

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

May 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - We Need You!

Thank you to the members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 14/4/2026. It is great news that all positions were filled, ensuring a smooth continuation of our U3A.

However, to ensure our U3A survives and evolves, we need fresh ideas. We invite you to come along to committee meetings, learn how we operate, and become more involved. We need change to keep being successful.

Come along to our next meeting and see how you can contribute. Interested, phone me – Rosemary 0407 095724

PETER KILBY sharing his knowledge of art:

We live in a world of crass and debilitating mass consumerism that has permeated our culture and what often passes for art today. To focus and create paintings, in my case, away from the noises and invasive influences of pedestrian art administrators, the social, political and the cultural correctness of Australia, (seen through the lenses of art as therapy and art as a community orientated collective) is challenging; but is the only road to be taken. The Black Madonna series is a result of walking down that road and this is her story

Friday 15th May 10:30. At Kanyana back room



GARDENERS.

Val and Lindsay Riches welcome us to visit their Native Garden. Plants include Banksias and Grevilleas. Lindsay creates metal garden art which will be of interest to our creative gardeners. Please book at the office as you will be contacted if there is inclement weather.

20 Riches Access,
Kawarren. Wednesday 20th
May, 1.00pm.



LIFE AFTER FARMING

We will visit Sally Richardsons's Otways Distillery, 47 Main Street Birregurra. A lovely place for us to enjoy a morning cuppa and stay for a light lunch, with a guided Otways Distillery tasting experience. Book by Monday 4th May at the U3A office or with Rosemary on 0407 095 724. Otway Distillery, Birregurra, Friday 8th May 10.30am

LIFE AFTER FARMING APRIL report

Life with 'Chookens' was a lovely look at the joy chickens bring beyond just fresh eggs. We chatted about their quirky personalities and the peaceful vibe they add to a backyard, which clearly inspired a few people to think about starting their own flock. Big thanks to Diana for such a great session.

EXPLORING POPULAR MUSIC

May's theme will be 'a cappella'. Well known songs performed by groups without any instrumental accompaniment.

Tuesday 5th May at 1pm.
at Kanyana



GALLOPING GOURMETS

The next Gourmet lunch will be at the very popular Lake Edge Cafe, 658 Purumbete Estate Road, Lake Purumbete. Lois offers tasty, seasonal, local produce in her varied menu. Please call Sandra on 0428 284 084 if you would like to attend. Numbers need to be confirmed by Monday 11th May.

Lake Edge, Thursday 14th May at 12:30

LET'S HAVE DINNER

There will be a change of venue for the next Let's Have Dinner event. It is booked at the Colac City Bowling Club Bistro, at Central Reserve in Gravesend St. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 6pm. Phone Jacqui on 0411 296 617 to book by Friday 22nd May if you would like to join this group for companionship, laughter and a really good feed. We will also discuss preferred ongoing venues at this dinner. Note:venue change
City Bowling Club, Wednesday, 27th May, 6pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY -

Expression of interest
Some members have expressed an interest in learning more about photography. This activity can begin in June. For more information put your name and area of interest at the U3A Office.



LAW BEHIND THE NEWS

This very enjoyable activity will be cancelled in May as Charles is taking a backpacking holiday. We look forward to his return in **June.**

SUNDAY SESSIONS

Tony Forbes will talk about the influence of the Beatles, Shadows, Blues and Jazz on his journey to learn more about the guitar. Tony will play highlights and explain how they influenced his musical journey into guitar playing, to be the player he is. Book at the U3A Office
Kanyana Back Room, Sunday 17th May 2-3.30pm

CLASSICAL MUSIC 2

Members will meet at Kanyana in the front room on 3rd Monday at 4.30pm. 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. **Winter months (May, June, July, Aug & Sept) meeting at 4.30pm. 18th May.**

BORROWERS BOOK EXCHANGE

The days are growing shorter and cooler making it the perfect time to choose a book from our collection. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Borrowers Book Exchange selection is growing. Over twelve new crime/thriller and romance titles have been added to the shelves. If you cannot decide between a thriller or a romance - why not try a romance /suspense thriller combo from the international bestseller- Nora Roberts.

The Reef - Follow Tate and Matthew on their search for the missing Angelique's Curse, a jewelled amulet thought long lost at the bottom of the sea. The truth will emerge and danger and desire will rush to the surface.

Montana Sky - The death of a father and the reading of a will brings three sisters, separated by time and circumstances, back together. Can they set aside their bitterness and work as a family to protect each other from danger and unite against a brutal enemy?

CELTICANA

Celticana will adjust to the earlier autumn/winter starting time to allow rural members to arrive home before dark

Kanyana, Sunday 3rd May, 2-4pm



Celticana players on a Sunday afternoon.

LINE DANCING

Line Dancing will resume on **May 7th** and we are hoping that the regular class times will be possible after that.

POOL players will not have an allocated session time each week, but you are welcome to come and play if there is space in the front room.

MUSIC AND OPERA

This month's New York Met Opera screening at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville is on Wednesday 27th May. Free V/line travel is available but seats cannot be booked. Travelling in the morning, meet at Colac station at 7.30 am. Coming home we will board a train in Yarraville and travel to Southern Cross, rather than Footscray, for the return journey on the 5.09 pm Warrnambool train to ensure we get a seat.

The wonderful Tchaikovsky opera, Eugene Onegin is being presented with soprano Asmik Grigorian returning to the Met as Tatiana, the lovestruck young heroine in this ardent operatic adaptation of Pushkin. Baritone Igor Golovatenko reprises his portrayal of the urbane Onegin, who realizes his affection for her all too late. The Met's evocative production, directed by Tony Award winner, Deborah Warner, "offers a beautifully detailed reading of... Tchaikovsky's lyrical romance" (*The Telegraph*).

Some members will also be going to Costa Hall in Geelong on Friday 29 May for a 7.30 pm MSO performance of Dvorak's 7th Symphony. This sometimes forgotten work is teamed with Smetana's well-loved Ma Vlast. Please let the Office know if you are interested in attending this concert a.s.a.p: it may be possible to arrange car pooling.

BONSAI GROUP.

Interested in Bonsai? Come along and bring your favourite plants. This is a chance to work on your plants with guidance and support from Mary Eaton, plus enjoy a cuppa and chat. Book at the U3A Office or with Rosemary on 0407 095 724 26 Hesse St, Colac, Tuesday 26th May, 10:30-12

BOOK CLUB 2 hope to return to Babil. A booking will be made with them after their reopening on 22nd. I will confirm before publication – if possible. And Cheryl will update the group on the correct venue via direct messaging.

SLICS

We are back to 9.00am rides. We have been out of town a few times, exploring the surrounding districts. We have a trip to Robe and Penola planned for September with any members of the bushwalking group who would like to go.



Naroghid to Cobden rail trail. It was a great ride.

COURSES LIST

MUSIC

Classic Music 1 – 3rd Mon. 18th May, 6.30pm.

Classic Music 2 – 3rd Mon. 18th May at 4.30pm at Kanyana. [See Informer.](#)

Celticana Music – 1st Sunday, 3rd May, 2-4pm at Kanyana.

Exploring Popular Music – 1st Tuesday, 5th May at 1pm. at Kanyana [See Informer](#)

Opera - various dates and venues [See Informer](#)

ARTS & CRAFTS

Embroidery Plus – Thursdays weekly, 10am at Colac Library

Knitting & Crochet – 4th Monday, 25th May at 10am at Kanyana

Patchwork & Quilting – 2nd & 4th Fridays 10-4pm, 8th & 22nd May at Kanyana

Social Machine Embroidery – 3rd Sunday, 10-4 17th May at Kanyana

Watercolour – Wednesday, 13th & 27th May 10-11.30am at Kanyana

Drawing for Relaxation – 3rd Thursday, 21st May, 1.30-3pm. at Kanyana.

Peter Kilby Artist Talk -

Friday 15th May. 10.30am. Kanyana Back Room. [See Informer](#)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bushwalking – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9am.
13th & 27th May Details at the Office or Chris.

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

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

Line Dancing – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1.30–2.30 at Kanyana. 7th & 21st May. [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.

Western Partner dancing – 2nd & 4th Thurs, at Kanyana. 1.30-3pm. 14th & 28th May.

Table Tennis – Fridays weekly - 1pm. at Kanyana

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

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

BRAIN FOOD

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

Book Club 1 – 2nd Thursday 2-4pm. at Kanyana 14th May - Reached capacity

Book Club 2 – 2nd Tuesday 2-4pm.at Babil 12th May -Reached capacity

Bridge – Monday, weekly 12-4pm Kanyana

Bridge teaching session – 4th Thursday,12.30-2.30pm at Kanyana 28th May

Chess – 2nd & 4th Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm. at Kanyana. Beginners welcome.11th & 25th May

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. [Not in May See Informer](#)

Mahjong –Wednesdays 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 4th & 18th May

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Galloping Gourmets -Thursday 14th May, 12.30 at Lake Edge Café [See Informer](#)

Gardeners - Riches Aust. Native garden, 20 Riches Access, Kawarren. Wednesday, 20th May, 1pm. [See Informer](#)

Bonsai Group – Tuesday 26th May. 10.30am. at 26 Hesse St. Colac [See Informer](#)

Let's have Dinner – 4th Wednesday, 6pm. 27th May, City Bowling Club. [See Informer](#)

Life after Farming – Friday, 8th May, 10.30 at Otway Distillery, Birregurra. [See Informer.](#)

Sunday Sessions – Sunday, 17th May, 2-3.30pm. at Kanyana [See Informer](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Laptops, ipads & Phones or anything 'IT'– Wednesdays weekly at 10am.

LANGUAGES

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

Three old guys are out walking; first one says, 'Windy, isn't it', second one says 'no, it's Thursday', third one says 'so am I, let's go get a beer'.
From Pauline

Classes by week days – some are single session*, others are weekly, twice monthly or monthly					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun.
9.00 Cycling-Slics	10.00 Social Cards	9.00 Bushwalking	10.00 Social Cards	9.00 Walking	Saturday
10.00 Knitting & Crochet	10.00 Committee Meeting	10.00 Backgammon	10.00 Embroidery +	10.00 Patchwork & Quilting	
10.30 Activities C'tee	10.00 Colac Writers Guild	10.0 Computers/IT	10.30 Law behind the News not May	10.30 Life after Farming	Sunday
10.00 Trivia with a Twist	10.30 Bonsai group*	10.00 Watercolour	11.00 Cryptic Xwords	10.30 Peter Kilby talk*	
12.00 Bridge	1.00 Indoor Bowls	1.00 Gardeners	12.30 Galloping Goumets	1.00 Table Tennis	
1.30 Chess	1.00 Popular Music	12.15 Tai Chi - Beginners	12.30 Bridge teaching.		
2.00 French Conversation	2.00 Book Club #2	1.30 Skill Builders.	1.30 Drawing for relaxation		
4.30 Classic Music 2	3.00 New Vogue/Old Time Dancing	1.30 Mahjong	1.30 Western Partner Dancing – 2nd & 4th		
6.30 Classic Music 1		6.00 Let's have dinner	1.30 Line Dancing 1st & 3rd.		10.00 Social Machine Embroidery
		7.30 Wed. Nu Vogue Dancing	2.00 Book Club #1		2.00 Sunday Session
					2.00 Celticana