



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

November 2025

Public Holiday- 4th November

PRESIDENT REPORT'S

U3A Colac Otway – 20 Years Strong

We had a great turnout for our 20-year celebration, with more than 60 members joining in. Babil provided the tasty lunch, and the Pennyroyal Hall Group provided a delicious selection of slices that were enjoyed with a cuppa. Chris Meade's passion for Colac stood out as he gave a talk about the work behind revamping the Visitor Information Centre as *Colac Unearthed*. A generous contribution to Colac he and his family are making a project we are all grateful for. Another highlight of the day was the panel of nine original members who were interviewed by Michael. Their stories gave us a look into how U3A Colac began and how it's grown over the years, and the progress we've made. Thanks to every member, you're what makes U3A Colac Otway the great community it is today.

PATCHWORK & QUILTING.

Patchwork/Knitting group Christmas function. We will be going out of town for lunch with a couple of stops along the way. We will leave Colac at 9am. on **Friday 28th November**. Please phone Sue 0428120251 for more information and to register your interest in attending by November 20th, as we will need to book for lunch. This will be the only Patchwork/Quilting group for November, and the group will resume in February.

BIRDING AS A HOBBY

Join Cheryl Lang to hear about some of the benefits of birding as a hobby. Not only do you spend time outdoors, walking in nature, you become absorbed in your quest to spot, and in her case, photograph the bird. Birding can take you to some very interesting places. In this session, Cheryl will talk about a few of these places and some of the birds she's managed to photograph.

Kanyana, Thursday 13th November, 4:30pm



Palm Cockatoo, Weipa

PREPARING FOR SUMMER

Let's set aside some time together to work on our Bush Fire Plan. Do you live near the bush or paddocks? Do you travel over summer? A CFA representative will assist us to update our plan, answer any questions and discuss the triggers that will implement our plan. Join us to learn more. Ring Juli Farquhar 046 615 303 if you have any queries. **Kanyana, Sunday 16th November, 10-12.**

LET'S HAVE DINNER

The next dinner is booked at the Colac East Pub, on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Please ring Sandra on 0428 284 084 to book by Friday 21st November if you would like to attend. **Colac East Pub, Dalton St, Wednesday, 26th November, 6pm.**

EXPLORING POPULAR MUSIC

The Great American Songbook- popular songs from 1920s-1950s known as timeless 'American Jazz Standards'. Some are performed by original artists and others by contemporary singers. **We meet on the holiday, Tuesday, 4th Nov. at 1pm.**

Xmas-Summer-End of Year Lunch



Celebrating a wonderful 20th year of U3A - BBQ at Kanyana, Book by Mon 1st December.

Friday 5th December, 12noon

SOCIAL MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Sunday 16th November, which will be the last get together for 2025. On behalf of the group, Lorraine wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

GARDENERS

Birregurra has Open Gardens 1st & 2nd November. Creswick has Open Gardens 8th & 9th November.

In November we have planned a return visit to the popular Special Effects Nursery. Special Effects is a native nursery with all plants propagated on the property from seeds or cuttings including rare and unusual varieties. Please book at the Office.

215A Barongarook Rd, Barongarook, on Wednesday 19th November, 1pm

GARDENERS BONSAI REPORT

A group of Bonsai enthusiasts met with Mary Eaton and enjoyed a delightful morning observing, pruning, repotting and most importantly - chatting about the wonders of Bonsai. We plan to meet again in a few

months. If you'd like to join us, please put your name down at the office. Many thanks to Mary for her generous and helpful advice.



GALLOPING GOURMETS

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

Monday, 24th November, 12 noon at "Fusion".

LIFE AFTER FARMING

Topic: The Siege of Glenrowan

Thanks to U3A Warrnambool for giving permission to use this video presentation

Friday 14th November, 10:30am at Kanyana

LIFE AFTER FARMING -October report

Highlights in Cororooke. We had a fantastic morning with Rohan in Cororooke, starting with an incredible Porsche collection—from road models to Le Mans legends.



Then it was off to the winery hub, where we saw some of the wine bottling process. An informative talk included the journey of vine to wine, winery operations, and insights into the wine industry.



We finished up with a delicious lunch at the Red Rock Gallery - Stage Bistro—a perfect end to a satisfying and memorable outing.



LIFE AFTER FARMING IN DECEMBER

Visit to Tarndwarncourt. The morning will include a tour that will encompass a bit of history, a look inside a few rooms of the Homestead and a discussion about the Polwarth sheep and its wool. \$20 each. Book and pay at the office by Monday 8th December. **"Tarndie", Friday 12th December**

MUSIC AND OPERA FOR NOVEMBER

For those who enjoy fine classical music and opera, this month is a busy month. Instead of just one opera presented by the NY Metropolitan Opera, there are two.

November 12 (Wednesday) Bellini's La Sonnambula performed by the NY Metropolitan Opera at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville and.....

November 26 (Wednesday) Puccini's La Boheme



performed also by the NY Metropolitan Opera at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville. Both of these Operas are screened in an intimate restored cinema with large comfortable leather seats and an outstanding sound system. You are welcome to come and join us for either opera, or both. We

travel by the morning train from Colac and return home on the late afternoon service.

Then later in the month... **November 28 (Friday)** at 7.30pm the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will perform at Costa Hall in Geelong. The programme includes one of classical music's most popular works, Dvořák's Ninth Symphony never fails to entrance, with its soulful melodies inspired by African American spirituals. The Orchestra also performs a new work by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO, which features the extraordinary yidaki (didgeridoo) virtuoso William Barton. If you wish to attend any of these events, please notify the office of your intention. In regards to the Costa Hall concert transport will be by car with the possibility of car-pooling. Please indicate if you wish to be included in car pool transportation.

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS through OPERA

One of the most enjoyable hallmarks of our U3A is the way friendships are forged and celebrated in each of the activities that we engage with. We discover also that there are other people who share the same interests and enthusiasm as ourselves. For us here in Colac, we were joined by members of three other U3As: Melbourne City: Moonee Ponds and Hobsons Bay...26 people in total to watch a performance of Rossini's La Cenerentola, his version of Cinderella, and performed by the Houston Opera Company.

It was a most enjoyable day with our visitors who arrived on the first train of the day from Melbourne before enjoying some good old fashioned Colac hospitality for Morning Tea followed by the Opera.



We adjourned to the R.S.L. for a long lazy lunch before our visitors returned to Melbourne on the afternoon train. This came about by building a community with the other U3As in the monthly Opera screenings at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville. If you have an interest in Opera or would like to discover more about it, why not join us - you will be made very welcome.



Members mastering Backgammon at Kanyana

U3A & SENIOR'S FESTIVAL - report

On Sunday 19th October, the afternoon tea dance at the RSL celebrated Victorian Seniors' Festival with live music and dance. Other local dance groups joined Colac U3A members in Old Time, New Vogue, Western Partner and Line Dancing. Our Tai Chi group demonstrated how to use red fans dramatically. Around 70 attendees enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea to energise themselves for a wide variety of dances into the afternoon. It was a most successful initiative. **See page 4 photos.**



Tai Chi demo at R.S.L. for Senior's week.



Line Dancing looks like a lot of fun.



Western Partner Dancing



Dancers at R.S.L. for Senior's week.



The Musicians provide great music at R.S.L.

COURSES LIST

MUSIC

Classic Music –both groups -3rd Monday 17th November at 6.30pm.

Celticana Music – 1st Sunday, 2nd November at 3-5pm at Kanyana.

Exploring Popular Music – 1st Tuesday, 4th November at 1pm. Kanyana [See Informer](#)

Singing – [Taking a break until 2026](#)

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Galloping Gourmets – Monday, 24th November at 12noon. [See details in the Informer](#)

Gardeners – Wednesday 19th November at 1pm. [See Informer for details.](#)

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

Life after Farming – 2nd Friday, 14th November, 10.30am. [See Informer for details.](#)

Preparing for Summer – Sunday, 16th November, 10-12 at Kanyana. [See Informer](#)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9am.
12th & 26th November. Details thru the office.

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

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

Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1.30–2.30 at Kanyana. 6th & 20th November.

New Vogue & Old Time Dancing – weekly Tues. 3-4.30pm. At Kanyana **Not 4th November**

Western Partner dancing – 2nd & 4th Thurs, at Kanyana. 1.30-3pm. **13th November only.**

Pool – Weekly on Tuesdays at 1pm. at Kanyana

Table Tennis – Fridays weekly - **except last Friday each month** at 1pm. at Kanyana

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

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

ARTS & CRAFTS

Drawing with Judith –4th Monday, 10am. 24th November at Kanyana – We will do ‘Pen and Wash’, bring along fine line pens, aquarelle pencils or watercolours

Embroidery Plus - Thursday, weekly- 10am at Colac Library. New members welcome.

Knitting & Crochet – Finished for 2025

Patchwork & Quilting – 28th November, 9am. **See Informer.**

Social Machine Embroidery –3rd Sunday,10-4 16th November at Kanyana **See Informer**

Watercolour – Monday, 3rd & 17th November at 10.30am. Kanyana Bring your usual materials

LANGUAGES

French Conversation –Mondays weekly 2-4pm. Colac Library

TECHNOLOGY

Laptops, ipads & Phones or anything ‘IT’–
Wednesdays, weekly 10am Kanyana

BRAIN FOOD

Backgammon – Wednesday weekly, 10am-12noon at Kanyana -

Book Club 1 – 2nd Thursday 2-4pm. at Sinclair St. Colac, 13th November

Book Club 2 – 2nd Tuesday 2-4pm.at at Lake Colac Bowling Club. 11th November

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana

Bridge teaching session – 12.15-2.45pm. Friday 28th November

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

Colac Writers Guild – Tuesdays, weekly, 10-12 at the Library. **Not on 4th November**

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

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

Mahjong –Wednesday, 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 November

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)

