



Summer  
2025-26

# Hello, Fleurieu!

Community Bank · Fleurieu



## Welcome to Summer!

Welcome to the summer edition of the Community Bank Fleurieu newsletter.

As the days grow longer and the Fleurieu Peninsula comes alive with colour, we're delighted to bring you our summer newsletter — celebrating community, connection, and the progress we've made together.

At Community Bank Fleurieu, we're more than a financial institution. We're a locally owned, community-focused organisation committed to supporting the people, businesses, and initiatives that make our region thrive. Every customer who chooses to bank with us helps strengthen the place we live and work.

Over the past few months, we've been proud to continue the support of our local clubs, groups, and events through our grants program that foster wellbeing, participation, and community spirit. Thank you for being part of the Community Bank Fleurieu family. Your support helps us invest directly into our region and continue building a stronger, brighter future for all.

**Alison Burr**  
Company Manager

## Celebrating a Decade of Service

November marked a significant milestone at Community Bank Fleurieu, with Jordan Sampson celebrating ten years of service. What began with a Customer Service Officer role has grown into a decade shaped by dedication, steady development, and genuine care for our community.

Jordan is now our trusted onsite Home Loan specialist, known for his calm approach, clear communication, and ability to guide customers through some of life's biggest financial decisions. His progression reflects both his strong technical knowledge and the time he takes to truly understand people and their goals.

Much has changed for Jordan personally too — from a young man with big ambitions to a committed family man deeply connected to the Fleurieu. Through every stage, his commitment to doing right by our customers has remained constant.

Reaching a ten-year milestone is an achievement in any organisation, but within a community-owned bank, its impact is even greater. Jordan's decade with us represents ten years of helping local people into homes, supporting businesses, and contributing to the strength of our region.

We congratulate Jordan on this milestone and look forward to seeing his continued impact in the years ahead.



Jordan Sampson, Customer Relationship Manager, Community Bank Fleurieu

# Farewells and New Beginnings

## Farewell to Our Valued Directors

This season marks an important moment of transition for the Community Bank Fleurieu as we farewell three highly respected Directors, two whose leadership has shaped who we are today.



L to R: Ron Logan, Kym McHugh

Kym McHugh and Ron Logan have each played pivotal roles in guiding our company through significant growth and transformation. As Chairs, they were instrumental in bringing the Fleurieu companies together as one — unifying our vision, strengthening our governance, and positioning us to make an even greater impact across the region. Their commitment, steadiness, and genuine community focus have left a legacy that will continue to benefit our customers and our communities for years to come.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Moira Jenkins, whose contribution as a Director has brought valuable insight, thoughtful leadership, and a deep dedication to community wellbeing. Her influence has enriched our Board's work and helped us navigate key initiatives with clarity and purpose.

While we are sad to see Kym, Ron, and Moira step down, we are deeply grateful for the time, skill, and passion they have invested into Community Bank Fleurieu. Their vision has helped build a stronger organisation — one that will continue to serve our region with confidence and care.

We wish each of them the very best in their next chapters and thank them sincerely for their outstanding service.



L to R: Moira Jenkins, Ron Logan, Kym McHugh

## Welcoming New Directors: Steve Shotton and Debbie Constable

We are pleased to introduce two new Directors who have recently joined the Fleurieu Community Enterprises Ltd Board: Steve Shotton and Debbie Constable. Both bring deep regional knowledge, strong community values, and a shared commitment to building a flourishing, connected Fleurieu.

Steve Shotton joins with extensive experience in regional development, business strategy, and economic growth. As the Director of Regional Development Australia (RDA) Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Steve



has been closely involved in initiatives that strengthen our region's resilience and create new opportunities. His work has supported the establishment of the Fleurieu Study Hub, helped grow small regional manufacturing businesses, and assisted organisations such as Hotel Elliot, the Milang & District Community Association and Victor Harbor Rotary to secure important grant funding.

With a background spanning agriculture, aquaculture, technology, and professional and environmental services, Steve brings a strong understanding of local industry and the importance of place-based investment. He joins the Board to help ensure more wealth stays circulating locally, benefitting the community where it's needed most.

We also warmly welcome Debbie Constable, CEO of TEDxVictor Harbor and a strong advocate for community connection across the Fleurieu. Debbie brings a background in leadership



development and strategic business growth, along with a passion for celebrating local people, ideas and shared experiences. Through her work with TEDxVictor Harbor, she has helped shine a light on the region's creativity and ambition.

Debbie believes deeply in keeping investment local so that it directly supports the projects and people who make the Fleurieu such a vibrant place to live and work. She looks forward to contributing her energy and expertise to help create meaningful, lasting impact across the region.

Together, Steve and Debbie bring valuable insight, experience, and heart to the Board. We're delighted to welcome them and look forward to sharing more of their contributions in the coming years.

## National Community Bank Conference

In September, Directors and staff from Community Bank Fleurieu travelled to Canberra for the National Community Bank Conference. With more than 500 Directors from 142 Community Bank companies in attendance, the event offered fresh insights, meaningful conversations, and updates from Bendigo Bank. We're grateful to be part of a national network driving positive change, and we look forward to applying these learnings to support our customers and community.



L to R: Rob Kidman, Branch Manager, Goolwa and Victor Harbor, Marissa Harvey, Chair, Kym McHugh, Director, Richelle Horvath, Branch Manager, Aldinga and Willunga, Alison Burr, Company Manager



# Making an Impact: First-ever TEDxVictor Harbor

The first-ever TEDxVictor Harbor marked a significant milestone for the Fleurieu Peninsula, bringing thought-provoking talks, bold ideas, and inspiring local voices to the region. Held at Victa Cinema on November 14, the event, which Community Bank Fleurieu proudly supported as a major partner, created a space where community members could connect, reflect, and be challenged by new perspectives.

For many locals, TEDx was an entirely new concept. As part of the globally recognised TED network, TEDx events are independently organised to spark curiosity, share knowledge, and bring diverse communities together. Supporting this initiative aligns strongly with Community Bank Fleurieu's commitment to returning up to 80% of its profits into the region — investing in people, ideas, and future opportunities.

The speaker lineup featured two Fleurieu locals selected from hundreds of applicants across the country. Dan Aubin, gymnast, stunt performer and leadership coach, delivered a dynamic talk on adaptability and the "acrobatics of being change-ready", while Megan Caldersmith, founder of She Sews, explored the world of fashion waste and creative problem-solving, showing how discarded garments can become opportunity rather than landfill.

In addition to these inspiring and innovative speakers, Community Bank Fleurieu hosted an activation space in the Town Hall, inviting attendees to contribute their hopes for the region, with hundreds of handwritten ideas added to a "community tree" reflecting aspirations for youth programs, environmental initiatives, creative spaces, and more.

The success of TEDxVictor Harbor demonstrates the power of local stories and local support. As a proud partner, Community Bank Fleurieu continues to support the growth of ideas that strengthen our region, ensuring the Fleurieu remains a place where innovation is nurtured, and community thrives.



Photos courtesy TEDxVictor Harbor | Craig Arnold, She Creative

## Aiming High: Victor Harbor Archery Club Hits the Mark

At Victor Harbor Archery Club, local ambitions are soaring as high as the arrows in flight. With recent funding from Community Bank Fleurieu, the club has replaced four worn indoor target butts — an essential upgrade benefiting everyone from first-time archers to athletes preparing for national selection.

While archery is known for its precision and discipline, it's the club's inclusive spirit that truly sets it apart. People of all ages and abilities train side by side, whether they're learning the basics or fine-tuning their technique for elite competition. As club President Pat Coghlan explains, "It's a sport for everyone. From everyone who's doing a beginner's course to those who aspire to compete in the Olympics."

That accessibility is one of the club's strengths, and unlike many sports with fixed training schedules, archery allows members to practice when it best suits their lives. "Not everybody can get to training on a Tuesday or Thursday night," Pat says. "Being able to practice in your own time keeps people involved and makes it easier for anyone to give the sport a go."

Community Bank Fleurieu's investment has had an immediate impact on the club. Target butts naturally deteriorate with regular use, and without durable replacements, the club cannot safely support its growing



membership. Now, with upgraded equipment in place, archers of all levels can train with confidence, and the timing couldn't be more ideal as several local archers recently traveled to the National Championships in Canberra, hoping to secure national squad selection — a direct pathway to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

With South Australia potentially fielding up to five of eight national representatives, the close-knit Victor Harbor Archery Club is firmly on the map, demonstrating how investment in local sport helps community dreams take flight.



# McLaren Vale Business & Tourism Awards

The 2025 McLaren Vale Business & Tourism Awards brought together the region's business community for a night of recognition and celebration at the McLaren Vale Motel and Apartments. With ten categories honouring excellence, innovation and commitment, the evening highlighted the resilience and diversity of the businesses that make McLaren Vale such a vibrant place to live and work.

As the McLaren Vale Business & Tourism Association reflected, "This event is more than an awards night — it is a reflection of what makes McLaren Vale so special: connection, collaboration, and local pride." It was a sentiment felt across the room, as businesses large and small were acknowledged for their contributions to the region.

Community Bank Fleurieu was honoured to be selected as a finalist in the Professional and Business Services category — a proud acknowledgement of our ongoing support for local business growth and community investment.

Among this year's standout achievements, Usefull took home two major honours: the New Business award and the prestigious title of Business of the Year, recognising its remarkable achievements and growing impact across the Fleurieu.

The Hall of Fame award was presented to Southern Koala & Echidna Rescue, celebrating years of compassionate work in wildlife rescue and conservation.

The 2025 awards reinforced the strength and diversity of the McLaren Vale area, and the businesses whose passion and vision drive it forward.



2025 McLaren Vale Business Awards



Business of the Year awarded to Usefull

## Community Radio – Helping the Fleurieu Thrive

Community radio continues to play a vital role across the Fleurieu Peninsula, offering far more than just music. These stations serve as a lifeline for many residents — sharing council updates, broadcasting local events, celebrating community achievements, and giving a voice to people from all corners of the region.

Community Bank Fleurieu is proud to support this important work by partnering with Tribe FM, Fleurieu FM, and Alex FM, providing funding for broadcasting equipment, infrastructure, and marketing materials that strengthen their service to the community.

In Willunga, Tribe FM upgraded its outdoor broadcasting equipment to deliver high-quality audio at beloved local events such as the Chilli Festival, Tour Down Under, Walk Against Domestic Violence, and the Port Noarlunga Blues Festival. As Secretary and host Anne Cross explains, "Having all of this equipment allows us to do a lot more outside broadcasts within the community. We can get out into the community and share their information and share their joy, their sorrow or laughter, whatever it is."

Meanwhile, Fleurieu FM's new transmission tower on Brown's Hill has ensured the station can continue broadcasting across the region. Chair Ian Totty acknowledges the impact: "Without the new tower, we probably wouldn't have been able to continue. There would be a big, big hole in the community's knowledge of what's going on in the place."



In Goolwa, Alex FM's new outdoor marquee has expanded its ability to broadcast live at community events. As host Janet Cameron shares, "The point of the marquee is that it provides greater exposure for us. It gives us more scope for different types of activities (within the community)."

By investing in local radio, Community Bank Fleurieu helps ensure the region stays connected, informed, and thriving.



L to R: Janet Cameron, Alex FM, Natalie Stevenson, Local Engagement Officer, Community Bank Fleurieu



L to R: Ian Totty and Sue Lake, Fleurieu FM



L to R: Anne Cross and Julie Knapton, Tribe FM



## Fleurieu Future Leaders Program – Completions Day



We are incredibly proud to be supporting Fleurieu Future Leaders Program for our ninth year!

Congratulations to all the participants — your dedication and commitment to this program continues to inspire us. A special shout-out to Debbie Constable, our Director, and Bec Elliott, our Business Development Manager. We couldn't be prouder of you in completing this program, and your honest and heartfelt presentations.

We're excited to see the community syndicate programs come to life and make an even greater impact across the Fleurieu. Here's to another incredible year ahead!



L to R: Alison Burr, Company Manager, Community Bank Fleurieu, Bec Elliott, Business Development Manager, Community Bank Fleurieu, Debbie Constable, Director, Fleurieu Community Enterprises Ltd

## Your Business Matters

For Willunga local Kate Fleming, living and working on the Fleurieu isn't just a lifestyle — it's a commitment to community.

Kate is the co-owner of Insideout Print and Signage,

a business rooted in creativity and connection. "To be able to live and work in this beautiful region is extraordinary," she says. "We've got the beach on our doorstep, wine country all around us — and a real sense of belonging."

That sense of place flows through everything Kate does, including where she banks. A few years ago, she and her team made the decision to move their business banking to Community Bank Fleurieu. "We wanted to be able to bank locally," she explains. "We love that we know the staff. They're a great, great bank to be banking with."

Kate values the face-to-face interactions, not just for herself but for her kids too. "Our teenagers now bank with Community Bank Fleurieu. Being able to interact at a personal level with people in the branch is so much better than doing it online."

Over time, she's seen firsthand how the bank supports the region — from festivals and sporting clubs to leadership programs. "I'm an alumnus of Fleurieu Future Leaders, and that was a life-changing experience to do that course. I can't thank Community Bank Fleurieu enough, making it accessible to so many people."



L to R: Jason Fleming and Kate Fleming, Owners of Insideout Print and Signage



## 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.

**Enquire online at [bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck](https://bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck) or visit your nearest branch.**

📍 Community Bank · Fleurieu

**Bendigo Bank**  
The better big bank

# Local Event Highlights

## Victor Harbor Rock 'n' Roll Festival



In September, Victor Harbor came alive with music, chrome, and 1950s flair during the annual Rock 'n' Roll Festival. From dancing in the street to a stunning display of classic cars, the event once again delivered a vibrant weekend for locals and visitors. We're proud to support a festival that brings joy, connection, and nostalgia to the region, celebrating community spirit in true rock 'n' roll style.

## Talk to us today

### Community Bank · Fleurieu

#### Community Bank · Victor Harbor

Connect Victor, 138 Hindmarsh Road,  
Victor Harbor, SA 5211

**P:** 8551 3900

**E:** victorharbormailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

**W:** www.bendigobank.com.au/victor-harbor

#### Community Bank · Goolwa & District

33 Hutchinson St, Goolwa SA 5214

**P:** 8555 2288

**E:** goolwamailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

**W:** www.bendigobank.com.au/goolwa

#### Willunga Customer Service Centre

9 High Street, Willunga, SA 5172

**P:** 8225 2900

**E:** aldingabeachmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

**W:** www.bendigobank.com.au/willunga

#### Community Bank · Aldinga Beach

Shop 32, Aldinga Central Shopping Centre,

1 Pridham Boulevard Aldinga, SA 5173

**P:** 8557 8166

**E:** aldingabeachmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

**W:** www.bendigobank.com.au/aldinga-beach

**Bec Elliott**, Business Development Manager

0434 769 955

**Tom Haywood**, Business Development Manager

0467 352 690



/CommunityBankFleurieu



/CommunityBank\_Fleurieu

Fleurieu Community Enterprises Ltd

ABN 72 116 550 157

## State of the Nation Dinner

Community Bank Fleurieu recently partnered with Business Victor Harbor to host the annual State of the Nation Dinner at McCracken Resort in Victor Harbor. Local businesses gathered to hear updates on Australia's economic landscape, including insights into emerging challenges, new opportunities, and the growing importance of ESG in shaping sustainable success.

A special thank you to keynote speakers David Robertson, Brooke Pettit, and Neil Verringer for sharing their expertise.



L to R: Speakers David Robertson, Brooke Pettit & Neil Verringer with Community Bank Fleurieu and Business Victor Harbor representatives

## International Rural Women's Day Luncheon

This year's International Rural Women's Day luncheon, held at Woodburn Homestead, was a wonderful celebration of the women shaping our regional communities.

Attendees enjoyed connection, conversation, and an uplifting address from Kelly Johnson, founder of Sphiker and Woodlane Orchard. Supporting an event that recognises and empowers rural women is an honour for us at Community Bank Fleurieu.



## Willunga Recreation Park Awards Night

The Show Hall at Willunga Recreation Park was buzzing with community pride at the annual Volunteer and Sportsperson of the Year Awards, where Daniel Tanner from Willunga Cricket Club was recognised as Volunteer of the Year, and Joel Field from the Willunga Wildcats took home Sportsperson of the Year. With inspiring words from Angel Flight volunteer pilot, Owen Crees, the event celebrated the people who keep the park thriving. Community Bank Fleurieu is proud to support this important tradition.

## Fleurieu Folk Festival

The Fleurieu Folk Festival returned to Willunga in October, drawing crowds from across the state for South Australia's premier folk and roots celebration. With live music, hands-on workshops, local food stalls, and a welcoming community vibe, the festival showcased the best of the region's creativity and talent. Community Bank Fleurieu is excited to back events that bring people together and celebrate the spirit of the Fleurieu.

