



September
2020

Clovelly news

Community Bank · Clovelly



Clovelly Community Outreach Program

We have all experienced unprecedented times in recent months. As a Community Bank that cares about those doing it tough, we activated all our community connections when COVID-19 hit, to develop a plan of action, leveraging our relationships in the community for maximum impact. It started off by connecting our friends at Bondi SLSC with our friends at South Eastern Community Connect with 10 pallets of donated essential goods: foodstuffs, toiletries, toilet paper, wipes etc. We then worked with the team at SECC to pack these goods into food hampers to deliver to those identified as being vulnerable in our local housing commissions – the older generation who couldn't get out and did not have the resources to keep updated on the current health advice, single parents with many little mouths to feed, individuals suffering mental health issues, and many other households in need.

Once the true impact of how people were suffering was recognised on these initial food hamper deliveries, we realised we could do so much more to help so many more in our community. Thus we mobilised our supported community groups: Bondi Surf Club and nippers, Coogee Dolphins, Randwick Petersham Cricket Club, Randwick Rugby Club, among others, and asked them to rally their members and supporters to donate much needed items to the bank for us to distribute directly to those who needed it.

Hence our Community Outreach Program was established, which has seen our Community Bank Clovelly turn into a busy food donation hub representing the kindness and generosity of our community.

The weekly food hamper deliveries grew from 38 in the first week to 78 a few weeks later and very soon OzHarvest



and Mission Australia came on board to increase capacity, donations and personnel. This endorsement from organisations experienced in giving support where needed added even greater capacity to the project, meaning more people could be helped with this weekly food drop, connection point and current health information drop.

To say the experience was fulfilling is an understatement. Our community, our customers, our supporters, all coming together to help those in need with the most generous donations, which we are still receiving regularly months after our initial call to action.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our customers, supporters and community for your very generous donations throughout this time. This has enabled those less fortunate to have a nutritious meal, the basic bathroom essentials, a weekly connection point and the knowledge that people in their community do care.

Kindness and gratitude. That's what our community is all about.

Founding sponsor of the new Bayside Women's Shelter

In a country where 50,000 women are homeless as a result of domestic violence, and one woman a week is killed by a current or former partner, the need for a domestic violence shelter in the eastern suburbs is sadly necessary.

When we heard that a domestic violence shelter for women was looking for a founding sponsor in order to open in our area, we jumped at the chance to support such a much-needed local resource. The support leading up to the opening of the shelter is testament to what can be achieved by the power of community. So many volunteers working tirelessly for a community project they are passionate about.

We were honoured to fund the shelter's first years rent with a \$50,000 grant as we were confident this was a project our customers, our community, would want their profits to go towards. This quickly transpired to an additional six months of rent when we found out the shelter was struggling to find another sponsor.

Over the one and a half years of our rental support for the shelter, we have felt like more than just the founding sponsor, we have experienced the benefits of a true partnership. By working closely with the shelter's voluntary board of directors, we have been able to address the ongoing needs of the shelter in a number of ways other than by providing purely financial support.

Our branch is the drop off point for donations for the shelter, an essential solution given the secret location of the shelter. This also provided a valuable connection point to the shelter for our community.

We also use our branch's popular Facebook page (Community Bank Clovelly Branch), to appeal to our generous customers and supporters for much-needed donations for the shelter.

In response, our customers have donated laptops, baby cots, boxes of handbags, clothing, toiletries, and food. By donating these items to the branch, our customers have been able to further contribute to and connect with the shelter in addition to their support through their banking.

During their stay at the shelter, women have access to a full range of casework services including trauma counselling and links to legal and financial support. Outreach is also provided to women following their departure from the shelter, to support their transition to a new life, free from violence.

We can safely say that the most satisfying element of the partnership is the knowledge that to date we have helped 42 women and 33 children escape the horror of domestic violence and move forward with their lives.

All donations support the ongoing operating costs for the service and if you would like to make a donation please visit: givenow.com.au/baysidewomensshelter



A beach wheelchair for the Little Heroes Swim Academy



Reducing barriers for people with disabilities or reduced mobility to venture into the ocean was the goal when we purchased the very first children's beach wheelchair for our community through our friends at Little Heroes Swim Academy.

We were there in the water to experience the joy the \$7,500 purpose-built chair brought to 12 year old Kate and her family when she used the beach wheelchair for the first time at Malabar Beach. Kate has cerebral palsy and her mum Tracey explained to us that as she has grown older, going to the beach has become more of a challenge.

"You can't get a normal wheelchair through the soft sand so I've had to leave it at the top of the beach and carry Kate to the water. Katie loves the ocean, so to be able to have those family days back at the beach is just awesome."

Little Heroes co-founder Tracey Ayton said the chair would allow "all kids to be included and thrive and survive in the water".

To borrow this children's beach wheelchair, please contact Little Heroes Swim Academy. Check out the video of Kate testing out the new children's beach wheelchair on our youtube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBI_USIKwWo



Coogee SLSC receive new boards

Community Bank Clovelly is at the forefront of supporting local surf clubs who provide vital rescue services on our busy Eastern Suburbs beaches.

We recently donated two Surf Rescue Boards to our local Coogee SLSC and thanked them for the selfless work they do to protect the hundreds of beachgoers who visit Coogee Beach every year.

Since 2011, Community Bank Clovelly has donated eight inflatable rescue boats (IRBs) to five local surf clubs: Bondi, Bronte, Clovelly, Coogee, and Tamarama.

Supporting The Windgap Foundation Growability Program



The Windgap Growability Program is a supported employment program that provides adults with intellectual disabilities with employment in residential and commercial gardening and lawn maintenance. The team is managed by experienced gardening and grounds keeping professionals who work alongside the team to provide support where needed and ensure service and quality standards are met.

We were proud to provide new gardening equipment and work shirts purchased with a \$5,000 grant.

Meet one of our local Clovelly customers

David Gravina is a local social entrepreneur who has dedicated the past 20 years to working on projects "that nurture nature and my fellow humans". His journey with the eco-friendly initiative 'The Compost Revolution' started back in 2010

where it was launched as a joint workshop-based education initiative in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney between three neighbouring councils – Waverley, Randwick and Woollahra – with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust.

Dave, the founder of Australia's first purpose-driven design agency (Digital Eskimo/Future Friendly), won the commission to build the online platform, founded a social venture to scale the revolution, and subsequently entering into a partnership with those visionary councils that is still going strong today.

Over the last eight years the Compost Revolution has grown to become Australia's largest community of composters with over 58,000 households joining the revolution to date. They have diverted more than 15,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and avoided 24 million kgs of CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions. All this while actually saving councils (and rate payers) in excess of \$800,000 in net waste management costs!

How did you come to be a customer at the bank? We were looking for an ethical bank when we first founded Digital Eskimo in 2001 and Bendigo Bank stood out as the only choice back then. Though then the Community Bank model was so new there wasn't even a branch in Sydney yet, only head office and we had to mail cheques to Parramatta!

As soon as Clovelly opened we transferred across immediately and that's when I met the wonderful team, headed up by Pete and realised this was much more than a bank, it was genuinely a community.

Why did you choose Community Bank Clovelly? Besides the above there really was a clear distinction between the ethos of community banking and the big banks who at the time were closing local branches. Also I am no fan of the banking system in Australia and wanted my money to support an organisation whose values aligned with mine and our agency. There really was no other choice!

I've since opened numerous accounts with Bendigo for my other ventures and we also do all our personal banking with Community Bank Clovelly. Pete and the team have always had my back – no request has been too hard, they give proactive service unheard of from the big banks, and they are, in the end, really nice people to deal with. I believe life's too short to surround yourself with people you don't like, and it just makes sense to ensure your money is supporting the same kind of world you spend your time working for!

What is your favourite thing about our bank? The people, the ethos, the service.



Help us make a difference.

Imagine walking into a bank and being greeted with a smile by staff who probably know your name and who give you exceptional service at all times. If you're already a customer you'll know what we're talking about.

By banking with Community Bank Clovelly customers contribute to their local community through the branch's program of sponsorships and grants that have invested over \$1.35 million into local initiatives and projects.

So, if you'd like to learn more about how your banking choices can make a real difference in your local community, drop into the branch or call us on 9665 0099.

Solar my school, Clovelly have sponsored four schools now!

We are continuing to help our environment by supporting local schools in their quest for converting to clean energy solar panels to power their school.

Clovelly Public School is the fourth school in our area to receive funding from Community Bank Clovelly towards converting to clean energy. The cost savings from Clovelly's solar panel installation is a very healthy \$13,000 per year which the school can now divert into funding other important learning resources. There is also the important benefit of another 69,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions avoided per year. Every little bit helps to protect our planet!

Funding solar panel installations in schools is well aligned with the core values of the Community Bank Clovelly. We are an eco-friendly bank and we do not lend to companies for whom the core activity is the exploration mining manufacture or export of thermal coal and coal seam gas. We have a strong environmentalist customer following as a result of our environmental ethos.

We are proud to support the Solar my School initiative, a free council program to help local schools navigate a path to solar success from start to finish.



Talk to us today

Community Bank

Clovelly

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 /ClovellyCommunityBankBranch

We're open:

9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

9.00am - 12 noon Saturday

Manager: Pete Swan

Community Partnership Manager:

Nicola Powell

Directors

Michael De Navi (Chairman), David Hall, Jon Hancock, Janet Kidson, Jessie Maguire, William O'Connell, Elissa Raptis, Paul Simmons, Keri Spooner, Karen Taylor.

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Clovelly: Going strong in our 18th year

In 1999 a group of local Clovelly shopkeepers and residents got together to discuss the provision of banking services in the local area. Their fear was that the established banks would withdraw services and once that fear became a reality the group approached Bendigo Bank about opening a Community Bank.

If a new bank was needed why not let it be one that benefitted the local community instead of a big corporation. Under the Community Bank model the branch is owned by local shareholders and up to 80 per cent of the profits are invested in the local community by the way of sponsorships and grants. After numerous public meetings, sufficient capital was raised from local residents and business owners who became the founding shareholders of Community Bank Clovelly.

In July 2002 the branch opened with a Manager and four staff and within two years 1,800 accounts were opened. By 2007 the branch became profitable and commenced its community sponsorship and grants programme and paid its first fully franked dividend to shareholders.

Now in its 18th year, Community Bank Clovelly manages \$240 million in customer funds and loans. Its voluntary Board of ten local Directors provides professional expertise across a wide range of industries and disciplines.

Applications for sponsorships and grants are assessed twice a year by the Board. If your local community group is in need of funding, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact our Community Partnership Manager, Nicola Powell on Nicola.powell@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Community Bank Clovelly is proudly powered by carbon neutral electricity.