



Christmas message from Mayor Chris Potter

On behalf of Councillors and Colac Otway Shire Council staff I'd like to wish our community a safe and happy festive season.

As the year draws to a close, I hope you have a chance to relax, unwind and reflect. This year has posed some challenges and we should be really proud of how we as a community, support each other and show kindness. I know in 2023 we will continue to work together to grow our shire and build on the region being the wonderful place it is.

Throughout 2022 we welcomed the return of some much loved local events, such as the Colac Kana Festival. For the first time, the Colac Otway Community Awards were a part of the Kana festival and it was wonderful to be able to publicly recognise award recipients. Citizen of the Year was presented to Ivan McCallum for his more than 30 years of volunteer leadership roles. Young Citizen of the Year was presented to Sohail Ali for his work with the Colac Otway Rovers Soccer Club junior team and the Community Service Award was presented to Leanne Callahan for her work assisting the homeless, near homeless and disadvantaged as well as supporting the needs of their pets. Nominations are open for the 2023 Community Awards, I encourage everyone to take a moment to think about people you know in our Colac Otway community who give their time to

improve the lives and wellbeing of others and nominate them for a Community Award.

Council had the privilege of hosting a Civic Thank You at COPACC to recognise some of the many people from the community for the part they played in keeping Colac Otway Safe during the pandemic. This included healthcare workers, the Community Leaders Group, teachers, supermarket staff, media and emergency services groups.

This time of year, many local organisations and community groups come together to celebrate their 2022 achievements, it has been my pleasure to attend some of these events and connect with our local community.

Colac Otway Shire Council is made up of many great community groups, sporting clubs, businesses, volunteers and people who make valuable contributions to our region, thanks to each and every one of you for your time and commitment to our shire.

As our focus turns to 2023, my fellow Councillors and I look forward to working with you to build on the progress we've made this far, we invite you to provide your ideas and feedback on where we can make improvements.

Wishing everyone in our Colac Otway community a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



Council Christmas and New Year Operations

Customer Service Centres

The Colac Customer Service Centre will close at 3pm today, Friday 23 December and reopen at 8.30am Tuesday 3 January.

Customer Service Officers in Apollo Bay will also be on leave from 3pm Friday 23 December to 9am Tuesday 3 January (GORVIC will be open for visitor enquiries, closed Christmas Day, open all other days from 9am to 5pm).

An after-hours phone service will operate for any urgent or animal related matters, please call 5232 9400. For any non-urgent matters, please email inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au or submit a request through Council's website.

Waste Services

Kerbside Collection

There is no change to kerbside collections over Christmas and New Year. Please put your bins out on regular collection days.

Additional Recycling Services

Council is offering WEEKLY yellow bin collections (for hard plastics, aluminium/steel and paper cardboard recycling) commencing just before Christmas, through to the end of January.

- Extra yellow bin collection for Week 2 areas started 19 December through to week beginning 16 January.
- Extra yellow bin collection for Week 1 areas start 26 December through to week beginning 23 January.

To find out your collection days search "When Will My Bin Be Collected" on Council's website or download the GoodSort App - www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

Transfer Stations

Apollo Bay and Alvie Transfer Stations will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and open every other day from 10am - 2pm.

The Birregurra Transfer Station will be open Saturday 24 and 31 December from 10am - 4pm, instead of Sunday during the Christmas Day and New Year's Day weekends; normal days of operation will resume Sunday 8 January.

Free Glass Disposal

Council is offering **FREE** glass disposal at our Transfer Stations in Apollo Bay, Alvie, Birregurra, and at our Drop-Off Facilities at Beech Forest, Carlisle River, Gellibrand and Lavers Hill over Christmas and during January.

Drop-Off Facilities

Beech Forest open New Year's Eve and every Saturday in January from **8.30am to 11.30am**.

Lavers Hill open New Year's Eve and every Saturday in January from **12pm - 4pm**.

Carlisle River closed Christmas Day, open New Year's Day and every Sunday in January from **8.30am to 11.30am**.

Gellibrand closed Christmas Day, open New Year's Day and every Sunday in January from **12pm to 3pm**.

For information on all other Council Services and Operations during the Christmas holiday season, please visit Council's website.



Community Awards

Who do you know in our Colac Otway community who deserves recognition for their significant contribution to our shire? Entries are now open for the 2023 Colac Otway Shire Community Awards with residents encouraged to nominate local heroes.

There are three categories for nominations:

Community Service Award (individual or group), Young Citizen of the Year Award and Citizen of the Year Award.

For more information, including Award Selection Criteria and entry forms, visit Council's website and search 'Community Awards'.

Pictured are the 2022 Community Award Recipients: Community Service Award - Leanne Callahan, Citizen of the Year - Ivan McCallum and Young Citizen of the Year Sohail Ali.



Australian Red Cross Lifeblood - Mobile Blood Donor Centre

The bad news is the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood is short of blood products that will be needed by patients over the festive season.

The good news is you can help by donating blood at the Mobile Blood Bus in Colac at Central Reserve now until 6 January.

- Monday:** 1pm - 6pm
- Tuesday:** 12.30pm - 7.30pm
- Wednesday:** 1pm - 7.30pm
- Thursday:** 9.30am - 4.30pm
- Friday:** 7.45am - 1.30pm

You can pre-book your spot at www.lifeblood.com.au, or call 13 14 95.

The Colac Mobile Blood Donor Centre is at Central Reserve Car Park - Gravesend Street.

Thanks Colac Otway

