



Autumn 2026

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud

## Energy Breakthrough

We were proud to again be the official volunteer sponsor of the Energy Breakthrough in 2025, supporting the hundreds of volunteers who make this iconic event possible.

Energy Breakthrough brings students, families and visitors to our region and could not operate without its dedicated volunteer workforce. Supporting the volunteer program helps ensure the event runs safely and smoothly while recognising the people who generously give their time. We look forward to continuing our support again in 2026.



**\$2.7 million**

Reinvested from 1999 to now



**\$205,000**

Contribution to the community in 2025



**80**

Organisations supported in 2025

# 2025 Community highlights

## Why banking locally matters

Every grant, sponsorship and community investment shared here is made possible by people choosing to bank locally. When you bank with Community Bank, Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud, profits are reinvested back into the places and people that make our town thrive, from community events and sporting clubs to health, education and volunteer-led services. It is a simple and powerful model that delivers real benefits for our region.

## St Arnaud Kindergarten

In 2025, we provided a grant to support Bush Kinder transport costs for both 2025 and 2026, building on our earlier support in 2024.

Bush Kinder gives children the chance to learn outdoors, connect with nature, build confidence and curiosity, and develop important social and physical skills while having fun. Supporting transport helps remove transport cost barriers, ensuring more local children can take part in these valuable outdoor learning experiences.



## Just A farmer

We supported the Pyrenees Mental Health and Wellbeing Network to host a community screening of Just A Farmer.

The event created a safe and welcoming space for important conversations around mental health, particularly in rural communities. By bringing people together, the network continues to play an important role in reducing stigma, encouraging people to seek support and helping community members feel connected and supported.



## Goldfields Reservoir BBQ Project

We supported the Maryborough Lions Club with a grant toward upgrades at the Goldfields Reservoir, a popular recreational area used by locals and visitors alike.

The project replaced the ageing wood fired BBQ and deteriorating shelter with a safer electric BBQ, new picnic furniture, lighting and powered facilities. With many people using the reservoir for Park Run, fishing, swimming, walking and camping, these improvements will create a safer and more welcoming space for the community to gather and enjoy the outdoors for years to come.



## Zonta 16 Days of Activism Project

We were proud to support the Zonta Club's 16 Days of Activism project, which distributed reusable coffee cups promoting awareness around respect and safety.

The initiative sparked conversations across the community and helped raise awareness about family violence prevention in a practical and visible way. Community led projects like this play an important role in education, awareness and positive cultural change.



# 2025 Community highlights

## Neighbourhood lunch

In 2025 we supported Maryborough Community House to launch a new neighbourhood lunch series, building on the success of their annual Harmony Day luncheon. The project will deliver a series of "Midday Mingles" lunches across two years.



The lunches encourage tolerance, respect and empathy while promoting social cohesion and cultural harmony. They provide a welcoming space where everyone can feel they belong, while also connecting participants with volunteer opportunities, services and support networks within the community.

## Royal Flying Doctor Service Volunteer Support Program

We were proud to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service Volunteer Support Program in St Arnaud. This program provides free, safe return transport for eligible residents with mobility, health or mental health challenges, delivered by trained local volunteer drivers.

The grant supports volunteer connection opportunities, training and wellbeing initiatives, including regular gatherings and plans to recognise volunteers during National Volunteer Week in May 2026. Supporting volunteers helps sustain this essential service and acknowledges the time, care and commitment they give to the St Arnaud community.



## 2025 Sponsorships

In addition to grants, we proudly sponsor many local sporting clubs, community groups and events throughout the year. Sponsorships play an important role in helping clubs remain affordable, maintain facilities and create opportunities for people of all ages to participate and connect.

Active Farmers

Avoca Cricket Club

Avoca Football & Netball Club

Avoca Riding Club

Avoca Shire Turf Club

Carisbrook Bowling Club

Carisbrook Football Netball Club

Maryborough & Castlemaine Football League

Maryborough Cricket Club

Maryborough District MX Club

Maryborough Football Netball Club

Maryborough Giants Football Netball Club

Maryborough Harness Racing Club

Maryborough Soccer Club

Natte Bealiba Football Club

Pyrenees Best Wool Best Lamb

Pyrenees Grapegrowers & Winemakers

St Arnaud & District Lawn Tennis Club

St Arnaud Basketball

St Arnaud Football Club

St Arnaud Hockey Club

St Arnaud Netball Club

St Arnaud Turf Club

Talbot Football Netball Club

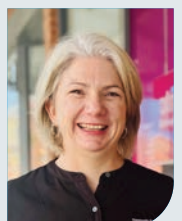
Words In Winter

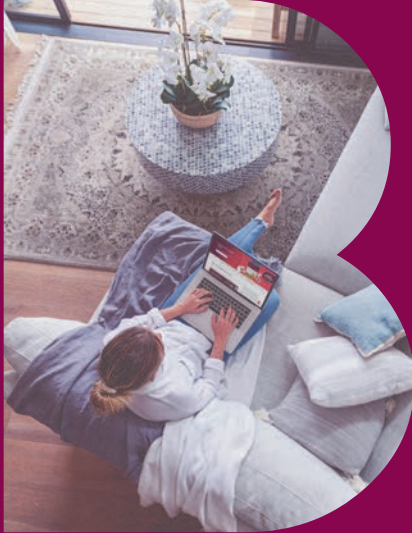
## Have a project in mind?

Local clubs and community groups can apply for our Community Grant Programs, which open in **March and September each year**. Keep an eye on our social media pages for updates, or head to <https://communitybankavocamaryborough.smartygrants.com.au> for details on how to apply.

We look forward to supporting more great local ideas that keep our communities connected, active and thriving.

**Julie Driscoll**  
Executive Officer  
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secretary@  
avocacoop.com.au





# 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](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck) or visit your nearest branch.**

📍 **Community Bank**  
Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud



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](https://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)

## Talk to us today

If you need help with your banking, contact our lending team. They can meet you when and where it suits you; at the branch, over the phone, or via video call.



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### Community Bank - Avoca

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**P 5465 3804**  
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[bendigobank.com.au/avoca](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/avoca)

#### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 5.00pm Friday  
(Closed for lunch 12.30 - 1.30pm)

### Maryborough

52 -54 Tuaggra Street, Maryborough  
**P 5461 4384**  
**E** [maryborough@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:maryborough@bendigoadelaide.com.au)  
[bendigobank.com.au/maryborough](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/maryborough)

#### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

### St Arnaud

88 Napier Street, St Arnaud  
**P 0448 742 059**

#### We're open:

10.00am - 3.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
(Closed for lunch 12.30 - 1.00pm)

 [/communitybankavocamaryboroughstarnaud](https://www.facebook.com/communitybankavocamaryboroughstarnaud)

 [/communitybankavocamaryborough](https://www.instagram.com/communitybankavocamaryborough)

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