

VICE-REGAL VISITOR



Left to right: Patrick Ward, store manager; Victoria Frost; the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner; Simon Frost; and Jay Carter production manager and cider maker. Full story page 3.

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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

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Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon

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

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main

FM

LISTEN LOCAL

COMMUNITY DIARY

Looking for an opportunity to see a show in Melbourne?
See page 6.

Wednesday August 13: 7.15 pm, Carpet Bowls Legacy Tournament, Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road, Harcourt. See page 6.

Thursday August 14: 7.00 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare AGM at Harcourt Valley Community House.

Sunday August 17: Professor Barry Golding at Harcourt Heritage Centre, High Street Harcourt. See page 5 for details.

Thursday August 21: 7.30 pm Special General Meeting of Harcourt and District Leisure Centre Inc. See page 7.

Sunday August 24: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee at Barkers Creek. For location see page 12.

Community House: See page 11 for August activities.

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

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 11 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.

Council welcomes Governor of Victoria to Mount Alexander Shire

Mount Alexander Shire Council was pleased to welcome the Governor of Victoria to Central Victoria.

The Governor visited Mount Alexander Shire over two days to tour local businesses, key industries and cultural landmarks.

The first day of Her Excellency's visit included a welcome and presentation by Council staff and Councillors, a roundtable featuring local business owners, a visit to Tarrengower Prison and a tour of Harcourt Cider.

The second day included a tour of Don KR, a visit to Victoria Goldfields Railway and Buda Historic Home & Garden, and a civic event at Castlemaine Art Museum.

'It's been a privilege to host the Governor', said Cr Rosie Annear, Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire. 'We had a wonderful time sharing some of the many wonderful things that make our shire so unique, including local businesses, community groups and friendly residents.'

The Governor said: 'During my time in Mount Alexander Shire I have met with people who are contributing in so many ways to this community, looking ahead with purpose and ingenuity, achieving great things together. It is clear this community continues to transform itself. It was a great pleasure to meet with so many people from different organisations and to hear their stories, in all their forms.'

From a Shire Press Release



Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire Rosie Annear and Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner, Governor of Victoria

Governor of Victoria visits Harcourt Perry and Cider Makers

As part of her visit to Mount Alexander Shire, the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner, paid a visit to Simon and Vicki Frost's cidery and associated retail outlet in Barkers Creek on July 15. The Governor said, 'I make three or four tours around the state each year. My goal is to understand the regions both economically and socially as part of my responsibilities of community engagement. This information informs my role, both here in Australia and overseas, in promoting Victoria and its best features, including our high quality produce.'

The Governor was very impressed with the factory and associated shop. Simon and Vicki led the tour, introducing the Governor to the wide range of products which they sell and produce. Simon said 'The production from the cidery and distillery has increased with a near doubling of shed capacity. The range of our products is also growing; we have recently added a new line of packaged apple juice suitable for children's lunch boxes. We use a B-Double truck of apples a week to produce our products which include cold pressed natural ciders and some distilled products including brandy and scrumpy.'

While formalities were the order of the day, the tour concluded with a relaxed touch – a tasting from the range of ciders and distilled drinks – with Simon explaining the qualities of each. The Governor was then presented with an impressive basket containing products from the shop and cidery. In return, the Governor presented Simon and Vicki with a medallion to mark her visit (pictured below).



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Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Well, it is pretty cold out today, but I will spend most of the day at a Council briefing.

At these briefings we get presented with a lot of information and it gives Councillors the opportunity to share community matters and/or ask questions of our CEO, Directors and staff.

The briefing sessions are not decision-making forums, however, sometimes we use this opportunity to see what Councillors are thinking. The main exception to this is planning matters, where we must not come to a determination on a matter until the matter is debated at the formal Council meeting. By the time we determine a planning matter at Council, we will have received a detailed briefing and may have heard from the applicant and objectors. Many straightforward planning matters are determined by staff under delegation.

Last week we had the opportunity to meet the Governor of Victoria. Her Excellency Margaret Gardener. Of course, the Governor's role as the King's representative is largely ceremonial, however it was a great opportunity to talk about our Shire and what is going on in the region. Her Excellency is highly qualified in economics and has had senior roles at RMIT and Monash University. I did take the opportunity to explain to the Governor how our farming community is suffering from the drought. Currently it is raining outside but our livestock farmers are doing it tough until there is feed in the paddocks.

At Council it has been very busy with the finishing touches to the Council Plan and the Community Health and Wellbeing plan. These plans, like the budget, are major pieces of work and are a credit to all involved.

Just a final comment on federal matters. I congratulate the prime minister on his recent visit to China. I commend him for his efforts to engage with our largest trading partner. This is a very important relationship for our nation.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy

0439 742 434



Harcourt Lions Club

Monday Night Proves Successful.

The Harcourt District Lions Club trialled Monday night for our get together meeting, and we feel it was very successful so all agreed that we will continue meeting on Monday nights at the VMR shed on Harmony Way, with a sincere thank you to Colin and Andrew for allowing us to continue meeting there. So if a Monday night suits you, a potential member, then please come along and let us know that you are interested in finding out about Lions International or talk with members when we are out in the community.

With spring fast approaching and the possibility of needing some cover for an event, we remind you that we have marquees for hire. The marquees are 9 metres by 6 metres and would make a good outside covered area for all the family. Side cover is also available. The club members would erect the marquee and take it down at times to suit you. If the event is to be held outside Harcourt, viability of travel and associated costs will be discussed.

Our next Club meeting will be held on Monday 18th August 2025 at 6.30 for a shared meal and general discussion at 7.30 at VMR, Harmony Way, Harcourt.

Contact and Application for Membership to: Harcourt District Lions Club, P.O. Box 100, Harcourt 3453.



Cut to student debt will benefit over 3 million Australians

Do you have a student debt? Over 17,000 Bendigo residents do, and they are part of more than 3 million Australians who will benefit from Labor's Bill to cut student debt by 20%, which has just been tabled in the new Parliament.

Our proposal is to apply a one-off, 20 per cent reduction to all outstanding student debts or loans.

Once the legislation is passed, the ATO will apply this reduction automatically, based on the value of your loan on June 1, 2025.

Many people in our community are doing it tough right now – that's why the Federal Labor Government is working to relieve the pressure on household budgets by cutting students debts.

This is the latest measure introduced by the Federal Labor Government to help ease cost-of-living pressures.

Lisa Chesters MP

Federal Member for Bendigo

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
August 17 at 1.30 pm.

THE CORE VOLUNTEERS

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: QUIDDITY

The inherent nature or essence of a person or thing.

HARCOURT VALLEY VINEYARD

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Volunteering: Good for others, good for you. Win-win

Have you considered getting involved in some (more) volunteer work in Harcourt and yes, even Castlemaine? Currently there are several organisations with volunteer roles that are just waiting to be filled, including this fine publication, *The Core*.

1. The **Country Fire Authority (CFA)** is actively recruiting at the moment, and if you fit the criteria for selection what better way to become involved in the community. If you are interested and want to find out more, then call in at the fire station for a chat, talk to Captain Andrew Wilson (or any other brigade member you know) or fill in an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) on the CFA website (cfa.vic.gov.au).
2. If you are not thinking of something quite that active, but you're passionate about health, helping others, or simply enjoy walking and connecting with people, the **Companion Walking Program** is a meaningful way to give back to your community. Interested? Call Dhelkaya Health's Volunteer Office on 5471 3566 (see more information on page 19).
3. The **Harcourt Valley Community House** has a number of volunteer opportunities, many of which can be tailored to suit your skills e.g. admin, gardening, planning etc. Currently there is a pressing need for volunteers interested in helping with food relief in Harcourt. There are many roles involved (see main article page 11). Keen to help or know more? Contact Jeanette or Emmylou at HVCH: drop in on Wednesday 10 am–12 noon, phone 0438 579 987 or email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com
4. **The Core** also has a number of roles available including layout/designer (shared position, training available), co-editor (role shared with two others), proofreaders, photographer/s and roving reporters. If you have a love of words, like winking out good stories, have a creative flair for design and photography, web design and maintenance or helping expand our print and delivery runs we have just the roles for you. Contact us on news@harcourt.vic.au

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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, come along on a Wednesday night to watch or join in. Everyone is welcome.

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

Nutcracker Suite Ballet

I have booked a group of tickets for the upcoming "Nutcracker Suite Ballet": A perennial Christmas time favourite for many families. Also a great Christmas gift for the grandchildren.

DETAILS

- ▶ Wednesday 17 December at 2 pm at the Princess Theatre
- ▶ Special discounted price: \$83 includes \$5 donation to **The Smith Family** normal price is \$108
NB: money is not due till 17 October.
- ▶ Good seats in B Reserve – easy access, no steps.

Let me know *soon* if you'd like to reserve a seat or two, as tickets are very limited.

Contact Bev Orgill on 0459 324 455 or bevorgill@gmail.com

Other shows still on offer

- ▶ **The 39 Steps**
Wednesday 1 October at 2 pm at the Comedy Theatre
\$75 – payment not due till 1st August
- ▶ **Here You Come Again: the Dolly Parton Story**
Wednesday 29 October at 2 pm at the Comedy Theatre
\$85 – payment not due till 29 August.
- ▶ **Cats**
Wednesday 14 January at 1 pm at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre
\$75 – payment not due till 14 November.
- ▶ **Anastasia**
Wednesday 11 February at 1 pm at the Regent Theatre
\$75 – payment not due till 11 December

Tickets to all of these are still available
contact Bev Orgill on 0459 324455
or bevorgill@gmail.com

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Special General Meeting of Harcourt & District Leisure Centre Inc.

7.30 pm August 21

Business: To consider and decide upon

- ▶ the future of the Incorporated Association. To be held at Harcourt Leisure Centre, Bingham Rd, Harcourt.

There comes a time ...

Harcourt & District Leisure Centre Incorporated Association was formed in 1983 with the aim of fundraising, constructing and operating Harcourt Leisure Centre.

A most active committee of volunteers set about fundraising. At the same time the committee of local community user groups was developing plans to build what has now become Harcourt's Community Hall.

After negotiations with Shire Council, State Government and the Federal Sports Minister and a lot of voluntary effort, the Centre was opened in November 1991. Since then the

incorporated Association has continued to raise funds to equip the building. Principal fundraising efforts were in conducting dances and caterings.

In those far off days the recreation reserve was controlled by the Department of Lands (or whichever departmental name was fashionable at the time). Matters improved when the Reserve and the Leisure Centre were transferred into the oversight of the Mount Alexander Shire Council. Shire staff are now the go-to folks for grounds and building maintenance. Nowadays, the point of contact for Recreation Reserve and Leisure Centre users is either the Shire Office or the Leisure Centre Committee. Seasonal users (Football, Cricket and Tennis) book the facilities through the Shire, but short-term and casual users seeking to make a booking are assisted by the Leisure Centre volunteers.

At the time of the transfer of the facilities from the Department of Lands the Mount Alexander Shire did not see any necessity to appoint a Section 86 Committee. Instead a Service Agreement (in reality a formal Memorandum of Understanding) was set up between the Shire Council and

the Incorporated Association. This Agreement has now expired, leaving the Incorporated Association quite uncertain as to its legal standing.

This situation poses a lot of questions:

- ▶ Are all users now expected to deal directly with the Shire Office?
- ▶ Who is to manage the short-term / casual bookings?
- ▶ Is there to be local input into potential improvements to the reserve and the Leisure Centre?
- ▶ Who is responsible to notify Shire officials about breakages, leaks or damage to the facilities?
- ▶ Is the Harcourt community to have any input into the ongoing operation of these valued community assets?

These are the questions to be put to the Special General Meeting on Thursday 21st August.

George Milford

Hon. Secretary

Harcourt District Leisure Centre Inc.



Image: Finder

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



Harcourt CFA

Call out for new Members.

Planning for the ongoing future of the brigade, it is time for us to call out to our community for more volunteers to join the brigade. With a number of our more long-term experienced members deciding to 'hang up the boots', we need to make sure we have sufficient members available, particularly during week daytime hours to ensure we get our trucks out the door.

If you have considered joining our brigade, looking for a way to give back to our wonderful community, looking for a new experience or something to fill up that free time you have, then now is the time.

You must be at least 16 years old (parental consent is required for 16 to 18 years old), need to undergo a national police check and obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC), as well disclose any medical condition that may impact your ability to undertake the role.

All training is provided, and you will need to complete the General Fire Fighter (GFF) course prior to being approved for active duty. This all covers the basic skills required, which then leads onto other training and courses to add additional skills.

This may sound a bit daunting, but it is important to ensure everyone has the appropriate skills and training for the safety of the individual as well as the rest of the crew. If you are interested and want to find out more, then call in at the fire station for a chat, talk to our Captain Andrew Wilson (or any other brigade member you know), or fill in an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) on the CFA website (cfa.vic.gov.au).

House Fires Awareness

Winter is the time when there is an increase in house fires, and it is no different this year. There have been quite a few house and shed fires, some with fatalities, not only within the CFA response area of Victoria, but also closer to home (within our region). A lot of these were preventable, so we all need to reduce all known possible causes which show up in the fire reports.

As we know, the kitchen is the most common room for fires with cooking as the main cause.

The importance of having working smoke alarms cannot be underestimated.

In the past decade, Victorian fire fighters have responded to more than 30,000 residential fires across the state. When you are asleep, you lose your sense of smell. A smoke alarm is your electronic nose. It will alert you if there is smoke from a fire. A small fire can grow to involve an entire room in just two to three minutes. A smoke alarm provides early warning and time to escape. And also remember smoke alarms have a ten-year expiry date. The expiry date will be printed on the smoke alarm.

July Callouts

We have responded to seven callouts in July. Three of these were primary calls and four supports, calls were all to Castlemaine involving or related to a structure. Fortunately, none of these were major. They included

smoke from a fridge motor, a gas leak from a gas meter, a power line breaking away from the supply point to the building and a false alarm from the steam train storage shed at the Castlemaine Railway Station.

Locally, there was a two-car collision on the exit lane of the Midland Highway to the Calder Freeway, a grass fire on the Calder Freeway at Ravenswood South and an undefined fire in Specimen Gully Road, Barkers Creek, which turned out to be a false alarm.

It is good to finally see some better rainfall over our area, as there were many empty, or near empty, dams already raising concern for the next fire season. Hopefully, this will continue through spring.

Meanwhile stay warm and safe.

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

MASC Food Relief Network

Mount Alexander Shire Council has established a Food Relief Network to unite local organisations in addressing food relief needs, gaps and opportunities.

The network aims to gather evidence, foster cross-sector understanding, advocate for change, and improve coordination and resource sharing.

Coordinated by council under the Growing Abundance project, in partnership with Castlemaine Community House and Castlemaine Safe Space, the network includes members such as Maldon Community Pantry, Uniting Church Maldon, Salvation Army, Harcourt Valley Community Centre, and Church of Christ Castlemaine.

Together, these partners support people right across the shire who need a bit of extra help.

"Access to quality food is central to a healthy life," said Alanna Cooper, Council's Manager Community Partnerships.

"The great news in Mount Alexander Shire is that thanks to organisations like the Salvation Army and Bendigo Food Share, there is food available.

"The Mount Alexander Shire Food Relief Network wants to make sure that the distribution of this food is coordinated to make sure that everyone has access to what they need."

Moving forward, the network will be looking at increasing the days and times that food relief is available, increasing the options for diverse dietary needs and looking at ways to be accessible and supportive of diverse community members.

The network will also be looking at increasing access to sought-after items including toilet paper and nappies for babies.

The network also promotes the work of the Regional Community Vet Clinic, which provides a weekly pet food and accessories pantry from its new premises.

For more information on the Mount Alexander Shire Food Relief Network please contact Jo McMahon, Community Partnerships Project Officer: 5471 1700.





With a sunny break in the middle of the winter rains, members have been out in force as the laying of track progresses at the northern end of the station.

We make all our own points, track panels, rail chairs and sleepers. We then fully assemble these to a very fine tolerance - to the highest standard - maintaining track gauge, compliance and reliability.

As we head towards the Northern Loop excitement is building!

With the car park taking shape (shown in the background), things are looking very positive to finally open in the year 2025.

Andrew Mierisch
President VMR



Harcourt Bowling Club

Lots o' Fun and Stiff Competition at Bowls Trivia Night

Ten tables of trivia hopefuls made for a rowdy and competitive Trivia Night at the Bowlo on Saturday August 2. Between the rounds of Science, History, General Knowledge etc, other quick quizzes and challenges were available with prizes on the spot. A raffle was also run as a fundraiser for the club. There were 80 to 90 people in the quiz, while club volunteers did a great job of serving at the bar and in the room. Table number 10 won the night. The quiz was prepared and collated by Wendy Walsh and compered by Wayne Walsh who did a great job of both stirring up and controlling the crowd.



A sign that spring is not far away. If you're out and about and you see something you would like to share in the *Core* – send it to news@harcourt.com.au

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Tiny Homes On Wheels - an affordable housing option

As the housing crisis hits our community hard the appeal of the Tiny Home on Wheels (THOW) has risen.

The My Home Network Tiny Homes On Wheels working group has developed a confidential survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THOWSurvey> to better understand:

- ▶ the number of THOWs currently being lived in or being built in our Shire
- ▶ the level of interest in THOW as an affordable housing option
- ▶ the benefits of a THOW and
- ▶ any barriers to living in a THOW and what supports people think they might need to make the transition, and sustain, a THOW arrangement.

This anonymous information will be used in advocacy locally, state wide and nationally to improve appropriate uptake of THOW as affordable housing in our Shire and elsewhere.

Nearly two years ago the Mount Alexander Shire Council amended the Local Law No 13 allowing a THOW to be placed and remain on land with an existing permanent dwelling, without a permit, for "an indefinite period of time" as long as it complies with Local Law 13 conditions. For further details of these conditions see:

<https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Council/Local-laws-permits-and-fines/Local-laws/Caravans-and-tiny-houses-on-wheels-on-private-property>

The My Home Network THOW Working Group appreciates Council's leadership in changing the local law. They feel this has had a positive impact on increasing housing diversity and the Working Group continues to work towards improving the appropriate uptake of THOW in our Shire



on Djaara Country. The THOW Working Group:

- ▶ Shares information and supports people interested in THOW, including with sharing THOW owner/occupier expertise
- ▶ Supports matching those who own or occupy a THOW with those who have a suitable location for the THOW
- ▶ Advocates with others such as the Australian Tiny House Association (ATHA) for clear, consistent and practical THOW regulations and policy frameworks at the state and national levels.
- ▶ Is exploring THOW as a "Caretaker" model and the possibility of THOW small clusters on vacant land.

Western Australia is leading the way in addressing THOW uptake as a viable option to address the housing affordability crisis. This could provide a model for other states to follow.

As one elder in our community explains:

"I am 68 years old on a zero hours contract and a month to month rental lease paying \$400 a week which is incredibly stressful. I am not eligible for social housing, and want to get out of renting.

"I have worked all my life, paid my bills and just want somewhere I can afford,

feel at home, have more time with family and feel the magic inside of me.

"I can't afford a secondary dwelling but I can afford a THOW I am hoping to buy one and I can put it in my daughter's back yard so I can be near family and be in my community."

THOW working group member Tom Danby also adds "We know that THOW are not for everyone, but for some community members it is their only affordable housing option and it provides infill housing and builds community."

Please complete the survey to help us in our endeavours, and if anyone is interested in learning more about the work of the THOW working group or My Home Network please contact cneilson@castlemainehealth.org.au

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.



QR code for survey

Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday

All Welcome

Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht

0422 605 897

gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



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Harcourt Valley Community House

Open for Term 3

The HVCH is back, open 10 am–12 noon each Wednesday throughout Term 3 (last day before a break will be Wednesday 17 September).

Are you finding it hard to find the Harcourt Valley Community House?

We have been getting feedback that HVCH is hard to find! You're right, we need signage to point the way and we are working on that. In the meantime, if coming from the Castlemaine direction, Station Street Harcourt is the last turn to the right before you pass under the railway bridge. If coming from Harcourt, turn left immediately after the passing under the bridge. The street sign that says "Station St" is across the road sharing the pole with the Symes Road sign, so it is easy to miss. Once on Station Street, drive about 200 metres and the Community House is on the left in the old railway station building. We have ample car parking spaces. See you soon!

HVCH Book Nook Coming Soon

(Wanted: book shelves)

Following our successful book sale days in June, we still have many books left over and would like to establish a free lending library. We have a wide selection of fiction, non-fiction and some children's books. Lending would be free and donations (of books) welcome. If you have a set of shelves to donate, please call us on 0438 579 987 or email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com and pick-up can be arranged.

Office Space and Room Hire Available

A multipurpose room, offering heating, cooling and wifi can accommodate up to 40 people (seated in rows) or about 30 seated at tables. If you need to hire this space for meetings, events or workshops, please let us know. A fully equipped kitchen is also available.

Rates are \$12/hour (community organisations or not-for-profit) or \$20/hour for business or private use. Half or full day rates offer significant savings over the hourly rate. Call or email us to book a time for a tour of the facility or to discuss your needs.

Do you need a comfortable, secure office space on a casual, temporary or semi-permanent basis? We are

If you are happy enough to fossick through boxes of books, come anytime on Wednesdays 10 am–12 noon; have a cuppa and take home a good book.

Special thanks to the Harcourt Bowling Club for the large donation of pre-loved books.

HVCH is a part of the Mount Alexander Food Relief Network

Mount Alexander Shire Council has established a Food Relief Network to unite local organisations in addressing food relief needs, gaps and opportunities.

HVCH is a part of the network along with Castlemaine Community House, Castlemaine Safespace, Maldon Community Pantry, Maldon Anglican Church, Castlemaine Church of Christ and the Salvation Army. While we are in the final stages of "getting our ducks in a row", including signing up to Bendigo FoodShare, we will soon be actively participating in food relief at HVCH.

Which day and time we will be open will be determined based on our volunteers' availability and coordination with the other Food Relief Network partners.

In the meantime, we are seeking volunteers specifically interested in helping with food relief here at Harcourt. There are many jobs to do including our initial set-up, organising food, some collection of food (various businesses generously donate to central points for pick-up), rostering volunteers to be available and volunteering on our day (when determined). If you are keen to help or

offering co-share office space @ \$5/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 or Emmylou to discuss your needs or book a tour of the facility.

Printing & IT Services at HVCH

We are now offering printing, scanning and email services at HVCH during our regular opening hours (Wednesdays 10 am–12 noon).

Printing Fees

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

Contact the Harcourt Valley Community House

Visit us: 23 Station St, Harcourt, Vic. 3453 (Wednesdays during school terms, 10 am–12 noon)

Email: harcourtvalleych@gmail.com

Phone: 4417 8742 (Please leave a message as this phone is monitored regularly)

Phone Jeanette: 0438 579 987

would like to know more, please contact Jeanette or Emmylou at HVCH, drop in on Wednesday 10 am - 12 noon or email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or phone 0438 579 987.

For more information, follow this link:

[Council establishes Mount Alexander Shire Food Relief Network](#)

Games day at HVCH

Would you like to attend the HVCH on a regular basis and play games in good company? Play (or learn) old favourites like 500, canasta, scrabble, Mexican Train Dominos or learn new games like Azul, Settlers of Catan and Wingspan? Bring your own favourite game and teach others how to play!

If anyone is interested in attending on a regular basis, let us know and we will put together a gathering at the best time to suit the majority of people. It doesn't have to be Wednesdays (our regular open day) as once this group is established they can manage their own access to the building.

Cheers for now,
Jeanette & Emmylou
Voluntary Managers, HVCH

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

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 (Wednesdays 10 am–12 noon). A donation is welcome.

More homes for Phascogales in Harcourt

Harcourt Valley Landcarers met recently to make nesting boxes for phascogales. In the space of a few hours, ten nesting boxes were put together, thanks to President Terry Willis' organisational skills. Terry arrived at the working bee with pre-cut pieces for the boxes and the novice carpenters were put to work. Members were able to take home their finished nesting boxes with high hopes for encouraging the survival of phascogales in the Harcourt Valley.

For more information on phascogale nesting boxes and how to make them see the brochure on Harcourt Valley Landcare's website: bit.ly/40NNbOA (Note: this shortened web address will take you to Harcourt Valley Landcare's website.)



Landcare members with finished nesting boxes.

Harcourt Valley Landcare

Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm Thursday 14 August

All Welcome

Please bring a plate for supper

Harcourt Community House

Station Street, Harcourt

Harcourt Heritage Centre and Harcourt Valley Landcare Present:

'Six Peaks Speak'

With Professor Barry Golding

'Changing Conservation and Care of

Six Peaks in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country'

Sunday August 17 at 1.30 pm

Harcourt Heritage Centre

Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee – Barkers Creek

August 24 at 10 am

Meet at picnic ground Harmony Way (see map below)

For details contact:

Robyn Miller 0467 670 271



Sonny was in charge of charring the inside lids of the nesting boxes. This helps prevent bees from taking over the box.

The phascogale is classified as a vulnerable species in Victoria, but here in Harcourt they have found a home. Phascogales need connected bushland relying on large trees with hollows and littered forest floor in between. In 2013 the Department of Sustainability and Environment (as it was known then) stated that the 'Female Brush-tailed Phascogales forage over home ranges of 30-60 ha that do not overlap, while males forage over areas greater than 100 ha which may overlap.' Connecting nesting and foraging areas is important across the Harcourt Valley to sustain the species.



Ann, Terry and Kit with near-completed nesting boxes.





10 am-2 pm

[Location may change due to park works or weather]

There will be a visit from the person in red,
Christmas music, food, drinks
Fun for everyone
A few surprises up our sleeve

**Excursion: Saturday 9 August
at 10.00am, “Grassland
treasures” Baringhup**

Monthly Meeting: Friday 8 August at 7.30pm by Zoom

“What will climate change bring to Castlemaine weather?”

Speaker: Dr Linden Ashcroft (School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Melbourne)

Linden Ashcroft grew up in country Victoria on the lands of the Yorta Yorta people and is a senior lecturer in climate science and science communication at The University of Melbourne. Her career has spanned the academic, not-for-profit and government sectors, including a stint at the Bureau of Meteorology. Her research focuses on historical climatology, using pre-1900 documents and weather observations to improve understanding of Australia's past climate so we can better prepare for the future.

The impact of human-induced climate change is clear on Victoria's temperature, with graphs showing relentless warming trends. But the impact of climate change on rainfall is trickier to find. Are things getting wetter or drier? Is the 'green drought' a sign of things to come? And how can we talk about this stuff in a way that makes people act to avoid the worst impacts of a warmer world?

In this presentation, award-winning climate scientist and communicator Dr Linden Ashcroft will share recent research on our local rainfall patterns, untangling the role of climate change from our natural swings of wet and dry weather. She will also share what the science says about climate change communication: what works, what doesn't and the power of a good conversation.

How to join the Zoom meeting:

You need to register in advance to receive the link to join the Zoom session. To register, please click on the following link or copy this URL into your browser:

us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/muzlbyJeSGuGuCwjiY0cuHw

We recommend joining the session 5 - 10 minutes before the meeting to avoid congestion at 7.30pm.

Observations:

We would all love to hear of your recent interesting observations at the meeting. Contributions from both members and visitors are welcome. Please email any photos to illustrate your report as uncropped JPEG file(s) to Jill Williams (jilliwill33@gmail.com) by noon on the day of the meeting.

At our July Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club meeting, Adrian Marshall (Grassy Plains Network) reminded us that only 1% of Victoria's native grasslands remain and they're rapidly disappearing without recognition and protection. Small patches remain, often with just a few plants, but knowledge of grassland species and locations is limited.

Our first of three roadside stops to examine remnant grasslands/grassy woodlands will be at the corner of Hayes and Baringhup Roads, Baringhup. We'll continue to Baringhup West, where we'll see a *Pimelea spinescens* (Critically Endangered grassland species) project site and visit a remnant grassy Buloke Woodland. Along the way we'll search for native grassland plants and consider how we might value, protect and restore what little grassland we have left.

Meet: At the northern end of the car park north of the Railway Goods Shed, Kennedy Street Castlemaine for a prompt 10.00am departure (car-pooling as much as possible) or meet at 10.20am at the corner of Hayes and Baringhup Roads (Google Maps link).

Bring: Water, snacks, clean sturdy shoes, chairs and lunch.

All welcome



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Train travel

Towards the end of Term 2, students in all grades participated in an art project featuring train travel. The youngest students worked on making trains and carriages from cardboard boxes and also did some painting. Grades 3 and 4 viewed Australian train posters from the 1920s discussing how the artists used graphic design. Using watercolour paper for the first time, students incorporated train imagery into their posters. Grades 4, 5 and 6 learnt about one-point perspective and were given the task of creating a train inspired image, using one-point perspective.

While creating their art work on trains the older students became engaged with the idea of re-opening the Harcourt train station. There were some very clear and enthusiastic words as captions on some of the art works.

The watercolour says: 'Come for the apples and travel by train to Harcourt.'

The pencil and computer piece says: 'Travel by train to Harcourt Footy Club right now.'

Inspired by the art work, some persuasive stories were written about why the Harcourt train station should

be re-opened. Given the general support for this in the community, it is not surprising that even our youngest citizens are keen to travel by train to and from Harcourt.

The reasons the students gave for opening the station and for travelling by train, included:

- ▶ Students from the school could walk to the station and travel by train for free to either Melbourne or Bendigo for excursions, which would contribute to making camps and activities more affordable for families.
- ▶ It would be better for the environment.
- ▶ It would be good for people to come to the football at the Harcourt oval and, for one footy loving student, the thought of being able to go by train to the MCG was a very exciting prospect.

Term 3 promises some exciting activities for the students, staff and families at our primary school.

Coming Events

Tuesday 19 August Book week parade: 'Book an Adventure'.

Wednesday 20 August: Whole School Super Science Circus Show.

Monday 25 August to Wednesday 27 August: Grade 3-4 camp at Camp Wilkin at Anglesea.

Thursday 4 September: Father's Day Breakfast.

Monday 15 September: Drama Extravaganza – Drama Evening at the Phee Broadway Hall Castlemaine. The students will be showcasing their drama skills; we have partnered with Drama Victoria. Mrs Capes will be working with Drama Victoria throughout the term in the lead up to the evening.

Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 October: Grade 5-6 Camp – details to follow.

2026 Grade 6 T-Shirt Designs

Grade 5 students and parents/carers are welcome 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 this term.

Robin Miller



Prep 1 train.





ENROL NOW FOR 2026

Harcourt Valley Primary School
'Growing the core of your child's education'

ENQUIRE NOW
PH- 5474 2266
OR
EMAIL- harcourtvalley.ps@education.vic.gov.au



RESPECTFUL
ROBERT



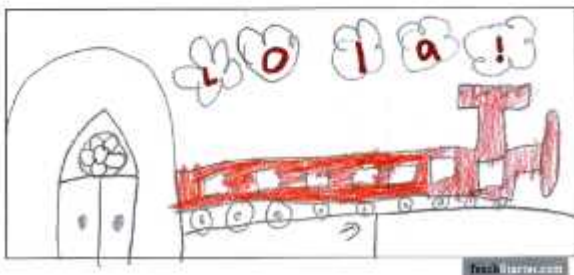
RESPONSIBLE
REGINA



CURIOUS
CARLOS

Harcourt needs a train station!!

I think Harcourt should get a train station because we could walk to the train station and travel is free for under 18's. This would make the cost of camps and excursions cheaper for us. P.S it also is closer to H.V.P.S and it makes everything easier for everyone.



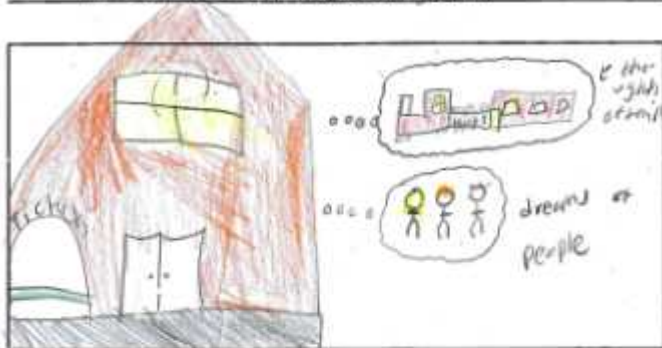
Harcourt Needs A Train Station!



- I think Harcourt should get a train station because.....
- ① Travel is free for under eighteens this would make the cost of camp and excursions cheaper for us to go places.
 - ② It would be way better for the environment because there are fumes in a bus that are bad for the environment but a train has none so this is looking after the environment and the animals around the area of Harcourt

by Ravi

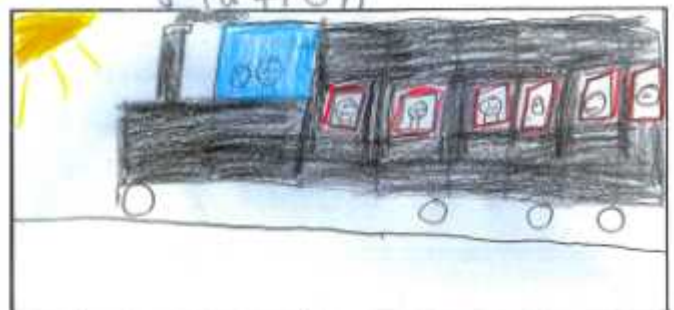
Harcourt Needs A New train station!



Harcourt needs a new train station! I think Harcourt needs a new train station because... 1st Travel is free for under 18's and that could help the school save money for things that we really need. 2nd The school has a lot of things for working with and more books for reading! 3rd The football club always have away games and sometimes when they have train stations of their own and I have did not get the train station we might have to drive more having distances to the games! 4th It could help the environment a lot but think about using a bus that runs on petrol or diesel that would let out clouds of smoke or gas! So please let Harcourt get a train station!

From Josie grade 3/4 Harcourt valley primary school!

Harcourt + Need A train station



I think Harcourt should get a train station because my family could watch the football at the MCG.

From Nixon Leech

Harcourt Valley Primary School



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello there, everyone.

It's me again, with more news and information from those "Chicks With Attitude" at the Harcourt CWA. I know I say it every time but ... it has been another busy and enjoyable month for us.

Our Guest Speaker

We started the month with an excellent Guest Speaker, Di Cox, an Accommodation Social Worker at Dhelkaya Health at Castlemaine Hospital.

Di told us about the wonderful "Homeshare Mount Alexander" program that is being developed by Dhelkaya and managed by her. This program seeks to connect people by bringing two unrelated people together to share a home and their lives for the benefit of both. We learnt that no two Homeshare arrangements are exactly alike. Age, gender, sexual or cultural identity and ability are all taken into account, and Homeshare will aim to match you with someone with whom you are comfortable.

Di explained that home providers are people who live alone, have a spare room and could benefit from having someone else in the house. Home seekers are individuals or couples over 18 years who need affordable housing and can provide 10-12 hours each week of agreed tasks in exchange for a comfortable room. Homeshare is not an offer of free accommodation, a tenancy agreement or emergency housing, and it is definitely not a personal care program. It is so much more than that.

If you'd like to find out more about the Dhelkaya Homeshare program contact Di Cox by email: DCox@castlemainehealth.org.au or by phone: 0449 309 418



Our Activities

We have had a couple of fun social activities this month. Our president Robyn McConville enjoyed a Big O birthday and we helped her celebrate with a scrumptious afternoon tea spread. It was passionfruit sponge and scones, jam and cream all round. You can tell from the look on Robyn's face that she enjoyed every minute of it. We did too.

Moving on to the end of July, we donned our Xmas gear and enjoyed a traditional Christmas Dinner together for our annual "Xmas in July" Luncheon of roast pork, ham, chicken, roast veggies with all the trimmings, followed by a delicious homemade plum pudding with custard and cream, compliments of Marie Twyford.



In lieu of Kris Kringle this year, we all gave a \$10 donation and brought along some groceries instead; and Bev O delivered those to Kelsey at Castlemaine Community House to help fill up some corners of their Community Food Bank, a service available to local people and families who might be doing it tough at the moment. Staples like rice, pasta, Vegemite, eggs, butter, milk, cheese, tomato sauce, soup and dry and sweet biscuits etc are always appreciated. Harcourt CWA, like all CWAs in Victoria, seeks to support and donate to many good causes, especially in our local area.

That's all from me this month. Next time I'll tell you more about our guest speaker from "Donate Life" and the fun things we've been up to.

If you'd like to join us, just come along to the Harcourt Leisure Centre at 1.30 pm on the 1st Thursday of each month or contact Bev O on 0459 324 455 for more details.

From Bev Orgill on behalf of the Harcourt CWA.



**10 am-2 pm
Saturday
29 November
See page 13 for more ...**



Vale Jock Conn

Raymond Conn, 'Jock', was born on 28 August 1935. He was the youngest of William and Myra Conn's 9 children. The family lived on the outskirts of Harcourt on what was the old Calder Highway (now 52 Harmony Way). William was a woodcutter, and then became an orchardist on the Harcourt property.



Jock attended Harcourt Primary school, with long time local mates Donald 'Zacky' McLean and Stan 'Sticks' Broadbent, and then went on to Castlemaine Technical School, before leaving school to work the family's orchard. He also played footy for the Harcourt Lions and spent time fishing.

Around 1954 he joined the Harcourt Young Farmers; here he met Thelma Brock. Thelma was assisting her mother and elder sister Dot to run their property Springvale at Faraday. Jock and Thelma were married at the Castlemaine Methodist church on 13 February 1960, and they made Springvale their home for the next forty years, running merino sheep and first-cross lambs. They had three daughters, Lynda, Helen and Adele, and would go on to have nine grandchildren.

During the '90s, Jock returned to his orcharding roots, working for Jeff Thompsons' Orchards.

Jock and Thelma retired to live in Golden Square and spent most of their following years travelling in their caravan. In 2015, they moved into the Bendigo Retirement Village. Not long after the move, Thelma passed away in May of 2016. Jock remained living at the village until a recent fall, after which he lived briefly in the Mercy Bethlehem Nursing home in Bendigo, where he passed away 15 July 2025, having celebrated his 90th birthday just 2 weeks prior, surrounded by his family.

From Jock's eulogy:

In keeping a connection with his beloved Harcourt, Jock would eagerly await his monthly issue of *The Core* magazine. For a man that lived his entire life without a computer, the internet or even a smart phone, having the issues printed and sent through the post by Robyn and Nick, provided an enormous amount of joy.

No Speed Limit Change on Harmony Way

In April 2025, *The Core* featured an article published by the Shire, proposing speed limit changes on the section of Harmony Way north of the town.

The proposal had the aim of improving road safety by dropping the speed limit which currently changes from 60 kph to 100 kph immediately after the Barkers Creek bridge.

Road safety in this stretch of road which joins the Calder Highway would be improved by:

- ▶ An extension of the 60 kph speed zone north of Twyford Street (500 m),
- ▶ an 80 kph transitory zone to the cemetery (1.1 km),
- ▶ 100 kph to the Calder Freeway (3.5 km).

The proposed changes would have increased travel time by 22 seconds along this stretch. Cr Tony Cordy said at the time: 'Our community's safety is a top priority for us at Council. We worked with technical experts from Transport Victoria to come up with the proposed change, which fits within the Speed Zoning Guidelines.'

The Editor of the *Castlemaine Mail*, Lisa Dennis attended the July Council Meeting where the results of further community consultation were aired. The findings were reported on the front page of the *Castlemaine Mail* on Friday August 1. The following is a summary of the findings as published in *The Mail*:

At the Council meeting, Councillor Toby Heydon stated that the council engaged extensively using social media, newspaper advertisements, posters, emails to community groups, a face to face consultation and a survey on Shape Mount Alexander.

There were 257 responses to the proposed speed reductions listed above. Of the total responses, 78 people (30%) were supportive of the change but 170 (70%) were not supportive. Council officers noted that there is a limited crash history on this section of the road and given the overwhelming lack of support, they could not recommend any alteration to current speed limits.

Councillor Cordy said 'I feel for the petitioners as they are not getting the change they wanted, but the bottom line is we need to drive to the conditions.' Councillor Heydon also stated that he thinks this issue is likely to be revisited, as 80 kph is in wide use across the Shire on arterial roads.

I tested ease of access onto Harmony Way from both

Gaaschs Road and Twyford Street. Gaaschs Road has better visibility, but it is necessary to cross two lanes because the road widens with the addition of a passing lane. Coming out of Twyford Street at 5 pm with the westerly sun behind, it was impossible to see anything in the mirrors at the end of the road. At night it would be possible to see the lights of oncoming traffic in the mirrors, however, for daytime use, the mirrors are past usefulness and a more modern solution is needed, as the visibility is extremely poor. It appears necessary when driving out of Twyford Road in the daytime to put both windows down to hear oncoming traffic, hit the accelerator, and 'pray'.

Robyn Miller

With thanks to Lisa Dennis the Editor of the *Castlemaine Mail* (and ex-Harcourt resident).





Harcourt Heritage Centre

The egg box

If you want to buy eggs nowadays, the supermarket will sell you a dozen eggs produced by a commercial poultry farm. The nearest intensive egg-producing poultry farms are situated far from Harcourt.

It is now over thirty years since Harcourt had its own egg-producing poultry farm. Initially, poultry farming was a sideline industry in this valley, with most birds kept in small flocks on a mixed orchard/dairy/poultry farm.

Poultry farming was the subject of government regulation from 1936 until the 1990s. From 1936 all eggs produced in flocks of over twenty adult female fowls were the property of, and marketed by, the Victorian Egg Marketing Board. In those far off days, Victoria produced a surplus of eggs. Locally produced eggs were graded at depots for the Victorian Egg Marketing Board, with much of the state production destined for export. Soding Bros acted as the agent for the Board from a depot in their Mostyn Street Castlemaine Stop. A reminder of these days is a wooden egg box now in the Harcourt Heritage Centre Museum. The box held thirty dozen eggs.

In the 1950s, Harcourt had at least twelve poultry farms. You could locate them by the smell. If you lived downwind on a hot night the smell was overpowering. Point-of-lay pullets were purchased from specialised hatcheries, such as the one at Lockwood. Some local farms hatched their own chickens in incubators. If the chickens were

hatched on the farm, the poultry farmer had to develop the skill of chicken sexing.

Harcourt Cooperative Fruit Growers Limited served the poultry farms by purchasing bulk supplies of poultry feed (bran, pollard and wheat) and shell grit, from Tomlins Simmie in Bendigo and delivered bagged chook feed each Friday to the local producers. The industry was supported by the regular cheque from the Egg Board. The poultry industry hereabouts was at its peak in the 1960s when 80 percent of the state's eggs were produced in the Bendigo region.

Harcourt's poultry farms were operated by (in no particular order) Frank Warren, Arthur Normington, Wes Gardner, F McDonnell, Ron Robins, Alwyn Genders, Sven Johanson, Stan Bankin (later W Spencer), Ogilvy (later G Leerson), Andrew Clare and, next to the Church of Christ, Ball, Niewandt and Ralston.

Harcourt hit the headlines in *The Argus* of 16 March 1945 when Norma Lee, a former Land Army girl, purchased Wickham in Craigie Street with the proceeds of a public subscription, as she had lost both legs in a railway accident. The first act, on moving to Wickham was to build fowl pens. Miss Lee successfully conducted an orchard and a 500-hen poultry farm until the early 1950s when she sold Wickham to Mr and Mrs Alan Brown.

In the 1970s, following the loss of the UK market, state governments across Australia formed a Council of Egg Marketing Authorities. This Council imposed a levy on all hens kept for commercial purposes. The new Authority also introduced a quota system to try to eliminate the boom and bust of the industry. At the same time, it became a requirement for egg producers to refrigerate the eggs. Farmers had to install a cool room and all eggs had to be collected from the farm twice a week in a refrigerated truck. This was about the time at which the thirty-dozen egg box was done away with and replaced with the 360-dozen trolley. The egg transport, of course, was equipped with a hydraulic tailgate loader. By this time, many small-scale egg producers had left the industry.



The remaining poultry farms not only spent money on setting up a cool room, they also invested in modern controlled-environment housing for the birds. From this time fowl pens were to be kept at a constant temperature with plenty of food and water. To avoid the winter moult, the birds were kept under electric lights twelve months of the year.

The industry had about ten years of stability after this, but then government obsession with de-regulation exposed the egg producer to the unhappy situation of having the major supermarket chains set the price for eggs. Harcourt's last large-scale commercial poultry farm (operated by Ron Robins) ceased production at that time.

Most of the readers of *The Core* will remember the days of the small domestic flock, when children thrilled to watch chickens hatch, were woken each day by the crow of a rooster, rarely ate roast chook and were horrified to find that a fox had killed some of their hens. Nothing could be further from the current state of operation of the egg industry, with its intensive, industrial-scale poultry farming.

The egg box, now a museum exhibit, sits about half way through the era of egg production. Think of the memories stirred up by this simple, purpose-made, wooden, lidded box.

Harcourt Heritage Centre is open every Wednesday from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.





Programs & Services Heart Health

Accessing healthcare in rural areas can be tough. Heart disease affects 5.3% of our community, higher than the Victorian average. We are helping to reduce this difference with specialised cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs designed to support recovery and long-term wellbeing.

Cardiac rehabilitation programs support individuals recovering from heart-related events or surgeries, like a heart attack or stent operation.

Pulmonary rehabilitation programs support individuals with chronic lung conditions, such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

Both programs involve a team of multidisciplinary professionals, including registered nurses, exercise physiologists, dietitians, social workers, pharmacists and occupational therapists.

T. 5471 3575

Get Active Yapeen Walking Tour

Enjoy a pleasant guided tour around Max Kay's farm in Yapeen, the site of the first non-Indigenous settlement in the area (settled by William Campbell of Strathloddon station).

With 360 degree views of the surrounds, including views of Lalgambook (Mt Franklin), you'll see a wide variety of eucalypts - some over 200 years old - as well as interesting geological formations and work that has been completed by Landcare.

Please note that this walk is short but contains some hills, so some fitness is required. The walk will be cancelled if there is any rain whatsoever, to avoid slipping on hills.

Date: Thursday 28 August 2025
Meet: 676 Yapeen-Muckleford Road
Time: 10.30 - 11.30 am

T. 5479 1000

Opportunities TAC L2P Program

Dhelkaya Health is seeking volunteers for the TAC L2P Program.

The L2P Program driver mentor volunteer assists learner drivers under 21 years of age, who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle, to gain the 120 hours driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

The L2P Program helps disadvantaged young people get the skills and support they need to become safe and responsible drivers, and you'll feel great knowing that you're doing something really worthwhile.

T. 5479 3566

Step into connection: Become a companion walking volunteer

Dhelkaya Health's Companion Walking program is helping people across Mount Alexander Shire improve their mental health and wellbeing through gentle, one-on-one walks with a supportive volunteer.

Wahibe, a participant since the program began during the COVID-19 lockdowns, shared how Companion Walking has made a lasting impact on her life.

"I knew I needed exercise but kept putting it off. Since then, I was diagnosed with ADHD, and have found out that people with this diagnosis need someone to keep us on track," Wahibe said.

"It helps me to get out of the house and exercise for at least that hour each week. I know it is not enough, but it's better than nothing. It's also provided companionship - my volunteer and I have become friends and we see each other outside of companion walking. When I moved to this area, I wanted to get to know people, and this program has given me valuable connections in the community."

A recent evaluation of the program



conducted by Dhelkaya Health revealed its powerful impact: 100% of participants strongly agree that Companion Walking supports or improves their mental health and wellbeing.

Now, Dhelkaya Health is seeking new Companion Walking Volunteers.

Volunteers walk one-on-one with a participant at a pre-arranged time and location and provide companionship and conversation. The walks are gentle and paced to suit both people. This role is ideal for people who are friendly,

empathetic, and able to relate to others from diverse backgrounds.

First Aid training is provided, and ongoing support is available from Dhelkaya Health.

Whether you're passionate about health, helping others, or simply enjoy walking and connecting with people, this is a meaningful way to give back to your community.

Interested in volunteering? Call Dhelkaya Health's Volunteer Office on 5471 3566.



Harcourt Uniting Church

We have recently returned from an enjoyable four weeks caravanning up to far north Queensland.

As we travelled through our amazing country I couldn't help but think of the well-known more recent hymn: "Give thanks with a grateful heart". We are so thankful that we can travel freely within Australia, meeting so many interesting people along the way.

At the town of Hay, a convoy of B-Doubles passed through on their way to South Australia with much needed hay for drought-affected farmers. At Tambo, a truckie was also carting hay to S.A. from the Winton area where the recent rains and warm weather meant station owners were able to cut a second crop of hay to donate to fellow farmers.

In Longreach, the town folk were pleased to welcome us to support their businesses after the recent flooding in the area.

I was pleased to read that Frontier Services (an agency of the Uniting Church) had been providing assistance to families on outback stations, along with Blaze Aid.

Fridge for a Friend was the initiative of the Glasson family of Picarilli Merinos. With the help of friends, social media and generous local electrical businesses they were able to donate ninety-six

fridges and eighty-seven washing machines to families in their area.

As we travelled further north, there was the wonder of the enormous lava tubes at Undara, North Queensland, as well as the amazing Cobbold Gorge where we experienced the magic of the gorge in an electric powered boat (saving on pollution of the water) and then hiked up the gorge to walk over a glass bridge connecting the two sides of the gorge.

Of course, all the time we were enjoying the warm weather ranging from 27 to 33 degrees! Great weather for a swim in an infinity pool as well.

When you caravan you meet so many people who enjoy a chat in the caravan park. The usual opening question is "Where are you from?" At Longreach, when I said "I'm from Harcourt", the lady replied, "My sister lives in Harcourt" and, yes, I know her sister as the mum of one of my kinder children in the 90s.

While we were away, friends from church were messaging to say how cold it has been, but have been thankful for the split system heating in our new meeting / kitchen area. On the last Sunday in July we hosted the Castlemaine



congregation at a combined service. Members of St Vinnies Castlemaine prepared a delicious morning tea to thank both congregations for our weekly food donations to their food pantry which supports families struggling to feed their families every week.

Two men were marooned on an island. One paced up and down worried and scared. The other one sat back relaxing. The first man asked, "Aren't you scared that we may never be found?" "No" the relaxed one replied, "I make a \$10,000 donation to my Church collection plate each week, so my minister will soon come looking for me."

Jan Jenkin

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National Diabetes Week – regular checks reduce risks

This National Diabetes Week (13 – 19 July), members of the Mt Alexander Diabetes Support and Information Group are encouraging people to schedule a health check today, for a healthier tomorrow. The Mount Alexander Diabetes Support and Information Group meet in the Community Rehabilitation Centre at Dhelkaya Health on the first Wednesday of the month from 1 to 2 pm.

Almost 400,000 Victorians live with diabetes – enough people to fill the MCG four times over. A further 125,000 have undiagnosed diabetes. Dhelkaya Health Diabetes Educators, Kay Pedretti and Fei Siegel state that “for people living with diabetes, regular health checks for eyes, feet, blood pressure and kidneys can reduce the risk of long-term complications.”

“Regular checks mean you can find potential health problems early and discuss the best possible treatment with health professionals.”

Kay and Fei say knowing your risk is the first step to living well. Relatives of people with type 1 diabetes can access the national Type1Screen program for an antibody test to determine their risk of developing type 1. “While type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented, the Type1Screen program can give your relatives peace of mind,” Kay and Fei explain.

“Family members of people living with type 1 diabetes have a higher risk of developing type 1. Early detection can prevent serious health problems.”

For more information about diabetes health checks and the Type1Screen program, visit diabetesvic.org.au To arrange a referral with our Diabetes Education team please contact Dhelkaya Health Intake on 5471 3575 or via email on intake@castlemainehealth.org.au



MORE FREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE COMING TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The Allan Labor Government is expanding its network of Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals so more Victorians can get free mental health support close to home without needing a GP referral or Medicare card.

Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt today visited the Brimbank Mental Health and Wellbeing Local to announce that seven new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals will soon open across Victoria.

These new Locals will be established in the Cardinia, Darebin, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Port Phillip, Wyndham and Mount Alexander (servicing Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Macedon Ranges) Local Government Areas.

Acting as a ‘front door’ to the mental health system, the Locals offer support and treatment for Victorians experiencing mental illness or psychological distress, including co-occurring substance use or addiction.

Support is delivered in-person, via telehealth and via outreach services with a care plan designed to reflect a person’s goals and preferences – family, carers and supporters can also be involved.

A flagship reform following the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System, the new services build on

the 15 existing Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals operating across 17 locations that have already helped more than 23,000 Victorians access free community-based mental health care and support.

The growing uptake of these reflects real progress in delivering the accessible, and community-embedded care envisioned by the Royal Commission.

The seven new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are expected to open from late 2025, continuing the Labor Government’s ongoing reform and expansion of community-based services.

To make it even easier to access help, walk-in support is now available at the existing Bairnsdale, Lilydale and Melton Locals, giving Victorians more options to care when and where they need it.

The Victorian Budget 2025/26 invested \$34.4 million to support the 17 existing locations, establish these seven new locations and continue essential community-based mental health services across Victoria.

The Labor Government has invested \$6 billion in the mental health system since the Royal Commission report was handed down and grown the mental health workforce by 25 per cent.

For more information on Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal

From a press release

Coliban Water makes the switch to 100% renewable electricity

The delivery of drinking water and sewage treatment for 180,000 Coliban Water customers in 49 towns across central and northern Victoria will be delivered using 100% renewable electricity from 1 July 2025.

The switch to renewables is expected to reduce carbon emissions by around 25,500 tonnes per year and is a key milestone as Coliban Water targets net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Adam Crameri, said the achievement is good news for customers and the environment. It improves our energy security and drives down long-term operating costs.

"We are now sourcing our energy needs from our own solar installations, as well as Large Generation Certificates from the Zero Emissions Water solar farm at Kiamal [north of Ouyen] that supports renewable energy infrastructure.

"Since adopting our renewable energy target in 2018, we have

invested in projects across the region to reduce our reliance on energy from the grid, making our operations more sustainable and efficient, and delivering improved outcomes for our customers and local communities.

"We have installed solar panels totalling 650 kilowatts. These can be found at our facilities in Kyneton in the south, Leitchville and Pyramid Hill in the north, plus Bridgewater, Korong Vale, and Wedderburn," he said.

"We're planning further solar installations with the capacity to generate another 100 kilowatts of clean energy, and we continue to benefit from the Zero Emissions Water partnership which operates the state's largest solar farm at Kiamal on behalf of 12 Victorian water corporations.

"Other plans to expand our renewable energy portfolio include a 1.5-megawatt hydroelectricity and battery project at Lake Eppalock and an additional three megawatt solar and battery project at the Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant."

Mr Crameri said Coliban Water is proud to start the new financial year having achieved this important milestone.

"But there is still more work to do. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with regional stakeholders and peers in the Victorian water sector to achieve the next significant milestone, net zero carbon emission by 2030.

"With this target we expect to reduce our annual carbon emissions by 85% or 25,500 tonnes, the equivalent of removing 10,000 cars from our roads every year," he said.

"We recognise climate change is one of the most significant risks across our operations. Continuing to reduce our emissions is critical in a region prone to periods of extended dry conditions and extreme weather events."

You can read more about Coliban Water's journey to net zero carbon emissions at connect.coliban.com.au/netzero

From a press release

Express your interest

Do you want to help improve access and inclusion for people with disability in Mount Alexander Shire? Express your interest in becoming a member of the Mount Alexander Disability Inclusion Advisory Group (DIAG).

The group was developed to support Council to implement actions from the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027 and help make sure the shire is a welcoming and inclusive place for people of all abilities.

The advisory group provides Council with guidance and information on the issues facing community members living with all forms of disability and provides opportunities to acknowledge and/or address them collaboratively.

The group comprises community members living with a disability, people caring for someone with a disability, service providers and people who have specialist knowledge or interest in disability issues.

Mount Alexander Shire Council's Mayor, Cr Rosie Annear, said that

Council is proud to work with community on improving access and inclusion.

"We want everyone in our shire to feel seen, heard and included," said Mayor Annear.

"That's why this group is so important – it gives people with lived experience a seat at the table, where their voices can help shape how we build a more accessible and equitable community together.

"I encourage anyone who feels they can contribute to this Advisory Group in a collaborative and community-focused way to express their interest.

"It's an exciting opportunity to make a real difference for our community."

Express your interest

Complete an expression of interest form in one of the following ways:

- Online at www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/disability-action-plan
- Download an EOI from the Key Documents section of [www.](https://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/disability-action-plan)

[shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/disability-action-plan](https://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/disability-action-plan), fill it out and email it back to us.

- Pick up a hard copy form from Council's Customer Service Centre, located at the Civic Centre, corner Lyttleton and Lloyd Streets, Castlemaine, and return it there.
- Mail a hard copy to: PO Box 185, Castlemaine VIC 3450
- Contact us on 5471 1700 or through the National Relay Service (NRS)
- TTY users' phone 133 677 then ask for 5471 1700
- Speak and Listen users' phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 5471 1700
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 5471 1700

For more information, visit www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/disability-action-plan, contact Rosie Collins, Social Equity and Inclusion Officer via email on disabilityinclusion@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or call 5471 1877.

From a press release



Weather & Water

Wild and wet July



There were two outstanding features of the weather in July: finally good rain was received and there was a fierce storm on Friday July 25. SES callouts were made in Harcourt with trees down across roads in a number of places. Frosts were frequent in July, but often did not result in calm sunny days with wind and cloud cover from the middle of the day. Temperatures were average or below average in inland Victoria.

Rainfall occurred over nine days with heavy falls on 13, 25 and 26 July. In total 95 mm was received at Reservoir Road. The rain was effective in causing run off for the first time in a good while and dams were filled or topped up. The cumulative total of

rainfall here on July 31 was 261.5 mm. The bureau reported that we received average rain in July, but it was received by all with great relief. Reservoir levels have risen slightly. With fingers crossed we can look forward to good rainfall from July to September but also warmer than average temperatures. See the bureau's forecast below:

The weather bureau's long range forecast overview shows that above average rainfall is likely for much of the eastern two thirds of Australia, except south-eastern parts of the country. Warmer than

average days are very likely in the north, west and south-east, and warmer than average nights, are likely nationwide. The long-range forecast for July to September (issued 3 July 2025)

Reservoir levels have risen slightly, but much more will be needed to avoid water restrictions to townships on the Coliban system. As reported in last month's Core, irrigators have had their water allocation for the next season cut to 30% which is an alarming reduction. We can only hope that the bureau is correct in predicting above average rain for August. We will have to wait until September for the next long range outlook.

Reservoir Levels

	2024	2025		
	5 July	27 May	9 June	30 July
Upper Coliban	81%	55.7%	55%	58.7%
Lauriston	86%	72.6%	72%	70.3%
Malmsbury	31%	13.3%	13.9%	14.6%
Barkers Creek	42.9% (26 June)	27.9%	27.9%	33.7%

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

Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

Prayer

Let's look at the example of Jesus and the priority Jesus attached to prayer. In Luke's gospel Jesus prayed all night out on the mountain prior to selecting his apostles the next day. A momentous decision with ramifications down through the ages was preceded by much prayer.

In Matthew's gospel we find Jesus spending most of the night in prayer on a mountain prior to walking on water the next day! So, intense prayer preceded the miraculous! Luke also records that Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness to pray. Thus, we see that Jesus attached a priority to prayer.

Following Jesus' example, it is also obvious that we need a secluded place to pray, a place where we won't be disturbed. The bible calls this place a prayer closet. Secondly, we need a dedicated time in which we are going to pray, rather than approaching prayer haphazardly. Jesus often prayed early,

thus setting the scene for the rest of the day. Let's follow in the Master's footsteps, shall we?

For the sake of consonance let's call that secluded, that dedicated place in which we pray, a private place of prayer.

Finally, it is obvious from the gospels that Jesus pursued a close relationship with God the Father through prayer. And, in fact, this pattern is confirmed by the Apostle James later on in the New Testament where he states that if we draw near to God, he shall draw near to us. This was certainly the experience of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We too need a time and a place for solitude, alone with God, free from distractions and free from interruptions – a time to pray, a time to draw near to God, a time to intercede for others, and a time to be energized for ministry.

Ps Roger Thurecht

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KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Hi everyone,

We'd like to start this month with a reminder to be alert (but not alarmed) for evidence of budswell in your peach and nectarine trees. This is the trigger to put on a copper spray (Bordeaux or Kocide) to prevent Leaf Curl disease. Even though it still feels like the depths of winter, spring is just around the corner and our fruit trees are on the verge of waking up. It's time to start monitoring your trees at least once a week, so you don't miss the signs.

If you've planted any fruit trees this year, give yourself a big pat on the back. When properly looked after, fruit trees can live for a very long time, so it's a great legacy to create for your family, and the families that will be lucky enough to enjoy your fruit trees in years to come.

If you bought your trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU, we love our local customers :). Our various multigraft were popular this year, so we'll be grafting some more soon so they're available again next year. We also have a special line of Harcourt-grown citrus trees coming soon, so stay tuned. We've been experimenting for a few years to find the right rootstock for our climate, and we think we've cracked it!

This month we want to talk about how to protect your fruit trees from the many, many pests that want to eat them. Firstly, make sure you protect the trunks from being eaten, especially of newly planted trees. The sorts of pests that like to eat bark that are common in Harcourt are rabbits, hares, kangaroos and wallabies. If sheep, goats, cows (or even the odd deer) find their way into your garden they can also do damage. Even older trees can be attacked, and we've just noticed fresh damage in our heritage apple orchard, so we'll be mixing up a batch of hare-deterrent paint this week.

You can make an organic hare-deterrent paint by mixing animal fat with any strong smelling stuff like peppermint oil, garlic, lavender, eucalyptus, tea tree etc and painting it on the bark. Hares are herbivores and don't like strong smells, so the combination works well to stop them eating the delicious tender bark on your trees. However, it's not very permanent so you may need to re-apply it after heavy rain or heat.

Animals eating the bark or branches of your baby tree can seriously stunt or disfigure the tree. If they eat the bark all the way around it can even kill the tree.

Your trees may need protection for the first two or three years, or until the bark has hardened enough to lose its attraction, though even old bark can still be attractive to sheep and goats.

Tree guards, fencing or dogs can all be effective deterrents. The type of tree guard you choose will depend on the type of animal you're preventing, and also the shape of the tree. If the limbs of your tree start very close to the ground (up to knee height), a tree guard just around the trunk won't be enough to protect the tree adequately. You'll need to look at a taller structure around the whole tree.

Traditionally, old metal drums were used for the purpose, and you can often see the remnants of them around old fruit trees - which is one of the problems with this option! Once the tree has grown, the drums are hard to remove. A mini-enclosure (i.e. fence) around each tree works well but is time-consuming and expensive to build if you have a lot of trees, and leads to the same problem of having a redundant enclosure that's hard to remove once the tree is mature.

So, what's the solution? There are four we recommend, and the one you choose will depend on your budget and goals. The first is the full "repel all enemies" enclosure fence around your property, built tall enough and engineered highly enough to keep out both kangaroos and rabbits. This is a good permanent solution, but of course it's hugely expensive, and it also disconnects your property from the surrounding landscape, which may not be what you're looking for.

The second option is much more practical and multi-purpose, and works particularly well for single trees in the garden, or short rows of trees. A simple hoop structure erected over the tree using star pickets and 2" poly pipe provides an affordable framework that can be used to support frost cloth, bird netting or fruit fly exclusion netting. It can also be simply reinforced with a strip of chicken wire around the base to stop the 'roos and rabbits from breaking through. The third option is somewhere in between; a simple tree guard made from a length of chicken wire rolled into a hoop and attached to the ground with a stake on either side. The fourth and last option is to use three wooden pallets to form a triangle around the tree. Simply wire the pallets together and then wire them to at least one stake to hold them in position and stop the structure from falling over.



Here are a couple of other tips to make sure your young trees get a good start in life:

- ▶ If you didn't prune them when you planted, prune now (or before spring) so they grow into a useful shape right from the get-go. We reckon a classic vase shape suits most backyard trees.
- ▶ Once the soil has started to warm up a bit, mulch very young trees or plant a living understory. Fruit trees prefer a woody mulch-like sawdust or wood chips or use old straw. It's a good idea to put a layer of compost or worm castings under the mulch to make sure you're still feeding your soil microbes. Once the trees are established, they're better with a "living mulch" or even just weeds, as long as you mow them regularly. For the first year or two it's better to reduce competition from grassy weeds, so it's OK to use mulch while you get the understory plants established.
- ▶ Fruit trees don't need watering in when you plant them, and we've had a bit of rain now, so you don't need to water your trees yet. However, make sure you've got the irrigation set up and ready to go, because it's not unusual to get a sudden hot spell in spring. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below.

Happy fruit growing!

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



Council news

Community Christmas Celebration Grants now open

Our Community Christmas Celebration Grants help towns across the shire celebrate the festive season.

The grants can be put towards outdoor decorations, community events, Santa visits, barbecues, music and other celebrations.

Applications close on Friday 15 August.

The application form is quick and simple, and available at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Grants, along with guidelines and more details.

To discuss your application with Council staff, call 5471 1700 or email events@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Council recognised as LGBTIQA+ Specialised Aged Care Service

We're proud to announce that we've received our LGBTIQA+ Specialisation Verification.

This means our staff are sensitive to the unique experiences and needs of older LGBTIQA+ people.

We believe that everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect, and to have their identity, culture and diversity valued.

Stay in the loop on Council news

Do you want to know what news, events and opportunities are happening across the shire?

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Let us know by sending the person's details to:
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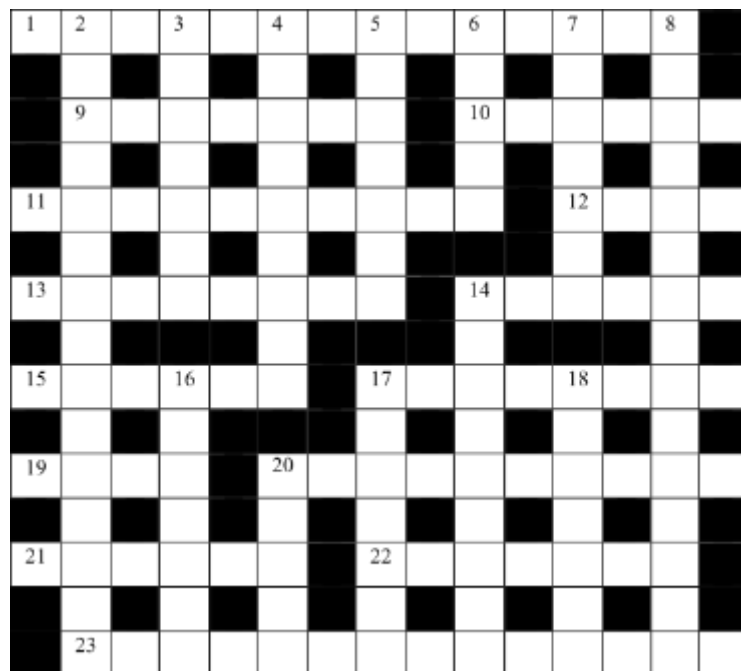
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August 2025 Xword

© McW November '19



Down:

2. Film legend charted chic folk under pressure. (6,9)
3. Idle? No, he did lots, we hear, always applauded as he took the stage. (7)
4. Because of 18, it rolls in: this is what they end up with, eventually. (9)
5. Possible to see germ as it wriggles out. (7)
6. This bleating over occupied territory to the north is uneven from the start. (5)
7. I could text you about the feel of it. (7)
8. "Lecturer toilets" are something we keep hidden from students... (3,6,6)
14. Chastised for having achieved one item on bucket list. (6,3)
16. Big wind ripped over a party! (7)
17. Roll over bloke on the road. (7)
18. Lust for 4, eventually... (7)
20. Noisome problem created when little lizard replaces the first of the last with the first... (5)

Across:

1. Joe K experienced it—H merely wrote about it... (5,6-3)
9. Holy cup is broken. Held in an iron grip, it's still easy to break further. (7)
10. Rebellious Chinese smalls? (6)
11. Try escaping on maiden voyage? (4,6)
12. Flat One? (4)
13. Ghosts of strips past... (8)
14. Sort of compact involving a sober year. (6)
15. And backward French removal changes legislation to standing. (6)

17. Mayday has vague trace of philosopher. (8)
19. God, what a sledger! (4)
20. Humdrum friends drawn again... (10)
21. More than one red salad vegetable in early Rome, perhaps? (6)
22. More extreme than long-running Blues group and inclined to sulk! (7)
23. Later ramifications of door-bashing by Dutton's thugs? (5-2,7)

July Xword Solution

© McW November '19



Down:

2. We're warm in the chairs, and the beers are close...
3. The (French) tongs have the most reach, even if they are messy.
4. Chinese vote-building efforts?* [*Mea Culpa: clue was ambiguous, so either second letter is acceptable*]
5. Randy misplaced French coin [*Sou*] under inverted Euro capital.
6. Gives vent to the sounds x2 of whales [wails] (six [balls] over there). [*Cop the double homonym!*]
7. In [Nauru, I'm] going to get a nuclear industry started.
8. Is it a linguistic mistake to call Morrison "The Spiteful Goon"?
14. Proof that the word is mightier than the image? [*Well? What can't be shown must be told!*]
16. Schoolboy chestnut sounds fit to take all by storm! [*Well?*]
17. If "in" is out of those rotten-borough [sinecures] positions, it still makes fast what's left...
18. What was it they found in the [car? Acid! Then the arrest...
20. There's n0thing under the arm [limb...], so you've got to go under the bar!

* [Trigger warning: non-PC!]

Across:

1. We subvert label-mongering of record companies by playing them.
9. Cherub in [t...] get a citrus.
10. Stem of the eternal speculative question? [*Well?*]
11. When I ask the way I'm [indirect, so] I can't get them...
12. Seaweed [Nori] might rust right-to-left.
13. The Road Runner, among others, croons at these strips of Karaoke...
14. [Veronica starts, leaves out, evacuates.
15. Is redolent of non-PC parental control.
17. Went from off to on. [*Well?*]

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

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

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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



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July Solution

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Moderate

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

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

HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM – 2025-2026

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2023. It is a member-based organisation which encourages active participation in working groups to pursue specific areas of interest or projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. Purposes are to:

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

Any person who is a resident or landowner in Harcourt Valley and supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership. Members who do not fall within this category but still have a connection to Harcourt through employment, family ties, previous residence or similar links, may make application to the Committee for individual consideration. Members must be aged over 18 years. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st July each year. Any renewals or new memberships **paid in 2025 will be valid until 30 June, 2026.**

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I request to become a member / renew my membership (strikethrough the answer that does NOT apply) of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

☐ Concession fee \$12 ☐ Full fee \$24 ☐ 2 x full fee persons living in the same household \$36

NAME/S:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

SIGNED: DATED:

☐ I enclose the sum of \$12 / \$24 / \$36 (please circle or **make bold**) for Annual Membership

Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 135, HARCOURT, VIC 3453 **OR**
Email to treasurerhpa3453@gmail.com

☐ I have deposited \$12 / \$24 / \$36 into BSB 633-000, Account: 151 337 409.

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

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