

September 2024 Vol 9 Issue 15

MATTER OF FACT

Providing information for Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower
and Walkerville district



A free community newsletter published by

**VENUS BAY
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

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

TARWIN LANDCARE GROUP.

The unseasonably warm weather and the opportunity to use Sunny the e-bus made for a fun AGM for Tarwin Landcare Group' (TLG) last week.

The 'garden-hop' began at Van Cleef Reserve where TLG committee member, Deb Kraushofer, described the work being done there by a dedicated group of volunteers and members of the South Gippsland Shire Council's (SGSC) Environment Team. A walk through the Reserve revealed the huge amount of



thought and effort that has gone into creating a special place for Venus Bay residents and visitors to enjoy. Highlights include a gathering place, which hosted a very special Welcome to Country last year, and a stone table and chairs which proved to be surprisingly comfortable.

Next stop was Sue Peterson's nearby property where the shade cast by stunning banskias, hakeas and eucalypts was much appreciated. Everyone enjoyed Sue's stories about creating her calm and restful garden which includes many plants she has propagated herself.

The final stop was Debbie and Nick's garden which features in a series of videos created by TLG to celebrate local native gardens. Created with the assistance of an SGSC Community Grant, the videos share the history, challenges and keys to success of six very different properties in Venus Bay, Walkerville, Tarwin Lower and Middle Tarwin. The videos have just been released and are available on the [Tarwin Landcare Group's Facebook page](#).

TLG celebrated several other achievements at its AGM. It has initiated a long-term project to restore the Tarwin River and removed around 500 deer and a similar number of foxes from Cape Liptrap. It has also received funding through the Victorian Landcare Grants to revegetate the escarpment below Flock Stock and Basil (the farmgate business on the bend as you come into Tarwin Lower from Inverloch). This partnership project will involve TLG, Anna and Chris from Flock Stock and Basil and students from Tarwin Lower Primary School.



TLG also delivered more than 12 events over the year including a history walk at

Tarwin Meadows that attracted 80 participants, a rabbit control workshop, a visit to the Bald Hills Wind Farm and a Pest to Paddock day that produced 55kg of delicious venison sausages.

TLG has heaps of activities planned for the next twelve months and invites people living, farming or holidaying at Venus Bay, Tarwin and Walkerville to get invoved. Visit the [Tarwin Landcare Group Facebook page](#) or email tarwin@group.sgln.net.au for more information.

And, in case anyone is interested, the 2024-25 committee was voted in by a landslide and comprises Jillian Staton (President), Kirby Leary (Secretary), Roxana Macmillan (Treasurer), Deb Kraushofer, Cath Nunn, David Carew, Margaret Carew and Amanda Christie



Photos: Vann Cleef Reserve arrival

TLG enjoying stone table features at Van Cleef Reserve

TLG members gather in the shade at Sue Peterson's garden.



Did you know there's a PODCAST about our River?

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority have just released this episode – you can listen to it [here](#).

For the love of the Tarwin

In this episode of the Gippslandscapes podcast, Sally, Matt, Jillian and Jenny take a walk along the Tarwin River and through Bald Hills Wetlands Reserve in South Gippsland to talk about coming together as a community to care for a catchment – in their 'I Love The Tarwin' project.

Featuring:

- Jillian Staton, President of the Tarwin Landcare Group and Chairman of the [South Gippsland Landcare Network](#)
- Jenny O'Sullivan, beef and sheep farmer in Tarwin Lower and committee member of the Tarwin Landcare Group
- Matt Bowler, Project Delivery Manager at West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

Host: Sally O'Neill, Communications Manager at West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.





COMMUNITY ENERGY E-BUS

Venus Bay



Powered by community... for community.

SUNNY – our Venus Bay community electric mini bus has been on the road now for about 9 months. We continue to look at ways to improve all aspects of the project – from engagement with our volunteer drivers, booking systems, the options people can use to book the service and all the other factors that go into making this project successful and sustainable.

The project objectives are to test how a community-run transport service might work in small regional communities where other forms of public transport are not viable or available. As you may know, both Sandy Point and Venus Bay are part of this trial project. Each community has unique features which inform how the service works in each location.

We've tried quite a few things to date, and have learned a lot along with way!! We've hosted a couple of early engagement forums to get community input on what might work for our community. We recently held a feedback forum for community members and another for our volunteer drivers so we can work on continual improvement.

A snapshot of what we have heard so far:

- People really love the project and think it is needed here
- While they may support the project, they may not use it (yet)
- The booking system is difficult to use and understand (we know this, and are about to trial a new approach)
- Some people don't know about it – how can they find out?
- That the human touch element – particularly from our wonderful engagement officer Bill is critical to the early stages of the project
- Some people don't like or trust electric vehicles (we want to find out more about that)
- The outings are wonderful
- Drivers and passengers reported enjoying the social aspect – including meeting new people
- This has saved our lives (not literally 😊) but great to have connection with VLine and trust that my kids can be safely transported
- Where is the money going for outings (we are using this to pay for elements of the service)
- It's not funded by the Shire
- Lots of suggestions about outings (to local events, markets, new places)
- The regular timetable is confusing
- It will take some time to work and for people to know about it/understand it
- The service only operates when there are bookings (so we can coordinate drivers)

PLEASE continue to help us understand YOUR point of view of this service so we can continue to make improvements.

La Trobe University is undertaking the research element of the project – along with project partners iMove Corporate Research Centre and Department of Transport & Planning – in order to develop a business case over 2 years. This will inform the government and other rural communities on future policy development with regards to community mobility services.

The survey can be found here : <https://latrobe.questionpro.com/t/AaAslZ3smm>

If you need help filling it in, please do come in to the Centre and we can assist. OR, you can tell us your thoughts via email or in person any time.

We will continue to update our community via Matter of Fact newsletter and social media.

Information can be found on our website here or you can call 0403 108 199

If you'd like to volunteer in any capacity (driving, organising, promoting, admin) we'd LOVE to hear from you!

Our next **SOCIAL OUTING** is on **THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER** to Open Gippsland – the new lounge bar in Leongatha – the brainchild of Venus Bay local Dave Walsh. Get in quick, and book via Humanitix link <https://events.humanitix.com/open-gippsland-lounge-bar-leongatha/tickets>

OPEN GIPPSLAND OUTING



[VISIT OPEN GIPPSLAND LOUNGE BAR - LEONGATHA | Humanitix](#)

Thursday 12 September Leaving 5pm, return
by 8pm

Book a bus seat
via Humanitix
\$10.00



**COMMUNITY
ENERGY
E-BUS**

Venus Bay



Powered by community... for community.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE HOME INTERNET?



DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE INTERNET?

We've been asked to let our community members know about this program:

I'm reaching out from Tom McIntosh MP's office, State Member for Eastern Victoria, to let you know about an important program that is being rolled out which will benefit families with school aged children. As Neighbourhood Houses, we feel you are well placed to help us get the word out about this to families who really need it.

This program includes:

- Free home internet until December 2025
- Free WI-FI router (they can keep it)
- Unlimited data
- 50/20 plan (this is a typical household plan)
- No lock in contracts
- Choice of participating internet providers
- Ongoing support from the National Referral Centre to apply – callback, webchat, and interpreting services available

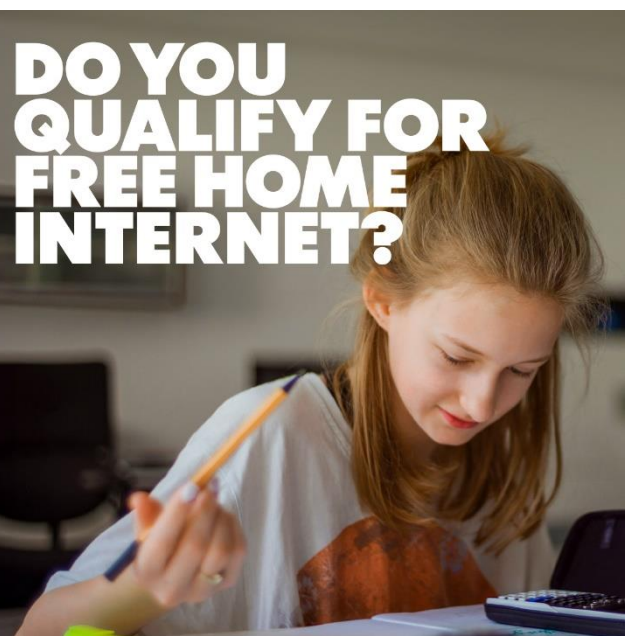
To be eligible for the program, applicants:

- Must be caring for a school age student at your home.
- Must not have an active NBN connection at your home now or in the past 14 days. (Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility).
- Must live in property that can access the NBN network through a standard connection.

To apply, contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm (AEDT) or visit <https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet/> for some FAQs.

Applicants can also contact ssbi_engagement@nbnco.com.au for further questions.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE REGISTERING FOR THIS, PLEASE POP IN TO THE CENTRE AND WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO HELP.



Hello everyone! What a wild ride we have been having – stay safe folks.



Tarwin Lower Film Society will screen *The Hedgehog*

on Friday 20 September` at 7:30pm Rated PG
Duration 1hr 4m. English subtitles (French
Comedy/Drama)

DIRECTOR: Nicholas Hytner CAST: Maggie Smith, Alex
Jennings, Jim Broadbent

Paloma is a serious and highly articulate but deeply bored 11-year-old who has decided to kill herself on her 12th birthday. Fascinated by art and philosophy, she questions and documents her life and immediate circle, drawing trenchant and often hilarious observations on the world around her. But as her appointment with death approaches, Paloma finally meets some kindred spirits in her building's grumpy concierge and an enigmatic, elegant neighbor, both of whom inspire Paloma to question her rather pessimistic outlook on life

<https://www.trybooking.com> BYO drinks and food.



The performers from A Good Catch Circus thrilled us with their skills and humor last week. They also took a circus skills workshop inducting many of our youngsters and couple of not so young into the joy of physical theatre. Thanks gals!



Family goals



Workshop pyramid!



Thrills as they climbed to great heights!

2024 Market Dates

Twilight Market – AFL Grand Final Friday 27 September 2 – 6pm
Melbourne Cup long weekend - Monday 4 November – 8am – 1pm

2025 Market Dates

Monday 27 January (Australia Day)
Monday 10 March (Labour Day)
Monday 21 April (Easter Monday)
Monday 9 June (King's Bday)
Friday 26 September (Twilight AFL GF Eve)
Monday 3 November (Melbourne Cup long weekend)

Marg de Wolff

Secretary, Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Committee Inc





In our previous two Matter of Fact newsletters, we shared news about an opportunity for our community members to join the Mycelia Energy Collective retail energy offer. Unfortunately, this initiative is currently unavailable after the recent collapse of energy retailer Circular Energy. Mycelia is currently seeking a new retail energy supplier so they can continue with the good work and offering benefits to communities.

Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience these changes may have caused! This news came as quite a surprise and the team at Mycelia are working as quickly as possible to respond.

What happened to Circular Energy?

We have yet to receive a statement from Circular Energy to provide to our customers. What we do know is Circular Energy was unable to remain financially viable as a small retailer in the highly volatile wholesale energy market. Prolonged periods of high cloud coverage and low wind has meant much lower amounts of solar and wind energy have been available and so the energy market's reliance on coal and gas fired energy has increased. Wind and solar energy are the cheapest forms of energy, and coal is the most expensive (followed by gas), so energy retailers experienced major spikes in the price of energy they bought from the market. Like many small retailers, Circular Energy does not own their own generation assets and so the prolonged high wholesale energy pricing was more than they would withstand. They are one of several small retailers that have been driven out of the market in this way.



SELECTING AN ENERGY RETAILER – WHERE TO BEGIN?

While Mycelia Energy Collective focussed on a commitment to renewable energy, model of care, Australian owned, competitive pricing and benefits to community – we all need an energy retailer.

Here are a few tips they have compiled with info on the following and to be found in the links –

- Sample energy plan (from the Vic Energy Compare website)
 - Including contract terms, discounts, % below Vic Default Offer
- Who they're owned by
- Canstar Blue customer service rating
- Green Electricity Guide by Greenpeace score

[Retailer Comparison List - Residents](#)

[Retailer Comparison List - Businesses](#)

By no means are these exhaustive lists, and we cannot guarantee 100% accuracy -you'll need to check the energy suppliers websites directly for the details of their offer.

Community Energy Retailers

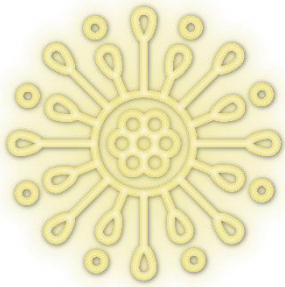
If community energy is your thing, then ethical retailers like [CoPower](#) and [Indigo Power](#) are worth checking out. They might cost a little more, but this at least you can rest assured that your money is supporting community participation in the energy transition.

Victorian Energy Compare

The [Victorian Energy Compare website](#) is also a useful tool for comparing the different plans available. Just make sure you have a copy of an old electricity bill with your NMI number handy.

NEED MORE HELP?

We are happy to help anyone navigate their electricity bills and retail arrangements at the Venus Bay Community Centre – just pop in for a chat with either Alyson or Carol and we'll do our best to assist.



COMMUNITY ENERGY



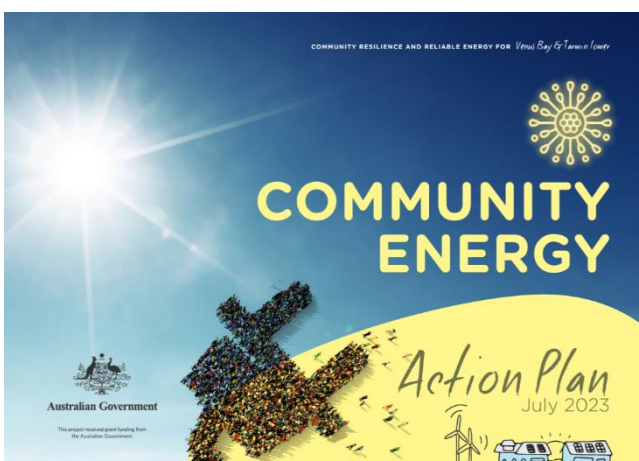
Mycelia

In the meantime, Venus Bay Community Centre remains committed to the Strategic Partnership agreement we have created with Mycelia Renewables. We continue to work on progressing activities that support the Community Plan for Community Energy that was developed with the communities of Venus Bay & Tarwin Lower.

Along with project partner Heather Smith, we are looking at the development and implementation of the community battery case with both Victorian State Government and AUSNET. Potential sites identified in the Community Plan for Community Energy demonstrate the Tarwin Precinct site is the most urgent priority for consideration. It's grant application time – with opportunities for Resilience funding – our project team continues to progress opportunities to see implementation of the plan.

Along with this work, we have attended the Neighbourhood Batteries: Business Case Development training delivered by DEECA and Yarra Energy Foundation. Gradually, pieces of the puzzle are coming together – often this is the invisible work that goes on behind the scenes, in meetings and relationship building with potential partners, funders and key stakeholders.

Additionally, we are looking forward to collaborating with others to provide information, training and opportunities to learn more about household efficiency and the pathways of household, business and community engagement with renewable energy. -these are detailed in the Community Plan for Community Energy.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND RELIABLE ENERGY FOR Venus Bay & Tarwin Lower

What will it take for this action plan and longer-term outcomes to be realized?

Many ideas were shared, and actions co-created at Workshops #3 and #4 that form the basis of the suggested immediate next steps and longer-term activities for achieving our community energy goals. Much detail has been written up in the supplementary tables in Appendix A, which cover the critical elements of any successful community energy initiative, as listed below.

These action plan tables will be the main focus of Workshop #5, where participants will be offered the opportunity to focus in on the specific parts of the plan that most interest them and discuss how they might be involved.

SHORTER TERM

- Overall co-ordination and implementation
- Organising - existing organisations and partnerships
- Community Champions
- Working Groups for the pathways
- Communicating and engaging
- Financial resourcing

LONGER TERM

- Capacity building
- A potential new legal entity
- Further research
- Undertaking pilots
- Communicating and engaging
- Financial resourcing

Monitoring and review

A co-ordinating group and several working groups are the most likely ways of organising and governing the implementation of this plan. Advisory Group members and additional community members are invited to continue their involvement and how they choose to monitor and evaluate this plan will be determined by them, based on final agreed action plans. The suggested starting point for co-ordinating, monitoring and evaluating action is bi-monthly working group meetings for Pathways 1, 2 and 3, and quarterly combined meetings of the Working Groups with the Co-ordinating Group. Quarterly community updates on progress and an annual event focussing on what's been achieved and what's next to do are also recommended.

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

September at a Glance

2	10.00 - 12.00 3.00 - 6.00 5.00 - 6.30	Plant Group Watercolour class Men's Cooking
4	12.00 - 1.00 5.00 - 6.30	Free community lunch Board games and cards
5	7.00 - 8.30	Ukulele group
9	10.00 - 12.00 3.00 - 6.00	Plant group Watercolour class
10	3.30 - 5.00 5.00 - 6.30	Freeform writing group Book Club
11	12.00- 1.00	Free community lunch
12	7.00 - 8.30	Ukulele group Open Gippsland bus trip
16	10.00 - 12.00 3.00 - 6.00	Plant Group Watercolour class
18	12.00 - 1.00 5.00 - 6.30	Free community lunch Knitting, crochet & stitch group
19	7.00 - 8.30	Ukulele group
23	7.00 - 8.30	Travel Tales- The Kimberley - Wendy Lawrence
26	7.00- 8.30	Ukulele group
30	10.00 - 12.00	Children's holiday program
2nd Oct 3rd Oct	10.00 - 12.00 10.00 - 12.00	Children's holiday program Children's holiday program

SO, WHAT IS COOL ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?

The Venus Bay Community Centre could not function without the incredible contribution and enthusiasm of our amazing volunteers. Their good will and effort impacts the Centres' day to day activities. They support the development, planning and advocacy and also the enormous range of events and programs for the district of Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and Walkerville.

So why do people become volunteers? Recent interviews with some of our volunteers revealed that there are many different reasons including;

- A desire to give back to their community.
- As a way to connect.
- A reason to get out of their house.
- The recycling enterprise aligns with their value system.
- It could also be a way to find your tribe.
- A way to find out about social activities or investigate current local issues.

I also asked our volunteers what is their experience of volunteering at the Centre and this is what they said:

'It's fun', 'meaningful', 'caring'. 'I feel supported and supportive', 'enriching', 'validating', 'inspiring', 'safe', 'energising and important'.

Did you know anyone can be a volunteer?

All residents of the Liptrap area are invited and welcomed to become a Volunteer. Whatever age and whether you live here fulltime or part of the time. We welcome individuals to volunteer their time and special skill set. The Venus Bay Community Centre is mostly known for the Recycle Shop. However, on the other side of those red sliding doors are many other projects and activities in play. The Centre is an award-winning organisation whose work in sustainability such as the Microgrid Community Energy project and social enterprise initiatives (including the Recycle Shop) has inspired and set benchmarks for other Community organisations throughout this region and further afield.

It's cool to be a volunteer at the Centre because your contribution-no matter how big or how small - helps to making stuff happen.

There are many areas that we need volunteers at the Centre including working in the recycle shop - sorting, styling or selling. Cooking a community lunch every once and a while, or driving SUNNY our community ebus. Being a Summer bus driver, doing administration or writing articles for the MOF newsletter; repairing bikes; working in the community garden; grant writing or social media. or joining the board of governance.

Maybe you have a special interest which you would like to share?

Venus Bay Community Centre Volunteers make up a diverse and eclectic team who contribute their skills, knowledge, invention and enthusiasm. The volunteers are a collective bank of wisdom. They contribute to the Venus Bay Community Centre in having a hands-on understanding of the needs and concerns of the wider community. This knowledge in turn helps the Centre shape projects that have the health and wellbeing of the community at the heart.

We would love you to contact us to find out how to become a volunteer at the Centre.

To express your interest in becoming a VBCC Volunteer simply make contact

Through email or call us at the office. Or next time you are at the centre just talk to one of the staff members or volunteers and see what they think.

We would love to hear from you.





CRAFT ACTIVITIES WITH JORJA

THIS SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS
MON 30TH, WED 2ND +
THUR 3RD

- *ROCKET TOWERS
- *FASHION PARADES
- *MUMMIES
- *BEDROOM BUNTING
- *PINATAS
- *MUSIC MAKERS
- *GREEN THUMBS & WORM FARMS



\$10 PER CHILD
VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
10.00 - 12.00



SEPTEMBER



THE TREEHOUSE STUDIO
VENUS BAY

Welcome Spring - the
season of new
beginnings

MORNING CLASSES

to set the tone for the day

Tuesdays 9:30am-10:30am

Sundays 9:30am-10:30am

investment \$25 casual

\$85 for four week blocks

to secure booking text 0421300407



COMING UP



'Did yoga
immersion
Saturday. Can't
wait for the next
one''

Change of Season Min Retreat

Encore

Saturday 28th 3pm-6pm

An afternoon dedicated to
deep relaxation

Stop, Rest and Regroup
Taking time out from the
rush of the everyday for
gentle self care. This
afternoon includes deep
breathing, gentle yin
practise and finishing with
yoga nidra.

MINI RETREAT investment \$95 .Places are limited and bookings are essential . Text 0421300407

Tarwin Lower Union Church



Regular services:

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Anglican/Uniting

Saturday 5.30 p.m. Catholic

Liturgy/Communion on the Saturday before the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month

Saturday 4 p.m.

Mass before the 3rd Sunday

Our mission is to be a welcoming, sharing Christian community

Coming up:

- * Women's discussion group: Thursday 5th and 19th September at 10.30 a.m.

Join us as we read and discuss the book

'The art of happiness: a handbook for living' by the Dalai Lama

- * KYB (Bible study): Friday 13th and 27th September at 1.30 p.m.

Join us as we read and study 1st and 2nd Thessalonians



VENUS BAY ANGLING CLUB NEWS

The next VB Angling Club competition will be held on 13/14/15th September starting at 12 noon on the 13th and finishing at 3pm Sunday 15th. Weigh in is 4-6 Friday & Saturday with final weigh in Sunday 2.30-3.00. Non members are welcome to join in for \$5 pp which includes the Saturday night bbq.



✈️ Travel Tales

A NEW MONTHLY SERIES OF INFORMAL CHATS ABOUT HOLIDAY ADVENTURES BY INTREPID LOCALS

ALL WELCOME

LIGHT SUPPER PROVIDED



SEPTEMBER 23RD
7.00 - 8.30

This month we are travelling vicariously to The Kimberley region in Western Australia with Wendy Lawrence

Gold coin donation appreciated

1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Let's
Laugh &
Play with
Friends

MONTHLY EVENT

GAME NIGHT

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 4th

AT VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
05:00 - 6.30 PM

CARD & BOARD GAMES

Games will be available but feel free to bring your own.

GOLD COIN DONATION APPRECIATED

GOLD COIN DONATION APPRECIATED

Knitting, Crochet or Stitch

BYO PROJECT

18TH OF SEPTEMBER

5.00 - 6.30ISH

VENUS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

27 CANTERBURY ROAD

Share some time with like
minded people



Monthly activity - 3rd Wednesday of the month



*Freeform
writing group*

*Dedicated writing
time & random
writing exercises to
inspire*

*2nd Tuesday of
the Month*

3.30 - 5.00

SAVE THE DATE

Due to rising reports of wombats with mange and the increase in transfer of this disease to koalas, South Gippsland Landcare Network is holding an information and treatment training session.



Biodiversity

Guest speaker Simonne Flemming from Rescue to Release will cover

- Identifying mange in wombats and other wildlife
- Understanding how to correctly report mange and other injured wildlife
- Learning the different techniques available to treat mange in wombats
- Registering as a volunteer with Mange Management Victoria
- Plus more!

Mange Treatment Workshop

Topics covered

- Identifying mange in koalas and wombats
- reporting injured or sick wildlife
- mange treatment options for wombats
- becoming a registered volunteer

- When: Sunday 6 October 9:30am-1pm
- Where: Venus Bay Community Centre 27 Canterbury Rd
- Morning Tea provided
- Questions to Kirby@sgln.net.au
- [More info and to register](#)



To attend the session you are NOT required to become a volunteer. You can attend just to learn more.

- Morning tea provided
- Questions to kirby@sgln.net.au

Thank you to Mange Management Victoria, Rescue to Release Inc and the Venus Bay Community Centre for their support of this event.



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.

