



Colac Otway Learn Laugh Live

Phone: 5231-4435

Email: u3acolaco@gmail.com

Website: u3acolacotway.org.au

Facebook: [U3A Colac Otway](https://www.facebook.com/U3AColacOtway)

Members of U3A Colac Otway can also access and participate in programs offered by –

Apollo Bay U3A - <https://www.apollobay.vic.au>

Corangamite U3A - <https://u3acorangamite.org.au>

The INFORMER August 2026

President's Report

It's wonderful to see new members joining our U3A and becoming involved in a variety of activities. A warm welcome to everyone.

The heater in the backroom has been serviced and is working as well as it can. However, with these extra-cold days and the size of the room, it does have a big job keeping everyone warm. As Spike Milligan might have said, **“if you can't change the weather, at least laugh at it.”**

So, warm clothes and bring along hats, gloves, scarves, rugs, your sense of humour and your smile – all welcome .

And something to look forward to **Spring Lunch on Friday 1st September**. An opportunity to get together, share a meal, and welcome the arrival of spring. I hope to see many of you there!

Save the Date: During **Seniors** week, we'll be holding a special event at **2.00pm on Friday 9th October**. More details will be provided in next month's **Informer**.

PHOTOGRAPHY – **change of day & time**

Photography group will meet at Kanyana **10-12pm on Friday, 7th August**. Wal mentioned that participants might like to bring a small prop of something personal eg. framed photo, hat, jacket, umbrella, etc.- a looking at portraiture. **Note changes and please be on time - 10am.** **New members are welcome.**

Celebrate
the end of winter
with us

SPRING

Seasonal Lunch

Come and socialise
with other U3A folk and
enjoy delicious Spring food

Spring rolls



BBQ'd sausages

Friday 4th September 12 noon
at U3A Colac Otway 55 Hesse St. Colac
Please book at office for catering

LET'S HAVE DINNER

The next Let's Have Dinner is booked at the Colac East Pub, Dalton St on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 6pm. Phone Jacqui on 0411 296 617 to book by Friday 21st August if you would like to join a group for companionship, laughter and a really good feed.

Colac East Pub, Wednesday, 26th August, 6pm

LIFE AFTER FARMING

Come for a cuppa and chat. Everyone is welcome.

Kanyana, Friday 14th August, 10:30am

In July, the Life after Farming group had a very interesting visit to the new Box Gallery, followed by a delicious lunch at Babil.

GALLOPING GOURMETS

Our next Gourmet's lunch has been booked at Fusion, 58 Murray St, Colac. Duncan and Michelle provide a regularly changing Australian menu that features dishes presenting the best of our region, while delivering flavours from around the world. Guests are guaranteed delicious food and warm country hospitality. Please book by contacting Sandra on 0428 284 084 by Monday 17th August if you would like to attend – **Fusion, Thursday 20th August at 12 noon.**

GARDENERS

Gardeners will be creative again in August. New member Karen, has kindly offered to teach the creation of decorated lady and gentleman terracotta pots. Karen will provide pre-made noses and mouths and other decorations. You may bring some of your own too. COST \$10 per pot. - *See examples below*

Please bring a 6 inch terracotta pot from Bunnings which will be approximately \$2.95.

Book in at the office by 18th August with the number of pots you wish to make, to give Karen time to prepare. **Kanyana back room, Tuesday 25th August 10.00-11.30.**



DRAWING

We're pleased to announce that Judith is returning as Drawing instructor. There will be a new time slot, so please mark your diaries. **Monday 17th August, 1 - 2:30p.m. at Kanyana.**

LINE DANCING

Marlene is happy to continue leading the group as long as dancers are prepared to miss a class when her family health issues dictate. She hopes this would be unusual!

SWING MUSIC - coming in September



Members were really amazed by magician Mark Bruere (Marko) at last month's Sunday Sessions.



CLASSIC MUSIC 2.

This month Debbie's presentation of a selection from the ABC 100 classics, was enjoyed by all, with much discussion about the composers, the soloists, and the orchestras. We also took a minutes silence to reflect on the wonderful contributions Wal made to this group over many years. Vale Wal..

Next gathering **Monday 17th August 430pm** For information ph. Rosemary:0407095724



UKULELE WORKSHOP

Learn to play the uke in relaxed space. Starting at basic to no skill levels. All levels welcome to join in. Bring along your uke, but we have a few spares to try to get you started. Aimed at a fun, no stress, learning get together. **Thursday 6th and Thursday 20th August 3 – 4pm Kanyana back room.** For those that can, tune up before we start ... We will be running through some of our steps from the previous get together and maybe add some new moves when we are ready. See you all there.

OPERA

La Scala Milan and Bizet's Carmen

The opera for this month is Bizet's Carmen on **Wednesday 5th August at the Cinema Como** in South Yarra. It's a new co-production with La Scala Milan and London's Royal Opera House. If you wish to join us, meet at 7.30 am at Colac Station for the trip to Southern Cross station. We change there to go to South Yarra station and the Cinema is just 200 metres further along Toorak Road. The film begins at 11.00 am, so there is plenty of time for a coffee before the commencement. We return to Colac on the 5.09pm train from Southern Cross. For a great day out with convivial company and a good lunch, come and join us. Surely V/line will play sensibly for us this time. The new season for the NY Met Opera commences in September at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville, so stay tuned.

CULTURAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP.

A small band of U3A Colac Otway folk gathered at the end of June, for a wonderful two-hour session facilitated by Cultura's Fran Grossi and led by Dulce who has an amazing multicultural Mexican, Spanish, Jewish background herself. Australia has always been multicultural since Europeans arrived in 1788 and in the 2021 census, 30% of Victorians said they were born overseas. In Colac the figure was 10.3% or 2,302 residents, but with 21.5% having one parent born overseas.

As a result, almost 6% spoke a language other than English at home.



We talked about the difference between a refugee, and an asylum seeker, a temporary or permanent visa holder, and the PALM (Pacific Australia Labour Mobility) scheme. Colac has many PALM workers who are employed in farming, and at the Australian Lamb Company.

Coming to the Australian culture from a different cultural background brings many difficulties, but most can be overcome by the acceptance, kindness and encouragement of the local people. This is the experience of many new arrivals in Colac, and it encourages them to contribute to the Colac community. We reflected on the number of

shops in our main street which have been opened by people with different cultural backgrounds, and which add colour and variety to the town.

WANDERERS AND WANDERING

There are four excursions that might be of interest to you from Spring this year to Summer next year. Some of them are dependent on interest in the excursions and are being assessed by the interest shown. One is strictly limited in numbers because of the mode of transport. So please register your interest as quickly as possible to ensure your participation. First in, best dressed.

The following are proposed but subject to external factors being determined. These include availability of transport, cost....and also the interest shown. So please indicate your interest to the Office as quickly as possible and make sure you keep up with the news concerning these and Great Western.

1. Ararat and Great Western

In late September we are looking at visiting the Ararat Chinese Museum. This museum is an interesting collection of artefacts and social history of the Ararat goldfields and an account of the only town in Australia which was founded by Chinese people who came here looking for gold.

It will be followed by a visit to the Seppelt winery at Great Western where there are enormous underground cellars and where we will have lunch. With the opportunity for a wonderful lunch, and depending on numbers, the possibility of hiring a smaller bus is being considered. Please register your interest to

2. Winery Wandering: Avoca & Moonambel

During Spring, planning is now occurring for a Winery Wander. Following on from previous trips to various wine regions; our next one will be one of the most interesting Victorian wine regions: the Pyrenees. Famed wineries include Redbank, Summerfield, Warrenmang, Blue Pyrenees...to name just a few. Transport will be car-pooling and we will have 3 nights away. These are wonderful times for friends to get together for socialising over a glass of wine and good food.

3. Kata Thandi (Lake Eyre)

Planning is underway between two of our Members with the hope and aim of travelling to this marvel of Australia in a 10 seater Cessna aircraft. We anticipate departing from and arriving back home at Colac Airport. We hope to see the lake still full after all the rain from the Channel Country and filled with abundant bird life. So that the trip is not onerous, we will stay for one night in William Creek and have

dinner in the pub. It's anticipated that we will also fly over the Painted Desert country and Wilpena Pound. Please note that numbers will be strictly limited for this trip.

4. Griffith NSW

From February through to May is grape and fruit picking season in Griffith. The energy and activity is amazing in this wonderful Riverina city. There is a strong and pervasive Italian flavour to life here in the shops, wineries, distilleries and orchards. By car pooling we have the opportunity to visit and enjoy many wonderful experiences in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. We will be staying for 3 nights in Griffith around mid February.

FRENCH CONVERSATION Liberté! Egalité! Fraternité!

Our French conversation group recently celebrated le 14 juillet (Bastille Day) with a delicious déjeuner at the home of Helen Paatsch.

Menu -

---Hors d'oeuvres
---Crème Vichyssoise
---Coq au Vin (servi avec haricots
verts et pommes de terre)
---Salade Niçoise
---Mousse au Chocolat
Et naturellement, du bon vin!
There was plenty of food, talk and
laughter, but no revolution!!



COURSES LIST

LANGUAGES

French Conversation – Mondays weekly 2-4pm at the Colac Library,

Italian: - 3rd Friday of the month. Friday 21st August 10 –11 Kanyana (F) *“Feel like travelling to Italy? Need a little of the language? Then come along and join this new group.*

MUSIC

Classic Music 1 – 3rd Mon. 17th August, 6.30pm.

Classic Music 2 – 3rd Mon. 17th August, at 4.30pm [See Informer](#)

Celticana Music – 1st Sunday, 2nd August, 2-4pm at Kanyana. Welcome to new musicians.

Exploring Popular Music – 1st Tuesday, 4th August, at 1pm. Kanyana - Musicals from the 60s & 70s. inc. Fiddler on the roof, Hello Dolly, Sound of Music, Hair & Grease.

Opera- Wednesday, 5th August, [See Informer](#)

Ukelele – Thursday 6th & 20th August, 3-4pm. at Kanyana, [See Informer](#)

Zither – 2nd Thursday 13th August at 1pm. at Kanyana [Note change of time.](#)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9am. 12th & 26th August. Details at the Office or Chris.

Cycling – **SLICS** – Mondays weekly at 9am. Meet at Botanic Gardens BBQs.

Indoor Bowling – Tuesday weekly, 1-2.30pm at Kanyana All welcome

Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1.30–2.30 at Kanyana. 6th & 20th August . [See Informer](#)

New Vogue & Old Time Dancing – weekly Tuesday 3-4.30pm. at Kanyana

Wednesday Nu Vogue – Wednesday weekly, at 7.30-10pm. at Kanyana.

Western Partner dancing – 2nd & 4th Thurs, at Kanyana. [Not in August.](#)

Table Tennis – Fridays weekly - 1pm. at Kanyana

Tai Chi/Qi Gong – Wednesday weekly, Kanyana Beginners 12.15 -1.15 Skill-builders 1.30-2.30.

Walking Group – Fridays weekly at 9am. Meet at Botanic Gardens main gate followed by a cuppa

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Galloping Gourmets -Thursday, 20th August, 12noon. at Fusion, Colac [See Informer](#)

Gardeners – Tuesday, 25th August 10-11.30 at Kanyana. [See Informer](#).

Let's have Dinner – 4th Wednesday, 6pm. 26th August at Colac East Pub [See Informer](#)

Life after Farming – Friday, 14th August, 10.30, at Kanyana. [See Informer](#)

Sunday Sessions – [Not in August. Returns Sept.](#)

BRAIN FOOD

Backgammon – Wednesdays weekly, 10am-12 at Kanyana.

Book Club 1 – 2nd Thursday 2-4pm. at Kanyana front room 13th August - [Reached capacity](#)

Book Club 2 – 2nd Tuesday 2-4pm.at Babil 11th August -[Reached capacity](#)

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana

Bridge teaching session – 4th Thursday, 27th August 12.30-2.30pm at Kanyana

Chess – 2nd & 4th Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm. at Kanyana. Beginners welcome. 10th & 24th Aug.

Colac Writers Guild – Tuesdays, weekly, 10-12 at the Library.

Cryptic Crosswords – Thursdays, weekly, 11am-12 at Kanyana.

Law behind the news – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, at 10.30am. 6th & 20th August, at Kanyana

Mahjong –Wednesdays weekly at 1.30-4pm at Kanyana.

Social Cards – Tues & Thurs, weekly 10am-12 at Kanyana.

Trivia with a twist – 1st & 3rd Mondays 10-12 at Kanyana 3rd & 17th August.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Embroidery + – Thursdays weekly, 10am at Colac Library

Knitting & Crochet – 4th Monday, 24th August at 10am at Kanyana

Patchwork + - 14th August & Special 3 days, 28th, 29th & 30th August, 10 – 4pm at Kanyana

Social Machine Embroidery –3rd Sunday, 16th August 10-4pm at Kanyana

Drawing – Monday 17th August, 1-2.30pm at Kanyana

Photography – Friday, 7th August at 10am at Kanyana [Note change of day & time](#) [See Informer](#)

Watercolour – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 12th & 26th August 10-11.30am at Kanyana

TECHNOLOGY

Laptops, ipads & Phones or anything 'IT'– Wednesdays weekly at 10am.

Office - 55 Hesse Street, Colac VIC 3250

Open Mon-Friday - 10am-12noon

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U3A Colac Otway Inc is grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the Colac Otway Shire, the State Government of Victoria, Richard Riordan MP.

U3A Committee: Rosemary Richardson (Pres), Clare Short (Vice Pres.), Margaret Evans (Sec) Robyn Perrin (Treas), Judy Comley (Liaison Officer), Jenny Todorovic, Rod Morgan, Juli Farquhar, Jim Ryan, Cheryl Lang (social media), Janet Forbes (memberships) Rod Amos (website).

U3A Other Positions: Barbara Gower (Office manager), Carol Holmes (Kitchen Monitor) Vivienne Wheeler (Informer Editor)

Classes by week days – some are single session*, others are weekly, **twice monthly or **monthly****

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun.
9.00 Cycling-Slics 10.00 Knitting & Crochet 10.30 Activities C'tee 10.00 Trivia with a twist 12.00 Bridge 1.00 Drawing 1.30 Chess 2.00 French Conversation 4.30 Classic Music 2 6.30 Classic Music 1	10.00 Social Cards 10.00 Committee Meeting 10.00 Colac Writers Guild 10.00 Gardeners 1.00 Indoor Bowls 1.00 Popular Music 2.00 Book Club #2 3.00 New Vogue/Old Time Dancing	7.30 Opera 9.00 Bushwalking 10.00 Backgammon 10.00 Computers/IT 10.00 Watercolour 12.15 Tai Chi - Beginners 1.30 Skill Builders. 1.30 Mahjong 6.00 Let's have dinner 7.30 Wed. Nu Vogue Dancing	10.00 Social Cards 10.00 Embroidery + 10.30 Law behind the News 11.00 Cryptic Xwords 12.00 Galloping Gourmets 12.30 Bridge teaching. 1.30 Line Dancing 2.00 Book Club #1 1.00 Zither 3.00 Ukelele	9.00 Walking 10.00 Italian 10.00 Photography 10.00 Patchwork + 10.30 Life after Farming 1.00 Table Tennis	Saturday 10.00 Patchwork+ Sunday 10.00 Patchwork+ 10.00 Social Machine Embroidery 2.00 Celticana