anam cara COLAC

Soul Friend

AUGUST 2026

Our Mission is to provide the South West community with excellence in respite and end-of- life care within a home-like environment; embracing respect and compassion for all people.

Regular Events

- Parkinson's Support Group - 3rd Friday of each month
- Memory Lane Dementia Support Group & Colac Carers Group - 3rd Wednesday of each month at Legacy House, 45 Gellibrand Street, Colac

Please call Naomi on 52338203, if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive invitations for these groups.

We acknowledge the valuable contribution to Anam Cara Colac, of the following businesses, individuals, organisations and community groups:

- Dept of Families, Fairness & Housing
- H & L Hecht Trust
- GWA Griffiths Estate
- Colac Otway Shire
- Travis Holt Plumbing
- StevCom
- Birregurra Self Storage
- FRRR
- The Meriba Service Club Colac
- Lavanet

QIC Accredited Organisation
Member - Palliative Care Victoria Inc (PCV)
Member - International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC)

Anam Cara Colac acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Australians and especially the Gulidjan (also known as the Kolakngat) people who occupied the Lake Colac region of Victoria.

A word from ... Naomi Lettieri, Executive Manager

Annual Community Appeal - Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported Anam Cara Colac's Annual Community Appeal.

Together, our community raised more than **$206,000**.

This remarkable achievement was made possible through a combination of generous major gifts and hundreds of smaller donations.

We are deeply grateful to those who made significant contributions, and equally thankful to every person who gave what they could. Every gift, regardless of its size, reflects a shared commitment to supporting people and families during some of life's most challenging times.

Your generosity enables Anam Cara Colac to provide comfort, dignity, and specialised care in a home-like environment, ensuring that no one is turned away because of their financial circumstances.

We are equally grateful to our incredible clinical, volunteer and ancillary team, whose compassion, skill, and dedication bring this care to life every day. They are at the heart of what makes Anam Cara such a special place, creating a warm, welcoming and supportive environment for guests and families during some of life's most difficult moments.

Since the close of the Annual Community Appeal, we have also been humbled to receive two anonymous donations of **$100,000.** each, specifically to support the delivery of direct care.

These extraordinary gifts will strengthen our ability to provide compassionate care today and into the future .

"From everyone at Anam Cara Colac, thank you for your kindness, generosity and unwavering support."

Naomi Lettieri
Executive Manager

Contact Us

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PO Box 508, Colac 3250

(03) 5233 8203

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www.anamcarahousecolac.org.au

a place like home

Celebrating a Life Well Lived

There was a wonderful sense of celebration at Anam Cara Colac as family, friends, volunteers and staff gathered to mark the presentation of a '*Stories for Life*' book to one of our treasured guests.

At **103 years of age**, Gwen has lived an extraordinary life filled with remarkable experiences, resilience, love and wisdom. It was a privilege to hear her memories brought to life and preserved in a beautifully presented book that will be cherished by her family for generations to come.

This special project was made possible through the dedication of **Cheryl Harlock**, who spent countless hours listening, recording and carefully weaving together a lifetime of stories. Cheryl's patience, compassion and commitment ensured that every memory was captured with the dignity and respect it deserved.

The presentation was a heartfelt celebration of a life well lived and a reminder of the importance of preserving the stories that shape our families and communities. Congratulations to our guest on this incredible milestone, and thank you to Cheryl for giving such a precious gift that will live on for many years to come.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to **Kerry Milin from Production Works**, for her donation of editing and printing this book.

Introducing the Revitalised Anam Cara Cattle Club

anam cara
CATTLE CLUB

We're excited to announce the relaunch of the **Anam Cara Cattle Club**!

The Cattle Club provides a practical and meaningful way for our farming community, local businesses and supporters to contribute to the ongoing sustainability of Anam Cara Colac. Your support through donating towards the purchase of livestock or supporting the program, by hosting an animal. Makes it possible for us to raise vital funds that enable us to continue providing compassionate respite, palliative and end-of-life care for people across our region.

Whether you've supported the Cattle Club in the past or are hearing about it for the first time, we invite you to get involved.

Together, we can continue to build on the generosity of our rural community and make a lasting difference for local families when they need us most.

To learn more about donating livestock or supporting the program, please contact **Naomi** at Anam Cara Colac or **Board Member Chris Meade**.

(03) 5233 8203 manager@anamcarahousecolac.org.au

Thanks to the **Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)** and the I**nvesting in Rural Communities Fund**, Anam Cara Colac staff and volunteers are completing the SBS Diversity and Inclusion Training Modules, helping us strengthen our commitment to providing welcoming, inclusive and culturally safe care for every guest, family member and visitor. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the **Meriba Service Club Colac** for their donation towards upgrading our security system.

Find Us

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Donate Today

All donations over $2 are tax deductible.

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Franco Vaccari
6.6.1948 - 25.4.2026

Franco Vaccari was a visionary and hardworking person with enormous capacity and a huge heart for the wellbeing of others. A proud yet humble man, he and his beloved wife Rosalie were an indomitable couple who made a difference in the lives of many people right across Victoria, including Anam Cara Colac.

In 2013 Franco, along with his brother Carlo, made a generous donation to our Hospice from the Gualtiero Vaccari Foundation, with one of the largest single donations received in Anam Cara Colac's history.

Over the years, Franco and Rosalie Vaccari remained loyal supporters of Anam Cara Colac and their regular patronage of our Colac and Melbourne Annual Gala Events and their continued interest in Colac's Community Hospice.

Franco has been a thoughtful benefactor, a wonderful ambassador and a kind friend to Anam Cara Colac. He will be remembered with great respect and affection as one of life's real gentlemen, who has quietly made a valuable difference in our world.

Our sincere condolences are conveyed to Rosalie and the family. Franco will be greatly missed and not forgotten. 'Riposi in Pace'.

Diane Wright OAM
Founder - Anam Cara Colac

Double Shot Café - Annual Cake Sale Fundraiser

DOUBLE SHOT
COFFEE & CAKE

A special thank you to **Isabella and Matilda Mason and their amazing team** for the incredible effort they put into the recent Cake Sale Fundraiser at Double Shot Café in support of Anam Cara Colac.

From baking a wonderful selection of delicious treats to creating such a welcoming event. Their backing and hard work resulted in a fantastic fundraiser, with proceeds helping Anam Cara Colac to continue providing compassionate respite, palliative and end-of-life care for people across our region.

Thank you also to StevCom and Birregurra Self Storage who enthusiastically got on board with the initiative and generously sponsored the fundraiser. Partnerships, together with the generosity of our local community, help ensure Anam Cara Colac can continue providing comfort, dignity and care to those who need it most.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated, purchased cakes and supported the event. Your kindness and community spirit make a real difference.

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Guest Speaker Dr Hannah Gould

Hannah Gould is a cultural anthropologist specialising in contemporary death, religion and material culture in Australia and Asia. Hannah is a Lecturer in Buddhist Studies and Fellow with the DeathTech Research Team at the University of Melbourne.

Alongside academic research and publishing, she creates public programs to advocate for more equitable systems of deathcare for all.

To date, this has included work as a presenter with ABC Catalyst and as Academic Advisor and on-screen talent for the SBS documentary series Ray Martin: The Last Goodbye.

She regularly appears on radio and writes for outlets such as The Conversation and ABC News. How to Die in the 21st Century is her first book.

Anam Cara Colac's Dying to Know 2026

WHERE COPACC 95-97 Gellibrand St, Colac 3250

Friday 28th August at 11:00am-1:30pm

RSVP liason@anamcarahousecolac.org.au
(03) 5233 8203

Welcoming Future Nurses

Anam Cara Colac is pleased to welcome third-year nursing students from Deakin University as part of their clinical placements. These placements provide students with valuable experience in palliative and respite care, working alongside our experienced nursing team in a supportive, home-like environment.

Students gain practical skills in person-centred care while developing a deeper understanding of the compassion, communication and clinical expertise that underpin quality palliative care. We are proud to support the education of future nurses and thank our staff for their ongoing commitment to mentoring the next generation of healthcare professionals.

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

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