



Colac Otway Learn Laugh Live

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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 April 2026

Easter - Friday 3rd – Monday 6th April.
School Holiday – Friday 3rd – 20th April

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a wonderful turnout for the Autumn lunch! The room quickly filled with laughter and conversation, and it was so enjoyable to spend time with friends – something that doesn't happen often enough. The Colac Writer's presentations were a highlight, offering poignant, funny, and entertaining moments that made the day special. A big thankyou to the writers for their contributions, and to everyone who came along to make the event memorable. More thanks to several of our members for preparing, providing, and serving the food, we appreciated their work.



Our membership is growing, and with it comes several new ideas for activities to add to our already popular program – keep an eye on The Informer. If you are interested in learning a little more about our U3A, you might like to attend a meeting of one of the committees. This would give you a chance to see how things work and to share any ideas you may have, you would be very warmly welcomed. Looking forward to successful and happy gatherings in the year ahead.

Rosemary Richardson

The Colac Otway Committee of U3A Colac Otway, have pleasure in inviting you to our:

Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Kanyana Centre,
55 Hesse St, Colac

On Tuesday 14th April 10.30am – 12.00pm

Guest speaker from **Colac Kindness Network Inc**

Looking forward to seeing you then and enjoying morning tea at 10.30 before commencement of the meeting at **11am.**

Please RSVP by Wednesday 4th April 2026

Ph. 0429389068 or email:

u3acolaco@gmail.com

EXPLORING POPULAR MUSIC

April's theme is 'Around the World in 90 mins.' It will feature music from various countries as we do a virtual tour of the world. **Tuesday, 7th April, 1pm. at Kanyana.**

Old Time Sing Along Around the Piano



You don't have to be a singer, just enjoy singing

JOIN US FOR MUSIC & FUN

SUNDAY APRIL 12TH 2 PM - 4 PM



at **KANYANA** 55 Hesse St COLAC

BYO voice & reading glasses

Cuppa & Bikkies Provided

Trivia with Twist – 30th March, not 9th April

LINE DANCING

Life has prevented the class from being held in April. Apologies to the dancers.

We hope that we can start again soon.

CELTICANA MUSICIANS

We will meet next for our session on **Sunday April 12th** at the same time 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm in the front space at Kanyana. We will change to the earlier time (2.00 - 5.00) at our May session, so we can all get home before dark!

COMPUTER & IT

Alan will be giving some valuable insights into movie making, and Robyn or Cheryl will tell us how to negotiate Fb/Marketplace.

1/4 Movie Making and editing (2)

8/4 Movie Making and editing (3)

15/4 Movie Making and editing (4)

22/4 Facebook/ Facebook Marketplace.

29/4 Make a Photo Book.

Wednesdays, 10am-12. At Kanyana

LAW BEHIND THE NEWS

This group meets with Charles Reichman to talk about the law behind the news, breaking down the legal side of current events. Charles explains how laws come into play in the stories making headlines, giving everyone a clearer understanding of what's really going on behind the scenes.

There has been a change of venue. The group will meet at Kanyana on the 2nd & 16th April at 10.30am.

CHESS

This group would love to welcome some new beginners or other players. Juli is patient & happy to instruct if you've never played. Come along and see what it is all about. 2nd & 4th Monday at 1.30pm. at Kanyana



WATERCOLOR- Please note: Due to the popularity of this group, we are returning to two sessions within the month.

Wednesday 8th & 22nd April.

DRAWING FOR RELAXATION- Only one session per month. On 3rd Thursday, 16th April

KNITTING/CROCHET-

Knitting and Crochet is a small but friendly group either working on their personal creation or being a part of the group that is knitting for



charity. We have changed the day and venue, hoping it will give more of you the opportunity to share in this group. Please note: Change of venue & day. Monday 27th April at Kanyana. 10am -12.

LANGUAGE LEADERS NEEDED

Among Course suggestions received for 2026, there was quite a lot of interest shown in BASIC FRENCH and BASIC ITALIAN. But we do need enthusiastic people willing to lead the sessions, perhaps using already established



on-line courses. If there is someone out there who is willing to lead either of these groups, please contact the Office on 5231 4435 to discuss further detail.



BORROWERS BOOK EXCHANGE

The book exchange has added 8 new titles to the collection. - 3 Danielle Steel romances.

Far From Home, Never too Late, & Worthy Opponents.

2 Jack Reacher thrillers by Lee Child.

Worth Dying For & The Sentinel

2 Historical Fiction stories.

The House Between Tides & Daughter of the Murray

1 Contemporary Fiction novel.

Mrs Winterbottom takes a Gap year.

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 17th April if you would like to join this group for companionship, laughter and a really good feed.

Colac East Pub, Wednesday, 22nd April, 6pm.

SUNDAY SESSIONS

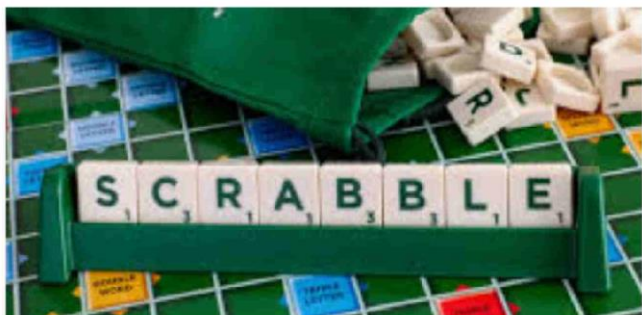
Kaye Widdicombe, Executive Director of Community Health, will present information on the services on offer at Colac Area Health. Her specific focus will be on services to keep us well and keep us at home for longer as we age. Kaye will cover how to access these services and speak about the Wellness Centre and the proposed services that would be located there.

She will ask members about the services we would like provided here that will save us from travelling out of Colac to access. There will be time for questions and answers. Cuppa available. Please note the later starting time at 3pm. Book at Kanyana or ring Rosemary on 0407 095 724

Kanyana back room, Sunday 19th April, 3-4pm

SOCIAL CARDS

Cards will not meet on Tuesday 14th April in favour of the Annual General Meeting. Cards will continue as usual on Thursday 16th April.



ANYONE for SCRABBLE?

Would you be interested in **starting** or **joining** a U3A SCRABBLE group to socialise & keep the brain ticking over?

We have a number of boards ready to be used. Contact the office to add your name. 5231 4435

LIFE AFTER FARMING



Caring For Poultry with Diana Stubbs

Having eggs to eat every day, produced by your own chooks, is one of life's simple pleasures, but it also involves a good understanding of egg health. All chickens (chookens) have personalities and there are ways to curtail feisty behaviours. Life is certainly not boring when you have chookens in your care. All are welcome to come along and hear about "life with chookens". Please book with Rosemary on 0407 095 734 or at the Kanyana office.

Kanyana back room, Friday 10th April, 10:30am

MEDITATION

With Margaret Bellchambers

Heart Coherence Meditation is a technique designed to synchronise the heart, brain and nervous system to improve mental, emotional and physical health. It reduces stress and increases resilience. All welcome to come along. Please book at the U3A office.

Kanyana, Thursday 9th April, 4.00-5.00pm

GALLOPING GOURMETS

The next Gourmet get together will be at the Union Hotel, 110 Murray St in Colac. They say their kitchen is all about fresh, modern pub fare with a focus on sharing. Perfect for groups and casual dining. There are a number of small, medium or larger meal options as well as plates that can be shared. To book, please ring Sandra on 0428 284 084 by Monday 20th April.

Union Hotel, Thursday 23rd April, 12 noon

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Group 2 discussed changes to their format and decided they will meet at **Kanyana in the front room on 3rd Monday at 6.30pm. During winter months (June, July, Aug & Sept) meeting at 4pm.** Afternoon tea/supper will be enjoyed whilst listening to the program. It is suggested that programs be about 60 minutes long, and can be via CDs or Powerpoint. There may soon be some new equipment for CD performances.

FOR THE DEVOTEES OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AND OPERA

April is a big month for the music we love and enjoy. There are two outstanding events that U3A Members might like to enjoy with us.... The first is a performance by the New York Metropolitan Opera of Wagner's Tristan and Isolde. The screening of a live performance will occur on **Wednesday 15th April at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville.** "After years of anticipation, a truly unmissable event arrives in cinemas worldwide as the electrifying Lise Davidsen tackles one of the ultimate roles for dramatic soprano: the Irish princess Isolde in Wagner's transcendent meditation on love and death."

The second event is a matinee performance on **Saturday 18 April at 2.00pm of Gustav Mahler's mighty First Symphony (Titan).** It will be performed in Hamer Hall by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Singaporean, Kahchun Wong. If you wish to attend with other U3A members, early booking is advised. The seats will be what you nominate at the time of booking. Please note that that public transport by train will be disrupted at this time. Further details concerning travel to the venues will be available as they come to hand in our Office.

If you are coming, please leave your name and contact details so we can organise suitable travel arrangements as appropriate. If you wish to attend and public transport is just too difficult, car-pooling may be a possibility

REPORT ON ECO-PRINTING.

A group of enthusiastic U3A members met at Maker's Space venue and explored the art of eco printing. The result was some wonderful creations, as well as relaxed social time with a cuppa while waiting for the botanical art to emerge.



COROROOKE HISTORY TRAIL -Report

On a beautiful Wednesday, a group of enthusiastic members set off for a walk in the children's playground in Cororooke. As they made their way, Helene commenced an amazing revelation in history. 100,000 years ago, the land where we were standing was a flat land mass under the sea. As we made our way around the park, signs told of the geological development and prints of animals that roamed the world were carved into the cement. These went in 20,000 year time frames. Fantastic.

40,000 years ago, Australia experienced an Ice Age, very cold and very dry. Next came the three volcanoes, spewing out lava that extended throughout what we know as the Western District. For Cororooke, it left few trees, but great areas of plains with rich and productive soils. In 1837, Europeans settled on this wonderful fertile land. The first families were the Murrays and Robertsons. Farming thrived with farmers discovering potatoes and onions responded well to the area.

Finally, the story is told of farmers gathering for a meeting in the Alvie Hall. Four Irishmen watched those going into the hall, then crept down to the
.....cont

hall with burning, strong smelling sticks, smoking profusely. They placed these under the hall, then raced back up Red Rock, where they could watch the exodus! The U3A group discovered why these life size Diprotodon and brolgas are featured at the entrance to the Cororooke Open Space.

FIRST NATIONS

The First Nations group has concluded its examination of the Victorian landmark “Treaty”. It’s been an informative and rewarding experience. People are reminded that the ‘Treaty’ formally recognizes First Peoples' sovereignty and establishes a new, self-determined relationship between the State and Aboriginal communities. It will become active on the 1st May 2026. No further First Nations sessions are planned at this stage. Further sessions will be activated at the appropriate time, as we see how it develops as a key element in the lives of Victorians.

SUNDAY SESSION report

Bedouin Wedding – Lyn Heppner

Lyn shared her special experience of attending a Bedouin wedding in the Jordan Desert some 20 years ago. All those attending were enthusiastic to see the video and learn about the country and culture, which is so different to Australia.

The joyous celebration showed the love of family, the strong ties between the generations and the generosity of a small village supplying food and varieties of herbal teas. There was, of course, no alcohol. The wedding celebration went for 2 days. The bride looked beautiful in her gown, and the groom handsome in his modern suit. The parents and grandparents were dressed in their cultural attire, with most women in hijabs. This is not a stipulation but a choice. Most men chose long gowns and traditional headgear. Lyn was seen in her beautiful long gown, being welcomed and enjoying being among the families.

Lyn who was Private Secretary to the Prince of Jordan for many years, has an in-depth understanding of Jordan, answered many questions, including the refugee situation which is immense and a huge financial drain on the country.

COURSES LIST

MUSIC

Classic Music –both groups -3rd Monday 20th April, 6.30pm. Group 2 at Kanyana.

See Informer.

Celticana Music – 1st Sunday, at 3-5pm at Kanyana. 12th April.

Old Time Sing Along – Sunday 12th April, 2-4pm. at Kanyana. **See Informer**

Exploring Popular Music – 1st Tuesday 7th April. 1pm. at Kanyana **See Informer**

ARTS & CRAFTS

Embroidery Plus – Thursdays weekly, 10am. at Colac Library

Knitting & Crochet – 4th Monday, 27th April at 10am. at Kanyana **See Informer**

Patchwork & Quilting – 2nd & 4th Fridays 10-4pm, 10th & 24th April at Kanyana

Social Machine Embroidery –3rd Sunday, 10-4 19th April at Kanyana

Watercolour – Wednesday 8th & 22nd April 10-11.30am at Kanyana **See Informer**

Drawing for Relaxation – 3rd Thursday, 16th April, 1.30-3pm. at Kanyana. **See Informer**

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9am. **8th & 22nd April** Details at the Office.

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

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

Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1.30–2.30 at Kanyana. **Not in April. See Informer**

Meditation – Thursday, 9th April, 4-5pm. at Kanyana **See Informer**

New Vogue & Old Time Dancing – weekly Tuesday. 3-4.30pm at Kanyana

Wednesday Nu Vogue – Wednesday weekly, at 7.30-10pm. at Kanyana. **Not 1st April**

Western Partner dancing – 2nd & 4th Thurs, at Kanyana. 1.30-3pm. **23rd April only. Not 9th**

Table Tennis – Fridays weekly - 1pm. at Kanyana

Tai Chi/Qi Gong – Wednesdays weekly
Beginners 12.15 -1.15 Skill-builders 1.30-2.30.
1st April at Memorial Square- weather permitting
Not during school holidays

Walking Group – Fridays weekly at 9am.
Meet at Botanic Gardens main gate.

BRAIN FOOD

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

Book Club 1 – 2nd Thursday 2-4pm. at Kanyana
9th April - Reached capacity

Book Club 2 – 2nd Tuesday 2-4pm.at Babil
14th April -Reached capacity

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana

Bridge teaching session – 4th Thursday,12.30-2.30pm at Kanyana **23rd April**

Chess – 2nd & 4th Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm. at Kanyana. Beginners welcome.13th & 27th April

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

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

Law behind the news – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, at 10.30am. at Kanyana. 2nd & 16th April. **See Informer**

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

Social Cards – Tues & Thurs, weekly 10am-12 at Kanyana. **Not on 14th April**

Trivia with a twist – 1st & 3rd Mondays 10-12 at Kanyana. **30th March, & 20th April only**

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Galloping Gourmets -Thursday, 23rd April, at 12noon, Union Hotel, **See Informer**

Gardeners – Will resume in **May**.

Let's have Dinner – 4th Wednesday, 6pm.
22nd April, Colac East Pub **See Informer**

Life after Farming – Friday, 10th April, 10.30 at Kanyana B. **See Informer.**

Sunday Sessions – Sunday, 19th April.
2-3pm. at Kanyana **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,

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)

