



# Newsletter

Community Bank · Balnarring & District



## Better experience, bigger impact

At Community Bank Balnarring & District, our customers receive a better banking experience and together with them, we continue to make a difference as we return profits to the people and communities that generate them.

Because our staff understand and genuinely care about people, their approach is personalised to suit the needs of our customers and we strike a balance between face-to-face and digital banking to make life easier.

We show our customers that they make a bigger impact and can feel proud of their choice of bank because their Community Bank actively supports and invests in communities across our district. The figure of \$2.6 million invested since we opened in 2018 is impressive, but it's the impacts behind that number that really matters.

Last year you invested \$30,000 in Western Port Community Support's Housing & Homelessness Program, an innovative and successful program which works with clients to restore stability and secure housing tenure. So, the banking of our customers becomes part of something much bigger.

In March this year, you contributed almost \$33,000 to Balnarring Primary School towards the installation of new playground equipment, as the former middle school playground had been removed after a safety audit.

The school had raised an impressive \$16,014 towards the project, but without your support a new playground for the Years 3 and 4 students was a long way off.

Where else could great banking choices make such a positive impact and keep students at the local primary school active and healthy and people in a secure home. All because you choose to bank with a better big bank. Thank you!



Greg and Piggy with Anne McDonald (assistant Principal) and Ella, Indie and Oskar.

Our Year 3 and 4 students can't thank Community Bank Balnarring & District, enough for all the money we were given. We are extremely thankful for this amazing privilege so we can build a new 3/4 playground. The 3/4 students love playing on the playgrounds during recess and lunch. We love swinging like monkeys and climbing like koalas and we will love the new playground even more. The 3/4 students have never felt so lucky and they can't wait for the playground to be built.

**Maisie 3B**

# Real people, making a difference

For our Community Bank it's all about togetherness and the many people across our communities who work so hard to make a difference.

- Those who work together and invest their time and energy to improve their community through involvement in the many groups and organisations that make our communities stronger
- Those who work in our Community Bank because they care about our customers and meeting their needs
- The customers and shareholders who empower our communities by supporting our Community Bank and whose banking provides the profits we invest
- The volunteer directors who make up our Board and are committed to making a positive impact in our communities.

Together we create the 'social glue' that makes things happen and sharing that common ground shows us that we are all part of something bigger and are giving back in so many ways.

Some of the people in our Community Bank team deserve a special mention and we are certain you will enjoy finding out a little more about them.

## Glenys Wandmaker, Customer Relationship Officer

On 16 April, Glenys reached an impressive 30 years' service with Bendigo Bank. She joined our Community Bank in September 2008 and quickly became an invaluable member of the team. Her capacity for hard work, along with her professional and knowledgeable customer service, has seen her become much admired and well regarded by colleagues, Directors and our many customers, for whom Glenys always goes the extra mile to ensure their needs are met. Our

congratulations and thanks for your huge contribution, Glenys.



Top: Glenys with Max and Val Burley, who are part of the reason our Community Bank exists! They were part of the Steering Committee which established the bank and were then Directors on the inaugural Board, so Glenys has a long relationship with them.

Above: Glenys with fellow staff members Kaylah, Melinda and Delwyn. Glenys and Melinda joined the staff soon after we opened in 2008. Melinda is now our Community Engagement Officer, so still deeply involved.



## Amelia Blamey, Customer Service Officer

Hi, I am Amelia. I have been a Customer Service Officer at the Balnarring branch for three months now. I have been absolutely blown away by the support I have received from my colleagues and from the amazing community members who come in to see us every day.

My husband and I have lived in Somerville with our children since 2009 and love our little part of the world down here.

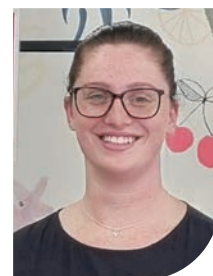
I spend my time away from the branch with my two kids

and all their extra activities. When they are not busy, I am cooking up a storm with produce from my garden or baking cakes.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all better.

## Kaylah Jones, Customer Relationship Officer

It was with a great deal of pleasure that the Board recently offered Kaylah a promotion to the position of Customer Relationship Officer. After joining our Community Bank in June 2022, Kaylah quickly became a vital part of our customer service team and will now work with Glenys to further engage with our customers, building strong connections and helping them reach their goals by offering relevant banking solutions. Our congratulations to Kaylah.



## Michael Treadwell, Director

With much sadness the Board recently accepted the resignation of Michael Treadwell, who has been an integral part of our Board since January 2021. Michael's community engagement and involvement is legendary and he brought a valuable younger person's perspective to our work, whilst his professional experience and skills added to our capacity to maximise opportunities and ensure excellent governance. Our best wishes to Michael as he takes up a two-year promotion in Perth and we look forward to welcoming him back to the fold when he returns.



Michael joined the Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare group's International Tree Day planting in their Biolink

## Michele Sabto, our most recently appointed Director

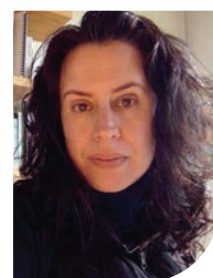
*"There's been a load of compromises on the road to my horizon"*

Rhinstone Cowboy, written by Larry Weiss, and most famously sung by Glen Campbell

I've always wanted to start a profile piece with that line, which makes me laugh and is partly true for my life, but perhaps also for many of us at different times in our lives.

I've been living on the Peninsula since 2012 and think of myself as a refugee from the inner city. I've been lucky to find fulfilling work locally at a law firm in Balnarring and as an environmental consultant with Landcare, helping private landholders on the Peninsula conserve native bush on their properties. While I don't yet feel like a true local (I think that takes at least 20 years!), now that I've joined the Board, I'm feeling more connected to this lovely part of the world and the amazing people who live in it.

I live with my partner Michael at Merricks North and in my spare time I enjoy looking after the precious native bushland on the Peninsula with Landcare people, singing in the Mt Eliza Bel Canto Choir, running, yoga, and tending my always-overgrown veggie patch.





## Grants Briefing

Building on our commitment to making an impact in our communities, many local groups and organisations were invited to send two representatives along to a Grant Opportunities Briefing on 26 March at Balnarring Hall and some 70 representatives joined us.

Since we opened in 2008, over 100 local groups have benefitted from our support for a huge range of projects, programs and events. We continue to make significant investments to build our communities, demonstrating our commitment to supporting our customers and their communities, underscored by our longstanding purpose - to feed into prosperity, not off it.

We look forward to funding many more investments to make our communities even better for residents across our district, thanks to the banking of our customers.



## Balnarring Pony Club

Balnarring Pony Club is family friendly and encourages members from 4 to 25 to get the most out of the sport they love. Young riders are instructed on caring for their horse and on dressage, jumping, cross country, navigational rides and games.

On 30 April, Balnarring Pony Club hosted the Victorian Pony Club Horse Trials State Championship for the first time. The trials consisted of three disciplines - dressage, cross country and show jumping and your Community Bank was delighted to fund new cross country jumps for the club to have in place for this special event.

The activities enjoyed by young people at the club provide many positives beyond the physical pursuits involved. They benefit from the social aspects of club life, involvement of other children and adults, opportunities to develop ways to cope with the highs and lows of life and learning the importance of teamwork.

We remain very proud of our investment in the well-being of young people in our communities through our support of their wide-ranging sporting activities and congratulate Balnarring Pony Club on their many achievements.



Lilah Potter, riding Rawnaq, winner of the Bendigo Bank Grade 1 Show Jumping.

## Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare group

Our congratulations to this very active environment group, which recently celebrated the completion of Stage 1 of their Balnarring to the Bay Biolink, which commences at Balnarring Skate Park, encompasses the old railway reserve at the rear of Balnarring Hall and Civic Court Reserve and then travels through Balbiroorroo Community Wetlands.

Your Community Bank invested \$20,000 in this stage of the project and the group utilised this seed funding to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the removal of some 240 pine trees from the site and revegetate it with indigenous species which will provide vital habitat for native fauna, particularly our diminishing Koala population, whilst providing valuable recreational and access facilities for locals. What a great result for our community and our environment. It is a project that we are very proud to support.



President of the group, Murray Goddard with sponsors of the project, the Mayor Steve Holland and Cr. Debra Mar

This commitment to the environment extends to Bendigo Bank's Green Loans, which are now being taken up in huge numbers as more customers act to reduce their carbon footprint.

We know that we can't have prosperous communities unless we consider the impact of decisions made today on future generations, so it is fantastic to see an increasing uptake of the Bendigo Bank's Green Loans.

Customers of our bank Eli and Rowan, let us know that their Green Loan meant they could get solar panels, which helped them avoid electricity rate rises and saw their household use renewable energy to become more environmentally sustainable.

Bendigo Bank's Green Personal Loans help Australians fund new and used electric vehicles (EV's), solar panels, solar hot water, grey water treatment systems, double glazing, energy efficient white goods, solar batteries, electric vehicle charging stations and more, so call into the branch to make enquiries.

## Defib for Life

Does your club or local community have a defibrillator? Is it accessible to the broader community?



If yes, have you registered the unit with Ambulance Victoria at [www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/registering-my-aed-faqs/](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/registering-my-aed-faqs/)

Has your defibrillator been checked recently? It is vital to check your defibrillator to ensure it is Rescue Ready. In most cases, it's as simple as checking that the Rescue Ready indicator light is green. If the light remains green then no further action is required.

If the Indicator light turns red or the device is beeping, one of two things may be necessary: either the battery is low or the pads are expired/out of date. It's important that the device is regularly inspected and this can be easily done by checking the outer casing is intact and that a rescue ready kit, which includes the minimum of a face mask and scissors, is attached.

If you require funding to ensure your defib is Rescue Ready, contact our Community Bank.





The banking of our wonderful customers has allowed us to also support these events and initiatives

### ◀ Womin Djeka Festival

Your Community Bank was delighted to again be part of the annual Womin Djeka Festival held at Emu Plains Reserve on 25 March.

N'arwee't Professor Carolyn Briggs AM, a respected Elder of the Boonwurrung people, opened the day with the Welcome to Country and later launched her book, 'The Time of Chaos'.

This is the third in a series by Professor Briggs and was illustrated by the children at Balnarring Pre-school. 'The Time of Chaos' tells the ancient story of Boonwurrung country, as well as the local community's journey and relationship with chaos, something we have all experienced over the past few years with bushfires and COVID-19 isolation.

Your Community Bank funded the printing of the book and Directors Ron Kempster and Susan Beanland were there to meet Professor Briggs and receive a signed copy, which is now on display at our branch.

Left: Director Susan Beanland on stage with Professor Carolyn Briggs.

### ▶ Flinders Lions Club Motoring Heritage

Once again, your Community Bank sponsored this year's Flinders Motoring Heritage event, which was successful in every way.

Some 80 unique cars attended, with over 1,200 ticket entries to the display areas. \$71,110 was raised from the 2022 and 2023 events combined and this will fund the three sensory and interactive courtyard gardens in Flinders Ward at Peninsula Health's Mornington Centre for dementia patients.

Our congratulations to the Flinders District Lions Club, the members of which continue to make a huge contribution to the strength of our communities.



Top: Director Pam Ford enjoying her time at the festival!

## Talk to us today



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/communitybankbalnarringanddistrict



/communitybankbalnarring

### We're open:

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

### Directors

Heather Goddard (Chair), Chris Gurney (Treasurer),  
Mark Laughton, Ron Kempster, Stuart Whiteley,  
Pam Ford, Kym Bridgford, Sarah Moran,  
Susan Beanland, Andrew Thomas, Michele Sabto  
Company Secretary: Ken Brown

Balnarring & District Community Services Limited  
ABN 84 127 842 059

### ▼ Bringing our mural outside

We decided that we loved our beautiful Jane Reiseger mural in the branch so much that we wanted to share it even more broadly, so installed our Lorikeet version of the old 'flying ducks wall décor' on our rear wall for passers-by to enjoy. Thanks Jane!

Right: Our wonderful sign writer, Mark Joyce, installing the Lorikeets.

