

Harcourt Locals Shine

Full Story Page 3



Jarrod Coote – Hillside Acres



**Ashlee Colquhoun –
Farmer Wants a Wife**



Beau Cook – Master Chef



Brian Nunn – "Bunnings Legend of the Tongs"



**Quinn Livingstone and family
Winter Solstice at the Winery**

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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish online by the 6th of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 24th of the month prior. Advertisers and community groups will be sent reminder emails. There is no edition in January.



Di Selwood

0488 148 358
Harcourt – Castlemaine – Maldon



COMMUNITY DIARY

Friday July 18: 6.00 pm Social Night at the Bowlo; delicious affordable meal served at 6.30 pm, book by the previous Wednesday, call Kayla on 0418 363 666.

Sunday July 20: 1.30 pm George Milford will present his recent address to the "Alchemy of Gold" conference: The Thompson's Foundry Story. Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street Harcourt.

Saturday August 2: Trivia Night at the Bowls Club – see back page for all the information.

Wednesday August 13: 7.15 pm, Carpet Bowls Legacy Tournament, Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt

Sunday August 17: Professor Barry Golding at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street Harcourt. See page 21 for details.

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

Community House: See page 12 for July activities. Open each Wednesday from 10 am until 2 pm, closed in school holidays.

CWA: First Thursday of the month, 1.30 pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Grace Church: Tuesdays at 10.30 am – Morning tea and prayers; Sunday Service at 11.00 am; 30 Buckley Street, Harcourt. Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm – Zoom Bible Study: A Christian discipleship course covering the basics of the faith. All welcome, you can commence at any time. Please contact the Pastor for a link: pastor@gracecastlemaine.org.au

Harcourt Bowls Club: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

Harcourt Lions Club: Third Monday 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.

Repair Café: Last Sunday of the month from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. See ad on page 23 for more information.

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.

Harcourt Locals Shine



Jarrod Coote

Jarrod Coote and Rebecca Edwards are well known in Harcourt and Castlemaine for the products from their paddock to plate farm, Hillside Acres. In June, the farm was featured in the *Weekly Times*. Jarrod said, "We established the farm in 2015 with the aim of growing our meat ethically and sustainably. We sell our products at the Wednesday Farmers Market and the monthly Farmers Market, both in Castlemaine. Currently our lamb meat is being featured at Shed Shaker Brewery at The Mill in Castlemaine."



Beau Cook

Beau recently appeared for the second time on MasterChef and is shown here in discussion with MasterChef judge Jean Christophe during filming. He told *The Core* that the experience was very different this time around. "It was good fun and it was my proudest moment when I won the dish of the day called 'Home among the Gum Trees' which was a tribute to the ANZACs. I also write recipes four times a year for the Bendigo Magazine." Beau's day job is as a professional firefighter. He said, "I was drawn to the job because I see it as a way of giving back." Photo provided by MasterChef.



Ashlee Colquhoun

Ashlee was selected for Farmer Wants a Wife and competed for the love of a Queenslander who farmed sheep and hemp. She said, "I was at the farm for about a month. The show organised everything. We flew to the Hunter Valley first and when the group of girls was picked to go to the farm we flew together. For me, the show finished early, but I embraced the experience and I learnt that I am a resilient person and I can get through anything! Not many people get opportunities like this."

Photo provided by the *Castlemaine Mail*.



Quinn Livingstone and Family

Quinn Livingstone, winemaker, with family: Marie, Emmett and Leo warm up prior to the Winter Solstice event recently held at the Harcourt Valley Vineyard. Marie told *The Core*, "The event was bigger than expected. It was a very successful night with about 300 people enjoying the food and wine, music from the band M79 and, of course, the massive bonfire."

Photo provided by the *Castlemaine Mail*.



Brian Nunn

Brian (centre) was awarded 'Bunnings Legend of the Tongs' after being nominated for his tireless volunteering at the football/netball club for thirty years. This photo from the front page of the *Castlemaine Mail* shows Brian in his element, at the club. Brian is a quiet achiever who has made a huge contribution to the football club and other volunteer organisations in Harcourt. He said, "I have really enjoyed my time as a volunteer. It gives you a sense of belonging to something and being part of the community." Brian is in the running for a trip for two to attend the Toyota AFL Grand Final, as well as the opportunity to be named 'Legend of the Golden Tongs' and also to win \$25,000 in Bunnings products and materials for the club.

Photo and some text from the *Castlemaine Mail*.

Winter Clean-up

If you're planning a clean-it-up-and-chuck-it-out project as we go into winter, EPA Victoria has some handy hints to make it a satisfying result.

EPA Interim Chief Executive Officer Joss Crawford says the EPA website has useful tips to protect the environment and prevent your jobs from turning into a headache.

"A little knowledge can equip you to avoid the traps of sending waste to the wrong place and turning it into a pollution problem that will come back to get you," Ms Crawford said.

"Everyone has an environmental duty in Victoria. There are pathways for disposal of things like old paint or chemicals, or asbestos that work much better than trying to hide it at the bottom of the bin. You just have to know what to do," she said.

"Victoria's Environment Protection Act includes a General Environmental Duty, that makes it everyone's responsibility to take reasonable action to prevent pollution, so a little homework on the EPA website before you start can make life a lot easier."

Hiring a skip? Choose a respectable company, ask to see the receipts that show they take waste to a licensed landfill or recycling facility, and beware of suspiciously low prices that might mean your waste will be dumped illegally in the bush, a park or a creek.

If you suspect there's asbestos there are simple rules that let you deal with small amounts yourself, and above those amounts it's just a matter of hiring a licensed asbestos removalist.

What about old paint and household chemicals? There are drop-off points and household detox events to allow you to dispose of those without them just becoming contamination.

Check the EPA website before you start, and do your bit to prevent harm to our environment and your local community. (Visit: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/general-environmental-duty>)

And if you encounter pollution, remember you can report pollution to EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or provide details online (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/make-report>).

From a media release.



Be careful what you burn says EPA

As the weather cools and conditions for burn offs in regional areas improve, EPA Victoria is alerting the agricultural sector in particular, not to mix their prunings and felled timber with other forms of waste.

"We issued several reminders last year after receiving reports of farms, orchards and vineyards mixing their legitimate burn off materials with waste like treated timbers, plastics and other common farm waste that should have gone to a licensed landfill or recycling facility," said EPA Regional Operations Director Martha-Rose Loughnane.

"Disposal of waste by burning is illegal. Common farm waste, like treated pine posts, agricultural plastics, hessian, concrete, metal, waste tyres and mattresses, must be disposed of lawfully and at a place that is licensed to accept it," she said.

EPA has a handy guide available from its website on farm waste management – visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/iwrg6411-farm-waste-management

"Everyone has a duty to protect the environment. That means that if we find anyone mixing waste into their legitimate burn off material, EPA can take action, and we can issue fines of more than \$9,000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble," Ms Loughnane said.

"No smoke is good for you, but smoke from burning farm waste like old tyres and treated timber can lead to harmful effects on human health, particularly for people with asthma or other lung conditions, older people, pregnant women, babies and young children," she said.

Learn what can and can't be burnt from EPA's farm waste guide to avoid being a nuisance to your neighbours, causing a hazard to the environment or getting a fine from EPA.

You can report pollution to EPA's 24 hour pollution hotline at 1300 372 842 or online at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution

From a media release



Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan and Traffic Strategy

In 2023 consultations were held with representatives of HPA about the Town Centre Action Plan, which included discussion about traffic movement through the town. The proposed Town Centre Action Plan was then made available on Shape Mount Alexander on Council's website for an extended period of time. This enabled the community to respond to the proposals outlined in the plan.

The Town Centre Action Plan in its final form was placed on the Shire website on May 1, 2025. (See the links at the foot of this article.) In response to a recent enquiry from The Core, we received the following information from the Shire about the progress of the Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan and Traffic Strategy:

Thank you for reaching out on behalf of the Harcourt community. We understand the community's keen interest in the ongoing developments for Harcourt and appreciate the efforts invested in Plan Harcourt, the Town Centre Action Plan and other related initiatives.

The recommendations outlined in the Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan are contingent upon available funding and resources. The Plan serves as a guiding framework for Council to prioritise projects, allocate development contributions, and pursue funding opportunities. Council remains committed to identifying funding avenues to support these initiatives.

From a Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities perspective, the primary forthcoming work involves a review of the Aspirational Maps for the township, originally developed as part of the Active Transport Strategy. This review aims to ensure alignment with current priorities for Harcourt, including considerations for connecting proposed new housing development zones.

Regarding Engineering projects, there is currently no allocated funding for the implementation of works detailed in the Town Centre Action Plan. However, efforts are being made to integrate certain proposed projects into the Safer Local Roads Program, administered by the Department of Transport (DTP). At this stage, we are unable to confirm which projects will be included, but Council continues to engage with DTP throughout the nomination process. Further information will be provided once the project list is finalised.

"You may have already seen that Maree Edwards MP's office announced six projects in Mount Alexander Shire to be funded through Round 2 of the Tiny Towns Fund, including improvements to James Park, Harcourt. The \$50,000 investment will help advance the Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan, with James Park earmarked for improvements (Action 2). The announcement also highlighted some signage updates, aligning with Action 10 in the Plan. [These developments for James Park were featured on the front page of the June edition of The Core – Ed.]

A media release from Mount Alexander Shire Council regarding this announcement is expected soon and will include links to Council's strategic plans, including the Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan."

Note: These shortened links will take you to the relevant pages in the Mount Alexander Shire website.

Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan:

bit.ly/45Uoe7A

Active Transport Strategy:

bit.ly/3laWcL2

Goals of the Harcourt Town Centre Action Plan – Summary*

The actions described in this plan are based on recommendations in previous plans, community feedback, and targeted consultation with community groups.

The Vision

- 1 Active commercial centre
- 2 Celebrate the space
- 3 Safe and logical connections
- 4 Less road
- 5 Creek focus

Ten Key Actions to Achieve the Vision

- 1 Support and enhance the relationship with country
- 2 Make James Park Harcourt's civic heart (Note improvements to James Park announced in the June edition of The Core.)
- 3 Promote and support active transport
- 4 Define town entrances
- 5 Make High Street a high street



An aspirational image of what Harmony Way could look like.

- 6 Reclaim road space on Harmony Way
- 7 Safe crossing between Stanley Park north and south
- 8 Improve the intersection of Victoria Road, Harmony Way and High Street
- 9 Connect High Street and Harmony Way
- 10 Town signage, way finding and public art

***Read the plan which includes current photos of Harcourt and photos which demonstrate the aspirations of the ten key actions: <http://bit.ly/4l6ArUU> (Note: This shortened link will take you to the relevant document on the Mount Alexander Shire website.)**



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

A big shout out to the Core team for continuing to publish our wonderful local paper! I know it is widely read and it is an important publication. Often I receive a reminder to get my article in by the due date, and this is greatly appreciated.

I attended our Small Business Expo today which incorporated a Farmers' Forum. It was a well organised event and there was a range of very informative speakers. I met representatives from Agriculture Victoria, the Victorian Farmers Federation and Rural Financial Counselling Service. The latter have great people, and I know government has invested heavily in this area. From my discussion with them, I came to the view that all farmers and small business operators should be taking advantage of this service. Let's face it, we can all use a hand, and this group provides three hours, one-on-one professional advice free.

One of the other presentations was on the science that underpins weather forecasting and, in particular, around rainfall. We are now up to around 50 mm for the month, which is a relief. Based on the science, it is more likely that we will get more wet weather than not in the next few months. Of course, we desperately need more rain, so hopefully the forecast is correct.

Many of you will be aware that council has approved the budget. I know the process appears to drag out. However, we are getting some things our community needs. The budget is really tight, and it was been very nerve wracking as I pressed the case for Calder ward. In the end I was trying to go below the radar, and then I remembered we needed some extra funding for Harcourt Community House. Many thanks to all councillors for their support!

A quick summary of budget funding in the Calder Ward:

- ▶ Stanley Park unisex toilet,
- ▶ Sutton Grange Hall playground upgrade planning,
- ▶ James Park fencing on Harmony Way side,
- ▶ Harcourt Community House \$7,000,
- ▶ Improved street lighting: Warren Street near the Harcourt bowling club.

For more information on the full range of community-wide initiatives, see the budget on the Council website.

Before closing, I want to mention the passing of John Barty from Sutton Grange. John and the Barty family have been leaders in the wool and sheep industry for many years. They have been tireless workers in the community and can always be relied on. Our sincere condolences go to the Barty family and community.

Regards, Tony

AG Cordy
0439 742 434



Harcourt Lions Club

Monday night it is!!

Meeting Night Change Starts July 21

In future, the Harcourt District Lions Club will be meeting on the third Monday night of the month beginning at 6.30 pm starting with a shared meal, followed at 7:30 pm by an informal discussion to organise coming events and finishing by 8.30 pm.

The Lions Club members meet at the Victorian Miniature Railway site in their green shed. The club is grateful to Colin and Andrew Mierisch for allowing us to gather there, and special thanks go to Colin for having a lovely warming fire going for our meeting nights during winter.

Congratulations to incoming president, Mark Mitchell, who will be taking over from our current president, Raymond Rice.

Marquee for hire

If you have a special event coming up, consider hiring our marquee. The marquee is erected and taken down by members of the Lions Club, at a convenient time to all parties within the Harcourt area. If an event is proposed outside Harcourt, viability of travel and associated costs will be discussed.

Our next club get-together will be on Monday July 21 at VMR.

Contact and applications for membership: Harcourt District Lions Club, P O Box 100, Harcourt 3453.

Loretta Rice.

ADVERTISEMENT

Lisa Chesters MP
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Fireside Chat

1.30 pm Sunday 20 July
Harcourt Heritage Centre
High Street Harcourt

George Milford will present his recent address at the
"Alchemy of Gold" conference.

The Thompson's Foundry Story **The fundamental transformation of**

- > a community,
- > an industry,
- > a township's housing stock,
- > and lives,

by a (literally) fantastic discovery of gold at
Quartz Hill, north of Chewton in 1855-56.

A blazing fire.

Afternoon tea (please bring a plate).

All welcome.

Coliban cuts rural irrigation allocation to 30% for the 2025-26 Season

On June 12, Coliban Water issued a press release indicating that the long run of dry conditions has not been seen since 2018/19. In a following press release on July 1, Coliban announced that rural allocations will be at 30% for the new season. Harcourt's agricultural industry will be severely affected by this drastic reduction.

Coliban Water Managing Director, Damian Wells said, "The last twelve months have been very dry. We received around 550 mm of rain at our Malmsbury Reservoir, where median rainfall is 710 mm per year (July-June). As a result, our storages have fallen to 53% capacity. This time last year they were at 75% capacity. We would need significant rainfall to translate into inflows in order to increase from the opening allocation of 30%. We will reassess the water resource position on the 15th of each month. Should wet weather occur, with good run off, the rural allocations will be increased."

Possible water restrictions in townships

Coliban Water is encouraging residents and businesses across the region to do their part to make every drop of water count as extended dry conditions continue to impact water catchments state wide.

"Typically, we receive most of the inflows to our reservoirs over winter and spring. However, if this doesn't eventuate, water restrictions for urban customers in these southern towns will be likely," Mr Wells added.

See the Coliban announcement here: coliban.com.au/coliban-water-announces-opening-rural-allocations

The Core spoke with Col Pickering at Blackwood Orchard, who said that, as a result of the irrigation reduction they would have to make some tough decisions. Col said, "There are some cherry varieties that we are not happy with, so we will pull them out. That will help save water. We will also have to buy some water licences temporarily to tide us over. We are pleased that we got the notice from Coliban fairly early in the season, which for us will run from 15 August to 15 May 2026. We still have to water after the crop has been picked to keep the trees alive for next year, so this year will be a challenge. I am hopeful that the Bureau of Meteorology has the forecast correct and we will get some rain in the coming months."

Orchards, wineries and farms in the area will not doubt be affected by this drastic cut in water supply and will have to make arrangements to get their trees, vines and animals through this extra dry season. The outlook for rain seems on balance to be 50/50 – see this month's weather report.

Robyn Miller

THE CORE

VOLUNTEERS

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

Word of the Month:

Gallus

Bold, daring, reckless or even impressive and stylish.

- from the Scottish

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD

Visit Bendigo's Most Awarded Winery

- ▶ Weddings, events and functions
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Bookings please call Marie on 0431 996 515

Harcourt Valley Vineyards

3339 Harmony Way, Harcourt, Vic 3453

P: 03 5474 2223



THE CORE

Harcourt Carpet Bowls

INVITATION

Fundraiser Legacy Tournament

The Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association has for many years been running a Carpet Bowls Tournament to raise much needed funds for Legacy so they can continue their vital work of assisting families of returned servicemen and women.

Come along and have a fun social evening: play carpet bowls, buy a ticket in the raffle and enjoy a lovely homemade supper supplied by members of the Association. Don't use the excuse, "I've never played before and won't know what to do." It doesn't matter, as we all have had to start somewhere. Instruction will be given before the games begin.

Legacy Tournament

- Where:** Harcourt District Leisure Centre, Bingham Road, Harcourt – the hall will be heated.
- When:** Wednesday, 13 August 2025
- Time:** 7.30 pm. Please arrive by 7.15 pm and enter your name so teams can be formed.
- Cost:** \$5.00 per adult for three games, or \$2.50 for U/17s

We hope to see you there supporting Legacy.

The regular winter competition continues each Wednesday night at the Hall where, so far, the games have been close, making it a good competition.

If you would like to know more about the game, just come along on a Wednesday night. Everyone is welcome. Come along to watch or join in.

Contacts: President: John – 5474 2226
Secretary: Loretta – 5474 2453



First Not-For-Profit Vet Clinic Opens in Regional Victoria

Castlemaine and region now has the benefit of the first ever not for profit Vet Clinic. Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards MP visited Castlemaine to officially open the purpose-built Regional Community Vet Clinic in May, thanks to a \$530,000 investment from the Labor Government – bringing more affordable veterinary care closer to home for local families and their pets. Maree said, "Congratulations to the Regional Community Vet Clinic volunteers on all they've achieved, it's been a great pleasure to work with them to secure the funding and support needed to make their dream a reality." The clinic is located at 4 Midland Highway Castlemaine.

The clinic offers a range of affordable veterinary care services including desexing, vaccinations, health checks, dental care and minor lump removals, which will provide much-needed support to pet owners doing it tough amid cost-of-living pressures.

The clinic is currently open on Fridays by appointment between 9 am till 4.30 pm – opening hours will increase as the clinic expands.

In addition to the physical clinic, it will offer pop-up clinics in regional towns and will continue to hold these events, up to six annually, throughout the year.

At the date of publication of the press release (19 May, 2025) Regional Community Vet Clinic had already provided more than 1,200 volunteer hours in community outreach to date to assist owners in keeping their pets safely and happily at home for longer.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has invested almost \$13.2 million through the Animal Welfare Fund Grants program to shelters, carers and animal welfare organisations that are now helping to care for Victorian pets.

For more information about the Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au.

From a Victorian Government Press Release





Lmct:10769



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More energy bill relief is on the way

Federal Labor Government is continuing its energy bill relief for households and small businesses through to the end of 2025.

Those with an electricity account have already seen \$300 taken off their energy bills over the past 12 months. This extension, which kicks in on 1 July, will see a further \$150 come off people's energy bills over the next 6 months.

In most cases, your electricity provider will automatically apply the bill relief to your electricity account and you will not be required to take any action.

I know from my conversations in the community that this is welcome relief for a lot of local families. Energy bill relief is just one of the ways we're providing direct assistance for families and small businesses with energy bills.

This is part of Labor's plan for households and businesses to benefit from cheaper, cleaner power over the short, medium and long term.

For more information about the Energy Bill Relief Fund, visit <https://www.energy.gov.au/energy-bill-relief-fund>

From the office of Lisa Chesters



*Symmetry Yoga
Upcoming Events!*

09/07 11:00 am	<i>Kids yoga</i> Dedicated for a fun and engaging 1-hour kids yoga class filled with movement, imagination, and play. Perfect for primary school aged kids.
20/07 2:00 pm	<i>Ground & Rejuvenate</i> This 3-hour yoga experience is designed to gently guide you from active flow to calming pranayama, incorporating deep breathwork and yoga nidra.
10/08 2:00 pm	<i>Ground & Rejuvenate</i> This 3-hour yoga experience is designed to gently guide you from active flow to calming pranayama, incorporating deep breathwork and yoga nidra.

sarah@symmetrylife.com.au
www.symmetrylife.com.au
0433823378
32 Coolstore Rd Harcourt




**Saturday
29 November
12 pm**



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Sarah Noble: 0415 666 997 sarah@wnpp.com.au



Harcourt CFA

Disquiet – The Controversial Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund Levy

There has been a lot going on with regard to the introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund from 1 July 2025. Separating fact from fiction is not easy, but it is fair to say that there are a lot of CFA volunteers out there on rural properties who are very unhappy and have openly expressed their dissatisfaction leading up to, and after, the protest rally held outside the state parliament in May this year. The Harcourt brigade did not participate in the rally, but we do have members within our brigade who will be affected more than others. Please be assured that the Harcourt Fire Brigade will continue to service our community to the best of our ability, honouring our mission to protect lives and property.

To explain the reasons behind the push to scrap the tax would probably double the size of this edition so I cannot explain it all in one article, but I will endeavour to give an overview*.

To start off we need to go back in history to understand where CFA came from.

In 1891 the Fire Brigade Act created two boards: the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board (MFBB) and the Country Fire Brigades Board (CFBB). The CFBB was responsible for coordinating fire brigades more than 16 kilometres from Melbourne. I am unsure how the brigades at the time were funded (most likely from community donations) but prior to this there was what was known as Insurance Fire Brigades appointed to respond to building fires that the insurance company covered. These buildings had a plaque mounted to the building with the name of the insurance company and this would be the insurance brigade that responded to the call. They would not attend to a fire of any other building covered by a different insurance company.

In 1926 another fire management organisation called the Bush Fire Brigades was created following serious bushfires. It consisted of volunteer members and received very little financial assistance from the government of that time. There was some support given by the Forest Commission.

After the serious fires of 1939, a

Royal Commission was established and it recommended a single fire fighting organisation for country Victoria. After more devastating fires in 1944, the CFA was established and commenced operation on 22 April 1945. Funding was provided through a combination of state government support and contributions from individual brigades. Some additional funding and equipment was inherited from the Forest Commission. The Harcourt Rural Fire Brigade was formed in 1944 and received six hand beaters from the Fire Commission, one which still hangs in our fire station today.

To skip ahead, prior to July 2013, a fire levy was added to house insurance policies to provide funding to support fire brigades. If you had insurance then there was no charge for the attendance of the brigade. If you did not have insurance, then the property owner was expected to pay the cost of attendance by the brigades. This was changed in 2013 to a fire service levy on rates. This levy was collected by the shire councils and then passed over to the government to fund the CFA and Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigades. The figure allocated for 2013-14 was \$473 million, \$448 million by the state government and \$25 million from other resources such as internally generated fees, interest, donations and sales of goods and services. There was also government funding for special one-off needs and Fire Equipment Maintenance (FEM – fire extinguisher servicing). When the contentious CFA/FRV reform was implemented, funding was still provided from the Fire Service Levy along with Brigade fundraising. The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) commenced in 2015 to provide grants to volunteer groups across Victoria for trucks, tankers, vehicles, boats and other emergency equipment. Since its inception, the Victorian Government has invested over \$100 million in VESP grants.

The SES was initially funded through local government support and in kind support. Later on the state government also began by matching local government funding.

The SES also relied on donations to obtain extra equipment.

From 1 July 2025, the existing Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF). This levy is intended to support a broader range of emergency services and will now include VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria (formerly emergency services telecommunications authority ESTA), Forest Fire Management, the State Control Centre and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Brigade (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV). In the past, the other agencies were funded through various means including allocations from the state budget; ESTA was funded by a levy on the emergency service organisations they supported and supplemented by annual funding from the state budget. So, as you can see, what was previously provided from within the state budget from taxes already received is now being levied from outside this with an increase on the existing levy that is heavily weighted against some members of the community, including farmers who are very often the same people who volunteer for their local brigade. **

Winter Fire Safety and Awareness

Over the last 12 months, the CFA has responded to 80 chimney fires. To prevent chimney fires, clean and inspect chimneys and flues annually, use a fire screen in front of an open fire and keep wood and other combustibles at least one metre away and only burn dry, clean wood.

To prevent fires from other types of heaters, never leave gas, portable or electric heaters on when you are not at home. Maintain at least a one metre gap from the heater when drying clothes. Maintain a safe distance between children and heating and turn off electric blankets before going to bed.

The Turnout Statistics

There were a couple of extra turnouts at the end of May: two support turnouts to Castlemaine and a single

Continued next page ...

car accident in the vicinity of the Calder Freeway and Fogartys Gap Road intersection. At the latter incident, the vehicle had absconded prior to our arrival.

June was a quieter month which resulted in two calls to support the Castlemaine brigade and two primary calls. The first primary was to do a wash away at the Calder Freeway on ramp to Bendigo when the first rain of the month made this section of road slippery. The second was to an abandoned campfire up on Mount Alexander that had spread to a couple of nearby dry trees. Even in winter, it is important to ensure all campfires are extinguished.

Stay warm and stay fire safe

Please Note: Comments in this article will not necessarily represent opinions of all members of the brigade but permission was given to provide relevant information. I have tried to make it as accurate as possible.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Editor's comments:

Mount Alexander Shire has expressed its objection to the levy. Read more here: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/My-Property/Rates/Rates-information/Emergency-Services-and-Volunteers-Fund-ESVF-Levy

Readers may be aware that the Victorian government temporarily paused the ESVF increase for the farming sector due to drought, maintaining the 2024-25 variable rate for the 2025-26 financial year.

Eligible CFA and VICSES volunteers and life members will receive a rebate on the ESVF for their primary residence or farm, according to the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance.



Nordic Walking

Term 3 2025 21 July — 19 September

COME AND JOIN THIS FUN AND SOCIAL GROUP

CASTLEMAINE - NEW PARTICIPANTS

Botanical Gardens
(picnic shelter / playground car park)
Mondays 2pm

HARCOURT - NEW PARTICIPANTS

Meet opposite Harcourt CFA
Tuesdays 4pm

CASTLEMAINE - CONTINUING WALKERS

Botanical Gardens
(picnic shelter / playground car park)
Fridays 9.30am

Weekly groups during the Victorian school term. Nordic Poles are available for participants to use during sessions.

No cost but bookings essential as spaces are limited. For more information or to book call 5479 1000

Groups will not happen if the temperature is 30 degrees or above



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*Based on Roy Morgan's survey of 1000+ Australian farmers in June and July 2024. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879. 1985262-2009517 OUT_45591092, 16/06/2025

Harcourt Valley Community House

Closed in the July School Holidays

The HVCH will be closed on 9 and 16 July (July school holidays) and reopening at 10.00 am on Wednesday 23 July.

Buy Swap Leave Book Bazaar and Open Day

Thank you to everyone who popped in to HVCH on two chilly days – Saturday 14 and 21 June – to buy, swap or leave a book! We made some sales to raise much needed funds but, more importantly, got the chance to speak to several of our visitors about their thoughts regarding the Community House.

It was suggested that we keep the book swap going for community members to access during our regular opening hours. If anyone has any pre-loved book cases you are willing to donate, please email us at: harcourtvalleych@gmail.com as pick up can be arranged.

Printing and IT Services at HVCH

We are now offering printing, scanning and email services at HVCH during our regular opening hours: (Wednesdays 10.00 am – 12.00 noon).

Printing Fees:

A4 black and white @ 10c per page, colour @ 20c per page

A3 black and white @ 30c per page, colour @ 60c per page

Bottles and Cans Recycling

Our grand total to date is \$1,374.70 which is an average of \$137.47 a month since September 2024. What a fabulous effort! Thank you Harcourt for your continued support. Please keep your 10c eligible bottles and cans coming, a donation bin is situated outside the HVCH at 23 Station Street, Harcourt. If you have a large quantity, contact us and we can arrange a pick-up:

Email: harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or leave a message on 4417 8742.



Keep those cans and bottles coming! Support the fund raising efforts of Harcourt Valley Community House. The recycle bins are placed conveniently in the car park in front of what was the Harcourt Railway Station.

Lamination:

Lamination of your documents is also available – an extra 20c for A4 or 50c for A3 sized documents.

Scanning and Email:

Do you need to scan and email a document? Cost is 10c per page or we can negotiate a price for a large (multi-page) document.

Public access to Computers:

Two public access computers are available at HVCH. Do you need to access your email? Do some research? This is available for free during opening hours (Wednesday 10.00 am – 12.00 noon). Donation is welcome.

Still seeking interest

(Times will be determined based on interest received):

Community Choir/Singing Group:

Email your interest to: harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or leave a message on 4417 8742.

Paper Craft

Have you ever wanted to make your own gift or greeting cards? We have a local lady who has all the gear (papers, dye cast shapes etc.) who would love to teach people how to do this creative craft. Materials will be provided and

built into the fee for the workshop at \$10 per person. Just let us know your interest and the best time for you. Weekdays (except Mondays) are preferred by our tutor, but we can decide the final time based on responses from your interest. Again, please email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or leave a message on 4417 8742.

Office Space Available

Do you need a comfortable, secure office space on a casual, temporary or semi-permanent basis? We are offering co-share office space at \$5 per hour casual rate, but we can negotiate half day, daily, weekly or monthly rates based on your needs. We can also offer independent (security coded) access to the building and desk space, heating, cooling, Wi-Fi, kitchen amenities and ample car parking space. Call or email Jeanette to discuss your needs or book a tour of the facility.

Cheers for now,

Jeanette
Volunteer Manager
HVCH



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HPA Update

Our very own community piano

Did you watch the series "The Piano" on TV recently? I found it an inspiring show with many surprise guests who had interesting stories to share about their piano playing ... some old, some very young and others in between. I was moved to tears with some of their stories.

Many of you would have seen the piano at the entrance to the Market Building in Castlemaine or in the main street of Maldon, but many of you would not know that we have our very own piano sitting inside the old Railway Station building in Harcourt just waiting to be played. It is in excellent condition and was donated by someone who loved playing, but found it too difficult as they got older.

Wouldn't it be great to have someone come regularly to play, to practise or to hold a good old singalong or choir with music from all genres? We could make it available for private piano lessons, individual piano practice, or we could include other musical instruments too. Think about the possibilities! If you have any interest in pursuing this idea, please contact me on 0419 597 765 or at chairpersonhpa@gmail.com

Successful working bee at the Community House

Thank you very much to the Harcourt Landcare group for assisting us with removing some gorse, for which we are responsible, from the Harcourt Valley Community House property last month on a cold and frosty Sunday morning.



There is more work to be done, but we appreciated the offer of help from the Landcare group.

Get ready! Whole-of-town garage and car boot sale

A reminder that 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 interest in participating in this event, would you kindly drop us an email to chairpersonhpa@gmail.com with your name and a contact phone number. If there is enough community interest, we aim to run this event in spring.

Council Funding

Finally, saving the best until last! The Harcourt Progress Association would like to sincerely thank Mount Alexander Shire Council and our local member, Tony Cordy, for making provision in the 2025/26 budget for a grant of \$7,000 to assist the operations of the Harcourt Valley Community House. We will have more details once the formal communications have been received.

Stay connected and stay warm during this chilly wintry season.

Alison Curtis
Chairperson, Harcourt Progress Association.

Vale Steve Kolotylo

It is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news that my husband, Steve Kolotylo, has passed away peacefully at Bendigo hospice today surrounded by family. Steve was 65 years old.

Over the years Steve's health has steadily declined, which has been a difficult journey for him and our family.

I am grateful and thankful for the life we shared over the last 22 years.

There are many thoughts and feelings to process as I, his two sons and our large, blended family grieve the loss of Steve.

Thank you for your understanding and compassion by respecting mine and our family's need for privacy and space at this time.

As I take a period of leave, I will be passing Speaker duties to my Deputy Speaker Matt Fregon and my Electorate Office staff will continue to support the wonderful Bendigo West communities.

My family and I sincerely want to thank the many nurses, doctors, surgeons, allied health and medical teams who have cared for Steve. We especially thank the outstanding staff at our Bendigo Health Emergency Department, ICU and the beautiful, caring staff at the hospice.

Maree Edwards

Editor's message: Harcourt's many clubs and organisations have valued Maree's support and tireless devotion here and to her electorate. *Harcourt News/The Core* volunteers extend sincere sympathy to Maree Edwards and family on the passing of her husband.



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www.enviroshopnewstead.au

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897
gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Harcourt CWA Scoops the Pool at Creative Arts Expo

Hello there, everyone

A very warm welcome to you all as I write on this sunny, but extremely chilly day! It has been another very busy month for us at Harcourt CWA and I have lots to report on, so I'd better get on with it.

Along with the eight other branches in the central Victorian area, Harcourt CWA was proud to participate in the Central Victoria Country Women's Association (CWA) Creative Arts Exhibition which was held on Saturday 21 June 2025 at the historic Castlemaine Town Hall.

The event was a great success: a vibrant celebration of artistry, tradition, and community spirit. A real showcase of talent and teamwork!

This biennial exhibition showcased a diverse array of handcrafted works created by members from CWA branches from Castlemaine, Chewton, Newstead, Maryborough, Newbridge, Sutton Grange, Heathcote, Dunolly and Harcourt. The event highlighted the region's rich tradition of creative arts and community involvement, and items on show included almost every creative activity you can think of.

There were 274 entries overall and competition was serious and fierce with official CWA judges applying the same high standards in their judging as they do at the Royal Melbourne Show each year. Harcourt CWA fielded 54 entries and they were awarded 27 first prizes, 10 second prizes, 6 third prizes and 2 highly commended. Pretty impressive for a club of just 14 members!

The prestigious trophy for Best Exhibit in Show was awarded to our President Robyn McConville for an extraordinary whole cloth, king-size

cream cotton quilt, entirely hand-sewn and quilted over two and a half years. This magnificent piece, which also won First Prize in the Quilt Section, captivated judges and visitors alike with its exquisite detail, craftsmanship and heartfelt dedication. A photograph of the quilt reveals the immense care, thought and love stitched into every centimetre. Robyn is a truly deserving winner of this highest honour; she won more first prizes in the Shortbread, Fruit and Nut Loaf and Homemade Bread sections.

The Best Branch Entry trophy was proudly won by the Harcourt CWA, which presented a stunning group display themed 'Winter Wonderland'. This impressive team effort featured: a stylish beanie knitted by Helen; a jar of crab apple jelly from Robyn; a stunning patchwork runner/throw crafted by Jill Reynolds; a wintry photograph and colourful floral arrangement by Joy, and a beautiful handmade necklace by Lynette. The trophy was a silver tray. Harcourt CWA's name will be engraved on it, and they will be proud custodians until the next exhibition in 2027.

There were more reasons to celebrate individual excellence with the Preserves, Art and More categories. Lynette Carter, Harcourt's Craft Leader and valued branch representative on the exhibition's organising committee, had an outstanding day, earning five first prizes across a variety of categories, with her finely knitted creations gaining special praise for their technical excellence and creativity.

Judi Kent was also very successful, taking home five first prizes and two major trophies. One for her beautifully presented entry titled 'One Woman's Work' – a delightful collection featuring: apple dessert cake, apple curd, green

tomato and apple chutney and apple and cinnamon slice. Her consistent excellence also earned her an Aggregate Trophy, marking her as one of the day's most successful and versatile contributors.

Marie Twyford, winner of three first prizes for her baked goods and preserves, took home the top prize for Best Preserves in Show with her delicious pickled zucchinis. Helen Hand won a first prize for her scrumptious looking tomato relish and other awards for her baked goods and knitted items. Bev Orgill, a newbie to this competition, was successful in gaining a first prize for her orange and lemon marmalade and a third prize for her mixed berry jam.

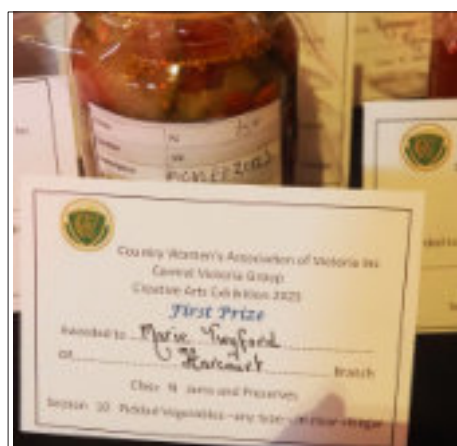
Joy Robertson was another standout star, winning the Best Art in Show trophy and an incredible eight first prizes across multiple categories. Her talents shone in Photography, Scrapbooking, Floral Display, Painting, Card Making, Miniature Work, and more. Wow!

Congratulations go to Heather Delmenico, the Group Craft Leader and her team for their organisation of the event and to Group President, Dani Kent for her input and promotion of the event in the local community. This biennial exhibition once again highlighted the deep well of talent, dedication and community pride found within the Central Victorian CWA. Congratulations to all participants – your creativity and contributions made this event truly special.

Harcourt CWA meets on the first Thursday each month at Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1.30 pm. For more information about CWA in general or Harcourt CWA Branch in particular, contact Secretary Helen on 0448 510 996. Come along and check us out. We are a friendly bunch and you'd be made most welcome.

Until next month

Bev Orgill – for Harcourt CWA







Harcourt Valley Primary School

From the Principal's Desk – End of Term Two Round-up

The Principal congratulated all students for a very successful term. He said, "We have achieved a lot this term and I would like to congratulate all students on their learning achievements this semester. I wish all families a very safe and relaxing term break and we look forward to seeing you all at the commencement of Term 3 on Monday 21 July."

School Review-Parent Forum – Tuesday August 5

All parents have been invited to attend a parent forum on Tuesday 5 August, commencing at 8:30 am. The parent forum will provide an opportunity for parents to have speak to members of our school review panel on a range of topics. The forum will run for approximately an hour, and morning tea will be provided after the forum.

Grade 6 T-shirt Designs for 2026

Grade 5 students and parents/carers have been invited to start considering possible T-shirt designs for next year.

All ideas are most welcome as final T-shirt designs are expected to be completed by the end of next term.

Wellbeing Support Squads

Every Friday at 12:30 pm, our entire school community comes together for our Wellbeing Support Squad sessions.

This term, our focus was on the theme of bullying: understanding what it looks like, how to identify it and, most importantly, how to be an "upstander" and seek help from a trusted adult when needed. We also explored the topics of resilience, positive thinking, and the importance of a growth mindset. Students have been learning about bounce-back strategies to help them face and overcome everyday challenges with confidence and perseverance.

End of Term Celebration – Pyjama and Movie Day

This term, students worked hard (using the School Wide Positive Behaviour System) to earn 1,000 core points



Ada and Merryn present the student council's idea to the Mayor, Rose Annear, for a gaga pit. (The pit is for a ball game called gaga.)

collectively within their houses, and we were excited to share the news that all houses had successfully reached this milestone! In recognition of their efforts, students chose to celebrate with a pyjama and movie day for the last day of term.

Congratulations to all students who have consistently demonstrated positive, respectful, responsible and curious behaviour throughout the term. Well done!

School returns on Monday 21 July.

A Heap of Fun! Grade 3/4 Kinder Project – Biographies and Portraits

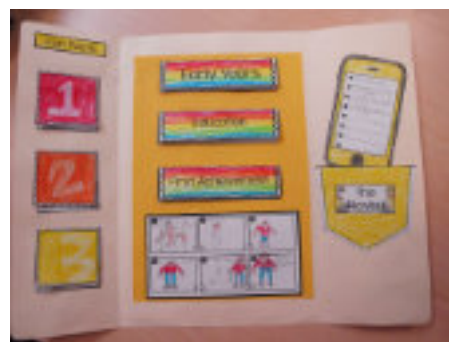
The Core chatted with Grade 3/4 teacher Britanii Milne who said, "This project was designed to build connections with the kindergarten children who may be attending our school next year. Our current Grade 3 and 4 will move on to Grades 5 & 6 in 2026, when they will take on mentorship of the current batch of kinder students who will be in their Prep year.

"To develop a biography for each Prep student, students were paired. Formal and informal questions were sent home to the kinder families. Then the school students conducted interviews with the aim of writing the answers in full sentences, which they included in a 'biography folder' with interesting facts about their buddy. To complete the folder, the younger students dressed up and came to art classes, so the 3 & 4's could draw a portrait of their buddy.

"A picnic with games and activities was held in the stadium for all the students and staff who participated. At the end of the celebration, the school

buddies read the projects to their kinder buddies. The Grade 3 & 4 students voted this project their most enjoyable activity so far this year."

An example of a kinder buddy's biography and portrait



Buddies enjoy each other's company

Meet the climate change-makers in business



This Mount Alexander Shire Council is celebrating how local businesses and community organisations are taking climate action.

The month-long celebration of sustainability and the circular economy will take place on Council's website, social media channels, and local radio, newspapers and community newsletters.

During the month, Council will share inspiring stories provided by local businesses so we can be motivated and learn from one another.

Council's Climate Change Coordinator, Brendan Garrett, said that the initiative is a way for the community to connect, swap stories and take action.

"We have a community that's very passionate about sustainability and climate action here in our shire,"

said Mr Garrett.

"Last year we celebrated the good work that the wider community is doing in this space, and this year we're focusing on local businesses and community organisations.

"Managing a sustainable business can seem daunting but there are lots of ways to contribute to a circular economy.

"For example, Community Bank Maldon & District, The Good Op Shop and Sac'O'Suds Launderette have come together to collect pre-loved coats,

jackets and blankets for those in need.

"5 Acre Farm in Taradale is building biodiversity by planting a mixture of natives and non-natives that are suitable for their environment.

"And Muckleford Fields collect used coffee grounds from the Maine Food Store to spread over their blueberry fields.

"We're so impressed by the sustainability efforts of our community and are excited to share their stories to inspire others."

The 'Meet the climate change-makers' initiative was launched in 2024 and was an action outlined in Council's Climate Change Strategy.

The strategy sets the direction for Council's climate action now and into the future and was informed by extensive community feedback.

You can meet the climate change makers in business at www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/climate-change-makers-business and follow Council's Facebook and Instagram accounts for highlights.

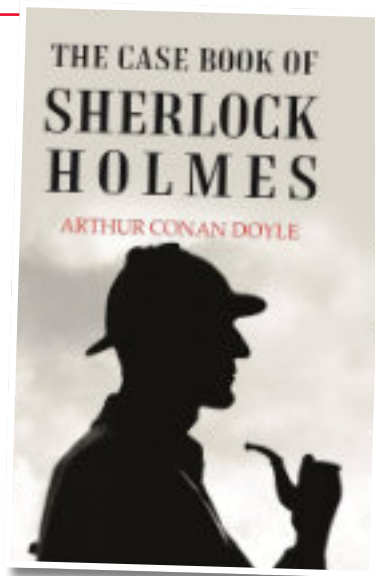
From a Shire Press Release

I'm Reading ...

Over the years I've read any number of detective stories and I notice that the more memorable detectives have very distinctive character traits. The most famous, Sherlock Holmes, was an addict and anti-social fop, personally fastidious with disorder around him, and a miraculously clever mind.

Agatha Christie created two marvellously caricatured crime-solvers in Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. The former being the sweet, butter-wouldn't-melt-in-her-mouth old dearie. The latter, a Belgian obsessive compulsive – fastidiously clothed and groomed. These two probably started the now classic whodunnit finale of gathering all the suspects together and laboriously detailing the crime and uncovering the criminal in a surprising twist.

I haven't read many Nero Wolfe stories by Rex Stout, but I did catch the 1980s TV series on Youtube. Wolfe is an overweight, belligerent private detective who avoids leaving his residence and is obsessive about his orchids, his clothes and his food. The TV production is unique, to me at least, in that non-leading



members of the ensemble cast might pop up as different characters in the next episode.

In the science fiction realm, Isaac Asimov created R. Daneel Olivaw – a robot detective, with a uniquely developed positronic brain able to detect human emotions.

More recently I've come across two interesting series of stories with very characterful investigators. A series by Estelle Ryan whose lead character is an

autistic art investigator. Each of the stories details crimes associated with specific artists ... *The Dante Connection*, *The Gauguin Connection*, etc. And there's a series of crime stories by Aaron Elkins with the lead investigator being a Seattle-based forensic anthropologist, Gideon Oliver – the skeleton detective.

If you really want to get your teeth into a long series, try the "alphabet series" of books by Sue Grafton. Kinsey Millhone, the protagonist in the series, is fairly ordinary – a young, no nonsense female private eye in California with some skills in the little-known martial art Krav Maga (no, not that maga). The series goes from *A is for Alibi*, through *M is for Malice* and all the way to *Y is for Yesterday*. The author died before completing the series.

I find that, no matter which crime-solver I read, I quickly forget the ins and outs of the story, after all they're not branded as "great literature", but the character of the investigator ... that's what lingers.

And then there are the TV detectives ... but that's another story.

Bernie Schultz

**Who are your favourite crime fighters?
Let us know at news@harcourt.vic.au**



Harcourt Heritage Centre

The Track Cart

Among the larger objects in Harcourt Heritage Centre is a timber, blue-painted, open-ended cart. It is mounted on leaf springs, and the wheels have timber spokes and metal tyres. It is a scaled-down version of a farmer's horse-drawn spring cart, a common enough sight in Harcourt's orchards up until the 1940s.

Only a very thin pony would have squeezed in between the shafts of the museum's cart. This particular cart was built to be moved by manpower, or, more precisely, boy-power, for this is a Scout Cart. A metal plaque, attached to the cart before it came into the collection, states that this is a Track Cart donated by 1st Harcourt Scout Troop. The photograph below shows the cart, surrounded by uniform-wearing Harcourt boys, laden with dry branches. Obviously, the boys were on their way to a camping ground, most likely at Picnic Gully at the foot of Mount Alexander.



A search of that all-knowing store of information, Google, reveals that we should, properly, identify this cart as a 'Trek Cart'. Google informs us that the humble Trek Cart started life, as much of scouting did (uniforms, traditions and equipment), in the military past of Robert Baden-Powell, who achieved worldwide fame as the hero of the siege of Mafeking during the South African (Boer) War. He later created the Scouting movement.

Robert Baden-Powell realised that the South Africans had superior skills in living off the land, excelled at surprise, guerrilla attacks in rough country and were well supplied due to their reliance on stalking. All of these attributes made the South Africans a mobile and versatile adversary for Baden-Powell's battalion. So it was that the Scouting movement adopted the wide brimmed hat, the khaki uniform, the emphasis on camping, camp oven cooking, semaphore signaling, tracking and much more.

From the start of Scouting in 1917 to as late as the 1950s, scouts in the UK and Australia used the Trek Cart to carry tents and equipment to camp. The Trek Cart was pulled by two or more scouts, with maybe a push by other boys when rough ground was encountered.

During the World War One, Trek Carts were used to carry munitions and supplies to the battlefields. In peacetime, many Scout troops used the Trek Cart to collect donations of blankets and clothing for charity appeals, and for races and competitions when Scouts gathered together at a jamboree.

The 1st Harcourt Scout Troop flourished from 1932 until, perhaps, as late as 1995. The 1st Harcourt North Scout Troop was active from about 1934. The first Scout Master was Mr. Len Dalrymple, head teacher of the school, while the first Cub Mistress was Miss Alice Kelly, assistant teacher at the Harcourt school.

Boys competed in inter-patrol competitions for a trophy known as the Heather Hide. (Presented by Albert Heather, a truly gentle man and a leading figure in Scouting in the Castlemaine district.)

Each boy (cub or scout) was encouraged to learn special bushcraft skills and could earn proficiency badges which were then sewn on their shirtsleeves. Each scout had a shoulder patch for the Campaspe District Scout Association, much the same as a colour patch for an army battalion. Each troop had its own distinctive scarf, Harcourt's was navy-blue with a red band. The scarf was fixed in place with a leather woggle. To keep their shorts up, scouts had to wear a leather belt with its Be Prepared silver buckle.

The 1st Harcourt Scout Troop took part in annual camps organised at local or district level and in jamborees at state or national level. 1st Harcourt sent a group to the 1935 Australian Jamboree at Frankston and the January 1937 Australian Corroboree in Adelaide.

The writer joined 1st Harcourt Scouts in 1958 and vividly recalls a summer scout camp held at Goornong, on the banks of the Campaspe. Life in a tent with five other boys was a new experience, as was the prospect of using earth latrines.

Up until 1959, 1st Harcourt Scout Troop met in a small shed lent by Mr. Jim Ely. This shed, formerly a fruit shop, was on the bank of the creek between the then Harcourt Garage and the Calder Bridge. The troop then secured its own premises in the form of a workmen's building from the Cairn Curran Reservoir construction camp. This building, which still stands at Eagles Road, Harcourt, was shared with the Girl Guide Association.

Harcourt Heritage Centre has a rather unusual collection. It is rare to encounter large three-dimensional objects in a museum. In a typical Victorian museum, the really big exhibits, like the track cart, the fruit grader, the telephone switchboard, the



orchard sprayer and similar items, would probably have ended up in what has been described as a 'folk museum', there to gather dust, or be exposed to the elements. But, at Harcourt, we have been able to fit them into the collection housed within the seemingly elastic walls of the ANA Hall. We welcome them, because they are authentic Harcourt objects with a strong connection to the valley's past and its pioneers.

The Trek Cart is of particular value, as it demonstrates how thoroughly the founders of the scout troop in Harcourt adopted every last aspect of scouting. If Harcourt was going to have a scout troop it had to have all the equipment, including a Trek Cart.

George Milford



Programs & Services

Continence Service

Did you know that 1 in 4 Australians are incontinent? If you experience bladder or bowel leakage, you may have incontinence. Incontinence can significantly affect quality of life but the good news is that it can be managed, treated and sometimes cured.

Our Continence team offers a caring service in which to discuss continence concerns, offering comprehensive assessments, discussions regarding bladder and/or bowel health, and related symptoms.

The team also supports children with continence concerns such as toilet training, bed wetting and constipation. We also support people living with a disability as a registered NDIS provider.

T. 5471 3575

Get Active

Nordic Walking Groups

Nordic Walking is a full-body exercise that uses special poles to activate your upper body as you walk. It's also a great workout for those who have joint issues such as arthritis.

Term 3 for Nordic Walking Groups is about to get underway for new walkers. Dates for the term are 21 July to 19 September:

- Castlemaine: Mondays at 2pm, Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, meet in the playground carpark
- Harcourt: 4pm on Tuesdays, meet opposite Harcourt CFA shed.

Group for continuing Nordic Walkers will meet as usual on Fridays in Castlemaine.

T. 5479 1000

Opportunities

Companion Walking Volunteers

Dhelkaya Health are seeking Companion Walking Volunteers.

Volunteer walkers provide one to one gentle walking support to individuals residing in the Mount Alexander Shire by meeting up with a resident at a pre-determined location.

Volunteers must have the ability to relate to people from diverse backgrounds and be available to attend First Aid training.

For more information, call

T: 5471 3566

dhelkayahealth.org.au | (03) 5471 3555

Coffee HQ

Call in at Coffee HQ at Harcourt Wreckers on your way in or out of Castlemaine and you'll be able to buy a good coffee and a range of delicious light meals from Ebony. There's plenty of space for parking, and the new marquee is a handy spot to sit out of the weather.

Ebony bakes and makes everything on site in the caravan including pumpkin soup, cakes, muffins (baked daily), toasties, egg and bacon rolls and more. She said, "I've been involved in the Harcourt community for the past fourteen years. I love the area and my children attend school in Harcourt and Castlemaine. Hospitality is my specialty, having been involved in the industry since I was fifteen. Some of my working life was in Kyneton in cafes, pubs and fish and chip shops. I also spent five years at The Coffee Bean in Castlemaine."

Pick up one of Coffee HQ's business cards to keep a record of your coffees and get the tenth coffee free. Call ahead and order a coffee for when you are passing through. You'll be greeted with a smile and your special beverage.



Linda Newton

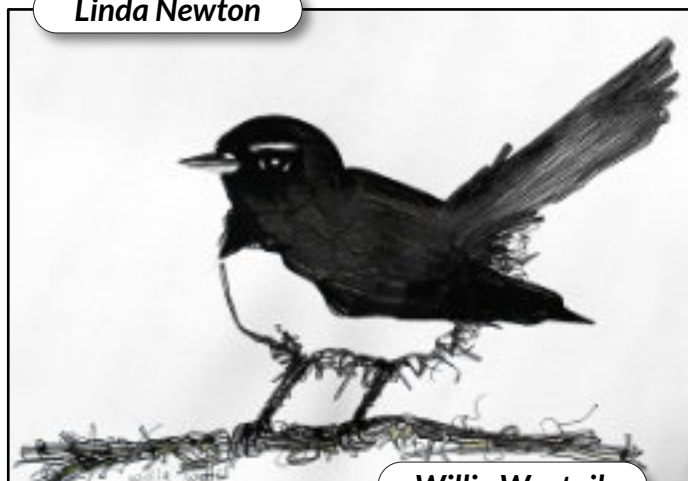


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Monday - Friday
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Willie Wagtail



Harcourt Uniting Church

There was great excitement at our Church on 15 June as we officially 'cut the ribbon' to celebrate the opening of our new extension! George reminded us that we began planning for this extension many years ago with the filling out of endless forms. COVID also slowed down progress and, in the meantime, we needed to update the quote. We began to think this would never happen.

At long last on 17 September 2024, work commenced on our amazing facility with builder Marc Roberts and his team from Maine Design and Construction. We thank Marc for his attention to detail and for guiding us in some of the decision making along

the way. The kitchen/meeting room provides us with modern appliances, lots of cupboard space and an indoor accessible toilet!

Reverend Sarah was invited to cut the ribbon, which was held by George and Jan with the help of Susanna and Mark. However, try as she might, the scissors refused to cut. Jan saved the day with a pair of children's scissors and the task was completed with much laughter and applause. Our youngest member, Mark rang the bell in celebration with some help from his dad, Brad.

Afternoon tea was then enjoyed by all thanks to the delicious food prepared by Remy and Bonnie at the Coolstore Café.

The Church Hall (which includes

the original preschool) plus the block behind will now be sold.

A chap walked into a timber yard and said, "I want to buy some 4x2's."

The salesman replied, "You mean 2x4's."

The chap said: "Let me check." He came back later and said, "Yeah, they're 2x4's."

The salesman then asked: "How long do you want them?"

"Oh I don't know, let me go and check."

He came back later that day and replied, "We need them for a long time – we're building a house!"

Jan Jenkin

Energy Efficiency for Home Renters

With temperatures plummeting at the arrival of winter, tenants of rented homes can now access a video on how to make their home more comfortable and cost effective.

The video was developed by My Home Network (MHN) Tenants Rights Working Group and the West End Resilience (WER) Energy Group following a well-received workshop on how simple changes can improve energy efficiency and reduce gas and electricity bills.

MHN spokesperson Frankie Nugent said everyone deserved an affordable, comfortable home however this was often not the case for many local residents, particularly tenants.

"The cost of housing also includes the cost of heating and cooling, and tenants often don't have the same opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of their rental or have equitable access to affordable renewable energy or renewable energy systems," Ms Nugent said.

"This video will offer tips on how to lower electricity and gas usage, which energy providers are best value, how to lower your bills and how to connect with renting rights and supports."

Alistar Robertson from WER said they had previously delivered successful workshops for home-owners and now wanted to assist tenants. The video can be accessed on Dhelkaya Health's website at dhelkayahealth.org.au/my-home-network and has been well received

across the region and state. It is being played on public screens and translated into other languages to reach a wider audience.

The West End Resilience drew upon the expertise of My Home Network's (MHN) Tenants' Rights Working Group to create the workshop and video. MHN group members offered their first-hand experience on what it was like to live in energy inefficient rentals and how to navigate what could be complex systems of assistance for renters.

MHN spokesperson Frankie Nugent added "We have received positive feedback about this video. Many viewers have already reported significant savings, thanks to the simple tips on reducing electricity and gas use shared in this video. This reflects the core of our work – raising awareness of tenants' rights among tenants, landlords, real estate agents and property developers. In addition to advocating for rental affordability, we highlight available supports and concessions that can help renters. We also provide valuable information on improving rental energy efficiency and work toward structural changes that ensure renters have equitable access to affordable renewable energy. By building awareness of energy efficiency rebates, subsidies, and other landlord incentives, we aim to ensure that tenants can live comfortably in energy-efficient homes."



West End Resilience is a place-based community group open to anyone living on the west side of Castlemaine. They organise collective activities including social events, sharing gardening tips, house and neighbourhood projects, skills, tools and equipment sharing, collective cooking and look out for vulnerable neighbours. For more information, see westendresilience.org

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

For more information about the My Home Network email: cneilson@castlemainehealth.org.au.

Professor Barry Golding

Will be speaking on his insights into the changing conservation and care of six peaks in southern Dja Dja Wurrung country

Harcourt Heritage Centre, in cooperation with Harcourt Valley Landcare Group, is proud to present a talk by Professor Barry Golding at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street, Harcourt on August 17 at 1.30 pm.

Professor Golding undertook a State Library Victoria Fellowship in 2023. His project involved research and writing a book, *Six Peaks Speak: Unsettling Legacies in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country*, published in 2024.

Professor Golding's presentation is based on insights gained from his wide-ranging research for the SLV Fellowship, using 'unsettling' as an underpinning theme. His aim is to provide evidence-informed insights into the conservation of mountains in the landscape, with the broader aim of making informed decisions about their care as important public places.

Professor Golding is an advocate for recognition of World Mountain Day as a national public holiday. His exploration of Aboriginal, colonial and scientific responses to landscape on and around Mount Alexander/Liyanganuk will be of interest.

The six peaks of the book's title are today known as mounts Kooroocheang, Beckworth, Greenock, Tarrengower, Alexander and Franklin. Mount Alexander/Liyanganuk will be the focus of the August talk.

The book *Six Peaks Speak* poses the question, "How can we help future generations deal with the legacies of what happened around these mountains?"

Speaking of Liyanganuk, Barry points out that there is no onsite signage or interpretation of the ambitious but short-lived ladies silk production venture or of the ill-fated koala park. Referring to the many abandoned, unfenced and unstable granite quarry sites, Barry Golding suggests that steps might be taken by the managers in the future to interpret and provide safe, controlled access to a selection of the more interesting quarries, while recovery from several rotations of pine plantations on the flanks of Mount Alexander will take many decades.

It has been observed that we are leaving our future children with an accumulating debt of environmental mess. Professor Golding believes that a better understanding of the geology



and human interventions (including legal protection as reserves) is a good first step.

Who is Barry Golding?

Barry Golding AM has lived in Dja Dja Wurrung Country in Central Highlands Victoria most of his life.

He is an Honorary Professor with Federation University Australia in Ballarat, has extensive research experience in vocational and adult learning and is widely published. His academic research has focused mainly on equity and access to learning in less formal community contexts, with an emphasis on informal learning through participation in community organisations.

He has completed many national and international studies of older men's learning and wellbeing through community participation, including through Men's Sheds

Internationally, Barry is an honorary patron of the Australian Men's Shed Association, a former President of Adult Learning Australia, and in 2016 was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Aside from a PhD in Education from University of Melbourne, Barry has an Honours Degree in Science (Geology) from The University of Melbourne, a Bachelor Arts (majoring in Philosophy of Science and Feminism) from Deakin University, as well as postgraduate qualifications in Environmental Science (Masters) from Monash University and Education (Graduate Diploma in Education and Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration) from The University of Melbourne.

Six Peaks Speak is available at Stoneman's Bookroom, cnr Hargraves and Mostyn streets, Castlemaine.

Community Satisfaction Survey results are in

Mount Alexander Shire Council has released the local results of the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey, conducted between January and March this year.

Held annually, the phone survey of 400 residents measures the performance of Victorian Councils across a range of services areas.

Survey results show Council continues to perform well in strength areas such as community and cultural activities, and customer service and appearance of public areas.

However, as has occurred in Councils across the state this year, community satisfaction across other service areas has declined.

Low performing areas were unsealed roads, population growth, along with planning and building permits. The performance for sealed roads was higher than other large rural Councils.

76% of residents rated Council's overall performance as good, very good or average.

Seven in ten respondents (70%) had been in contact with Council over the past year. More than 60% of residents provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'.

Perceptions of value for money have continued the upward trend from 2023.

Survey respondents identified elderly support services (79%), waste management (78%), and local streets and footpaths (77%) as the most important service areas.

"A big thank you to the 400 local residents who took part in the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey," said Mr Darren Fuzzard, Chief Executive Officer at Mount Alexander Shire Council.

"We truly appreciate your feedback – it gives us a clearer picture of what we're doing well and where we need to do better.

Council's results were measured against other participating council's classified as large rural, including Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Campaspe, Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Moira, Moorabool, Moyne, South Gippsland, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Swan Hill and Wellington.

The survey was undertaken by JWS Research, on behalf of the Victorian Department of Government Services and participating councils.

Each year, Council makes the full report publicly available in the interests of transparency and open government.

View the results of the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey. (Go to the Shire website and find the link on the front page.)

From a Shire Press Release



VMR is moving right along having completed the finishing touches to the railway station building and other important structures on the site.

Club President Andrew Mierisch said, "With the main station building, the two foot bridges and station signal box receiving their final tick from the authorities we are now focused on progressing the track laying to achieve a completed loop.

"As our membership has recently increased to 51 members the strength of our dedicated and talented volunteers continues to grow.

"Stay tuned for a planned community open day later in the year once we have our full track established."



Volunteers stand proud on top of one of the two completed foot bridges they built from scratch.



The Gorse Challenge – Landcare and Community House

One of Harcourt Valley Landcare aims is to connect with other groups in the Harcourt community to assist with their projects in planting, landscaping and or clearing areas of bush. In May the group helped at a working bee at the school.

In June, members of Landcare and Community House enjoyed a Sunday morning clearing gorse and rubbish around the carpark at the Harcourt Valley Community House. Volunteers pitched in with a tractor and hand tools. Pieces of slate, tin and old bottles were found buried and removed. These were possibly left over from the time when the building was under construction. Their combined efforts resulted in two trailers piled high with weeds and rubbish, destined for the tip.

Real treasures – for those who love native plants – were found in the remaining scrub: flax lilies, everlasting daisies, and possibly orchids were scattered in areas where the gorse had not taken hold.

Landcare is now holding a social get together and working bee every month. Business meetings will occur once every two months. The group enjoyed a night out at La Coq Door recently, and plans to head to the Bowlo for one of their catered Friday get-togethers. See you there!

To keep up with your local Landcare group see:
www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Robyn Miller





Weather & Water

Some relief from dry weather but a neutral outlook

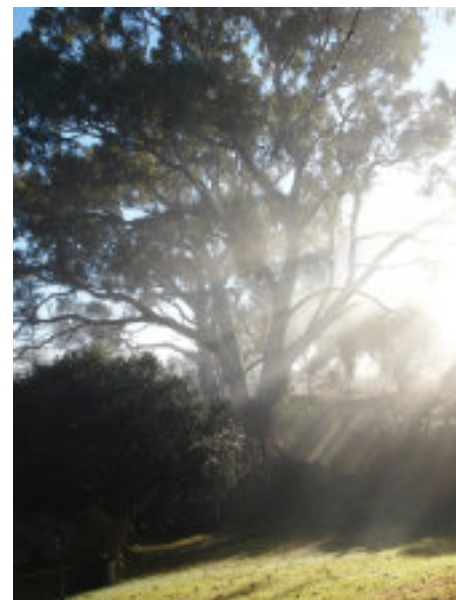
In June we received the first significant rain for some time. Nine days of rain were recorded here at Reservoir Road, although on one of those days only .5 mm fell. The total rainfall for the month was 68.5 mm, bringing the total rainfall for the first six months of the year to 166.5 mm. This was the first good rainfall since November 2024. In comparison, at the end of June last year we had received 277 mm.

June started with cold days, and sunny afternoons. Cloud developed during 6 June, with weak rain in the late afternoon, followed by welcome heavy rain at about 6.00 pm. 14 mm fell that day. On 7 and 8 June more rain followed; the cold and wet days were a novelty. Two more rain periods of three days combined to give the total rainfall mentioned above. There were some severe frosts giving way to misty mornings and sunny days, particularly towards the end of the month.

We are certainly looking forward to more rain in July; however, the bureau's outlook is not encouraging, with most weather indicators showing neutral or warming trends. On 22 June, warmer

than average waters across much of the Australian region and the globe were recorded. The indicators we know best: El Niño (dry) and La Niña (wet) are expected to remain neutral until at least December. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral, that is, not indicating warmer or cooler ocean surfaces in the eastern and western tropical Indian Ocean. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) index was positive as of 21 June. This indicates drier weather in the south-west and south-east of Australia, with increased rain over eastern Australia. (Note the wild weather on the NSW coast on 1 and 2 July.) This tendency in the SAM index values is also forecast for July.

The reservoir levels as of 9 June show 41% full. After that date, there must have been rainfall and inflows that occurred, as Coliban reports that the system was at 53% as of July 1.



A misty June morning

Reservoir Levels

	2024	2025	
	5 June	27 May	9 June
Upper Coliban	81%	55.7%	55%
Lauriston	92%	72.6%	72%
Malmsbury	38%	13.3%	13.9%
Barkers Creek	42%	27.9%	27.9%

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

Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

Faith

The following account is found in the book of Acts, concerning the Apostle Paul and a man who had a lifelong disability Perhaps closely followed by this question, "How may I supplement my faith?"

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

The fact that the man had faith to be healed is an important detail. This recalls the teaching of Jesus when he said

"Have faith in God I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

But, I hear you say, "My faith is weak."

Fortunately, the answers to those questions are in the bible The Apostle Paul has this to say....

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Therefore, to increase one's faith, read the bible, the word of God, on a very regular basis, concentrating in the first instance on the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, followed by the Epistles (the rest of the New Testament) and lastly, the Psalms and the Old Testament.

If you would like to sample the lot simultaneously many bibles have a reading plan which will take you through the bible in one year. If your bible doesn't have one, google it!

This teaching may be summarized as follows.... "Believe and receive, or doubt and miss out."

Pastor Roger Thurecht

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KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Grafting Fruit Trees

Hi everyone,

Hopefully you've been enjoying this lovely wintry weather and the little bit of welcome rain we've had so far – fingers crossed for lots more. If you're finding it a bit too cold, rest assured that your fruit trees absolutely love (and in fact, need) it. It also signals the perfect time to prune your trees, so rug up, grab your secateurs and get into the garden! Before we get onto this month's fruit tree tips, we have two pieces of news.

The first is that we're holding an online Pruning and Espalier Master Class in July 23; we've included the registration link at the end of today's column. The second piece of news is that we've extended Grafting fruit trees

Are you interested in learning how to graft your fruit trees? It's a great way to grow your own trees for free and create multi-graft fruit trees. If you would like to do some grafting this spring (or you're not sure, but want to keep your options open), now is the time to collect grafting wood (also called scions).

Scions need to be collected when the trees are dormant i.e. after their leaves have fallen off. That's now for most deciduous fruit trees. The time between when last year's leaves fall off and next year's buds start swelling seems to get shorter every year, but each variety should have at least some gap between the two.

Once collected, you need to store the grafting wood in the fridge (see the step-by-step process below). The actual grafting takes place in early spring, when your fruit trees start waking up and the sap starts moving. The whole process takes a bit of planning, but it's worth it.

Grafting is a fantastic way to turn a seedling or a sucker into a useful fruiting tree. Plum seedlings or unwanted cherry plum trees are one of the most useful. They make a good rootstock for both plums and apricots, and you can even graft peaches and nectarines onto them (though the results are not as reliable). If you want to give grafting peaches and nectarines a go, we recommend trying it in summer, using the summer grafting technique known as 'budding'. Remember, budding works best in one-year-old wood, so if you want to convert an old tree, cut it down before spring to stimulate lots of new growth.

Here's how to successfully collect scion wood:

1. First choose the new variety you want to grow. If you're not sure what variety you'd like, try asking around your neighbours to find out their favourite and most successful varieties. That way you'll be growing something that you already know will grow well in our district.
2. Wait until the trees are completely dormant (no leaves), then collect strong healthy pieces of one year old wood i.e. the shoots that grew last summer. It's not hard to spot them – just start at the end of any shoot and go back to where you can see an obvious join to the older wood that grew the year before. Try to choose pieces that are at least 20 cm long (if possible) and approximately pencil thickness. If you can't meet those criteria, get the best shoots you can find.
3. Cut a few pieces, wrap them in plastic wrap or seal in a plastic bag. They don't have to be airtight, but it's important to make sure the wood won't dry out while they're stored in the fridge.
4. Here's the really important bit—label it!
5. Then just store it somewhere cool like a cellar, or the fridge, until spring. That's all you need to know for now – we'll be talking about actual grafting techniques when we get closer to the time.

Thanks to everyone who have already bought trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery this year. It's great to see how many locals are putting in new fruit trees, especially some of the older heritage apple varieties. Sales through the website close on July 11 – here's the link to browse what we have available: openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop#/shop_panel

Look after your worm farm in winter
On another topic, here's a tip for looking after your worm farm over winter. Worms don't like to be cold, so add an extra layer of insulation by covering with underfelt or old carpet. If you only have a small worm farm, move it into a shed or the laundry to provide some extra protection from the

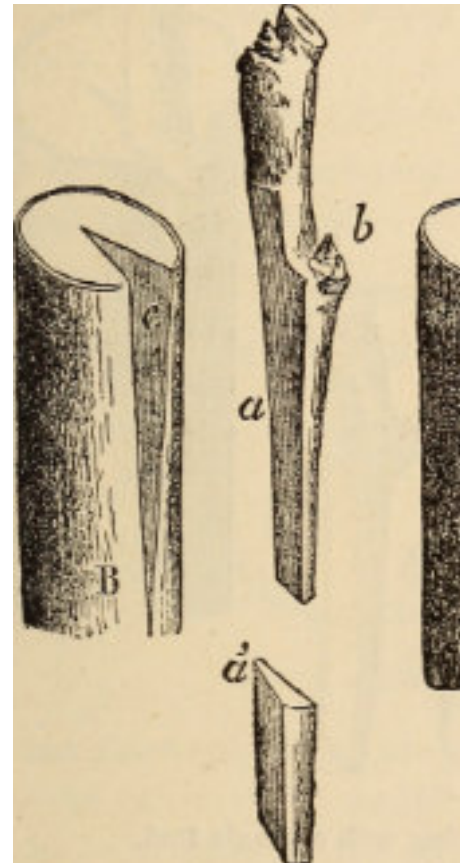
elements. It's important to look after them or you may find that your worms have died or escaped!

Lastly this month, you might notice that the Harcourt Farming Co-op has changed its name (we've dropped the word 'organic'). That's because we've decided to drop our organic certification. We decided that we no longer need the formal certification because we've changed the way we market. Nothing is changing about the way we farm – we'll still be following organic and regenerative principles in everything we do. If you'd like to find out more or read our Holistic Management Plan jump on the hofcoop.com.au

Hugh and Katie Finlay have been organic orchardists for more than 20 years, and offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips - sign up here: growgreatfruit.com/resources

They are running an online Pruning and Espalier Master Class on July 23: growgreatfruit.com/product/pruning-masterclass-registration-july-2025

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery is open for orders until July 11 at: openfoodnetwork.org.au/carrs-organic-fruit-tree-nursery/shop/





Council news

Council adopts \$56 million budget

Council adopted the 2025-2026 Budget following community consultation and feedback.

The budget outlines Council's priorities for the upcoming financial year and how we will deliver more than 100 services to the community.

Highlights include active transport, carbon offsetting initiatives, a shire-wide biodiversity strategy, affordable housing, a Fair Access Policy, and support for community groups and events.

The budget also includes \$17 million in capital works to improve infrastructure such as roads, bridges, drains, and footpaths, as well as strong investment in our community facilities.

The 2025-2026 Budget is available online at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Our-Budget.

Apply for a Community Grant

Applications for the next round of Community Grants open on Monday 14 July.

The grants support groups and individuals who are developing community projects.

Two funding streams are available: small grants up to \$3,000 and a partnership grants up to \$10,000.

Come to an information session on Wednesday 23 July to learn about the grants, get help with your application and ask questions.

Newstead Community Centre, 12.30pm to 2.00pm
Castlemaine Town Hall foyer, 4.00pm to 5.30pm

Applications close on Monday 4 August.

Learn more and apply online at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CommunityGrants.

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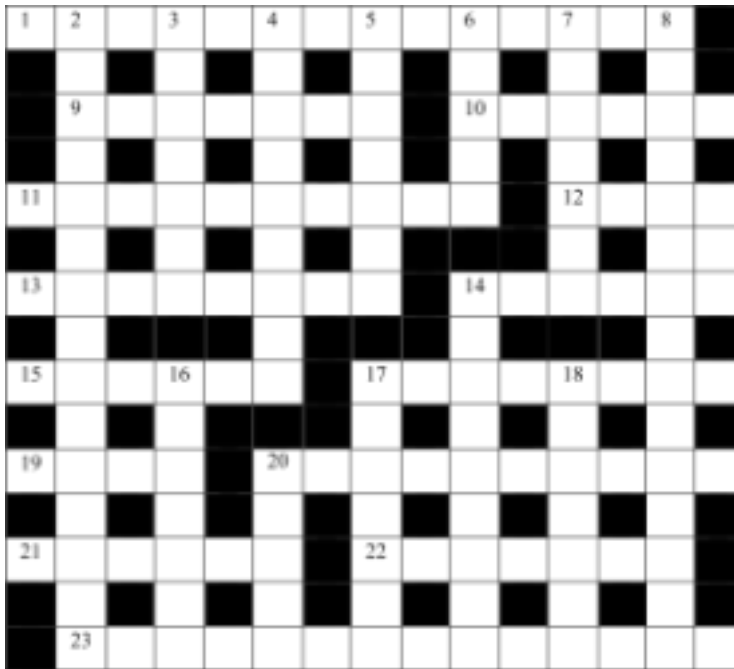
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ADN: 52739050385

July 2025 Xword

© McW November '19



Down:

2. We're warm in the chairs, the beers are cold, and they're nice and close... (6,4,5)
3. The French tongs have the most reach, even if they are messy. (7)
4. Chinese vote-building efforts?* (9)
5. Randy misplaced French coin under inverted Euro capital. (7)
6. Gives vent to the sounds of whales (six over there). (5)
7. In Nauru, I'm going to get a nuclear industry started. (7)
8. Is it a linguistic mistake to call Morrison "The Spiteful Goon"? (4,2,3,6)
14. Proof that the word is mightier than the image? (5-4 or 9)
16. Schoolboy chestnut sounds fit to take all by storm! (7)
17. If "in" is out of those rotten-borough positions, it still makes fast what's left... (7)
18. What was it they found in the car? Acid! Then the arrest... (7)
20. There's nothing under the arm, so you've got to go under the bar! (5)

* [Trigger warning: non-PC!]

Across:

1. We subvert label-mongering of record companies by playing them. (6-3,5)
9. Cherub in to get a citrus. (7)
10. Stem of the eternal speculation? (4,2)
11. When I ask about them on the corner I'm indirect, so I can't get them... (10)
12. Seaweed might rust right-to-left. (4)
13. The Road Runner, among others, croons at these strips of Karaoke... (8)
14. Veronica starts, leaves out, evacuates! (6)

15. Is redolent of non-PC parental control. (6)
17. Went from off to on, or vice-versa. (8)
19. Get right into the spirit of a wicked smile! (4)
20. OK Mr—cooler for you if you keep up this sort of talk! (6-4)
21. Naturally, I don't like it! (6)
22. Find the Rev. V. in Go-cart with his foot on it... (7)
23. The look on their faces as they shirk "terror con" of these films... (6-8)

June Xword Solution © McW October '19



Down:

1. Fake mobile salesman? [Well?]
2. Just about an alternative to more? [Well?]
3. Do vacate the courtroom if you wish to spea for him.
4. Wash ears before using cutters.
5. Grant fed me the extremely messy remains of their meal.
6. The tall man I caught at the ATM, in all probability, was bent on purchasing one for his Spanish wife.
8. More prompt than a dieter. [Well?]
12. Simple past tense can be used again on this...
14. I tell yuz—artists oughta get straight back into 'em!
16. Makes lisper's heart grow fonder? [Well?]
17. Climate tragic has the measure of Silk Road. [Well? 15 denier nylons...]
19. Revives about [re] every which way [Well? N, S, E, W]
21. Most recent American cricket match? [Well? LA test...]
23. They say Immanuel [Kant] is unable to [can't] assume a sloping position [cant]...

Across:

7. Death of the drone brings us to a finish of sorts.
9. Where the burden of responsibility rests? [Well?]
10. Tons of laughs in these fierce attacks, but only for the attackers...
11. I may P. O. 'cos I can't see far...
13. Dawn's wind—or the [Easter] rabbit's?
14. All that is south, friends.
15. Is it a human trait to repeat a slogan to ourselves?
18. Sterile environment with complimentary micro-organism?
20. Seat between hills? [Well?]

22. Fred insisted on X; Mary insisted on Y. "No!" insisted Bruce, "What've we got here?"
23. Heard seeing quote. [Well?]
24. Reliability isn't surest throw of the dice, but perhaps a hero's "twists" turn it into something very similar...

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		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	12:05	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:06	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:07	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:13	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:15	2:35

From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday

Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	11:55	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	11:56	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:03	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:04	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:05	2:25



Repair Café
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.
QR code: [QR Code]
Facebook: Castlemaine Repair Cafe
castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

2025
Jun 29
July 27
Aug 31
Sep 28
Oct 26
Nov 30



June Solution

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Moderate

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

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



TRIVIA NIGHT

EVERYONE WELCOME

Bring your Friends / Relations / Neighbours

WHAT: \$10 per Player - Tables of 8
(Max 4 Harcourt Bowlers per Table)

WHEN: 7pm Saturday August 2 2025

WHERE: Harcourt Bowls Club
1 Warren Street, Harcourt

WHY: To have some fun

BOOKINGS:

Call 0417 319 484



**Bring your own snacks
drinks available at the bar**

Supper provided at half time break