



Community grows here
Celebrating **14 Years** in Buninyong

Community Impact Snapshot

Buninyong & District
Financial Services Ltd.

2024



Our Vision

A thriving, resilient and inclusive
Buninyong and district.

Our Purpose

We exist to build connections,
facilitate conversations and
leverage the resources of our
community partners.



Business for good

Welcome from the Chair — Ian Corcoran

Our Board operates a locally-owned franchise of Bendigo Bank, known as Community Bank Buninyong.

The 2023/2024 year gave us the opportunity to focus our Community Investment on projects that demonstrate our commitment to compassionate leadership in our community. By supporting “The Little Things” youth and community wellbeing project, we supported the social and emotional wellbeing of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Our investment in SALT (Sport and Life Training), promotes mental health awareness and wellbeing by providing education on anxiety and depression. SALT training encourages bystander intervention and empowers young members to make positive choices.

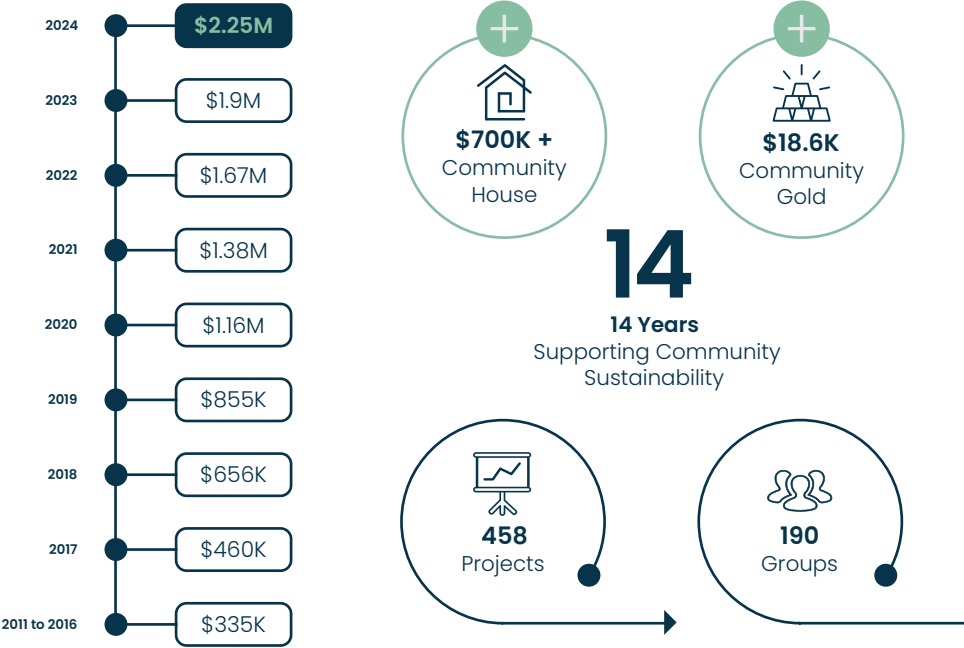
Our support of the “Ready Set Grow” program at Buninyong Primary School enhances student wellbeing, promotes sustainability and fosters community engagement through gardening activities.

We invest in community-led projects that have deep and meaningful outcomes for our community.

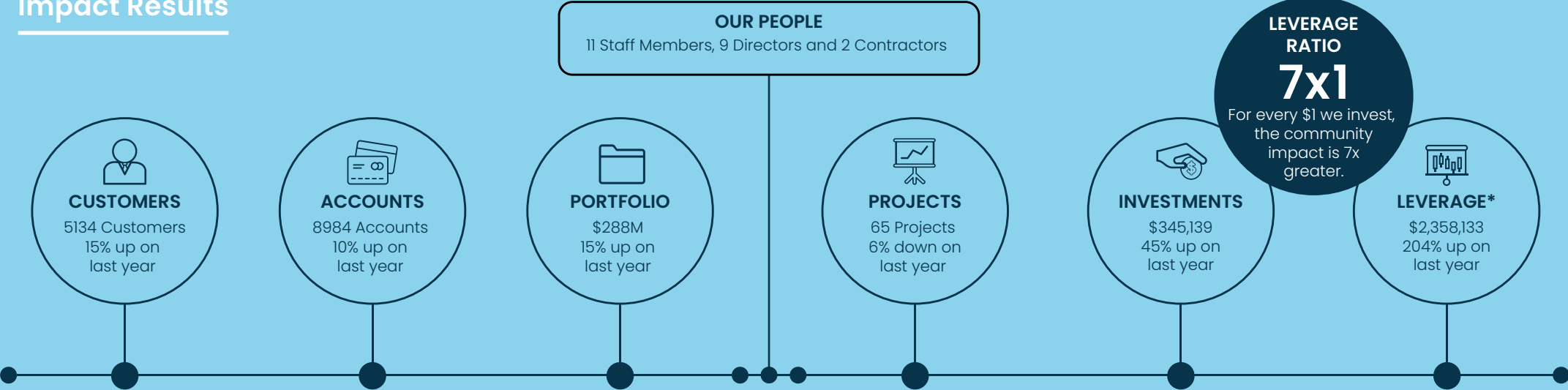
While we exist for the purpose of distributing profit back into meaningful community projects, we are driven by connecting people and organisations. This is to facilitate constructive conversations around leveraging resources in our local community and helps us fulfill our vision.

If your community group or organisation is interested in applying for Community Investment funding, visit communitygrowshere.com.au/investment

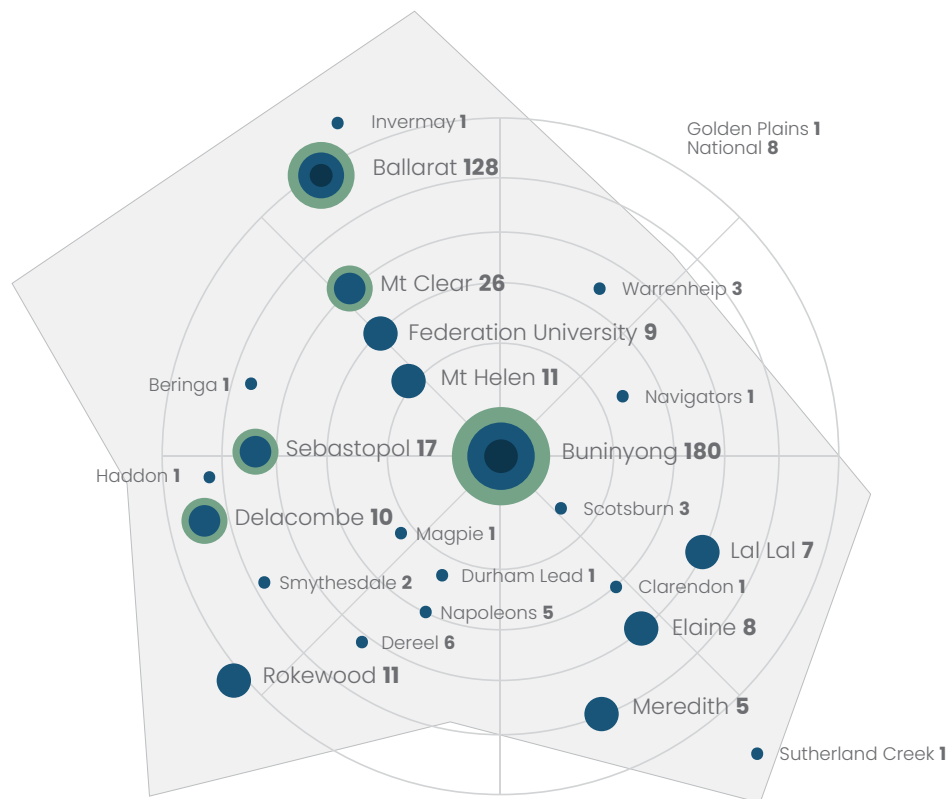
Cumulative Investment and Distribution



Impact Results



*Total estimated value of projects delivered by recipients including reported co-contributions and in-kind support.



The Highlights — This past 12 months we:

- Were finalists in the Federation University Commerce Ballarat Business Excellence Awards (Professional Services)
- Conducted Banking Online Safely sessions
- Filmed new content on how community banking works
- Installed our customised mailbox at the Community House
- Celebrated 14 years of community banking
- Welcomed new faces Nichole Howard (Branch Team) and Brett Jones (Board Team)
- Were overwhelmed by our Christmas Drive (...biggest yet!)
- Achieved Social Traders Certification
- Reached 1000 followers on Facebook
- Congratulated Branch Manager Randall Dreger on 10 years of service
- Community Partnerships Lead Kelly Bevan participated in the Ballarat Foundation's Dancing With Our Stars 2024, raising over \$13,500 as part of a collectively tally of \$212,000
- Our branch team undertook Auslan training
- Launched SparkTank with up to \$50,000 of community investment funding distributed on the one night.

Community Impact Stories

Over the last 14 years, we've distributed over \$2,250,000 to local organisations, causes and projects in our local community. We love telling stories of the projects we've funded and how they've enriched our local area and contributed towards a thriving community.

To read this year's community impact stories visit communitygrowshere.com.au/story-bank



Empowering our Community

The Community Bank model creates shared value for all stakeholders – community, customers, shareholders, employees and the environment. Community Bank Buninyong is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank and is owned by members of the local community.

View the full list of 2023 / 2024 community investment recipients here: communitygrowshere.com.au/recipients





We do business for good

In the last financial year, we achieved Social Traders Certification. We talk about how impactful the community banking model is for the broader community, however this certification demonstrates, substantiates and formally recognises the work we do. We couldn't be prouder.

Certification is about recognising the \$2,250,000 we've invested in community projects, organisations and causes. It's also about how the community banking model builds community and shares profit. It's just another reason why customers should support us and see profits returned to our local community.

Social enterprises must (1) have a defined primary social, cultural or environmental purpose consistent with a public benefit, (2) derive a substantial portion of their income from trade and (3) invest effort and resources into public and community benefit that outweighs private benefit. Tick, tick, tick.

These are the values, ethos and the model of reciprocity community banking is built upon and we have now been formally recognised for this.



Business for good

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung elders, past, present and emerging and their culture which has nurtured this land for tens of thousands of years.

