

THE FORREST POST

FMS APRIL 2025 FREE



Starstruck in Forrest

You could be mistaken for thinking you were an extra in a blockbuster as the cameras rolled when the ABC Back Roads team came to town for a week in March. Stories were sourced, activities and events filmed and local residents interviewed as the team delved into the personal stories behind Forrest's transformation from bustling timber milling town to the picturesque mountain biking mecca and tourist destination it is today.

Back Roads is a popular TV series that tells the stories behind the people in regional Australian towns. Producer Amos Roberts was intrigued by what their researchers had uncovered about Forrest and fell in love with the characters of our tiny town in the Otways. As a freelance journalist based in Melbourne, Amos usually covers hard hitting news stories, often overseas, and enjoys the opportunity Back Roads provides to tell life affirming stories about people and places in his own backyard. He found Forrest folk to be welcoming and happy to participate.

Good food, accommodation and a decent coffee can be hard to come by in some towns but happily not so in Forrest, where the team was impressed by our hospitality. They especially loved the home cooked meals including an old family recipe for rabbit stew provided by the General store. Paul West, the host of the Forrest episode is a renowned chef and writer of cookbooks, you may also have seen him in the ABC's River Cottage Australia, so high praise!

The town put on a show, the warm autumnal weather making for a stunning backdrop as the amused and sometimes perplexed residents became the stars in their own stories. We aren't able to tell you when the show will air, but the Back Roads team will be in touch and there is even a rumour there may be a viewing at the Forrest Hall once released. We will keep you Posted...

Gillian Brew



NOTIFICATION OF ROAD CLOSURES SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2025

As with previous years, road closures for the annual Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride will be implemented along sections of the course to provide the safest possible environment for road users.

CLOSURE PERIOD	ROAD SECTIONS CLOSED
5.00am - 9.30am	Torquay (Event Start Line), The Esplanade, from Beach Rd to Gilbert St
9.30am - 5.30pm	Torquay (Event Finish Line), The Esplanade, from Zeally Bay Rd to Gilbert St
7.30am - 10.00am	Hendy Main Rd to Cape Otway Rd Moriac
8.00am - 10.30am	Cape Otway Rd Moriac at Church Rd to Winchelsea-Deans Marsh Rd
8.30am - 11.00am	Cape Otway Rd from Winchelsea-Deans Marsh Rd to Birregurra-Deans Marsh Rd
8.30am - 12.15pm	Birregurra-Deans Marsh Rd to Deans Marsh
9.00am - 1.00pm	Deans Marsh-Lorne Rd to Neade St Lorne

Note: access will be available to Pennyroyal Valley Road from Deans Marsh General Store. Please also note the following:

7.00am - 9.15am	Please avoid Anglesea Rd from the Bellbrae roundabout to Hendy Main Rd, to minimise delays Great Ocean Road from Skenes Creek to Torquay will be open in both directions
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A smaller number of riders (approx. 450) will leave Torquay at 6.30am. These riders will be participating in an extended ride that follows the event course through Moriac before heading to Forrest and Skenes Creek, and then back to Torquay via the Great Ocean Road. Scan QR code for map.



There will be no road closures in place for these early starters.

More details: www.greatoceanotwayclassic.com.au or 0456 479 606

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.

AUTUMN PLANNED BURNS FOR FORREST- BALD HILL & RIDGE RD - MORE INFO PG2

Colac Otway Shire News

Colac Otway Shire Grant Program 2025-26

Applications Now Open

The Colac Otway Shire Grants Program 2025-26 provides grants to assist funding projects and events that benefit the wider community.

A total pool of \$311,500* is available through three funding streams:

- Community Grants
- Events Grants
- Business Grants

*(subject to budget approval)

Applications opened 9am Friday 28 February 2025 and close 5pm on Friday 11 April 2025.

View the Guidelines and apply online through Council's website www.colacotway.vic.gov.au under 'Apply for a Grant, Colac Otway Shire Grants Program 2025/26'

For assistance and to register for an information session, contact Council's Grants Officer on email: grants@colacotway.vic.gov.au or (03) 5232 9400.

2025 Colac Otway Youth Art Competition

Entries are now open for the inaugural 2025 Colac Otway Youth Art Competition.

The competition is open to all young people aged 12 to 25 who live, work or learn in Colac Otway Shire. This is your chance to showcase your creativity with the community and win fantastic prizes. **Entries close Friday 16 May 2025.**

For info go to www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/2025YouthArtComp

Animal Registration Renewals

Attention dog and cat owners - it's that time of year again!




Your annual animal registration renewals are due 10 April 2025.

Reminder letters have been sent to all registered pet owners in the Colac Otway Shire.

You can conveniently pay your renewal:

- In person at any Council Customer Service Centre
- By phone with one of friendly customer service officers
- Online via Council's eServices portal

For more information, visit Council's website or contact us directly by calling 5232 9400.

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

FORREST ENERGY GROUP - FEG UPDATE

A small, but intrepid, group met last Thursday 6th March to hear all about the FREE energy assessments now available to Forrest community members. Australian Energy Assessments are a government accredited provider of personalised reviews of your home, resulting in a nationally recognised Residential Score Card Star rating. Further they provide specific recommendations and options to reduce your homes energy consumption, boost your property value and access government rebates for energy efficient upgrades.

Remember, the best energy you use is energy you don't use!!

Note: Free Energy Assessment claim forms are available at the General Store for those that didn't make the meeting. Mike Juleff

Forest Fire Management Victoria

AUTUMN PLANNED BURN PROGRAM

The Forrest – Bald Hill and Ridge Road burns maybe ignited on Thursday 3 April if weather and resources allow.

Smoke may be present in the area



Forrest – Bald hill - 15ha

Forrest – Ridge Road - 352ha with ignition assistance from aircraft

ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn



Shakespeare's Insult for April

Wow, this insult may well have been applied in recent international events? It's now available for use to your hearts content.

"..Out of my sight!
Thou dost infect my eyes!"

- Richard III

Contributors

Writers: Gillian Brew, Mike Juleff, Mary Dracup, Forrest Primary School, The Forrest Fink, Adam Davies and Ian Fry.

Illustration: Amelia McBride Baker

Design: Gillian Brew **Printing:** Forrest Primary School

Proofreaders: Mike and Katrine Juleff.

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.

Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action  Emergency Leaders for Climate Action

Hotter, Drier, Riskier:

Bushfire in the Colac-Otway Region

PANEL DISCUSSIONS EXPERTS, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

DATE WED 16TH APRIL, 6:30 - 8PM

LOCATION COLAC OTWAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

PLUS all candidates for Wannon invited



RSVP bit.ly/colacforum

Perfect Days gently affirms the simple life

Perfect Days (2023) is our first Forrest Flicks film by the famous German filmmaker Wim Wenders. Not surprisingly, it has been described as 'rather perfect' and has won a swag of awards.


The film follows the solitary, simple life a Tokyo toilet cleaner who finds beauty and fulfilment in his daily round. It is a Zen meditation on the perfection of details, with the haunting Lou Reed song of the same name providing a gentle entry point.

The main actor is Koji Yakusho, who you may recognize from other strong roles in *Babel* and *Memoirs of a Geisha*. He gives a masterful performance as he goes about his analogue life in the digitally saturated Tokyo setting.

Perfect Days will be showing on Wednesday 2 April at the Forrest Hall. 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.

Subscribing to the Forrest Flicks Film Society full six-film program costs \$45/\$35 concession; three films cost \$25/\$20 concession. You can 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. Buy online using the QR code in the advertisement or pay at the door *with cash only* on the night.

Mary Dracup



NEW YORK YELLOWWAVE WINNER BEST ACTOR TORONTO LONDON

A FILM BY WIM WENDERS

PERFECT DAYS

"A POEM OF EXTRAORDINARY SUBTLETY AND BEAUTY"

STARRING KOJI YAKUSHO

FORREST FLICKS FILM SOCIETY

Wednesday 2 April
Forrest Public Hall
7 pm for complimentary wine and cheese
Movie starts 7:30 pm

Barwon Water Colac Otway

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



Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre
95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac VIC 3250



INDONESIAN DAY AT COPACC featuring DALANG SUMARDI
Saturday 12 April from 1PM



Celebrate Indonesian Culture with this special school holiday program!

Join us from 1pm in our Public Foyer for a performance by Phil Gray and his students from Elliminyt Primary School, followed by a special guest performer from Warrnambool. Then, from 2pm, returning to Australia by popular demand, COPACC & Cultural Infusion present the Dalang (Master) Shadow Puppeteer Sumardi. A truly magical experience!

Ticket \$16 | Concession \$15 | COPACC Member \$13
BOOK NOW: copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418 (#2)



Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre
95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac VIC 3250

A Monkey Baa Theatre Company production
JOSEPHINE WANTS TO DANCE



Image credit: Alex Vaughn



Monday | 28 April | 5:30 pm (relaxed performance)
Tuesday | 29 April | 10 am & 1 pm

A hilarious musical about the importance of believing in yourself and realising your dreams and... a dancing kangaroo!

Based on the book by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley
Adapted by Eva Di Cesare, Sandie Eldridge and Tim McGarry

Ticket \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (12 y & u) \$16
COPACC Members \$16 | School Groups \$15 per student
BOOK NOW: copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418 (#2)



Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - April 2025

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE F&DNH

MONDAYS - open 12pm-4pm (incorporating youth group)

Youth group: 3.30pm-4.30pm. Open to youth aged 10+. Cost is \$15 per term or a gold coin each week.

TUESDAYS -open 8.30am-3.30pm

Craft group: 3pm-5pm each week. BYO craft project to work on. Gold coin.

Seniors morning tea: First Tuesday of the month, 10am-11.30am. Gold coin.

Book club: 2nd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm. Gold coin

Weeding group: 4th 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 available to all in the community.

WEDNESDAYS - open 8.30am-3.30pm

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

Forrest voices (singing for fun): 11am-12pm. Gold coin.

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

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

THURSDAYS - coordinator at the hall

Community lunch: Take away or dine in.

Order on Wednesdays on Facebook or text 0493105502, pick up from the hall at 12.30pm on the day. \$7. Return containers each week!

FRIDAYS - CLOSED

Pantry top up: (late evening)

Community Gym (at the rec reserve): memberships available, contact coordinator for more info. Gym can be accessed between 6am-10pm daily.

COMING UP

SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS MOVIE: MONDAY 14TH APRIL 10AM.

Movie TBC. Cost will be \$5 per person. Popcorn, water and fruit cups available for sale on the day, all \$2. Cash only please

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE: Friday 22nd August & Friday 29th August 8.45am to 4.00pm

Please note you must attend both full days of the course (see ad below) Cost: \$20

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZZGG>

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR UP TO DATE INFO AND EVENTS!



Mon 12-4pm, Tue, Wed 8.30am-3.30pm Thu - at the hall, 8.30am-3.30pm

Office hours may change or be limited if coordinator or volunteers are unavailable.

Please phone ahead if required **Ph: 0493 105 502**

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



Colac Otway SHIRE

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MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
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Licensed Instructor

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

Free Training For GORH Staff

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

Approximately 20% of Australian adults experience a common mental illness each year.

Spotting the signs and symptoms of a mental illness in a friend, family member or colleague and knowing how to help them can change lives.

Untreated mental health conditions can result in unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and suicide, and poor quality of life.

The standard Mental Health First Aid course teaches you the skills required to help someone who may be struggling.

Upcoming Dates:
8.45am to 4.00pm Friday 22nd August & Friday 29th August
FORREST and district neighbourhood house
47 Grant street, Forrest, VIC

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZZGG>

Please note you must attend both full days of the course

Cost: \$20



Wannon's Wild Card:

What is this orange kelpie you've been seeing around?

If you've noticed a bright orange kelpie popping up around the electorate seat of Wannon lately and wondered what it's all about, you're not alone! This eye-catching pooch isn't part of a new dog food campaign or the latest viral TikTok trend. It's the face of independent candidate Alex Dyson's energetic campaign, and it's turning heads across western Victoria.

The "Orange Kelpie" has become a symbol of Dyson's grassroots, community-first approach to politics. Dyson, a former Triple J radio host, has brought creativity and humour to the political scene and his furry orange friend embodies loyalty, energy, and an eagerness to connect with locals. This quirky campaign tool has been hard to miss, and it's playing a key role in reshaping the political conversation in Wannon.

Wannon is no stranger to big political names. The electorate has been a Liberal Party stronghold for decades, most famously held by former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser from 1955 to 1983. More recently, the seat has been represented by Dan Tehan, a senior Liberal figure who has served as the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Tehan has maintained a strong presence in the region, focusing on economic development and agricultural support.

With changing community priorities and fresh challengers like Dyson stepping forward, Tehan now faces a tougher fight than ever before. Alongside Dyson, other campaigners have been actively engaging with local communities, making this one of the most closely watched contests in regional Victoria.

With the upcoming Australian federal election drawing closer, the political climate is heating up. As parties and candidates compete for votes, marginal seats like Wannon are becoming key battlegrounds. Both major parties are expected to pour resources into winning over voters in this once-safe Liberal stronghold.

For communities in Wannon, this heightened attention presents opportunities for improved services, increased funding, and greater political accountability. Campaigns are expected to focus on issues such as access to healthcare, environmental conservation, and regional economic growth, which potentially are key concerns for residents in towns like Forrest.

With Wannon now a marginal seat, both major parties and independents are sitting up and taking notice. Marginal seats attract political promises, funding boosts, and extra attention all things that can greatly benefit local communities.

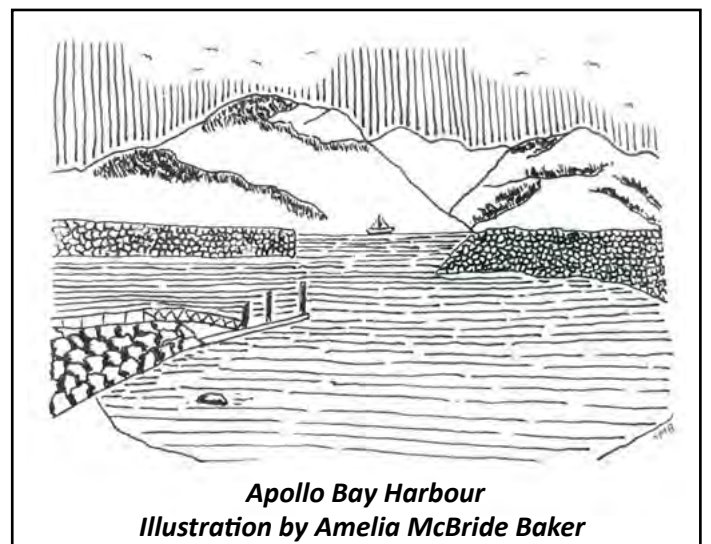
As the election heats up, expect a flurry of campaign visits, promises, and handshakes in regional communities. This is good news for residents, especially in smaller towns like Forrest who now have a more prominent voice in shaping policy decisions that impact their lives. Whether you're partial to the Orange Kelpie, or have voted the same party strong always and forever—one thing is clear: Wannon is no longer a seat politicians can take for granted.

So next time you see that vibrant orange kelpie, whether you like it or not, remember it's not just a campaign gimmick. It's a symbol of a community waking up to the power of its vote.

Laura Shawcross

The Federal Election will be held on Saturday 3 May 2025 and polling will take place between 8am and 6pm at the Forrest Hall, 14 Grant Street, Forrest.

Voting is compulsory. If you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be entitled to vote early either in person or by post. More information about voting and enrollment is available from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
www.aec.gov.au



Apollo Bay Harbour
 Illustration by Amelia McBride Baker

East Barwon rock ramp fishway visit

One of Barwon Water’s more innovative recent works to improve water flows, quality and health in the Barwon River is the installation of ‘rock grade control structures’ or ‘fishways’, in the upper reaches of the East Barwon River near Forrest.

These are complex engineering works over a 40-metre stretch of the river where recent willow removal revealed a 1.6 metre drop in the riverbed that needed to be managed. Late last year excavators were called in to place large rocks in a precise formation to create a variety of water velocities and spaces designed to help fish, turtles, platypus and other aquatic fauna re-establish.

Barwon Water and Corangamite CMA staff explained the purpose and function of the works to a small group of Friends of the Barwon and Gerangamete and Forrest Landcare members at the site in late March. The works are part of their joint 2021-24 East Barwon Willow Removal and Restoration Project, which has seen 4 kilometres of riverside above and just below the take-off point for the Wurdee Buloc channel cleared of choking willows and revegetated.

Mariah Sampson also summarised findings of her PhD study into changes to water quality and river health in this stretch of river during and after the dramatic works.



Where once the East Barwon near this site had become more of a floodplain consumed by willows, with very low biodiversity, recent surveys by the Arthur Rylah Institute have found that there is already evidence of blackfish, southern pygmy perch, mountain galaxids and migratory galaxids.

Corangamite CMA senior project officer Tony Byrne gave an update on the Upper Barwon Flagship Riparian Works Program, which is continuing to work with landowners to clear choke points in both the East and West branches, followed by restoration works including erosion control, stock exclusion fencing and revegetation. These works aim to restore native species habitat in and along the river banks and ultimately improve the river’s overall health as well as water quality and quantity. Partnership funding of \$700,000 is currently available to landowners willing to rehabilitate their river frontage through the program.

Mary Dracup

Barwon Water Updates



20%
West Barwon Reservoir



50%
Wurdee Boluc Reservoir



4ML
Current minimum daily passing flow at West Barwon

Dry conditions

Water storages in Colac and Apollo Bay are as dry as they’ve been at this time of year since 2016.

Amid ongoing dry conditions – which has driven consumption up more than 10 per cent above average - Barwon Water is encouraging customers to use water wisely.

For some of Barwon Water’s key catchments, 10 of the last 12 months have seen below average rainfall.

The nine-year low is replicated in Apollo Bay, which has just experienced its third driest summer period in the past 50 years.

Storages have fallen under 50 per cent capacity – having last year ended February at 99.5 percent full.

It is a similar story in Geelong, with its combined water storages entering March at 46.3 per cent, which is a six-year low.

How you can help

By making simple changes at home, like taking shorter showers, fixing leaks, washing with full loads and not watering your garden in the heat of the day, you can lower your water and energy bills.

Learn about the Permanent Water Saving Rules: www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/permanent-water-saving-rules

Water saving tips

Stick to four-minute showers, change from a single-flush to dual-flush, 4-star toilet, use a front-load washing machine rather than a top loader, and choose energy efficient products.

Staying Active at Forrest Primary School and Early Years Centre

At Forrest Primary School and Early Years Centre, we know that keeping active is essential for student wellbeing. Our Senior students have been lucky to take part in weekly gym sessions with local police officer Matt Robertson. These sessions focus on building strength, coordination, and confidence while encouraging lifelong healthy habits.

We are incredibly grateful to Matt for his ongoing support and for sharing his time and expertise with our students each week. His involvement has made fitness both fun and engaging!



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a username & password

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- mitre saw - metal welding

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- Webster packing
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- Cosmetics & Fragrances
- NDSS (Diabetes Australia) Subagent
- Workcover & TAC
- Instore medication reviews
- eScripts & MySL



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40 Main Street, Birregurra, VIC 3242

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THE FORREST OP SHOP

OPEN WHEN THE SIGNS ARE OUT

Clean donations in good repair welcome during open hours
or by arrangement. Call Marita 0429 883 909

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH - 18 GRANT STREET FORREST

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.

"Turning on your water tap in Forrest is like a game show: Will there be water? Will it be low pressure? Will it come out clear, yellow, or... surprise — it's still yellow! Tune in to find out which tap gets the jackpot!"

"For a population of just over 200 people- Forrest knows how to fill a full episode of "Back Roads"... so much room for activities!"

"Two years ago, we were waiting for the reservoir to overflow. Now it's a race to see who spots the bottom first"

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:
Aimee Ward

How long have you lived in the Otway area?

We still feel new to the Otways, we've lived here almost 3 years, but remember camping at Lake Elizabeth maybe 5 years ago for a break and discovered Forrest and surrounds!

What is something people don't know about you?

In 2011, I traveled to South America for 18 months, experiencing so much. I walked with a float during carnival in Brazil, trekked 5 days to Machu Picchu and sailed from Panama to Bogota Colombia to avoid the treacherous Darién Gap.

What is your favourite thing about the Otways?

I cannot think of just a single thing which is perhaps my most favorite thing about the area. The diversity, each exploration and my senses are treated. Always discovering new trails and bike rides, viewing spots and constantly on the lookout for wildlife, what a treat!

BIRDS OF FORREST

SPONSORED BY
 Barwon Water

Song Thrush

The Song Thrush is an interesting species that can be found in a few isolated spots in our District. It was introduced into Victoria from England in 1856, and it is still found in suburbs around Melbourne. Adam and I have seen them in Apollo Bay, Stephensen's Falls, Olangolah plantation and the Redwoods. Others have recorded them from other coastal and rainforest areas in the Otways, so they may be increasing from limited numbers down here. The only place they are common in Australia is Norfolk and Lord Howe islands.

They are similar in appearance to our native Bassian Thrush, so care has to be made when trying to identify them. Bassian Thrush are slightly bigger, and have crescent patterns on their under body parts, while Song Thrush have more of a streaked, arrowhead design as well as a more even brown colouration on top. They are about the same size as a Blackbird.

Both of these Thrushes are also similar in habitat and food requirements. They eat worms, insects, snails and other invertebrates, as well as fruits and seeds.



They are usually found singularly, and forages on the ground in dense cover, but occasionally on lawns. Although they are an introduced species, Adam and I still feel lucky to have seen these on the few occasions that they have shown themselves to us.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry.

Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

