

HARCOURT NEWS THE CORE



Edition 118 – August 2024

Produced by: Harcourt Progress Association Inc

Online: harcourtprogress.org.au/news or harcourt.vic.au/news

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT



FAMILY, FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS were keen to mark Colin Mierisch's milestone 80th birthday in a way that was most meaningful to this powerhouse of a man, and what better way than for him to drive the J549 steam train on its return journey from Castlemaine to Maldon.

To say that trains are the focus of Colin's retirement would be an understatement as he and his family, volunteers, the Lions Club and even the local secondary school have 'blasted' their way through Harcourt's hardest granite, planning requirements and COVID to create what will be the longest miniature train track in the southern hemisphere.

The engines that have been built by VMR are works of art; perfect little replicas of engines of all types. We are fortunate that the VMR chose Harcourt for this ambitious and exciting project. Not only is it a model of a volunteer project, but it also adds to the growing number of enterprises in Harcourt.

Colin, an engineer in his past working life, is a man of many skills and interests. Apart from his love and expertise in 7¼ inch railways, he is an expert horologist. Not only did he make the clock on the miniature replica of Maryborough's station which graces the hillside alongside Harmony Way, he has also made other innovative clocks, including one from engine parts (pictured above).



Colin is now a permanent resident of Harcourt, and we look forward to many more years of his innovations as the miniature railway nears completion. Many happy returns, Colin!

CONTENTS

- Community Diary→2
- HPA→3
- Redlands Orchards Update→4
- Harcourt Valley Landcare→5
- Harcourt Uniting Church→6
- Harcourt Carpet Bowls→6
- Word of the Month→6
- Coolstore for coffee→7
- Harcourt CFA→8
- Councillor Comment→9
- Harcourt Lions Club→9
- Harcourt CWA→10
- Dhelkaya Health→12
- Book Launches→14
- Linda Newton Art→15
- The Heritage Centre→16
- Harcourt Valley Primary School→17
- Weather & Water→18
- Harcourt Football Netball Club→19
- Grace Church→19
- Gardening→20
- Council News→21
- Repair Cafe Dates→22
- Sudoku→22
- Crossword→23

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.**



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

With over 100 local volunteer presenters with a passion for radio, our programs are varied and diverse with over 70 shows across the program grid, transmitting 24 hours a day and streaming online via mainfm.net

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Community Diary

Friday August 9: 6 pm AGM Harcourt Valley Landcare, Five Flags Hotel, Campbells Creek.

Monday August 12: Junior Girls Footy Come and Try, 5 – 6 pm Harcourt Recreation Reserve.

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

Thursday August 15: 1.30 pm Harcourt CWA Association Day. For details see the back page of this edition.

Sunday August 18: 1.30 pm Fireside Chat, Details see page 17.

Sunday August 25: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare and Barkers Creek Landcare joint working bee on Barkers Creek Harcourt. Details: info@harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Thursday August 29: 10.30 am Harcourt Historical Walking Tour. Details see page 12.

Sunday September 1: Closure of 3G phone network. See page 7 for information.

Sunday September 15: 10 am Harcourt Valley Landcare, Wildflower Walk, Flora Reserve, Bingham's Road, Harcourt.

Friday 25 October: Postal voting in this year's council elections closes at 6pm.

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

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

Harcourt Bowls Club: www.harcourtbowlingclub.com.au

Harcourt Lions Club: Third 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 pm by general planning and discussion.

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

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

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 Meet the New Chairperson

Building on the considerable work that had been completed by the previous Harcourt Progress Association committees, the new HPA Board members are working tirelessly to ensure our collective success. Heading the new Board is the Chairperson, Jeanette Teague, who grew up in Harcourt and has worked for many years with Neighbourhood Houses in Gippsland. With her husband John, originally from Sutton Grange, they now have retired and moved back to Harcourt.

Jeanette (nee McLean) is a fourth-generation daughter of Harcourt orchardists, being the eldest child of Max and Tuppy McLean. She and John lived for many years in Gippsland, where she spent almost 30 years working either in the neighbourhood house sector, as the Coordinator of the Moe Neighbourhood House, or in various government departments supporting and as a consultant, for the 36 neighbourhood houses spread across the Gippsland region.

Jeanette has recently joined the HPA with a view to being part of a team establishing the Harcourt Valley Community House situated at the old Harcourt railway station. As elected Chairperson, she hopes to bring her years of experience, both with neighbourhood / community houses and with community organisations, to add to this endeavour.

The journey is well underway but there is more to be done. More details in next month's *Core*.

Bronnie Dean

Toilets at Stanley Park

Among the initiatives earmarked in Council's 24-25 budget is investigation works into the installation of toilets in Stanley Park.



This is good news indeed as the centrally located facility at James Park is used by all and sundry and comes in for heavy use during Applefest and Harcourt Gather events, and additional facilities near the playground will be very convenient.

Local event bridges generations, connecting seniors and youth



Mount Alexander Shire Council's latest event for senior residents was an intergenerational games day.

The event was a collaboration between Council's Community Wellbeing team and Youth Advisory Committee, who ran the event.

The day was Paris Olympic themed, and included trivia, craft, theatre games, geo-guessing and muso bingo. Plus, prizes for the winning team.

"We wanted to run an intergenerational event to connect with the older generation of our community, something that a lot of young people don't get the chance to do," said Thea Sydes, Youth Advisory Group member.

"It was an absolutely amazing day and we all learned so much about, and from, each other, and played lots of fun games!"

"Events like this are so important for young people and older people to feel a sense of community, and an understanding respect and love for

other generations."

Council's Manager Community Wellbeing, Rosalie Rogers, said that Council runs lots of events for senior residents, in addition to aged care services.

"Making sure our seniors stay socially connected is very important to us here at Council," said Ms Rogers.

"We have a weekly program of events that are well-attended, but this is first time since before Covid that we've run a special games day between our senior and young residents.

"The event was our Youth Advisory Group's idea and they were the ones who spearheaded the day.

"They organised everyone, ran the games and handed out prizes.

"It was a joyful day and hopefully we can make this a regular event here at Council."

Council offers a weekly program of social activities for shire residents over the age of 65, including lunches, day drips, games groups and exercise classes.

The program can be found at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/SocialConnection.

For more information, call Monte Macpherson, Council's Community Wellbeing Business Support Officer, on 5471 1797.

Reporters for today

A MONBULK boy and a Harcourt girl have been judged the best Young Sun reporters for today.

They are **LENNARD CURRIE**, aged 11, Fairy Dell-rd., Monbulk, and **JUDITH CRUICKSHANK**, 10½ years, of Harcourt.

Each receives £1 and has been considered for the weekly free bicycles, the winners of which will be announced on Monday.

Sun-News Pictorial
16.10.1954 via Trove

JUDITH wrote:—
You have all, by now, read of the bad late frost that destroyed so much of the Harcourt fruit crop.

Acres and acres of fruit trees, mainly apples and pears, had flowered and the trees were beginning to form fruit, but the frost ruined the harvest for many of the orchardists.

The orchardists have hundreds of pots of oil placed throughout their orchards.

When a frost threatens they set the oil on fire and the burning oil forms a dense black smoke screen over the district.

The smoke is to prevent the frost from forming, but this night the frost was severe enough to defy the smoke screen.

perature being as low as 26 deg.

The orchardists have a device which registers the temperature each night and when nearing freezing point, an alarm bell is set ringing in their homes and they all have to rush out and set fire to the pots of oil.

There is also a new invention in some of the orchards. This machine draws down air from above the frozen atmosphere and broadcasts it over the fruit trees.

This late frost, however, being one of the coldest on record, has, in spite of the precautions taken by the fruit growers, greatly reduced the harvest.

To compete in this contest, fill in the coupon on the next page and post your entry to Young Sun Contest, Box 2155T, G.P.O., Melbourne.



Plans for Harcourt's Orchards

In February, *The Core* reported on the purchase of Thompsons Orchards by Redlands. Community members will have noticed further activity at the various sites which Redlands owns.

This month, *The Core* had a chat with the manager, Joe Sebire, to get a further update on the plans for this major patch of the local fruit industry.

While some readers may be alarmed at the removal of many sections of the orchard, Joe reported that there is a ten-year plan for renewal at Harcourt. He said, 'While it may look as if there has been a mass clearance, we still have thirty hectares of mature orchard and twenty-two hectares of young orchard in place. Another thirty hectares have been cleared to plant new varieties which are more marketable and suitable to the climate. The two varieties selected are Dazzle and Sassy, for which Redlands hold the exclusive licence.' Readers will see Dazzle apples at a number of the large supermarkets.

Joe said, 'The two blocks of youngest trees will be netted soon. These contain the Dazzle variety and should be ready for market this year. The replanting program to date is to establish a further ten hectares of Dazzle in 2026 and ten hectares of Sassy in 2027.'

Readers will also have noticed that one house on orchard land in Market Street has been demolished. Joe explained, 'Redlands program for renewal includes major improvements in housing for our workers. We are renovating where possible, establishing new transportable housing and demolishing when the houses are past repair. We intend to have accommodation for fifty workers at Harcourt. Redlands as a whole will employ 140 people from Vanuatu this year, whose employment is coordinated across all Redland properties. These workers are employed under the PALM (Pacific Australia Mobility Scheme) established and monitored by Federal Government departments. PALM sets the standards and requirements for employment and housing which Redlands is complying with. This puts us on a fair and level playing field for the employment of overseas workers. Redland is investing considerable funds into its Harcourt operation, which is good news for Harcourt, as land designated for rural use is being put to appropriate use.'

The Core has also learnt that Montague's Orchard, located near Barkers Creek Reservoir, has joined in a new venture with the Canadian company Pomona Valley, a subsidiary of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Pomona Valley is well established in the Goulburn Valley and grows and packs significant volumes of apples, pears and stonefruit in Victoria's Goulburn Valley.

The fruit industry was established in Harcourt in 1857 and has seen many changes, and it is good news that this rural industry has a strong future in Harcourt.



Enrol now for the Mount Alexander Shire Council election

Electoral Commissioner, Sven Bluemmel, has issued a call to state- and council-enrolled voters to be ready to cast their vote in the upcoming local council election for Mount Alexander Shire Council.

The Mount Alexander Shire Council election will be conducted by post – a safe and completely secret method of voting.

Electoral Commissioner, Sven Bluemmel, issued a call to Mount Alexander Shire residents and ratepayers to be ready to have their say.

'Make sure you're enrolled correctly by the close of roll, which is 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. As this is a postal election, it's important to check that your address details are correct – this includes any alternative postal address,' Mr Bluemmel said.

'If you're an Australian citizen and recently turned 18, or moved and haven't updated your address, or if you've just closed your post office box with Australia Post, you can enrol or update your details online at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment'

People living outside Mount Alexander Shire who pay rates for a property they own in Mount Alexander Shire, non-Australian citizens who occupy and pay rates on a property in Mount Alexander Shire, or a representative of a company or business operating in Mount Alexander Shire can apply to the council to enrol by calling 5471 1700.

Mr Bluemmel also reminded voters that the rules for council enrolments have recently changed.

'Voting in local council elections is now compulsory for all state- and council-enrolled voters. In previous elections it was not compulsory for council-enrolled voters to vote – now everyone must vote if they are on the voters' roll.'

Voters who will be away during the election period can have their ballot pack redirected to an address of their choice by completing a redirection form online at vec.vic.gov.au by Monday 9 September.

More information is available by calling 131 832 or at vec.vic.gov.au, where state-enrolled voters can also sign up to the free VoterAlert service to receive important election reminders by SMS and email.

From a press release by VEC



Why volunteer with Harcourt Valley Landcare?



There's a feeling you get after a working bee that lasts through the rest of Sunday. It's a feeling of connectedness, of being grounded, of belonging and of noticing the natural environment around you. There's also catching up on the local goss, discovering the names of plants and animals, sharing stories and advice, and eating yummy baked treats.

No more was this felt than with the working bee we shared with Barkers Creek Landcare in late July. We joined this adjacent Landcare group at the Old Tip Site on Peelers Rd, where 21 people planted 350 shrubs and grasses to complete the group's Pollinator Project with Connecting Country. Morning tea, was fantastic. We had to bake it up a notch, so we weren't out done!

Volunteering doesn't have to be a massive commitment. While we do have ten working bees a year, you can choose to do one, ten or none. Maybe you want help with your property or advice on which tree to plant? Maybe you want to learn about the rich history of Harcourt from people who have lived here for generations? Landcare can be what you want it to be. We are open to new ideas and new directions. And everyone is welcome – all genders, all brains, families of all shapes and sizes, singles, couples, young adults, retirees.

If you have ever thought about joining Landcare then why not come along to our next working bee on Sunday, August 25. Perhaps you feel a bit nervous about turning up to a new group? Drop us a line and we can look out for you when you arrive. Our next working bee will be in Harcourt with Barkers Creek Landcare returning the favour we extended to them, by offering their helping hands on a site we've been nurturing on behalf of the Harcourt community, for over 20 years. Check out our socials for details or reach out to us via our website www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org

Another way that Harcourt Valley Landcare contributes to our local community is through advocacy. Our group has advocated for four years, for a town-wide biodiversity audit to be included in the Plan Harcourt planning scheme amendment, to increase

knowledge about the creatures, plants and habitat we have in Harcourt and to ensure these are not lost as our town grows. With Stage 1 and 2 Strategic Biodiversity Audits complete, it's now crunch time: Mount Alexander Shire Council will decide on whether to pass the amendment at their August meeting. Our Landcare group will attend, to present our petition of over 1800 signatures, calling to Safeguard Harcourt's Wildlife Corridors by adopting the recommendations of the Stage 2 biodiversity audit.

See you at Landcare soon.

Terry Willis, President



Harcourt Valley LANDCARE

HARCOURT VALLEY LANDCARE'S
2024 AGM

HARCOURT VALLEY LANDCARE INVITES YOU TO JOIN US WHILE WE REFLECT ON THE PAST YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD.
DINNER FOLLOWED BY FORMALITIES.

9TH **AUGUST**
2024
FRIDAY
6:00 PM

AT THE FIVE FLAGS HOTEL, CAMPBELLS CREEK
RSVP BY RESPONDING TO THIS EMAIL BY AUGUST 2ND
INFO@HARCOURTVALLEYLANDCARE.COM

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU



Harcourt Uniting Church Frontier Services

Thanks to Solway for writing the Church article for July. We have been fortunate to have just spent a month caravanning in outback Queensland, travelling up to Winton, Longreach and surrounding areas. Each time we have been up that way, I'm in awe of the way people on the land cope with the isolation and remote lifestyle on their properties. You can't just 'pop down to the local shop for a loaf of bread'. In fact, their front gate might be more than ten kilometres from the homestead, and yet they are very resilient and inclined to not want to ask for help in a crisis.

Frontier Services is an organisation of the Uniting Church which can provide help for these families. On their website, they are described as 'An agency of the Uniting Church providing a helping hand and a listening ear to people in remote and outback Australia. Bush Chaplains travel tens of thousands of kilometres each year visiting families and communities to provide practical, pastoral and spiritual support to those in need'.

Just to have someone else to talk with over a cuppa might be all that's needed. Bush Chaplains might also be able to refer people to other service providers appropriate to their needs.

Another area of their work is Outback Links Volunteers. Volunteers are linked with people in remote Australia who are 'doing it tough'. These volunteers bring hope to those in need by simply 'turning up and showing that they care'. They need skilled and unskilled people, and all you need is some time, some compassion and commitment. Work might include helping in the home, minding children while the mother helps on the property, repairing a shed, painting, maintaining machinery, feeding stock or even managing a station while the family takes a break.

I have written about Frontier Services before, however, when we read in the media of all the problems in our country and the wider world, we need to be reminded of the kindness, care and respect being given by many people that doesn't make front page news!

Harcourt Uniting Church supports Frontier Services and their work showing people in remote areas that they care. You can read more by typing Frontier Services into your search engine.

Despite the recent Harcourt frosty mornings, you are invited to join us at 9.00 am any Sunday where you're guaranteed a warm welcome.

'Travel is educational, it teaches you how fast you can spend money.'

Jan Jenkin

Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association Inc.

The nights are cold but the Harcourt District Leisure Centre is lovely and warm with the heaters on.

Here is your reminder to come and see for yourself as the Harcourt Carpet Bowls Association invites you to join us as we hold a Carpet Bowls Tournament to raise much needed funds for the Castlemaine Legacy Group. No previous experience in playing bowls is needed as you can learn on the night with many others who are giving it a go.

WHERE AND WHEN

THE HARCOURT DISTRICT LEISURE CENTRE

Binghams Road, Harcourt

WEDNESDAY, 14th August 2024

7.30 pm (arrive at 7.15pm to be put in a team)

\$5.00 entry for three games

Prizes for the winners

A RAFFLE will be held and drawn on the night with some great prizes.

Followed by a Delicious Homemade Supper for all.

Note the date and come along and have a fun night to support a worthy cause: Castlemaine Legacy Group.

Information: John 5474 2226 or Loretta: 5474 2453

Training: Generative AI and its business applications

Generative AI is here, but do you know much about how you could make it work for your business? TAFE NSW is offering a free course covering the fundamentals of generative AI and its application to various routine business functions. It covers its use in generating images and text content, with an introduction to tools readily available.

Duration: 3-5 hours

Delivery: Online (self-paced)

Cost: Free

Learn more about Generative AI: store.training.tafensw.edu.au/product/generative-ai-and-its-business-applications/

From the Shire website

Word of the Month: Petrichor

Definition: The heady smell of rain on dry soil.

About the Word

The term 'petrichor' was born out of scientific curiosity and cultural fascination. Coined in 1964 by two Australian scientists, Isabel Joy Bear and Richard Thomas, it's a fusion of the Greek words 'petra', meaning stone,

and 'ichor', which in Greek mythology referred to the ethereal golden fluid flowing in the veins of the gods. The researchers used this term to capture the unique scent produced when rain interacts with parched earth.

Quoted from a very interesting article at: www.miragenews.com/why-we-love-roma-of-rain-the-science-behind-1011064

The article discusses how sensitive we are to petrichor, its origins and possible genetic and evolutionary advantages.

Are you prepared for the 3G switchover?

Message from Lisa Chesters –
Federal Member for Bendigo

From September 2024, the 3G network will be shut down across Australia. Some constituents have raised concerns about this. This has been coming for quite some time, and the Federal Government has been working closely with industry to minimise the impact to customers.

In anticipation of the switchover, telcos have been working to upgrade all existing 3G sites with 4G technology to create equivalent 4G coverage in areas where 3G only coverage exists today.

The shutdown of the 3G network will free up low frequency spectrum, further improving access to 4G and 5G.

If you have an older device that can only access the 3G network, you must upgrade your device. This includes mobile phones, tablets, smart watches, eftpos machines, personal emergency response

solutions, and medical alarms.

These devices will no longer be able to access mobile network services, and 3G-only mobile phones will lose access to all calls, including Triple Zero emergency calls.

Mobile providers have been messaging users of these devices directly and we encourage all identified customers to act on the messages.

If you are unsure whether your device will be impacted by the switchover, customers on any Australian network can text '3' to '3498' and receive an instant reply on whether their handset is supported after 3G networks close.

I encourage everyone to check in with vulnerable community members and help where possible to make sure nobody is left behind in this transition.

More information about the 3G switchover, including a full list of FAQ's, is available at www.3gclosure.com.au



Nestled at 32 Coolstore Rd, the new coffee venue in town, run by Bonnie and Remy, has developed quite a following. Having moved to Harcourt with their three children three years ago, the couple has created a warm and welcoming environment that reflects their genuine hospitality. The wood heater and relaxing décor, complete with a spray of wattle on each table is cosy and comfortable. Visitors have been heard to remark that the place is A+ and the coffee is delicious.

Open Monday to Friday, from 6:30 am to 1:00 pm, it's the perfect spot to start your day.



Harcourt Walking Group



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

Monday & Thursdays at 9.30 am
Meet at Harcourt ANAHall & Museum

A one hour walk followed by a cuppa and a chat




Services Activities Support Improvement
Community Social isolation Loneliness Remedy Mental health
Social connection Live well Social prescribing Volunteering
Groups GP's Links
Health
Get Connected
Wellbeing
Mount Alexander Shire

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.



Harcourt CFA

Supporting our Neighbour

The strength of the CFA lies in brigades supporting each other. July has reminded us of this in that all of our six turnouts for the month have been to support the Castlemaine Brigade.

The first was on July 2 to a motor vehicle accident. The second was on the July 3 to a smell of gas. In the end, neither events required our attendance.

This all changed in the early hours of Tuesday July 9 when there was a shed fire in Bowden Street, which had been burning for some time. The shed was well alight when the first Castlemaine appliance arrived. Both Campbells Creek and Harcourt brigades provided additional breathing apparatus wearers for the fire fight, as well as additional water supply and manpower to ensure that the fire was contained only to the shed and did not spread to adjoining buildings.

A couple of hours later, all brigades were back in station and ready for whatever the next call would be before getting back to bed to grab a few more zzz's for what was left of the night.

Next morning we returned to put out a smouldering re-ignition that happened while the fire investigation into the cause was commencing.

The fifth job was to a gas leak in Templeton Street on Friday July 19 when contractors hit a gas main while digging up the footpath.

Later that morning, along with Ambulance Victoria and the SES, we were called to an incident at the secondary school where a student had impaled his hand on the wire fence of the basketball court. A couple of carefully calculated cuts enabled him

to be freed and taken to the warmth of a classroom for assessment and treatment by the ambulance officer in attendance.

Along with these incidents, we have also conducted some training with other brigades on the gas prop at the Castlemaine fire station.

Inter-brigade training allows us to not only hone our skills, but also refine our teamwork skills, working together in cohesion to achieve desired outcomes in a timely and safe manner.

This same principle can apply to you and your situation in relation to fire and other emergencies. Working together with your neighbours not only means that your emergency plan will align better with theirs, but working together will also achieve better outcomes.

The sharing of resources and combining manpower not only make preparing easier, but also better outcomes will result from the sharing of ideas and knowledge. This is especially important for those who live alone, have restricted mobility, limited transport options or medical conditions. These are important factors that need to be considered in your fire plan. More information can be found





on the CFA website or talk to a brigade member.

Castlemaine fire station was also the location for viewing the new prototype light tanker on the CFA's roadshow tour of Victoria (see photo above). This is a redesigned small tanker for a maximum of four people. The roadshow allows members to check out the layout and suitability of the vehicle and provide feedback to be considered in how the final vehicle will look.

It was comforting to know that the recent CrowdStrike/Microsoft shutdown did not interrupt the CFA's call-taking and dispatch systems. While many operations and services were affected, mainly due to their reliance on technology, it is a timely reminder that part of our fire and emergency plan should include contingency and back-up plans in case our first plan does not work or is not suitable. This also applies to how we communicate, where we get our emergency information from and how we operate without power.

And, finally, a comment on the large storage shed fire in Derrimut. Any fire of this size or nature is where you do not want to be. Evacuation as soon as possible is the key in any building fire, no matter how small, to ensure the safety of all.

Stay warm and safe
Tyrone Rice
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Di Selwood
0488 148 358
Harcourt - Castlemaine - Maldon

ALTERNATIVELY CREATED
BOWEN THERAPY
Carole Kernohan
Qualified practitioner since 2004
Relieve back pain, chronic fatigue, improve general wellbeing & more.
Suitable for all ages.
Homebased practice near centre of Taradale
Phone: 0407 372426
Covid restrictions apply Member of BAA & BTAA



Councillor Comment

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well. Some welcome rain in July so thanks for that. By the time you read this Jo and I will be in Canada followed by USA. It is first visit to both places for us so very exciting. It is only a couple of days since the attempt on Trump's life, so I am a little apprehensive about the possibility of civil unrest while we are away.

As well as doing touristy things we will be staying in a rural area in Canada with some friends, so I am looking forward to seeing their agriculture up close as well as how their local government works.

I am sure there will be plenty to talk about when I get back.

In the last week or so I have been out and about talking to a few locals. A couple of things I will mention. I attended the Harcourt Seniors training. Great to see our players going through their paces. The coaching and skill level was outstanding. Well done all concerned. We have high expectations when our teams are doing well, but it is important to recognise the work that goes on behind the scenes.

The other stopover of note was the Friday night visit to the bowling club. The club hospitality is first class and new members are always welcome.

Knowing I would be away it has been on my mind for a few days what to write about and I have just read the agenda for the July Council meeting and nothing too exciting there.

What I did want to mention is our local organisations like the church, the CFA, the CWA, Lions, our sporting clubs, the Progress Association, our new community house, Landcare the list goes on. These organisations are the cornerstones of our community and desperately need our support if they are to survive. Thanks to all our community volunteers for their tireless work, so let's show our appreciation by getting involved.

*Best regards Tony
AG Cordy*

PS For urgent matters please contact another Councillor while I am away. Back late August.



Harcourt Lions Club

80th Birthday

A member of the Harcourt Lions Club recently celebrated his 80th birthday and as he is a train enthusiast (or is that nut), friends and family organized a trip on a train, well not just any train, but to drive the old Steam Train No. J549 from Castlemaine to Maldon and back again (see front page photo). To say Colin was chuffed was an understatement, I think he still has the smile on his face. Congratulations Colin on both achievements. He is going to be in his element when the VMR precinct opens soon.

Lions meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6.30 pm at VMR.

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Maryborough - Wednesday 21st of August 4:30 - 5:30
Harcourt - Wednesday 28th of August 4:30 - 5:30
Harcourt - Wednesday 4th of September 4:30 - 5:30
Contact: mat.begbie@afl.com.au for any enquiries.

SCAN HERE



Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Hello again. June and July have been busy months for us.

We celebrated Christmas in July with an intimate lunch together in our club meeting room where a fun, friendly time was had by all. We welcomed another new CWA member, Jill R, to our happy bunch, we finalised touches to our next Big Public Fundraising Event: Our Annual Association Day, and we still had time to travel to Romania. To Romania? ... Huh? ...Did you say Romania? Romania in Eastern Europe? Yes. As always, it's all 'go, go, go!' at Harcourt CWA!

Each year, a different member country of the ACWW (the Associated Country Women of the World) is selected to be our designated Country of Study for the year.

Australia is one of the 82 member countries of ACWW and, as a branch of the CWA (Country Women of Australia), Harcourt CWA is proud to be a member, too. To that end, each year a different country is chosen as CWA Victoria's 'Country of Study' and each month, throughout the year, we learn more and more about that place.

In 1938, Romania was the first

Ingredients

- 2.5 cups dry or 3 cans white beans
- 2 teasp. Vegetable oil
- 2 onions finely diced
- 2 red peppers finely diced
- 1 cup ham, smoked sausage or smoked meat of your choice
- 1 tablesp. Smoked paprika
- 1 tablesp. thyme
- 1.5 teasp. Salt or to taste
- water to cover
- 2 tablesp. fresh dill and parsley finely diced and used for garnish

Instructions

1. Soak the beans overnight if using dry.
2. Cut the smoked meat into bite-size pieces.
3. Sauté the onion and meat in oil on

Smoky Romanian Bean Stew

medium-high heat until beginning to brown.

4. Add everything else and enough water to just cover the beans.
5. Bring to a boil and then reduce to gentle simmer for 40 minutes.
6. Cover with a lid if using dry beans. Don't cover if using canned.
7. After 40 minutes uncover and continue to simmer until reduced to your liking.
8. Garnish with the dill and/or parsley. Serve with crusty bread.

Notes

This stew is excellent with potatoes – cut two large potatoes into bite-size pieces and add them along with everything else.

country we studied; then places like Mongolia, Denmark, New Zealand and Peru (to name but a few) have been highlighted. Last year it was Namibia and, interestingly, in 2024 we are back with Romania.

The ACWW was 'Born in 1929. Still relevant in 2024!' and how true that is.

Established in 1929, the Associated Country Women of the World Organisation aims to bring together the rural women of the world and their organisations. Sometimes these women's groups are called Women's Institutes or Women's Unions or Country Women's Associations. It doesn't matter. We are all rural sisters worldwide.

ACWW believes that rural, country women are the backbone of families, communities and nations, but country women, in many overseas nations,

often suffer the worst impacts of natural disasters, climate change, sexual or political discrimination and hardship. Harcourt CWA, as part of CWA Victoria, is committed to finding out more about how best to support our sisters overseas.

Recently, Branch International Officer, Bev, helped organise our authentic Romanian lunch. CWA Group President, Dani K joined us and so did Cheryl K from Phoenix Chewton CWA. All the Harcourt ladies contributed: Joy R came dressed in Romanian folk dress, Carmel B and Dot F ran the raffle, Judi K made the potato stew, Bev O brought the cabbage rolls compliments of her friend Lela, Robyn Y made the stewed cabbage, Jill R cooked the

Continued next page →



The Harcourt CWA group.



Alison and Helen serve themselves another helping of authentic Romanian tucker.



President, Robyn, and secretary, Helen, prepare to enjoy Rob's delicious plum cake.



"Romanian peasant woman" Joy, Robyn, Alison, Helen and new member Jill relax at the end of a fabbo day.

Chatting with Harcourt CWA

Continued from page 11

Meatballs, Helen H brought the ham and bean stew (recipe is attached), Rob McC produced some Romanian cheese pies and a yummy plum cake and Alison C finished off our feast with chocolate bars. Yum yum.

Marie T was back, Lynette C, Melva G and Meryl A decorated the room in the navy, yellow and red colours of the Romanian flag and a couple of short travel films were screened.

Romania may not have been on our travel 'Bucket List' before but it definitely is now. What a beautiful place it looks. So much to see and do there. Such a rich history. The photos here show the fun we had and, if you make Secretary Helen H's Smoky Bean Stew, you can taste for yourself how delicious it all was.

With 'no rest for the wicked' or the Harcourt CWA ladies, we have now set about finalising the details for our Association Day, which is coming up very soon.

Get those diaries out! It's all happening 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. Meet Stacey. Learn how to create a dazzling flower arrangement and enjoy a fabbo CWA afternoon tea.

Don't miss out. Pop a note in your diary, invite a friend, and wear something floral perhaps. Just come and join us. Raffle, door prize and trading table, and delicious arvo tea. There'll even be a display of vases. Thursday 15 August. Be there or be square! RSVP to Helen Hand on 0448 510 996 by August 8.

P.S: Before we go, can we send greetings to our regular Core CWA contributor, Lyn Rule, and member, Mary Tigg. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you both.

'til next month,

Beverley Orgill for the Harcourt CWA
(aka Chicks with Attitude and ACWW Advocacy!)

Congratulations Core

Impressed by the colourful cover of *The Core*, regular subscriber and crossword fiend, Neil Anderson has written this letter to the Editor. Well done to the team at *The Core*!

17 July 2024

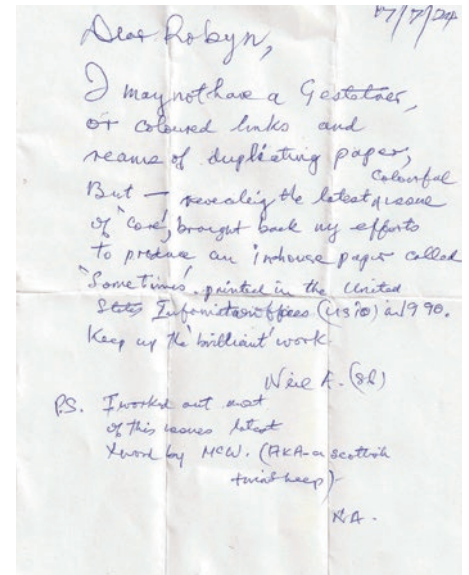
Dear Robyn,

I may not have a Gestetner [editor's note: a machine for duplicating documents] or coloured inks and reams of duplicating paper; but – revealing the latest colourful issue of 'Core', brought back my efforts to produce an in-house paper called 'Sometimes' printed in the United States Information Offices (USIO) in 1990.

Keep up the 'brilliant' work.

Neil A (86)

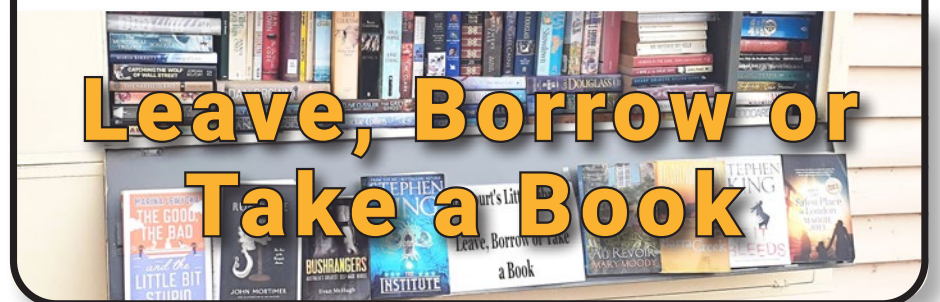
PS I worked out most of this issue's (July) latest Xword by McW. (AKA – a Scottish twin sheep) N. A.



Harcourt's Little Library

It's outside the ANA Hall

It's available any time.



Seen at the Harcourt Pony Club



‘Heartbeat’ transforms response to cardiac symptoms in aged care

Dhelkaya Health welcomed members of Heartbeat Victoria’s Bendigo Branch to celebrate and thank them for the gift of three electrocardiogram (ECG) machines for use in its residential aged care units.

Dhelkaya Health CEO Sue Race and the Nurse Unit Managers from Thompson House, Ellery and Penhall on the Castlemaine campus were keen to let Heartbeat representatives, including President Frank Ward, Vice President Barbara Dellar and Treasurer Nola Ward, know the impact the gift will have on managing potential cardiac incidents.

Ms Melodie Heland, Executive Director of Clinical & Aged Care Services said: “We’re so grateful to have the ECG machines available onsite in our residential aged care. It means that if a resident experiences chest pain or other cardiac symptoms, we can use the ECG machine to enable a definitive diagnosis.”

Previously staff would have needed to call an ambulance and have the resident transferred to the Urgent Care Centre for the ECG, which is critical in making a diagnosis. For vulnerable and frail older people, the transfer can be both exhausting and emotionally upsetting, and uses precious ambulance resources.



Back row: Dhelkaya Health staff with CEO Sue Race on right. Front row: President of Heartbeat’s Bendigo Branch Frank Ward with Heartbeat volunteers. Foreground, one of the new ECG machines.

Now these incidents can all be managed for residents in familiar surroundings where they live, with staff able to access the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department and have ECG results assessed there and then.

Ms Heland said: “Having a modern, digitally-enabled system makes for better and more timely diagnosis and care. Our staff told us that this equipment was a priority for improving care, so we can’t thank the Bendigo Branch of Heartbeat Victoria enough for responding to our request for help. Our residents and staff will get many years of use from this fantastic new equipment.”

Groups such as Heartbeat are invaluable. They offer peer support to those who have had a cardiac event and or procedure, and their family and friends. They promote friendship through meetings, lunches and social events and they assist in the development of cardiac resources in hospitals by fundraising.”

Ms Sue Race, CEO, said: “We are so fortunate to have benefitted from Heartbeat’s gift. We encourage people to take advantage of the group’s support, social occasions and fundraising events. This is a fine example of the power of community.”

You can find Heartbeat on Facebook at www.facebook.com/heartbeatbendigo or phone 0400 657 954

Harcourt Historical Walking Tour

Dhelkaya Health’s monthly Walking Tours program comes to Harcourt on August 29, with historical information from Wendy Barron.

Participants will meet at the Harcourt children’s playground on High Street, which was previously the main street in Harcourt.

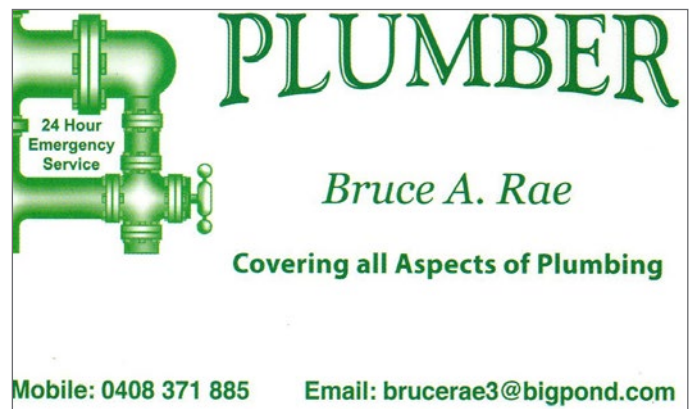
The gentle stroll starts at 10.30am, and will be led by volunteer Wendy Barron. Wendy grew up in Harcourt, and will talk about what Harcourt was like in earlier years.

Bookings are not required; participants can just turn up. The event will be cancelled if there is heavy rain at the time of the walk.

For more information, please call Dhelkaya Health on 5479 1000.

Event details

- What:** Harcourt Historical Walking Tour
- When:** Thursday 29 August, 10.30 am–11.30 am
- Where:** Harcourt Children’s Playground on High Street
- Cost:** Free



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Memorial Service of Reflections and Memories



Dhelkaya Health is pleased to offer its annual Memorial Service of Reflections and Memories as an online service once again.

The service, which began in 2019, provides an avenue through which loved ones, staff and the wider community can remember and give thanks for the lives of patients, residents and clients of Dhelkaya Health who died between 1 December 2022 and 30 November 2023.

Danni Moore and Kynan Sutherland, the pastoral care coordinators at Dhelkaya Health, have conducted the service this year.

Ms Moore said, 'It still makes sense to offer this as an on-line service, for all sorts of reasons – the rising cost of travel making it harder for family and friends to travel to Castlemaine from elsewhere and the high levels of COVID-19 and other viruses in the community for example. While watching the service is not the same as gathering in person, the feedback from family and friends, is that they really value the opportunity to honour their loved ones in this way.'

'Every year we make changes to

the service to improve it. This year, for example, Kynan plays classical guitar as part of it, and we've included new poems and reflections.'

Mr Sutherland said, 'We really wanted to create a space for people to remember and give thanks to those they have lost. The first twelve months after a death can be very difficult, and we both believe that it's important to acknowledge the complexity and depth of people's grief. This is our way of paying our respects to those who have been part of Dhelkaya Health and their families and friends.'

This year's service was filmed in the beautiful Garden Room at Buda Historic Home.

The Remembrance Service of Reflections and Memories is available to watch on the Dhelkaya Health website homepage at www.dhelkayahealth.org.au. It can be accessed via any PC, phone or tablet device with an internet connection.

For further information or a copy of the memorial service booklet (hardcopy or electronic), please contact Danni and Kynan on 54713542 or email pastoralcare@castlemainehealth.org.au

Chewton Servo Gets Lifesaving Donation

Dhelkaya Health's Community Health Nurse, Bron Grieve, is excited to announce that the Chewton Service Station has received a lifesaving Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). This vital equipment was generously donated by an anonymous supporter.

Bron said: 'Defibrillators are lifesaving pieces of equipment that anyone can use. They guide you through what to do in an emergency.' For years, Bron's goal has been to have defibrillators installed in accessible locations around the Mount Alexander Shire. Bron chose Chewton Service Station for its accessible location and longer opening hours.

The AED is located on the outside of the Chewton Service Station next to the front door. It is accessible to everyone in an emergency situation where someone may be experiencing a cardiac arrest. Research shows that if an AED is used within the first five minutes of someone collapsing, it gives that person a much higher chance of survival. With ambulance delays, the defibrillator could be the one thing that could save someone's life.

The AED will be registered through Ambulance Victoria's AED registry to ensure it can be easily located by anyone searching online for their nearest AED.

Bron said: 'Registering your defib with Ambulance Victoria is critical. If the ambulance is going to be delayed, they will be able to identify where the closest defib is located.'

If you need to locate a defibrillator near you, head to Ambulance Victoria's website at registermyaed.ambulance.vic.gov.au If you're part of an organisation that has a defibrillator on site, make sure it's registered and visible on the Ambulance Victoria website.

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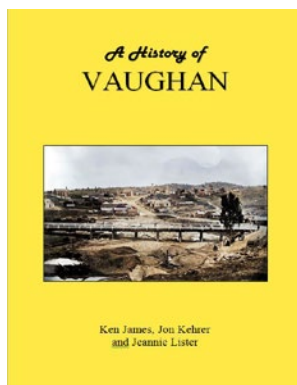


KEEP THIS DAY FREE!

The Friends of Vaughan Springs are holding a family fun day at Vaughan Springs on Sunday 10th November 2024. Bring a picnic lunch, enjoy a glass of Vaughan's famous mineral water, feel the wind in your hair as you skim down the big slide or simply enjoy the ambience of this special place. Children can enjoy a ride on the much-loved miniature train, as it's currently being overhauled, primed and polished by the hard-working volunteers at the Maldon Machinery Museum. Food and drinks will be available at the kiosk and there will be old-fashioned races on the running track.

In conjunction with the family fun day, Ken James, Jon Kehrer and Jeannie Lister are excited to launch their new book, *A History of Vaughan*, at the Springs at 2.00 pm. If bad weather causes a cancellation of the family fun day, the book launch will still go ahead on that day at the Guildford Hall at 2.00 pm.

Five years in the writing but 170 years in the making, *A History of Vaughan* focuses on the incredibly rich, diverse and historically significant history of the hamlet of Vaughan, predominantly from c1851 to the mid-1900s. It includes a chapter that describes the founding and establishment of Vaughan's much-loved mineral springs reserve. The authors are extremely grateful to the people who assisted in the compilation of this book by generously allowing access to their private family archives. Many photos from these private



collections have not been made public before.

This 634 page book contains a wide range of historical photos, maps, newspaper articles, diagrams, charts, memoirs and mini-biographies. These records provide a remarkable glimpse into the dynamics of this once large, vibrant goldfields town and the people who lived there.

A History of Vaughan is \$60 per copy. While some copies will be available for purchase on the day, securing a copy can only be guaranteed if you pre-order and pre-pay by 30 September 2024 as this will be a limited print run. Pre-orders with pre-payment are required to help defray the printing costs and the books can be picked up at the launch/fun day at the Springs. Please include an additional \$13 if you require the book to be posted. Postage of more than one book may be more expensive to cover any additional

postage charge. All profit from the sales of *"A History of Vaughan"* will be donated to the Friends of Vaughan Springs group for remediation and beautification work at Vaughan Springs.

If you wish to pre-order a copy of *"The History of Vaughan book"*, please email Jeannie Lister at: ahistoryofvaughanbook@gmail.com

A second book to be launched on the day will be *"His Own Man – The Inconvenient Life of Lee Hing Jacgung"* written by Jon Kehrer. This biography explores the fascinating life of Lee Hing Jacgung who owned much of the land on which the Vaughan Chinese village was located. Lee Hing was a refugee from war and revolution, a medical apprentice and landsman, who sailed the world and rescued the shipwrecked.

He dug for gold in California and Victoria, sued Queen Victoria, and worked as a headman and translator for the courts and police on the Mount Alexander Goldfields, before he reinvented himself as a pioneer, selector and farmer in Jeeralang, Gippsland. Lee Hing Jacgung was a brilliant success and an abject failure, who found his love in wife, family, friends and God, and his fear in venial public officials, corrupt merchants and secret societies.

"His Own Man" is \$45 per copy and \$13 if postage is required. Pre-orders can be picked up on the day and can be ordered by emailing Jon, at: pinbapress@gmail.com

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Preparing District Schools for Bushfire Season

The Allan Labor Government is making sure schools across Victoria are well-prepared for the upcoming bushfire season by providing grants to slash vegetation growth and reduce the risk of fire.

Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards today announced 9 central Victorian government schools are among 332 government schools across 348 campuses that would share in \$8.412 million to carry out essential maintenance work through the Bushfire Preparedness (Vegetation) Program (BPVP).

The program was introduced in 2018 to help schools undertake essential vegetation clearance around school buildings prior to the bushfire season and in accordance with municipal fire danger periods.

Schools receiving funds are listed on the Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR),

Castlemaine Secondary College (Junior Campus)	\$35,326.77
Castlemaine Secondary College (Senior Campus)	\$31,803.69
Winters Flat Primary School	\$25,491.99
Harcourt Valley Primary School	\$24,436.63
Campbells Creek Primary School	\$23,394.80
Newstead Primary School	\$22,027.71
Maldon Primary School	\$21,652.45
Chewton Primary School	\$19,477.08
Campbells Creek Primary School (Guildford Campus)	\$18,056.86

with the work aimed at mitigating the risk of harm to the school's community and buildings in the event of a bushfire.

The BPVP also provides a School Support Program, where an accredited Bushfire Planning and Design consultant visits a school twice a year to help them prepare for the upcoming bushfire season while also making sure they complete a Vegetation Management Plan every 3 years.

The Labor Government has invested \$16.9 billion in public education projects over the past decade, building

new schools and upgrading more than 2,000 schools while supporting more than 26,000 jobs in construction and associated industries.

The Allan Labor Government is ensuring local schools are as safe and prepared as they can be. We continue to provide Victorian students with access to world-class environments for learning and thriving in the Education State.

From a press release by Maree Edwards MP State Member for Bendigo West

"Preparing our schools in central Victoria means that our staff and students can feel safe and prepared during the warmer months, and hopefully these works can ease any worries they may have during bushfire season."

Vigil for homeless community members

The vigil is intended to further galvanise the community on action happening locally around homelessness and call to government to do more to address the housing crisis.

Homelessness Week (4 to 11 August) is an annual national event raising awareness of homelessness and its impacts, and drawing attention to the broader and deeper systemic changes needed to address it.

Homelessness Week is coordinated by Homelessness Australia. This local vigil is being coordinated by My Home Network and Dhelkaya Health's Housing Team.

According to Mr Michael McMahon, Senior Housing Team Worker, on any given night there are 78 homeless community members homeless in Mount Alexander Shire, tens of people sleeping rough and over 250 families seeking support for crisis housing.

There is a shortfall of around 600 social housing units and far more crisis and transition housing is required to meet current demand.

Mr McMahon said: 'Homelessness and the risk of homelessness can profoundly affect a person's mental and physical health, education, employment opportunities, connection to community



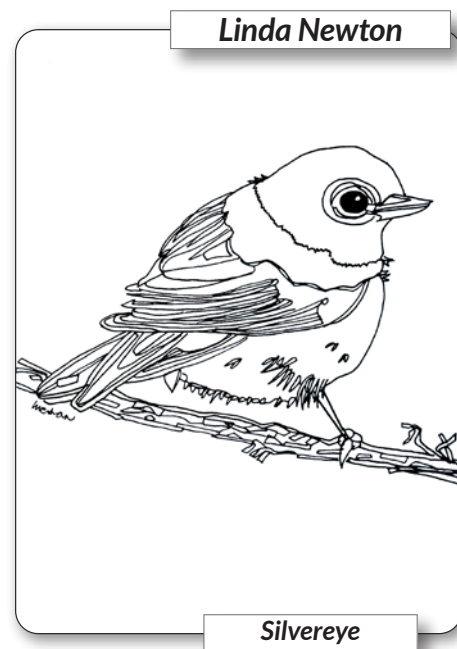
and their ability to fully participate in society.'

'Everyone has a right to affordable, secure, safe, appropriate, sustainable housing'

The community is invited to attend the vigil outside the **Castlemaine Market Building on Friday, 9 August at 4 pm**. Attendees will hear about the housing supports and action happening locally, including the Rough Sleeper Action Group, the Help at Hand flyer and find out how to donate to local supports for rough sleepers.

Vigil attendees will also have an opportunity to sign a national petition and send letters to Federal and State governments calling for an increase in crisis, transition housing and wrap-around supports, as well as join local action on longer-term affordable housing in our Shire.

For more information Kaz: cneilson@castlemainehealth.org.au



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Harcourt Heritage Centre

The ANA Hall

There is a shield above the doorway on the Victoria Street wall of Harcourt Valley Heritage Centre. From time to time visitors to the Heritage Centre ask why the shield bears the letters 'ANA'. Other towns have their Mechanics Institute Hall, but Harcourt has its ANA Hall.

The ANA Hall was built as the original community hall for our apple-growing district as the result of local initiative.

Thirty-eight members signed the roll when the Australian Natives Association branch at Harcourt first met on 26 August 1908. Five Harcourt men transferred their membership from Castlemaine.

Early meetings were held in the boot store of Paddy Golden or in the chaff shed of Freshfield's (later A Walter's) store. Most of the founding members were either orchardists or sole traders.

The ANA seemed to have met the need which is now (2024) filled by the Men's Shed movement. Branch meetings included debates, lectures and readings. By November 1908 the branch was organising socials. From 1910 onwards the branch organised the January 26 sports in Harcourt.

The branch also provided weekly sickness and hospital benefits to members. On a local basis (until 1976) the branch gave presentations to members' sons and daughters at the time of their marriage. It was due to a resolution of Harcourt ANA that house-to-house letter delivery was instituted in Harcourt.

Delegates of the branch attended the state annual conference of the ANA. Resolutions of the conferences eventually found their way into the laws enacted in the houses of parliament.

On the national scene, the ANA, with its motto of 'Patriotism, Protection and Progress', developed a position on all things Australian. The arrangement of Australian society today is largely the product of the policies adopted by the ANA and similar consultative organisations that have listened to their 'grass roots' branches.

Meanwhile, back at Harcourt, the branch had a busy calendar of meetings and socials and these events needed a venue. When the Harcourt ANA branch drew up plans for a



public hall in Harcourt it was to cost £220, most of which was financed by debentures. The design of Harcourt's proposed hall was first submitted for building approval. A quarter-acre of land was purchased from Mrs William Roberts (nee Ellen Warren) for £14. The building was erected by Mr Sutherland of Barkers Creek.

The hall is of boxed concrete construction, which must have required sturdy formwork to achieve the full height of the walls. This was the first hall that Sutherland had built. He was so pleased to get the contract that he built the hall four feet wider than the specifications indicated.

The hall was opened by ANA Director Hewison on Tuesday 9 August 1911.

In 1930, the supper room was extended to 28 by 28 feet, and the chimney was built along with two dressing rooms.

Until 1933, the hall was lit by acetylene gas. In those days the milk for the supper-time coffee was boiled in a copper in a shed at the back of the hall. In 1952 a kitchen was added. The local CWA branch fitted out the kitchen with cupboards and a sink.

Among the files of Harcourt Heritage Centre, are the minute books of the local branch of the ANA. They reveal much.

By the 1960s, the Harcourt branch of the ANA no longer organised community events. The Melbourne headquarters of ANA took on some of the tasks formerly carried out by the

branches. Membership of the local branch was shrinking. Administration of friendly society benefits, and upkeep of the hall took up a fair bit of time, and the branch still owed money on the loans that had been used to fund the building. Despite regular usage of the ANA Hall, the ANA branch at Harcourt could never quite extinguish its debt. In modern parlance, questions were being raised about viability and sustainability.

The local branch approached the Shire of Metcalfe to see what could be done. In 1969, the minute book of the ANA branch records the sale of the ANA Hall to the Shire of Metcalfe for the sum of \$2,040, which was the debt then owing on the building. The formalities of the sale took a long time; the shire-appointed Public Hall Committee was set up on 27 May 1971.

Meanwhile, the ANA Hall continued to be a popular venue for parties, school concerts and meetings.

The Harcourt community was growing, then as now. By 1980 it was obvious that larger functions could no longer be accommodated in the ANA Hall. The committee noted the loss of local events to the Castlemaine Town Hall. In 1983, the stage was removed, expanding the floor space. Also, in 1983 several public meetings and a community survey were conducted. It was agreed to construct a new hall at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve.

Continued next page →

Harcourt Heritage Centre

Continued from page 16

Public Hall activities were transferred from the ANA Hall to the Harcourt Leisure Centre in November 1991, and Harcourt Valley Heritage & Tourist Centre Inc took over the ANA Hall.

Like many other public buildings, the 1911 building has been successfully re-purposed. The ANA Hall now houses a museum, meeting room, kitchen, office and storeroom. Tourists and researchers come to the ANA to delve into the Harcourt-specific CH James Collection.

Visitors who come to the Harcourt Applefest and Gather Harcourt events in the neighboring James Park stroll into the ANA Hall and, after seeing the museum's colourful displays and fascinating facts, emerge with a new perspective on the district.

The spark that first warmed the Harcourt community in 1911 is still aflame in 2024, in hands that intend to keep the premises open for the benefit of both longer-term and newer residents of this valley. Harcourt's ANA Hall is open each Wednesday (from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm) and is well worth a visit.

This is another in a series of articles derived from the collection of minute books held by Harcourt Heritage Centre. Old Minute Books might look dry and uninteresting, but they convey much to inform us as to why and how Harcourt came to have the amenities that make life in this Valley so fulfilling.

Fireside Chat

Sunday August 18, 1.30 pm
Harcourt Heritage Centre

Topic:
"And they all came back"

During the 20th century there were some really big community gatherings in the district.

It is just 100 years since the first of these milestone events.

To find out more, join us by the cosy fireplace at the Heritage Centre on Sunday August 18 at 1.30 pm.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.



Harcourt Valley Primary School School Tree Day



On Thursday July 25 Gary and David from Castlemaine ASQ came and delivered 180 trees that had been donated to the school through the ASQ Plant It Forward program.

Miss Norris's Grade 1/2s graciously received the trees which were all ready to be planted that afternoon! The school extends grateful thanks to ASQ Castlemaine.

Bendigo Braves Clinic

Principal, Andrew Blake said, 'Cass from the Bendigo Braves came to run a little 'thank you' clinic with HVPS students, as we recently competed in the Bicknell's Schools Cup. Cass and the Bendigo Braves have been wonderful supporters of our little school recently. We thank them very much for all the fun.'



August Coming events

Tuesday 13: Whole school dance incursion.

Book Week begins on August 17. On Wednesday, the school will mark Book

Week with a parade and dress up day. The day will also include a family reading session and morning tea.

Andrew said, 'Students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and bring along their book to enjoy reading to a family member after the parade. We look forward to seeing everyone in attendance!'



Thursday 29: Father's Day Breakfast

Friday 30: Grade 5/6 Excursion: 'Expedition to the Mars Base'. Principal Andrew Blake said, 'Our students have a terrific opportunity to attend VSSEC. This will be a challenging mission in a simulated space environment.'

'The Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) is a specialist STEM learning facility, one of six established by the Victorian State Government. On their mission to Mars students work as a team and use their problem-solving skills to successfully complete a geological survey of the Mars surface. Students wear specially-designed spacesuits and act as astronauts, mission controllers and research scientists.'

www.vssec.vic.edu.au/mission-to-mars



Weather & Water

July began as a very cold, with some relief on sunny afternoons later in the month. The BOM (Bureau of Meteorology – ‘the bureau’) has reported that, ‘Clear skies and light winds combined with a cold southerly air mass brought widespread morning frost and cooler than average conditions.’

Mean daily maxima were between 9°C and 12°C, with the mean temperatures between 6°C and 9°C; and that’s certainly how it felt! Frosts, mist and fogs were the norm. The bureau also reported that, ‘Between 2 and 6 July, minimum temperatures were as much as 6°C below the 1961-1990 July average across southern states.’

The bureau noted that ‘Rainfall was patchy across Victoria with farmers in the west experiencing dry conditions unfavourable for winter cropping.’ The dry start to July was evident when we drove to Ballarat, the ground was ploughed and some crops were in, but they were barely established. We were fortunate to have some reasonable rain here in Harcourt. We recorded 55.5 mm at home, bringing the total for the year to 332.8 mm. On some days the rain combined with strong westerly winds as cold fronts swept across the state.

Reading weather forecasters’ comments about the coming weather has shown that there is uncertainty about any definite trend. The bureau’s modelling shows near neutral chance of either a La Niña or El Niño event, but with some likelihood of a La Niña developing in spring.

The BOM Outlook for August to October shows:

- Rainfall is likely to be within the typical seasonal range for much of Australia, including coastal regions of NSW and Victoria.
- Wetter than average conditions are likely for parts of the south-east, central and far west; and drier than average for much of the tropical north and south-western Tasmania.
- Warmer than average days and nights are likely to very likely across most of Australia; however, periods of cold weather are still possible.

Reservoir Levels

Upper Coliban: 85% as at August 5, 2024

Lauriston: 85% "

Malmsbury 34% "

Barkers Creek 44% as at August 1, 2024

Combined 76%

Data sourced from Coliban Water and Bureau of Meteorology.



Harcourt Supported Playgroup

Are you looking for a fun, FREE playgroup to join with your preschool aged (0-5years) child?

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28 Buckley St, Harcourt

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Everyone is welcome!

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Grace Church

Service: 11.00am Sunday
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Pastors: Roger & Glenise Thurecht
0422 605 897
gracecastlemaine.org.au

30 Buckley Street, Harcourt

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Harcourt Football Netball Club



Grace Church

This is a statement of belief by Grace Church.

3 August Round 16: Harcourt v Trentham Seniors

The game between Harcourt and Trentham was expected to be a thriller; however, Harcourt proved stronger on the day. Much of this success was down to better kicking efficiency. Harcourt Seniors will continue to hold second place on the ladder after Round 16 against third-placed Trentham. Harcourt were well rested after the bye and scored 18-16-124, while Trentham only managed to score 11-25-71 points.

Despite Harcourt's win, it won't knock Natte Bealiba out of first place on the ladder. Natte Bealiba had a thumping win with 18-27-135 against Newstead: 4-6-30.

Harcourt Seniors Reserves still hold top place after Round 16, separated only by percentage from second place holders Lexton Reserves.

The three Harcourt **junior football teams** maintained their places on the ladder after Round 13.

Netball

Harcourt's A-Grade netball team had a loss against Trentham in Round 15 and have slipped to number 12 on the ladder. B-Grade has dropped to fifth on the ladder, while Harcourt under-13s have come up a spot from twelfth to eleventh place.

Correction:

In last month's edition an article about wedding photos taken in front of Blume's Bakery fence was incorrectly identified as a Blume family wedding. We have been informed by another member of the Blume family that this was not a Blume family wedding.

In the April edition, the bride and groom in the photo were identified (names written on the back of the photos) as: Groom, Lindsay Warren and Bride with surname of Faull or possibly Paull. Others present and named in the photos were: Garth Symes, Lindsay Warren, Bill Hoare, and Alan Robins the Minister.

Rounds coming up

Round 16: August 3
Harcourt v Trentham
Round 17: August 10
Lexton v **Harcourt**
Round 18: August 17
Harcourt v Natte Bealiba

August 24 & 25
Qualifying and Elimination Finals

August 31 & 1 September
Semi Finals

September 7 & 8
Preliminary Finals

September 14
Grand Final

Ladder Positions for Harcourt Teams

FOOTBALL – as at round 15 on 27 July

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

NETBALL as at Round 15 on 27 July

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

The prophet Isaiah had this to say in the Old Testament, likening people to sheep ...

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way,

In the New Testament Jesus began to teach

Now the tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

Jesus went on to say about sheep, and people!

Then Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'

Jesus loves mankind with a sacrificial love, such that he was prepared to lay down his life on a cruel Roman cross in order that the 'lost sheep' might be saved. Are you a 'lost sheep' today? Perhaps you have strayed from the 'flock' and are experiencing the Holy Spirit, calling you back into fellowship with the 'sheep'.

Well, whether a 'lost sheep' or one who is 'returning to the fold' you would be most welcome to find the saviour of your soul at Grace Church this Sunday. He will be there, by his Holy Spirit – he has promised that where two or three gather together in his name, there he is in the midst of them.

Ps Roger Thurecht

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Katie Finlay's Fruit Growing Tips



Hi everyone,

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

If you've planted any fruit trees recently – well done! When properly looked after, fruit trees can live for a very long time, so it's a great legacy to create for your family, and the families that will be lucky enough to enjoy your fruit trees in years to come.

If you bought your trees from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU; we love our local customers :). Our new line of apple multigrafts was hugely successful and sold out within the first few weeks, so we'll be grafting some more soon so they're available again next year. Our 2024 season has finished, but we're already working on growing the trees that we'll be selling next winter.

This time last year we told you about a grant we received from the World Wildlife Fund. We've now finished the grant, and all the work we did (and our new short film) is available on hofcoop.com.au if you'd like to see what we did. It includes a report on Small Farm Viability, a Whole Farm Plan, and a report on the possible future of the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op.

So, back to fruit trees, and how to give them the best start in life? Firstly, make sure you protect the trunks from being eaten. The sorts of pests that like to eat bark that are common in Harcourt are rabbits, hares, kangaroos and wallabies. If sheep, goats, cows (or even the odd deer) find their way into your garden they can also do damage.

Animals eating the bark or branches of your baby tree can seriously stunt or disfigure your tree. If they eat the bark all the way around it can even kill the tree. Your trees may need protection for the first two or three years, or until the bark has hardened enough to lose its attraction (though even old bark can still be attractive to sheep and goats).

Tree guards, fencing or dogs can be

effective deterrents. If the problem is hares you can make an organic hare-deterrent paint by mixing animal fat with any strong smelling stuff like peppermint oil, garlic, lavender, eucalyptus, tea tree etc., and painting it on the bark. Hares are herbivores and don't like strong smells, so the combination works well to stop them eating the delicious tender bark on your baby trees. However, it's not very permanent so you may need to re-apply it after heavy rain or heat. Tree guards are usually a more effective solution that you only need to put up once.

The type of tree guard you choose will depend on the type of animal you're preventing, and also the shape of the tree. If the limbs of your tree start very close to the ground (up to knee height), a tree guard just around the trunk won't be enough to protect the tree adequately. You'll need to look at a taller structure around the whole tree. Traditionally, old metal drums were used for the purpose, and you can often see the remnants of them around old fruit trees – which is one of the problems with this option. Once the tree has grown the drums are hard to remove. A mini-enclosure (i.e. fence) around each tree works well but is time-consuming and expensive to build if you have a lot of trees, and leads to the same problem of having a redundant enclosure that's hard to remove once the tree is mature.

So, what's the solution? There are four we recommend, and the one you choose will depend on your budget and dedication. The first is the full 'repel all enemies' enclosure fence around your property, built tall enough and engineered highly enough to keep out both kangaroos and rabbits. This is the dream solution, and something we've started to build around our farm.

The second option is much more practical and multi-purpose, and works particularly well for single trees in the garden, or short rows of trees. A simple hoop structure erected over the tree using star pickets and 2" poly pipe provides an affordable framework that can be used to support frost cloth, bird netting or fruit fly exclusion netting. It can also be simply reinforced with a strip of chicken wire around the base for a year or two to stop the 'roos and rabbits from eating the bark. The third option is somewhere in between: a simple tree guard made from a length

of chicken wire rolled into a hoop and attached to the ground with a stake on either side. The fourth and last option is to use three wooden pallets to form a triangle around the tree. Simply wire the pallets together and then wire them to at least one stake to hold them in position and stop the structure from falling over.

Here are some more tips to make sure your young trees get a good start in life:

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

Happy fruit growing!

Hugh and Katie Finlay are certified organic orchardists and offer Grow Great Fruit organic home fruit growing courses. They're also founding members of the Harcourt 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.

Council news



Do we need more affordable rental homes in our shire?

Yes! And that's what we're working on.

The Mount Alexander Affordable Housing Trust will deliver rental housing that's secure, long-term, sustainable and affordable.

The latest news on the trust is that we've recently asked community members to express their interest in joining the trust's Advisory Committee.

We're currently reviewing applications and will announce members in the coming weeks.

Visit shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au to find out more about the trust and get involved.

Apply for an Event Grant

Our Event Grants program supports local groups and individuals who are running public events in the shire.

Applications open on Monday 12 August and close on Monday 2 September.

Find out more and apply now at mountalexander.vic.gov.au/EventGrants.

Keep up to date on local news

Sign up to Shire news, our monthly e-newsletter, for the latest on local news, events, opportunities to have your say and more.

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

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

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3 months	\$50	1/6 page	\$40
6 months	\$80	1/4 page	\$60
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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(enter via back door/garden)

For Information phone Chris 5470 5508

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SUDOKU Difficulty: Medium

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

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

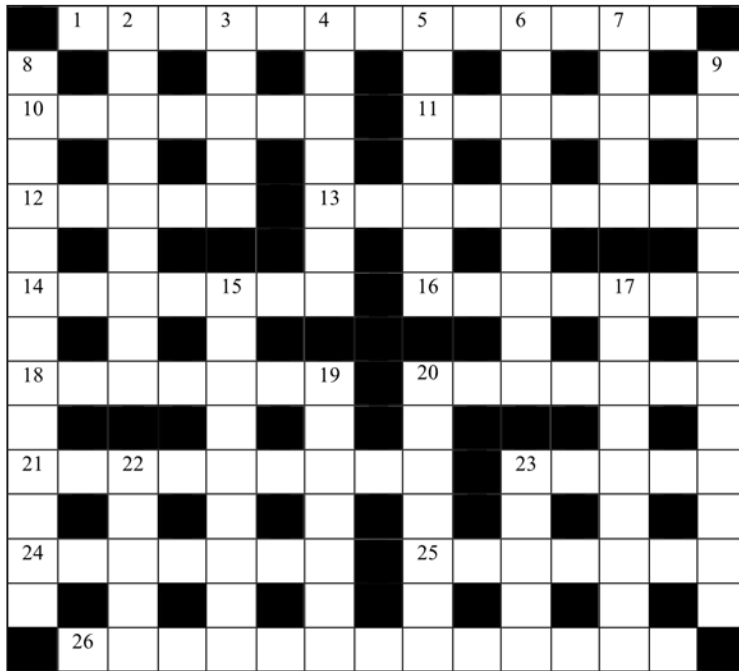
July Solution

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

August 2024 Xword

© McW October '15

This seems an easy crossword this time around—maybe two good clues? [12 & 14]



Down:

- 2 Steer lice away from this cheese! (9)
- 3 Wear quiet hats on these little roads... (5)
- 4 Bates' 1066 influx? (7)
- 5 For the infidel, just about all times before the apocalypse? (7)
- 6 Darkness under the stronghold every couple of weeks? (9)
- 7 Earth has one; we try to make one; old wine leaves one; beggars these days sniff at one... (5)
- 8 At 21ac, bread roll stuck in throat might cause this... (4,2,3,4)
- 9 Exposition on why odd elite is out-and-out colour-fast to the skin? (4,2,3,4)
- 15 Phone toil keeps us connected. (2,3,4)
- 17 Carl's counter to treater? (9)
- 19 Mortification in Charing Cross! (7)
- 20 Fast animal heard to embezzle? (7)
- 22 American swap? (5)
- 23 What other 23 did when we left? (5)

Across:

- 1 What merely seems a pleasant chief might stifle panache with this sort of brusque treatment. (4,2,3,4)
- 10 Biggles, or a Vita Sackville in tatters? (7)
- 11 Lying for each group of twelve. (7)
- 12 Under diabolic motivation, what must? (5)
- 13 A dateline missed made us feel cold-shouldered. (9)
- 14 Can droll head-lice be complete idiots? (7)
- 16 With sinister off to one side, give a hot grin or once-trendy thing to say! (5,2)
- 18 Eric the unorthodox? (7)
- 20 Feline swimmer? (7)
- 21 Our womanly place of worship? (5,4)
- 23 Obliquely brings us back to make a request... (5)
- 24 Loud shouted demands for rum & cola. (7)
- 25 What movie thief got the second time? (4,3)
- 26 ASIO advice on fungal culture? (4,2,3,4)

July 2024 Xword Solution

© McW April '15



Down:

- 2 Between [inter-] ready French I sort-of translate.
- 3 She adds thanks to endless evils 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, [S] was maternal to the point of asphyxiation... [Well?]
- 7 In Strike, arsenic comes close to the middle... (5)
- 8 Decision-time for kitchen utensil stuck in the bitumen? [Well?]
- 9 A finger in the dyke won't stop the flow from this outlet in the bank. [Well?]
- 15 [Prim, shunted] none-too-quietly into being rash. (9)
- 17 More Thomas than Thomas? [Well?]
- 19 At home [he's IN!], 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 [Id] 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
- 10 Wealthy [rich] drunk, [soit] discombobulated, heads into 1 across, finally.
- 11 Same colour as girls watching him ride down the street in his opulent American car. [A cover by Bowie —line from "Pablo Picasso": "all the girls go the colour of an avocado, as he rides down the street in his Eldorado"]
- 12 Motor-Mum the sound of destiny? [Well?]
- 13 After [post-] the sudden alacrity comes the alacrity? [Well?]
- 14 More jumpy if [religious] instruction permeates the big no-no [never...]?
- 16 Activates offspring [son] through 90°.
- 18 Take [pot-shot] at temperature concentration.
- 20 Creature that burrows in the ooze, possibly in 18ac—humid SF indeed!
- 21 About [re:] the origins of rivers, human ones are just humans...
- 23 [I won't] be pulled, but I am!
- 24 [Aw... snake] writhes and rouses.
- 25 Grudge-bearing sick playwright.
- 26 Photograph of Venus has to be guesswork... [Well?]



Country Women's Association
of Victoria Inc.
Harcourt Branch

Association Day

Flowers and Friendship

Thursday 15 August, 2024
1.30pm

Harcourt Leisure Centre,
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