

U3A

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

February 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANUARY 2026

Welcome back to everyone as we begin another U3A Colac Otway year. It's great to see many of our favourite activities returning, along with some new ones starting up. If you have ideas for other session or groups, please let us know – we're always happy to hear suggestions.

Thank you to all members; your enthusiasm and willingness to be involved is what keeps our organisation lively and rewarding. A warm welcome to our new members – we are delighted you've joined us and encourage you to get involved and make the most of what's on offer. We are mindful that some members have been affected by the recent fires, and we extend our sympathy to those impacted. Looking forward to another happy year ahead, and sharing it with you

Rosemary Richardson.

Enrolment day for 2026

Friday 30th January – 10am-2pm

Come and enjoy a cuppa, join a course or 2 and pay your subs. (\$40 this year).

EXPLORING POPULAR MUSIC

The Beatles albums- part 2, from 'Rubber Soul' to 'Let It Be'.

Tuesday, 3rd February 1:00 pm at Kanyana.



COMPUTERS /InformationTechnology

The time is approaching to move towards other areas in the Info/Tech area. Perhaps for starters there may be members with experience using various software programs or social media who could offer to run discussions in their interest sphere.

Some suggestions: - 'Word'; Fb Marketplace; Snapfish (and similar); Phone banking; AI as useful for seniors; Apple iPhones & iPads; Perhaps 2 - 6 week blocks may be a beginning.

If you use these programs regularly, we need you to lead or be part of discussion groups for others who would also like to become familiar with them. Please let us know a day/time to suit. We will start with 'Word' and 'Marketplace' soon.

Laptop group is Wednesdays, 10-12 at Kanyana.



Doug and his bevy of beauties tackling Cryptic Crosswords

LAW BEHIND THE NEWS – lead by Charles Reichman. We look forward to hearing Charles' legal insights into the latest news. Come along and be involved. Venue: Babil Restaurant 10.30 – 11.30 All welcome Thursdays: 5th and 19th February

FRENCH CONVERSATION:

French Conversation will resume in February, where members can practice speaking the language as they converse with other participants Mondays at Colac Library 2- 4 p.m. Starts 2nd February.

LIFE AFTER FARMING

Join a free private tour of Barwon Water's Colac Water Treatment Plant. Come behind the scenes to discover how Barwon Water supplies clean, fresh, drinking water to Colac.

We will meet at the Colac Water Treatment Plant, for a tour that will run for around 50 minutes. If possible, please carpool to minimise the number of cars that will require parking on site. Please wear closed shoes and long pants and sleeves, plus sun protection (hat/sunscreen) as appropriate.

Barwon Water will provide hi-vis vests to wear during the tour. Walking distance covered in the tour is around 500 metres and does include some stairs and inclines. To RSVP or query, please contact Rosemary. Bookings are essential by Friday 6th February, at the Office or with Rosemary - 0407 095724. Everyone is welcome.

Colac Water Treatment Plant, 240 Forrest St S, Elliminyt, Friday 13th February, 10:30 tour start

INDOOR BOWLS

Indoor Bowls has been so enjoyable, this happy group couldn't wait until February, so began again in January. Whether you are a beginner or experienced, all are welcome, so come along. Cuppa and chat included.

Kanyana Back Room, Tuesdays 1.00 - 2.30pm

SUNDAY SESSIONS

Presenter - Heather Barker.

Come along to hear the fascinating story of the Rajah Quilt. This quilt is a patchwork, appliqued bed cover made by female convicts on board the ship *Rajah* during their voyage to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1841. It's the only known surviving quilt made by convict women on a British convict ship. Heather Barker will talk about the quilt, its historical context and some of the women who made it.

Enjoy a cuppa and chat afterwards. Book at the office or with Rosemary, 0407 095 724

Kanyana, Sunday 15th February, 2 - 3:30pm



LET'S HAVE DINNER

The next 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 20th February if you would like to join a group for companionship, laughter and a really good feed.

Colac East Pub, Wednesday, 25th February, 6pm.

NEW VOGUE & OLD TIME DANCING –
Tuesdays Weekly, 3-4.30pm. Kanyana. Starts in March

WEDNESDAY NU VOGUE

Always wanted to dance!
Come along, trip the light fantastic, learn something new and keep the body active. Learn and practice these beautiful dances. All welcome - group starts

Wednesday night weekly 7.30pm, 4th February.
Now at Kanyana.



GALLOPING GOURMETS

Our first Gourmet Gathering will be in Geelong to visit the Davidson Restaurant at the Gordon Culinary School at 2 Fenwick St. (Opposite Johnstone Park, not far from the Geelong Railway Station). The Davidson is the training space for the Gordon's Cookery and Hospitality students. Future chefs and service staff develop their skills in a fully operational and newly renovated restaurant. The menu, updated seasonally, showcases native Australian ingredients and high quality local produce. Come along to encourage the next generation of restaurant staff. Please book by contacting Sandra on 0428 284 084 by Tuesday 17th February. Davidson Restaurant, Friday 20th February, 12noon.

FIRST NATIONS

Upcoming sessions:
10am to 11:30am at Kanyana

Tuesday 17th Feb

Tuesday 24th Feb

Tuesday 3rd March

Tuesday 17th March

Tuesday 24th March

CELTICANA

Looking forward to catching up with everyone again for another year of Celtic tunes and songs. Our first session for this year will be

Sunday 1st February, 3-5pm at Kanyana.

OPERA

The New York Metropolitan & I Puritani
Come and join us for an exhilarating day out with like-minded Members on **Wednesday 11th February. We travel using V/line train from Colac. Just be at Colac station at 7.25 am.** We join other U3A Members for lunch after the screening.

I Puritani

Cast: Marco Armiliato, Lisette Oropesa, Lawrence Brownlee, Artur Ruciński, Christian Van Horn

The first new Met production of Vincenzo Bellini's final masterpiece in nearly 50 years—a striking staging by Charles Edwards, who makes his company directorial debut after many successes as a set designer. The Met has assembled a world-beating quartet of stars, conducted by Marco Armiliato, for the demanding principal roles. Soprano Lisette Oropesa and tenor Lawrence Brownlee are Elvira and Arturo, brought together by love and torn apart by the political rifts of the English Civil War, with baritone Artur Ruciński as Riccardo, betrothed to Elvira against her will, and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn as Elvira's sympathetic uncle, Giorgio.

GARDENERS

Due to the possibility of ongoing extreme weather and gardens not at their best, Gardeners will commence in **April**. See you all then to explore a local garden or two. Everyone will be welcome.

WATERCOLOUR:

Wednesday 11th **March**, 10a.m. at KANYANA. Please note that Watercolour group will be held on a different day in 2026. Participants have shown an interest in creating landscape paintings, so we will begin by creating a landscape by using a linear technique.

monthly???

ECO-PRINTING: Coming up in **March** will be two sessions on eco-printing. Eco-printing is an enjoyable activity to create botanical prints on paper or fabric. There will be two sessions: the first creating the prints, and the second, making a concertina book used to display created prints. Numbers are limited to 10, so please leave your name at the U3A Office if you are wanting to join in this activity. More details in the March Informer.

COURSES LIST

MUSIC

Classic Music –both groups -3rd Monday 16th February at 6.30pm.

Celticana Music – 1st Sunday, at 3-5pm at Kanyana. 1st February

Exploring Popular Music – 1st Tuesday, 3rd February at 1pm. Kanyana **See Informer**

Opera – Wed.11th Feb in Melb. **See Informer**

ARTS & CRAFTS

Embroidery Plus – Thursdays weekly - 5th, February, 10am. at Colac Library

Knitting & Crochet –Restart in March 2026

Patchwork & Quilting – 2nd & 4th Fridays 10-4pm, 13th & 27th, February at Kanyana

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

Watercolour – Wednesdays, 10am. at Kanyana Starts in **March**. **See Informer**

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9am.
11th & 25th February. Details at the Office.

Cycling – SLICS – Mondays weekly at 8.30am.
Meet at Botanic Gardens BBQs.

Indoor Bowling – Tuesday weekly, 1-2.30pm at
Kanyana. [See Informer](#)

Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1.30–2.30
at Kanyana. Restart 5th & 19th February

New Vogue & Old Time Dancing – weekly
Tuesday. 3-4.30pm. At Kanyana [See Informer.](#)

Wednesday Nu Vogue – Wed. weekly, 7.30pm.
at Kanyana. [See Informer](#)

Western Partner dancing – 2nd & 4th Thurs, at
Kanyana. 1.30-3pm. Taking a break till [March](#)

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

Table Tennis – Fridays weekly - 1pm. at
Kanyana Starts 6th February.

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

Walking Group – Fridays weekly at 9am.
6th February. Botanic Gardens main gate.

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Gallopings Gourmets - Friday 20th February,
12noon, at Davidson Restaurant, [See Informer](#)

Gardeners – Restarting April [See Informer](#)

Let's have Dinner – 4th Wednesday, 6pm. 25th
February, Colac East Pub [See Informer](#)

Life after Farming – 2nd Friday, 13th
February, at 10.30 [See Informer](#)

Sunday Sessions – Sunday, 15th February,
2-3pm. [See Informer](#)

TECHNOLOGY

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

LANGUAGES

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

BRAIN FOOD

Backgammon – Wednesday weekly, 10am-12 at
Kanyana. 4th February

Book Club 1 – 2nd Thursday 2-4pm. at Kanyana
12th February

Book Club 2 – 2nd Tuesday 2-4pm.at Babil
10th February

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana

Bridge teaching session – 4th Thursday, 12.30-
2.30pm at Kanyana 26th February.

Chess – 2nd & 4th Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm. at
Kanyana. Beginners welcome. 9th February

Colac Writers Guild – Tuesdays, weekly, 10-12
at the Library. 3rd February.

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

First Nations – 5 sessions. 10-11.30 starting
Tuesday 17th February. [See Informer](#)

Law behind the news – 1st & 3rd Thursdays,
10.30am at Babil. Returns 5th Feb. [See Informer](#)

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

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

Trivia with a twist – 1st & 3rd Mondays 10-12
at Kanyana. 2nd & 16th February.

Enrolment day for 2026
Friday 30th January – 10am-2pm
Come and enjoy a cuppa, join a course or 2
and pay your subs. (\$40 this year).

Have a wonderful time at
U3A, but please remember –
Your safety is our concern,
but your responsibility

Office - 55 Hesse Street, Colac VIC 3250
Open Mon-Friday - 10am-12noon
Phone: 5231 4435
Email: u3acolaco@gmail.com
Website: u3acolacotway.org.au

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)



Friday 6th March 12 noon

at U3A Colac Otway 55 Hesse St. Colac

A chance to catch up with other U3A folk and enjoy a chat over soup and sandwiches

Please book at office for catering

What would YOU answer to this question.
How do you describe U3A to your friends?

Some replies --

Playgroup for retired people

No excuse for staying at home

Have you got a better answer??

A little light humour



Stay Safe

Check in regularly with family and friends during this extreme heat and threatening bushfire time.

Classes by week days – some are single session*, others are weekly, twice monthly or monthly					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun.

10.30 Activities C'tee	10.00 Social Cards	7.25 Opera *	10.00 Social Cards	9.00 Walking	Saturday
8.30 Cycling-Slics	10.00 Committee Meeting	9.00 Bushwalking	10.00 Embroidery +	10.00 Patchwork & Quilting	
10.00 Trivia with a twist	10.00 Colac Writers Guild	10.00 Backgammon	10.30 Law behind the News	10.30 Life after Farming	Sunday
12.00 Bridge	10.00 First Nations	10.00 Computers/IT	11.00 Cryptic Xwords	12.00 Galloping Goumets	
1.30 Chess	1.00 Indoor Bowls	12.15 Tai Chi - Beginners	12.15 Bridge teaching.	1.00 Table Tennis	10.00 Social Machine Embroidery
2.00 French Convers.	1.00 Pool	1.30 Skill Builders.	1.30 Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd weeks.		2.00 Sunday Session
6.30 Classic Music-both groups.	1.00 Popular Music	1.30 Mahjong	1.30 Western Partner Dancing – 2nd & 4th		3.00 Celticana Music Group
	2.00 Book Club #2	6.00 Let's have dinner	2.00 Book Club #1		
	3.00 New Vogue/Old Time Dancing	7.30 Wed. Nu Vogue Dancing			