

February 2024 Vol 2 Issue 15

MATTER OF FACT

Providing information for Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower
and Walkerville district

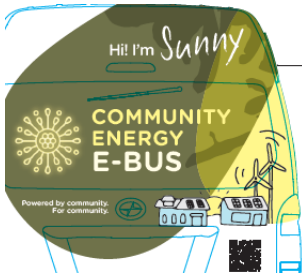


A free community newsletter published by

**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.



SUNNY - our new community electric bus is here – she’s got a new look with many thanks to Red Mullet Creative for the wonderful designs and South Gippy Signs for the skinning. Sandy Point have one too – she’s called SANDY.

Sunny has been doing some general engagement runs – as we work out our first scheduled services based on community feedback. Picking up a bunch of teenagers from the V-line service in Leongatha (with lots of bags for the weekend in Venus Bay 😊), runs to the Tarwin Twilight Market and shuttles to get people to the Info Session hosted in late January. There’s been overwhelming support for this pilot project – it’s great to see community excitement and engagement so far.



Over 60 people came along to the info session – to hear about how the project started and what the aims are for the 2-year pilot. While there are other community transport projects – we are the only one in Australia that is undertaking this kind of project with an electric vehicle – leading the way – it’s pretty exciting!

Our partners Department of Transport, iMove Corporate Research Centre and La Trobe University will play a big part in the support to get this project going and to see it succeed. The aims are to develop a business case over the next 2-years of how communities can

work together to address their own transport solutions, especially in small regional communities. Thanks to everyone who has made suggestions and given feedback to help us design the first range of scheduled services – along with potential event bookings and group outings, we aim to have a program of services ready to trial by late February.

The project is more complex than it may look – with lots of paperwork, rules and regulations to navigate - each time we look at ideas, it raises lots of other issues and questions we need to find answers to – and it’s great to have community feedback and input to help in this process – so please be patient as we try to work things out!





Sunny (Venus Bay) & Sandy (Sandy Point)

We aim to start small, to iron out known and emerging issues. We've had lots of interest from volunteer drivers and have held a couple of driver induction sessions – we will continue to hold these so we can capture more interest over time – we know the community volunteer element of this project will be critical.

Report Back on the Community Transport Information Session

Thanks to everyone that attended the community transport info session last week. Great attendance and feedback about how we can use "Sunny". Your ideas included V/Line connections, health and wellbeing appointments, shopping trips, a town shuttle as well as for social occasions. We also had a number of people nominate to volunteer on the project.

As we are part of a pilot project that will hopefully help shape future transport policy and help other communities with limited transport options, we will soon be asking you to complete a more comprehensive La Trobe University survey. From this we will get some baseline data so please take the time to share your views. Over the next few weeks we will finalise processes, induct volunteers and start to test a limited service to make sure everything runs smoothly.

In the meantime, subscribe to the <https://www.vbcc.org.au/news> and keep your eye on the TL VB Community Voice FB group for regular updates.

PLEASE HELP US BY COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

As part of the project is to collect data and information to inform the development of a solid business case, La Trobe University have created an initial survey to capture some baseline data.

We ask for your help to complete the survey (link below). It will take about 10 minutes – and for those who need help to fill it in, we are happy to make a time with you to go through the survey at the Venus Bay Community Centre.

Over the 2 years of the pilot project, La Trobe will further information that can show the development of the pilot and help to improve our services over to as well as helping other communities understand the challenges and successes of this project. All data that is collected by La Trobe will be stored in accordance with Privacy Laws and will be governed by their Ethics Committee.

(Survey link: <https://latrobe.questionpro.com/t/AaAslZ1QH4>)

More information about the project is available at <https://imoveaustralia.com/project/gippsland-community-e-bus-pilot/>

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



RECYCLING CENTRE

open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9.30 - 2.00

27 CANTERBURY ROAD, VENUS BAY





Community Fund Grant

The Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund was established in 2015 to provide ongoing financial support to local community clubs and organisations. The Community Fund is overseen by the Community Fund Committee, membership is made up of volunteers from the local community, and Bald Hills Wind Farm providing administrative support.

The Community Fund provides financial grant for projects of social, economic or environmental benefit to the Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay, Walkerville districts. This may include funding for local sporting groups, charities, community groups, education, culture, arts and other not-for-profit organisations or other community needs*.

Bald Hills Wind Farm will provide \$25,000 per year for each year that the wind farm is in operation to the Community Fund. Any funds not utilised will be carried over to the next year.

2024 Grant

This year, the Community Fund has **\$25,000** available for grants to community organisations. The Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund Committee has decided that for the 2024 financial year it will provide two categories of grants:

- **DISTRICT PROJECT:** one grant of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to an organisation undertaking a District Project. District Projects must demonstrate community partnerships/collaboration and overall benefit to the district/wider community.
- **SMALL PROJECT GRANTS:** Small Projects will be awarded up to the amount \$2,000 per project. Small Project grants are for the organisation to enable it to provide a benefit or service to the local community.

The applications for the projects should:

- demonstrate collaboration and increased community participation;
- show that the project is achievable within local mandates;
- demonstrate the need for the project and include supporting research; and
- take into consideration the approval necessary and the ownership/maintenance of any new asset.

Assessment and Notification

Applications will be assessed by a committee of community members and successful applicants will be advised in writing.

Funding

The funding for successful applications will be paid by Bald Hills Wind Farm and grants must be used within 12 months of their award.

Container Deposit Scheme

<https://cdsvic.org.au/>

Did you know that you can now allocate your 10 cents – per container from the Container Deposit Scheme to the Venus Bay Community Centre? Every 10 cents counts – and it helps us to resource the programs and services we provide for our community for free or low cost.

Here's how:

What can I return?

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150mL and 3 litres are eligible. You can keep the lids on, we recycle them too.



Check for the 10c mark

Look for the 10c mark on the drink container label. It is often located near the barcode.



Collect eligible drink containers <https://cdsvic.org.au/eligible-containers>

Find your refund point

For us the nearest ones are Venus Bay Transfer station (although they are awaiting new technology after having an iPad stolen at Christmas :(, Koonwarra Transfer Station, Meeniyah and Leongatha. You can still allocate funds to us even if you are dropping off in the city or elsewhere!

Donate: Set Venus Bay Community Centre Inc. as your chosen charity in your CDS app (you will need to download this to your smart device.

Snap Send Solve

Spotted a dangerous pothole? Or maybe some broken playground equipment? Get it reported quickly and easily using Snap Send Solve.



It's free! Download the app to your phone now or report it online at this link:

[Snap Send Solve](#)



Rabbit Control Field Day Hosted by Tarwin Landcare Group

Pest control expert Peter Wright will lead a discussion for our group around rabbit control methods and how you can best develop a management strategy for your property.

Peter is a pest control contractor who has worked extensively in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

- Learn when and how different actions can be most effective
- Discuss how to engage with your neighbours to work cooperatively on rabbit management
- Hear from other property owners who have had success with controlling rabbit numbers.

There will be morning tea provided and plenty of time for questions. There will also be take home resources from the Rabbit Taskforce available.

This event is for everyone, whatever your property size there will be knowledge to gain and people to connect with. As rabbit numbers continue to increase it will take a group effort to have an impact. Hope to see you all there!

This event will begin at 1pm take place at Mandy and Ian Gunn's property, 746 Walkerville road, Tarwin Lower.

Registration is essential: tarwin@group.sgl.n.net.au

WHERE'S WALLY?

This was a refrain we heard often over summer - Where's Wally??

Wally has volunteered his time, passion and positive vibes at the Venus Bay Community Centre for over 2 years - and while we have lots of volunteers who make an amazing contribution - Wally was a well-known & loved figure in the Shed.

With great music playing, a ready smile and always willing to help, especially with bicycles - he was often the first port of call for visitors and regulars to our Centre. His gardening, his amazing signwriting skills

He made an amazing contribution over the time he was with us, gardening, fixing things, gorgeous signwriting and helping out - he's now decided to move to other activities.

Those who know Wally know he loves life, lives large, with music in his heart and passion in his bones. As Wally says - keep on rockin'

Thank you Wally !



Tarwin Lower & District Community Health Centre Survey 2024

The Tarwin Lower and District Community Health Centre exists to promote the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors of Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay, Walkerville and surrounding areas.

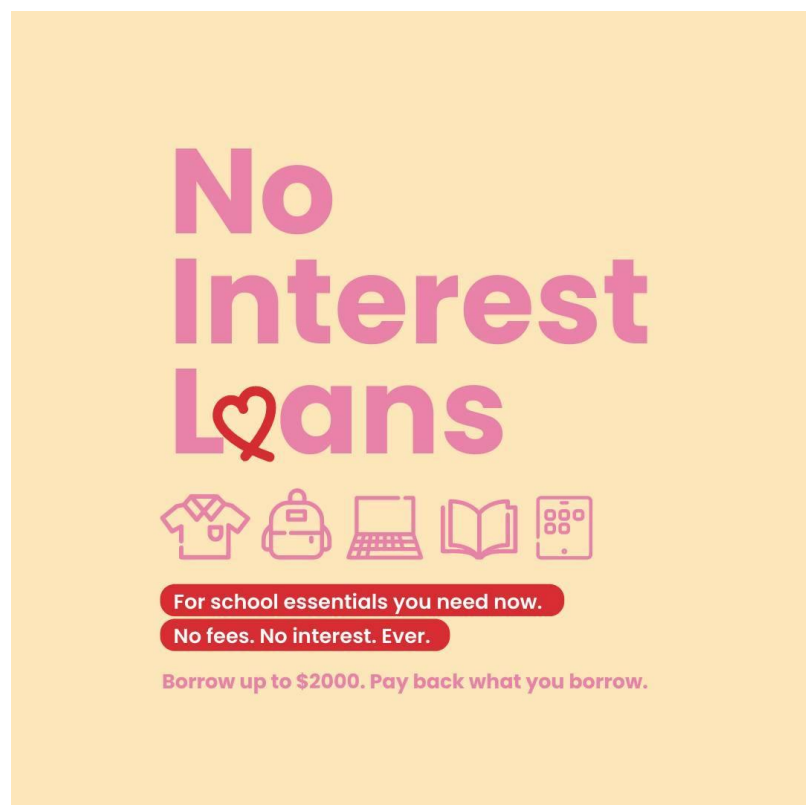
The Centre is available to everyone with no eligibility requirements and currently offers a range of services and activities.

The committee invite you to complete this survey to maximize the services offered at this valuable facility and to ensure the health needs of our local community are being met. We thank you for your assistance, all responses are confidential and participants are not identified.

To complete the Survey please click on the link below;

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9BRFZ3V>

Are the cost of back to school essentials stretching your budget?



No Interest Loans

For school essentials you need now.
No fees. No interest. Ever.

Borrow up to \$2000. Pay back what you borrow.

The advertisement features a light orange background. At the top, the text 'No Interest Loans' is written in a large, pink, sans-serif font, with a red heart icon replacing the letter 'o' in 'Loans'. Below this, there are five pink line-art icons: a school uniform, a backpack, a laptop, an open book, and a smartphone. At the bottom, there are two red rounded rectangular buttons with white text: 'For school essentials you need now.' and 'No fees. No interest. Ever.'. Below the buttons, the text 'Borrow up to \$2000. Pay back what you borrow.' is written in a smaller pink font.

Are your kids required to bring-your-own-device (BYOD) to school?

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is proud to be partnering with [Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand](#) to make No Interest Loans (NILs) available to help parents and carers on low incomes get their kids back to school with new school equipment and education essentials.

Loans are available up to \$2000 with NO fees, NO interest. Ever.

Call (03) 9606 0117 or visit www.nhvic.org.au/nils to learn more.

COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Hi all,

Well I've had a busy summer although I recognise this hasn't been the case for all... I just want to give a shout out to the businesses up and down our coast who have been doing it tougher than usual this summer, with visitor numbers and spending down everywhere I encourage you all to get out there and shop local.

Thank you Volunteers

As another summer holidays comes to an end I've been reflecting on all that we are, without our CFA, CERT, Surf Life Saving, Tarwin Hall, Community Centre, Rec Reserve, Shark Park, Summer Beach Bus, Health Centre, Landcare, the South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue and Shelter and Thirsty Works Art Gallery volunteers we couldn't host the *boom* in our *boom and bust* tourism. If you live here you know this place runs on the smell of an oily rag and the commitment of our volunteers.

Thank you for the work that went into the Venus Bay Community Emergency plan, its now going to be included in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, the Energy Resilience Project, Sunny and Sandy the ebuses project, the Tarwin Markets (especially the inaugural twilight market), the VB fishing competitions, the Duck Races and fundraiser for the hall run by the Auto Club, the Rec Reserve and Shark Park for hosting sports, recreation, funerals and all sorts and finally to the Surf Club for Marketta, a record breaking nippers program and for saving all those lives all summer.

In recognition of the amazing work our resilient coastal communities do much of council's advocacy priorities support them. For a list of Council's 2024 priority hit list please visit [Advocacy | South Gippsland Shire Council](#)

Streetscape

The plants are coming!! I know the streetscape looks bare and concrete at the moment but the vegetation is coming, turns out summer didn't really show up so we probably should have planted in December! The bench outside the pharmacy is coming back too, thanks for everyone's patience in what has been a really big project for the town. Seven years ago the streetscape, skate park and the Van Cleef reserve projects were planned by the community and I'm glad to have been able to see these plans through to completion in my term at council.

Sunny the e-bus

During the 2021 election campaign I heard a lot about how much we need a public transport solution for the town so I was honoured to drive Sunny the ebus last weekend. I can't tell you how much I love this project, a bus for us powered by the sun and community. But now we need to make it work so if you have an interest in using or driving the bus reach out to the Community Centre, Sunny needs people, good ideas, enthusiasm and follow through. This really is an opportunity for our community to be stronger and more connected 😊



A very important job

I've got a job for every single rate payer, renter or visitor to our area; please, please, please go to the Future of Coal Creek consultation, open until the end of March. You may think this has nothing to do with you but its incredibly important to all of us. For a long time the cost issue of Coal Creek has been kicked down the road by multiple councils. We've decided to accept the challenge, publishing a discussion document to explain the history, present and future possibilities of Coal Creek and ask; what is the economic, social and general value of Coal Creek in South Gippsland's future?

Coal Creek is on state government land with a council committee of management, it costs ratepayers around a million dollars a year out of an \$85 million annual budget to keep going as it is. To turn it into something of value for the whole shire will take substantial investment on top of this base figure. Coal Creek's ability to ultimately cover its own costs or achieve profitability is not impossible, but history indicates it is unlikely, commercial operations on the site are restricted. However, to cease current operations and hand the site back to the state will take substantial investment too as the state needs the land back without the buildings. We are now asking the whole of South Gippsland to make a judgement call on what Coal Creek means to them in the future, is it worth investing in or should we be wrapping it up? What would you like to see more of, less of and instead of?

I've got opinions but they are not important, this consultation will tell us what we as a council group need to do so please even if you're a frequent visitor or even a never heard of it never visitor jump online and let us know your opinion. The danger in consultations like this is that only the people who live close to or have a positive connection to Coal Creek will get involved which is why we've committed to a broad consultation across the whole shire, thanks to those at the Long Table in Tarwin Lower who gave their feedback at the council pop up on Australia Day.

[The Future of Coal Creek Community Park and Museum | Your Say South Gippsland](#)

Council is back in Feb

The next council meeting is on the 21st of Feb, you can see our Agendas here [Agendas and minutes | South Gippsland Shire Council](#) and watch a live stream or recording here [Live Streaming | Live Streaming | South Gippsland Shire Council](#).

Lots to do and so little time... council only has 7 months until we are in caretaker mode before the 2024 November elections! So get involved and if there is anyone out there interested in running for council get in touch, I'm happy to share my experiences.

Thanks everyone for a safe summer season, keep smiling.

Cr. Sarah Gilligan



Mycelia Energy Collective



More than just affordable energy, the Mycelia Energy Collective has been saving people money and doing good for communities since they launched last year. Mycelia is a charity and social enterprise, and their partners use innovative technology to match energy in a virtual grid, directing energy and money back into communities.

They also offer energy assessments and upgrades, bulk buys, peer learning and more! Most members reported saving money since joining, and whopping 95% feel they are doing good through their energy bills! You can too! Check it out:

<https://www.thepeoplesgrid.com/collectives/mycelia-energy-collective>

Anyone in Victoria can join. Check it out, get a quote or join here:

<https://www.thepeoplesgrid.com/collectives/mycelia-energy-collective>

Heard about the Mycelia Energy Collective?

Mycelia Energy were a valuable partner in the joint project to produce a Feasibility Study of Community Resilience and Reliable Energy in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

Our friends at Mycelia asked us to help spread the word about their energy deal, and we hope you check it out!

More than just affordable energy, the Mycelia Energy Collective has been saving people money and doing

Check out our energy deal!



Mycelia Energy Collective

AFFORDABLE ENERGY, OWNED AND SHARED BY THE PEOPLE!

More money into communities
Healthy planet & healthy people
No premium prices or lock-in contracts

Get a quote - 5 minutes to join!

www.thepeoplesgrid.com/collectives/mycelia-energy-collective



Venus Bay Angling Club

The next Venus Bay Angling Club competition will be held on 9th, 10th & 11th February, starting at 12 noon on the 9th.



There will be a weigh in Friday & Saturday 4-6pm at Gerald's Shed and final weigh in Sunday 2.30- 3.00.

1st prize for financial members is a voucher for the Cavity.

Come along to our BBQ Saturday night starting at 6.30. Non members are welcome, \$5.00 pp entitles you to free entry to the competition and the BBQ. We ask everyone to bring along a salad or dessert to share.



FEBRUARY TO MARCH SESSIONS

11TH FEBRUARY -
3RD MARCH 2024



VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

TARWIN LOWER MECHANICS HALL

SUNDAYS 9:30 - 10:30 AM

TUESDAYS 9:30-10:30 AM

Investment \$25 casual class.
\$85 FOR FOUR CLASSES (prepaid)

FRIDAYS 9:30-10:30 AM



COMING UP

MINI RETREAT

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY 10 TH MARCH

3:00 PM - 6:00PM



STOP. LET GO. RESET



STOP - Shut the door on the hustle and bustle of the outside world
LET GO of the incessant chattering brain. Identify and Release the tension we hold in our bodies through everyday life. Learn how to relax the nervous system.
RESET by focusing inwards . Practicing yogic breathing, mindful movement and intention. From this place we arrive in stillness. It is the practice of stillness that one gains calm and peace.
Change of Season Retreats are the perfect time to invest in self care. This special afternoon mini retreat is designed to lead you into deep relaxation through breath work, gentle hatha yoga, meditation and finishing with yoga nidra.

How to book - text 0421300407 to secure and secure a place

Investment \$90 EARLY BIRD \$80 Book by 28TH February



STAY UP TO DATE TWIRLINGSHEILA PRODUCTIONS AND FOLLOW ON -





Venus Bay & District Community Emergency Response Team

The Committee of Management along with our dedicated First Frontline Volunteer Responders would like to thank **Bald Hills Wind Farm 2023** for the successful funds of \$2000.00 for their project **“CERTified All-Weather Shelter”**

We now have new equipment, a **Marquee 3m x 3m** metres portable blue marquee, which includes 3 solid side walls and removable banner valances along with signage and logos. We can now provide our 15 Frontline Volunteer Emergency Responders, Team Leaders and committee with shelter from harmful UV sun rays and other weather conditions.



Check us out on the link

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

Any person wishing to become a CERT Responder for further details

Email:

vbdcert@gmail.com



Grants Only Group Inc.
Not for Profit Community Group
P.O. Box 453, Tarwin Lower, Victoria 3956
grantsonlygroup@y7mail.com
Inc. A0057076Z ABN 16 998 830 629

The volunteer team at Grants Only Group would like to thank **Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)** Strengthening Rural Communities program 2023



Funding Doner is: Portland House Foundation for the successful funds of \$2,423.00 for our project **“Digital Solutions”** Sustain community groups in South Gippsland and strengthen volunteer capacity to seek grants through upgrading I.T. equipment.



Tarwin Lower Union Church



Regular services:

Saturday 5.30 p.m. **Catholic**

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

Saturday 4 p.m.

Mass before the 3rd Sunday

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

Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

Coming up:

- * Women's discussion group: Thursday 1st, 15th, and 29th Feb at 10.30 a.m.
- * KYB (Bible study): Friday 9th and 23rd at 1.30 p.m.
- * Shrove Tuesday pancakes: 13th February, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS

Everything you need to know to start your own beehive!



Hands-on sessions that will teach you all you need to keep bees with Blessings of the Bees Apiary. Come to one or all!

THE HIVE : We will make a hive from scratch, learning about all the components and how the bees use this space.

SATURDAY 20th Jan 2024 2-5PM \$70

Book : <https://events.humanitix.com/beekeeping-the-hive>

THE BEES : We will suit up and open hives and learn the fascinating behaviour of the bees

SATURDAY 10 Feb 2024 2-4pm \$60

Book : <https://events.humanitix.com/beekeeping-the-bees>

THE HONEY : We will extract honey by hand and with an extractor, with your own jar of honey to take home.

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 11 AM -1PM \$65

Book : <https://events.humanitix.com/beekeeping-the-honey>

THE HIVE AND THE HONEY TAKE PLACE AT BLESSINGS OF THE BEES APIARY, VENUS BAY.
THE BEES TAKES PLACE AT FLOCK STOCK AND BASIL FARM, TARWIN LOWER



More info : amanda@chocolatestudio.com.au



A NEW FREE SELF-HELP TOOL

Get ePrepared

When disaster strikes, legal issues often follow.

Having your important documents stored electronically is a great way to get started in preparing for an emergency.

Get ePrepared is a free online website where you can:



Build a customised document checklist



Learn how to store your documents electronically



Choose the best digital storage solution for you



Find resources to run a group session on safe document storage

Ready to get started storing electronic copies of your important documents?



Get step-by-step instructions you can follow on your own, or with support:

justiceconnect.org.au/get-eprepared



Get ePrepared is a new free, online self-help tool developed by Justice Connect, in partnership with Telstra. It is designed to coach you through how to store electronic copies of your important documents, in case you need them in an emergency.

justice connect



The rising cost of recycling.



As we all know, the cost of living has gotten a lot more expensive. Which means the cost of recycling for the Community Centre is increasing. As a community we need your help!

Rubbish removal of donations which need to be disposed is rapidly increasing. We ask that in order to minimise items that cannot be recycled, that you please do not dump donations outside of trading hours. Dumping of donations out of hours, leads to the quality of the items being compromised. They may get wet, dirty, broken, infested by bugs, rodents, or even stolen. This means we end up with donations that cannot be sold and will have to be disposed of at a cost to the Centre. Our trading hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am-2pm, we ask that you donate during these times only.

What's a suitable Donation?

Men's, Women's & Kids clothing and footwear, small electrical items (radios, kettles, toasters etc.), linen, rugs, records, dvd's, cd's, decorative ornaments, pictures, homewares, toys, framed pictures, wetsuits, boogie boards, skateboards, bikes (must be in working order), small pieces of furniture (by prior arrangement). If you're unsure if something can be donated, please feel free to give us a call and discuss your donation with one of our friendly staff.

Please ensure your donations are:

- ✓ *Undamaged, clean, dry, stain and odour free.*
- ✓ Working and complete
- ✓ Safe for our volunteers to handle

What's an unsuitable Donation?

- X Weapons or firearms
- X Pressurised gas bottles
- X Magazines
- X Vehicle parts
- X Waterbeds, Mattresses
- X Anything that is broken, stained or unuable
- X Cots, Prams
- X CRT Televisions (old tube style)
- X Building materials
- X Paint or chemicals
- X Offensive or pornographic material



Please Note as we are a small store furniture is only accepted by prior arrangement, please call on 5663 7499 to discuss.



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 Website: 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

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