

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
- Bereavement Support Group
- Memory Lane Dementia Group
- Carer's Support Group

For further information regarding the above groups, please contact us.

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

- Lions Club of Colac
- Department of Families, Fairness & Housing
- CommBank Staff Foundation
- Aged Persons Welfare Foundation
- Meriba Services Club of Colac
- StevCom
- Colac Central Bowling Club
- Mortimer Petroleum
- Hodson Family
- Findex Community Fund
- Arackal Family
- The Honda Foundation

**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 ... Maryjane Crabtree, President

2024 is nearly over, and while each year I wonder to myself how that happened so fast, it does prompt a reflection on the achievements of Anam Cara Colac over the last twelve (very short) months!

In large part this has been Naomi Lettieri's year. Naomi has transitioned from serving as a Clinical Nurse and Community Liaison Nurse to Hospice Manager. This is a significant role change, but one that the Committee of Management was very confident that she would take in her stride. Naomi has led her team through the transition from a long standing and well-regarded Hospice Manager, Karen Eccles. Taking over from a strong leader is not always an easy thing to do. Naomi has done this with sensitivity and strength, taking her team with her and stamping her own style on our workplace culture. To add to the complexity of her task, Naomi needed to develop a strong relationship with a new Business Manager, Melissa Humphries, and some other new team members, clinical and administrative.

And then ... Accreditation. The Accreditation process, which is essentially a deep dive into our clinical and administrative quality systems, requires analysis and documentary evidence of all our systems. Passing accreditation is fundamental to our right to operate, so it was a daunting ask to take this on in her first year in the role.



Naomi approached the task with her characteristic calm diligence, delegating appropriately to her team, and knowing that Karen was there to counsel and guide her. We have reported elsewhere that we obtained Accreditation and received a commendation - quite an unusual bonus.

This all makes me reflect on why Anam Cara is so special. It is small, it runs on very tight purse strings. Not everything is shiny and new, and a lot of things could do with replacing, or at the least, a makeover! We all tend to wear a lot of hats, but the only "demarcation" lines are those which are required for good clinical governance. Our employees constantly join with our volunteers to get things done - I never get the sense that anyone is just here for the pay cheque.

This culture of genuine care for each other as well as our guests is our hallmark, and I think it is also why we have our strong relationship with our community and get so much support from local businesses and families.

Contact Us

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Soul Friend

A good example of this is the McKenna family, of Midfield Meats and Union Dairy. The McKenna family were Foundation donors and have consistently donated to our Annual Appeal. The family is very focused on supporting community work in the Southwest region of Victoria, and Diane and Andrew Wright, Phil Harris and I represented Anam Cara at Colin McKenna's funeral in November. This was a huge event, as several thousand people gathered at The Union to remember a self-made man who strove to lift others up to join in his success and get the very most out of their time on earth, as Colin most certainly did. I came away with a deep sense that engaging with community brings joy and satisfaction way beyond the cost of the effort that it takes, and I think that is how the whole Anam Cara family operates.

As you are a valued member of that Anam Cara Family, I wish you a safe and joyous New Year and I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Maryjane Crabtree
President

Vale Neil James Richmond

In August we farewelled a much-respected Anam Cara Colac supporter, Mr Neil Richmond, who will be greatly missed by his family, friends and wider community.

Beth and Neil Richmond kindly donated the use of 200 acres of prime grazing land at Gellibrand where our Cattle Club was established by Phil Harris, Andrew Wright, Tim Gore and Tim Gibson. This initiative provided the salary for our first Hospice Manager (then Mrs Deb Paton) and subsequently for the next seven years with some \$250,000 raised by The Anam Cara Colac Cattle Club.

Beth and Neil are well known as great community contributors as evidenced in their generous support to Anam Cara Colac. Our sincere condolences are conveyed to Beth and all the Richmond family. Vale Neil.



Diane Wright OAM
President Emeritus

Tribute to Colin McKenna, AM

Along with many others, it was with great sadness, that we learnt of the death on 27 October this year, of Colin McKenna AM, an esteemed supporter of our Colac Community Hospice.

Colin was a well-known and respected figure in the livestock, farming, and racing industry both locally and nationally, and was a generous philanthropist who donated to cancer research, hospitals, local sporting clubs, schools and many other charities. In truth, Colin was a generous supporter of Warrnambool and the wider South-West Community, including Anam Cara House Colac.

Colin and his wife Janice and their family have been involved as Foundation Members and valued supporters

of Anam Cara Colac since our establishment in 2011. And indeed, one of our Hospice Rooms is named in honour of the Midfield Group in testimony to Colin and Janice's support of our Hospice.

Colin will be remembered as a great Australian, a good person and a "larger than life man" who will be sadly missed by the many who knew him, not the least by his own much-loved family. Our sincere condolences are extended to Janice and to all the McKenna Family. Vale Colin.



Diane Wright OAM
President Emeritus

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

Marelle Sayle

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death in September 2024 of Marelle Sayle, a valued member of Anam Cara Colac's Care Team. Marelle's caring contribution at the hospice made a difference in the lives of our guests and families and we extend our sincere condolences to all her loved ones. Vale Marelle.

Lions Club of Colac

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Lions Club of in the recent funding of a replacement fridge for Anam Cara House. Since the inception of the Hospice, the Colac Lions Club have provided us with unwavering support, making a difference in the lives of many people in our community.



CommBank Staff Foundation

Thank you to the CommBank Staff Foundation for our successful grant application. This grant contributes to enhancing our day respite program and will support mental well being and diversional activities for guests.



The Honda Foundation

We thank The Honda Foundation for their generosity in providing Anam Cara Colac with the use of a Honda vehicle for the duration of 12 months. This vehicle will serve as a crucial link for individuals with a life-limiting illness living in the Colac area, who are currently unable to access our services due to a lack of transportation.



Life Membership

Life Membership was awarded in early December to our Business Manager, Jodie Lemke. Jodie's connection to Anam Cara Colac, commenced at our establishment phase with Jodie and her husband supporting a number of our fundraising events. From 2017, Jodie commenced as our Business Manager and during that time, she went "above and beyond" in her service and contribution to Anam Cara Colac. Congratulations Jodie.



Pictured above from left to right is Maryjane Crabtree (President), Father Michael O'Toole, Jodie Lemke and Diane Wright OAM (President Emeritus)

Find Us

Visit the Website - to find everything you need to know about Anam Cara Colac
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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.