

Spring  
2025

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale



## Sonia's 15-year anniversary

From the first day our branch opened its doors, Sonia has been a constant presence, bringing warmth, professionalism and dedication to everything she does. In May we celebrated Sonia's 15 years of outstanding service. Over the years, she has become a familiar and much-loved face to our customers, known for her friendly smile, tireless work ethic and genuine care for the community. Her commitment to excellence and her connection with customers have shaped the welcoming and supportive environment our branch is known for.

Whether helping someone open their first account or assisting a local business, she always goes above and beyond.

On behalf of our team and community, thank you, Sonia, for 15 years. Congratulations on this milestone—we're grateful for all you do and look forward to many more years together.



Congratulations and thank you Sonia



Photo: Simon Milder

## All Fired Up Fun Run's biggest year yet

The Edithvale Fire Brigade and CFA's All Fired Up Fun Run was held in March. It was the event's biggest and most successful year to date, with 636 registrations and \$27,167 raised.

Now in its 11th year, this popular annual event is a hallmark on the community calendar. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the brigade's centenary year and we were proud to be sponsors again this year.

The fun run helps the brigade raise funds for additional equipment and state-of-the-art resources—so they can keep everyone in our community safe.

Funds raised at this year's event will be help replace the brigade's salvage vehicle.

**Bendigo Bank's Community Bank branches have contributed over \$416 million to their communities since 1998. We're proud to feed into community prosperity.**

# Better banking, big impact



## Meet Keaun, Customer Relationship Officer

### Q: What's your background?

I was born in Dunedin in New Zealand, and made the move to Melbourne in July. I've worked in banking since finishing high school, including at Bank of New Zealand and Westpac New Zealand. I've now joined Bendigo Bank and I'm excited to continue helping customers with their financial goals.

### Q: What are you looking forward to in this role?

I'm looking forward to building strong relationships with customers and being part of the community. Helping people achieve their goals—whether that's buying their first home or managing everyday banking—is something I'm passionate about. I'm also excited to grow my skills and knowledge with Bendigo Bank and be part of a team that truly puts customers first.

### Q: What do you enjoy outside of work?

I enjoy producing and performing music. It's a great creative outlet. I also love exploring Melbourne with my partner, trying new food spots, and keeping active at the gym. I'm a big sports fan too—especially rugby union and rugby league, and I follow the All Blacks, Highlanders and NZ Warriors.

### Q: What's something people might be surprised to learn about you?

I'm also a DJ and music producer, and I've had the chance to perform at festivals/club shows in New Zealand and Australia.

Sport has also been a big part of my life. I was a representative rugby union and touch rugby player, and I was the first South Otago High School player to score a try at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin.

## Celebrating our Community Garden

### From Cheslea Heights Community Centre

Back in March, we gathered for a beautiful event filled with great weather, stunning surroundings, and delicious food—making it a night to remember.

Thank you to Chelsea Rotary Australia for welcoming Chelsea Heights Community Garden to the Kingston Farmers' Market and presenting a cheque to support the framing and insulating of the wicking beds used by our garden community. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Also, a huge thank you to Community Bank Aspendale Gardens-Edithvale for their amazing \$5000 grant, which helped us purchase brand-new, efficient equipment for our gardeners. It was wonderful to have Julian and his lovely family join us in the celebration.

We're grateful to Mayor, Cr Georgina Oxley—City of Kingston from for joining the Garden celebration.

Finally, the biggest thanks go to the community garden members and our dedicated volunteers Jayne, Tim, and Vicki. You all know how to host an unforgettable event in such a beautiful setting.

Also, happy 16th anniversary to our Community Garden! Here's to many more years of growth, connection, and community spirit.



Guests, including our Branch Manager Julian and family, at the Community Garden event

## Want to be part of the team?

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

Expressions of interest are now being accepted for the 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)



# Strengthening our community

## Supporting the Story Dogs program

The Story Dogs literacy program gives a child and a dog (with their volunteer handler) a weekly one-on-one reading session throughout the course of a school year. We are proud to support the program at Edithvale Primary School.

The literacy program is based on the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (READ) model. The READ program has successfully proven the educational benefits of reading to dogs since 1999.

Story Dog volunteers go at the child's pace and use the calming presence of the dog to support comprehension during each 20 minute reading session. Books are chosen to be fun and interesting and are matched to the literacy level of the student.

During a session, the volunteer handler often speaks through the dog. Involving the dog such as "Simba doesn't understand what is happening on this page, could you help him out?" encourages the child's confidence to navigate 'teaching' the dog in a trusting and shared learning environment

## Deb and Luna help children at Edithvale Primary School

**About:** Deb is a Operations Manager, she enjoys swimming, gardening, travel and being around animals.

**Sponsor:** Generously funded through a gift from Community Bank Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale.

**Dog breed:** Spoodle.

**How we met:** Met Luna during COVID, she was my neighbour's dog and we became best friends and did many walks together.

**Luna loves:** Wagging her tail, playing in the park.

**Favourite foods:** Not fussy, loves treats.

**Doesn't like:** Being alone.

**Quirks:** Loves to please, tail never stops wagging.



## Modified basketball rings for gym

We are proud to have recently helped Aspendale Gardens Community Service get some modified basketball rings in their gym. The modified rings can now be lowered to a height suitable for younger children and people with disabilities.

At the a ribbon cutting ceremony the Under 8s Aspendale Gardens Giants Basketball team and junior Giants players told us that the modified rings have made a big difference to their training.

Our sponsorship funds also enabled a free school holiday basketball program at the centre.



Branch Manager Julian visited the Aspendale Gardens Community Service gym to check out the new basketball rings.

## AGM and shareholder update

Local shareholders are invited to join us for our 2025 Annual General Meeting at Community Bank Aspendale Gardens–Edithvale, 11 Narelle Drive, Aspendale Gardens Shopping Centre on 24 November 2025 at 5:00pm.

Light refreshments will be served with an opportunity to speak with our directors and staff.

The meeting also available for attendance online via Teams, for login details please refer to notice of meeting or contact [cossec@agecom.org.au](mailto:cossec@agecom.org.au)

AGECOM Enterprises Limited is also pleased to announce that a fully-franked dividend of 13.65 cents per share has been declared for the 2024-25 financial year. Payment will be made to shareholders on 3 November 2025.

## Keeping you safe online

Scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Bendigo Bank's website has lots of information on how to spot the latest scams, keep your identity safe, and how to protect your family and business.

Head to the Bendigo Bank website at: [www.bendigobank.com.au/security](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/security)



Our team members at Edithvale Fire Brigade's sponsors' night

## It's a win-win when you bank with us

In the past 12 months, your banking has helped support the clubs, projects and organisations at the heart of our community. Here's who we've supported.

- Chelsea Bowling Club
- Chelsea Heights Community Centre Inc
- Edithvale Fire Brigade
- Mordialloc Chelsea Evening View Club
- Carrum Rowing Club Inc.
- Bonbeach Cricket Club
- Chelsea Heights-Aspendale Gardens Cricket Club
- The Changemakers and the Sixth Child AU
- Voluntary Outreach Club
- Nepean Welcoming Immigrants and Newcomers with Dignity
- Rotary Club of Chelsea
- Chelsea Little Athletics
- Chelsea Football Netball Club
- Story Dogs

## 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.rodriguez@  
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

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

**f** [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, Supriya Arora.



## How healthy is your home loan?

With the current cost of living, there's never been a better time to review your home loan.

We'll look at your rate, term, repayments, and equity, giving your loan a full check-up to make sure it's still right for you and your current needs.

**Enquire online at [bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck](http://bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck) or visit your nearest branch.**

**Community Bank - Aspendale Gardens-Edithvale**

**Bendigo Bank**  
The better big bank

All loans are subject to the Bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions, available online at [www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au) or upon request from any Bendigo Bank branch, before making a decision. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879 (2083101-2126290) (02/25)