



THE FORREST POST

FMS

JUNE 2026

FREE

An adventurous life

from left Tomji, Morgan, Maria and Benji

If you've dropped in to the Forrest Brewery for beer or a bite you might notice the changing faces with an international flavour behind the counter, delivering your order with a smile and an accent. Brewery owners Sarah & Matt Bradshaw have opened their doors to travellers looking for work and provide accommodation conveniently located in town.

Tomji from Japan, Morgan from Ireland/Canada, Maria from England and Benji from Denmark are the most recent of a steady stream of adventurers choosing Forrest as part of their Oz working holiday. Maria said "Coming from London to such a small town I wasn't expecting to be so welcomed by the locals and they really made us feel part of their big family here. It's been really lovely." Maria has enjoyed the wildlife including seeing a koala for the first time and is hoping to see a platypus before moving on early in July.

The Forrest Brewery offers a timely break for backpackers when the business closes its doors for three months at the end of June.

The adventurers can take some time to follow the sun to warmer parts of the country or head home to family and friends when the cold Forrest winter hits and business gets quiet.

So what's next for our travellers? Maria and Morgan are heading back overseas, Benji has friends to catch up with in Melbourne and although he loves Australia, Tomji has a long term plan to return to Japan and open his own restaurant. While life as a global traveller can be unpredictable, Maria said you get used to not having a plan or knowing what is around the corner.

Sharon, the familiar face working front of house and the longest serving local at the Brewery, enjoys the perspectives the young travellers bring and is pivotal to helping them settle in and find their way around.

It has been a pleasure to get to know our international visitors and we wish them all the best, you never know, they may even come back again some day to hang out in friendly Forrest.

Gillian Brew

School sports update

Forrest Primary students in grades 3-6 completed with other Polwarth region schools in the cross country at Frogwood Arboretum in Deans Marsh and four students went on to represent Forrest Primary School at the Colac District Cross Country.

A huge congratulations to Jem, Aurora, Aarli and Archer! We are incredibly proud of the way they approached the day, showing determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship. Well done to all four students for their fantastic efforts!



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.

STUDIO FORREST ART EXHIBITION OPENING - 6PM FRIDAY 5 JUNE @ THE FORREST HALL

Colac Otway Shire News



Have Your Say

Draft Road Safety Strategy

This Draft Road Safety Strategy aims to facilitate the improvement of road safety for all road users within Colac Otway Shire by defining an action plan for the next 10 years.

The strategy will form part of Council's suite of documents including the Road Management Plan.

Council is now seeking feedback from our community on the Draft Road Safety Strategy.

Submissions close at 5pm Wednesday 10 June 2026.

Draft Asset Management Policy

The purpose of the Asset Management Policy is to set out the basis on which Council manages the assets in its care to enable relevant, effective and sustainable delivery of services to the community in alignment with the 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029.

Council is now seeking feedback from our community on the Draft Asset Management Policy.

Submissions close Wednesday 10 June 2026.

Expressions of Interest

Expression of Interest (EOI) to Host Australia Day Event – 2027

Council invites community groups, service clubs, businesses and not for profit organisations to submit an Expression of Interest to host a community event for Australia Day 2027.

We are seeking hosts to coordinate welcoming, inclusive, family friendly activities that reflect the diversity and values of our region.

EOIs are now open, closing 30 June 2026.

Successful applicants announced August 2026.

All EOIs are subject to planning and permit requirements. Applicants are encouraged to engage with Council's Place Activation and Events Team early in the EOI process.

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

Footpath Condition Survey

Council's Footpath Condition Survey is about to commence.

Inspectors complete a comprehensive condition survey every four years to inform our renewal program and identify potential budget needs.

The next footpath condition survey will take place throughout June 2026.

During this time, you may see inspectors in your area using a four-wheeled motorcycle with mounted cameras to record the condition of footpaths.



Recruitment

We are always looking for new talent to join our team.

Whether you are starting out, changing direction or looking to grow, there are roles that support our community and your future.

Take the next step today and see how you can build a rewarding career with Colac Otway Shire Council.

Visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/careers to browse current vacancies.

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

Winter road and track closures across public land

Visitors to Victoria's parks and forests are being reminded that majority of the seasonal road and track closures will begin from 11 June, following the King's Birthday long weekend.

The temporary closures make it safer for motorists and reduce damage to remote roads and tracks that are vulnerable to winter conditions, including heavy rain and snow.

Each year, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Parks Victoria, and the Conservation Regulator enforce road and track closures across public land from May through to November.

Authorised officers will be educating visitors about the upcoming changes in busy parks and forests during the King's Birthday long weekend, followed by increased patrols and surveillance over the 2026 closure period.

In 2025, Parks Victoria Authorised Officers issued 200 infringement notices under the Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations including for driving cars or riding trail bikes illegally off-road or in restricted areas.

Anyone caught driving or riding on a closed road in Victoria's parks and forests face a maximum penalty of up to \$4,070 if prosecuted in court. Before heading out, visitors are advised to check local road and track closures and weather conditions.

For more information about public land road closure, visit ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests.

For emergency information, including severe weather warnings, download the VicEmergency app. Environmental crime can be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000..

Shakespeare's Insult for June

A double header this month - two quotes for one! Much like last month, continuing to be appropriate for several heads of state or underlings?

You "Affable wolves..."

You "detested parasites..."

- Timon of Athens.

Writers: Gillian Brew, Freya Bennett, Mary Dracup, Abigail Pakula, Adam Davies and Ian Fry.

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

Proofreaders: Mike and Katrine Juleff, Rob Carghill, Amelia McBride Baker & 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 study of family weirdness

The Royal Tenenbaums (2001) is an absurdist and ironic film about family dysfunction and what happens when gifted child siblings fail to live up to expectations in adulthood.

Royal Tenenbaum, the eccentric father (Gene Hackman), raises the children in a strict, isolated environment, but then leaves when the children are still young. He returns to his adult children and wife 22 years later claiming he has a terminal illness and tries to reconcile.

The cast includes Anjelica Huston as the mother and Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Stiller and Luke Wilson as the weirdly individualistic adult children. Danny Glover and Bill Murray perform partner roles. Director Wes Anderson went on to direct The Grand Budapest Hotel, and Flicks regulars will recognise his stylized aesthetics and dry wit developing in this film. The film won Gene Hackman a Golden Globe award for Best Actor and dozens of other nominations for its writing and actors.

The Royal Tenenbaums will be showing on Thursday 11 June at the Forrest Hall. Doors open at 7 pm with a free glass of wine and light supper. The film starts at 7:30, followed by tea/coffee, more supper 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



Thursday 11 June
Forrest Public Hall
7 pm for complimentary wine and light supper
Movie starts 7:30 pm



What's the buzz about BEES?

World bee day is celebrated on May 20th and highlights the important contribution bees make to our food system and biodiversity.

Chatting to Wally from Very Berry Orchard in Barwon Downs about his passion for bees makes clear the bigger picture of why we keep bees. Bees play a key role in horticulture and agriculture and make an interesting and fruitful hobby.

Wally himself is an experienced beekeeper and his bees support orchard production as well as making honey. Wally has kept bees for over 20 years, including over 15 years in Barwon Downs and has a wealth of knowledge to share. Wally convenes a bee group for beekeepers and aspiring beekeepers in the region to share knowledge and learn. Members young and old get together and complete common

apiary tasks such as constructing hives, harvesting honey and learning how to use beekeeping tools.

The notorious Otway winter is often a deterrent for beekeepers in this area, but Wally has tips on how to maximise available food, and supplement natural food sources. Don't be fooled in thinking that bees are a set and forget, low maintenance hobby – they require careful attention, observation and care, just like any animal.

If you've always wanted to get in to beekeeping, this could be just the forum to get you started – learning together in a friendly atmosphere and meeting people from the area. The next gathering of the group will be over the Kings Birthday long weekend – get in touch with Wally if you'd like to be part of it: wally.hannam@yahoo.com

Freya Bennett

Forrest acoustic music jam sessions are back!

If you are a bedroom musician, practicing quietly out of earshot, or singing in the shower, the Historical society is opening its doors to encourage you to come out into the light. Designed around the bluegrass jam format, participants are encouraged to share easy to play 2 or 3 chord songs that everyone can join in with. Learn to play along with others or share your favourite tunes in a welcoming atmosphere where mistakes happen and are not judged. Beginners welcome. Held on the 4th Sunday of each month the June session will run in conjunction with the Historical society meeting and BBQ starting at 11am Sunday 28th June, or come along for a sausage in bread at 1pm, with music to kick off at 2pm at Shed 9 behind the Neighbourhood House at 47 Grant Street, Forrest.





Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - JUNE 2026

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE F&DNH

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

Youth group: 3.30pm-4.45pm. 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. Open to all families with young children.

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

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

Book club: Now 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, \$200 per semester.

Peer led local art group.

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:

FRIDAY 19 JUNE-

BUSHDANCE AT THE HALL!

Doors open at 6.45pm and dancing starts at 7. \$10 pp or \$20 for a family.

The Billy Tea Bush band will lead the music and call the dancing. Come along for a good old fashioned night of fun, all welcome. Prizes for best dressed and best dancing on the night. Tickets: cash at the door or on humanitix, search Forrest Bush Dance

CHEESE MAKING WORKSHOP:

SUNDAY 26 JULY.

details to come.

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



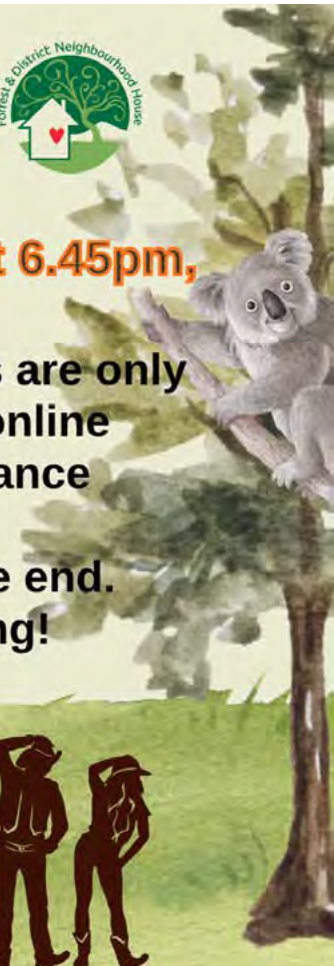
FORREST BUSH DANCE



Friday 19th June @ the hall - doors open at 6.45pm, dancing starts at 7.

The Billy Tea Bush Band will lead the fun, tickets are only \$10pp or \$20 per family, cash at the door or online <https://events.humanitix.com/forrest-bush-dance>

Please bring a plate to share for supper at the end.
For all ages and abilities, please come along!





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MADE FOR MORE



What's going on with our river now?

In 2021, the West Barwon River flooded and cut off the main road just outside Forrest for six weeks. The river had been choked by Glyceria river weed and willows and could no longer carry away heavy rainfall.

At a river forum in Forrest the following year we learnt there were eight main clusters of willow and Glyceria choking river between Forrest and Birregurra. Each of these needed to be cleared to allow enough flow to maintain an ecologically healthy river.

The task seemed enormous, but after four years of concerted efforts by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and local landowners, it's amazing to report that only two of these choke points remain!

On Saturday 13 June we will have a chance to find out more about this transformational project, named the Barwon Flagship Waterway Project, and visit two major rehabilitation sites near Forrest to witness the impacts for ourselves.

It's impressive to think that since 2013/14, Corangamite CMA contractors, local farmers and Barwon Water have removed willows and water weeds from approximately 19.5km of stream frontage. They have planted tens of thousands of native plants and installed approximately 45km of fencing, as well as dozens of water troughs and pumps to water stock while river banks recover.

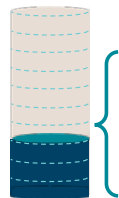
We will start at the Grasstree building at 47-49 Grant St, where we will hear how the ecology of the river is changing and find out about the programs in place to manage these changes. Removal of some choke points and climate change have resulted in different patterns of inundation and even re-emergence of some wetlands. We will hear how the environmental water entitlement from the West Barwon Reservoir is managed and about the progress being made towards rehabilitating river vegetation and habitat. The day will also include a presentation on how once endangered fish are being carefully nurtured back to a viable population in the Upper Barwon.

Corangamite CMA will co-host this event with the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group, Upper Barwon Landcare Network and Barwon Water. It will start at 9:30am with a Welcome to Country, before an information and Q&A session presented by Corangamite CMA. We will then travel to two riverside sites where the works will be explained, and we will learn how to monitor river health, wildlife and feral animals for ourselves. There will be many opportunities to talk one-to-one with river experts and farmers participating in the project. We will then travel back to the Grasstree for a BBQ lunch provided by the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group.

NB: please register for this event by scanning the QR code on the flier.

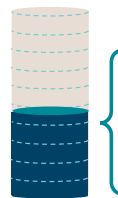
Mary Dracup, Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group

Barwon Water Updates



28%

West Barwon Reservoir



40%

Wurdee Boluc Reservoir



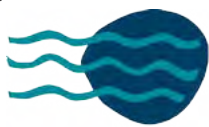
4ML

Current minimum daily passing flow at West Barwon

Help shape our five-year action plan

We're excited to launch the consultation for our next Price Submission (2028-2033) and we'd like your input to help inform our next five-year promise to customers.

This promise includes the services that we'll deliver to support the community, environment and regional prosperity and the prices that customers pay in return. All residential and business customers are encouraged to complete our survey. Scan the QR code to have your say.



**Your water.
Your say.**

Price Submission **2028-2033**



What is a Price Submission?

Every five years, all water corporations prepare a plan that proposes the service standards we'll provide to our customers, capital and operating expenditure, and the prices that customers will pay in return.

This plan – known as a price submission – is submitted to the Essential Services Commission for review and determination.

For more information, visit yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/your-water-your-say





Scan the QR for full details & to Register

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR RIVER?

LET'S COME TOGETHER AND LEARN ABOUT THE UPPER BARWON RIVER



**SATURDAY 13 JUNE
9:30 AM - 01:30 PM**

About Our Event!

This is your opportunity to learn about the health of the Upper Barwon River, what is being done to restore it, and what further can be done.

Bring your questions and walking boots!

Event Highlights

Information Session ◀

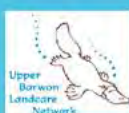
Welcome to Country from Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, followed by presentations from project managers from the Barwon Flagship Waterway Project.
- Includes a Q&A

Walk & Talk ◀

Walk and talk with experts, managers and advocates along the Upper Barwon River visiting past work sites.

Lunch provided ◀

BBQ lunch provided by Forrest Gerangamete Landcare Group.



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Visit vic.gov.au/openingdoors

Opening
Doors

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

