



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

Volume 17,

Issue 11, December, 2023

Merry Christmas

Remember when –

You found time to tap your toes.

Remember when –

You danced the night away.

(except this time, it will be the afternoon away)

Come along and celebrate the Christmas season.

All U3A members welcome, bring a friend if you like.

Friday 15th December at Kanyana.

We kick off at-

12noon with a sausage sizzle lunch.

1.00pm we start to tap those feet with our Jazz band.

2.00pm Yummy afternoon tea.

3.00 Dance the afternoon away.

Old time dancing, do you remember the Foxtrot, Pride of Erin or the Barn dance.

Not to worry if you don't, a walk through will be done.

Beautiful New Vogue dancing. Emmerdale waltz, Balmoral Blues, Evening 3 step & more.

So put on your dancing shoes, move those feet, or simply watch and enjoy.

You decide, stay all afternoon or part.

Bookings essential for catering.

Call into the office or phone 52 314435

Note-no cost for the day.



OLD TIME / NEW VOGUE DANCE LESSONS

It's hard to believe it's now some seven months since our dance lessons commenced. As the old saying goes time flies when you are having fun and we certainly have done that while learning the eight dances we have learnt so far, not necessarily centimetre perfect but improving all the time. In addition, we have benefitted with gentle physical and mind exercising.

Thank you to all the members who have regularly turned up to tackle the dances, we still need more men, so if any guys out there have any interest in dancing please let me know. I would also like to thank Kate

Lloyd for her assistance with teaching the dances, I could not have managed without her help so thank you kindly Kate.

As the year draws to a close we will hold our last dance lesson on **Friday 15th December at 3pm** as part of U3A Christmas celebration. We will resume dancing in February 2024.



LIFE AFTER FARMING

A visit to Ingleby Homestead has been organised for **Tuesday 5th December** from 10:30 – 12.00pm. Ingleby is on the banks of the Barwon River and is noted for its historical, architectural and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

All are welcome but booking is required.

Morning tea is available for \$2

Lunch together afterwards is optional and will be arranged on the day.

More detail and booking at the U3A office or [Rosemary 0407095724](tel:0407095724).

Please note the change of day from Friday to Tuesday.

Advanced Notice for January 2024

SUMMER SCIENCE SESSION

The Climate – talk by Dr Chris Bell

Wednesday 17th January and Wednesday 24th January 6.30-7.30pm

It will soon be summer, and it is expected to be hot, so what better time to discuss climate change, starting with the basic physics of the energy balance of our planetary home, then discussing how each part of that balance might possibly be adjusted to stop us all cooking, broiling or freezing. Prepare for some energetic discussion. More information and booking talk to Rosemary - 0407-095724

FIRST NATIONS

We met for the last time in 2023 on Tuesday the 14th November.

The purpose, aside from saying farewell for the year, was to reflect on our year and to consider how we will progress in 2024.

The central concept is to move forward in a positive manner as we expose ourselves to the life experiences and history of the First Nations people of Australia.

We will meet in 2024 every month with the first meeting in mid February, the exact date to be advised closer to the time.

We plan to have a mix of presentations including some day trips including trips on Country with appropriate hosts.

Charmaine Hopgood, a Gunditjmara woman who spoke to us earlier this year, has advised that she is helping develop walks on country and suggested that we might be one of the first groups to experience this. She will advise early in the new year so this is exciting.

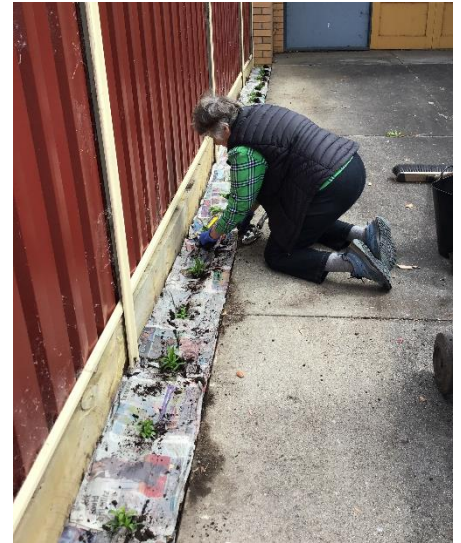
Sovereign Hill in Ballarat has included First Nations issues and stories for the first time so there may be options for a day trip there as well.

We are working on material and are looking forward to 2024 to see you all again and hopefully some new faces. Have a restful holiday season and take care until we meet again in 2024.

Brian Short

GARDENERS have been busy revitalising the Kanyana driveway garden. Di and Robyn turned up on 22nd November and spent the morning weeding, mulching and planting sea-side daisies and dianthus.

Senior citizens are providing a hose and it would be appreciated if members of either group would water the seedlings when passing Kanyana.



PRESIDENT REPORT DECEMBER 2023.

As we near the end of 2023, the Committee of Management warmly thanks every one of you for being part of U3A Colac Otway.

Thank you to the office volunteers who keep everything running smoothly.

Thank you to all the activity leaders for their commitment, without them we would not have our U3A. In January we will have a day to review this year and plan for 2024.

Thanks to the Committee of Management members for being positive and energetic, new ideas and activities have developed from your involvement.

We thought last December that coming out of the Pandemic everything would be back to “normal”. Now we realise that we must live with Covid and continue take some precautions. Some activities continue over the holiday time, others will recommence in February, with enrolment day on Friday February 2nd. More detail in The Informer.

I hope that you enjoy time with family and friends, and we look forward to welcoming you back to U3A Colac Otway in 2024.

Rosemary Richardson

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE LIFE (so far) of Alan McLachlan.

I was born at Birregurra in 1941, went to school at Bambra, Colac and Geelong to end year 11. My weekends were spent on the Bambra farm tending sheep, ploughing and sowing a weekly pea patch and later picking peas and potatoes. With schooling over, I chose to expand the dairy and pig enterprise, and went off to Dookie Ag College soon as I was 18 and spent the next 40 years in the Dairy Industry. Now the herd was established, better cows were needed, so the venture into artificial breeding and herd testing began in 1962. I was inaugural Chairman of Colac Herd Test, and on board through the introduction of milk meters and centralised testing. By 1966 the herd reached 150 and tide of change to bulk milk was on, and my approaching marriage meant a huge adjustment to the family farm.

My wedding to Judy in Jan 1967 was the start of a new era and the end of the rain – DROUGHT HAD STRUCK THE “SAFE” COUNTRY. The rain resumed late in 1968 as our first child was born and conversion



to a herringbone shed was undertaken. My father passed away in 1972 farm went into limbo. On to 1976 - drought again and zero beef prices meant money was short – I took a job at the Shell Refinery at Corio. Came 1978 and recovery was underway and having become owners of portion of the property when my brother & I purchased shares from the estate, we engaged a farm consultant and lifted production significantly. The herd again reached 180 by 1983 and this time we suffered a crippling drought, since we had many less acres now. After three droughts in 20 years we decided move to surer country and off the dangerous hills, and we put the property on market. We discounted, and by the time we could sign for our new farm in the Heytesbury, only the most overpriced were left – sell \$360. Buy \$1200 acre. We took what herd was left after drought and aftermath but didn't bank on financial deregulation with interest rising from 11% to 23% over the next 7-8 years, which made the road hard. The age of computers had arrived and I was an early adopter, using spreadsheets for financials, herd records and secretarial jobs.

Mid to late eighties saw my involvement in the United Dairyfarmers of Vic. Where I held Branch and District Council positions, and later on with the UDV Research Committee, running a move to get a Research station in the West. What resulted was the establishment of the WESTERN DISTRICT DAIRY INDUSTRY COMMITTEE. Today you may hear the WestVic Dairy mentioned – 30 odd years on.

Around this time our son come home to the farm and it was soon evident that 2 families would not fit, so leased a property and got another herd up and running. We move on to 1997 and our son offered to buy home-farm, however we found to sell the property we had to relinquish leased enterprise -- **bank criteria**. So, the deal was done – and I retired from Dairy Industry. I went to work for various farmers, became delivery driver for Organic Vege grower, then purchased the packing & delivery division.

This only lasted about three years – finally HAD TO ADMIT THAT I AM NOT A BUSINESS MAN.

We had managed Vege business with computer software, web site and email ordering - possibly 10 or so years before our time. Then I took a job delivering papers, milk, bread, ice along with lawn mowing & odd jobs (three years).

2006: Now at retirement age, I added tax refund to cashed-in Super and purchased SH motor-home and set off to see Australia.

On return, I took a job as septic tank sucker when required and became firewood cutter-helper-deliverer in son's new business, which morphed into Landscape Supplies, where I was salesman, delivery boy-dogsbody (family business). (six years). Now in my seventies, in 2013, I took on the role as VOLUNTEER COMPUTER-TABLET SESSION CONVENER AT U3A for 2 days each week and joined other activities.

(not so brief Alan!!! – Ed.)



MUSIC

NEW For 2024 and beginning in February. Each month, the theme will vary. For February, the theme will be “**All in the Family**” where we will play songs by bands/groups that sound like family names (eg The Righteous Brothers) and see if the group can guess whether or not they are actually related. Actual date and time to be announced.



The U3A office will close from Friday 15th December and will reopen on Monday the 5th February.

Messages may be left at the office by phoning 5231-44353 or by email.

Enrolment Day - 2024

Open day for 2024 will be on Friday 2nd February, 10am -2pm.

Come along and check out what U3A are doing.

Enrol in activities,

Pay your membership (\$30)

Have a cuppa and a chat.

All welcome.

An older man, living alone, decided he wanted to add a pet companion to his life. After thinking long and hard about the decision, he buys a parrot and brings it home. However, the parrot almost immediately starts insulting the older man and gets really rude. In a moment of frustration, the man picks up the parrot and tosses it into the freezer to teach it a lesson. But when the bird stops squawking, the man panics and opens the freezer.

The parrot walks out, looks up at the man, and says, “I apologize for offending you, and I humbly ask your forgiveness.” The man replies, “Well, thank you. I forgive you, and I’m sorry too.” The parrot then says, “If you don’t mind my asking... what’d the chicken do?”

COURSES LIST

BRAIN FOOD

Book Club – 2nd Thursday, 14th December, 2-4pm at Library. Resume 8th Feb.

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana Last 18th Dec. Resume 8th January.

Bridge – teaching session. None in Dec.

Colac Writers Guild – Tuesdays, weekly, 10am-12 at Library. New members welcome Last 5th December, resume 6th February.

Cryptic Crosswords – Thursdays, weekly, 11am-12 at Kanyana F. Last 21st December, resume 4th January.

First Nations – None in December, resume in Feb. 2024

Mahjong –Wednesday, weekly at 1.30-4pm Kanyana 6th & 13th December only. Resume 7th February.

Puzzles – 1st Monday, 4th December, at 10am. Colac Library. Resumes February

Social Cards – Tues & Thurs, weekly 10am-12 at Kanyana. Last one 14th Dec. resumes 16th January.

What’s in the news – 2nd Mondays, Last 11th December, 11am. at Kanyana B

LANGUAGES

French Conversation – Mondays, weekly. The last group get together will be on December 11th at the Library at 2:30p.m.

Beginners French – Mondays, weekly, We will resume again in February and our first meeting will be at the Library at 1:00 p.m. on February 5th.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd Wednesdays, 13th Dec, 9am at various locations, enq. Office. Unofficial walks on 10th & 24th January.

Cycling – SLICS – Mondays, weekly, 9am. at Botanic Gardens playground. Last 18th December. No out-of-town ride. Resume unofficial on 8th January.

Dancing on Tuesdays – Tuesdays, weekly, 3 – 4.30pm. at Kanyana B. 5th & 12th Dec.

Tai Chi Beginners – Wednesday, 6th Dec. 12.15-1.15pm. at Kanyana .

Tai Chi Skill Builders – 1.30-2.45pm. Wednesday, 6th Dec. at Kanyana.

*Tai Chi/Qi Gong will break up on Wednesday 13th when there will be a combined class in the Botanic Gardens at 1pm Meet inside Main gate. Cuppa to follow.

Walking Group – Friday, weekly, 9-10am at Botanic Gardens main gate, continues in January.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Embroidery, - Thursday, weekly, 10am at Colac Library.

The last day for Embroidery will be Thursday 14th December, and a get together lunch will be held on the 15th December. The official start for Embroidery will be Thursday 1st February, 2024.

Knitting & Crochet – As mentioned in our last newsletter, knitting/crochet will begin in March 2024. Dates, times and venue to be announced in our February newsletter.

Patchwork and Quilting, Finished for 2023. Beginning date for Patchwork/Quilting will be February 23rd February 2024, starting 9:30 am and finishing at 12 noon.

TECHNOLOGY

Windows Laptop – Wednesdays, weekly, 10am at Kanyana. Last day 20th December, resume 18th January.

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Galloping Gourmets

Resume in 2024

Gardeners

Resume in 2024

Let's have Dinner

Resume in 2024

Life after Farming

See Informer for details.

MUSIC

Classic Music 1 & 2 combined for Dec. – 18th December at 5:30pm in a private home. RSVP to your host. We will resume again February 19th, 2024. Note change of time.

Office - 55 Hesse Street, Colac VIC 3250

Open Tuesday, Thursday and 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 (Min.Sec), Jenny Todorovic,(Corr.Sec) Robyn Perrin (Treas), Judy Comley, Rod Morgan, Juli Farquhar, Margaret Evans, (members) Cheryl Lang (media)**U3A Other Positions:** Janet Forbes (Membership) Barbara Gower (Office manager), Vivienne Wheeler (Informer Editor)

Classes by week days - some are single session*, others are weekly, twice monthly or monthly
See course lists.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun.
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<p>9.00 Cycling-Slics</p> <p>10.00 Puzzles</p> <p>10.30 Activities C'tee meeting</p> <p>11am What's in the news</p> <p>12.00 Bridge</p> <p>2.30 French Conversation</p> <p>5.30 Classic Music-both groups.</p>	<p>10.00 Social Cards</p> <p>10.00 Committee Meeting</p> <p>10.00 Colac Writers Guild</p> <p>10.30 Life after farming</p> <p>3.00 Dancing</p>	<p>9.00 Bushwalking</p> <p>10.00 Windows Laptop Surface</p> <p>12.15 Tai Chi – beg.</p> <p>1.30 Tai Chi - skill</p> <p>1.30pm Mahjong</p> <p><u>2024</u></p> <p>6.30 Summer Science</p>	<p>10.00 Social Cards</p> <p>10.00 Embroidery</p> <p>11.00 Cryptic Xwords</p> <p>12.00 Christmas social day *</p> <p>2.00 Book Club</p>	<p>9.00 Walking</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>Sun</p>
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