



Busy Forrest: The recent Run Forrest event held in June this year welcomed thousands of visitors to town but left a lingering 'pong'. The proposed wastewater system will benefit the environment, locals and visitors by replacing overwhelmed and aging septic systems.

Next steps for Forrest wastewater project approved

The Forrest and District Community Group (FDCG) has warmly welcomed Barwon Water's endorsement of the Forrest Wastewater Project business case, describing it as a once-in-a-generation investment in the township's future and a critical step towards addressing longstanding public health and environmental challenges.

The endorsement reflects compelling evidence that a reticulated wastewater system is essential to protecting public health, safeguarding the local environment, supporting businesses and tourism, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Forrest as a thriving regional destination.

The decision marks the culmination of more than a decade of sustained community advocacy, planning and collaboration. Since 2016, Forrest and District Community Group have worked alongside Barwon Water, Colac Otway Shire and other regional stakeholders through extensive consultation, technical investigations, audits, surveys and business case development.

Despite project delays and evolving requirements, community support for the project has remained strong and consistent. This enduring commitment reflects a shared understanding that modern wastewater infrastructure is essential to protecting public health, preserving the natural environment and securing Forrest's future prosperity and liveability.

FDCG Chair Geoff Kennedy said the endorsement represented a significant milestone for a project that has long been recognised by residents, businesses, community organisations and regional stakeholders as critical infrastructure for the town's future.

"This is a very important decision for Forrest," Mr Kennedy said.

"The Forrest and District Community Group has worked constructively and patiently with Barwon Water and Colac Otway Shire over many years to demonstrate why this project is needed.

"The Barwon Water decision acknowledges the strength of the evidence, the value of collaboration, and the importance of persistent community advocacy in delivering outcomes that will benefit generations to come."

Forrest & District Community Group

Barwon Water Board endorses Forrest wastewater

Barwon Water is moving forward with the proposed long-term wastewater management solution for Forrest.

The organisation has endorsed a business case to introduce a reticulated town wastewater system in the Otways township. Work on detailed designs of the required infrastructure – including a sewer network, onsite pressure units and water recycling facility – will begin in the coming months. Barwon Water will be liaising with property owners to progress the design of the network and discuss plumbing requirements and their potential connection costs.

Timing of construction will be informed by the design work, as well as the funding timeframes that are determined through Barwon Water's upcoming five-year action plan.

A majority of local survey respondents back the overall project and the proposed funding model. Barwon Water has also received positive advocacy submissions from Forrest and District Community Group, Colac Otway Shire Council, and other regional stakeholders. Managing Director Shaun Cumming said addressing public health and environmental risks, along with the broad public support, and resulting economic benefits of a wastewater system, were key reasons to progress the project.

"This is a positive outcome for the township and a significant investment by Barwon Water in the future of Forrest," Mr Cumming said.

Continued page 3

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.

ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER - 22 OCT - 2:30-4:30PM @ THE HALL • HALLOWEEN - 31 OCT



Colac Otway Shire News

2027 Community Award Nominations

The Colac Otway Shire Community Awards recognise and honour outstanding achievement, community contribution and service across Colac Otway Shire.

Nominations are now open for the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year, Local Impact Award
- Young Citizen of the Year, Rising Start Award
- Community Service Leader, Helping Hands Award, and
- Creative and Active Contribution, Culture and Connection Award

The award winners will be officially announced and awarded at Council's 2027 Australia Day event to be held at Cressy Aerodrome.

Visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/community-awards for more information.

FREE Property Fire Preparedness Visits

Colac Otway Shire Council's Emergency Management team is offering free onsite property visits to help residents prepare for the upcoming Fire Danger Period.

From Monday 21 September 2026 until Friday 23 October 2026, you can book an onsite visit between 10:00am and 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

An officer will meet you at your property and provide practical advice on reducing bushfire risk, protecting your home, and creating a fire plan.

Call 5232 9400 to book your free appointment.

Recruitment

Build a career where your work has a real impact, in a place where lifestyle and opportunity go hand in hand and at Colac Otway Shire Council, we are proud to serve and strengthen the communities that make our region such a special place to live.

Local government offers a diverse range of roles that help shape the communities where we live, and Colac Otway Shire Council is an exciting place to work.

If you are looking for meaningful work, professional growth and an opportunity to make a positive impact every day, we would love to hear from you!

Visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/careers to explore current opportunities and discover how you can make a positive difference at Colac Otway Shire Council.

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



Born to Janis and Rhys a baby son Isaac Lucas Milne at 9:31am on 14 September 2026 weight 3.9kg. A little brother to Gus and second great nephew for Kay MacDonald.

Little Galaxias in the West Barwon river

A tiny threatened fish has made a big splash in the Upper Barwon catchment, with Little Galaxias (*Galaxiella tootkoourt*) recorded in the West Barwon River for the first time. The discovery is an exciting milestone for Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA), Barwon Water and project partners working to better understand and protect native fish populations through the Barwon Flagship Waterway project.



Little Galaxias are listed as endangered in Victoria and are typically found in wetlands and slow-flowing waterways with dense aquatic vegetation. Their small size and preference for complex habitats can make them difficult to detect during traditional fish surveys.

Corangamite CMA and Barwon Water have jointly funded several years of fish surveys in the Barwon catchment through the Barwon Flagship Waterway project. The monitoring helps build a better understanding of fish populations, informs environmental water management, supports threatened species recovery and guides on-ground waterway restoration works.

Corangamite CMA will continue to monitor the newly discovered West Barwon population and assess opportunities to protect and enhance suitable habitat for the species as part of broader threatened fish recovery efforts.

Shakespeare's Insult for October

This month we've a teaser for those who like old words that are no longer used (but in the writer's opinion should be). Interesting to test who "froward" might apply to in these current times

"Come, come, you froward and unable worms!"

- *The Taming of the Shrew* (Act 5, Scene 2).

Writers: Sharon Bradshaw, Freya Bennett, Mary Dracup, Gillian Brew, Adam Davies and Ian Fry.

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

Proofreaders: Mike and Katrine Juleff, Rob Carghill & Sarah Lane.

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.

A group of children take it to the corporations to save their future

Future Council (2024) is a documentary with a playful tone but serious undercurrent, in which eight child environmental activists from around the world board a yellow bus and go on a trip across Europe. They gain access to boardrooms of some of the most powerful corporations in the world and use this opportunity to pose bold challenges to senior managers to really lift their game. The kids suffer some depressing rebuffs, but their creative ideas and undeniable logic also sometimes break through, and they win some promising commitments.

Future Council was made by Damon Gameau, who also made *That Sugar Film* and *2040*. He takes the role of busdriver, narrator, facilitator and mentor; nurturing the kids' playfulness and idealism to devise novel approaches while allowing space for their very real fears.

The film has since inspired hundreds of children around the globe to form councils to collaborate and advise businesses on sustainable practices. These groups do not trade in media stunts, false hopes and greenwashing but work towards genuine engagement.

Future Council will be showing on Thursday 8 October at the Forrest Hall. Doors open at 7pm with a free glass of wine and nibbles. The film starts at 7:30, followed by tea/coffee and a chance to chat about the film with your neighbours. Subtitles will be shown.

Forrest Flicks Film Society subscriptions for will be on sale at the door with cash, or online through Humanitix using the QR code in the picture. Subscription costs are:

- 3 films - \$25/\$20 concession
- 1 film trial - donation of \$10/\$8 concession or use this as a deposit on a 3-film subscription.

Mary Dracup



Movie poster for **FUTURE COUNCIL** with the tagline "GET ON BOARD". The poster features a group of diverse children standing on a yellow school bus. Logos for the Federation of Victorian Film Societies, Barwon Water, Colac Otway Shire, and Forrest Public Reserves are visible. A QR code is in the top left corner.

Thursday 8 October, Forrest Public Hall
7pm for complimentary wine and light supper
Movie starts 7.30pm

Next steps for Forrest wastewater approved- continued from page 1

"The wastewater solution will lower public health and environmental risks from the existing septic systems and improve amenity for residents and visitors."

The reticulated wastewater system would be a long-term replacement for privately-owned septic systems, which experience frequent odour issues and untreated wastewater leaks. Under the proposed financial model, Barwon Water would fund the infrastructure, including sewer pump units at properties, sewer pipelines and a water recycling facility at Gerangamete. Property owners in the Declared Sewer Area would pay for on-property connections and operational costs.*

Barwon Water has invested about \$320 million across more than 100 Colac Otway Shire projects in the past eight years. This has included major regional growth and water security initiatives, including the Colac Water Reclamation Plant, Colac pipeline, Apollo Bay bulk water supply, Forrest and Gellibrand water treatment plant upgrades.

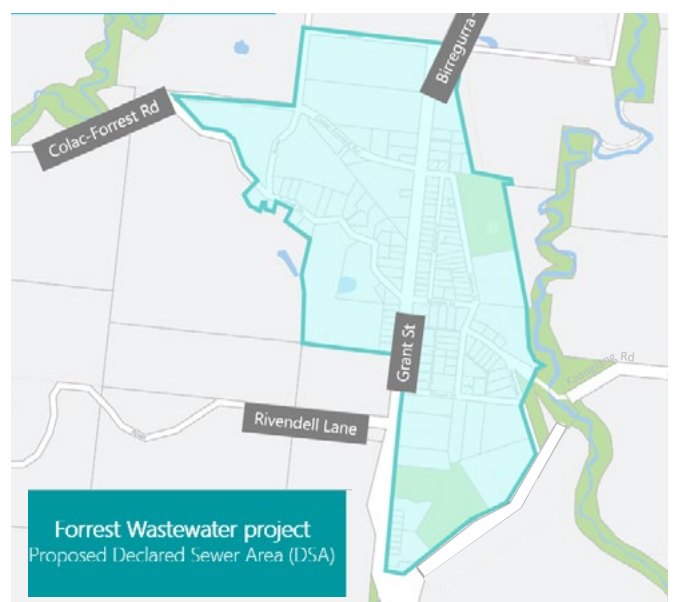
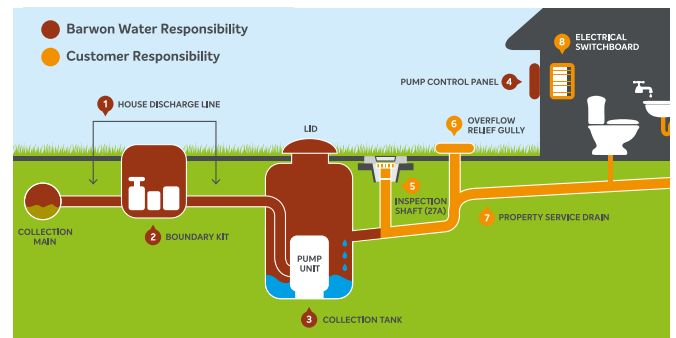
The next wave of key capital initiatives for the shire will be determined in Barwon Water's 2028 – 2033 Price Submission. Community feedback on the 2028 – 2033 Price Submission will continue to be received into next year, with a draft plan to be released for public review in May 2027.

Forrest Wastewater Project - <https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub-forrest-wastewater>

2028 – 2033 Price Submission - <https://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/your-water-your-say>

supplied by Barwon Water

*Barwon Water offers a number of financial support and concession options to customers. Contact the project team at projects@barwonwater.vic.gov.au for more information.





Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - Oct 2026

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE F&DNH

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

Youth group: 3.30-4.30pm over winter. Open to youth in grade 5 and up. Cost is \$20 per term or a gold coin each week.

TUESDAYS - open 8.30am-3.30pm

Playgroup: 10am-12pm. Gold coin weekly. Open to all families with young children.

Craft group: 2.30pm-4.30pm each week in winter. BYO craft project. Gold coin.

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

Book club: Once a term 2nd Tuesday of each term 7.30pm. Gold coin

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

Pantry top up and food boxes: Please contact coordinator to arrange or 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, \$100 per term. Peer led local art group and studio space.

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

THURSDAYS - coordinator at the hall

Community lunch: Take away or dine in. Order on Wednesdays through Facebook or text 0493105502, pick up from the hall at 12.30pm on the day. \$8. Return containers each week!

FRIDAYS - CLOSED

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

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

Save the date for Halloween!

Saturday 31st October from 5pm. If you would like to add your address to the trick or treat map, please do so via email by Friday 23rd October.

**Plenty of time to practise your act for...
Forrest Got Talent:
Friday 26th February 2026**

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: Forrest Community Hub - 47 Grant Street, Forrest 3236



**Colac Otway
SHIRE**

Important reminder about our community pantry

We are asking families to please speak with their children about the appropriate use of the Forrest & District Neighbourhood House Pantry.

Recently, food has been taken from the pantry and then opened, thrown around or left scattered throughout the Neighbourhood House grounds. This behaviour is not acceptable. It wastes food that has been generously donated and is available to support people in our community, and it creates additional work for our staff and volunteers to clean up.

Food waste left around the grounds can also attract birds, rats and other pests, creating hygiene and maintenance issues for the Neighbourhood House.

We love seeing children and young people at the NH and we encourage them to access the pantry. However, the pantry is a community food resource, not a place to play with or waste food. We ask parents and carers to reinforce this message with their children and help us ensure the pantry is treated with the respect it deserves.

The pantry relies on donations, volunteers and the goodwill of our community. Please help us look after it so that everyone can continue to benefit from this valuable community resource.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Forrest Neighbourhood House

HALLOWEEN IN FORREST
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026.

TRICK OR TREAT YOUR WAY AROUND FORREST FROM 5 PM: START AT FORREST INFO BOARD FOR SOME SPOOKY SNACKS THEN TRICK OR TREAT YOUR WAY AROUND TOWN VIA THE BOWER BIRD CAFE, THE NH HAUNTED GRAVEYARD, THE GENERAL STORE AND FINISH AT THE BREWERY FOR A WITCHES BREW. MAP OF TRICK OR TREAT LOCATIONS WILL BE SHARED CLOSER TO THE DAY, PLEASE EMAIL FORREST.NH@GMAIL.COM TO ADD YOUR ADDRESS TO THE LIST! PLEASE MAKE SURE CHILDREN UNDER 10 ARE FULLY SUPERVISED DURING THIS ACTIVITY.

Get ready Forrest

After the close call last January, and the super El Nino now with us, people will have questions about what this summer is going to look like in our high bushfire risk area. On Thursday 22nd October the CFA is running a FireWise Kids program at the school and they may go home with curly questions for parents, so we have invited experts from Barwon Health and Colac Area Health to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to ask questions and discuss how to talk about preparedness with children and family members.

We are taking a slightly different approach to bushfire readiness this year and we want you to tell us what works and doesn't from your perspective, for example what are the barriers to you leaving early or evacuating? We are providing a supported space where people can share their experiences of last summer, the impact on families and friends and discuss what choices we can make to be safe this summer.

Everyone is invited to a free afternoon tea from 3.30pm in the hall kitchen and following Maddi and Liza will provide children's after-school activities in the hall (book via QR). Back in the kitchen, the CFA will talk practical preparedness, and FLARE will explain the 'Get on the Map' What'sApp activity to help the community stay connected. Mostly we want to hear from you, your concerns and suggestions.

We will be in the hall kitchen directly after community lunch so make an afternoon of it and book for a delish lunch from the Neighbourhood House, hang about for a chat, or join us after school pickup for a cuppa and info on being prepared.

Gillian Brew - FLARE
for more info email flare3236@gmail.com



Are you ready for Summer?

The January 2026 Otway fires evacuation impacted our community in many ways. You may be wondering...

How do I talk to my family about bushfire? Where do we go and what if my partner doesn't want to leave early?

Let's look ahead, support one another, and take steps to feel more prepared. Join us after Community Lunch at the hall.

Forrest Hall
14 Grant St

THURSDAY
22 October 2026

2:30-4:30 PM

Understand your risk.
Share experiences & ask questions.
Get support and help to prepare.
Or just come for a chat and cuppa.

FREE AFTERNOON TEA

CHILDREN'S AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

CFA, FLARE, Barwon Health and Colac Area Health, Colac Otway Shire Bushfire Recovery Team will be on hand to answer your questions. Supervised after-school kids activities from 3.30pm (5-12yrs)

Scan the QR code to confirm your place and book for the kids activity



Carl & Matty O

CAMPFIRE TUNES



FORREST BOWER BIRD CAFE

16 GRANT ST FORREST

SAT OCT 3

SPECIAL LUNCHTIME SHOW ★ 12.30PM - 2.30PM

Support your local...

After re-opening the vacant kitchen in the Forrest Guesthouse in April this year, Leanne at the Bower Bird Cafe has created a cosy, welcoming place to gather with a yummy range of homemade cakes, lunch offerings, pre-packed meals and drinks. As things slowed down over winter, Leanne offered alternate Friday night meals of tasty curries, baked potatoes with lashings of toppings and kebabs in conjunction with the food trucks organised by Michelle at Guesthouse, so locals could still have a night out in town and gather together round the fire during the cold winter evenings.

As the Terminus Hotel is shut until the end of the year, we are so grateful to our other local businesses who struggle through quiet times and economic down turns, the petrol hikes that stop visitors travelling to Forrest and rain, rain, rain, who stay open and offering their services to locals and visitors. You are legends!

So make sure you get out and support our local businesses, join the Saturday morning coffee club at the General, grab a beer and a meal at the Brewery and pop into the Bower Bird for some cool tunes on Saturday afternoons during October. Michelle is offering special weekend experiences through the Guesthouse like the Otways Waterfalls Women's Retreat in October, what a great thing to do with a bunch of friends! Keep an eye out on 'What's on in Forrest' page which has local offerings including neighbouring markets and activities. <https://www.forrestaccommodation.com.au/whats-on-in-forrest/>

Gillian Brew

Music at the Bower Bird Cafe
Saturday 3 Oct - Carl & Matty O - Campfire Tunes
Sat 24 Oct - Southern String Union (with a familiar face on bass)
12.30 start, share platters available, no alcohol

Growing a community

The Community Garden Worker brings together some of my favourite things – plants, gardening, teaching, and working with community to build a healthier food system for Forrest and district. In the role, I work across the school and Neighbourhood House, with most of my time spent in the school garden. The school garden has a strong foundation with fruit trees, chickens, an outdoor kitchen and raised garden beds. We are adding some new wicking garden beds which will increase the growing area and make watering in the warmer months easier.

Being part of cooking in the outdoor kitchen with students is a pleasure, using ingredients from the garden and making food from scratch. We have also made cordial with the lemons and limes from the garden, shared recipes and morning tea with the Seniors Group at the Neighbourhood House and shared produce with families and the community. We are growing tomatoes and sunflowers to share with the Forrest community.

The Senior Room students have been having weekly sessions in the garden, planting seeds and seedlings, composting, mulching, pruning, looking after the chickens and making garden structures. The garden has a wide range of vegetables and herbs growing and the warmer weather has given a real boost.

Community members have joined the cooking and gardening sessions and shared their knowledge and skills and a big thank you to those volunteers who generously share their time. If you'd like to be part of the cooking or gardening, please get in touch. Many hands make light work!

We are working on a community recipe book to share favourite recipes and this will be published later in the year. If you'd like to share a family recipe and maybe a little of the story behind it, please pop in and see Renee at the Neighbourhood House.

Freya Bennett



Shorten your shower and save more than water

Showers can represent over a third of a household's indoor water use. Having a shorter shower is a simple change you can make today that saves you hundreds on your water and energy bills.



Forrest Historical Society AGM

Shed 9 - Forrest Community Hub

47 Grant St, Forrest - Sun 18 Oct -11am

with presentation 'Secrets in the Bush' by Norm Houghton OAM followed by a BBQ get together. The new historical wall displays will be on show to the public and later the Forrest Acoustic Music jam session will kick off at 2:00 for anyone interested in attending to play, have a singalong or just listen in.

For information or to nominate for committee call John on 0407 630 303

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email fdms3236@gmail.com to request a username & password

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

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

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.



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Faces of Forrest Committees series

Introducing Kylie Pollock

Forrest Public Reserves Committee Chair

Next time you visit an event at the Hall, or drop into the Neighbourhood House, Historical Society, CFA shed, Youth Space, Art Studio or Grasstree building, spare a thought for the volunteers who keep these venues maintained, the power bills paid, the bookings managed and so on.

These are the tasks of the Forrest Public Reserves Committee (FPRC), who does the unseen but vital work of managing the Forrest Hall and Forrest Community Hub at 47-49 Grant St.

Kylie Pollock stepped up to the FPRC around 2019, soon after DEECA handed their old depot site over to the community to manage. She brought previous experience managing neighbourhood houses across Victoria, and this proved invaluable when the volunteer committee needed to set up tenancy agreements, licences, MOUs and policies.

Kylie is proud of the committee's work: 'I love going up there and seeing people coming and going from the CFA, seeing the Historical Society activated – the Neighbourhood House is a real hub always – and there's the Youth Space, the Art Studio, the Grasstree building available for hires. The more people we have coming and going the better.'

She also enjoys seeing community celebrations at the Hall. 'I think a lot of people in Forrest have a soft spot for the Hall. It's a place you go to have a good time, whether it's a community lunch, a social event, or the Forrest Flicks. It's lovely to see local families coming back and having their weddings there, or birthday celebrations, end-of-life celebrations.'



Kylie describes the FPRC as 'a really dynamic, respectful group of people'. 'Everyone puts in a lot, and we work well together. ... We can rely on each other to keep things running, and I really enjoy that community success ... Sometimes we have to deal with hard things but often that's when the best work comes out. It might be that something's gone wrong – and with old buildings things do go wrong! We then have to figure out a way we can afford to fix it, and we do.'

She is conscious that no committee lasts forever, and to avoid members burning out there is a need for a cycle of new committee members. 'Hopefully there will be people out there in Forrest who enjoy the Hall, or really appreciate the Community Hub, who can see themselves coming on board for a few years so things can continue to run as positively as they are now. If someone is interested, they should feel free to contact me by emailing fpac3236@gmail.com.'

Mary Dracup (also a FPRC member)

BIRDS OF THE OTWAYS

SPONSORED BY

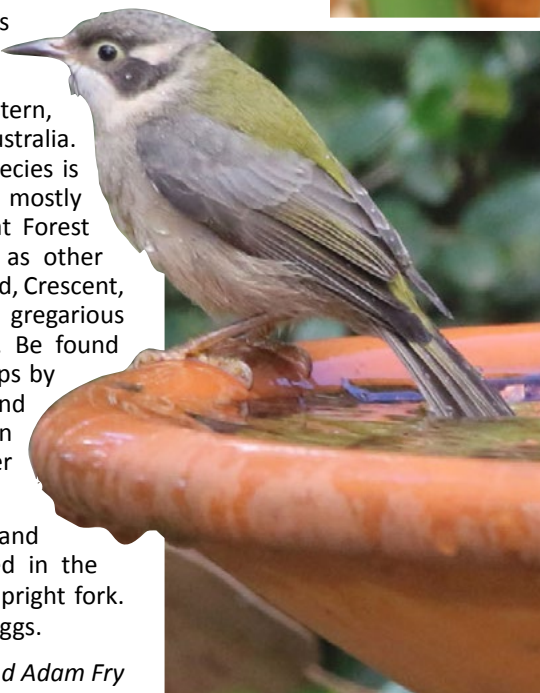


Brown-headed Honeyeater

The Brown-headed Honeyeater is a small, (13cm long) common, widespread and conspicuous species, found over much of Eastern, Southern, and South western Australia. The preferred habitat of this species is dry woodlands and open forest, mostly in eucalypts. It can be found at Forest however, but not as common as other Honeyeaters such as New Holland, Crescent, and White Naped. It is very gregarious throughout its range, and can be found as it forages in small noisy groups by gleaning insects from foliage and bark. It will also visit flowers in search of nectar. In hot weather they like to bathe.

Their nest is a deep cup of bark and grass and fur, either suspended in the outer foliage, or in a slender upright fork. They usually lay 2 spotted pink eggs.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry



Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

