

June 2026 Vol 17 Issue 6

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.

Welcome to Venus Bay Community Centre Programs and Events:

We believe that strong communities are built through participation, friendship, and shared experiences, and every month we offer a wide range of activities and services designed to bring people together.

Our centre is home to a diverse mix of groups and programs that reflect the interests and needs of our community. For those passionate about the environment, our Silver Banksia Plant Propagation Group, gardening activities, and permaculture events help support local conservation efforts and sustainable living practices.

Creativity flourishes within our walls through our Social Art Group, Freeform Writers Group, Book Club, and Knitting, Crocheting and Stitching Group. These gatherings provide opportunities for people to learn new skills, express themselves, and enjoy the company of others who share similar interests. Music and fun are also an important part of community life. Our regular Ukulele sessions welcome players of all abilities, while Game Nights offer a relaxed and enjoyable way for residents to meet and socialise.

We are committed to supporting health, wellbeing, and lifelong learning. Through our My Health Tech Support sessions, we help community members navigate the increasingly digital world of healthcare. We also work alongside organisations such as Latrobe Community Health to provide information and assistance for older residents seeking aged care support.

Sharing food is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to bring people together. Our regular Community Lunches and Community Meals create opportunities for friendship and connection, whether at the centre itself or in neighbouring communities such as Tarwin Lower. Programs such as Men's Social Cooking and Stirring the Pot encourage people to develop cooking skills while enjoying conversation and companionship.

Supporting sustainability and local enterprise is another important part of what we do. Our Recycling Op Shop provides affordable goods while promoting reuse and waste reduction, and our new 'Not Huge – Conversation Hour' is to offer local business owners and entrepreneurs an opportunity to network, share ideas, and support one another.

Whether you are looking to learn something new, meet new people, access support services, contribute to local environmental projects, or simply enjoy a meal and a conversation, we invite you to become part of our community. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community.



Stirring the Pot has turned out to be a fun gathering of cooks! Each month we have explored different foods based on a fairly random theme.

For June we are having a closed event – you can join us but need to advise the week before for numbers. We are celebrating the past 6 months by having a shared meal together.

If you would like to come along you please contact Carol or comment in the closed facebook post.

ArtCube wrap: A Small Space Sparking Big Creative Ideas.

Over the past several months the Venus Bay Community Centre ArtCube initiative has proven that creativity does not need a large space to make a significant impact. What began as a small seasonal arts initiative quickly evolved into a vibrant creative hub where artists, makers, musicians, residents and visitors connected through shared curiosity, experimentation and conversation.

The ArtCube became home to a diverse range of artists and projects, each bringing a unique perspective and creative process into public view. Local painters regularly occupied the space, using it as both studio and exhibition venue while openly sharing their skills and techniques with visitors. The opportunity to sit, paint and engage with the community transformed the Cube into a welcoming and accessible creative environment.

Starting with a wonderful display of handmade Christmas and seasonal decorating ideas by Sonia the cube was then occupied by local part time resident Amanda, known for her wonderful bird images, large scale murals and so much more. Amanda spent time creating and inviting people to join her and ‘give it a go.’



Artist Terrie Thompson continued her passion for sustainability and upcycling, moving beyond her well-loved denim whale project to experiment with vintage linens, napery and handcrafted textiles. Working openly in the Cube, Terrie explored how discarded materials could be transformed into wearable artworks while preserving their original beauty and story.

For Helen Dean, the ArtCube became a catalyst to reconnect with creative practice after many years running a design business. What she initially imagined would be a private return to art instead became a public creative awakening. Helen reflected on the experience simply: “When you create space, stuff comes in.”

For artist Dr Tracie Mitchell, the residency offered “permission to sit with an idea” and explore free-form hand stitching without the pressure of producing a predetermined outcome. Her evolving project, *The Thread of an Idea*, focused on slow stitching, vintage textiles and the sensory history embedded within fabric. The 2025 residency led to an exciting opportunity to participate in the upcoming *NIGHT FROCKS @ ICEWORKS* exhibition in East Gippsland’s Winter Festival, where her embellished vintage French nightgown will be exhibited.



The Cube also hosted collaborative projects deeply connected to the local environment. Artists Kate Stuart and Jillian Staton spent April creating works inspired by the Tarwin River and its ecological importance to South Gippsland. Through ceramics, gouache, watercolour and found local clays, the artists invited the community to reflect on the beauty and fragility of the river system. Community members contributed photographs and stories, helping shape the works while fostering broader conversations around conservation, connection and place.

Alongside the visual arts, the Cube became a lively social and cultural gathering point through workshops, open studios and outdoor performances such as the much-loved Venus Loves Ukulele picnic sessions.

Perhaps the greatest success of the ArtCube has been its ability to create meaningful connection — between artists and audiences, ideas and experimentation, creativity and community. The project demonstrated how even the smallest space can become an incubator for imagination, collaboration and cultural exchange.

As this chapter of the ArtCubes comes to a close, the impact continues through the projects, relationships and creative momentum it has inspired. The Venus Bay Community Centre extends sincere thanks to all artists, volunteers, visitors and supporters who helped bring the Cube to life.

We look forward to seeing how these ideas travel and grow.

Venus Bay Angling Club

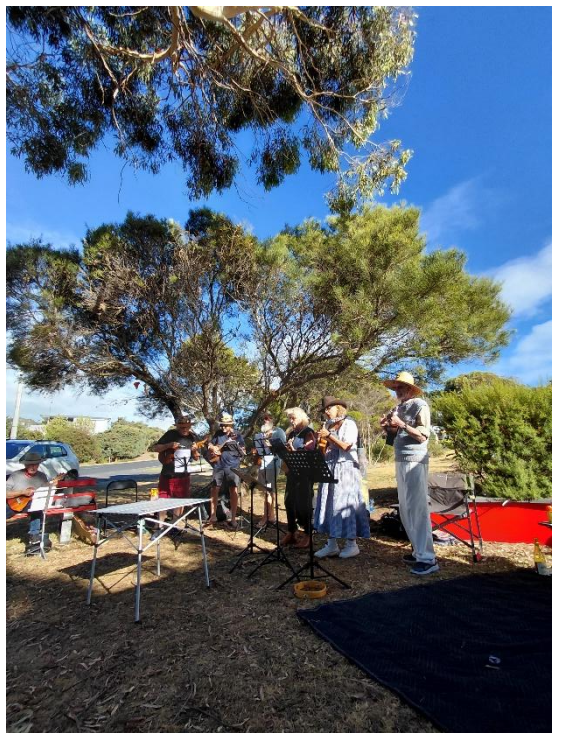


The VBAC will hold the June fishing competition from Friday 5th June starting at 6.00am through to Monday 8th June at 3.00pm. You can weigh in your catch from 4.00 - 6.00pm on the Friday Saturday and Sunday with final weigh in on the 8th June between 2.30-3.00 pm when the winners will be announced. 1st Prize for members is a \$100 voucher from **Inverloch Fishing and Outdoors** and 2nd prize is a \$50 voucher from The Riverview Hotel. There will be a 'secret weight' prize as well.

The BBQ will be held at Gerald's Shed from 6.00pm on the Saturday with lots of great raffle prizes' Non members can join in for \$5 which includes entry to the competition and the BBQ. We ask that you bring along a salad or dessert to share. If you're interested at all in joining the Angling Club come along and meet some members at the BBQ Saturday night or just call by during the weigh in for a chat. Membership is \$50.00 for a family and \$40.00 for a single.

Upcoming events will be another Kid's Fishing Day in September and our Trivia Night, which was a very popular event last year. Dates will be announced in the next month or so, so keep your eye on this space.

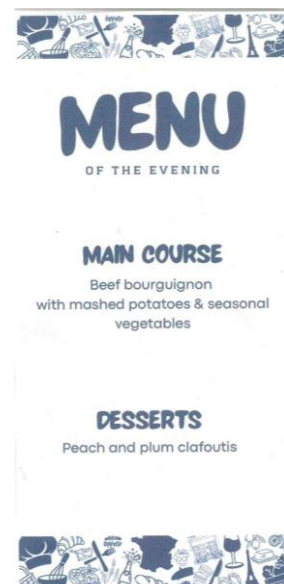
Check out the Angling Club FB page for the electro fishing day in June.





The free Community Meals continue to provide a special opportunity for people from Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay to connect, share food, and enjoy social time together. Everyone is warmly invited to upcoming meals and activities at the Community Centre, including the free community lunch, and evening meals.

The recent meal at the Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall was a wonderful success, with around 60 people coming together to enjoy a delicious winter feast and warm company. Guests shared lovely feedback about the evening, describing the meal as “delightful and wonderful comfy winter food” and praising the fun, friendship, and fellowship enjoyed by all. A huge thank you went to the chefs, volunteers, and everyone involved in preparing and serving the meal, helping create such a welcoming community atmosphere.



You are invited to join us at our



JUNE COMMUNITY MEALS

**LUNCH AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
EVERY WEDNESDAY 12.00 SHARP**

EVENING MEALS - NEW TIME
VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
 10 JUNE 2026 - 6.00

TARWIN LOWER MEMORIAL HALL
 24 JUNE 2026 - 6.00

**Families are more
than welcome to
join us**

Hosted by
 Venus Bay Community Centre
 in collaboration with community partners as part of the new
 Grow Share Eat initiative



The meals are proudly part of the Grow Share Eat program, which also includes the gardening group at the Venus Bay Community Centre and the team at the Tarwin Community Health Centre who are dedicated to growing fresh produce for the community. The Tarwin crew meet on a Monday (see flyer) and the Venus Bay gardening group meet every second Thursday and has recently built and planted new vegetable beds, continuing to grow fresh produce and strengthen community connections.

New cooks and volunteers are always welcome. Whether you enjoy cooking or are simply happy to help with dishes and clean-up, your support is greatly appreciated. Come and have a chat if you would like to get involved in these wonderful community events.

OLIVES AT VENUS BAY.

Recently Ted Minty (Olive guru!!) inspected olive trees at two properties in Venus Bay. In both cases the trees were healthy but appeared leggy [low leaf to wood ratio] and a bit undernourished. Both sets of trees needed a prune to lower the canopy and open up the centre of the canopy to sunlight. If you maintain your olive trees they can provide 40 to 50 kg of olives per tree but they need pruning and nutrition on a regular basis,

There are two main groups of olive trees: those bred for pickling and those bred for oil production. The pickling varieties have medium to large fruit [7 to 12 grams] with a high moisture content and then there are oil olives which have small fruit about 5 grams weight +/- 2 grams and a moderately high oil content.



The pickling olives contain oil but it is difficult to extract because the oil droplets emulsify with the vegetable water in the fruit and you end up with a green mess coming out of the machine which uses a crusher and a centrifuge to extract the oil. Oiling olives generally have a smaller flesh to pit ratio than pickling olives as well as a lower moisture content.

Liane and Matt Arno at Wonthaggi have purchased a sophisticated oil extraction machine for community use. It is free to use but you need to book in with Liane. She can be

contacted via the website [Wonni Olives](http://WonniOlives.com).

If you are interested in making your own olive oil then now is the time to prune and fertilise your trees for good spring growth and a modest crop of olives in 2027.

We plan to organize a morning in July to demonstrate basic pruning and ongoing care of olive trees.

How should I pick the olives?

Olive trees can be prickly – so

- wear some eye protection – sunglasses will do
- if you have long hair – wrap it in a scarf or under a hat to stop it getting tangled
- avoid wearing anything with buttons as they can get caught

There are two methods to pick olives. Hand foraging & Beating

- the best way to pick by hand is to use a foraging basket which goes around your shoulders to give you both your hands free to collect the fruit
- pick all the olives off the tree – even if they have not ripened evenly – but make sure all of them are at least at the Stage 2. If not – leave the ones that have not ripened for the next press (or the birds!!!)
- beating with a long pole is an ancestral technique which has the ground under the olive tree covered with a net or tarpaulin and the picker hit the olive branches which has the effect of the ripe olives falling onto the ground.



OLIVE TREE HEALTH

During the first pressing of olives we noticed a lot of yellowed, dead, olive leaves with dark circular smudges. This is caused by fungal attack. To minimise fungus damage to the tree canopy you need to prune it and keep it open in the centre. The good old vase style of pruning suits olive trees because an open centre of the vase shape keeps the tree well ventilated and sunshine penetrates into the canopy. This assists even ripening of the fruit as well as minimising humidity in the centre of the canopy. Pruning your tree should also make it easy to pick your fruit next season. A vase shape allows new growth in spring to arc outward and downwards which makes hand stripping relatively easy. Remember to prune away dead branchlets on the undersides of most large branches as well as removing any new shoots which point inwards towards the centre of the tree, especially after the first flush of new growth next spring.



The other job this winter is nutrition. Mulch your tree out to the drip-line and remove any grass competing with the surface roots. You can pile the mulch on fairly thick, up to 200mm deep. Give a few light applications of organic lifter [aka pelletised chook poo]. About 5kg per tree per season should be sufficient. Regular mulching and modest fertilizer is a long term investment as it feeds the tree, maintains soil moisture through summer and improves soil structure/fertility. You can put on mulch from native species as there are plenty of microbes in our soils that can digest them and convert them to humus over the next 12 months.

NEW EVENT

Not Huge – Conversation hour.

**5.30 - 6.30ish Wednesday 17th June, Venus Bay
Community Centre**



Are you one of those entrepreneurs flying solo, maybe from the second bedroom or the kitchen table?

Who do you talk to on the roller coaster days when things have fluctuated from good to bad and back again. When you have spent the day slaving over ideas and trying to think of new and innovative options to promote your work instead of doing the work that you enjoy. Maybe you just want to spend time with another human and talk about the beach.

Why not come out of the woodwork and spend a little time chatting to real people?

BYO drinks, tea and coffee supplied.

Tech support available

For the month of June every Thursday between 10.00 and 1.00 we have an extremely helpful person on the premises to assist you with how to upload and use the Medicare app on your phone. Bec will make it easy to understand and give you slow step by step assistance!

Would you like some help setting up and using the 1800medicare app?

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

1800 medicare

Why set it up?
Everything in one place – See your Medicare information, prescriptions, test results and vaccination history together.

Available anytime – Access your health information whenever you need it, from home or while travelling.

Helpful support – Use the symptom checker and call a registered nurse 24 hours a day for health advice.

Less paperwork – No need to search through letters and documents to find important health information.

Free and secure – Provided by the Australian Government and protected by the same security used for Medicare and My Health Record

Come along to the Venus Bay Community Centre to get personalised help with:
Downloading and setting up the app
Connecting with myGov
Accessing your Medicare and My Health Record
and to help you use the app with confidence.

When?
Thursdays 21st May
10am to 1pm
(for 6 weeks only)

What to bring?
A smartphone (iphone, Samsung, Oppo)
Your medicare card
Your login details for My Gov (if you have them)

What is 1800Medicare?
1800MEDICARE is an app on your phone that gives you easy access to important health information.

You can use it on your iPad/tablet or smartphone to view your Medicare details, prescriptions, test results, immunisation history and My Health Record.

It includes a symptom checker and access to a free 24-hour nurse helpline.



Vehicle Registration Rebate

Transport Victoria

← News



News

Victorian vehicle registration rebate

From Monday 1 June to Friday 31 July 2026 Victorians can apply for a 20 per cent rebate on their car registration payments.

Published date: 26/4/2026

Feedback

You may have already heard that the Victorian Government announced a cost-of-living relief package that will allow eligible Victorians to apply for a 20% rebate on light vehicle registration fees.

The rebate is **ONLY** available from June 1st through until July 31st.

The registration must be already paid and the rebate is applicable to rego from 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

You can apply for it via Services Victoria.

If you need assistance to apply we can offer support and help you through the process. You will need to have the rego paid and have a Services Victoria login. If you don't have a login, we can help create one as long as you can access your email.

Thursdays would be the best day for us to help you.

Community Update:

Addressing Safety, Environment, and Amenity at Venus Bay Beaches

Two well-attended community meetings were held on 3 March at the Men's Shed and 26 March at the Venus Bay Community Centre to discuss critical issues surrounding infrastructure, safety, and sustainability at Venus Bay's five beaches. These meetings brought together residents, visitors, and key stakeholders to identify challenges and propose actionable solutions.

Key Issues Identified

The discussions highlighted three major areas of concern:

Safety

- Illegal parking obstructs emergency services' access, particularly during peak periods.
- Unmanaged parking and beach holes hinder access for the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club (VBSLSC) volunteers.
- Beaches 2–5 remain unpatrolled, contributing to Venus Bay's ranking as one of Victoria's most dangerous beaches.
- Single road in/out poses a significant fire risk during extreme weather events.

Environment

- Littering damages the local ecosystem and threatens wildlife.
- Overfishing and non-compliance with pipi harvesting regulations risk depleting local pipi stocks.
- Shorebirds and their chicks face disruption to feeding grounds, impacting biodiversity.

Amenity

- Illegal parking limits access for visitors and residents alike.
- Rubbish accumulation detracts from the natural beauty of the beaches.

A third meeting was held on 31 March at the Venus Bay Community Centre, with even greater attendance. The community reached a consensus on prioritising the petition to maximise visibility during the Easter long weekend.

Proposals and Next Steps

A series of proposals were discussed to address these challenges, including:

1. Formation of a Working Group

- A Venus Bay Beach Infrastructure Working Group was formed, consisting of four community members. This group is now focused on improving infrastructure at all five beaches to better manage tourism during peak periods.
- The working group operates under the Venus Bay Community Centre and has met weekly since its formation. Its priorities include:
 - Reviewing past efforts to address peak visitation challenges.
 - Consulting with local agencies to develop sustainable solutions.

2. Community-Led Petition for Legislative Change

- A separate, community-led petition has been created to advocate for a seasonal ban on pipi harvesting (1 November – 30 April).
- The petition highlights Venus Bay's unique vulnerabilities, including:
 - A single road in/out.
 - High safety risks (ranked as Victoria's third most dangerous beach).
 - Extreme fire risks with no safe evacuation points.
 - Overstretched emergency services and volunteer lifesavers.
- This petition is entirely community-driven and is not affiliated with the working group. It is currently in circulation, with over 1,000 of the required 2,000 signatures already collected.

For more information or to get involved:

- Petition: Contact community members leading the petition effort.
- Working Group: Reach out to the Venus Bay Community Centre.



🚐 Meet Sunny — your friendly Community eBus! ☀️

Why battle rising petrol prices, parking hassles and long drives when Sunny can get you there for a fraction of the cost — with good company along the way?

Here's where Sunny is headed:

📅 **Every Monday – Wonthaggi**

Shopping, appointments, errands or simply a day out.

💛 Just a \$5 donation secures your seat.

🍅 **Every second Saturday – Leongatha & Koonwarra**

We often time our trip with the wonderful Koonwarra Farmers Market or the Leongatha Commons Produce Market.

💛 \$5 donation required.

🚗 **Need a V-Line connection?**

Sunny can help with V-Line pick ups and drop offs when volunteer drivers are available.

💛 Bookings essential | \$40 donation — far cheaper than a taxi!

👥 **Planning a group outing?**

Sunny is also available for private bookings! Gather some friends and plan your own adventure, attend a local event or organise a social trip.

☀️ Don't forget to keep an eye on *Matter of Fact* and our social media pages for upcoming Social Outings and special trips.

And here's the really special part ❤️

Sunny is entirely volunteer-run. We receive no ongoing funding, so every donation helps keep the wheels turning — covering insurance, maintenance, repairs and charging costs.

By hopping on Sunny, you're doing more than saving money:

- ✅ reducing isolation
- ✅ supporting local volunteers
- ✅ helping keep our community connected

📍 To book, volunteer or learn more:

[Venus Bay Community Centre eBus Information](#)



Providing local community transport options.

Venus Bay

Bookings essential:

📶 vbcc.org.au/e-bus
📞 0403 108 199





Electrofishing on the Tarwin River



Register

 Sat, 20 Jun, 10am - 1pm AEST
[Add to calendar](#)

 Tarwin Lower Boat Ramp

Ozfish is coming to South Gippsland - get involved!

Join [South Gippsland Landcare Network](#) along with [OzFish](#) and [Austral Consulting](#) for a live electrofishing demonstration and discover what fish species call the Tarwin River home. Come hear about the plan for a new Ozfish chapter right here in South Gippsland and help shape what this new chapter becomes from the ground up.

Electrofishing is a **safe and effective** method that uses an electric current to temporarily stun fish, helping scientists understand fish populations and improve habitats. This **family-friendly** event offers a rare opportunity to learn about river health, water quality, and the native aquatic life of the Tarwin River.

The [West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority](#) will be there to share river knowledge and answer any questions.

BBQ lunch provided by Venus Bay Anglers club + Ozfish.

We can't wait to see you there!

For further info, please email morgan@sgln.net.au Visit ozfish.org.au or contact Andy Foudoulis, OzFish Project Manager - Victoria, at andyfoudoulis@ozfish.org.au.

This event is made possible by the [West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority](#) and [OzFish](#).

Are you ready for the first 72 hours after an emergency?

When a major emergency occurs, emergency services, power companies and relief agencies can experience extremely high demand. While help will arrive as soon as possible, it may take time to reach every community — especially during widespread events such as storms, fires or floods.

That's why it's important to be prepared to look after yourself, your household, and your pets for the first 72 hours.

The First 72 Hours is a collaborative emergency preparedness initiative developed by Victorian councils to help communities get prepared, stay informed, and take simple practical steps before an emergency happens.

South Gippsland Shire Council is bringing the program to the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower communities this June.

Upcoming community sessions

Online session

Tuesday 23 June | 5.30pm

Venus Bay Community Centre – Community Lunch

Wednesday 24 June | 12.00pm

Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute & Memorial Hall – Community Dinner

Wednesday 24 June | 6.30pm



At these free one-hour sessions you will:

- Create a simple emergency plan
- Learn what supplies you may need at home
- Find out where to access emergency information and support
- Connect with local people and services

Everyone is welcome.

For more information and bookings, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/72HRS



1 June is the the first day of winter — and **Smoke Alarm Action Day**. Use it as your reminder to test your smoke alarms and make sure they're working properly.

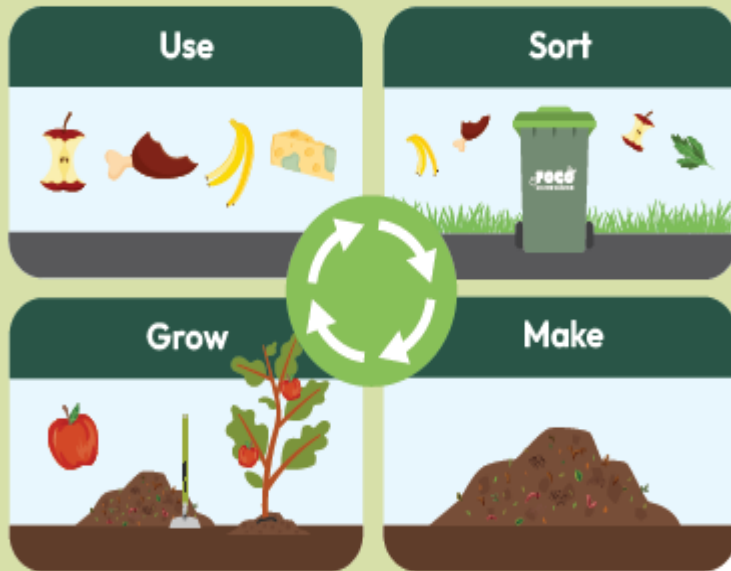
It only takes a minute, and it could save your life. A working smoke alarm can halve the risk of death in a house fire and is one of the simplest ways to protect your home and family.

Get to know your FOGO

Creating high-quality compost for farms, parks and gardens starts with you!



From 1 July, put your food scraps in your food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin!



Find out more!

[southgippsland.vic.gov.au/fogo](https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/fogo)



Your kerbside collection service is changing due to new Victorian Government legislation.

From 1 July 2026, all residential properties receiving a kerbside waste and recycling collection service will have a new bin system. The two main changes from the current service are:

- **Green waste bin becomes FOGO:** pop your garden waste, food scraps and other organic waste in your FOGO bin. This bin will now be collected **weekly**.
- **General waste (red lidded) bin:** food scraps and other organic waste will no longer go in your general waste bin. Your general waste bin will now be collected **fortnightly**.



More info: <https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/fogo>

Service Charge	26/27 Charge
Standard waste and recycling service – 240L weekly FOGO, 240L fortnightly recycling, 120L fortnightly general waste	\$428.16
Waste and recycling service with upsized general waste – 240L weekly FOGO, 240L fortnightly recycling, 240L fortnightly general waste	\$590.19
Additional 240L fortnightly recycling bin	\$91.78
Additional 240L weekly FOGO	\$174.36
Additional 240L fortnightly general waste	\$324.05

In my garden in JUNE



PREPARING	PLANTING (seedlings)	SOWING (direct)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare beds with compost, manure, etc. for strawberries, other berries, fruit trees • Identify and clean up beds and sow green crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White salad onions • Long-keeping onions • Shallots & tree onions • Parsley • Cabbages - quick maturing & small varieties • Chinese/Asian greens • Open-heart lettuce varieties • Cos lettuces • Kale • Leeks • Garlic bulbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peas - shelling, snow, & sugar snap • Broad beans • Open-heart lettuce varieties • Cress, rocket • Endive • Asian greens • Spring Onions • Coriander • Dill • Green-crops -oats, dung peas, broad beans etc



OTHER JOBS

- Pruning time - apples, pears, plums, cane-bearing berries, quince, currants, kiwi fruit. (NOT apricots, peaches or nectarines)
- Continue to collect mulch and look after the compost
- Think about planting fruit trees - what type, where, etc

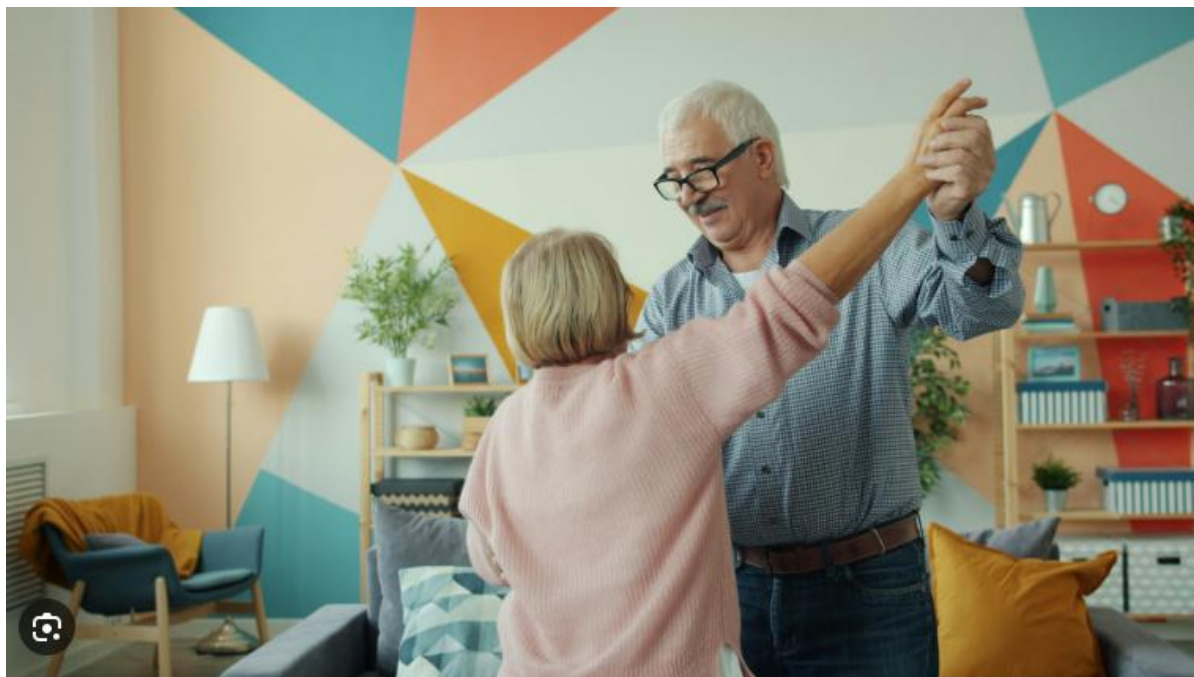


June at the Community Centre

Mon 1	10.00 - 12.00 2.00 - 4.00 5.00 - 6.30 10.00 - 2.00	Silver Banksia plant propagation group Social Art group Men's Social Cooking Recycling Op Shop open
Tues 2	5.00 - 6.30	Game night
Wed 3	12.00 10.00 - 2.00	Community lunch Recycling Op Shop open
Thurs 4	10.00 - 1.00 4.00 - 6.00 9.30 - 2.00	My Health Tech support Ukulele Recycling Op Shop open
Sat 6	10.00 - 2.00	Recycling Op Shop open
Mon 8	9.30 - 12.30	Recycling Op Shop open (subject to change)
Tues 9	5.00 - 6.00	Book Club
Wed 10	12.00 3.30 - 5.00 6.00 (new time)	Community Lunch Freeform writers group Community Meal – Venus Bay Community Centre
Thurs 11	10.00 - 11.00 10.00 - 1.00 6.00 start 4.00 - 6.00	Gardening group My Health Tech support Stirring the pot (booking required this month) Ukulele
Sat 13	10.00 - 2.00	Recycling Op Shop open
Mon 15	10.00 - 12.00 11.00 - 12.00 2.00 - 4.00	Silver Banksia plant propagation group Book Club Social Art group
Tues 16	5.00 - 6.30	Knitting/crocheting/stitching group
Wed 17	10.00 - 12.00 12.00 5.30 - 7.00 (new)	Latrobe Community Health – Aged care assistance Community lunch Not Huge – small business catch up
Thurs 18	10.00 - 1.00 4.00 - 6.00	My Health Tech support Ukulele
Sat 20	10.00 - 2.00	Recycling Op Shop open
Mon 22	10.00 - 12.00 2.00 - 4.00	Silver Banksia plant propagation group Social Art group
Wed 24	12.00 6.00 (new time)	Community Lunch – Village High School students cooking and serving Community Meal – Tarwin Lower
Thurs 25	10.00 - 1.00 10.00 - 11.00 4.00 - 6.00	My Health Tech support Rick Coleman permaculture walk and talk Ukulele
Sat 27	10.00 - 2.00	Recycling Op Shop open
Mon 29	10.00 - 12.00 2.00 - 4.00	Silver Banksia plant propagation group Social Art group

Living at Home for Longer – Free One-on-One Information Sessions

Presented by Laura Corbett from Latrobe Community Health Service



Are you aged 65 or over and interested in maintaining your independence at home for longer? Join us for a **free personalised Information session** designed to help you better understand the support available to you.


These one-on-one appointments provide clear, practical guidance on accessing **government-funded programs and subsidies** that can assist with in-home care and support services. You'll receive expert assistance with:

- Navigating the *My Aged Care* system
- Understanding eligibility requirements
- Exploring available services and support options
- Learning about associated costs and subsidies
- Getting help with registration and application processes

Laura from Latrobe Community Health Service will be available **once a month** at the **Venus Bay Community Centre** to offer tailored advice in a friendly and supportive environment.

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE BETWEEN 10am and 2pm, bookings are essential.

To secure your appointment, please contact:

 5663 7499 OR

 alyson@vbcc.org.au




Take the next step toward confident, independent living—book your session today.


Permaculture Walk & Talk


with Rick Coleman from Southern Cross Permaculture 

Join us for an inspiring and practical morning with internationally respected permaculture educator Rick Coleman. Rick has taught on every habitable continent, sharing simple, sustainable ways to grow resilient gardens and stronger communities.


Rick will explore:

-  How to build resilience in your garden
-  Creating sustainable gardens with just 10 minutes a day
-  How to make your own natural fertiliser at home

 Thursday 25 June

 10.00am

 Venus Bay Community Centre

 Morning tea provided

Come along, ask questions, and learn practical skills you can use at home straight away.





We've got a brand new electric outdoor BBQ – woo hoo!!

A huge thank you to the Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund for providing funding to purchase this fantastic addition to the Venus Bay Community Centre.

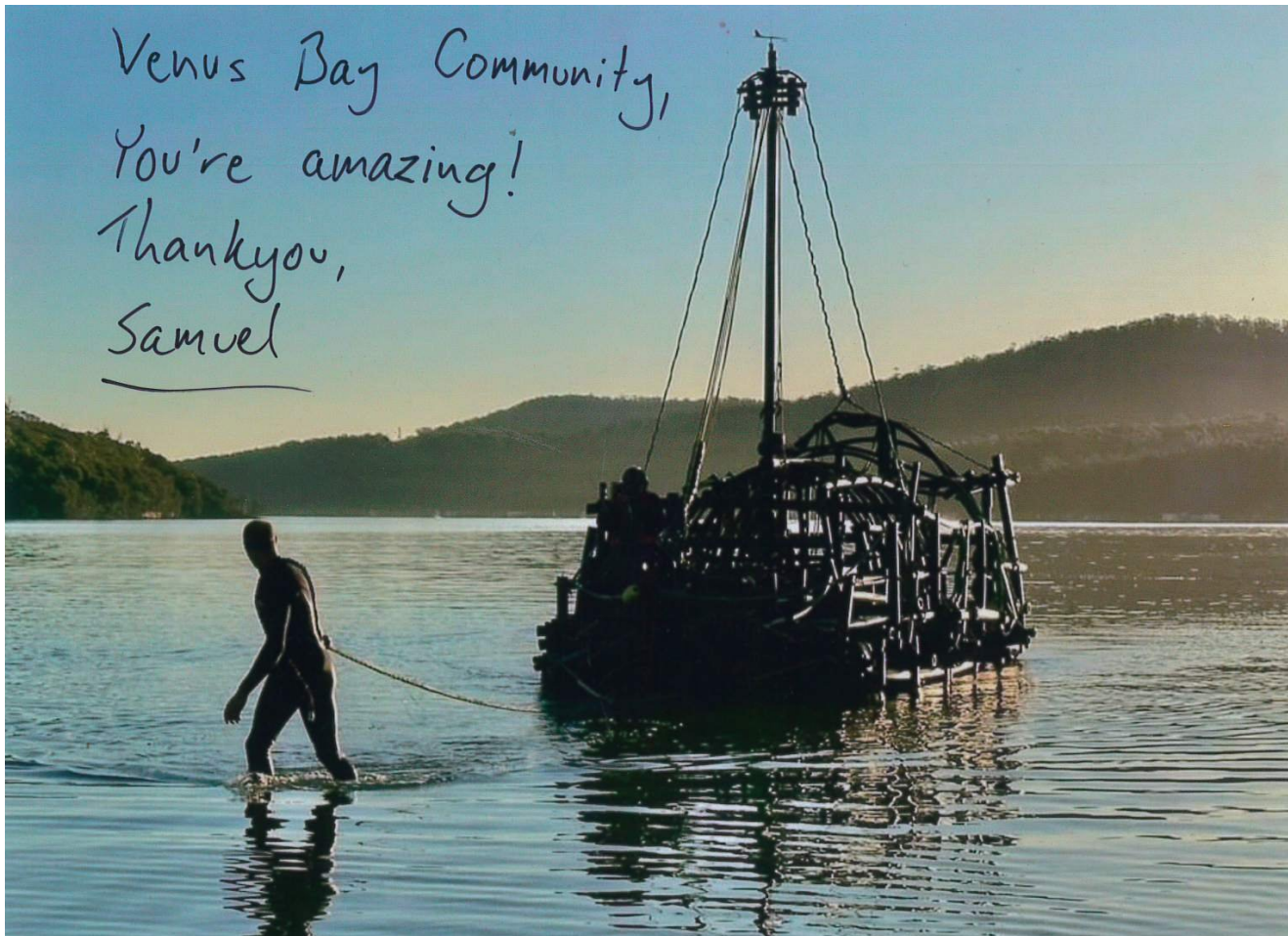
Installed on our verandah, this orange beauty will support our Community Lunches and Dinners — and it'll also be available for community members to use.

It's a ripper industrial-style outdoor BBQ with double burners, and unlike many public BBQs, it can still operate during power outages — helping strengthen local community resilience when we need it most.

We can already smell the sausages sizzling!  



Thank you Samuel for all that you do.



Samuel and *Heart*: The Story Behind Project Interrupt

A lovely photo arrived last week from Samuel McLennan, prompting us to revisit the inspiring story of Project Interrupt and the remarkable vessel at its centre, *Heart*.

Project Interrupt is more than a sailing journey—it's a powerful reminder of what's possible when creativity meets purpose.

Built largely from marine debris collected along Tasmania's coastline, *Heart* transformed discarded waste into a seaworthy boat carrying an important message about sustainability, innovation, and community action.

Sailing from Hobart toward Sydney, Samuel has used the journey to engage with coastal communities through conversations, workshops, and events that encourage people to think differently about environmental challenges and their role in creating positive change.

More than just a boat, *Heart* symbolizes transformation. It demonstrates that materials often seen as rubbish can be repurposed into something meaningful and inspiring. Through Project Interrupt, Samuel challenges people to reconsider old habits, embrace new perspectives, and imagine better solutions for the future.

As *Heart* continues its voyage, it leaves behind more than a wake—it leaves a message of resilience, hope, and the power of turning problems into possibilities.

You can follow along with Samuel's journey on Facebook or Instagram search for Project Interrupt



PH. 5667 5680 www.tarwinhealth.com.au

19 Walkerville Rd Tarwin Lower

10am-2pm (Subject to volunteer availability)



Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Practitioner Deb Garvey is available at the Health Centre on Wednesdays from 8am.

For TeleHealth or to book an appointment, please call Deb on 0467 841 782.



Expert hearing care comes naturally to us.

Get expert advice and the right device at a fair price from Australia's most trusted hearing services provider, 5 years running.



We're coming, TARWIN LOWER

Join us and get your FREE 15-minute adult hearing check at: Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE 8:00am till 12:00pm

134 432 hearing.com.au

Conditions apply under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program.



Pilates on Tuesday mornings.

Improve your strength, balance and flexibility in a non-judgemental and friendly group.

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



JUNE Get-Together 2026

WHEN - Monday June 1st 2026, 10.00am

WHERE - Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre

WHAT - 1. Tool maintenance - sharpening, oiling, handle maintenance. Bring your favourite tools along.

2. Fruit trees - let's chat about the 3P's - planting, pollination, pruning.

ALL WELCOME It's FREE!



Need more information??? Contact TLCHC 5667 5680 or Russell 0439 973 071



Thankyou to everyone who donates to the community cupboard. The support is very much appreciated by people in our community who need a little help at the moment.

We are running low on flour, sugar, spreads for toast, loo paper, tinned beans and anything you can turn into a meal. Please take donations to the Health Centre or in the IGA donations bin.

Health Centre Gardening Bee & Brunch

Saturday 6th June 10am-11am followed by brunch 😊

All abilities welcome. Please bring gardening gloves and a small plate of something to share.



Red Cross meets once a month.

For details, please call Margaret Fisher (Secretary)

03 5663 5256.



Art Connections

No experienced needed, just a willingness to explore and enjoy the process. For details, please call Robyn on 0488 990 598

Hey you! We need help with all sorts of things, reception, grant writing, social media and umm maybe some graphic design for our newsletter. Please get in contact at tarwinlowerchc@gmail.com

WOMBAT WALKERS

WALK TOGETHER. CONNECT. FEEL GOOD.  



ALL PACES WELCOME
You do you.



GOOD COMPANY
Great chats.
New friends.



BETTER TOGETHER
Move your body.
Lift your mood.



NATURE. FRESH AIR.
Good for the
mind and soul.



WALKS HELD ON SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
(WEATHER PERMITTING)



MEET OUTSIDE 4SHORE PIZZA AT 9AM.



WALKS. CONNECTION. COMMUNITY.
Everyone is welcome! 



Tarwin Lower Union Church



Regular services:

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Anglican/Uniting

Saturday 4 p.m. Catholic


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

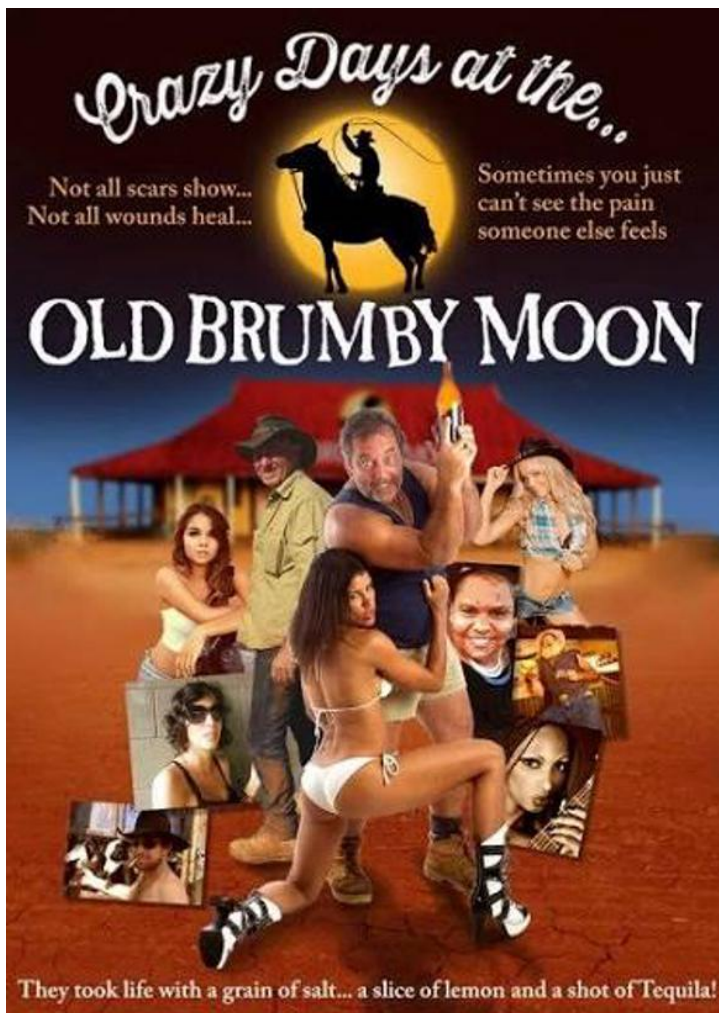
Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

“Wise women” personal development discussion group will meet on **Thursday 4th June and Thursday 18th June**
at 10.30 a.m.

for a cuppa and chat

KYB (Know your bible) will meet on
Friday 12th June and Friday 26th June
at 1.30 p.m.

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our
 rather than a piece of our mind



**Tarwin Lower Film Society
presents Crazy Days at the
Old Brumby Moon.**

6.45 for 7.30 start.

**Friday June 19th at Tarwin
Lower Hall.**

TREEHOUSE STUDIO VENUS BAY



JUNE

CHANGE OF SEASON MINI RETREAT
june 6, 7, 8,
pause, reset and realign.

A weekend in Venus Bay-connecting
with nature , breathing ocean air and
taking time to look out into the horizon
A restorative place to make peace.



A MONTH OF SUNDAYS
Sunday Morning Yoga practise -
Each Sunday a chance to check
in with self. A little bit of
lengthening the body, a lot of
deep breathing and clearing
out the busy mind.
9AM - 10:15AM at the
Treehouse.

For more information and to secure a place text 0421300407 or email twirlingsheila@gmail.com

STAY UP TO DATE TWIRLINGSHEILA PRODUCTIONS AND FOLLOW



WORKS AT VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE



You may have noticed a bit of work going on the grounds at the front and back of the Centre lately.

After a catastrophic septic failure over summer (the system was 30 years old!), a new wastewater treatment plant has now been installed.

A massive thank you to South Gippsland Shire Council who have worked collaboratively with us to find the most appropriate solution – given the established garden and trees out the front. We were so pleased we didn't have to remove all the

vegetation/trees/garden at the front, rather a vegetation assessment was undertaken of grounds at the back of the Centre – which triggered a planning permit and vegetation off-set contributions.

While it looks a bit barren there during construction, it will become a nice, grassed community space.



Provide Feedback on the Flood Overlay Planning Scheme Amendment

Published Thursday, 21st May 2026

Council and the West Gippsland Catchment Authority (WGCMA) have prepared a Draft Planning Scheme Amendment.

This Amendment will combine 10 flood studies, informed by historical flood information, physical site conditions, computer modelling and local knowledge, have identified approximately 900 additional properties and 180 dwelling that are likely to be affected by flooding. Properties impacted by the proposed mapping changes are located within the WGCMA's jurisdiction and include land in Foster, Hedley, Kongwak, Welshpool, the Tarwin River catchment along South Gippsland's coast.



As a result, Council has prepared new flood-related planning controls so that the findings are properly reflected in the South Gippsland Planning Scheme. The draft amendment proposes to introduce or amend the Flood Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) on land identified as being affected by flood risk.

What is an overlay?

An overlay is a planning control that applies to specific areas where buildings and works may require a planning permit. Overlays are used to ensure particular matters, such as flood, are appropriately considered during the planning process. In most cases, minor works do not require a permit and overlays do not prevent development. Rather, the proposed controls are intended to ensure flood risk is properly considered when new buildings and work are proposed. This can help better protect properties from future flood damage and minimise adverse impacts on surrounding land.

Where can I learn more?

From 21 May to 6 July 2026, Council will be seeking community feedback on the Draft Amendment. Feedback must be provided in writing during the exhibition period to be considered. Community members are encouraged to lodge submissions through Council's online submission portal.

Through the link provided below, you will be able to access the submission portal as well as any other information you may need - including a mapping portal of affected land, details of upcoming community drop-in sessions, and a copy of all draft amendment documents.

[Draft Amendment C135 - South Gippsland Flood Studies | South Gippsland Shire Council](#)

Community Information Session:

- Tarwin Lower, Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall, 27 River Drive, 11.00am-12.00pm
Friday 12 June (booking times available on request 10.00-11.00am)



Volunteer with us - it's fun!

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

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

So why not come and join in!

Situated at 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay.

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

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

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

or call Alyson 0416 242 331

Venus Bay Community Centre is supported by:

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

Our website is www.vbcc.org.au

Find current and back issues of Matter Of Fact on our website. Please contact us if you wish to be on our email distribution list.

