



Gather Harcourt – Winter: Smiles and Umbrellas



Photography by Lou Citroën

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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

Tuesday July 9: HPA Board Meeting at Harcourt Valley Community House.

Thursday July 11: 7 pm Harcourt Valley Landcare meeting, Heritage Centre.

Friday July 26: 7–9 pm Sing Along with Bernhard Boulton at Harcourt Community House.

Sunday July 28: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare joint working bee. Details: info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Sunday September 28: Shopping tour to raise money for Harcourt Tennis Club. See back page of this edition.

Wednesday August 14: 7.30 pm Carpet Bowls Tournament, details see page .6

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

Harcourt Valley Community House: Open each Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm. **CLOSED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.**

CFA: Brigade meeting night is the third Monday of each month starting at 8.00 pm; Sunday morning equipment checks and maintenance runs starts at 9.00 am; siren is tested at 9.15 am. Contact: Captain Andrew Wilson for further details 0428 387 339. CFA is located in Bridge Street, Harcourt.

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

Harcourt Bowls Club: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

Harcourt Lions Club: Third Thursday of the month at the Victorian Miniature Railway, Harmony Way at 6.30 pm. Gathering for dinner (something to share) followed at 7.30 by general planning and discussion.

Heritage Centre: Every Wednesday at the ANA Hall from 9.00 am–3.00 pm or by appointment: 0400 916 527.

Pony Club: Second Sunday of the month. Contact Peggy Mills, 0419 902 400. The Pony Club is located next to the swimming pool.

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 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.



HPA Update

The new board of the Harcourt Progress Association met for the first time on Saturday 15 June. Unfortunately, there were a couple of unavoidable absences (due to prior commitments) and not all Executive positions were filled on the day, however, the HPA Board is hopeful this will be clearly defined at its next meeting on 9 July.

One exciting development, which has been endorsed by the membership, is now available to share with the community. Following a change of our Rules of Association, which occurred at the AGM on 30 May, two standing committees: *The Core* and the Harcourt Valley Community House have been established.

These two standing committees will work autonomously under the HPA auspice. HPA holds the legal status (to sign contracts, enter into funding agreements, etc), but the respective standing committees will comprise volunteers who are specifically interested in these areas of operations, and these volunteers may come from the wider community without the need for them to already be a part of the HPA Board.

Each standing committee will operate within a Terms of Reference which will govern the relationship between the HPA and the other standing committee whilst having the fundamental purposes of the HPA at its heart. The Harcourt Valley Community House Standing Committee is to meet soon whilst *The Core* has been established for many years.

The next meeting of the HPA is on Tuesday 9 July and we look forward to providing a report in the August edition of the *Core*.

Jeannette Teague

COST OF LIVING RELIEF MEASURES BEGINNING 1 JULY

The Federal Labor Government is providing vital cost of living relief for everyone in the Bendigo electorate from 1 July.

From 1 July, the Government is delivering:

A tax cut for every Australian taxpayer, including 66,000 taxpayers in the Bendigo electorate

- \$300 energy bill relief for every Australian household and \$325 for all 11,187 small businesses in the Bendigo electorate
- A freeze on the cost of PBS medication ensuring pensioners and concession card holders won't pay more than \$7.70 for their PBS medication for the next 5 years
- A third consecutive pay rise for 2.6 million low-paid workers including our cleaners, dental nurses and retail workers
- An expansion of Paid Parental Leave from 20 weeks to 22 weeks, which is set to reach 26 weeks by July 2026.

It builds on cost of living measures the Government has already delivered, such as cheaper childcare, fee-free TAFE and the biggest investment ever in expanding bulk-billing.

All this is part of a longer-term economic plan, helping Bendigo and Central Victorians right now.

From a press release by Lisa Chesters MP, Federal Member for Bendigo





An extremely wet Gather Harcourt Winter was held on Saturday 29 June 2024. Yes, the rain and cold was disappointing and the weather impacted the number of people who attended, but it was also understandable. Our first wet day for a Gather Harcourt coincided with our first wet day for winter 2024. I believe crowds were down everywhere as people stopped home in the warmth and dry.

Some amazing things did happen though – the Castlemaine Secondary College stepped up to stage manage, entertain and sound engineer for the day. I wish there had been a bigger crowd for them to perform to. Most of this was last minute and they did a fantastic job and showed real maturity in pitching in to help our small community. They got wet, they got dirty, they just did the job, with no complaints, (and have asked to come back again to Gather Harcourt Christmas - November 30).

Our volunteer photographer, Lou Citroën, who managed to take 150 fantastic photos, got wet, had fun, and he told me he met some wonderful people and had some great chats on the day.

The pink volunteers on the day. Wow! I was blown away by their dedication to make sure the day went smoothly, they checked on the stallholders, they sold raffle tickets, they announced artists, they stepped in and held the fort while some stallholders had lunch/coffee/toilet breaks, all during trying circumstances, and they kept smiling with that wonderful Harcourt smile of welcome.

Our clown, Tim Tim, turned up and entertained the children with balloons in the dry, warm and very welcoming museum. Tim Tim will return to our next Gather Harcourt on 30 November with bubbles and other 'clown' stuff, and we know there will be a bigger crowd to enjoy his antics.

Of course, the marvellous and awesome stallholders at Gather Harcourt Winter, were cold, a little damp around the edges, but the enthusiasm for attending the Gather Harcourt event is contagious.

Well done everyone, including those who braved the rain and cold to support the market, for making what could have been a tough day, enjoyable.

Ruth hay



Photography by Lou Citroën

On one of the recent sunny Sundays, members completed a planting on a private property in Harcourt. A long-serving member needed some assistance with rejuvenating the land which once had orchard on it, so the group pitched in, lending labour, while the landowner purchased the plants and hosted a delicious morning tea.

During morning tea, President Terry Willis led a discussion about the group's response to the updated version of the amendment to Plan Harcourt. The amendment takes into account the biodiversity study done at the instruction of the planning panel after objections from Landcare and others on the grounds of possible environmental damage.

Taking into account the feedback from the group, the response was sent to Shire with some key requests:

'Harcourt Valley Landcare (HVL) will no longer object to Growth Area C as a 'potential future residential expansion zone' on the proviso that fauna surveys (of the listed species, the Golden Sun Moth and Brown Toadlet) continue and are regularly repeated and in a wider area in order to further establish whether this Growth Area C is habitat for these species...'

'In addition, we would also like to see a commitment to survey the Brush-tailed Phascogale and the four bird species listed on page 38 of the Stage 2 Biodiversity Report (Powerful Owl, Speckled Warbler, Brown Treecreeper and the Swift Parrot) that may use the area as habitat.'

Other issues were highlighted by members and passed to the Shire including:

'We want Mount Alexander Shire Council to continue to be proactive and to advocate for the biodiversity and natural assets of Harcourt Valley after Amendment c94malx is approved by council.

Mount Alexander Shire Council can achieve this by addressing the following:

- Produce a map of all the existing and new environmental overlays inside and outside the township boundary, similar to Map 5 in



the Stage 2 Biodiversity Report. We feel it's important to have an easy to interpret map to help with compliance and general understanding of wildlife corridors and environmental overlays.

- Install road signs to indicate and educate the location of wildlife corridors as identified in the Stage 2 Biodiversity Report. They could be similar to the Significant Roadside Vegetation signs in place across Macedon Shire.
- Fund more extensive fauna studies for Golden Sun Moth and Brown Toadlet in Growth Areas C & D in next year's budget.
- Also, commission future studies to examine fauna movements through wildlife corridors and identify those corridors outside the township border. It's fantastic to have a Strategic Biodiversity Assessment for the township of Harcourt. But, broader connections between Leanganook (Mount Alexander), Walmer Forest to the West and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park to the South need to be identified.
- And lastly, HVL believes that the whole of the recent exchange of views on the planning scheme amendment has been of positive value. HVL believes that it would benefit future processes if Mount



Alexander Shire Council keeps HVL informed and updated of projects that might affect Harcourt Valley such as council works, housing developments and infrastructure upgrades. This would give us the opportunity to share our highly localised expertise about the location of native species and areas where we have worked to restore or protect habitat.'

While accepting that development in Harcourt will take place, if you are concerned about respecting and protecting the environment in Harcourt Valley please consider joining the Harcourt Valley Landcare Group. Join us at: www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org



Harcourt Uniting Church

Do you know people who say they don't ever go into a church except for weddings and funerals? Or, do you know someone who enters when no-one else is there in order to feel the peace and stillness of the building?

The people who gather in the Harcourt Church in Buckley Street most Sundays are very supportive of each other, and of friends who are no longer able to physically get to church. The congregation members are also active in groups in the general community outside church, like CWA, Rotary, VIEW, Probus and numerous others. This is how we try to extend the justice-seeking aspect that underpins Christianity: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' The flip side of this is: 'Don't do unto others what you don't want done unto you.'

Together with the Castlemaine Uniting Church, Harcourt Church forms the Parish of Castlemaine District. A Social Justice group from the parish holds occasional listening posts, one of which was held at Gather Harcourt on 29 June – a report appears on page 12 in this issue of *The Core*. We ask two broad questions: 'What do you love about Harcourt (or Maldon or Castlemaine ...)? What would you like to change?'

Previous listening posts have raised issues such as the need for more rubbish bins in both busy and more remote tourist/visitor areas, trucks and cars speeding through Maldon's historic main street, and council being too Castlemaine-centric. Lists of comments made at the listening posts have been given to councillors. The mayor said that outlying towns receiving less attention than Castlemaine was one reason he stood for council originally.

Councillor Driscoll also pointed out that to get attention from the council, an email on a SINGLE ISSUE should be sent, which can be redirected to the relevant person or department. Petitions are another way of drawing attention to important issues.

Next time you are going past the church on a Sunday morning between 9.00 am and 10.00 am, why not pause and listen to some of the service from outside, or even come in and feel the welcoming warmth.

What did Adam say when he was asked his favourite holiday?

"It's Christmas, Eve".

Editor's comment: We thank Solway for providing this month's article (and joke) from Harcourt Uniting Church and wish Jan, our regular contributor, a lovely break up north.

HARCOURT CARPET BOWLS

The Harcourt carpet bowlers continue to meet at the Harcourt District Leisure Centre on Wednesday nights at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. The heaters will be on, which makes for a lovely warm environment to continue our competition.

As in the past we are organising a carpet bowls tournament to raise funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group.

This tournament will take place on:

14 AUGUST 2024

Harcourt District Leisure Centre

Commencing at 7:30 pm

(arrive 7:15 to be put in a team).

There will be an entrance fee of \$5.00 playing three games with prizes for the winners, a raffle, and to finish the night, a lovely homemade supper.

Everyone is most welcome to come and help raise funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group. No previous experience playing bowls needed, just come along and have a fun social night.

Further information:

John (5474 2226) Loretta (5474 2453)

Come Along to Singalong with Bernhard Boulton

**Harcourt Valley Community House
July 26 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm**

Bernhard is a renowned pianist and has been performing in Mount Alexander Shire venues for many years, including at the Castlemaine Fringe Festival in 2023. Bernhard was kind enough to give us a sample at the Seniors Luncheon at the HVCH last October, and it was that performance which is the inspiration for this event.

**See the Harcourt Valley Community House
Facebook page:**

**[www.facebook.com/share/
BVofxXRQ8nc95p1S](https://www.facebook.com/share/BVofxXRQ8nc95p1S)**

Community Bank
Maldon & District

B Bendigo Bank

Community Bank Maldon & District Launches \$1 Million BIG Project to Empower Community Innovation

Community Bank Maldon & District is thrilled to announce the launch of its ambitious BIG Project, marking a significant milestone as part of its 25th Birthday celebrations. This initiative, backed by up to \$1 million in funding over 5 years, aims to address pressing community challenges under the theme 'People, Place & Planet'.

Through the BIG Project, Community Bank Maldon & District invites local organisations and community groups to propose innovative solutions that enhance community well-being, environmental sustainability, and local identity. This initiative reflects the bank's commitment to fostering a thriving, connected, and sustainable community.

"We are excited to embark on this journey with our community," said Ross Egleton, Chairperson of Maldon District Financial Services, the company behind the Maldon and Dunolly community

bank branches. "The BIG Project represents our dedication to making a lasting impact by supporting projects that align with our values and vision. We believe in harnessing the creativity and passion within our community to tackle important issues head-on."

The BIG Project committee will begin by soliciting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from interested parties, encouraging fresh ideas or proposals that have the potential for substantial community benefit. Detailed guidelines, timelines, and the EOI form can be accessed on the Maldon District Financial Services website: maldoncb.com.au/helping-the-community/community-grants.

The launch of the BIG Project underscores Community Bank Maldon & District's ongoing commitment to reinvesting in the local community through strategic partnerships and initiatives that promote sustainable growth and community resilience.

For more information on the BIG Project, including how to submit



Branch Manager Paul Simmons and Ross Egleton, Chairperson announcing the Big Project funding at our recent 25th birthday celebrations.

an Expression of Interest, please visit the Maldon District Financial Services website or email queries to bigproject@mdcb.com.au

Thank you

One of our readers has reached out to us to express her sincere thanks to the grey-haired lady driving a white ute or 4-wheel drive car who came to her mother's aid when the servo's eftpos machine was out of action. Her mother had no cash, but without hesitating, this good samaritan gave her \$20 to cover the cost of some fuel.



Services Activities Support Improvement
Community Social isolation Loneliness Remedy Mental health
Social connection Live well Social prescribing
Volunteering Mount Alexander Shire

Groups GP's Links
Health
Wellbeing
Get Connected

Get Connected Mount Alexander

Get Connected is a free service to residents of Mount Alexander who are over 25 years and would like support to find and access community activities.

For more information and how to go about getting some support to connect with your community and your passions go to: cch.org.au/getconnected

Supported by Goldfields Medical Group; Community Wellbeing Unit, Mount Alexander Shire; Castlemaine Library; Dhelkaya Health Counsellors and Dhelkaya Health and Family Services Team.

Well she offered and gave me the \$20, didnt hesitate .

She went inside then came out she said it was all back, but she wanted to wait to see if the eftpos worked again and was online for me.

She was grey hair driving a white Ute or 4wheel drive , Australian, she said she lived locally .
When she gave me the money ,she said she didn't want it back .

It's just paying it on .

4:48 pm

I want a big thankyou to who ever she is ,for the kindness and time and thought she gave me .

I gave her a hug when she face me the money , she was sent from God to support me

4:50 pm



Harcourt CFA Cold, Cold & Cold

The winter solstice may have passed by for 2024, but June has certainly delivered us some very frosty mornings. It is a time of danger for house fires and some of these have made the evening news, especially when there have been close escapes or, unfortunately, a fatality when someone has not managed to escape.

While having working smoke alarms is a key component in alerting us to a fire in our home, having a home fire safety plan is a vital part of our overall plan. Having more than one exit route and an identified assembly point is also part of the plan.

Have you tested your plan lately? If you haven't done so this year, then I suggest that you do, to ensure that it is still valid for your situation, as well as finding any gaps in your plan. More details on how to 'Make a Plan' can be found on the CFA Website.



June has been quiet for turnouts, with only two callouts which were both supports to the Castlemaine brigade at Don KR. Each incident involved the fire sprinkler system which, fortunately, were not activated because of fire. The first at 8:18am on the 5th was caused by a forklift contacting a sprinkler head and snapping it off. The second at 3:40am on the 18th was because a severe frost froze an outside sprinkler head which activated the alarm. Both incidents resulted in our brigade not being required, so the truck got a short run before returning to the station.

New Radios are Coming

The CFA has been looking into the next generation of communication radios and is in the phase of rolling out to all brigades after a three month pilot program in March 2023 by fifteen selected brigades.

The pilot program assessed a range of radios that meet CFA requirements in everyday operational activities. Our brigade will be undertaking training early in July and once 80 percent of active members have participated, we will receive our allocation.

It is important for CFA to continue

to upgrade its devices to the latest technology. Some of the new features include multiband capability allowing us to communicate better with our partner emergency services, both in Victoria and interstate. They also include additional functionality, including GPS on hand-held portable radios. All up, 18,000 new radios will be distributed throughout the State and it is estimated to take eighteen months to complete.

Training & Courses

Brigade members continue to maintain their skills, and a number of members have undertaken courses to gain more skills to strengthen the brigade's skillset.

Each brigade has a Brigade Operational Skills Profile (BOSP) which lists the number of members recommended as a minimum for the various firefighting skills relative to the brigade's risk profile.

Recent courses undertaken include, Low Voltage Fuse Pulling, Hazmat Awareness, Respond to Isolated Structure Fire, Crew Leader and the First Aid Refresher Course. So, while we have been quieter with turnout numbers, the brigade continues to be busy.

Stay warm and safe this winter

Tyrone Rice

Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Word of the month: Apricity

Definition:

Apricity is the warmth of the sun in winter

About the Word



This word provides us with evidence that even if you come up with a really great word, and tell all of your friends

that they should start using it, there is a very small chance that it will catch on.

Apricity appears to have entered our language in 1623, when Henry Cockeram recorded (or possibly invented) it for his dictionary *The English Dictionary; or, An Interpreter of Hard English Words*. Despite the

fact that it is a delightful word for a delightful thing, it never quite caught on, and will not be found in any modern dictionary aside from the Oxford English Dictionary.

www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/winter-words

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Councillor Comment

Hi all,

A big shout out to the *Core* team, the last issue looks like a collectors' issue.

At Council we continue to push forward, but in the back of our minds is the upcoming Council election and how our decisions will impact the next Council.

Part of our regular work is to review the performance of our CEO. Fortunately, we have an excellent CEO, and the Council continues to work well together with the executive team; so that is a good thing.

As part of our structure, we have a separate Audit and Risk committee that reports to Council. The mayor and

a councillor are members as well as a majority of independent members appointed from the community. Like Council, the CEO attends most of the meeting but does not get a vote. Audit and Risk receive regular reports from Council's independent auditors as well as risk-related matters such as WorkCover reports, IT security reports, and anything else that they require.

This week I was part of a panel to select a new Audit and Risk member. The candidates were all highly qualified and experienced people, and all could have performed the role. At the end of the interviews it was interesting that the panel members agreed on the candidate who would best meet

our needs. The decision will now be endorsed by Council.

The take away from this is that Council gets involved in a lot. Sometimes it does take a long time to get things done, but please be assured that we have a great team doing our best for our community.

Best regards, Tony

AG Cordy
0439742434

PS I have been doing some lamb marking this week. Couple of sets of triplets been born in the frost. All doing well!



Harcourt Lions Club

Once again, the Harcourt Lions members manned the BBQ at the Harcourt Gather–Winter, and, unfortunately, winter was really turned on. It was cold and wet for those who braved the weather to attend. The music was very enjoyable and the stallholders we spoke to were smiling despite the weather.

Congratulations to the organisers of the event. It was so unfortunate that it was the only rainy day in weeks, but we still soldiered on. Hoping for better luck next time.

The Lions Club is now looking forward to the opening of the Victorian Miniature Railway later in the year.

Our next meeting will be on the third Thursday in August with a potential visit to our Club by the 3rd District Governor. We meet at the VMR shed at 6:30 pm for a shared meal followed by a discussion time from 7:30pm.

KNIGHTMOVES
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Tony: 0439 742 434
Lou: 0416 146 417
knightmovesband@gmail.com



Weather & Water

There were seven days of rainfall in June although three of those days saw registrations of only one millimetre. The total for the month was 25.8 mm which is in stark contrast to last year's count of 153 mm.

Total rainfall to 30 June was 277.3 mm while in 2023 we received 364 mm and in 2022, 360 mm.

Cold and frosty weather was a feature of June with the majority of the rain falling on 10 and 11 June and then 9 mm fell on 29 June, which annoyingly coincided with Gather Harcourt. There was a swift return to frost on 30 June.

While we have received passably adequate rain, drought conditions in the west and south-west of the state were reported in *The Age* of Sunday June 23. Drought has not been declared in those areas, but the patchy pattern of the rainfall across the state is reminiscent of drought years.

The weather bureau reports that:

'The 'El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral...with a possible La Niña watch later in the year.'

Will the weather turn and result in more rain? The long range forecast indicates '... warmer than average days very likely across much of northern, eastern and southern Australia and warmer nights across the whole of Australia.'

The days and nights in June certainly didn't feel warmer than average, though on some days we experienced some warmth from the sun – see page 8 of *The Core* for a word that describes this.

Reservoir Levels

Upper Coliban: 82% as at 5 July, 2024

Lauriston: 86% "

Malmsbury 31% "

Barkers Creek 42.9% as at 26 June 2024

Data sourced from Coliban Water and Bureau of Meteorology.



Harcourt Valley Primary School

Gardening for Insects

Students at HVPS recently had a visit from James McLennan, a representative of The Victorian Schools Garden Program. James led the students in planting small shrubs to encourage beneficial insects into the school garden.

The students enthusiastically, and literally, got their hands dirty in the garden while learning from James about the importance of insects in the garden and as a part of nature. James said, 'It's all about getting kids outside and connecting with nature. I talked to them about the importance of building habitat for insects, what insects the plants attract and what benefits the insects bring to plants and how plants and insects interact. I also mentioned what uses the Dja Dja Wurrung, the local indigenous people, would have had for the plants.'



Native carrot. License: CC by Mark Marathon via Wikipedia.



Plantings on the day included, Native Carrot, Sweet Bursaria and Murnongs or Yam Daisies. James said, 'The Sweet Bursaria, for example, is a necessary host for the Eltham Copper Butterfly.'

In his work, James travels all over Victoria. The Victorian Schools

Garden Program is available to all state schools, and there is a range of topics which can be chosen, including: planting and growing vegetables, how to establish a worm farm and the benefits of worms, and of course, gardening for insects.

A Mystery Partly Solved

The Core recently received an email from Joan Salter shedding light on some photos we presented in the April edition.

On the weekend I stumbled across your publication on the internet & the article on the Blume Bakery fence immediately sparked my interest. My family has a long association with Harcourt / Barkers Creek. My uncle Snowy was the baker at Blumes for decades. As the article was published in April you have probably had multiple replies & solved the problem by now. Just in case I thought I would offer the little that I know.

This is a Blume family wedding circa 1950.

Garth Symes married Laura Blume (Daughter of the

bakery owner, Ernie) 1950. They are both buried at Harcourt Cemetery.

The bridesmaid is probably Laura & the mother of either the bride or groom I am guessing was probably a Blume prior to marriage. I hope this is useful & would love to know if I am correct.

Cheers, Joan S

Thank you, Joan for helping solve the mystery.

At the Core, we love to get feedback from our readers. You should feel free to make contact with the Core at news@harcourt.vic.au if you have any feedback, comments, contributions or suggestions.





Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello Everyone,
Throughout the year we invite visitors to join us at our monthly meeting and tell us about their involvement with the community – and in most cases we are familiar with what they do. But at our June meeting this was not the case. Our two visitors were Jenny and Ann from the Bendigo-Maubisse Friendship Committee and the cause we were introduced to was Days for Girls.

The Bendigo-Maubisse Friendship Committee was formed in 2006 to work on a community-to-community level supporting the people of Maubisse located in the central highlands of Timor Leste, 73 kilometres south of the capital, Dili.

Like most parts of Timor Leste, the Maubisse community experiences many challenges, including lack of employment, government structures, health services, education and transport. Our visitors talked about another challenge that most of us had never heard of, this being sustainable solutions for girls who have nothing with which to manage their period. Without access to feminine care products, many girls must stay isolated during menstruation and are unable to attend school.

Days for Girls is an international, award-winning, non-government organisation comprised of Teams and Chapters around the world. Volunteers work to shatter stigma and limitations associated with menstruation to improve health, education and livelihood outcomes for girls and women. The Days for Girls Kits made by volunteers are a beautiful, washable, and sustainable solution to managing menstruation. The Days for Girls menstrual care Kit is comprised of 2 shields, 8 liners, a washcloth, soap, a moisture-proof carry pouch, and a pictorial instruction leaflet. The components are bright, colourful and stain hiding and are contained in a drawstring bag to provide privacy. The Kits are delivered along with vital menstrual health education (which includes a version designed for boys and men).

The Days for Girls Bendigo Team is one of more than a hundred Teams and Chapters in Australia and supply

BMFC with kits for the girls and women in Maubisse. They welcome new volunteers wanting to assist with sewing and non-sewing tasks as well as awareness raising.

If you would like to support Days for Girls, please email the Days for Girls Bendigo team leaders: bendigovic@daysforgirls.org



Jenny and Ann explain to President Robyn the making and maintenance of the menstrual care kits.

Our Association Day Fundraiser is being held this year on August 15 at the Harcourt Leisure Centre. Our theme is Flowers and Friendships, so who better to have as our guest speaker than Stacey from Zala Floristry, 296 Barkers Street Castlemaine. I'm sure Stacey will delight us all with her presentation and maybe give us a few hints on how to create a dazzling flower arrangement.

This is going to be a lovely afternoon, so pop a note into your diary, invite a friend, and wear your most floral of outfits, like a flowery dress, a flowery hat or scarf, flowery tops and bottoms, even flowery shoes or boots, and come and join us.

As well as our usual raffle, door prize and trading table, and delicious afternoon tea, there will be a display of vases. I'm sure most of you have vases that belonged to your mum, your aunt, your grandmother, maybe a wedding present. Some you will love; some will stay in the back of the cupboard never seeing the light of day. Well, many of our members have such vases hiding

away in their cupboards and now is their time to shine as they are to be displayed for your enjoyment.

We are looking forward to seeing you in all your flowery outfits at 1.30 PM on 15 August at the Leisure Centre.

Entry \$10

RSVP by 8th August to Helen Hand 0448 510 996

Lyn Rule
Publicity Officer Harcourt CWA.



Some vases that will be on display

The Core team send Lyn their very best wishes for a speedy recovery and thank her for all her years of contributing to The Core. We look forward to reading her Chatting with Harcourt CWA articles again in the near future.

Linda Newton



Now that winter is well and truly here, the RACV has a few tips for safe driving. Safe driving this winter Harcourterians.

Love (or at least service) your car

Checking your car's safety equipment, tyres, windscreen wipers, batteries, lights, and brakes is especially important in winter as cold and wet conditions are particularly hard on cars.

Tread carefully

Tyres are incredibly important to safety. Tyres must have plenty of tread depth (not less than 1.5 millimetres) and no damage. They should be inflated to the correct pressure, which can vary from car to car. The recommended tyre pressures are usually listed on a sticker inside the driver's door jamb or in the glove box.

Maintain a safe braking distance

Remember it takes much longer to stop in the wet, so don't follow other cars too closely when it's raining, or if the roads are wet. Increase the gap between you and the car in front to at least four seconds.

Slow down

Travel just a little slower, even on roads you know well, and take off from lights and intersections a little slower, as greasy roads can cause vehicles to lose traction.

Don't rush to get going either. Before taking off on a long road trip, be sure you know how to use all the features of your car's fog lights, high-beam lights, front and rear demisters and front and rear windscreen wipers. Clear your windscreen and windows before you start driving to ensure good visibility.

Weather the storm

Be aware of changed conditions and heed any weather warnings particularly when travelling in areas where extreme weather is more common, such as the high country and ski fields. Wet roads, black ice and snow reduce grip, sometimes without warning, while fog and heavy rain can bring drastically decreased visibility. Extra caution is needed in these conditions, including knowing when to use fog lights, especially if you are used to driving in milder conditions.

When in doubt, pull over

In wet weather use your air conditioner to prevent your windscreen from fogging up. However, if visibility is so limited that you can't see the edges of the road or other vehicles at a safe distance, it's time to pull over and wait for the conditions to ease.

www.racv.com.au/about-racv/newsroom/safe-driving-tips-winter.html

Gathering Opinions about Harcourt

During Harcourt Gather, representatives of the Harcourt Uniting Church, Frances Collins and Solway Nutting held a listening post at the Heritage Centre.

Solway told *The Core* that this was something church representatives take the opportunity to do during events held around the Shire. Frances remarked that, 'While the comments are not statistically accurate, they often give insight into issues and ideas for the particular township visited.'

Visitors to the listening post wrote their remarks on sticky notes and pinned them to either of two boards: 'What I like', and 'What needs to change'.

The comments will be passed to our local Councillor, Tony Cordy

What I Like

- ✓ The Council gardeners always have James Park perfectly groomed for events like Gather and Applefest. Thank you for your work.
- ✓ Love Harcourt. I have lived here for over 30 years. Love the environment and want to see it protected.
- ✓ I like: not too many people, but everyone gathers for markets and festivals; the rural and bush nature; the kangaroos.
- ✓ I like that you (the Heritage Centre) have kept articles from Harcourt people, war veterans etc and domestic refrigeration. This comment was tagged by someone else with the words, 'I agree'.

What needs to change

- Put a childproof fence around the children's playground.
- Redirect the large trucks away from the centre of Harcourt.
- Stop too many subdivisions/houses. Harcourt must remain 'rural' not 'suburban'.
- We need a stage for James Park.
- We need a cycling path between Castlemaine and Harcourt.
- Plant more indigenous plants around Harcourt.



Frances Collins (left) and Solway Nutting at the listening post during Gather Harcourt.

The Swagmen of the Thirties

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, swagmen were a fairly common sight around country roads. They were called swagmen because they carried their only possessions in a swag wrapped in a bundle on their backs. They walked from town to town looking for work wherever they could find it, sleeping under trees or wherever they

could find a bit of shelter.

Where I grew up just after World War 2 in a small country town north of York Peninsula in South Australia, an old swagman lived at the end of the road that ran past our house. He was known around the town as 'Gunner Bill' because he could only see out of one eye, just as someone might do

if they were taking aim from a gun. He had been a swagman before the war and was then retired into a small ragged tent at the end of our road. Each afternoon he would walk down to the local pub and as he staggered past our place on his way home, he'd call out to our cows in the paddock, 'Merry Christmas cows!'

The Swagman's Christmas

Melva Graham

Through the trees the sun came winking,
Lighting tussocks sand hills bare,
While the magpies' morning carols
Stirred the sleeping figure there.

From a bed of bough and bushes,
Covered by a swag and hat,
The swag man Rose quite stiffly,
Then on a log he sat.

By the log, as chance would have it,
Was a small plant that he knew;
When a child his mother told him
Elves lived in those flowers blue.

As a breeze stirred trees above him
His mother's face seemed to appear;
Again he heard her soft sweet voice,
And he wiped away a tear.

His face was brown and withered,
With wild beard and tangled hair;
His clothes were worn and dusty,
His shoes the worse for wear.

Though long gone from foreign trenches
Where he'd rallied to the cause,
He was still haunted by the horror
Of the 'War to End all Wars'.

So he'd taken swag and billy,
And headed down the track'
Though conscious of his father's tears,
There was no turning back.

For years this lonely figure,
Dark thoughts his shiralee,
Trudged tracks around the farmlands,
Often sleeping 'neath a tree.

Now shouldering a swag and billy,
The next farm down the track
Had three stones on the gate post,
Meaning 'Swaggie don't come back!'

There were visitors at the next farm,
Barking dogs chased him away,
He was hot and tired and hungry,
He'd eaten nothing all that day.

One rock set on the next post,
He knew he'd called there once or twice;
He pleaded for 'a bite to eat',
And 'tea for m' billy'd be nice'.

Behind his wife the farmer called,
'It's Christmas day, so go!'
'Our inn has room,' she pleaded,
'Unlike that one so long ago.'

'There's a wash bowl on the tank stand,
And with food enough for three;
Dump your swag on the veranda,
Come and share our Christmas tea!'



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Labor

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DELIVERS STRONGER BROADBAND FOR MOUNT ALEXANDER

The Australian Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to strengthen the National Broadband Network, with residents and small businesses in the Mount Alexander Shire able to access superfast broadband speeds following upgrades to the Fixed Wireless network.

Made possible by the Australian Government's \$480 million investment to upgrade the network, the Fixed Wireless Plus wholesale plan has been boosted to peak speeds of up to 100/20 megabits per second (Mbps), higher than the previous peak speed on Fixed Wireless Plus of up to 75/10 Mbps.

This also means regional consumers on the existing 75/10 Fixed Wireless plan have already been automatically upgraded to 100/20 megabit per second plan. Several towns within

the Mount Alexander Shire rely on the Fixed Wireless network, including Guildford, Chewton and Harcourt.

About 120,000 homes nationally will be moved from nbn satellite to the Fixed Wireless footprint by the time the upgrade program is complete in December 2024.

Demand for data and faster speeds in regional Australia is higher than ever before. Faster broadband speeds enable the whole family to be online at the same time, whether it be videoconferencing for work, enjoying high definition movies, undertaking remote learning or accessing telehealth services.

Available via broadband retailers from July, NBN Co is also releasing two new higher speed tiers for Fixed Wireless services, which offer

speeds close to double the original commitments under the nbn Fixed Wireless and Satellite Upgrade Program:

Fixed Wireless Home Fast plan with 200-250/8-20 Mbps peak wholesale speeds, which will become available to around 90 per cent of the Fixed Wireless coverage area by the end of this year; and

Fixed Wireless Superfast plan with 400/10-40 Mbps peak wholesale speeds, which will become available to around 80 per cent of the Fixed Wireless coverage area by the end of this year.

For more information on the NBN Fixed Wireless upgrades visit www.nbnco.com.au/residential/upgrades/more-fixed-wireless

From a press release by Lisa Chesters, Federal Member for Bendigo

Anti-social Behaviour in Harcourt

While burnouts have been going on for a surprisingly long time at the North Harcourt turn off and on the old highway, it's very disappointing to see that Harcourt has become the target for an additional type of anti-social behaviour – graffiti.

Police have been making their presence felt in Harcourt from time to time, but perhaps it is now time for more regular patrols.



Young artists and designers encouraged to let the creativity flow



Coliban Water is hoping to discover the next group of budding young artists as part of this year's National Water Week Poster Competition.

The annual competition sees students design a poster that promotes water-related messages and themes.

Executive General Manager Customer and Stakeholder Experience, Lauren McLean, said junior artists are encouraged to create a poster that reflects this year's theme, 'Water for all, Inspiring Action', which is focussed on the importance of clean water.

"Water is a part of everyone's lives and inspiring people to take action to ensure a sustainable water future is an important and timely theme," she said.

"It's the perfect reason for our local students to get out the paints and crayons, sharpen their pencils, and let their creativity flow."

All students from local preschools, primary schools, and individual artists in our region are encouraged to take part in the competition.

"We've seen some terrific entries in

the past and are hoping for the same again from students in our region," she said.

The competition, which is now open, closes Friday 6 September with winners announced during National Water Week which runs from 21-27 October.

Judges will pick winners based on how well the poster reflects this year's theme, how it communicates water-related issues, the sort of imagery and design used, whether art materials have been effectively used and the overall look of the poster.

Entries will be divided into prep/foundation, Grade 1-2, Grade 3-4, and Grade 5-6.

All students will receive a participation certificate, but a selection of great prizes will be awarded to the students judged to have the first, second and third best designs.

All participating preschools and primary schools will also

enter the draw to win \$250 towards a sustainability project. Last year's winner, Heathcote Primary School, put their prize towards a greenhouse.

Posters should be A4 or A3 in size with high-resolution, high-quality images submitted in JPG or PNG formats. Uploaded files are limited to 20MB. Original posters can either be scanned or photographed.

For competition details visit connect.coliban.com.au/national-water-week-poster-competition



One of the winning posters from 2023. This is by Audrey from Goornong Primary School, 2023.

Harcourt Walking Group

Meet others in our community, get to know the local area, and greatly reduce your risk of chronic illness

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Harcourt Heritage Centre

Harcourt Ladies Hospital Auxiliary

The Harcourt Ladies Hospital Auxiliary was formed at a meeting in the ANA Hall on 24 August, 1926. Twenty-three ladies were present; the newspaper reported that the proceedings were very enthusiastic.

The meeting had been called by Mrs Rex Thompson, Lilian Thompson, who was 32 years of age and had brought Mrs McCreery and Matron Ross to Harcourt to explain the work that a Ladies Auxiliary could undertake. Matron suggested the urgent need of pillows – each lady present agreed to provide one, forthwith. A further request by the matron was for bedside chairs. The ladies decided to consider this request at a meeting to be held in a week's time.

Three days after this inaugural meeting, nine of the ladies, led by Mrs Pellas, visited the Castlemaine Hospital, inspected the wards and were entertained at afternoon tea by the president of the Hospital Committee, the matron and nursing staff. At the follow-up meeting, the ladies organised a euchre party and dance to be held in the ANA Hall in September and set out plans to hold a bazaar on 23 October. The Harcourt Ladies Hospital Auxiliary was off to a good start.

We pause here to reflect on the involvement of Mrs Lilian Thompson of Pine Lodge (269 Reservoir Road, Harcourt). Mrs Thompson's husband was one of the proprietors of Thompsons Castlemaine engineering works. Her late mother-in-law, Mrs Bessie Thompson, had been a long-serving treasurer of the Castlemaine Ladies Benevolent Society. Lilian Thompson's brother-in-law, Doctor James Thompson, was a highly respected doctor and, in 1926, was the president of the Castlemaine Hospital Committee. The hospital, which was founded in 1860, was then in Gingell Street, on the slope between the Castlemaine prison and the railway station.

The accomplishments of Harcourt's small band of volunteers in those early days were quite impressive. From the outset, the members supplied hundreds of kilograms of jams and preserves to the hospital. This was no small effort, involving peeling and cutting up plums, apricots and

peaches, boiling them up on the wood stove in huge preserving pans before bottling. Donations of jam arrived at every meeting. In the strained economic days of 1929 and 1930, the auxiliary purchased a large quantity of sugar to be used by the members in jam making. In 1933, the president reported that 666lbs (302 kg) of jam had been delivered to the hospital during the year. It seems that six ladies supplied most of the jam, up to 200 jars of jam each!

Apart from donations of produce, the auxiliary raised funds through collections, dances, social afternoons and competitions. Over the years, the auxiliary supplied a refrigerator, an ether plant, food trolleys, vaporisers, crockery, chairs, beds, a polisher, vacuum cleaner, fracture frame, trays and bassinets.

The auxiliary had been formed in August. By October the ladies had recruited many helpers and now numbered 74 members (in later years the membership stabilised at about 35 ladies).

A colorful account of the bazaar held by the Harcourt Ladies Hospital Auxiliary was printed in the *Castlemaine Mail* of 26 October 1926. It provides a glimpse into the social and financial aspects of life in Harcourt at that time. The grand bazaar was held in the ANA Hall from 2.30 pm until late

Come to Harcourt



Harcourt's busy hospital auxiliary. From left: Mesdames M. Wilson, A. A. Gaasch, C. A. Bertuck [sic] (pres.), W. Gaasch (sec.), R. Warren, E. Blume, and G. Douglas. From the Weekly Times 9 December 1953 via Trove. The issue features a full page spread of photos of groups in Harcourt – the ANA, CWA, preschool, carpet bowlers, the co-op and RSL.

evening. All the goods on offer were donated by residents of the district. The *Castlemaine Mail* listed the stalls: -

- Produce stall (fruit, vegetables, jams and preserves),
- Novelty or White Elephant stall. (secondhand crockery, ornaments, utensils and glassware),
- Cake stall,
- Work stall (aprons, cross-stitch tablecloths, doileys, crocheted rugs, beaded milk-jug covers, baby clothes),
- Sweets stall,
- Poppy stall,
- Pot plants.

Older readers of the *Core* will remember that this mode of fundraising was carried on well into the 1950s. Not content with the large sum raised at the Grand Bazaar, the ladies then organised a Harcourt Charities Sunday Gathering to be held at the Reservoir at the end of November. the Honorable HSW Lawson arranged for Sir Alexander Peacock to give an inspiring address, the foundry band played a number of selections, and a collection was taken in aid of the Hospital.

The yearly calendar of monthly meetings, concerts and cake stalls, bazaar, picnic and hospital visits was kept up for many years. From time

Continued next page →

Harcourt Heritage Centre

Continued from page 16

to time, Mrs Rex Thompson gave an interesting talk to the members during social afternoons.

Auxiliary members worked feverishly between meetings. Some were deputised to visit the hospital to discuss how the funds were to be spent. Others distributed sewing material among the members for them to make into clothing and useful household articles. Members were rostered two-by-two to visit the sick in hospital each fortnight

Hedley James' notes regarding the Harcourt Ladies Hospital Auxiliary peter out in 1936, but the auxiliary kept on going well after that date. Many Harcourt residents were present at the official opening of Castlemaine's new hospital in Halford St in 1939.

The Auxiliary was still going strong when, in 1959, they celebrated 33 years of operation to coincide with a 'back-to-Harcourt'. Inevitably there was an overlap with the activities of the Harcourt Country Women's Association. In 1931 it had been requested that the monthly meeting of the hospital auxiliary be held at 2 pm, immediately preceding the meeting of the CWA.

Speaking in 1926, Dr James Thompson praised the prodigious effort, purposeful fundraising and selfless work of volunteers throughout the district, not only to keep the doors of the hospital open, but to make it ahead of similar institutions throughout Victoria. It was an era in which proper funding for hospitals was neglected while parliamentarians fought and scrambled for office, leaving the residents of the district to voluntarily accept responsibility for the upkeep of the hospital.

The auxiliary wound down its activities as government funding of the public health system gradually improved over the years, and the hospital became less reliant on the efforts of volunteers. The last eight members of the Harcourt Ladies Hospital Auxiliary held their final meeting on December 22nd, 1989, thus concluding 63 years' work supporting the Castlemaine Hospital and its patients.

Compiled for *The Core* from C H James' files at Harcourt Heritage Centre.



Harcourt Football Netball Club



Photo: A mighty leap. Harcourt vs Trentham in round 4.

After round 11 on 29 June, the Harcourt senior footy team dropped to second place after a shattering loss to Natte Bealiba (the Swans). This was the first loss for Harcourt in 35 games and will spur the team on in round 12 on Saturday 6 July.

On the last Saturday in June, both teams came into the game unbeaten this season. There was an even tussle until the third quarter when five goals to one meant that the Swans were able to take the win by 26 points, and premiership favouritism with it.

Going into Round 12 on July 6, the Harcourt Seniors will be facing the Maryborough Giants who dropped out of the eight after a loss in Round 11. They will be determined to climb back into the top ranks against Harcourt.

At the time of writing (July 4), Harcourt Reserves are on top of the ladder despite having played only 10 games with 36 points. They are ahead of Lexton on percentage, also on 36 points.

Review Round 11 Netball Seniors

Natte Bealiba (the Swans) defeated Harcourt by 47 goals on Saturday 29 June. The Swans were dominant from the outset scoring 20 goals to 5 in the opening term.

Harcourt, to their credit, played better in the second term, but it was still the Swans who won the quarter, scoring 17 goals to 11 to lead 37 to 16 at the main change.

Natte Bealiba continued to be relentless in the third term, and they eased their way to victory, the final score being 74 to 27.

Round 12 Netball Seniors: Maryborough Giants v Harcourt Lions

The Giants have a top two spot in their sights and will look to repeat their convincing win from their earlier meeting against the Harcourt Lions this season.

Harcourt will be hoping to play some competitive netball at the very least – a quick look at their draw for the remainder of the season shows a very tough draw, with all their remaining opponents in the top eight.

The Lions have a very young line-up. Allowing many of their talented junior premiership players into higher grades of netball is likely to give positive results towards the end of the season.

MCDENL Rounds for the next month

Round 13: July 13: Harcourt v Maldon
Round 14: July 20: Avoca v Harcourt
Round 15: July 27: Harcourt Bye
Round 16: Aug 3: Harcourt v Trentham

MCDENL 2024 Ladder Positions as at 5 July for Harcourt Teams

FOOTBALL

- 2 Harcourt Seniors
- 1 Harcourt Reserves
- 10 Harcourt Under 17.5
- 3 Harcourt Under 14.5
- 9 Harcourt Under 11.5

NETBALL

- 11 Harcourt A Grade
- 4 Harcourt B Grade
- 7 Harcourt C Grade
- 4 Harcourt 17 & under
- 3 Harcourt 15 & under
- 12 Harcourt 13 & Under
- 11 Harcourt 11 & Under

Region's historic water significance in the spotlight

Coliban Water recently played host to representatives from Heritage Victoria as part of the bid to have the Victorian Goldfields listed on the World Heritage List.

General Manager Water and Climate Strategy, Adam Cramer, said if successful the region would become the 21st site in Australia on the list.

'Across our region we have a wealth of rich cultural, natural, and engineering history and we'd be excited to see this recognised on the world stage,' he said.

The City of Greater Bendigo and the City of Ballarat are the lead councils from a consortium of 15 local councils leading the the push to have the Goldfields added to the list.

According to UNESCO, the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage recognises that certain places on Earth are of 'outstanding universal value' and should form part of the common heritage of humankind.

The agency seeks to encourage the identification, protection, and

preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

'The Goldfields region is widely known for its rich history in mining, migration and cultural values, but our focus has been specifically on showcasing our fantastic water history, including significant gravity fed channels, basins, storages and valves,' Mr Cramer said.

Mr Cramer said the tour, involving representatives from Heritage Victoria and its experts took in a range of sites across the region, including the Coliban Main Channel, Brennans Tunnel, Crusoe Reservoir, the cistern, and Specimen Hill gold diggings.

'The Coliban Main Channel was a key piece of infrastructure that brought water to the goldfields in the 1860s and is still a source of reliable drinking water for Bendigo today.

'Without access to water, the Goldfields and mining communities would not have been able to function or survive,' he explained.

'Water is supplied from the Upper Coliban, Lauriston and Malmsbury Reservoirs near Kyneton, it then makes its way to Bendigo via purpose-built tunnels, most around three metres wide.

'The dissipaters along the Coliban Main Channel are considered an engineering marvel. They effectively slow the flow of water down the face of steep hillsides,' Mr Cramer said.

The tour group acknowledged the importance of the water infrastructure in supporting the growth of the Goldfields.

The Victorian government committed \$3.8 million in the 2023/24 budget to progress two World Heritage nomination projects, including the Goldfields bid. Work is underway by both councils and the government to progress the bid onto the World Heritage Tentative List, where it can then be assessed by UNESCO in coming years.

From a media release by Coliban Water (www.coliban.com.au/regions-historic-water-significance-spotlight)

*Just a reminder, though it may be cold ...
spring is on the way.*



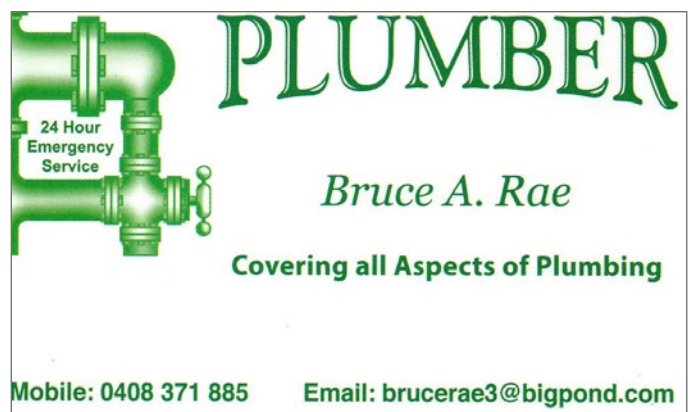
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The Signal Box – an Epic Journey



1: Bendigo Box A where it originally stood at the Bendigo Railway Station. Unknown Photographer, 15/8/1989, www.stationspast.net/.../bendigo-area/bendigo-a-box/



2: The signal box at the rear of the private residence in Bendigo.



3: The signal box ready to move from Bendigo



4: The signal box as at July 4, 2024

On a recent visit to VMR, it was exciting to see work progressing on the renovation of the 8 metre high signal box built in 1921, which was once Signal Box A at the Bendigo Railway Station (Photo 1).

It was sold in 1990 to a collector who then moved to the USA. The new owner bought the land with the box on it in 2018. After the sale of the box fell through the owner contacted VMR and offered it for free if VMR organised its removal (Photo 2).

It was 'de-constructed for removal to the site at VMR in 2021 and there it sat for three years waiting for its revival (Photo 3).

VMR President, Andrew Mierisch said, 'It's very satisfying to have rescued the signal box and have it as a show piece for VMR. We are aiming to get it watertight very soon and then finish the details. It is made of hardwood so it has survived the time out in the weather very well. We are pleased to offer the building to the Harcourt Lions Club as a clubhouse. We intend to renovate it so it has all the exterior features of the original' (Photo 4).

Work on the miniature railway station continues apace with gravel laid between the two station platforms, ready for the railway lines to be laid. Other unique features which are on the way to completion include a large water tank to supply water to the engines and a miniature signal box at the south end of the platforms (Photo 5).



5: The miniature signal box.

Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

Jesus taught many things that run contrary to the way the world thinks and acts. Take for example the following passage. In my Study Bible the heading is Love for Enemies.

But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. (This has become known as the 'Golden Rule')

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High (God), because he (God) is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful just as your Father (God) is merciful.

In the Anglican Church, years ago, at this point the minister would say something along the lines of 'This is the word of the Lord' and we would all reply 'Thanks be to God.' Amen – so be it.

Ps Roger Thurecht

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Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht

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gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt



Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips

Get ready to graft



Hi everyone,

Hopefully you've been enjoying this lovely wintry weather. If you're finding it a bit too cold, rest assured that your fruit trees absolutely love and, in fact, need it. It also signals the perfect time to prune your trees. So, rug up, grab your secateurs, and get into the garden!

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

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

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

Grafting is a fantastic way to turn a seedling or a sucker into a useful fruiting tree. Plum seedlings or

unwanted cherryplum trees are one of the most useful. They make a good rootstock for both plums and apricots, and you can even graft peaches and nectarines onto them (though the results are not as reliable).

If you want to give grafting peaches and nectarines a go, we recommend trying it in summer, using the summer grafting technique known as 'budding'. Remember, budding works best in one-year-old wood, so if you want to convert an old tree, cut it down before spring to stimulate lots of new growth.

Here's how to successfully collect scion wood:

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

Thanks to everyone who bought trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery this year. It's great to see how many locals are putting in new fruit trees, especially some of the older heritage apple varieties. Sales through the website have now closed, but we'll have plenty more (including lots of multigrafts) next year.

Looking after your worm farm

On another topic, here's a tip for looking after your worm farm over winter. Worms don't like to be cold, so add an extra layer of insulation by covering with underfelt or old carpet. If you only have a small worm farm, move it into a shed or the laundry to provide some extra protection from the elements. It's important to look after them, or you may find that your worms have died or escaped!

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



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Council news

Council establishes affordable housing trust

We're progressing plans to make affordable housing possible for more people in our shire by establishing an affordable housing trust.

The trust will be an independent charitable organisation that will hold land and funds for the development of affordable housing locally.

The next steps will see the appointment of trust advisory committee members, a trustee, and call for pledges of land and money from community members.

Learn more about the trust and what we're doing to address affordable housing in our shire at shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

All aboard the community wellbeing bus

Did you know that our friendly volunteers drive from Mount Alexander Shire to Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays? It's a great way to stay social and active!

Plus, it's only \$5 and carer's ride for free.

To book, call 5471 1797 or email info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Read our 2024-2025 Budget

The 2024-2025 Budget outlines our priorities for the upcoming financial year.

Read highlights and learn more about the budget at mountalexandervic.gov.au.

Working together for a healthy, connected shire
mountalexander.vic.gov.au (03) 5471 1700



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Let us know by sending the person's details to: news@harcourt.vic.au

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12 months	\$120	1/2 page	\$80
		Full page	\$160

Castlemaine Bus Lines

Harcourt Services Monday to Friday

	am	pm	pm
Market St/Harmony Way (Harcourt)	8:55	12:10	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

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



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

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30 Templeton St
(enter via back door/garden)

For Information phone Chris 5470 5508

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castlemainerepaircafe.wordpress.com

SUDOKU Difficulty: Medium

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

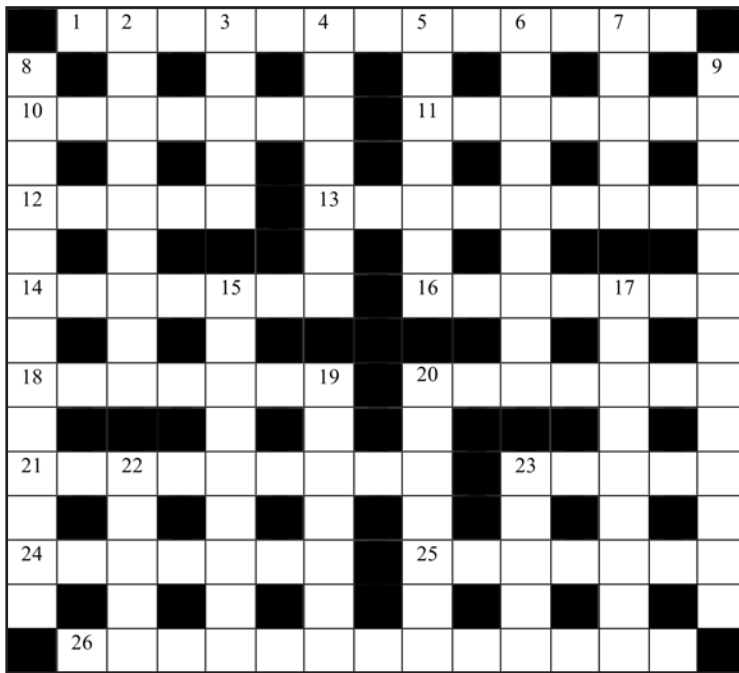
	6		3		8			1
			9	7	6		3	
		2				5		
	3	7	5				4	9
6		1						8
					9		2	
		3	8		4			
			2	5				6

Last month's solution

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

July 2024 Xword

© McW April '15



Down:

- 2 Between ready French I sort-of translate... (9)
- 3 She adds thanks to endless evil in the Americas. (5)
- 4 Poor hen doesn't have a show... (2-5)
- 5 Speakers for a conceptual scheme? (4-3)
- 6 After the Pole, was maternal to the point of asphyxiation... (9)
- 7 In Strine, arsenic comes close to the middle... (5)
- 8 Decision-time for kitchen utensil stuck in the bitumen? (4,2,3,4)
- 9 A finger in the dyke won't stop the flow from this outlet in the bank. (4,2,3,4)
- 15 Prim, shunted none-too-quietly into being rash. (9)
- 17 More Thomas than Thomas? (9)
- 19 At home, Friar eats with gusto. (5,2)
- 20 Some think we need one, but the shame is to have a false one... (7)
- 22 Hals's painting might suffer this from a vandal. (5)
- 23 Dark part of the psyche to the fore, it ran at less than 900 RPM. (5)

Across:

- 1 Form up one after the other on beach for a sticking point. Will furrow end in the snail? (4,2,3,4)
- 10 Wealthy drunk, discombobulated, heads into first across, finally. (7)
- 11 Same colour as girls watching him ride down the street in his opulent American car. (7)
- 12 Motor-Mum the sound of destiny? (5)
- 13 After the sudden alacrity comes the alacrity? (4-5)
- 14 More jumpy if Religious Instruction permeates the big no-no? (7)
- 16 Activates offspring through 90s. (5,2)
- 18 Take pot-shot at temperature concentration. (3,4)
- 20 Creature that burrows in the ooze, possibly in 18ac—humid SF indeed! (7)
- 21 About the origins of rivers, human ones are just humans... (9)
- 23 I won't be pulled, but I am! (2,3)
- 24 Aw... snake writhes and rouses. (7)
- 25 Grudge-bearing sick playwright. (3,4)
- 26 Photograph of Venus has to be guesswork... (4,2,3,4)

June 2024 Xword Solution

© McW 25 September '15



Down:

- 1. What you might come across wandering solo, like an overcast sky? [**Well?** "...lonely as a cloud"!]
- 2. [It isn't game] to be less than certain; [it isn't a gem], either, surveying thus. ([I'm a testing] routine, sometimes...)
- 3. Made it respectable after [it died] and curled up. [6]
- 4. At least clap twice for dual pap.
- 5. Lets go about [re:] rental agreements [note lack of apostrophe...]
- 6. Junior continent sounds between pews. [**Well?**]
- 7. Huns may [clomp] around east to make us do their bidding.
- 13. [Lice] with [acumen] may present as representing everyone.
- 15. [Rip phone] off the wall, put it [in hopper] and dance one of these!
- 17. No longer needed for sender of mobile message when complete? [**Hard for under-50s to remember what we put the phone back onto...**]
- 18. Pig on wheels? [**Well?**]
- 20. The sound of a frayed rope makes me more than anxious!
- 21. Charm [Vtr.] taken to extremes in Python film [**The Holy Grail**]. [6]
- 23. Concocted view? [**Well? The side elevation was probably 'concocted' too!**]

Across:

- 8. Printmaker gets the wrong idea? [**Well?**]
- 9. Has the imprimatur [if coal; if solar, it hasn't.
- 10. Take one container from wobbly [Mexican pet] and not have to pay the fee.
- 11. [Third] cause of Hundred Years' War [**Sorry!**]
- 12. [Yum! Eels 'n] gravy, with little boys on the side! Why do you take it amiss? You think it's this?
- 14. Sounds not much, usually [off-hand] but missing a loud pedal (and if it were as it sounds, [slight'], you'd take it amiss).
- 16. [**Que? Rats**] I need one of these to angle the drawings properly.
- 19. Impromptu court for bloke hopping into a neighbour?
- 21. Cloudburst might regularly medicate stock. [**Well?**]
- 22. Stumble on journey to Cairns (from Melbourne or Ballarat)? [**or Sydney, even...**]
- 24. Princess, [Di] gin [spirit], the works—it's enough to make you lose your mojo...
- 25. What wharfies did to [disappear import?]

**September
28th, 2024**

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