

# FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWSLETTER



LEARNING FOR LIFE

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE IS A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE OF BULLYING.

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Forrest Families,

### SENIOR CAMP – SOVEREIGN HILL

Our senior students attended Sovereign Hill for camp and had a fantastic time. Even with the wet weather, students enjoyed everything camp had to offer.

There were lots of highlights across the few days away and it was great to see students spending time together and enjoying new experiences. Thank you to staff and families for helping make camp possible.



### THANK YOU – SCHOOL FETE

A big thank you to all our families and community members who helped at our recent fete. We really appreciate everyone who gave up their time to make the day such a success.

A particularly big thank you goes to Freya and Nicky for all their work organising the fete. I would also like to thank

Mollie, Claire and Olivia for all their help and contribution. There is a huge amount that happens behind the scenes, and we are very grateful for everything they did.

### WORKING BEE AND KITCHEN GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

Thank you also to Freya for organising our recent working bee.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JUNE

- 15<sup>th</sup> School Nurse Visit - Preps
- 16<sup>th</sup> School Council 3.45pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Barwon Health Dental Van Visit - School
- 17<sup>th</sup> Library (MARC)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Barwon Health Dental Van Visit - Kinder
- 24<sup>th</sup> Art (MACC)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term–2.30pm finish

### JULY

- 11<sup>th</sup> First Day Term 3
- 15<sup>th</sup> Library (MARC)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Earth Ed Incursion
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Art (MACC)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Parent Student Interviews
- 29<sup>th</sup> Library (MARC)

### AUGUST

- 5<sup>th</sup> Art (MACC)
- 11<sup>th</sup> School Council @3.45pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> Library (MARC)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Earth Ed Excursion
- 19<sup>th</sup> Art (MACC)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Book Week Parade



Students of the Week

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped, especially the students who pitched in as well. The chicken coop has now been repaired, and some improvements were made to the kitchen garden area. These spaces are used and enjoyed by our students every week and it was wonderful to see them getting some extra attention.

### DISTRICT INTERSCHOOL SOCCER

Congratulations to our senior students Arli, Archer, Aurora and Stella, who represented Forrest Primary School at Colac Divisional Soccer.



The students did a great job and represented our school really well throughout the day. Well done on your efforts and for giving it your best.

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK & PRINCIPAL AWARD

Principal Award – Finley

Senior Room – The Whole Class!

Thank you,

Megan Murfitt  
Principal

#### Upcoming Birthdays

Sunny J, Abigail & Tom



### COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

#### GARDEN NEWS

Thank you to the small but mighty group who came to the working bee on Friday afternoon and blitzed the jobs list! The chicken pen is refreshed and new pathways are taking shape with plenty of cardboard and mulch. Garden beds were also netted to protect new seedlings and a few new signs added to the garden, and another layer added to an experimental no-dig bed. Thank you again for your help- many hands make light work.

The garden is brimming with seedlings and we have a wide variety of vegetables in the ground. The junior students have



been diligently caring for seeds on the sunny balcony, and many have already been transplanted into the garden.

The garlic crop has sprouted and is looking great!

The children have been helping with drainage around the outdoor kitchen area and experimenting with engineering concepts in the process.

The next big project is to get the greenhouse back up and running so stay tuned for updates on how that is progressing.



We have lots of limes in the garden – if you have ideas on how to use them or would like some, please get in touch.

Finally, we can always use cardboard or newspaper in the garden and will happily take any donations. And if you want to help out in the garden or just come and have a look, we'd love to show you what is happening.

Freya



## SENIOR ROOM NEWS

Congratulations to all our Senior Room students for their excellent behaviour and positivity while we were on the Sovereign Hill camp. The students showed care for each other, engaged with all the activities, and managed themselves well through some challenging weather!

It was a busy camp and the students experienced many aspects of life in 1854, such as gold panning, school life, blacksmithing, candlemaking, confectionary making, old-fashioned bowling alley life, life as a miner, and more. The Year 4–6 students spent most of their time at the Costume School, which was a fantastic experience for them as they got into character and immersed themselves fully into life as an upper-class student at St Peter's Denominational School.

The students joined with Beeac PS students and experienced the wonderful ma'am who got them learning copperplate writing, writing with ink quills, sewing (girls only!), reciting, drawing, lining up a lot, and learning about the social rules of the day. I think it is fair to say that we were all shocked by the limitations



on girls' education and expectations for their futures. I was lucky enough to attend the Costume School and my character was Mrs Rees, the jeweller's wife. I was looking for a young boy to join my husband in our jewellery shop as an apprentice. I was on the lookout for a boy who could listen, had an eye for detail, and was polite. I was lucky enough to select Master Archer for this exciting position and I wish him luck in

the jewellery business and his future on the goldfields!

By far, the most popular activity on the goldfields for our students was the gold panning. Their unique personalities shone through as the students panned for gold using a pan, shovel, and determination to strike it rich.

Overall, the 2026 Sovereign Hill camp was a wonderful experience for our students. Not only did they learn a lot about the hardships and joys of life in the

1850s, but also the different aspects of life on the goldfields, e.g., Miner's rights, the Eureka Stockade, the Chinese Miners, the First Nations people's experience, how people entertained themselves, and the essential workers on the gold fields servicing the diggers, such as the butchers and candle makers. In addition, it was pleasing to see the students getting along with each other, showing resilience and displaying excellent kindness



and manners to each other. We were all very proud of how Forrest PS showed up as a wonderful team for each other and the other students.

Thanks to all the staff and parents for helping make this such a memorable camp for our students. We are looking forward to doing a follow up history day in Term 3.



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS



## EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

Over the last fortnight the children have been involved in discussions and activities around Reconciliation Week. We have had discussions on what this means to everyone, how we can do better and made a lovely message stick in honour of indigenous traditions. We have also included both the junior and senior school children in yarnning stories which involves the children picking indigenous symbol tiles then together creating a story. Lots of fun, laughter and imagination were involved in these activities.

We saw our parents join us for Bush Kinder and some

wonderful cubbies were made by all. We would like to extend our great thanks to those who attended, it was great fun and we will be doing another one later in the year.

Di is absent on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June for continued Professional development. Freya Bennett will be the kinder teacher on the 17<sup>th</sup> along with Vicki for support.

We will be supporting Annika in her final placement on her journey to obtain her Bachelor of Early Childhood Education starting the 26<sup>th</sup> of May until the end of term. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Annika or Di.

Please remember that Bush kinder on Fridays can get very cold, wet and muddy, especially in winter. **Each child will need to bring a change of clothes, a raincoat and a pair of gumboots with them every Friday.**

Please remember to put lots of changes of clothes in your child's bag just in case.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to speak to Di or Vicki or you can contact us on the service mobile – 0419 357 886

Cheers Di & Vicki.

## WELLBEING NEWS

### WELLBEING UPDATES! RECONCILIATION, TEAMWORK & EVERYDAY GLIMMERS

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring the meaning of Reconciliation (with **reconciliation** week to prompt our thinking) and discussing how we can apply its values in our everyday



lives. Through these conversations, students have deepened their understanding of harmony and how, when relationships or situations feel broken, they can be strengthened through kindness, fairness, respect, and understanding.

As part of our learning, the Senior students worked collaboratively to piece together a torn-up definition of Reconciliation, encouraging them to think deeply about its meaning and importance. This activity led naturally into our recent **teamwork**-building experiences across the school,



where students have been practising cooperation, communication, and problem-solving through storytelling and a range of group challenges, including volleyball. It has been wonderful and fun to see students supporting one another, working towards shared goals, and building



stronger connections within our school community

**EVERYDAY GLIMMERS - CHERISHING THE SMALL MOMENTS (SUPPORTING OUR POSITIVE-BIAS)**

To support a positive mindset, we have continued exploring how our thoughts and words influence the way we feel and act. Students have been learning to notice their "everyday glimmers" - the small moments of joy, comfort, and connection that can brighten our day. These glimmers might include sunshine on a cool morning, listening to music, reading a

great book, hearing rain on the roof, or spending time with caring friends. By taking time to appreciate these simple moments, students are building gratitude and a greater awareness of the positives in everyday life.

Families feel free to use this as a gratitude conversation starter at home! It is a lovely way to encourage mindful and positive communication! It could even be a simple as "what went well today?" or "what made you smile today?". An everyday glimmer for me these past few weeks have

been seeing how beautifully the Forrest kids have been spending time together and encouraging each other to keep trying when moments feel challenging! Like we've been singing in the senior room, **'from little things, big things grow!'** 😊



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**FUNDRAISING THANK YOU!**

Big thanks to the planning team; Freya, Mollie, Claire, Emily, Olivia and Nicky. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped on the day, those that helped by bringing Lucky Jars and choc bars. Thanks for those that came on the day, spent some money, and had fun at a great community event. A big shout out to the kids that had stalls and spent some time volunteering, and Em Pakula for co-ordinating the strawberry and cream mini chefs. Thanks to Matt for snagging us the snags (!) Thank you to Gill Brew and her Art team for their fabulous exhibition that brought peeps in. Here's some photos that Mollie (stall organiser extraordinaire) took on the day 😊





**The Billy Tea Bush Band**

# FORREST BUSH DANCE

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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!



# COLAC WASTED TALENT SHOW

LIVE AT THE COLAC RSL  
FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE  
FROM 7:30PM

ENTRY OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!

SHARE YOUR HIDDEN TALENT!

SINGING \* DANCING \* IMPERSONATION \* COMEDY \* MAGIC \* BIRD CALLS

— WHATEVER YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT BUT NO ONE ELSE REALLY KNOWS! —

★ AUDIENCE TICKETS ★  
\$20 AT THE DOOR  
\$15 PREBOOKED

★ PARTICIPANT ENTRY ★  
\$5 PER PERSON

PRIZES - UP FOR GRABS!

PROCEEDS SUPPORT  
**OCR FM**  
COMMUNITY RADIO STATION



FREE for Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25

# FREE YOUTH IMPROV WORKSHOP

with **OCR FM**

Monday 6 July  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Colac Central Reserve Pavilion  
32-40 Gravesend Street, Colac

Love acting? This workshop is for you!  
Learn the tips and tricks of improvisation.

Register Now



ColacOtwayYouthImprovWorkshop.  
eventbrite.com.au

Colac Otway SHIRE ENGAGE! VICTORIA State Government





SEASON 2026/27

# JUNIOR REPREADY SESSIONS

REGISTER NOW



**SUNDAY 21 JUNE - U12/U14 1-2.30PM AND U16/U18 2.30-4PM**  
**TUESDAY 23 JUNE - U12/U14 4-5.30PM AND U16/U18 5.30-7PM**  
**\$5 PER SESSION - REGISTRATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 19 JUNE, 2026 AT 5.30PM**  
VENUE: BLUEWATER LEISURE CENTRE  
ENQUIRIES: [JRP@COLACBASKETBALL.COM.AU](mailto:JRP@COLACBASKETBALL.COM.AU)

The Colac Kookas Junior RepReady Basketball Sessions are designed to give every athlete an opportunity to put in some work before Colac Kookas Junior Representative tryouts begin.

Sessions will include both parent information and on-court training sessions.

Whether you're stepping into representative basketball for the first time or preparing for another season, these sessions are designed to help athletes feel prepared, confident, and ready to compete.

As part of the Colac Kookas Junior Representative pathway, sessions will focus on skill development, game-ready drills, and high-energy coaching to help players sharpen their game before tryouts. Athletes will build confidence, improve their basketball IQ, and give themselves the best chance to perform at their best when it matters most. Don't miss the opportunity to put in the work now and stand out later.

This program is suited to domestic U12, U14, U16 and U18 players who haven't previously been part of the representative program and are interested in trying out for rep basketball this season.

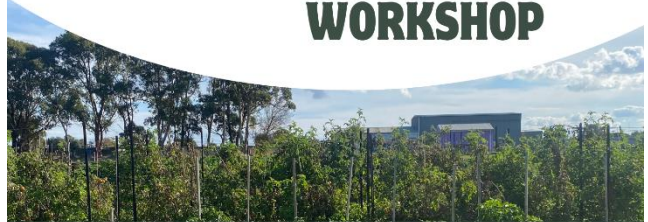
Forrest Primary School  
& Early Years Centre  
ABN 81 431 426 412  
10 Grant Street,  
Forrest, VIC 3236 t  
5236 6393 f 5236 6470  
  
[forrest.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:forrest.ps@education.vic.gov.au)  
[www.forrestps.vic.edu.au](http://www.forrestps.vic.edu.au)

FREE for Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25



FARM MY SCHOOL

# YOUTH FARMING FUTURES WORKSHOP



Tuesday | 30 June | 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Farm My School Colac (Colac Secondary College)  
173 Queen Street, Colac



ColacOtwayYouthFarming  
FuturesWorkshop.eventbrite.com.au

Calling young people aged 12-25!  
Join us for this FREE Youth Farming Futures Workshop with Farm My School. Explore the farm, taste fresh produce, and participate in hands-on activities.

REGISTER NOW,  
LIMITED SPACES!



FREE for Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25



# YOUTH BOOT SCOOTING CLASS

with Maddy



Monday | 29 June | 2:00pm - 3:30pm  
Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre - COPACC  
95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac

Join our FREE beginner-friendly youth boot scooting class!

Learn how to boot scoot, enjoy fun music, and make new friends. No experience needed, grab your boots (or sneakers) and let's dance!



Register now!

ColacOtwayYouthBootScootingClass.  
eventbrite.com.au

