

## Stage One Track Loop Complete



Volunteers stand proudly having achieved a major goal at VMR. Left to right: Andrew G, Zak, David, Colin, Jacob, Andrew Mierisch, Kevin, Paul, Damon, Chris, and Simon. Quite a few now call Harcourt home.

**A**T 3.23 PM ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2025, the Victorian Miniature Railway achieved another major milestone – the final join of tracks to complete a full running loop of the railway.

“VMR members are exhausted, pushing to the limits, as our massive project comes to fruition. The infrastructure, groundworks, rock removal, drainage, and tracks – all

completed thanks to the hard-working efforts of our members.

2.7 kilometres of track and points have been made in-house. That’s 5400 meters of hand roll formed rails, 900 joins, 1800 joiners, and 7200 nuts and bolts. All of this sitting on 28,800 sleepers, each one hand cut and drilled four times, connected with 57,600 rail chairs made on-site and then secured with 115,200 screws. And it’s just a hobby” Andrew laughs.

“On 9 November, Harcourt residents, their family and friends will be treated to a pre-open run day to enjoy this new landmark, witness the massive efforts of the VMR members, enjoy the views of the town and the lovely Mount Alexander while on a fifteen minute ride in our scale trains. We can’t wait either.”

**See page 25 for The Community Day details**

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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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## COMMUNITY DIARY

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

**Friday October 10:** 9.30 – 11.30 am, Supported Play Group begins, Harcourt Kindergarten.

**Friday October 17:** 5–7 pm, Community for Climate Resilience: Speakers and dinner, Community House. (See page 20 and 32)

**Saturday October 18:** Shire Emergency Expo. See page 4 for details.

**Thursday October 23:** 11.30 – 1 pm Seniors Lunch at Harcourt Valley Community House. (See page 14)

**Thursday October 23:** Bendigo Bank Financial Scam Advice, following the Seniors Lunch at the Community House. (See page 13)

**Sunday November 9:** 11 am – 5 pm VMR Harcourt Community Open Day. (See page 25)

**Saturday November 29:** 10 am – 2 pm Gather Harcourt Christmas, James Park. (See page 30)

**Wednesday December 31:** 6 pm until midnight Gather Harcourt News Year's Eve. (See page 31)

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

**CFA:** Brigade meets at 8.00 pm on the third Monday of each month. Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs start 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 15 for September activities. Open each Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, closed in school holidays.

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

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

**Harcourt Bowls Club:** see page 18 and the website: [www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au](http://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.



# Harcourt Growers Challenge Water Allocations

A group of Harcourt and district irrigators met with Coliban Water representatives at the Harcourt Cooperative Coolstores on Thursday 18 September, to discuss this year's rural water allocation.

The meeting was convened by Tim Robertson from Lome Vineyard in North Harcourt in response to Coliban's announcement in July of just a 30% allocation for local irrigators - since lifted to 50%.

Growers were shocked at being put on drastic water restrictions with no warning. Coliban's storages are currently at similar levels to the early years of the millennium drought, when growers still received 100% of their water. Back then, allocations were only reduced to 70% by the fourth year of drought (2002) and fell to 30% much later, after 7 years of drought.

Since the drought, the Harcourt Modernisation Project has replaced the old leaky channel system with a pipeline that is at least 25% more efficient than the channel. Growers joined the scheme with many surrendering part of their water entitlement on the understanding that water security would be improved, not reduced.

Despite the increase to 50%, growers informed Coliban representatives at the meeting that current allocations remain too low to keep their trees and vines in good health and grow a full crop.

## **Rural users feel discriminated against**

Growers say that current Coliban policies unfairly discriminate against them compared to urban customers who continue to face no restrictions.

Coliban confirmed that town users are unlikely to see any restrictions until March, meaning that under permanent water saving rules, households can still water gardens freely, run irrigation systems for 12 hours a day, and fill swimming pools, while primary producers are left trying to sustain their livelihoods on half their entitlement.

Another frustration is timing. Coliban explained they prefer to start rural allocations low so they can increase them later if more inflows arrive. But orchardists pointed out that early low allocations force them to make difficult decisions about whether to cut back their crop at flowering time - the cheapest and most effective stage. Waiting until later means costly hand-

thinning, and by then it's too late to plan for a full harvest.

Growers also expressed disappointment about poor communication from Coliban, saying they were not warned about the possibility of such a low allocation or given any explanation how this relates to urban restrictions.

Many growers previously bought and held extra water during the Millennium drought at considerable expense. When the buy-back scheme was offered as part of the modernisation project, they sold their reserves on the explicit understanding that the new pipeline's efficiency meant reserves would no longer be necessary.

Coliban acknowledged that urban growth has added pressure to the system. They also spoke about the considerable debt burden they carry as the result of the constant need to maintain and upgrade dated infrastructure. While not unsympathetic to the position Coliban finds itself in, growers put two and two together to reach their own understanding of why Coliban is much quicker to restrict rural users while fully supplying higher-paying urban customers for as long as possible.

Growers also questioned why as commercial businesses growing a range of agricultural products, they cannot be granted priority access over non-commercial rural users.

Coliban representatives explained that all rural users - whether primary producers or not - hold the same type of licence, and legally, they must therefore all receive the same allocation. They also explained that the license system is currently under review.

## **What do irrigators want?**

While understanding the commercial and regulatory environment Coliban operates within, the meeting deplored the current policies and priorities guiding internal decision-making. Food production is not inherently valued as a water user over, for example, lawns and swimming pools.

Ultimately, say growers, this implies that we are willing to rely more heavily on imported food while local producers are restricted from growing food.

Harcourt and district irrigators believe water should be allocated where it delivers the greatest benefit, instead of going to non-essential uses.

Data collected during the Millennium drought demonstrated that we are among the most efficient users of water in the country, in terms of tonnes output per megalitre of water used.

Specifically, irrigators are calling for:

- ▶ The creation of a primary producer licence, so food production can be prioritised to safeguard food production.
- ▶ The development of a preferential allocation system to give productive farms higher priority than non-farm rural users.
- ▶ Urban restrictions to be applied earlier and more in line with rural restrictions so the burden of low inflows is shared fairly.

## **Positive outcomes**

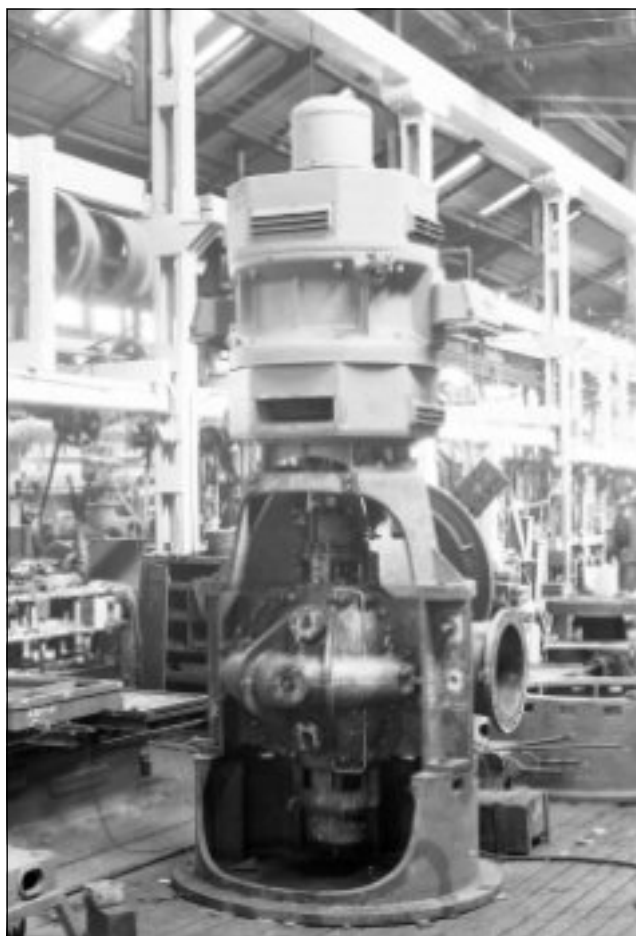
One positive outcome of the meeting was bringing irrigators together. It's the first time since the drought that local growers have gathered to share their concerns. With the Harcourt and District Fruit Growers Association no longer active, Tim Robertson offered to coordinate further meetings to decide next steps and organise more effective advocacy.

Katie Finlay



If you are wondering, as are we, about the Bendigo - Melbourne train stopping to pick up passengers in Harcourt we still have a little way to go before there is a definitive answer. The Harcourt Progress Association, which has taken the issue on board, is meeting with the Department Transport and Maree Edwards on Tuesday 7 October and may get some clarity around the matter. In the meantime, rumours abound that the single line through Harcourt adds a complexity that may be insurmountable, but watch this space for a full update in the November edition.

# Flowserve 150th Celebration Open Day



On the day, the noted foundry whistle will blow at 10:00 am with the raising of the flags to start off the day, and the renowned Thompson's Foundry Band will be playing. There will be a historical display, plaque unveiling and a BBQ to commemorate the day.

There will be two presentations at 11:00am and 1:00pm by George Milford in the on-site lunchroom on the topic of the fantastic finds by David and James Thompson and how the Thompson brothers went on to open the engineering works and then, with plenty of capital and a can-do attitude, became Australia's pre-eminent engineers.

**Note that enclosed flat sole footwear is recommended.**

Flowserve (commonly known as Thompson's Foundry or The Foundry) is holding an open day to celebrate 150 years of manufacturing at its site at 5 Parker Street Castlemaine on Saturday 18 October between 10:00am and 2:00pm. This is a unique opportunity to view the facility as it is now. The last open day was in 2000 for the 125th year anniversary.

Many Harcourt and district residents have worked at The Foundry during these years or had a connection through family ties.

**Billman's Foundry** at 5-7 Langslow Street will also be open to the public from 10am to 2pm and will be doing a hot pour demonstration.

**The Castlemaine Historical Society** at 5 Goldsmith Crescent are showcasing highlights from their archives from 1pm to 4pm. (Entry by gold coin donation.)

**Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum** has a dedicated Thompson display and will be open on the day from 2:30pm to 6pm.

## It's Applefest time again!



After the fantastic success of 2025, we're excited to announce that Applefest will once again be held at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve in 2026.

**Date: Saturday, 7th March 2026**

**Time: 10am – 3pm**

The bigger, flatter and more accessible Reserve proved a great choice last year, and with just a few small tweaks, we're confident 2026 will be even more beautiful, bigger, and—if possible—better than 2025!

So, grab your goods, save the date, and jump on board the Applefest bandwagon.

Looking forward to another wonderful Applefest together!

*Ruth*

## HARCOURT CFA Shire Emergency Expo

**Saturday October 18  
Western Reserve  
Forest Street Castlemaine**

**(Note the changed time)**

**From 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.**

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

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The scoreboard with the final score tended by Des Dooley.



Des bowling.



John measuring – dead end.



Maine Four - Peter, Laurence and Daryl.  
Absent: Dianne.



The Rebels team with the perpetual shield Des Rice, Colin Mierisch, Dawn O'Haire, Tyrone Rice.

# Harcourt Carpet Bowls

## Legacy Tournament

Our Club held a Round Robin Tournament in August with funds raised being presented to the Castlemaine Legacy Group. A good number of Legacy members and Carpet Bowls members attended, playing three games of bowls with lots of laughter and chatter as each game was played. A raffle was held with a good number of prizes with thanks going to Barb Templer for providing a well-stocked hamper as first prize and a good selection of hams etc supplied by Kevin Earl for following draws. Thank you Barb and Kevin for your contribution. Thanks also go to John Jenkin for supplying the prizes for winners and runners up of the games played. The final cheque donated totalled \$240.00 after a lovely supper provided by the Bowls Club members. If you weren't there you missed a good night!!!

## Winter Competition

Our Winter Competition has now been finalized with an exciting Grand Final between Maine Four and Rebels with Rebels winning on the last end with a score of four being two shots down going into the 20th end. Final score being Rebels 20 defeated Maine Four 18. Rebels team was Dawn O'Haire, Des Rice, Colin Mierisch and Tyrone Rice. Maine Four - Dianne Dooley, Peter Henderson, Laurence Hauser and Daryl Normington. Better luck next year Maine Four.

**Summer Bowls** – No decision has been made on whether Summer Bowls will be played this season, so keep a lookout in the next edition of *The Core*.

Loretta Rice



## HPA Update

Harcourt Progress Association has received a one-off grant from Mount Alexander Shire which will help pay for some essential services at the Harcourt Valley Community House, such as electricity, gas, water, wifi and security. We are also hoping that signage for the Community House will be organised shortly.

We rely heavily on grants to help us to make this space a welcoming place for all, but as you would appreciate, funds are limited, as is the time to do all we would like to the building and grounds.

All of our board members are volunteers, and many other volunteers help with the various projects at the Harcourt Valley Community House. They each have different interests in life but come together to improve and upgrade the old railway building and to assist with programs run on the premises. We would welcome new members to join us either as a member of the board, or as volunteers concerned with projects and programs at the HVCH (aka Harcourt Valley Community House).

We have also received a grant from Mount Alexander Shire to host another Christmas BBQ and party – more details will be available once the date is finalised.

Due to several factors we have decided not to proceed with the Whole of Town Garage/Car Boot Sale this year.

We have been in contact with Council again in the hope that the roundabout issue can be resolved but to date the news is not good. We will pursue the matter again with Regional Roads Victoria, especially now in spring when the grass gets so high it becomes a danger to road users, particularly those on motorbikes, small cars and bicycles.

We hope to see you at our Seniors Festival Lunch, Scam Awareness afternoon (October 23) or our AGM, all happening this month.

Alison Curtis  
Chairperson, Harcourt Progress Association.

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**Lisa**

**Chesters MP**

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



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,  
I hope this finds you well. A bit of rain and some sunshine puts a better perspective on things. I recently attended the 70th anniversary of the Harcourt Bowling Club. What a great club they are. Really nice to see the event so well supported.

At our September meeting of Council, we adopted the four-year Council Plan and the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan. These documents involved a large amount of community consultation and lay down the direction and aspirations of Council and the community over the next four years. Congratulations to all who contributed.

We are currently putting the final touches on the 24/25 annual report. All these documents are recommended reading. The annual report includes detailed financial statements which show that we continue to manage our finances well. The reality is, however, that funds for the major projects we need is very hard to get. We need support from our state and federal government counterparts to deliver big projects.

On the home front, shearing is pretty well done, and it is nice to see some feed in the paddock. The reality is our farmers have been doing it tough with the drought, escalating costs and reduced income. Watched the AFL grand final. Brisbane too good for Geelong on the day; looking at the young Brisbane side it will be no surprise if they are featuring in the finals for next few years. Champion team will always beat team of champions.

Best regards to all, Tony  
AG Cordy  
0439 742 434



## Harcourt Lions Club

The Harcourt Lions Club has recently purchased some new aprons to wear when cooking BBQ's. These aprons have been embroidered by Diane Dooley with "HARCOURT" so everyone knows where we come from. They look really great, thanks Diane! The aprons will be on show at the Mount Alexander Tractor Pull BBQ, which will be held at Muckleford on Sunday 26 October 2025.

### Community member of the year and youth of the year for 2025

Nomination forms will appear in *The Core* over the next few months with the nominations needing to be in by Monday 16 February 2026.

There are many in the Harcourt and District area who give of their time in so many ways to make Harcourt the place to live. Please take some time to enter their name and a list of the great work they do in the organisations and clubs in the area. If you know of a young person under the age of 25 or someone in your club or sport who has achieved something special, then please put their name and achievement down on a nomination form and let everyone give them encouragement in their chosen field.

Awards will be announced at the



Harcourt Applefest on the Long Weekend in March 2026.

**The third Monday of the month is the date for the Harcourt District Lions Club meetings at the VMR on Harmony Way, commencing with a shared meal at 6.30pm followed by general discussion from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. If you are interested in joining or finding out more about the Lions Club, send your name and contact information to Harcourt District Lions Club, PO Box 100, Harcourt 3453.**

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THE CORE

## VOLUNTEERS

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Contact: Lions President, Ray: 0409 957 429 or Secretary, Sue: 0418 372 336 with any queries

## New Supported Playgroup at Harcourt Preschool



Image: Kinder team – Sally, Maz, Aurora, Abbey and Melissa

Mount Alexander Shire Council is inviting Harcourt families to join a new Supported Playgroup at Harcourt Preschool, launching on Friday 10 October.

The two-hour sessions are free and run weekly for families with children aged 0-5. The sessions are facilitated by Aurora Ricci, a trained early childhood professional using the Smalltalk parenting support program.

**When:** Fridays, 9.30am to 11.30am (during school terms only)

**Where:** Harcourt Preschool, Cnr Bingham and Mills Roads, Harcourt  
**Cost:** Free – Snacks provided

Ms Ricci, Council's Supported Playgroup Facilitator, said: "Supported Playgroups help children aged 0–5 build strong language, social and cognitive skills, with benefits lasting into their school years."

"The free weekly sessions support parenting, improve child–carer interactions, and connect families to local services."

By delivering the Supported Playgroup program in this environment, Council is helping ensure a smoother transition for children as they prepare to commence kindergarten.

"The Supported Playgroup program brings so much depth to the work we're doing," said Maz, teacher of the three-year-old kindergarten.

"Children and families will be supported even before they start kinder. It's a win-win for everyone."

Harcourt playgroup, operating from the Uniting Church for over 40 years, has long been a pillar of the community.

The new playgroup builds on this legacy, adding fresh value for local families who've shared their enthusiasm: Cecelia described playgroup as "a big welcoming hug," while Austin said it's "a fantastic activity for our children to play and learn with others and a valuable way for parents to connect and build friendships."

## HARCOURT COMMUNITY PANTRY



**Opening Hours:**  
Tuesday Morning  
9.30am - 11.30am

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.

**Location:**  
Harcourt Valley  
Community House  
23 Station St.  
Harcourt

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, 3458  
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### Get Active

#### Term 4 Nordic walking

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

Dates for the term are 9 October to 19 December.

Groups for NEW Nordic walkers are about to get underway:

- Castlemaine: Mondays at 2 pm, Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, meet in the picnic shelter/ playground car park
- Harcourt: Tuesdays at 4 pm, meet opposite Harcourt CFA

The CONTINUING Nordic Walkers group will meet as usual on Fridays in Castlemaine at 9.30 am in the Botanical Gardens.

T. 5479 1000 for more details

### Volunteers

#### Calling all performers

Are you interested in volunteering as a performer in one of the three aged care facilities at the Castlemaine campus of Dhelkaya Health?

Music. Dance. Physical theatre. Circus. All forms of performance are welcome.

We strive to provide aged care residents with a diverse range of experiences that aim to engage, respect and stimulate the senses.

If you feel that you have the time and talent to share, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information please email Edwina (Volunteer Coordinator):

vservice@castlemainehealth.org.au

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## Spring's Treasures

A concert full of delights is coming up in the 160 year old church in Buckley Street, Harcourt on **Sunday afternoon 26 October at 2.30.**



Performers include cellist Mannie Maund, singer Sue Proeve, recorder players Jennifer Lehmann, Jo Parkes, John Tungyep with Vic Watts on gamba, a story about Tonga told by Solway Nutting, some singing along with Rex Odgers, and father and daughter duo Jem and Bertie Challender on keyboard.

Come along for a pleasant mix of classical music and golden oldies.

Meet the talented musicians over afternoon tea in the sparkling new Tea Room at the rear of the church.

Donations go to Asylum Seekers Welcome Centre.

If you wish to book, please email to [solway@mmnet.com.au](mailto:solway@mmnet.com.au), or ring/text 0410 799 297

## A Lifetime of Service – Peter Wilson

Peter Wilson's 66 years of service to the CFA was recognised recently at the brigade annual awards presentation evening. Peter was presented with the Outstanding Service Medal which recognises prolonged service distinguished by exceptional performance and outstanding achievement or contribution to the objectives of the CFA, a high level of committed service involving a broad range of activities for a significant period of time, or outstanding leadership in the encouragement and development of others within the CFA to the long term benefit of the community.

Having discussed Peter's time in the CFA with him recently, it is evident that there's no "and/or" in the criteria for Peter, he has achieved all of the standards required, in spades.

The Harcourt CFA was established at the end of World War II; Peter joined in 1959. His father also held the role of captain in his time as a CFA volunteer. Peter told *The Core*, "Over the years, I have held every position in the brigade except secretary or treasurer. The best part of being in the CFA is the camaraderie and the friendships formed over the years."

Peter grew up in Harcourt on the 18-acre family orchard and still lives there with his wife May. He said, "I couldn't have volunteered in the CFA for all these years without the support of May. She has done all the organising and care in the background. She also volunteered and was communications officer for twelve years and organised relief crews and



refreshments among other tasks. She is still a member, but inactive."

When asked about memorable moments in the CFA, Peter recalled some of the most serious fires he attended – one at Maldon in 1969 which went all night and into the next day, and a fire at Creswick where the crew was directed down a dead-end road, which meant they had no escape route. He said, "That lead to a Coroner's Emergency Court of Inquiry and resulted in some very significant changes to operational methods."

Peter and May's family is possibly unique in their service to the CFA in that both their children and grandchildren are members of the CFA. Their son Andrew, who is captain, and his family, volunteer at Harcourt, and their daughter Jan and her family serve at Sutton Grange CFA, where she is the captain.

Why volunteer? Peter said, "It's simple: do something for your community. When the siren or pager goes off, we turn out." *Robyn Miller*



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CURIOS  
CARLOS





# Harcourt CFA

## Brigade Annual Awards Presentation



L-R ACFO Archie Conroy, Baso Mel Doyle, Captain Andrew Wilson, Jessica Phillips, Raewyn Rice, Peter Silson, Kevin Earl, Chief Officer Jason Heffernan.



L-R. ACFO Archie Conroy, Peter Wilson, Chief Officer Jason Heffernan.

Our brigade annual awards presentation evening was once again held at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club on Saturday 6 September. Special guests for the evening were CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Archie Conroy and Brigade Administrative Support Officer Mel Dole. The Chief Officer presented service awards of 5 years to Ian Sims, 10 years to Jessica Phillips, 35 years to Raewyn Rice and 45 years to Kevin Earl before presenting a very special CFA Outstanding Service Award to Peter Wilson for his dedicated 66 years of service to the CFA. Peter has held numerous positions during this time including the roles of Captain and Group Officer.

The night was a most enjoyable evening and congratulations go to all recipients.

### Emergency Expo Time Change

There has been a change of times for the Mount Alexander Shire Emergency Expo to be held on Saturday 18 October at the Western Reserve Forest Street Castlemaine.

The new time slot is from 12:00 noon through to 4:00 pm.

### Brigade Training and Turnouts

Brigade training is ramping up in preparation for the summer fire season. As well as continuing to maintain current skills, some members are adding new competencies to their skillset enrolling in courses when available. This is strengthening our brigade into the future.

Our yearly required entrapment drills will be conducted over four nights

starting on Monday 6 October through to Thursday 9 October. There will be a bit of extra noise during this training but this is a mandatory Chief Officer's safety requirement before being allowed on the fire ground and therefore must be completed for the brigade to be operational. Other skill maintenance completed has been Low Voltage Fuse Pulling and Breathing Apparatus. There will also be a group training exercise at Taradale on the morning of Sunday 26 October which we will be participating in.

Of the eight turnouts for the month of September, four were in our own patch and four were support to Castlemaine. There were two callouts to burn offs that were not registered at the time of the callouts and a third one which was registered but unattended, and had escaped. This highlights how important it is that any burning off needs to be registered by phone on 1800 668 511 or online at least two hours prior to lighting on the Fire Permits Victoria website (<https://www.firepermits.vic.gov.au>). It also highlights how important it is to be present during the burn to monitor and keep contained.

We were called to two motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) at the notorious Calder Freeway and Fogarty's Gap Road intersection on consecutive days. The first involved two vehicles and an oil spill. The second was not as was reported and was categorised as a false alarm. Interesting to note from this is what the human eye sees is not always what is the fact. Unfortunately the caller did not stop to investigate further and also was unsure of where

they actually were on the Calder Freeway so a bit of further investigation was required.

Three of the support calls to Castlemaine were one escalation to a bin fire, one to a smoke detector operating (this was on the night of our presentation evening so our pre-planned cover crew responded to the steam train shed again). During the firing up of the train there is a large amount of smoke that emits from the shed and can look like the shed is on fire to those that do not know what is going on inside. To try and reduce these callouts, they will be registering their startup operations on the burn off line as well.

### Preparing now for summer

Predictions are for an early start to the summer fire season this year so the time to start preparing is now. Take the opportunity to visit the Emergency Services Expo, our brigade open day (most likely already happened when reading this), or call in any Sunday morning at the fire station if you have any questions or need some information to assist in your preparation. Planning is the first step. Do you have a plan and if so have you checked and revised it recently? Are you fire ready?

Spring growth leads to summer fuel – reducing the fuel load will reduce fire intensity.

*Stay safe*  
Tyrone Rice  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.*



Community Bank  
Maldon & District

 Bendigo Bank

**Are you  
worried  
about  
scams,  
Harcourt?**



You're invited to a free community session with Jack Kennedy from Bendigo Bank's Financial Risk Department who will share insights on the importance of online safety and how to identify and prevent scams.



**Thursday 23rd October**

**1:30-2:30pm, followed by afternoon tea**

**Harcourt Valley Community House - 23 Station St, Harcourt**

You don't need to be a Bendigo Bank customer to come along - everyone is welcome!  
RSVP for seating and catering purposes by calling Jeanette on 0438 579 987 or email [harcourtvalleych@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtvalleych@gmail.com) by Monday 20th Oct. as seating will be limited.

# Harcourt Valley Community House Seniors Lunch



Victorian  
Seniors  
Festival  
2025

**CONNECT  
CREATE  
CELEBRATE**  
1-31 October



CASTLEMAINE  
COMMUNITY  
HOUSE



Come along to the

**Harcourt Valley Community House**

**Seniors Lunch**

Thursday 23 October from 11:30 am to 1 pm  
23 Station St, Harcourt.

**Bookings are essential**

Phone or text Jeanette on 0438 579 987

Or email [harcourtvalleych@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtvalleych@gmail.com)

Harcourt Progress Association is hosting a free community lunch for Harcourt seniors as part of the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival. Join us for a cuppa and lunch, enjoy a chat and perhaps meet new friends in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

After lunch, there will be a presentation from Bendigo Bank on how to avoid phone and online scams  
(note that this part of the event is open to the wider community).







## Term 4 Hours at HVCH (change to 12:30pm - 2:30pm)

The first day for HVCH this term will be Wednesday 8 October. Our drop-in hours this term will be 12:30pm-2:30pm.

## Press Play Cafe (Playgroup) Wednesdays 10:00am - 11:30am

Come along to Press Play Cafe each Wednesday (during term) at HVCH. Enjoy a cuppa and chat with other parents/carers while the children play. New families are welcome. A gold coin donation would be much appreciated.

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

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 with our wonderful volunteers, if you have the time!

## Seniors' Lunch at HVCH (23 Station Street, Harcourt)

HVCH is hosting a Seniors' Lunch on Thursday 23 October from 11:30am - 1:00pm. Come along and enjoy good food in good company to celebrate Seniors' Month. Bookings are essential as numbers are limited to 30 guests.

Your booking can be made by following the link to our event on Humanitix:

<https://events.humanitix.com/seniors-festival-2025-harcourt-community-house-seniors-lunch?>

Alternatively, directly email [harcourtvalleych@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtvalleych@gmail.com) or phone or text Jeanette on 0438 579 987.

## Scam Awareness Talk - 1:30pm Thursday 23 October at HVCH

Following on from the Seniors' Lunch, Jack Kennedy from the Bendigo Bank Financial Risk Department will share insights on the importance of online safety and how to identify and prevent scams. Lunch guests are welcome to stay for this event.

This presentation will occur immediately after the Seniors Lunch but we are opening it up to the wider community so you don't have to be "senior" (or an existing lunch guest) to attend. Bookings are essential as again, our seating capacity is limited. Afternoon tea will be provided after the talk.

To book, please email [harcourtvalleych@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtvalleych@gmail.com) or phone or text Jeanette on 0438 579 987. Please do not use the Humanitix link (above) as that is only for the lunch booking.

## Thank You Harcourt CWA!

The HVCH sincerely thanks the Harcourt CWA for a recent gift of \$500. The funds will be used to support two programs: Press Play Cafe (playgroup) and the Harcourt Community Pantry.

## Reminder - Bottles and cans donations welcome!

In recent times, our 10c eligible bottles and cans donations have significantly reduced. This is a vital fundraiser for the HVCH and we would greatly appreciate your support. There are two bins located

## Contact the Harcourt Valley Community House

**Visit us:** 23 Station Street Harcourt Vic 3453 (Wednesdays during school terms, 12:30 pm-2:30 pm)

**Email:** [harcourtvalleych@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtvalleych@gmail.com)

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

**Phone Jeanette:** 0438 579 987

at the HVCH, 23 Station Street, Harcourt and we will happily collect large volumes, just call or email with your request please.

## Still seeking...

- ▶ A donation of pre-loved bookshelves to be able to set up a community library at HVCH.
- ▶ A freezer (upright or chest) to allow for extra capacity for the Harcourt Community Pantry.
- ▶ Donations of new take-away food containers.

Call or email if you can help us out - pick up can be arranged.

That's all for this month, see you at the Harcourt Valley Community House soon!

Cheers

Jeanette, Voluntary Manager



## 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.

## Be in the draw to win a \$100 water bill credit

Coliban Water is asking customers to share their feedback as part of its Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey – and those who take part go in the draw to win one of ten \$100 water bill credits.

Executive General Manager Customer and Stakeholder Experience, Lauren McLean, said the business continually strives to enhance water and sewer services provided to the community.

"This year we are reaching out to customers for their perspective on our products and services, and I encourage them to be as honest as possible.

"Gaining insight into the customer experience allows us to identify whether we are meeting customer expectations. The survey is one of the most important ways we learn from our customers and improve the services we provide," she said.

"Regardless of whether customers receive an email invitation, every customer can participate by visiting our website and taking the survey to ensure their voice is heard."

Customers who complete the survey between Wednesday 1 October and 5pm on Wednesday 22 October will go into the draw to win one of ten \$100 bill credits. Winners will be contacted in early November 2025.

Coliban Water is one of seven participating water corporations who will gather customer feedback as part of the survey. Others include Westernport, South Gippsland, Gippsland, East Gippsland, Central Highlands, and Goulburn Valley Water.

In total, more than 2,000 customers will be contacted.

"Customer privacy is taken very seriously, with any personal information collected used for the sole purpose of the competition entry. Personal customer information is in no way linked to the feedback provided," Mrs McLean said.

The survey is available on our website at [coliban.com.au](http://coliban.com.au).

## Slithering into snake season

As temperatures rise, snakes become more active, emerging from a period of reduced activity to seek food and mates. While they may be more visible, snakes generally pose little danger to people when left alone.

Lachlan Clarke, Manager Statewide Wildlife Advisory Services at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) said: "Most snake bites occur when people try to capture or kill them."

"The most effective way to stay safe is to simply leave them alone. This includes keeping pets on leads in areas where snakes are known to occur," he said.

Remember:

- ▶ Keep your yard tidy, clear away clutter like timber piles and rocks.
- ▶ Supervise pets, keep dogs on a lead and watch pets closely in high-risk areas. If you suspect a bite, seek immediate veterinary care.

- ▶ Dress for the occasion, when out walking, wear long pants and proper shoes.
- ▶ Don't try to catch or harm a snake. Call a licensed snake catcher instead.
- ▶ In the case of a bite, call 000 immediately.

**Snakes are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975, and capturing, harming, or killing them is illegal.**

**You can report wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 800 333 000.**

**For more information contact DEECA on 136 186.**

**For essential snake bite first aid information, visit [www.stjohnvic.com.au/news/snake-bite-first-aid-tips](http://www.stjohnvic.com.au/news/snake-bite-first-aid-tips)**

### Snakes around Harcourt

Common local snake species include (examples shown left to right) the Eastern Brown Snake, Red-bellied Black Snake and Tiger Snake, all of which are venomous.



### Harcourt Bowling Club Breast Cancer Fundraiser

Harcourt Bowling Club was the venue for the Breast Cancer Network fundraising day on Sunday 5 October hosted by Harcourt local Gay Buchanan.

As the pictures show, the clubroom was a sea of pink. More details will be in the November edition of *The Core*.







# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## Getting rid of the wrinkles – without Botox

An iron is a common household tool for removing wrinkles from clothes. Harcourt Heritage Centre has a collection of eighteen irons, displaying the progress of this humble domestic appliance from the very basic to the most modern.

The Salter's "Silvester" flat iron (which we might now use as a doorstop) was most common in Harcourt a century ago. Made of metal with a polished base, the flat iron was heated on the kitchen stove. Hanging from a hook on the mantelpiece was an iron-holder, a thick pad used to grip the metal handle of the flat iron. Ironing was traditionally undertaken on the kitchen table, over which a coarse woollen blanket had been thrown.

A small cast iron "Silvester" smoothing iron was given to the museum by the late Nancy Curtis. Instead of a flat base, this iron has a polished convex base. It was used to press smaller items like bows and collars. It was also used to dry the damp starch which had been sprinkled on the collars or cuffs.

Harcourt Heritage Centre has recently been given a set of three double-end irons. They had been found in a farm shed, put aside upon the arrival of electricity in the late 1940s. These irons, known as Mrs. Potts Irons, came with a detachable wooden handle. The whole set was made in the USA in the 1870s.

All the irons mentioned in this article so far had to be heated on the stove top, with one iron being heated up while its companion was being put to work at the ironing table.

By now you will have fallen into the trap of thinking that ironing was women's work. Well, yes, it was left to the females to wield the hot and heavy iron. However, it was assuredly a male who invented the box iron. There is one example of a box iron in our collection; it has a lift-up lid and vent holes on the side. To heat the box iron, you took a burning piece of charcoal or coal and placed them inside the box iron. As the iron began to cool down the

lady of the house was encouraged to swing it around to create a breeze to stir up the flames within. We at Harcourt Heritage Centre are not sure if this type of iron was in common use hereabouts.

The Australian-made Handi Iron seems to have come next. Again, we can assume this type of iron was invented by a man. (They are ever helpful, the male of the species, aren't they?) The Handi Iron was heated by shellite, benzine or petrol. Yes, pure unadulterated petrol. After filling the petrol tank, the housewife had to pour one-and-a-half tablespoons of methylated spirits into the base, strike a match and allow the spirits to almost burn away before opening the needle valve to produce a yellow flame from the petrol in the tank. The late Ron Robins said they were tricky to light.

Melva Graham, as a newlywed, was presented with a petrol-fuelled iron by husband Andy. After carefully following the instructions, Melva came to the point in the lighting-up procedure where you open the needle valve to expose the petrol to the flame. The iron flared up, giving Melva such a fright that she grabbed the iron, raced to the back door and hurled the flaming iron onto the bare gravel of the backyard.

The first electric irons came into use in Harcourt in the 1940s. They were very basic, with no controls. The earliest electric iron in our collection is amazingly heavy, made of steel and heated by an inbuilt electric element which was clamped between two mica insulating sheets. The mica prevented the red hot electric element from contacting the metal casing or the heavy steel base.

An essential piece of ironing equipment was the glass bottle with the pepper shaker top, used to sprinkle water on the items to be pressed. The water helps to straighten the fibres of the cloth. It is not just the weight of the iron that straightens the fibres of the fabric; it has long been known that some fabrics

require water to loosen the fibres in the fabric. New electric irons were developed that could spray a fine mist onto the clothes, while other irons had a perforated base to convey steam to the fabric. Our museum display has some examples of these modern thermostatically controlled steam and dry irons. Electric irons now have temperature controls and fabric controls. Just as it seemed odd to add a petrol tank to an iron, it seemed risky to add water to an iron, so Harcourt's housewives were skeptical about steam irons when they were first introduced (about 1958). The slogan "electricity and water doesn't mix", echoed a saying of 'Shocko', the mascot of the State Electricity Commission's campaign for electrical safety in the home. So the housewives of Harcourt were very careful when they poured the water into the tiny reservoir of the early steam irons.

The Harcourt collection of domestic irons demonstrates the gradual improvement of a household device. Many inventors have applied their talents to making life easier. There is a vast difference between the flat iron and today's thermostatically-controlled, fabric sensitive 'steam and dry' iron. But, while men were tinkering with the iron, others were concurrently developing no-iron fabric blends such as wool/synthetic, or cotton/polyester. We recall the enthusiastic reception given to Fletcher Jones' 'permanent press' trousers and pleated skirts. Today's garments are likely to be wrinkle-resistant and durable, needing little or no ironing.

The Heritage Centre collection of irons is instructive. Ironing has never been the housewife's most popular task. The improvements to the appliance remind us there is always the possibility that, if the task ahead of you seems hard and dreary, someone will invent a better way. And, aside from the weight or heat of the iron, that new and better way, like the development of new fabric blends, may come from a completely different approach to the problem.

*George Milford*





# Harcourt Bowling Club

## 70th Anniversary and Opening of the New Season

On Saturday 20 September, members and friends gathered at Harcourt Bowling Club to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the forming of the club. The opening of the new bowling season was also incorporated into the day.

The club was bedecked in colours of blue and gold and historical bowling paraphernalia, with photos streaming on two TV screens. Some members dressed in historical uniforms for the occasion.

President Gary Maddern extended a warm welcome to all and gave an overview of the history of the club through the seven decades.

The event was well attended, featuring life members Graeme Hill and Ronald Douglas, government representatives Lisa Chesters and Maree Edwards, Mayor Rosie Annear, local member Tony Cody and Division President Vicki Tierney. Their speeches recognised the club's historical significance within Harcourt and the broader bowling community.

Anniversary formalities were completed with the cutting of the cake by life members Graeme Hill and Ronald Douglas, followed by the sumptuous afternoon tea.

President Gary opened the New Season on the Green, with Maree Edwards delivering the first bowl before joining members and guests for a social game.



Celebrating the anniversary was significant for the club, presenting an opportunity to reflect on our history and the future.

Collecting all relevant historical information has provided a basis for creating a comprehensive archive for the club in the future.

### **Pennant**

Practice is well underway for the new season on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Jackpot Pairs on Monday afternoons has also provided an opportunity for practise and has been well attended.

The Weekend Pennant season will begin on Saturday 4 October. This year, Harcourt will participate in Divisions 2, 4 and 7.

Midweek Pennant season for Divisions 2, 3 and 6 starts on Monday 6 October.

Charity round is 13 December for Weekend and 15 December for

Midweek. The charity chosen by the Harcourt Board this year is The Starlight Foundation. The colour is purple and yellow: purple the darkness children face and yellow the light of happiness. Members are encouraged to dress in those colours on the day.

### **Kidman Fours Tournament**

The Kidman Fours tournament will be on Sunday 26 October commencing at 12.30pm for 1.00pm start. All registered bowlers are welcome – names to be entered on the list at the club.

### **Girls on the Green**

The club will again be running a three week Girls on the Green program commencing on Wednesday 5 November starting at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start.

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



## Harcourt Bowling Club

*Continued*

Meet with other locals in a friendly atmosphere at the club

- Wednesday nights: 5, 12, 26 November, 5.30pm for 6.00pm start:
- No experience needed, novices can be guided by experienced club members.
- Bowls provided, flat soled shoes or barefoot on the green
- Nibbles provided; drinks at bar prices.
- Prizes for the winning team after the three weeks are completed.
- It is hoped that each team will play the three nights to ensure that all get a game.
- Entry is \$10 per head per night.
- Entries close at 4.00 pm on the night of play and should include the following:

**Team name**

**Team members**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Enquiries and entries:

At the club: 2 Warren Street Harcourt

Or [harcourtbowls@gmail.com](mailto:harcourtbowls@gmail.com)

## A Local Moral Tale

My daughter and I have a cherished routine of walking around the township of Harcourt together, which also gives her dog a good workout. When her first child, our fourth grandchild, was born she continued this habit, pushing the pram and holding the dog's lead. Apparently in her mind, her dad couldn't be trusted with the pram-pushing. Throughout the first six months of my grandson's life, I was allowed to push the pram only twice, covering the length of a mere two town blocks. My daughter has a very strong maternal instinct!

Then came my heart issues, which led to the placement of a stent in my LAD artery. After the operation, I had strict orders to limit my exercise in the short term. We maintained our walking routine, albeit at a slower pace and along a shorter route. Near the end of our walks, we'd head east along Warren Street, cross over to Bagshaw Street and return via Buckley Street. The steep dirt section of Bagshaw Street proved quite challenging for me. One warm late November day, as my fit daughter pushed the pram and managed the dog, I walked slowly trying to avoid overexerting my heart.

As we neared Buckley Street, a ute suddenly came to a stop beside me. An elderly lady rolled down her window and began scolding me for not helping my daughter. I muttered something about how young mothers today prefer to handle everything themselves. My daughter, noticing my difficult situation, chimed in, remarking that, "It would have been nice if he could at least have held the dog's lead". I tried to explain my heart condition, but the lady wasn't having any of it. After a bit more of a mouthful the lady drove off and as we turned into Buckley Street my daughter burst out laughing.

**The moral of the story is things are not always as they seem.**

Lmct:10769

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# Harcourt Valley Landcare has a new website and Facebook group!



Harcourt Valley Landcare is a volunteer-run group caring for Harcourt Valley. From planting and creek restoration to supporting native wildlife, the group protects biodiversity and welcomes all to join their monthly meetings and working bees.

The group is a community-powered movement restoring their landscapes for a climate-ready future. From backyard gardeners to bush regenerators, and from high schoolers to seasoned green thumbs, they're learning, sharing and taking action for healthy soils, thriving biodiversity and real climate outcomes.

They're not just a tidy-up crew. Harcourt Valley Landcare is a climate-forward community where all ages learn and take action together. They're creating climate-ready landscapes that store carbon, protect wildlife and sustain our future.

Check out the [Harcourt Valley Landcare Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HarcourtValleyLandcare) – <https://www.facebook.com/HarcourtValleyLandcare>



Photo by Terry Willis

Visit the [Harcourt Valley Landcare website](https://www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org/) – <https://www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org/>

## Community for Climate Resilience – Information Night

Feeling overwhelmed by climate change? You're not alone. Harcourt Valley Landcare Presents: Community for Climate Resilience Information Night.

Discover how everyday people in our region are restoring biodiversity, connecting with country, and regenerating the land – one project at a time.

Learn how people like you are making a real impact. Hear from local change-makers and learn what impact you can have on the climate crisis through small acts that produce big outcomes.

PLUS! All attendees enter the draw to win a hands-on working bee at your place!

**Date:** Friday 17 October

**Time:** 5.00 to 7.00pm

**Where:** Harcourt Community House, 23 Station Street, Harcourt.

[Learn more about the information night](https://mountalexandershirecouncil.cmail19.com/t/y-l-qdymk-dlltlumju-u) – <https://mountalexandershirecouncil.cmail19.com/t/y-l-qdymk-dlltlumju-u>

## Community for Climate Resilience Information Night

**Friday 17 October 5:00pm to 7:00pm**

**Harcourt Valley Community House 23 Station Street**

**Hear from local change-makers:**

**Lori Arthur** – Director and Landcare Facilitator at Connecting Country

**Paul Foreman** – Local Ecologist and Botanist

**Monique Miller** – Conservationist and Co-host of *Wild Conversations* on Maine FM.

**Talks begin just after 5pm, followed by an interactive Q&A session.**

**From 6 o'clock, guests are invited to share a relaxed community dinner before the evening draws to a close around 7pm.**

**Lori Arthur** is the current Director and Landcare Facilitator at Connecting Country, a small not-for-profit conservation organisation based in the Mount Alexander region. She came to Connecting Country after working in a number of conservation and land management roles with local government, including on-ground delivery of natural resource management projects, biodiversity planning and community engagement. Her passion is working with community and connecting people with nature at the grassroots. She has held governance roles with collaborative land management organisations including the Chain of Ponds Collaboration and Merri Creek Management Committee to help foster the community voice in land management decision making. Her passion for working with community led to the move to Connecting Country with a keen focus on working with Landcare and other community groups, intersecting with government and philanthropic sectors. When she's not working, she's kept pretty busy with family life, often riding, bushwalking or paddling in and around the local environs with her two young boys and her kelpie, Dusty.

**Monique Miller** has worked in conservation since 2017. She has a particular interest in rare and declining flora, and has a knack for remembering Latin names of plants. She also has worked in permaculture teaching, market gardening and delivering

workshops. She is also an avid gardener and is currently the co-host of *Wild Conversations* on MaineFM.

**Paul Foreman** is a highly regarded and skilled ecologist and botanist and with many decades of experience in land management and nature conservation across a range of sectors and in a range of roles throughout Victoria and many other parts of Australia. Paul grew up in northern Victoria and has lived and worked in and around central Victoria for most of his life. In the past Paul has had various technical, strategic and senior management/leadership roles within state and local government, as well as Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage Australia – including facilitating the acquisition of Terrick Terrick National Park and chairing a grassland technical advisory group for a decade. In more recent times, he has been running his own consulting business ([Blue Devil Consulting](http://bluedevilconsulting.com.au) – [bluedevilconsulting.com.au](http://bluedevilconsulting.com.au)), he has helped establish [Biolinks Alliance](http://biolinksalliance.org.au) – [https://biolinksalliance.org.au](http://biolinksalliance.org.au) (an NGO promoting Landscape Science) as the inaugural chair and as an ecologist, and he has been Deputy Chair of [Landcare Victoria](http://landcarevictoria.org.au) – [www.landcarevictoria.org.au](http://www.landcarevictoria.org.au) since 2020. Paul has an undergraduate degree in Forestry (University of Melbourne), a Botany Masters (in Northern Plains Grassland ecology) from La Trobe University and recently completed his PhD in Historical Ecology (viz Temperate grasslands) also at La Trobe.

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

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.

You can provide feedback via Shape Mount Alexander at [www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy) or by contacting the Strategic Planning Team.

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](http://www.shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy)
- ▶ Calling the Strategic Planning team on 5471 1700
- ▶ Emailing the Strategic Planning team on [strategicplanning@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:a.carmichael@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).**

## Reminder: Feedback on rural land in our Shire closes on October 12

With Plan Harcourt firmly in place showing designated areas for development in the township area, some of us might believe that land designated as rural in Harcourt is 'safe' from development. The minimum size of subdivisions on rural land in Victoria is 100 acres/40 hectares. Across councils in Victoria subdivisions of rural land under the minimum have occurred, and they have often been

controversial, as councils take into account specific circumstances under their planning schemes. Before you decide to give feedback on the new strategy for rural land, recommended reading is the current policy on rural subdivisions.

Search for 'Rural Subdivisions' on the Shire website then have your say at Shape Mount Alexander – see the Shire information above.

Robyn Miller

## Tribute to Mary Taylor



Relatives of Mary Taylor, who tragically died one hundred years ago at the Harcourt Railway Station on September 19, 1925, united at the Coolstore Café on 19 September this year, to remember her. They brought with them a beautiful bunch of roses which were left at the station, after they had mingled and shared family memories.

Mary, 14 years old, was on school holidays and had been staying with her sister Jessie's employer Mrs Quirk. She was intending to catch the 3:10 train and arrived at the station with her sister. They were running late; the train had pulled into the station when they started to cross over to the platform where the ticket office was located. Mary, who was ahead of her sister ran across the line and apparently passed behind the stationary train, and right in front of the oncoming special Show train travelling from Melbourne to Bendigo, which was not stopping at the station. She was struck down and died instantly.

Mary Victoria Taylor (March 1911–September 1925) is interred in the Campbells Creek cemetery.







# Weather & Water

The weather bureau has reported that September temperatures have been near average across most of the country.

September rainfall was 38 mm here at Reservoir Road, with only five days of rain. The best reading was 17.5 mm on the seventh of the month. After the encouraging result in July of 195 mm, the rainfall has tailed off significantly, and the results are not quite what was expected given the encouraging noises coming from the Bureau of Meteorology in the previous months. The total rainfall for the year now stands at 348 mm, down from last year's cumulative total of 398.5 mm.

The long-range forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for October to December shows:

- ▶ Above average rainfall is likely across large parts of the eastern half of Australia, with the strongest chances in northern Queensland.
- ▶ The signal for above average rainfall in October has weakened in recent weeks, while it has strengthened for November.
- ▶ Daytime temperatures are likely to be above average for most of Australia except in parts of eastern New South Wales.

- ▶ Overnight temperatures are very likely to be above average across most of Australia.

Complicating this forecast is a phenomenon reported in the press called the southern polar vortex. A search on the Bureau site fails to find any reference to the vortex. Climate scientists have noted a change in the vortex which can result in hotter and drier weather in Australia. In the past, two similar events have influenced bushfire weather including the 2019–2020 fire season. (*The Age*, September 27, 2025.)

The rainfall recorded to date at Reservoir Road is the lowest since 2019 (309 mm), which is a worrying trend. While reservoir levels have recovered somewhat, Coliban has reduced water allocations to rural properties in Harcourt. It would seem prudent for Coliban Water to consider restrictions on households across its region. See page 3 for the response of growers in Harcourt to the severe cuts to their allocations. Low rainfall results should also be taken into account when considering fire risk in this region.

*Robyn Miller*

## Grace Church

*This is a statement of belief by Grace Church*

Jesus gave us two great commandments ....

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

To find out who is our neighbour we go to the Parable of the Good Samaritan ...

He ... said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'"

Jesus subsequently commanded Christians to love one another ....

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

And finally the Apostle Paul said ...

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

True, active faith is expressed and energized through acts of love.

*Ps Roger Thurecht, Grace Church*

### Reservoir Levels

	2025			
	9 June	30 July	4 September	28 September
Upper Coliban	55%	58.7%	63%	61.6%
Lauriston	72%	70.3%	80%	88.9%
Malmsbury	13.9%	14.6%	19%	28.5%
Barkers Creek	27.9%	33.7%	34.9% (28 Aug)	39.9%

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

## Grace Church

**Service: 11.00am Sunday**

**All Welcome**

**Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht**

**0422 605 897**

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

**30 Buckley Street, Harcourt**





# Harcourt Uniting Church

In Churches around the world, September and early October is a time of celebrating the Seasons of Creation. It's a time of prayer and reflection in our shared call to care for our earth and all living creatures. The 2025 theme is: "Peace with Creation".

The hope for peace in our world is symbolised by a tree divided in half. One half is barren and the land exploited whilst the other half is a tree that is lush and green in a flourishing landscape. A dove of peace flies overhead. We continue to pray for peace in the many countries around the world that are experiencing war.

In caring for our pets and all living creatures in creation, we have a service centred around the "Blessing of the Animals" at **9:00am on Sunday October 5** at Harcourt Church. You are invited to bring along your pets for a blessing by Reverend Sarah. This idea arose when a young man named Francis abandoned his rich lifestyle back in the 12th century to lead a life of poverty and helping others. In

particular, Francis of Assisi (as he became known) called all creatures his brothers and sisters and was even said to have preached to the birds. He was referred to as a Patron Saint of animals and the environment. He believed that humans were only one of God's many creatures, and all were blessed in God's eyes.

On **Sunday October 26th at 2.30 pm**, there will be a concert at Harcourt Uniting Church. Solway Nutting is organising another amazing concert showcasing some of the many talented musicians in our community. With the title "Spring's Treasures" there's sure to be some interesting treasures to enjoy. Entry is by donation, with all money going towards the work of supporting refugees.

We are planning to have a Garage Sale at our Church in November, with the date still to be confirmed. So, keep an eye out for a date in the November issue of *The Core*. There will be lots of interesting bargains to be had.

With Christmas creeping up, Harcourt Uniting Church members have been given a small Christmas money box to fill with their small change. All money collected will be used to purchase vouchers for local families experiencing the pressures of buying food and Christmas presents for their families. The distribution of vouchers will be coordinated by the Uniting Church and the Castlemaine Church of Christ.

Harcourt Uniting Church welcomes you to join us any Sunday at 9am Buckley Street Harcourt followed by morning tea and a time to chat.

**When a wealthy gentleman lost his valuable dog while visiting an outback town he asked to have a notice printed in the local evening newspaper offering a \$1,000 reward for its return. The evening came, but no newspaper appeared. He waited some time then went to the newspaper office to find only the security guard there. "Isn't the paper coming out tonight?" he asked. "I doubt it sir," was the reply. "The entire town is out looking for a lost dog."**

*Jan Jenkin*

## OUT & ABOUT

Members of the Harcourt Walking Group enjoy their sojourns in our town and surrounds. Being on foot is often the best way to observe and enjoy some seasonal sights.

Ann and Valma enjoyed a little break on their walk in a local orchard where grape hyacinths are prolific in spring.

*Robyn Miller*



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\*Based on Roy Morgan's survey of 1000+ Australian farmers in June and July 2024. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879. 1985262-2009517 OUT\_45591092, 16/06/2025





# Harcourt Valley Primary School

## Term 3 Finishes With a Flourish

Our Creative Learning Partnership – Shifting Perspectives – with Glynis Angell and the Grade 4s has seen students create fabulous dramatic and visual responses to sites within the school. The School Community was invited to view the documentation video of their work on the last day of term, Friday 19 September.

### Drama Extravaganza

Principal, Andrew Blake congratulated the students on a wonderful performance. He said, "You all should be very proud of your achievements on the night". The performance had an apple theme and concluded with all students on stage singing "So Long Farewell auf Wiedersehen Goodnight" from The Sound of Music.



### Art News

There has been much creative action this term!

#### Shifting Perspectives

Our Creative Learning Partnership with Glynis Angell and the Grade 4s has seen students create fabulous dramatic and visual responses to sites within the school. It has been fabulous to see the children connect with the sites and each other. They have turned school 'spaces' into 'places'.

### Ulambara Landcare Grant

A group of students from Years 3-6 have been working on creating information plaques as part of a Landcare Grant. They have been doing botanical drawing using water colours, pencil and brush pens. We have been fortunate to have a botanical expert on staff - Max Schlachter's knowledge has been invaluable. The students have been highly engaged in learning about their selected plant/animal. We also appreciate the design work Bonnie Sowman has done to bring together the kids' drawings and research.

Further to the plaques, artist Linda Newton will be conducting flora and fauna drawing workshops with students during art sessions next term. These images will form part of a whole school book of poetry inspired by Ulambara.

#### Prep/1 portraits

Students have been exploring portraiture by creating works of themselves and others. We have looked at how colours and backgrounds can tell us more about a person. The works are up on display for all to see.



### 2/3 Recycled characters

Students were given a paper bag full of recycled materials and in groups given the challenge of creating a character using at least 3 different joining techniques. Once completed, in the spirit of recycling, we used all the left over paint to give them some colour. The creations were amazing! They are on display in the library.

### 3/4 Animations

The class has explored a range of animations from flip books to thaumatropes (spinning discs which create a picture). They have also become highly proficient in 'pivot animator' software.

### 4/5/6 Installations

This term has had a strong focus on contemporary art processes and media - the students have loved the freedom and creativity. A display of their imaginary galleries with rooms of installations is on display.

## Dates Term 4:

- **Monday 6–Wednesday 8 October**  
Grade 5/6 Urban Camp
- **Thursday 9 October**  
New fundraising group meets – 3.35 pm at Grade 3&4 classroom – everyone welcome.
- **Thursday 16 & Friday 17 October**  
Grade 1/2 Sleepover & Prep Twilight Camp
- **Monday 3 November & Monday 17 November**  
Student Free Day
- **Saturday 29 November**  
HVPS Trivia Night
- **Monday 15 December**  
Grade 6 Graduation

## OUT & ABOUT

On the last Sunday in September, Harcourt Valley Landcare went for their spring walk in the Reserve in Bingham Road, just opposite the Leisure Centre. During the Plan Harcourt process, the Reserve was assessed as having very high environmental value. Landcare members regularly clean up rubbish in the reserve, (What is that doing in there?) and at the same time have a treasure hunt for spring wildflowers in their natural environment. (Please don't remove wildflowers to take home, they cannot be transplanted, they have to grow from seed.)

Robyn Miller



Gold Dust Wattle



Fairy Wax Flower



Matted Bush Pea



Victorian Miniature Railway

# COMMUNITY DAY



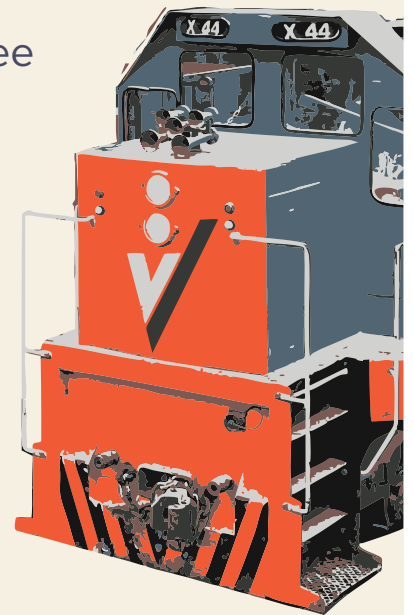
Sunday 9th November — 11am - 5pm



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**Experience our  
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gauge railway**

- Free BBQ courtesy of the Harcourt & District Lions Club
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- Free train rides all day



*Open to Harcourt Residents, Families and Friends*



# KATIE FINLAY'S FRUIT GROWING TIPS

Hi everyone, we have a busy time ahead of us. Fruit Crew, our volunteer exchange program where volunteers become part of a fun and active group and get free organic fruit and daily lessons in exchange for helping us grow this year's fruit crop is full.

The last two years that we've run the program, our vollies have loved being part of a group doing meaningful, hands-on work together, and many are with us for a second (or third) year. The daily cakes made from wonderful (and highly recommended) Goodness Flour cake mixes probably don't hurt either! We run the orchard as a community-based enterprise, shifting towards a not-for-profit model. Small orchards like ours and the other few remaining in Harcourt are important, because they are the only way you can access the amazing fruit grown in the Harcourt valley!

If you missed out on this year's volunteer exchange program look out for information on our website and *The Core* for next year – we'd love to see you.

Our other big news this month is that we'll be running a new Organic Pest and Disease Control for Fruit Trees course (online) on 25 October. Here's the link to sign up: [growgreatfruit.com/pest-and-disease-webinar](https://growgreatfruit.com/pest-and-disease-webinar) – it gives you a 'toolbox' of remedies for all the common diseases and pests you're likely to see on your fruit trees in this district. We've kept it super affordable at just \$9 to sign up. Spring is the perfect time to do a course like this because there's a good chance your trees are demonstrating many of the problems we talk about!

How are you feeling about spring? The fruit season is already looking like it's running a couple of weeks later than last year. The spring rain, while welcome, has taken its toll on the apricot crop, but everything else is looking good, with the cherries just starting to flower. If you're seeing shrivelled flowers, deformed leaves, or dead shoots on your stone fruit trees (rather than healthy flowers or tiny fruit), then you might have a case of fungal disease.

The main problems at this time of year are blossom blight (in apricots) and leaf curl (in peaches and nectarines). If you're seeing a lot of dead shoots in your trees, it's quite important to prune these out and get rid of them. It's easy to do this while you're thinning your fruit. The infected shoots can go into a hot compost pile, or you can burn them, or just pile them well away from your fruit

trees and let them break down. The main thing is to get infected wood away from your trees and the young fruit, because the same disease that causes blossom blight can also cause brown rot in your fruit later in the season. If we get any more rain in coming weeks, then a spray of wettable sulphur before the rain event will help to prevent any spread of fungal disease. Removing any infected or fallen fruit will also help to control it.

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

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

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

Most gardeners understand that bare soil is a bad idea because it can heat up (to at least 60C in summer), dry out quickly, lose carbon and go sterile. A lot of people think mulch is the ideal solution, and while mulch is better than

bare soil, it's not as good as living plants. Did you know that plants are 5-30 times better at building soil carbon than mulch? Living plants win. If you do decide to mulch, be aware that it can be just as effective at stopping water soaking into the soil as preventing evaporation. It's also a great idea to put some compost or worm castings underneath your mulch before you lay it, to help kickstart the biology in your soil. And a word of warning - don't mulch until after any frost risk has passed.

Living plants help to maintain the Natural Fertility System (NFS), which is how fruit trees (and all other plants) got their nutrition before we invented artificial fertilisers. It might be hard to believe, but leaving the weeds alone can actually help to feed your trees and hold more moisture in your soil. If you don't like weeds (and most of us don't), aim to grow herbs, veggies, and flowers as companion plants around your fruit trees instead. The more variety the better! Flowering plants also help to attract bees and other beneficial insects into your garden.

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

Can you tell we like weeds? For all but the very youngest fruit trees, we reckon the balance is firmly in favour of having a "living mulch" under your fruit trees. However, they still need managing, and three good strategies to keep them under control are (1) mow or prune them to keep them short and growing strongly, (2) plant the things you want to grow there, like flowers, herbs, or vegetables, or (3) use animals (geese, sheep, chooks, guinea pigs...) to manage them for you.

*Happy Spring!*

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

# Council news

## Seniors Festival is back!

The Mount Alexander Seniors Festival runs from 1 to 31 October.

This year's theme is 'Connect. Create. Celebrate.' It encourages older adults to embrace positive ageing and take part in events and activities close to home.

Enjoy free and low-cost events designed to help you connect with fellow community members and embrace new experiences.

Sign up for life drawing, nature walks, chair yoga, live music, community lunch and more.

For program details, call Castlemaine Community House on 5472 4842 or visit their website at [cch.org.au](http://cch.org.au).

## Celebrating local businesses

The Mount Alexander Business Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding work of local businesses.

The awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday 19 November at Boomtown Winery & Bistro.

Learn more at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Business-Awards](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Business-Awards).

## 2026 Australia Day Awards

Nominate an outstanding community member for a 2026 Australia Day Award.

Nominations are open until Monday 1 December.

Learn more at [mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Australia-Day-Awards](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Australia-Day-Awards).

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

[mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://mountalexander.vic.gov.au) (03) 5471 1700



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To make an appointment, please contact my office.

**Maree Edwards MP**  
State Member for Bendigo West

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maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au  
03 5410 2444 mareeedwards.com.au



## You Can Help ...

If you know someone who would like to get a copy of *The Core*, either in print or online, but is having difficulty accessing it, let us know. We can make sure they get their preferred version – we can have it put in their letterbox, or we can send a copy by email.

Let us know by sending the person's details to:  
[news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au)

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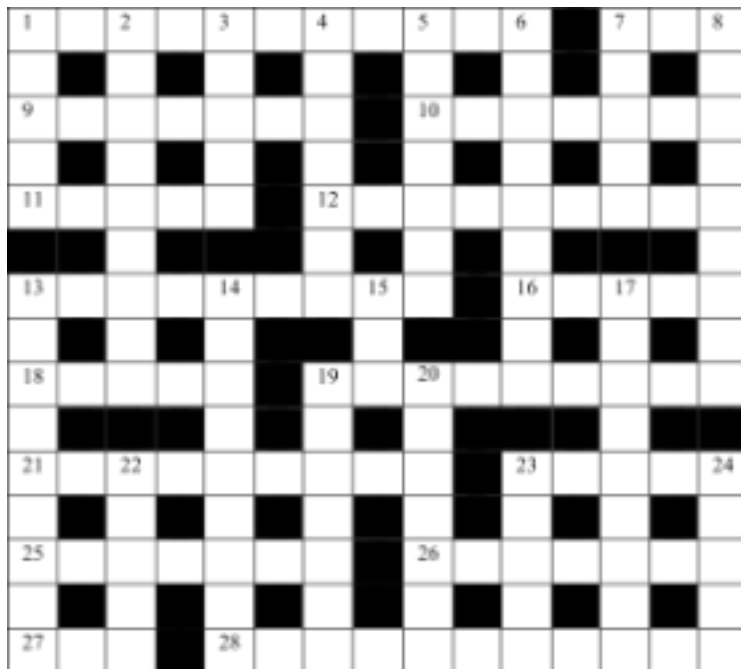
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**Down:**

1. Some legends need to be scratched... (5)
2. It may well be an ace T-shirt, but when the racist throws these wheelies we can't tolerate her static. (9)
3. What 22 does now! (5)
4. He's gonna send tin. He is gonna... definitely gonna... (7)
5. Max for sitting on? (7)
6. Six Creole reciters might get Henry Onwards and Upwards! (9)
7. Baton-holder of tender age. (5)
8. Ha! One-tank—his son-in-law was Two-tank! Amen to that... (9)
13. Opals rule, okay? So when the government doubled the licence fee, everybody rebelled. (3,6)
14. 'Sceptered' Isle no longer given this esteem post-Brexit. (9)
15. Eat dinner in the '50s. (3)
17. The new alignment leaves us regretting big-time! (9)
19. Each incorporated little business erects a barrier. (7)
20. Me? I gasp when they come at me. (7)
22. What 3 had done perfectly... (5)
23. Tedious bit of Michael's muse... (5)
24. Backward part of sole gets a century and sucks... (5)

**Across:**

1. Seemingly endless, but replace sailor with little gravity and get people to mix... (11)
7. Affirmative town? (3)
9. Nice political and religious weather during his incumbency... (7)
10. Ouch! Nut is less than genteel. (7)
11. Considered apocryphal, yet is the subject of many scientific enquiries. (5)
12. How to hold up a mob of quilters with off-the-scale vehemence! (6-3)
13. AA spirits among the workers. (9)
16. Little sea-girl land's allowed to be... (5)
18. What he duth when he sliph... (5)
19. Service without return or fault; a male; a limb. Put 'em together right and get a bloke to record things... (9)
21. Natural to resent pig giving you grief... (9)
23. Lacan re-routed under English coaling barge. (5)
25. Get pain out of prickly customer. (7)
26. I soiled my nest, but I so admire him! (7)
27. Swiss painter endlessly turned into quadruped. (3)
28. The GSR (Girls' Sartorial Register) lends authority to the policing of them. (5-6)

## September Xword Solution

© McW late November '19

**Down:**

1. Misplaced self-regard in loins? [*i.e.* lions]
2. Since Leon showed such contempt, things have coalesced.
3. I trust you promenade like a peacock!
4. Backward graduate [BA] channels tears when ISIS grabs him! [*Well?*]
5. They would not notice or deign to speak with him.
6. Cleanliness comes close... [*Well?*]
7. Artist paints in stages, so she puts it on first.
8. Di's ten dedicated chefs created many masterpieces, so her figure ballooned...
13. Like a cassowary, this tree has an aura [*sic*]
14. Deeply respected [venerated], but if first jumped to middle, deprived of vigour.
15. Poor chap at 5 not given this, either!
17. Capital [with...] hot springs under the rake, as they say up north.
19. Travesty of [cf lemonade] made from tea?
20. Cats use tools after Christ [C.E.].
22. Usurer in the dam? [*Well?*]
23. Huge sum won after liberties taken with Israeli bread. [*Well? Check derivation...*]
24. [He or she...] Levitates post-sleep... [*Well? Sorry: it was an underhand clue, inviting 'rises'...*]

**Across:**

1. Thorough soreness [pain] pegging [staking] out the ground... (11)
7. Came back to bite agnostic dyslexic insomniac... [*Well?*]
9. Dire fix if sun's out unless you're covered. (7) [*Both 'fix' and 'out' are anagram indicators...*]
10. Will the stud sin among them? (7)
11. Messy, tardy century produces brilliant display with dazzling effect. [*Well?*]
12. After top cat, a selective eater can arrive on cue, trickily... (9)
13. Précised dairy product? [*Well?*]
16. Premier reduced estimates, made internal blunder! (5)
18. We heard [Elvis]'s [blue...] footwear waved about in the breeze... [*i.e.* = 'swayed']
19. Gladly, the bear, reportedly couldn't see the hymn-book. [*Well? "Gladly the cross I'd..."*]
21. [A veil] pulled tardily [late...] but hastily over it, could lessen the pain. (9)
23. Herb no ram for army man. [*Marjoram*]
25. Fashionable [in...] headless bait back about [re-] to typify lack of go. [*Note how 'back' acts both ways—on both 'air' and 're', and also how 'about' is used*]
26. [Votes] about [*Note how 'about' is an anag. indicator here!*] approximate [Ca..] musical intervals. (7)
27. Wood—then not! [*Well?*]
28. Santa-helper's shrink associated with detective? [*The deer's talker... And Sherlock...*]

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		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



2025  
Oct 26  
Nov 30

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



#### September Solution

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

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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





**Stalls  
Music  
Food  
Drinks  
Entertainment**



*29TH NOVEMBER 2025  
10AM - 2PM  
JAMES PARK HARCOURT*



*Let's welcome in 2026*

# **NEW YEAR'S EVE HARCOURT RECREATION RESERVE**

**6PM - 9PM**

**DJ & FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

**9PM - MIDNIGHT**

**THE METCALFE BOYS  
WILL ROCK THE NIGHT AWAY**

**FOOD TRUCKS, BBQ, DRINKS AT BAR PRICES**

**ADULTS \$5  
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN FREE**



*Gather*  
**Harcourt NYE**







Harcourt Valley  
LANDCARE

COMMUNITY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## INFORMATION NIGHT

FRI 17  
OCTOBER

HARCOURT  
COMMUNITY  
HOUSE

5 - 7PM  
TALKS 5PM  
DINNER 6PM

DISCOVER HOW SMALL EVERYDAY ACTIONS CAN CREATE  
BIG SHIFTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

LORI ARTHUR - DIRECTOR & LANDCARE FACILITATOR AT CONNECTING COUNTRY

PAUL FOREMAN - LOCAL ECOLOGIST & BOTANIST

MONIQUE MILLER - CONSERVATIONIST & CO-HOST OF WILD CONVERSATIONS ON MAINEFM

**PLUS: ENTER TO WIN A WORKING BEE AT YOUR PLACE!**