



Colac Otway Learn Laugh Live

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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 18

Issue 1, February 2024

Hello U3A members - welcome to 2024

You are invited to Enrolment day on

Friday 2nd February between 10am -2pm

at Kanyana to enrol for 2024. Membership for the year is still only \$30.00 per person.

See what is on offer and sign up for activities.

Socialise with other U3A members.

Chat to the Committee and Activity leaders.

Refreshments available.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT welcome to new members, and a big thank you to all members who renew memberships. Encourage your friends to join us in 2024. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to coming back to classes. It is always exciting to catch up with old friends and challenge your mind with new ideas.

I would like to acknowledge our Office Manager, Barbara, who runs the office so efficiently, and has spent many hours preparing for the year while most of us have been busy relaxing, also Viv, our Newsletter Editor, who has already been busy editing.

Members of the Committee of Management would be happy to talk to you about how you can be more involved in our U3A, facilitating a course or helping with an administrative task, or organising a special activity or social event.

You'll learn new skills, meet new people, have fun, and share rich and interesting experiences!

We are pleased with the programs on offer in 2024 and the new ideas that are being generated. Keep a lookout for some short courses. You might add one or two of these to your list on enrolment day, Friday 2nd February 10-2pm.

Rosemary Richardson

GALLOPING GOURMETS

Our first meal together in 2024 will be at The Perch, 1-15 Great Ocean Rd, Laver's Hill on Thursday 15th February. This is a beautiful venue

sitting at the junction of the Great Ocean Road and the Colac

Lavers Hill Road. If the

weather is good we can sit outside on the shaded deck or there are tables inside overlooking the bird feeders and newly planted vineyard and the hills beyond. Dean and Gabrielle, founders of The Perch, are passionate about everything food, wine, and hospitality. From sourcing the finest local produce to crafting delicious and memorable flavours, they strive to create a warm and comfortable environment. Please ring Sandra on 0428 284 084 by Tuesday 13th February if you want to attend.



MINGLE AND MUNCH, bring your own lunch, cuppa available, enjoy the company. Every Tuesday 12 - 1.30pm weekly in February at Kanyana

DANCING. Old Time and New Vogue. Come along and enjoy the many benefits of dancing, including - fitness of the body and mind while socialising. This session includes both dance lessons and dance practice. All levels welcome. We dance off again on Tuesday 6th February Beginners 3.00pm - 3.30pm with dance practice 3.30pm - 4.30pm at Kanyana

NEW MUSIC COURSES FOR 2024

CELTIC MUSIC GROUP

Colac U3A presents a new Celtic music group on the first Sunday of the month,

3.00 pm to 5.00

pm at Kanyana.

Calling on local musicians to join the group. We are basing the group on the popular

Birregurra Celtic

group which ran for 4 years. All previous Birre

members are welcome to join U3A Celtic Music.

Celtic music encompasses jigs, reels, polkas, waltzes and

songs. We encourage classically trained musicians (violins, flutes etc) to take up this new style of music.

Instruments include whistle, flute, concertina, accordion, fiddle, harp, bodhran, guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, autoharp. The music can be fun and joyful when played as part of a group.

Performance opportunities available. First session for 2024: Sunday **3rd March**, 3-5.00 pm Kanyana Centre Inquiry: 0458 082 330.

Due to injuries, we won't start in February.

EXPLORING POPULAR MUSIC

A journey into popular music throughout the

decades. Each session will be based on a theme.

For example, musicals, one-hit-wonders, swing, novelty songs and a whole lot more.

Those who attend are encouraged to participate in presenting themes, however, if you prefer not to, then sit back and enjoy the ride.cont.



Monday 5th February at Kanyana (B) 10:30-12
"All in the Family" We will play songs by groups/bands that sound like family names e.g. (The Righteous Brothers) and see if the group can guess whether or not they are related.

February 26th Kanyana (B) 10:30 – 12

"Covers". We will listen to the original versions of songs and later cover versions. Discussion (debate) can then take place about which is better.

OCCASIONAL OPERA

If you have an interest in Opera and would like to experience a performance by The Met in New York, why not join us? George Bizet's Carmen will be screened on Wednesday 28 February, 2024 in HD at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville, adjacent to the railway station. The cost is \$22.50 admission plus the train fare from Colac to Yarraville. Travel will be on the morning train to Melbourne and changing trains at Footscray for the short journey to Yarraville. There will be enough time for cake, coffee and chat afterwards before the journey home. Other Operas will be screened throughout the year at the Sun Theatre. Additionally, our own experience of Opera will take place on various Sunday afternoons through the year as well. Keep a lookout in The Informer for future notifications concerning Opera. Please register your interest to attend Carmen at the Office, 55 Hesse St, Colac.

FIRST NATIONS

Reflecting on last year's course, the power of the enduring history still impacts both in its longevity and in the fact that it remains active and in place. This poses the question as to how we should approach First Nations issues in 2024. We aim to focus on the positive whilst not ignoring the hard issues.

Come along on Wednesday the 21st February at 3pm for our initial gathering for this year. We will discuss how the year will go, you do not need to have attended last year. In fact new voices and ears are essential if we are to continue to learn from each other.

LIFE AFTER FARMING

Our next morning coffee and chat will be on Friday, 9th February at 10:30am at Kanyana. Please come and discuss future outings and activities.

GARDENERS

Gardeners will resume in February with a guided tour of Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens will present a Free Guided Walk and Delicious Morning Tea for SENIORS. This is a free event including

Morning Tea.

We will be joining on Thursday 29 February.

However, if this date doesn't suit you, the first event is

Thursday 22nd February.

There is a maximum of 50 people for each date and you MUST book your own place with the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Office 5222 6053 or - info@friendsgbg.org.au and you will receive a confirmation email. 9.30 am:

Guided Walk & 10.30 am: Morning Tea.

Proudly funded by The City of Greater Geelong, Positive Ageing Grant.



LET'S HAVE DINNER

The next dinner is booked at the Colac City Bowls Club, Gravesend St, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 28th February 2024 at 6pm. Please ring Jacqui on 0411 296 617 by Friday 23rd February to book if you would like to attend this evening.

Please note the change of venue.

BUSHWALKING

The first outing of the year on February 14 will welcome new members with a lakeside walk. Please contact the office to get rendezvous information.

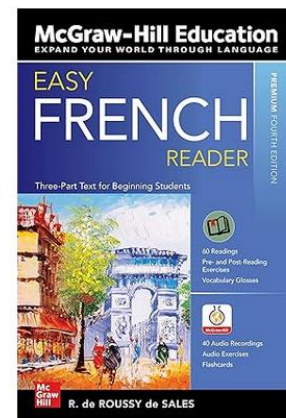
FRENCH CONVERSATION:

Mondays weekly, 2:30 – 4:30 at the Colac Library (Green room).

Members have reasonable but varying abilities in speaking and understanding French and are given the opportunity to practice the language at their own level in a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere. Reading material is available without charge to the members.

BEGINNER FRENCH:

Mondays weekly, 1:00p.m. – 2:15 at the Colac Library (Green room). This is a group where we are all sharing in the learning process. As well, we are slowly working through the book “Easy French Reader” McGraw Hill Education. Some of us have purchased the book in either Kindle or paperback format (available from Amazon Australia). As well, we take some time listening to the correct pronunciation of the reading for that particular week. Pictured is the book which we have been using. We don't meet during school or public holidays.



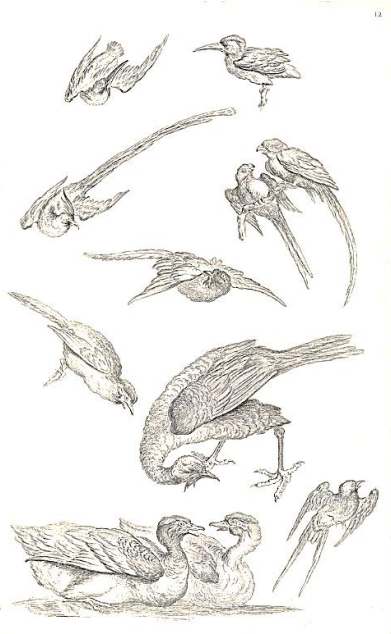
PUZZLES

1st & 3rd Monday of the month at the Colac Library. Starting Monday 5th February. We would like to try for an earlier start 9am - if possible please? (subject to change to suit participants preference). Do you enjoy Wordle, Sudoku or solving puzzles with other people? We are a relaxed group that enjoy solving all sorts of word, number, logic and mind bending puzzles together. Participants are welcome to bring along their own brain teasers to share. Just bring along a pencil and paper and join in the fun.

KNITTING/CROCHET: Knitting and Crochet will recommence in MARCH, so keep an eye out in the next Informer for dates and details

DRAWING CLASS: Bring along your

sketchbook and pencils and Judith will assist in another enjoyable drawing class. The date for our first group for 2024 will be Monday 19th from 9am until 12. The subject will be 'Drawing birds'



NEWS: WITH A TWIST

Do you have an interest in current affairs: but are wearied by the predictability and slant of the mainstream media? Using our brains and discovering various multi-media from alternate news sources; together, let's look behind the news stories of science, politics and current affairs. A selection of local, national and international news reports will be selected to enliven our discussions on the first and third Friday's of the month from 11.00 am until 12.15 pm beginning 16th February, 2024 at Kanyana. Please register your interest at the Office, 55 Hesse St, Colac.

CLASSIC MUSIC GROUPS 1&2. Monday 19th February at 6:30p.m. Held in Private homes. RSVP to your host. Both groups are filled, but if you are interested then place your name on the waiting list.



The two Classic Music groups combined in December and were treated to a magnificent Christmas supper. We have Michael to thank for organising this event. His flaming Xmas pudding was the highlight.

COURSES LIST

BRAIN FOOD

Book Club – 2nd Thursday, 8th February 2-4pm at Library.

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

Bridge – teaching session. 23rd February 12.15-2.45pm

Chess – may restart if enough interest on enrolment day.

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

Cryptic Crosswords – Thursdays, weekly, 11am-12 at Kanyana F. Resume 4th January.

First Nations – 21st February at 3pm.

Mahjong –Wednesday, weekly at 1.30-4pm Kanyana. Resume 7th February.

Puzzles – 1st Monday at Colac Library. 5th & 19th February. **New 9am start**

Shakespeare – in recess

Social Cards – Tues & Thurs, weekly 10am-12 at Kanyana. Social cards now includes '500' .

News with a Twist – 1st & 3rd Friday, 11am at Kanyana. Starts 16th February.

LANGUAGES

French Conversation – see Informer details

Beginners French – Mondays, weekly, see Informer for details.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9am
14th & 28th February. See Office

Cycling – SLICS – Mondays, weekly, 8.30am.
at Botanic Gardens playground. No out-of-town
ride on Monday 12th Feb.

Dancing on Tuesdays – Tuesdays, weekly,
3 – 4.30pm. at Kanyana B. see Informer details.

Tai Chi/Qi Gong – Wednesday (excluding
school holidays) at Kanyana .
12.15-1.15pm beginners,
1.30-2.45 skill builders

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

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Galloping Gourmets

Thursday 15th Feb. see Informer for details.

Gardeners

Thursday, see Informer for details.

Let's have Dinner

4th Wednesday, 28th February, see Informer.

Life after Farming

Friday 9th February See Informer for details.

Mingle & Munch, Tuesday 12 - 1.30pm
weekly for February at Kanyana

Occasional Opera – Wednesday, 28th Feb see
details in the Informer

TECHNOLOGY

Windows Laptop – Wednesdays, weekly, 10am
at Kanyana

ARTS & CRAFTS

Drawing Class

9am Monday 19th February, see Informer

Embroidery, - Thursday, weekly, 10am at
Colac Library. 1st February

Knitting & Crochet see Informer

Patchwork and Quilting will begin Friday,
23rd February 2024, starting 9:30 am and
finishing at 12 noon at Kanyana

Social Machine Embroidery – Sunday, 19th
February at Kanyana, BYO sewing machine.

MUSIC

Classic Music 1 & 2

Monday 19th February at 6.30pm. see Informer

Celtic Music – First Sunday, 3-5pm at
Kanyana, 4th February. See Informer

Exploring Popular Music – Monday 5th &
26th February at Kanyana. 10.30-12.

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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)

