

# MATTER OF FACT

a free community newsletter published by  
Venus Bay Community Centre

August 2023 Vol 8 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.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY

## COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT – RECAP AND WHAT'S NEXT:

The community resilience and reliable energy feasibility study has now formally concluded with the submission of the final milestone report to the Australian Federal Government, BUT the energy journey for Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower has just begun.

The study that was undertaken over the previous 12 months has identified that serving only essential electricity needs can be achieved with modest investments. It has identified a starting point for delivering these investments and it has highlighted the wealth that can be retained in the local region as it becomes more self-sufficient for energy.

### We've got this! - a Community Plan for Community Energy - action plan launch

We highlight the commitments we have made to extend our efforts past the end of the study. We will run an additional workshop and officially launch the Action Plan. "We've got this! - a community plan for community energy."

The event will celebrate the efforts of community members throughout the past year and invite everyone to be part of building Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower's energy future.

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 20 AUGUST FROM 11AM TO 2PM AT TARWIN LOWER HALL**

### Study legacy

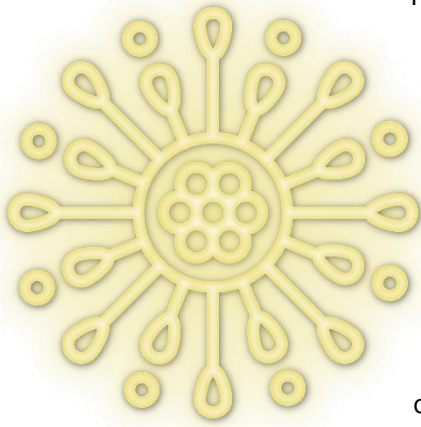
The feasibility study has raised community awareness: of the challenges associated with loss of electrical supply; of the increasing reliance of telecommunications and water on energy; and of the opportunities to increase local energy self-sufficiency. The project team believe that the final film, toolkit and reports will offer other communities inspiration and practical guidance for exploring their own resilience.

### Acknowledgements

The sometimes 'invisible' work of community organising must never go un-acknowledged. It relies on the generosity of community members and project partners who have all willingly donated their time, above and beyond initial expectations. We have detailed around \$300,000 of in-kind and voluntary contributions as well as additional funding. To all project supporters – Thank You.



## Study Outcomes



The fire on 31 December 2021 demonstrates the vulnerability of the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower communities. For around 7 hours, residents were unable to leave Venus Bay if an urgent need arose. Those in the cars photographed were unable to return to their homes.

The study highlighted the interdependence between the two communities. Venus Bay relies on a single access road and the majority of services are located a few kilometres away in Tarwin Lower. When mapping the interconnections between people in the community, the centre of gravity for communal activity shifts to Tarwin Lower, even though there are 2000 homes in Venus Bay and only 300 in Tarwin. The prosperity of Tarwin Lower is contingent on the people who live in and visit Venus Bay. After Workshop 2, where we held an additional event in Tarwin Lower, the study was officially expanded to include the whole community and key services across the two towns.

The feasibility study investigated improvements in community resilience that could be achieved during every loss of power event. In recent years the community has been cut off due to floods and fire. It has suffered a series of multiday electricity outages.

By ensuring energy is made available locally for the most important energy needs the community can be better served during these events.

During the 12 month study and over the course of 4 Workshops, the community has prioritised its own critical sites and critical energy needs, along with determining a set of shared values that will inform and underpin the project implementation. As the energy project evolves from feasibility to implementation, these needs and locations will be first to receive energy investment. The lens of Community Wealth Building has been applied to the action plan to ensure benefits flow to the local community.

The study has raised awareness of the options for people to develop local sources of electricity and use existing backup supplies. It has highlighted the importance of telecommunications and the increasing reliance on electricity to provide internet, mobile phone and EFTPOS services. The solar battery and generator system at Venus Bay Community Centre has been highlighted in each workshop so residents are more aware of the facilities on offer.

Finally, it is an ambition of the project to ensure that the project is of value across the region. The film, a toolkit and webinar and the published reports will all speed other communities in investigating their own resilience opportunities.



**SAVE THE DATE: WEBINAR WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST FROM 5.30PM TO 7PM**

### **Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower Energy Study - what did we learn?**

For the past year the Venus Bay Community Centre has been running a community resilience and reliable energy feasibility study. With the final reports submitted and an action plan drafted, the project team are ready to explain the social, technical and economic results.

What did everyone in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower tell us would make our community more resilient? What will be feasible? How much will it cost? and how will we make sure the money we invest generates wealth in our community for years to come?

This Webinar will go through the study results, leaving plenty of time for questions and a robust conversation. You will leave excited to come to the project launch and eager to be part of the next phase.

REGISTER HERE VIA THIS LINK: : <https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvf-uorTMpHdU6knXOfYeEe8GRjyG3wwG2>

WORKSHOP #4 HARVEST REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE HERE: <https://www.vbcc.org.au/communityenergystudy>

# JOIN US

Sun  
AUG 20  
11am-2pm  
at the Tarwin Lower Hall

Community Energy Resilience and Reliability Feasibility Study at Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower

## We've got this!

*A community plan for community energy*

At the completion of the Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study we will present and discuss the community plan developed over the last 12 months with feedback and input from community members, fine tuning the plan to ensure it makes sense and will work for our community. Then it's time to celebrate what we've achieved so far.

*Please join us*



Scan the QR code for more information on this feasibility study.

This is a **FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**. Your registration will help us with catering. Please let us know if you can come by email: [info@vbcc.org.au](mailto:info@vbcc.org.au)

**VENUS BAY  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**



REDMULLEU creative SGSC / VAN CLEEF RESERVE SIGNAGE

## VAN CLEEF RESERVE SIGNAGE PROJECT – UPDATE

In exciting news, the graphic signage that almost completes the Van Cleef Reserve upgrade project is almost installed.

This project has been on the radar now for nearly 6 years, with original funding from South Gippsland Shire Council in late 2016 allocated to develop a masterplan

to preserve, protect and enhance the significant remnant reserve located in Venus Bay estate #2. Over the years, the project has been delayed for various reasons, but it's great to see it almost complete!

Sculptural features of giant banksias mark the entrance area to the reserve with track work and weed removal undertaken by Shire bush management team. Installation of large rocks creating gathering spaces make areas of the reserve a feature. The graphic signage part of the project will further engage community members with educational and interpretive information about the flora & fauna in the park.



This project has been a collaborative effort – signage design and implementation by Jennine Rouget from Red Mullet Creative, photographs (particularly the bird ones) from Paul Hasting, printing by South Gippy Signs, information and support from Wonthaggi Seed Bank, great work from Shire bus reserve team and passionate advocacy and support from the community advisory group.



One of the marvellous features of the signage are the links to QR codes which enable access to information about the flora and fauna that resides in this reserve. All birds identified have associated birdsong (accessed by QR code) and is an exciting and educational experience while you enjoy the park. Seating provided by large rocks, along with natural gathering places within the park make this an asset for the whole community.



**WELCOME**

VENUS BAY IS AN ISOLATED AND FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM OF OCEAN, RIVER, DUNES, INLET AND SALTMARSH. THIS PROVIDES A RESOURCE RICH REGION THAT HAS ALLOWED PEOPLE IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT TO THRIVE.



## Venus Bay Saltmarsh Project

The Venus Bay Saltmarsh project has received \$80,000 of funding from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action - DEECA.

This will help to develop a scope of work in partnership with DEECA to formally investigate the benefits and value of the project. This will include hazard profiles, engagement with key stakeholders, community, Traditional Owners, Landcare and government agencies and will include key recommendations for action.

This is an exciting investment in Venus Bay – and acknowledges the passionate work of locals over many years to value and preserve the natural environment along the Anderson Inlet – particularly as it relates to impacts of climate change and flooding. The natural saltmarsh of the Inlet shows nature at its finest – with the saltmarsh acting as a giant sponge when water levels are high, and reducing flood impact on surrounding areas. The saltmarsh area is also both home and feeding ground for the abundant birdlife we see.

### Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands are a critical part of our natural environment. They protect our shores from wave action, reduce the impacts of floods, absorb pollutants and improve water quality. They provide habitat for animals and plants and many contain a wide diversity of life, supporting plants and animals that are found nowhere else.

Wetlands provide an important range of environmental, social and economic services. Many wetlands are areas of great natural beauty and many are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Wetlands also provide important benefits for industry. For example, they form nurseries for fish and other freshwater and marine life and are critical to Australia's commercial and recreational fishing industries.

Wetlands are the vital link between land and water.



Saltmarsh area of Anderson's Inlet, Venus Bay – the same land – different land use and management as shown above.

## DRAFT COASTAL STRATEGY NOW AVAILABLE FOR FEEDBACK

Over summer, the South Gippsland Shire Council undertook a significant consultation and review of the Coastal Strategy that guides and protects our natural coastal assets.

Many people were able to provide their input and perspective to the strategy – with many identifying the risks of overdevelopment of our fragile coastal areas as a key concern.

The draft Strategy goes through the concerns raised, community feedback, and with reference to other state and federal legislation, sets out a set of **draft actions** below.

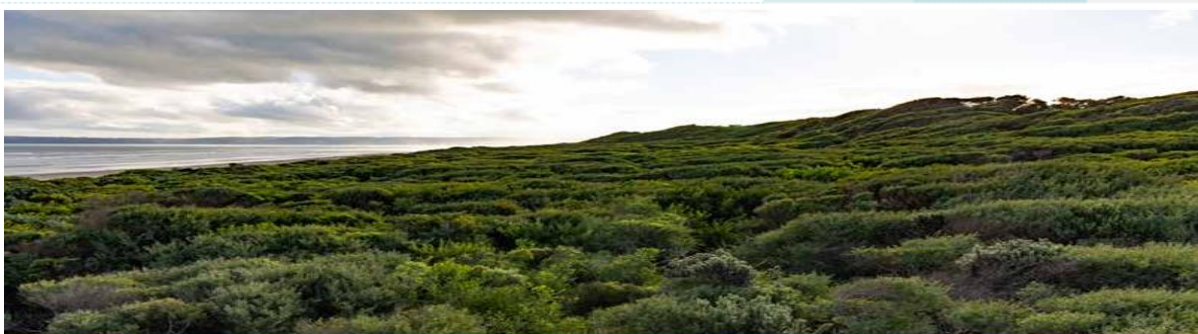
TO VIEW THE FULL DOCUMENT AND HAVE YOUR SAY: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/coastal-strategy-two>

### 1. POPULATION PRESSURE AND DEVELOPMENT

ACTIONS	Short Term	Medium Term	Longer Term
1.1 Review and update the Housing and Settlement Strategy as appropriate to reflect updated conditions, policy or available science affecting coastal settlements		X	
1.2 Where state coastal planning policy is being considered for change, advocate for change that more directly communicates coastal hazard and climate change risk through new planning scheme zone or overlay controls that more directly identify, address and promote the risk.	X		
1.3 Remove all coastal township greenfield residential growth areas from the planning scheme framework plan maps, and retain the township boundaries consistent with the current application of each township's urban land zoning.		X	
1.4 Explore the strategic justification for Council to restrict or discourage the development of more than one dwelling per lot and the subdivision of land which increases dwelling development potential	X		
1.5 Support existing State Planning Policy in a commitment to retain coastal townships to within their existing urban zoned boundaries.	X		

### 2. ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE

ACTIONS	Short Term	Medium Term	Longer Term
2.1 Advocate for the implementation of new or updated hazard risk mapping and policy changes to identify, to our best ability, current and anticipated coastal hazard risks affecting the values of our coastal areas.	X		
2.2 Investigate the 'Common Ground' community initiative on the land adjoining Andersons Inlet at Venus Bay that proposes nature-based adaptation concepts that if implemented, will assist in managing storm surge, flooding and coastal erosion.		X	
2.3 Proactively work with, and advocate to, the State and Federal Government for the preparation and implementation of nature-based solutions to manage the impacts of environmental coastal hazard risks.		X	
2.4 Prioritise the implementation of new or updated hazard risk mapping and policy changes to identify current and anticipated coastal hazard risks affecting the values of our coastal areas. This includes timely planning scheme implementation of the recommendations of the Cape to Cape Resilience Project.	X		
2.5 Update Council's local planning policy on coastal climate risk to more clearly set out the long term risks posed to our townships.	X		





### 3. DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE LAND MANAGEMENT

ACTIONS	Short Term	Medium Term	Longer Term
3.1 Engage with communities in Venus Bay and Sandy Point to determine their preferences and priorities for paths and trails infrastructure. The engagement will build on information that was obtained through the coastal strategy consultation and address specific projects and routes.	X		
3.2 Investigate development of a township character study for South Gippsland.			X
3.3 Ensure community town plans are updated to align with the Coastal Strategy and the Blueprint for Community and Economic Infrastructure. Updates should occur when the documents are due for renewal.		X	
3.4 Work with Southern Rural Water, the Environmental Protection Authority Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action to resolve the issue of ground water bores.			X
3.5 Partner with the State and Federal Government to investigate options and issues with seawalls and coastal levees.		X	
3.6 Engage with Yanakie Boat Sheds owners, and other related stakeholders, regarding future land management options.		X	

### 4. COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY

ACTIONS	Short Term	Medium Term	Longer Term
4.1 Work with community and emergency organisations to identify areas of concern in relation to volunteer recruitment and identify opportunities for volunteer collaboration and connection.	X		
4.2 Engage with coastal communities to determine if there are specific actions or initiatives that can be included in the <i>Visitor Economy Strategy 2021-2031</i> , the <i>Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031</i> and the <i>Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Strategy 2022 - 2026</i> .		X	
4.3 Thorough Council's Emergency Management team, work with other emergency services, community groups and resident associations to promote community safety in coastal areas.	X		
4.4 Develop a Short Stay Accommodation strategy in consultation with local communities, particularly those located in coastal areas that may be impacted by future planning controls.		X	
4.5 Continue to work with Indigenous communities and State Government in the protection of cultural heritage in our coastal areas and consider heritage values and protection in the preparation of coastal hazard assessments.	X		
4.6 Investigate if there is interest in reconvening the Community Dialogue group on a semi-regular basis.		X	

## Purpose of this document

This Coastal Strategy is a key strategic document and a Council Plan objective. It sets out how Council will work to identify and mitigate coastal hazards in order to protect coastal communities and our precious coastal environment.



Hi folks! Happy to report that this month the Hall is hosting more movie nights and gigs to keep us all warm and connected through winter! My thanks to those that joined us for 'Sally Ford and the Idiomatics' in July. What a truly special and intimate night of luscious live music. More news on live music to come in next months' newsletter!

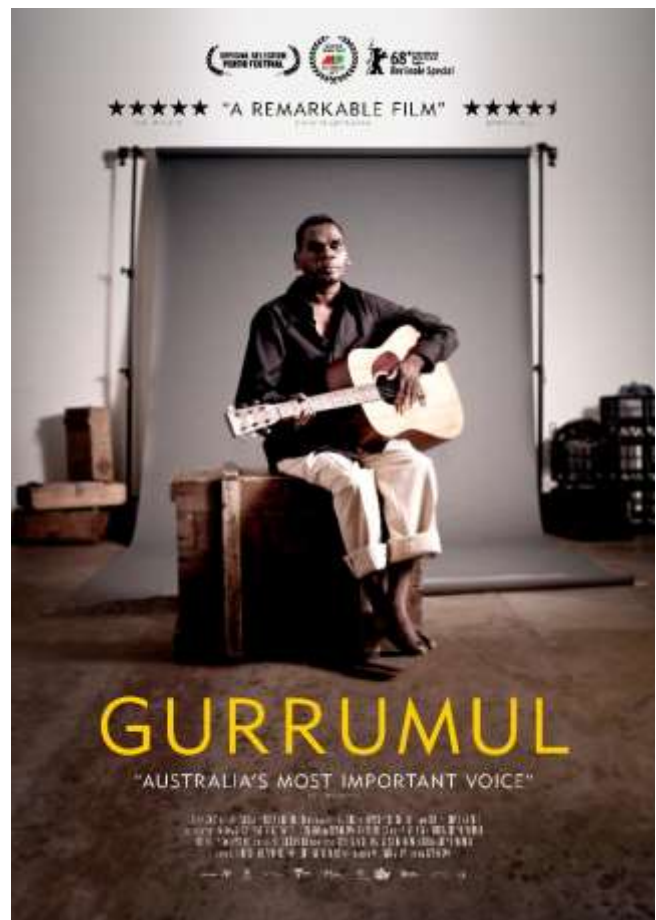


The Tarwin and District Auto and Machinery Club is bringing a classic movie to our screen on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August – **“The Italian Job”** (1969) starring Michael Caine and Noel Coward.

*“Charlie has a "job" to do. Having just left prison, he finds one of his friends has attempted a high-risk job in Italy right under the nose of the Mafia. Charlie's friend doesn't get very far, so Charlie takes over the "job". Using three Mini Coopers, a couple of Jaguars, and a bus, he hopes to bring Turin to a standstill, steal the gold, and escape.”*

Tickets \$15 at the door. Please support the Car Club in the lead up to presenting their Auto Festival at the Tarwin Lower Reserve on **Sunday 5 November**.

Our **Tarwin Lower Film Society** brings to you this month the inspirational story of *“Gurrumul”*. Celebrated by audiences at home and abroad, indigenous artist Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu was one of the most important and acclaimed voices to ever come out of Australia. Blind from birth, he found purpose and meaning through songs and music inspired by his community and country on Elcho Island in far North East Arnhem Land. Living a traditional Yolngu life, his breakthrough album 'Gurrumul' brought him to a crossroads as audiences and artists around the world began to embrace his music. GURRUMUL is a portrait of an artist on the brink of global reverence, and the struggles he and those closest to him faced in balancing that which mattered most to him and keeping the show on the road. Screening on **Friday 18 August, Doors 7pm; Film 7:30pm** BYO your drinks and snacks. [Trybooking.com](http://Trybooking.com)



**MORE MUSIC for a great cause...**

**ROCK FOR WILDLIFE FUNDRAISER. Saturday 5 August @ The Hall**

Get behind Sue Moore and the magnificent work she does caring for injured wildlife in our community. Details below.



That's all for this month, if you are interested in getting involved in any of these activities or want to run your own - get in touch, our committee is completely voluntary, our mission is community – it's your hall!

Cheers,

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

# Tarwin Lower District and Community Health Centre

## Art Exhibition

Sunday 27th August -2.30 to 4 pm

Wine, tea, coffee and nibble's

\$5 donation

All proceeds from the sale of artwork support the Tarwin Health Centre.



### GRANTS ONLY GROUP

The GOG team wish to thank BHWF for this funding 2023 to purchase a new HP laptop computer. We would also like to thank BHWF for the funding they provide to the communities of Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower & Walkerville during each year.

Since the commencement of BHWF grant funding in 2015, GOG have written and submitted 38 applications totalling \$70,076.50 with 30 successful applications totalling **\$56,384.50** a success rate of **80.46%**. These applications have been submitted on behalf of many local organisations and groups. Our GOG team has been successful with 5 grants totalling \$7624.

The communities of VB, TL, Walkerville have been able to enhance infrastructure and equipment for many individual organisations and groups, assisting them to move forward.

We at the GOG team thank BHWF for your ongoing support.



## Art Connect South Gippsland's ArtsTrail / Open Studios 2023

Art Connect South Gippsland is inviting expressions of interest from artist studios, galleries and artist activations to participate in the 2023 Art Connect South Gippsland Art Trail.

The Art Connect South Gippsland Art Trail 2023 will be enhanced with a marketing campaign to promote the creative community of South Gippsland Shire region to relevant local, regional and interstate markets.

Dates:

Saturday 23rd September 2023 - Sunday 24th September 2023

Saturday 30th September 2023 - Sunday 1st October 2023

Saturday 7th October 2023 - Sunday 8th October 2023

Saturday 14th October 2023 - Sunday 15th October 2023

Hours of Operation:

Saturday and Sunday 10.00am to 4.00pm



To participate a minimal fee will be charged to those participating to cover Back of House activities and Advertising:

Per Solo Artist Studios, private home/studio, artist exhibiting in his or her own space \$35.00. ***(If there is more than one artist exhibiting in the venue it is \$50.00 per venue)***

Galleries \$50.00

Community Centres \$50.00

Retail Businesses in Tarwin Lower Venus Bay region \$35.00

### The Goals and Objectives of Art Connect South Gippsland's Arts Trail / Open Studios 2023 Event

1. To draw visitation to the South Gippsland shire and promote our creative industries thereby supporting Artists, Galleries, Restaurants, Cafes and Hospitality providers in our region.
2. To aid in reflecting the quality and range of fine Arts and crafts practised in South Gippsland and to make our artist's work more accessible to the public through open studios and exhibitions.
3. To create opportunities for locals and visitors to meet talented local artists, See works in progress, ask questions, get a glimpse behind the scenes as to how artworks are created and to visit private working studios.
4. To promote and foster collaboration within the Arts community and between this community and other sectors eg:
  - A. Through the Arts Trail assist in connecting artists with each other to develop relationships and opportunities for artists to share ideas between each other.
  - B. Through the Arts Trail assist in further connecting artists with local Galleries.
5. To promote, encourage and support the practice and application of the Arts across the many communities in South Gippsland, Eg:
  - ☑ Through the Arts Trail assist Artists and Arts Groups, in each town in South Gippsland, to find out and connect with each other.
6. To contribute to strengthen and creating financially secure Arts businesses, groups and activities. Eg:
  - ☑ Through the Arts Trail create another income stream for artists to sell their work through.
7. To access and receive financial support, donations, grants and other resources. Eg:
  - ☑ Through the Arts Trail Event, seek sponsorship support from small businesses, corporates, Arts patrons and others, to assist in meeting costs, incurred by Arts Connect South Gippsland, associated with the Arts Trail Event and for future Arts Connect South Gippsland Arts activities.
8. To examine and or find ways Art Connect South Gippsland can engage with Council to assist in facilitating the Arts Trail Event in 2023 and that will assist facilitating future Arts Trail events.
9. To use the Arts Trail Event in 2023 to identify local artists in order to develop a more current and comprehensive data base of Artists practicing in South Gippsland.

For all any enquiries or questions regarding this document please email: [artconnectsouthgippsland@gmail.com](mailto:artconnectsouthgippsland@gmail.com)

# 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. (note new time)

*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***

## Coming up:

\*Women's discussion group: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> August at 10.30 a.m.

\*KYB (Bible study): 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August at 3 p.m.

*Look out for photos of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in next months edition!!*

Victorian Energy Rebate Scheme closes soon.

If you are a Victorian resident, you might be well aware of the energy rebate scheme that has been providing financial relief to households across the state. The Victorian State Government introduced this initiative to ease the burden of rising energy costs and promote energy efficiency.

If you haven't taken advantage of this opportunity yet, time is running out. The current scheme opened on March 24<sup>th</sup> and is set to **close on August 31st**, and this is your last chance to claim.

Under the scheme, all Victorian households have been eligible to receive a generous \$250 rebate. The money can be used to offset energy bills or invest in energy-saving measures, making it an excellent opportunity for families to reduce their utility expenses.

Applying for the rebate is a straightforward process however the Venus Bay Community Centre can assist you with your application.

As the closing date approaches, it's important to spread the word and ensure that every eligible household takes advantage of this financial boost. Whether you're a homeowner or a renter, this rebate is available to you, and it's an opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

So, if you haven't applied for the energy rebate yet, don't wait any longer August 31st is just around the corner.



## We've been having a whale of a time!

The small pod of whales made by volunteers from recycled denim and other offerings at the VBCC Op-Shop is growing. Gradually whales of all shapes and sizes are joining the pod. They are all unique. They all have big personalities and they all have their own story to tell.

Repurposing materials into wonderful whales helps create an awareness of ocean life and an investment in the welfare of whales everywhere. Caring for the environment, reducing waste, reusing and upcycling all has a positive impact on our oceans and the life within.

Whales swim along our coast at this time of year having made the long journey from the colder northern oceans to our warmer shallower waters to give birth and raise their calves. After several months of lolling around off shore they will make their long journey back. Their annual pilgrimage is an exceptionally long one and threats to their wellbeing are ever increasing.

Whales are unique, beautiful, graceful and mysterious. They nurture, bond, play, sing and cooperate with one another. But whales are suffering. Pollution kills whales.

All the whales in the VBCC pod are a little bit scarred. They show the signs of near misses on their journeys - strikes from tankers, tangles with fishing nets and pollution- both noise and environmental. Some scars show, some are hidden.

### Introducing:

**George** is a big whale and he's not young anymore. He's swum many kilometres over the years. North to south and then back again, many, many times. So he knows a thing or two about what goes on in the oceans! It used to be a beautiful journey. Now it's tough. A couple of times he's been badly caught up in commercial fish netting. That took a toll to his wellbeing. He has a nasty scar on his back from a cargo vessel strike. That was serious. He's also been through some dreadful pollution way out in the middle of the ocean. A huge rubbish dump at sea. It was dreadful being caught up in it. Each year the pile gets bigger and harder to avoid. George carries a few 'souvenirs' from that experience and he uses them to remind other whales of what's out there.



**Simon** is a singer of songs. He sings beautiful, long and complex songs that travel far through the oceans. Simon loves to share these songs with the pod and teach the youngins' his tunes. On his journey south, Simon travels fast but once he's in these warm shallow southern waters, he'll slow the pace, roll back and sing on endlessly. The whole pod loves listening. They flop around carefree for hours while Simon sings his tales.

Stay tuned for more Whale stories as we introduce the whole pod in the near future. The whales will be offered for sale at a later date.

# Sip @ Paint Venus whales

location Venus Bay Community Centre 27 Canterbury Road Venus Bay



**Saturday 2nd  
September  
2.30-5.00  
\$60 P.P**

**JOIN THE FUN AND LEARN  
SOME ACRYLIC PAINTING  
TECHNIQUES. LAUGH DRINK AND  
LEAVE WITH YOUR OWN  
MASTERPIECE . B.Y.O**

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/1094881/sessions/4062749/sections/2039839/tickets>



Next Competition Date

Venus Bay Angling Club will hold the August Fishing Competition on 11th, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August starting 12 noon on the 11th.

There will be a weigh in each day at the club 4-6pm Friday, 4-7pm Saturday and

2.30 -3.00 p.m. Sunday when the winners of the competition will be announced. 1<sup>st</sup> prize for financial members is a \$50 voucher from the Cavity. For non members there is a \$5 entry fee which includes the Saturday night BBQ.

We welcome new members or if you just want some information about the club or fishing, drop in and have a chat. Young Ryder Field won a trophy for his salmon caught in the July comp.





# VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

## MONDAY

10.00 - 12.00

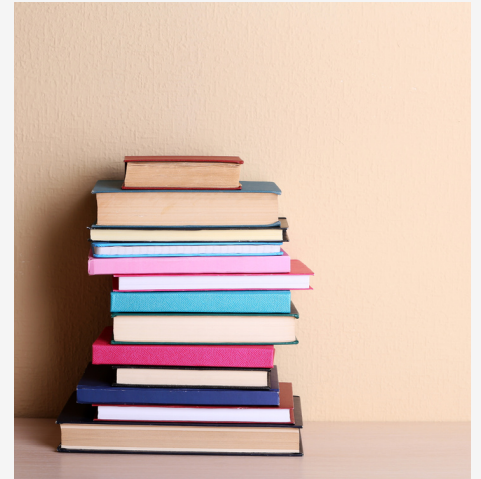
SILVER BANKSIA PLANT  
GROUP



## TUESDAY

5.00 - 6.30

BOOK CLUB 2ND TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH



## WEDNESDAY

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH  
WEDNESDAYS 12.00



## THURSDAY

UKULELE

7.00 - 8.30

\$5.00



# Winter Activities

phone 5663 7499  
info@vbcc.org.au

## Time For Tea?

I was pondering over a cup of tea the other day and realised that most people have a collection of old tea cups & saucers they never use. I am not talking about Nanna's fine china that you use on those special occasions. I'm talking about the cup & saucers that came with every dinner set you've ever bought.

Nowadays in our time poor lives we tend to reach for the mug, instead of the tea cup and saucer, unless of course we're hosting a high tea. Does that mean that the humble cup and saucer doesn't have a place in our lives anymore? I think not, with a little imagination they can be upcycled into something useful & beautiful.

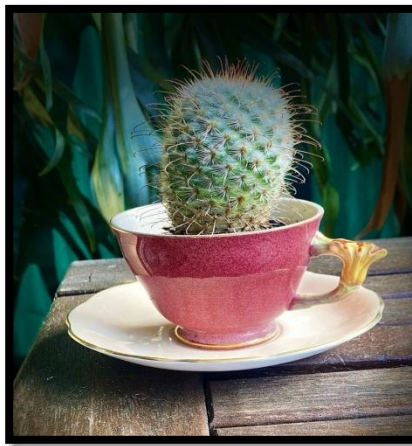
So next time you are cleaning out the cupboards, think again before throwing these little gems away.

Other suggestions include: Tea Light Candle Holders, Bird Feeders, Bird Baths, Vases, Hair tie holder, Tea Cup Pincushions. The possibilities are endless. Get the kids involved and see how many fabulous ways you can upcycle these little treasures. I have included a few of my favourite ideas to get you started, so what are you waiting for, have a little tea cup fun today!

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Kaz – Recycle Enterprise Coordinator

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**Tea Cup Planter** – Grab a cup and saucer, add some potting mix, pop in your plant and hey presto, you have upcycled your old tea cup. Use a vintage tea cup or add some pebbles for a more upmarket look. Pop a bow on it and it makes a fantastic gift. (Cactus & succulents work best)

**Jewellery Organiser** – Great for organising earrings, chains and rings.

Simply add some jewellery for an instant upcycle! Possibly the easiest upcycling project of all time.



**Guest caddy** – Give your guests the five star treatment, with a little personalised touch on their bedside table. Simply fill your tea cup with mini toiletries.

Introducing Kaz Marlow as our new Community Recycling Enterprise Coordinator – we're thrilled to have Kaz as a part of our team.

She's had an interesting first week – with the unexpected but very welcome refurbishment of the floors at the Venus Bay Community Centre! Many thanks to our wonderful team of helpers who removed everything from the main hall (PHEW!!) and are now putting everything back again – with a gorgeous new floor! Thanks to everyone for their understanding as we closed for a week – but we're back open and welcome your donations. If you have any time to spare, we'd love to have your help with all the many things the Community Centre has to offer.



## 2023-2024 VOLUNTEER GRANTS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

Expressions of Interest for the 2023-24 Volunteer Grants are now open for eligible not-for profit community organisations.

Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to support the needs of volunteers in our community.

This funding is to be used to:

- Purchase eligible small equipment items for use by volunteers
- Contribute to volunteers' fuel costs
- Contribute to transport costs for volunteers with disabilities who are unable to drive
- Assist with the cost of training courses for volunteers
- Undertake background screening checks for volunteers
- Conduct activities to promote awareness of, and increase participating in volunteering opportunities
- Adapting practices to support volunteers' safety in the current pandemic environment

The activity must be undertaken in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

To be eligible to apply you must be an organisation that has been nominated by your Federal MP and:

- Be a legal entity or be an unincorporated association that agrees to the primary contact on your application entering into an agreement on behalf of the unincorporated association
- Have a minimum of 40% of volunteers working for your organisation
- Be a Not-For-Profit organisation
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or be willing to provide a Statement by Supplier Form (reason for not quoting an ABN).
- Have an account with an Australian financial institution in the name of the organisation applying.

**Expressions of Interest must be submitted by 5pm AEST 8 September 2023 via the EOI form found [here](#).**



### Hard Waste Collection Bookings Open

Bookings are now open for South Gippsland Shire Council's annual hard waste collection service.

The service provides residents with a convenient way to dispose of hard rubbish at home, particularly if they are unable to attend a transfer station themselves. All South Gippsland residential properties are eligible to receive one collection at a fee of \$150 per property. A reduced rate of \$53 applies for pension card holders.

The hard waste collection in South Gippsland is a 'user pays' service, which means only those using the service pay for it. In some areas, the cost of the hard waste collection service is passed on to all residents through higher fees and charges, regardless of whether or not

they use the collection. The 'user pays' system also helps to encourage waste reduction and recycling.

Bookings for the hard waste collection service can be made during July and August. The collections themselves take place during October and November. A maximum of two cubic metres of waste can be placed out for collection and all waste should be located within the property boundary if possible.

Bookings can be made online at:

**[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/hardwaste](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/hardwaste)**



## Gippsland on display – Volunteers needed

The Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower Men’s Shed in concert with the Tarwin Automotive Club are hosting a South Gippsland lifestyle event, Sunday of Melbourne Cup weekend – 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The event will be held at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Oval from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

We are expecting a similar crowd to the last event – in excess of 1200.

Around the Oval will be Exhibitor and Food Stalls

Sharing the inner Oval will be a secure children’s amusement area and Automotive display.

We are seeking as many volunteers as possible whether from our local community organisations or just interested helpers. Areas of particular need include traffic & parking control. Free lunch will be provided.

For further information contact Garry Dobbs **0400 212 044** or David Miller **0407 956 211**

If you are able to assist, please fill in the area below and return to David or Garry.

.....

Name: .....

Contact

Phone: .....


Email:.....

I will be available:

Sunday Morning - 8.30 am – 12.30 pm

Sunday Afternoon 12.00 pm– 4.00 pm

All Sunday 8.30 am – 4.00 pm



## Have you practised your home fire escape plan?



House fires move fast and can fill your home with smoke in a matter of minutes. Nobody wants to think about a house fire, yet, on average 18 Victorians lose their lives to preventable house fires each year.

To safeguard your loved ones, follow these tips:

- **Know what to do if a fire occurs.** Whether you're a homeowner or renter you should have a [home fire escape plan](#) ready to go.
- **Practise your plan** with your family, and everyone who lives with you, so you know what to do.
- **You can't escape if your doors are deadlocked.** If you must lock yourself in, ensure you keep the key in the deadlock.
- **Get down low** to stay out of smoke.
- If it is safe, **close doors to slow the spread** of fire and smoke.
- **Alert other people** on your way out.
- **Get out, stay out.** Never go back into a burning building.
- **Meet at a safe place** such as the letterbox out the front of your home.
- **Call 000 (triple zero, fire)** from a mobile phone or a neighbour's phone.
- If someone in your household is older or has a disability, plan ahead and **complete the [Prevent Detect Escape e-learning module](#)**.
- The best protection against fire is prevention; **install smoke alarms in all bedrooms**, living spaces, and corridors today.

For more information on how to make a Home Fire Escape Plan, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au).



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

**MyCFA**

OUR COMMUNITY • OUR CFA



# 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