

Colac Otway

COMMUNITY *Matters*



Colac Otway
SHIRE

IN FULL BLOOM *a blossoming community*



COPACC SEASON *putting on a show*
BLUEWATER *kids' competition*
WASTE NOT, WANT NOT *have your say*
EVENTS *your guide to what's on locally*



HELLO, FROM THE *Acting* CEO

Every day at Colac Otway Shire Council starts with a basic question: what does our community expect?

The expectations of our community are at the beginning, middle and end of every discussion. Which is why, as a Council, we need to listen closely to the conversation.

As I step in to the role of Acting CEO I don't want the conversation to stall, in fact during my term I would really like to increase the ways Council chats with our community.

Council's recently adopted Priority Projects 2018-2019 is an impressive example of how conversations with our community have delivered on-the-ground action or a promise to get moving on the things that matter.

The transformation of Lake Colac foreshore will shortly commence, having been identified by our community as a priority. Improved road maintenance and upgrades also top the list of community priorities and will now shape Council's road management plan. We're literally paving the road with community feedback.

With thirty priority projects identified and many other projects on the go, there will be no shortage of opportunities for you to join the Colac Otway Shire conversation - ideas flow from discussions right across our community. In this edition you'll read about a review of waste services and how your input will determine how these services can best meet your needs in future.

Soon you'll have an opportunity to guide Council's 2018/19 budget when a draft budget is presented in the coming weeks. Your ongoing input into Council projects and priorities is essential to the success of our shire. Our role as a Council is to listen, and then act meaningfully, transparently and responsibly.

Over the coming months, with the support of Councillors and the executive team, I will be listening intently to the conversation. I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Cheers,
Tony McGann
Acting CEO

KEEP IN TOUCH

- @ColacOtwayShireCouncil
- Email inquiry@colacotway.vic.gov.au
- Visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au
- Call customer service 5232 9400



**SNAPSHOT
140**

**public responses
to road
management
plan review**

MAYORAL *matters*

Every time I look around the community and I see the things that happen, I'm proud to know that many of the events come down to the hard work of volunteers.

We really are blessed to have service clubs and community organisations that put tremendous hours of time, money and effort in to making our community a better place – and they do it because they love our community.

You may have seen in the Colac Herald recently that Colac Otway is the most 'self-sufficient' community in the country. This is a remarkable achievement, but it's really a reflection of the attitudes and work ethic of the people who make up our community.

We are a proud community, but a humble community. We know how to put on good events, and we know how to look after people. And best of all – it's done by locals.

We've got some significant community events coming up soon, and one of the highlights is the 60th Kana festival – again, all run by volunteers. I look forward to supporting Kana and we hope to make it a celebration to remember.

As we move towards the end of the school term, I wish everyone a happy Easter break. If you happen to see me 'around the traps' don't hesitate to come over and have a good 'chin wag' with me!

Kind Regards,
Joe McCracken

Your Councillors



Cr Joe McCracken (Mayor)

☎ 0427 749 918

@ councillor.mccracken@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Cr Jason Schram (Deputy Mayor)

☎ 0428 326 410

@ councillor.schram@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Cr Kate Hanson

☎ 0409 038 843

@ councillor.hanson@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Cr Stephen Hart

☎ 0407 962 412

@ councillor.hart@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Cr Chris Potter

☎ 0427 821 435

@ councillor.potter@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Cr Chris Smith

☎ 0400 964 791

@ councillor.smith@colacotway.vic.gov.au



Cr Terry Woodcroft

☎ 0417 559 258

@ councillor.woodcroft@colacotway.vic.gov.au

BUSINESS IS BLOOMING

Colac's Michael Washington has combined his passions for gardening and creativity and turned them into two innovative microbusinesses.

The industrious 40-year old brings colour and flair to gardens across the region through Washo's Piggy Pots – brightly decorated planters featuring his trademark dots.

He also runs a wholesale plant operation in partnership with Colac's Multiflora Nursery, propagating cuttings and seedlings to sell on to the nursery.

Both businesses provide a sense of pride and purpose for Michael; and opportunities to cultivate new and enriched relationships.

One of the most special relationships is that which Michael shares with Multiflora Nursery owner Rao Kamineni.

Rao Kamineni originally met Michael when he worked for St Laurence and said that his business had provided an opportunity for the two of them to work together again.

"When he found out I was opening a nursery in Colac he came and asked me for a job. I provide Michael with all the equipment he needs and he sells the plants back to me when they are ready to go on the market," Rao said.

"Michael is a great person to have around, he's my best staff member. Sometimes he brings me coffee and cupcakes with coloured icing, and sometimes I make him spicy Indian food."

Colac Otway Shire Council supports Michael's plant propagation and piggy pots production through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Michael's mum Lucy said the plant propagation and piggy pots gave Michael a sense of accomplishment, plus he loved spending time with Rao and Kristy Lane from Colac Otway Shire Council's ability support team.

"Rao attended Michael's 40th birthday, they both have a great sense of humour and enjoy each other's company.

"Michael loves creating things, he always wants meaning in what he does, and these sorts of activities give him that." Mrs Washington said.

Michael's piggy pots can be purchased from 122 Wilson Street, or by calling 0428 313 332.



Rao Kamineni, Lucy Washington, Michael, and Kristy Lane on site at Multiflora Nursery

Supporting ALL ABILITIES



Michael and Kristy working together.

Like Michael, you might be seeking support in accessing work opportunities; you could be looking for assistance with daily life at home, getting involved in the community or social activities; or furthering your education.

Council's services cover all of these opportunities and also include transport to access daily activities. As a registered service provider with the National Disability Insurance Agency, Council can support you to reach your goals and objectives as identified in your NDIA funded support plan.

Together with your family or representative, Council will help identify which of your itemised supports you could be eligible to receive assistance for.

To find out more about whether you or someone you know might be eligible to receive support contact Council's very dedicated Aged and Disability Support Services Team on 03 5232 9400 or the National Disability Insurance Agency on 1800 800 110 for further information.



Congratulations to all the recipients of Colac Otway Shire's Australia Day honours, who were nominated by the public and ultimately recognised for their noteworthy contribution to our community.

YOUNG



Tapanga Barnhart

Tapanga is a valuable member and patrol leader of the Venturer Unit at 3rd & 4th Colac Scouts having obtained her Australian Scout Medallion, the highest award within the Scouting section age group.

Tapanga's achievements include, helping to build a dining hall for a Fijian school; assisting a Colac family with young children to develop their language skills; representing Victoria in China as part of a Young Leaders Program; her election to the Victorian Branch of the State Youth Council, and receiving the Local Community Award and Rotary Club Award in 2016.

COMMUNITY

Prue Campbell



According to Prue's nominators "Prue's determination, persistence, resilience, courage and positive attitude have had a remarkable impact on her life."

Born and raised in Birregurra, Prue has dedicated herself to her family, the family farm and volunteering at the Birregurra and Yeodene schools. Prue is an active member of the Birregurra CWA, Birregurra Craft and Sewing Groups, and volunteers at Colac Neighbourhood House, her local church and the Birregurra Community Health Centre.

SPORTING



Aileen Kettle

Aileen has had many roles within the Colac netball community across an unmatched 49 years of voluntary service.

An A Grade player for 30 years and umpire since 1976, Aileen has shared her skill and expertise with other aspiring sportspeople by coordinating training of junior umpires in the 1980s. Through Aileen's dedication to netball the community has benefited from her voluntary work across many netball organisations in the district, providing our rural community with the opportunity to play sport and socialise.

THE ARTS

Pam Radcliffe



"Pam's aim is to give every person who wishes the opportunity to be involved in music, to achieve their dreams and to have a lifelong appreciation of music," said Pam's nominator.

Well known district-wide for her piano playing, Pam has taught piano for 35 years at Colac South West Primary, having retired from that role Pam now teaches piano. Pam is a life member of the Colac Players and also plays at local aged care facilities. Involved with Colac Coral since its inception and a committee member of Colac Music Teachers Association, Pam's constant aim is that young students and the wider community will come together to enjoy music.

COULD YOUR TOWN HOST Australia Day 2019?



On Australia Day we acknowledge what is great about Australia and being Australian. We take pride in who we are and promote diversity, harmony, social cohesion and respect for others.

Council is seeking community groups wishing to host the 2019 Australia Day celebrations in their township. The successful town will have the opportunity to showcase their local venues, artists and performers to a diverse range of residents and visitors.

If your local group has the passion to plan, organise and stage the Australia Day event, in partnership with the Colac Otway Shire Council events team, you are encouraged to apply.

Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 30 March 2018.
For more information go to www.colacotway.vic.gov.au



COPACC continues to bring world class performances to our region. This season you can enjoy the kind of shows you would see in metropolitan theatres but at a much cheaper price and so close to home!

This season we've introduced significant discounts on tickets making COPACC even more accessible. Under 30s get a massive **40% off** full price, groups of four or more get a **10% discount**, and a tiered pricing system allows you to **choose your seats** to attract a **discount**.

An exciting addition to our program this year includes a series of four fabulous **Cabaret shows**. Enjoy the show at tables with friends, grab drinks from the bar and bring your own nibbles for a fun night out.

Our **Afternoon Delights** series is being held at 3pm on Sundays, allowing families and seniors to enjoy a relaxed Sunday afternoon.

This is just a taste of some of our favourites from the upcoming season, we're sure you'll find something you won't want to miss. You can book tickets to these shows and plenty more online. Visit www.copacc.com.au to choose your seats from home.



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY ROADSHOW FESTIVAL

COPACC

**Wednesday 9 May, Thursday 10 May, 8pm
M15+**

Join the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow as it makes its journey around Australia to home deliver hot and tasty comic treats to you. Featuring fantastic funnymakers from Australia and beyond, the Roadshow has it all - stand-up, sketch, satire, silliness and song – all in one side-splitting show. You won't want to miss it when this bounty of belly laughs rolls into town. Pack your laughing gear and get on board the Roadshow!

LAUGHS

PARIS UNDERGROUND - ENCORE a cabaret extravaganza

COPACC

**Friday 14 September, 8pm
M15+**

After three years of touring and selling out houses Australia-wide, the subversive European cabaret is back with an **ENCORE** performance. Journey into the dark delights of the underground of Paris with more comedy, more astounding magic and illusion, more burlesque, greater feats, flesh and feathers, surprises and seductions, more incendiary song, spectacular dance, brilliant, beautiful and strange circus and cabaret and introducing new performers and new routines. If you missed them last time, this is your chance!



CABARET

OUTREACH
coming to a
town near
you



3 SPEED CRUNCH BOX REBOOTED

Birregurra Hall - Monday 4 June
Apollo Bay Mechanics Hall - Tuesday 5 June
1.30pm | Ages 4-104 years

Using wind energy, solar energy, positivity and stupidity, the stunt team are powering up their new show without the use of fossil fuels to coincide with World Environment Day on 5 June.

In this hilarious story of a family of ridiculous stunt people, expect even more impressive stunts, spectacular circus tricks and - you won't believe it - even more stupid characters in this absurd, sidesplitting slapstick comedy.

BIG TOPS AND TINY TOTS



Beeac Hall - Monday 8 October / 10am
Forrest Hall - Monday 8 October / 2pm
Apollo Bay Mechanics Hall - Tuesday 9 October / 1.30pm
Ages 3-7 years

Roll up! Roll up! Run away to the circus with this fun and physical show by Luth Wolff. Luth takes kids on a madcap adventure with hula hoops, unicycle, magic and plate spinning, and plenty of help from the audience! The show encourages children to explore their balance, communication skills and healthy choices, all while engrossed in larrikin circus acts.

DRAMA



THE PRUDENT MAN

COPACC
Thursday 31 May, 8pm
M16+

What makes the Trumps, the Abbotts and the Hansons of this world tick? What would happen if their world started to shift ever so slightly? Embodying their slogans, mannerisms and headlines, A Prudent Man is an amalgamation of recent history's conservative politicians. This award-winning darkly comedic political thriller will have you on the edge of your seat.

SWING MAN



COPACC
Wednesday 22 August, 8pm
M16+

"A boogie woogie midlife crisis". Damian Callinan confirms what many had already suspected: he suffers from OTTDS [Over The Top Dance Syndrome]. Swing Man sends Callinan on a journey back to the incidents in his adolescence that set him on his path - a bush dance, unrequited love, and the revelation that as a 17 year old he was abducted by Swinger-era obsessed aliens who set him an ultimatum to learn how to Swing dance by the time he is 51.

THANKS TO ALL OUR SEASON SPONSORS



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

MUST SEE

COPACC – Sunday 25 March / 3pm

Guaranteed fun and frolics with this Gilbert and Sullivan light opera, probably the most famous one of the genre. The seasoned cast are at the tail end of their 21st and final tour, so we are very lucky to get this show before it disappears.

RED RACING HOOD



COPACC – Tuesday 25 September, 10am & 1pm / ages 5+

In this school holiday fun for the kids, Red and Gran fight for survival, relying on their wit, determination and cunning to overcome the Mayor and win The Classic. All played out on a slot car race track. Come and see who wins!



OTTO & ASTRID IN SUPERMUSICIAN

CABARET

COPACC – Saturday 21 April / 8pm M15+

This cabaret show will take you to some kind of alternative reality. A sonic collision between the B52s, Kraftwerk and the early Ramones, Otto and Astrid are truly one of a kind. The award winning show has toured extensively around the world.

LARRY AND THE DAME



COPACC – Saturday 16 June/ 8pm Ages 18+

Staggering into town featuring the very versatile, in-your-face Carita Farrer Spencer, she brings two alter-egos, theatrical cyclone The Fabulous Dame Farrar and International sex symbol Larry Paradiseo in this world class double act.



THE BEGGARS SING FROM THE HEART

MORNING MUSIC
& free morning
tea

COPACC – Tuesday 17 April / 11am

The Beggars give their hearts and voices to the emotional power of song. Their relaxed, congenial style, with gorgeous three part vocal harmonies and acoustic textures will transport the listener to another plane.

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN



COPACC – Wednesday 29 August / 11am

Love the Carpenters music? Then you will love this tribute to the wonderful Karen Carpenter. Recreating the distinctive style that placed the Carpenters among the best-selling music artists of all time.



SUN RISING THE SONGS THAT MADE MEMPHIS

LIVE MUSIC

COPACC – Saturday 20 October / 8pm

A critically acclaimed show telling the incredible story of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, BB King and many more. So break out the brylcreem, slip on the dancing shoes and be prepared for a great night of music and stories.

TASTES OF TAMWORTH



COPACC – Saturday 21 July / 8pm

Featuring some of the best country stars including Carter & Carter, Felicity Urquart, Travis Sinclair and Anthony Taylor, each bring their own music and personality to the stage. This promises to be a big show with the best in Australia.

**GET YOUR
TICKETS**

ONLINE
www.copacc.com.au

ONSITE
COPACC box office

PHONE
03 5232 2077



LET'S SWIM!

SEARCH & SWIM

FIND THESE WORDS

NOODLE
ROPE
KICKBOARD
RESCUE
FLAGS
SAFETY
RED
YELLOW
ACTIVE
SWIM
LIFEGUARD
LIFEJACKET

Kid's competition

Bluewater is giving away 10 swimming lessons! To enter the draw simply find the 12 hidden words below and post your entry today!

R	E	T	A	W	E	U	L	E	T
B	T	A	E	S	W	I	M	V	E
S	D	R	A	O	B	K	C	I	K
A	N	O	D	Y	R	E	N	T	C
F	V	E	E	R	O	O	F	C	A
E	R	U	N	U	O	F	S	A	J
T	I	C	G	D	N	R	O	P	E
Y	I	S	L	M	S	G	A	L	F
M	Y	E	L	L	O	W	I	W	I
S	D	R	A	U	G	E	F	I	L

Bluewater's Swim School caters for all abilities and ages ranging from 6 months to masters, providing both strong water safety and stroke technique. We believe swimming is a life skill and requires time, care, practice and regular commitment.

- We offer the Royal Life Saving Society endorsed Swim and Survive program
- All of our teachers are Austswim qualified
- Our pools are heated and we have a 25m pool
- We are not 'term based' but offer a year round on-going, progressive program
- Classes available six days a week
- It's lots of fun!

Our Swim and Survive program will teach your child, or yourself, vital life skills. Living in Australia we are surrounded by water. It's part of our lifestyle, so make sure you and your family are safe in and around the water.

Find out more or join Swim School by contacting Bluewater today! www.bluewater.org.au or 03 5232 9551

ENTRY FORM cut this out with the word search and send to:

Bluewater Colac, PO Box 283, Colac 3250 by 16 April 2018.

NAME _____

AGE _____ PHONE _____

PARENT NAME _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

AQUA PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays - 11.45am to 12.15pm

- Gentle intro to water for babies 3 to 6 months
- Water safety activities for parents
- Gateway to our swim and survive program
- Led by a fully qualified swimming teacher.

Class costs \$5.30 per family

No bookings required, contact reception for more details.

Best of all; post class there's \$2 coffees and a baby play area!



W05054

Bluewater



Colac Otway
SHIRE

118 - 134 Hearn Street, Colac VIC 3250
P: 03 5232 9551

E: bluewater@colacotway.vic.gov.au
www.bluewater.org.au | www.colacotway.vic.gov.au



DON'T STOP recycling!

WASTE

Colac Otway Shire residents can continue to recycle with confidence, but changes to international recycling markets mean it's more important than ever to recycle correctly.

The Victorian Government, local councils and the recycling industry are working hard to ensure changes to global markets, prompted by China's new trade measures, have limited impact on our recycling system – but we need your help.

Victorians have a great record when it comes to recycling. Since 2001, the amount of recyclable household material diverted from landfill has increased by 64 per cent. It is important we maintain this momentum and build on these strengths to meet the current challenge.

All Colac Otway Shire residents are urged to continue to carefully separate recyclable from non-recyclable materials and place them in the correct bin. Putting the wrong items in the wrong bins can result in problems once your recycling has been collected.

Council encourages you to keep up your recycling efforts and assures you that our recycling chain continues to make a difference to the environment.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT - a waste services survey



We aren't going to make rubbish puns about waste collection, we just want your input into how Council's waste management services can best meet your needs in the future.

Council's waste collection services contract is due for review in 2020.

By completing a short online survey you can provide feedback on general waste, recycling and organics collection at your home, business and in our towns, as well as tell us of any additional services you would like to see.

Waste collection costs ratepayers a significant amount, so it's important the services being provided are to a standard that best meets the needs of our community.

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/talkrubbish to complete the survey.

SNAPSHOT

2185t

of recyclables
collected in Colac
Otway during
2016/17

GOING purple TO STAY green



You know you can't put soft plastics in your recycling, but did you know Australians throw away about 7,150 recyclable plastic bags a minute or 429,000 per hour?

We know so many of our community are trying to avoid soft plastics, but what about when you can't?

Well, thanks to our friends at the REDcycle Program, Council is pleased to offer a trial program to make it easy for you to recycle your soft plastics!

Instead of this plastic typically becoming landfill or litter, it will be transformed into a sturdy plastic bench seat or part of an outdoor fitness circuit!

Visit www.redcycle.net.au to find out more.



HOW IT WORKS

1. COLLECT all soft plastics from around the house that can't be traditionally recycled.

2. DROP them in a purple bin at Council's Colac or Apollo Bay customer service centre.



THE SHIRE'S TRIBUTE

At the centre of Colac's Memorial Square stands the Shrine of Remembrance, described by the Heritage Council of Victoria as "one of the most impressive and aesthetically outstanding structures in Victoria".

Inscribed 'The Shire's Tribute' and unveiled in 1924 as a First World War memorial, the shrine and its surrounding structures now recognise servicemen and women who served our country in many theatres of war.

In keeping with the shrine's historical, architectural and social significance, Council has commenced timely restoration works to ensure this tribute is maintained for years to come.

Works include cleaning of the stone, re-gilding of all lettering, and re-pointing sandstone and marble panels as required. Fittingly, works are scheduled to be completed by early April 2018 as we prepare to mark the end of the ANZAC Centenary.

DID YOU KNOW

Colac Otway Shire is home to more than 148 parks, gardens, recreation areas and playgrounds, all of which are maintained by Council's Services and Operations team.

If you're looking to get active why not enjoy a walk on the Old Beechy Rail Trail or workout at the outdoor gym in Birregurra. The little ones can find hours of fun in playgrounds designed for children of all abilities. And who wouldn't love a picnic in Paradise, near Apollo Bay or a run around the Californian Redwoods, near Beech Forrest?

Take advantage of the last of the great weather and get outside for some fun in the sun! Start by visiting colacotway.vic.gov.au for a full list of places to visit.



PRIORITY PROJECTS

We know Colac Otway Shire is a great place to live, work and enjoy; that's why Council is committed to making sure we prioritise projects that will ensure our towns and rural areas continue to thrive today and for future generations.

Council has recently identified more than 30 major projects valued at more than \$10 million, all of which are expected to generate considerable benefits for our community. All of Council's Priority Projects have been selected based on merit, cost, feasibility and necessity after listening to feedback from our community.

While many projects are shovel ready, all require additional support or funding sources. The next step for Council is to actively advocate or seek funding for each project from state and federal government partners.

A PRIORITY SNAPSHOT

Strategic local roads upgrades & maintenance // **\$1.3 million**

Apollo Bay Harbour precinct development plan // **\$200,000**

Great Ocean Road Authority // **advocacy**

Colac bypass – cost benefit analysis // **advocate**

Energy efficient lighting // **\$257,000**

Lake Colac Foreshore masterplan implementation Stage 1 & 2 // **\$1.3 million**

Increased commuter rail services // **advocacy**

Forrest Mountain Bike Trail strategy Stage 1 design // **\$200,000**

Colac accommodation attraction // **\$100,000**

Former Colac High School land donation // **advocacy**

Apollo Bay Early Years Hub // **\$100,000**

For the complete list and further details on each project visit

www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

BUDGET UPDATE

Councillors are encouraging the community to have its say when the draft budget is released in late April. Following on from community consultation in late 2017 as part of a new strategy to involve the public in the budget discussion, the draft budget will be the last opportunity for the community to provide input into how rates are spent before Council hands down a final budget. Details of how the community can participate in the draft budget feedback process will be advertised on Council's website, Facebook page and general media advertisements in April.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

@ColacOtwayShireCouncil

Keep up-to-date with events, projects, works and activities across the shire just by following Council on Facebook. It's a great way to get information and find out about things in your community that are important to you.

30 MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY FUN DAY

COLAC SHOWGROUNDS



19 - 20 MAY

**GREAT OCEAN ROAD
RUNNING FESTIVAL**

APOLLO BAY
greatoceanroadrunfest.com.au



GET PHYSICAL

28 APRIL

RACV

**GREAT OCEAN ROAD &
OTWAY CLASSIC RIDE**

FORREST & SURROUNDS
greatoceanotwayclassic.com.au

**COLAC LEISURE
RUNNERS**

22 APRIL // RED ROCK
12 MAY // BOTANIC GARDENS
9 JUNE // BOTANIC GARDENS

MEETINGS

ORDINARY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAYS | 4PM

28 MARCH // APOLLO BAY
SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

18 APRIL & 23 MAY // COLAC
COPACC

PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAYS | 4PM

11 APRIL, 9 MAY &
13 JUNE //
COLAC // COPACC

MARKETS

**APOLLO BAY
COMMUNITY MARKET**

EVERY SATURDAY
Apollo Bay foreshore

**APOLLO BAY
EASTER MARKET**

SATURDAY 31 MARCH
Apollo Bay foreshore

**BIRREGURRA
EASTER MARKET**

SUNDAY 1 APRIL
Birregurra Park

BIRREGURRA MARKET

SUNDAY 8 APRIL
Birregurra Park

10 JUNE

**FORREST SOUP FEST &
RUN FORREST**

FORREST

DID YOU KNOW

Council helps deliver hundreds of markets, festivals and events every year!

If you have a great idea for an event and would like to know about Council funding or support phone 5232 9400 or visit colacotway.vic.gov.au.

25 APRIL

**ANZAC DAY
MEMORIAL SERVICES**

APOLLO BAY
BEEAC
COLAC

28 APRIL

**EnLIGHTen ME
GALA FINALE**

BIRREGURRA HALL
enlightenmebirre.com



WANT MORE?

For an up-to-date calendar of events, plus details on regular markets, immunisation sessions & livestock sales visit:
colacotway.vic.gov.au



COMMUNITY FOCUS

CITIZENS *of the* YEAR

In between enjoying a day off and getting along to as many barbeques as you can manage on Australia Day, you might have missed the announcement of Colac Otway Shire's Citizens of the Year.

This annual event honours those wonderful people in our community who have committed their time, energy and spirit into making our shire a great place to live.

This year was an all-female line up of award winners, with Colac local Jenny Todorovic taking out Colac Otway Shire's 2018 Citizen of the Year. Jenny was one of five people who received Australia Day honours, alongside Tapanga Barnhart, Young Citizen of the Year; Prue Campbell, Community Service Award; Pam Radcliffe, Arts Award; and Aileen Kettle, Sporting Service Award.

Jenny has served the community through her leadership role with University of the Third Age (U3A), an organisation for people aged 55 and over, offering programs to minimise social isolation and stimulate a positive life attitude.

Since establishing the U3A in the region in 2006, Jenny has been described as a person who provides guidance to the benefit of many people throughout the wider community.

This generosity of spirit is evident when speaking with Jenny; when asked what it meant to her to receive the award, Jenny said it provided the opportunity to give due recognition to the work of all volunteers across the shire.

"We have a strong volunteering ethos in Colac clubs and organisations – these clubs wouldn't exist without volunteers. "So many senior people are living on their own, U3A creates an opportunity to get together socially and develop a new set of friendships," Jenny said.

Jenny is also on the board of the Colac RSL and acknowledged the fundraising efforts of RSL volunteers that have enabled the employment of a part-time welfare officer to assist in supporting returned servicemen and women.



"Employing someone part-time is a great step forward. Some of the ex-servicemen are around 70 years or older and they've been working very hard to support other veterans, but they can't do all that on their own, it's great to be able to employ someone," Jenny said.

Looking to the future, Jenny would like to see the strong volunteering spirit of the Colac Otway community continue.

"I'd like to see more of the same. Different people who bring different backgrounds and talents; taking a role and volunteering."

Mayor Joe McCracken congratulated the people who received Australia Day honours and thanked them for their dedication to the community.

"Australia Day is an opportunity to celebrate one of our best assets which is the diversity of our community," he said.

The awards were announced in Memorial Square during Council's official Australia Day program which included sausages (of course), family entertainment and importantly a citizenship ceremony welcoming our newest Colac Otway Shire residents as they were formally acknowledged as true blue Aussies.

Cr McCracken paid tribute to the Colac Otway community for all contributions made toward making Australia Day 2018 a success.

"Each year Council's events team works with various community organisations across the shire to put on an Australia Day celebration, we thank everyone for making it such a great day," Cr McCracken said.



Colac Otway
SHIRE