You serious, Shylock?" (8)
16. Those who cite evidence for the dude's car. (Dud cares?) (8)
19. Much milder than 8ac remade. (4,2)
20. Set rat to puzzle the dead. (2,4)
22. Equine equivalents to momentary eye-closures? (4)

Across:

8. Contest shower of rocks for birds in exclamation... (5,3,5)
9. What unrestrained spanakopita is missing? (4)
10. I see loud and clear... (3,7)
11. Governor Bear blasted? (8)
12. Sick, one supposes. I shall pontificate on that! (1'2,3)
14. Sites of domestic explosions? (7,8)
17. Swore he was hexed... (6)
18. Spanish 'H' ending in 'O' might secrete himself here. (8, or 4-4)
21. Last three of 11 might lunch here. (6,4)
23. Nary a chance of a story in this form. (4)
24. Conceal the gems and return below clothes (13)

September 2024 Xword Solution

© McW May '15



Down:

1. All predicates are middle terms, [PaM] and all predicates are also subjects [PaS] in these treeless plains. [...and Aristotle wouldn't approve!]
2. Sensible, hard-headed version of Carroll left him sadly depleted...
3. Business with large trucks sounds fit to rub out gangster [AI]. (7)
- 4, 8. [Demonic, dire men] may have decried traditional cures, [but I recommended] in this day and age, at least scrutinising this.
5. Bird on the lookout for [two-up] tossers.
6. How Montaigne weighed things up? [Well?]
7. One of these would be near enough [a bout!] to a contest. (4)
8. see 4dn.
12. Primary school [a teeny realm].
15. [Check a BA] for type of pain.
16. [Maddened] indeed by how she asked so forcefully.
18. [110-leg] [C, ten, leg] [one...] cause of desuetude?
20. Poorly-paid abstainer [TT] in the hay-press is having a go...
21. After the king-tide, brisk removal of the mess in the middle would clear it.
22. Climb a departed email, by the sound of it... [Well? "a 'send'?! SORRY...]
24. Often seen vying for what the rich have, and the central motivation?

Across:

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

Council news



Do you have an emergency plan?

Mount Alexander Shire Disability Action Group is delivering a free service to help community members prepare for storms, floods, fires and other emergencies.

The Emergency Planning Assistance program means volunteers can meet you in your own home to give advice, answer questions and help you create a plan for emergencies.

The program is especially suitable for our community's most at-risk and vulnerable residents - those who face barriers accessing existing information, attending meetings and creating and implementing emergency plans.

Find out more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au - search for 'Emergency Planning Assistance'.

Affordable Housing Trust Advisory Committee

Congratulations and welcome to the six members of the Mount Alexander Affordable Housing Trust Advisory Committee: Delphine Laboureaux-Ormaney, Gary McClure, Jacqui Watt, Laura Keogh, Liam Wilkinson and Natasha Williams.

Learn more at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Nominate an amazing Aussie

Is there someone in your community who's made a positive difference to the lives of others?

Nominate them for an Australia Day Award before Monday 2 December.

Learn more at mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

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



ADVERTISEMENT

Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.
My office is still available for assistance, please
contact us on 5410 2444 or
maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au

Address: 16 Lockwood Road (PO Box 1238), Kangaroo Flat, Vic 3555

www.mareeedwards.com.au



SJK EXCAVATIONS Pty Ltd

Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks



Stuart King

Owner/Operator
sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au

Call Stuart for a free quote
0407 514 797

Equipment includes 5 ton, 8.5 ton & 14 ton excavators all with rubber tracks & tilt buckets, tipper truck & large tag trailer. Attachments for all excavators include rocker breakers, a grab (ideal for clean-ups), auger - several sizes. Posi track with laser grader blade attachment, (ideal for driveways, shed & house site cuts). We can provide all general earthworks including driveways, trenching, site cuts, land clean-ups & drainage works. ABN: 63708909386

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 PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member based organisation which encourages active participation and contribution and conducts regular public meetings to further a variety of goals and projects. Members are able to join working groups and standing committees and pursue specific areas of interest or initiate projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. Purposes are to:

1. Provide a voice for the residents of Harcourt.
2. Identify, support, facilitate or manage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community and increase social, economic and community inclusion.
3. Encourage, support, and facilitate volunteering within Harcourt.
4. Promote and protect the character and identity of Harcourt doing such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the purposes.

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners within a 20kms radius of the Harcourt Township, plus North Harcourt and South Ravenswood- some exceptions apply - do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the Board . Annual subscriptions fall due on July 1 each year. Any renewals or new memberships **paid in 2024 will be valid until 30 June 2025.**

-----✂-----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

Financial member: full fee \$20 Financial member: concession fee \$10 Non-financial member: no charge

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

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

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

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

I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.

Please indicate your 'Surname' and state 'Membership' when paying online.

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

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2024



EXPLORE.
ENGAGE.
EVOLVE.



Special Event

Friday October 18
Harcourt Valley Community House
Station Street Harcourt

Seniors Lunch

It's Seniors Month and we would like to celebrate our seniors in style with a community lunch

Arrive from 11:30 am to be seated and grab a cuppa
Lunch will be served from 12 noon

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

