

MATTER OF FACT

a free community newsletter published by
Venus Bay Community Centre

DECEMBER 2022 Vol 12 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.

AN UPCYCLED CHRISTMAS

They say one person's trash is another person's...Kris Kringle present? At Venus Bay Recycle Centre we get in so many wonderful and reusable donations and even some brand-new treasures so why not upcycle this year when trying to find that \$10 gift for your workmate and get creative in the op shop.



Upcycling is a great way to help the environment, reduce waste and is also a fun way to find a more personal gift rather than opting out for the pack of chockies or that soap pack that with the NQR odour.

We all have done the ol' rewrap at some point and regifted a present given to us around Christmas time when we have forgotten to buy for poor uncle Larry, this is just on a larger scale. Some suggestions to help you out when shopping for a Kris Kringle at the recycle centre could

include purchasing a fun mug with a funny slogan, or why not get creative and fill wine glasses with chocolates, purchase a punch bowl and turn it into a succulent garden or even browse the games section to find a Christmas day cracker.

I personally think a stack of DVD's will be the best Christmas present for my dad. Looking forward to seeing what you all come up with please don't hesitate to ask the creative staff at Venus Bay Recycling Centre for any Kris Kringle help and ideas. Jorja.



FRIDAY 23 December
4pm - 6PM
JUPITER PARK, VENUS BAY

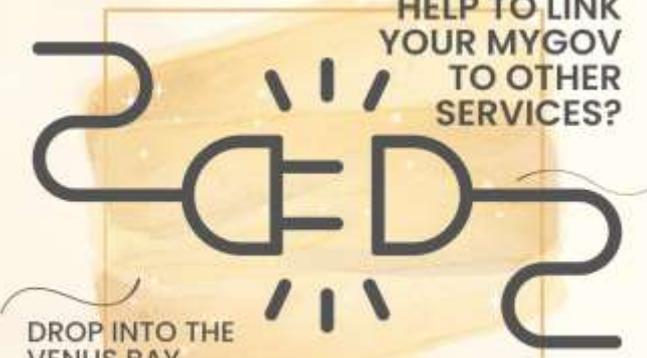
**SANTA
ON THE FIRE TRUCK IN
THE PARK**

BYO PICNIC & DRINKS
EVERYONE WELCOME
COVID SAFE RULES APPLY

Santa brings toys to all the children at the Christmas party.

This year Santa has been encouraged to reduce his plastics use and will be introducing recycled items into his gift giving.

DO YOU NEED
HELP TO LINK
YOUR MYGOV
TO OTHER
SERVICES?



DROP INTO THE
VENUS BAY
COMMUNITY CENTRE
FOR ASSISTANCE.



Power Saving Bonus \$250

Bring in a copy of you power bill and we can submit online for you.

This offer is available to anyone with a Victorian Power account

It only takes about 5 minutes to complete.



Local Plants

Our Locally grown plants are FOR SALE at the Community Centre.

Get in before the weather gets too hot for planting.

If you would like advice about the plants drop in on a Monday morning and speak with Tahnia between 10.00 & 12.00




COMMUNITY TRAILERS

FOR LOCAL USE ONLY

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE



COMMUNITY ENERGY for Venus Bay?

Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study at Venus Bay

let's talk about the possibilities of community owned energy!



Keep up to date with planned community consultations via the timeline on the back. For more information scan the QR code or head to: vbcc.org.au/communityenergy



Welcome to Bulletin #4 December '22

Speed-dating with energy experts

So many questions, who to ask?

A renewable energy expert, of course.

Venus Bay Community Centre recently organised a Speed-date a renewable energy expert so local people who are trying to decide about solar and batteries could ask the many questions they have.

Over 30 local people took advantage of this opportunity, moving from table to table and spending at least 20 minutes with each of the energy experts, just like a speed dating event, only with solar and batteries on their minds.

Representatives from JMC Electrics, Sunscape Solar, Grid Edge Batteries and Redback Technologies spent time

discussing solar and batteries with householders trying to choose the best solution, for their homes and to be 'microgrid ready' – that is, able to connect with any future community energy system in Venus Bay.

Maybe not every question was answered, but everyone learnt something and got much closer to understanding which equipment might meet their energy needs.



Let's talk about Energy

Look out for members of the Community Energy Project Team at markets and street stalls around Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower over summer.

We'll be the geeks having a great time chatting about all things renewable energy with anyone wanting to know what this community project is all about.



Venus Bay Voices by Marian Quartly

I am a part-time resident of Venus Bay. Like many part-timers, I would be happy to be here full-time if big city duties didn't get in the way. My interest in the Community Energy Project is both personal and social.

My partner and I are both on the wrong side of 80. A reliable power supply is crucial to our health and well-being. We need electricity for water, sewerage, heat, cooling, cooking, and communication.

Power outages, especially those that come without any warning, are potentially dangerous for us, and for other elderly residents. We are not in a position to help ourselves by installing solar panels; our roof is shaded by neighbouring trees which are rich with bird-life.

A community-owned power facility that could guarantee local supply meets our personal needs, and offers other benefits as well. Knowing that some of my elderly neighbours are isolated and vulnerable, I welcome the community energy project as a way of protecting those unable to protect themselves and, possibly, of drawing more part-timers into a rewarding commitment to our community.

Venus Bay Community Centre and Mycelia Renewables representatives are the outreach members of the Project Team

Neighbourhood batteries unpacked

Household batteries, BIG batteries, electric vehicle batteries and neighbourhood batteries are all technologies we are hearing more and more about. But how do they work, what do they look like, and how might they be part of the energy mix in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower?

Let's focus on neighbourhood batteries first, because they are high on the list of options being considered for our Community Energy solution.

A neighbourhood battery is bigger than a household battery but smaller than the BIG batteries, like the one in South Australia. They might sit on an electricity pole, at the end of a street or near the electricity sub-station. Their job is essentially to soak up excess solar energy coming into the grid during the day and then sharing it back out at night-time. Neighbourhood batteries are anywhere from four to 50 times the size of a typical household battery.

So, neighbourhood batteries can store and share energy locally, rather than bringing it in from afar. They can also reduce the ups and downs in energy supply caused when there's lots of sun and wind, or none at all, producing too much or too little energy in the grid. The batteries do this by storing or releasing energy at a steady rate to stabilise the flow of energy through the powerlines.

Photos – Top left - pole top battery in Highett; Bottom left - Yarra Energy Foundation, Fitzroy North neighbourhood battery is 284kWh and about the size of four large fridges.



Community groups are super interested in neighbourhood batteries because of the many benefits they can provide, such as more local and reliable energy, whether you have solar or not and increasing the amount of renewable energy the grid can handle. For example, if there was a neighbourhood battery, or several, in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower, we could have more local solar energy.

Our Community Energy Research Team is busy looking at where the best spots for neighbourhood batteries might be across our townships. They'll look at how much rooftop solar there is already and where a battery could help soak up any extra energy and increase capacity for more.

Batteries are still expensive, so we also need to consider how to fund them, who would own them and how households and businesses would put energy in and take energy out. This is the next area of research the Team will be undertaking and so we'll describe some of the options in the next Bulletin.

The Victorian Government is funding neighbourhood battery studies and installations with energy companies and community groups. Follow this [link](#) to an interactive map that includes examples of neighbourhood batteries popping up around Victoria. We have included some photos of three great examples below.

Photo - Bottom right - Yackandandah community battery is 274kWh and sits at an old sawmill with 65kW of solar. Its economics are improved by being located behind the meter at the sawmill and selling much of its energy directly to the sawmill.



Ways you can get involved in the Community Energy Project

You can share your household energy use so the research is informed by how people *actually* use energy. Please go to the [Home Energy Usage link](#) to follow step-by-step instructions on how to do this. You'll see a survey there that we hope you will fill in too. Catch up with us at Tarwin Lower Market on Jan 2nd, see us at the Venus Bay shops or Community Centre over Summer or come to Workshop #2 on Feb 11th when we'll be going through the different community energy options.

Holiday dates for regular activities

**Silver Banksia
Plant group
Mondays
10.00 - 12.00**



Continuing
through
January
(no activity
December
26th only)

Does not
stop

**Book Club
2nd Tuesday
of the Month
5.00 - 6.30**



**Current
book**

**FREE Community
Lunch
Wednesdays
12.00**



Last lunch for
2022 - Dec 14th

Returning Feb 1st



**Sewing
last session
Dec 15th
Returns
Feb 2023**

A stitchin time
social sewing
group
3rd Wednesday
of the month
5.00 - 6.30
Nibbles and chat
BYO project

**Sewing
mornings
every
wednesday**
BYO Project or help
with upcycling
projects

**Last meetup
Dec 8th
Recommences
Feb 2nd**

**Play group
Thursdays
9.30 - 11.00**



**SAT DEC 3RD – SHARK DISC PARK CLUB – TARWIN LOWER REC RESERVE –
WALKERVILLE RD**

- AUSSIE DISC GOLF DAY TOURNAMENT -

REGISTRATION 9.00am for a 9.30am start - \$30 Adults - \$5 Juniors

Discs are available thru the Venus Bay Community Centre for hire, or our local
Tarwin IGA have discs in stock for purchase

Please come along and support this Community Event – great prizes on offer
Enquiries – Shark Disc Park Club Facebook site





THE VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
& RECYCLING SHOP STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

*Wish you a safe and happy
holiday season and a great
New Year*

WE WILL CLOSE ON THE 22ND OF DECEMBER AND
REOPEN DECEMBER 27th 10.00



Community Singing

Each Monday in January

7.00 - 8.15pm

\$10 per night

Everyone welcome

No experience necessary

You do not need to be able to
read music.

led Wendy Sellings

visited the Great Blasket and fell in love with it.

build the village as a holiday



HELP A HOODIE THIS SUMMER

Along the sandy beaches between San Remo and Waratah Bay lives a special little shorebird called the Hooded Plover. Hooded Plovers are medium-sized shorebirds found along the shorelines of beaches, and typically nest on the sand during the busy summer months when we are also enjoying the beach. Unfortunately because their nests and chicks are so small and well camouflaged, they can be easily crushed underfoot or destroyed by dogs and foxes. Hooded Plovers are shy by nature and easily disturbed by beachgoers and animals. If disturbed, adult Hooded Plovers may abandon their nest leaving chicks vulnerable to predators or starvation.

To ensure Hooded Plovers have a successful breeding season this year we can all play a part in protecting them. **While enjoying the beach this summer you can help a Hooded Plover by:**

- **Walking your dog on a leash at all beaches**
- **Keep to designated paths and walking areas**
- **Following beach signage suggestions to protect shorebirds**
- **Maintaining a distance from fenced off areas**
- **Walk close to the water's edge where possible**
- **Place towels and beach activities well away from nests (not between the nests and shoreline).**

We can all enjoy our beautiful Gippsland beaches this summer while sharing them with these special birds.

Photo credit: Glenn Ehmke, Birdlife Australia





In March 2022 Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Funding (BHWF) opened and for the project title **“Accessible Community AED Defibrillator”** was for us to apply for a Zoll AED 3 Defibrillator and keypad cabinet to be housed externally on the 2nd estate. In May we received a successful letter from BHWF announcing we’d receive funding of \$2000 towards the project of \$3446, and the presentation was held at Tarwin Riverview Hotel in June.

All this process was successfully organized and facilitated by our local Grants Only Group Inc (GOG).

This equipment will be permanently stationed and maintained on 2nd estate @ Corner Alida Street and 92 McIndoe Avenue for easy access for 2nd and 3rd estate residents.



Mr Russell Broadbent MP for Monash attended the unveiling of project title **“Power for LIFE”** this included an AED and petrol Generator, being housed at Walkerville Satellite Station (CFA) 20 Panoramic Drive, Prom View Estate Walkerville on Thursday 17th November 2022.

In attendance were members from the Walkerville Residents and Ratepayers Association and Venus Bay & District CERT Responders and Committee.

L to R back row Jack Schultz, Douglas Don, Francis Mor

L to R front row Bart Harrold, Denise Gravatt, Paula Gibb, Yolanda Lawton, Russell Broadbent, Wendy Don Juneen Schultz, Anne Terrell

MEDIA RELEASE / Monday 28 November 2022

Venus Bay to trial public rescue equipment at drowning hot spot

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) have banded together to install and trial public rescue equipment at Venus Bay in the state's east.

Venus Bay's number one to five beaches are among some of the state's most hazardous, with seven lives tragically being lost to drowning at Venus Bay in the decade ending 2021.

With the risk of drowning increasing at unpatrolled locations or outside of patrol season, LSV and Venus Bay SLSC, thanks to funding from the Australian Government through the Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) beach drowning blackspot reduction program, is working towards the installation and trial of public rescue equipment at Venus Bay, following a period of community consultation with part and full-time residents.

LSV general manager health promotion and communications Dr Bernadette Matthews said LSV's consultation and risk assessment found that public rescue equipment would decrease the risk to bystanders performing rescues at unpatrolled locations.

"As much as LSV urges people to swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled locations, the reality is that not everyone will follow this advice, so we are investigating other means of keeping the community safe while enjoying our beaches," Dr Matthews said.

"Our consultation found that members of the community would feel more confident performing a bystander rescue with the appropriate safety equipment, which aligns with the training our own patrolling lifesavers undertake, which is to always make sure you have rescue equipment when attempting a rescue.

"This is an important reminder of the importance of having access to safety equipment or a flotation device such as a surfboard before performing a rescue. Even with safety equipment, the very first step you should take before attempting a rescue is assessing the danger to yourself, the patient and any bystanders - and if in doubt, don't go out.

"The last thing we want to see is someone else getting themselves into trouble when attempting a rescue, so if you are not confident in the conditions or do not have safety equipment, please phone Triple Zero and alert lifesavers if they are present."

The rescue equipment consultation at Venus Bay was made possible thanks to the hard work of Venus Bay SLSC, Alex Scott and Staff Real Estate, the South Gippsland Shire Council, Venus Bay Community Centre and the wider Venus Bay community.

Contact research@lsv.com.au for more information.

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Tues 27th Dec - Nature craft -
Brooms, wands and nature
spells**

**Wed 28th Dec - Mad
mushrooms and caterpillar
creations, Fairy gardens and
Jungle Jars**

**Thur 29th Dec - Cardboard
Outa-space ships, Moon
Rockets, Cadet helmets and
Nebulas**

**Fri 30th Dec - Mixed media
under the sea, ocean in a bag**

\$8 per child

10am - 12pm

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Mon 2nd Jan - Scarecrows,
Life size planting and
Birdcraft**

**Tues 3rd Jan - Superheros
and sidekicks and towel
teddies**

**Wed 4th Jan - Robots, Inside
out creations, Tiedye t-shirts
and wall hangings**

**Thur 5th Jan - Puppets and
puppet shows**

\$8 per child

10am - 12pm

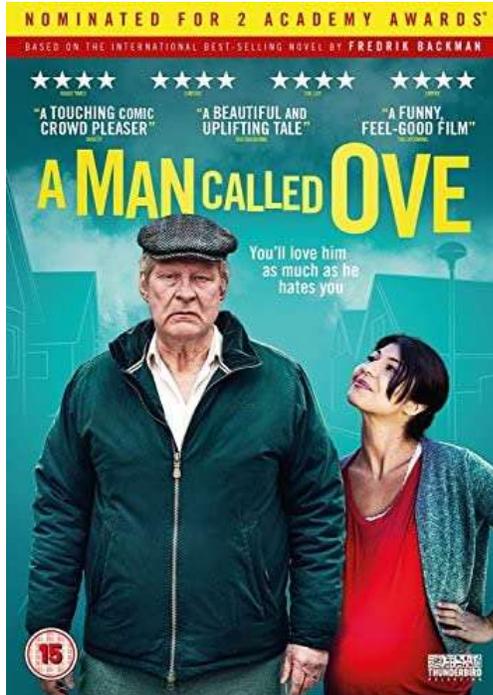
HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall – *What's the buzz?*

Season's Greeting everyone!

Tracie Mitchell and her Tuesday Yoga classes are cranking up for summer with regular morning session. Please click through to our website for more information <https://www.tarwinlowerhall.com/whatson>

Bookings essential - Please call or text Tracie to secure your place on the mat 0421 300 407. Summer is coming??....time to tone up!



The Tarwin Lower Film Society is taking a break from their schedule for December but their next screening on Friday 20 January 2023 is "A Man Called Ove" (Swedish) Rated PG.

"Ove, an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave, has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous new neighbours."

Purchase your membership online at [Trybooking.com](https://trybooking.com) and enjoy a wonderful night at the Hall. Get a table together or just join one and meet some new people! BYO your drinks and snacks. Doors 7pm; Film 7:30pm. Click [here](#) for more info on membership for 2023 and upcoming movies.

New Year's Market Day

Our next Market will be on Monday 2 January 2023 and promises to be our biggest yet! Eric Collier will be providing his smooth brand of music with recent CD release for sale.

Exciting news for lovers of the sausage sizzle and tea room offerings – we will be introducing EFTPOS payment! Our thanks to the Bendigo Bank - Inverloch for supporting the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Committee in setting up this up for the convenience of our customers.

I will have lots of news in the New Year regarding our program for 2023. We have quite a few events in the planning stage and can't wait to share them with you all.

Finally, if you are looking for a venue to host your event, AGM or community group meeting the Memorial Hall is for available for bookings now with WIFI. Enquiries to tarwinlowerhall@gmail.com

Marg de Wolff

Secretary, Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall

Committee of Management Inc

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SUMMER BEACH BUS DRIVERS

Help us provide this fun and valuable service this summer.
Let us know if you can help drive the Summer Beach Shuttle service.

VENUS BAY SUMMER
BEACH BUS
27 DECEMBER TO 8 JANUARY
Free Shuttle Service
Every Day From 11 am. - 5 pm.

Shifts are from 11am to 2pm or 2pm to 5pm and all you need is a regular driving licence and Working with Children Check. Many thanks to those who have already put their hands up – but it's always good to have lots of drivers to share the load.

If you are keen, please contact us: alyson@vbcc.org.au

Free Summer Beach Shuttle Bus
Route Map

The map shows the shuttle route starting from the **VBCC Venus Bay Community Centre**, heading south to **Shops**, then east along Jupiter Boulevard to the **Entrance to Venus Bay**, and finally south to **Beach 1**. Red arrows indicate the direction of travel. Key streets shown include Canterbury Rd, Centre Rd, Lees Rd, Landscape Drive, Louis Rd, Hill Rd, Woorak Ave, Inlet View Rd, Jupiter Boulevard, Pandora Ave, Mercury Drive, Saturn Parade, Milky Way, Neptune St, Orion Rd, Venus Bay Caravanpark, Surf Drive, Vulkan Ln, and the Entrance to Venus Bay.

27th Dec - Jan 8
Everyday 11am - 5pm
Hail the bus
Driver will stop on demand

Tarwin Lower Union Church



Regular services:

Saturday 5.30 p.m.

Catholic

Liturgy/Communion on the Saturday before the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month

Saturday 6.30 p.m.

Mass on the Saturday before the 2nd Sunday of the month

Sunday 10.30 a.m.

Anglican/Uniting

Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

Alert!!

If you would like to attend the 10.30 a.m. Sunday service at Tarwin Lower Union Church, and need help with transport, please contact Marlene 0419 345 128

Coming up:

- * Women's discussion group (meets 1st and 15th December)
- * Christmas carols and sausage sizzle, Thursday 22nd December
- * Christmas Day service at 10.30 a.m.



www.tarwinhealth.com.au

info@tarwinhealth.com.au

**Tarwin Lower & District
Community Health Centre Inc.**

19 Walkerville Road,

Tarwin Lower VIC 3956

Telephone 03 5667 5680

Fax 03 5667 5679

Incorp: A0012733G

ABN: 54 549 578 717

Latest news from the Tarwin Lower Health Centre.

Cleaner Wanted

The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre is looking for a cleaner to do the Health Centre on a Saturday or a Sunday. It is approximately 2 and half hours per week. Rates are negotiable. ABN required. If interested please contact the Health Centre Phone (03) 56675680 if unattended leave a message or email tarwinlowerchc@gmail.com

Food Bank

The Health Centre is setting up a Food Bank to help local residents who are suffering financial hardship in these difficult times. Initially it would operate on a fixed day each week and would be staffed by volunteers. We are looking for non perishable items that can be donated at the Health Centre. We will also look to fresh vegetables to supplement what we have planted in the community garden. If you can make a donation either bring it to the Health Centre, which is open Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 2.00pm and is located at 19 Walkerville Road Tarwin Lower. If you cannot come to the Health Centre but want to make a donation then someone will arrange to pick it up from you. Please contact us on email tarwinlowerchc@gmail.com or Phone (03) 56675680 if unattended leave a message.

Christmas Carols



and

Sausage sizzle

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

Where: Tarwin Lower Church lawn

What to bring: Rug/Chair,
Insect repellent,
Something to drink,
Happy voices



FREE ALL-AGES EVENT

LGBTIQA+ YOUTH PANEL DRAG QUEEN SHOW

when

Tuesday
6 December
2022

Doors open
4:30pm

where

At the
Wonthaggi
Union
Community
Arts Centre

what

Panel discussing
queer issues and
experiences.

Drag queen
performance
(meet and greet
and photo
opportunities)

Meet the queens

- Spencer Street
- Ellectra Kute
- Amanduh

book tickets here:



headspace
Wonthaggi



headspace Wonthaggi is operated by Relationships Australia Victoria. All headspace services are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Administration of funding is carried out by the headspace centre's local Primary Health Network (PHN), in this case, Gippsland PHN.

This program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Healthy Equal Youth program.



Join us to Celebrate **AUSTRALIA DAY**

12 Noon, 26 January 2023

At the Long Table – Tarwin River Boat Ramp

Adults: \$10

Children: \$5

River Duck Races



Raffles – drawn on day

BBQ – sausages & burgers with onions, bread & salad

Classic & veteran vehicles on display

Wood raffle – trailer load of wood (drawn on day)



All proceeds for the day will go to the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall towards the weatherboard replacement project.



Kinship Support Group

Are you caring for a child or children because a family member or a friend is unable to?
Would you like to meet others who are in a similar situation and will understand what you are going through?

Would you like to be with people who will listen to your stories without judgement?
All Kinship Carers are welcome and morning tea will be supplied

The second Thursday of each month

10 am – 12 pm

Leongatha Community House

138 Normanby Street

Leongatha

Next Meeting-Thursday 8th of December 2022

RSVP for catering: Anita on 0475 740 927 or

kinshipcaregippsland@berrystreet.org.au

or click the following link to register <https://forms.office.com/r/GxK2dgVsBu>

**BERRY
STREET**

Believing In Children,
Young People, Families
& Their Future.



Applications are now open for the 2023 Community Leadership Program.



The South Gippsland Community Leadership Program was established in 2020 and encourages and supports people in South Gippsland to extend their leadership capacity by equipping them with the skills to effectively work with others, manage conflict, delegate and meet objectives.

To do this, the Program provides nine core learning sessions, covering project planning, teamwork, values, strategic leadership, public engagement, emotional intelligence, culture and networking.

The Community Leadership Program has been designed to suit anyone with the sessions being delivered outside of business hours, not during school holidays and across our Shire. Starting in March 2023, the Program will span six months to ensure the delivery of a comprehensive program. No fees are charged, with all costs being covered by Council.

From now until 30 December 2022, Council is taking applications from members of the South Gippsland community to be part of this program. A maximum number of 25 participants will be selected.

To find out more or to apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership

Quote attributable to Councillor Nathan Hersey, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:

“It is great news for South Gippsland that the Community Leadership Program will be back again for 2023.

“The program is another way Council is helping to build the skills of residents in South Gippsland, and I am proud that Council can provide this opportunity.

“With recommendations from the evaluation report being implemented, the Program offering will be further improved for 2023.

“We see the investment in leadership skills as essential. Be it in paid work or volunteering, leadership skills help to improve the fabric of our already strong community.

“I strongly encourage anyone who would like to build their skills to apply. I particularly encourage younger people in our community to get involved as the next generation of leaders, employees, employers and volunteers in South Gippsland.

“The feedback from previous participants has been very positive and I know that the next round of participants will benefit greatly from the Program.”



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 Health & Human Services (Victoria) and 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.

