

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and waters around us, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We respect their cultural heritage, knowledge here in Forrest where the waters flow over Gadubanud and Gulidjan Country



Brett Jackson: Fighting fires in Canada

Brett Jackson is the WorkCentre Operations Coordinator for Forest Fire Management Victoria based at Barwon Downs. Brett has been involved with FFMVIC and its predecessors for the last 15 years. He lives in Forrest with his beautiful family Bianca, Ivy, Elsa and Arlie (inc Sunny & Fatty).

As part of a 150+ personnel firefighter contingent deployed to Canada for 35 days Brett's role was the Taskforce Leader for 20 Victorian remote area firefighters. The taskforce was made up of Forest Fire Management staff from all across Victoria.

He was stationed at the High Level Fire District in Alberta at the Bassett Fire tasked with direct attack works on foot using chainsaws and hoselays as well as working with heavy machinery to build fall back lines for burning out operations.

A standard day would consist of a 12-14 hour shift starting with a briefing, then being flown into the work

area via helicopter taking all their gear with them. A highlight was teaming up with the local First Nation Fire Crews who helped them to learn the finer details of fighting fires in Alberta.

His taskforce was also tasked with asset protection works for the Bassett Fire Tower which had integral communication links to the fire complexes across the area. The High Level and Peace River Fire Districts had already lost a number of communication towers which made the Bassett Tower a key asset along with the surrounding communities with the closest to impact being the community of Paddle Prairie.

There are further deployments being sent from across Australia and the world to help the Canadian firefighters with it already being deemed to be the worst season on record.

Brett Jackson & Pauline Rostos



Kylie Pollock, 3rd from right gathered with other recipients of the COS community grants. Kylie was representing the FPRC committee which was granted \$2600 to buy new chairs and a fridge for the Forrest Hall.

Colac Otway Shire News

Colac Otway Shire Community Grants Program Presentation

Council was delighted to host an event to celebrate the 2023-24 Community Grants allocated to organisations, groups and businesses in the Colac Otway community. This year's Grants Program saw Council allocate over \$300,000 toward 72 different local initiatives across three streams: Community Grants, Events Grants and Business Grants.

The Grants Program is an important partnership between Council and the community and supports the incredibly hard-working volunteers, club members and businesses making our communities better through their events, regular activities and equipment and facility upgrades.

Congratulations to this year's Grants recipients!

Pictured, Community Grant recipients at the event with Mayor and Councillors.

Have Your Say

Council has the following proposal currently on exhibition with the community invited to provide feedback:

- **Proposal to Make Colac Otway Shire - Local Law No.1**
- **General Local Law 2023**

A copy of the proposed Local Law, incorporated documents, Community Impact Statement and Frequently Asked Questions may be inspected or obtained from Colac Otway Shire Council Offices at 2-6 Rae Street, Colac and GORVIC, 100 Great Ocean Road, Apollo Bay and may also be accessed on Council's website, www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

Any person may make a written submission on the proposed Local Law to Council. All written submissions

received by Council before 5pm on Thursday 10 Aug 2023 will be considered in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act.

Any written submissions received after the exhibition period will be presented to the Submissions Committee meeting, where they are received before 9am on 16 August 2023.

Submissions

Online: Visit Council's website and click 'Have Your Say' from the homepage.

Post: Written submissions should be addressed to Colac Otway Shire Council, PO Box 283, Colac VIC 3250.

Email: Submissions may also be submitted by email to inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au with 'Proposed Local Law' in the subject line.

Electric Homes Program

Be a part of the new Electric Homes program. This Council-backed initiative makes it easier to go all electric, reducing your reliance on fossil fuels. Led by Geelong Sustainability, they've done the research and sourced partners to install solar and other appliances.

If you'd like to find out more, community information sessions will be taking place in Apollo Bay and Colac:

Apollo Bay – Apollo Bay Bowls Club, 6 Moore Street
Two sessions on Monday 14 August – 12.30pm-1.30 pm and 5.30pm-7pm

Colac – COPACC Civic Hall, 95 – 97 Gellibrand Street
Two sessions on Tuesday 15 August – 12.30pm to 1.30pm and 6.30pm to 8pm

For more information visit
www.electrichomes.com.au



Colac Service Centre: 2-6 Rae Street, Colac, Open: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5pm Ph: 5232 9400

Email: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au or find us online: www.colacotway.vic.gov.au



The Forrest Post is auspiced by the Forrest Men's Shed. Every effort is made to remain current, accurate and non-partisan. Feedback, submissions and advertising are encouraged. Submissions may be edited. You can request an electronic version by email, find us on Facebook or online at issuu.com/theforrestpost for back issues **Contact: theforrestpost@gmail.com**

Editors: Susan Langridge, Marita Kennedy, Noor Petersen **Contributors** Gillian Brew, Blair Curry, Mary Dracup, Ian Davies, Adam Fry, Brett Jackson, Marita Kennedy, Susan Langridge, Pauline Rostos, Renee Taylor **Design:** Gillian Brew **Print:** Forrest Primary School.

All contributions to be received the 22nd of the month.



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Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - JULY 2023

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE F&DNH

MONDAYS - office not open to the general public

Craft circle: 10am- 12pm. BYO craft projects. Gold coin donation.

TUESDAYS -open 8.30am-3.30pm

Seniors morning tea: First Tuesday of the month, 10.30am-11.30am. FREE. Including health talks and gentle movement sessions.

Weeding group: 2nd Tues of the month 10am-12pm. Contact Susan Langridge for more details 0498 592 364.

Playgroup: 10am-12pm. Gold coin or \$10 per term.

Pantry top up and food boxes: please contact coordinator to arrange or just visit the pantry after top up (from 12pm). Food is available to all in the community

WEDNESDAYS - open 8.30am-3.30pm

Forrest voices (singing for fun):

10.30am-11.30am. Gold coin.

Studio Forrest art group: 1pm-5pm, \$200 per semester.

Book club: 1st Wed of the month 7.30pm. Gold coin

Pantry top up: evening after 8pm. Food is available to all in the community.

THURSDAYS - coordinator located at the hall

Yoga: 9.10-10.30am, \$15 per class

Community lunch: Take away or dine in. Order the day before, pick up from the hall at 12.30pm on the day. \$6. Return containers each week!

FRIDAYS - open 8.30am-12.30pm

Youth space: Friday afternoons during school terms. *3.30-4.30pm for grades

3-6. *4.15pm-5pm for high school aged. Gold coin each week or \$10 per term. Snacks, games and fun provided.

Pantry top up: (late evening)

SATURDAYS - Forrest community gym bootcamp: 8am and 9am sessions. Contact coordinator for membership information and to sign up.

SUNDAYS: Rollerskating. 1st Sunday of the month at the Forrest hall. \$5 per skater. BYO skates or borrow some of ours-limited sizes available. Music, games and prizes!

COMING UP:

Defibrillator (defib) demo with Ambulance Victoria:FREE

Youth Week, dungeon and dragons activities (September)

WE ALSO HAVE: Free WiFi • Printing services • Room hire • Community spaces • Reading room • Forrest & District Historical Society display and library • Food share • Clothes swap • Treatment/massage room for hire • Office space • Computers and more!

\$250 power saving bonus application support- call or text 0493105502 to book a time. Ends 31st August 2023

FORREST OSTEOPATHY is also onsite and operating various hours.

Please contact Jessie on 0438298669 or forrestosteo@gmail.com for more information or to book.



Don't forget to 'like' our Facebook and Instagram pages for up to date info and events!

OPEN: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (at the hall), 8.30am-3.30pm

FRI 8.30am-12.30pm. Please contact the coordinator Renee for any queries, program requests or to run a program **T: 03 5236 6597 M: 0493 105 502**

E: forrest.nh@gmail.com A: Community Hub - 47 Grant Street, Forrest 3236



Youth Group at the House

During term time, for one hour every Friday afternoon, the youth of Forrest meet up.

The kids choose from and move between playing chess, air hockey, basketball, footy, ride bikes or craft together. They share healthy afternoon tea, provided by the Neighbourhood House. All the kids get along well and like to " just chill."

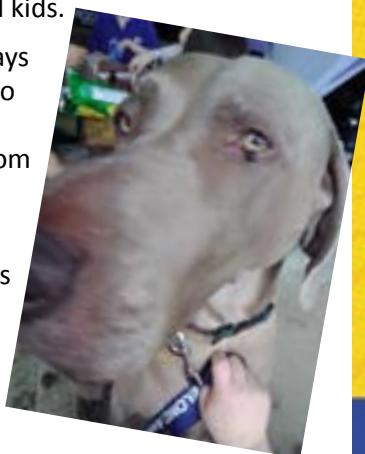
The secondary school children arrive a little while after the primary school kids.

" It's fun to just chill," says one. " It gives me stuff to do on Fridays and I can catch up with people from primary school."

In these hectic, unpredictable times, it's nice that kids can still be kids.

Marita Kennedy

Capiton: Rocco playing chess with the Youth Group



DID YOU KNOW?

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Franklin: a tale of Australian heroism, beautifully told

Franklin tells the story of Australia's most significant environmental battle, to save the remote and beautiful Franklin River from being drowned in a hydro-electric dam.

The David and Goliath story is epic in itself, set amidst the plunging gorges, terrifying rapids and tranquil, misty reaches of the wild Tasmanian river. The narrator, Oliver Cassidy, overlays this story with his own odyssey down the Franklin as he retraces his recently-deceased father's journey to join the 1983 blockade. We travel the brown waters alongside Oliver as he faces seemingly impossible physical and emotional challenges, coming to terms with his shifting personal identity at the same time.

The film makers have woven in interviews with Traditional Owners who explain the cultural and historical heritage we all stood to lose if the dam had succeeded. There is also new archival footage from the blockade, including of a young Bob Brown bobbing without helmet or life jacket through several of the more hazardous sections on this river. The film also relates the



process of gathering and coalescing hundreds of inexperienced people into an effective peaceful protest in the freezing, wet conditions.

Directed and written by Kasimir Burgess and produced by Chris Karmen, the film was crowd-funded and premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival in 2022. It has been acclaimed at many other international film festivals since then and has been nominated for an AACTA award for best documentary.

Franklin will screen as part of the Forrest Flicks Film Society program at the Forrest Public Hall on Thursday 10 August. Come at 7pm to relax with complimentary wine and cheese before the film starts at 7:30pm. Stay on to chat about the film afterwards over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits. Don't forget to BYO cushion!

Subscribe to the program or pay with a \$15 cash donation at the door or online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/forrest-flicks-film-society-subscription-tickets-504202612587>. For more info email forrestflicks@gmail.com.

Mary Dracup

Australia's Worst Maritime Disaster

In April of this year, it was widely reported that the *Montevideo Maru*, a Japanese merchant ship had been found after missing for 80 years. It was mistakenly torpedoed by the American submarine *USS Sturgeon*, off the coast of the Philippines on the 1st of July 1942. Resting at a depth of four thousand metres, it was found using an automated submersible and has been declared a war grave. There were 980 Australians on board, of which 850 were servicemen who along with other prisoners and civilians, had been captured at Rabaul, New Britain. They were heading for Japan. Only seventeen crew and three guards survived the torpedo, as the ship sank within ten minutes.

There is a Forrester connection that links this finding with our district. There were two men on board from Henry's Mill, Forrester. William Melling a truck driver and Horace Newman a timber worker were both in the 2/22 Australian Infantry Battalion, when they were captured defending Rabaul.

1942 must have been a sad, horrible year for his wife Iris who's youngest daughter Nancy-Ann died at eight months of age, a few months before her father. There is a memorial plaque for William Melling, Iris (Meyer) who lived a long life and Nancy-Ann on the family grave, at Yaugher cemetery. Nancy-Ann was survived by three older siblings.



Horace is known to have been married and the father of two children.

Blair Curry with Susan Langridge

Source: Jennings, Trevor. (2019) *From Mills and Farms they came... World War 2 Barramunga, Barwon Downs, Forrester and Gerangamete*, pg 16, 94 – 95.

Jennings, Trevor and Pam. (2014) *'Forever Home' A History of the Yaugher Cemetery (Forrester-Otway Region)*, for Forrester and District Historical Society. Pg 97, 98 & 130.

What can Forrest learn from the Mallacoota Experience?

On the 23 July, the FLARE team presented a unique opportunity for the community to hear Lyn Harwood, CFA member and Mallacoota resident speak about her experiences of the devastating Christmas fires of 2019-20. After viewing an episode of the hit ABC documentary 'People's Republic of Mallacoota' that tells the story of the impact and struggle to recover from the devastating fires from the perspective of the community of Mallacoota, Lyn spoke about her experiences both as a CFA member on the radios for 3 days as the fire passed through and around the town and after, as a member of the Mallacoota and District Recovery Association (MADRA).

The fires reached Mallacoota on 31 December 2019 when, in scenes relayed around the world, thousands of people sought shelter on the foreshore and in the local hall as the fires approached. Although they had some warning of the impending danger, once their only access road was cut, visitors and residents had to shelter in place.

A total of 123 homes were destroyed and 83% of land area burned. Many more properties suffered damage including losses of outbuildings, water tanks and fences. There was significant loss and devastation of wildlife and forest, and much of the wilderness coast infrastructure was destroyed or damaged. A community recovery model was put to a town meeting in February 2020, attended by an estimated 500 plus people and MADRA was formed.

Lyn spoke movingly and has been forever changed by her experiences. Her understanding of the importance of



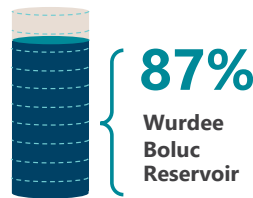
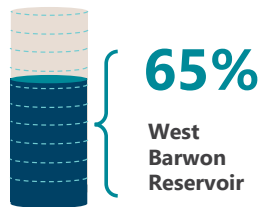
community involvement in recovery was inspiring and Lyn spent over an hour answering questions from the floor about how communities can prepare and recover better.

Lyn made it clear that relationships are key, knowing your community, your local CFA and emergency agencies, understanding your risks and, after an event, knowing that you have skills you can draw on in your community and that you have a say. Emergency agencies don't always have the answer or understand what is needed and will look to community for direction.

Lyn commended us for thinking about preparing for an emergency before an event and as we work towards developing a community based strategy in the coming months, we will be looking for your input and offering opportunities to be involved. You can also join the FLARE Team and help your community be better prepared!

Gillian Brew - FLARE Email: fpac3236+flare@gmail.com
Source: <https://madrecovery.com/>

Barwon Water Updates



Water treatment plant upgrade

Work is continuing on Forrest's new Water Treatment Plant.

Work started in October last year and is on track to be completed by the end of 2023. The new treatment process will then go online in early 2024.

Work has included infill of the water basin to create room to construct the new plant.

The new plant includes:

- A building for the water treatment equipment and operator facilities
- A 740 kilolitre concrete potable water storage tank
- A 300 kilolitre concrete raw water storage tank.

The plant is also being built with bushfire protection measures to protect the water supply in the event of fire.

Saving water

Some simple tips you can do every day to save water include:

- Keeping showers to 4 minutes
- Turning the tap off when brushing your teeth
- Using half flush on toilets.

Visit www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/saving-water for more.

Did you know?

Since 1997, West Barwon Reservoir has had an average drop in yearly inflows of 28 per cent on long-term averages. As our climate changes, rainfall is becoming less predictable.



Historical Society AGM

Last month the Forrest and District Historical Society held their AGM. Norm Houghton gave a presentation on the history of pubs, beer gardens and wine shantys of the Otways with some interesting facts and anecdotes of the times.

The committee was re-elected for the next 12 months, being John Frizon - President, Leo Martin - Secretary and David Widdowson - Treasurer and Editor, with Norm Houghton continuing as archivist. They welcomed new members Chris Seels and Paul Tyrell to the society.

The group has a website that contains an extensive range of historic records and photos of the area that was digitized, thanks to a grant from Colac Otway Shire. To become a member and sign up for the digital newsletter, send an email to forresthhistory@gmail.com and you can view the website at forresthhistory.org.au



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Farewell Reverend Jenny

Rev. Jenny Brandon has retired from the role of Anglican priest for the Parish of Otway which she held for six and a half years. Travelling between townships of Apollo Bay, Beech Forest, Carlisle River and Forrest, Reverend Jenny is well loved by the Anglican church community and she and husband Richard, who travelled with her will be greatly missed. Services in Forrest are currently on hold until a new priest is appointed by the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat.

The Forrest Op Shop will continue to open

on Saturdays from 10.30-4pm with all funds raised going to Anglicare for the Otway area. We are looking for volunteers! It's a great way to meet people, provide a service for the town and find new homes for treasures. Clean items in good repair most welcome although we cannot take electrical or bulky furniture. You can make donations to the Forrest Op Shop during open hours on Saturday or call Gillian on 0422 585 227 to arrange drop off or find us on Facebook.

Gillian Brew

Grow What When

Spring has arrived early this year, with snowdrops and jonquils already in flower.

Late winter and early spring are the times to plant onions, shallots and rhubarb crowns. Sow onions, peas, globe artichokes, broccoli, cabbages, spinach and radishes. Keep making layers of compost for your vacant beds.

Get ready to sow lettuce, Mediterranean veggies and fruit, sweet peas, pumpkin seeds, silverbeet, carrots, turnips, peas and radishes.

Snails and slugs can be deterred with dried eggshells or sawdust surrounding seedlings; a physical barrier. Those pesky birds will have a go, so plant enough for all your neighbours, including the furred and feathered! It's a time of wild abundance so let's get gardening!

Marita Kennedy



Photo by Jack Blueberry on Unsplash

BIRDS OF FORREST

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The Scarlet Robin

The Scarlet Robin a fairly common bird, is found in Southern Australia, from Perth to Albany in the west, throughout Tasmania, and from around the Eyre Peninsular in South Australia, right through Victoria and NSW to near Brisbane.

It is interesting in that they are a bit of an altitudinal migrant, including in the Otway District, coming down from the hill country in winter to live in forests, woodlands, and farmlands, and returning in Spring. The male displays a bright red chest, a black back with white wing bars, while the female has a paler red wash on the chest, and is mainly brown all over. In my place at Barongarook a pair usually turns up in the first week of April, and stays for the winter. They can be found right through Forrest,



Female Scarlet Robin



Male Scarlet Robin

Barwon Downs, Lake Elizabeth areas, as well as adjacent farmlands.

Unlike the Flame Robin, which can often form flocks, they are usually found singularly, or in pairs. They can often be seen on low perches, clotheslines, fences etc, where they pounce on ground dwelling invertebrates, quickly returning to their perch.

Their nest is a rough cup of bark strips, grass and lichen, placed in a fork, hollow or stump, from 1-20m from the ground. Despite their bright colours, and confiding nature they can be sometimes difficult to spot, so keep an eye out for these beautiful Robins.

Ian Davies and Adan Fry

Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

