

Spring/  
Summer  
2020

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Elwood

## Hello and welcome to our new Spring/Summer newsletter!

As we welcome Summer in the coming months, we also look back on the last six to eight months that have made history.

We encountered a devastating beginning to the year and the scale of these disasters are almost beyond comprehension.

2020 however proved to be unprecedented in many ways.

We now are in the midst of a global pandemic, certainly challenging times.

It has been challenging to say the least.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic community banking has never been so significant. Our daily lives have changed from our 'normal' and we have all been impacted in one way or another. As an essential service our doors have remained open and our diligent staff have adapted during the constantly changing demands.

Meetings are held virtually, the handshake is replaced with an elbow touch, but most importantly we are here to support you!

Our local team are always working hard to ensure all hygiene and social distancing requirements are being met, whilst continuing to provide professional customer service. We are so proud of how our staff are performing as essential service workers.

Our support is needed now more than ever, therefore we are committed to supporting our local community through our Sponsorships and Grants Programs. We are grateful to be able to continue to support to community groups, schools, clubs and local businesses during this time.

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page (ElwoodCommunityBankBranch) for updates, events and interesting stories, we welcome your feedback.

Take care and stay safe.

**The Team**  
Community Bank Elwood

## Elwood Sailing Club



We have proudly sponsored the Elwood Sailing Club for many years. The club has a proud history of recreational and competitive sailing for monohulls and catamarans at the heart of the local community. They offer sail training for schools and groups and host charity events for local organisations. Elwood Sailing Club has the largest A Class fleet in the southern hemisphere, it has become a part of history and community at Elwood Sailing Club.

Even though 'The Regatta' has no date at the moment, when it does happen it hosts over 100 boats into Elwood so the crew are looking for accommodation, food and spending money at the local shops and cafes. It will be advertised and promoted through Australian Sailing and generate press coverage, and we are delighted to sponsor such an amazing initiative!

Visit us at [www.elwoodcs.com](http://www.elwoodcs.com)

## In July we turned 21!

When we opened in 1999, we hoped we would create local jobs, support our local communities and provide banking services to fill the hole left by the closure of the other local bank branches.

We wanted to be here as long as we were needed. We hoped that the community would support our business just as our community supported us and provided the capital required so we could open and operate. We hoped that one day we would be able to pay our community shareholders a dividend.



And we have done all that and more.

With well over \$1 million returned to the community through grants and sponsorships, employing five local staff, returning dividends to shareholders (10% fully franked!) and with a supportive lender, we have even bought the building. We have rented out the upstairs office to LEAF, and the back of the building to a local builder for storage.

As the first suburban Community Bank in Australia, and the first to be a company limited by shares, we knew we were breaking new ground and nothing was assured. While our first few years were challenging, today our business is sound. We are here to stay for as long as we can continue to partner with our local community for shared success.

We appreciate the support of our shareholders, customers, community partners, staff and Board - past and present.

We never imagined we would celebrate our 21st at a safe distance in the midst of a global pandemic. It is certainly a birthday we will never forget.

Liz Johnstone  
Founding Director



## East Brighton Vampires

As long-standing proud sponsors of the East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club, we value the partnership we have fostered and appreciate the Club's kind words.

The East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club "The Vampires" offer girls and boys the opportunity to play Australian Rules Football, across all age groups from U8s to U18s. Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the uncertainty around the season, we had over 900 junior players across 42 teams ready to go. This gives the kids the opportunity to experience the enjoyment, camaraderie and benefits that team sports have to offer and develop the skills and teamwork to be successful in sport and in life.

The Vampires is located at Hurlingham Park with a state of the art pavilion and immediate access to two ovals, Hurlingham Park 1 or 'Big Hurlly' and Hurlingham Park 2, 'Little Hurlly'. The Club also has access to grounds at Widdop Crescent, Moorabbin West, Elsternwick Park 2, Elsternwick Park and William St Reserve, Brighton.

"We are very pleased to announce that Bendigo Bank Elwood have



committed to the Vampires for season 2021. We very much appreciate Bendigo Bank Elwood's contribution to our Club over many, many years. Given the challenging times our Club has faced this season it is very pleasing that Bendigo Bank Elwood have continued their investment in their local community".

The Vampires has strong ties to the community, our sponsors, schools and other sporting clubs in the area.

For more information please visit <https://govampires.com/>





# Elwood Bowls Club

Elwood Bowls Club provides the local community a hub where members and visitors alike can enjoy their sporting, celebratory, educational, and relaxation pursuits in a safe, inclusive, welcoming environment, with a focus on the best game in the world, lawn bowls.



Elwood Bowls Club has a long standing partnership with Community Bank Elwood, and currently the bank is one of our Major Partners. Both partners recognise that Elwood Bowls Club is more than just a lawn bowls entity, providing close connections with the Elwood community through school programs, local business partnerships, events, hall hire, and social amenities.

The generous support of the Community Bank Elwood ensures that we can maintain the facilities at a high standard, and provide exposure for the Community Bank Elwood on our sporting uniforms and signage at the club. A current major project for this year's funding will be directed to include conversion of the current roadside bowling green from bent grass to tiff dwarf grass, a superior playing surface which allows bowling all year round.

In previous year's the local community has benefited from Community Bank Elwood's support of the Elwood Bowls club through the funding of picnic tables, shade umbrellas, and a shade sail over the BBQ area. By ensuring the club remains a unique and well-maintained venue for hire we can stage various events such as our Bushfire Fundraiser earlier this year, featuring local stand up comedians.

We look forward to maintaining a strong and community orientated partnership with Community Bank Elwood for many years to come. Visit us on our website – [www.elwoodbowlsclub.com](http://www.elwoodbowlsclub.com)

Owen Hourigan  
President  
Elwood Bowls Club



## Linden New Art Gallery

The Linden Postcard Show is celebrating its 30th birthday in 2020 – and we have an extra special celebration lined up!

We've invited back some of our past winners, and will feature their work in our first gallery space downstairs. The much-loved exhibition is open-entry and attracts artists from across Australia, showcasing thousands of small artworks from a diverse range of artists, from emerging to established.

We are thrilled to announce our ongoing partnership with Community Bank Elwood, who are generously supporting the Linden Postcard Show with a \$2,000 cash prize for the Artist Encouragement Award. The prize winner will be announced by a representative of Community Bank Elwood.

In supporting Linden New Art, Community Bank Elwood also nurtures the creativity and vibrancy that makes St Kilda such a unique neighbourhood. Linden New Art has been part of the St Kilda community as a key cultural asset for over 30 years, and this partnership bolsters the vital cultural fabric of our beloved bayside suburb.

"The show continues to provide an important step in the career of emerging artists, as well as an opportunity for artists to sell their work and connect with a large community of art-lovers," says Linden new Art Director, Melinda Martin. "Year after year, visitors come to explore the show. We can't wait to see what new work we receive this year."

Visit our website [www.lindenarts.org](http://www.lindenarts.org)

Linden New Art  
26 Acland Street, St Kilda Vic 3182

# In the words of Alastair Chisholm



In 1998 Elwood lost its last bank! The locals were devastated. Bendigo had just opened its first Community Bank at Rupanyup/Minyip so Liz Johnstone and myself drove to Bendigo and spoke to the MD Rob Hunt. He declared that the model was for country towns and

not for the cities, we managed to convince him to let us give it a go. Well look at it 22 years later! \$ 1.5 million back to the local community and still growing!

Alastair Chisholm  
(Founder Chairman)



## Talk to us today

### Community Bank

Elwood


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[bendigobank.com.au/elwood](http://bendigobank.com.au/elwood)

 /Elwood Community Bank Branch

### We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

### Directors

Carole Mackie (Chair), Chris Sargood, Liz Johnstone, Andrew Ashdown, Alastair Chisholm, Gary March

Elwood Community Financial Services Ltd

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ABN 38 087 802 775

## Laurent Gallery



During the COVID-19 Pandemic and difficult times we are all facing, we wanted to support our local community through our Sponsorship Program. We are fortunate to be in a position to sponsor The LAURENT Gallery with the 'Women Take The Floor' collective art Exhibitions and Art Soirée project.

Our sponsorship assisted to create an opportunity for the wider community to view the creations of emerging artists that would not have otherwise been in a position to showcase their works. Each exhibition was held for two weeks and featured up to 30 pieces.

The LAURENT Gallery is a unique and original space, the home of international award winning artist Titane Laurent's permanent exhibition.

The gallery has been active since 2016 and hosts exhibitions from local and international artists across all mediums and also hosts a number of regular highly interactive community events including Art Soirées and recently More Than Art.

It is a hub for local artists to create and show their work and art lovers to interact with and be inspired by artists of all mediums.

We congratulate LAURENT Gallery on such an inspiring initiative.

Follow on Facebook page use @laurentgallery

Follow on Instagram @laurent\_gallery

Our Website [laurentgallery.com](http://laurentgallery.com)