



Fish out of Water: Studio Forrest is taking part in Small Art Treasures in the Colac Botanical Gardens and bringing attention to the environmental problems caused by Carp in Lake Colac and Barongarook Creek.

Art & fishy business at Studio Forrest

Any given Wednesday afternoon, members of Studio Forrest gather from across the Otways to meet at the Studio/shed nestled between the History shed and the CFA at the Forrest Community Hub at 47 Grant Street, Forrest.

We've been splashing around with the theme of water for the last 18 months. If you visited our most recent exhibition at the Forrest Hall, you will have discovered waterfalls of flowing materials, rivers and puddles of sea-creature encrusted ropes and floods of watercolour washes, splashes of inks that involved a visit to the beach and a dip in the sea, and bubbles, lots of bubbles. Fantastic sea creatures of the deep emerge and tiles of slate and treasures recreate rivers snaking through the landscape. Ceramic waves splash and crash and settle into glazed rock pools and bowls of liquid glass reflect the dark depths. Works on paper draw you under the surface with a stunning likeness of reflection and flow.

Studio Forrest follows a unique path of creativity, inviting members to expand on a theme selected by the group, encouraging individual exploration while working side by side, inspiring and supporting each other to try new mediums, share skills and create as a group. We are often surprised by the variety of work produced. Everyone is encouraged to take part in exhibitions, a great way for an emerging artist to gain confidence and an opportunity to create a body of work in a supported environment. The studio space is a treasure trove of 'things that might come in handy' and the group often finds inspiration from the flotsam and jetsam that washes up there. It's also where works can be developed over time without having to pack up the kitchen table every night!

Many of our group works have an environmental theme due in part to our study of the Elements. Over the past few years we have explored Fire, Earth and now Water. The latest group work by Studio Forrest is currently part of the Small Art

Treasures exhibition in the Colac Botanic Gardens. 'Fish out of Water' aims to bring awareness to the environmental damage introduced carp do to our waterways. With a view of Lake Colac in the background, each fish brings the unique perspectives and techniques of the participating artists. Nicknamed a 'Catastrophe of Crap' artists used varied, found and recycled materials to produce a unique work that draws the eye floating above green grass of the gardens. Ironically, Barongarook Creek has recently suffered a fish kill of carp due to low oxygenation which is causing an environmental calamity within a stones throw of the gardens. A topical issue indeed.

With over 50 artists taking part, it is a joy to wander across the lush lawns of the Colac Botanic Gardens and discover the treasures. Each artwork has a QR code to scan to help you find out more about the work and artist. Several Studio Forrest members have individual works on show so take the family for an outing and enjoy discovering whimsical and thought provoking local art in the gardens until November 8.

Studio Forrest is taking part in the Creative Otways Arts Trail, so you can pop into the studio and see members at work or pick up a bargain with a range of artwork on sale from 10am-4pm on the weekend of 7-8 November. We are also having a final watery exhibition 'Reflections II' at the Apollo Bay Arts Inc Gallery launching on New Years Eve until 5th of January 2027.

In 2027, we will be starting a new theme - you guessed it - 'Air'. Brainstorming a year of airy inspiration at the beginning of term is one of our favourite things to do, so if you would like to join Studio Forrest and be part of shaping our creative direction, visit us at one of our events or contact us for an application form or more information. forrestartspace@gmail.com

Gillian Brew

Studio Forrest is a program of the Forrest Neighbourhood House.

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.

OPEN STUDIO FORREST - SHED 9 - 47 GRANT ST, 10AM-4PM NOVEMBER 7-8 - ART FOR SALE



Colac Otway Shire News

2026 Extra Green Waste Collections

Kerbside Collection

To help you prepare your property ahead of fire season, Council's weekly kerbside collection of green waste will commence from Monday 19 October, continuing until Friday 27 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.

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 27 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 Monday 30 November – Monday 14 December (2 weeks).

- 47 Grant Street, Forrest (Carpark out the front of the Forrest Neighbourhood House)

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

There will be bark and leaf collection in Wye River, Separation Creek, 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 9 November, Tuesday 10 November and Wednesday 11 November.

Kennett River: Thursday 12 November and Friday 13 November.

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.

Nominations close at 5pm on Monday 9 November.

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

Recruitment

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!

- Community Care Worker (Qualified)
- Community Care Worker (Unqualified)
- Coordinator Statutory Planning
- Coordinator Waste Services
- Multipurpose Officer/Plant Operator
- Plant Manager
- Property and Rates Officer
- Senior Human Resources Partner
- Tourism Assistant (Apollo Bay)
- Workplace Planning and Inclusion Advisor

For a position description and to apply online, visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/careers or contact People and Culture on (03) 5232 9400.

Council Meetings

Planning Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 10 November 2026

Time: 1pm **Venue:** COPACC (95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac)

Submissions Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 10 November 2026

Time: 2pm **Venue:** COPACC (95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac)

Council Meeting – Mayoral Election

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2026

Time: 1pm **Venue:** COPACC (95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac)

Meetings are open to the public and interested people are welcome.

Only those who have lodged submissions and have requested to speak to their submission can address a Planning Committee or Submissions Committee meeting.

A copy of meeting agendas will be available on Council's website on the Thursday prior to the scheduled meeting at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-Meetings

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's YouTube channel [@ColacOtwayShireCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/ColacOtwayShireCouncil) at www.youtube.com

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

Shakespeare's Insult for November

This month we have an example of the first use of a then newly constructed term that is still in use - can you pick it?

"Go, prick thy face, and over red thy fear, Thou lily-liver'd boy"

- Macbeth (Act 5, Scene 3).

Writers: Freya Bennett, Gillian Brew, Mary Dracup, 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.

Prepping for Summer

Prepping conjures visions of bunkers stocked to overflowing with non perishable food and Mad Max style characters armed to the teeth... but that's not the sort of prepping I'm talking about.

Do you insure your car? Do you go to the dentist for a check up? You hope it won't happen, but you plan for risk every day - just in case. Taking an annual checkup for bushfire preparedness is necessary when you live in a high bushfire risk area like Forrest and district.

Being prepared just means you've thought about when and where you and your family will go if the weather and fire risk turns dangerous. Especially important if you are older, have health issues or young children or pets to care for. Is your go bag packed with the important stuff so you don't have to run around in a flap if the police come knocking or you get caught out? Leaving early doesn't have to be a drama. Make a day of it, arrange an outing with a friend or plan to visit a family member in a safe place on bad days well before the high risk season hits. You can plan to be comfortable. And planning takes the panic out of it.

Yep I'm a prepper, some think overly cautious, or letting my anxiety get the better of me. But things don't always go to plan. Last summer I'd organised to stay with a friend but turns out she was away when we had our first catastrophic rated day and the black leaves started floating down. At the last minute a kind acquaintance offered a safe place for us and our pets, so I will double check my plans this year. Victoria is the most fire prone place in the world - yep that is a CFA fact - and sometimes we can feel bombarded by the messaging, but I choose to live in Forrest so I need to know my risk and I prep for summer. I don't leave it to chance.

There are plenty of resources online if you need help to make a start or chat with your local CFA. Share your plans with family, friends and with your neighbours. A connected community is a safer community. FLARE aims to help people stay connected before, during and after an emergency. Community Emergency WhatsApp groups are a good way to be in contact with neighbours and others in your area. The map offers some suggested groups. Register your interest online or get in touch.

Gillian Brew - FLARE Team

GET ON THE MAP

Community Emergency WhatsApp groups



GERANGAMETE GROUP
Colac Forrest Road, including Boundary Road, Seven Bridges Road and Meadowell Road and surrounds

BARWON DOWNS GROUP
Birregurra Forrest Road, including Callahans lane to Seven Bridges Road and surrounds

AROONA GROUP
Colac Forrest Road from Turner Drive to Boundary Road including Aroona Court, Roadnight Road and surrounds

YAUGHER GROUP
Birregurra Forrest Road including Yauger Rd, Kents Road to Kaanglang Road and surrounds

FORREST WEST
Apollo Bay Forrest Road from Colac Forrest Road along the West of Grant St to Rivendell Lane

FORREST EAST
Apollo Bay Forrest Road along the east side of Grant St from Henry St to the Barwon Reservoir turnoff including Station Street.

KAANGLANG GROUP
Kaanglang Road from Kents Road to Lake Elizabeth track

BARRAMUNGA GROUP
Apollo Bay Forrest Road and surrounds

Note: The boundaries are discretionary



SCAN to Get on the Map

[Get on the Map Google Form](#) or email flare3236@gmail.com for more info



We're making a Forrest and District Recipe Book!

We are celebrating all things Spring and home grown produce with a recipe book. Do you have a delicious family recipe that everyone should try? Submit your best recipe that showcases your favourite fresh produce - fruit or vegetable. Email recipes to Freya: jffrb48@hotmail.com or drop them in to the Neighbourhood House. Recipe books will be available in December.

Freya Bennett

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - NOV 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: 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: 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:**

- **Let's Talk, mental health conversation-**
Wednesday 25th November 6-7pm
- **F&DNH AGM-**
Tuesday 8th December 6-7pm
- **Town Christmas party-**
Saturday 19th December 4pm onwards @ the Forrest Hall
- **F&DNH open house and car boot sale:**
Sunday 24th January 10am-2pm
- **Forrest Got Talent:**
Friday 26th February 2027

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



Let's Talk Colac - Mental Health & Wellbeing in Forrest.

Join us at the Forrest & District Neighbourhood House for a free, relaxed and friendly session to talk about mental health and wellbeing.

We'll explore why it's important to talk about mental health, how to start a conversation with someone you're concerned about, break down the stigma around mental health, and share the importance of looking after our own mental well being.

DATE: Wednesday 25th November

TIME: 6-7pm

WHERE: Forrest & District Neighbourhood House
47 Grant street Forrest.

A light supper will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

Come along, have a chat and help build a more connected, supportive community.

Please RSVP:

forrest.nh@gmail.com

Text 0493 105 502

Let's talk about mental health!

Why is it important to talk about mental health?

Do you know what mental health is?

Would you know how to start a conversation with someone you're concerned about?

How do we break the stigma of mental health?

Why is looking after your mental wellbeing important?

Join the team from Let's Talk Colac who will answer these questions and more. Come and listen to a lived experience speaker and be part of the mission to normalise conversations about mental health so we can break the stigma!

**Wednesday, 25th November
at 6.00pm – 7.00pm**

**Forrest & District
Neighbourhood House**

47 Grant St, Forrest

**RSVP to forrest.nh@gmail.com
or text 0493 105 502**



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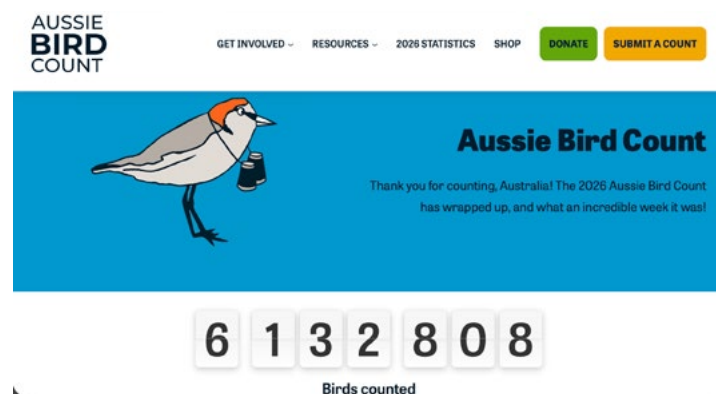
Our birds count

The Great Australian Bird Count is on again and to get in the spirit, the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group enjoyed a morning of bird watching along the Barwon River at Hennigan Crescent in early October.

Members were joined by Parks Victoria bird experts, James Gorman and Michael Mackenzie who shared their knowledge and passion for local birds. The group learnt about tools to assist identifying birds, including local guidebooks, as well as apps (some even identify the bird for you by the call!) and using sight and sound to identify a new species.

A walk along the river and through the Hennigan Crescent site tested the new skills and revealed a range of birds such as grey fantails, pardalotes, red browed finches, yellow robins, treecreepers and some of the more usual suspects often seen in our area. Spring is a great time for birdwatching - get out and see what you can see and hear.

Freya Bennett



Barwon Water Update

Forrest Wastewater Project

We're pleased to share that we've endorsed the Forrest Wastewater Project's business case, enabling the project to proceed. This is a positive outcome for the township and represents a significant investment of approximately \$30 million (preliminary estimate) into Forrest's future.

The decision recognises the public health, environmental and amenity risks that cannot be sustainably resolved through continued reliance on individual onsite septic systems. It also reflects broad community support for a reticulated wastewater system.

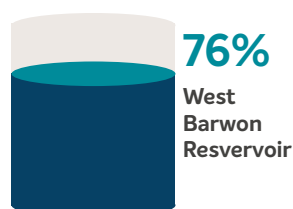
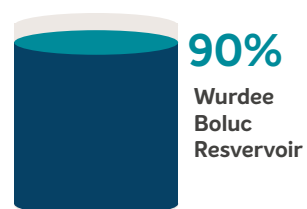
The endorsed solution is a reticulated town wastewater system that will provide a long-term replacement for privately owned septic systems within the proposed Designated Sewerage Area.

Detailed design will begin in 2027, alongside the required environmental and planning approvals. We will continue to work with property owners and stakeholders as project details are refined.

Visit yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub-forrest-wastewater for the latest information.

For further information

☎ 1300 656 007 | ✉ info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub



Did you know?

Located in the Otway Ranges National Park, the West Barwon Reservoir supplies drinking water to the greater Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast areas. It is the largest reservoir in the Barwon Water region and largest water supply source for the greater Geelong region, supplying more than 80% of the region's drinking water demand.

At capacity the reservoir holds almost 21,500 million litres of water, enough for approximately six months' supply of drinking water.



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

**Woodwork lathe machines - table saw
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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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03 5231 3288
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7 Dennis Street,
Colac VIC 3250

Faces of Forrest Committees series

Meet Sarah Schuhmann, Forrest Flicks President

The Forrest Flicks Film Society has been screening regular films at the Forrest Hall for four years now, with Sarah Schuhmann at the helm since the start.

From humble beginnings with hard plastic chairs, unpredictable speaker sounds and an echoey hall space, a series of upgrades to the equipment and hall have made current screenings a very pleasant aesthetic experience. The Flicks are also one of very few regular social and cultural activities available in Forrest throughout the year.

Sarah says she has enjoyed her leadership of the small committee that makes the Flicks happen. She looks back with pleasure at the superb movies the Flicks have brought to Forrest. 'It's a great opportunity for people to come out of their homes ... it's a social evening with a bit of culture and discussion as well. Our movies are diverse and some are challenging – I think that's important ... it starts a good conversation.'

She would love to see a few more people join the committee to help choose the films, organise the wine-and-cheese suppers, put out chairs and so on. She says the time commitment is 'not a great deal', especially since the film screenings have changed from monthly to every second month. 'We're a little committee and we just get the job done, with a few laughs along the way.'

'We find some amazing movies and when we do pick the films for the year it's very easy – there's no conflict ... There are some I've seen before and some I haven't. Some of them I would never have picked for myself, including foreign movies and animations.'



Sarah names the 'dress-up' films as highlights. These have been *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *The Blues Brothers* and *Casablanca*. 'It gets people out of their comfort zones, it's fantastic'.

'I really enjoy it, it's something that I think should continue for a long time. Good for Forrest ... come and join! Come and join the committee!'

For more information about the Forrest Flicks, email seschuhma@gmail.com.

Mary Dracup

BIRDS OF THE OTWAYS

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White-naped Honeyeater

The White-naped Honeyeater is a small black headed species with a little red wattle over the eye (which is white in Western Australia.) It is found in a broad band from about Cairns in Qld, through to Adelaide in South Australia. It is absent across the arid Nullabor but reappears in the South West. It is a common Honeyeater, and exists mainly in Eucalypt forests, and woodlands. Around Forest it is common in the Eucalypt areas, including Lake Elizabeth, West Barwon Dam, Stephenson's Falls, and over a lot of our Shire. Small communal groups, or flocks are commonly seen and heard within our area, giving their 'slerp slerp' calls. Like other honeyeaters in this group, (brown headed, White throated etc) it gleans insects spiders and lerps from the canopy of Eucalypts.

They nest in a suspended, deep cup of bark, grass and lichen in the outer foliage, where they lay blotched and freckled pink eggs.

Their constant flocking behaviour, and raucous calls is a delight to see and hear in our district.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry



Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

