

Autumn
2026



Hello, Fleurieu!

Community Bank · Fleurieu

Welcome to Autumn!

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

This update celebrates key milestones for Community Bank Fleurieu and introduces more support to our region, reinforcing our commitment to banking across the Fleurieu. With new talent boosting our local capacity, we are poised to deliver enhanced services, driving growth and creating greater value for our community and stakeholders across the region.

Banking with Community Bank Fleurieu (Aldinga Beach, Goolwa, Victor Harbor, and Willunga) allows you to bank locally while directly investing in the Fleurieu Peninsula. By choosing our "profit-for-purpose" model, you ensure up to 80% of profits are returned to local projects and events - \$1.9 million and counting!

Alison Burr
Company Manager



20 Years of Local Impact on the Fleurieu

April marks an important milestone for Fleurieu Community Enterprises, officially celebrating its 20th anniversary on 20 April 2026. It is also a special moment for Aldinga, the first branch to open under the Fleurieu Community Enterprise model, beginning two decades of community banking with purpose on the Fleurieu.

What started as a bold local vision has grown into something far bigger than banking. Over the past 20 years, Community Bank Fleurieu has reinvested \$1.9 million into local initiatives that have made a real difference in people's lives.

That impact can be seen in practical ways - helping young people learn to drive and gain independence, supporting spaces where creativity can flourish through the arts, and backing Men's Sheds that strengthen connection and mental wellbeing. It has helped provide safe homes for women, and supported ideas that inspire, including bringing the globally recognised TEDx event series to the Fleurieu.

Alongside this, Community Bank Fleurieu has continued to support local clubs, festivals, businesses and community programs across the region.

This anniversary is a celebration of local people choosing to bank local and, in doing so, helping create opportunity, connection and hope for others.

Twenty years on, the purpose remains the same: local banking, creating local impact.



Community Bank Fleurieu staff with Nick McKenzie from Planted Coffee House

Five Years of Connection at Connect Victor

Five years ago, Community Bank Fleurieu opened the doors to a different kind of branch at Connect Victor. More than a traditional banking space, it was created with a clear vision to become a Business and Community Hub, bringing people together in a shared environment designed for connection, collaboration and local growth.

Located in the heart of Victor Harbor, Connect Victor was thoughtfully designed to welcome a mix of businesses, community groups and individuals. Since opening, it has become a well-used and valued part of the local community. The hot desks and bookable office spaces continue to support a wide range of users, from small business owners and remote workers to not-for-profit organisations and community groups. It offers a flexible and welcoming environment for people who may not have access to dedicated workspaces, while also encouraging interaction between those using the space.

Five years on, the vision for Connect Victor continues to be realised through the people who use it every day. It is a space shaped by its community, and one that continues to evolve as new ideas, businesses and connections emerge. Community Bank Fleurieu would like to thank all partners, customers and community members who have contributed to making Connect Victor what it is today.



Renato Principe, Alison Burr, Moira Jenkins and Ron Logan



Official opening of the Goolwa branch

Celebrating 15 years in Goolwa

We also celebrated a significant 15-year milestone in Goolwa, marking a decade and a half of dedicated service and community-driven banking. The branch was open to help restore banking services to local towns, usually after major banks closed their doors, and today we are the only bank in town.



The staff continue to be a dedicated local team and are passionate about supporting the Fleurieu Peninsula community.

A New Era for Mount Compass Netball Club

Mount Compass Netball Club recently celebrated the grand opening of its new netball courts, marking the completion of a significant long-term project for the club and wider community.

The occasion recognised the many volunteers who contribute their time and effort, along with the investment from Community Bank Fleurieu that helped bring the project to life.

The upgraded courts provide a safer, high-quality playing surface that meets Netball Australia standards, supporting both performance and player wellbeing.

As the club hosts home games for the Great Southern Netball Association winter season, the new facilities signal an exciting new chapter, with a continued focus on growing participation and strengthening pathways from juniors through to senior competition.



Kym McHugh sharing a few words on behalf of Community Bank Fleurieu



Luke Cooper, Alison Burr, Nick Riddell, Richelle Horvath, Tom Haywood, Alex Mansfield and Rob Kidman



Ben McHugh, Nick Riddell, Luke Cooper and Kym McHugh



Alison Burr and Kym McHugh

New Faces, Local Roots: Community Bank Fleurieu Grows Its Expertise

Community Bank Fleurieu is bringing more expertise to the region, with new faces joining the team and a growing range of specialists ready to support the people and businesses of the Fleurieu.

This reflects the bank's deep commitment to this community - because for Community Bank Fleurieu, banking has always been personal. Our staff are locals who know the Fleurieu and understand what banking looks like here. And when the bank does well, so does the community, with up to 80% of profits returned directly to local clubs, organisations, and initiatives.

We welcome Nick Riddell and Luke Cooper, Bendigo Bank's agricultural banking specialists, who are out across the region meeting with farmers and rural businesses on their properties. They bring real understanding of the seasonal pressures, the challenges of rural enterprise, and the financial planning that goes hand in hand with working the land on the Fleurieu.

Joining them is Alex Mansfield, Bendigo Bank's business banker who will be a visible presence across the region, ensuring even more businesses can count on a team that genuinely understands the realities of running an enterprise in a regional community.

Tom Haywood continues his work as Community Bank Fleurieu's Business Development Manager, supporting residents and businesses across the region. As their

local mobile banker, Tom's role ensures that the bank's commitment to local investment and personalised service continues to thrive.

For those looking at home loans, our home loan specialists remain in branch and ready to sit down with customers face-to-face. They are experienced locals who know this community and understand home purchases on the Fleurieu.

With new and existing faces, growing expertise, and the same local values Community Bank Fleurieu continues to prove that banking on the Fleurieu is something worth being proud of.



Tom Haywood and Alex Mansfield



Community Bank · Fleurieu

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We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

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Local Event Highlights

Creating Connection, One Tile at a Time

Company Manager Alison Burr and Local Engagement Officer Natalie Stevenson attended the unveiling of a beautiful mosaic mural created by residents of Harbor Village Retirement Village.



The project began in 2025 and brought together residents, students from Encounter Lutheran College and members of the local community, all working under the guidance of local artist Sue Hoskin to create a piece centred on connection and collaboration.

Each individual mosaic tile represents a contributor and their unique connection to the wider community, coming together to form a striking artwork that reflects the value of every participant.



Photos: Jack Church - Fleurieu Sun

Mt Compass Community Shed - 'Turn on the Lights'

Local Engagement Officer, Natalie Stevenson, attended the Mount Compass Community Shed to officially turn on the lights following a significant infrastructure upgrade.

Community Investment funding was used to connect three-phase power, enabling the Shed to use a wider range of machinery and support ongoing activities of the Mount Compass Community Shed and its members.



Tradies Day – Golf Tournament

Members of the Community Bank Fleurieu team attended the Tradie's Golf Day at South Lakes Golf Club, held on 13 March. The team had a fantastic day and were able to share our community story with many local businesses. The day was a success with fantastic networking and connecting, and raised an incredible \$21,000 for men's health.



International Women's Day Breakfast

Thank you to Victor Harbor VIEW Club and the team at the office for David Basham MP for hosting our local International Women's Day Breakfast and 2026 Fleurieu Women's Community Awards.

Encounter Bay Football Club provided a wonderful breakfast, while guests were inspired and moved by the story of guest speaker, Susie Williams, who spoke on this year's IWD theme, "Give to Gain".



Guest speaker, Susie Williams, Fleurieu App



Alison Burr (Community Bank Fleurieu), Leanne Keach (Elders Real Estate Victor Harbor), Julie Irwin (Zonta Club of the Fleurieu Peninsula), Tammy Elvin (Junction) and Carol Gaston (Fleurieu Community Foundation)

Community-led Solutions and Meaningful Impact

Across the Fleurieu Peninsula, older women are among the fastest growing groups at risk of homelessness. Local organisations recognised this need and came together to create the Fleurieu Accommodation Project - a collaborative response aimed at providing safe, short-term housing and support for women over 55 facing housing stress.

The project is supported through a partnership between Community Bank Fleurieu, the Fleurieu Community Foundation, Zonta Club of the Fleurieu Peninsula, Junction Australia and Elders Real Estate Victor Harbor.

Beyond housing itself, the collaboration connects residents with case management and local support services to help build stability and confidence on the path to longer-term accommodation.

Featured as a national case study in the Bendigo Bank Community Foundation 2025 Yearbook, the project highlights the power of community-led partnerships in addressing one of our region's most pressing challenges.

To see this work acknowledged alongside projects from across Australia is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when local decision-making and local investment come together with purpose.

“It is inspiring to have a local bank taking leadership... It shows the power of community-led solutions and meaningful investment.

Alison Burr, Company Manager, Community Bank Fleurieu



Community Bank Fleurieu Company Manager, Alison Burr, with members of the Coorong Quay Boat Shed



The Strength of Generosity and Local Support

Thank you to the team at the Coorong Quays Boat Shed Inc. for welcoming our Company Manager, Alison Burr, and Local Engagement Officer, Natalie Stevenson, for morning tea.

It was wonderful to spend time together and learn more about the many community projects the group contributes to, from building benches and tables to creating mud kitchens and play equipment for local children's centres.

Through our Community Investment Program, Community Bank Fleurieu has been able to provide funding to assist the group with the purchase of a router and hand tools, helping support their ongoing work for the community.

Members of The Shed have also been collecting tools to send to bushfire-affected communities in Victoria, demonstrating the generosity and practical support that local groups bring to the region.



How healthy is your home loan?

With the current cost of living, there's never been a better time to review your home loan.

We'll look at your rate, term, repayments, and equity, giving your loan a full check-up to make sure it's still right for you and your current needs.

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Sports

Great Southern Football Club

Great Southern Netball Association

Mount Compass Netball Club

Leadership

Year 10 Fleurieu Future Leaders Program

Year 3 Kangaroo Island Future Leaders Program

Business Partnerships

Business Victor Harbor

Mclaren Vale Business And Tourism Association

Business Fleurieu Coast

Events

TEDx Victor Harbor

Fleurieu Folk Festival

Local Groups

University Of The 3rd Age

Goolwa Aquatic Club



Talk to us today

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Hands-on Learning at Willunga Waldorf School

Willunga Waldorf School continues to bring learning to life through hands-on experiences that connect students with nature, food and community.

Previous Community Investment funding helped the school purchase a poly tunnel, irrigation and propagating equipment for its Gardening Program, along with a new oven for the playgroup kitchen.

These additions are already being put to good use. The gardening equipment supports practical learning in the school's garden spaces, while the kitchen oven has become part of the playgroup's activities, creating opportunities for children and families to bake and learn together.

It is wonderful to see these resources helping nurture curiosity, creativity and connection within the school community.

