

U3A

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

December 2025

U3A Office will close from

Friday 12th December – Monday 2nd February.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As 2025 comes to a close, it's lovely to look back on such a full and enjoyable year. Activities have continued to grow; our membership has increased, and the willing involvement of members has been a real highlight. A big thankyou to all our volunteers - whether you help on a committee, lead an activity, person the office, or lend a hand at events, your time and enthusiasm makes our U3A the friendly and supportive place we all enjoy.

It's been great to see so many taking part in activities, trying new things and contributing ideas throughout the year. Your engagement is what keeps our program lively and diverse.

We hope you can join us for our end-of-year lunch - a lovely way to finish the year together. Wishing everyone a happy Christmas, a relaxing break and a wonderful start to the New Year.

Enrolment day for 2026
Friday 30th January – 10am -2pm.

XMAS-SUMMER-END OF YEAR LUNCH

Celebrating a wonderful 20th year of U3A - BBQ at Kanyana - food, tea/coffee provided. **Book by Monday, 1st December Friday 5th December at 12noon.**



LIFE AFTER FARMING

Visit to 'Tarndwarncoort'. 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. Following our visit, maybe lunch at the Birregurra Grocer? Book for Tarndie and the Birrie Grocer with Rosemary. 0407095724 by Friday, 5th December. \$20 each to be paid on the day.

"Tarndie", Friday 12th December, 10:30

WATERCOLOR WITH BAIRBRE:

The topic will be 'leaves'

A wonderful way to 'let go' and enjoy the flexibility of watercolor. Details for February yet to be announced.

Monday 1st December 10.30



BRIDGE – Final for the year 22nd December.

Restarting 5th January. 12th January will be an 11am start with a New Year lunch before bridge.

EXPLORING POPULAR MUSIC

The Beatles 1963-70

1:00pm on Tuesday 2nd December at Kanyana,



CHESS – Second Monday only. 8th December 1.30-3.30pm at Kanyana. Restarting 12th January. None on 26th January as it is a long weekend.

TAI CHI/QI GONG

Wednesday 3rd December

Final day 10th December - meet in the Botanical Gardens main gate at 1.00pm. We will resume on 4th February 2026.

COLAC WRITERS GUILD – The Writers Guild will have their last meeting on Tuesday 2nd December 10am-12 at the Library. We are having our breakup the following Tuesday - we will go somewhere and have lunch. Resume on Tuesday 3rd February.

DRAWING WITH JUDITH:

A huge 'thank you' to Judith for her wonderful contribution to the drawing group. Judith is having a well-deserved break in 2026 for she has not only given her time to U3A classes, but also to other groups within Colac.

We really appreciate all the sharing of skills. These classes have been hugely popular and will be missed. No December class.

Thank
You

FIRST NATIONS REPORT

A major issue in First Nations issues is The Treaty, recently signed into law. No doubt it is a topic and concept that many, many people have ideas about. Term one in 2026 will look at it over five weeks. This is an opportunity to become familiar with the detail and to have the chance to form an educated view of the Treaty. All viewpoints are welcomed, the key element is to be informed as it will provoke many discussions. We are all beginners in this and it would be great to see you, mark the calendar now, the actual timetable will be out in January but it is likely to be Tuesday mornings in February.

CLASSICAL MUSIC – GROUP 2

We are looking forward to finishing our musical year on 15th December with a Christmas theme provided by Wal. Restarting in February 2026 for more shared music, chatter & supper. *Photo below.*



TRIVIA WITH A TWIST –

Mondays 10-12. 1st & 15th December at Kanyana.

This session will be a Christmas Themed event with trivia, games, yummy nibbles and special treats to help celebrate the season. The group will return the 1st Monday in 2nd February at 10.00am.

Report

Our Trivia with a Twist group has had a most enjoyable year full of unusual quizzes, challenging puzzles and wacky word games. Actually we spent most of the time laughing, scratching our heads in disbelief and scrambling through our memories to try to come up with answers we just 'know' are in there somewhere. Thank you to all for joining in so enthusiastically, being silly, being smart, being supportive and most of all for making this such a happy and fun group to be part of.



Friday morning Walkers in the Botanic Gardens Café.

OPERA NEWS

We have two treats to look forward to with anticipation. They will be a great experience to wrap up a wonderful programme of Opera. On **Wednesday 17th December** there is the opportunity to hear Richard Strauss' Arabella at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville.

Strauss's elegant romance brings the glamour and enchantment of 19th-century Vienna to cinemas worldwide in a sumptuous production by legendary director Otto Schenk that "is as beautiful as one could hope" (*The New York Times*). Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen stars as the title heroine, a young noble woman in search of love on her own terms. Radiant soprano Louise Alder is her sister, Zdenka, and bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny is the dashing count who sweeps Arabella off her feet. The usual travel arrangement apply using the Vline train. We meet at Colac station at 7.25 am.

Then on **Sunday 21st December**, we have another edition of Sunday Afternoon at the Opera right here in Kanyana. This time it will be Johann Strauss II wonderful Die Fledermaus (The Bat). This time it will be presented by the Royal Opera Covent Garden with Kirk te Kanawa and Herman Prey. Placido Domingo will conduct the Royal Opera House Orchestra. The Opera will start at **1.00pm in the Back Room at Kanyana**.

Advance Notice

In January 2026, keep a lookout for a special treat- Claudio Monteverdi's L'Orfeo. This will be presented as part of the 4 U3A groups who all present Opera as an activity. An email will be circulated with full details in late December to those who have previously participated in Opera.

BUSHWALKING

2nd Wednesday at 9am. 10th December. **Break-up on 17th December**. There will be informal walks during January, and 2026 will begin 11th February.

CYCLING – Mondays weekly at 9am. Meet at Botanic Gardens BBQs. We will ride informally each week over the break, but will resume formal rides on Monday 2nd February.

COMPUTERS & IT FOR DECEMBER.

There will be no regular computer sessions for December. All are welcome to use the space and internet at the normal timeslot.



IT - Looking to 2026 - the time is approaching to move towards succession planning for the Information Technology area. Perhaps for starters there may be folks with experience in special areas that could offer to run blocks in their interest sphere.



Some suggestions are, Social Media, Fb Marketplace, Snapfish (and like),

Online & phone Banking, AI as useful for seniors, Apple iPhones, iPads & Macbooks, Finalising IT affairs after death, Office software, etc. Perhaps 2 - 6 week blocks may be a beginning and it could take the form of discussion by those who have used or had experience with these IT jobs/ programs, or would like to do so.

COURSES LIST

MUSIC

Classic Music –both groups -3rd Monday 15th December at 6.30pm.

Celticana Music – 1st Sunday, at 3-5pm at Kanyana. 7th December.

Exploring Popular Music – 1st Tuesday, The Beatles '63-'70, 2nd December at 1pm. Kanyana **See Informer**

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Life after Farming – 2nd Friday, at "Tarndie" Friday 12th December, 10:30. **See Informer**

LANGUAGES

French Conversation – **Not in December**. Restarting 2nd February 2026.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9am.
19th Dec, Breakup 17th December. [See Informer](#)

Cycling – SLICS – Mondays weekly at 9am. Meet at Botanic Gardens BBQs. [See Informer](#).

Indoor Bowling – Tuesday weekly, 1-2.30pm at Kanyana. Last day 9th December, Restart 27th Jan.

Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1.30–2.30 at Kanyana. Last day 4th Dec. Restart 5th Feb.'26

New Vogue & Old Time Dancing – weekly Tues. 3-4.30pm. At Kanyana Last day 9th December.

Western Partner dancing – 2nd & 4th Thurs, at Kanyana. 1.30-3pm. Taking a break till March '26

Pool – Weekly Tuesdays at 1pm. at Kanyana
Restart Tuesday 10th February

Table Tennis – Fridays weekly - 1pm. at Kanyana
Last day 12th December.

Tai Chi/Qi Gong – Wednesdays weekly
Beginners 12.15 -1.15 Skill-builders 1.30-2.30.
3rd & 10th December. [See Informer](#).

Walking Group – Fridays weekly at 9am.
Continue informally in Dec. & Jan. Restart 6th February.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Embroidery Plus – Restart in February 2026

Knitting & Crochet –Restart in March 2026

Patchwork & Quilting – Restart February '26

Social Machine Embroidery –3rd Sunday, 10-4 at Kanyana. Restart 15th February 2026

Watercolour – Monday, 1st December at 10.30am. Kanyana [See Informer](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Laptops, ipads & Phones or anything 'IT'–
Wednesdays 10am. [See Informer](#)

BRAIN FOOD

Backgammon – Wednesday weekly, Last meeting 10th December, 10am at Kanyana. Restart 4th Feb

Book Club 1 – 2nd Thursday 2-4pm. at Sinclair St. Colac, 11th December. Restart 12th Feb.

Book Club 2 – 2nd Tuesday 2-4pm.at Babil for Xmas lunch. 9th December, Restart 10th Feb.

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana
Final 22nd December. [See Informer](#)

Chess – 2nd Monday, 8th Dec. & 12th Jan. 1.30pm. at Kanyana. [See Informer](#)

Colac Writers Guild – Tuesdays, weekly, 10-12 at the Library. Tuesday 2nd December [See Informer](#)

Cryptic Crosswords – Thursdays, weekly, 11am-12 at Kanyana. Last day 18th December, Restart 8th January.

First Nations - [See Informer](#)

Law behind the news – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, at 10.30am at Babil. Last day 4th December.

Mahjong –Wednesday, weekly at 1.30-4pm at Kanyana. Final 10th December. Restart 4th Feb.

Social Cards – Tues & Thurs, weekly 10am-12 at Kanyana. Final 18th December, Restart 27th January 2026

Trivia with a twist – 1st & 3rd Mondays 10-12 at Kanyana. 1st & 15th December. [See Informer](#)

Office - 55 Hesse Street, Colac VIC 3250
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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)

