

Colac Otway

# COMMUNITY *Matters*



Colac Otway  
SHIRE

## SAILING ON THE *sea change*



COPACC  
*season launch*



CHILDREN'S  
*competition*



AROUND THE  
*playgrounds*



LOCAL STORIES



# AUSTRALIA Day 2017



## Colac businessman and Rotary stalwart John Blane is Colac Otway Shire's 2017 Citizen of the Year.

Mr Blane has served the community through Rotary for almost 50 years and is also a respected and active member of the St Mary's Colac parish.

Mr Blane shared Australia Day honours with four other local people. **Johanna Nosedo** from Apollo Bay received the **Young Citizen of the Year Award**.

Johanna has just completed Year 12 and is considered to be a leader within her school community, as well as in sporting and community circles.

**Frances Simm**, who was instrumental in establishing Apollo Bay's Opportunity Shop in 1965, took out the **Community Service Award**. At 92 years of age, Frances still volunteers at the Opportunity Shop and has helped raise more than \$2 million for health services in Apollo Bay through her dedicated community work.

Colac's **Merrill O'Donnell's** contribution to the creative and cultural fabric of the community received acknowledgement in the form of the **Arts Service of the Year Award**.

A passionate historian, Merrill dedicates her time to capturing important local stories, recording local history and ensuring significant community milestones

receive recognition.

The **Sporting Service of the Year Award** went to Colac's **Barry Cameron**, who is an inspirational role model for local sportspeople through his dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to many sports, and his willingness to take on positions with various clubs to advance sport in the community.

Mayor Chris Potter congratulated this year's award recipients and thanked them for the contributions they made to the community.

"Council was very pleased to acknowledge the generous spirit and community mindedness of our award recipients," he said.

"Our community is richer for the work these people do to help others and make a positive difference."

## KIDS' competition

In Australia you will find animals of all different kinds. Turn the pages, can you see a koala up a gumnut tree? An echidna and a kangaroo, perhaps a noisy cockatoo? There's a wombat hiding there, we can't find it, tell us where...



## HOW TO ENTER

Tell us which page each animal is hiding on. You can submit your answers and details to Kids' Competition, PO Box 283 Colac 3250 or [inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au)

Koala  Echidna  Kangaroo  Cockatoo  Wombat

Name  Phone

Address

Diary of a Wombat is coming to COPACC on 24 & 25 July. The multi award-winning picture book comes to life on the stage through the magic of puppetry and live music. A delightful event for the whole family to meet Mothball, the naughtiest wombat in Australia!

# SAILING ON THE *sea change*

With Apollo Bay recently having been voted in Australia's top 10 beaches, it's no surprise that people would choose our part of the world to make a sea change.

For Markus Nolle and his family, it was almost as if the sea chose them.

After years of holidaying in Skenes Creek, Markus and his family got to thinking that Apollo Bay could be more than just a place for a weekend escape. A serendipitous 'for sale' sign positioned in the window of a boat named Neptune Warrior was the catalyst for a dream to become reality.

"It was a picture perfect scene," said Markus. "One weekend 10 years ago I was walking along the pier and noticed a cray boat with a sign offering the boat, license and quota for sale.

"I loved the 'Bay so much. This was my sliding doors moment and in my mind the decision was instantaneous."

Melbourne-born Markus, whose professional background is in IT, took no time convincing his family of his idea and they quickly settled in to a seafaring life.

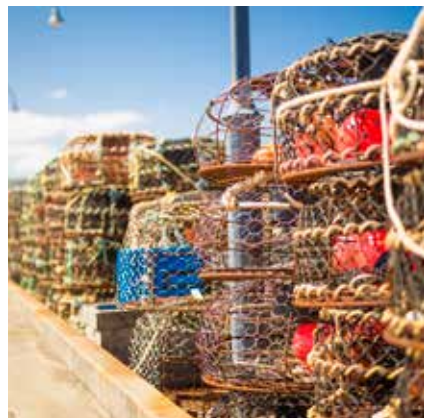
"The sea is not only my friend; it's a way of life. I purchased the boat off a longtime fisherman, someone who had made a living from the sea. I employed his son with the boat as well, and he's still with me today."

Not only busy on the ocean, Markus is President of the Victorian Rock Lobster Association and Chairman of Seafood Industry Victoria. Markus has one of only 70 boats fishing for rock lobster in Victoria. Around the port of Apollo Bay boats travel as far as Cape Otway on a day trip or head towards the Twelve Apostles where they might anchor overnight.

While up to 90 per cent of crayfish caught off Apollo Bay are exported to China, Markus recommends making a trip to the Apollo Bay Fishermen's Cooperative to pick up a fresh rock lobster for yourself.

And the best way to cook it?

"Keep it simple! Boil for seven to 12 minutes (preferably in pristine seawater from our Great Southern Ocean), cool in iced water, place upside down in the fridge overnight to allow the meat to cure in the shell, and serve!"



APOLLO BAY 2017  
**SEAFOOD  
& PRODUCE  
FESTIVAL**  
18 & 19  
FEBRUARY  
[apollobayseafoodfestival.com](http://apollobayseafoodfestival.com)



**SNAPSHOT**  
**\$6.5m**  
generated annually  
by the Apollo Bay  
port fishing industry

## HARBOURING SUCCESS

In addition to being a working port, the Apollo Bay harbour precinct is part of the fabric of the seaside town.

The harbour and surrounds support the local economy and are a popular drawcard for locals and visitors for a range of recreational pursuits.

Both Council and the community recognise the harbour's potential to become a significant tourism drawcard, and a strong partnership approach is in place to progress the community's visions for the harbour precinct.

An upcoming market testing exercise will enable the private sector to outline what might be achievable in the precinct within the current planning scheme controls.

“ A ship  
without a harbour is  
lost at sea ”

Chief Executive Officer Sue Wilkinson said it was clear that public-private partnerships would be required to fund the level of infrastructure the community wanted at the harbour, such as an indoor pool.

"The market testing will provide us an understanding of the likelihood of private investment occurring in light of the commercial considerations and expected returns they would need to make to justify making an investment in the area," she said.

The project control group, which includes six Apollo Bay and district residents representing key community interest groups, discussed the market testing project at the end of January and will make a formal recommendation to Council on which consultant should lead the process.

Council will consider the control group's recommendation at its February 22 meeting at COPACC at 6pm.

# Your shire Your voice

You can help shape the direction of the Colac Otway Shire Council for the next four years by contributing to the Council Plan. In addition you can provide feedback on Council's Colac 2050 strategy.

Council is encouraging our community members to get involved to help the new Council set a direction for the organisation.

In early 2017, Council will focus on the development and:

- The Council Plan which sets out what Council will do for the Colac Otway Shire across the next four years.
- The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which focuses on improving the health and wellbeing of people in the shire.
- The Budget and Rating Strategy which sets finances for the coming year and establish how rates are apportioned across the community.
- Colac 2050 is a plan to manage the growth of Colac and Elliminyt.

## PARTICIPATE

How you can get involved in shaping your shire.

### CHAT

Drop by a Community Conversation! These regular sessions are held at local events and are designed to give you an informal opportunity to share ideas, ask questions and discuss topics of interest to you with Councillors.

### SURVEY

Complete the online survey [colacotway.vic.gov.au/Community-consultations/CouncilPlanandColac2050](http://colacotway.vic.gov.au/Community-consultations/CouncilPlanandColac2050) or pick up a hard copy from Council's offices, public libraries in Colac and Apollo Bay, or the COPACC foyer.

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

26th  
FEB  
18th  
MAR

Sunday 26 February  
10.30am to 12.30pm  
Blues & Blueberry Market  
Rex Norman Park, Gellibrand

Saturday 18 March  
2pm to 4pm  
Kana Festival  
Memorial Square Colac

For future dates visit [colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://colacotway.vic.gov.au)

## A FRIENDLY REMINDER

### CATS & DOGS

Attention all pooch and kittycat owners. Your annual animal registration is due for renewal on 10 April 2017. Council will be sending a registration renewal letter soon. Remember, Council must see proof of microchipping to accept registration, and animals that are desexed are much cheaper to register. Why not visit the pet registration page on Council's website to find out more.

### RATES

Ratepayers who have opted to pay their 2016/17 rates in a lump sum are reminded payment is due by Wednesday, 15 February 2017. The third payment for those paying by installment is due on 28 February 2017.

Did you know you can now pay your rates online at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au) or find other payment options? Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship can contact Council's rates department to make a suitable payment arrangement. Questions? Please contact Council's rates department on 5232 9400.

### FIRE DANGER

Colac Otway Shire remains in the Fire Danger Period as declared by the CFA. This means you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements. For more information visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)



## Meet your Councillors



Cr Chris Potter (Mayor)

☎ 0427 821 435

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



Cr Stephen Hart (Deputy Mayor)

☎ 0407 962 412

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



Cr Kate Hanson

☎ 0409 038 843

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



Cr Joe McCracken

☎ 0427 749 918

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



Cr Jason Schram

☎ 0428 326 410

@ councillor.schram@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

# A GLORIOUS RACE ROUND THE GLOBE

HOLD onto your seats at COPACC for the original amazing race.

Around the World in 80 Days is a thrill-a-minute comedy which features stampeding elephants, raging typhoons, runaway trains, and is unabashedly slapstick.

Join fearless adventurer Phileas Fogg and his faithful manservant Passepartout as they set out to win an outrageous wager by circling the globe in an unheard of 80 days.

Danger, romance, and comic surprises abound in this whirlwind of a show as three actors - Ian Stenlake, Pia Miranda and Grant Piro - portray 39 characters, and traverse seven continents in one of the greatest adventures of all time.

Based on the Jules Verne classic and directed by Terence O'Connell this is a joyfully frenetic show, full of Victorian invention and daring deeds.

The story begins with a bank robbery by a mysterious figure.

Then we meet Phileas Fogg - honest looking, well turned out, and with good teeth, who proclaims before his fellow members of a London Gentleman's Club that he can circumnavigate the globe in a mere 80 days.

The bet is on! The pressure is on! And time is running out. Fogg (Stenlake) goes forth accompanied by his newly-acquired valet, Mr Passepartout (Miranda).

Hot in their pursuit is Detective Fix (Piro) of Scotland Yard, who thinks Fogg is the man who robbed the bank.

With a style that incorporates classic farce, theatrical storytelling and complete silliness, combined with the great age of industrial invention, Around the World in 80 Days produces a piece of theatre that will have you crying with laughter as you travel the world.

Around the World in 80 Days, by Ellis Productions, is playing at COPACC on

Thursday, July 27 at 8pm. The 1pm show is already SOLD OUT!

Sponsored by Quest, Cow Lick Bookshop & Otway Fly.



# MIRACLES HAPPEN, DON'T THEY?

BAKERSFIELD Mist, a play coming to COPACC in the Colac Herald 2017 Theatre Season, is a provocative, telling and funny look at art, people and authenticity.

Maude, played by Julie Nihill, is on the wrong side of 50, totally broke and lives in a trailer park in Bakersfield California.

She buys, as a gag gift, a truly ugly painting from an opp shop. When told it could be a long-lost work by the world renowned Jackson Pollock, out-of-work bartender Maude decides to prove she's the owner of a masterpiece. At her invitation world-class art expert Lionel Percy (John Wood) flies in from New York completely unprepared for what he's about to discover.

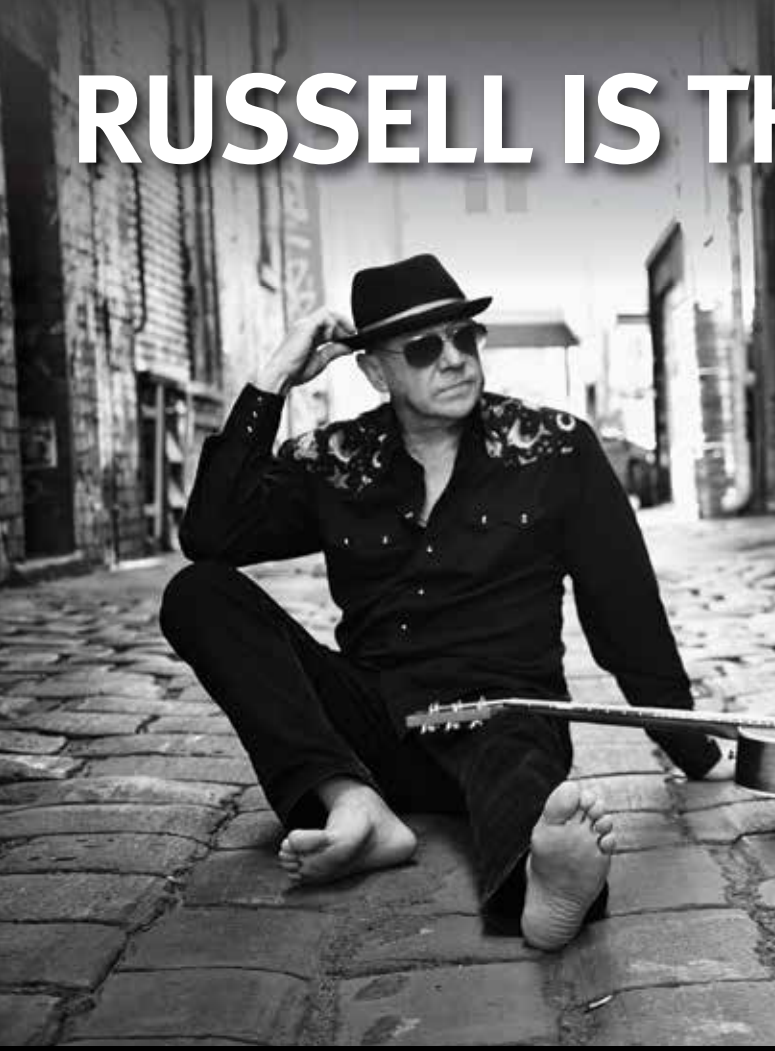
It's Lionel's job to decide whether it's a forgery, or the real thing and worth millions.

Cultures collide as these polar opposites evaluate the colour of each other's character and explore their perspectives on what is real, in life and in art.

Written by Stephen Sachs and produced by Tasmanian Theatre Company, Bakersfield Mist is a sparkling comedy drama based on true events, starring two of Australia's favourite actors. Julie Nihill is a firm favourite from Prisoner, Sons & Daughters, Blue Heelers and Australian film. John Wood is loved for his roles in Rafferty Rules, Blue Heelers, Offspring and more recently Dancing with the Stars and ABC's Dr Blake Mysteries. Bakersfield Mist, playing at COPACC on Thursday, August 24, is sponsored by SLM Law. Join the SLM Law team for a complimentary post-show supper.



# RUSSELL IS THE REAL THING



The exceptional Russell Morris, an ARIA Hall of Fame inductee, No. 1 selling platinum artist, King of Pop and Aussie icon, is playing COPACC on Wednesday, March 1 at 8pm.

He shot to fame in the sixties with Somebody's Image, Hush and the Bob Dylan classic Baby Blue, before

The Real Thing - the country's only true psychedelic hit still played regularly on commercial radio.

Russell (main picture) penned breakthrough hits Sweet Sweet Love, Wings of an Eagle, Rachel, Part 3 into Paper Walls, The Girl that I Love and many more...

He won the 2013 ARIA Award for Best Blues'n'Roots album for Sharkmouth and followed up with the 2016 ARIA Award in the same category for Red Dirt - Red Heart.

Russell will be supported by fellow blues man and the unmistakable voice of Crown of Thorns front-man Chris Wilson (above).

# HELLO, BEAUTIFUL!



BASED on her best-selling memoir Hello, Beautiful!, Hannie Rayson has created her own one-woman show - a work of comic storytelling.

Hello, Beautiful! is written and performed in the style of David Sedaris, Nora Ephron and Spalding Gray - true stories from a life, spiced with wit, social observation, and intimacy.

Hannie road-tested the content from Perth to Far North Queensland, during her 2015 book tour. From country town halls to woolsheds, to prisons and theatres, audience members said, 'you should do your own show'. So she did.

Hannie trained as an actor at the Victorian College of the Arts and although she has spent her working life as a playwright, she found herself wanting to bring together the writer and performer in her own show.

"In writing the memoir, I imagined my audience, the reader, tucked up in bed, laughing out loud. I wrote as though I were talking to a friend," Hannie said.

With Hello, Beautiful!, Hannie further develops this quality of speaking directly and eloquently to an audience.

"This seems to satisfy a desire on the part of audiences for the stories of real lives and real connections," she said.

**Hannie, who last visited COPACC to see the Colac Players' production of her play Inheritance, will perform Hello, Beautiful! on Wednesday, March 29 at 8pm. Meet Hannie after the performance - which is sponsored by Shalimar Nursery.**

# SOUL FOOD



*Love Songs: Kate Ceberano*

WHAT better way to celebrate COPACC's Season of Love than to spend an intimate evening with the high priestess of Australian pop **Kate Ceberano** and musical partner Helpmann Award-winning **Paul Grabowsky**.

This personal journey into words and music by two of Australia's most respected musicians brings brilliant interpretations of some of the greatest love songs of the past 50 years.

The effect on audiences is palpable as Kate and Paul present stripped-back renditions of love songs they've hand-picked together for their deep and emotional impact.

Kate is a cultural diplomat and national treasure who has made a huge impact on pop and jazz in Australia, while Paul's contribution to Australian jazz is vast and deep.

**Love Songs, Wednesday, October 11, at 8pm is sponsored by The Farmer's Son.**

**FLINDERS Quartet** is instantly recognisable as one of Australia's most loved chamber music ensembles. The quartet is a highly respected force in Australian chamber music.

They are regularly invited to perform for chamber music presenters and in demand at festivals throughout Australia, often in association with some of the country's finest talents, including Slava Grigoryan, Kristian Chong, Karin Schaupp and Genevieve Lacey. International engagements have taken them around the world.

The COPACC team is excited to have Flinders Quartet perform *Death and the Maiden*, in a coffee and cake concert in the Civic Hall later this year.

Each of the works in the program tell vivid and wondrous stories. Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* is a masterwork among quartets.

Calvin Bowman reimagines another great Schubert work *Winterreise*; and the Quartet will play Richard Mills' *String Quartet No. 4 Glimpses from my book of Dada*.

**Death and the Maiden, Wednesday, September 27**

**Coffee and cake: 10:30am/Performance 11am.**



*Flinders Quartet*

ALTHOUGH regarded as Australia's finest guitar duo performing much of the instrument's standard classical repertoire, the **Grigoryan Brothers'** passion is to expand their horizons through new arrangements and their own compositions.

The brothers take the guitar into genres such as jazz, folk and contemporary music. In concert, mix it all together and you have a dimension to guitar-playing rarely seen in the musical world.

For their *Songs Without Words* performance at COPACC The Grigoryan Brothers will be performing works from their upcoming release, which sees a return to classical repertoire, including songs by composers such as Bach, Elgar, Dvorak, Rachmaninoff, Faure, de Falla, and Ponce all masterfully arranged for them by their father Edward.

Their sound is not classical, not jazz, not world....it is the Grigoryan Brothers.

**The Grigoryan Brothers' – Songs without Words, Wednesday, March 22, at 8pm is sponsored by Baronga Motor Inn.**

*Grigoryan Brothers'*





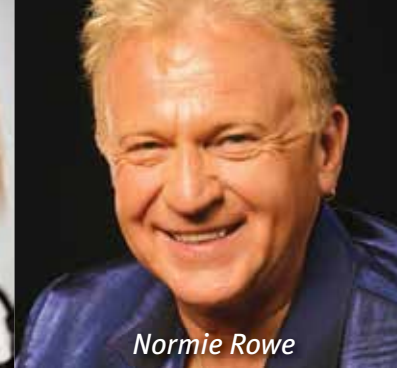
*Melissa Langton*



*Karen Knowles*



*Libby O'Donovan*



*Normie Rowe*

# Life is a cabaret at COPACC

THERE'S been queues at the box office for tickets to COPACC's 2017 Morning Music Season starring some of Australia's best-loved singers including sixties pop icon Normie Rowe, country artist James Blundell and former Seekers front-woman Karen Knowles.

The season, sponsored by Arundell, Murray & Ryan kicks off on Wednesday, March 8, with *Get Back - The Lennon & McCartney Songbook*, with three top cabaret performers Libby O'Donovan, Melissa Langton and Mark Jones. They say there's something for everyone in the Great Liverpoolian Songbook - expect great harmonies and lots of laughs.

Normie Rowe, the King of Pop, who brought us *Que Sera Sera*, *Shakin' All Over* and *It Ain't Necessarily So*, is a firm favourite with COPACC crowds and he will be backed by his band on Wednesday, April 26.

James Blundell, who sang the national anthem with the Birregurra Primary School kids at the shire's Australia Day celebrations last year, is making a welcome return on Wednesday, June 14. The nine-time Golden Guitar winner is best known for his big voice and hits such as *Way Out West* and *Time on His Hands*.

Tuxedo-clad stars of stage and screen Scott Irwin, Derek Metzger and Ian Stenlake will perform a classic Vegas-style show with a contemporary twist on Wednesday, August 9. The Kings of Croon show includes velvety deliveries of *Save the Last Dance for Me*, *Summer Wind* and the hits of Andy Williams,

Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin and more.

*You're My World - The Cilla Black Story*, a biographical cabaret, starring Danielle O'Malley will hit the stage on Wednesday, September 13. Danielle (main image) will perform beautiful arrangements of Cilla's greatest hits including *Anyone Who Had a Heart*, *Alfie* and *Sing a Rainbow*.

COPACC'S Morning Music audiences love a good Christmas show - which is why Karen Knowles - who started out on *Young Talent Time* - is returning with a seasonal concert on Wednesday, December 6.

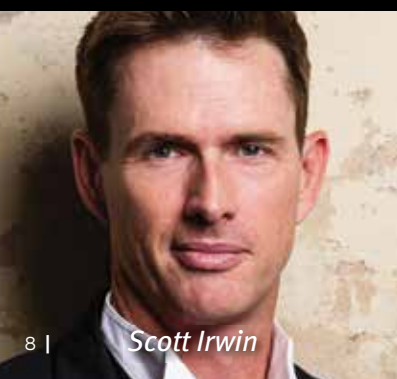
Individual show tickets are \$23.

All shows start at 11am, but be sure to arrive for the free morning tea from 10am.

Tickets at the box office: 5232 2077.



*Danielle O'Malley*



*Scott Irwin*



*Derek Metzger*



*Ian Stenlake*







*James Blundell*



# COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM *opens soon*

Got a bright idea for a community project? It's time to put pen to paper and share your idea.

-  Community projects
-  Recreation facilities
-  Small equipment & training
-  COPACC hire assistance

**Council's Community Funding Program has been the spark that's ignited hundreds of truly transformational projects in the Colac Otway Shire, such as the Boomerang Bags project in Apollo Bay.**

Applications for the 2017 Community Funding Program open on 27 February across four categories - small equipment and training, recreation facilities, community projects and COPACC hire assistance.

Maybe your team's cricket nets need an upgrade, or perhaps your choir wants to put on a recital at COPACC – the projects are limited only to your imagination.

Apollo Bay's Boomerang Bags is among the most innovative projects to have received funding in recent years.

An initiative of the Otway Conservation Association, Council provided \$1500 to support volunteers to make reusable bags from recycled materials.

Boomerang Bags are made available in Apollo Bay on a

'borrow and bring back' basis, and encourage the community to use a sustainable alternative to plastic bags, reducing the impact of pollution along our beautiful coast.

Otway Conservation Association's Shelly Forche-Baird said locals and visitors had embraced the Boomerang Bags concept with enthusiasm.

"People are saying that the bags are fantastic. They're happy to use them because it reduces plastic and keeps our beaches clean," she said.

"When we launched the project we did a lot of community engagement including some in-school education to get buy-in, and it has really paid off.

"It also demonstrates to our visitors that we care for our town and our environment. Recently I saw a bag from East Gippsland in circulation, which was a great feeling.

"People are returning and reusing the bags, which demonstrates that the system is sustainable."

## APPLY FOR COMMUNITY *funding*

Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from [colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://colacotway.vic.gov.au)

Council offers information sessions in Colac and Apollo Bay to help people understand the funding criteria, application process and other requirements.

Council's Festival and Events Support Scheme opens at the same time as the Community Funding Program. For more information on the Community Funding Program, please contact Recreation & Open Space Coordinator Nicole Frampton on 5232 9598 or for the Festival and Events Scheme contact Vicki Jeffrey on 5232 9516.

### **Colac:**

Monday, 6 March, 7pm to 8.30pm,  
COPACC

### **Apollo Bay:**

Wednesday, 8 March, 7pm to 8.30pm,  
Marrar Woon



SNAPSHOT

99

projects &  
events funded  
in 2016



# AROUND the PLAYGROUNDS

If you're watching Frozen for the millionth time and your children have taken to using your furniture as a jungle gym, fear not. Somewhere not far from you a playground is waiting for your children to unleash their energy!

Colac Otway Shire has no fewer than 26 public playgrounds waiting to be discovered that cater for a diverse range of ages, interests and abilities.

Whether your children want to hoist the Jolly Roger at the Elliminyt 'pirate park', sail the high seas at the ocean-themed playground at Apollo Bay, or swing as high as the leafy green treetops at Beeac, Colac

Otway Shire offers a variety of rich play experiences for little people.

Council's Arts and Leisure Manager Ian Seuren said Council recognised the immense value of play to the health and wellbeing of children.

"Play helps children develop their physical, social and cognitive skills, and also helps them to develop friendships and social connections with their peers," he said.

"Time spent climbing, jumping and swinging also helps children build confidence and self-esteem.

"So while the kids think they're just having fun, they're unknowingly exercising and improving their motor skills, balance and coordination."

Council, in partnership with the State Government, recently opened two new playgrounds at Colac's Eastern Reserve and Western Bay park near Lake Colac. A third new playground, at Wyuna Estate in Elliminyt, also involved a financial contribution from the Scanlan family.

Ian said Council was currently working on a playground strategy to meet the needs of our growing community. He said Council believed it was important that the community was involved in the planning of playground upgrades and renewals.

"The most important input will of course be sought from the experts – children."

Keep an eye on Council's website and Facebook page for more news on the playground strategy.



## A place to play

Finding a playground near you is child's play (excuse the pun) using Council's new website. At [colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://colacotway.vic.gov.au) click the 'Playgrounds, parks and reserves' tab for a geographic directory of playgrounds.

# READY SET play

SNAPSHOT  
**\$100k**

State grant + \$60K in Council funding toward a new playground & equipment for the Rex Norman Park Masterplan.

Our suggestions for a great day of play

I want to....

### Find a fun place for my child's birthday party:

You can't go past the barbecues, picnic shelters and tables at the Colac Botanic Gardens playground.

### Have an Otways adventure:

There's plenty of fun to be had at Gellibrand, Barwon Downs and Forrest playgrounds, and what's even better, you can stop off and have lunch at a local café while you're at it.

Summer and Diesel love the playground at the Eastern Reserve



### Make a day of it:

Head out to the Alvie playground on a Saturday, the kids can play while watching a great game of cricket, footy or netball.

### Find some fun for older children:

The new playground at Western Bay near the Lake Bowling Club provides fun and challenging experiences for children eight years and older.

# WHAT'S ON



**18 - 19 FEBRUARY**

## SEAFOOD & PRODUCE FESTIVAL

APOLLO BAY FORESHORE  
apollobayseafoodfestival.com

**18 MARCH**

## APOLLO BAY & OTWAY DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW

APOLLO BAY RECREATION RESERVE

**18 MARCH**

## COLAC KANA FESTIVAL

MEMORIAL SQUARE



**25 FEBRUARY**

## BLUES & BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

OTWAY TOURIST PARK  
GELLIBRAND

bluesandblueberryfestival.com.au

**19 MARCH**

## OTWAY TRAIL RUN

BARONGAROOK to GELLIBRAND

**25 APRIL**

## ANZAC DAY

VARIOUS LOCATIONS



## BIKES

**25 - 26 FEBRUARY**

### OTWAY ODYSSEY

FORREST  
rapidascent.com.au

**18 MARCH**

### GREAT OCEAN & OTWAY

CAPE OTWAY ROAD  
greatoceanotwayclassic.com.au

**1 - 2 APRIL**

### OTWAY 300

FORREST  
otway300.com.au

**1 - 30 APRIL**

## EAT LOCAL MONTH

VARIOUS  
LOCATIONS  
eatlocalmonth.com.au



## MEETINGS

### ORDINARY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAYS

**22 FEBRUARY &**

**26 APRIL**

COPACC

**22 MARCH**

APOLLO BAY

SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAYS

**8 FEBRUARY &**

**8 MARCH &**

**12 APRIL**

COPACC

## MARKETS

**26 MARCH**

### GELLIBRAND MARKET

REX NORMAN PARK

**14 APRIL**

### GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY FUN DAY & MARKET

MEMORIAL SQUARE COLAC

**MONTHLY**

COLAC, BIRREGURRA &  
APOLLO BAY



## WANT MORE?

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



# Your town in focus **FORREST**



## ALL TRAILS LEAD TO FORREST

**So the saying goes, Australia rode to prosperity on the sheep's back... but it's a different kind of ride that's powering the new economy in Forrest.**

Forrest is home to arguably the best mountain bike network in Australia, and these trails have helped transform what was once a timber town into a premier destination for nature and adventure-based experiences, outstanding local food and drink, and a diverse events calendar that will either warm the heart or get it racing, depending on your bent.

Resident of almost 30 years and secretary of the Forrest and District Community Group Mary Dracup said Forrest had always been a special place, and the mountain bike trails had only helped to enhance the Otways town.

"Forrest has always had its own natural advantages. We're enroute to Apollo Bay and in the foothills of the Otways, and it's always been a nice place for people to 'breathe out'.

"It has all the conveniences of a small town but it's still in the bush, the birds are lovely, we have the West Barwon reservoir for fishing and Lake Elizabeth for walking. We see koalas and wallabies almost every day, so Forrest is an accessible place to get those sorts of experiences."

The mountain bike trails, which attract thousands of people to

Forrest every year for competition rides and runs, have given the town the sort of exposure money can't buy.

Mary said the mountain bike trails were a medium for people to get to know the town better.

"Visitors are really quick to pick up on that sense of community because people in Forrest are on the level with them.

"People don't just run businesses in Forrest because they want to make money; they're here because they want to be."

Once an affordable place to buy a weekender, Forrest's real estate market has become more lucrative as visitors look to the town for a permanent tree change.

"The real estate market is a real indication that Forrest has become a desirable place to live," Mary said.

"Now we have fixed wireless broadband, that is going to open up even more opportunities for people wanting to base themselves and their businesses out of Forrest.

"We're a really diverse community with strong community groups and lots of voluntary activities and things going on."

## **FORREST** fun try these four enjoyable experiences

Take your exercise with a side of nature when you ride or run on the world-class trails.

Sample the local cuisine: coffee and cake, boutique beer or fine dining with locally sourced produce.

Go platypus spotting at Lake Elizabeth

See if the trout are biting in the West Barwon Reservoir.

Visit [forrestvictoria.com](http://forrestvictoria.com) or [visitotways.com](http://visitotways.com) for more ideas.

