

January 2024 Vol 1 Issue 15

MATTER OF FACT

Providing information for Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower
and Walkerville district



A free community newsletter published by

VENUS BAY
COMMUNITY CENTRE

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Some Questions & Some Answers

We've got a bus – an electric bus!

She's called SUNNY!



PRELIMINARY DESIGN ONLY

It's exciting – and a bit daunting too!!

The project originated through the work we had been undertaking on Community Energy – and seeks to address issues relating to lack of transport while using an electric vehicle that helps to build the infrastructure around the future of electric vehicles and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to decrease running costs of hosting such a service. It also provides an opportunity for this community to design a service that meets its own needs.

We know some of the issues that our community faces with the lack of transport – and have some preliminary ideas of what might work to address these – but it's really up to YOU – the community, to help us work out what can work – for us all, and by us all!

Some of the ideas we had include (but are not limited to):

- A couple of trips a week to meet the V-Line service in either Koonwarra, Leongatha or Inverloch
- A couple of trips a week from Venus Bay second estate to Tarwin Lower – shops, Post Office etc.
- Weekly shopping trip to Wonthaggi or Leongatha
- Outings and events
- Private hire

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? WHAT DO YOU NEED?

CAN YOU HELP US BY FILLING OUT THIS SURVEY: <https://www.vbcc.org.au/bus-survey>

As this is a 2 year pilot project, we have time to try a few things – to see what works, and what suits people at different times of the year. We need to ensure that over the trial period, we can meet the financial costs of the service – mostly registration, insurance, roadworthy tests, general maintenance etc. We have to work out how and when we would be able to provide a service, how we would schedule or book the service (via phone, app, online, in person?), how we collect fares – is it a membership fee, a ride fee? We know we have a lot to learn, especially about electric vehicles, and everything else that goes along with a pilot project like this – we'd be happy to invite anyone to help us work things out!

The service will be reliant on **volunteer drivers** – so we are now taking expressions of interest for potential drivers.

If you are interested in registering to join a roster for driving the eBus, please send us an email: info@vbcc.org.au

Additionally, we are seeking expressions of interest for members of a **Project Steering Group** – that can help with all aspects of the project – please let us know if you are interested in being involved.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PILOT PROJECT

INFORMATION SESSION SATURDAY 20 JANUARY

12 NOON AT VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Come along and find out about the project, give us your thoughts and help to design
a service that will suit our community. ALL WELCOME

HOLIDAY CRAFT

WITH JORJA



Monday 1 January
10am to 12 noon
\$10 per child

**CARDBOARD
CREATIONS**

**Pinatas, pickled
teddies and body
creations**

Thursday 4 January
10am to 12 noon
\$10 per child



Meet Sue x 2!

Two of our wonderful wildlife carers are happy to come along to talk with community members about our native wildlife.

**TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY
FROM 10.30AM TO 12 NOON
Venus Bay Community Centre**

Do you want to know more about our native wildlife - what to do if you find an injured or sick animal? Or how to help with wombat mange?

Entry by donation - all proceeds go to wildlife rescue

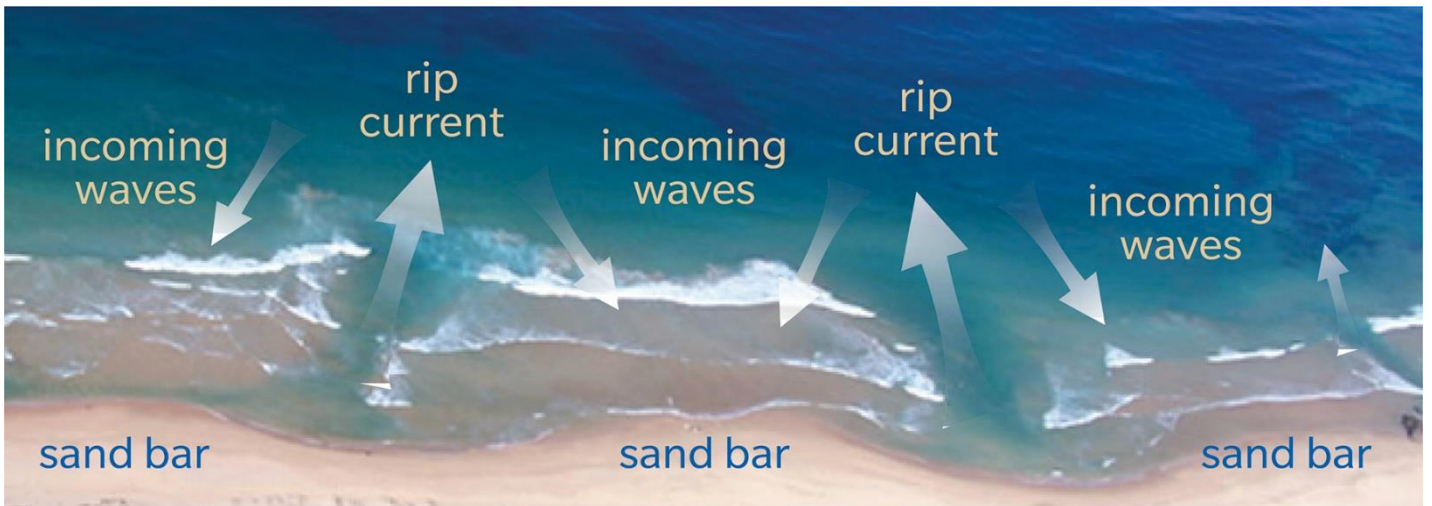


BEACH SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION.

Do you know what a rip looks like? Do you know the basics of surf awareness and safety?

Our wonderful Education training team at the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club will be hosting an information session on **TUESDAY 2 JANUARY** from 2pm at the **Venus Bay Community Centre**.

Please come along, listen and learn – bring your family, your visitors, your friends – we can all help each other to be safe at our Venus Bay Beach



Coordinated by Sophie Glasson, Director of Education & Training
Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club



RESUS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL **TRIPLE ZERO (000)** FOR AN AMBULANCE



D	Dangers? Ensure the area is safe for yourself, others and the patient.	
R	Responsive? Check for a response: ask name, squeeze shoulders. No response? Send for help. Response? Make comfortable and monitor response.	
S	Send for help Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance or ask another person to make the call.	
A	Open Airway Open the mouth and check the airway for foreign material. Foreign material? Place in the recovery position and clear the airway. No foreign material? Leave in position. Open the airway by tilting the head back with a chin lift.	
B	Normal Breathing? Check for breathing: look, listen, feel for 10 seconds. Not normal breathing? Ensure an ambulance has been called and start CPR. Normal breathing? Place in the recovery position and monitor breathing.	
C	Start CPR 30 chest compressions : 2 breaths. Continue CPR until help arrives or the patient starts breathing.	
D	Attach defibrillator (AED) and follow the voice prompts.	

VENUS BAY SURF LIVE SAVING CLUB

MARKETTA Festival



MARKET STALLS

FOOD TRUCKS

GIN BAR

LIVE MUSIC

5 PM 'TIL LATE

THUR JAN 4

PEDESTRIAN ONLY ACCESS/SHUTTLE BUS RUNNING

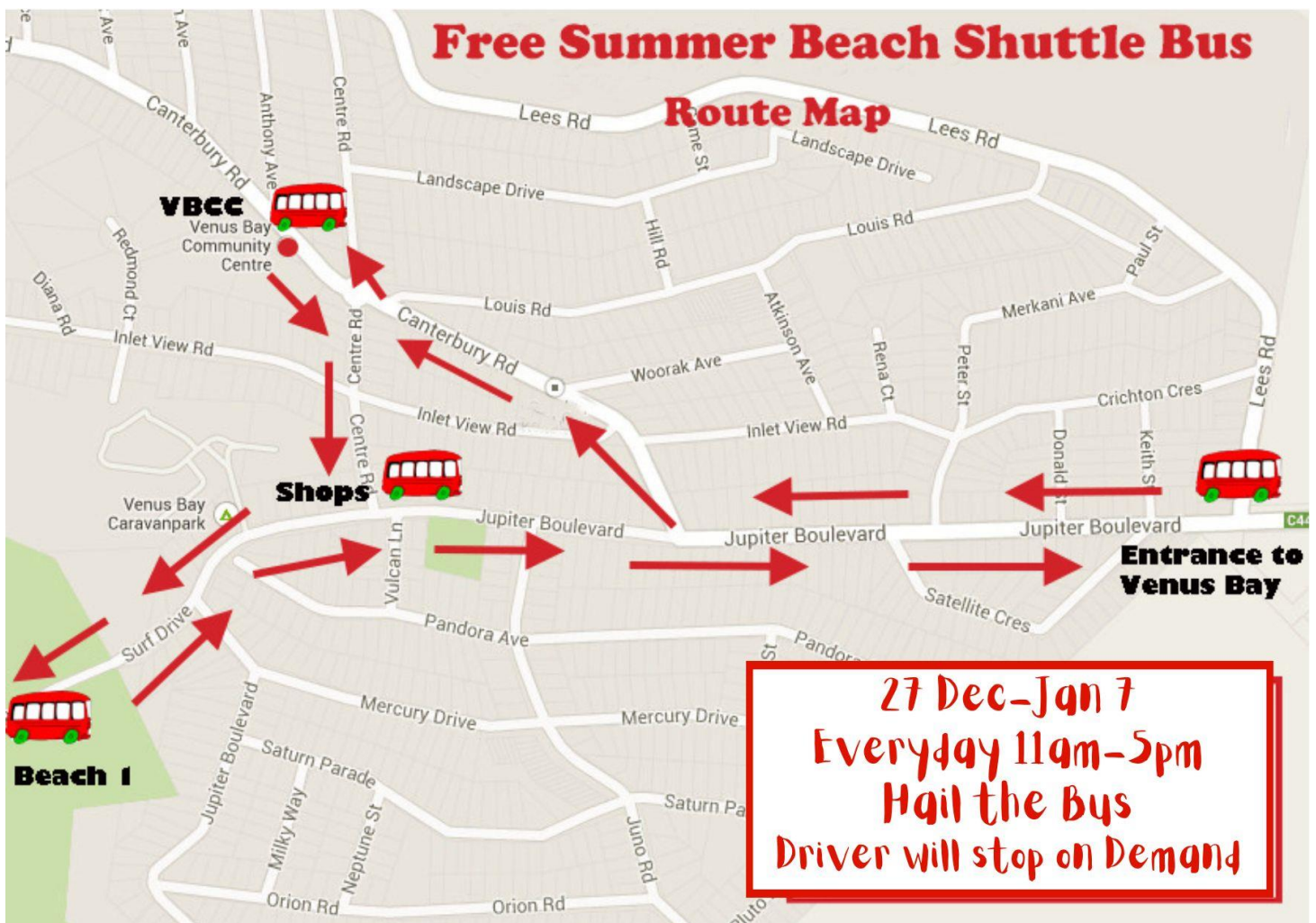


VENUS BAY SUMMER BEACH BUS



Free Shuttle Service

Every day from 11am - 5pm
27 December - January 7



Magpie Art Studio, Venus Bay presents:

Community Giant Sandcastle!!



Come and work and play on a giant sandcastle with other children and families!

Everyone welcome!

SATURDAY 30

December

2pm- 4pm

Beach no 1, Venus Bay

Look for the big black Magpie flag!

\$5 per person

Bring hats, sunblock, buckets and spades

Info : Amanda 0421452472



BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS

Everything you need to know to start your own beehive!



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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY 10 Feb 2024 2-4pm \$60

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

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

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

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

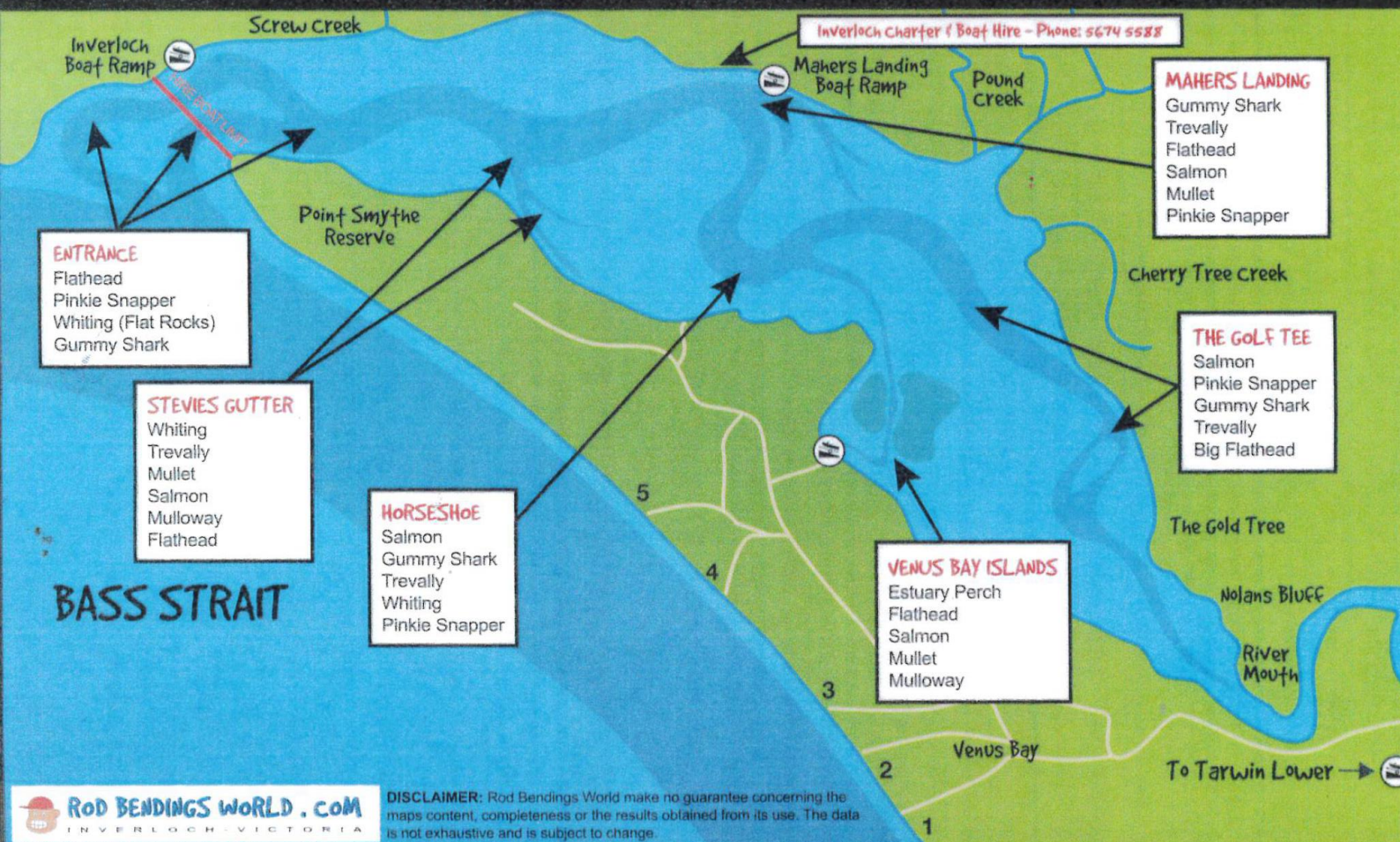
THE HIVE AND THE HONEY TAKE PLACE AT BLESSINGS OF THE BEES APIARY, VENUS BAY.
THE BEES TAKES PLACE AT FLOCK STOCK AND BASIL FARM, TARWIN LOWER



More info : amanda@chocolatestudio.com.au

An oldie, but a goodie – thanks Rod Bending!

FISHING FROM BOAT OR KAYAK IN ANDERSON INLET - SPRING/SUMMER



Shop 1-2, 8 Williams Street INVERLOCH VIC 3996 Phone: +61 3 56743322

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Holiday Opening Hours

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE SUMMER OPENING HOURS - RECYCLING ENTERPRISE

FROM WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER UNTIL SATURDAY 6 JANUARY, WE WILL BE OPEN EACH DAY (EXCEPT SUNDAYS) FROM 10AM TO 2PM

From Monday 8 January, we return to our regular days of operation: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

SUMMER BEACH SHUTTLE

This FREE service operates from WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER UNTIL SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

EVERY DAY FROM 11AM TO 5PM

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS - Summer

WE OFFER A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS OVER THE SUMMER PERIOD

VENUS BAY CHEESEMAKING WORKSHOPS



Join us in our Cheesemaking workshop and make the following cheeses:

HALLOUMI - a wonderful cheese for frying

CHEDDAR - a hard cheese that is ready to eat quickly on sandwiches

FETA - wonderful in salads

COTTAGE - great as a toast topper or in an omelette

RICOTTA - used for a toast topper or for cooking

PANEER (lemon cheese) - used in Indian curries as a substitute for meat

Barry the Beeman will teach you how to make these wonderful cheeses within the workshop. All recipes and notes are supplied.

WORKSHOP DATES

2024

January 7

January 23

March 31

WHAT DO YOU GET?

You will take home over 1kg of the cheese that are made during the workshop.



WORKSHOP COST

\$150 per person

SESSION TIMES

Workshop sessions are from 10am to 3pm. A light lunch is included.



HOW DO I BOOK?

Send Barry an email to cheesewithbarry@gmail.com, stating your desired workshop location and date, and he will send you a confirmation letter with full course details as well as an invoice.

Emergency Management information – VENUS BAY

The South Gippsland Shire Emergency Management team has been working with local communities to produce an integrated suite of information about emergency management – with the results specific for Venus Bay are now available via this link: file:///C:/Users/vbcc/Downloads/Venus_Bay_Emergency_Planning_Information.pdf

This Plan was developed as an outcome of the funding provided through the Emergency Recovery Victoria Community Led Recovery Funding program, which identified opportunities for emergency services agencies, essential infrastructure owners and South Gippsland Shire Council to share information on planning completed in relation to emergency incidents.

The Plan will be used to help integrate planning for emergency events and to support resilience-building activities within the Venus Bay community. The Plan will be recognised as a Community Emergency Management Plan in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and will be reviewed as part of the MEMP three-yearly review cycle.

Feedback on the document can be provided to em@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Venus Bay Emergency Planning Information

2023

Market Dates 2024

1 January

26 January – **Twilight Market NEW! 3 – 8pm**

11 March

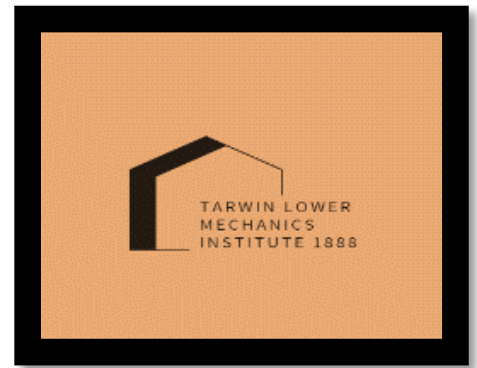
1 April

10 June

4 November

All the usual stalls and entertainment – support local

😊 we can't wait to see your smiling faces.



Tarwin Lower Film Society will screen the Misbehaviour on Friday 1 December as their last film for 2023 kicking off again January 19 with “The Boat That Rocked” A hilarious comedy rated M – starring Bill Nighy, Kenneth Branagh, Philip Seymour-Hoffman. “

“This movie is an ensemble comedy in which the romance takes place between the young people of the 1960s and pop music. It's about a band of rogue DJs that captivated Britain, playing the music that defined a generation and standing up to a government that wanted classical music, and nothing else, on the airwaves.”

For any Hall enquiries contact:

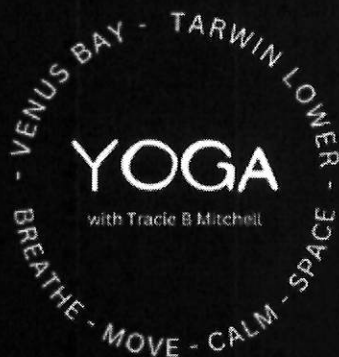
Marg de Wolff
Secretary, Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute
Committee of Management
tarwinlowerhall@gmail.com



JANUARY



2024



MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT SUN

1	2	3 7:15 -8:15AM 8:30-9:30AM	4	5 7:15 -8:15AM 8:30-9:30AM	6	7 8:30-9:30AM
8 7:15 -8:15AM 8:30-9:30AM	9	10 7:15 -8:15AM 8:30-9:30AM	11	12 7:15 -8:15AM 8:30-9:30AM	13	14 8:30-9:30AM
15 8:30-9:30AM	16	17	18	19 8:30-9:30AM	20	21 8:30-9:30AM
22 8:30-9:30AM	23	24	25	26 8:30-9:30AM	27	28 8:30-9:30AM
29 NO CLASS	30	31	FEB			

SUMMER HOLIDAYS an abundance of morning classes to set tone for relaxing mellow days.



7:15 am for those who love the day before it starts.

8:30am for those who like to have a few more zeds.



This summer regroup , revise and pay into your health bank. Use this time to disconnect from the mad rush of the everyday - Breathe , stretch, rest your nervous system and grow stronger .

Location:The beloved Tarwin Lower Mechanics Hall 27 River Drive Tarwin Lower.

Shape your own timetable and text 0427 300407 to secure a place

Investment \$25 per class. *prebuy 10 for \$220 (offer available till December 22) valid till end of January 2024



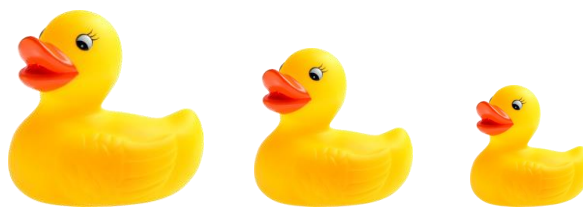
Join us to Celebrate
AUSTRALIA DAY

12 Noon, 26 January 2024
At the Long Table – Tarwin River Boat Ramp

Adults - \$10

Children 12 to 18 - \$5

11 and under free



River Duck Races

Raffles drawn on day

BBQ – sausages & burgers with onions, bread & salad

Classic & veteran vehicles on display

**All proceeds for the day will go to the Tarwin Lower
Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall.**

S U M M E R S T U F F

There's lots to see and do this summer holidays –take a walk, go fishing, do some craft, visit the bird hide, ride your bike, go for a rock ramble, look at the stars, check out local restaurants & cafes, go to a market or visit us at the Venus Bay Community Centre to find a treasure, do one of our planned activities, make some cheese – the list is endless and the delights of our region are fabulous - keep your eyes peeled on local social media pages, noticeboards, or ask a local for some of the hidden gems of the area.

The local newspaper has put together a 60 page (!!) list of attractions of South Gippsland which you can find here: <https://d3pbdxdl8c65wb.cloudfront.net/n/569/2023/Dec/19/5223%20-%20Discover%20Summer%202023-24.pdf>

Here are some holiday ideas for the summer season. How many can you check off our to-do-list?

- 1. Visit Wilsons Promontory National Park
- 2. Experience Coal Creek (free entry)
- 3. Stroll through the Lyrebird Forest Walk
- 4. Walk to the top of Mount Nicoll
- 5. Drive the Grand Ridge Road
- 6. Discover the Walkerville lime kilns
- 7. Sample delicious boutique wine, beer, cider and spirits
- 8. Visit the Loch suspension bridge
- 9. Attend one of the regions many live performances and events
- 10. Fish along the banks of the Tarwin River
- 11. Vist our art galleries, exhibitions and events
- 12. Learn about Lennie Gwyther and his pony Ginger Mick
- 13. Explore our villages and sample amazing local produce
- 14. Walk the Point Smythe Nature Trail
- 15. Swim at our local beaches

visitsouthgippsland.com.au



Tarwin Lower Union Church

Regular services:

Saturday 5.30 p.m. **Catholic**
Liturgy/Communion on the Saturday before the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month

Saturday 4 p.m.
Mass before the 3rd Sunday

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

Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

Coming up: * Shrove Tuesday pancakes: 13th February, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Café Church



Sunday 31st December

10.30 a.m.

*Giving thanks at the end of the year,
and singing in the new Year with
THANKS, HOPE & JOY*



Saturday
13th January
Commencing
9.30 a.m.

Tarwin Lower Union Church
(River Drive, Tarwin Lower)
(To raise funds for the maintenance of the church building and church grounds)

Beginners Crochet Class



Fibre Artist Debra Roberts, is offering a 3 hour beginners crochet class. Cost is \$45 and includes hook, wool and access to a comprehensive manual.

January 31st
12.30 - 3.30

To be held at the Venus Bay Community Centre. For bookings please contact Debbie direct on 0413 057 761 debra@stelle.au

FREE Demonstration
January 31st 11.00

Debra will be available to show items made with wool and fibre via spinning, crochet & needle felting. She will also be discussing potential future workshops for Venus Bay.

All welcome. Come along for a look and register your interest in future workshops.



WALKERVILLE COASTAL GEOLOGY WALK

WHEN:
6 JANUARY 2024
01:00 PM – 03:00 PM

WHERE:
WALKERVILLE

COST:
FREE

BOOKING INFORMATION:
BOOKING ESSENTIAL. PLEASE BOOK ONLINE.
[BOOK ONLINE](#)

DESCRIPTION:
Join a recognised authority on local geology and take a close look at amazing rock formations along the Walkerville coastline.

SHARE:



CATCHMENTS TO COAST BIODIVERSITY-SUSTAINABILITY PRESENTATIONS

WHEN:
7 JANUARY 2024
10.30AM - 3.30PM

WHERE:
PORT WELSHPOOL SEA DAYS FESTIVAL

COST:
FREE

BOOKING INFORMATION:
NO BOOKING REQUIRED.

DESCRIPTION:
The Connies is a collective of tram conductors, performers, educators, ecologists and nature lovers touring festivals, shows and other events throughout Victoria and beyond. We entertain, educate and inform, creating and distributing beautifully crafted collectable swap-cards that bring environmental, social, historic and cultural themes to your community.

Event accessibility key: <https://summerbythesea.vic.gov.au/cms/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/The-Connies-Tih-January-Summer-By-The-Sea-2024-Access-Key.docx>



ROCKPOOL RAMBLE

WHEN:
9 JANUARY 2024
02:00 PM – 04:00 PM

WHERE:
INVERLOCH

COST:
FREE

BOOKING INFORMATION:
BOOKING ESSENTIAL. PLEASE BOOK ONLINE.
[BOOK ONLINE](#)

DESCRIPTION:
With your expert marine guide, you will explore the rock pools and crevices for its abundant life.

SHARE:



DINOSAUR DISCOVERY AT THE CAVES

WHEN:
10 JANUARY 2024
02:00 PM – 04:00 PM

WHERE:
INVERLOCH

COST:
FREE

BOOKING INFORMATION:
BOOKING ESSENTIAL. PLEASE BOOK ONLINE.
[BOOK ONLINE](#)

DESCRIPTION:
This session is presented by an Education Officer and palaeontologist from Bunurong Coast Education.

SHARE:



Can I or can't I?

To report a fire
DIAL 000

October 2021

This guide gives you general information about what you can and can't do during declared Fire Danger Periods and on days of Total Fire Ban, when fires in the open air are legally restricted.

CFA declares Fire Danger Periods in Victoria during periods of increased fire risk and may declare different periods in different areas across the state. Refer to the CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au for further details about your location. In state forests, national parks and on protected public land, fire restrictions are in force all year round. Contact the Department of Environment, Land,

Water and Planning (DELWP) for advice on fire restrictions in these areas. Also, always check with your municipality as some have restrictions in place all year round.

Total Fire Bans are declared by CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to control. They can apply to the whole of Victoria or defined districts. Penalties for lighting fires illegally during the Fire Danger Period and on Total Fire Ban days include large fines and possible imprisonment.

Can I have a barbecue, light a camp fire or light a fire for warmth or comfort?



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- the wind is not more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion)
- the fire is lit in a **properly-constructed fireplace** or in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep
- the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeters of the fire and the uppermost point of the fire is clear of flammable material
- the fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves

Note that the CFA Act 1958 defines, a properly-constructed fireplace as a fireplace that is constructed of stone, metal, concrete or any other non-flammable material that contains the perimeter of the fire. A commercially-produced barbecue or portable gas stove is considered a properly-constructed fireplace.

On Total Fire Ban Days



All camp fires, fires for warmth or personal comfort are banned during Total Fire Ban Days. Solid and liquid fuel barbecues and ovens (including hangis) are also banned during Total Fire Ban Days.

No, unless:

- the barbecue uses only gas or electricity and is a permanently fixed structure built of stone, metal, concrete or another non-flammable material designed exclusively for meal preparation, or is designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (including portable gas barbecues and portable gas stoves), and when alight is placed in a stable position
- the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the barbecue is clear of flammable material
- you have either a hose connected to a water supply or a container with at least 10 litres of water for immediate use
- an adult is there at all times when a fire is alight who has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the adult leaves.

I run a meal preparation business (eg catering), or am a community/charitable/fundraising or similar organisation. Can I set up and light a fire to operate a barbecue, cooker or hotplate at outdoor functions?



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- the wind is not more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion)
- the fire is lit in a **properly-constructed fireplace** or in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep
- the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeters and uppermost point of the fire is clear of flammable material
- the fire does not occupy an area of more than 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves

If you cannot meet these conditions you will need to apply for a permit online (firepermits.vic.gov.au) or from a CFA or FRV district office depending on the location of the activity.

On Total Fire Ban Days



No, unless you have a written permit issued by CFA, DELWP or FRV and you comply with the conditions of that permit.

A community organisation, a charitable organisation or an organisation involved in fundraising (for example, a school or sporting group) may apply for permission to light a fire to prepare meals for other people in the course of their business. These permits are issued by, and at the discretion of CFA, DELWP or FRV depending on the location of the activity.

Municipal Fire Prevention Officers cannot issue these permits.



frv.vic.gov.au



cfa.vic.gov.au

Can I or can't I?

To report a fire
DIAL 000

Can I have a spit style rotisserie fired by **heat beads, wood or other solid fuel**?



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- the wind is not more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion)
- the fire is lit in a **properly-constructed fireplace** or in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep
- the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the fire and the uppermost point of the fire is clear of flammable material
- the fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves

On Total Fire Ban Days



No

Solid Fuel barbecues and spit style rotisseries fired by heat beads, wood or other solid material are banned in the open air on Total Fire Ban days.

Note that the CFA Act 1958 defines, a properly-constructed fireplace as a fireplace that is constructed of stone, metal, concrete or any other non-flammable material that contains the perimeter of the fire. A commercially-produced barbecue is considered a properly-constructed fireplace.

Can I use a gas-powered wildlife **scare gun**?



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- you have a fire danger period (Schedule 14) permit issued by CFA or FRV, depending on the location of the activity; and comply with all permit conditions

On Total Fire Ban Days



No

Gas-powered scare guns cannot be used on days of Total Fire Ban.

Can I light a fire in the open air to **burn off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation**?



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- you have a Fire Danger Period permit issued by CFA, FRV or a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer, depending on the location of the activity
- you have a written permit issued by a Fire Prevention Officer of a public authority if planning to burn on land under their jurisdiction
- you comply with the conditions of that permit
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves.

Many councils have local laws that ban burning off on certain days or within certain locations or at certain times within their municipalities. Check with the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

On Total Fire Ban Days



No

All fires in the open air for burning off grass, scrub, stubble or rubbish are banned during Total Fire Ban days.

All Fire Danger Period permits issued by CFA, FRV, a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or a Fire Prevention Officer of a public authority are suspended for the duration of any Total Fire Ban day.

Any existing fires, including those that were allowed under an exemption or permit for the Fire Danger Period, are prohibited and must be completely extinguished before the Total Fire Ban begins.

Can I **drive a vehicle** in places where the vehicle will be in contact with **crops, grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation**?

During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- the vehicle is fitted with an efficient silencing device (eg muffler) which takes all the exhaust from the engine through the silencing device.

You should avoid driving vehicles through dry vegetation in hot and dry conditions even if it is not a Total Fire Ban Day, because of the risk posed by the hot exhaust system.

On Total Fire Ban Days



No, unless:

- the vehicle is fitted with an efficient silencing device (eg muffler) which takes all the exhaust from the engine through the silencing device.

This should be avoided wherever possible because the risk of starting fires is extremely high and the impact of fire on these days may be much greater.

Can I or can't I?

To report a fire
DIAL 000

Can I use a **chainsaw, plant or grass trimmer or lawn mower?**



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- the chainsaw, plant or grass trimmer or lawn mower complies with the following when used in vegetation that is not green (that is dry vegetation):
 - free from faults and mechanical defects that could cause an outbreak of fire
 - fitted with an efficient spark arrester
 - have an area of at least 3 metres around the machine cleared of flammable material.

Also, a person must be in attendance at all times the machine is being used, and must carry at least one of the following fire suppression equipment items:

- one knapsack spray pump, in working order, fully charged with water, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres, or
- one water (stored pressure) fire extinguisher, in working order, fully charged with water and maintained at the correct pressure, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres.

Work undertaken in GREEN vegetation is permitted, however CFA suggests maintaining equipment and carrying fire suppression equipment as described above.

On Total Fire Ban Days



This should be avoided wherever possible on Total Fire Ban days because the risk of starting fires is extremely high and the impact of fire on these days may be much greater.

If the work is essential, follow the guidelines in the adjacent column for the Fire Danger Period.

Note that the spark arrester, the knapsack spray pump and the water fire extinguisher referred to above must comply with the applicable Australian Standards.

Can I carry out:

- **welding, grinding, charring, soldering or gas cutting?**
- **rail maintenance?**
- **heating bitumen?**
- **relocating bees using a bee smoker?**
- **extracting honey using heat or flame?**



During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

- a fire-resistant shield or guard is in place to stop sparks, hot metal or slag from the fire
- an area at least 1.5 metres from the operation is clear of flammable material or wetted down sufficiently to prevent the spread of fire
- you have a hose connected to a reticulated water supply or water spray knapsack containing at least 9 litres of water
- all cut-offs and hot materials from the operation are placed in fire-proof containers
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves.

On Total Fire Ban Days



No

These activities are banned on Total Fire Ban Days:

In limited circumstances, CFA, DELWP or FRV may issue a permit on Total Fire Ban Days.

These permits are issued by CFA, DELWP or FRV depending on the location of the activity. They cannot be issued by Municipal Fire Prevention Officers.

See the back page for details about how to apply for a permit.

Can I or can't I?

To report a fire
DIAL 000

Can I use an incinerator?

During Fire Danger Period

No, unless:

1. You check with council about any local laws that might prescribe conditions or restrict or prohibit incinerator use (eg bans on certain days, in certain areas or during certain times)
2. And the following requirements are met:
 - the fire is effectively restricted within the incinerator which means that sparks, embers or coals cannot escape from the top, side or bottom of the incinerator
 - the wind is not more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion)
 - the ground and air space within 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the incinerator are clear of flammable material
 - a supply of water adequate to extinguish the fire is available at all times when the fire is burning
 - a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
 - the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves.

On Total Fire Ban Days

No

Using an incinerator is banned on Total Fire Ban Days.



Note that the CFA Act 1958 defines an incinerator as a structure or device which is used, or may be used, for the destruction or disposal of unwanted materials by burning and is:

- constructed from non-flammable material, and
- fitted with a shield or guard of non-flammable material to prevent the emission of sparks, embers or other burning material.

Can I use self-propelled farm machinery, tractors, slashers, earth-moving, excavating or road-making machines propelled by a heat engine within 9 metres of any crops, grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation?

During Fire Danger Period

No, unless the machinery:

- is free from faults and mechanical defects that could cause an outbreak of fire
- is fitted with a spark arrester in working order, a turbocharger or exhaust aspirated air cleaner
- carries fire suppression equipment comprising either:
 - at least one knapsack spray pump, in working order, fully charged with water, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres, or
 - at least one water (stored pressure) fire extinguisher, in working order, fully charged with water and maintained at the correct pressure, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres.

On Total Fire Ban Days

This should be avoided wherever possible because the risk of starting fires is extremely high and the impact of fire on these days may be much greater.

If the work is essential, follow the guidelines in the adjacent column for Fire Danger Period.



Note that the spark arrester, the knapsack spray pump and the water fire extinguisher referred to above must comply with the applicable Australian Standards.

It is the responsibility of every individual using fire to ensure they comply with the fire restriction laws. Anyone using fire must ensure their actions do not cause a fire to spread to other property. Severe penalties apply under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) to anyone who intentionally or recklessly lights, maintains or fails to contain a fire and allows it to spread onto other property.

How can I apply for a permit to use fire during the declared Fire Danger Period or on a day of Total Fire Ban?

To apply for a permit to use fire anywhere in Victoria refer to firepermits.vic.gov.au.

Who must I advise if I'm going to light fire in accordance with my permit?

You must notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) via firepermits.vic.gov.au, or by phoning

1800 668 511. Check your permit conditions as there are often other people identified who must also be notified.

Who must I advise if I'm going to have a burn-off?

At any time of the year, you must notify ESTA before burning off via firepermits.vic.gov.au or by phoning 1800 668 511.

For any clarification or further information contact:

CFA: phone (03) 9262 8444; email fire.restrictions@cfa.vic.gov.au

DELWP: phone 136 186; ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-permits

FRV: phone (03) 9662 2311; email firepermitqueries@frv.vic.gov.au

In many municipalities north-east and east of Melbourne, DELWP fire restrictions also apply within 1.5km of the public land boundary. Check the DELWP website for details.



Do you have a few hours to spare?

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the community centre...do you have any particular skills you can contribute? Or perhaps you have a bit of time to spend helping with filing in the office or sorting donations for the Recycling enterprise?

Every bit counts and every bit is appreciated. We could not function without our fabulous team of volunteers.

So why not come and join in!

Situated at 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay.

Phone: 5663 7499, Send mail to Post Office Box 786, Venus Bay 3956

Email: info@vbcc.org.au Website: www.vbcc.org.au

Opening hours reflect the season - please check our website or Facebook for details

or call Alyson 0416 242 331

Venus Bay Community Centre is supported by:

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the Commonwealth Government, & South Gippsland Shire Council.

Our website is www.vbcc.org.au

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