

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.

Upcoming Events

- Parkinson's Support Group - last Friday of each month
- Bereavement Support Group - every 2nd Monday
- Down Memory Lane - 3rd Wednesday of each month
- Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall - Sunday 30 April

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

- Dept of Families, Fairness & Housing
- Collier Charitable Fund
- The William Angliss Charitable Fund
- The Estate of GWA Griffiths
- Swayn & McCabe - Claas Harvest Centre
- Colac Central Bowling Club Inc
- Colac Show N Shine
- Erikev Pty Ltd

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.

Contact Us

50 Forans Road, Barongarook West, 3249
 PO Box 508, Colac 3250
 p. (03) 5233 8203
 e. manager@anamcarahousecolac.org.au
 w. www.anamcarahousecolac.org.au

A word from ...

Diane Wright OAM, Founder & President

"A life well lived, is a life lived in service to others." [ALBERT EINSTEIN]

My greetings to you all, our members and Anam Cara supporters, with this our first newsletter for 2023. This new year has commenced with much to celebrate. Firstly, we were delighted to learn that Mr George Neil Stewart was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Australia Day Honours, in recognition of his significant service to the Colac and regional community:

" ... for conspicuous and continuing service to the City of Colac and beyond, through a wide range of roles in business, public service and community organisations".

Neil Stewart is Anam Cara Colac's Founding Patron and he has provided some 16 years of service and commitment to Anam Cara Colac as a stalwart champion of our community hospice. Indeed Neil is quite extraordinary in his compassion and commitment to the well being of others and especially with regard to quality palliative and end-of-life care.

Neil and his son Michael's support, plus that of Charles Stewart & Co, have been remarkable, contributing significantly to the provision of twelve years of invaluable "home-like" palliative care to the community of Colac and South West Victoria.



Not a person who seeks public recognition Neil prefers to work quietly in the background. Nonetheless his integrity, hard work and service to the community has "made a difference" in the lives of many others, not only with Anam Cara Colac but in many other areas where he has served the community. In short, Neil is an outstanding example of a person who is highly principled in all his endeavours; as a businessman, a hardworking civic leader, a selfless contributor to the community, a generous philanthropist and a great advocate for his fellow Australians. A remarkable Australian, Anam Cara Colac warmly congratulates Neil on his well deserved Medal of the Order of Australia.

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Pictured at the Opening of Anam Cara Colac in 2011: Yvonne & Neil Stewart with Diane Wright

Soul Friend

A Word From ... (continued)

Recently our Hospice Manager advised me that since opening, we have provided short-term respite care to 450 people, plus a further 102 Guests received end-of-life care. Notably 50% of that end-of-life care - some 51 guests and their loved ones - have received that sacred care over the past two and a half years alone. Demand for our care has increased, especially with the challenges of COVID - as Anam Cara Colac, with its external entrance/exit to each hospice suite, was able to provide safe and family inclusive care - a notable exception to most public health providers.

I convey my very best wishes to each one of you, our Anam Cara 'Soul Friends' for 2023.

Diane Wright OAM Founder & President

Nigel - our therapy dog in training

If you've been to visit Anam Cara Colac lately, you may have already met Nigel, a long haired dachshund. Nigel is five months old and belongs to our Nurse Manager, Hayley. Hayley is training Nigel as a therapy dog. Nigel is pictured below with our Guest, Anne. As you can see he takes his role very seriously and is winning the hearts of everyone he meets.



Pictured:
Anne with Nigel

Meet our new Volunteer Co-ordinator - Alison Woolley



I have been at Anam Cara Colac for 5 years as a personal care assistant and have also volunteered here. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to further help and support the guests, staff, and volunteers in our community. My role is to support, train and be an open line of communication for our volunteer team. I have also launched the in-home care program for Anam Cara Colac that will be run by fully trained volunteers, to branch out into the wider community. We are creating opportunities for people to stay in their homes for longer, or have their final days where they choose to be, with the unique caring style of Anam Cara Colac.

Colac Show N Shine

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Colac RSL Show N Shine Car Show for donating \$5,000 to Anam Cara Colac. This donation has been used to purchase medical equipment. Pictured below is Diane Wright and Karen Eccles presenting our Certificate of Appreciation to committee members.



Find Us

Visit the Website - to find everything you need to know about Anam Cara Colac
www.anamcarahousecolac.org.au

On Facebook - "Like" us on Facebook to keep up with the happenings at the hospice.

Donate - Donations can be made by mail, phone, in person or via our website or Facebook page.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Contact us today to make your donation.

a
place
like
home