

February 2026 Vol 17 Issue 2

# 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.



# Feed the People: Growing Food, Skills and Community in 2026

As 2026 begins, an exciting new chapter is unfolding at the Venus Bay Community Centre. With the support of a small Victorian State Government grant, we are launching **Feed the People** — a growing collection of programs and activities designed *with* and *for* our community.

Feed the People builds on the wonderful things already happening locally and aims to expand, connect and strengthen our shared food culture. It's about more than meals — it's about learning together, sharing knowledge, building resilience and deepening community connections.

A key focus of the program is **collaboration**. We'll be working alongside local groups, organisations and community members, using a variety of community spaces and encouraging more people to get involved — whether you're a seasoned grower, a keen cook, or just curious to learn.

Here's a snapshot of what's taking shape:

## **Growing Together**

Our Community Centre garden beds are expanding — and the tomatoes are already thriving! We'll also be working with the Health Centre's existing Grow Your Own Food group, gardens and connecting with other groups and individuals who want to share skills and knowledge about growing food at home.

## **Seasonal Planting Guide**

We're developing an annual seasonal planting guide to support both community gardens and home gardeners, helping everyone grow the right things at the right time.

## **Workshops & Skill Sharing**

Seasonal workshops will cover planting, harvesting, preserving and practical tips and tricks. These sessions are about building confidence, sharing experience and keeping valuable food knowledge alive in our community.

## **Community Meals, Grown Locally**

Our much-loved Wednesday Community Lunches will continue to grow, with a goal of using more homegrown produce and preserves from our Forage project.

## **NEW Wednesday Evening Meals**

Starting in February, we're introducing a **new Wednesday evening meal**, beginning with two nights and expanding as community interest and capacity grow. Best of all — **meals will be free in February**.

## **Strengthening the Free Food Pantry**

We'll also be working with partners to enhance the Free Food Pantry at both the Venus Bay Community Centre and the Tarwin Health Centre, helping ensure good food is accessible to those who need it.

## **Food Handling Training for Volunteers**

To support these growing food programs, we'll also be offering food handling training for volunteers. This ensures meals are prepared and shared safely, while building valuable skills and confidence for community members involved in food activities.

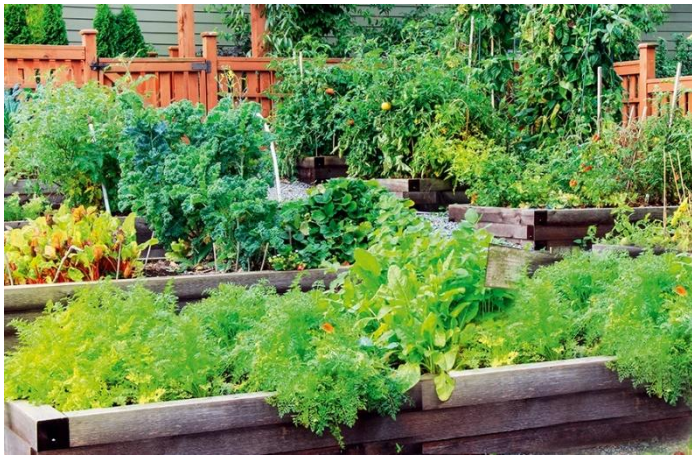
---

Feed the People is a community effort, and ideas are always welcome. Whether you'd like to volunteer, share knowledge, grow food, cook, or simply take part — there's a place for you.

Together, we're growing more than food — we're growing connection, skills and resilience. 🌱

Keep your eyes on our socials and local noticeboards to dates, updates and getting involved!





## Help Feed the People: Do you have excess produce in your Garden?

Do you ever find yourself with more zucchini, tomatoes, herbs, or fruit than your household can possibly use? This season, your extra home-grown produce could make a meaningful difference—well beyond harvest time.

We're launching Feed the People, a new community program dedicated to collecting excess, home-grown fruits and vegetables and turning them into fresh food and preserves that can be shared year-round with neighbours in need.

The idea is simple: reduce food waste, increase food access, and strengthen community connections. Surplus produce will be collected and either distributed fresh or used to create shelf-stable preserves—such as jams, sauces, pickles, and other preserved foods—so that nothing goes to waste and support can continue even outside the growing season.

Many of us grow more than we expect. Feed the People offers a safe, organized way to share that abundance. Donated produce will be responsibly handled and processed, with care taken to maximize use and minimize waste, ensuring your garden's bounty reaches families and individuals facing food insecurity throughout the year.

We are currently seeking access to excess produce from local gardeners, backyard growers, and small homesteads who are willing to participate during the growing season. Whether it's a few extra pounds or a bumper harvest, every contribution helps—fresh today and preserved for tomorrow. If you're interested in participating or learning more about how donations and preservation will work, we'd love to hear from you. Together, we can turn surplus into sustenance and help feed the people all year long. ❤️



You are invited to join us at our

## FREE IN FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EVENING MEALS

**VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**6.30 PM**

**18 FEBRUARY 2026**

**TARWIN LOWER MEMORIAL HALL**

**6.30 PM**

**25 FEBRUARY 2026**

Hosted by

**Venus Bay Community Centre**

**in collaboration with community partners as part of the new  
Grow Share Eat initiative**



February 12th 2.00

Venus Bay Community Centre  
27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay

**Stirring the Pot  
are hosting**

# High Tea

Dress Code: A touch of tea-time elegance

All monies raised will go to our  
local CFA team

**Tickets available  
at Humanitix  
\$10.00**





## Lend a Hand, Share a Skill, Make a Difference – Volunteer with Venus Bay Community Centre

Venus Bay Community Centre thrives because community members like you choose to lend a hand, share a skill, or simply offer a welcoming chat. Volunteering with us isn't just about helping — it's about connecting, learning, and being part of a community that cares.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our programs, helping us create a warm, inclusive, and resilient district. As costs rise and funding struggles to keep pace, volunteers help us stretch further while staying true to our mission. Whatever your passion — food, gardening, technology, organising, chatting, driving, or writing — there's a role here for your unique spark.



Here's a snapshot of some ways you can get involved:

- **Recycling Op-Shop** – Sort, merchandise, and promote our social enterprise. Reduce landfill, support volunteering, and help others upcycle treasured items.
- **Gardening** – Plant, water, weed, compost, and harvest with us through the seasons.
- **Cooking & Food Prep** – Assist with weekly community meals, batch cooking for the food pantry, or preserving seasonal produce.
- **Food Pantry** – Help increase supplies and distribute food to those who may need a little extra support.
- **Volunteer Coordination** – Welcome new volunteers, help plan meaningful opportunities, and keep our programs running smoothly.
- **Sunny eBus Coordination & Driving** – Manage bookings, coordinate drivers, or hit the road and drive folk on scheduled services, private bookings, V/Line connections, or our summer beach shuttle.
- **Media & Promotion** – Share our stories, promote opportunities, and be our media champion.
- **Writing** – Contribute articles to our *Matter of Fact* newsletter.
- **Skill Sharing** – Join existing activities to share your skills or help create something new that you're passionate about.

And that's just the start! There are always more opportunities to get involved. Pop in, have a chat, and find the role that suits you best.

**Step in. Connect. Contribute. Be part of something that makes Venus Bay stronger every day. Come in for a chat!**



**COMMUNITY  
ENERGY  
E-BUS**

Venus Bay



Powered by community... for community.

## Sunny Update - Our third year of community transport!

We've now completed the 2-year pilot into community transport and are looking forward to the release of the full final report. It's encouraging to see other small communities like Yarram follow our lead and start looking into how to implement community transport in their community.

Now that the pilot has been completed, funding for the community bus has become our responsibility. We would like to thank Bendigo Community Bank Inverloch for their generous grant as well as everyone who has chipped in by becoming a Friend of Sunny or purchased tickets through our Christmas raffle and fundraiser. We would also like to thank all of our volunteers who have contributed over 550 hours and assisted 1650 passengers in 2025.

## The Year Ahead

This year we will continue to offer a regular shopping trip to Wonthaggi while also looking at how we can incorporate regular trips to places where fresh, affordable produce is available to buy or swap. This includes the Leongatha Community Garden's Cluck and Collect (Thursday afternoon), the Fish Creek Summer Market (Sat morning) and the Coal Creek Farmers Market (2nd Sat of each month). To travel we request a \$5 donation per trip or \$20 per month to travel on all scheduled services for the month. Community donations go straight back into keeping Sunny on the road.

We will also be doing some additional trips to places like Wilsons Promontory, the Desal Plant Gardens as well as other community events and celebrations. Sunny is still available for private hire and V/Line connections subject to volunteer availability.

You can get early notification about our community bus trips and events by following us on [Humanitix](#).

## Supporting Our Volunteers

Our services are primarily run by volunteers, so we ask that you follow these basic rules to minimise the impact on our volunteers.


- We are not on call. We check for messages and emails and respond to community enquiries Monday to Friday usually between 8 and 11am, so please be patient.
- Bookings for regular services must be made by 5pm the day prior to the service.
- If you need to cancel a booking please call or text the Duty Manager Phone on 0403 108 199 (messages through the booking platform take up to 24 hours to arrive so not ideal).
- For private bookings we need 3 days to find a volunteer driver, organise donation payments, arrange routes and pick-ups and ensure everything is in place.

For more information about our community bus go to <https://www.vbcc.org.au/e-bus>.





## Regular activities returning in February



RETURNING FEBRUARY 4TH

### Free community lunches


NEW COOKS ALWAYS WELCOME,  
IDEAS & SUPPORT PROVIDED



### KNIT, CROCHET, STITCH

BYO project or  
contribute to a KOGO  
project  
5.00 - 6.30ish  
Venus Bay Community  
Centre  
27 Canterbury Road

MONTHLY ACTIVITY - 18TH OF FEBRUARY  
EVERYONE WELCOME  
GOLD COIN APPRECIATED



### Games Night

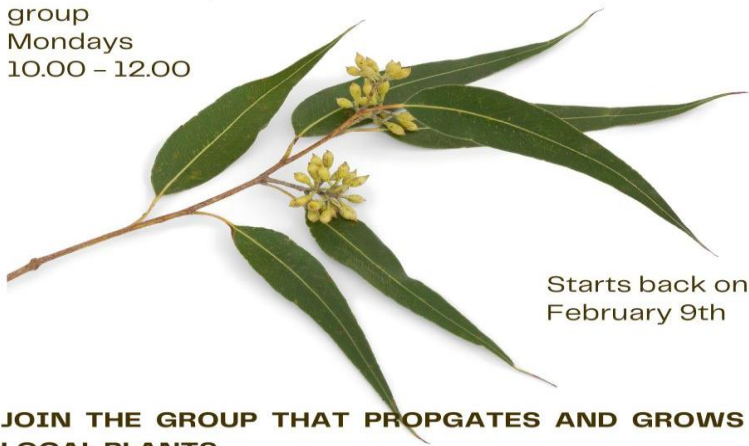
5.00 - 6.30

### BYO drinks & snacks

Board games or  
card games - what's your choice?

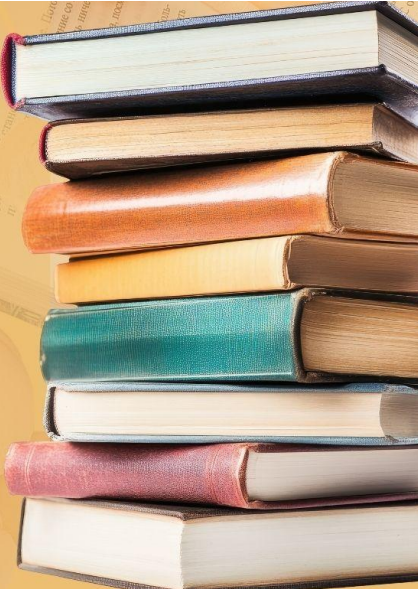
**GOLD COIN APPRECIATED** **FEBRUARY 4TH**

Silver Banksia plant  
group  
Mondays  
10.00 - 12.00




Starts back on  
February 9th

**JOIN THE GROUP THAT PROPAGATES AND GROWS  
LOCAL PLANTS**



## BOOK CLUB



Second Tuesday of  
the Month

5.00 - 6.30



### Freeform writing group

*Dedicated writing time &  
random writing exercises to  
inspire & motivate*

**11th of February**  
**3.30 - 5.00**  
*Gold coin appreciated*



**ALL WELCOME**  
**\$5.00**

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**4.00 - 6.00**  
@ VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE  
**UKULELE GROUP**



# ENERGY EXCHANGE WORKSHOPS

VENUS BAY  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

mycelia  
ENERGY COLLECTIVE



Energy Exchange is a series of FREE community-led gatherings where people can ask questions, share knowledge and learn more about home energy efficiency and renewable energy.

**10-11.30am**

## Your Energy Bill

Are you getting the best energy deal? ✓

Useful information on your energy bill. ✓

Tips to Slash Energy Costs ✓

Impact of solar on your bill ✓

How to Compare Offers ✓

Come to one or  
all - depending  
on what  
interests you!

**12-1pm**

## Home Solar

How home solar systems works ✓

What size system do I need? ✓

Local Examples ✓

Rebates, Subsidies & Discounts. ✓

Getting Quotes ✓

**FREE!**  
All welcome!!  
But please  
let us know if  
you're  
coming

**1.30-2.30pm**

## Home Battery

How home battery systems work ✓

Impact on your energy bill ✓

Local Examples ✓

Getting Quotes ✓

**Date** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

**Location** Venus Bay Community Centre

**Address** 27 Canterbury Rd Venus Bay

**RSVP** [teresa.davison@mycelia.org.au](mailto:teresa.davison@mycelia.org.au)







# ENERGY EXCHANGE WORKSHOPS

VENUS BAY  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

 Mycelia  
ENERGY COLLECTIVE

 BASS  
COAST

 Sustainability  
Victoria

 AusNet  
services

Energy Exchange is a series of FREE community-led gatherings where people can ask questions, share knowledge and learn more about home energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Come along to the next series of workshops about Energy – we are hosting 3 different sessions on the one day – **Saturday 21 February** to cater for people at all stages of their energy journey.

We hosted the **Bring in your Bill Day** last year – and it was a great success with people stepping through important information on their energy bill and what to look for when comparing energy companies' rates. By comparing their energy bills with each other, residents identified a gap of 18c per kwh between the highest and lowest rate. It doesn't sound like much but when you multiple 18c by the typical Australian household usage (6,100 kwh) it adds up to hundreds of dollars a year. "I rang OVO (our current provider) this morning and now I'm on the same plan that Graham (who was sitting next to me yesterday) is on. So that has saved us approximately \$200 based on last years usage." Karen, Venus Bay.

Helen, also from Venus Bay, was concerned that despite having solar, her energy bills seemed high. By having knowledgeable people look at her bill, Helen made a phone call to her provider and discovered they didn't have her solar registered. This meant Helen had been missing out on solar credits for six months. "After attending the workshop, I felt stimulated and confident to review my bill and the plan that I was on before reviewing all offers presented on the Vic Gov website and to finally take some action" Helen, Venus Bay.



These Energy Exchange Workshops are delivered by Mycelia Energy Collective and Venus Bay Community Centre, funded by Ausnet Energy Resilience Community Fund, FRRR Community Led Climate Solutions and is part of Community Electrification Engagement program that is delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government. The aim is to empower community members to get the best energy rates, support home energy efficiencies and households shifting to renewable energy

We know people are interested and ready to think about installing solar and/or a battery system. That's why we are offering practical sessions on identifying what system requirements would suit your lifestyle/home usage and help to navigate what subsidies and credits that might be available.

**Join us on Saturday 21 February at Venus Bay Community Centre (see poster for times)**

These workshops are a continuation of the Community Energy Project that was started about 5 years ago – a series of actions and projects that have improved our community energy resilience – here's a snapshot of what we've achieved:

## Community Energy in Action – Venus Bay & Tarwin Lower

Over the past five years, the Venus Bay Community Energy Project has delivered practical, community-led initiatives that strengthen local energy resilience, reduce costs, and support a sustainable future – for and with our community.

## Building a Centre of Energy Resilience

- Transformed the Venus Bay Community Centre into a resilience hub through:
  - Expanded solar array and battery storage
  - Backup generator and satellite communications
  - Full electrification of the building
- The Centre now operates as a critical community asset during outages and emergencies.

## Community Energy Planning & Vision

- Delivered a **Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study** through community-designed workshops.
- Co-created a **Community Energy Plan**, providing a clear roadmap to guide future projects and investment across Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

## Australia-First Community Electric Transport

- Established the **Gippsland Community Transport Project**, an Australian first.
- Introduced **SUNNY**, our community-owned electric mini-bus, now in its third year of operation. this initiative provides community transport options (using renewable energy and community power!!)
- Collaborative impact through a twin project in Sandy Point with **SANDY**, delivering renewable-powered transport across coastal communities.

## Community Battery for Tarwin Lower

- Successfully attracted funding for a **Resilience Community Battery** at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve.
- Project currently underway, with completion expected in **August 2026**.
- The battery will deliver:
  - Improved community resilience
  - Reduced power bills
  - Savings for maintenance and decommissioning
  - Ongoing community benefit

## Strategic Partnerships & Investment

- Developed a strong strategic partnership with **Mycelia Renewables**, focused on collaborative, community-centred energy solutions.
- Secured funding to deliver priority actions identified in the Community Energy Action Plan.
- Established productive and enduring partnerships with Changing Weather, Coalition for Community Energy, Federation University, Ethical Fields, iMove Cooperative Research Centre, , La Trobe University, local and industry stakeholders and other community energy networks and projects across Victoria and beyond.

## Community Electrification Education

- Partnering with **Gippsland Climate Change Network** and **Mycelia Renewables** to support the delivery of the **Community Electrification Education Program**.

## Energy Exchange Workshop Series

- Delivered a series of practical, accessible workshops funded through Mycelia Renewables:
  - **Tune In** – What's driving your energy bills
  - **Switch On** – Easy energy efficiency wins
  - **Plug In, Power Up** – Electrification made easy
  - **Charge Ahead** – Solar, storage, rebates and roadmaps
  - **Make a Connection** – Connecting with local providers and getting answers to take the next step

Community is at the heart of everything we do – and there's always more to accomplish on the community energy journey. Be a part of it – pop into the Centre any time to chat, keep up to date with our newsletter and socials, or let us know what you are interested in or want to be involved with.



# ArtCube Update

The Artcube has been occupied by a small group of dedicated painters who have been attending workshops on a regular basis at the Community Centre. Lead by one of the artists the group have exhibited their works and used the time to sit and paint in the cube. Talking to visitors and relishing the opportunity to show off their skills. The next Art workshop starts on February 2nd.

## Our Next Artist in Residence: Dr Tracie Mitchell

The Thread of an Idea: February 5 – March 6.

Arts residencies are significant moments for makers as it gives them permission to sit with an idea, or to remember the importance of playing and exploring without the pressure of set piece of work or a preconceptual idea.

The February ArtCube art residency is an opportunity for me to build on an idea that was coming into fruition at the Venus Bay Community Centre Art Cube Project. I was looking specifically at a free form hand stitching – a method of stitching free from any set patterning such as embroidery stitching or following a marked out pattern. I see it as a subconscious type of hand stitching – an abstract process that will reveal an outcome rather than an outcome being decided before the process has already started.

An outcome of the previous residency has been the inspiration to apply to be part of a new arts project in East Gippsland. NIGHT FROCKS @ ICEWORKS is an initiative of the FLOAT creative venture. I have been invited to embellish a vintage French linen nightgown which will become part of an exhibition in Lakes Entrance as part of the Winter festival running 19<sup>th</sup> June through to July 19<sup>th</sup> 2026.

My time in the Artcube will be researching the history of the fabrics and exploring the sensory connections made as a result of a slow sew intention.

**Final Call - limited time in to fill in the ArtCube we have only 3 weeks available in March.**

If you have been thinking about whether to apply NOW is the time to do it!

Whether you're a visual artist, installation artist, performer, or experimental maker, the ArtCube offers a **unique opportunity** to engage the community, test new ideas, or set aside time in a dedicated space to explore your own art practice.

## Why be involved?

### Creative Incubation

- The ArtCube is a seasonal incubator for creativity — a place where bold ideas and experimental works are welcomed.
- It's perfect for short residencies, pop-up exhibitions, participatory projects, or creative happenings.
- Artists are encouraged to use the space to push boundaries, try something new, and connect directly with the public.

We're seeking **expressions of interest** from individual artists or collectives interested in occupying the Blue Cube; projects may be as short as a weekend or run over several weeks. This can be a simple outline of what you are thinking about. All disciplines welcome!

**Want to know more?** Send an email to [carol@vbcc.org.au](mailto:carol@vbcc.org.au), or call in for a chat on a Wednesday or Thursday. Community Centre.





PH. 5667 5680 [www.tarwinhealth.com.au](http://www.tarwinhealth.com.au)

## February Newsletter 2026

19 Walkerville Rd, Tarwin Lower

Phone: 03 5667 5680

Mon-Frid 10am-2pm (subject to volunteer availability)



Nurse Practitioner

### Nurse Practitioner Deb Garvey

Need a heart check, blood test, prescription or have a health question? Nurse Practitioner Deb Garvey is available Wednesday mornings from 8am. Please book at the Health Centre or call and leave a message on 03 5667 5680 or TeleHealth - call Deb 0467 841 782.



### Maternal & Child Health Nurse

To book an appointment, please call South Gippsland Shire Council  
**03 5662 9294.**



### Grow Your Own Food

We are off to see the Fish Creek Buckley Community Farm. Everyone is welcome to come along! **Monday 2nd Feb 10am.** Car pooling from Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre leaving at 9.30am.



### Garden Bee Crew

Next Gardening Bee is on **Saturday 7th February 10-11am followed by brunch.** All ages and abilities welcome! Please bring gardening gloves and a small plate of something to share if you can.





### **Pilates on Tuesday mornings.**

Improve your strength, balance and flexibility in friendly and welcoming class.

Classes \$15

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



### **Join our Creative Connections Art Group**

No experience is needed—just a willingness to explore, play, and enjoy the process.

To find out more 0488 990 598.



### **Friday Friendship group**

Friday Friendship group gets together for picnics, music, entertainment, games and more!

Please contact Gippsland Southern Health on 03 5654 2791.



### **Red Cross meets once a month.**

Contact Margaret Fisher (Secretary) on 03 5663 5256.



### **Community Food Cupboard**

Thank-you to everyone who donates. People are very appreciative of the support from the community. We are always in need of things that you can turn into dinner- tinned tuna, tinned veggies, pasta, rice, noodles, sauces and also flour, long life milk, sugar and kids school snacks. Frozen food also welcome.

Drop off food items to the Health Centre- 19 Walkerville Rd. **Mon to Frid 10am- 2pm** (subject to volunteer availability).



### **Volunteers needed!**

The Community Health Centre aims to support the health and well-being of our whole community. If you care about any aspect of health (physical, emotional, social, creative) we are looking for volunteer receptionists (regular or fill-in) and committee members. Email: [tarwinlowerchc@gmail.com](mailto:tarwinlowerchc@gmail.com)



# GROW

## YOUR OWN

# FOOD

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

## Welcome to 2026!

Starting the year with a visit to....

Buckley Park Community Farm, Fish Creek

WHEN - Monday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026, 10.00am

HOW - Let's car-pool. Meet @ Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre by 9.30am.

## ALL WELCOME

Need more information????

TARWIN LOWER & DISTRICT




PH. 5667 5680 [www.tarwinhealth.com.au](http://www.tarwinhealth.com.au)



or Russell 0439 973 071





**Home is where  
the heart is.  
Stay there longer.**

## How to live at home for longer

Personalised Support with My Aged Care & Support at Home

Navigating the aged care system can be complex — but you don't have to do it alone. Book a one-on-one consultation with Laura Corbett from Latrobe Community Health Services for personalised assistance in understanding, applying for, and managing your My Aged Care and Support at Home services.

Laura can guide you through each step of the process, ensuring you access the right supports to maintain your independence, wellbeing, and comfort at home.

**When:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Appointments:**

- 10am – 11am
- 11am – 12pm
- 12pm – 1pm
- 1pm – 2pm

**Where:** Venus Bay Community Centre, 27 Canterbury Rd, Venus Bay

**Contact to book appointments:**

Alyson: (03) 5663 7499 or [vbcc@bigpond.com](mailto:vbcc@bigpond.com)

**Laura Corbett – 0483 289 683 or [laura.corbett@lchs.com.au](mailto:laura.corbett@lchs.com.au)**  
1800 242 696 dial 2 then option 2 for Support at Home





## Venus Bay Angling Club

The VBAC will hold the February fishing competition from 13th February 2026 starting at 6.00am to Sunday 15th Feb with final weigh in 2.30-3.00 p.m. when the winner will be announced. You can weigh in your catch from 4.00 - 6.00pm on the 13th - 14th Feb at Gerald's Shed. 1st Prize for members is a \$50 voucher from The Cavity, 2nd prize is a BCF voucher provided by Arma Window Tinting. The BBQ will be held at Gerald's Shed from 6.00pm 14<sup>th</sup> February with meat being supplied by the club and members and visitors are asked to bring along a salad or dessert to share. Non members can join in for \$5 which includes entry to the competition and the BBQ, no cost to juniors, who are welcome to weigh a fish in.

One of our newest young members Nathan, loves fishing and he took out 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the Juniors heaviest fish section for 2025 with a good size trevally.

If you were down by the boat ramp on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January you may have noticed the lovely bunch of kids and parents down there enjoying our Kids Fishing Day. It was a great success (unfortunately we had to turn away a number of children due to not enough space) with some of the kids catching their first fish. They all enjoyed the BBQ afterwards and giveaways provided by Inverloch Fishing and Outdoors and Fisheries Victoria.



### Do you know the difference between a bank and a Community Bank?

We have recently been supported by a grant from the Inverloch & District Bendigo **Community Bank**.

Years ago, the Venus Bay Community Centre, along with many other local community organisations changed our accounts to Bendigo Bank – they were local and helpful. It's a bank – with all the usual banking services, but it is also **Community Owned and operated**, with profits going back into the community.

They are one of only a couple of Community banks in our district – the other being in **Foster/Toora**. Together, these establishments have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to support local projects, initiatives and organisations.

Recent funding has helped us to continue operating Sunny – our community powered eBus. We love that they have supported us – so if you (people, groups, businesses) are keen to support your local community, have a chat with Penelope and her team at Inverloch Community Bank and bank with a local bank that's owned and operated by local people and the PROFIT goes back into this community!!

**Community Bank  
Inverloch & District**

# Tarwin Lower Hall - What's On?

Hi all - A busy summer period comes to an end! Our market days are going from strength to strength and as our major revenue earner for the Hall coffers I am so grateful for the continued support from the community and our super troupe of volunteers. See you at our next live music gig on Saturday 28 February for "Jones, Steel & Jackson - The Kitchen Table Tour.

Tix available here: [www.trybooking.com/DIEWB](http://www.trybooking.com/DIEWB)

*Marg de Wolff*

President, Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute  
Committee of Management Inc

## Tarwin Lower Film Society presents

**"Kinds of Kindness"**(MA15+) 2024 Duration: 2hr 44 min USA

**Dark Comedy/Drama/Horror**

KINDS OF KINDNESS is a triptych fable, following a man without choice who tries to take control of his own life; a policeman who is alarmed that his wife who was missing-at-sea has returned and seems a different person; and a woman determined to find a specific someone with a special ability, who is destined to become a prodigious spiritual leader..

**Friday 20 February 2026 7:30pm BYO**

For 24/25 membership and movie information head to  
[www.trybooking.com/DBVIA](http://www.trybooking.com/DBVIA)



## LABOUR DAY MARKET

**Monday 9 March**  
**8:00am – 1:00pm**

**27 River Drive Tarwin Lower**



# The Kitchen Table Tour



Bill Jackson

Award Winning Solo Artist

Frank Jones

Founding Member  
The Whirling Furphies

Dave Steel

Founding Member  
Weddings, Parties, Anything

We welcome back three Award Winning Songwriters sitting around a kitchen table doing what they do at home. Playing old and new songs from their extensive solo catalogues - interspersed with their take on some classic Australian folk songs, they will make you laugh, sing and cry. Not to be missed!

TARWIN LOWER MECHANICS HALL  
27 RIVER DRIVE TARWIN LOWER

Saturday 28 February - 7:00pm

[www.trybooking.com/DIEWB](http://www.trybooking.com/DIEWB)

Tickets \$30/\$25

Or scan the  
QR Code



Proudly Presented by The Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall





# Tarwin Lower Union Church

## Regular services:

Sunday 10.30 a.m.      Anglican/Uniting  
Saturday 4 p.m.      Catholic

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

"Wise women" personal development discussion group will meet on:

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**  
at 10.30 a.m.

**for a cuppa and chat**

KYB (Know your bible) will meet on

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**  
at 1.30 p.m.

**Pancake Day: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Come and enjoy a **Free** Pancake

between 10 and 1

@ Tarwin Lower Union Church



*(A 'mini' garage sale will also be held to raise funds to replace the 60 metre hose which was recently taken from the church grounds)*



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

# Acrylic Painting

## next class starts February 2nd

We are pleased to have the Acrylic Painting classes back for 2026.

These classes are for those who have never painted, would like to build on skills learned or trial something new with guidance available.

The classes will be open and relaxed, you do not need any prior experience to take home a completed artwork of your own.

This workshop is led by artist Elaine who is an accomplished painter and teacher.

To get you started Elaine will provide everything you need in the class and provide a set of examples each week for you to learn from and recreate in your own way.

---

Commencing: Monday February 2nd

Time: 1.30 - 3.30

Duration: 4 weeks

Location: 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay

Cost: \$80 (covers all materials and tuition)

To be paid in advance to secure a place, cash preferred.

---

Bookings in person at the Community Centre or email [carol@vbcc.org.au](mailto:carol@vbcc.org.au)

[www.vbcc.org.au](http://www.vbcc.org.au)

With artist  
Elaine  
Allan





# Did you know there's a DISC GOLF COURSE in Tarwin Lower?

It's FREE and it's FUN – located at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve -created by a couple of passionate locals and supported by many- it has been such a great addition to the recreation facilities for our district.



11 holes



7 Baskets 4 Tonals Targets



Dogs allowed



Established in 2020



Grass Tees



Mixed use



Cart friendly

Don't have any discs? We have some you can borrow for free at the Venus Bay Community Centre.



The Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund is inviting community organisations in the Tarwin Lower, Walkerville and Venus Bay district to submit applications for its 2026 Community Grants program.

Applications are now open and will **CLOSE on FRIDAY, 10 February 2026**. Application forms and information can be found on the BHWF website – [Community Fund](#), but here it is in a nutshell:

## 2026 Grant

This year, the Community Fund has \$27,000.00 available for grants to community organisations. The Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund Committee has decided that for the 2026 financial year it will provide two categories of grants:

1. **DISTRICT PROJECT GRANT:** One grant of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to an organisation undertaking a District Project. District Projects must demonstrate community partnerships/collaboration and overall benefit to the district/wider community.



2. **SMALL PROJECT GRANTS:** One Small Project will be awarded up to the amount of \$5,000. The remainder of the funds will be allocated to small grants of up to \$2,000. Small Project grants are for the organisation to enable it to provide a benefit or service to the local community.



## THE GREAT PIPI DEBATE

It seems it's back on the table again – the perennial pipi issue!

There is no doubt there were lots of visitors to Venus Bay this summer. Of course, our infrastructure was never created for so many people at one time – and some of the disquiet relates to parking (some very bad and thoughtless parking was observed) and of course the additional rubbish that people bring and leave.

Over many years, there has been work done behind the scenes to acknowledge, address and try to deal with some of the issues.

As a marine coastal park – managed by Parks Victoria – the policy is to have no bins. In a concession to the park/township boundaries, bins are located at beach 1 and emptied each day by the Shire. The Community Centre created the Free Summer Beach shuttle to reduced parking congestion at Beach 1 – and to allow emergency vehicle access to the beach. Reduced catch limit for pipi's was instituted; despite being under-resourced Fisheries officers continue to monitor limits and licences. A significant 3 year study was undertaken by University of Melbourne's Dr John Morrongiello into the sustainability of pipi harvesting. The report and findings can be found on our website here: <https://www.vbcc.org.au/pipi-report>



## The Great Pipi Research Study

In December 2016, Dr John Morrongiello, from the University of Melbourne and his team started the much anticipated sustainability project: Assessing the sustainability of Venus Bay's recreational and commercial pipi harvest

This was a 3 year study of the Venus Bay pipi population and was funded by Recreational Fishing Licence Grants Program.

The study sampled a number of locations along 15km of the beach, from the top of Point Smythe to 8km south of Beach 1. At each location, they sampled the pipi population and measured the size of all individuals we catch. They also measured the beach profile using surveying equipment to quantify local habitat variation. Using this data, in conjunction with tide, season and geographic information to model the drivers of pipi abundance on the beach. This information allows assessment of the relative importance of recreational and commercial harvesting and natural environmental variability on driving demographic patterns in the population.

While this study was complete nearly 2 years ago – it has taken some time going through official channels, but now it is available.

While issues relating to the sustainability of pipi harvesting are still ongoing, this study provides accurate data to inform future policy positions and provides a platform of scientific research for future advocacy

Copies of the report can be found on our website [here](https://www.vbcc.org.au/pipi-report)



# READY TO ELEVATE

YOUR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY?

2026  
SOUTH COAST  
COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM

The South Coast Community Leadership Program is a free and exciting three month comprehensive program focused on growth, connection and fun.

## APPLY NOW

APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2026  
NUMBERS ARE LIMITED

PROGRAM STARTS  
SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026



For more information and to apply visit  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership)  
or scan the QR code.





# 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](mailto:info@vbcc.org.au) Website: [www.vbcc.org.au](http://www.vbcc.org.au)

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

or call Alyson 0416 242 331

Venus Bay Community Centre is supported by:

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

Our website is [www.vbcc.org.au](http://www.vbcc.org.au)

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

