



Community Bank · Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud

Magic Moments

Thanks to our customers banking locally, this July we supported 11 local students to attend the 2026 Magic Moments Youth Leadership and Business Summit.

The five-day program brought together young people for a week of leadership, confidence building, communication and personal development.

For our local students, it was a chance to step outside their comfort zones, meet new people and bring skills and confidence home with them.

“Giving local young people opportunities like this is exactly why community banking matters. Every account opened, every home loan approved and every customer who chooses to bank with us helps make experiences like Magic Moments possible,” said Branch Manager Joel Condon.

Our scholarships, each valued at almost \$1,900, went to students from St Arnaud Secondary College, Maryborough Education Centre and Highview College.

“ I learnt that my ideas matter, to me and the people around me. ”
Summit student



Community impact stories

Our community investment 2025/26

Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud returned more than **\$213,000** to local communities in the 2025/26 financial year through grants, sponsorships and donations.

There are too many projects to list them all, but here's a snapshot of where that investment went.

01. Education: Energy Breakthrough, local schools, scholarships and the St Arnaud Kindergarten.

02. Emergency services and community support: Amphitheatre CFA's Big Fill vehicle and the Royal Flying Doctor Service Community Transport Program.

03. Community events: Continued support for Words in Winter, Pyrenees Unearthed, the St Arnaud Procession and the Maryborough Theatre Company Christmas Carols.

04. Community infrastructure: Including the Maryborough Cemetery and the St Arnaud Band Hall.

05. Sport: Many local clubs, including the MCDNFL Finals Series, football, netball, soccer, hockey, tennis and horse riding.

Feel good about who you bank with. Visit Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud and discover how your banking can make a local difference.



\$2.9 million

Reinvested from 1999 to now



75

Regional projects funded in 2025/26



66

Organisations supported in 2025/26



Community impact stories



A new defibrillator for Amherst Cemetery

Another piece of life-saving equipment is now in place, with Alan and Reiny collecting a new defibrillator for Amherst Cemetery, funded by a Community Bank grant.

Community Spirit Awards at Lord Nelson Park

Because our customers bank locally, we are able to recognise the people who give so much to their teams and clubs. Congratulations to everyone who received a Community Bank Community Spirit Award at Lord Nelson Park in St Arnaud.

Our team enjoyed a day of hockey, football and netball, catching up with familiar faces and meeting new ones. Thank you to everyone who stopped for a chat, and to the St Arnaud Hockey Club, St Arnaud Netball Club and St Arnaud Football Club.



Christmas in July at the St Arnaud Community Kitchen

We were pleased to attend the St Arnaud Community Kitchen's Christmas in July event. Our thanks to Tracey, Kim and the team, who do an outstanding job every year.

The Community Kitchen's weekly lunches are held every Tuesday, except the third Tuesday of each month.



The future of soccer is looking bright

In July, with the FIFA World Cup inspiring the next generation, our Community Engagement Lead Julie visited Maryborough Soccer Club to watch the junior players at training. With around 100 children registered, the future of the game is looking bright, and it is a great reminder that every superstar once pulled on a local club jersey for the very first time.

We are proud to have supported the club for several years.



Ladies' Triples get the season rolling

We were excited to support the Carisbrook Bowling Club Ladies' Triples Tournament. The tournament helped kick off the 2026/27 season, with bowlers back on the greens for a day of friendly competition. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a big thank you to Kathy and the team for putting together such a great day.

Community impact stories



Celebrating the local finals series

When you bank with us, you help keep local sport strong across our region. We have been a long-term supporter of the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League (MCDNFL) and were proud to be the Major Sponsor of the MCDNFL Finals Series.

Grand Final Day was a busy one for our team, with some fantastic games (and a few nail-biters), medal presentations and celebrations with the teams.

Julie and Aley presented medals and awards, including best on ground for the junior netballers, and footballs to the winning under-12 team.

"The league reaches right across our region. Every week it brings players, families, volunteers and whole towns together, and that is exactly where we want to be," said Julie Driscoll, our Community Engagement Lead.



Community impact stories



Business insights delivered at local breakfast

Local business owners joined us to hear from Bendigo Bank's Chief Economist David Robertson, who explained the big economic picture and what it means for businesses and households locally.

Bounce Global founder Maria Smith shared her experience of growing her business over the years, and Bendigo Bank Business and Agri Banking specialists were on hand to meet everyone in the room.

Assistant Branch Manager Aley said, "David had such a great way of making economics easy to understand for everyone. With around 60 people in the room, there was also plenty of opportunity to catch up, meet others in business and talk to them about the challenges they're currently facing."

Music to our ears in St Arnaud

Thanks to our customers banking locally, St Arnaud Early Learning Centre welcomed Declan the Music Man for three interactive music shows. We were delighted to receive this feedback from the centre:

"The children had a fantastic time singing, moving, laughing and getting involved in the performances. It was a great opportunity to bring something a little different to our rural community and create some special memories for our local kids."



Banking safely online



Keeping our customers safe is an important part of what we do. Courtney visited the Maryborough Community House to present a Banking Safely Online information session. Our thanks to the Community House team, who always make us feel welcome (and feed us very well).

These sessions cover the benefits of staying digitally connected, how to keep yourself safe online, and the e-banking tools available to help protect you from fraud and scams.

To book a session for your community group, please call 5461 4384.

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
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Engagement Lead
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Our people



Life membership for our Chair

Our board and branch team were proud to attend the MCDLNL Best and Fairest, celebrating the achievements of players, clubs and volunteers from across the league.

A highlight of the evening was seeing our Board Chair Donna Wardlaw (second from right), awarded Life Membership, a well-deserved recognition of her contribution to the league over many years.

Footy tipping champion

Congratulations to Holly, who won The Pyrenees Advocate Footy Tipping Competition. The Maryborough team was not quite as successful in The Maryborough District Advertiser competition, but we've enjoyed being part of it.



Work anniversaries

Congratulations to our team members on their recent work anniversaries. Hannah has now been part of the team for one year, while Holly is celebrating seven years with us: six years, followed by an overseas adventure, and now one year back with the team.

We also celebrated work anniversaries for Joel (four years), Courtney (four years) and Julie (14 years).

Thank you to Hannah, Holly, Joel, Courtney and Julie for everything you do. We are very lucky to have you as part of our team.

Talk to us today

Help with your banking? Contact our friendly 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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(Closed for lunch 12.30 - 1.30pm)



Maryborough

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St Arnaud

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