

Autumn  
2024



# Newsletter



Community Bank · Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale

## From the Branch Manager



Julian Rodriguez

I would like to express my gratitude to our customers and shareholders for your support and dedication to Community Bank Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale. Your loyalty and commitment have been the driving force behind our journey.

I also want to extend my thanks to our staff—Sonia, Cassandra and Shaneeza. Their professionalism, teamwork, and passion for excellence are truly commendable. It is because of their hard work and dedication that our branch continues to thrive and make a positive impact in the community.

I am very pleased with the number of community sponsorship and grant applications our local board have approved over the past few months. We will continue to work for our customers and our community, and our 'profit for purpose' philosophy keeps us focused on returning most of our branch profits to the community via these sponsorships and grants.

We have been busy at our branch, with many of our customers coming in for a financial or home loan health check—a review of their home loan and current banking arrangements. There's never been a better time to review your home loan. Make an appointment with me on 0423 083 525 and we can explore options to unlock potential benefits and savings you may have.

I look forward to seeing you in our branch soon. Don't forget to support the bank that supports you and your community.

## From the Chairman



Meghraj Thakkar

I am delighted to reach out to you with some fantastic news that underscores the strength and growth of our branch. Thanks to your continued trust and engagement, both our business and community support initiatives are flourishing.

We are thrilled to welcome two new members to our team, Cassandra and Shaneeza, who bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to our operations. Their expertise will be pivotal as we continue enhancing our service offerings to better serve you. Please join me in welcoming Cassandra and Shaneeza when you visit our branch. Together, let's continue to support and enrich our community.

In line with our commitment to community involvement, I encourage anyone interested in exploring sponsorship opportunities to speak to our branch manager, Julian Rodriguez. He is eager to assist you and can help you navigate the application process.

We are also excited to push forward with our 'Bank Local' campaign, promoting the importance of supporting the local economy. By choosing to bank locally, you help foster a thriving community and enable us to reinvest in local businesses and development initiatives.

Thank you for being such an integral part of our journey. Your involvement is what makes us strong, and together, we look forward to achieving new heights.

Bank local and support your community

# Better banking, big impact

## Meet Cass your new Customer Relationship Officer

We sat down with Cass for a quick Q&A to introduce her

**What do you do for fun?**

I like to go on hikes.

**Your favourite food?**

Mexican

**Tell us something about you not many people would know.**

I love to sit at the beach all day.

**Your favourite travel destination?**

Maldives

**Describe what community means to you in three words?**

Values, culture and customs.



From left: branch staff Sonia, Shaneeza and Cass

## Chelsea Heights Football Netball Club

We have had a strong partnership with Chelsea Heights Football Netball Club for many years and have signed up as their major sponsor for this season.

Our sponsorship will assist with the cost of player and league fees, helping to make football and netball affordable to anyone who wants to play. If your part of the 'Heights family' be sure to let our staff know when you come in.

## All Fired Up CFA Fun Run

The annual Edithvale CFA All Fired Up Fun Run was held on Sunday 17 March. Now in it's 10th year this popular community event raises funds to supplement the brigade's equipment so that they can keep our community safe. Funds raised from the event this year will help replace the brigade's now out-of-commission salvage vehicle.

We were proud to support the fun run as gold sponsors, and Branch Manager Julian was on-hand to present our sponsorship cheque. Agecom Chairman, Megh also took part in the 5km run.



Above: Julian and Megh at the fun run



Above: We're proud to be the major sponsor of Chelsea Heights Football Netball Club



## Community Bank Aspendale Gardens-Edithvale sponsorship and grants program

When you partner with us, good things happen. Your organisation gets sponsorship, and your banking helps support the community.

**Find out more. Call 9588 0610, visit our branch or search Bendigo Bank Aspendale Gardens.**

[bendigobank.com.au](http://bendigobank.com.au)

**APPLY NOW**

# Strengthening our community

**BANK  
LOCAL**

## Supporting local students STEM competition

We are proud to have sponsored Team Aiolos from St Bede's College to compete in the F1 in Schools Competition in 2023 and 2024. Team Aiolos is made up of local students Nicholas Shipham, Luca Sullivan, T'zario Lay, Matt Donnelly and Roháhn Marie-Jeanne.

F1 in Schools is the world's largest STEM competition for students, challenging them to build the fastest miniature Formula 1 car. This challenge goes beyond engineering—it's an entrepreneurial journey too. The Australian competition is the most successful in the world, with seven world champions.

We were proud to support the students to take part. The team worked tirelessly to fundraise, gain sponsorships, and prepare their entry for submission.

We received the following feedback from Team Manager, Nicholas Shipham.

"We would like to thank you for your help to achieve our results in this competition as well as share those results. We won the Best Graphic Design Award which includes: marketing, portfolio design and our trade display. This is the first award that St. Bede's has achieved in eight years at the F1 in the schools national finals. We placed 7th overall in our class. This is an outstanding result considering the unfortunate penalties that struck our car. This meant that in racing, we placed 16th.

We wanted to thank you for how helpful you have been with our accounts and supporting us."



Branch Manager Julian with St Bede's Team Aiolos

## 2024 Sponsorships and Grants program

We are now accepting applications for our next round of sponsorship and grants funding.

Community Banks return most of their profits to the people and communities they serve. So when local people choose us for their banking, it helps local community initiatives get the funding they deserve.

For information or to apply, please visit our Aspendale Gardens branch or call 9588 0610.

## Congratulations Jeremy: our 2024 scholarship recipient

We are excited to announce the successful recipient of our inaugural Community Bank Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale Scholarship for 2024, Jeremy Thai-Chan.

Local student Jeremy was College Captain at Mordialloc College and achieved an ATAR of 84.80. He is also the recipient of several awards including Mordialloc Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Mordialloc Rotary Club Recipient.

Jeremy was successful in his application to study Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne majoring in Economics and Finance.

Here's a few words from Jeremy on his aspirations.

"As I will be equipped with the fundamentals of economics and finance, I intend to work in the world of finance. As a highly motivated individual who endeavours to always provide help to others, I hope to instigate a strategic approach within policy making in the future such that people are getting what is worthwhile of their contributions to the wider society.

Given my life experience dealing with the lack of support for international people seeking financial help and employment within the modern climate, I am extremely invested in ensuring that people are able to gain employment, so that they can live and thrive in the Australian dream.

As this is one of my aspirations, I wish to work in banking and the government sector so that I can contribute and provide back to the community.

With this in mind, I hope to instill the appreciation of money on-hand and the skills that people have which contribute to the wider community."

Congratulations Jeremy, we are so pleased to support you for the next three years on your academic journey.

If you or someone you know could benefit from our scholarship program in 2025 please reach out to our branch staff for further information.



Our 2024 scholarship recipient, Jeremy Thai-Chan (left) with Branch Manager, Julian

## Part of the team

Agecom Enterprises Limited is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank and operates locally-owned Community Bank Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale.

Expressions of interest are now being accepted for the voluntary position of Director.

As a director you will be motivated, well organised, self-directed and community orientated. You'll support and drive the company's strategic direction, goals and objectives to have a real say in the future direction of the branch and community.

For more information, or to apply, email your CV to Chairman Meghraj Thakkar at: [megh@agecom.org.au](mailto:megh@agecom.org.au)



## The Norris's saved \$5,772 last year on their home loan!\*

All over Australia, homeowners are saving money with a free home loan health check.

How much could you save?

 Community Bank · Aspendale Gardens - Edithvale

 **Bendigo Bank**

\*Amount saved was annual payments reduction on an owner-occupier home loan when repayments dropped by \$481 a month from lower interest rate and loan restructure. Actual savings will depend on individual circumstances. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1963171 OUT\_35761886, 07/03/2024



## Fun neighbourhood fact

Aspendale Beach is part of the 7.5 km long beach that stretches between the Patterson River mouth and the Mordialloc breakwater. During the summer months the beach is patrolled by the Aspendale Life Saving Club which was founded in 1927.

## Talk to us today

Community Bank branches are owned by local people and operated in partnership with Bendigo Bank—one of Australia's biggest banks and most trusted brands.

Community Banks return most of their profit directly to their communities through grants and sponsorships. Feel good about who you bank with, talk to our team today.



Julian Rodriguez  
Branch Manager  
**0423 083 525**  
[julian.rodriquez@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:julian.rodriquez@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale

Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre  
Aspendale Gardens VIC 3195

**P** (03) 9588 0610

**E** [9100@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:9100@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

**W** [bendigobank.com.au/aspendale-gardens-edithvale](http://bendigobank.com.au/aspendale-gardens-edithvale)

 [facebook.com/CommunityBankAspendaleGardensEdithvale](https://facebook.com/CommunityBankAspendaleGardensEdithvale)

**Hours:** 9.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Thursday,  
9.30am – 5.00pm Friday

### AGECOM Enterprises Limited

Shop 12, 11 Narelle Drive  
Aspendale Gardens VIC 3195  
ABN 68 138 046 303

**Directors** Meghraj Thakkar (Chair), Kate Rode (Secretary), Serge Yan, Helen Lockman.