

Professor Barry Golding

Tales about the Six Peaks of Central Victoria

FULL STORY PAGE 3

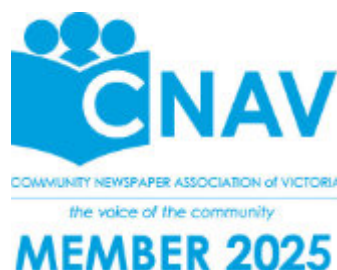


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DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

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.



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Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon

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COMMUNITY DIARY

Friday September 19: Last day of school for Term 3.

Thursday September 25 to 5 October: Royal Melbourne Show.

Sunday September 28: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare Flora Reserve Wildflower Walk. Meet from 9.45 am at the entrance to the reserve off Bingham's Road.

Sunday October 5: 2 – 5 pm, Bowl over Breast Cancer, Bowls Club, see page 20.

Sunday October 5: 9.30 – 12 noon, CFA Open Day – Prepare for the summer fire danger period.

Thursday October 9: 7 pm, Landcare meeting, Heritage Centre.

Saturday October 18: Shire Emergency Expo. See page page 3 for details.

Thursday October 23: Seniors Lunch at Harcourt Valley Community House. Details next edition.

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 13 for September 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.

Leisure centre committee: 7.30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each even-numbered month at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

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.

Barry Golding – Six Peaks Speak

Barry Golding AM, Emeritus Professor, Institution of Arts, Education & Community, Federation University, Ballarat, Australia, and Honorary Patron of Men's Sheds in Australia from 2009 to 2024 has lived in central Victoria for most of his life. He holds a deep interest in the region once occupied extensively by the Dja Dja Wurrung.

Speaking at the Harcourt Heritage Centre at the Fireside Chat in August, Barry shared his insights about the history of six mountains in the area. His observations are captured in his book *Six Peaks Speak – Unsettling Legacies in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country*. Barry began by acknowledging the traditional owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung and thanked George Milford, our local historian, who assisted Barry's research by revealing new and useful information about our local mountain, Mount Alexander, Liyanganuk/Leanganook.

Barry's book was published in 2024 with the assistance of a State Library of Victoria Fellowship. Barry gave credit to his co-author and friend, local geologist Clive Willman, who assisted with geology, maps and IT. He also thanked Clive's wife, Dr Elizabeth Eager, who assisted with research and critical reading.

The history, geology and stories of the following mountains are told in *Six Peaks Speak*:

- ▶ Gurutjanga/Mount Kooroocheang – near Smeaton,
- ▶ Nyaninuk/Mount Beckworth – near Clunes,
- ▶ Mount Greenock – near Talbot,
- ▶ Dharrung Gower/Tarengower – Maldon,
- ▶ Liyanganuk/Mount Alexander – Harcourt,
- ▶ and Lalkambuk/Mount Franklin – near Daylesford.

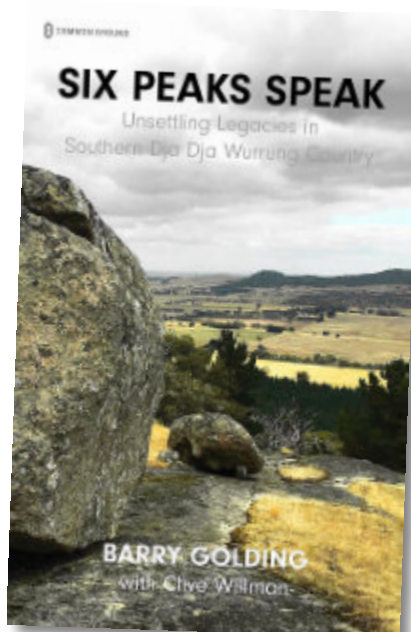
Located in the southern third of Dja Dja Wurrung country, these mountains enclose a broad oval with a perimeter of 160 kilometres.

Barry said that the Dja Dja Wurrung was just one of about 300 Aboriginal nations at the time of white settlement. He chose the words "unsettling legacies" in the title of the book, because for white settlers to establish their holdings, the indigenous people were unsettled, and for a long time this fact has been skirted around. What happened on this country was genocide – by 1870 only eighteen Dja Dja Wurrung were left alive. He stressed that this is not about guilt. Aboriginal people don't want us to have

a guilt trip; they just want the truth to be told and acknowledged.

As a non-indigenous person, Barry couldn't write his book without permission, so he approached the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation/Djaara, for their approval, and they fully supported the project. He then applied for a cultural heritage permit, which gave access to the Aboriginal site register – a map showing the locations of archaeological sites in the landscape.

Each mountain has a different history based entirely on their geology: granite versus volcanic. Volcanic soil was cleared by the first people and became grassland. The areas that are cleared today were cleared then; anywhere where canola is grown was grassland. In 1836, Major Mitchell remarked on the extensive park-like areas he came through. The highest population density was in central Dja Dja Wurrung territory near Clunes and around Ballarat.



Writing about Mount Alexander/Liyanganuk, Barry focused on the indigenous use of the land, the geology, the quarries and the silkworm farm. Before the new freeway diversion through Harcourt, a lot of archaeological surveys were carried out. There is stone scatter everywhere in this landscape, and along the length of the freeway. Barry's particular interest is in earth ovens. He said, "The Dja Dja Wurrung cooked in communal ovens about the size of this room (about 7 x 8 metres). While ovens won't be found on Liyanganuk, there are many on farmland around Ravenswood

HARCOURT CFA

OPEN DAY

Sunday October 5

From 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Shire Emergency Expo

Saturday October 18

Western Reserve

Forest Street Castlemaine

From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

All emergency services will be in attendance, and it is a great event for children.

and over the back of the Mount at Sutton Grange. The majority of mounds are not on the Aboriginal site register."

In 2013, all public land on Dja Dja Wurrung country officially became acknowledged as having native title. This land is jointly managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung people and by Parks Victoria. The whole of Liyanganuk/Mount Alexander Reserve is included in native title. This means that the quality of the management has improved. For example, the camping ground at the top of Mount Alexander has been newly interpreted with upgraded facilities and information to enhance the area.

Every piece of public land has a file in a land manager's office containing everything that has happened on a reserve or about the reserve. Examples of public land include cemeteries, stream reserves, state parks, etc. The file for Liyanganuk/Mount Alexander starts with the first document when the reserve was created; the newest file is on top.

Quarry records are with Resources Victoria (once the Department of Minerals and Energy). Other sources include the Public Records Office in North Melbourne, Trove (the online National Library of Australia), geological maps and, of course, traditional owners. Barry said that walking is another good way to find things in the land. By going slowly, with awareness, it's surprising what can be seen.

The historical reason that mountains like Mount Alexander/Liyanganuk have been put aside as public land has nothing to do with conservation. Farmers commons were created in the 1860s on most of the mountains mentioned in Barry's book. All of Liyanganuk was a farmers common. The commons were designed for

Continued page 4 ...



Councillor Comment

Hi all,
Rain, beautiful rain! Very welcome for our gardens and farmers.

Last week I attended the announcement by the Maldon Community Bank that they would donate \$650,000 to a joint social housing project. Council will contribute \$400,000 from funds allocated to the Affordable Housing Trust. This project will fast-track the housing trust.

When completed, the two dwellings, located in Maldon, will be owned by the trust. The dwellings will be operated by Haven Homes, experienced operators of social housing.

The project builds on the work of dedicated community volunteers who had the vision to do something for their community. A big shout-out to Clare Richards, our housing solutions broker who is working hard on a range of council housing projects.

But there is more! The Maldon Community Bank has announced that it will fund a further \$850,000 to another community project. This is amazing! If anyone asks, "which bank", we should be saying "Maldon Community Bank".

One of the issues council is working on at the moment is the introduction of the four-bin model for residential waste collection. There will be a lot of information coming out about the changes as the details are finalised. The four-bin system is mandated by our state government, so it will happen. Great to see George, Diana and team at the Heritage Centre this week. What a great job they do!

Best regards to all, Tony
AG Cordy
0439 742 534

Barry Golding – Six Peaks Speak

Continued from page 3

farmers and households on small blocks. Settlers could have a cow, a few sheep grazing on the commons or they could collect rock, firewood and sand. A lot of the commons had their trees stripped by 1900, which was true for Mount Tarrengower and Mount Alexander.

Mount Alexander/Liyanganuk also had a reserve for sericulture (silk production) in the 1870s. Two women formed the Victorian Women's Sericultural Society to grow silkworms. Men who controlled the farmers commons petitioned the government against the proposal, but the venture went ahead, and the women were given three leases on the mountain. However, the venture failed due to the weather, the poor soil and its dryness and continual assaults on the mulberry trees by possums and kangaroos. Mount Alexander was mistakenly chosen under the impression that it mimicked the ideal climate conditions in the European Alps. The venture was moved to Corowa. The full story can be found in the book, *Sarah's Search – A Silk Odyssey* by local authors Ian Braybrook and Marilyn Bennett.

Another tale Barry relates in his book concerns the koala park on Mount Alexander, which existed from 1940 to 1990. Barry found the minutes of the Koala Park Committee at the Land Manager's office. The records include the fight between the locals who wanted the koalas locked up, so the tourists could see them easily, and the land managers who wanted to let the koalas roam freely. The park was moved and expanded; the committee spent all their money on fencing. It seemed that the koalas managed to escape every barrier put up. The area

was abandoned and the committee wound up, but descendants of the koalas can still be seen on the mount.

There is a wealth of stories to be told about the quarries on Liyanganuk/Mount Alexander. They are not documented anywhere except in the Resources Victoria files. In the course of their research, Barry and Clive discovered at least twenty quarries. As Barry said, "Some government department will have the LiDAR image for Mount Alexander (LiDAR is Light Detection And Ranging which uses laser pulses to measure distances and produce accurate 3-D maps of the landscape and can identify every single track or hole). The quarries and machinery on Mount Alexander should be preserved and protected. None are on a site register, except Blight's, which is not on public register."

"In finishing, I think we have an opportunity to celebrate our mountains. For example, for the first time last year, International Mountain Day was held on 11 December at Mount Franklin. DJAARA took up the challenge and five hundred people were in the crater of Mount Franklin/Lalkambuck – the first time the mountain has been honoured in 183 years."

Barry mentioned two other books of interest relating to the history of the environment and indigenous history: *Sludge* by Susan Davies – how the mining in the Castlemaine and Bright areas completely destroyed the catchments, and David Marr's book, *Killing for Country: A Family Story*, described as "A richly detailed saga of politics and power in the colonial world – of land seized, fortunes made and lost, and the violence let loose."

THE CORE

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Dry conditions continue despite some winter rain



Irrigation allocation remains at 30%

While the Coliban region had some welcome rain during winter, local water storage levels remain well below average.

Coliban Water General Manager Water Climate Strategy, Adam Crameri, said "The winter rainfall has begun to wet the catchment and we are just now starting to see some inflows to our reservoirs."

"We received 277 millimetres of rain at Malmsbury Reservoir over winter, slightly above the long-term average of around 240 millimetres. But this only resulted in 5.2 gigalitres of inflows, which is less than half of the typical inflow over this period due to the dry conditions we have experienced," he said.

"Our combined storage levels are currently at 41 gigalitres (60%) whereas, at the same time last year the storage levels were 53 gigalitres (77%)," Mr Crameri said.

The dry conditions resulted in a 30% opening allocation for the 2025/26 rural season. This is the first time in 15 years the rural season has not opened at 100%. This allocation is reviewed on the 15th of each month. For August the allocation remained unchanged at 30%.

"Allocations may increase if our water resource position improves. But there needs to be significant rainfall and inflows to our reservoirs over an extended period before any changes will be made," Mr Crameri added.

The southern storages near Kyneton are the sole source of water supply to the towns of Castlemaine, Harcourt, Taradale, Elphinstone, Fryerstown, Chewton, Campbells Creek, Guildford, Newstead, Maldon, Kyneton,

Malmsbury and Tylden.

Coliban Water is asking residents and businesses to reduce their water use, to help conserve local water supplies.

Mr Crameri continued "there is a strong likelihood of water restrictions in these southern towns by the end of the year if we don't receive sufficient rainfall or run-off during spring. With most of our drinking water coming from rainfall inflows into storages, our changing climate means we can't count on our storages filling like they once did."

"Everyone can be water-wise with simple actions at home – such as running washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads and watering gardens in the cooler parts of the day to minimise evaporation.

It's the everyday water-saving habits, from the backyard to the bathroom, that collectively help conserve water supplies."

Mr Crameri said there was huge investment already underway in a range

of projects that will deliver greater water security for the region.

"We are upgrading the Bendigo Recycled Water Factory and several of our water reclamation plants to boost the production of recycled water, and we've commenced a ten-year-plus program of upgrades and renewals of major pipelines, water mains, pump stations and storages.

"We're also fast-tracking work on the business case and engaging with the relevant approval agencies to secure funding for Castlemaine Link, an integrated approach to secure long term water security for those southern towns reliant solely on our catchment storages," he added.

These projects are in addition to the considerable investment made during the millennium drought to provide greater water security to our region.

For more information:
Contact Coliban Water on 1300 363 200
or visit www.coliban.com.au

From a Press Release



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FEDERAL MEMBER
FOR **BENDIGO**

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Authorised by Lisa Chesters, ALP
16 Myers St, Bendigo



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About Black Horse Therapies

I have practiced Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine for thirty years. A few years ago I added another dimension to my practice: Equine Assisted Therapy. To do this, I studied for a Graduate Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy and trained in Natural Horsemanship. I am NDIS-registered.

At Black Horse Therapies, sessions involve interacting with a horse, often in a yard, through activities such as grooming and walking. Since we've moved to our new home in Walmer, walks on the beautiful property with the horses have become an important part of the therapy work. Sessions usually end with observations and reflections about this experience, but the amount of talking is determined by the individual participant.

This approach suits people who struggle with sitting and talking in an office-type setting and those who find it hard to put their feelings into words. It works well with adults and children who:

- ▶ suffer from anxiety, depression and stress;
- ▶ struggle with a strongly verbal style of communication; for example, those with diagnoses of ASD, FASD, ADHD;
- ▶ have experienced trauma or family violence;
- ▶ have PTSD.

It's not necessary to have a diagnosed condition to benefit from sessions with the horses. They are helpful for relaxation and de-stressing, for gaining clarity in times of transition and for emotional and mental wellbeing.

My approach is person-centred and uses a Narrative Therapy framework.

I also offer traditional acupuncture and related techniques such as cupping, gua sha and acupressure massage. This form of treatment complements the therapy with the horses in a powerful but gentle way. It assists with relaxation and correcting internal imbalances.

Elizabeth Hannah

For more information: blackhorsetherapies.ntpages.com.au

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New Community Noticeboard

A new noticeboard has been gifted to our community by Wilkinson Noble Property Partners, which is owned and managed by locals Pauline Wilkinson and Sarah Noble. The board has been placed at the Heritage Centre opposite the Post Office. Pauline said, "Sarah and I feel that it would be fantastic for locals and newcomers to have a single place to go to, to find out about local groups and upcoming events, making it easy for people to join groups and make friends."

To get your notice or poster placed on the noticeboard, call in to the Harcourt Heritage Centre on a Wednesday from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, or call Pauline – 0468 543 589 or Sarah – 0415 666 997.



Left to right: Diana Cork and George Milford from the Heritage Centre with community noticeboard donors, Pauline Wilkinson and Sarah Noble from Wilkinson Noble Property Partners.



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wnpp.com.au



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PROPERTY PARTNERS



Business as Usual at the Leisure Centre

There was a full turnout of club delegates at Harcourt Leisure Centre on Thursday 21 August.

Representatives of the diverse user groups met to consider and decide upon the future of the Incorporated Association. Organisations represented were:

- ▶ Harcourt & District Leisure Centre
- ▶ Harcourt Carpet Bowls
- ▶ Harcourt Branch CWA
- ▶ Harcourt Cricket Club
- ▶ Harcourt Football Netball Club
- ▶ Harcourt Progress Association
- ▶ Harcourt Tennis Club

Background events which had prompted the meeting were outlined in the August issue of *The Core*.

Chairman Ray Rice opened the meeting with a discussion on the role of the Leisure Centre Committee in administering the Leisure Centre.

It was noted that (1) dealings between seasonal users and the Shire officials, and (2) the upkeep and operation of the oval were outside the scope of the matters expected of the Leisure Centre Committee.

In what was a positive and helpful discussion, the consensus was that, in the absence of a Section 86 committee, the existing committee has a definite role to play in the administration of Harcourt Leisure Centre:

- ▶ to liaise between those seeking casual bookings and the Mount Alexander Shire office;
- ▶ to notify the Shire of maintenance needs;
- ▶ to make minor repairs;
- ▶ to clean the premises, and
- ▶ collect and report the requirements

of local user groups to the relevant Shire officials.

The meeting then proceeded to the formalities of a Special General Meeting under the Rules of the Incorporated Association. Two motions were put to the meeting:

- ▶ That the Leisure Centre Association not be wound up, but continue in operation.
- ▶ That the "Model Rules" be adopted with the original Statement of Purposes and appropriate Winding-Up Clause.

Both motions were carried unanimously.

It was noted that the officers of Harcourt and District Leisure Centre have voluntarily been involved with the committee for more than forty years. In particular, the meeting affirmed the efforts of John and Jan Jenkin in relation to bookings, their helpful guidance to users and prompt attention to the ongoing maintenance issues that regularly arise.

In closing, Ray Rice, the meeting chairman, invited all present to attend the regular meetings of the committee, which are held on the fourth Thursday of each even-numbered month at 7.30 pm.

It is clear from the full attendance at the meeting that the Harcourt community values the Leisure Centre facilities and supports the desire of the committee to be put on a sound legal footing for its volunteer work in relation to the Leisure Centre.

*George Milford,
Hon Secretary, Harcourt and District
Leisure Centre Inc.*

Young Designers get Creative at WORN AGAIN YOUTH FEST

Mount Alexander Shire Council is excited to support Worn Again Youth Fest, an event for young people to show off their fashion creations made from pre-loved clothing.

This family friendly event will be held from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm on Sunday 21 September at Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine – Council's outdoor event space.

Entrants can choose from four themes using up-cycled clothes:

- ▶ Spring
- ▶ Dress your pet
- ▶ Come as your favourite character
- ▶ Minecraft

Event partner, The Good Op Shop, is helping young fashionistas with their ideas by giving them a \$20 voucher to spend on clothes and accessories when they register.

The Good Op Shop's Director, Tiffany Inglis said: "We love the up-cycled fashion parade – it is so much fun!

"I am always amazed at how creative and brave everyone is for getting up and having a go. The fashion parade is a great way to encourage young people to express their own style and learn to appreciate the value of recycled clothes. The more people we have taking part, the more I think we can change the image of second-hand clothes and make them mainstream. There are already enough clothes in the world, so why not use what we've already got?"

It's going to be a jam-packed day with fashion parade catwalk, live music, market stalls, a BBQ, a Polaroid booth and a circus skills station.

Mayor Rosie Annear will also be launching the newly developed Youth Plan at the parade.

The plan is an important document that guides the Shire's programs, activities and events over the next four years with the aim of improving social, emotional and health outcomes for the young people of our shire.

Worn Again Youth Fest is funded by the Victoria Government's Youth Fest grant and supported by Amplify and the Youth Advisory Group.

Learn more and register at:

**[www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au/
portfolio/worn-again-youth-fest-2025](http://www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au/portfolio/worn-again-youth-fest-2025)**



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Harcourt CFA

CFA Open Days and Mount Alexander Shire Emergency Expo

The Chief Officer is pushing for all brigades to throw open their doors on the weekend of October 4 and 5 (or on an alternative day that suits the individual brigade) in preparation for the coming summer fire danger period.

So, the Harcourt brigade has chosen the morning of **Sunday October 5** starting at 9:30 am and finishing at 12:00 noon. Planning is still to be finalised but, regardless, we will welcome your attendance and any questions or queries you may have. Also, the biannual Mount Alexander Shire Emergency Expo will take place on Saturday **October 18** on the Western Reserve, Forest Street Castlemaine starting at 9:00 am and finishing at 3:00 pm. All emergency services will be in attendance, and it is a great event for children.

Our Brigade Wins Community Award

Recently our brigade was sent an invitation to attend the North West Region Community Education Group Annual Awards Dinner in Bendigo. On the night, the Harcourt Brigade was presented with the Bill Bowery & Ken Deveraux Memorial Award. This award is named in honour of two inaugural members who dedicated many hours of support to the group. The award is voted on by all members within the Education Group, and is awarded to the brigade that best engages and supports the group. Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk brigades were the first winners to tie on votes in 2024.

Brigade visit to Triple Zero

Brigade members have taken the opportunity during July and August to visit the Triple Zero call centre that is based at Mount Helen (Ballarat). There were eleven members in the first visit and seven in the second group. The split was done to ensure we still had operational capability. While some of the operation is similar to our last visit approximately ten years ago, it was good for our newer members to see how the call centre operates and attach faces to the voices we talk to on the radio. It certainly highlights how much easier their job is when callers know exactly where they are and where the emergency vehicles need to go.

And where have we gone in August

Our August turnouts, four in total have all been to Castlemaine. These consisted of a tyre fire, a rubbish fire, a power pole fire and an alarm at the hospital. Fortunately, we were not required at any of them and the vehicles were turned around and returned to the station.

Seasonal Outlook

Predictions on the seasonal outlook indicate an earlier start to the fire danger period. Recent rains are certainly welcome, putting important moisture back into the ground. Whether this continues through



Tyrone holds the Bill Bowery and Ken Deveraux Award. The citation says: "In recognising the outstanding support of our Group and its Members, in the past year, as voted by our Members. The Brigade has proven themselves to have gone above and beyond to support our Group throughout the previous 12 months."

spring is yet to be seen, but predictions for a drier than normal spring will result in early curing of grass and the bush being also drier than normal.

With this in mind, it is never too early to start your property preparation. Take advantage of the opportunities listed above to gather information to assist in your planning and answer any questions you have.

Stay safe and aware

Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

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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.

The Harcourt Progress Association is inviting community members to join, or renew their membership of HPA.

At the last AGM (November 2024), we determined a new fee structure for members would be as follows;

\$12.00: concession members

\$24.00: full fee members

\$36.00: two full fee members living in the same household.

The date of the 2025 Annual General Meeting will be confirmed at the next HPA meeting on **2 September** and published in the next edition of *The Core*. Community members are invited to attend. Members are reminded that they must renew (or join) at least ten business days before the AGM to be eligible to vote or stand for a board position.

A membership form is available within **The Core** (page 10) and can be completed, scanned and emailed to treasurerhpa3453@gmail.com or posted to HPA, PO Box 135, Harcourt, Vic. 3453. Payment can be made by EFT directly into the Harcourt Progress Association account BSB 633000, account number 151 337 409, please use your Surname as a reference. New members need to make the payment AND send in the membership form. Renewing members need only pay the fee, however, if any of your details have changed recently, please complete a new form.

Fences Completed at Harcourt Valley Community House

The HPA is extremely grateful to VicTrack for the funding of this picket-fence style alongside the carpark at the north end of the property. This long-awaited fence had a series of unfortunate events that caused delays but we got there in the end! It has made

an enormous difference to our capacity to run events without the fear of participants (particularly children) accessing the previously open platform.

A huge thank you is extended to Ben from Goldfields Rural Fencing and the many volunteers who helped clear the site.

There is another aspect of the fence to be completed, and that is a garden bed. It will be constructed of treated pine sleepers in front of the new fence with a planting of small shrubs. We are calling on community members to volunteer their help to complete this task. If you can spare an hour or two, please email chairpersonhpa@gmail.com to let me know that you would like to be involved.

The Harcourt Progress Association, which auspices the Harcourt Valley Community House, would sincerely like to thank Mount Alexander Shire Council for funding from the Community Grants Program to create our project called "Safety Fence with Edible Produce".

The new fence means we can begin work on the Community Garden without the worry of volunteers falling down a steep embankment on this part of the property at 23 Station Street, Harcourt (the old railway station). The fence will also prevent members of the public and animals wandering onto the south end of the platform where the very fast trains whoosh past numerous times every day.

A bonus of the safety fence is that it was deliberately built as a rural fence (cyclone wire, etc) to enable us to incorporate the fence as a feature of the garden. Edible produce (berries) has been planted along the fence line



New Safety Fence (south) at Harcourt Valley Community House

and the mainly climbing plants will use the fence for support as they grow and mature. In time, the produce will be used in cooking classes, community lunches or providing food relief through the Harcourt Community Pantry.

There is still much to do at the Harcourt Valley Community Garden as this project is in its initial stages. If you have a "green thumb", skills with grant writing or simply want to make cuppas and be a part of this project, we want to hear from you. Call in to the HVCH on Wednesdays in the early afternoon and have a chat with Em or Jeanette about what you would like to do. Alternatively, let us know via the HVCH email: harcourtvalleych@gmail.com

Bye for now,

*Alison Curtis
HPA Chairperson*



North Fence funded by VicTrack



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

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

Look up Victoria!

Swooping season is here again, stay alert and stay safe

As the weather gets warmer and the days longer, we also start to see the occasional swooping bird. Native birds enter their breeding season in spring, and some get protective of their young.

Lachlan Clarke, Manager Statewide Wildlife Advisory Services at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) said:

"Swooping is a normal, temporary behaviour for native birds like magpies, butcherbirds and masked lapwings to defend their eggs and chicks for a short time while their young are most vulnerable."

"Think of it as a warning sign. They're telling you to keep your distance. While it can be a bit unsettling, it's rare for them to make contact."

Swooping can occur in both urban and rural areas, including parks, gardens, and along bike paths.

This behaviour only lasts a short time, usually ending once the young have left the nest.

If you are worried about being caught out by a protective bird this spring, here are some steps you can take to feel safe, while also protecting our native birds:

- ▶ Avoid known swooping hotspots.
- ▶ Move quickly; don't run if near a swooping bird.
- ▶ Wear protective head and eye coverings.
- ▶ Don't harass birds, as this can escalate swooping.
- ▶ Don't feed birds or destroy their nests.

Report a swooping incident on Victoria's interactive swooping bird map by visiting: www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds.

All native wildlife is protected by law. Harassing, harming or disturbing native birds and other wildlife is illegal in Victoria and penalties apply.

You can report wildlife crime such as harassing, harming or disturbing wildlife to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

From a press release by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

HARCOURT COMMUNITY PANTRY



Opening Hours:
Tuesday Morning
9.30am - 11.30am

Location:
Harcourt Valley
Community House
23 Station St,
Harcourt

Harcourt's Community Pantry is here for anyone in our community who's feeling the impact of the rising cost of living. Come on down, take what you need, and stay for a cuppa and a chat.

If you are in the position to help run the Food Pantry, please email us. We are also gratefully accepting donations.

All welcome.



Harcourt Valley Community House
23 Station St, Harcourt, Vic, 3453
Email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com



The creator of this photo has placed it in the public domain.

Harcourt Valley Community House

September Open Hours, Term Holidays and Term 4 Hours at HVCH (change to 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm)

Our open days for the rest of September will be Wednesday 3rd, 10th and 17th from 10:00 am to 12 noon. We are coming up to the school holidays and HVCH will be closed on Wednesday September 24 and Wednesday October 1, re-opening on Wednesday October 8. Our drop-in hours for Term 4 will be 12:30 to 2:30 pm due to Press Play Cafe (playgroup - see below) occupying the morning session.

Press Play Cafe (Playgroup) Wednesdays 10:00 am - 12 noon

Wednesday mornings are a bustling, delightful time at HVCH with parents/carers and toddlers galore. Come along for a coffee while the children play. Big thanks to Ingrid for running this initiative. New parents are welcome. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

Other visitors to the HVCH are still welcome at this time, but we ask that you access the office via the platform (signage will point the way) and not enter through the main door when playgroup is in progress. From Term 4 onwards, general "drop-in" will be at a separate time (Wednesday afternoons 12:30 - 2:30 pm).

Harcourt Community Pantry - Tuesdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am

HVCH is a part of the Mt. Alexander Food Relief Network and we are delighted to say we are now operational, providing a drop-in opportunity on Tuesdays inviting community members to help themselves to food items, especially if you are finding it hard to make ends meet in these tough



economic times. Stay for a cuppa and a chat if you wish or just come and go; it's up to you. Note: the Community Pantry will be open during the forthcoming school holidays.

In the meantime, we are seeking ...

- ▶ Volunteers! There are many jobs to do including organising food, collection of food from Bendigo Foodshare or local businesses, opening up on Tuesday mornings, some cooking of food produce in preparation to be frozen (e.g. soups, apple sauce etc).
- ▶ Donations of non-perishable food (in date please). As we get into the growing season, if you have surplus produce from your home garden or orchard, your donations would be very welcome and greatly appreciated.
- ▶ Cash donations can be made to the HPA account BSB 633 000, Account 151 337 409 with reference "Pantry" or similar to make it clear it is intended for the Food Relief program. Cash donations will be spent on essential grocery items not necessarily provided by FoodShare, like babies' nappies, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper etc.
- ▶ Take-away food containers preferably new or thoroughly cleaned, and in good condition please.
- ▶ A freezer! Do you have a freezer to spare that you are not really using? We could use the extra freezer space to assist with the Community Pantry program.

If you are keen to help or would like to

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

know more, please contact Jeanette or Emmylou at HVCH, drop in on Wednesday in September from 10.00 am - 12 noon or in Term 4 on Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:30 pm (note change to hours) or email harcourtvalleych@gmail.com or phone 0438 579 987.

Seniors Lunch at HVCH - Save the Date - Thursday October 23

We are in the early stages of planning our Seniors Lunch to celebrate "Seniors Month 2025".

As well as offering a lunch for local seniors, we have a very interesting guest speaker lined up - a Financial Crimes expert from the Bendigo Bank who will discuss scam awareness and protection.

Numbers will be limited so bookings will be essential and more information will be published in the October edition of *The Core* - watch out for details!

HVCH Book Nook Coming Soon... Still Wanted: Book Shelves!

Thank you to Tim and family from Castlemaine who donated a couch for our lounge room at HVCH. We are still seeking a donation of pre-loved book shelves to be able to set up the Book Nook. Call Jeanette on 0438 579 987, and pick up can be arranged.

Jeanette & Emmylou
Voluntary Managers, HVCH

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 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

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.

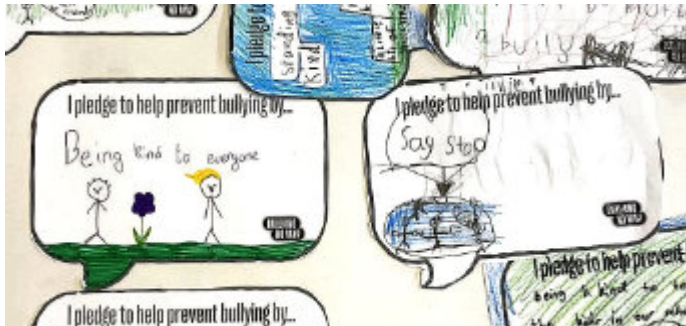


Harcourt Valley Primary School

Term 3 has been action packed for everyone at our primary school. Book week was lots of fun with a book parade which included participation by staff, students and the children from the kindergarten. This was followed by a Mad Hatter's tea party for staff and students. The Super Science Show was a hit – the students learnt about gravity, water and forces. Thanks to ASQ Garden and Landscape for their donation of seedlings, the vegie garden has been refreshed for spring. A very successful camp was held at Anglesea with Grades 3 and 4 and, as they say, "but wait, there's more!" See the photos below.



The Mad Hatter's Tea Party.



HVPS pledged to prevent bullying by...being bold, speaking up and being kind!

Demonstrating that science can be fun, this term has seen the entire school take part in the School Super Science Show.

During August, the Castlemaine View Club presented the school with a generous donation of about 100 books provided by Ann James and Ann Haddon through the club. Pictured are Annie and Louise with View Club representative Bev Orgill (centre).



The School Super Science Show.



Future Dates

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.

Friday 29 September: Last Day of Term 3.

School finishes at 2.30 pm.

Monday 6 October: Term 4 commences.

Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 October

Grade 5-6 Camp.



Harcourt Valley Landcare President's Report 2025 AGM

Phascogale, Phascogale, Phascogale!! The cry rang out from newly built and installed nesting boxes across Harcourt.

It's always a joy to look back at what we've achieved in a year. For this year's report I thought it would be great to attach articles from past issues of *The Core*. Thank you Robyn for writing these; they're a fantastic record of what we've done, achieved and advocated for. For a small group of about ten active members, we do a truck load of work for the local environment and beyond the borders of the valley. [Editor's Note: these aren't attached in this piece for *The Core*.]

I'd like to thank all the committee members for their support and hard work for the last year. We've adopted and changed things along the way to accommodate our busy lives and 'energy levels. This is a good thing, 'cos it shows we care for each other and are good listeners. I personally have enjoyed fewer meetings – we meet once every two months, and every other month we have a social catch up. The "Landcare on tap" social nights have been a great success; it's been so good to learn more about each other's lives.

I'd also like to thank the members who continue to turn up and volunteer their time to help the environment. We all benefit from your involvement and help at working bees.

The highlights for the last year have been many:

Phascogale project run by Bron Willis: There were many different parts of this project that built awareness and support for the Brush-tailed Phascogale, which is listed as

Vulnerable in Victoria. Bron produced two brochures, one for Phascogale and biodiversity awareness in Harcourt; the other – how to supply a nesting box for a Phascogale.

But wait, there's more! Bron also ran a hugely successful nesting box workshop with Miles Geldard from Wildlife Nest Boxes. This added another twenty nesting boxes (emergency shelters as Miles says) to the area.

And lastly, members were at Harcourt Gather Christmas to promote the environmental health of our valley with an information stand and special event. "Story Time" was transported from Castlemaine Library to Harcourt, where David Holmes read Phascogale stories to young kids and adults.

Bron, thanks for all your passion in starting and seeing this project through to the end. We can all be proud.

Plan Harcourt is another amazing thing we've contributed to. Finally, it's been endorsed by Mount Alexander Shire! What a journey that has been for us all!

We've become town planners by learning to understand shire planning and how the council works. We've also become ecologists by learning all about the plants and animals that call Harcourt home. We have also discovered the importance of connecting wildlife corridors and how best to protect them. We are activists, for making a stand for our environment and not backing down on our principals.

As I said in a previous edition of *The Core*, "We have a chance for Harcourt to be a leading example of development with an environmental focus. We'd like to recognise the hard work of the members of Harcourt Valley Landcare and the support of nature loving residents of Harcourt. Without their passion for biodiversity, wild life corridors and the natural beauty of Harcourt Valley there would be no protection for Harcourt's stunning old river red gums, our incredible springtime wildflowers or our threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale."

Working bees were more varied – we tried some new things. Others are becoming a set feature in the calendar.

We had our first working bee on a member's property. It was great to help Ann and Brian start rejuvenating the land on the foothills of Leanganook. This is something we'd like to offer every year to other members.



Harcourt Valley Land Care Group has new Facebook and Instagram pages:

Catch all the latest news for your local Landcare Group here:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1LgeTeNQbJ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/harcourtvalleylandcaregroup?igsh=NjA3a3E3czU1bHo2>

February's working bee, weeding Pippin Court's pathways is one that's become regular. I enjoy seeing how much everything has grown each year there.

Another yearly working bee is our nature walk lead by Janine in September/October, where we discover all the flowering plants and orchids in the Flora Reserve.

Our largest working bee was when Barkers Creek Landcare reciprocated our help we gave them earlier in the year. They turned up en masse to help out in Barkers Creek – what a difference numbers make! The morning tea was massive. Just quietly, my taste buds told me we won the cake off!

That completes another year. It was a hard one on our environment with the lack of rain, plants felt it and animals suffered. Hopefully we all appreciate what nature gives us, by being more adaptive, changing some of our ways and by listening to the cues nature teaches us.

*Thanks everyone,
Terry Willis*



At Landcare's most recent working bee at Barkers Creek, we planted 30 new plants, did weeding and watering. The pole camera was used to check the three phascogale nesting boxes, but no one was home. We also checked the tree hollow and found a brush-tail possum.



Sea Eagle: Yes! It's a sea eagle on a private dam in Harcourt. This photo was taken on a Landcare member's property. These birds, rare for this area, have been sighted over a number of years near the reservoir.



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Happy springtime everyone!

How wonderful it is to see all the daffodils and jonquils starting to bloom. Proof indeed that spring has indeed sprung!

More news from the Harcourt Chicks with Attitude ...

Donate Life

CWA Victoria in general, and Harcourt CWA in particular, are always keen to host and promote topics, people and organisations that aim to make our lives safer, healthier or more enjoyable and worthwhile.

The Harcourt CWA often invites guest speakers to their meetings to inform members about important community issues, including health and social matters. In the past, we have heard from the CFA and SES, from Homeshare, MASARG and Dhelkaya Health, Days for Girls – to name just a few.

Recently, we were privileged to have a visit from Monique Drury, a Donation Specialist Nursing Coordinator from Donate Life Victoria, the organisation responsible for coordinating organ and tissue donations in our state; a topic that aligns with the CWA's focus on community education and well-being. Monique was a terrific speaker. She was so informative about the important topic of becoming a donor, what it means, what to look out for, how to check if we are already on the register and how important it is to keep our families informed of our wishes when we die.

Unlike some countries, such as Spain, in Australia we have to opt in to become an organ or tissue donor; it is not automatic, and we need to apply and complete a form stating we would like to be a donor. Age is not a barrier and people over 80 have become organ or tissue donors. (As a personal aside, my dear old Mum died at 80 and she would have been thrilled to know that, in accordance with her wishes as a registered potential donor, both her corneas and some of her skin were donated; the latter being used as protective cover for severely burnt children.)

If you'd like to learn more about DonateLife and becoming a donor call 1800 777 203 or go to:



donatelife.gov.au/about-us/donatelife-network

Sutton Grange CWA turns 95!

The Sutton Grange CWA branch marked its 95th birthday with a special celebration at the Sutton Grange Hall. What an achievement! The event was well attended by current and former Sutton Grange members. Harcourt ladies were also there celebrating with others from Phoenix Chewton, Castlemaine and Newstead CWA branches.



Sutton Grange CWA president Mavis Collison welcomed everyone, and then as always at a special CWA event, a candle was lit in memory of those who had died over the last 12 months.

As the recent *Castlemaine Mail* article noted, "The Sutton Grange CWA was formed in 1930 and has enjoyed nine decades of friendship, fellowship and work supporting the local community. Mavis said it was

important to take a moment to remember all the women who came before and who assisted to make the club the success it is today. The day marked a significant milestone for the local branch, which has been a vital part of the community for nearly a century. The gathering provided an opportunity for members to reflect on the CWA's history and its ongoing role in supporting women and the local area."

If you missed the article, go to: <https://castlemainemail.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Mail-Aug-22.pdf>

Group Conference

This was held recently at Newbridge, and President Robyn and member Bev Orgill attended. Lots of important issues were discussed, and it was another beautiful opportunity to catch up with CWA members from all over our area.

The Royal Melbourne Show – 25 September to Sunday 5 October

Just a plug for CWA Victoria! If you and the family are heading to the Royal Melbourne Show this month, don't forget to pop in to the CWA Café. Everything from an evening roast dinner meal, sandwiches and pies and our famous CWA award winning scones will be on offer. Every dollar the CWA volunteers make will be ploughed back into continuing the terrific work of CWA in Victoria. P.S. I can recommend the Devonshire teas!

This article from Harcourt CWA is dedicated to our dear friend and previous Harcourt Core regular correspondent, Lyn Rule, who passed away at this time last year.

Enough from me ... until next month, *Beverley Orgill, for Harcourt CWA*



Harcourt Heritage Centre

Call the police, there's a frost tonight!

True story. Way back in the nineteen-fifties it was not unusual for the Midland Highway to be closed at Barkers Creek in winter due to the clouds of smoke drifting across the highway from Norris's orchard. So thick was the black smoke that police had to be stationed at the roadside to warn oncoming traffic of the low visibility hazard.

Harcourt Heritage Centre has several relics of that era when frost damage to fruit buds was something to be feared.

Because apple blossoms are very sensitive to freezing temperatures, frost prevention measures are important in orchards. Cold weather can kill apple buds. No buds, no apples. Until about 1932, when the apple and pear crop was about to set, the orchardists worked hard at preparing wood fires in the orchard to save the crop. The difficulty was the need to bring in dry wood every day, as frosts generally occur several days in succession. In 1933, William Eagle's orchard (at the corner of Reservoir and McIvor roads) was the scene for an experiment in frost control conducted by the Shell Oil Company. Fifty oil burners to the acre raised the temperature by twelve degrees Fahrenheit, and the experiment was deemed a success. Soon, crude oil cans could be seen in many Harcourt orchards, each ready to be set light as the temperature fell.

Some orchardists set up an electric frost alarm system, triggered by temperatures falling towards 32° F (freezing point or 0°C) Harcourt Heritage Centre has two of these alarm systems. As soon as the alarm bells rang, the orchardist would go into the orchard and light the oil-filled smoke pots set out among the trees.

To help the oil catch fire, the orchardist carried a can of petrol or kerosene, pouring a small amount onto the surface of the oil to ensure that the oil would catch alight on cold, frosty nights. Recycled sump oil came into use, and the air around the frost pot was thick with black soot – soot and smoke that permeated the orchardist's home, as well as creating a driving hazard on nearby roads.

Two of Bob Norris's home-made frost pots with a sliding lid and chimneys can be seen in our museum



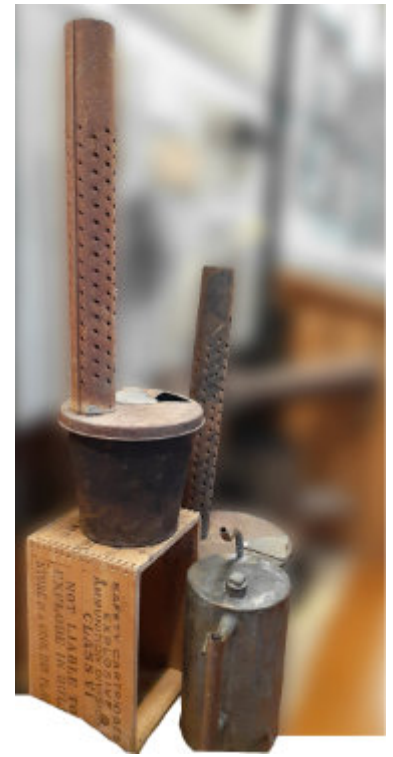
display (see photo to the right ➔). Oil-filled frost pots were still in use until well into the 1950s, but were gradually phased out due to their environmentally unfriendly nature.

Frank Mitchell and Ron Robins were among the first to set up wind machines, giant fans designed to mix the warmer air above the orchard with the colder air closer to the ground, thus raising the temperature around the fruit trees. Unfortunately, the first of these machines was erected just as the district experienced one of the worst frosts on record.

One hundred orchardists in Harcourt and Elphinstone lost their apple, pear and cherry crops in the worst-ever frost of 13 October 1954. The newly installed, expensive, electric blowers failed as the higher air sucked down was also frost-laden. The overnight temperature fell 12° F below freezing, with desperate growers frantically refueling their frost pots. But the severe frost took all.

The bitter memory of this frost was recalled in a County Court hearing in Melbourne nineteen months later. Frank Mitchell sued the agent for the wind machine for damages, alleging that the machine had not met its specifications. Frank Mitchell's lawyer asserted that the machine had been sold with a general guarantee of effectiveness. The Judge found in Mitchell's favour, but awarded only modest damages.

The sad truth is that most of Harcourt is a frost hollow, particularly prone to frost. As the air at the top of the surrounding hills cools at night it becomes dense and heavy compared to the surrounding air and will fall to the lower levels, resulting in frost forming in the valley when nearby elevated areas remain frost free. It is for this reason that the entire valley, once covered with apple orchards, now boasts apple orchards in just a few locations.



Another factor is that Harcourt experiences generally clear night skies with little cloud cover, allowing heat to escape from the earth's surface. It has been found that the cover provided by hail netting and tree wraps is an effective way to reduce loss of heat during the night, reducing the risk of frost. You won't see much frost under the canopy of a tree or on the windscreen of a vehicle parked under an open-sided car port. On the home front, it is wise to cover sensitive plants if a frost is expected, as the cover prevents or reduces heat loss.

As you drive around the Harcourt valley you will see that some orchards and vineyards have set up a wind machine. This takes the form of an engine-driven propeller mounted on a vertical pole operating to mix the warmer air above with the cooler air at ground level, making frost formation less likely.

Fortunately for all of Harcourt's residents, the production of smoke to reduce nighttime heat loss is now thought to be of little benefit. And the police have more important things to worry about than the smoke hazard created in the past as a frost prevention method.

George Milford

Frank Mitchell's orchard occupied the land not severed by Pippin Court and Molly Drive. Harcourt Heritage Centre displays many objects that remind us of conditions in the valley in the distant, and not so distant, past. Open every Wednesday from 9.00am to 3.00 pm.



Programs & Services

Get hospital care at home

Did you know Dhelkaya Health can bring hospital care to your home? Our At Home programs let you recover safely where you're most comfortable – at home, with less risk of infection.

Our free programs include:

- Hospital in the Home: for people with stable, short-term illness
- GEM at Home: short-term treatment at home for older people with age-related conditions
- Residential in Reach: specialised clinical care to your residential aged care facility.

To be eligible for our At Home programs, you must live in the Mount Alexander Shire, have a local GP with admitting rights to Dhelkaya Health, and have a medically stable acute condition. Call us for more information.

T. 0459 278 816

Get Active

Chewton historical walking tour

Take a gentle stroll through historic Chewton with guides Elaine Appleton and Glenn Braybrook.

Join us for a relaxed walk around Chewton as we uncover the stories of its past. Discover the fascinating history of the old Sturkens Hotel and find out where the pine plantation once stood.

A perfect outing for history lovers and curious locals alike!

Date: Thursday 25 September 2025
Meet: Chewton Fire Station, 1 Mount Street Chewton
Time: 9.30 - 10.30 am

No bookings or RSVP required. The tour will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain.

T. 5479 1000 for more details

Events

'Menopause and perimenopause – More than hot flushes and sweats'

Join Dhelkaya Health Community Health Nurse Bron Grieve for a practical, passionate talk on perimenopause and menopause – covering symptoms, the latest information and support options.

This session will help you understand and embrace this life stage.

Includes the launch of 'The Pause', a new local podcast on all things menopause. There'll be a Q+A, free resources, and plenty of inspiration to build your menopause toolkit.

When: Friday 5 September 2025
Time: 5.15 pm for 5.30 pm start
Where: Castlemaine Library

Bookings essential through Goldfieldslibrary.com

Free Service Offers Support to Explore and Heal Your Birth Experience



Welcoming a new baby can be one of life's most profound experiences, but it can also bring up unexpected emotions. Dhelkaya Health is now offering a free Birth Story Counselling service, designed to support new parents in making sense of their birthing journey, with the guidance of trained counsellor Sky Simpson.

Whether your experience was joyful, challenging, or somewhere in between, you are invited to take time for yourself in a safe, supportive space to reflect and heal. The sessions are flexible and person-centred, with multiple ways to express your story; through guided conversation, open storytelling, or simply being heard without judgment.

"This is about making space for people to process

what they've been through, whether they want to talk, cry, or just sit with it," says Sky Simpson. "Birth is transformative, and everyone deserves the chance to explore how it's shaped them."

The service offers space to:

- Share your birth story
- Process your feelings and emotions
- Explore your early parenting experience
- Connect with appropriate supports if needed

Mental health changes around birth are completely normal and early conversation can make a big difference. One participant shared: "Prior to having counselling, I was aware that my first negative birth experience was not resolved emotionally and mentally. Following just a couple of

sessions I could already see that counselling assisted me to process those unresolved feelings and feel less anxious and upset about my birthing experience."

Birth Story Counselling is open to all parents and birthing partners, regardless of gender. Fathers, non-

birthing partners, and LGBTIQ+ parents are warmly welcomed.

To access the service contact our counselling intake team on 5479 1000 or email counsellingintake@castlemainehealth.org.au.



Birth Story Counsellor, Sky Simpson.



Harcourt Uniting Church

On these cold frosty mornings, attending our 9.00 am service can be a bit of a challenge; however, the lovely sunny days and some welcome rain remind us that spring is on its way.

In August we celebrated the 160th Anniversary of the former Methodist, and now Uniting Church, in Harcourt. Our granite church was built in 1865 and was certainly built to last. Mind you, by English standards our building is not very old at all. George recalled that, at the opening back in 1865, it was reported that more than 400 people attended the occasion. Well, our 160th was a low-key affair with the cutting of a cake by Reverend Sarah and George Milford followed by morning tea.

In the August edition of *Crosslight* – the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania magazine – Andrew Humphries told of a scholarship, originally begun by Isabella Manson more than 120 years ago, to give medical students an opportunity to make a difference at a global level. Last year, Ormond College students Justine Solomon and Simone Stenner became the latest recipients of the scholarship now administered by the Uniting Church.

They travelled to Indonesia as part of a ten-day medical placement in Tobelo, a remote town on the island province of north Maluku. It is so remote that they flew to Ternate and then took a boat to the island. While there, they experienced how medicine works in a remote area with limited

resources and a language barrier. Rural Indonesian hospitals operate with ingenuity and resourcefulness. Very good decisions are made by the medical staff based more on symptoms than by using the diagnostic tools we take for granted in Australia.

In rural Indonesia there are no CT scans or MRIs to help with a diagnosis; however, the visitors were in awe of the dedication and skill of the surgical teams performing complicated operations with very limited resources.

While there, they also experienced the food, the wonderful natural beauty, and the friendliness and generosity of the people. Justine and Simone will take a great deal of what they learnt during their placement into their future medical careers. "It was a profound learning experience," Justine said.

Harcourt Uniting Church is a very welcoming church community which meets every Sunday at 9.00 am, followed by morning tea. All are welcome to join us anytime.

A wise physician once said: "I have been practising medicine for 30 years now and I have prescribed many things, but in the long run I've learnt that, for most of what ails human beings, the best medicine is love." But what if it doesn't work?" I asked. "Then double the dose," was the reply.

Jan Jenkin

Have your say on the use of rural land in our shire

Mount Alexander Shire Council is developing a strategy for managing and developing rural land.

Council has commissioned RMCG, a specialist in environment, agriculture and communities to develop the Rural Land Use Strategy.

This work will identify potential areas for rural activities, conservation and living as well as provide guidelines for managing and developing these lands.

"It's important that we protect our local food systems, the natural environment that supports these systems, our landscape character and heritage by managing growth and development," said Council's Coordinator Strategic Planning, Nathan Lord.

"The Rural Land Use Strategy will address agriculture and other rural industries – including rural tourism, identifying areas for rural living and protect important environmental, cultural and landscape values."

As part of the background work and strategy development, Council would like to know what the community values most about rural land in the shire, and your views about the most important things to consider when developing the strategy.

There are multiple ways people can have their say on rural development as part of the project.

This includes:

- ▶ Completing an online survey at www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy
- ▶ Calling the Strategic Planning team on (03) 5471 1700
- ▶ Emailing the Strategic Planning team on strategicplanning@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Community feedback will help Council and RMCG tailor the Rural Land Use Strategy to local needs.

For more information, contact Amy Carmichael, Council Engagement Coordinator at a.carmichael@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

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





Harcourt Bowling Club

Even during the cold of winter the Harcourt Bowling Club was going strong. Thanks to the dedication of members, the Friday social nights continued in the warmth of the clubroom. The fortnightly meals from Kayla and Ebony helped draw people in, and we are pleased that they will continue into the upcoming season.

The **Trivia Night** on 2 August was deemed a roaring success with all of the tables taken. It was good to see the community come together for this fun night. Thanks to Brian Leech for getting us all there and the amazing Wayne and Wendy Walsh for conducting the whole show. Thanks also to Rod and Brian for organising the great raffles. (See photos ➔)

Green Open

During the winter break the usual maintenance care was taken of the green. Greenkeeper Ron has declared the green open for use and asked that all observe the direction of play. Thanks to Ron and his assistant Darrell for getting the green ready.

70th Anniversary

The organising committee is going through the final preparations for the celebration of the club's 70th Anniversary on **Saturday 20 September**.

President's Day and the Bowling Season Opening Day will also be celebrated on that day.

Pennant

Pennant starts earlier than usual this season with Weekend Pennant commencing on Saturday 4 October and Midweek Pennant will start Monday 6 October.

This new season will see Harcourt fielding Weekend Divisions 2, 4 and 7 and Midweek Divisions 2, 3 and 6.

Girls on the Green

The Girls on the Green program is on the calendar and will be on again in November – more about this in the October Core.

Breast Cancer Fundraiser

Harcourt Bowling Club will be the venue for the Breast Cancer Network fundraising day on **Sunday 5 October** hosted by Harcourt local Gay Buchanan. Please come along in your pink and help to bowl over breast cancer by supporting this very worthy cause – starts at **2.00 pm through to 5.00 pm**.





REGISTER NOW!

Let's bowl over Breast Cancer

Sunday 5th October 2-5pm

at HARCOURT BOWLING CLUB

Join Gay Buchanan and family for a fundraising event to support those diagnosed with breast cancer and for vital research

Everyone welcome
Wear something pink!
Prize for best dressed!

RAFFLE DRAWS **GAMES + PRIZES** **LEARN TO BOWL** **AFTER-NOON TEA** **BAR OPEN**

More Info - ph: 0408 570 403





ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT

Breast Cancer Network Australia



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Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.

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A Little Bit of TV Nostalgia

The TV arrived on a Saturday afternoon, so the first thing we watched was football, in black and white of course, very suitable for a family of Collingwood supporters.

The TV diet in those days was limited to channels 2 (the ABC), 7 and 9. Shows started in the morning about six o'clock and petered out with a short epilogue at about 11 pm. Eric Pearce, the man with the eyebrows, delivered the epilogue. It was a short 'thought for the day' type of thing.

Shows I remember watching include: *Superman* with George Reeves, *The Happy Show* and the *Tarax Show* with Happy Hammond and Princess Panda, later there was *The Samurai* – Shintaro! After tea there would be the *News* on Channel 2 and, over the years, an extraordinary selection of cop shows, westerns, detectives, comedies, mysteries, quiz shows, movies and live entertainment.

How many of these do you remember?

- ▶ **Cop shows** – *Division 4* and *Homicide*.
- ▶ **Westerns** – *Rifleman* with Chuck Connors, Rory Calhoun as the *Texan*, *Bonanza*, and Clint Eastwood's early foray into the genre with *Rawhide* and *Wagon Train*, and *Riverboat* with Darren McGavin was my particular favourite in the '60s.
- ▶ **Detectives** – *Peter Gunn*, *The Third Man* with Michael Rennie.
- ▶ **Comedies** – *The Jackie Gleason Show*, *Red Skelton* had a show too,

as did *Dick Van Dyke* and *Lucille Ball*, *Dobie Gillis* (with Maynard G. Krebs).

- ▶ **Mysteries**, including science fiction – *The Twilight Zone* and *Star Trek* (much later).
- ▶ **Movies** – there was at least one movie scheduled every Friday night. Most were old even then, and they must be good movies because they still get an airing now and then. (I believe that the mantra of modern TV programming is 'if you're on a good thing, flog it to death' – *The Shawshank Redemption* is a case in point.)
- ▶ **Live entertainment** – *Sunnyside Up* with Bill Collins, Sid Heylen and Maurie Fields and an all singing, all dancing revue. Bill Collins was a race caller and a most unlikely song and dance man. Bobbie Limb's *Sound of Music* with Dawn Lake. But, the pinnacle of light entertainment in Australian TV was *In Melbourne Tonight* with Graham Kennedy and Bert Newton. It was almost compulsory viewing.

Other TV shows that sort of had a regular viewing, but without the 'religious zeal' were Bob Dyer's *Pick a Box* – and the only thing anybody ever remembers about that show is the whiskered contestant, Barry Jones, later to be a very talented politician. There was wrestling on Sunday morning, and *World of Sports* which could be seen as soon as we got home from Sunday Mass. Bob Santamaria



had a long running show about right wing politics (righter than Attila the Hun).

As a postscript, I have recently watched (possibly rewatched) all the *Peter Gunn* episodes. I found them compelling viewing. It only ran for three seasons (from late 1958 to – '61), but there are thirty-eight half-hour episodes in each season.

Peter Gunn is a private eye, Edie Hart is his love interest and Lieutenant Jacoby is a convenient pal in the police force. The series was created by Blake Edwards with the theme music by Henry Mancini – and it oozes style. Edie Hart, played by Lola Albright, is a jazz singer at Mother's Jazz Club. *Peter Gunn* is unflappably played by Craig Stevens – debonair, smooth, not a hair out of place, ever; very much in the style of Cary Grant. The script is exceptionally good, which is probably why I found it so watchable after all this time.

Bernie Schultz

If you would like to submit some casual writing, send it to news@harcourt.vic.au

Grace Church Fruit of the Spirit

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church

The Harcourt Valley is a fruit bowl – apples, grapes, pears and cherries all grow well here. So, the valley produces its produce for the benefit of the growers, the workers employed in the orchards and vineyards, those in the distribution and marketing chains, and ultimately the consumer!

Christians also are supposed to bear fruit! The Apostle Paul writing a long time ago listed nine of these 'fruit of the Holy Spirit'. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Paul goes on to say that against such there is no law.

Jesus explained in John's gospel that it

is in fact imperative for Christians to bear fruit. Here are a few of the things that Jesus had to say:

'I am the true vine and my Father (God) is the gardener.'

'He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.'

'Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.'

And finally:

'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'

The hallmark of a fruitful life led for the Lord is close fellowship with the Lord – as close to him personally as the apple is to the apple tree, physically speaking.

Every year in Harcourt the apple trees are pruned. Similarly, the Christian also must yield to the vinedresser, Jesus, if we are to bear much fruit in the kingdom of God and thus prove that we are Christ's disciples.

Pastor Roger Thurecht



Weather & Water

We were spoilt for rain in the years 2020 to 2023 (inclusive) with over 600 mm being received each year, with 2002 being a bumper year with 1023 mm.

2024 saw a reduction to a total of 529 mm, which was a precursor to this year's even drier situation. This year the light falls in April followed by a severe deficit in May – 6 mm only was received – set the scene for a drier than normal year. While welcome, the 48.5 mm received in August was less than anticipated. The total received to date, here in Harcourt, is 310 mm compared to 374 mm last year, so the trend is still down and, as a result, Coliban water has kept irrigators to the 30% allocation. Water storages (see below) are showing some improvement.

Concerns have been raised in Australia by leading weather and climate scientists about monitoring and recording the climate accurately here,

due to cuts in funding in the USA. Our scientists say weather forecasts are under threat because President Trump has cut 1000 jobs from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the main agency for weather forecasting and climate monitoring in America. In addition, thousands of science grants, including for climate-related research and monitoring, have also been cancelled. (Source ABC News Friday 5 August 2025).

Here at Reservoir Road some observations over August included a noticeable increase of bird activity on the rare fine and calm days of the month. Two days before the

full moon a magpie was singing at 10.15 pm. Rain was received for seven days of the month and fortunately it was enough for the water table to rise and water began running into the dam again. On 29 August, I spotted the first blue wren of the season. In late August blossom began to pop out on the early flowering trees. The fierce gales which came at the end of the month covered most of the state, and we were fortunate to miss the worst, although trees were felled by the wind in areas surrounding Harcourt.

Robyn Miller

Reservoir Levels

| | 2025 | | |
|---|--------|---------|-------------|
| | 9 June | 30 July | 4 September |
| Upper Coliban | 55% | 58.7% | 63% |
| Lauriston | 72% | 70.3% | 10% |
| Malmsbury | 13.9% | 14.6% | 19% |
| Barkers Creek | 27.9% | 33.7% | 34.9% |
| Data sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology and Coliban Water websites. | | | |



YELLOW TAILED BLACK COCKATOOS

Electric Heads wins Battle of the Bands

Mount Alexander Shire Council is excited to announce the winner of Battle of the Bands 2025 is Electric Heads.

More than 220 people attended Battle of the Bands on Friday night at Castlemaine's Theatre Royal to watch six young bands and solo artists battle it out for the winning title.

The event gives young musicians aged 12-21 an opportunity to perform in a supportive and safe environment.

Hard rock group Electric Heads won the \$500 first prize with all original, self-composed material.

The members are Fian Blundell on vocals and guitar, Cody Browne on



electric guitar, Frankie Nixon on bass guitar and Tyrone Brown on drums.

After the winning announcement, the band was asked what they liked about the event:

"The energy and the atmosphere of the event was great. It's so cool having a bunch of people in front of you jumping up and down, we had a really great crowd tonight.

"Seeing the headliner Elo and the Shinkicks play was really, really good, I'm very glad we weren't competing against them, because they were great.

"But if you're a band, don't think that you can't win, because you can always win. If you're young, you should give it a go."

Congratulations to the winners of Battle of the Bands 2025:

- First prize: **Electric Heads**
- Second prize: **The Lexies**
- Third prize: **Frieda Apolonia**

Council would like to thank Theatre Royal for supporting the event.

The competition was organised by Council's FReeZA Committee, Eight Metre Speaker. FReeZA is a Victorian Government funded program that supports music and cultural events run by, and for, young people aged 12-25 years. All events are fully supervised, accessible, and alcohol, drug and smoke free.

Photo thanks to Joseph Durham.

KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Fruit Follows Blossom

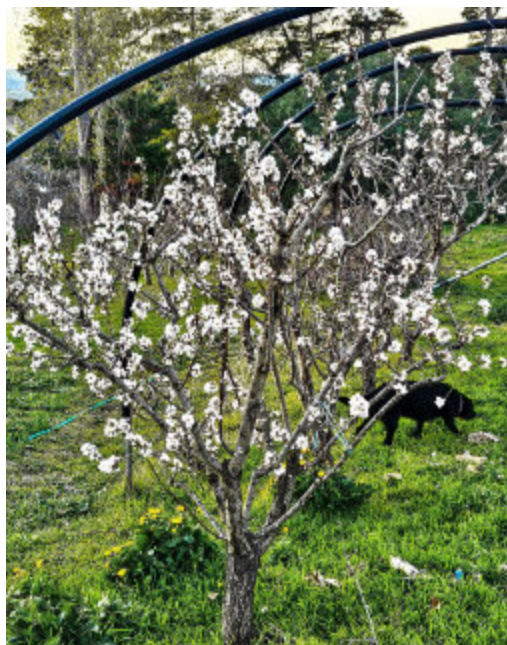
Hi everyone, how great is spring? Despite the arctic blast we've recently shivered through, it's such a glorious time of year with almonds, apricots and plums already bursting into flower. Spring is the make-or-break time in your garden, when the right care and prevention can make the difference between whether you get fruit or not. Knowing what to do can be elusive, so we've decided to run a webinar about pest and disease prevention - keep an eye on the Weekly Fruit Tips newsletter for details.

One of the main things that can go wrong is disease in your trees. While rain is very welcome at this time of year, we always hope it won't rain while the apricots are flowering — this year has been a big fail in that regard! Harcourt is a marginal climate for apricots, at the best of times, and rain dramatically increases the risk of blossom blight, so fingers crossed we all get a crop this year.

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

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

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



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

More tips for your fruit trees at this time of year:

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

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

5. Make sure you've got your irrigation system set up and ready to go. If you've mulched, make sure you can either deliver the water under the mulch, or leave the irrigation on for long enough to be sure the mulch is really soaked and the water is getting through it to the soil below. Alternatively, wait until the weather really starts to get hot before you mulch the trees. One of the best things about living in the country is room to have lots of fruit trees in the garden – we hope you enjoy yours this spring.

*Happy gardening, and stay well,
Cheers,
Katie and Hugh*

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

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Council news

Community welcomes \$650,000 grant for affordable housing

Council has welcomed a \$650,000 grant from Community Bank Maldon & District for the development of affordable housing in Maldon.

The grant, along with a \$400,000 contribution from Council, will deliver two modular homes for workers in Maldon.

"The exceptional contribution will help us deliver real housing that will have a real impact," said Mayor Annear.

"We're looking forward to working with Community Bank Maldon on this project."

Read more about the project at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Maldon-BIG-Project.

Wildflowers public artwork project

We're pleased to announce the artist for the Wildflowers public art project is Laura Woodward.

Laura is an award-winning Castlemaine-based artist who creates large sculptural installations for exhibitions and public spaces.

Wildflowers will celebrate the seven trailblazing women who established the Castlemaine Art Museum in 1913.

Wildflowers will be located at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, where the women walked, talked and shared their love of flowers and plants.

Visit shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au for opportunities to provide feedback, attend on-site pop-up sessions and workshops, and learn more.

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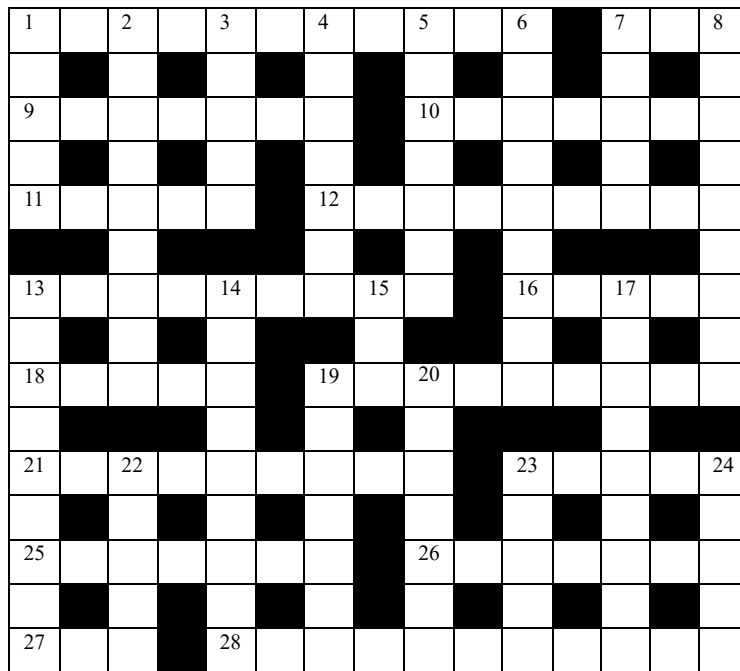
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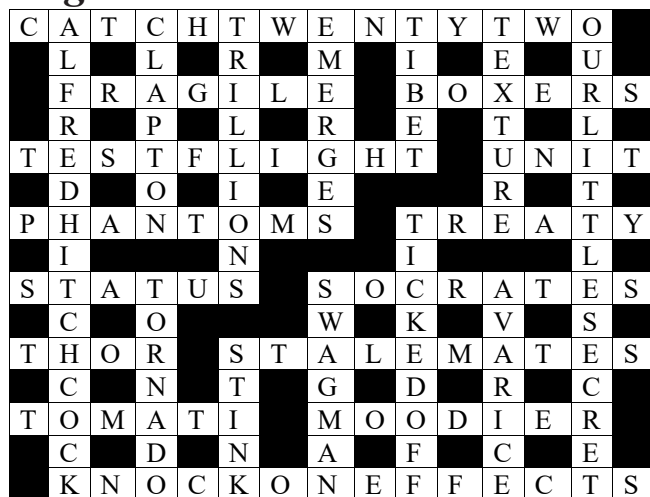
Down:

1. Misplaced self-regard in loins? (5)
2. Since Leon showed such contempt, things have coalesced. (9)
3. I trust you promenade like a peacock! (5)
4. Backward graduate channels tears when ISIS grabs him! (7)
5. They didn't notice him, or deign to speak with him. (7)
6. Cleanliness comes close... (9)
7. Artist paints in stages, so she puts it on first. (5)
8. Di's ten dedicated chefs created many masterpieces, so her figure ballooned... (9)
13. Tree has an aura [sic]. (9)
14. Deeply respected, but if first jumped to middle, deprived of vigour. (9)
5. Poor chap at 5 not lent one, either! (3)
17. Capital hot springs under the rake, as they say up north. (9)
19. Travesty of soft-drink made from tea? (7)
20. Cats use tools after Christ. (7)
22. Dam usurer? (5)
23. Huge sum won after liberties taken with Israeli bread. (5)
24. Levitates post-sleep... (5)

Across:

1. Thorough soreness pegging out the ground. (11)
7. Could come back to bite agnostic dyslexic insomniac... (3)
9. Dire fix if sun's out unless you're covered. (7)
10. Will the stud sin among them? (7)
11. Messy, tardy century produces brilliant display with dazzling effect. (5)
12. After top cat, a selective eater could arrive on cue, trickily... (9)
13. Précised dairy product? (9)
16. Premier reduced estimates, made internal blunder! (5)
18. We heard singer's footwear waved about in the breeze... (5)
19. Gladly, the bear reportedly couldn't see the hymn-book. (5-4)
21. A veil, pulled tardily but hastily over it, could lessen the pain. (9)
23. Ramless herb for army chap. (5)
25. Fashionable headless bait back about to typify lack of go. (7)
26. Votes about approximate musical intervals. (7)
27. Wood—then not! (3)
28. Santa-helper's shrink associated with detective? (11)

August Xword Solution © McW November '19



Down:

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

Across:

1. Joseph K experienced it—H[eller] merely wrote about it... [Kafkaesque]
9. Holy cup [Grail] is broken. Held in iron [Fe] grip, it's still easy to break further.
10. Rebellious Chinese smalls? [Well? I like it!]
11. Try [= test] escaping [as a gerund = 'flight'] on maiden voyage? ["Escaping was something we dreamt of all the time..."]
12. One flat? [Well?]
13. Ghosts of [comic] strips past... [Well?]
14. Sort of compact involving a sober [TT] year.
15. And [et] backward French removal changes legislation [Statutes] to standing.
17. Mayday [SOS] takes in vague [trace] of philosopher...
19. God, what a sledger! [Well?]
20. Humdrum friends drawn again.
21. More than one red salad vegetable in early Roma [Well? Latin!] perhaps?
22. More extreme than long-running group [Moody Blues] and inclined to sulk!
23. Later ramifications of door-bashing by Dutton's thugs? [Well?]

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Advertising rates

| Business Card Size (55x90mm) pre-paid for: | | Larger ads invoiced monthly | |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 3 months | \$50 | 1/6 page | \$40 |
| 6 months | \$80 | 1/4 page | \$60 |
| 12 months | \$110 | 1/3 page | \$70 |
| | | 1/2 page | \$80 |
| | | Full page | \$160 |

Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

| | am | pm | pm |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt) | 8:55 | 12:05 | 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 |



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

Castlemaine Community House

30 Templeton St

(enter via back door/garden)

For Information phone Chris 5470 5508

First in first served, so be prepared to wait.

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

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

Castlemaine Repair Cafe



castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

2025
Sep 28
Oct 26
Nov 30



August Solution

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Moderate

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

For early access to the solution to this month's puzzles, email:

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



Stalls
Music
Food
Drinks
Fun for all

29TH NOVEMBER 2025

10AM - 2PM

JAMES PARK HARCOURT