

# HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE

June 2018

HARCOURT NEWS – Edition 50  
<http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

Harcourt Progress Association Inc



**Celebrating  
50 editions  
of The Core**



## National Volunteers Week Celebration Adopt a Roadside group formed



*Sha Cordingley (middle) Harcourt's Adopt a Roadside Group Coordinator, with Maree Edwards MP and Andrew Mierisch of Victorian Miniature Railways.*

The Harcourt Progress Association met at the Goldfields Track on Sunday 27th May to celebrate National Volunteers Week with a special morning tea. Guest speaker, local MP Maree Edwards, thanked the community volunteers for their efforts and contribution.

HPA Deputy Chair, Sha Cordingley, announced the creation of a Harcourt Adopt a Roadside group, formed to help maintain

the newly improved Harcourt roundabout and town entrance. The first project for the new group will be to assist with plantings on the roundabout at the end of June. Volunteers are welcome to register their interest by contacting Sha on [cord-free@hotmail.com](mailto:cord-free@hotmail.com).

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### DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES

We aim to publish by the 3rd 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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**MEMBER 2018**

# HARCOURT'S

Biggest Morning Tea

The morning was sunny and there was the scent of wood smoke in the air as forty two people gathered at Goldfields Track Café to mark the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 31 May 2018.

Donna and crew at the Track did a great job of laying out a delicious morning tea, money was donated via raffles and door prizes and the overall takings were \$520.



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## Harcourt Community Play Space

It never rains but it pours....well, figuratively at least!

Mount Alexander Shire Council has committed \$60,000 in this year's annual budget to commence planning and design for the new Harcourt Community Play Space. The ink's barely dry on this budget and Council is already pursuing state government funding through the Department of Sport and Recreation. It must be said that this is great work from our local Council.

The HPA has advocated for Council to establish a Harcourt Community Play Space Working Group so that local residents can actively contribute to the design and development of this vital community resource. Representatives from the HPA, VMR, HV Primary School, Harcourt Kinder and local family members are seeking to work with Council to deliver a great outcome for Harcourt and ensure that the broader community is kept informed. More updates will appear in further editions of the Core or follow the Harcourt Community Play Space Facebook page.



## General Store Update

Proprietor Annette Rae is pleased to release the new logo for the Harcourt Produce & General Store. You can now find Harcourt Produce & General store on Instagram and Facebook and sign up for the newsletter to follow the progress at [harcourtproduce.com](http://harcourtproduce.com) where the new website is under construction.

Harcourt's much awaited revamped General Store is a couple of steps closer to completion with permits being posted outside the store in the week beginning Monday 28 May.

Now, Annette trusts that Council will expedite the permits once the public exhibition period is completed.

Many people in the town have been supportive of this development and have expressed hopes for the store to re-open soon. Harcourt will be more vibrant and attractive with the General Store open for business with the prospect of local produce and great food and beverages.

# Roundabout improvements

Slowly but surely ... after many, many years of lobbying by local residents the HPA is excited to report that the landscaping and beautification of the Harcourt roundabout and town entrance is finally coming together. There's more work to do with quantities of small boulders and gravel still to be delivered and plantings scheduled for the end of the month. But what an improvement! Many thanks for the hard work of Brian Nunn, Andrew Mierisch and members of the Victorian Miniature Railway Association.

## Bollards to be installed

VicRoads will be installing bollards on the eastern side of the roundabout to prevent people illegally parking and dumping rubbish on this verge. This may be a contentious issue for some motorists who use the verge for parking and possibly car-pooling but VicRoads is concerned about the safety implications of parking in this site. The initiative is not driven by the HPA but we are particularly concerned by the amount of rubbish regularly dumped at this site.



*The roundabout in 2016.*



*The roundabout being cleared. The trees had doubled in size by May 2018.*



*All clear for the first time since construction.*



*Rocks laid according to Landscape Designer's instructions in May. Volunteers in the Adopt a Roadside group will be involved in planting at the end of June this year.*

*A roundabout's potential ... from The Core, October, 2017.*



*There's plenty of rubbish to collect near the roundabout for the newly formed Adopt a Roadside group*





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## Bakery all fired up

Descendants of the Blume family (the original bakers in Harcourt) neighbours and friends were invited by David and Jodie Pillinger to witness the re-firing of the restored Blumes' Bakery oven on Saturday June 2. It is 51 years since the bakery oven was in operation.

Blume family members included baker Ernest Blume's granddaughters: Karen Blume and her cousins Joy (Clusker) and Anne (Campbell). Colleen Blume (Hall) daughter of Colin who was Ernest's brother was also present. The brothers both worked in the bakery. Colleen, who is in her early eighties, recalled playing with Laura her cousin, the youngest child of her Uncle Ernest; she was picked up in the bakers cart and brought to play at the house. When the bakery was moved to Harcourt, Colleen's family continued to live in Barkers Creek close to where the original bakery was situated. Today this is the site of the Barkers Creek Wreckers and nearby garage.

The restoration of the bakery is complete and Jodie and David will begin experimenting with the oven and are already gaining fabulous information about the temperatures across the 3.6 x 4.2m sole of the oven from the sensors installed. Jodie says "Many bakers we have met in the past few months in the local area, interstate and Melbourne are very excited to learn about the knowledge these sensors will provide. We are very grateful for all who have assisted us in our research for knowledge on scotch ovens, many in the sourdough baking community, sharing their knowledge of lighting and keeping a wood fired oven going and who have shared baking methods and equipment with us."

The fire was "officially" lit by cousins Karen and Anne. Jodie and David plan to keep the oven permanently hot and to take advantage of the huge thermal mass of heat. They are both very keen to get baking and cooking and learning how this amazing oven works. What a great day for the Harcourt community!



David & Jodie stand in front of the open fire door on day 2 after the fire was lit. The fire had to be maintained overnight. David was unwell, so Jodie slept in the bakery and fed the fire every hour or so, using small pieces of wood, to allow the oven to heat slowly.



The pre-firing photo shows the oven to the left with new fire bricks installed on the floor. It is lit by a lamp which is the original left in place. To the right is the fire set and ready to go.



## Harcourt Valley Landcare

### Harcourt Valley Landcare Successful Grant Bids

Our local Landcare group is punching above its weight once again. This year they have been successful in bids for three grants (roadside weeds, nesting boxes and fruit fly) and another one (Wetlands) is in the pipeline. Thanks go to members Bonnie Humphreys, Terry Willis and Trent Gibson who have stepped up to share the work of writing grants. More details of the work associated with these projects will be given in future editions of the Core.

The group will soon have a Facebook page – Terry Willis has offered to organise this exciting development.

The next working bee is on Sunday 24th June at the Wetlands on Victoria Road Harcourt. For details, contact Secretary, Robyn Miller on 0467 670 271.



Harcourt Valley Landcare members joined Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group on May 20 to fight a wheel cactus outbreak in Blakely Road. Yes, we all thought wheel cactus was confined to Maldon! These ones are likely to have been spread by birds who have consumed the fruit. Injection is the most successful way to treat wheel cactus. All the plants in this area were treated



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## Harcourt Valley Primary School?



## Harcourt Uniting Church

### What's great about Harcourt Valley Primary School?

Approximately 15 to 20 families visited our Primary School on the recent Open Day. The majority of families were looking at enrolling their son or daughter into the Foundation (Prep) class for 2019.

The Core asked Principal Andrew Blake about what makes Harcourt Valley PS an attractive choice for parents. He listed the following features:

- The local community is able to obtain a high quality public education with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy, Science and Technology.
- Our local surrounds provide the opportunity for students to enhance their learning via environmental studies and develop their understanding of indigenous culture whilst placing an emphasis on the importance of sustainability.
- Specialist Art, Music and French for all students.
- We embrace the importance of strong school, student and family partnerships enabling all students to have a strong support network to achieve their best within a nurturing and supportive environment.

He said, "At this early stage we are planning on possibly mid-teens numbers for new Prep enrolments for 2019. Despite nine Grade 6 students exiting the school, we will again exceed the 100 student enrolment mark for the second year. With the expected 2019 intake, the number of new enrolments allows a good cohort size for students who are of a similar age to be able to interact with each other and have increased learning opportunities as a result."

If you are a parent and you missed Open Day but would like to know more about Harcourt Valley Primary School you can make an appointment by ringing: 5474 2266.



*This happy group of parents was among the morning's visitors at the school Open Day.*

Congratulations to The Core team on their 50th edition of The Core – what a great publication which gives us all the local news from many organisations. Thanks also to everyone who contributes each month.

As members of the Castlemaine and District Uniting Church Parish we are preparing to farewell our minister Rev Michele Lees at the end of June. We will miss her amazing leadership but wish her all the best as she moves to Echuca Uniting Church.

Michele's last service will be held on June 24th at 2pm in the Castlemaine Uniting Church.

The men of our Harcourt Church prepared their usual scrumptious morning tea for Mothers' Day. The food was "baked" by the men, the table was set with a fancy table cloth, they served the cuppas and yes they did the dishes as well.

On Sunday 20th we celebrated Pentecost Sunday with a short service around a huge bonfire at the Yandoit Uniting Church, followed by a shared BBQ lunch cooked over smaller fires. The people of Yandoit certainly know how to build a great bonfire.

As the bonfire was being lit with a blow torch the remark was made, "Don't think they had blow torches in biblical times!!"

Pentecost (which comes from the Greek word 50th) is celebrated 50 days after Passover, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples which included wind and fire. Our bonfire certainly had plenty of wind, fire and heat.

Pentecost also marked the end of the harvest in the Middle Eastern countries.

*Jan Jenkin*





# Harcourt CFA

## TO CALL OR NOT TO CALL, THAT IS THE QUESTION

*(Apologies to Shakespeare)*

The period after fire restrictions finish can be a busy time for fire brigades. Firstly, there are those burn offs that escape due to people being under prepared to keep the fire under control, burning off during the wrong conditions – the hotter, windy days, or undertaking too much at the one time.

Secondly, there are the burn offs that are not registered and a passer-by will report the fire. While it is not yet compulsory to register your burn, by doing so will assist in fire brigades in not being called out unnecessarily. The number to register your burn off is 1800 668 511. Letting your neighbours know what you are going to do will help as well.

Thirdly are the brigade responses that come from the public reporting, generally from a distance away, of a column of smoke, a glow in the sky or a fire in the backyard of a property. Don't get me wrong or misunderstand what I am trying to say. We rely on you the public to report fires and during the Fire Danger Period (FDP), you all do a great job as it is these fires that have the potential to do the most damage. It is once the FDP has finished that brigades are called to what is categorised as "FALSE ALARM – GOOD INTENT" that I would like to focus on. One third of all calls received by the CFA are false alarms and whether they come from protected premises alarms or public calls, brigades must respond to ensure everything is ok.

If there is any doubt, it is better to call rather than do nothing. However, the key is to use some discernment or some good old country nous to determine what you are looking at.

Knowing how to read smoke is a skill that is taught and also developed over time in attending fires. There is a lot of information that can be gathered from smoke. The volume, velocity, density and colour are the four distinct attributes that can paint the picture of what may be occurring. Seeing a large amount of thick, black, fast billowing smoke indicates the possibility of a serious fire and a quick response, whereas a wispy irregular puff of white or light grey smoke indicates a non-serious burning fire and one where you can spend a bit more time investigating before dialling 000. And if you do make that call, pass on the information on what you are seeing, as this will determine whether it is paged out as a Code 1 or Code 3 response. Code 1 is an emergency lights and/or siren response and more than one brigade will respond, where as a Code 3 response is no emergency lights or siren and only one brigade is normally notified to go and investigate.

Register your burn-off:  
1800 668 511

## HOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Did you know that cooking in the kitchen is the largest cause of fire in the home? A fire in your kitchen can cause extensive damage to your home, but more importantly, can cause serious injuries and burns. Here is some information to help you stay safe:

### *Pay attention:*

- always supervise children, keep them away from the stove top, oven and any hot or steamy surfaces or liquids.
- Keep pot handles turned so children cannot reach them.
- Keep your cooking area clean and free from grease, dust and oil. This includes your stove top, griller, oven and range hood.
- Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen, turn cooking appliances such as the stove, griller and microwave off.
- Make sure kitchen appliances are clean and in good working order.
- Tea towels and paper towels catch fire easily and must be kept away from cooking and heat sources.
- Don't cook wearing clothes with loose fitting sleeves as they catch alight if dangling over a flame.
- Never use water to put out fat or oil fires. You risk serious burns and can spread the fire rapidly.
- Never carry pans of hot or burning oil, this is dangerous and you could get seriously burnt and spread the fire.

And to finish off, don't forget to clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer if you have one as this is another cause of fires in the home.

*Tyrone Rice*  
*Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

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# Chatting with Harcourt CWA

## Peru comes to Harcourt

Each year, the Country Women's Association of Victoria selects a country for study and invites Branches to learn about its history, geography and culture. This year the country is Peru.

So what do you know about Peru?

Other than the Incas and llamas and the Andes and the Amazon, I knew very little, but all that changed last week when we held our annual Central Victoria Group International Day at the Harcourt Leisure Centre.

Our International Officer is Bev Orgill and what a great job she did in organising this fun and informative day. Members from other Branches presented talks which covered everything from the Spanish Conquistadors, clothes and fashion, fauna and flora to arts and crafts.

Castlemaine CWA member, Alison Radford spoke about her experience travelling to Peru and walking the 45km Inca Trail up to Macchu Pichu, and Jill Goldsworthy from Newbridge, who lived in Peru as a schoolgirl, talked about the climate and geography and related many personal anecdotes.

And thanks to our member from Sutton Grange, Vivienne Pells, and her model Jill, I now know that in the Peruvian High Andes, each village has a unique style of clothing that identifies the wearer as belonging to that region. Indigenous women in the Andes dress in layers of bright, colorful traditional Andean clothing, including capes, shawls, embroidered skirts, and vibrantly colored hats, and as you can see in the photo.

And the fun didn't end there. Awaiting us after the presentations was a magnificent culinary delight of Peruvian dishes provided by each of the Branches.

Now that's what I call an International Day! Well done Bev, and well done to all the Branches and their members who made this such an enjoyable occasion.

I now know much more about Peru and that it is so much more than just Incas, llamas, the Amazon and the Andes.

*Lyn Rule  
Harcourt CWA  
Publicity Officer*



Colourful Peruvian fashions and the Destruction of the Incas.



Jill from Sutton Grange models High Andes fashion.



Harcourt members Joy Robertson, Marie Twyford and Colleen Hall dressed for the occasion.

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# Harcourt Heritage Centre

## Harcourt's first vineyard

### Harcourt folk open up a new settlement.

Charles Thacker arrived in South Australia from Ireland in 1849 and, shortly after, married Sarah Grange, who had been a passenger on the same ship. In 1850 Mr. Thacker was a gold-digger at Onkaparinga. The couple had two daughters, Sarah Jane and Ellen. Leaving his family at home in Adelaide, Charles Thacker came to the Mount Alexander diggings soon after hearing of the gold discovery in 1851. His best gold claim was on a hill now bisected by the railway cutting at the mouth of Specimen Gully. Returning to Adelaide in March 1853 he packed up his family and his possessions and brought his wife, children and mother-in-law to Harcourt via Melbourne on the coastal schooner "Amicus" in April 1853. In the same year Charles signed the Great Petition calling for lower license fees and democratic rights for the miners.

By 1856 Charles was living on the west side of Harcourt, at the south end of the bald hills where he engaged in dairying, trading as the 'Harcourt Dairy' and making daily deliveries to Castlemaine. In addition he planted the first vineyard in the district and regularly advertised grapes for sale.

Mr Thacker was always a public-spirited citizen, chairing many meetings. He was on the committee of patrons when the Harcourt School was first opened in 1859, was one of the first trustees of the Harcourt cemetery, was present at the opening of the railway and served, from 1862 to 1868, as one of the elected managers of the Castlemaine Goldfields Commons. This was a voluntary role but grappled with many thorny issues such as access to water, impounding of stock, the goat nuisance and pleuro-pneumonia. Meetings of the Commons Manager were always reported in the Mount Alexander Mail and Mr. Thacker was generally in the chair.

By the mid 1860s he had acquired 105 acres of land of which 42 acres were sown for wheat. But he then suffered a series

of misfortunes when a succession of bad seasons resulted in the failure of his crops, the loss of two horses by death, the loss of three others by theft and the death of eighty-seven head of cattle due to disease (probably grass tetany or pleuro-pneumonia).

After this disaster Charles Thacker moved to Echuca. In 1873, at the Wesleyan Church, Echuca, Ellen Thacker married James Symes of Harcourt. Older daughter Sarah Jane had married William Schier (Jr).

In 1875 William Schier and Charles Thacker, along with other Harcourt friends, decided to inspect the land that was being thrown open for selection in the Barmah East district. They were so taken with the country that they decided to take up large allotments on the Broken Creek. Harcourt residents Hugh Ormond, Henry Lubke and John Scouller were also pioneers of the new settlement on what had formerly been known as Killeen's Station. Much labour had to be expended on clearing the land and all their farm produce had to be carted into Echuca. The area became known as Narioka and Picola.

Mr. Thacker entered public life at Narioka as a trustee of the Wesleyan Church. Links with Harcourt were kept up, with regular visits between the two places. Charles Thacker died aged 81, on 9th November 1899. Sarah Thacker died 9th June 1901 aged 83. Ellen Symes (nee Thacker) met an untimely death at the Harcourt Railway Station in November 1926 when she was struck and killed by a train as she was crossing the railway line. The remains of Thacker's vineyard were still visible in 1918. The site of the 'Harcourt Dairy' is now occupied by the Calder Freeway interchange.

**This is one of a series of 'thumbnail sketches' of the pioneers taken from the C H James Collection, Harcourt Heritage Centre.**

## Heritage Festival Event: Dja Dja Wurrung at Harcourt.

The theme for this year's National Heritage Festival has been "My culture, my story". The Heritage Committee asked the Dja Dja Wurrung to tell about their culture, their story, because theirs is the culture that shaped the landscape in which we now live.

In a wide ranging conversation beside a blazing hot fire, at Harcourt Heritage Centre, Uncle Rick Nelson, Kane Nelson and Auntie Julie McHale kept their listeners on the edge of their seats. One of Victoria's most famous indigenous elders, named Manungabum, was a Liarga Balug man of the clan that occupied the country from Tarrengower to Leanganook. In an early clash of cultures, this charismatic figure was arrested on a trumped-up charge at Leanganook in January 1840 at the behest of Henry Munro, squatter; of Spring Plains (near Heathcote). The Dja Dja Wurrung had no concept of private ownership of property while the

white man kept saying "This is mine, you are trespassing!" The sensational story of what happened to Manungabum during his captivity and after he was eventually released reveals that he was indeed a charismatic "Aboriginal man of high degree" (to quote from a contemporary account).

The country of the Liarga Balug supported a well-nourished population of about 200 people over a period of more than 18,000 years. When a member of the audience suggested that they had 'roamed' the land it was quickly explained that, in fact the Dja Dja Wurrung farmed the land cultivating vast patches of lilies and tubers from which they obtained much of their food. It would be nearer the mark to say that they moved around their territory in keeping with the seasons, from one favoured spot to the next, just as HM the Queen travels from London to Windsor, to Balmoral, to Sandringham and back to Windsor.

The Reconciliation Stone outside Castlemaine's Civic Centre, the oven mound at Ravenswood service area and many scar

*Continued next page...*

Continued from previous page...

trees are prominent reminders of Dja Dja Wurrung culture. Rick and Kane told of the discovery of many artifact scatters –definite proof of highly advanced tool-making techniques. Using suitable stone that had been traded long distances, their ancestors had cleverly created razor-sharp scrapers with which to skin a possum or sharpen a digging stick, patiently fashioned ground-edge axes and skillfully made stone mortars and pestles with which to grind the grain and tubers on which they depended.

Long-forgotten records are now being researched and published to give an unbiased account of the lives of the Dja Dja Wurrung as seen at the time of initial contact with white man. Professor Bain Atwood, for example, has written a book entitled “The Good Country” which asserts that the Dja Dja Wurrung virtually adopted the white intruders to their country. The diaries of George Robinson, Protector of Aborigines, reveal his surprise at finding Dja Dja Wurrung encampments, describing them as “like villages”.

In the enthralling conversation at the fireside the Dja Dja Wurrung elders spoke of the findings of the large number of cultural heritage investigations in Harcourt. There is data from the field work for the Rural Pipeline, for housing developments and at the former pine plantation. In the course of this field work there have been exciting discoveries by which the Dja Dja Wurrung have been able to recover and expand upon their own history. These discoveries underlie the teachings by which traditional lore is handed down to the next generation.

It wasn't only the flames of the open fire that enlightened the group that gathered at Harcourt Heritage Centre on Sunday May 20th. Harcourt folk should be open to the fact that the thriving culture, the remarkable story of the valley that we now call home, stretches back to a time well before the emergence of ‘western culture’ in Europe, long before the Egyptians started building the pyramids. Because of what we are now discovering about our landscape and our predecessors we can expand our culture and enhance our story.

*George Milford  
Harcourt Heritage Centre*

## Harcourt Railway Restoration

Works get underway from 1st July to restore the Harcourt Railway Station for use as a community space. Rooms are being reconfigured for access and versatility of use. Data and power points will be installed along with heating and cooling systems and lots of storage space. A new bathroom and basic kitchenette facilities will be installed and the gardens and external spaces improved for community access.

The Harcourt Progress Association has secured a community grant to develop a financial plan for ensuring the community hub has a vibrant and sustainable future. We will be engaging a consultant to explore various funding streams and community focused programs which can be offered. The HPA is excited to be able to provide a home for The Core and a great base for volunteers to work from. We look forward to sharing the space with other community groups and to residents seeking a space to use. More information to follow in next month's Core.

## WHEEL CACTUS FIELD DAY JUNE

The Cactus Warriors will be meeting on the 26th June at 10.30 am. The location is yet to be decided but will be posted on the Tarrangower Cactus Control Group website:

[www.cactuswarriors.org](http://www.cactuswarriors.org)

If you have any queries, we can also be contacted on:

[info@cactuswarriors.org](mailto:info@cactuswarriors.org)

The morning starts with a talk and a demo followed by an hour or so injecting cacti and winding up with a BBQ lunch, a cuppa and a chat in friendly company.

Injectors, hoes, gloves and safety goggles are provided for the morning. Dress for the outdoors and don't forget a hat and stout footwear. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by at least one parent.



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# Harcourt Bowling Club

## Annual General Meeting

### Sunday May 20th

At the Harcourt Bowling Club Annual General Meeting on Sunday 20th May the retiring President John Starbuck tabled the Annual Report from the Board for the 2017-2018 year.

The Report noted the many achievements of the Club during the year, notably Division Six Weekend Pennant Premiership win; the further improvements to the Club and surrounds; and the installation of new shade around the greens. He noted that although the Club is in a sound financial position going into the next season, we also need to engage new and younger members to ensure the ongoing viability of the Club.

The many volunteers who have undertaken various roles throughout the year were thanked for their contribution as was retiring Board member and Delegate Allan Nicholls.

On behalf of the members Vice President Russell Maltby thanked Mr John Starbuck for his valuable contribution to the Club over the past four years as President, working tirelessly to engage with sponsors and to ensure a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. John will continue as Bar Manager and co-ordinator of the Friday social evenings.

### Life Member Award

Nomination of Life Membership for Grace Jenkin was put to members and agreed upon. As a member of the club for the past 37 years Grace has performed in many positions including 2 years President of Associates; 13 years Vice president; 2 years Secretary; 2 years Treasurer; 14 years Delegate as well as serving a total of 12 years on Tournament, Match and Catering committees.

Such a worthy recipient! The Award was presented to Grace at the Club on Friday 25th May. Thanks to the Catering Committee for putting on a light supper on the night.

### Board Nominations

As just four nominations were received for the four vacant positions to be filled the nominees were appointed unopposed. Nominated for re-election were Russell Maltby and Chris Anderson and newly appointed were Ken Tribe and Brian Smith. They join the sitting board members John Grant, Heather Braid, Russell Timmins, Kay Francis and Joan Jenkin.

At the subsequent meeting of the new Board, nominations for the Executive were taken and voted on. The positions appointed were;

- President: . . . . . Russell Maltby
- Ladies' Vice President . . . . . Chris Anderson
- Men's Vice President . . . . . Russell Timmins
- Secretary . . . . . John Grant
- Treasurer . . . . . Joan Jenkin
- Publicity Officer . . . . . Chris Anderson
- Delegate for Men . . . . . Brian Smith
- Delegate for Ladies . . . . . Kay Francis

Appointments to the various committees were also considered and will be notified to the members when completed.

Congratulations to all at the Core on your 50th publication, from The Harcourt Bowling Club. We appreciate all that you do to promote Harcourt and to maintain the flow of information to the residents of Harcourt in particular, and to the rest of the Mt Alexander Shire.

*Christine Anderson  
Publicity Officer*



*Grace Jenkin Life Member with  
Chris Anderson Vice President*



*John Starbuck and Russell Maltby*

# Annual Community Enterprise Grants

Mt Alexander Community Enterprise Inc annual round of GRANTS will be open from mid June.

Local eligible community groups can apply for up to \$1000 towards their projects.

This volunteer community group raise funds for local projects through a contribution from Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Telco. Anyone who uses these services and asks to link their accounts will help fund local projects. These companies pay a small commission to Mt ACE for each account which means we have money to spend on local projects. The staff at Castlemaine Bendigo Bank branch can answer any queries and it doesn't cost you anything.

GRANT guidelines and easy application forms are available online at [www.communitygrants.com.au](http://www.communitygrants.com.au) or at Bendigo Bank Castlemaine branch.

Applications close mid July.

Why not choose the businesses who give money back to our community? The more who do, the more funds we will have for our community grants.



## CAMP OUT ON THE MOUNT

The 2018 Connecting Country Camp out was held on Saturday 12th May. All the best-laid plans for an overnight camping experience on Friday 11th came to nothing because of rain on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. However, Saturday dawned cold, bright and clear so the word went around "it's on". The first activity was a bird-spotting walk led by Asha Bannon and Bonnie Humphreys. Quite a few birds were seen, including a pair of Scarlet Robins. It helps to know that Robins get their food, mostly insects, just at ground level.

A hot drink around the campfire was accompanied by a talk on what we can see on Leanganook if we look for it. There is a lot of life in the crevices in the granite and in the hollows of the trees. We may suppose that nothing happens on the mountain, but when we look around our senses sharpen, the ear strains to hear a million different sounds and the eye learns again to stretch its range of vision, to see the little birds, the traces of animals and to observe the signs of the tree-dwellers.

Sugar gliders may be seen after dark. If you have a powerful torch you may see them leap from tree to tree, using their special aerodynamic membrane and their specially adapted claws to get a firm grip as they land on a swaying branch. Echidnas may be seen, waddling along in search of an ant nest among the fallen timber. There are butterflies and moths on the mountain but they are generally brown or grey to blend in with the tree bark, camouflaged so as to escape the foraging tree-creepers, generally in pairs, spiraling around

the tree trunks, one after the other, always upward and round and round.

Truly the mountain is a lively place if you have the senses attuned to it. We are fortunate to have such a vast natural habitat as our near neighbor. But there is this patch on the southeast shoulder which was first cleared to plant mulberries and later planted with pine trees. Willing volunteers cleared away the seedling pine trees at the first Camp-Out.

Little habitat Heroes has worked since 2016 to regenerate the site, planting 900 trees in winter 2017. Almost all the trees are thriving, but there is more acreage to plant and maintain.

State Member of Parliament Maree Edwards came to this year's Camp-Out to launch a new T-Shirt, designed by Castlemaine Secondary College students. Ms Edwards congratulated the young folk on their work, both as designers and as environmental warriors and stayed to join in the singing by the campfire. Eva Popov wrote a song especially for the occasion.

*George Milford*



*Scarlet Robin.  
Photo taken at  
Leanganook camp site*



*The attached photo shows Asha Bannon (at left) and Maree Edwards (at right) with Castlemaine Secondary College students at the launch of the 2018 Camp Out Tee Shirts.*



*Camp out participants set out for a nature walk with some bird spotting.*

# Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch



## What exactly IS a Community Bank?

You've probably heard of Bendigo Bank—for a relatively small bank, it's almost as well known as the Big 4. And lots of people have heard of “community banks” – but I think most of us are in the dark about what that really means, and how those two things fit together. I certainly was, before I joined the board of the Maldon and District Community Bank® Branch of the Bendigo Bank. So, for the bank's first column in the Harcourt Core, I thought I'd explain how it works.

Bendigo Bank (or BEN for short) has two different sorts of branches—corporate branches and Community Bank® branches. The profits from the corporate branches go to shareholders in BEN (just like the Big 4). The Community Bank® branches are owned by a community-owned company. For our closest local branch, nearby in Maldon, that company is called Maldon & District Financial Services Ltd (MDFSL). It has a franchise agreement with BEN to run a branch of the Bendigo Bank. Being a franchise, it means that the products are exactly the same, no matter which branch of Bendigo Bank you walk into, anywhere in Australia. And they've got the full range of banking and financial services including loans, business banking, equipment finance, insurances, superannuation to name a few.

But here's the big difference – the profits made by Community Bank® branches are shared 50:50 between BEN and the community company (in our case, MDFSL). That means the profits from Maldon's share get returned to the community through grants, projects and community partnerships.

Now here's the bit where community members and business can make a difference to how much money the Maldon & District Community Bank® can put back into the community. All you have to do is have your accounts and loans “domiciled” (or held) at the Maldon & District Community Bank®. This just means that the Maldon branch becomes your home branch. You can bank at any branch or online, and you still get access to exactly the same products, interest rates etc., but it means that any profits made from your banking stays in your community.

When you think about it, it's a pretty radical concept. We all have to use banks (unless you keep your money under the bed), and the reality is that the banks make a profit from providing their services - so how amazing it is that we now have a way of getting that profit directly back into our community!

But this is the Harcourt newspaper, and the bank is

in Maldon - so why on earth should Harcourt people bank there? Won't the profits just benefit the Maldon community?

Well, no. Lots of the profits that get poured back into the community benefit people outside Maldon. The Respite House in Castlemaine is a great example - the bank provided a grant of \$50,000 to get this project off the ground, as well as providing 'on the ground' help on the committee. It initiated and continues to fund an intensive driver training program for learner drivers. Emergency services, sporting clubs and schools throughout the shire also benefit from Maldon & District Community Bank® funding.

MDFSL also has branches in Newstead and Dunolly and provides benefits to those communities. One of the reasons I joined the board was because we no longer have a bank here in Harcourt, and I wanted to try to bring the benefits I could see other communities getting with the bank to my community in Harcourt. This is beginning to happen, with Maldon's Bank Manager Adam Balzan attending meetings with various groups and businesses in Harcourt to explain the benefits of Community Banking. Our Executive Officer Karly Smith is available to explain how groups can apply for grants or funding.

As a director I'm not allowed to mention products or give any advice about banking (we leave that up to our very capable staff), and of course the identity of customers is kept absolutely private. But I can recommend that you give the Maldon Bank a call (5475 1747) if you want to find out anything about your banking needs, or contact Karly (executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au or 0478 435 110) to find out the process for applying for funding.

*Cheers,  
Katie Finlay, Director*

A red rectangular advertisement box with white and yellow text. At the top, it says 'For all your banking needs' in a smaller font. Below that, in large white letters, is 'Maldon &amp; District Community Bank® Branch'. Underneath is the Bendigo Bank logo (a yellow 'B' in a circle) followed by 'Bendigo Bank' in white. Below the logo is the phone number '03 5475 1747'. At the bottom, it lists three locations: 'Maldon | Newstead | Dunolly' in yellow text.

## 100% Happy Walking in Harcourt

The Harcourt Walking Group helps people be both physically and socially active. One hundred percent of people responding to a Castlemaine District Community Health annual survey have stated that these are the main outcomes they get from being involved in the group. The survey results also highlighted other excellent indicators of success with the Harcourt Walking program.

People reported that their favourite aspect of the Harcourt Walking Group is the company, as well as the coffee and chats afterwards. One participant was delighted to report that her bone density has improved after only walking with the group for two years.

Most of the walkers are women, aged from 66 to 75 years, but the group is keen to welcome any new walkers.

The group meets at 9.30am on Monday and Thursday mornings at the Harcourt ANA Hall and Museum. There is no cost for the walk, but a \$1 donation is collected for the cuppa after the walk. Bookings are not required, just turn up ready to walk.

For further information phone Castlemaine District Community Health on 5479 1000.



## Vocal Nosh!

by gosh it's on again for **2018**  
a good sing & good food in convivial company  
**Sundays 6.00 pm at Newstead**

### New Series

Mar 4, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2, Oct 7

**Newstead Community Centre**  

Pyrenees Hwy, 15 min from Castlemaine - over the road from Crown Hotel  
Led by Fay White, Ange Mitten, Jane Thompson, and James Rigby (See program overleaf)

- 6.00 - 7.00 pm Vocal entrée - warm up and easy stuff
- 7.00 - 7.30 pm Food - Hearty soup, crusty bread, fresh fruit
- 7.30 - 8.30 pm Musical main-course - Delicious harmonies

Songs in the folk style, mostly a cappella  
- no prior musical experience necessary - no need to read music

**Bookings:** ☎ Fay: 0447 576 642 or Kerrie: 0427 529485

 kerriep@mmnet.com.au

### Costs

- Whole session including food - \$15 full, \$12 conc'n, \$5 children / first hour (Note re children overleaf)

**Singing for the pleasure of it**

## Harcourt Carpet Bowls

With the 2018 season under way we are enjoying a great social time with plenty of talk and laughter each Wednesday evening. We have increased our team numbers from 4 to 6 with the help of some members from Castlemaine Carpet Bowls Club. Due to dwindling numbers Castlemaine decided not to reform their Winter Bowls this year but chose to join us at Harcourt. We thank them for their support and are enjoying their competition.

As many of our members like to head north in the colder months we plan to have a break for the month of July and then continue on in August and conclude in late September.

New members are always welcome to join us at 7.30pm on Wednesday nights at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. This is a game for all ages and no experience is required.

Just come along and "have a go!"

John Jenkin Assistant Secretary

54742226



## Sometime ago ...

The pic-nic in connection with the schools of the Wesleyan Church, Barker-street, took place yesterday. An early train conveyed about 200 youthful pleasure-seekers and 150 adult friends to Harcourt, where they spent a delightful day, entering with zest into every amusement which forms the role of Australian out-door sports. The large party returned at a seasonable hour in the evening, and we have not heard of a single thing occurring to mar the festival.

*Mt Alexander Mail Nov 10 1865 via Trove*



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# Blume's Bakery– from a boy's point of view

John Code

These memories of Blume's bakery and Harcourt in general have been provided by John Code who grew up in Harcourt and who still has family in the town. John writes from his time in late primary school and into early adolescence. John is now 74 years old. More detail on John's life can be found at the end of the article.

"Blume's bakery was situated near the General Store and Butcher's shop (no longer in existence) run by Alex, Bob and "Hop" Walters. The Bakery and the Blume's residence had an imposing long red brick fence and a road separating it from the General store. There was a dirt path entrance between two brick columns which ran parallel to the Blume's residence and bakery; this path separated both from an apple orchard. At the end of the path there was a very large corrugated iron shed used for storage purposes (maybe for the horse and jinker) and an entrance via the back through a "farm type" gate to their property. At the back of the property inside the fence, there were a large number of fully grown Cyprus trees. Towards the Castlemaine end of the property, there was an apple orchard which ended at the creek line. This creek then ran across the main road into Barker's creek proper. The orchard was often used as a short cut on our way home from school and being boys, we had the occasional apple fight. Along the back of the bakery was a dirt track with a swinging bridge which I think is still there today. (The Code's residence (my family home) is still in existence and is within 150 metres of the bakery).

As a boy at Harcourt Primary school we had gardening as one of our many activities. The Headmaster at the time was Harry Larter. Gardening was a prized activity, as vegetables could be grown and sold to the locals after school. In those times money was short and we thought we were "rich as Kings" when we made our sales. Mrs Blume (No first names in those days!) was one of our favourite customers, as she always bought our locally grown broad beans from us, and if we were lucky, she would give us a bunch of her beautifully tasty black grapes which she grew on a trellis near the front door of the house.

Uncle "Snow" lived at Barkers Creek and was the baker for the district at that time. Whenever we went into the bakery proper, it was always quite hot inside. Uncle worked mostly at nights in a singlet and long pants and the white hairs on his chest sticking out of his singlet were very striking. Uncle taught us how to handle the dough without it sticking to our hands and how to get the bread out of the oven using long wooden handled sticks attached to a rectangular wooden base. At one end of the bakery was the large oven in which the bread was baked and at the other end was a huge machine with a shiny metal basin about 8 feet in diameter with a rotating arm with a T piece at the end. This machine was used to mix the various ingredients. When this machine was working, it looked quite fearsome, as its action appeared to be very erratic, with the bowl spinning and the arm rotating simultaneously. There was little or no attention to health and safety in those times!

Alongside one wall of the bakery there were three or maybe four large wooden containers with a trapezium like cross-

section (with lids) in which the dough was placed to rise before being placed in tins for baking. The strings collected from the flour bags used in the bakery were hung up on hooks behind the entrance door to the bakery, and were often used to make tails for our homemade kites. In those days, there were mainly sandwich and high tins loaves baked. I was often sent to the bakery to collect the bread for Mum, but many-a-time by the time I got home there was often not much of the loaf left, as the black crust on the bread was delicious!"

## Footnote:

John Code left the district at around twenty years old, having gained a Teaching Scholarship and Electrical Engineering qualification after attending Castlemaine Technical School and the Engineering Senior College.

He was a Maths/Science Teacher for around 45 years and is still doing some part time teaching at Maryborough Education Centre at age 74, having taught mainly at Irymple, Cobden, Kyneton, Gisborne, Castlemaine and Whittlesea. John has been living at Woodend for the past thirty years.

He returns to Harcourt, mainly to visit his brother Allan who still lives in the original family house. When his parents were alive the family consisted of: father Jack, mother Olive, (both now deceased) and five brothers: John, Allan, Brian, Gary and Adrian and sister Jillian. Of the six children in the family, five went on to become teachers. The Code's family house is located near Blume's bakery (just across the creek) in Bingham's Rd.

The main buildings in Harcourt at the time which John has written about were: Moxom's Confectionary Shop, the existing ANA Hall, Hop Walters General store/Butchers (now gone), Blume's Bakery, the Harcourt Primary School in Market Street and the swimming pool (located nearby the then Primary School) which was fed from the "race" and built by various working bees conducted by volunteers.

## Snowy's Kindness – Bill McKellar

Bill remembers the time during World War II when his mother was managing Walters General Store with three young children in tow. Bill's father was away at the war. The store was just across the road (now Victoria Road) from Blume's Bakery – it was located in the "triangle" which is now planted out with trees and is bounded by Barkers Creek, Victoria Road and Harmony Way.

Bill used to go across to the bakery, grab a loaf and eat the middle out of it. Snowy Code the baker caught him a couple of times and gave him a bad fright. The last time Snowy caught Bill he decided to make a "deal" with Bill. He said, "I will bake you a small loaf every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, if you stop taking the bread." Bill agreed and he received his special loaves every week until he was about ten years old.

**Editor's comment: Bill lives in North Harcourt and rang me to relate this childhood memory. The re-establishment of Blume's Bakery is certainly stirring up reminiscences amongst long term residents!**

## AGM Harcourt District Fruit Growers Association (HDFGA)

**Date:** Friday 15th June 2018

**Time:** 17:00

**Venue:** Goldfields Track Café

**Membership:** It is important to have a say and vote at the AGM. Previous members need to renew and interested potential members must establish membership prior to the AGM. Email to Scott Harrington to arrange membership and payment. Memberships can also be registered on Friday 15th June prior to the AGM from 16:30 – 16:50.

New Member's welcome

Membership is only \$25.00

Nominations required for Committee Members: Nominations are being called to fill the vacated positions on the committee. If you are interested in nominating for the committee please forward an email to me to register your nomination for the AGM by 17:00 on Friday 08th June 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the AGM, Membership, Nomination and Association in general please don't hesitate to contact me.

Scott Harrington  
mail: [scott\\_harrington@bigpond.com](mailto:scott_harrington@bigpond.com)  
Mobile: 0427 041 552



## First events scheduled for La Larr Ba Gauwa Park

In keeping with the continuing high level of visitation to the mountain bike trails at La Larr Ba Gauwa Park, the first major events to be held at the Park have now been confirmed with two rounds of the new Central Goldfields Winter Series scheduled to be held at the facility on Sunday 1 July and Sunday 26 August. This series is a new initiative by the Bendigo MTB Club and the Castlemaine Rocky Riders aimed at grassroots mountain bike racing for all levels of participants.

A Dirt Squirts race will be staged for riders under 10 years of age, with a Recreational Rider event for newcomers to the sport. Other entrants will be handicapped according to ability from Grades A to E.

Racing will be XCO style for between 45 and 60 minutes. Registrations will commence from 9am with racing from 10am. Each event will be concluded by 12:30pm.

It is expected that up to 120 riders will compete in each round of the series.

For the rounds being held at La Larr Ba Gauwa participants will be directed to park at the designated carpark opposite the CFA and in safe car parking spaces in Harcourt. Riders will utilise the purpose built bike path parallel to Market Street to ride to the event staging area in the Park. Traffic marshalls will be on hand to direct cyclists to this route. No closure or part closure of roads will be required.

The La Larr Ba Gauwa trails being used for the events will be closed for the period from 8am to 12:30pm on Sunday 1 July and Sunday 26 August. Signage at the entrance to the Park will detail these changes.

Professional food vendors will supply food and refreshments on site at the Park. Rubbish bins will be provided and event organisers will ensure that all rubbish is removed after each race.

Keep up to date with events and other activities at La Larr Ba Gauwa Park via the Facebook page and on the website (currently under development) at [lalarrbagauwa.harcourt.vic.au/](http://lalarrbagauwa.harcourt.vic.au/)

Marketing Sub-Committee of La Larr Ba Gauwa Park  
Committee of Management

## The Drying Shed Art Space

*Leah Mow-Yoffee*

An exciting tourist destination has been developed in Castlemaine. A group of artists and administrators Linda Newton, Melissa McArdle, Beck Parkinson and Amanda Fennessey were inspired by the drying shed at the Mill to build a studio space for artists to demonstrate and display their artworks.

The clever creation of separate studio spaces using wood palettes creates a wonderful rustic feel.

This is a great place to buy original art works directly from the artists and an opportunity to learn about their inspirations and techniques.

The Drying Shed Art Space is located at the Mill in Walker Street Castlemaine opposite the Botanical Gardens.

Winter hours are Thursday to Monday 10.30am to 4.30pm

Eight studios and wall spaces exist at the Drying Shed Art Space.

Ten artists are currently working in their studios and displaying works.

# LIMERICK by The Bard of North Harcourt

A man who was very farsighted  
 One day he was really delighted  
 When told by the Queen  
 That he would be seen  
 On telly, with him being knighted.

## Pets of the Month



*I'm Dolly Downing relaxing on the couch before dinner is served*



*I'm Daisy Long. I'm beautiful but full of mischief – no shoes are safe. I'm 4 months old and adored by Harvey and Austin but sometimes I'm too energetic for them. I'm a cavalier cross poodle and just love life.*

### Love your pet? Send us a picture!

Send your photos to the editor: [news@harcourt.vic.au](mailto:news@harcourt.vic.au) with a statement about why you love your pet.

**Express – el Vito – The Spirit of Spain**  
 Matthew Fagan (Guitar) Nicholas Young (Piano)  
**CASTLEMAINE**  
 Sunday 17 June: 3pm, Doors 2.30pm  
 Castlemaine Town Hall  
 25 Lyttleton St, Castlemaine VIC 3450  
 Adult \$30, Concession \$25, Child U16 \$10  
 Door Sales: Extra \$5 on door subject to availability  
 Bookings: Ph:Kellie 0438 881 985  
 Web: [espanaspiritofspaincastlemaine.eventbrite.com](http://espanaspiritofspaincastlemaine.eventbrite.com)

Artwork on ceramic tile by Jennifer Gadsden

## Espana – el Vito – The Spirit of Spain Castlemaine 17 June

*Matthew Fagan (Guitar) – Nicholas Young (Piano)*

Internationally acclaimed, Award Winning concert pianist, 'Young Steinway Artist' Nicholas Young joins internationally renowned 10 String Guitarist Matthew Fagan combining musical passion and virtuosity to celebrate the Spirit of Spain "El Vito". The duo celebrate Spanish repertoire for the guitar and piano, from classical masterpieces to flamenco and modern jazz.

The Single *El Vito* will be launched at the show and will feature on Matthew's first Vinyl release "El Vito" later this year. Concert attendees will be given a free copy of the Single.

The duo is a world first, bringing together the traditional flamenco elements of Spanish Guitar with the concert masterpieces of composers Isaac Albeniz, Manuel De Falla, and Joaquin Rodrigo in stunning new arrangements. The great concert music of the Spanish Piano Masters Albeniz and Granados is reinterpreted and the duo explore the exhilarating flamenco guitar techniques of Paco De Lucia and Paco Pena blending with virtuoso concert piano.

Watch the Duo perform Frevo Rasgado- Gismonti arr. de Lucia / McLaughlin

<http://bit.ly/2HSijSw>

See advertisement this page for bookings for Castlemaine performance.

Concession Eligibility – Senior Card Holders, Pensioners, Healthcare & Carer Cardholders & Students unless separate student ticket provided (Please provide proof of concessional status).

For Special Seating arrangements including Wheelchair access and Companion Tickets please call 0438 881 985.



## Councillor Comment

Hi all,

Rain beautiful rain followed by sunshine! Local gardeners as well as the farmers will be happy. Do you know farmers never complain about the rain? They just complain about everything else - ha ha.

Congratulations to all organisations that applied for Community Grants. The grants were adopted at the last Council meeting. There were many applications submitted and the standard of applicants was high. If your group was unsuccessful have another go next time. A tip to ensure success in a future round of grants is to make sure the application fits the funding requirements.

Many of you will be aware that there are issues with handling the recycled waste collected in the Shire. It was news to me that our recycling had been sent to China for processing. I am afraid this does not reflect well on us, as in my view we should be dealing with this locally. Christine Henderson has a bit more to say about this in the Midland Express of Tuesday 29 May. This topic was also keenly debated at the Municipal Association of Victoria meeting which I recently attended. At last week's Council meeting we awarded a new contract for waste collection for the next five years with an option for a two year extension. A lot can happen in seven years so hopefully we will be doing a better job with waste processing over the life of that contract. Veolia was selected as the successful bidder. One advantage of their operation is that they have access to large landfill sites which will come into play when our Castlemaine landfill site is full.

Best regards to all, Tony

AG Cordy  
0439 742434

## FREE Evening Fruit Fly Information Session Tuesday June 5th, 7.30 to 9.30pm Ray Bradfield Rooms Mostyn Street, Castlemaine

Fruit Fly is in our region; they're tiny but do a lot of damage.

You will receive information on how to tackle Fruit Fly in your backyard.

This information is good for your crop and helps local commercial growers.

What to do when, how etc.

Speakers: Megan Hill Project Officer – Fruit Fly Action Plan, Agriculture, Energy & Resources, Agriculture and Rural Division Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Information: Chris 5470 5508

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## Town Hall Crawl

### Concerts sung by the audience!

#### June 2, 16 & 30

We have a rare treat coming up for anyone who loves to join in a social singalong...

Over three Saturdays, members of the public will have the opportunity to visit nine of the most interesting public halls throughout the RCC area – Baringhup, Bowenvale, Bullarto, Clunes, Creswick, Dunolly, Glenlyon, Lyonville and Talbot. The iconic small halls will be brought to life with a series of free singing workshops culminating in a free concert on the final evening featuring the participants and tutors in a celebration of song, voice and community.



Everyone is welcome to join all or just one of the sessions, run by Tara Flinn, Rebecca Philips, Eva Popov and Merrin Torpy.

Between workshops, enjoy morning tea, lunch and a leisurely drive through Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

The workshops will culminate in a combined concert at Maryborough Town Hall on June 30 at 7:00pm.

Workshops and concert are free, but bookings are recommended. For more information and to register online go to [rcc2018.com/program-highlights](http://rcc2018.com/program-highlights)

## Castlemaine Documentary Film Festival goes on the road in June

The Castlemaine Documentary Film Festival (CDOCFF) will be on the road leading up to the 2018 Festival in July. The CDOCFF will be coming to a hall near you! Acclaimed feature documentary *Dark Horse: The Incredible True Story of Dream Alliance* is an inspirational film about a group of friends who decide to breed a racehorse. Presented by CDOFF and the RCC, these free screenings will take place at the Dunolly Town Hall on May 27, the Warehouse, Clunes in June 3, Theatre Royal Castlemaine on June 17 and The Capital Bendigo on June 24. Each screening is at 2pm and will be followed by a Skype Q & A session between Australia and the UK with director Louise Osmond and CDOCFF Director Geoffrey Smith.

Tickets are free but places are limited so register for tickets at [www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=375317](http://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=375317)

Check [cdocff.com.au](http://cdocff.com.au) for details about the Castlemaine Documentary Film Festival, taking place at the Theatre Royal from July 20 to 22.

The Regional Centre for Culture in 2018 is an initiative of the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, in partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, Central Goldfields Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Hepburn Shire and Mount Alexander Shire.

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURE 2018 [www.rcc2018.com](http://www.rcc2018.com)



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# Maximising production from your fruit trees

One of the benefits of living in the country (and one of the reasons many people who move here to make the 'tree change') is because there's so much space for a decent garden. But even if you have a large garden, it often makes sense to keep the fruit trees together in one space - both for ease of netting to protect against birds (and fruit fly if necessary), but also because it makes setting up a simple but effective irrigation system easier if all the trees with similar needs are in one place.

A clever way to maximise your fruit growing potential with less trees is with a multigraft tree (more than one variety grafted onto the same rootstock, e.g. a Granny Smith and a Pink Lady apple). Another variation is a "fruit salad" tree that has fruit of different types on the same rootstock (e.g. an apricot and a plum on plum rootstock), and yet another way to minimise space is to put two trees in the same hole. This not only provides a wider range of fruit in a compact space, but also takes care of pollination if you choose compatible varieties. The disadvantage of all these arrangements is that one variety may be more dominant than another, but that can usually be managed with some detailed pruning.

While you're considering how to improve the productivity of your fruit trees, now is also a good time to reflect on other ways of improving the overall health of your garden. As a guiding principle, try to add more diversity each year—different varieties of fruit trees, different understorey plants around and near your fruit trees (e.g., herbs, vegetables or shrubs or weeds), and even different microbes in your soil. Believe it or not, biodiversity is one of our best defences against the risks we face from pests and diseases, and even the weather!

How does that work, you ask? Well the more varieties of fruit trees you have, the more likely you are to harvest at least something every year. A particularly wet spring, for example, may lead to disease in the stone fruit but the apples and pears will thrive. And having a diverse collection of plants in your garden (especially flowering plants, and yes—even weeds) provides good habitat to attract lots of beneficial insects that will do at least half your work of cleaning up the pests.

And as mentioned at the beginning of this article, adding more diversity to your collection doesn't have to mean planting more trees. It's also easy (and lots of fun) to graft new varieties onto existing trees, which is a great solution if you've run out of good places to put new trees. It's also a great way of turning a useless tree (e.g., a seedling or sucker that has come up, a cherry plum or a huge tree that produces a glut of fruit that you can't use) into a useful tree that is earning its place in your garden.

Grafting is a late winter/early spring job, but over winter (once the trees are completely dormant), you need to collect the grafting wood—we'll have more details about how to do this in next month's Core.

Hugh and Katie Finlay run Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, an organic orchard in Harcourt. They offer a free weekly newsletter called Weekly Fruit Tips, and run online courses for gardeners interested in learning how to grow their own organic fruit. Go to [www.growgreatfruit.com](http://www.growgreatfruit.com) for details. They also offer a free weekly webinar (online workshop) called "The 5 Key Steps to Growing Great Fruit" - sign up at <https://growgreatfruit.com/webinar-landing/>. They sell bare-rooted fruit trees; order trees on their website [www.mafg.com.au](http://www.mafg.com.au), orders taken until June 30, and trees will be available to pick up from the farm from the 18th - 22nd July



Winter menu now available!

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## ASQ Plant of the Month

Hellebores are a must have to add colour to a winter garden! They are related to the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae), and are generally found in areas from Switzerland, Germany and Austria through to northern Italy.

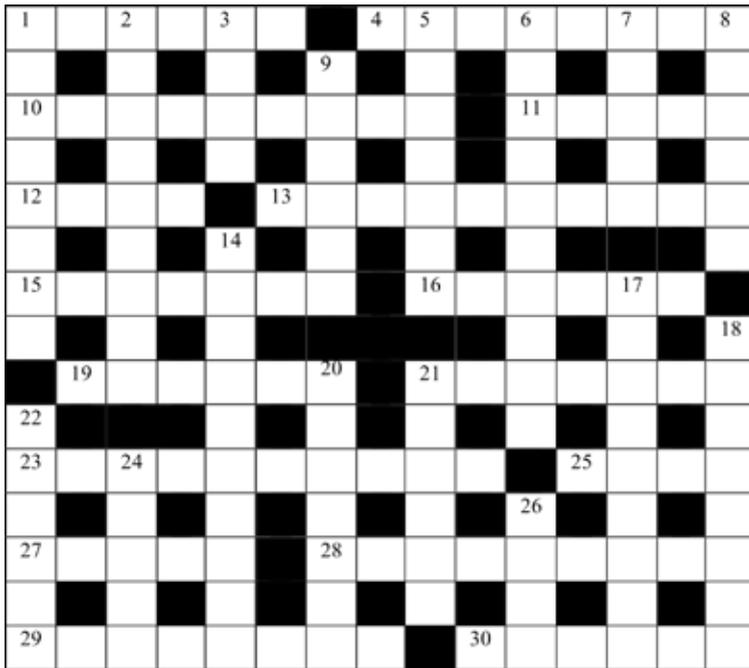
These plants are particularly suited to a shady part of the garden and also make an ideal rockery plant. Most are low growing (30-40cm), making them suitable for under planting of shrubs and trees. They produce flowers in shades of white, green, dark pink and maroon and planting a range of species will provide a succession of flowers from late autumn to early summer.

Visit ASQ Skydancers to see their range of beautiful Hellebores!



# JUNE Xword 2018

© McW April '17



### Down:

1. How newborn boy deer might slow to a standstill? (8)
2. According to Dutton, Corman et al, collecting this surrounded by fashionable northern Anglicans is mere laziness. (9)
3. Haphazardly switch apparel. (4)
5. Raises drive in blowhole? (7)
6. Cool! A quill rendered as a biro (in a manner of speaking). (10)
7. Clear confused copper in top. (5)
8. Teacher, do another assessment on that observation. (6)
9. What tidings ought to be? [cf 15...] (6)
14. Ho! Miltonic verse rendered geologically? (10)
17. How to be, of course, on a beach? (9)
18. English upper class a bit recondite (after closures)? (8)
20. Continue train not against but about... (7)
21. P-L-O-Y (sp?) A bit how's yer father... (6)
22. Anglicans wash nuts but this isn't one. (6)
24. Fear this century might become one? (5)
26. Only so far as one can couch... (4)

### Across:

- 1 & 10. Fate's lucky weapons are over-the-top! (6,3,6)
4. Gym-goers could be scum in central Asian mountains. (8)
10. (see 1ac.)
11. Medic's place taken by unspirited mulch with nothing in it? (5)
12. (See 30ac.) (4)
13. She wants this rot cured or she'll get one to set the law on him... (5,5)
15. Donald's grip on the truth? (Sorry, not very cryptic.) (7)
16. One of five surrounded by fifths smells of sweaty saddle. (6)
19. Super-churchy can replace junction with the right to absolutely consume. (6)
21. Who can shadow-box, get under the sun, and take on the Athenians? (7)
23. Scourge visited on Hollywood Ben? (10)
25. Therefore you pay annually for the car, turned half inside-out. (4)
27. Add what 11 took away to skin eruption to be this, roughly. (5)
28. Compared to 15-he, even a pleb. moron is this (could even be a noble romp...) (2,7)
29. Those of the earth set to multiply? (8)
30. It may resemble a yawning gap to go with 12, rendering invalid... (6)

# MAY Xword 2018 solution

© McW Feb '17



### Down:

1. Clumsy way to avoid profit? [Well?]
2. Thought I was replaced by firm [Co] in fire-starting must-have. [ignition]
3. To a huge extent the site of US motivation for involvement. (4)
5. Luhmann, n0thing, all right [OK] a fowling-piece for really big birds? (7)
6. Delete criminal jargon [...argot] from snail [esc...] and add what Kevin got through [apology] for the study of getting away from it all.
7. Fit to be picked [ripe] under the junction? Rubbish! (5)
8. Sees Russians who hacked Hillary [Well?]
9. In favour [pro-] of old heavyweight at the heart of things? (6)
14. Stove [Aga] you put down [pan] this way flower.
17. [Dung] is an element of it, and [power] is always tied up with it—Asian idea? (9)
18. Upward female engineering masterpiece [bra] over n0thing genuine [real] to do with forests. (8)
20. Gaita [Rai], [clad] as much more out there.
21. Succeed [win]. Attempt [try] chilly demeanor.
22. Date trees' silent P[salms] give holy songs.
24. D[rum] basic steps into Cuban heels to make them hop to... (5)
26. Drive not starting major cleanout [Purge].

### Across:

1. Hot but not! [Well?]
4. Missing golf equipment is missing a character [a "T"...]? (8)
10. A two-wheeled light carriage [gig] reverses at one cycle a second to produce something immensely faster. (9)
11. Badly sunburnt camp? [Well, Quentin?]
12. Individual from [IB is] likely to be a stick-in-the-mud, but flighty! (4)
13. Ditch around royals [moat] decomposed before globe gives breathing space.
15. Natal behaviour misconstrued as couch-potato morning routine... [Well?]
16. Assert, with no proof, that a big bird [eagle] confused a Learner. (6)
19. It's all about [re] [pins] in reverse for the deadeye... (6)
21. It takes n0thing for Dick [Wagner] to become a four-wheel driver. (7)
23. Short rules [ens] [reading] seductively are probably singing? (10)
25. Mayday [SOS], then n0thing: only just par.
27. Get the mongrel out of curly old rate of knots [mph] for colourless fluid. (5)
28. Four-wheeled version of first 3 of 10 [cart] spine of mountain range produce ordnance? (9)
29. Green herb scattered thinly from the pole.
30. Flammable item in carpet rolls. (6)

### Help for young drivers

Young learner drivers who find it difficult to achieve 120 hours of supervised driving are invited to participate in the Mount Alexander L2P Program. The program pairs learner drivers with volunteers who help them achieve the supervised driving experience required. Castlemaine District Community Health delivers the program locally in partnership with Council. To find out if you are eligible contact Lisa Cavallaro, L2P Coordinator, on 5479 1000.

### Calling all young people

Are you aged between 12 and 25 years? Council is seeking new members for our 2018 Youth Advisory Group (YAG). The group provides input into Council decisions and plans, helps identify issues and solutions relevant to young people and delivers local youth events and projects. Find out more information or apply at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/YoungPeople](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/YoungPeople). Applications close on Monday 18 June.

### Calling all cat owners

RSPCA Victoria's mobile cat desexing clinic will be at the Chewton Senior Citizens Centre from Monday 4 to Friday 8 June. Qualified veterinary staff will desex cats for the reduced fee of \$40 for males and \$50 for females. The fee includes a free microchip (where required). Cats must be in good health and aged between 9 weeks and 10 years old. Book at [rspcavic.eventbrite.com.au](http://rspcavic.eventbrite.com.au) or call (03) 9224 2247.

### Stay in touch with Council

Our next quarterly newsletter comes out in the first week of June. Sign up to receive Shire News straight to your inbox at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/ShireNews](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/ShireNews). Keep an eye out for our public notice each week in the Midland Express, read the latest news on our website and follow us on Facebook [@MountAlexanderShire](https://www.facebook.com/MountAlexanderShire) and [@CastlemaineMaldonSurrounds](https://www.facebook.com/CastlemaineMaldonSurrounds).

**Civic Centre**  
**Corner Lyttleton and Lloyd Streets**  
**P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450**

**t (03) 5471 1700**  
**e [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)**  
**w [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au)**

## Harcourt's Little Library

Harcourt now has its own  
Little Library based at the  
Heritage Centre.

*Leave a book, borrow  
or take a book to keep,*

*Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm.*



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# Community Diary Dates

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June:** 7.30pm, Harcourt Valley Landcare Meeting, ANA Hall. Contact: Secretary 0467 670 271.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018:** 5:00 pm AGM Harcourt District Fruit Growers Association

**Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>:** 1.30 pm Heritage group visit to Lockwood to 'strike a chord' on the pianola. Enquiries: 0400 916 527

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June:** 10.00am, Harcourt Valley Landcare Working Bee, Wetland Weeding and Planting Contact: Secretary 0467 670 271.

**Sunday 1 July and Sunday 26:** La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain Bike Park: Central Goldfields Winter Series scheduled to be held at the facility on August. See page 15

**Bowling Club Dates:** See page 10.

**Heritage Centre:** Open every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 10 am to 4 pm or by appointment. Call : 0400 916 527

**Pony Club:** Second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9.30 am to 12 midday. Next to swimming pool.

**Night Tennis:** A social hit at 7pm every Thursday at the Harcourt tennis courts, Leisure Centre, Bingham's Road.

**Walking Group:** Every Monday and Thursday at 9.30 am. Meet at the ANA Hall.

**Uniting Church:** Every Sunday at 9 am in the Uniting Church, Buckley Street Harcourt, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

**CWA:** First Thursday of the month; 1.30pm at Harcourt Leisure Centre.



**Maree Edwards MP**

State Member for Bendigo West

*Putting Community First*

If you have any State or Local Government issue  
please contact my office for assistance

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## **The Harcourt News/The Core is Published by the Harcourt Progress Association Inc.**

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A full colour version of *Harcourt News: The Core* is available on the Harcourt Community website: <http://harcourt.vic.au/news>

**Harcourt News/The Core is printed with the assistance of the Harcourt Primary School and Mount Alexander Shire.**

***The views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, nor of the Steering Committee of the Harcourt Progress Association. No endorsement of service is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.***

# Newstead Spinning Group

## A big Birthday Celebration

And we need your help to find spinners from the past

The Newstead Spinning Group has now been running for 42 years and we are planning a big birthday celebration in late September this year at which we will launch our history book.



We are a fun group of fibre people who get together every fortnight to spin, chat, learn and share our projects. Some time ago we started to wonder: How and when did we come about? Why was the group started and by whom? Have we always met in the Newstead Community Centre? What is it that keeps us going as a creative community within the larger Newstead community? How have we changed and what has remained constant?

So we decided to produce a history of our group and a

Grant from the Newstead RTC set the wheels spinning for the production of “Spinning a good yarn”.

Currently we have over 30 members. In total, since 1977, we have had 180 members! Many wonderful women have kept in touch with us over the years and we have been able to find answers and record memories and spinning stories. Unfortunately, and inevitably, we have lost track of many of our earlier members.

**So, please help us find spinners from the past. We need their stories and would love to invite all to our birthday celebration.**



If you are a past member, or know of anyone who was a member at some stage, and particularly during our early days, we would be grateful if you would contact us. We would love to talk to you and invite you to the Birthday. Perhaps you may even have some photos.

Contacts: Karen Baker (Secretary) 0439 714 665; Suzan Redlande (Asst. Secretary) 03 5472 2718

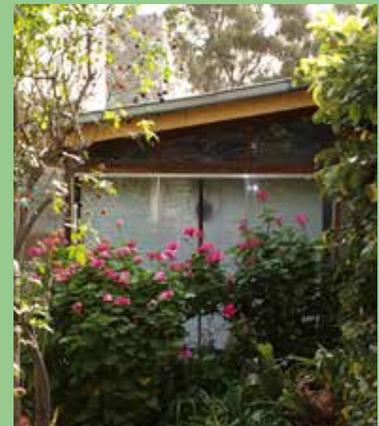


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### Castlemaine Bus Lines Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:56	12:11	2:26
Coolstore Road/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:57	12:12	2:27
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	9:03	12:18	2:33
Halford St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	9:05	12:20	2:35
From Castlemaine to Harcourt Monday to Friday			
	am	pm	pm
Castlemaine RSL/Mostyn St (Castlemaine)	8:45	12:00	2:15
Wimble St/Barker St (Castlemaine)	8:48	12:03	2:18
Blackjack Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:53	12:08	2:23
Coolstore Rd/Midland Hwy (Harcourt)	8:54	12:09	2:24
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	2:25



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# HARCOURT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Harcourt Progress Association is an incorporated association, governed by Rules which comply with the Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a member based organisation which encourages active participation and contribution and conducts regular public meetings to further a variety of goals and projects. Members are able to join working groups and sub-committees and pursue specific areas of interest or initiate projects which align with the organisation's goals.

Harcourt Progress Association Inc. aims to:

- Support and encourage initiatives which benefit and strengthen the Harcourt community.
- Strengthen community connections by promoting local sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities.
- Encourage, support and acknowledge the role and contribution of volunteers within Harcourt.

Membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. is open to all residents and landowners within a 20kms radius of the Harcourt Township - some exceptions apply - do enquire. There is no joining fee for the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. but an annual subscription of \$20 per person / \$10 concession is payable to become a financial member who is then able to formally vote and join the Steering Committee. Annual subscriptions fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> July each year. Any renewals or new memberships paid in 2018 will be valid until the end of June 2019.

-----✂-----  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:**

I request to become or renew my membership of the Harcourt Progress Association Inc. (please circle one). I agree to be bound by its Rules of Association and Codes of Conduct. I understand that only financial members have voting rights.

Financial member: full fee \$20    Financial member: concession fee \$10    Non-financial member: no charge

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

TELEPHONE:..... EMAIL:.....

SIGNED:..... DATED:.....

I enclose the sum of \$20/\$10 Concession for Annual Membership  
Please mail this completed form and payment to HPA Inc, PO Box 132, HARCOURT, VIC 3453   **OR**

I have deposited \$20/\$10 Concession into BSB 633-000, Account: 151337409.  
Please indicate your name and state "Membership" when paying online.

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