

Spring Gardening in the Otways: Tips for September

Spring in the Otways is always a little unpredictable. One day the sun is warm enough to tempt you outside with a hat and trowel, and the next the clouds roll in with a drenching rain (or even a cheeky frost). Still, this is the season when gardens wake up, and a little work now sets the stage for a productive and colourful year ahead.

Planting Veggies

- Cool-season crops like lettuce, spinach, kale, silverbeet, and peas thrive in early spring and love the rich Otways soil.
- Hardier root vegetables—carrots, beetroot, and parsnips—can be sown now, though they may need protection from hungry critters.
- As the days lengthen and frosts ease (usually late October into November), it's safe to start thinking about tomatoes, beans, and zucchini. A head start in the greenhouse or polytunnel can help.

Flowers and Pollinators

- Scatter hardy annuals such as calendula, cosmos, and nasturtiums to bring instant cheer and attract bees.
- Native plants like correas and grevilleas provide nectar for birds and insects right when the ecosystem needs them most.
- Don't forget spring bulbs, if you planted daffodils and jonquils earlier, enjoy the show now and plan for tulips and freesias next year.

Soil & Mulch

The damp Otways winter can leave soil compacted and waterlogged. A good fork-through with compost or manure revives the earth and sets your plants up for success. Top up mulch to keep moisture in once the sun returns, but make sure the soil has had a chance to warm up a little first.

Pests & Protection

Spring is also the season when snails, slugs, and rabbits come calling. Beer traps, crushed eggshells, or copper tape can deter snails, while fencing or netting protects tender young shoots from wildlife.

Bigger Jobs

September is perfect for pruning fruit trees, roses, and shrubs before new growth takes off. It's also a great time to clean gutters, fix garden beds, and sharpen tools, little tasks that make the busy months ahead easier.

Gardening in the Otways is about patience as much as persistence. The soil is rich, the rainfall generous, and the seasons dramatic, sometimes all in the same week! But with a bit of care now, spring offers the promise of baskets filled with greens, a garden buzzing with pollinators, and the deep satisfaction of watching life return after winter's rest.

Laura Shawcross

Swooping season is here again

As the weather gets warmer and the days longer, we also start to see the occasional swooping bird. Native birds enter their breeding season in spring, and some may get protective of their young.

Lachlan Clarke, Manager Statewide Wildlife Advisory Services at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) said: "Swooping is a normal, temporary behaviour for native birds like magpies, butcherbirds and masked lapwings to defend their eggs and chicks for a short time while their young are most vulnerable."

"Think of it as a warning sign. They're telling you to keep your distance. While it can be a bit unsettling, it's rare for them to make contact. Not all birds swoop during the breeding season, so the presence of magpies or other common swooping birds does not necessarily mean you will be swooped", Mr Clarke said.



This behaviour only lasts a short time, usually ending once the young have left the nest. If you are worried about being caught out by a protective bird this spring, here are some steps you can take to feel safe, while also protecting our native birds:

- Avoid known swooping hotspots.
- Move quickly, don't run if near a swooping bird.
- Wear protective head and eye coverings.
- Don't harass birds, as this can escalate swooping.
- Don't feed birds or destroy their nests.

Report a swooping incident on Victoria's interactive swooping bird map by visiting: <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds> All native wildlife is protected by law. Harassing, harming or disturbing native birds and other wildlife is illegal in Victoria and penalties apply. You can report wildlife crime such as harassing, harming or disturbing wildlife to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

Supplied by DEECA Illustrated by Gillian Brew

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.

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE - SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM @ REC RESERVE - TIX ONLINE

Colac Otway Shire News

\$800,000 project supports sustainable tourism growth at Forrest

A new wastewater system and car parking are supporting sustainable growth at the Forrest Holiday Park, whilst also adequately catering for the town's public toilet.

Colac Otway Shire Council has completed a major project to upgrade the on-site wastewater system at the caravan and camping park.

The new system incorporates advanced-flow balance and holding tanks, supported by two Wisconsin Mound Systems.

It includes a secondary treatment plant and sand filter system, designed to treat wastewater to a high standard before dispersal.

The previous system was inadequate for the holiday park's operational needs, and the needs of the public toilets at the location.

The project also includes extensive landscaping, a kerb and channel upgrade, and additional car parking on Station Street.

Interim Chief Executive Officer Andrew Tenni said the Forrest Holiday Park was a key attraction for tourists in the region, and a vital accommodation offering supporting the regional visitor economy.

"With a total investment of around \$800,000, this upgraded system is designed to comfortably accommodate wastewater demands, particularly during peak holiday periods," Mr Tenni said.

"It also creates exciting possibilities for future expansion, potentially enabling tenants to offer additional caravan sites to visitors.

"Council is eager to continue to support tourism across the shire and this marks a significant step forward in improving amenities and supporting sustainable visitor growth in Forrest.

"It ensures Forrest remains a premier tourist destination, known for its tranquility, natural beauty and outdoor experiences including recently upgraded world class mountain bike trails."

The project also ensures Council's compliance with EPA standards for containment of treated wastewater on the caravan property and responds to past community concerns about inadequate treatment facilities.



Have Your Say

The following Plans and Policies are currently on exhibition. Scan the QR code to visit Council's Have Your Say page to view plans and make a submission or visit Council's website www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay :



- Draft Council Plan (incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Municipal Plan)
- Draft Financial Plan
- Draft Asset Plan
- Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan
- Draft Public Art Policy

Feedback on all Plans and Policies close Wednesday 3 September at 5pm

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre (COPACC) Lease

EOI closes at 2pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025.

Submissions for the COPACC lease must be lodged in the e-Procure site only. Late, posted or emailed submissions may not be considered.

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

Andrew Tenni
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Fountain Restoration Works

Fountain restoration work will commence next week and is expected to take eight weeks. During this time, access to Colac's Memorial Square fountain and the Colac Botanic Gardens' fountain will be restricted, and the sites will be fenced. Please observe all signage and exercise caution in these areas.



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 September

Bit of an oblique reference to "ferals" this month. Certainly a useful rejoinder to some of those out in our community.

"Thou elvish-mark'd, abortive,
rooting hog".

- Richard III

Writers: Laura Shawcross, Mike Juleff, John Frizon, Gillian Brew, Mary Dracup, The Forrest Fink, Adam Davies and Ian Fry.

Design: Gillian Brew

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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.

Built for the long haul

In Forrest, there are two examples of logging winches used for hauling logs out of the bush. The oldest of these is the Henry's winch, built in Melbourne in 1913. Now situated at the old Frizon mill site on the corner of Frizon Street and Sanderson Lane, it could haul 30 tons from over 1 km away. Originally powered by steam and later converted to diesel, it was purchased new by W. R. Henry and was said to be a replacement for a winch that had been modified while operating at Mount Sabine prior to 1913.

At that time newcomers to the area brought a range of skills from their homelands. Among trades people, farmers and, I was informed years ago, a university professor or two, arrived an engineer that, though speaking poor English, convinced old Bill Henry to allow him to modify their main winch. The introduction of a second drum with a lighter cable enabled the main winch cable to be drawn out to its full length via a pulley system. Engineers from Melbourne and Sydney made the long trip to inspect the original working prototype, marveling at the ingenuity of the hand carved blue gum winch-drum hauling the tail cable.

Using this system, in 1913 Alfred Harman and Sons of Port Melbourne, went on to patent and manufacture the Harman double drum steam winch, used extensively in the Australian logging industry. Double drum log winching finally allowed the old draught horses to be retired completely.

Frizon's winch, now situated on the corner of Rivendell Lane has been on it's site since the 1960's when a log yard was operating there and supplied Frizon's mill over the road with logs before Rivendell lane was constructed next to it.



Frizon's winch at the corner of Rivendell Lane and Grant St near the Southern Trail Head

Built in Adelaide after WW2, it could be considered a war hero!

This winch, along with many others, was constructed from repurposed mine sweeper and General Grant tank components and could easily pull 70 tons from up to 6km. Purchased new and operated in the Otway region by Alf Frizon and crew, it was on site on the Kaanglang Road, 1km from Lake Elizabeth on the night the landslip formed that lake. (It wasn't us, Dad was winching out of the opposite valley!)

Both winches were in use into the 1970's and proved to be "Built for long haul."

*John Frizon - President, Forrest & District Historical Society.
If you have history to share or want to find out more John is
happy to chat on 0407630303*

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS at COPACC

YOUTH FEST

**FREE workshops for young people
aged 12-25!**

Monday | 22 September | 10am - 2:30pm

BACKSTAGE/TECH WORKSHOP

& ROCK OUT SESSION!

Are you a youth musician, singer, interested in event management, sound and lighting design? This workshop is for you!

Thursday | 25 September | 10am - 12:30pm

MEDIA & MARKETING WORKSHOP

Are you interested in media, photography, radio and graphic design? This workshop is for you!

Featuring industry professionals from



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copacc.com.au | 03 5232 9418 or pop over to the Cinema Box Office



THE LIBRARIAN by Le Gros Orteil



Sunday | 28 September | 2 pm

**A BOOKISH CIRCUS ADVENTURE - SCHOOL HOLIDAY
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



NCM

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copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418

Ticket \$16 | Concession \$15 | COPACC Members \$13





Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - September

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE F&DNH

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

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

TUESDAYS -open 8.30am-3.30pm

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

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

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.

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

Pantry top up and food boxes: Please contact coordinator to arrange or just visit the pantry after top up (from 12pm). Food available to all in the community.

WEDNESDAYS - open 8.30am-3.30pm

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS - coordinator at the hall

Community lunch: Take away or dine in.

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

FRIDAYS - CLOSED

Pantry top up: (late evening)

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

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

WOMEN OF THE OTWAYS:

Saturday 6 th September 5.30pm-6.30pm at the Rec Reserve (football oval) prior to the comedy show. BYO refreshments and warm attire.

COMEDY NIGHT:

Saturday 6 th September. Doors open at 6.30 for 7pm start. Tickets available at comedyforacause.net/event/FDNH25 and are just \$25! A great night out in town. BYO refreshments. See poster below for more info.

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

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



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

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

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

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



Colac Otway
SHIRE

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House PRESENTS

Comedy for a Cause

Featuring comedians from
Sydney & Melbourne International Comedy Festivals

WAYNE DEAKIN
"Had the crowd in the palm of his hand."
- Herald Sun

FIRDI BILLIMORIA
"One of Melbourne's most exciting and dynamic comedians."

NICK QUON
"Hilarious and the laughs rolled in!"
- Weekend Notes

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
Venue: Forrest Rec Reserve
Doors: 6:30pm / Show: 7:00pm / 18+ / TICKETS: \$25

BOOK NOW at:
comedyforacause.net/event/FDNH25

All of the proceeds from this event will go to Forrest & District Neighbourhood House.

FDCG News

The Forrest & District Community Group (FDCG) is an incorporated association with volunteer members are made up of local community representatives elected to the committee at a public AGM held once a year. Current committee members are Geoff Kennedy - Chair, Sharon Bradshaw - Treasurer, Anthony Griffith - Secretary, Gillian Brew and Les Row - general members.

The committee meets to:

- support and promote a positive, vibrant community
- seek and administer funding to support community-driven initiatives
- communicate and promote the activities, initiatives and achievements of the Forrest and district community.

The committee priorities are informed by the Forrest Towards 2030 plan, <https://www.forrestvictoria.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/FDP2030-web.pdf> combining information from many community consultations into one cohesive document.

Currently the FDCG administers the Forrest website as a key communication tool for locals and visitors.

The most recent matters the committee is engaged with are:

- Waste water and sewerage for Forrest township
- Public transport options and current roadworks
- The Forrest Common playground development
- Forrest Neighbourhood Character study
- Hennigan Cres and Lake Elizabeth signage

The committee meets every second Monday evening of the month and welcomes new members, inquiries and suggestions. Please contact us via forrestcommunity@gmail.com



Breath testing millions of drivers this year.

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



Forrest's fight against holly is still a thing

It's been more than a year since there's been an article in the Post about holly, but that doesn't mean the problem has disappeared.

Gerangamete and Forrest Landcare group members have been trying to eradicate this horrible plant in and around Forrest since 2021, when they used Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund money to blitz a holly stronghold in what is now the Hennigan Crescent revegetation site. With \$15,000 from Barwon Water they have also been able to partner with local landowners to remove holly on private land. Some of this funding is still available.

Holly thrives in our cold, wet conditions, spreading by seed as birds eat the berries, and also where branches touch the ground. It is an introduced species and left unchecked often forms impenetrable thickets that outcompete indigenous plants, harbour rabbits and foxes and reduce biodiversity. If you cut a bush down without poisoning the stump, it will grow back thickly.

The best method to kill it is to cut shrubs and trees at ground level and then immediately paint the stump with undiluted herbicide such as Vigilant or Round-up. However, wait until spring as holly is dormant during winter and will not take up the

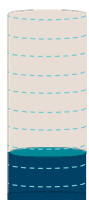


poison. Be careful to put cut plants in your green rubbish bin or paint the cut end with herbicide as well, as cut stems lying on the ground can form roots and grow again. You can pull small plants by hand at any time of year – now is a great time while the ground is moist.

The Landcare group would like you to look around your garden, farm, roadside and also public land and take note of any new holly plants popping up – or plants that have been missed. If you are able to treat them yourself, we can supply small quantities of herbicide in an applicator that is safe to handle. If you have larger quantities, contact us at gerangametelandcare@gmail.com. We are also working with public landowners in the Forrest area to prioritize holly removal.

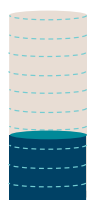
Mary Dracup

Barwon Water Updates



23%

West Barwon Reservoir



35%

Wurdee Boluc Reservoir



4ML

Current minimum daily passing flow at West Barwon

Dry conditions

Even though things look green, our region is experiencing a prolonged period of dry conditions. As rainfall becomes less reliable, Barwon Water continues to work hard to make sure our region has access to safe, secure and sustainable water into the future.

We're doing this by investing in a range of water sources, such as increasing the amount of water Geelong can access through the Melbourne to Geelong pipeline. This water then supplements Colac's supplies via the one-way pipeline from Geelong to Colac.

With the West Barwon Reservoir is at its lowest level in 15 years, we're also encouraging our customers to make water savings wherever they can.

Permanent Water Saving Rules apply across Victoria that give residents a clear set of common-sense ways to reduce their water use. This includes things like having a trigger nozzle on your hose and only watering your lawn in the early morning or late afternoon. If we each save a little, we can all save bucketloads.

Check for leaks

Look for tell-tale signs of a leak such as mould or mildew, bulges in plasterboard, or swelling in hard flooring, or wet patches outdoors when it hasn't rained.

To check for leaks, take a reading of your water meter, turn off all your taps and don't use your shower, bath, dishwasher or washing machine. Don't forget garden taps or sprinkler timers, and you'll have to wait to flush the loo! Wait at least a few hours and then check the meter again. If the meter has ticked over, something is leaking. Please contact your plumber.

Did you know?

Our website has lots of great water saving tips and programs to help customers save! Visit: www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/saving-water





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

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

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- eScripts & MySL



OPEN 6 DAYS

40 Main Street, Birregurra, VIC 3242

Monday - Friday: 9.00am - 5.30pm

P: 03 5236 2288

Saturday: 9.00am - 12.00pm

F: 03 5236 2280

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

ADVERTISE WITH US! Reach local customers and visitors and support your local volunteer run news sheet. Proceeds go to the Forrest Primary School or Neighbourhood House for printing costs and to support the Forrest Men's Shed. CONTACT US: theforrestpost@gmail.com for more information.



OVERHEARD IN FORREST

Welcome to the latest segment of 'Overheard in Forrest'. Intended to put a smile on your face and featuring funny conversations and comments overheard about town.

"Barwon Downs crash corner in the newspaper again - seems both the cars and the newspaper are in competition about who's getting written off more"

"Winter in Forrest - one food van rolls into town and everyone is ready to rave"

"Another frosty morning? At this point I'm just calling my gumboots 'formal wear.'""Otway mushrooms are absolutely popping off. Just to be clear, we're talking slippery jacks, not psychedelic court appearances."

Yours sincerely, *The Forrest Fink*

If you've overheard something in Forrest that made you giggle, please feel free to contribute to this section. Email theforrestpost@gmail.com titled 'Attn: Forrest Fink'.

Disclaimer: All submissions will be anonymous under the alias of 'The Forrest Fink'. All accusations in this segment are most likely incorrect & are intended as 'a bit of a laugh'.



FORREST FACES: Dan Moriarty

How long have you lived in the Otway area?

We bought our place 8 years ago and moved here permanently 4 years ago. My wife (Freya) was born and bred in Gellibrand and my parents have had a place in Lorne for about 35 years and I lived there for a few years after uni.

What is something people don't know about you?

I have travelled to Papua New Guinea more than 100 times for work and speak fluent Tok Pisin. PNG is a magical country that I encourage everyone to visit if they can; it is our nearest neighbour and while it gets a bad wrap in the media it is breathtakingly beautiful and its people are very special.

What is your favourite thing about living in the Otways?

The combination of the bush, sea and community: you can be at the beach in Lorne with the family in the morning, riding the awesome mountain bike trails at Forrest at lunchtime, relaxing at the brewery in the late afternoon and harvesting goodies from your veggie patch for dinner in the evening - all in one perfect day!

BIRDS OF THE OTWAYS

SPONSORED BY



Common Sandpiper

The Common Sandpiper is a small Wader about 20cm long. It can be instantly recognized by its constant bobbing action as it runs along the shoreline, and a prominent white eye ring.

Common Sandpipers arrive in Australia from Northern Asia around late July, and depart in March. They are found right around the Australian coast, and even the most of NT and WA (including inland areas)

Their habitats are slightly different than other waders, in that they like narrow, and often steep shorelines, often in sheltered areas where there are no other waders. They also use steep sided sewerage ponds and dams. In our Shire we have found them as individual birds sporadically in the Barongarook creek outlet into Lake Colac, and the southern side of the Barham River near the entrance to the sea. They are more common in mangrove areas in Northern Australia, but despite their name are quite rare down here.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry



Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

