

# MATTER OF FACT

a free community newsletter published by  
Venus Bay Community Centre

FEBRUARY 2022 Vol 2 Issue 13



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.



COVID SAFE EVENT

# VENUS BAY

DO YOU KNOW YOUR

FIRE RISK?

## FIRE SAFETY MEETING

Come down for a free sausage and a chat with local fire fighters about fire preparedness and fire safety. CFA will be there to help answer your questions about how to be best prepared for fire.

**Where:**

Jupiter Park, Jupiter Boulevard,  
Venus Bay.

**When:**

10:30am - Sunday 13 February 2022

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?

**For more information, contact:**

CFA South East Region - Fire Safety Outreach Team

0419 874 484 - [firesafetyoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:firesafetyoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au)



# Media release

9/01/2022



## Fire Danger Period Declared

The Fire Danger Period will begin at 1.00am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January across the South Gippsland municipality.

Captain Michael Moore of the Tarwin Lower & District Fire Brigade said “vegetation has dried out considerably over the last few weeks and early indicators were pointing to a long and challenging fire season ahead”.

“It’s still not too late to clean up your property if you haven’t already done so, but the window for burning off has closed,” he said.

“Residents should take up the green waste collection service if offered by their local councils when preparing their properties through clearing, mowing or slashing,” he said.

During the Fire Danger Period, all fires in the open air are banned without a permit, along with most activities with the potential to generate sparks, and Michael emphasised that CFA will be taking a zero tolerance approach to any fires resulting from people flouting the laws.

“Expect that any fire you start to be fully investigated by police,” he said.

“While CFA does everything it can, we look to the community to use common sense and take responsibility for preventing fires,” he said.

Michael said that residents could find information about what is and isn’t permitted during the Fire Danger Period by visiting [cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can) or by calling **1800 226 226**.

During the Fire Danger Period (FDP) fires cannot be lit in the open air without a written permit from CFA or a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer. The FDP is based on local conditions and takes into account fuel moisture, fuel loads, grassland curing, weather and rainfall.

### Fire Danger Period information:

- A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation during the FDP. This permit may be issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or the CFA District Office. Please check with your municipality in the first instance.
- Lighting a fire in the open without a permit is an offence and can bring a penalty of over \$17,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment. Barbeques and fires for cooking and warmth do not require a permit, but **must** be lit in properly constructed fireplaces (to view complete conditions visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/can))
- Use of incinerators, chainsaw/lawn mowers, welding/grinding equipment and vehicles that come in contact with vegetation and machinery with an internal combustion/heat engine is permitted provided [conditions are followed](#).
- Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at [cfa.vic.gov.au/farming](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/farming) – important especially for new farmers, bush block owners or hobby farmers.
- A [Total Fire Ban declaration](#) means no fires can be lit for the declared district for that day unless there is a specific exemption or special permit issued. This applies irrespective of the Fire Restriction status for a given municipality. Further details at [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

For more information contact CFA Media on:  
03 5330 3124 (24 hours) or [cfamedia@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:cfamedia@cfa.vic.gov.au)



[cfa.vic.gov.au](https://cfa.vic.gov.au)

# VENUS BAY VISITORS...

# BE FIRE AWARE

Venus Bay has only one road in and out of the township and  
**NO DESIGNATED SAFER PLACE.**



## FIRE DANGER RATING

Current fire danger ratings are shown on signage at the township entrance.

For current fire risk information tune in to local radio (**3MFM 88.1** or **ABC 774**), visit the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au), download the **FireReady** app for your mobile device or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line **1800 240 667**.

If the Fire Danger Rating for the West and South Gippsland Fire Danger District is forecast as **SEVERE, EXTREME** or **CODE RED** you should consider deferring your visit to the area or if you are already here, spend the day in a nearby built up area such as Leongatha or Wonthaggi

**Be Aware...** In an emergency power may go off affecting water pumps (Venus Bay does not have reticulated water) and some landline phones. Roads could be blocked with traffic and visibility poor.

## **Just in case... be prepared...**

- Know your location.
- Have a battery powered radio and torch on hand.
- Keep woollen blankets and water for all family members in your car.
- Individual support from emergency services is not guaranteed..
- Monitor local radio, CFA website or Fireready app for warnings and advice.
- Dress for the occasion - hat, full cover natural fibre clothing and solid footwear.

## **and be careful on Total Fire Ban days...**

- No campfires or burning off.
- Only gas or electric barbecues.
- No fireworks.
- Avoid driving through long dry grass.
- Be careful with cigarette butts.
- If you are aware of a fire near you phone : **000**

# CO-WORKING SPACE



**WIFI, PRINTING AND MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE**

**February 10th**



**Playgroup  
returns  
Thursday  
mornings**

**10.30 - 12.00**

# COMMUNITY LUNCH RETURNS 2ND FEB



COMMUNITY COMPOST FACILITY  
NOW AVAILABLE AT THE REAR OF THE CENTRE

## Add

Fruit scraps  
Plant prunings  
Vegetable scraps  
Coffee grounds  
Tea leaves  
Shredded paper

## Don't Add

Meat scraps  
Noxious weeds  
Fish scraps  
Noxious weeds  
Plastics / synthetics  
Diseased plant waste



What do you do with your kitchen waste? Do you have a compost system at home? If not, we've created a COMMUNITY COMPOST system for the whole community.

Don't put valuable kitchen waste into your bin – bring along to the community centre and help us grow great soil.

This is particularly useful for our part time community members who might not be able to maintain a compost system here

We have lidded buckets available at the Centre – pop in any time to collect one, and start composting today!

You are also welcome to come sample the produce from our community veggie garden.

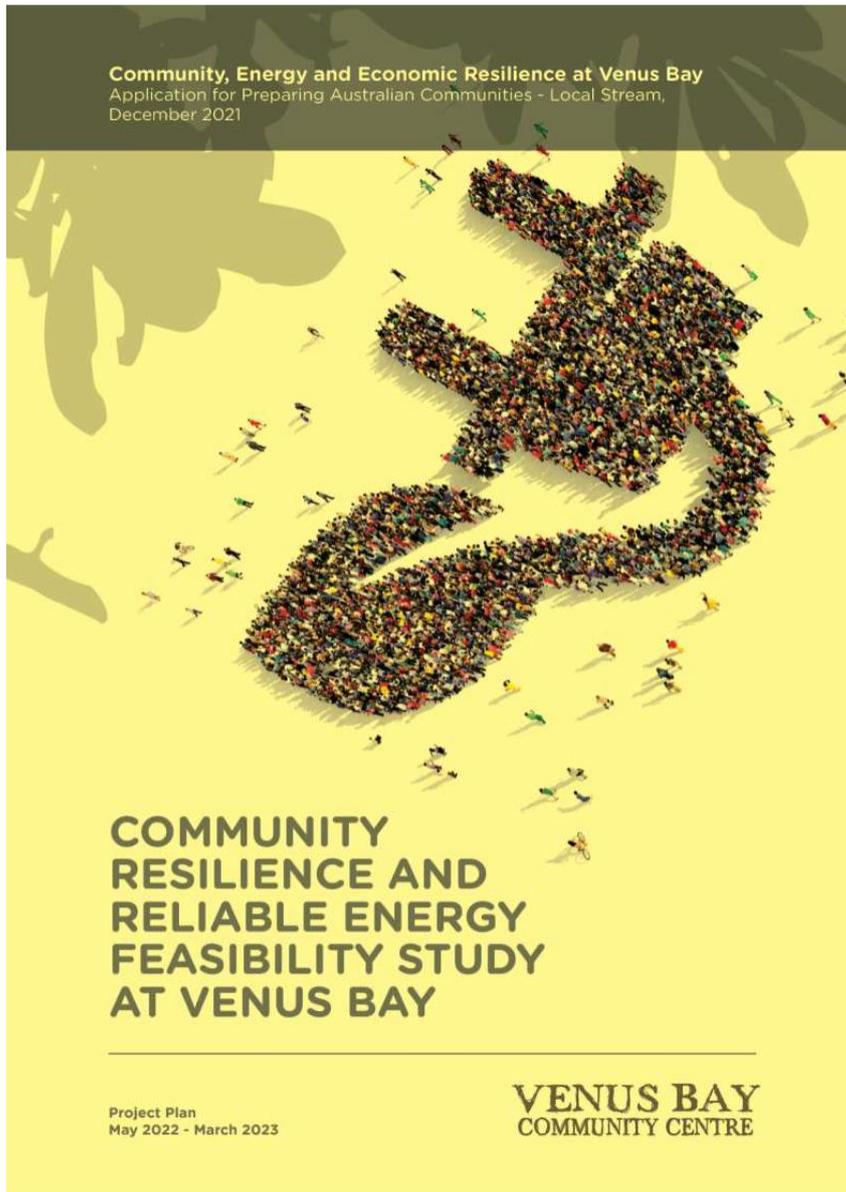
Maintained by our fabulous volunteers, come along and help out in the garden any time.



# COMMUNITY ENERGY FOR VENUS BAY – UPDATE

Over the Summer, the Venus Bay Community Centre, along with Heather Smith from Changing Weather, Moragh Mackay from Mycelia Renewables Ltd, Dr Rakib Shah from Federation University and our local champion Henry Oçlery, developed and submitted a very comprehensive and significant grant application to the Federal Government – Preparing Australian Communities Fund – Local Stream. This project seeks to further the work started over the last couple of years to undertake a feasibility study into investigate the options for Community Energy Resilience in Venus Bay.

A significant amount of work with amazing partners, we hope the application is successful – we'll find out in May 2022. There will be LOTS of opportunities for community members to be engaged in the project and we'll keep everyone informed when we find out more.



## About the Project

After the summer of 2019-20, conversations and meetings have demonstrated strong local interest in community resilience and in solving the problems with, and threats to, electricity supply in this rural community. In response, the Venus Bay Community Centre, representing wider community interests, is proposing a Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study.

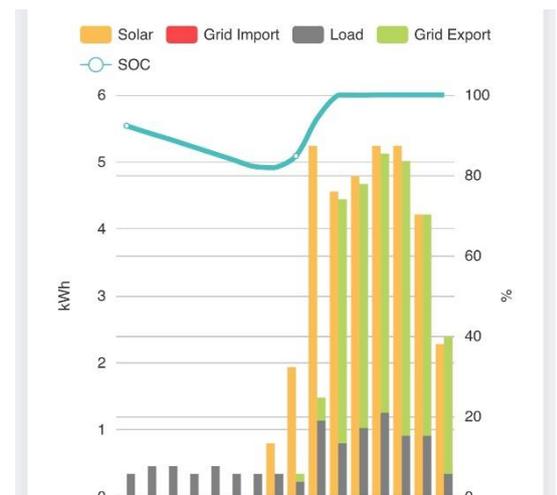
A community-centred design approach will engage the community in identifying key elements of resilience from the perspectives of residents, business owners, holiday makers and critical organisations, e.g., State Emergency Services. The resilience definition will then guide the assessment of actions to improve community resilience, including a strong focus on reliable energy options. The project partners will work with stakeholders to assess social, economic and environmental benefits of different options and the delivery pathways for a final action plan. The study comprises four main phases:

1. Explore and define community and energy resilience
2. Co-design options for reliable energy supply
3. Develop a business case and delivery pathway
4. Co-create a community-led action plan

In the meantime, we continue to harvest and use renewable energy at the Venus Bay Community Centre. Since going live with our system in late December 2021, we have almost exclusively used solar energy with battery backup – exporting to the grid while consuming almost nothing from the grid. And saving 2368kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided to date!



2368kg  
CO<sub>2</sub> Emission  
Avoided in Total



## THE IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVES

Tarwin Landcare Group (TLG) launched its new coastal restoration project last week with an information session at the Venus Bay Community Centre followed by a walk at the Doyles Road Beach foreshore.



Thirty people registered for the event which featured speakers from the Westernport Seagrass Partnership (WSP), South Gippsland Conservation Society (SGCS) and the Cape to Cape Resilience Project (CCRP).

Satellite monitoring images provided by the CCRP's Dave Sutton demonstrated the urgent need for the project, which is designed to combat coastal erosion by restoring some of the mangroves that were once prolific in Anderson Inlet.



While this area of coastline has always been dynamic, the images revealed that 85 ha of beach and 43% of native remnant vegetation has been lost over the past 12 years.

Stone walls and other efforts to halt erosion have been unsuccessful and have actually exacerbated the problem, causing scouring and washouts in other areas.

Mangroves, in contrast, prevent erosion by reducing and absorbing wave energy before it reaches the shoreline, and trapping sediment with their complex root systems. This in turn provides an ideal environment for other valuable plant species to become established, offering additional protection to the fragile sand dunes. These plant communities also provide important breeding for fish, prawns, birds and small mammals such as bats and rakali (water rat), and capture more carbon than terrestrial forests.



Botanical ecologist, Alison Oates was able to show participants three distinct plant communities on the beach walk, which all lay behind a protective stretch of grey mangrove (*Avicennia marina*). In contrast, areas which were not protected by mangroves were bare, and the dunes behind were eroding.

Revegetating mangroves will not be an easy task as the seedlings require protection from waves and storm surge as they become established. Dr Greg Parry from the WSP shared his expertise gained over several years of mangrove restoration work at Lang Lang and

Grantville, which will be invaluable to TLG's project.

Mangroves also require ongoing protection from people and dogs. TLG is mindful of the need for open beach space for recreation, and as a result, plans to enhance and extend existing mangrove colonies rather than try to establish new stands. The project includes installing signage at the Doyles Road Beach carpark describing the importance of mangroves, and a hands-on learning program for Tarwin Lower, Meeniyan, Foster and Fish Creek Primary School students.

TLG's coastal restoration project is supported by the Victorian Government's Coastcare Victoria program. For more information about the project, visit [www.sgl.n.net.au](http://www.sgl.n.net.au) or the Tarwin Landcare Facebook page. New members are always welcome: contact [tarray49@gmail.com](mailto:tarray49@gmail.com)

# BALD HILLS WIND FARM 2022 COMMUNITY GRANTS DISTRICT PROJECT - \$15K

## Expressions of Interest open now

Clubs, community groups and other organisations are invited to apply for a \$15,000 grant to deliver a project that will provide the opportunity for more people in the Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and Walkerville district to have access to, or benefit from, social, recreational, educational and/or environmental services and events.

See <http://baldhillswindfarm.com.au/community-fund/> for:

- Grant criteria
- Expression of Interest form
- Application form\*

*\*only those applicants whose projects meet the grant criteria will be asked to complete an Application Form.*

**Expressions of Interest close 5pm Friday, 4 February 2022.**

## 2 pages

Project summary  
Partnerships  
Project goals  
Expected outcomes  
Community benefit

BALD  
HILLS  
WIND  
FARM





# BAREFOOT BOWLS

## 2022 COMPETITION

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**FUN FOR  
ALL AT  
TARWIN  
BOWLS  
CLUB**



**10 Weeks of competition**

**Meet the locals and have some fun**

**Games to commence at 6pm, BBQ from 5:30**

**Single players or three person teams.**

- **\$5.00 per player per game**
- **10 ends per game**
- **Bring your own bowls or bowls supplied**
- **BBQ each night / Raffle each night**
- **Footwear - flat smooth soled shoes, barefoot or thongs. (No work boots)**

*No experience required it's all about the fun.*

**Contact: Carol 0408562488**

**Pat 0408581573**

## C O U N C I L L O R   U P D A T E

Hello all,

I hope you all had a great summer despite Covid interruptions, I'd like to give a big shout out to all our businesses and services who tried to keep the doors open and to those who made the tough call to close in the interest of community safety.

A couple of weeks ago I attended the Tarwin Mechanics Institute General Meeting, it was great to see a mix of old and new faces. The committee is refreshed and looking at the year ahead as an opportunity, not only get the poor old weatherboards fixed, but a time to get the hall into action.

The Tarwin Mechanics Institute is open for business so if you have one off or ongoing event ideas get in touch with Marg de Wolff (new Secretary) via email - tarwinlowerhall@gmail.com. Let's breathe some life back into it, such a cute hall begging for some cultural occasions!

Council is officially back on Wednesday although it's been a busy summer already, we'll be spending the first few months diving into the four year council plan. Over the past couple of months, we've been running online and in person engagement events to get clear on South Gippsland's priorities in this crazy Covid world. We've been listening to the unique communities in South Gippsland, to find out what our different and aligned priorities are; who's moving in, who's moving out, what needs to change, what should stay the same?

It's been interesting to find common themes across the whole shire around:

- Safer roads, traffic calming for townships and options for cyclists and pedestrians.
- More public transport/ ways of connecting to our larger service towns.
- Housing affordability and availability.
- Improved services for elderly to remain in their communities.
- More opportunities for young people to encourage them to stay.
- Protection of the environment, farming and eco-tourism side by side.

Locally I've heard you all loud and clear about the surface materials currently on our roads, everyone hates the black gravel! protection of the environment and controlling development in a way that retains our coastal village character.

**HAVE YOUR SAY – On February second at 6pm join the final online community vision forum.** Speak up whether your ideal future involves minimal change with better services or a major project this is the time and place for it. [Community Vision | South Gippsland Shire Council](#)

Register now, its an hour out of your time, your new council really wants to hear what you've got to say. Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

See you all online!

Oh, and a massive congratulations to Craig Watson and the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club for the launch of 'Cool Change', a History of Venus Bay and the Surf life Saving Club. Craig has spent years on this project and I'm sooo excited, can't wait to read it. Order yours here [01 Cool Change - The History of Venus Bay & The Surf Lifesaving Club – Venus Bay SLSC \(venus-bay-slsc.myshopify.com\)](#)

Cr. Sarah Gilligan

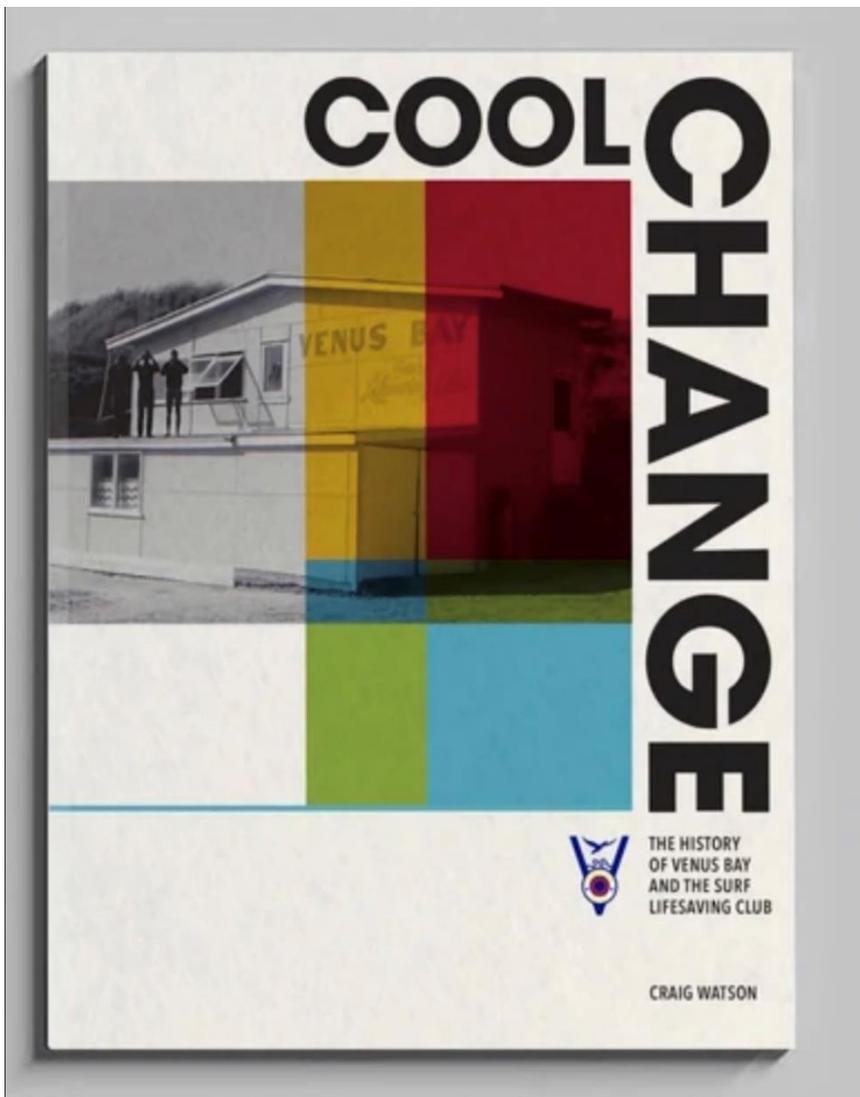
cr.sarah.gilligan@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

# Cool Change - The History of Venus Bay & The Surf Lifesaving Club

From First Peoples to European Explorers to the Magnat to Evergreen to the Birth of the Venus Bay Estate and a Comprehensive History of the VBSLSC.

A large hardback tome, filled with amazing pics and wonderful stories that take us on a journey

This amazing publication not only details the 60 year history of the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club – but delves into the establishment of Venus Bay; showcasing fantastic historical photos, the publication of this book owes a massive thank you to Craig Watson from VBSLSC.



## TARWIN LOWER FILM SOCIETY – at the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall

The Tarwin Lower Film Society is a member of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies. Prospective members need to purchase a three or twelve monthly membership to see the monthly movie which is available through [Trybooking](#). The movie is usually shown on the third Friday of each month except December.

### FEBRUARY FILM: FIRST REFORMED -

One not to miss. The priest personifies the world's intense conflicts between the unstoppable forces of destruction (our planet, our relationships, the consequences of the Iraq war, the brutality of corporate polluters, slavery, churches more attuned to materialism than spirituality) and the receding forces of gentleness, compassion, prayers. This isn't a religious movie, though profoundly spiritual.

It reminded me of Dostoyevsky, Camus and the anguish of existing in a universe so corrupted that even the thought of bringing a child seems like a sin to his father. Both Ethan Hawke and Amanda Seyfried are amazing to watch.

BYO drinks and nibbles if desired/Coffee and tea provided after the film

Annual membership fee is \$60 per person (from July 2021 to June 2022)/ 3 month consecutive membership fee is available for \$25 per person





Coming this summer to

Recognised as  
Victoria's Sport Development  
Initiative of the Year,  
Bowling with Babies is a fun activity  
you can enjoy with your little one.



Find out more at  
[playbowlsvictoria.com.au](http://playbowlsvictoria.com.au)

Scan  
& Plan



# Tarwin Lower Union Church

## News



### Regular services:

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Catholic  
and Mass 6.30 p.m. (every Saturday after 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday of the month)

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Anglican/Uniting

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



Thank you to the anonymous person who donated these two figurines to the church.

## CALLING WOMEN

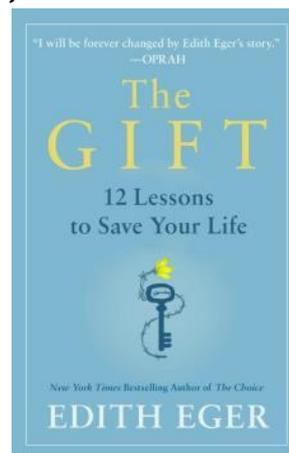
### OF ALL AGES and STAGES

“Let’s get together” to grow, learn and change

## CHOICES

Learning to live every moment as a gift

- It’s not what happens to us most,
- it’s what we choose to do with it.
  
- We look at the vulnerability and
- common challenges we all face.



Continues meeting fortnightly  
from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Tarwin Lower Church tea room  
At 10.30 a.m.

For further information contact:  
Marlene 0419 345 128

# DO YOU LOVE OUR PROM?

Why not consider joining this group – Tidal River Open Spaces

Darby Beach - 20 February 2022, 9.30am

Meet Darby River car park

BYO morning tea.

Join with other community members to walk along the river to the beach and then wander back along the spectacular sandy beach where the tide will be low.

(NOTE: there may be March Flies, so don't wear dark blue)



## TROS Project Status

We would also like to celebrate that there has been some great news from Parks Victoria.

They are now open to working with us to achieve our vision which is to create a place for people to meet and gather, to socialise and to begin their connection to, and appreciation of the wild places they will encounter

during their stay at the Prom.

We still need to find the funds for the project and we will keep working to this goal.

As our valued supporters for the ten plus years we thank you and invite you to join us for the February walk.

NOTE: The world changes rapidly at present so we suggest you keep an eye on the TROS Facebook page for any changes in details due to COVID..

For more information about TROS go to: [www.tidalriveropenspace.com](http://www.tidalriveropenspace.com)

The aim of the TROS walk is to raise awareness about the project. It is not a guided walk. We appreciate that all walkers take personal responsibility for their safety.



Help make this project come to life through a tax deductible donation: go to <http://www.peopleandparks.org/>



# IS YOUR NUMBER UP?

**CERT, CFA, VBCC AND COUNCIL ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP YOU  
SAFE BY PROVIDING REFLECTIVE HOUSE NUMBERS.**

**IT IS A REQUIREMENT TO DISPLAY HOUSE NUMBERS; YOU CAN GET  
YOURS FOR FREE AT VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

# CAN WE FIND YOU?



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

**CERT**





## 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: 56637499, Send mail to Post Office Box 786, Venus Bay 3956

Email: [vbcc@bigpond.com](mailto:vbcc@bigpond.com) 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 Health & Human Services (Victoria) and 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