

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 126 – May 2025

Produced by: Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: [harcourtprogress.org.au/news](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/news) or [harcourt.vic.au/news](http://harcourt.vic.au/news)



Use this QR code to read the full-colour issue of The Core online.

Harcourt resident Katherine Seppings is a seasoned photographer, who regularly captures local scenery. 'I take notice of the seasons and enjoy visiting sites around Harcourt to capture the changes in colours and light,' she said. As a professional photographer, Katherine has honed her skills over many years.

*Katherine's story is continued on page 2*

## CONTENTS

- HPA Update – 3
- Katherine Seppings, Photographer – 3
- Harcourt Lions Club – 4
- Councillor Comment – 4
- Poetry – 5
- Harcourt CFA – 5
- The Heritage Centre – 6
- Garden Soil Screening – 7
- Joseph Young Drive – 7
- Harcourt CWA – 9
- Harcourt Uniting Church – 9
- Sorry Day – 10
- Harcourt Valley Community House – 11
- Anzac Day in Harcourt – 11
- Dhelkaya Health – 12
- Preschool Open Day – 13
- Harcourt Carpet Bowls – 13
- Harcourt Valley Landcare – 14
- Harcourt Bowling Club – 15
- Music Didn't Lie – 16
- Linda Newton Art – 16
- My Home Network – 16
- HVPS – 17
- Grace Church – 18
- VMR – 18
- Weather & Water – 19
- The Alchemy of Gold – 19
- Gardening – 20
- Council News – 21
- Crossword – 22
- Sudoku – 23
- Repair Café – 23

## 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.



## Level Heading

Proofreading • Copy Editing • Book Layout

*memoirs, family history, oral history  
novels, short stories, anthologies, e-books  
negotiable prices*

Bernie Schultz

m: 0409 52 43 54

e: [bernsch@gmail.com](mailto:bernsch@gmail.com)  
w: [levelheading.com.au](http://levelheading.com.au)

**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](http://mainfm.net)

**94.9**  
**main**  
**FM**  
LISTEN LOCAL

## COMMUNITY DIARY

**Thursday May 8:** 7.00 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare get together at Le Coq Door.

**Wednesday May 14:** 9.30–11.00 am and 5.30–6.30 pm, Open Day Harcourt Valley Primary School.

**Thursday May 15:** 1.30 pm, guest author Robyn Howarth at the CWA Association Day at Harcourt Leisure Centre.

**Sunday May 18:** Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings – HPA fundraiser for Community House.

**Sunday May 25:** 10.00 am, Harcourt Valley Primary School combined working bee with Harcourt Valley Landcare.

**Thursday June 12:** 7.00 pm, Landcare Meeting, Harcourt Heritage Centre.

**Community House:** Open Wednesdays 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

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

**CFA:** Brigade meeting night is the third Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; siren is tested on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15 am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located at 56 High 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](mailto:pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au)

**Harcourt Bowls Club:** See page 15  
[www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au](http://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 on 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.



## Letters of Support Sought for operating Railway Station in Harcourt

The HPA met last week (29 April) and welcomed Ivan Gilbert to the Board as a co-opted member. Our Rules of Incorporation allow for co-option outside of the AGM election process when we recognise the skills and contribution that a community member can make to the Board. Ivan is such a person, as he has recently revived the quest to establish a railway stop in Harcourt.

He managed to reignite the enthusiasm for this project (which had been looked at by the HPA some years ago) with his passion and doggedness, and is the force behind the petition that over 800 people have signed! If you haven't signed the petition yet, you will find a copy at the local post office, the Community House and/or the Coolstore Café.

We are seeking letters of support to re-establish a railway stop on the east side of the existing platforms from individuals and community groups alike. If you feel passionate about this topic, please drop us a line and either post it to HPA, PO Box 135, Harcourt 3453; email to [chairpersonhpa@gmail.com](mailto:chairpersonhpa@gmail.com) or drop it in to the Community House on Wednesdays between 10 am and 12 noon (opening hours) or slip it under the door of the old Railway Station at 23 Station Street, Harcourt anytime.

## Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

In other HPA news, we are holding a sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Kangaroo Flat on Sunday **18 May** to raise funds for the HPA and the Harcourt Valley Community House (HVCH). Come along and grab a snag and a drink to support us.

The HPA has resumed the management of the HVCH, and we sincerely thank the previous HVCH Standing Committee for their work in developing governance documents to guide the operations of the HVCH.

## Whole of Town Garage Sale

We are in the early stages of planning a whole-of-town garage sale and car boot sale (in the grounds of the HV Community House). If you have any interest in participating in this event, would you kindly drop us an email to [chairpersonhpa@gmail.com](mailto:chairpersonhpa@gmail.com) and let us know your name and a contact phone number.

Cheers for now

Alison Curtis

Chairperson, Harcourt Progress Association

# Katherine Seppings, Photographer

Continued from front page

Katherine told *The Core*, "I began my career as a photographer in the late 70s. In the 80s, I provided photographs for publishers in Melbourne eg Thomas Nelson, Collins Dove, and the Catholic Education Office which published educational and trade books. Since young, I was concerned about buildings in Melbourne disappearing and as a member of the National Trust of Victoria photographic committee, spent time photographing many buildings which no longer exist. Nominated by photographer Athol Smith AM in 1980, in my early 20s I was the youngest person and the only female on the committee."

Katherine has been employed to produce many photographic collections in books and exhibitions. "In the early 2000s, I captured the built and natural environment of Castlemaine and district because I could see the changes happening, rapidly. The 2003 Castlemaine State Festival exhibition, 'Castlemaine at the Crossroads' was the result."

Books which Katherine has provided photos for include, *Heart of Victoria* (2004) and *Travellers Guide to the Goldfields* (2006), which contained 300 of her photographs, both published by Best Shot. These books are still available through Stonemans Bookroom and at the

Castlemaine Market Building.

Other examples of Katherine's work include photos for travellers' guides *Back Roads Australia* (2011) DK, Penguin, London – photos of the central Victorian goldfields and spa country. And hundreds of photos for Film Victoria to develop a locations library for future films.

"I have also worked for the City of Castlemaine and the Metcalfe Shire Councils, and the Mount Alexander Shire – I began the photo library of Castlemaine and district still used in newsletters. In the 1980s, Metcalfe Shire hired me to produce their newsletter. I did the lot! I was reporter, interviewer, photographer, graphic designer and publisher."

Katherine has a long running project which involves interviewing, photographing and recording a *History of Castlemaine Arts* (1960-1990). She said, "I have been especially focussed on this in the last three years, although I commenced working on the work in 2012. I feel I am getting closer to finishing now as I'm chasing details up and fact-checking."

*The Core* thanks Katherine for taking the time to discuss her work and for providing us with yet another photo for this issue. We wish her all the best in her inspiring and challenging task of recording the story of the arts in Castlemaine from the sixties to the nineties.

## I'm Reading ...

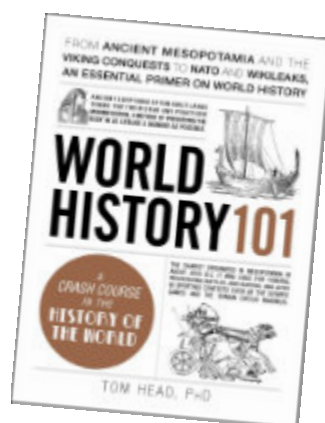
I used to read much more than I do now, even though I have more time on my hands now. However, I do get through a few books each year. One I'm reading at the moment gives a brief outline of the history of humanity. It's called *World History 101* by Tom Head. It has the nifty subtitle "A Crash Course in the History of the World".

Each short chapter outlines the crucial features of the time and place and people and their activities. Some of the chapters include Humanity before History, The Marsh Empires of Mesopotamia, The Empire of Alexander the Great, The Golden Age of the Mayans ... up to The United Nations and Human Rights and The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Union. Of course, the usual civilisations are all there: the Egyptians, the Romans and the Greeks.

There are also side notes that pick out one or two specific items of interest related to the period being discussed.

The book is factual, of course, with minimal opinions. If you're interested in history, but don't feel like wading through a weighty tome, this book could be of interest.

I have the ebook and it was on special at Kobo for only \$1.99. I've searched and found copies on Kindle for that same price, or \$30.00 as a hardback on Amazon. There are cheaper copies on Ebay.





## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Nice to see some rain, only 18mm here but very welcome. It has been a busy couple of weeks with Easter followed by Anzac Day. The Maldon Anzac Day procession was very well attended. The entry that took my fancy was the guy with a horse in the back of his ute. The steam traction engine was also impressive.

The Anzac service at Sutton Grange was well attended and it was great to see some familiar faces.

By mid-afternoon the rain was heavy, so a great decision was made to hold the Harcourt ceremony in ANA Hall. Our thoughts were with George as he was not able to make it. I can't remember this happening before so even though everything went like clockwork, we were all thinking of George and Josie.

As you will be aware the Council budget has been out for comment. We will hold a special meeting of Council to hear submissions from the public and then the budget will come to a regular Council meeting for adoption. A big thank you to Director Landy and the finance team, they have done a tremendous job putting together a very sound budget. As you will appreciate there is huge demand on Council for support and services. At the end of the day, we do our best to meet the needs of the community while operating within the rate cap.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the budget or any matters relating to Council.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy  
0439 742 434



## Harcourt Lions Club

### Visit of Lions District Governor Des Jones

The Harcourt Lions Club were happy to welcome the District Governor Des Jones and his wife Sue to our March meeting where we enjoyed dinner provided by the members. Des' home club is Sebastopol and District. Des' role of Governor for 2024 – 2025 covers the Lions Victorian Region V1-4.

We all congratulated Sue Nash, our secretary, on being presented with her 10-year Milestone Chevron Award pin for her years of service to Lions. Well done Sue! Des also presented to our club, through our President Ray, his Bannerette 'Ordinary People Working Together Achieving the Extraordinary'.

Des thanked the club members for the work they have been doing: 'Your Club, your Way. Set the bar high and achieve.' All good advice! Des said his project is Childhood Cancer due to losing his brother at age 10.

We spent two busy days serving at our barbecue at Muckleford Engine Club Rally. Thank you to all members involved – job well done. Until the next time!

**The next meeting will be 15 May 2025 at VMR at 6.30 pm for a shared meal and discussion at 7.30 pm.**

**Applications to join Harcourt District Lions Club: PO Box 100 Harcourt 3453.**




Lmct:10769


**WRECKING ALL MAKES & MODELS**

We buy most cars and utes

**Free** old car removal

**5474 2432** [HARCOURTAUTO.COM](http://HARCOURTAUTO.COM)





## Harcourt CFA

### End of Fire Danger Period – Consider when you burn off

Fire restrictions ended at 1.00 am on Tuesday 22 April for the Shire of Mount Alexander, Greater City of Bendigo and some of our neighbouring shires. This may have been a little premature due to no rain falling up to that point. It is fortunate that there was some rainfall on April 25 of around 20 mm, which has dampened the topsoil a little. It is important to assess the situation before conducting any burning off and also to ensure that you have the resources to manage your burn. It may be easier to wait until we have some more rain. Just as important is to register your burn. This can be done by calling FireCom burn-off notification on 1800 688 511.

### Brigade Activity: Eleven call outs in April

April has been busy for calls with a total of eleven for the month, starting with two calls on April 1, being a single vehicle accident with a small fire on the Bendigo direction on-ramp to the Calder Freeway. This was followed up with a support call to North Street Castlemaine to a smoking microwave oven. This was a new microwave in the home of an elderly lady who had overcooked a single serve pudding when reheating it. The microwave does not look so new now but, fortunately, there was no fire, only the smell of smoke throughout the house. If you have elderly parents living independently, it is important to ensure that they understand how to use new appliances and what to do if things go wrong.

On April 2, at 1:28 am we were called to Whitegum Road, Barkers Creek for a possible fire. No fire was found and, after discussions with the caller, it was determined that car headlights may have been the source of confusion.

On Saturday April 5, we had a triple callout day with the first being to assist in a rescue where an elderly man had fallen down an embankment on the side of the Calder Freeway at Faraday. He was airlifted by helicopter to Melbourne in a serious condition. Later on we were called to an illegal burn-off on Harmony Way, also at Faraday. We had a small break before being turned out to a column of smoke in the vicinity of the reservoir in North Harcourt. After investigation, it turned out that the cause was an incinerator.

At around 10.00 pm on April 20, we were paged to assist Castlemaine to assist a child stuck on the roof of the Castlemaine Secondary College. Once Castlemaine fire brigade was on the scene and assessed the situation, we were not required, so returned to the fire station.

On Thursday April 24, just after lunchtime, a call for support was issued for a strike team to go to Benloch for a burn-off that had got out of control. Our tanker 1 plus tankers from Taradale, Elphinstone and Chewton travelled to the Burke and Wills Track in Benloch to assist in the suppression of an 80 hectare fire involving open grasslands and forest before returning home later that night.

On Anzac Day we were paged to a registered burn at VMR, which was called in by a passer-by, as being out of control. We were informed by personnel conducting the burn that it was not out of the control, so the trucks remained in the station until later in the afternoon when we attended to an incident where a car had hit a house in Blakeley Road, Barkers Creek. One wall had some structural damage, but otherwise everything else was OK.

To finish off the month around 5.00 am on Saturday 26, we were called to support Castlemaine at an incident at the Ampol Service Station on Johnstone Street. There had been a break-in and reports that smoke was issuing from the building. There was no fire, so we were able to turn around and return to Harcourt.

As you can see from the above, we have had a mixed lot of callouts requiring different sets of skills and responses. Being prepared for any situation any hour of the day or night draws on our training skills and our membership depth, which we have been able to meet. The eleven calls are above our average, so please consider all activities you undertake involving potential or actual fire and take all precautions to reduce the risk. As we move towards winter, do take the time to do all the regular home safety checks and stay safe. Follow us on the brigade Facebook page for weekly safety messaging.

*Tyrone Rice  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

## Endangered Species

Oh, pity our poor mother Earth,  
Her family's grown too many.  
Although she tries to stretch the food,  
For some there isn't any.

She's getting hot and bothered,  
As she tries to quench their thirst,  
But each is so demanding;  
They all clamour to be first.

They mine oil, coal and gas  
Which hastens global warming;  
They think supply's unending;  
They will not heed her warning.

As her family expands,  
They cut the forests down;  
They barricade the rivers;  
Turn lush countryside to brown.

They kill insects, plants and animals,  
Fish seas and rivers dry,  
Then point accusing fingers,  
But never question why.

With food, water, space near gone,  
Earth's family eats the other;  
Very quickly they forget  
That each one is a brother.

No wonder our poor mother Earth  
Has post-natal depression;  
A loving and caring family  
Was her absolute obsession.

The only real answer,  
Argue against it if you will,  
Let's take our lovely mother Earth  
And put her on the pill.

*Melva Graham*





# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## Harcourt's last manual telephone exchange

Visitors to Harcourt Heritage Centre often linger over the telephone switchboard. Many are eager to tell stories of the days when the telephone exchange operator sat at the heart of communications in the community. Stories a-plenty swirl around the switchboard.

The householder went to the phone on the wall and asked for "Harcourt 149". At the local exchange, a telephonist put calls through (and could also choose not to do so). Telephonist language was "Sorry they're not answering" or "They're on another call, do you want to wait?" Sometimes the recipient of a call was advised "It's Mrs So-and-So, Do you want to take her call?"

At the exchange, incoming calls prompted the fall of a shutter. The telephonist made the connection by plugging the line into the socket of the number requested. When responding to calls, the operator needed her (or his) hands free to jot down the billing particulars or to write out each telegram. There were pigeonholes nearby with various items of stationery. Many telegrams were received each day at Harcourt, particularly advising fruit growers of prices their fruit had achieved on interstate markets. Many telegrams were phoned through by the operator.

Before the advent of direct-dialled long-distance calls, a subscriber would need to ask the local telephonist to contact the long-distance operator in order to place a call. Sometimes this involved a lengthy wait. Long-distance calls could be quite costly. Reverse-charged calls required more involvement of the operator.

When the restored exchange was first unveiled at the Heritage Centre, the late Mrs Betty Jones became quite emotional, recalling her girlhood when her father and mother operated Harcourt Post Office and Telephone Exchange. Betty told how the normal hours of operation were restricted to daylight hours. If a call came in at night, Betty's mother would get out of bed to make the connection.

This story prompted another local to describe phoning his girlfriend late at night. After fifteen minutes of small talk, the call was interrupted by the operator with the words, "Is that all you've got to talk about? I got out of bed to put you through – I thought it was an emergency." The call was then brought to an abrupt end as the operator disconnected the line.

One visitor to the Heritage Centre told of operating a similar switchboard at a Melbourne Hotel. One phone line seemed

to be extra busy. Eventually she realised that she was connecting the callers to an (illegal) SP Bookmaker. She said, "Later on, I ended up taking bets for the bookie."

Other reminiscences came from the Mallee, where party lines were in use. Subscribers did not have a number but were identified by the length and number of rings. The telephone would chatter and vibrate all day, but the householder became deaf to all other rings but their own.

Many believed that one particular lady listened to all the conversations on the party line. There is nothing as juicy as a bit of gossip in a small community. Unfortunately for the eavesdropper she had a chiming clock which was a telltale that she had been eavesdropping, so the caller asked her for her opinion on the topic that had just been discussed.

Harcourt Museum's switchboard was manufactured by British Ericsson and was originally installed at Cohuna. When Cohuna township was converted to automatic dialling, the exchange was relocated to Harcourt. Here it became the last in a bank of three exchanges. They were powered by mains electricity with back-up batteries. Harcourt Exchange was located at the back of the Harcourt Post Office.

As in many rural areas, subscribers knew their telephonist by name. Among the operators were Miss Molly Mitchell, Josie Hogarth, Mr and Mrs Heighway, Bill and Valerie Milford, Bill, Kate and Judy Quirk and Irene Bolitho.

The population of Harcourt was growing (as it still is) and installation of the added switchboard gave Harcourt 260 lines. The exchange was connected to a central exchange at Castlemaine. The switchboard was modified to install a dialler when Castlemaine was automated and was finally decom-missioned about 1970 when Harcourt was connected to an automatic exchange.

When the switchboard was first offered to Harcourt Heritage Centre, it was a discoloured, knocked-about piece of furniture retrieved from a shed. It was restored in 2004/2005 by the late Trevor Grant. Trevor, a former PMG technician, polished up the cabinet and replaced missing parts.

The Heritage Centre's manual telephone exchange must inevitably be compared with the mobile phone in the visitor's pocket. The switchboard was the means of connecting with 260 households in this locality. Communicating beyond Harcourt was a



labour-intensive business when this switchboard was in operation.

Nowadays, the mobile phone gives us contact with an unlimited number of people at the press of a few buttons. The switchboard from the former Harcourt telephone exchange is truly a museum piece.

**Harcourt Heritage Centre is open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm each Wednesday. Please drop in to see a very thought-provoking collection.**

## Family Connections

George's piece about the restored manual telephone exchange at the Heritage Centre sparked some discussion among members of the Quirk family who grew up in Harcourt.

As teenagers, three of the young Quirks worked shifts at the exchange, which was located in the post office behind the counter. Kate, Judy (deceased) and Bill, at various times, had the responsibility of operating the switchboard which included party lines, where others, including the telephonist could listen in. Kate said she thought the party lines were mainly for people who lived, 'over the mount'.

Bill said, 'I worked the night shift during the week from 10 pm to 7 am for a year when I was fourteen. To get to the exchange, I rode my brother's dragster bike with a transistor radio hanging off the back of the seat. Of course, I was sometimes tired the next day at school. I would track and record all the calls. Overseas calls were often done at night and were charged every three minutes. I had to interrupt the call to say, "3 minutes, are you extending?"' The family which owned Giannarelli's quarry would often call Italy in the middle of the night. There was a little fold-out couch-bed that I could pull out to sleep on, and there was a loud

*Continued next page ...*



## Family Connections continued

alarm to wake me. I used a small “glow in the dark” torch so I could find my way about. One night I was so startled and confused that I stumbled around and found myself at the back of the switchboard.

I helped with the postal delivery around Christmas time and learned how to sort and deliver the mail. That year the postie had holidays, so I cycled as far as Twyford Street to the north and Blackjack Road in the south. I wasn't paid much, but in that time I saved up enough to buy a bike for \$70.'

Kate took her turn at the switchboard at the weekends in her final years of secondary school. 'At the time, the \$14 an hour that I was paid for my seven-hour shift was a small fortune. I was so excited to be able to buy myself some fancy clothes with the money I earned. I worked the day shift; the post office family, the Glennisters did the weekend night shift. I must have turned eighteen while I was there because I can remember driving the family's Ford Anglia to the post office. I used my spare time to study and also read the Mills and Boon romantic novels that the post mistress left lying about. Our family's number on the board was 266 and I think there were 300 numbers in total. Dealing with the calls for the fire brigade was a big responsibility. Once there were two fires, virtually at the same time. I sent the fire brigade to the first fire, then I received the second call, and I can remember panicking because I couldn't contact the brigade. I can't recall how that incident was resolved, I just remember the extreme anxiety I felt.'

Well, as they say, 'those were the days.' It's a truism to say that telephone and other IT technology has changed our lives, and I hope readers find it interesting to have some first-person accounts from those who dealt with the early systems and equipment of telephony in Harcourt.

Robyn Miller



## Free garden soil screening

The state's environmental regulator, EPA Victoria, says many country gardeners are missing out on free soil screening project that's mapping soil conditions across the state.

EPA Victoria says that whilst 2,000 home gardeners have registered and sent in more than 5,000 soil samples so far, most have come from the metropolitan area.

Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist, Prof Mark Patrick Taylor says it's "a free service for home gardeners that does science and the environment a favour."

Gardeners need to register on the EPA Victoria website and send in three small soil samples to receive a scientific assessment of their soil condition and the trace elements it contains.

EPA scientists will add soil data to a study that is mapping soil condition across the state. So far, approximately 80% of the 5,800 individual samples screened have shown trace elements that are within recommended levels. EPA will provide a detailed report on your soil sample, and if the soil is not up to scratch will provide tips on ways to manage your garden.

"Any home gardener who sends in samples can have scientific results for the price of the postage and ensure your family is gardening in soil you can trust – we just need more country people to get involved," Prof Taylor said.

**Register or see more details on GardenSafe on the EPA Victoria website: [epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/get-involved/citizen-science-program/gardensafe](https://epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/get-involved/citizen-science-program/gardensafe)**

## Is it all downhill from here? 54 potholes and a million shadows...



Harcourt, we have a problem, or two problems, which really get under the skin of locals and visitors. The first is of course the ongoing dissatisfaction with the roundabout, which is the responsibility of VicRoads. The second is featured here in the article below.

The State Government has put oodles of money into enhancing tourism at the Mount. The Mountain Bike Park tracks have been rebuilt and the camping ground at the head of Picnic Gully has had major enhancements including an extra toilet block. Joseph Young Drive spans the north-south ridge of Mount Alexander. Last year the camping ground at the Faraday end of Joseph Young Drive had a makeover with a very attractive shelter and meeting place. Cycling, both mountain and road biking is extremely popular at the Mount.

Here's the problem, as described in the article below by John Ellis of Chewton Chat, who shared the article and photos of Joseph Young Drive with The Core. Joseph Young Drive is the responsibility of Mount Alexander Shire.

Contact our local councillor Tony Cordy if you are concerned about the condition of Joseph Young Drive. Tony can be reached on: 0439 742 434 and or register a complaint with the Council. You can report an issue about potholes by going to the Council website and search for: Report an Issue, scroll down and you will find a box on the left hand side entitled 'Potholes' and create a Customer Request. If enough people do this, we may get some movement from the Shire.

Joseph Young Drive, the windy road that gets one to and from the top of Leanganook (Mount Alexander) is crumbling away. For whatever reason, this road on the south side of Leanganook has many more potholes than the road to the top on the north side. And potholes mean danger, and more so for cyclists. And even more so for cyclists going downhill at speed. And even more so when cyclists going downhill at speed come across vehicles going uphill on that same road!

Where there are multiple potholes across the road, the risk is highest for a descending cyclist if cars are coming up the hill – there is nowhere to safely and rapidly manoeuvre around the multiple holes.

So, is it really all downhill from here?

Someone (a kind soul maybe?) has pointed out the dangers with a series of warnings. The signage on the road appears to be made so that cyclists riding uphill (presumably riding slowly up the steep climb allows time for reading) are warned to either exit from the top via the northern road, or to be especially careful if coming back down this southern one. Thanks kind soul. Maybe crashes will be avoided thanks to your initiative.

A short (30 second) video of a section of this road with the warning signs is at: <https://bit.ly/42Zd4vb> (this shortened link will take you to a Dropbox account where the video can be viewed by clicking on it).

# Recycling rigid plastic containers

Empty, rigid plastic containers from the kitchen, laundry and bathroom go in the mixed recycling bin.

Unless you have access to a dedicated soft plastic recycling service, place plastic bags, polystyrene (styrofoam), foam meat trays, take away coffee cups and other soft plastics (codes 3, 4, 6 & 7) in the rubbish bin.

\*Visit [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/My-Property/Waste-and-recycling](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/My-Property/Waste-and-recycling) for lid recycling programs



Sustainability  
Victoria



solar power | battery storage | insulation |  
heat pump hot water, heating and cooling |  
insulating blinds | ceiling fans | EV charging

49 Lyons Street, Newstead 3462 Tues to Sat from 10am  
t: 5472 4160 e: [energy@enviroshopnewstead.au](mailto:energy@enviroshopnewstead.au)  
[www.enviroshopnewstead.au](http://www.enviroshopnewstead.au)



## PLUMBER

*Bruce A. Rae*

**Covering all Aspects of Plumbing**

Mobile: 0408 371 885

Email: [brucerae3@bigpond.com](mailto:brucerae3@bigpond.com)





## Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello there, everyone.

Excitement is in the air as all the Harcourt CWA ladies (aka Chicks with Attitude) gear up for one of our biggest events of the year: the annual Association Day.

Last year, we featured Tracy and Robyn, florists extraordinaire from Zala Floristry in Castlemaine and the year before, we hosted the talented ladies from The Tea Dispensary, also in Castlemaine.

Every year, we aim to ask an impressive

woman to come and share her story.

This year will be very special: Faraday local, Robyn Howarth, will be our extra special guest speaker, and her wonderful story is not to be missed. We hope you and your friends can join us on **Thursday May 15 at 1.30 pm at the Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt**. See more details on the back page of this issue.

*Bye for now.*

*Beverley Orgill for Harcourt CWA*



## Harcourt Uniting Church

The Uniting Church in Australia is not only the 'bricks and mortar' we see in our church buildings, it also provides many other services for communities. One of my favourites is Frontier Services which offers kindness, hope, and practical and spiritual support for people living in remote parts of Australia.

I have written about Frontier Services in previous articles, however, with the recent severe floods in outback Queensland we are thinking of the families as they cope with inundation of homes and loss of sheep and cattle. Much of the work in supporting these families is done by Bush Chaplains who travel thousands of kilometres to visit families for a friendly chat over a cuppa, to lend a sympathetic ear, to help fix a fence as they talk or to assist families in accessing other services if appropriate.

One Chaplain described it as being 'the Australian way'.

In the daily newspapers, journalists interviewing a celebrity will ask: 'What's your favourite holiday destination?' or 'Where do you go for a night out?' or 'Which three people would you invite to have a meal with you?' In a recent edition of the Frontier Services magazine, several Bush Chaplains were quizzed about their daily work. Here are some of the questions and their answers:

### **What is something you always take with you when you go into outback areas?**

My bible, my sense of God's presence, my phone (which is also my camera), my notebook to write down any concerns needing follow up. And, for one Chaplain – my wife of course!

### **If you could take one luxury item with you what would it be?**

They all replied: 'definitely a good coffee machine!' One suggested an endless supply of chocolate muffins and Tim Tams. Another thought the latest caravan with all the mod cons would be nice. It would probably need to be a genuine 'off road' type to survive the rough roads.

### **What other things are important as you visit?**

'I like to take time because we have time out there to listen to the concerns of families. I've learnt to just listen. Families appreciate that we've made time to just be with their family.'

'I like to take small gifts to the families to let them know they are cared for.'

'I like to phone before I leave town in case they would like anything brought out to them. Can't pop down to the local shop!'

### **How do you build connections with people?**

A handshake, a yarn, a smile, sharing a meal, helping fix a fence while we chat, going for a walk or just being there. It's often not about what you say but the fact that you made the time to be there – that's the important thing. Celebrating a marriage, a baptism of a baby or a special family party can be most uplifting for everyone.

Bush Chaplains travel about 5,000kms a month and the work of Frontier Services is funded through fundraising and donations from churches as well as interested individuals.

On Easter Sunday we enjoyed having a larger than usual congregation celebrating that 'Christ is alive'. The hymn singing was great. Children enjoyed decorating the cross with flowers whilst the adults enjoyed morning tea in our new modern extension. This space includes a modern kitchen, lots of cupboard space, an indoor toilet, a lovely outdoor area, and allows us to move from in the Church, through the door into the new area. We thank our builder, Marc Roberts, for creating such a lovely building for us.

**The boss asked his employee: 'Do you believe in life after death?'**

**'Yes sir' replied the new recruit.**

**'Well that's fine then,' said the boss, 'because just after you left early yesterday morning to attend your grandmother's funeral she called in to see you!'**

*Jan Jenkin*



# VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to learn the ins and outs of desktop publishing for free, send an email to [news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au)

## Commemorating Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week

### Sorry Day Commemoration

When: 26 May, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm  
Where: Victory Park, Castlemaine

### National Reconciliation Week Launch

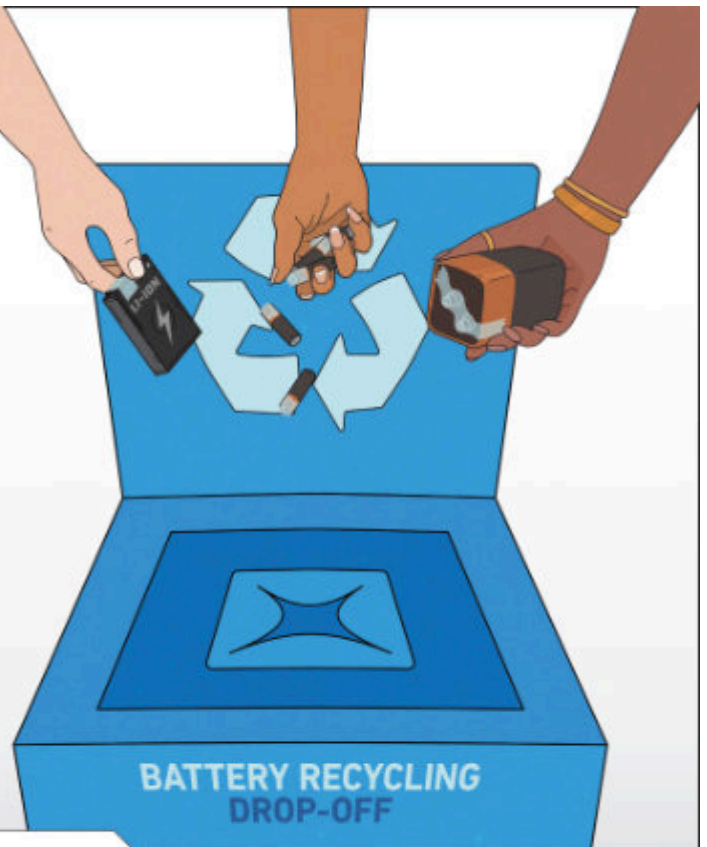
When: 27 May, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm  
Where: Market Building, Castlemaine



## Small acts make a big impact.

Take used batteries to the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations.

Disposal for recycling is free.



## KNIGHTMOVES

R n B - 4 Piece Band  
60s 70s 80s +

**BOOKINGS**  
Trev: 0421 957 168  
Tony: 0439 742 434  
Lou: 0416 146 417  
[knightmovesband@gmail.com](mailto:knightmovesband@gmail.com)

## 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 Community House

## New Open Hours: Wednesdays 10am to 12 noon



The H-Team at the Harcourt Valley Community House have had to change to Wednesdays due to our four volunteers' availability. Sorry for the chopping and changing but we have to go with what we have and found that Mondays (in term 1) obviously didn't suit community members anyway.

This is a time you can drop into the Community House, have a cuppa and chat to one of our volunteers and tell us what you would like to see happen here at YOUR local Community House. We would greatly value new volunteers who would like to join the operational team here at HVCH.

### Seeking Expression of Interest in Courses

We found that advertising a course or event wasn't working as we have had little or no take up of offerings last term. We understand; everyone is busy, our suggestions may not have interested you, the timing just wasn't right or perhaps our promotion of the event wasn't sharp enough!

We are now going to seek expressions of interest for courses or events. If an offering interests you, we request that you contact us and leave your name, phone (or email) and a list of times that suit you. It might be a weekday (other than Wednesday open day), evenings or weekends. What we

hope to do is match your availability with the tutor/presenter's availability and that of others. We will set a minimum number to make a course viable so sometimes it might take a while before we build up enough interest.

Once a course or event has been set, we will advertise it widely to hopefully attract others to attend.

## Seeking expressions of interest in...

### A Community Choir

Do you love to sing? Would you like to be in a community choir? Choir members would gather weekly or fortnightly (they would set the pace) and just sing, sing, sing!!! We need a minimum of 4-5 people to be able to start. We would seek a gold coin donation as a contribution to heating/cooling expenses.

### Basic Pet First Aid

Would you like to build your knowledge in basic pet first aid to care for your fur babies? Come to an informative session presented by local Vet, Dr. Rena Geroe. Handouts will be provided to participants. Cost will be \$15 per person or \$10 with concession with all

proceeds to HVCH (thank you Dr. Geroe for the generosity of your time).

### Games

Do you love to play board or card games? Register your interest and time preferences and we will see if we can match up others with similar interests. We would seek a gold coin donation...

If you are interested in any of the above mentioned courses, please drop us a line to [harcourtvalleych@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtvalleych@gmail.com), phone 4417 8742 (leave a message) or text Jeanette on 0438 579 987 with your name, contact details (phone or email) and note your time preference/s.

### Bottles and Cans Fundraiser

A huge thanks is extended to the community! We have now raised \$956.50 and our volunteer who manages this fundraiser has a garage full of cans and bottles just waiting to go to the depot and then we will hit the first \$1,000 target!

A big shout out and thanks to the three businesses in town that support us and save their eligible recycling for the HVCH. Thank you Annette from the General Store, Dave from Le Coq Door and Remy from the Coolstore Cafe.

Please keep them coming, this is our financial life-line!

Cheers for now,

*The H-Team  
(Ingrid, Jess, Rena & Jeanette)*

## Anzac Day at Harcourt

The rain came, but the Anzac ceremony went on; we used a different setting at the ANA Hall. The brightly lit museum and smell of cups of tea greeted the forty young and not-so-young to this annual event. Diana from the Heritage Museum led the proceedings assisted by Kershy McAinch who had the 'Last Post' and National Anthems at her fingertips. The fireplace was draped with the flag ready to receive the wreaths from the staff and students of the Harcourt Valley Primary School, the Castlemaine RSL and the Milford family in proud and abiding remembrance.

Anzac Day is a crucial day of national remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, honouring the service and sacrifice of all Australians and New Zealanders who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

It's also a day to reflect on the impact of war on individuals, families and communities, and to learn from the past to promote peace and understanding.

The impact of conflict is a very serious matter. To quote from a serviceman (Harry Whiteside) who was a member of the elite SAS and the Royal Australian Regiment in Vietnam: 'War takes a blender to standards and values...men come back and spend the rest of their lives trying to find out who they are...'

April 30, 2025 marks fifty years since the fall of Saigon and the end of the war between North and South Vietnam. Australian forces had left Vietnam in December 1972, but the war ground on until South Vietnam simply ran out of ammunition. Those who had been



*This photo was taken at the 2024 commemoration of Anzac Day.*

involved with the losing side suffered greatly. All-out war is not a matter to be taken lightly. We do not glorify war.

This year also marks the 80th Anniversary of the ending of WW2 and the 110th Anniversary of the beginning of WW1.

On this day we pay tribute of proud and grateful remembrance to those of our armed forces who died that we might live in peace. We remember too, those comrades who have passed on since; many whose lives were affected by their war service.

Let us never forget that we honour their memory best, not by ceremonial rites, but by promoting the rule of justice, of understanding, of goodwill – in

short, integrity and sanity.

On April 25 each year, we remember them all.

*Diana Cork  
George Milford*



### Programs & Services

#### Falls & Balance Service

With nearly one in three people over 65 experiencing at least one fall each year, fall prevention is critical.

Why? Because falls can lead to serious injuries, loss of independence, and a reduced quality of life.

Fall risks increase with age, and many falls result in injury or hospital stay. However, with the proper intervention, these risks can be significantly reduced.

Dhelkaya Health has a specialised outpatient Falls and Balance Program. It takes a comprehensive approach to preventing falls, offering one-on-one assessment and treatment, as well as a Better Balance Group.

Appointments are available at both our Castlemaine and Maldon campuses.

T. 5471 3575

### Opportunities

#### Birth Story Counselling

Have you recently welcomed a baby into your family? We invite you to take time for yourself in a safe, supportive environment to process your birthing journey.

This free service offers you space to:

- share your birth story
- process your feelings and emotions
- explore your early parenting experience
- connect with appropriate supports if needed.

Changes to mental health around birth are normal. Early conversation and support can make a significant difference in your wellbeing and parenting journey.

T: 5479 1000

### Groups

#### Older Persons' Support Groups

Our Older Persons' Support Groups offer welcoming spaces for people who may be socially isolated, managing health challenges or looking to try new activities in a supported environment.

Groups provide companionship and friendship, as well as a chance to stay active and engaged in the community. Taking part helps group members maintain independence for longer, while also providing valuable respite for carers in their lives.

To take part, you need to be aged 65+ or 50+ if Aboriginal or/and Torres Strait Islander. You must also be eligible for CHSP or HACC PYP.

T. 5471 3566

[dhelkayahealth.org.au](http://dhelkayahealth.org.au) | (03) 5471 3555

## Dhelkaya Health Memorial Service returns in person to honour loved ones

After four years as an online event only, Dhelkaya Health is very pleased to offer its annual Memorial Service of Reflections and Memories as an in-person service once again.

This inclusive, non-religious service will be held in the hospital auditorium on Cornish Street Castlemaine on Tuesday 27 May 2025. Arrive at 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start. The service will go for approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by light refreshments.

The service, which began in 2019, provides an avenue through which family members, friends, staff and the wider community can remember and give thanks for the lives of patients, residents and clients of Dhelkaya Health who died between 1 December 2023 and 30 November 2024.

Danni Moore and Kynan Sutherland, the pastoral care coordinators at Dhelkaya Health, will be conducting the service this year.

Ms Moore says 'We decided that after four years, it was important to hold this service as an in-person event once again. While it reached a wide audience as a filmed online service, we thought many people are weary of watching things online. Besides, there's

nothing quite like participating in an event such as this in person. We hope it can still reach as many people as possible and look forward to sharing this event with the community.'

Mr Sutherland says 'We really want to create a space for people to remember and give thanks to those they have lost. The first twelve months after a death can be very difficult, and we believe it's important to acknowledge the complexity and depth of people's grief. This is our way of

paying our respects to those who have been part of Dhelkaya Health and their families and friends.'

People are invited to bring a photo or other memento to the service. Memorial booklets will be available and qualified staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide support if desired.

Parking is available at the rear of the hospital but please be aware there is very little lighting in the Odgers Road car park or along Beddard Street.

For further information, please contact Danni and Kynan on 5471 3542 or email:

[pastoralcare@castlemainehealth.org.au](mailto:pastoralcare@castlemainehealth.org.au)



Danni Moore and Kynan Sutherland





**Harcourt Preschool**  
**OPEN DAY**

Monday May 12, 2.30pm - 3.30pm  
Cnr of Mills & Bingham Rd, Harcourt

Visit us where we learn, grow and play  
Meet our friendly teachers  
Experience our indoor and outdoor spaces

*Registrations are now open!*

Register online at [ykinders.org.au](http://ykinders.org.au) Enquiries: Please contact 4311 1500 or [earlyyears@ykinders.org.au](mailto:earlyyears@ykinders.org.au).

**Harcourt Preschool**  
p: (03) 4311 1596 w: [ykinders.org.au](http://ykinders.org.au)  
e: [harcourt@ykinders.org.au](mailto:harcourt@ykinders.org.au)



## Harcourt Carpet Bowls Winter Competition

**Commences: Wednesday 7 May 2025**

Arrive at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Road Harcourt  
(Heated in winter for your comfort).

Costs kept to a minimum: Registration \$5.00 – U/17 \$2.50  
Games night: \$5.00 per adult and U/17 \$2.50 per night.  
(Fees cover Hall Hire and Insurance)

Necessary equipment is supplied. You will learn as you play.

All interested in joining in – singles, couples and families,  
from 8 years old upwards – are most welcome.  
Season finishes in September with finals and breakup night.

### **Tournament Fundraiser for Legacy**

The fundraiser for Legacy will be held on Wednesday  
13 August 2025. All are welcome to join in for a fun  
night!

### **Summer Bowls Competition**

Our Summer Competition was finalised on 26 March with a  
short game of bowls followed by a supper supplied by the  
attending members, after which, Peter Henderson presented  
the winning team Alpha with the shield. Alpha team  
members were Narelle Jenkin, Colin Mierisch, Raymond Rice  
and Loretta Rice. Thank you to Peter for organising the  
Summer Competition draw.

### **Need to know more?**

Contact: John 5474 2226 or Loretta 5474 2453



**VICTORIA**  
State Government

**Made for  
more  
purpose**

At Victoria Police, you will enjoy a purposeful career making a real  
difference in your community. With more benefits including a  
generous starting salary, 9 weeks paid leave, and access to ongoing  
training and support. Start your career with Victoria Police today.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

SCAN ME



 **MADE  
FOR  
MORE**





## Harcourt Valley Landcare visits POHAG

For this month's working bee we decided we'd like to see what another Landcare group is up to and go on a walk instead of pulling out weeds all the time. The weeds only grow back any way!

Landcare groups tend to stick to their own patch. As Landcare isn't a sport, and there's no league table, we don't generally meet up with other Landcare groups. It's a shame that we don't more often because, as with all volunteer organisations, teams or clubs, there is a culture. A common thread and connection that links us. Ours is the wonder and joy we feel as nature teaches us.

And so, Post Office Hill Action Group (POHAG) generously offered to show us around their patch they've been managing for 20 years – which is the 22.6 hectare Post Office Hill public reserve in Chewton.

Joel Bloom and other members, lead us on a walk highlighting new plantings, marsupial watering system and different vegetation areas. We brought our pole camera to look in the nesting boxes.

As we walked we shared and learnt. Did you know that some ants move tiny dark rocks on top of their nests in winter to absorb heat? Then replace them with



*A POHAG member points out a raised watering bowl, suitable for phascogales and gliders and which ensures their safety from predators at ground level.*

lighter rocks to reflect heat in summer.

Another fantastic thing to see and learn about was the marsupial watering system they use to help Brush-tailed phascogales and Krefft's glider during summer. Picture a small bird bath or bowl of water strapped to a tree. It's a simple thing we can all do and means the phascogales and gliders can access



*The owllet nightjar spotted during the POHAG visit*

water away from ground predators.

The bird life really put on a show, with many of us seeing an Australian owllet-nightjar for the first time. The pole camera found most nesting boxes empty, but with evidence of usage.

A big thankyou to Post Office Hill Action Group for hosting us and sharing your love of nature.


Our next working bee on 25 May will be with Harcourt Valley Primary School. Come and join us to celebrate National Volunteer Work 19-25 May.




*Members of both groups enjoyed the morning tea.*



*Harcourt Valley Landcare member Sonny uses the pole camera to check a nesting box.*



**Property Plus**  
REAL ESTATE



**Di Selwood**

0488 148 358  
Harcourt – Castlemaine – Maldon

ADVERTISEMENT

**Lisa Chesters MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER  
FOR **BENDIGO**

5443 9055  
[lisachesters.org](http://lisachesters.org)

Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP  
16 Myers St, Bendigo



**Labor**





# Harcourt Bowling Club

As we come to the end of the official Bowling Season, with pennant finished, the club championships and special tournaments are held. These events need to be completed before Presentation Day and the Annual General Meeting on 18 May.

## Midweek Pennant Trophy

On Saturday 29 March a group representing the Harcourt Midweek Division 4 Grand Final winners attended the Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region presentation day. The five were delighted to accept the Plaque on behalf of all who played in the winning Grand Final.



## Grant Pairs Tournament

The re-run of the Grant Mixed (3 bowl) Pairs was held in glorious weather on Tuesday 2 April, which was a welcome change from the washout at the last attempt. This annual tournament is held in memory of Charlie and Freda Grant, foundation members of the club, with Grant family members continuing the tradition. To enable working bowlers to compete, the start was staggered, commencing at 2.00 pm, with the last game starting at 5.30 pm. All teams played 3 games of 8 ends amid much laughter and strong competition.

Two teams were 3 game winners and both with the same score – which called for a count-back. With a narrow lead, the winning team was Ken Tribe and Carrol Frost; Runners-up were Joe Candy and Sheila Oxley. The perpetual trophy was presented by current member John Grant. An enjoyable day of bowls was completed with a barbeque (photo below).



## Rice Memorial (Mixed) Two Bowl Triples

It was perfect weather for the Rice Family Triples on Saturday 12 April. Twelve teams competed over 3 games of 10 ends in the annual event held in memory of the Rice family. In welcoming the bowlers, event co-organiser Rod Harris noted the Rice family contribution to the development and history of the Harcourt Bowling Club, more recently Ben and Amy Rice have represented the family, with strong connections throughout the community and within the club.

Winners of the Day were the team of Libby Harris, Heather Braid and Brett Jenkinson; runners-up were John Kays, Diane Marsh and Barry Marsh; in third place were Tim Carr, Carrol Harris and Chris Anderson. The day was complete with the usual sumptuous afternoon tea.



## Ladies' Championship Pairs Final

Another perfect day on Sunday 13 April and the gallery of spectators were treated to some very good bowling in the final of the Ladies' Champion Pairs held over 15 ends. Contestants were Mary-Anne Doyle and Fran Corstorphan playing Frances Collins and Kay Francis. After many closely contested ends, the winning team was Mary-Anne Doyle and Fran Corstorphan. Congratulations to them all for a fine display of bowling (photo below).



## Men's Champion Pairs

The Men's Champion Pairs final has yet to be decided.

## Finals of Harcourt Ladies' 100-Up

The Ladies' 100-Up final between Judi Miles and Kathy Harding had not been played as we go to print. Kathy and Judi competed in the Singles Champion final

earlier in the season, which Kathy won. This final is expected to be hotly contested. Results will be in the June Core.

The Men's 100-Up was not contested this season.

## Special Birthday celebration

On Wednesday 3 April Harcourt lady bowlers gathered to celebrate the 80th birthday of Joy Starbuck over a luncheon. It has become a tradition to do this for special '0' birthdays and provides another opportunity to get together over a meal.

## WHAT'S ON

### AGM and Presentation Day: 18 May

In the past, the Club Presentation Night and dinner was held following the Rice Triples. This year, however, the presentations will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18 May. Commencing at 11.00 am, the AGM will include the presentation of the Annual Board Report, the audited financial statements and the election of board members. Club presentations will follow the AGM. A barbecue lunch will round off the end of a successful season.

ALL WELCOME!

### Friday Night Fortnightly Meals

The Fortnightly Friday social nights have been a huge success with Kayla and Ebony providing a different delicious, affordable meal on alternate weeks. It is expected that they could continue through the cooler months, although it will be dependent on numbers.

Check in at the club for dates and menu. Bookings need to be in by Wednesday.

**The weekly members draw** will now be held at the earlier time of 6.00 pm followed by raffle draws. These times will remain until daylight saving commences in October.

**Barefoot Bowls** alternate Friday evenings commenced on Friday 21 March. The numbers have been slow, but it will continue until the cold nights set in. The green will be open from 4.00 pm and available until dark. Cost \$5 for the game of bowls for non-club members. Social club membership is available for just \$20 for the remainder of the financial year. Snack food will be available to purchase e.g. BBQ sausage in bread, dim sims etc. Form your own team of 4, or join others at the club.

**Weekly Jackpot Bowls** will continue each Monday. Be there at 12.30 pm for a 1.00 pm start. Names are to be in at the club beforehand please. All welcome.

## Music Didn't Lie

The concert held on 27 April at Harcourt Uniting Church - a fundraiser for the Asylum Seekers Welcome Centre - was very well attended.

As Jimi Hendrix intended in his quote about music, it created harmony and cooperation.\*

A blissful afternoon beginning with baroque music and a version of the Teddy Bears' Picnic then ranged through stories, folk songs and Irish fiddle. The final item saw a return of Brasslemaine with some heart-warming numbers.

Thanks to the performers, many who are Harcourtians or with strong connections to Harcourt, the helpers with afternoon tea and the generous and appreciative audience.

*\*The original quote from Jimmi Hendrix: 'Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music.'*



Linda Newton



Local Skink

## My Home Network Community Forum



Residents are invited to a free community forum hosted by My Home Network (MHN) to hear the latest updates on local housing projects and initiatives aimed at addressing the region's housing crisis.

The forum will take place at Castlemaine Town Hall on Thursday 15 May, from 6.30 pm (for a 7.00 pm start) to 9.00 pm.

'The Mount Alexander Shire community values housing justice — ensuring more people have access to safe, sustainable, appropriate, secure and affordable homes that honour their connection to community,' said MHN spokesperson Ms Neilson.

'We're fortunate to have so many passionate, skilled locals working together on creative, out-of-the-box solutions to our housing challenges. These initiatives reflect a collaborative, integrated approach — from homelessness and tenants' rights, using existing housing better, developing new affordable housing models, and improving housing energy efficiency and climate resilience, which directly impacts wellbeing and cost of living.'

MHN also advocates for broader systemic change, including increased government investment in social housing, better legislative frameworks and policy changes.

'We've welcomed recent improvements in funding and legislation, particularly around vacant and secondary dwellings,' Ms Neilson said. 'But the need remains urgent — our Shire alone requires 600 additional social housing dwellings. We must also address underlying factors like stagnant wages and pensions, inequitable tax mechanisms, the lack of rental caps and the mismatch between housing supply and demand.'

The forum will feature updates from MHN Working Groups and local organisations on a range of current initiatives, including:

- ▶ Tenants' rights advocacy
- ▶ Homeshare Mount Alexander
- ▶ Unlocking vacant dwellings for affordable rentals
- ▶ Tiny Homes On Wheels
- ▶ WINC (Older Women in Co-Housing)
- ▶ Preparing homes for climate change impacts
- ▶ And more

Ms Neilson said one highlight will be an update on Homeshare Mount Alexander, a practical initiative enabled by MHN's community engagement and supported by Dhelkaya Health.

'Homeshare pairs householders who have a spare room with home-sharers in exchange for practical help and companionship,' she explained. 'It's a simple way to build social connection, improve wellbeing and make better use of existing housing.'

'Our housing crisis is deepening,' Ms Neilson said. 'Soaring rents, rising living costs and limited housing supply mean more and more people are just getting by. Housing is a basic human right — and we can do better.'

How to register

To attend the MHN Community Forum, please register using the link at: [dhelkayahealth.org.au/mhn-community-forum](https://dhelkayahealth.org.au/mhn-community-forum)

Or email: [cneilson@castlemainehealth.org.au](mailto:cneilson@castlemainehealth.org.au)

**My Home Network is auspiced by Dhelkaya Health and made up of passionate community members, people with lived experience of the housing crisis, and representatives from local housing initiatives, community groups and government organisations.**





# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## A busy term is under way

Term 2 commenced for students with a short week and included the school Anzac ceremony. Principal Andrew Blake said, 'We had a very positive start to term which included the Anzac ceremony, and we were very fortunate to have Glenn, Mrs Simpson's father, play the bugle. I was proud of the Grade 6s who spoke at our school service.' Grade 6 Captains also attended the Harcourt Anzac Day service on 25 April.



Mrs Turner's Prep/1s topped off a special Anzac Week by putting their maths skills to the test. They made Anzac Biscuits. The smell of the biscuits drifting through the school was heart-warming, their faces saying the same.



Mr Blake noted at the start of term, that he expected it to be very busy and said, 'Everyone will need to be on their toes to keep up with all the activities associated with the school.'

He said, 'Year 6 students are already weighing up their prospects for next year at Secondary School. These students had the opportunity to attend Castlemaine Secondary College Open Morning on Wednesday April 30.'

An exciting event for students was attending the dress rehearsal on May 1 of Mamma Mia at the Phee Broadway Hall, performed by students of Castlemaine Secondary College.

## Coming Events

Mr Blake said 'The Mothers' Day Breakfast, to be held on Thursday 8 May, is a great opportunity for students to treat their mother, grandmother or special person in their life to a lovely breakfast. Another very important day in May is our Open Day on Wednesday 14 May.'

The school community will have a working bee in the garden on Sunday 25 May and will be joined by Harcourt Valley Landcare.

## Harcourt Valley Primary School receives funding for a Creative Partnership with Glynis Angell

Art teacher, Kellie Maddaford and performer and dramaturge, Glynis Angell, have received a Creative Partnership Grant supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

'Shifting Perspectives' will be a multi-media project that aims to improve connectedness to school for our Year 4 students.

Occurring in Term 3, the project will explore ideas relating to perspective: starting from the self as a creative individual, extending outwards to peers and then moving further to site-specific places within the school.

Students will respond through drama and visual art media to provocations that elicit what creative skills they have, how being creative makes them feel, and finally how they see themselves as an artist. We will then shift perspectives to peers, what skills do they have, how can working together extend our practice as artists?

Our final shift in perspective is to that of the school space; exploring how spaces make us feel, the difference between space and place and how space can become place using creative expression.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the Year 4 students to not only expand their knowledge in the visual and performing arts, but to collaborate with and make deeper connections with others and their school.

## Harcourt Valley Primary School OPEN DAY 2025

We invite you all to come and visit our wonderful school and see what HVPS has to offer ... take a tour & meet our incredible staff and students.

### Wednesday May 14 2025

#### Morning Session

9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Morning Tea Provided

#### Evening Session

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
Light supper provided

Current families are invited to our open evening.  
Classrooms will be open with displays of the students' work.



### Grow Great Fruit

More than 50 Ways to Take the "Bad Luck" Out of Your Organic Fruit Growing

[growgreatfruit.com](http://growgreatfruit.com)

#### FREE WEBINARS

"5 Key Steps to Quick Success with Fruit Trees"

"Organic Pest & Disease Control for Fruit Trees"

READY FOR NEW SKILLS?

50+ short courses  
Grow Great Fruit home study program



## The Wait is Almost Over

At VMR, the earnest work of strong-willed members, volunteers, community partners and local contractors has been imperative in moving towards the finish line.

Club President Andrew Mierisch said, 'It is with great excitement that due to the unwavering motivation of the team at VMR, I can announce that this massive passion project is coming together.'

He affirmed that he is overwhelmed with the tireless work that everyone has contributed to get this project done. He said, 'It is especially heart-warming to be surrounded by the amazing strength of such a committed team. Once it is all complete everyone will be long overdue for a nice nap!'

Andrew said, 'In more exciting news, our signal box is finished and has been signed off. As well, the car park is nicely taking shape with the use of heritage pieces of railway irons from the Victorian Goldfields Railway. These

irons are being repurposed for parking bollards – nothing gets wasted here!'

Andrew simply cannot stop saying just how overwhelmed he is by the tenacious support and energy of all of VMR'S generous volunteers and its community partners.

And the good news continues: VMR plans to hold another open invitation day for locals soon. Andrew said, 'We hope to see your eager and supportive selves there!'


Photos:

**1.** The signal box is complete. Andrew told The Core that all trains will be controlled from this box, with electronic switching signals. He said, 'There will also be a replica set of the traditional switching levers.'

**2.** The car park bollards were sourced from the Victorian Goldfields Regional Railway.

**3.** The attractive landscaping below the station is just the start of beautifying the surrounds of the site.





**Symmetry Yoga**


Mat & Chair Yoga

WEDNESDAYS AT THE COOLSTORE

JOIN US IN A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT. SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS

0433823378

Book Here



WWW.SYMMETRYLIFE.COM.AU

COOLSTORE ROAD  
HARCOURT

## Grace Church

*This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.*

Jesus gave us the Parable of the Good Shepherd ... Jesus speaking ...

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

So Jesus again said to them, ...

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I come that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."

Here is the key to the parable .... Jesus is the good shepherd, and we, his followers, are his sheep. Jesus is the only way one may gain admittance to the Kingdom of God, the sheepfold. Jesus' followers know the sound of his voice, they are intimately acquainted with Him, and He knows and recognises each one of their voices. Jesus' followers follow his voice i.e. his commands. The term "thief" means the devil. Those who place their trust in Jesus are "saved." He is Saviour, protector and provider and the one who gives us abundant life both now and in the hereafter. Amen.

*Ps Roger Thurecht, Grace Church*

## Grace Church

**Service: 11.00am Sunday**  
**All Welcome**

**Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht**  
**0422 605 897**

[gracecastlemaine.org.au](http://gracecastlemaine.org.au)

**30 Buckley Street, Harcourt**



# The Alchemy of Gold



The arrival of the Gold Escort in Melbourne by William Strutt 1851

As part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival, **The Alchemy of Gold** will be a series of lectures, workshops and field visits which will take place in and around Castlemaine from **16 to 18 May 2025**

**The Alchemy of Gold** will be a special forum which brings together experts, historians and the community to explore how the discovery of gold in Victoria in the 1850s reshaped the colony.

From a fledgling colony, Victoria was transformed into an economic powerhouse with gold influencing not just the economy but also environmental, social and political landscapes.

*The Alchemy of Gold – The Golden Transformation of Victoria* event will offer an inspiring and thought-provoking program designed to illuminate the Victorian goldfields' rich gold history and its transformative impact on the colony. Engaging keynote presentations, panel discussions and field trips, led by renowned historians, cultural leaders and industry experts, will explore themes ranging from the legacy of the gold rush era to sustainable futures and regional development influenced by the goldfields' storied past.

The diverse line-up of eminent speakers will include local storytellers, researchers and innovators, each bringing unique perspectives to the conversation. Whether delving into historical insights, cultural evolution or community resilience, their expertise will captivate and inspire you.

You can visit **The Alchemy of Gold** website at: [thealchemyofgold.com.au](http://thealchemyofgold.com.au)



## Weather & Water

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) reported that: 'Victoria experienced its warmest April on record with the state area-averaged mean temperature 2.37°C above the 1961–1990 average'. Temperatures recorded here over the month were often in the mid to high 20s, nudging 30°. This, combined with low rainfall for the fourth month, indicates a worrying trend.

In April we received 22 mm of welcome rain on 25 April after a gap of 25 days. Including January, three months out of four this year have had only one day of rain. The cumulative total for the year is 92 mm. There are four years in my records (which go back to 2008) with lower falls – 2018: 75 mm, 2010: 70.5; 2008: 12 mm and 2009: 30 mm (the latter three years were during the millennium drought).

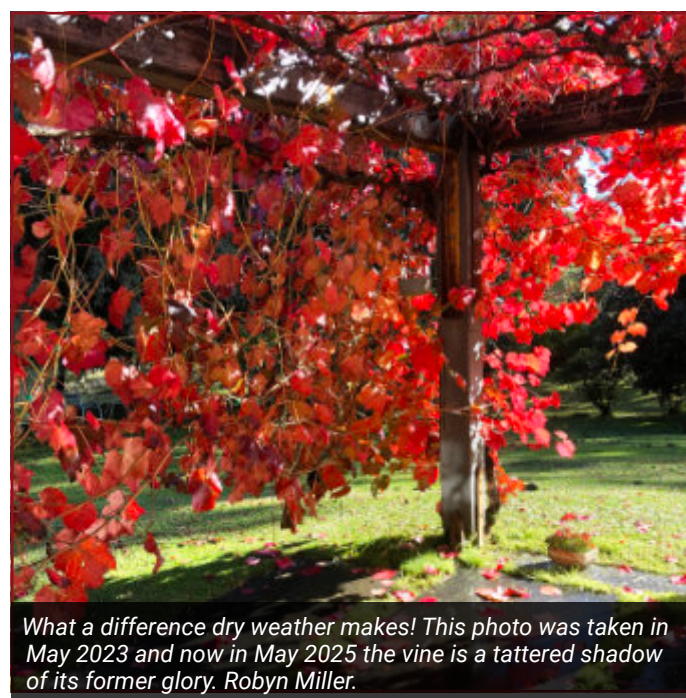
The outlook according to the BoM is a drier than average May across much of Australia. The BoM reports that soil moisture in Central Victoria is rated at 24% as at 3 May, with expectation of rain rated as average. Our small area of Victoria is encircled by country where lower than average falls of rain are expected. Locally, the BoM reports that the chance of exceeding average rainfall from May to July is 40–45%.

In terms of temperature in the months of May to July, the BoM expects that across most of Australia, above-average maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance). There is an 80% likelihood of temperatures being above average for the entire state of Victoria.

### Reservoir Levels

	6/5/25	25/3/25	16/2/25
Upper Coliban	56.4%	56.8%	64.3%
Lauriston	80.3%	83.2%	84.6%
Malmsbury	17.4%	18.7%	18.6%
Barkers Creek	31.3%	32.5%	33.7%

Data sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology and Coliban Water websites.



What a difference dry weather makes! This photo was taken in May 2023 and now in May 2025 the vine is a tattered shadow of its former glory. Robyn Miller.

**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



# KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

## Tips for Planting New Fruit Trees

Hi everyone

It is hard to believe, but it's already time to be thinking about which new fruit trees you want to plant this winter. And, yes, we're assuming everyone can squeeze another fruit tree in somewhere.

We encourage everyone in Harcourt to plant heritage apple varieties! We're trying to preserve as many old varieties as possible, before they completely disappear. This year we have lots of fabulous double (and even triple!) grafted apple trees, which means we've grafted multiple varieties onto the same tree—it's a great way to add diversity to your garden. Here's the link to see the full list and place an order: [openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/home](https://openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/home)

You'll be able to collect your trees from our Nursery Open Days on the last weekend of June and the first weekend of July (all the details are in the checkout section).

If you're not sure what to plant, start by reflecting on your crop this summer – did you pick as much fruit as you wanted from your garden? Did you buy fruit that you could have grown yourself? If you've got even a little bit of a green thumb and a bit of time to give your fruit trees, it's not that hard to harvest some fruit from your garden. And you can be sure that the fruit you grow yourself will be more delicious, healthier and cheaper than fruit you can buy in the shops.



### Soil preparation

It's too early to be planting yet, but if you are thinking of planting trees this winter it is ideal to do some soil preparation first. This helps to give your trees the best possible start in life. One of the best ways to improve your soil is to plant a winter-active green manure crop. Ideally, we'd wait for the autumn break before you plant seed, because without rainfall you'll need to water your crop for it to grow. It's raining as I'm writing this, so fingers crossed we get some follow up!

New research shows that best practice is to include at least five different plant families in the green manure, including grasses, cereals, brassicas, chenopods, and legumes. The choices are endless (and some plants fit into more than one category), so here are a few suggestions to inspire you:

- ▶ **Grasses:** Cocksfoot, Corn, Millet, Oats, Ryegrass, Sorghum, Wheat
- ▶ **Cereals/Pseudocereals/Seeds:** Buckwheat, Chia, Linseed, Sesame, Sunflower
- ▶ **Herbs/Vegetables/Flowers:** Cress, Dill, Endive, Kale, Purslane, Mizuna
- ▶ **Brassicas:** Mustard, Radish, Rocket, Turnip, Swede
- ▶ **Chenopods:** Amaranth, Beetroot, Fat Hen, Lamb's Quarters, Goosefoot, Quinoa
- ▶ **Legumes:** Alfalfa (lucerne), Broad bean, Butterfly pea, Clover, Fenugreek, Kidney beans, Lab lab bean, Medic, Mung bean, Peas, Soybean, Vetch

The rule of thumb is the more different types of seed the merrier. You can either buy an autumn green manure seed mix from a nursery, or buy the individual seeds to make up your own mix. Try to use organic, untreated seed if possible.

Go ahead and plant the seed wherever you intend to plant your fruit trees, but you need to do it ASAP. The best time to plant your new trees is when they're dormant, usually from late June right through until about mid-August. That means there should still be enough time to

get a green manure crop growing and tall enough to be fit for purpose, which is solely to add organic bulk and nutrients back into the soil. The longer the crop has to grow before it's turned in, the better. Once it's grown you can either dig the green manure into the soil (which is best), or just cut it down and leave it lying on the surface. If you're digging it in, you need to leave a gap of at least a couple of weeks before planting the trees, because the green manure can get quite hot as it breaks down.

If you don't have the time or capacity to plant a green manure crop, it doesn't matter at all! Don't let your lack of soil preparation stop you planting trees this year. You could add some well-made compost or aged manure when you plant the trees. If you can't manage that, it's much better to just plant trees into whatever soil you have and work on the soil improvement later, rather than miss another year of getting your future fruit supply started.

If you'd rather try growing your own trees from scratch than buying them from a nursery, then now is a great time to collect fresh apple, pear and quince seed. The seeds will produce large seedling rootstocks that are tough and resilient, and perfect for grafting your favourite variety on to. Once you've collected the seed, store it in damp sand over winter, ready to plant out next spring.

And finally this month, a little reminder that we offer free fruit fly resources in our online shop. To download a copy go to [growgreatfruit.com/online-courses](https://growgreatfruit.com/online-courses) and choose 'FREE STUFF' under Product Categories on the right hand side of the screen. It's up to all of us to become fruit fly experts!

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





# Council news

## Thanks for helping shape our shire

Thank you to everyone who provided input as part of our Community Vision and Council Plan consultation.

You told us what matters to you now and what you're thinking about for the future.

Your valuable input will shape the future of our shire, informing the development of a number of long-term Council strategies and priorities.

We gathered a record number of responses from community members following workshops, drop-in sessions and online survey submissions.

We'll be sharing the draft Council Plan soon and asking for your feedback.

Keep an eye on [shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

## Thank you, volunteers

A warm thank you to volunteers across the shire for your hard work and generosity.

National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the profound impact volunteers have on the lives of others.

Find out what volunteer opportunities are available at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Volunteer](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Volunteer).

## Stay in the loop on Council news

Are you interested in what events are on around the shire? What about sustainability updates, local business opportunities or arts news?

We have something for everyone! Sign up at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Connect-with-us](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Connect-with-us).

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

[mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://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](mailto:maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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

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



## 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](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au)

## SJK EXCAVATIONS Pty Ltd

Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Earthworks



**Stuart King**

Owner/Operator

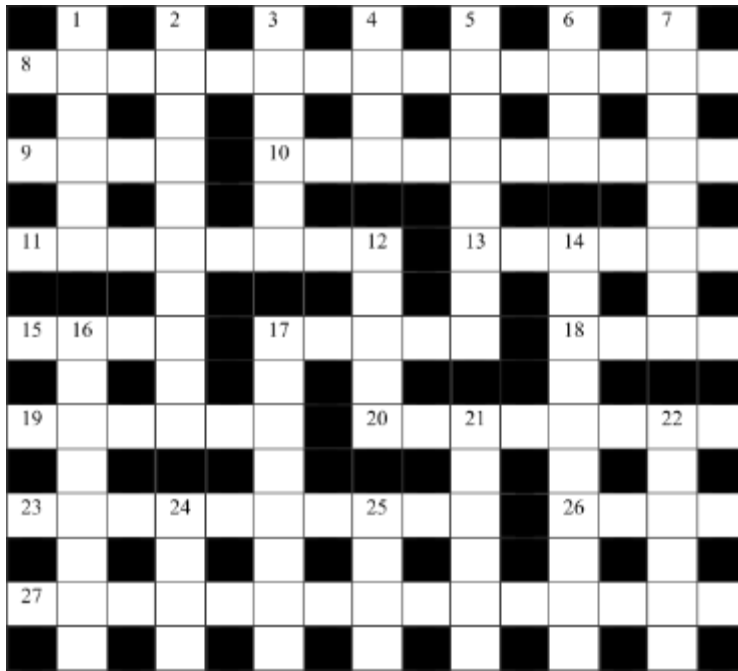
[sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sjkexcavations@yahoo.com.au)

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



Across clues share a (2020) theme with up to seven down clues; others are normal...

Across:

8. When these things seemed unimaginable? (1,6,5,3)
9. No place for it in this sore affliction. (4)
10. Love backflips in major centres at relative rates... (10)
11. They didn't get what they paid for. (8)
13. The holy grail to get us out? (6)
15. Solo-household of a writer could sound a bit middle-eastern... (1,3)
17. Notes of infection, you say? (5)
18. Porky roll-hunters? (4)

Down:

1. How little damage a backhanded sling or arrow might inflict if we're lucky? (6)
2. Look after workers and be part of the team fighting across... (10)
3. Novel century for hooves of the enemy. (6)
4. The PM, before all this? (4)
5. WWII groups of cherubs? (8)
6. Unfashionable meaning for camp? (4)
7. Morrison and Albo—what two small men are doing that is hopeful? (8)
12. Smear the mark off this sheet. (5)
14. We could hope that the drivers across perish thus... (2,3,5)
16. Sorry—no clue. It's a has-been! (8)
17. Piled up in Italy, Spain, and...? (8)
21. Fireys at abattoirs after 4? (6)
22. Last week, about the 16 in currency... (6)
24. Way the finder (Riley, perhaps) after it actually finds... (4)
25. Across Homeric stories... (4)
19. In your dreams—where I am and vice-versa... (6)
20. Back three what they wave in the US—rest Boris, but ineffectual... ('cos he's got it) (8)
23. Can't get past the first bit to see the kids if I'm her second husband and we're living apart... (4-6)
26. Something like it needs to be flattened with raised eyebrow... (4)
27. Current duration of paddle-less barbed-wire canoe-rower's fix? (3,3,4,5)

## April Xword Solution

© McW Sept '19



Across:

1. Each editor committed a fraud, [SCAM] and then shot through...
6. They say you can get to a Russian house by reindeer. [One of Santa's...]
9. A complete novice [L] with an AK-47 would make us jumpy anxious!
10. Helen Donath reads through the basic materials on dressmaking.
11. Oddly enough, we hear music from this group even now. [I'm guessing there is such a group.]
12. On these things, my sad perch is most insecure!
14. Boardrooms of banks and nesting sea-birds? [Well?]
16. Gets a Packard without the marketing tool to move it forward. [AdVance]
18. Chap reaps harvest of fauna with it...
20. Boot ties make adornments further up [Well?]
22. [So: ruin code] of manners with this behaviour.

Down:

1. It's the last straw when the Faithful lose conviction.
2. [Harpo] (AA), but very unreliable) used to have a home where the buffalo roam.
3. With a pith helmet on, I am up for a bit of wildlife spotting in North America. ["up" in a down clue]
4. It's an aid to rain, but a bit acidic. You'd need to ration aid efforts after it...
5. They split bills... [Well?]
6. You can derive lads from these tearaways.
7. Second half of the dance, [cha-cha] and the ear-to-ear expression on my rival's face causes me grief! [Well?]
8. Their failure to correctly weigh up the situation (6) [assess], because they missed one of four similar
13. Black Sea bathing pipes? [sorry]
15. [Clues in so] many of these crosswords need to be constructed in private...
17. Held in sacred memory of building [Shrine] on St Kilda road in the end.
19. To confirm it's legit., sign at the end, or see the teller. [Well?]
21. How digger earmarked things? [Well?]
22. Find [AKA] 'anvil' in customary fashion. (Helps to hear...)
23. [Eric] Idle, with first and second swapped and a tyro on board, ends up as the remains of former glory.
25. Drummer could get a short class in Truth, or the Greek, perhaps. [Well? 3 defs!]
24. Likely to be 22. If he were frank first he might have the talent to get away with it [flair]
26. Universal panacea had its Century of allure, and is still held out for by some. (4-3)
27. Fashionable ["In"] being in contradictory act?
28. Stevo [wrong spelling of George Stephenson] and his mates were into it. (5)
29. What Sherlock did to deduce the last solution? [Well?]



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://harcourtprogress.org.au/news/sub) The *Core* is also available at the Harcourt Community website at: [harcourt.vic.au/news](http://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) pre-paid for:		Larger ads invoiced monthly	
3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
12 months	\$110	1/3 page	\$70
		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)

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](http://castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com)

**2025**  
May 25  
Jun 29  
Jul 27  
Aug 31  
Sep 28  
Oct 26  
Nov 30





### April Solution

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

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Moderate

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

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

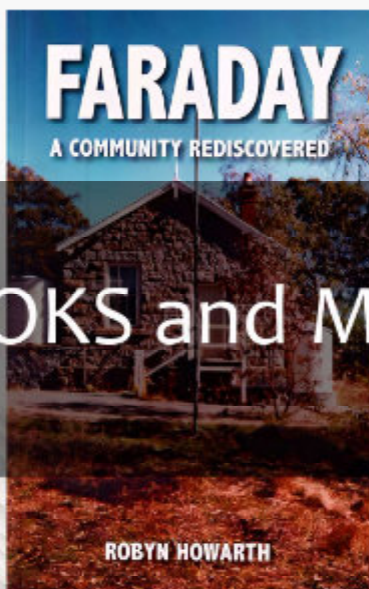


Country Womens Association of Victoria  
Harcourt Branch

# ASSOCIATION DAY

Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt

Thursday 15 May 2025 1:30 PM



## BOOKS, BOOKS and MORE BOOKS

Guest speaker: Robyn Howarth, author of "Faraday: A Community Rediscovered"

Robyn was a pupil at Faraday State School in 1972, when she and other pupils and their teacher were kidnapped.

She is also the daughter of Iris Howarth, a late member of Harcourt CWA Branch.

Come along and hear her story.

Also - A display of books as you have never seen them!

Trading Table

Lucky Door Prize

Delicious Afternoon Tea

Entry - \$15

RSVP: Helen Hand 0448 510 996 by 8th May