

THE FORREST POST

FEBRUARY 2025

FREE

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 and knowledge here in Forrest where the waters flow over Gadubanud and Gulidjan Country.

Barwon Water Community Information Session **Postponed**

The community information session planned for Monday 3rd February has been postponed due to the extreme hot weather forecast. The new date will be advertised as soon as possible.

The proposed meeting will provide people with an opportunity to discuss:

- Town Waste Water improvements
- West Barwon Reservoir Masterplan
- Strategic Planning and Town Character considerations, limitations and possibilities for the future of Forrest

While Barwon Water waste water improvements and sewerage of the township zone has been the focus of discussions and community input, Forrest & District Community Group have been speaking with Barwon Water on ideas for the West Barwon Reservoir precinct since 2017 and funding has been secured to develop a West Barwon Reservoir Master Plan.

Purpose: Develop a high-level masterplan for the area around the West Barwon Reservoir that is valued by the Forrest community, is pragmatic, is safe and provides the basis for funding applications for implementation.

Existing and potential activities:

- Cultural heritage stories
- Fishing, fishing platform, native fish stocking program(s)
- Swimming hole and swimming platform
- Non powered boating on reservoir waterways (currently not in scope)
- Walking
- Biking
- Picnicking
- Nature exploration
- Artwork
- Murals on the spillway wall
- Hydro supply into local grid
- Seasonal installations e.g. mowing art
- Musical installation on reservoir wall
- Amphitheatre below the reservoir walls

Once the meeting is rescheduled, come along to share how you use the West Barwon Reservoir precinct, your aspirations for the area and any additional feedback.

RSVP via any of the following channels.

- » **BW** projects@barwonwater.gov.au
- » **NHH** forrest.nh@gmail.com
- » **Via text to Geoff Kennedy - Chair F&DCG**
Mobile 0419 381 874
- » **Comment in the Facebook post**



Image is an example of public art
www.giantsofmandurah.com.au

Forrest Cricket Club on top of the ladder!

With 11 rounds gone and just 3 left before finals, the 2024/25 season is shaping up as our best in a long time! Forrest finds itself in a strange position... atop the ladder!

We've had 8 wins, 1 draw and only 2 losses – both to Lorne, who are competing hard for top spot.

Our magic formula is depth. Everyone is contributing to the team's success. Shaun Baines is clearly the most valuable player having scored 287 runs and taken 13 wickets and 4 catches. But following in his footsteps, 7 others have made individual scores of 40+ while 5 of them have made 100+ runs for the season. Further, 8 bowlers have taken 5+ wickets for the season and 14 different players have taken a catch.

The most impressive performance of the season came in Round 4. Irrewarra were heading for 200+ until Col Gardiner contained them with a wily 4/22! They finished with 9/186 off 40 overs.

Victory looked impossible when we slumped to 6/76 with Shaun Baines



Above: The old pitch (left) and construction of the new pitch (right) – come see the finished product for yourself!

dismissed for 38, having scored half our runs! Enter Jaydee Baines (30), Col Gardiner (51*) and Ricky Ponting, I mean, Leo Scott (62*) who smashed his PB and carried us to an intimidating total of 7/240! A true team performance with 8 batters scoring 34 boundaries and 1 six between them.

Off the ground, Forrest Cricket Club has also enjoyed much success, with a new pitch being laid at the beginning of the season! It's twice as wide as the old one and is a sheer delight to both bat and bowl on! Many thanks to the Forrest Recreation Reserve, the Colac Otway Shire and some generous locals who have funded most of the new pitch!

Stay tuned for the finals! Set to take place on 3 consecutive Saturdays – 22 Feb, 1 March and 8 March.

Club President Billy 0488 685 982
Club Captain Col 0407 387 701

Kingsley Davidson

ANNUAL OTWAY ODYSSEY & GRAVEL GRIND MTB RACE - 22 & 23 FEB - Pg 4 for details

Colac Otway Shire News

Temporary Relocation

From Monday 10 February to Friday 21 February 2025, the Colac Customer Service Centre will be temporarily relocated to the Colac Visitor Information Centre due to necessary roof replacement works at the Rae Street building.

During this period, Council services will continue to operate, but some changes may occur, however we are still available to assist you over the phone or online. If you have any questions, please contact Council at 5232 9400.

Please note, there will be no changes to the Apollo Bay Customer Service Centre located at GORVIC.

Expressions of Interest

Provision of a Cinema and Candy Bar Service

Council invites submissions, by way of Expressions of Interest, from well credentialed proponents to operate a quality Cinema and Candy Bar service at Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre.

Expressions of Interest close at 12.00 noon on Wednesday 12 February 2025.

A copy of the tender and Expression of Interest documents can be downloaded from Council's website at www.eprocure.com.au/colacotway

Submissions must be lodged in the Electronic Submissions Box only. Late posted or emailed submissions will not be considered.

Anne Howard, CEO, Colac Otway Shire Council

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

Council will open consultation early in 2025 for the Council Plan 2025-2029. This plan will set out strategic goals and priorities for Council over the coming four years. Please look out for further information on community consultation for this process on Council's website and social media pages.

Have Your Say

Proposal to Declare a Road to be a Public Highway

Council is inviting submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 on the proposal to declare a road to be a public highway.

Council gives notice under section 204(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act), that it proposes to declare that part of the land contained in certificate of title volume 10677 folio 083 and known as (part) 67 Karingal Drive, Wye River, Victoria 3234.

Visit our [Have Your Say webpage](#) to find out how you can make a submission on this proposal. **Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 7 March 2025.**

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

Phone: 5232 9400 Email: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au

or find us online: www.colacotway.vic.gov.au



Colac Otway
SHIRE

COMMUNITY BATTERY UPDATE - FORREST ENERGY GROUP

ATTENTION ALL FORREST RESIDENTS FROM FORREST ENERGY GROUP - COMING IN THE NEW YEAR! FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS AND MORE!

As an adjunct to the current FEG project looking at a community battery for Forrest, a home energy reduction program is being instigated at 2pm 22nd Feb, a community meeting will be held at the community hall for all those interested in taking part in a program of home energy assessments. At this meeting the home assessments will be fully explained and you'll be able to book up a time for your assessment to be done. Australian

Energy Assessments (www.ausenergyassessments.com) will be conducting the assessments and providing a range of support advice and services as found appropriate on an individual basis.

The assessments are available for both full and part time residents and home owners.

Mike Juleff

Shakespeare's Insult for February

*So this month causes one to ponder
is it worth insulting someone
without knowing what
might eventuate.*

**"... thou cream
faced loon".**

- Macbeth



Contributors

Writers: FDCG, Kingsley Davidson, Mike Juleff, Colac Otway Shire, Mary Dracup, Laura Shawcross, John Jacoby, The Forrest Fink, Gillian Brew, Adam Davies and Ian Fry.

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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, online at forrestvictoria.com or via The State Library Victoria. Contact us at theforrestpost@gmail.com.

The Commitments brings music, fun, sex and fame

The Forrest Flicks Film Society injects some craic into the new year with the Irish cult film *The Commitments*, screening on Wednesday 5 February at the Forrest Hall.

The Commitments (1991) is a funny, lively film about getting a soul band together in working-class Dublin, and seeing what happens next. Based on the Roddy Doyle novel of the same name, the film stars mostly inexperienced actors cast for their musical ability and resemblance to characters in the novel. Not surprisingly, they created a brilliant soundtrack that reached triple-platinum record sales.

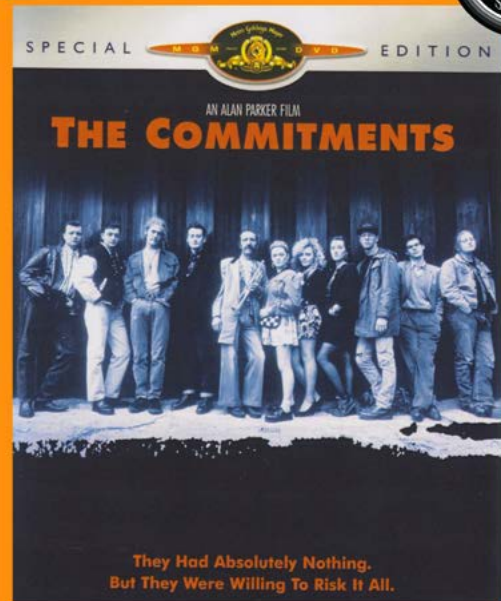
Directed by Alan Parker, the film won four BAFTA Awards including best film, best direction, best adapted screenplay and best editing.

Doors open at 7 pm with a free glass of wine, nibbles and cheese. The film starts at 7:30, followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and a chance to chat about the film with your neighbours.

Six films for \$45 in 2025!

Subscribing to Forrest Flicks is much cheaper this year, to encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of the exciting, varied program. The full six films will cost only \$45/\$35 concession; three films will be just \$25/\$20 concession. You can still try one film for a donation of \$10/\$8 concession on the night, or use this as a deposit on a three/six film subscription. A free glass of wine and nibbles is included. Buy online using the QR code in the advertisement or pay at the door with cash only on the night.

Mary Dracup



Wednesday 5 February
Forrest Public Hall
7 pm for complimentary wine and cheese
Movie starts 7:30 pm



6 film subscription \$45/\$35 conc. - 3 film subscription \$25/\$20 conc. - 1 film try it and see \$10/\$8 conc.



The place for connection

Saturday

1 February | 6PM

COPACC 2025 THEATRE SEASON LAUNCH

featuring Finucane & Smith

**COPACC Launches 2025
with Va Va Va Voom Variety!**

Local Legends & International Stars pair up to provide spectacular entertainment to accompany the introduction of our **2025 Theatre Season!**

Join the glittering glamour of globally awarded cabaret legends **Finucane & Smith** as they join local superstars to launch COPACC's 2025 Theatre Season with feathers, festivities, bubbles and burlesque!



BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET NOW:

copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418 or scan QR



Sunday

16 February | 5PM

DAMON SMITH'S

ROCK & ROLL PIANO SUPER SHOW

A brilliant tribute to the masters of Rock & Roll piano by critically acclaimed performer, **Damon Smith**.

Experience the passion, energy, and magic that shaped the sound of a generation!
Featuring a demo by the talented lot at Colac's very own Rock 'n Roll Club!



BOOK NOW:

Ticket \$24 | Concession \$22 | COPACC Member \$19.20

COCKTAILS & CANAPÉS SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE

copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418 or scan QR



Shifting Property Trends in Forrest and the Otways

The property climate in Forrest and the Otways region has undergone significant changes in recent years. Like much of regional Victoria, the Otways saw a surge in property prices around 2022–2023, driven by the pandemic-fueled desire for rural living. However, the market has since cooled, with experts predicting a potential 3% decline in regional Victorian house prices during the 2025 financial year.

Currently, the Otways region is experiencing an intriguing shift. There's been a noticeable rise in the number of houses for sale and rental properties on the market. A key factor driving this trend is the Victorian government's new short-stay accommodation levy, effective from January 1, 2025.

This levy, set at 7.5%, will apply to bookings of fewer than 28 consecutive days—except for properties that serve as the host's primary residence. Designed to ease the housing shortage for long-term residents, the levy aims to address some of the pressures short-term rentals have placed on the market.

Adding to these challenges are broader economic factors, such as the state government's budget deficit and persistently high mortgage interest rates, which have made homeownership less accessible for many during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

This could have mixed effects on tourist hotspots like Forrest and the Otways. On the one hand, it may lead to more properties being repurposed for long-term rentals or sold, potentially improving housing affordability for locals. On the other hand, a reduction in short-term accommodation options could drive up nightly rates for visitors and limit the availability of places to stay, possibly reducing tourist numbers.

For towns like Forrest, which thrive on tourism, this could present a double-edged sword. Fewer tourists might mean



quieter streets, but it could also hurt local businesses that rely on a steady influx of visitors.

Despite these changes, the Otways region remains as alluring as ever. Its breathtaking natural beauty, proximity to Melbourne, and access to iconic landmarks like the Great Ocean Road are likely to continue attracting investors, holidaymakers, and new residents alike.

As the property market adjusts to these new dynamics, the impact of the short-stay accommodation levy and the accompanying regulations, will become clearer. For now, the Otways is a region in transition, offering both challenges and opportunities for locals, visitors, and investors.

Laura Shawcross



Notice to residents/road users

On Saturday and Sunday Feb 22nd and 23rd there will be a number of MTB/Gravel races being conducted in and around Forrest Recreation Reserve (Event HQ and start/finish line).

Please be cautious of riders in the area between 07.00am and 4.30pm on Saturday 22nd Feb and between 07:30am and 4.00pm on Sunday 23rd Feb. Warning road signage will be in place.

No fixed road closures will be in place over the weekend, however the following roads will have significant bike traffic;

- Yaughar Rd between Rec Reserve and Hennigan Cres - is best to avoid using this section of road.
- Kaangalang Rd
- Boundary Rd
- Cemetery Rd
- Kents Rd (Sat. only)
- Station St (Sat and Sun mornings only)
- Henry St (Sat and Sun mornings only)
- Forrest - Birregurra Rd (Sat and Sun mornings only between West Barwon Dam Rd & Barwon Downs)
- Seven Bridges Rd (Sun morning only)
- Delaneys Rd (Sun morning only)

We welcome you to come out and cheer on the competitors as they compete in these events.

Should you require further information about this event please visit our websites at <https://otwayodyssey.rapidascent.com.au> and <https://gogg.rapidascent.com.au>

John Jacoby - Event Manager Ph. 0408 035 261



Speed cameras can be anywhere.

If you speed, even a little over the limit, you can expect a minimum fine of \$247 and 1 demerit point. Police and speed cameras can be anywhere, so why take the risk? Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

TAC  **VICTORIA**
State Government



Landcare has an activity for you in 2025

If you're interested in birds, fish, native plants or chemical-free gardening, then Gerangamete and Forrest Landcare group has an activity you will love in 2025.

Are you keen to know more about how to garden or farm in a way that brings good yields but doesn't harm the ecology? If so, mark Sunday 9 February, 10am-12pm in your calendar. We will visit biodynamic farmer Andy Marshall's farm at Gerangamete, where Andy will explain the principles and practices of biodynamic farming with a guided tour of his beautiful property. BYO picnic lunch. Please RSVP to gerangametelandcare@gmail.com.

In March we will have special entry to the new 'fish steps' in the East Barwon River, where Barwon Water and Corangamite CMA representatives will tell us how the steps are working to enable trout, native fish, crustaceans and other river critters to navigate the river since its recent reconstruction and revegetation. We will also learn about how the Upper Barwon Flagship Program to improve the health of the river is progressing.

You might be OK with magpies, kookaburras and wrens, but if you'd like to identify more birds who live amongst us, don't miss the September bird ID activity with local bird expert Ian Davies.

Speaking of birds, we've noticed many more have started to visit the Hennigan Crescent bushland site as we've been planting and weeding there. We hope to give wildlife a boost by setting up some nesting boxes during the autumn-winter months.

When we're not off visiting other places of Landcare interest we will be continuing the revegetation work at Hennigan Crescent. We plan to put in another 400 or so local plants, thanks to Barwon Water and Genu plant nursery in Colac.

Landcare activities are generally on the second Sunday of each month from 10am to 12pm, followed by a cup of tea with homemade cake and chat. Please contact Mary on 0488 522 448 or Freya at gerangametelandcare@gmail.com for more information. All welcome!

Mary Dracup



Barwon Water Updates



22%
West Barwon Reservoir



64%
Wurdee Boluc Reservoir



4ML
Current minimum daily passing flow at West Barwon

Managing water quality

Over the last month Barwon Water has been managing elevated levels of naturally occurring manganese in the raw water being received at the Forrest Water Treatment Plant from the West Barwon Reservoir.

These elevated levels are due to the recent warm and sunny weather and a naturally occurring reservoir "turn over" event, where the water at the top of the reservoir (warm surface water) and the water at the bottom of the reservoir (cooler bottom water) swap places.

As a result, customers may notice a yellow tinge in your water.

Despite the slight discolouration the water remains safe to drink.

We've been bringing in water from alternative supplies and undertaking water mains cleaning to aid the return to your usual drinking water quality.

We thank the Forrest community for their understanding as we work to manage this matter.

Community information session

Due to the hot weather predicted and to support employee and community safety, we will be postponing our community information session on Monday 3 February 2025.

We apologise for any inconvenience. Information on a revised date will be made available on our dedicated Your Say web page. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at projects@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Did you know?

Protecting our catchments

Our drinking water is harvested from protected catchments. Maintaining the health of these catchments is crucial in ensuring we're providing our community with high-quality, safe drinking water.





CRUCIBLE CIDER

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contact Mike Juleff 0411 697 301
email: mkjuleff@activ8.net.au

www.cruciblecider.com.au

FMS

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Forrest Men's Shed - 6 Blundy St, Forrest
email fdms3236@gmail.com to request
a username & password

Woodwork lathe machines - table saw
- mitre saw - metal welding

Coming soon to Apollo Bay!

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www.wilddog.com.au

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adventure@wilddog.com.au
41-45 Great Ocean Road
Apollo Bay

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- Free medication advice
- Webster packing
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- Repeat Scripts on file
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- Cosmetics & Fragrances
- NDSS (Diabetes Australia) Subagent
- Workcover & TAC
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OPEN 6 DAYS

40 Main Street, Birregurra, VIC 3242

Monday - Friday: 9.00am - 5.30pm

P: 03 5236 2288

Saturday: 9.00am - 12.00pm

F: 03 5236 2280

birrepharmacy@hotmail.com

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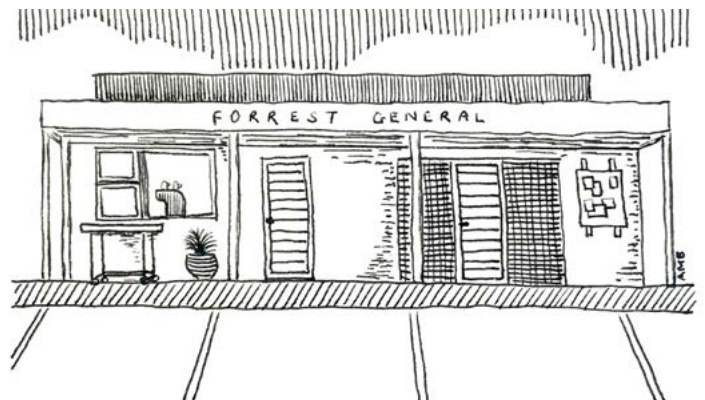
THE FORREST OP SHOP

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

OPEN WHEN THE SIGNS ARE OUT Clean donations in good repair welcome during open hours or by arrangement.

Call Gillian 0422 585 227

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH - 18 GRANT STREET FORREST



A wonderful depiction of the Forrest General Store by local Illustrator Amelia McBride Baker.

Contributions to the Forrest Post are most welcome.

ADVERTISE WITH US! Reach local customers and visitors and support your local volunteer run news sheet. Proceeds go to the Forrest Primary School or Neighbourhood House for printing costs and to support the Forrest Men's Shed. CONTACT US: theforrestpost@gmail.com for more information.



OVERHEARD IN FORREST

Welcome to the latest segment of 'Overheard in Forrest'. Intended to put a smile on your face and featuring funny conversations and comments overheard in our wanderings about town.

Local Submission: "In Forrest, we generously ship our pristine, crystal-clear water to Geelong... and keep the exclusive yellow vintage for ourselves"

Overheard on the Main Street:

Teenager 1: "You know what'd be really cool? A voice message that forces the person who receives it to immediately listen and respond to it"

Teenager 2: "Oooo totally, that'd be so convenient!"

Teenager 3: "Isn't that just what a phone call does though?"

Local Submission: "for a place with such high rainfall, a huge reservoir & stunning lakes... it seems the only safe place to swim on a hot day is in your bathtub"

Yours sincerely, *The Forrest Fink*

If you've overheard something in Forrest that made you giggle, please feel free to contribute to this section. Email theforrestpost@gmail.com titled 'Attn: Forrest Fink'.

Disclaimer: All submissions will be anonymous under the alias of 'The Forrest Fink'. All accusations in this segment are most likely incorrect & are intended as 'a bit of a laugh'.



Forrest Faces: Bev Frizon

Beverley Frizon (nee Heyen) married and moved to Forrest in 1956 and she still lives in the family home they built next to the family run timber milling business on Frizon Street. During her time raising and caring for her family, she made a huge contribution to the town, serving on many committees and making hundreds of her famous ginger fluff sponges for birthdays, fetes and fundraisers. Bev is fondly remembered from her days teaching religious instruction and after school club in the area and she continues to have a role with the Church and the Op Shop. Bev recently celebrated her 90th birthday and attributes her sharp mind to daily sudoku and crosswords and making the daily foray to the General store for paper, milk and mail.

BIRDS OF FORREST

SPONSORED BY
 Barwon Water

King Parrot

The King Parrot is common in our district, where their confiding nature, and bright colours make them a favourite resident. They can be found from Northern Queensland through to the Western District of Victoria, but absent in Tasmania. Their habitats include forested areas, (including rainforest,) woodlands, parks and gardens.

They are very common around Forrest, and indeed while having a coffee at the General store we have seen them flying all around the town, and feeding in adjacent trees. Most district areas, from the coast to the hills have good numbers of King Parrots around.

They are gregarious, active, noisy and conspicuous, and usually seen in pairs or small flocks. They have a rather swift flight, with deep wing beats. They feed either in trees or on the ground, taking fruits, seeds, blossoms buds and nectar. King Parrots will freely visit garden feeding stations, and can become very tame. It is quite common to see these birds feeding from the hand of people who have seeds in them.



King Parrots nest in a very deep tree hollow, usually high in a eucalypt, where 3-5 very rounded white eggs are laid. As they need these large trees to nest in, it is important that these types of habitats are retained, not just for King Parrots, but for many other species both avian and mammalian to live in.

It's great to just sit and watch their antics in many places throughout the Otways.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry

Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

