

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.



Carlene Alexander (nee Lidgerwood) and Peter Binns were drivers behind the planning for the annual 'Back to Forrest' event.

Back to Forrest

On Sunday the 26th of October our Facebook group, "I Grew up in Forrest" had our third get together. Our group of 339 members includes the good folk that grew up in the towns of Forrest, Barwon Downs, Gerangamete, Barramunga and Yaughar.

We had a fabulous day with our members visiting from WA, SA, NSW, QLD and across Victoria. Several activities were planned for the day, commencing at the Football Club room. It was then off to the Forrest hall where we met for morning tea and lunch, and reminisced with our old friends, some we hadn't seen for at least 60 years. In the afternoon the Forrest School was kindly open to us. It provided so many memories of our days gone by. Our final visit was to the Historical Society where we recaptured the historical images and relics of our communities past.

The weather didn't deter us as this was another signal we were home.

Carlene Alexander (nee Lidgerwood)



Many generations of Forrest folk poured over the old school records and photos looking for mention of family and friends.

Peter drove from Queensland to attend the event, stopping along the way at Mt Waverley to pick up Carlene. He remembers fondly when the whole town turned out in 1968 to welcome him back as a returning veteran from the Vietnam war.

'I couldn't believe they put on a dance to celebrate my homecoming'.

It was a proud moment and one of the many stories that were recounted on the day. Despite the wet weather, Peter estimates there were around 100 people in attendance.

The Pennyroyal hall committee provided a wonderful spread of homebaked goodies while raising funds for the Pennyroyal Hall. Many thanks to the local Forrest Recreation Reserve, Primary School and Historical Society for opening their doors for the visitors returning home.



School principals past and present compare notes, Megan Murfitt (left) with Ann Buchanan who was principal from Feb 2009 – Feb 2012.

FORREST FORMULA ONE RACE DAY - 10AM, FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER. COME & CHEER AS THE MAGNIFICENT MODELS RUMBLE DOWN BLUNDY ST. GRAND PRIZES, SNACKS AND LOTS OF FUN

Colac Otway Shire News

Tenders and Expressions of Interest

Colac Regional Saleyard Café Expression of Interest

Colac Otway Shire Council invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from experienced parties interested in operating a café service at the Colac Regional Saleyard under a Licence. The purpose of this EOI is to identify a suitable operator who can provide quality food and beverage services during stock sales days and potentially on other weekdays, enhancing the overall experience for visitors and stakeholders.

It is a mandatory condition of this Expression of Interest that all submitters attend one of two premise inspections as follows:

Date: Friday 31 October 2025

Date: Monday 10 November 2025

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

EOI closes at 2pm, Wednesday 19 November 2025.

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

Andrew Tenni

Chief Executive Officer

Have Your Say

The following community consultation is now open.

Lake Colac Path Feasibility

In 2022, the Colac Otway Shire Council engaged consultants to conduct a feasibility study into a perimeter path around Lake Colac. This feasibility study is now on exhibition for the community to provide feedback.

Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 5 December 2025.

Visit our website www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay for more information.



Extra green waste collections – October, November and December

Kerbside Collection

To help you prepare your property ahead of fire season, Council's weekly kerbside collection of green waste commenced on Monday 20 October, continuing until 28 November.

Free Green Waste Drop-off in November

A 6 x 4 trailer of non-commercial green waste can be taken to the Alvie, Apollo Bay and Birregurra waste transfer stations during business hours from Saturday 1 November until Sunday 30 November.

Green Waste Skips at Wye River, Kennett River and Forrest

Green waste skips will be in Wye River and Kennett River from Friday 31 October until Friday 28 November to assist with fire season readiness.

- 1A The Boulevard, Wye River (opposite the CFA shed)
- 15A Great Ocean Road, Kennett River (carpark area)

This year, a green waste skip will be located at Forrest between 1-15 December.

- 47 Grant Street, Forrest

Bark and Leaf Collection in Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River

There will be bark and leaf collection in Wye River and Kennett River. Residents are advised to leave bark and leaves in piles on their nature strip for collection. All branches and tree trunks should be taken to a Transfer Station for disposal.

Wye River and Separation Creek

- Monday 10 November, Tuesday 11 November and Wednesday 12 November

Kennett River

- Thursday 13 November and Friday 14 November

For more information visit our website:

www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/extra-waste

Colac Service Centre: 2- 6 Rae Street, Colac, Open: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5pm   
Ph: 5232 9400 Email: inquiry@colacotway.vic.gov.au or find us online: www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

Shakespeare's Insult November

*This month might be useful at/for
local candle or soap makers?*

"Out, you baggage!
You tallow face!"

- Hamlet

Writers: Carlene Alexander, Gillian Brew, Rob Cargill, Mary Dracup, Adam Davies and Ian Fry.

Design: Gillian Brew

Printing: Forrest Primary School

Proofreaders: Mike and Katrine Juleff.

The Forrest Post is run by volunteers and 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.

RETRACTION: In the last issue of the Forrest Post (October 2025) in the Forrest Faces article on page 8 featuring Hoya Wolfgang, it was stated that the Catan board game sessions Hoya facilitates at the Neighbourhood House, are open to everyone. This is incorrect. The Post would like to clarify that the Catan board game sessions are for men only, to facilitate men's spaces, sharing and wellbeing.

How you can plan and prepare to stay safer this summer

Come to the Forrest Primary School on Wed 5th November at 3.30pm and the CFA will answer your questions about how to prepare for the coming fire season with practical solutions and the latest up to date information.

Last year the FLARE project helped increase our safety and knowledge about living in a high fire risk area and with input from emergency services and the community, developed a Community Emergency Plan. At the end of the project in 2024, the FLARE Team agreed to get together yearly to maintain valuable information sharing and networks, including updating the Plan. We would like to hear from you:

- Did you know about the Community Emergency Plan
- If yes was it useful?
- What could be added/removed from the plan?
- What other measures could help you be safer?

George O'Dwyer from the Emergency Management Team at the Shire has worked with the Forrest community over many years, has a lot of knowledge and experience working within the emergency services and will be on hand to chat.

We know that leaving high risk areas like Forrest early on a bad day is the best plan but it's not always easy. FLARE, along with the CFA and Council are investigating how we can make leaving early easier and how we can stay better connected.

For more information or if you cannot attend the meeting and would like to have your say about the Community Emergency Plan please contact Gillian from FLARE flare3236@gmail.com



FIRE SAFETY PLANNING WORKSHOP

CFA is offering a **FREE** Fire Planning Workshop for the community of Forrest

When: Wednesday 5th November
Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Where: Forrest Primary School
 10 Grant Street, Forrest

The session will include information on:

- Preparation
- Fire Behaviour
- Personal Safety

For further information please call CFA on on 5551 1515 or via email swrcommsafety@cfa.vic.gov.au

 cfa.vic.gov.au

November at COPACC

Get into the Festive Spirit with
Inventi Ensemble's

THE NUTCRACKER

Sunday | 7 December | 2pm

Experience the magic of Inventi Ensemble as they perform Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite like never before, arranged for a vibrant chamber ensemble.

Perfect for all ages, this concert delivers energetic, up-close renditions of classics like the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Waltz of the Flowers.

An unforgettable holiday adventure for the whole family!

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

Book now via QR code above or
copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418



Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - November



REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE F&DNH

MONDAYS - open 12pm-4pm (inc 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

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

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

Seniors morning tea: First Tuesday of the month, 10.30am-11.30am. Gold coin.

WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER this month!

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

Weeding group: 4th Tuesday of the month 10am-12pm. Contact Susan Langridge for more details 0498 592 364.

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.

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)

Forrest Osteopathy is onsite Fridays.

Call 0438298669 to book in.

Community Gym (at the rec reserve):

memberships available, contact coordinator for more info. Gym can be accessed between 6am-10pm daily.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

Thea Brown Reflexology will be in house on **17th 18th and 19th November.** Call 0447669787 to book

\$100 Power Saving Bonus is available to eligible concession card holders. Please contact coordinator to apply.

F&DNH AGM
Tuesday 6th December
6pm.
All welcome.

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



Power Saving Bonus Program

The Power Saving Bonus is a \$100 payment providing real help to address the cost of living and drive down energy bills. Victorian households with an eligible concession card can visit the Victorian Energy Compare website - compare.energy.vic.gov.au - to apply online or apply through the Community Outreach Program.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, households will need to:

- Have a recent residential electricity bill
- Hold one of the following concession cards:
 - Health Care Card
 - Pensioner Concession Card
 - Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
 - Veterans' Affairs Gold Card
- Only one payment per household is available.

Applications open on 25 August 2025 and can be submitted on compare.energy.vic.gov.au website, over the phone, or through a participating community organisation.

Help to apply

Concession card households who need assistance to apply for the \$100 payment can receive over-the-phone or in-person support via the Community Outreach Program.

Phone support: Victorian Energy Compare helpline – 1800 000 832

In person support: Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

How it works

Check you are eligible for the \$100 Power Saving Bonus.

Get the following documents ready:

- a copy of a recent electricity bill
- an eligible concession card
- your driver's licence or Medicare card

You'll need to provide information from these documents to confirm your identity and eligibility.

Contact one of the community organisations listed above to apply over the phone or in-person.



Spring clean time again

Get ready for summer by cleaning up around your property. Cleaning gutters and removing overhanging branches, wood stacks and the build up of leaves and debris from around the house will make your property safer. The Green Waste bin will be situated outside the Neighbourhood House in Forrest during December. Check out the Council article on page 2 for extra collections and FREE green waste drop offs at transfer stations in November.



Local venues offer fab facilities for low rates

At this time of year it's still safest to plan a party or get-together under cover. While some might like to cram friends into their house, shed or a marquee, Forreast boasts some great all-weather venues at very reasonable rates, which could be a smarter choice.

The Forreast Hall looks trim these days, with its welcoming entrance, sanded floors, repainted kitchen and new stage curtains. It also sounds so much better thanks to acoustic panels on the ceiling and new speakers installed this year. If the weather's fine, the back deck and large grassy garden are pretty inviting. The building is wheelchair-accessible, with a disabled toilet, and accommodates up to 150 people seated indoors.

The whole hall can be hired by community members for \$45 for a half-day or \$90 a full day. Alternatively, its commercial kitchen can be hired for \$40 for four hours. (Rates are higher for corporate, government and private functions.)

For smaller get-togethers, there's the Grasstree building facing the main road at the Community Hub, 49 Grant St. Many Forreast people saw the inside of this building for the first time earlier this year when they cast their vote, and more than a few were heard to remark what a useful space it could be. This building also has a small kitchen, toilets and showers, and an undercover deck with a grassy garden. It is wheelchair-accessible, with a disabled toilet, and accommodates up to 50.

Community members can hire the Grasstree building for \$40 for a half-day or \$80 a full day. (Again, corporate, government and private function rates are higher.)

For more information and to hire these venues, see the online form at: <https://tinyurl.com/369fwv5v>. Both venues are managed by local volunteers on the Forreast Public Reserves Committee (FPRC), for the benefit of the community.

Mary Dracup, FPRC secretary

Have you seen signs of feral pigs at your place?

Do you know what feral pig damage looks like—or how it affects pastures, waterways, and native vegetation?

You're invited to attend a free 2-hour workshop at Echidna House, Kawarren on 20 November to learn how we can work together to manage feral pigs in the Northern Otways (from Carlisle River to Forreast, Barongarook to Beech Forest).

The Conservation Ecology Centre has been delivering a successful feral pig control program across public and private land in the Otways since 2018, helping landholders and their neighbours get rid of feral pigs once and for all.

With new funding from the Ian Potter Foundation and Agriculture Victoria, the program is expanding into more areas—and we want local landholders to be part of it.

At the workshop, you'll learn:

- How to identify signs of feral pig activity and damage.
- The latest techniques used to detect and monitor feral pigs.
- Practical steps you can take to manage pigs on your property.
- How the CEC can support your efforts.

Whether you've seen pigs on your land or in the region, or just want to learn more, this workshop is a great opportunity to get involved and protect your land and the local environment.

You're also invited to stay on for lunch and an informal chat after the workshop. Please RSVP to toni@conservationecologycentre.org and let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone you think might be interested.

DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS?

FERAL PIGS CAN DAMAGE PASTURE, WATERCOURSES & NATIVE VEGETATION.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

Join us for a **free 2-hour workshop** at **Echidna House in Kawarren** at **10am on Thursday 20 November** to learn how we can work together to manage **feral pigs** in the Northern Otways.

The Conservation Ecology Centre has been delivering a successful feral pig control program across public and private land in the Otways since 2018, helping landholders and their neighbours **get rid of feral pigs once and for all**.

Whether you've seen pigs on your land or in the region, or just want to learn more, this workshop is a great opportunity to get involved and protect your land and the local environment.

RSVP to toni@conservationecologycentre.org







Where: Echidna House, Kawarren

When: 10am – 1pm, Thursday 20 November 2025

RSVP to toni@conservationecologycentre.org by Friday 14 Nov.

Digesting the Forrest Wastewater Project

A cursory look at the Barwon Water website tells me that the Forrest Wastewater Project (aka 'getting the sewerage') is currently awaiting the release of the Draft Great Ocean Road Strategic Framework Plan (SFP) from DEECA. That Plan will be a 50-year vision to replace the 20 year plan adopted in 2003.

The draft is due in early 2026.

Some of us will find this frustrating, like having to wait for a cubicle to become vacant at a truckstop when the coffee you had earlier has done its job, especially after the first flush of anticipation created by community consultations revealed Forrest as first in a possible 138-year process of sewerage everywhere.

But we need to digest this carefully, and like digestion this is a complex process which can take a long time from the first bite until... what happens at the other end. One day we will be able to smell the roses rather than the septic. Meat takes the longest to digest, and this is a meaty subject.

So we cross our fingers (and legs) and wait.

Rob Cargill

The Forrest & District Community Group has been seeking clarity from the agencies and while there has been no response from DEECA regarding the impact of the Great Ocean Road Strategic Framework Plan (SFP) on the project, FDCG met with Colac Otway Shire CEO Andrew Tenni who stated that the council is very supportive of the wastewater project going ahead. The office of Gayle Tierny MP, Minister for Water has given an undertaking to assist with communications with the relevant bodies to ensure Forrest voices will be heard.

The state of septic systems in Forrest has been the focus of many years of community concern, a 2019 wastewater report showing up to 70% of private systems were failing which puts Forrest well

below World Health standards. While community expectations were that the Forrest Wastewater Project would be completed by 2028, that is likely no longer the case.

Gillian Brew - FDCG

The Forrest Post asked Barwon Water to comment on speculations and received the following press release.

Barwon Water considers multiple inputs to develop Forrest's wastewater management solution

Barwon Water is pursuing a long-term wastewater management solution for Forrest that has benefits for public health, amenity and the environment.

The Forrest Wastewater Project is in the planning phase, with concept design and cost estimates prepared.

The economic assessment and business case yet to be finalised will consider a range of regional risks and opportunities, as well as the Great Ocean Road Strategic Framework Plan (SFP).

Prepared by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the draft SFP will provide an overarching view of land use planning for the Great Ocean Road region.

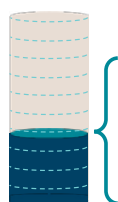
The draft SFP is expected to be released in the coming months.

Barwon Water is committed to progressing planning work for the project, which is subject to a viable business case, Board approval, and ongoing community support.

To stay up to date, visit the Forrest Wastewater Project page at: <https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub-forrest-wastewater>.

Community Engagement Team Leader – Strategic Projects
Barwon Water www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Barwon Water Updates



37%

West Barwon Reservoir



48%

Wurdee Boluc Reservoir



4ML

Current minimum daily passing flow at West Barwon

We're here to help

If you're concerned about being able to pay your water bill, we offer extra support and flexibility to suit your situation.

We have a number of customer support options available and can tailor an option to suit your individual needs.

Get in touch, we're here to help.

For more information, please call us on **1300 656 007** between 8 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday. We will put you in touch with a specialist who will deal with your enquiry promptly and sensitively.

Stay up to date and find out more on the online **Forrest Hub:**



www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub

Did you know?

You can stay up to date with Barwon Water's key projects and works in your area via our Your Say page:

www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au





FORREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Sunday 9 November from 10.30am at the FDHS Shed (Shed 9) at the former DELWP site 47 Grant Street, Forrest.

The formal part of the meeting (we'll keep it very short!), will be followed by a talk from the wonderful Norman Houghton.

Just in case that isn't enough to tempt you, after the talk finishes, we'll retire to the Grasstree building for a bbq with free sausages and beers/ soft drinks for those inclined. Come down and join us if you can. All (members and none-members alike) are welcome!

RSVP Leo Martin leomartin85@gmail.com



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- Instore medication reviews
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birrepharmacy@hotmail.com

THE FORREST POPUP OP SHOP

OPEN WHEN THE SIGNS ARE OUT



We are currently unable to take donations due to lack of space. For information contact Marita 0429 883 909

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH - 18 GRANT STREET FORREST

FMS

FREE WIFI AT THE SHED



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

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.**



FORREST FACES: Joan Callahan

Joan was the oldest past student to visit the school at the 'Back to Forrest' event held on the 26th October. At 94 she was excited to find familiar names in the school attendants book, recording students from the region dating back to 1885.

Joan fondly remembers her time at Forrest and spent a pleasant day sharing stories and catching up with friends and relatives.

A careless campfire could be the real upset on Cup weekend

As Victorians venture into our forests and parks this Melbourne Cup weekend, the Conservation Regulator Victoria, CFA, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) are urging campers to learn about campfire safety before they go.

Even though the nights remain cool at this time of the year, days can be warm and often windy. Just one unattended or poorly managed campfire can cause serious environmental damage and put lives and property at risk.

It's important that you take a moment to check the weather forecast, especially the projected wind speeds, before heading out.

People need to make sure that their campfire is put out correctly by extinguishing it completely with water, not soil. Fires that haven't been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in the warm and windy conditions.

Before you light a fire always check fire restrictions, including whether a Total Fire Ban is in place. Download the VicEmergency app or go to www.emv.vic.gov.au.

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face a maximum penalty of \$19,759 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a day of Total Fire Ban is \$47,421.60 and/or 2 years in jail.

Report unattended campfires to DEECA at 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire.

For more on campfire rules go to: <https://www.vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs>

Provided by Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action

BIRDS OF THE OTWAYS

SPONSORED BY



Oystercatchers

In Australia we have 2 resident species of Oystercatchers, the Sooty, and the Pied. Oystercatchers are found right around the coastline of Australia. In our area, they can be found in such areas as the Barham river estuary, along the Marengo beach up to the rock shelves there. Sooty Oystercatchers are also nowhere near as common as the Pied. Both will aggressively defend their open, ground nesting area, often with the 'broken wing' display that other ground nesters have developed.

The Sooty Oystercatcher is a solidly built bird, being all black with an orange bill. The Pied however, is black and white, also with a bright orange bill.

Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers exhibit distinct differences, particularly in their preferred habitats and nesting sites. Sooties tend to favour rocky shores, while Pies are more commonly found on sandy beaches, mudflats and even flooded grassy paddocks. Specialised to feed on the flesh of heavily armoured shellfish, no other birds are designed to open and dislodge such well defended animals.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry



Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

