

Summer
2022-23



Newsletter

Community Bank · Warrandyte

\$4.45 million towards growing our community

Christmas came early for 40 local organisations in and around our community.

They all received a share of \$350,000 in grants and sponsorships via our Community Investment Program, which sees up to 80% of Community Bank Warrandyte's profit returned directly to the community.

At the recent grants presentation evening held at Warrandyte Sporting Group clubrooms, more than 100 volunteers and community leaders, branch staff and Directors heard first-hand how grant funds will be spent over the coming year.

Aaron Farr, Chairman of Warrandyte Community Financial Services Limited said the grants would be used to carry out improvements to local infrastructure, build resources and fund projects which will benefit the entire community.

"This year's grants ranged from \$550 to more than \$60,000, with a total of \$350,000 committed for the year and \$4.45 million reinvested in our community since we opened in 2003.

It is really rewarding to see the Warrandyte clubrooms full of local people, many of whom are volunteers who work hard with the greater good of their community at heart. These community groups are all benefiting because community banking is based on a 'profit-with-purpose' model, which means our profits are returned directly to the community that has generated them," Aaron said.

Grant recipients include our schools, kinders, CFA's, environmental and arts groups, sporting groups, community service and church groups.

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House gratefully accepted sponsorship of \$7,055 to support its work in the local community. The organisation provides a variety of programs for all ages and stages of life.

President Rafx Hamilton said, "We are continually striving in our efforts to increase our reach and are consciously expanding our horizons when caring for those in need in our community. Community Bank Warrandyte's sponsorship of our Self Care for Children and Youth program will support children and youth in our community who aren't able to or don't want to access specialist mental health support".

Over the coming year, a range of community activities and programs will be offered to manage symptoms of anxiety and/or depression without the stigma associated with accessing programs specifically for mental ill-health.

Five very enthusiastic grade 3 and 4 students and their teachers from Wonga Park Primary School put a lot of time and effort into presenting their 'Creating a Welcome to Country Garden' project, a beautiful garden space where students and the community can learn about and celebrate Indigenous culture.

"We hope the garden space will attract native birds and wildlife and be a special place for our students, families and wider community to gather to learn and enjoy", they said.

Guests were moved by stories of change, hope and inspiration and the high energy in the room was a welcome joy after two years of not being able to celebrate our favourite community event.

Latest community investments

Community projects

You may not think who you bank with matters, but it does, and for Community Bank Warrandyte customers, their banking is making a real difference.

Every day customers help provide facilities, resources, community programs and change lives simply by banking with our local branch. Their home loans are refurbishing pre-schools and supporting our CFAs, creating sporting facilities and providing classroom resources. Personal loans, business banking and credit cards are funding much needed maintenance of historical buildings, conserving and rehabilitating native bushland, supporting the arts, festivals, Christmas Carols, the aged and relieving the hardships of those in need.

Everyday banking is providing all this and more. In fact almost \$300 million has been returned to communities and initiatives Australia-wide via the community bank network.

Here's a small snippet of some of the great projects that have been developed and inspired by our local heroes, which will be carried out by locals and will benefit many locals in our community.

Wonga Park Primary School

Welcome to Country Garden

The kids, teachers and parents of Wonga Park Primary School are excited to see their Welcome To Country Garden – a place where students and the community can learn about and celebrate Indigenous culture, take shape over the coming months.

The design will include the creation of a river bed to represent the Rainbow Snake with a water source which will enable water to flow through the garden. Large rocks will be used to create a yarning circle where visitors can gather for storytelling and sharing.

Students will create ceramic Australian animals and birds in their art classes to be installed in the garden. A timber Wominjeka (Welcome To Country) sign will be designed and created with a local Elder to welcome visitors to this special place. The creation of the garden is an important part of the school's Reconciliation Action Plan.



Warrandyte Festival in March 2023

Every year we support and participate in the Warrandyte Festival, a fabulous local event, run by passionate volunteers.

The Warrandyte Festival Committee was incorporated in February 1984 to:

- promote the local environment, organisations, history, arts and crafts
- promote and encourage local community spirit and participation
- organise a festival to be held annually during March.

Following the success of the first presentation of 'This is Warrandyte' in 1977, a weekend festival has annually demonstrated the charm and community spirit that makes Warrandyte such a wonderful place to live.

The celebration originated with humble ambitions, mainly to see townspeople coming together in celebration of Warrandyte's distinctive qualities.

Warrandyte Festival will be held on 17-19 March 2023.

Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club Hardship allowance

Many of our local clubs have measures in place that not only support their players on the field but care about them off it, as well.

Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club has established a hardship fund to assist families facing social or economic disadvantage to help pay for the cost of registration of their children in junior football.

Expecting an increase in league and insurance costs to impact on registration fees from 2023 (which are out of their control) the club has proactively taken the lead and sought our support in offering a fund as it anticipates the number of families unable to pay registration fees in full is likely to increase.

"Our aim as a community sporting club is to keep children in junior sport for as long as possible, and we see the hardship fund as an important enabler to this," said Sean McGowan, club Grants Coordinator.

We are really pleased to be able to help.

\$4.45 million reinvested to-date

Friends of Warrandyte State Park Protection of Indigenous plants

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) is a volunteer-run organisation with an interest in the conservation and rehabilitation of native bushland in the Warrandyte State Park. Formed in 1982, FOWSP is now one of the largest and most active 'Friends' groups in the state.

The group aims to foster awareness of the natural values of the park and to assist local rangers in the care and protection of both the State Park and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve.

FOWSP runs an indigenous plant nursery in the Pound Bend area of the park that sees up to 40,000 plants grown annually.

'Run off the smell of an oily rag', its members are thrilled to be able to purchase robust netting and have it installed around the nursery shade houses. Netting is required to prevent grazing on plants by deer and kangaroos as well as mischievous actions by birds ripping the plants out of the pots.



Wonga Park Cricket Club Electronic scoreboard

Keen to provide an improved spectator, visitor and player experience, Wonga Park Cricket Club is set to install a brand new electronic scoreboard.

"The scoreboard is an integral part of the club and we are looking to upgrade our current manual scoreboard to an electronic version. This will allow us to offer facilities inline with other competing clubs in the RDCA competition," Vice President Scott Parker said.

"It is important that as a club, we are offering up to date and modern facilities to support our aim of attracting as many community members to the game of cricket."

We look forward to seeing this project light up the field over the coming months.

Warrandyte Childcare and Preschool Wattle Play Space upgrade

We get so much joy sharing in the excitement when a community group receives funding. Warrandyte Childcare and Preschool is no exception.

They were 'beyond excited' on hearing the news that their application for almost \$35,000 was approved. This means our only local childcare centre can fully complete the upgrade on their Wattle Room yard.

The project aims to:

- improve the safety of the yard by replacing the soft fall (first priority)
- increase access to different play experiences (addition of swings, balance beams, water play, mud pile)
- increase sensory experiences, add safe water play, improve access to dirt/mud pile
- increase planting of native species to support the wider local environment (they'll collaborate with Friends of Warrandyte State Park)
- change existing structures and surfaces which are negatively impacting on established trees on site
- include an outdoor book corner to encourage as much outdoor time as possible.



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Making good things happen

When you bank with us, profits pour into the community. \$4.45 million so far. Here's who we're supporting in 2023:

Andersons Creek Primary School	\$15,000	Warrandyte Festival Inc	\$5,000
Christmas Hills Fire Brigade	\$36,500	Warrandyte Football Club	\$7,953
Clifford Park Activity Centre	\$2,875	Warrandyte High School	\$6,300
Fireball	\$5,500	Warrandyte Junior Football Club	\$5,000
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.	\$900	Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association	\$30,000
Lions Club of Park Orchards	\$2,000	Warrandyte Neighbourhood House	\$7,055
Melbourne Men's Group	\$2,200	Warrandyte Netball Club	\$6,940
Park Orchards Cricket Club	\$2,400	Warrandyte RSL Sub-Branch	\$3,285
Park Orchards Football Netball Club	\$5,000	Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club	\$1,000
Park Orchards Power Netball Club	\$3,100	Warrandyte Sporting Group	\$8,000
Park Orchards Primary School	\$1,000	Wonga Park Community Cottage	\$5,766
Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club	\$4,000	Wonga Park Cricket Club	\$7,500
Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale	\$6,000	Wonga Park Fire Brigade	\$60,000
Shine Bright Gala	\$2,000	Wonga Park Primary School	\$5,500
South Warrandyte Fire Brigade	\$3,500	Wonga Park Scout Group	\$12,500
Sports Chaplaincy Australia	\$6,500	Wonga Park Wizards	\$10,000
St Anne's Strawberry Fair	\$2,387	Defib Your Community	\$5,000
St Stephen's Anglican Church Warrandyte	\$556		
The Pottery Expo	\$3,000		
Upstream Foundation	\$3,800		
Victoria Police Golf Club	\$5,500		
Warrandyte Basketball Association	\$10,000		
Warrandyte Childcare & Preschool Centre	\$34,990		
Warrandyte Community Church	\$5,350		
Warrandyte Community Garden	\$2,500		
Warrandyte Cricket Club	\$2,700		

This year's Community Investment Program opens in July 2023.

Keep up with our latest news:

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Find out more. Call 9844 2233 or search Bendigo Bank Warrandyte