CASTLEMAINE FRINGE



What is this project about?

Love Letters is a community-led arts project celebrating people's connection to Harcourt and Leanganook. We are inviting people to share letters, stories, poems, drawings, memories and reflections about what Harcourt means to them, which may include their reflections on their experiences of the recent fires. These contributions will help create a public artwork in Harcourt and a digital historical record of the community's stories and creative responses.

If you would like to participate, read on …

Informed Consent
This document contains information about the project and how your contribution may be used. You can ask questions before deciding whether to participate. By contributing, you are giving Castlemaine Fringe permission to use your contribution for the purposes of creating a public installation. You can choose how you would like to be acknowledged, including remaining anonymous.

Do I have to participate?
No. Taking part is completely voluntary. You can choose whether or not to contribute, and you can decide what you would like to share. There is no obligation to participate, and choosing not to participate will not affect your relationship with Castlemaine Fringe or any other organisation involved in the project.

Who is being asked to participate?
We welcome contributions from people with a connection to Harcourt and Leanganook. This includes Harcourt residents, people from across Mount Alexander Shire, former residents, family and friends of the community, visitors and people from other communities affected by bushfire. People of all ages are welcome to participate, with appropriate consent from a parent or guardian for children and young people.

What will I be asked to do?
You are invited to write a letter, poem, story or memory, create a drawing or artwork, or share a creative response about your connection to Harcourt and Leanganook. You can participate through attending a workshop or by submitting a contribution independently. You only need to share what you are comfortable sharing.

What will happen to information about me?
Your contribution may become part of the Love Letters to Harcourt artwork and may be displayed publicly. Contributions will be digitised before being incorporated into the artwork to create a historical record of the project. Digital contributions may also be used in a projection artwork as part of the 2027 Castlemaine Fringe Festival and beyond. You will be asked how you would like your contribution to be attributed — for

example, with your name, first name only, or anonymously. Personal contact details will not be publicly displayed.

What are the benefits?

The project provides an opportunity to creatively express your connection to Harcourt, share stories and memories, and contribute to a collective community artwork. It is also an opportunity to connect with others and help create a lasting record of the community's experiences, love for place and community resilience following the fires.

What are the risks?

Talking or writing about experiences of the fires or other personal memories may bring up difficult or emotional feelings. You are never required to share anything you do not wish to share. Workshops will be facilitated in a supportive and respectful way, and participants can take a break or withdraw from an activity at any time. This project is a creative community project rather than a counselling or therapeutic service. If you need additional support, facilitators can provide information about appropriate support services.

Who can I contact if I have questions/concerns?

If you have questions, concerns or would like more information about the project or how your contribution will be used, please contact Castlemaine Fringe at castlemainefringefestival@gmail.com. We welcome questions at any stage of your participation.

Thank you.

Contact

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Credit: Love Letters design by David Jeffries, Harcourt