

December 2025 Vol 16 Issue 12

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.

YOU'RE INVITED! Sunny is turning 2 and we're celebrating!

Date: 12 December 2025

Time: 11am – 1pm

Location: Venus Bay Community Centre

Please join us to celebrate the successful completion of the Gippsland Community e-Bus Pilot Project and officially launch the final report.

Over the past two years, the communities of Venus Bay and Sandy Point have worked hard to deliver a transport service to residents and visitors. This was only made possible through the support of the Department of Transport and Planning providing an e-bus for each community, and the hard work of residents who volunteered their time to operate and deliver the service.

We want to publicly thank all those who volunteered and supported this project which includes La Trobe University, the Department of Transport and Planning, and iMOVE CRC. Finally, we thank the many passengers who used the services provided.

Come join us! Please help us by registering here: to <https://events.humanitix.com/sunny-is-turning-2-and-we-re-celebrating>



SUNNY CONTINUES – we are committed to continuing this valuable service for our community – and we need assistance to raise funds to keep going – to cover the fixed financial costs (insurance, service, maintenance, registration etc) and all the other things that take cold hard cash – about \$12k per year! We couldn't do this without the AMAZING support of our Volunteer Drivers – who give their time to help this service. You can help by becoming a FRIEND OF SUNNY – all support is very much appreciated.

We are also thrilled to announce that we have secured some funds to support the service to continue. (\$5,500) from the Inverloch & District Bendigo Community Bank – THANKYOU!



**Community Bank
Inverloch & District**

Sunny Christmas Raffle & Fundraiser



Fancy winning Sunny for a half day trip with 8 of your friends?

With the Community Bus Trial successfully wrapping up and the final report due to be released at our launch event at the community centre on 12 December 11am (all welcome), we now have to find a way, as a community, to fund "Sunny" into the future.

Over the course of the last year we have raised approximately \$3,500 from hiring "Sunny" out privately and we recently received a very generous grant of \$5,500 from Bendigo Bank Inverloch but we are still a little short of the annual running costs of approximately \$15,000.

That's why we're running a Christmas raffle with the prize being a half day trip with "Sunny" and up to eight of your guests to a destination of your choice in or around South Gippsland. Maybe a winery trip, an afternoon at Gurney's Cidery, dinner at San Remo, off to Woolamai Races- it's up to you!

Tickets are \$5 with a maximum of 300 tickets to be sold. Prize drawn just in time for Christmas on 22 December.

<https://events.humanitix.com/sunny-christmas-fundraiser-win-a-half-day-trip-on-sunny-for-you-and-friends>





What inspires someone to start a business here in our small regional area? What keeps them going when times are tough?

Over the next few months, we plan to do a series of feature stories of our local businesses in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay— with 4 or 5 each month – starting with the stores in Venus Bay...and we'll keep on going to capture as many of the stories of business – home based, trades as well as shopfronts as we can.

Our small communities depend on our local businesses – they contribute so much more than just product or service delivery - they create employment, provide updated information and are places of community engagement and connection.

Colleen Reeves – PBE Real Estate

If there's one person who truly embodies the spirit of Venus Bay, it's Colleen Reeves. Growing up in South Gippsland, Colleen first visited the Bay as a Year 7 student and has been connected to this coastline ever since. She fondly remembers the Venus Bay of the 80s—few fences, wide-open blocks and horses quietly grazing—a place that felt wild and free.

Colleen began her real estate career with PBE in 2003 and jumped at the opportunity to move to the Venus Bay office in 2004. The decision was an easy one: her children were growing up on the coast she loved, and the community already felt like home. In 2013 she became a partner, and in 2022 she proudly took ownership of the business.

Today Colleen leads a small, dedicated team—sales consultant Glenn Morris and admin support Tina Caddy—continuing PBE's long tradition of supporting local clubs and community groups.

What keeps her passionate after all these years? “The coastline is magnificent—clean, wild and ever-changing,” Colleen says. “But the best part is seeing the joy on the faces of new holiday-home owners when they pick up their keys. Helping make their dreams a reality never gets old.”



Cathy Duvel – About Learning

Another new comer to the area, Cathy Duvel from About Learning moved to Venus Bay in 2021. What drew her to the area was the wild natural beauty of the coastline and the sense of a small village lifestyle.

Cathy is passionate about supporting individual people, groups and teams to become really good at communication that creates psychological safety. She says: “When we demonstrate respect for all and are inclusive of everyone's thinking and contribution; and everyone feels valued and appreciated, extraordinary things start to happen in our relationships, team/group dynamics and overall sense of wellbeing and purpose.”

Cathy teaches a body of work called Time To Think and told me the training as a Time To Think facilitator changed her life and how she parented and related to her sisters especially. It helped her to be her better person. Bringing up three kids is a tough gig at the best of times, and these skills helped her make those teenage years a bit smoother and more connected.”

Cathy hosts the Time To Think workshops throughout the summer from her home in Venus Bay and if anyone is interested in honing their communication and interpersonal skills, look out for the posters around the neighbourhood.

Art Cube:

A Creative Hub at the Centre of Our Community

The Art Cube is here! It is a place where people can gather to make, share, and connect. Open to everyone, it invites creativity in all its forms: painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and anything in between. It's not about perfection; it's about participation, learning, and belonging.

This time round the Blue Cube is sitting proudly out front of the Community Centre, the Cube is a small-scale art and community hub — part mini-gallery, part experimental zone — showcasing the work of local and visiting artists throughout the lively holiday season and right through to May.



The Cube is open during Centre hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 10.00 – 2.00

The program for December & January is:

Kate Stuart – Pottery demonstrations and Sales December 1st to 7th (open Tuesday as well)

Sonia Zalucki - Festive fabrics and ideas – December 8th to 20th

Amanda Diamond – Windhorse Wish Flags - 27th to 31st

Amanda Diamond – Postcards project – 1st to 18th

Acrylic Art Group – 19th Jan to 31st Jan

Calling All Creatives: Expressions of Interest Open for the Blue Cube!

We are open to suggestions and ideas even if you have a whacky left of centre creative thought about what you might use the Artcube for we would love to hear from you. This is not the high profile art endeavour of last season. This is a new format where you might choose to quietly work in a dedicated space for a few hours, a few weeks or a month. Or you may choose to run interactive creative endeavors.

If you are a visual artist, installation creator, performer, or experimental maker, the Art Cube offers a unique opportunity to engage the community, test ideas, and be part of a vibrant summer arts program.

Creative Incubation

- The Art Cube acts as a seasonal incubator for bold and experimental ideas.
- It's an ideal space for short residencies, pop-up exhibitions, participatory projects, and creative happenings.
- Artists are encouraged to take risks, explore new concepts, and connect directly with the public.

We welcome expressions of interest from individual artists or collectives.

All disciplines are welcome.

Interested? Email carol@vbcc.org.au, or drop in to the Venus Bay Community Centre to discuss your ideas.

Through a mix of programmed and spontaneous activities, the Art Cube celebrates local talent and the beauty of our region. It reminds us that creativity strengthens connection, builds confidence, and sparks community pride. When we make space for art, we make space for each other.



POP-UP POTTERY SHOP in the ART CUBE

hand-made local pottery
for your table or for gifting

samples and misfits
at sale prices

plus pottery demonstrations by
Artist in Residence Kate Stuart



1st -7th December
Tues Wed Thurs Sat Sun 10 - 2

Venus Bay Community Centre
27 Canterbury Road

BLUE IBIS CERAMICS



Windhorse @ ARTCUBE

**Come and make a positive wish for
2026!**

**Working with artist Amanda
Diamond to create wish flags!**

**Dec 27-31 10am-2pm
VBCC**

Gold coin donation



Also keep an eye out for Amanda's other activity:

POSTCARDS FROM VENUS BAY!

Small paintings and drawings of 'Postcards' around Venus Bay. Your house, the dog on the beach, your caravan, fish and chips, fishing on the jetty etc Everyone will be welcome to create postcards in workshops in the Cube Studio

December 8th - 20th Open Mon, Wed, Thurs & Sat 10.00 - 2.00
weather dependant

fabric bowls

Christmas
decorations

Christmas
inspiration

scrap fabric ideas

small projects

upcycling for Christmas

Come in for a chat
or learn simple
hand stitching

Sonia Zalucki



Slow stitched & Festive

TARWIN LOWER MECHANICS INSTITUTE MEMORIAL HALL

Summer Market

Monday December 29th

8am – 1pm

For more information, stall
enquiries or 'what's on' check
the Hall website at <https://www.tarwinlowerhall.com/>





Recycling Centre Sat 6th

Early Closing Open 10.00 – 12.00

We are unable to take donations on the
6th as we prepare the premises for a
private function

MERRY *Christmas*

Wishing you all a Safe
and Happy Christmas.
We are closed December
24th, 25th & 26th



SANTA ON THE FIRE TRUCK IN THE PARK

TUESDAY 23RD December
FROM 4pm

JUPITER PARK, VENUS BAY

BYO PICNIC & DRINKS
EVERYONE WELCOME



KIDS ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2025

29th
December

Plate decorating
&
Paper Castles

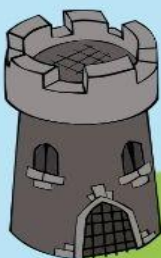
31st
December

Chalk Painting

January dates: 5, 7 & 8
Program to be confirmed
Cooking, puppets and
paper crafts


\$10
Cost

In the Art Cube
Gold coin join in
8th-20th
hand stitching
27th-31st
Wish Flags
1st-18th
Postcard project



Venus Bay Community
Centre
27 Canterbury Road





New food monthly group
December 11th 4.00
Venus Bay Community Centre
Theme: Cocktails / Mocktails


Stirring the Pot

Bring along a recipe to share.

Might be a family favourite, might have a story with it, might be something new and untested, might be something you have questions about.

You might just want to come and see what the group is about!

Open to everyone.
\$5.00





The Venus Bay Angling club will hold the AGM on Saturday 10th January 2026 at the Venus Bay Community Centre. All members welcome.

Our next fishing competition will be held on the Australia Day weekend starting 6.00am Friday 23rd January and running through to Monday 26th January. There will be a weigh in each day between 4.00 - 6.00 p.m. with the final weigh in Monday 2.30-3.00p.m. when the winner will be announced. If you would like to participate and you are not a member the cost is \$5.00 which includes the BBQ on Saturday night but you must register before the competition starts. To register you can contact a Committee member listed on our website. First prize for members is a \$50.00 voucher for The Cavity and 2nd prize is a \$40.00 BCF voucher donated by ARMA Window Tinting. We welcome newcomers to our monthly BBQ, 6.00p.m. Saturday, the Club provides the meat and we ask members/visitors to bring along a salad or dessert. (\$5 for non members). There will be the usual raffles and Members Draw. It's the perfect chance to have a laugh and meet new friends!



Stay up to date with information by checking our website www.venusbayanglingclub.org.au

KIDS FISHING DAY

SAT 3RD JAN

10 AM - 12 PM

- All gear and bait supplied
- Free Sausage Sizzle
- Prizes and giveaways for kids
- Free tuition

FREE

Bookings call Ros:
0412 017 240

VENUS BAY ANGLING CLUB
FISHERMANS ROAD, VENUS BAY





NEW Social Cycling Group!

We'll be riding a couple of mornings a week, starting from the Venus Bay Community Centre. The first ride will be on Monday 1st December at 9am, followed by another on Friday 5th also at 9am.

The rides will be mainly short local events, about an hour in duration. A stop for a cup of coffee and chat could be an important part of every ride.

Participants will be involved in choosing where following ride destinations will be. Special rides along some local rail trails, or similar could also be undertaken if there is an interest.

If you're interested in joining us and have a push bike or an e-bike please comment below or contact Graham on 0413 565 341 to discuss or just show up.





**Home is where
the heart is.
Stay there longer.**

How to live at home for longer

Personalised Support with My Aged Care & Support at Home

Navigating the aged care system can be complex — but you don't have to do it alone. Book a one-on-one consultation with Laura Corbett from Latrobe Community Health Services for personalised assistance in understanding, applying for, and managing your My Aged Care and Support at Home services.

Laura can guide you through each step of the process, ensuring you access the right supports to maintain your independence, wellbeing, and comfort at home.

When:

Wednesday 17th December

Appointments:

- 10am – 11am
- 11am – 12pm
- 12pm – 1pm
- 1pm – 2pm

Where:

27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay Victoria 3956

Contact to book appointments:

5663 7499 or alyson@vbcc.org.au

Laura Corbett – 0483 289 683 or laura.corbett@lchs.com.au
1800 242 696 dial 2 then option 2 for Support at Home



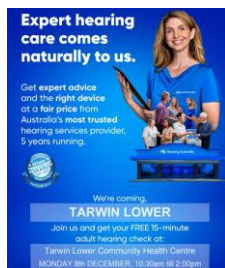
PH. 5667 5680 www.tarwinhealth.com.au

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19 Walkerville Rd, Tarwin Lower

Phone: 03 5667 5680

Mon-Frid 10am-2pm (subject to volunteer availability)



Hearing Australia- Monday 8th of December

Free hearing checks at the Health Centre from 10.30am- 2pm. Please book at the Health Centre or call and leave a message on 03 5667 5680.



Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Practitioner Deb Garvey

Need a heart check, blood test, prescription or have a health question? Nurse Practitioner Deb Garvey is available Wednesday mornings from 8am. Please book at the Health Centre or call and leave a message on 03 5667 5680 or TeleHealth - call Deb 0467 841 782.



Maternal & Child Health Nurse

4th Thursday of the month.

To book an appointment, please call South Gippsland Shire Council

03 5662 9294.



Community Food Cupboard

Thank-you to everyone who donates. People are very appreciative of the support from the community. Drop off non-perishable food items to the Health Centre- 19 Walkerville Rd. Mon to Frid 10am- 2pm or to the IGA donations box.



Grow Your Own Food- Monday 1st December

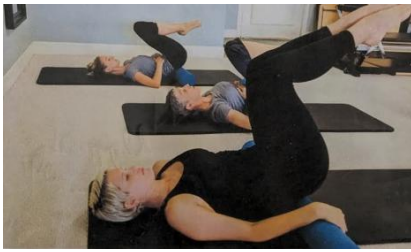
Come along to share your knowledge and be inspired to grow your own food. Bring plants or seeds to share or a basket to take something home!

Call Russell for more information 0439 973 071



Gardening Bee & Brunch

Next Gardening Bee is on **Saturday 6th DECEMBER*** 10-11am followed by brunch. All ages and abilities welcome! Please bring gardening gloves and a small plate of something to share if you can.



Pilates on Tuesday mornings.

Improve your strength, balance and flexibility in friendly and welcoming class.

Classes \$15

For class times and to book, please call Jeanette on 0409 252 863.



Little Kin Music- Friday mornings

Lots of musical fun is being had, featuring songs, rhymes, rhythm, movement and fun for kids 5 and under and their families. Any questions or to sign-up, contact

Claire 0406 366 770, email littlekinmusic@gmail.com or FB: Little Kin Music



Come and join our Creative Connections Art Group!

No experience is needed—just a willingness to explore, play, and enjoy the process.

Next class: December.

To find out more 0488990598



Friday Friendship group

Friday Friendship group gets together for picnics, music, entertainment, games and more!

Please contact Gippsland Southern Health on 03 5654 2791.



Red Cross meets once a month.

Contact Margaret Fisher (Secretary) on 03 5663 5256.

(See separate report from Red Cross on next page.)



Volunteers needed!

The Community Health Centre aims to support the health and well-being of our whole community. If you care about any aspect of health (physical, emotional, social, creative) we are looking for volunteer receptionists (regular or fill-in) and active committee members. Email: tarwinlowerchc@gmail.com

Tarwin Lower Red Cross

Tarwin Lower Red Cross has a strong emphasis on fellowship and getting together. We have enrolled new members this year and now have about 12 in total.

- Our end of year breakup will be on Tuesday 2 December at 1.30pm at the Tarwin Lower Health Centre, School road. We will hold a short meeting and finish with a Christmas themed afternoon tea. Dress to the occasion.
- During this last half of the year our meeting each month has seen:-
- Members updated their first aid knowledge with a visit from a St John Ambulance officer to brush up on general first aid and learn about telephone access to medical problems through the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department
- Guest speaker : One of our members, Pat, sung in a choir in Hiroshima, Japan, for the 80th commemoration of the end of World War 11. She talked about the experience of this event.
- Three of our members spent time on a walk around the streets of Tarwin Lower; taking in the layout and noting the environment
- Members also gathered at Fisher Reserve on 26 August to plant a Flowering Gum; replacing one celebrating the Centenary of Red Cross Australia which was storm damaged. We were assisted by South Gippsland outdoor staff.
- The major Christmas raffle has sold all the tickets; with thanks to all the members who sat outside IGA to do so.
- Members have donated unused handbags and collected toiletry and stationery items for Share the Dignity bags. Multiple bags have been forwarded to Leongatha Salvation Army for distribution and also two donated to the Inverloch Community House.

Regards,
Cheryl Bertrand
Tarwin Lower Red Cross



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

 info@vbcc.org.au

Tarwin Lower Union Church



Regular services:

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Anglican/Uniting

Saturday 4 p.m. Catholic

PLEASE NOTE: ALL services will be held at 4 p.m. from now on.

Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

"Wise women" personal development discussion group will meet on

Thursday 4th December and Thursday 18th December
at 10.30 a.m.

for a cuppa and chat

KYB (Know your bible) will meet on

Friday 12th December
at 1.30 p.m.

Christmas carols and sausage sizzle

Monday 22nd December from 6.30 p.m.

(Separate notice)



Christmas Day service at
10.30 a.m.

For all the latest news check out our Facebook page:
Tarwin Lower Union Church

Christmas Carols



and Sausage sizzle

When: Monday 22nd December
from 6.30 p.m.

Where: Tarwin Lower Church lawn

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



Summer Meeniyan makers market



Meeniyan Town Hall
Jan 4th 10-2

a host of local makers
and Devonshire Teas
by the CWA



follow

@meeniyanmakersmarket

EXHIBITION OPENING

COAL CREEK

**DANIEL
CROOKS**

Phantom Ride

**HEATHER
SHIMMEN**

*Swamp Crimes
And Other Stories*

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER



6.00PM - 8.00PM

*Join us to celebrate
the opening of these
two exhibitions at Coal
Creek. Snacks provided,
drinks at bar prices.*

**SOUTH
GIPPS
LAND**



VENUS BAY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

EST. 1961

SEASON 2025 - 2026



MEMBERSHIP STILL OPEN

ALL WELCOME, FROM ACTIVES TO SOCIAL

VBSLSC.ORG.AU



Volunteer with us - it's fun!

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.

