



Impact Report

The First 25 Years

Community Bank
Malvern East, Murrumbidgee
and Wantirna

East Malvern Community
Financial Services Ltd



Community Bank
Malvern East

Bendigo Bank



Community Bank
Murrumbena

Bendigo Bank



Community Bank
Wentworth

Bendigo Bank



A message from the Chairman



The Bendigo Bank Community Banking model has developed into a globally unique social enterprise network in design, scale and impact! East Malvern Community Financial Services (EMCFS) is very much a part of that story for which everyone connected should feel immensely proud.

Community Bank Malvern East was one of the first Community Banks to set up in a metro environment and over the last 25 years there have been 20 directors / company secretaries and 9 branch managers. Together these individuals supported by great branch teams have helped to shape this most unique local banking model to build it into a fantastic social enterprise that rewards all stakeholders, not just the owners of capital.

Since 6th May 2000, EMCFS has set the scene for what a modern social enterprise can achieve. Apart from returning capital (over \$2m in dividends) and valuable banking services to our community, \$6m has been distributed by way of sponsorships and grants to more than 180 community partners over the last 25 years. EMCFS has transformed from humble and uncertain beginnings into a strong mature social enterprise that owns its heartland Malvern East premises and has spread its wings to operate Community Bank branches in Wantirna and Murrumbeena, now serving over 12,500 customers.

This booklet tells only a small but important part of that story of what has been accomplished and the impact our now officially certified Social Enterprise has had across the communities in which we operate.

Our 25th anniversary is officially on the 6th May 2025, when 25 years ago our founding chairman Peter Norman OAM stood alongside the Treasurer of Australia Peter Costello to open the original East Malvern Community Bank. No one present then could have imagined where we would be today. We can only dare to dream where the next 25 years will take us.

One thing for certain is that the future of Community Banking will always be based around geographic proximity to the customers and communities we serve. New digital tools will come and go, but at its core physical branches will remain central to the ethos and purpose of Community Banking for the foreseeable future. So EMCFS will continue to invest in our people, in our branches and in the communities we serve. In doing so, this social enterprise will set growth ambitions well beyond what has already been achieved.

The Community Bank model has well and truly moved from concept to one of the world's biggest social enterprises that returns not only banking services to the community but also significant community investment.

East Malvern Community Financial Services is forever part of that history and looks forward to an even brighter future!

Stuart Martyn
Chairman



Emergency Services & Support

Introduction

Emergencies and community support are vital to maintaining the safety and well-being of our neighbourhoods. Whether it's responding to natural disasters, supporting individuals in crisis, or providing a helping hand in times of need, communities come together in extraordinary ways. The power of community support during difficult times fosters resilience, compassion, and solidarity.

If you live in and around the areas of Malvern East, Murrumbeena, or Wantirna, you may have seen firsthand how local initiatives, sponsored by Community Bank Malvern East, Murrumbeena and Wantirna, step in to support and strengthen our community.

Caulfield South Community House

Caulfield South Community House, in partnership with Connect Local and Glen Eira City Council, proudly hosts Neighbour's Day, with the generous support of Community Bank Murrumbeena. The event brings local residents together to strengthen connections and celebrate the sense of community.

Neighbour's Day is all about fostering relationships, and the event focuses on connecting seniors with essential services and activities through the Connect Local program. This free initiative helps people over 65 in Glen Eira access the support they need to stay engaged and live independently in their community.

Community Bank Murrumbeena's sponsorship of the event enables us to bring together residents, share valuable resources, and celebrate what makes our community special. With their support, the day highlights the importance of looking out for one another and ensuring that everyone, especially seniors, has the resources to thrive.



Knox Business Awards



Business Award Winner and Environment & Sustainability Winner – Yellowstone Landscaping

The Knox Business Awards is an inspiring celebration of local achievement and innovation, recognising the remarkable businesses that shape the vibrant Knox community. Proudly sponsored by Community Bank Wantirna and made possible through the partnership of Knox City Council and the Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield, this event highlights the outstanding contributions made by businesses across various industries in the region.

These awards celebrate excellence and empower growth, showcasing the hard work, passion, and dedication of local business owners and their teams. With categories ranging from innovative startups to sustainability leaders, the Knox Business Awards shines a spotlight on those who are pushing boundaries and making a meaningful impact in the community.

At Community Bank Wantirna, we are proud to play a part in this prestigious event and our heartfelt congratulations to all the finalists and winners!

Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House

Over the years, the generous and ongoing support from Community Bank Malvern East has been instrumental in helping Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House strengthen our community—especially through the challenges of post-COVID recovery. Their funding has enabled us to deliver programs that build connection, spark creativity, and foster resilience across all ages and backgrounds.

One of our most cherished initiatives, made possible through this support, was Stitching Connection, launched during Neighbourhood House Week 2022. What began as a simple idea to bring together local stitching and craft enthusiasts soon grew into something much more meaningful. Participants each contributed a unique panel to a collaborative quilt, expressing personal stories of resilience, joy, and recovery. The result wasn't just a beautiful quilt—it was a therapeutic journey, a "stitcherhood" where individuals shared laughter, tears, and moments of healing.

That quilt now hangs proudly in our House, a powerful symbol of our collective strength and creativity. Nearly three years later, the group continues to meet weekly. It has become a cornerstone of connection, welcoming new members and offering a safe, joyful space for people to come together through craft. It's a living example of community resilience in action.

More recently, Community Bank Malvern East has helped us bring to life our Community Garden Project. With funding for tools, plants, and essential materials, we've begun transforming our outdoor space into a thriving green hub. The first stage empowered Inclusion Melbourne's weekly garden club to get their hands dirty and connect with nature, while learning and sharing along the way. Looking ahead, we plan to grow this space into a broader community garden and kitchen program—promoting sustainability, health, and togetherness.

The ripple effect of these projects is hard to quantify. They build friendships, ignite new initiatives, and leave lasting impacts on the lives of those who walk through our doors. The support goes far beyond funding—it nurtures connection, growth, and the spirit of community that makes places like Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House flourish.



MAD Foundation

At the heart of the MAD Foundation is a simple yet powerful mission: to improve the lives of children and young people living with disabilities. Through our partnership with Community Bank Malvern East, Murrumbidgee and Wantirna we have been able to provide life-changing mobility and support equipment to families facing significant hardship—transforming daily life and opening doors to new possibilities.

Thanks to this generous support, children like Georgia and Paolo have gained access to essential mobility aids that would have otherwise been out of reach. Georgia, a joyful two-year-old with Cerebral Palsy, now moves confidently with her Crocodile walker, enhancing her independence and motor skills. Her custom Juni chair allows her to engage comfortably in everyday activities, ensuring she can participate fully in family life. Meanwhile, Paolo, who has endured an extended hospital stay due to complex medical needs, has been

given the freedom to explore beyond the hospital walls for the first time with his specialist Bingo stroller—creating cherished moments with his loved ones.

These stories are a testament to the profound impact of this partnership. The support of Community Bank Malvern East does more than provide equipment; it gives children the opportunity to experience the world in ways they never thought possible. On behalf of the families we assist, we extend our deepest gratitude for making a lasting difference—one step, one smile, and one life-changing moment at a time.



East Malvern Men's Shed



At the East Malvern Men's Shed, we're all about mateship, craftsmanship, and giving back to our community. Thanks to the generous support of Community Bank Malvern East, we've been able to purchase a new bandsaw—a game-changer for our workshop.

This incredible piece of equipment has vastly improved the quality of our work, making it easier for us to create handcrafted items for kindergartens, toy libraries, and other local groups. It's also opened the door to new projects we've never been able to tackle before, helping us grow our skills and attract new members.

Having the backing of Community Bank Malvern East means more than just funding—it's about partnership and shared values. Like us, they believe in giving back and strengthening the local community, and we can't thank them enough for their ongoing support.

With this new saw in our workshop, we're looking forward to many more years of building, creating, and supporting those around us—because that's what community is all about.

Sleepout Rough for the Homeless

For one cold night, our Community Bank Malvern East, Murrumbeena and Wantirna branch managers swapped their warm beds for taking part in SleepOut Rough, a Rotary-led initiative to raise awareness and funds for people facing homelessness in Victoria.

Proudly supported by Community Bank Malvern East, Murrumbeena, and Wantirna, the event brought together local Rotary Clubs—Chadstone/East Malvern, Malvern, Port Philip, and Prahran—to shed light on the housing crisis affecting thousands. The heartbreaking truth is that every day, homelessness services in Victoria turn away 96 people. A quarter of those without a home are young people aged 12–24.

This year's event supported the South Port Community Housing Group, which provides affordable housing and vital support services to help individuals experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives.

Together, we're working toward a future where everyone has a safe place to call home.



Outer East Foodshare



At Outer East Foodshare, our mission is simple but powerful: to get good food to those who need it most. Since July 2024, we've rescued over 21,000 kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, distributing them to more than 40 charities across Melbourne's Outer East.

As a completely volunteer-run organisation, this work wouldn't be possible without the generous support of partners like Community Bank Wantirna. Their funding and encouragement help us cover essential logistics—from rescuing surplus food to sorting and delivering it each week.

We're also proud to welcome contributions from the community. Locals can donate excess garden produce at our hub in Templeton Reserve, Wantirna, knowing it will go directly to people doing it tough—and they might even swap it for something in return.

East Malvern Combined Probus Club Inc.



Community Bank Malvern East is a proud supporter of the East Malvern Combined Probus Club Inc., where friendship and social connection are at the heart of everything they do. Bringing together semi-retired and retired members, the club fosters a vibrant community built on fun, friendship, and lifelong learning.

From exciting outings exploring Melbourne and beyond to lively café meetups, monthly meetings, and inspiring guest speakers, members stay active and engaged. Annual highlights like the themed Dinner Dance, Christmas in July, and Day Coach Trips are made possible through the generous sponsorship of Community Bank Malvern East, which has been a dedicated partner in enriching the club's activities.

Led by Ruth Hall, the team at Community Bank Malvern East goes beyond banking, becoming valued friends and active participants in club events. Their personalised service and genuine care make them a trusted financial partner, especially for seniors.

In a world where social connection matters more than ever, Community Bank Malvern East is proud to support the East Malvern Combined Probus Club in bringing people together through friendship, fun, and community spirit.

Moongala Women's Community House & East Bentleigh Village Garden



Community Bank Murrumbene has long been committed to fostering community engagement and supporting local initiatives that bring people together. One such initiative they proudly sponsor is Moongala Women's Community House and its transformative project, the East Bentleigh Village Garden, located within the Glen Eira City Council.

The East Bentleigh Village Garden is a vibrant community space that provides local residents with an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together. Community Bank Murrumbene has been instrumental in assisting with the development of the garden, providing funding for essential features such as a greenhouse, a watering system, and guest speakers to engage and educate the community. These contributions have helped turn the garden into a thriving, educational, and welcoming space for all.

Orana Neighbourhood House

Tucked in the heart of Wantirna South on the land of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people, Orana Neighbourhood House is more than just a building—it's a warm, welcoming hub where community members come to connect, learn, and grow.

Since its beginnings in 1989 as the Knox Family Centre, Orana has remained committed to reducing social isolation and advancing mental health through inclusive, low-cost programs and support. Though its services have evolved over time—transitioning from occasional child care to adult learning and wellbeing programs—its heart has stayed the same: a focus on people, connection, and community.

With proud support from Community Bank Wantirna, Orana continues to offer a wide range of opportunities, from mental health workshops and creative classes to community events and culturally inclusive programs.



Probus Women's Housing of Victoria Inc.

Community Bank Malvern East is a proud supporter of Probus Women's Housing of Victoria Inc., a not-for-profit organisation providing safe, affordable housing for women over 60 who have retired from active work.

Since 1966, Probus Women's Housing has offered independent living in self-contained flats across two locations in Glen Iris, allowing residents to enjoy security, community, and a peaceful garden setting. The organisation is entirely managed by dedicated volunteers, whose efforts ensure ongoing maintenance and improvements for the residents.

Recognising the invaluable work of Probus Women's Housing, Community Bank Malvern East recently donated a garden seat for residents to enjoy—demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the well-being and comfort of those in the community.

Through their long-standing partnership, Community Bank Malvern East continues to champion inclusivity and security for women in need, ensuring they have a safe place to call home.



Tilly Aston Community Awards



The spirit of community was on full display at the Tilly Aston Community Awards—a celebration of local champions who go above and beyond to make a difference.

Named in honour of Tilly Aston, a trailblazing advocate for social justice and inclusion, these awards shine a light on individuals and groups within the Aston community whose leadership, compassion, and service have left a lasting impact.

Made possible through the support of Mary Doyle MP, Federal Member for Aston, and proudly sponsored by Community Bank Wantirna, the awards program recognises those who demonstrate exceptional dedication to building a stronger, more connected, and inclusive community.

Whether it's through volunteering, supporting vulnerable groups, or creating opportunities for others, the Tilly Aston Awards are a powerful reminder of what's possible when community spirit leads the way.

At Community Bank Wantirna, we are proud to support this important initiative and celebrate those who embody the values we hold close: community, compassion, and action.

Warriors 4 Wildlife

Warriors 4 Wildlife is incredibly grateful to Community Bank Wantirna for their generous support of our Support 4 Shelters Program. Wildlife shelters across Victoria operate with little to no government funding and rely heavily on donations to continue their essential work. Through this program, we provide vital resources—such as enclosures, equipment, and everyday supplies—to help carers rehabilitate injured and orphaned native animals.

Thanks to the funding from Community Bank Wantirna, we were able to purchase life-saving incubators for four wildlife shelters across the state. These incubators play a critical role in the recovery of vulnerable animals, maintaining a warm, stable environment that is essential for survival during early stages of care.

This support has had a direct impact on wildlife carers and the animals they work tirelessly to save. It's more than just equipment – it's hope, it's survival, and it's a stronger future for our native wildlife.





Sport & Recreation

Introduction

Sports are at the heart of our communities, bringing people together and fostering a sense of belonging. From players and families to volunteers, participation in sport strengthens connections and builds friendships. Community sport has grown into an inclusive platform, welcoming individuals of all ages, genders, and skill levels. This inclusivity reflects the diverse and supportive nature of our community.

If you or your children are involved in sports around Malvern East, Murrumbena, or Wantirna, chances are your club has benefited from our support. Beyond financial support, we have also provided essential equipment, marquees, and marketing assistance to help clubs thrive.

Victorian Sub District Cricket Umpires Association

Just like Community Bank Malvern East, the Victorian Sub District Cricket Umpires Association (VSDCUA) is dedicated to building partnerships that drive positive community outcomes.

Umpires play a vital role in ensuring the game is played fairly and within the rules, fostering a culture of integrity, respect, and sportsmanship among players, officials, and spectators. These values extend beyond the field, helping to shape a fair and honest community.

With the generous sponsorship from Community Bank Malvern East, we are able to:

- ✓ Deliver monthly training sessions to keep our umpires up to date with the ever-evolving laws of cricket while providing opportunities for networking and social connection.
- ✓ Subsidise umpire apparel and essential accessories to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.
- ✓ Maintain our digital platforms to support recruitment and engagement with new and existing umpires.

Cricket umpiring is more than officiating a game – it promotes values, encourages participation, and strengthens social bonds within the community. Thank you, Community Bank Malvern East, for your continued support in helping us make a difference!



Caulfield Cricket Club



Caulfield Cricket Club has a long and rewarding partnership with Community Bank Malvern East over many years. The funding provided by the bank has been fantastic support, not only for our club, but for many other sporting and community focussed groups. We are also proud to be associated with Community Bank Malvern East through our banking, as well as assisting with the growth of the Community Bank though investing in the bank's share schemes.

The sponsorships provided by Community Bank Malvern East has enabled the Club to fund several capital improvement projects, as well as focussed coaching and development of young cricketers – in particular, for our Junior and Women's programs. Capital works projects have included new synthetic wickets, electronic scoreboard, live coverage of games, covers and marquees.

The Clubs strategic plan focuses on growing our Junior boys' and girls' sides as well as establishing a Women's

team (which we succeeded in doing this year), with funding from Community Bank Malvern East supporting the purchase of clothing and equipment. With three new teams and the tripling of our Master Blaster program, the sponsorship funding has made a significant contribution supporting this growth.

In addition, as part of our commitment to supporting our partnership with the bank, the Caulfield Cricket Club holds annual community events, including a Mental Health awareness night for our members, and a Pink Stumps Day to support Breast Cancer Nurses through the McGrath Foundation.

Malvern Bowling Club

One of the most significant recent developments at the Malvern Bowling Club has been the replacement of the old green with a new Tifdwarf grass. It is significant because it means, by using Tifdwarf, members can use the green all year round. It is also important because most other bowls clubs are turning to synthetic surfaces. Malvern Bowling Club has a proud history of playing on the hallowed grass surface and will continue to do so. And this has been made possible because of the significant financial contribution made by Community Bank Malvern East.

Malvern Bowling Club (MBC) and Community Bank Malvern East have enjoyed a long and productive partnership. The new green is just one example of where the funds granted by the Community Bank have benefitted MBC members. Other awarded funds have gone towards improving club amenities and the purchasing of bowls to be used at our very popular Barefoot Bowls Evenings. Malvern Bowling Club looks forward to this vital partnership continuing.



Prahran Football Club



Prahran Football Club, encompassing both junior and senior divisions, is incredibly grateful for the long-term sponsorship of Community Bank Malvern East. Their unwavering support has been a key factor in our club's growth and success.

With their generous backing, we've been able to expand our junior program, investing in essential training equipment, footballs, and apparel to support our growing teams. Beyond this, both our junior and senior divisions have benefited from the Bank's significant funding towards the original construction and recent full renovation of our state-of-the-art electronic scoreboard at Toorak Park—a game-changing addition that would not have been possible without their support.

This invaluable partnership allows us to continue delivering on our core mission of passionate community participation. Thank you, Community Bank Malvern East, for your continued belief in our club and community!

Southern Football Netball League

At the heart of local sport is opportunity—the chance for young athletes to play, grow, and connect. Thanks to the generous support of Community Bank Murrumbene, the Southern Football Netball League (SFNL) continues to break down financial barriers and expand participation across football and netball.

For many high school graduates, the transition to senior football can be challenging as they navigate university or the workforce. With free team affiliation fees for all Under-19 teams, made possible by the Bank's funding, SFNL ensures that cost is never an obstacle. This initiative has been instrumental in keeping young players engaged in the sport they love, fostering both talent and community spirit.

The growth of women's football has been equally exciting, with the SFNL Women's Interleague Representative Team providing a prestigious pathway for female athletes. Community Bank Murrumbene's support is crucial in covering the costs of uniforms, umpires, and ground expenses—ensuring that women's football continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

Netball also flourishes under this partnership, with over 1,500 women participating each season. The Bank's funding helps provide essential resources, including umpires, scorers, netballs, and media promotions, making the sport accessible and enjoyable for all involved.

Through their ongoing commitment, Community Bank Murrumbene has played a vital role in strengthening grassroots sport, empowering young athletes, and fostering a strong, inclusive sporting community. Their support is not just about funding—it's about investing in the future of local sport and the people who make it great.



Glen Eira / Old McKinnon Gryphons Football Club



A decade of partnership, progress, and passion.

When Community Bank Murrumbene first partnered with the Glen Eira / Old McKinnon Gryphons ten years ago, the club was a small but dedicated team of just 60 players, fielding only Senior Men's and Reserves teams. Fast-forward to today, and the Gryphons have transformed into a thriving club with seven teams, including a Women's program and U19s, all competing at higher levels than ever before.

This incredible growth has been driven by strategic initiatives—like the club's partnership with McKinnon Secondary College, established eight years ago—and fuelled by the unwavering support of Community Bank Murrumbene as a principal sponsor.

With this support, the club has been able to:

- ✓ Fund innovative programs to develop players and strengthen the club.
- ✓ Invest in strategic partnerships that create pathways for future growth.
- ✓ Enhance the player, supporter, and community experience, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Today, the Glen Eira / Old McKinnon Gryphons stand as a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking amateur football club. This journey of success has been made possible through the belief and backing of partners like Community Bank Murrumbene, demonstrating the true impact of community banking in grassroots sport.

Chadstone Bowls Club

Community Bank Malvern East's support has been instrumental in strengthening Chadstone Bowls Club as a vibrant hub for sport, connection, and community engagement. The ongoing sponsorship has enabled us to improve our facilities, launch new programs, and make bowls more accessible to players of all ages and skill levels. From upgrading equipment to supporting local events and fostering inclusivity through our senior and junior programs, the Bank's commitment has left a lasting impact on our club and the wider community.

This partnership allows us to continue providing a welcoming space where friendships flourish, skills grow, and a passion for bowls thrives.



Malvern Cricket Club



The success of Malvern Cricket Club's Junior Cricket Program is a testament to the power of community partnerships. Thanks to the generous support of Community Bank Malvern East, we have been able to provide high-quality coaching, essential equipment, and an environment where young cricketers can develop both their skills and their love for the game.

Beyond the cricket field, this funding has instilled values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship—qualities that extend into everyday life. One of the most rewarding aspects of this support has been our ability to retain junior players as they transition into senior teams. This seamless progression fosters a lifelong connection to the sport, the club, and the community.

We are incredibly grateful for Community Bank Malvern East's commitment to nurturing young talent and strengthening our club. Their ongoing support continues to shape the future of local cricket, ensuring that the next generation of players has the opportunity to thrive.

Oakleigh Bowling Club

For over ten years, Oakleigh Bowling Club (OBC) has been privileged to share a strong and rewarding partnership with Community Bank Malvern East. More than just a sponsorship, this relationship has helped shape our club, allowing us to grow, connect, and give back to our community in meaningful ways.

In 2017, with the Community Bank's generous \$25,000 community grant, we built a multi-purpose decking area that has since become the heart of our club. This space has transformed how we engage with members and visitors alike, creating a welcoming hub for both competitive play and social gatherings.

In 2021, another milestone was reached.

A \$6,000 grant allowed us to invest in state-of-the-art sound equipment and a PA system, helping us launch our monthly community music events. These performances have brought people together, providing high-quality, affordable entertainment for the local area.

Community Bank Malvern East has been more than a sponsor; they have been a true partner in our journey, helping us create a vibrant, inclusive space for all. As we celebrate this ongoing collaboration, we look forward to many more years of working together to strengthen our club and our community.



Coatesville Bowling Club

For over seven years, Coatesville Bowling Club has proudly partnered with Community Bank Malvern East, forming a relationship that extends far beyond banking. This partnership has enabled the club to secure multiple community grants and funding assistance for key improvement projects, enhancing the experience for members and the wider community.

Through this support, the club has been able to:

- ✓ Upgrade scoreboards, replacing outdated units with new, modern displays.
- ✓ Expand our Local Schools Bowling Program, with additional bowls to accommodate growing participation in school gala days.
- ✓ Refurbish Honour Boards, preserving our club's rich history.
- ✓ Enhance shade areas, improving comfort for players and spectators.
- ✓ Provide new team shirts, fostering a strong sense of club identity.

This partnership is a testament to the power of community banking, where reinvestment supports local initiatives and strengthens grassroots clubs. Together, we're building a thriving, connected community.



Oakleigh Cricket Club

The Oakleigh Cricket Club has enjoyed a highly rewarding partnership with Community Bank Murrumbene for over a decade. Sharing successes on the field, the Community Bank relationship has realised a new life saving defibrillator, a player's comfort marquee, a co-branded Bowls event and enabling us to subsidise subscription fees to remove barriers for players and families to participate in local sport.

The Oakleigh Cricket Club continue an ambitious journey to redevelop our historic, yet tired facilities to best serve our local community with the planned growth of junior and female programs and the support of partners such as Community Bank Murrumbene make this a possibility.



Bentleigh Football Netball Club



Bentleigh Football Netball Club and Community Bank Murrumbene have maintained a strong partnership for over 15 years. As a major sponsor, the bank has provided vital financial support, enabling the club to operate successfully and continue delivering opportunities for players and supporters. With 4-6 football teams and 4-5 netball teams competing each season, this sponsorship plays a crucial role in the club's sustainability.

In addition to annual sponsorship, Community Bank Murrumbene has gone above and beyond in supporting Bentleigh FNC's charitable initiatives. For over a decade, the club has allocated a portion of its revenue to local charities, focusing on disability services, medical research, grief counselling, and community support.

Community Bank Murrumbene's ongoing contributions highlight its dedication not only to local businesses and sporting clubs but to the broader community, reinforcing its commitment to making a meaningful impact.



St Kevin's Old Boys Football Club

In the early days, St Kevin's Old Boys Football Club was a tight-knit group of passionate players, a small but dedicated club with its roots in tradition. The game was tough, the camaraderie was strong, but the future was uncertain. It wasn't just about winning matches; it was about building something that would last.

That's where Community Bank Malvern East stepped in. Over the years, their unwavering support provided more than just sponsorship—it provided stability, allowing the club to dream bigger. With their backing, we expanded beyond our origins, welcoming new faces, new talent, and new opportunities. The addition of three highly successful women's teams was a defining moment in our history, proving that growth isn't just about numbers—it's about inclusivity, community, and passion for the game.

Today, we stand as a thriving, diverse football club, built on the foundation of strong partnerships. Without the steadfast commitment of Community Bank Malvern East, this transformation would not have been possible. They have been more than a sponsor; they have been a true partner in our journey. And as we look ahead, we do so with gratitude, knowing that our best seasons are yet to come.



Old Xaverians Football Club

For over 100 years, Old Xaverians Football Club has been a powerhouse in amateur football, now fielding 12 teams, including two women's teams, in the VAFA. With 400+ registered players, 270 members, 65 sponsors, and a social media reach of over 8,000 supporters, the club has grown into one of Australia's largest amateur sporting organisations.

For the past 30 years, Toorak Park has been our home, and we've been incredibly fortunate to have the steadfast support of Community Bank Malvern East as a major sponsor. While we have a strong connection to Xavier College, our club is open to all—welcoming local players and fostering community spirit, as seen in the success of our women's teams.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on sponsorships to provide the best possible facilities for our players. Without the support of Community Bank Malvern East, we wouldn't be able to offer the same level of opportunity, infrastructure, and community engagement.

A heartfelt thank you to Community Bank Malvern East for their long-standing support!



Murrumbeena Football Netball Club



The Murrumbeena Football Netball Club has been fortunate to receive outstanding support from Community Bank Murrumbeena over many years.

This partnership has been instrumental in helping the club achieve one of its key objectives—expanding women's participation in sport. Thanks to this ongoing support, the club has grown in ways that once seemed unimaginable.

As a direct result of this funding, the Women's Football and Netball programs have never been stronger, providing more opportunities for female athletes to compete, develop, and thrive.

Murrumbeena Football Netball Club is grateful for this enduring partnership and looks forward to continued success together.



Education and Research

Introduction

Education and research are cornerstones of a thriving community, empowering individuals to reach their full potential and driving innovation for the future. From local schools to higher education institutions and research initiatives, these programs play a critical role in shaping the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and change-makers.

123 Read2Me and the Lions Club

As proud book drop-off points, Community Bank Malvern East, Murrumbeena and Wantirna help support the 123Read2Me School Literacy Day Program—a free initiative that puts books directly into the hands of children in disadvantaged schools.



Each term, every child selects two books to take home and keep, encouraging a love of reading and helping build home libraries. The program ensures reluctant readers are supported and even offers books for younger siblings, promoting family reading time.

With the help of generous community donations and Lions Club coordination, we're proud to help remove barriers to literacy and create brighter futures—one book at a time.

St Catherine's Primary School



On behalf of St Catherine's Primary School, we extend our sincere thanks to Community Bank Murrumbeena for generously sponsoring our three new marquees. These will greatly enhance our outdoor events, providing much-needed shelter for both students and staff.

Your support goes beyond just providing equipment—it highlights your commitment to reinvesting in local initiatives. By banking with Community Bank Murrumbeena, we're supporting an organisation that cares about strengthening our community.

Thank you for your continued dedication to helping local schools and community groups thrive. Your contribution makes a real difference in the lives of local families.



XLR8 FRC7128



We at XLR8 FRC7128 are incredibly grateful for the generous support of Community Bank Wantirna. Their sponsorship plays a crucial role in helping us continue our journey in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). This support enables us to fund our projects, build our robots, and participate in competitions, all while creating meaningful opportunities for the diverse group of high school students involved in our team.

XLR8 is a welcoming and inclusive team, proud to be LGBTIQ+ friendly, and brings together young people from across Victoria, from various educational backgrounds, including public, private, and home-schooled students. Through the FRC competition, we engage in problem analysis, robot design, programming, CAD (computer-aided design), robot manufacturing, media, and fundraising. This experience provides valuable skills that help shape us into the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

Story Dogs at Murrumbeena and Lloyd St Primary Schools

Community Bank Murrumbeena is proud to sponsor Story Dogs at Murrumbeena Primary School. Through the program, our sponsored pups, Cooper with his handler Silvia, and Henry with his handler Karen, are helping young students build confidence and improve their literacy skills. The joy and enthusiasm these dogs bring to students as they read aloud is truly heartwarming, and it embodies the spirit of community support.

Community Bank Malvern East is equally proud to sponsor Story Dogs at Lloyd St Primary School. Our sponsored pup, Molly, with her handler Katherine, is having a similar positive impact, helping students feel more confident as they develop their reading abilities.

Both branches are thrilled to support these programs, where the companionship of these dogs helps foster a love for reading and encourages children to achieve their educational goals.





Arts, Culture and Heritage

Introduction

Art, music, stories, and shared history are at the heart of every thriving community. Through our support of local artists, cultural events, and heritage initiatives, we're helping preserve the identity and spirit of the places we call home — while inspiring future generations to create, celebrate, and connect.

Whether it's funding grassroots theatre, showcasing emerging artists, or supporting festivals that honour our rich cultural diversity, we believe in the power of the arts to bring people together and make communities stronger.

This section highlights just a few of the ways we've helped creativity flourish and culture come to life across our neighbourhoods.

Malvern Theatre Company

For over 65 years, Malvern Theatre Company has been proud to bring powerful, engaging, and affordable theatre to the local community. From humble beginnings as the Malvern Drama Group in 1957 to our current home at the Malvern Community Arts Centre, our story has always been one of passion, performance, and people.

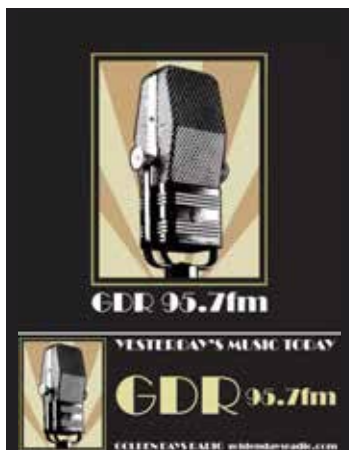
With a subscriber base of over 1,300 loyal patrons and five productions staged each year, we rely on the incredible dedication of our volunteers — both on and off the stage — to deliver high-quality theatre experiences. But just as vital are our community partners.

We're incredibly grateful to Community Bank Malvern East for their sponsorship and belief in the value of the arts. Their support helps us keep theatre accessible, nurture emerging talent through initiatives like our playwriting competitions and scholarships, and maintain the professional standards our audiences know and love.

Together, we're building a stronger, more vibrant arts community — one performance at a time.



Golden Days Radio



Golden Days Radio (95.7FM), Melbourne's radio community station based in Glen Huntly, has been bringing "Yesterday's Music Today" to listeners for over three decades. Run entirely by passionate volunteers, many of them retirees, the station plays timeless hits from the 1920s to the 1960s — jazz, light classics, country, and radio serials — evoking cherished memories and connecting generations.



Thanks to the support of Community Bank Malvern East, Golden Days Radio continues to enrich the lives of older Victorians, especially through special programs like the Victorian Seniors Festival. With both on-air and online streaming, the station ensures that the golden age of radio remains accessible and alive in the hearts of its loyal audience.



East Malvern Food + Wine Festival



Since 2015, Community Bank Malvern East has proudly stood as the principal sponsor of one of Melbourne's most beloved community events — the East Malvern Food + Wine Festival. Held each year in the heart of Malvern East at Central Park, this free, family-friendly festival has grown into a highlight of the local calendar, celebrating all things community, culture, and culinary creativity.

From the beginning, Community Bank Malvern East's unwavering financial support has been vital to the success and sustainability of the festival. What started as a grassroots gathering has blossomed into a major event that draws thousands from across Melbourne, while keeping its focus firmly on local — local food, local music, local makers, and local memories.

Each year, the festival shines a spotlight on Victorian small-batch artisans, boutique wineries, craft brewers, distillers, and family-run producers, alongside businesses and musicians from Stonnington and beyond. It's more than just a fun day out — it's a platform for small businesses to thrive, for neighbours to connect, and for our community spirit to shine.

In 2024, the partnership grew even stronger with the welcome inclusion of Community Bank Murrumbidgee. Together, the branches have been able to deepen their reach and widen

the impact — offering even greater support to local businesses, celebrating regional excellence, and strengthening community connections across both sides of our service area.

This ongoing commitment is about more than sponsorship — it's about investing in experiences that bring people together, support economic resilience, and create a genuine sense of belonging.

Knox Wind Symphony

Music has a unique power—uniting people, sparking creativity, and building a deep sense of belonging. For the Knox Wind Symphony and our newest ensemble, the Knox Concert Band, this belief shapes everything we do. Our groups welcome musicians from all walks of life—whether they're seasoned performers, rediscovering a forgotten talent, or picking up an instrument for the very first time.

With the generous support of Community Bank Wantirna, this vibrant musical community hit an exciting new note. The launch of the Knox Concert Band marked a major milestone—offering younger musicians and returning players a space to learn, grow, and share their love of music.

Expanding our ensembles came with its own set of challenges: new sheet music, competition support, and the need for more resources to ensure that every player feels supported and inspired. Thanks to the bank's grant, Knox Wind Symphony was able to rise to the occasion—investing in a dynamic and educational repertoire, supporting performers at State and National Championships, and even commissioning original works from emerging local composers.

The ripple effects of this partnership extend well beyond rehearsals and performances. With the bank's backing, the Symphony has also been able to support Fine Music, a local business that shares their deep passion for the arts—further strengthening the local music ecosystem.

Through this partnership, Community Bank Wantirna has done more than fund instruments and sheet music—they've championed creativity, connection, and community.



15th Brighton Scout Group

At 15th Brighton Scout Group, we believe in empowering young people to grow into resilient, capable, and community-minded individuals. Based in Bentleigh, we offer fun, skills-based programs for Cubs (8-10), Scouts (11-14), and Venturers (15-17), all designed to foster leadership, teamwork, and a love for the outdoors.



From campfires and hiking adventures to community service and skills challenges, our members are supported every step of the way by dedicated leaders and a strong network of families. Many of our young people go on to achieve high honours such as the Queen Scout Award – a testament to their growth and commitment.

We're proud to be a longstanding part of the Glen Eira district and value the connections we've built within our local area. This includes the generous support from Community Bank Murrumbidgee, whose sponsorship helped us purchase our new minibus that we use to take our Scouts on excursion and camping trip, this in turn ensure we can continue delivering high-quality programs for the next generation of leaders.

Chinese Association of Victoria

At the Chinese Association of Victoria (CAV), we believe in the strength of community, the richness of culture, and the power of collaboration. Since our founding in 1982 by a passionate group of migrants with a vision to preserve Chinese language, heritage and values, we have worked tirelessly to build a vibrant and inclusive home for Chinese Australians in Victoria.

From humble beginnings in family homes to our vibrant five-acre hub in Wantirna, CAV has grown through perseverance and community spirit. Today, we serve over 1,000 members weekly with programs like Chinese language school, tai chi, dance, table tennis, karaoke, and lion dance.



We are grateful for the support and sponsorship of Community Bank Wantirna, whose partnership has helped us continue to grow and thrive. This year, we were delighted to share our Lunar New Year celebration with the Community Bank team at Yummy Duck in Templestowe. It was a heartwarming event – a true reflection of what can be achieved when community-minded organisations come together with a shared vision for connection and celebration.

We thank Community Bank Wantirna for walking beside us on this journey. With your support, we look forward to many more years of cultural celebration, education and community-building – together.

Knox Art Show



For over half a century, the Knox Art Show has been a cherished celebration of creativity in Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Bayswater and Rowville-Lysterfield, the show brings together an inspiring range of artworks from local and regional artists – across styles, subjects, and mediums. From a vibrant opening night to a thoughtfully curated in-person and virtual exhibition, the event continues to connect community through art.

Community Bank Wantirna is proud to support the Knox Art Show as a Diamond Sponsor, helping ensure that this much-loved tradition not only thrives but also gives back. Proceeds from the event support both local and international Rotary projects, reinforcing the power of art to make meaningful impact beyond the canvas.

We're honoured to stand alongside Rotary and the many artists who contribute their talents to a show that uplifts and inspires.



Malvern Artists' Society

Art has a unique way of bringing people together, sparking creativity, and enriching community life. For many years, the Malvern Artists' Society has been proud to call Community Bank Malvern East a steadfast supporter and major funding partner.

Their generous backing has been instrumental in the success of the annual Spring Members' Exhibition, the Society's flagship event. As the major sponsor, the Bank has helped local artists share their work with the wider community, creating a space for connection, expression, and celebration.

But the impact doesn't stop at the gallery walls. Last Christmas, the Bank's support made possible a long-overdue kitchen renovation, transforming a tired 1940s space into a bright, modern hub where members can gather, recharge, and connect.

Thanks to this ongoing partnership, the Malvern Artists' Society continues to thrive—nurturing creativity and providing a welcoming space for artists and art lovers alike. With Community Bank Malvern East by their side, the future of local art looks vibrant and full of promise.



The Studfield Wantima Community News



Local news is the heartbeat of a strong, connected community. For many years, The Studfield Wantima Community Newspaper has been privileged to receive the support of Community Bank Wantima, a partnership that has helped keep our publication alive and thriving.

Though small in scale, our newspaper plays a vital role in keeping residents informed about local events, initiatives, and good news stories. We proudly share updates from not-for-profit organisations, insights from Councillors and MPs, and celebrate the achievements of our vibrant community.

The guidance and support from Community Bank Wantima have been invaluable. Their belief in the importance of community connection has allowed us to continue delivering relevant, engaging, and uplifting stories to our readers.

Hughesdale Art Group

At Hughesdale Art Group, creativity is more than just a pastime — it's a way of building connections, expressing identity, and bringing people together. Whether it's through weekly painting sessions, structured classes, workshops, or exhibitions, our group offers a welcoming space for artists of all skill levels to grow, share, and be inspired.

Located at the Hughesdale Community Centre, our group thrives on the passion of its members and the support of community partners. That's why we're so thankful for the generous backing of Community Bank Murrumbidgee. Their support allows us to continue offering affordable art opportunities, host local exhibitions, and keep the joy of creativity accessible to all.



CLOC Musical Theatre

CLOC Musical Theatre, one of Victoria's largest community-based theatre companies, is grateful for the support of Community Bank Malvern East. Since 1964, CLOC has staged over 100 productions, offering high-quality, affordable live theatre and providing opportunities for over 200 volunteers each year.

As a not-for-profit, funding capital items like equipment for set construction and costume production can be challenging. The Community Bank Malvern East Grants Program has been instrumental in helping us purchase the resources we need, ensuring the continuation of our productions.

CLOC thanks Community Bank Malvern East for their support and commitment to the community and the arts. Their contributions make a real difference in our ability to create exceptional theatre experiences.



Glen Eira Historical Society

For over 50 years, the Glen Eira Historical Society (GEHS) has been proudly preserving and celebrating the stories of our local suburbs — from Caulfield and Carnegie to Murrumbeena and Bentleigh. As a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation, our work is driven by passion and community spirit.

With the generous support of Community Bank Murrumbeena, we continue to grow our archive of more than 5,000 historical items, host engaging exhibitions, and deliver our much-loved speaker series. These programs help us connect the past to the present, making local history accessible and meaningful to people of all ages.

The bank's investment helps ensure that our region's rich heritage is not only safeguarded but also shared — inspiring a deeper appreciation of the people, places and events that shaped Glen Eira.



Images credit: www.historyvictoria.org.au

4th East Malvern Girl Guides



At 4th East Malvern Girl Guides, we believe in empowering girls to grow in confidence, leadership, and resilience — and we're proud to do so in a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment. Each week, our girls come together at our local hall in Malvern East to take part in activities that range from bushcraft and camping to creative arts and community service.

Thanks to the generous support of Community Bank Malvern East, we've been able to enrich our programme with more resources and opportunities, helping the girls learn new skills and make lasting memories. Their support ensures that we can continue to offer a vibrant space where girls feel encouraged to lead, connect, and discover their potential.

A message from our General Manager



Whilst I have had the privilege of leading this remarkable team for the past six years, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the staff and board members who have come before us and to those who continue to serve alongside of us.

As we reflect on this incredible journey over the past 25 years, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible impact we have made in our community. Each of you has played a vital role in shaping the mission and driving a shared commitment within the community. Your passion and efforts have laid the foundation for our success and inspiring ongoing initiatives.

Beyond local endeavours, support has also extended to regional and interstate branches impacted by devastating fires and floods. Stepping up during times of crisis reflects deeply held values and a collective dedication to resilience across the broader community. Together, essential resources and assistance have been provided to help neighbours rebuild and recover.

A strong focus on community engagement and investment remains at the heart of our mission. From supporting schools and sporting clubs to funding health programs and cultural projects, the aim has always been to uplift those around.

Each dollar invested represents more than financial support — it's a belief in the potential of people within the community. Thanks to continued investment from shareholders and the trust of customers banking with the Malvern East, Murrumbena, and Wantirna branches, it's possible to give back and support thriving local communities. Together we are making a meaningful impact.

To date, over \$6 million has been invested in various initiatives. This achievement speaks not only to financial contributions but also to countless volunteer hours, the partnerships nurtured, and the stronger, more connected communities we have helped build. This is a true celebration of our collective efforts to create a better future for everyone.

Let's see the good we can do over the next 25 years with strengthened communities all striving for positive change.

Ruth Hall
General Manager
East Malvern Community Financial Services



Community Bank
Malvern East

Bendigo Bank



Community Bank
Murrumbidgee

Bendigo Bank



Community Bank
Wantirna

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