



Arts on a mission in Forrest

You may remember around this time last year we put the call out for donations to bring a world class creative experience to Forrest and give our young people a chance to enjoy a live performance here in their own town.

The project is a part of the Regional Arts Victoria YEAH! 2025-26 campaign, to ensure that young people in regional and remote locations can engage in exciting arts experiences. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the campaign was successful in meeting our goal of \$2000 and the countdown commenced to lift off.

Mission to the Moon, performed by three quirky, acrobatic astronauts from Highwire Entertainment, took us on a captivating journey, blending circus artistry, clowning, and real space science. The show imagines jugglers defying gravity and tumbling among the stars! With a mix of classic circus skills, laughter, and space facts, *Mission to the Moon* offers a fresh, imaginative take on our fascination with space.

Mission to the Moon is timely as it parallels NASA's current Artemis Program, which will see humans land back on the moon for the first time since 1972, including the first women and people of colour. The show channeled the natural excitement the world is feeling for space exploration with the most recent successful launch and safe splash down in real life fresh in our minds.



Photos by Dirk Hoenemann OddWays Images

The young audience got a glimpse into what it might be like to be an astronaut, albeit, with a bit more juggling. The multidisciplinary show also demonstrates the power of performing arts and imaginative play in helping to further young people's understanding of STEM subjects.

The performance was held on Friday the 24th of April at the Forrest hall. The Forrest Primary School is a partner school with Deans Marsh Primary School and they were invited to join us for the performance. The hall was buzzing with excitement as the astronauts thrilled us with their skills and engaged the students by

inviting them into the adventure, roving through the hall in space slow mo, encouraging audience participation and following up with an informative Q & A session after the show.

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the performers, Regional Arts Victoria represented by Nell who helped with interviews, the school staff for coordinating, the students for being such a great audience and most importantly everyone who donated to bring the show to Forrest. Local photographer Dirk Hoenemann from OddWays Images captured some amazing images of the performance. It really does take a village to make the magic happen.

Gillian Brew - Fundraising coordinator

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.

LOCAL MARKET STALLS & VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THE FORREST SCHOOL FETE - PG 4

Colac Otway Shire News



Council Meetings

Planning Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12 May 2026

Time: 1pm

Venue: COPACC (95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac)

The purpose of the Planning Committee Meeting will be to consider:

PP118/2025-1, 4-6 Woods Street, Colac – Use and Development of Land for a Childcare Centre

Submissions Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12 May 2026

Time: 1.30pm

Venue: COPACC (95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac)

The purpose of the Submissions Committee Meeting will be to consider:

- Colac Otway Shire Football (Soccer) Facilities Feasibility Study
- PP124/2024-1, 365 Mooleric Road, Ombersley – Stone Pressing Facility

Meetings are open to the public and interested people are welcome to attend. A copy of the meeting agenda will be available on Council's website on Thursday 7 May 2026 at

www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings

This meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's You Tube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at www.youtube.com). Only those who have lodged submissions and have requested to speak to their submission can address the meetings.

Have Your Say & Expressions of Interest

2026-27 Draft Council Budget

Each year Councillors and Council officers work together to prepare an annual budget. This document shows how council rates will be spent on providing services to the community and keeping our public places safe and welcoming.

Council is now seeking feedback from our community on the Draft 2026-27 Budget.

Submissions close 5pm Wednesday 27 May 2026.

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 5pm Wednesday 10 June 2026.

Draft Road Upgrade Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a clear, consistent, and transparent framework for assessing and prioritising upgrades to Council-managed roads.

Council would like your feedback on this study.

Submission close at 5pm, Tuesday 5 May 2026

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


Animal Registration Renewals – now overdue

Attention dog and cat owners - it's that time of year again! Your annual animal registration renewals are now overdue.

Reminder letters were sent to all registered pet owners in the Colac Otway Shire.

You can conveniently pay your renewal:

- In person at any Council Customer Service Centre
- By phone with one of friendly customer service officers
- Online via Council's eServices portal

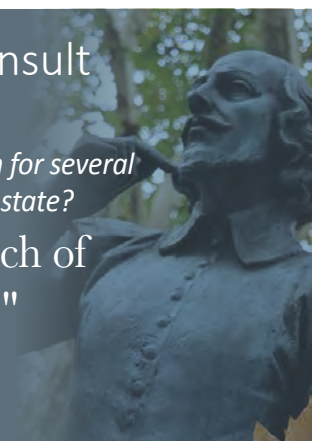
Colac Service Centre: 2- 6 Rae Street, Colac, Open: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5pm   
Ph: 5232 9400 Email: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au or find us online: www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

Shakespeare's Insult for May

A nice description this month for several of the World's heads of state?

You "Bolting-hutch of beastliness!..."

- Henry IV, Part I.



Writers: Gillian Brew, Rob Cargill, Freya Bennett, Sandra Batten, 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.

Radio Forrest

ABC Ballarat Breakfast host Steve Martin broadcast from the General on 27 March, interviewing a range of locals and state MP Richard Riordan. Forrest Brewery's Matt Bradshaw and the General's Ash Charewicz talked about their own journeys, and focussed on the waste management project - a.k.a. 'the sewer'.

Matt and Ash both saw it as a much needed improvement to the town, and local member Richard Riordan not only agreed but hoped it might include Barwon Downs and Deans Marsh, because alleviating the housing shortage will need a focus on small towns like these.

Jeff Fox and Michele Davidson were wheeled out to discuss mountain biking, and we learned that Jeff had started constructing the first trails without any permits, largely because he hadn't asked for any, which any home owner in the town can attest is a very Forrest approach. Michele, who runs the Guest House and the bike shop and referred to Jeff as 'the Silver Fox', talked about the re-development of the trails, some of which was done in 2021-23, and some of which is still awaiting further state funding.



Also awaiting funding are the repairs to the Police station and house, which are currently unusable due to black mould. Mr. Riordan reflected the community's disquiet about this, especially as it impacts the town's very popular policeman Matt Roberts.

The local primary school was the main topic for young Forrester's Mia, Anya and Aurora, who left it to adults to point out that the school will depend on continued growth to survive and thrive.

Surviving and thriving were the themes underlying the talk with Wal Miller from Forrest CFA, especially when he revealed that there had been a recent increase in young members.

Potato farmer Peter Scott chipped in with his colourful story of heritage spuds that looked crappy when mashed but much better when crisped, and some home-grown life advice about making lemonade when life hands you... purple spuds. Also very Forrest.

You can hear the broadcast on <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/ballarat-breakfast/breakfast/106488610>

Rob Cargill

Mountain biking news

Exciting things are happening in Forrest! Forrest MTB Hire has a shiny new fleet of ebikes for hire. E bikes broaden the appeal of the Forrest trails and allow even more people to enjoy the trails. Having tested one of the new bikes on some of the steeper trails, it is certainly fun to whizz up the hills with ease. If you've got a morning or an afternoon to spare, talk to Michelle about taking one out.

Another exciting development is a successful Regional All Abilities Participation Grant for the Forrest MTB and Cycling Club to purchase an adaptive bike to encourage riders with a disability to try mountain biking. The Forrest trails were designed to be adaptive bike friendly and several adaptive riders use them regularly. The new bike will make Forrest trails more accessible to riders with a disability and encourage more all abilities riders in to the sport.

Huge thanks to Push Mobility who generously subsidised the Bowhead bike and to Forrest MTB hire for facilitating hire. Look out for the new bike out on the trails soon!

Freya Bennett



This style of adaptive bike is on its way to Forrest and will be available for hire soon



Above: the new ebike fleet out the front of the Forrest MTB Hire shop 16 Grant Street, Forrest.

**For hires contact Michelle at Forrest MTB Hire
P: 0407 318 507 E: forrestmtbhire@gmail.com
Web: forrestbikehire.com.au**



Forrest & District Neighbourhood House - MAY

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: 2nd Tuesday of the month 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!

CHANGE OF DAY* Forrest Osteopathy is onsite. Call 0438298669 to book in.

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 19TH JUNE
BUSHDANCE
AT THE HALL!
MORE 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL & EARLY YEARS CENTRE
Learning for Life

Roll up for our annual King's Birthday
SCHOOL FETE
Fun & GAMES

Saturday 6 June - 12 to 4pm

at the Forrest Primary School & Hall precinct, Grant St Forrest

Stalls & Sausage Sizzle

Call Nicky on 0422 371 040 for stall and more information or email forrest.fete3236@gmail.com

The Fete is Back

The annual Kings Birthday School Fete and Art Exhibition is on again Saturday 6th June at the Forrest Hall in conjunction with Run Forrest Trail Run. In it's 14th year, Run Forrest brings loads of visiting runners and their support teams to town to experience our amazing environment out on the trails (mud slides and all).

It's a chance for Forrest to show off our country hospitality, providing a much needed snag in bread and a fun day out for locals and visitors with a range of stalls and activities to entertain the kids. Studio Forrest will transform the hall again with an art showcase featuring the last 12 months work on the theme of water. Artwork will be available for sale.

Rumor has it the hall kitchen is still available for hire if you are a local group wanting to run a fundraiser. The coffee machine is always popular or perhaps you might like to resurrect the memory of the Soup Fest with a soup stall to help warm the punters.

If you want to have a stall or volunteer to help out at this fun inclusive local event, get in touch with Nicky or email forrest.fete3236@gmail.com.

Talking to your teen about vaping

A conversation guide for parents



See our *Free*
conversation guide for parents



Available in Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin,
Vietnamese, Punjabi and English

www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/parent-vaping-guide



Art on the line

The Otways is home to many artists and creatives, drawn by the wonder and inspiration of our spectacular natural environment and the slower pace of a contemplative country life. Local Barwon Downs artist Sandy Batten tells the Post about her journey to provide a space for creative expression.

Three restored Hills Hoists stand in a roadside paddock on private property in Barwon Downs along the inland road to Apollo Bay, transforming an everyday rural scene into an unexpected outdoor gallery.

What began as a simple idea — exploring the sculptural form and quiet familiarity of the Hills Hoist — has grown into *Hills Hoist in a Paddock* (3HillsRED), a low-key, evolving space for creative expression. Set between homes on Loves Road and an old farmhouse, the hoist structure offers a gentle counterpoint to the nearby NBN tower, replacing visual intrusion with something more human and unexpected.

Lovingly restored by property owners Sandy and Peter, the three hoists — sourced from Newport, Barwon Downs and Colac — every so often hosts occasional artworks by artists, makers and locals.

The recent Easter showing, *Hang Out the Dirty Laundry*, drew 20 artists and 20 interpretations from across the region, Geelong and Melbourne attracting visitors, conversation and plenty of passing car horns in appreciation.

The idea continues to invite participation, with new creations of interest appearing from time to time — a quiet but intriguing presence for those who stumble upon it.

If you have an idea, just send a message to Instagram @hills.hoist.paddock.art .

Sandy Batten



Artists: Deb McSephene, Michelle Caithness, Clive Murray White, Vicki Fenton & Jane Bartier



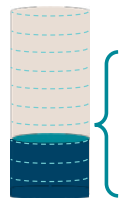
Dissolving Turmp - Artist Deb Salter



Overalls Swing - Artist Terry Guida

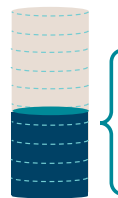
Image credit to Shane Virgo and John Batten (b&w)

Barwon Water Updates



27%

West Barwon Reservoir



42%

Wurdee Boluc Reservoir



4ML

Current minimum daily passing flow at West Barwon

Partnerships with Traditional Owners

As part of Barwon Water’s Reconciliation commitments, we care for water and landscapes across our region with Traditional Owners.

Through our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan and Strategy 2030, we work alongside Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung to protect waterways, catchments and ecosystems, guided by deep Cultural knowledge of Country.

Our approach supports Traditional Owners’ self determination and obligations to care for Country and reflects a long term commitment to truth telling, respect and a healthy future for these landscapes.

Forrest wastewater

Barwon Water is working on the business case assessing the replacement of privately-owned septic systems in Forrest with a reticulated town wastewater system.

To support this business case, we surveyed the Forrest community from February to April about their views about the project. A sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback. Please keep an eye on the project Your Say page and here in the Forrest Post for updates, including the results of the survey.

Learn more

For more information visit:
www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub-forrest-wastewater



Reimagining Water

Studio Forrest is our local art group and we support participants to collaborate, exhibit and explore different mediums and practices to produce group and individual artworks relating to a theme; this year it is Water. Members are encouraged to share and explore new skills and by learning from each other, we are often surprised with the range and diversity of works produced for which Studio Forrest exhibitions are known.

This year we have exhibited at the Arts Inc Gallery in Apollo Bay in January, and currently have a group work called "Paradise to the Sea" in *Reimagining the Barham*, a joint show with 50 other artists at the Mechanics Hall in Apollo Bay. If you have a chance to view this exhibition, it is quite spectacular. *Reimagining the Barham* is open 10am-2pm on Saturdays until June 6th.

We are preparing for our next group exhibition at the Forrest hall and you are invited to our opening night from 6pm Friday 5th June to view the works as part of the Kings Birthday festivities here in Forrest. Chat with the artists over drinks and nibbles and be serenaded by the Forrest Singers and special guests the Kindred Choir. Artworks will be available for sale on the night and over the weekend.

We welcome new members to the group and the start of each semester provides an opportunity for you to be part of setting the artistic intention and direction for the next 6 months. It is always an exciting time as new ideas flow and form. Please get in touch by contacting us at forrestartspace@gmail.com, drop into the Studio at the back of the Neighbourhood House on Wednesday afternoons or come and chat with us at the exhibition, details opposite on the poster.

Gillian Brew



6-9th June 2026 □ 10am-4pm □ Forrest Public Hall □ 14 Grant St, Forrest

OPENING NIGHT Friday 5 June Studio Forrest is a program of the Forrest & District Neighbourhood House  

FMS

FREE WIFI AT THE SHED



Forrest Men's Shed - 6 Blundy St, Forrest

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

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

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.



Colac to Coast

REAL ESTATE



Rebecca Graham
Director/Property Manager



Andrea Ivermee
Director/Licensed Estate Agent



Stuart Nelson
Auctioneer/Sales Specialist



Amanda Cook
Property Manager



Jacinta Mahony
Assistant Property Manager



Skie Maddern
Assistant Property Manager



Melinda Cass
Reception



Kiahna McCoombe
Administration

03 5231 3288
info@colactocoast.com.au
colactocoast.com.au
7 Dennis Street,
Colac VIC 3250

Why do I see or smell smoke?

With calm autumn conditions across much of Victoria, communities can expect to see smoke in coming weeks from a mix of planned burns on public land, private burn-offs under CFA permits, agricultural burning and wood heaters. While conditions are ideal for burning, weather patterns may cause smoke to linger overnight and into early mornings on some days.

FFMVIC Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said it is important agencies use favourable conditions when they arise. "Planned burning on public land is one of the tools FFMVIC uses to help keep Victoria safer from bush-fires," he said. "With current weather and forest conditions, we are delivering as much planned burning as we can."

"Our climate is changing, making safe and effective burning windows harder to find. Autumn typically provides more opportunities, as weather is more stable and fire behaviour more predictable. Reducing dry vegetation such as grass, leaves, bark and shrubs means fires are less intense and spread more slowly, improving firefighters' ability to contain bushfires before they threaten communities."

Mr Hardman said FFMVIC works closely with CFA, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Bureau of Meteorology to minimise smoke impacts. "We encourage people to plan ahead for possible smoke impacts, particularly those with heart or lung conditions, older people, children and pregnant women."

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic AFSM said landholders burning off should remain vigilant and ensure conditions are safe. "Let neighbours know if they may be affected by smoke. All burns must be attended, with enough water available to control and extinguish the fire safely." Burn-offs should be registered online or by calling 1800 668 511.

Visit <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/> for more info.

Mission to the Moon was all about how to get to the moon and about space.

A fantastic play at Forrest Hall by the Regional Arts Victoria, thanks to Gillian.

Forrest Primary's sister school, Deans Marsh came to watch too.

Here are 2 poems you might hear kids of Forrest singing..

Ways you can get to the moon

We could...

- Walk - that'll take 8 years
- Run - that'll take 5 years
- Bike - that'll take 2 years
- Drive - that'll take 8 months
- Fly - that'll take 2 months
- Rocket - that'll take 4 days

That's too long. Or you can moon walk, moon walk

Moon walk to the moon.

Moon walk, moon walk, I'll bet we'll be there soon.



by Abigail Pakula (with a little help)

Phases of the moon

See the picture I drew

mission to the moon regional Arts Victoria



BIRDS OF THE OTWAYS

SPONSORED BY BarwonWater

Nankeen (or Australian) Kestrel

The Nankeen Kestrel is another of our small, attractive raptors, being about 31-35cm in length, with the female being the slightly larger bird. It is found all over Australia, in a wide variety of habitats including urban areas. It is often seen hovering in the air over grassy paddocks, where it pounces on large invertebrates such as grasshoppers, locusts, crickets dragonflies etc, and even small vertebrates including mice and young rats. They will move into areas that have plagues of locusts and mice where they will breed irruptively until the plagues cease.

It will nest in a hollow dead limb of a eucalypt, or on rock ledges on cliffs. They will even renovate old nests of crows, or other large raptors, where they lay 3-5 pale blotched buff coloured eggs.

Ian Davies and Adam Fry



Visit Forrest online at www.forrestvictoria.com

