

Autumn  
2025

# Hello, Fleurieu!

Community Bank · Fleurieu



## Welcome!

Welcome to the Community Bank Fleurieu Newsletter!

At Community Bank Fleurieu, we believe in the power of banking with purpose. Every customer who chooses to bank with us plays a vital role in strengthening our region—because with every loan, every account, and every banking decision, we're investing back into our local communities.

Thanks to your support, we've already contributed \$1.8 million to local projects, clubs, and initiatives that make a real difference across the Fleurieu. Together, we can continue to grow, transform, and create an even stronger future for our region.

Be part of something bigger. Your banking truly changes lives.

**Alison Burr**

**Company Manager, Community Bank Fleurieu**

## Strengthening Our Community

We believe in giving back by investing in events that bring people together. Recently, we've proudly partnered with several fantastic initiatives:

### **Victor Harbor Christmas Pageant (December)**

A cherished local tradition that brings festive joy to the community. Our support helped create a magical experience for families, complete with a lively parade and Christmas fun.

### **Community Bank Fleurieu Family Fun Day (January)**

As naming rights partner, we hosted this event at Strathalbyn Racecourse, featuring live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy.

### **South Coast Camera Club Festival (January)**

The second Bendigo Bank Fleurieu Festival of Photography showcased incredible local and national photographic talent. With over 680 entries, the festival highlighted the beauty of storytelling through imagery.

### **Chilli Fest Willunga (February)**

A celebration of all things spicy, featuring locally grown chilli plants, artisan products, food stalls, and chilli-infused drinks. Our investment in this fiery festival added flavour to the Fleurieu!

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Image: Corina Gull

L-R: Victor Harbor Christmas Pageant, Community Bank Fleurieu Family Fun Day, South Coast Camera Club Festival

# Better banking experience. Big impact.

## Building Strength: A Community Pantry Fuelled by Care



In the heart of Aldinga, Here's to Strength has become more than just a wellness hub; it's a beacon of care for the local community. At the centre of this initiative is the Here's to Strength Community Pantry, a welcoming space where individuals and families can access free food and essential self-care items with dignity—no questions asked.

The vision for the pantry comes from Here's to Strength founder Elise Riannen, whose lived experience with food insecurity and personal hardship has shaped her commitment to making self-care and support more accessible. "The pantry was inspired by my own journey," Elise shares. "I wanted to create a space where people feel safe and supported, without barriers or judgment."

What started as a small cupboard quickly grew beyond its original space, as community generosity saw shelves overflowing with donations. With demand rising, the need for a more sustainable solution became clear. That's where Community Bank Fleurieu stepped in, funding the construction of a dedicated pantry space to ensure this vital initiative could continue to grow.

"We outgrew our space so quickly," Elise explains. "Thanks to Community Bank Fleurieu, we now have a dedicated area where food can be stored safely, and families can access what they need in a comfortable, welcoming environment."

This partnership is just one example of how community banking reinvests profits back into local projects. Every time someone chooses to bank with Community Bank Fleurieu, they're helping to fund initiatives like Here's to Strength—creating meaningful, long-term impact across the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The pantry is open to anyone in need, no questions asked. Visit Here's to Strength at 1A Old Coach Road, Aldinga.

## All Aboard for a Celebration of Maritime Magic

The South Australian Wooden Boat Festival brings the rich maritime history of our region to life in spectacular style. Held every two years, this much-anticipated event is a celebration of craftsmanship, community, and connection.

Set against the scenic backdrop of the Goolwa Wharf over the weekend of April 26–27, the festival featured a stunning display of historic wooden boats and paddle steamers, alongside sailing races, maritime exhibitions, and heritage steam train rides. Families enjoyed a weekend filled with live music, local food, markets, children's activities, and a special visit from the Royal Australian Navy.

Community Bank Fleurieu was proud to partner with this iconic event, investing in experiences that unite and uplift our region. More than just a showcase of boats, the festival proved to be a chance to celebrate local culture, bring people together, and create lasting memories on the banks of the Murray.



## Backing Future Stars: Our New Partnership with the Great Southern Football League

Footy season is well underway across the Fleurieu, and this year brings something extra special. Community Bank Fleurieu has joined forces with the Great Southern Football League (GSFL) as a major junior partner, supporting the development of young players across the region.

In addition to our three-year partnership, we're proud to hold naming rights for the GSFL Academies, providing dedicated programs for both boys and girls. This is just part of our ongoing commitment to grassroots sport and the role it plays in shaping confident, connected young people.

With ten local clubs and generations of community spirit behind it, the GSFL is at the heart of Fleurieu sporting life. By investing in junior development and local infrastructure, we're helping to create opportunities that extend well beyond the field.

## Supporting Local Growth: Hills & Coast Grant Finder

Finding funding for local projects can be challenging, but Regional Development Australia (RDA) Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, and Kangaroo Island has made it easier with the Hills and Coast Grant Finder.



This free online tool connects businesses, community groups, and individuals with available grants across the region—helping bring great ideas to life and supporting initiatives that strengthen our communities.

To learn more, contact your local branch or visit [grantguru.com/au/rdahc](https://grantguru.com/au/rdahc).

## Strengthening Our Community (cont.)

### AgFest (April)

Held at the Yankalilla Showgrounds, local farmers and business owners attended workshops on varied topics, from pasture trials and soil health to new technologies shaping the future of farming.

Students from across the region also took part – planting seeds, both literally and metaphorically, for the next generation of growers and makers.



Sean Hickey - Senior Agricultural Analyst, Bendigo Bank Agribusiness.



# A Warm Welcome to Our New Chair, Josh Lee



We are pleased to welcome Josh Lee as the new Chair of Community Bank Fleurieu. Josh brings a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to supporting our local community through the power of community banking.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ron Logan for his dedicated leadership and contribution during his tenure as Chair, which began at the AGM in October 2013 following his appointment to the Board in August 2013. His guidance has helped strengthen our impact, and we appreciate his ongoing support.

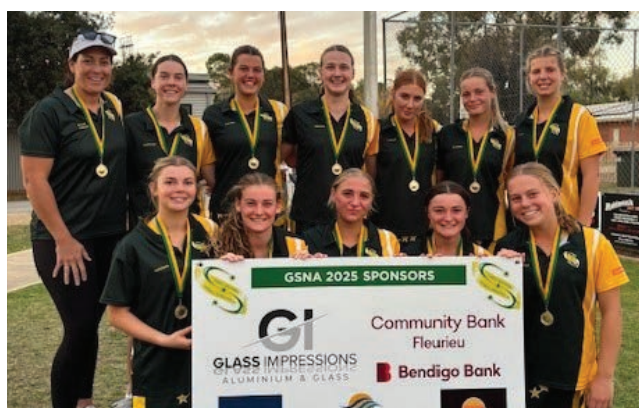
As we move forward, we look forward to building on this strong foundation and continuing to make a difference across the Fleurieu Peninsula.

## Backing Local Netball, Building Stronger Communities

We're proud to be the 2025 Platinum Sponsor of the Great Southern Netball Association, a passionate organisation representing ten clubs across the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Through this partnership, we're funding training equipment, player development, and coaching and umpiring clinics to help grow

the game from the grassroots up. With 80% of profits reinvested into our communities, partnerships like this show how banking local helps strengthen grassroots sport and community connection across the region.



## Inside the Whalers Emporium

For more than 20 years, Whalers Peninsula Community Association has been a lifeline for people in need across the Fleurieu. Run entirely by volunteers and without government assistance, the organisation provides food relief, clothing, emergency accommodation, and crisis support to those facing hardship—whether due to domestic violence, homelessness, or financial distress.

To continue its life-changing work, the association needed a reliable vehicle to reach the most vulnerable in the community. As a long-standing customer of Community Bank Fleurieu, it knew exactly where to turn.

"We needed a vehicle for our outreach program to connect with socially isolated people in need," said Mary McInnes, Volunteer Manager. "The obvious choice for us was to apply to the bank that has been behind us for many years."

With funding from Community Bank Fleurieu, Whalers Peninsula Community Association secured a vehicle through Fleurieu Motor Group, whose team ensured it was practical, efficient, and suited to the demands of outreach work. Since putting the vehicle into service, the impact has been immediate and transformative. Thanks to additional support from Repco Victor Harbor, the vehicle has been fitted with roof racks, an awning, a car fridge, and a stove, allowing volunteers to create a welcoming space for conversation and connection.

It's more than just transport—it's a mobile hub of support. With this new resource, Whalers Peninsula Community Association is now better equipped to reach those in need across the Fleurieu, ensuring vulnerable individuals and families continue to receive vital support.



Alison Burr and Natalie Stevenson with Mary McInnes, Volunteer Manager



## Making good things happen

### Community Assistance

4 health assistance programs

4 trailers

### Events

24 events across the Fleurieu

4 festivals

### Leadership

3 leadership programs

3 business associations

8th year of supporting the Fleurieu Future Leaders Program

1st year of supporting the Kangaroo Island Future Leaders Program

### Sports

23 sporting groups

1 grandstand

3 sets of soccer goal posts

1 resurface of cricket pitch

### Sports - Partnerships

Junior football across the Fleurieu with the Great Southern Football League

Netball across the Fleurieu with the Great Southern Netball Association

### Supporting Community

1 community vehicle

Emergency Housing Project

Clothing for vulnerable children

### Youth

3 youth programs, including a driver education program

# Not all banks offer 100% offset on their home loans.

We're not all banks.

Our Complete Home Loan offers 100% offset on fixed and variable home loans. Which means you could own your home sooner.

Find out more. Search Bendigo Bank home loans.

📍 Community Bank · Fleurieu 8557 8166



Terms and conditions, fees, charges and lending criteria apply. All information including interest rate is subject to change without notice. Full details available on application. Full offset facility is available for Bendigo Complete Home Loan for both fixed and variable loans. Offset facility can only be linked to one loan at any one time. A maximum of 6 offset facilities can be linked per loan account. Linked offset facility must be in same customer name/number. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. (1728832-1767000) OUT\_43629552, 28/02/2025

## Talk to us today

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Fleurieu Community Enterprises Ltd  
ABN 72 116 550 157

## Your Business Matters



Running a business comes with many challenges, from managing cash flow to securing funding for growth. Community Bank Fleurieu is committed to providing tailored financial solutions that support local businesses every step of the way.

Whether it's a new venture looking for start-up funding or an established business ready to expand, our business lending and equipment finance options are designed to help businesses achieve their goals. But beyond financial products, it's our personalised approach that sets us apart.

Planted Coffee House in Victor Harbor is one of many businesses that has benefited from this hands-on support. What started as a small coffee cart has now grown into a thriving local café. "Whenever we needed to make changes to our business during this time, Tom took the time to understand our needs and offered tailored solutions. His support has helped us grow through every phase of business growth," says Nick McKenzie, owner of Planted Coffee House.

Community Bank Fleurieu has a commitment to accessibility. Instead of having to visit a branch, business owners can meet with one of the bank's mobile lending experts, Tom Haywood and Bec Elliott, who travel across the region to bring tailored financial solutions directly to businesses across the Fleurieu.

Through their investment in these services, Community Bank Fleurieu is not only supporting individual businesses but also contributing to the broader growth and prosperity of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

“

Tom took the time to understand our needs and offered tailored solutions. His support has helped us grow through every phase of business growth.”

