

MATTER OF FACT

a free community newsletter published by
Venus Bay Community Centre

OCTOBER 2022 Vol 10 Issue 13



Providing information for
Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower
and Walkerville district

VENUS BAY
COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

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



COMMUNITY ENERGY for Venus Bay?

Community Resilience and Reliable Energy Feasibility Study at Venus Bay

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



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

Welcome to Bulletin #2 October 2022

Technically Speaking

The loss of power becomes more critical when it is unavailable for a longer time. Over the last few years, Venus Bay has experienced multi-day outages more than once and usually due to extreme weather. AusNet Services, who own and operate the electricity poles and wires, has a target to keep outages on its short rural lines below 6hrs/customer/year. In 2021, they achieved 41hrs/customer in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

It is a good time to think about local energy backup options because weather events are getting more severe, our reliance on electricity is increasing and our options to produce electricity locally are more diverse and cheaper than ever been before. And persistent grid outages can be seen as an opportunity for innovation.

The Community Energy Study will look at several local energy options for Venus Bay that will form the basis of analysis over the next nine months.

At the smallest scale, replication of multiple stand-alone systems, like the one at the Venus Bay Community Centre, could be one option. The new battery, generator and solar system at the Centre operates by disconnecting from the main grid during outages. The Centre is powered by the battery when it's charged, by solar if the sun is shining or by the generator as a last resort. It can also combine solar with some generator.

At a middle scale, co-ordinating energy generation and export from clusters of building that are already connected via the local grid, could be another option. Historically, the cluster of shops in Venus Bay had its own backup generator. This cluster could be an ideal candidate for hosting a modern stand-alone system.

At the largest scale the option of a microgrid for the whole Venus Bay Peninsula warrants investigation. As with the cluster approach, microgrids rely on coordinating local energy supplies in order to power all the customers that are connected.

The task for the Project Team is to research the technical feasibility of any or all of these options, once community

needs and preferences have been surfaced and understood. Then the Project Team will work with the community to test financial viability of the community agreed priority option(s).

Community Workshop #1 – What does resilience mean for each of us and our community?

Saturday October 1st, 2022, Venus Bay Community Centre, 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay – 12 noon to 3pm

Lunch included – RSVP alyson@vbcc.org.au

Venus Bay Voices – Henry O'Clery

We moved to Venus Bay four years ago, and apart from an excess of mosquitos and power outages, we love the place. We can't do much about the mossies, but surely, in this day and age, it must be possible to improve the energy supply!

So how about we study what modern renewable energy technology can offer our community? Not what it can offer the network or the retailers, but how it might be able to improve the amenity, safety and economics for all of us while also contributing to a better environment?

Two years ago the Venus Bay Community Centre decided to take on this task.

First, we built a solar/battery demonstration system at the Centre so that the place can fully operate when the grid goes down. Then we obtained a substantial grant from the government to develop a feasibility study for the whole town.

We have now assembled a crack team of experts who are working with community members to develop a model of what is possible, and how we could build it.

If you think this is a good idea and might even be a bit excited, why not come along to our Resilience Workshop at the Venus Bay Community Centre?



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Bulletin #2 October 2022

Brilliantly Resilient

The Venus Bay Community Energy Study is framed through a lens of resilience. So, logically, the Study is asking - Resilience to what? To help unpack that, people from across Venus Bay are being asked to think about and describe their social networks and their relationships with energy and infrastructure, including energy use, access and priorities, both during non-emergencies and emergencies.

The Study is also asking - When does a lack of electricity become an issue? Four main events may help us think through the impacts and possibilities.

Firstly, let's remember that the black summer bushfires of 2019/20 inspired this Study. Crises and disasters arrive suddenly. They are often driven by weather, and we are reminded that climate change will make extreme weather events more frequent. They also place significant demands on a community - dealing with a power outage is only one of a number of challenges being faced in that moment.

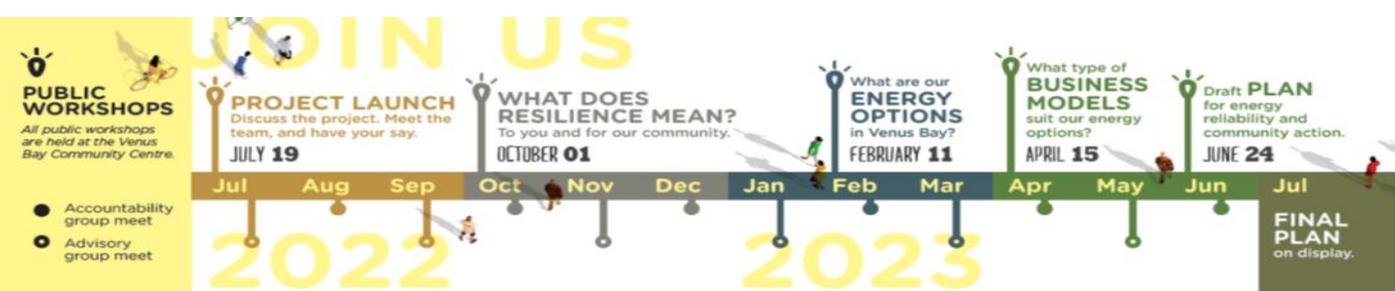
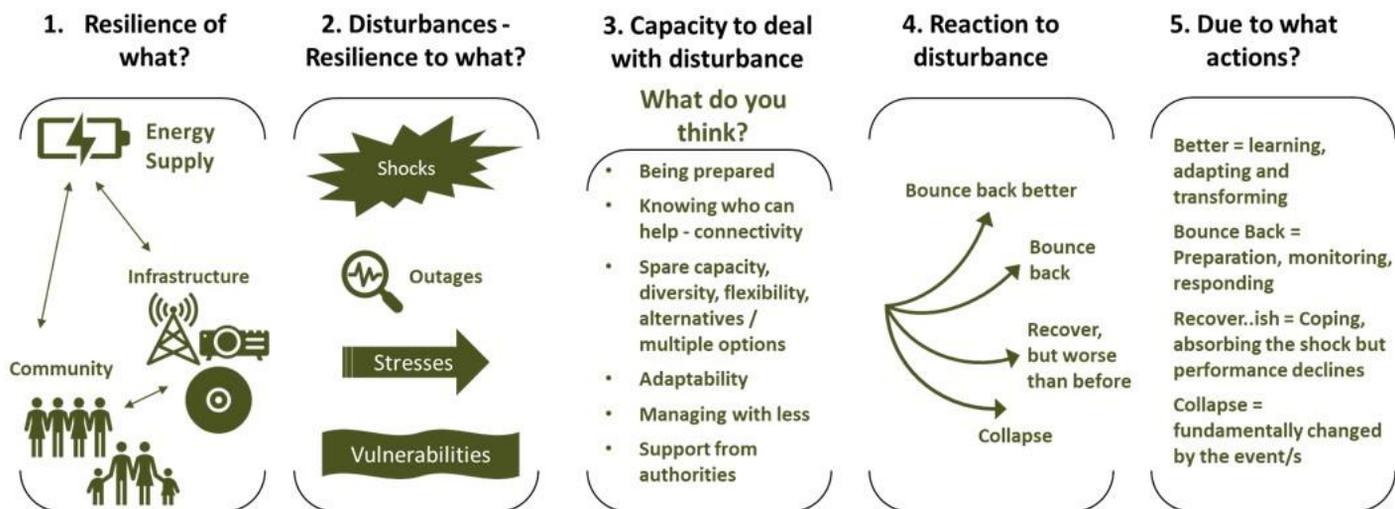
Secondly, it is important to highlight ordinary power outages. We know these happen relatively frequently because Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower are at the end of a

long power line from Inverloch and are therefore very prone to equipment failures, fallen branches and other faults that trip the switch. Thinking about the way we currently respond to regular power outages can help us think about the changes we might like to see, if we could reduce their impact and the inconvenience.

Thirdly, thinking about resilience reminds us to think about long term stressors as well. For example, parts of the electricity network might be getting to the end of their life, climate change will bring longer heatwaves, and our energy system is under pressure of significant changes as we transition to renewable energy.

Finally, thinking about our vulnerabilities provides a useful provocation because vulnerability is the flipside to resilience. We all have elements of modern life that we are over reliant upon. Also, the single road in and out of Venus Bay is a constant reminder that every community has unique challenges that can amplify vulnerabilities.

This Study offers us a chance to think through our essential energy needs under each of these circumstances. From this deeper and shared understanding, we can shape our local energy systems and ambitions so they strengthen our resilience.





Each year throughout October, a month-long campaign named 'Shocktober' highlights the vital importance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and CPR in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest.

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in Australia, striking about 30,000 Australians every year. Thousands of Australian families lose someone they love to cardiac arrest every year because lifesaving equipment is not available.

Shocktober is aimed at creating awareness about sudden cardiac arrest, AED locations, and the crucial part defibrillators and CPR play in increasing sudden cardiac arrest survival.

...
KNOW WHERE THE LOCAL A.E.D's ARE

24 Hours



- Venus Bay Pharmacy Jupiter Blvd Outside 24 Hrs
- Venus Bay Community Centre Canterbury Rd External 24 Hrs
- Venus Bay 2nd Estate Cnr Alida St & McIndoe Ave External 24 Hrs
- Tarwin Lower Mechanics Hall Riverview Drive External 24 Hrs
- Tarwin Lower Health Centre Walkerville Rd External 24 Hrs
- Walkerville Foreshore Camping Reserve External 24 Hrs
- 3 Loop Rd Walkerville North
- CFA Walkerville North 20 Panoramic Drive External 24 Hrs

LIMITED HOURS

- Venus Bay Men's Shed Lees Rd Venus Bay
- Open 10.00 am – 12.00 am Wed & Sat Internal
- Venus Bay Angling Club Fishermans Rd 2nd Estate
- Open 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm Frid & Sat & Comp W/ends Internal
- Tarwin Lower Bowls Club Tarwin Recreation Reserve Internal
- Tarwin Lower Football Netball Club Recreation Reserve Internal

AED TRAINING – A FREE COMMUNITY SESSION

JOIN our CERT Team and Ambulance Victoria on WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER FROM 7PM TO 8.30PM AT THE Venus Bay Community Centre to learn how to use an AED – it could save your life.





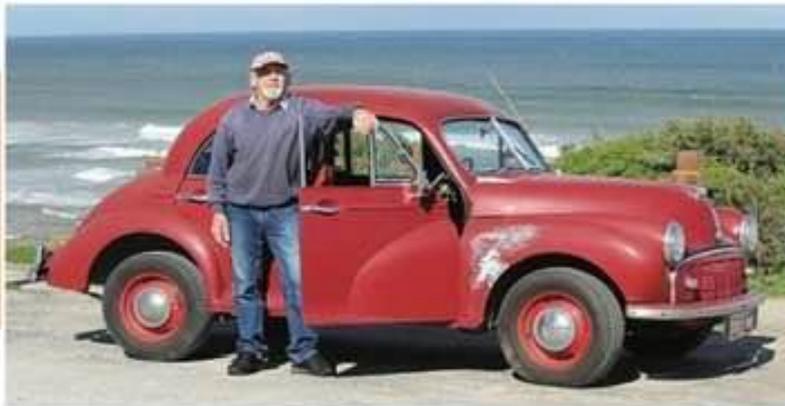
South Gippsland
Shire Council



Tarwin District Auto Festival

Saturday, October 29, 2022 – 12noon – 4pm
Tractor Demonstration Only - \$5 entry

**1952
Morris
Minor**



**Owned by
our own
living
Fossil**

Sunday, October 30, 2022
9.30am – 3.30pm

TARWIN LOWER RECREATIONAL RESERVE
WALKERVILLE RD, TARWIN LOWER

Cars, Motorcycles, Tractor Demonstrations, Trucks, Army Tank,
Stationary Engines, FREE Children's Activities, Food, Market,
CFA, CERT, SES Displays. Presentations 1-1-30pm approx.

ENTRY: Patrons: \$10.00 per adult, under 16yrs free.
Car/bike Exhibitors: \$10.00 includes one passenger.

A Family Fun Day

General Inquiry Mike Gardner **0416 125 607**
Stall Inquiry Susanne Ould **0400 579 443**
Tractor Demonstration Inquiry John Harris **0438 635 286**



TARWIN LOWER & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB INC.

AFILLIATED WITH BOWLS AUSTRALIA

Tarwin Lower & District Bowls Club invite you to



Our Annual Melbourne Cup Day Event
to be held from 12 noon on Tuesday, 1st
November, 2022.

Come along and join in the sweeps and our
“Fashion on the field” parade with prizes for best
dressed lady and couple.

Cost \$25.00 per person

Champagne on arrival, Chicken & Salads lunch

All welcome.

For individual or group bookings phone

Pat: 0408 581 573 or Helen: 0412 868 023 by 24th
October.



BOWLING WITH LITTLIES



Once again the Tarwin Lower Bowls Club is running
Bowling with Pre-schoolers and Babies.

Mums and/or Dads are invited to come along and learn the game of bowls
while your
little ones are looked after by members of the club who all have Working
With Children Certificates.

The six week program begins on Friday 4th November
and concludes on 9th December.

Come along after 10.00am for coffee/tea and a chat.
Bowling starts 10.30am

Contact Sharryn: 0428 636 202 or Pat: 0408 581 573 if you have any
queries.

We look forward to seeing you at the Bowls Club.



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

19 Walkerville Road,
Tarwin Lower VIC 3956

Telephone 03 5667 5680

Fax 03 5667 5679

ABN: 54 549 578 717

Incorp: A0012733G

www.tarwinhealth.com.au
info@tarwinhealth.com.au

Latest news from the Tarwin Lower Health Centre.

New Gardening Group

A new gardening group will meet at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre on 17th October 2022 at 10.30am. Come along with all of your gardening problems and people will try to answer your questions. Learn about seed propagation and pass on any gardening tips that you have. This group is open to all gardeners whether you are a novice or old hand.

Room Hire Rates

Recently the Tarwin Lower Health Centre Committee adjusted the room higher rates. The new rates are still considerably cheaper than other comparable rates.

These new rates below, come into effect from 1 October 2022.

Community use not for profit		\$15.00
For profit use:	half day (up to 3 hours)	\$20.00
For profit use:	full day (up to 6 hours)	\$40.00
Weekly Rate for profit use:	(5-to-6-day access)	\$150.00

Tarwin Lower Union Church



Regular services:

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Catholic
*Liturgy / Communion on the Saturday before the
1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month*

Saturday 6.30 p.m.
*Mass on the Saturday before the 2nd Sunday of
the month*

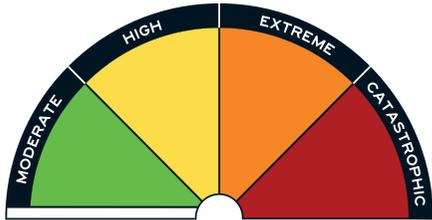
Sunday 10.30 a.m. Anglican / Uniting

Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

Coming up:

- * Women's discussion group (meets 6th and 20th October)
- * Blessing of the animals, Foster Uniting Church
Sunday 30th October @ 11 a.m.
(no service at Tarwin Lower on the 30th October)

Know Your Daily Fire Danger Rating



Stay aware of the fire danger rating and know what to do.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started. The higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions. Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.

Everyday you should:

- » Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings.
- » If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life.
- » Do not wait for a warning.
- » Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity.
- » Ensure any industrial and agricultural activities adhere to relevant guidelines.

To check your district's daily Fire Danger Rating, visit cfa.vic.gov.au, download the **VicEmergency App** or call **1800 226 226**.

	What does it mean?	What should I do?
CATASTROPHIC	<p>If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. 	<p>For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. » For your survival, do not be in bushfire risk areas. » Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. » Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.
EXTREME	<p>Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » These are dangerous fire conditions. » Expect hot, dry and windy conditions. 	<p>Take action now to protect your life and property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready » If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. » Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas. » Leaving bushfire risk areas early in the day is your safest option.
HIGH	<p>Fires can be dangerous.</p>	<p>Be ready to act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. » Decide what you will do if a fire starts. » If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.
MODERATE	<p>Most fires can be controlled.</p>	<p>Plan and prepare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings by going to cfa.vic.gov.au, emergency.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**

Know Your Total Fire Ban District



MALLEE DISTRICT

Buloke Shire
Gannawarra Shire
Mildura Rural City
Swan Hill Rural City
Yarriambiack Shire
(north of the netting fence)

WIMMERA DISTRICT

Hindmarsh Shire
Horsham Rural City
Northern Grampians Shire
West Wimmera Shire
Yarriambiack Shire (south of the netting fence)

NORTHERN COUNTRY DISTRICT

Campaspe Shire
Greater Bendigo City
Greater Shepparton City
Loddon Shire
Moirra Shire
Strathbogie Shire

NORTH EAST DISTRICT

Alpine Shire
Benalla Rural City
Falls Creek Alpine Resort
Indigo Shire
Mansfield Shire
Mount Buller Alpine Resort
Mount Hotham Alpine Resort
Mount Stirling Alpine Resort
Towong Shire
Wangarrata Rural City
Wodonga City

EAST GIPPSLAND DISTRICT

East Gippsland Shire

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Ballarat City
Banyule City
Bass Coast Shire
Bayside City
Boroondara City
Brimbank City
Cardinia Shire
Casey City
Darebin City
Frankston City
French Island
Glen Eira City
Golden Plains
Greater Dandenong City
Greater Geelong City
Hepburn Shire
Hobsons Bay City
Hume City
Kingston City
Knox City
Macedon Ranges Shire
Manningham City
Maribyrnong City
Maroondah City
Melbourne City
Melton Shire
Monash City
Moonee Valley City
Moorabool Shire
Moreland City
Mornington Peninsula Shire
Nillumbik Shire
Port Phillip City
Queenscliffe Borough
Stonnington City
Surf Coast Shire
Whitehorse City
Whittlesea City
Wyndham City
Yarra City
Yarra Ranges Shire

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

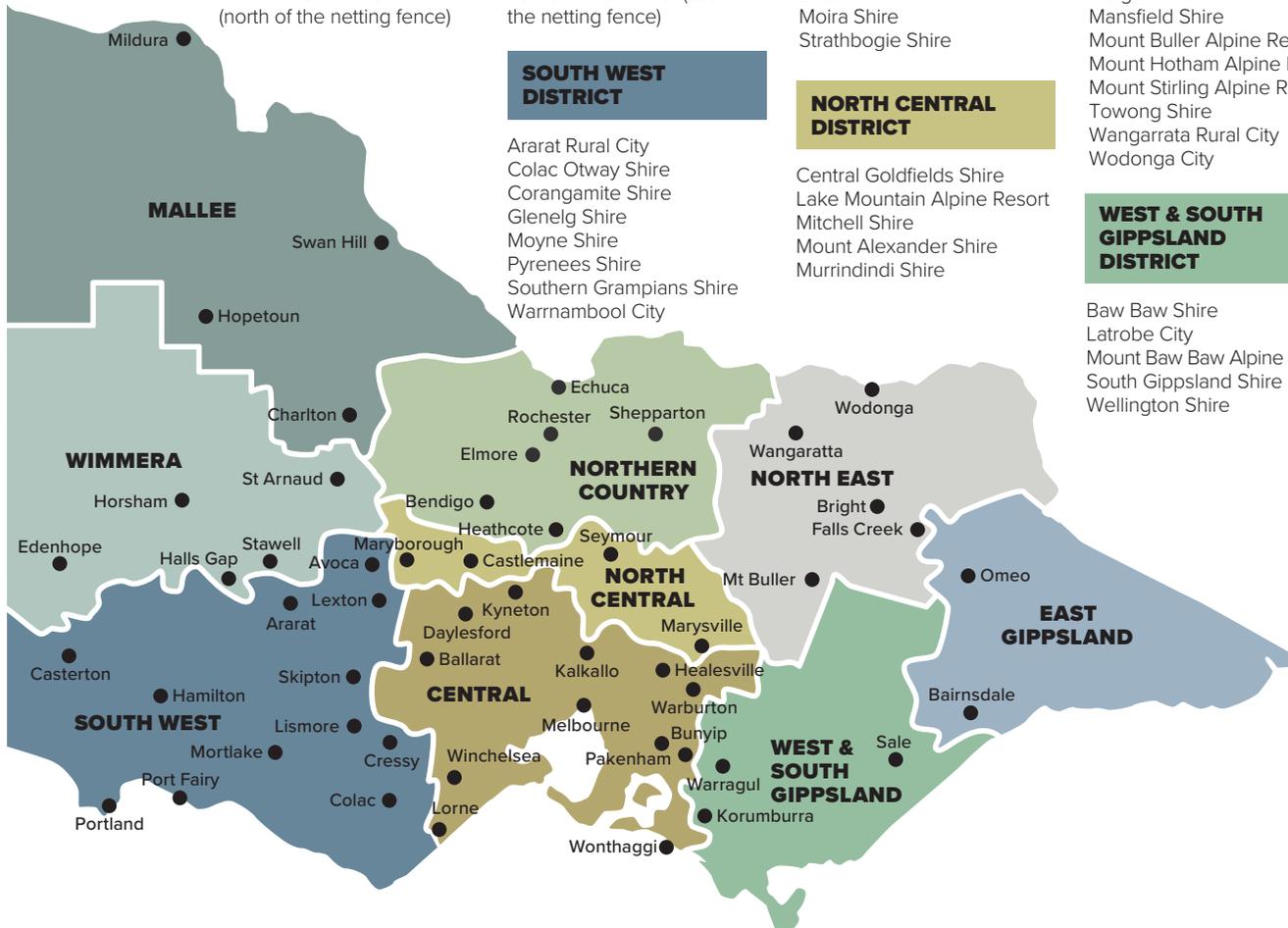
Ararat Rural City
Colac Otway Shire
Corangamite Shire
Glenelg Shire
Moynes Shire
Pyrenees Shire
Southern Grampians Shire
Warrnambool City

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Central Goldfields Shire
Lake Mountain Alpine Resort
Mitchell Shire
Mount Alexander Shire
Murrindindi Shire

WEST & SOUTH GIPPSLAND DISTRICT

Baw Baw Shire
Latrobe City
Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort
South Gippsland Shire
Wellington Shire



TOTAL FIRE BANS
Total Fire Bans are declared by CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to control.

On days of Total Fire Ban there are legal restrictions in force to reduce the likelihood of fires starting.

Victoria is divided into nine Total Fire Ban districts. Total Fire Bans are declared by district and you must know which district you live in. A list of municipalities that are located in each of the districts is shown in the coloured boxes.

For more information on Total Fire Bans and fire restrictions please call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226** or via National Relay Service on **1800 555 677** or visit cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information please visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au or phone the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677

New Food Swap Cupboard



A new edition to the Centre this month is our community food cupboard. You will find it situated on the veranda out front of the Venus Bay Community Centre. The concept behind the community cupboard is to create a mindful food swap space for the people of Venus Bay and Holiday makers alike.

- If you have been in town and bought too many tinned items that you do not wish to take all the way home again – leave it in the cupboard!
- If you are a local and find you have an excess of something in your cupboard that you think others would like, or need, then please feel free to share it in the community cupboard.
- Alternatively if you are at the Community Centre and have forgotten to stock up on that can of tomatoes... it may just be in the community cupboard available to you. The cupboard is accessible at all hours.

Help us to make this new venture work by taking as much as you need and leave what you don't need.

Please be mindful that if we are overstocked with cans of corn or beans or spaghetti then the cupboard does not need any more.

We also ask that you please check dates and please do not leave anything that has been opened to the avoid critters.

All food left must be within use-by date range and not perishable in an outdoor environment.



Also available – Compost Buckets

If you are visiting the area and don't have access to your normal compost system at home you can collect a bucket from the Community Centre and return it full to our shared composting station at the back of the Centre.

Materials that can be composted here

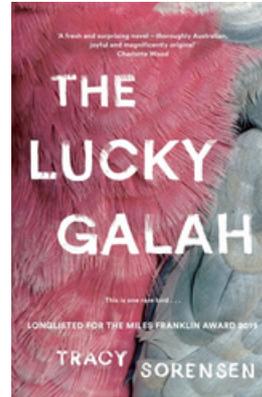
 Tea leaves & coffee grounds	 Vegetable scraps
 Fruit scraps	 Garden prunings

Plain cardboard, shredded paper, dust



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

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



**Current
book**

**FREE Community
Lunch
Wednesdays
12.00**



**A stitchin time
social sewing
group**

**3rd Wednesday
of the month
5.00 - 6.30**

**Nibbles and chat
BYO project**



**Sewing
mornings
every
wednesday**

**BYO Project or help
with upcycling
projects**

**Play group
Thursdays
10.30 - 12.00**





**NEW BICYCLES
AVAILABLE TO
HIRE \$20 PER
DAY**

**WE ALSO HAVE A
TRIKE
deposit & registration
required**



**Trailers for public
use within the local
area only. These do
not require
booking. Please
return when
finished using.**

**Disc golf - discs
available for hire from
the Centre.
Course is located in
Tarwin Lower. See
their facebook page
for more details.
Shark Disc Park Club.**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10-11 AM

22 OCTOBER 2022

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

If you'd like to find out more,
or be involved with the Centre
or a member of our Board,

please contact

alyson@vbcc.org.au or

chairperson@vbcc.org.au



Come and spend a morning with BirdLife Australia learning about Hooded plovers

(photo by Glenn Ehmke)

Hooded Plovers are a shy, non-aggressive bird that live and breed on the beaches of South Gippsland. SGLN invite you to come and learn about these rare and quirky birds and discover how you can help protect them.

What to expect:

The **workshop** will be presented by BirdLife Australia Hooded plover Specialist.

- Hooded plover behavior
- Techniques for observation and identification
- Methods of monitoring
- Threats and protection

Morning tea and Lunch provided

Beach walk - We will drive to beach 5 after lunch for a 12.30 pm walk to Point Smyth, where we will see the birds and practice techniques of field observation.

This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government in partnership with South Gippsland Landcare Network.



Australian Government



When

Saturday morning, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
29 October 2022

Where:

Workshop: 9.30 am - 12.00 pm

Venus Bay Community Centre,
27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay

Walk: 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Beach 5, Venus Bay

What to bring:

Hat, sun cream, water, transport to Beach 5.
Dress appropriately for beach walking in the weather.

How to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/hooded-plover-protection-and-monitoring-workshop-tickets-421190591397>

Tarwin Lower Film Society – 21st October 2022 – "The Fifth Element"

Hi all,

The next film for the Tarwin Lower Film Society is scheduled for Friday 21st October and is a USA sci/fi, action, adventure film made in 1997 called "The Fifth Element" – rated PG.

Movie begins at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:45pm.

See link to trailer below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ9RqgcR24g>

Films are screened at the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall.

Memberships are available to purchase. See below for details:

12 months (from July 2022 to June 2023) - \$60

3 months (consecutive films) - \$25.

Alternatively, you can find a TryBooking link at the tarwinlowerhall.com website.

For convenience, a link to Trybooking website can also be found below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eventListingURL?aid=135234>

We look forward to seeing you in October.

Any queries can be sent to tfilmsociety@gmail.com

The Fifth Element – Rated PG

Synopsis: In the colourful future, a cab driver unwittingly becomes the central figure in the search for a legendary cosmic weapon to keep Evil and Mr. Zorg at bay.

Korben Dallas, a cab driver, tries to secure four mystical stones and a mysterious fifth element that alone can defeat a cosmic evil force during an apocalyptic war.

Starring Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, Gary Oldman, Chris Tucker.

Directed by Luc Besson

Reviews:

- Visionary filmmaker Luc Besson manages to create several of the most exotic and original characters for this magnum opus of sensory outlandishness.

- The Fifth Element is a bold, bright, loud, rowdy, lush, extravagant science fiction space opera that wears its heart on its garish sleeve.

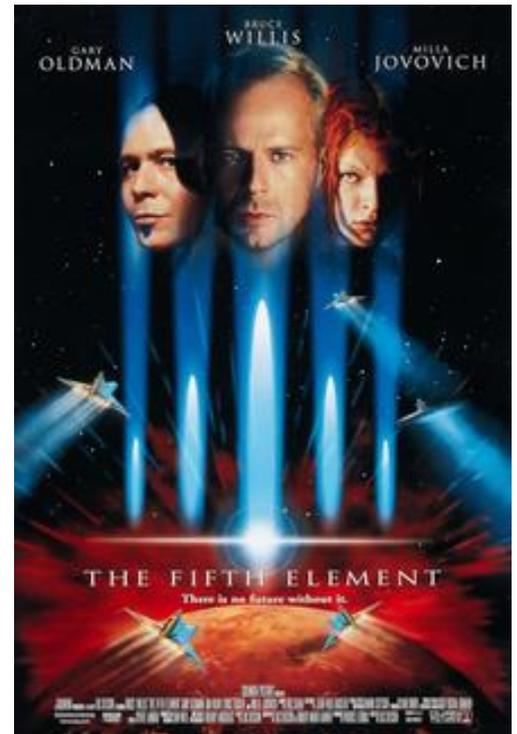
- A sci-fi film a million aesthetic miles away from the industrial dystopias, dusty wastelands, and sterile starships of most screen SF of the time.

Regards,

Anne Cox

Secretary Tarwin Lower Film Society

0432 494 531





Have your say on beach safety

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) have partnered with Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club to conduct a trial of public rescue equipment at Venus Bay beach.

We recognise that local input is important. Therefore, LSV will hold community consultations to better understand how we can make the equipment easily accessible and functional within your community.

The 45–60-minute consultations will be held online via Microsoft Teams. You will receive a \$20 e-voucher for your time (consultation attendees only). If you are unable to attend, but still want to have your say, please register and a survey will be sent to you.

If the QR code below does not work, please enter this URL:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConsultationOct2022>

Session times:

- Full-time resident session, 12:00pm, 5th October 2022
- Part-time resident/ holidaymaker session, 6:30pm, 6th October 2022
- Full-time and Part-time resident/ holidaymaker session, 12:00pm, 7th October 2022

If you have any enquiries, please contact research@lsv.com.au to get in touch.

Register here!



Big decisions



Leaving early – what does it mean?

‘Leaving early’ means being away from high-risk areas before there are any signs of fire. It does not mean waiting for a warning or a siren. It does not mean waiting to see or smell smoke. And it certainly does not mean waiting for a knock on the door.

10 important decisions to make with your family before summer

- Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
- Will you leave early that morning or the night before?
- Where will you go? What will you take with you?
- What route will you take and what is your back up route if a fire is already in the area?
- What are you going to do with your pets or livestock?
- Who else do you need to talk to about where you are going?
- What will you do if all members of your household are not home?
- How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
- What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?
- What will you do if your household is not together when your trigger is reached?

When you decide to leave is the most important decision you will make.

Driving in a bushfire is extremely dangerous and can be fatal. A drive that would normally take five minutes could take two hours with road closures, traffic jams, crashes, smoke, fallen trees and embers getting in the way. Plan ahead so you know how you will leave. Know different routes to get out of the area – some may be closed if a fire is already burning nearby.

It’s up to you to decide where you will go on a fire risk day. Don’t wait and see.

Fires can start and spread very quickly.

Leaving early is the safest option for anyone in a high risk bushfire area. Many people have died trying to leave at the last minute.

If you care for children, older people or those with a disability you must leave early.



Remember to prepare for your pets as well.

Make sure your pet is wearing an identification tag and add the following items to your Emergency Kit:

- ▶ suitable transport carriers or leash
- ▶ any medications
- ▶ dietary supplements
- ▶ food and drinking water
- ▶ a familiar item (toy, bed, treats) to help reduce stress.

Your Emergency Kit

Important items

- ▶ photo ID
- ▶ passport
- ▶ photos
- ▶ will
- ▶ jewellery
- ▶ insurance papers
- ▶ medical prescriptions
- ▶ USB stick containing important files

- ▶ Medicines and first-aid kit
- ▶ Battery-powered radio, torch and spare batteries
- ▶ Mobile phone with standard and portable charger

Contact information

- ▶ doctor
- ▶ council
- ▶ power company

- ▶ Overnight bag with change of clothes, toiletries and sanitary supplies

- ▶ Adequate amount of water and food
- ▶ Pure wool blankets



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SUMMER BEACH BUS DRIVERS

It's looking like we will run the Summer Beach Shuttle Service again this summer in Venus Bay. After 2 years being impacted by COVID restrictions and being unable to run the service, we are now looking at planning for the summer ahead.



For over 8 years, the Venus Bay Community Centre has provided a free shuttle service to Beach 1, transporting community members to a safe patrolled beach, and trying to reduce parking congestion at beach to ensure emergency vehicle access. Over the years, the service has become a beloved feature of summer in Venus Bay. Our community members have loved helping out with driving the 11-seat bus – and we transport over 2,000 people to the beach during the period of operation.

As we haven't run the service for a couple of year, we have an opportunity to review what works and what could be improved – we'd love your input and feedback to help us plan a great summer.

Some suggestions could be:

Keep it exactly the same – not broken, don't fix it 😊

Extend hours until 6pm

Only provide service when temperature is over 25 degrees

Provide service on Friday, Saturday, Sunday for all of January

Use during the morning for Nipper runs – reducing car park congestion around clubhouse

Any other suggestions welcome!

We are now seeking interest from potential volunteer beach bus drivers over the summer. We're starting early, as we'll have to get our drivers to complete some paperwork and have a Working With Children Check – free for volunteers, but takes a few weeks to organise!

Please let us know if you are keen to help or have ideas to share by email: alyson@vbcc.org.au

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water are proposing that an area off Gippsland Victoria is considered for possible offshore renewable energy projects, such as wind energy.

They are asking for community input and SUBMISSIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL 7 OCTOBER and MUST be submitted through the link here: <https://consult.industry.gov.au/oei-gippsland/feedback>
Feedback helps to inform the Minister's decision on whether the proposed area is suitable for offshore renewable energy.

In the interests of community information, we have included the full proposal below.



Overview of the Proposed Area - Gippsland, Victoria

An area off Gippsland, Victoria is being considered for possible offshore renewable energy projects, such as wind energy.

Starting the conversation

This is your first opportunity to provide feedback.

Developers must also seek feedback on their projects and demonstrate how they will share the area with existing users.

The benefits of offshore renewable energy

The Australian Government has set a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and is looking to reduce emissions by 43%, and reach 82 per cent of Australia’s electricity generated from renewable sources, by 2030.

Offshore renewable energy projects off Gippsland can help the Australian Government meet these targets. The Gippsland region is well suited for potential projects, particularly offshore wind, because:

- It has strong, consistent winds.
- It is close to electricity markets and existing connections to the grid.
- Industry is very interested in developing projects in the area.
- The Victorian Government has prioritised the area for development of an offshore wind industry.

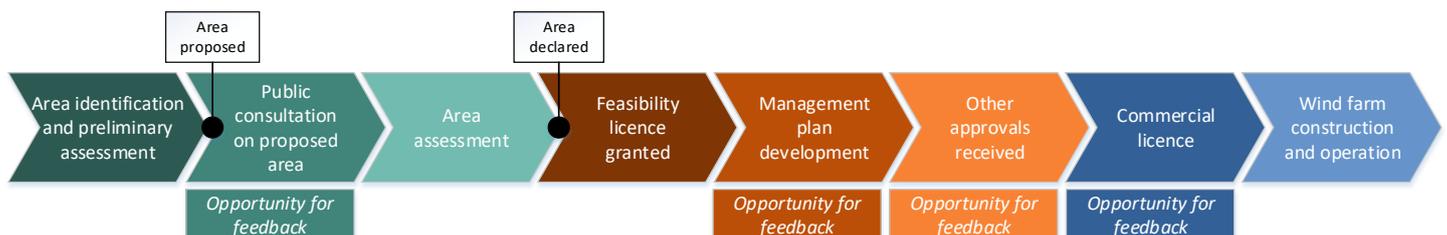
Gippsland offshore wind projects can help decarbonise the economy with year-round clean energy generation and drive regional jobs growth, with a need for skills in engineering and construction, as well strong transferable skills from other sectors including high-voltage electrical, logistics and offshore work.

The offshore renewable energy process

The Minister for Climate Change and Energy has proposed an area in the Commonwealth waters off Gippsland, Victoria for offshore renewable energy projects, such as offshore wind. Consultation on this proposal is now open and we seek your feedback on the proposal and how offshore renewable energy projects could share the area with other users and interests.

The construction, maintenance and ongoing operations of offshore renewable energy projects must maximise integration and support of the local Gippsland economy.

This is your first opportunity to provide feedback. Developers are required to seek feedback on their projects and must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator, how they will share the area with existing users. A process diagram, with consultation points identified, is provided below.



Once the consultation period has ended, the Minister will consider all submissions and the potential impacts offshore renewable energy projects may have on other users and interests. Your feedback will help inform the Minister’s decision on whether the proposed area is suitable for offshore renewable energy.

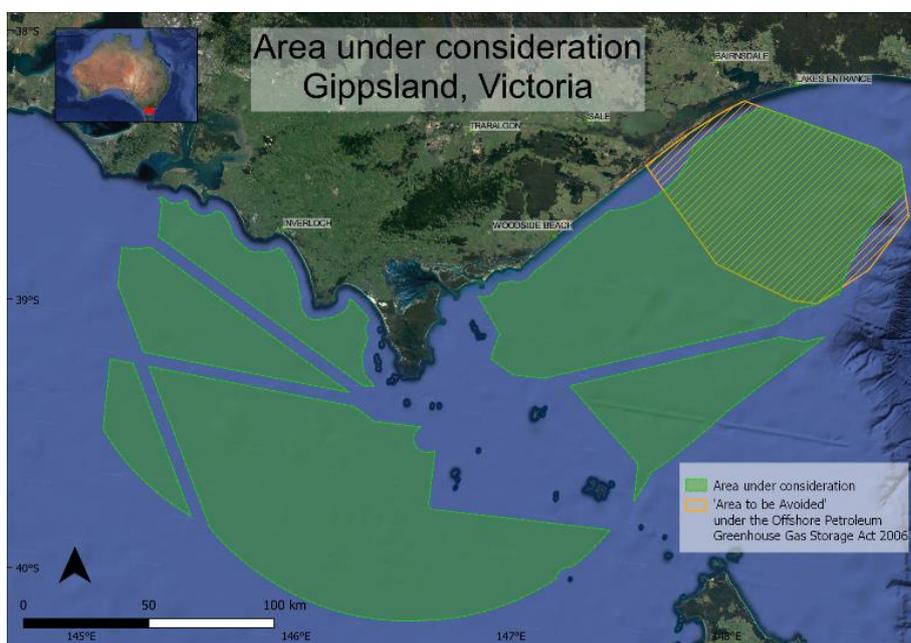
If the Minister declares the area, and feasibility licences are granted, developers will be allowed to investigate an area and begin planning their project. During the feasibility licence period, which is up to 7 years, developers must develop a management plan. As part of the preparation of these plans, **developers will need to consult with the local community and demonstrate how they will share the area with other users**. Licence holders will also need to have a plan for gathering and responding to ongoing feedback from stakeholders throughout the life of the project.

The management plan must be approved by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator before an application for a commercial licence can be granted. Before deciding whether to grant a commercial licence, **the Minister may require the developer to conduct specific kinds of consultation**. Developers must also ensure they have received all other relevant approvals, and undertake any other consultation processes, before they can apply for a commercial licence. This includes environmental approvals. If the commercial licence is granted, which is for a period of 40 years, the construction of the wind farm can commence.

The area under consideration

An area off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria is being proposed for future offshore renewable energy projects.

In defining the boundaries a number of factors have been considered, including feedback received from Commonwealth and Victorian Government agencies, and technical limitations identified in the Blue Economy CRC report into Offshore Wind in Australia.



The ‘Area to be Avoided’ indicates a high concentration of existing offshore oil and gas titles.

The area is broken into a number of smaller sections. This is because high vessel traffic areas, Restricted Defence Areas and the Beagle Marine Park have been excluded.

Some sections of the area may not be suitable for some offshore renewable energy activities because of high biodiversity and environmental constraints. Approval under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) is required for all prospective projects. This includes an assessment of the relevant impacts and proposed avoidance, management, mitigation and, where appropriate, offset measures, to demonstrate appropriate environmental outcomes can be achieved.

The Beagle Australian Marine Park is outside, but next to, the area. The Director of National Parks will determine if development activities may have an impact on the values of the Park and whether effective mitigation measures may be required.

Offshore renewable energy off Gippsland - Sharing the area

The Gippsland region

This area is the traditional Land and Sea Country of the Gunaikurnai, Bunurong and Boon Wurrung peoples, an important consideration, as an offshore renewable energy industry will entail the installation of infrastructure across the land and sea estate in order to integrate with the Victorian electricity grid.

The region is renowned for its natural attractions. From beaches and rainforests, to snowfields and hiking trails. It is home to the iconic Wilsons' Promontory, the Gippsland Lakes, the Strzelecki Ranges and Ninety Mile Beach. Gippsland boasts a wealth of natural resources and commodities, with key industry sectors such as agriculture, fishing, forestry, dairy, mining, oil and gas extraction and tourism, which supports around 10% of the region's employment.

Historically, energy generation in Gippsland has been closely linked to coal. However, the focus is shifting to renewable energy and the role it could play as the region transitions away from coal-fired electricity generation.

Future offshore renewable energy projects must demonstrate how they will share the area with existing users and interests.

Marine users and interests

The Australian Government wants to manage the offshore marine environment in a way that recognises all users and balances competing interests. **Future offshore renewable energy projects must share the area with other users and interests.**

For detailed information on existing users and interests in the vicinity of the area, please read *Marine Users and Interests – Gippsland, Victoria*.

Offshore renewable energy projects have operated in Europe for many years, including the North Sea. Learnings from these regions has shown that offshore wind may benefit local interests. The installation of wind turbines may increase fish stocks by functioning as fish nurseries and could increase tourist numbers by attracting sightseers and recreational fishers to the area.

As with any infrastructure in the marine environment (such as navigation buoys, and oil and gas platforms), there may be restricted areas placed around offshore renewable infrastructure, such as individual wind turbines and offshore substations. These restricted areas are to ensure the safety of offshore workers and other users of the marine environment, and to protect the infrastructure from damage. There may be larger restricted areas while any approved offshore wind projects are under construction to ensure safety for marine users and construction workers. The exact details of these restricted areas will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

We have developed a [map](#) that allows users to interact with the Gippsland area under consideration and geographic information relevant to other users and interests in the area. Other tools, visualisations and data relevant to Offshore Renewable Energy in Australian waters are also available on the [Australian Marine Spatial Information System](#) portal.

Provide your feedback

This is your first opportunity to provide feedback.

We want your feedback on the proposal and how offshore renewable energy projects could share the area with other users and interests. We encourage your feedback through a submission in our [Consultation Hub](#). Your feedback will help inform the Minister's decision on whether the proposed area is suitable for offshore renewable energy.

Your feedback must be provided through the Consultation Hub by the submissions deadline.

We understand that the visibility of wind turbines may be of particular interest to local communities. This may be especially so if there are multiple offshore wind projects in the area. While the exact locations of future projects are not yet known, we encourage you to make a submission if you have suggestions as to how visual impacts could be managed.

We want to make sure everyone understands the proposal and process for providing feedback. We will be running a series of information sessions virtually, and in person across the Gippsland region.

Further Information

For more information on the area under consideration off Gippsland, Victoria, please read *Supporting Information for the Region – Gippsland, Victoria*.

For information on the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* please visit the [Establishing offshore renewable energy infrastructure web page](#). If you have any questions, you can [email our team](#).



Do you have a few hours to spare?

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

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

So why not come and join in!

Situated at 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay.

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

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

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

or call Alyson 0416 242 331

Venus Bay Community Centre is supported by:
Department of Health & Human Services (Victoria) and the Commonwealth Government, South Gippsland Shire Council.

Our website is www.vbcc.org.au

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



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