



# MATTER OF FACT

a free community newsletter published by  
Venus Bay Community Centre

December 2023 Vol 12 Issue 14



Providing information for  
Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower  
and Walkerville district

**VENUS BAY**  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

30 November 2023

## Media Release

### Improving Community Transport Accessibility Across Gippsland

Residents in Sandy Point and Venus Bay will benefit from new transport options to connect them to health care, local businesses, education and more, through a collaborative pilot community electric minibus service supported by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

Through funding of \$249,450 from the DTP'S Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program (FLTSP), the purchase of electric buses will help engage the two communities to reduce their carbon impacts as well as promote inclusion.

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams said tailored local community projects, like the Gippsland E-Bus trials, are what funding from the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program is all about.

"Lack of accessible transport services can have a real adverse effect on communities, especially in regional Victoria, so we're doing everything we can to address this," Minister Williams said.

The day-to-day operation and management of the services will be undertaken by the respective committees and local communities, with the pilot being supported by a two-year research project aiming to identify sustainable models to benefit remote communities.

South Gippsland Shire Council - Mayor, Cr Nathan Hersey said the project is innovative and community-led.

"It will create opportunities and social connection for residents in remote communities, by providing transport to neighbouring townships and important health, education and employment services," Mayor Hersey said.

As well as assisting with the promotion and marketing of the new service, the research project will, through contributions from the DTP's Transport Research Team, La Trobe University and the iMOVE Cooperative Research Centre, investigate ways to make the community bus service efficient, financially sustainable and provide a model for other regional communities in Victoria.

iMOVE Program's Director Lee-Ann Breger said transport in regional areas is an ongoing challenge all over Australia.

"This collaboration brings the local community together with government and researchers to investigate an approach that provides immediate benefits for two communities, while also developing a framework that could be applied in many other rural areas," Ms Breger said.

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Industry Engagement La Trobe University, Professor Susan Dodds said the university has a long and proud history of pursuing sustainability and the transition to renewable energy.

"We aim to support that transition through transport research and innovations that increase safety, accessibility and efficiency, such as electric vehicles," Professor Dodds said.

The funding from the Victorian Government is via the FLTSP which provides funding to local government and community organisations for small-scale transport projects, evidence-based transport studies, and funding to redesign and trial new ways in which transport services at a local level can be delivered across the state.

For more information on the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program visit the Department of Transport and Planning website.

# COMMUNITY E-BUS TRIAL PROJECT – for Venus Bay and Sandy Point

## COMMUNITY ENERGY MEETS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT -

**How it all started:** Over the past few months, the Gippsland Community Power Hub governance group, with support from Sustainability Victoria– (with whom we have worked to establish the Microgrid project for Venus Bay Community Centre), has been working with 5 Gippsland townships (Venus Bay, Sandy Point, Heyfield, Mallacoota and Phillip Island - all of whom are working towards building microgrids) to investigate the idea of trialling low-cost community mobility using electric minibuses.

Of these five towns, Phillip Island is already working on an electric bus project, and Sandy Point and Venus Bay were the only ones currently in a position to proceed with such a project.

Working with the **iMove Cooperative Research Centre**, the **Victorian Department of Transport and Planning** and **La Trobe University**, the funds have now been secured for a two-year trial that will mean two electric minibus – both with wheelchair access - have been purchased for Venus Bay and Sandy Point respectively. The **South Gippsland Shire Council** auspiced the funding application.

This project will research, in depth, the viability of the provision of electric mini-buses to provide mobility services to small regional towns that lack public transport options.

Until recently this concept was theoretical only, while we worked with potential partners in other small communities to consider how we might tackle the awful lack of transport services, and we are delighted that this work has now come to fruition.

**We are now thrilled to say the project is official** – the buses (Joy Long E6 electric mini us) have been registered, the electric vehicle charging station has been installed at the Centre in Venus Bay, and one in Sandy Point and the research component has begun. The Venus Bay Community Centre and Sandy Point community will start working with their local community members and groups to ensure that together, we can best use this resource towards the benefit of our townships.

As part of the 2-year trial, La Trobe University will employ a local research and engagement person for 1 day a week in each township to work closely with the steering groups, stakeholders and community to ensure the project has the greatest chance of success.

**The details-** The Victorian Government Department of Transport and Planning – through the Flexible Transport Solutions Program have provided funds to secure the 2 electric mini- buses and funds to upgrade the power supply to Venus Bay Community Centre to install 3-phase power and increased battery capacity. iMOVE Cooperative Research Centre along with La Trobe University have provided funds to undertake the 2-year research component of the project. This is an investment of over \$650,000 and demonstrates a partnership approach and willingness to work with local communities to address real issues relating to transport. There will be a significant in-kind volunteer commitment and contribution from the local communities to make this work.

To be involved in the steering group or to volunteers as driver please contact [info@vbcc.org.au](mailto:info@vbcc.org.au)

MORE INFORMATION TO COME ON HOW TO BE INVOLVED - keep your eyes peeled!

**WOO-HOO!! WE'VE GOT A BUS** 😊





# Green Waste Amnesty Period

Council's annual Green Waste Amnesty period is starting soon. The amnesty will run from 4 November until 31 December 2023

Residents can dispose of their green waste for free at any of Council's transfer stations until the end of the amnesty period. The amnesty aims to encourage residents to prepare their properties for the fire season by removing potential fire hazards.

However, to improve the quality of the mulch produced, there are several plant species that **are not accepted** as green waste. This includes:

- Blackberry;
- Broom;
- Kikuyu Grass;
- Cape Weed;
- Agapanthus;
- Pampas Grass.
- Ragwort;
- Mirror Bush;
- Hawthorn;
- Gorse;
- Blue Butterfly Bush;

Plant species that are difficult to mulch properly **are also not included** in the amnesty such as Palm fronds, Cordylines, Yuccas and related species.

If any of these plant species are taken to a transfer station, they must be disposed of as general waste and the applicable disposal fees paid. Alternatively, they can be disposed of through the kerbside green waste collection service as this is subject to a different composting process.

For transfer station operating hours and locations, please go to [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tips](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tips)



# Volunteer drivers wanted

**VENUS BAY SUMMER BEACH BUS**

We are now taking registrations of interest for Summer Beach Bus drivers. Speak to Alyson or Carol if you think you might be interested.

☎ 5663 7499      🌐 [www.vbcc.org.au](http://www.vbcc.org.au)      ✉ [info@vbcc.org.au](mailto:info@vbcc.org.au)



# VENUS BAY

**DO YOU HAVE A FIRE PLAN?  
DO YOU KNOW YOUR FIRE RISK?**

**TALK TO A CFA REPRESENTATIVE  
AT THE  
VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**WEDNESDAYS FROM 11.00 - 1.00  
DECEMBER 6TH  
DECEMBER 13TH  
DECEMBER 20TH  
AND  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH  
10.00 - 12.00**

## FIRE SAFETY

**BUSHFIRES HAPPEN EVERY YEAR. SPEND TIME  
NOW AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN KEEP YOU, YOUR  
FAMILY AND YOUR FRIENDS SAFE FROM FIRE  
THIS SEASON.**

**COULD A FIRE REACH MY PROPERTY?  
WHAT IF THE ROAD IS CLOSED?  
WILL SOMEONE KNOCK ON MY DOOR TO TELL ME  
TO LEAVE?  
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?  
WHAT ABOUT MY PETS?**



## Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund Invites Applications for its 2024 District and Small Grants

The Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund (BHWFCF) is inviting organisations with community projects benefiting the Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and Walkerville districts to submit applications for its 2024 District and Small Grants.



The District grant, is a single grant valued at up to \$15,000, provides an exciting opportunity for a local organisation to develop a significant project to benefit the district community.

The Small Grants, which will be awarded up to the amount of \$2,000 per project, are designed to enable organisations to provide a benefit or service to the local community.

Previous grants have funded such project as:

- Infrastructure upgrades at The Tarwin Recreational Reserve, Mechanics Hall, Men's Shed, Tarwin Lower Pony Club and Venus Bay Community Centre;
- Mobility equipment for the Tarwin Lower and District Community Health Centre;
- Medical equipment for the Venus Bay & District Community Emergency Centre and Tarwin Lower Mechanical Institute;
- IT resources and infrastructure improvements for the Tarwin Lower Primary School;
- Arts projects such as the Venus Bay Water Tank Mural project and the Thirsty Works Gallery; and assistance to the Tarwin Wildlife Shelter, Watch for Wildlife and Community Bee Keeping.

**Grant applications will be available from XX November 2023 until the closing date of 5pm XX April 2024.**

Information on Grant criteria and Application forms are available at <http://baldhillswindfarm.com.au/community-fund/>



*Beginners Crochet Class*

Fibre Artist Debra Roberts, is offering a 3 hour beginners crochet class. Cost is \$45 and includes hook, wool and access to a comprehensive manual.

January 31st  
12.30 - 3.30  
To be held at the Venus Bay Community Centre.  
For bookings please contact Debbie direct on 0413 057 761  
debra@stelle.au

*FREE Demonstration*  
*January 31st 11.00*

Debra will be available to show items made with wool and fibre via spinning, crochet & needle felting. She will also be discussing potential future workshops for Venus Bay.

All welcome. Come along for a look and register your interest in future workshops.





## RECYCLING CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

### Tis the Season to be jolly!

Go Green for Christmas this year and save yourself money and help save the planet from landfill.

Here are a few tips to help you on your way:

- Reuse wrapping paper and gift bags, use newspapers or brown paper to wrap your presents.
- Shop at the Recycling Op shop. Op shops often have lots of NEW and vintage items, so why not go vintage this Christmas?
- Decorations are often donated in new condition & a cheap alternative.
- Do you have that hard to buy for person that has everything? Make them a hamper of a mix of goodies, recycled goods, jams, shortbreads etc. Make them yourself or support local businesses by shopping local.
- Buy memories, not land fill - Give a voucher for an experience or an event.
- Make your own gift vouchers - give a dinner invite, a pamper day hosted by you, a day of gardening, voucher for a picnic or bbq hosted by you, the sky's the limit.

Instead of buying decorations, dress your tree with home made treats, like shortbread baubles, popcorn string, get the kids involved.



*Santa is coming...*

*Whatever you do this year,  
We hope you have a very  
Merry Christmas*

# CHEESE MAKING WORKSHOPS



To book, you can email [cheesewithbarry@gmail.com](mailto:cheesewithbarry@gmail.com) with the location of the course you are interested in. We will send you a confirmation email with all course details and an invoice for the course.

**Facilitator**  
**Barry Roberts**  
**0413057756**

**\$150**

YOU WILL GET TO TAKE HOME  
APPROXIMATELY 1KG OF CHEESE



**JANUARY  
7TH OR 23RD**

Join us in our Cheesemaking workshop and make the following cheeses:

1. Halloumi (a wonderful cheese for frying)
2. Farmhouse cheddar (a hard cheese that is ready to eat quickly on sandwiches)
3. Greek Feta (wonderful in salads)
4. Cottage cheese (great as a toast topper or in an omelette)
5. Ricotta (can be used for a toast topper or cooking)
6. Lemon cheese (Paneer) (used in Indian curries as a substitute for meat)

**THE COURSES RUN  
10.00 - 3.00**



# 2023 Guide to Waste & Recycling



## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28					

## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31				

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Town

Bena, Loch, Mirboo North, Poowong

Buffalo, Fish Creek, Pound Creek, Stony Creek, Yanakie, Tarwin Lower, Waratah Bay\*

Dumbalk, Koonwarra, Meeniyan, Nyora, Tarwin

Foster

Kongwak

Leongatha South

Port Franklin, Toora, Welshpool, Port Welshpool

Sandy Point\*, Venus Bay\*, Walkerville

Korumburra

Leongatha

### Garbage

Wednesday

Monday

Wednesday

Tuesday

Friday

Thursday

Tuesday

Monday

Friday

Thursday

### Recycling

Week 2

Week 2

Week 1

Week 2

Week 1

Week 1

Week 1

Week 1

See Map

See Map

### Green Waste

Week 1

Week 1

Week 2

Week 1

Week 2

Week 2

Week 2

Week 2

See Map

See Map

Bins must be placed out before 6am on your scheduled collection day.

\*Please note that weekly recycling services are provided from the Monday immediately after Christmas Day until the last Monday of January (inclusive) in Sandy Point, Venus Bay and Waratah Bay.



### R.I.P Community Trailer #1

For over 8 years this faithful wooden trailer has been used by community members – but alas the time has come to say farewell!

Originally donated by generous community member, we have offered free trailer use from the Venus Bay Community Centre – and by all accounts this has been a very welcome service. Over time, it's been fixed and patched – but now it's unsafe so we say farewell.

A couple of years ago we purchased another trailer to complement this free service – the pink one – and this is still available for community use. We don't take bookings and we operate on trust -that people use it and bring it back so others can also use it. It's always in high demand when the green waste amnesty is on. It's really only for local use – and is a shared community asset.

### **SAVE THE DATE – SANTA IS COMING!!!**

The Annual Santa party is coming – hosted at JUPITER PARK – with Santa arriving on the CFA Fire truck with presents for all children (with generous support from Venus Bay Angling Club and Venus Bay Community Centre – and SANTA of course!!). EVERYONE IS WELCOME

From 4pm at the park – please BYO picnic and keep your eyes and ears peeled for Santa's arrival.

SATURDAY 23 December  
FROM 4pm  
JUPITER PARK, VENUS BAY

**SANTA  
ON THE FIRE TRUCK IN  
THE PARK**

BYO PICNIC & DRINKS  
EVERYONE WELCOME



# Christmas Carols



and

## Sausage sizzle

**When:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
from 6.30 p.m.

**Where:** Tarwin Lower Church lawn

**What to bring:** Rug/chair,  
Insect repellent,  
Something to drink,  
Cheerful voices



## Update from the Tarwin Lower-Venus Bay Tourism and Local Commerce Association (TALC)



Earlier this year, TALC were successful in receiving a grant from the **Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund** for the creation of 'Town Christmas Decorations' between the two towns of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

The very creative and wonderful Jean Jones has led a small team of volunteers to create new decorations for Tarwin Lower. Over the past weekend, these were placed along the shop fronts in the main street. The wooden Christmas Trees have been decorated by the children from the Tarwin Lower Primary School. All the decorations are handmade and look fabulous!

In Venus Bay, another small team of volunteers from our TALC group (consisting of Anne and Phillip Scott, Lesley Peell and Cheree Dodson) have created Christmas baubles which are wrapped in solar lights. These were offered to the local businesses with a few owners taking up the offer to hang the baubles outside their shop front. The Venus Bay Community Centre also accepted some Christmas baubles as well as solar lights for their front verandah. The Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club have been given solar lights to hang around the club too.



TALC would like to thank and acknowledge the **Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund** for the opportunity to create a festive feel amongst the two towns.





# Tarwin Lower Union Church



## Regular services:

Saturday 5.30 p.m.

**Catholic**

*Liturgy/Communion on the Saturday before the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month*

Saturday 4 p.m.

*Mass before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday*

Sunday 10.30 a.m. **Anglican/Uniting**

***Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community***

## Christmas celebrations:

Christmas carols and sausage sizzle: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> (10.30 a.m. to 12 noon) church will be open for personal reflection and prayer

Christmas Eve Catholic mass (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>) at 5 p.m.

Christmas Day service at 10.30 a.m.



# **CERT**

## Venus Bay & District Community Emergency Response Team

The Committee of Management along with our dedicated First Frontline Volunteer Responders would like to thank **FRRR** Strengthening Rural Communities program 2023

**Funding Doner is:** **The William Buckland Foundation, Equity Trustees** for the successful funds of \$9,751.00 for our project **“Advanced Medical Manikins Training Equipment”** these manikins are digital’

Check CERT out on this link:

<https://facebook.com/CERT-Community-Emergency-Rersponse-Team-Venus-Bay-Venus-Bay-440145853107221/>



Any person wishing to become a CERT Volunteer Responder, for further details QR code or contact **Email:** [vbdcert@gmail.com](mailto:vbdcert@gmail.com)



# DECEMBER FISHING COMPETITION



The Venus Bay Angling Club DECEMBER fishing competition will be held over 2 ½ days this coming weekend December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> commencing 12 Noon Friday with a weigh in from 4 to 6 PM, another weigh in from 4 to 5PM on Saturday and the final weigh in at 2:30 to 3pm sharp on Sunday 4/12 when the winner of the \$50 voucher for financial club members and the Trophy for non-financial members, guests and Juniors will be decided.

## Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club



Venus Bay Beach 1 is patrolled every weekend from Saturday 11 November 2023 to Sunday 14 April 2024. Below are the patrol times for different periods during the season.

11 November 2023 – 24 December 2023  
Saturday: 1pm – 4pm  
Sunday/Public Holiday: 10am – 5pm  
26 December 2023 – 25 February 2024  
Saturday: 1pm – 5pm  
Sunday/Public Holiday: 10am – 5pm  
2 March 2024 – 14 April 2024  
Saturday: 1pm – 4pm  
Sunday/Public Holiday: 1pm – 4pm

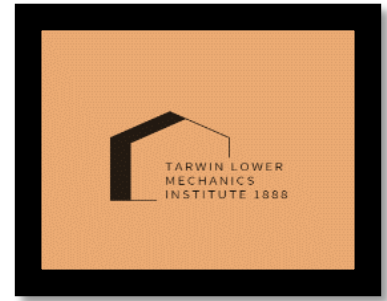
Venus Bay's beach stretches over 20 kilometres, and conditions across its length are ever changing throughout the day, with rips, sand bars, deep channels and strong currents acting along the entire beach length. Please help us in keeping everyone safe, only swim between the flags on beach 1.



Hello and Merry Christmas!

A big thank you to all that attended this show – it was truly a wonderful mix of old gags and new talent. Something there for everyone!

**Renovation update** – well the Hall has now received new walls and a fresh coat of paint to the sides and rear, even the sheds have come up a treat! Our tradies will tackle the front façade in early 2024 after a well-earned break for Christmas.



Thinking through the year past I want to acknowledge all our generous community members who have attended the shows and the Markets, held meetings and funerals and stopped me in the supermarket to say how happy they are to see the Hall buzzing with activity. To our regular tenants – Tracie Mitchell (Twirling Sheila Yoga) and Christine Grant (Everydog Behaviour Training) I wish a happy holiday season. To our super special local business' that always contribute to our raffle prizes – The Riverview Hotel, IGA, Venus Bay Pharmacy, The Cavity and many other THANKYOU!!



**Tarwin Lower Film Society** will screen the Misbehaviour on Friday 1 December as their last film for 2023 kicking off again January 19 with “The Boat That Rocked” A hilarious comedy rated M – starring Bill Nighy, Kenneth Branagh, Philip Seymour-Hoffman. “

*“This movie is an ensemble comedy in which the romance takes place between the young people of the 1960s and pop music. It’s about a band of rogue DJs that captivated Britain, playing the music that defined a generation and standing up to a government that wanted classical music, and nothing else, on the airwaves.”*

#### **Market Dates 2024**

1 January  
26 January – **Twilight Market NEW! 3 – 8pm**  
11 March  
1 April  
10 June  
4 November

All the usual stalls and entertainment – support local 😊 we can’t wait to see your smiling faces.

All the best for a safe and happy festive season from all at our committee.

Marg de Wolff  
Secretary, Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute  
Committee of Management  
[tarwinlowerhall@gmail.com](mailto:tarwinlowerhall@gmail.com)



## Local History Grants Program

The Local History Grants Program (LHGP) encourages and fosters community activities that preserve, record and share the local, social and community history of Victoria and Victorians.

The Program provides grants of up to \$15,000 and supports the efforts of the many community groups and organisations that collect and preserve materials and memories from Victoria's past.

It aims to encourage collaboration and partnerships between volunteer groups to undertake projects, as well as to develop skills and resources to support community collections, while increasing the opportunities for the public to engage with the past.

The Program is administered by Public Record Office Victoria on behalf of the State Government of Victoria

Applications close midnight Monday 11 December 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit: [Local History Grants Program](#)

## Get Active Kids Voucher Program

Round seven of the Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open!

Eligible families can apply for a \$200 voucher and use them at their registered Get Active Kids Voucher Activity Provider without having to worry about upfront costs.

These vouchers can help pay for sporting equipment, uniforms and even memberships for a range of activities like cricket and dance. The program is open to children aged between 0 and 18 years.

Get in quick as applications close when the voucher allocation has been exhausted.

For more information and to apply, please visit: [Get Active Kid Voucher Program](#)



The Venus Bay Community Centre was thrilled to have been awarded the NHG CLIMATE ACTION AWARD at the recent Annual General Meeting of Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland.

This award recognizes the significant contribution we made undertaking the Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study for Venus Bay & Tarwin Lower over the past 18 months.

Each year Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland (our regional network to support the work of the 21 neighbourhood houses and community centres in Gippsland) calls for nominations of excellence in these categories – noted with the winners for this year.

Prize money of \$500 comes with the acknowledgement and has been sponsored by NHG and Gippsland Climate Change Network.

### Community Development Award

Morwell Neighbourhood House for their People's Kitchen

### Community Resilience Award

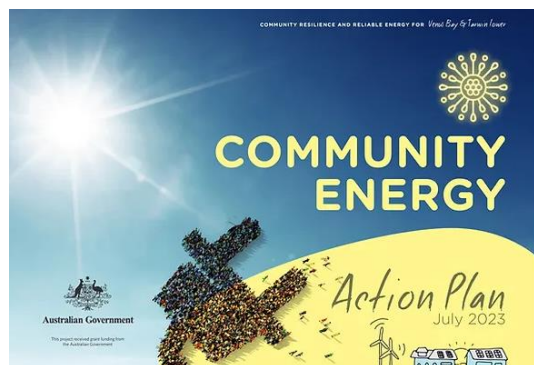
Loch Sport Resilience & Emergency Guide Map

### Climate Action Award

Venus Bay Community Centre for Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study in Venus Bay & Tarwin Lower



## COMMUNITY ENERGY UPDATE



Rest assured this project continues – with a small coordinating group meeting regular to keep progressing action in line with the Community Plan for Community Energy.

We plan to host another Speed Date an Energy Expert session early in the new year and will be at the Tarwin Market in January with any updates. As always there's plenty of work going on behind the scenes with other stakeholders to ensure our project remains front and centre of current and emerging opportunities. We are currently

working with local shire economic development team to help tell the story of the [Community Wealth Building](#)/Community Asset ownership story in a way they can advocate for funding and support. And of course there's been lots of work with the Electric Mini Bus project – woohoo!! The start of a shared community asset that dovetails with the resilience study.

If you haven't had a chance or want to catch up on what has happened in the last year – this FILM of the journey is well worth 30 minutes of your time – and it looks gorgeous! All info can be found on our website: [www.vbcc.org.au/communityenergy](http://www.vbcc.org.au/communityenergy)







# THANK YOU!

A big shout of Thanks to all the fill in Cooks who have been providing us with wonderful lunches every Wednesday while our regular cook, Wendy, has been on leave.



## Planning

*What would you like to see at the Centre in 2024?*

We would love to hear your ideas.

- Upcycling workshops
- Social cooking for men
- Art group weekly or monthly
- Card / game nights
- Guest speakers
- Activities for teenagers
- Family history chats
- Exercise
- Something else?

Send us an email with your suggestions.  
[carol@vbcc.org.au](mailto:carol@vbcc.org.au)

# VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

**MONDAY**  
10.00 - 12.00  
SILVER BANKSIA PLANT GROUP



**TUESDAY**  
5.00 - 6.30  
BOOK CLUB 2ND TUESDAY OF THE  
MONTH



**WEDNESDAY**  
FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH  
WEDNESDAYS 12.00  
(LAST LUNCH FOR 2023 - DEC 20TH)



## Regular Activities

phone 5663 7499  
info@vbcc.org.au

**THURSDAY**  
UKULELE  
7.00 - 8.30  
\$5.00



# THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT.



**Stay tuned for updates via our  
Webpage & Facebook & January MOF**



**Locked in are:  
Activities with Jorja  
Jan 1st - Tiny Town Cardboard  
creations  
Jan 4th - BODIES, pinatas and  
pickles**





VENUS BAY SURF LIVE SAVING CLUB

# MARKETTA Festival



MARKET STALLS

THUR JAN 4

GIN BAR LIVE MUSIC

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# A quick guide to the Tiny Towns Fund

## ABOUT THE FUND

Right across rural and regional Victoria, our tiny towns are great places to live and visit.

The new Tiny Towns Fund will support locals to deliver quality community projects, such as splash parks and bike trails, playgrounds, community hall and library upgrades, public art and more.

Towns with a population of up to 5,000 people in the 48 local government areas of regional Victoria are eligible to apply, as well as Alpine Resorts and Melbourne's 10 interface outer metropolitan local government areas.

## What the fund will achieve

From barbecues to community centres, the Tiny Towns Fund will back community-driven projects that enhance our smallest towns, strengthen community connections and encourage more visitors to all corners of Victoria.

The fund aims to:

- Create better community infrastructure and facilities
- Support community connection
- Offer even more reasons to live, work, stay and play in rural and regional Victoria
- Enable all residents to participate in their community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians, people living with disability, LGBTQIA+ communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.



## Who is eligible

This fund is open to incorporated not-for-profit community organisations and local governments based in Victoria.

Communities with a population of up to 5,000 people are encouraged to apply from:

- Victoria's 48 rural and regional local government areas, as well as Alpine Resorts
- The 10 interface local government areas of Casey City Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Hume City Council, Melton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Whittlesea City Council, Wyndham City Council and the Yarra Ranges Shire Council.

For further details about eligibility please refer to the Tiny Towns Fund program guidelines.





## Grant funding

Applicants can seek grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 for each project (exclusive of GST).

## Co-contribution requirements

All applicants are required to provide a co-contribution towards the proposed project budget.

The co-contribution may come from the applicant organisation or from other sources but must not be from other Victorian Government programs or sources.

A co-contribution may include:

- Grants from the Australian Government
- Grants/contributions from local government and Alpine Resorts
- Contributions from utility/service providers
- Contributions from community groups, businesses, or philanthropic organisations.

For further details on co-contributions please see the Tiny Towns Fund program guidelines.

## What could be funded

The fund will support projects that provide a direct benefit to the town and its entire community.

Some examples include:

- Upgrades to community facilities such as libraries, community halls and sporting infrastructure
- Improvements to public spaces including public art, street furniture, drinking fountains and greenery, the creation of community gardens, park upgrades and dog parks
- Updates to local tourism attractions such as splash parks, hiking trails and playgrounds
- Development or improvement of community gathering spaces, such as community gardens, amphitheatres or barbecues
- Networking and relationship building activities that promote participation in community life such as community days and volunteer projects
- Projects that support Traditional Owner communities and groups to enhance and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, community and economic development, participation and leadership.

## Project timeline

Projects must be completed within 18 months from the execution of the grant agreement.

## How to apply

Applicants are encouraged to read over the Tiny Towns Fund program guidelines in full, taking note of application deadlines.

Guidelines and the application portal can be found on the Tiny Towns Fund website located at [rdv.vic.gov.au/tiny-towns-fund](https://rdv.vic.gov.au/tiny-towns-fund).



## DECEMBER OFFERINGS

Art will save the world and yoga will remind us to breathe



25

### CHRISTMAS MORNING PRACTICE

Because we all celebrate differently

Now in its fourth year and becoming a Venus Christmas tradition. Book to secure a place.

8:30am - 9:30am

Investment \$35



28

29+30

### A PIECE OF PEACE

A mini retreat designed to get you mellow for the holiday season. Incorporating breath, yoga asanas and creating a deep relaxation

8:15am - 9:30am each day

Total investment \$99

Bookings are essential.  
To register text 0421300407



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STAY UP TO DATE TWIRLSHEILA PRODUCTIONS AND FOLLOW ON -







# Do you have a few hours to spare?

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the community centre...do you have any particular skills you can contribute? Or perhaps you have a bit of time to spend helping with filing in the office or sorting donations for the Recycling enterprise?

Every bit counts and every bit is appreciated. We could not function without our fabulous team of volunteers.

So why not come and join in!

Situated at 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay.

Phone: 5663 7499, Send mail to Post Office Box 786, Venus Bay 3956

Email: [info@vbcc.org.au](mailto:info@vbcc.org.au) Website: [www.vbcc.org.au](http://www.vbcc.org.au)

Opening hours reflect the season - please check our website or Facebook for details

or call Alyson 0416 242 331

Venus Bay Community Centre is supported by:  
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the Commonwealth Government, & South Gippsland Shire Council.

Our website is [www.vbcc.org.au](http://www.vbcc.org.au)

Find current and back issues of Matter Of Fact on our website. Please contact us if you wish to be on our email distribution list.



**VENUS BAY**  
COMMUNITY CENTRE