



Winter
2025

Hello, Fleurieu!

Community Bank · Fleurieu



Welcome!

As we step into the new financial year, we want to take a moment to thank you - our valued customers, partners, and community members, for your continued support.

At Community Bank Fleurieu our commitment has always been to local people, local businesses, and the future of our region.

Whether it is helping families buy their first home, investing in community initiatives, local events, or supporting business growth, we're proud to be your trusted community banking partner.

This new financial year brings fresh opportunities - and we're here to help you make the most of them. From smarter banking solutions to community investments, with our continued presence across the Fleurieu, our focus remains on helping Fleurieu thrive.

Here's to another year of growth, connection, and shared success.

Alison Burr
Company Manager,
Community Bank Fleurieu

Continuing to grow where it matters most

At Community Bank Fleurieu, growth isn't just something we measure in numbers, it's something we see in action every day. From young athletes taking the field with new gear to local businesses reaching their next milestones, we know real growth happens where people are supported to thrive.

As a company, we've grown too: in reach, in capability, and in impact. Our mobile lending team is now helping more people across the region, bringing business and home lending expertise directly to their doorstep. Our partnerships continue to strengthen, with new infrastructure projects and sporting clubs joining the long list of initiatives we're proud to back.

This growth has one clear purpose: to give back more, more often, to more people. As a locally governed bank, we are getting stronger with the community as we invest more — in clubs, community support programs, kilns, and beyond.



Recycled Runway

The McLaren Vale community came together in style on 31 May for the second annual Recycled Runway, held at Wirra Wirra winery.

Celebrating sustainability, creativity, and connection, the event invited participants aged 15 to 75 years to take to the catwalk in bold, inventive outfits. Each look was crafted from five preloved garments and a misprinted apron — all saved from landfill.



Jane Olds (Costume Winner)

One standout entry was Desperately Seeking Karen — a vibrant 80s-themed group costume created by five friends during weekly “crafternoons”.

Recycled Runway is proudly supported by Community Bank Fleurieu and exemplifies the power of grassroots initiatives to inspire creativity, spark conversations, and bring people together. From school students to retirees, the runway featured a wide cross-section of the community, united by a shared passion for sustainable fashion.

As the second event of its kind, Recycled Runway has quickly become a local highlight — transforming textiles, celebrating imagination, and strengthening community ties in the process.



Meiling Phy, Ella Crowe and Sacha Macgill-Rankin (student winner)



Liam Caldersmith, Megan Caldersmith, Amelie Rickers, Natalie Rickers (Desperately Seeking Karen entry).

Photos by Deb Saunders Photography.



Community Bank · Fleurieu

Making good things happen

When you bank with us, profits pour into the community.

\$1.9 Million so far.

A bank giving back sounds unusual. For us, it's business as usual.

Find out more. Call us on 8551 3900 or search Bendigo Bank Fleurieu.

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Fleurieu Future Leaders Program Commencement

The ninth annual Fleurieu Future Leaders Program (FFLP) has officially commenced, with Community Bank Fleurieu proud to return as a long-standing partner of the initiative. Alison Burr, on behalf of Community Bank Fleurieu, had the honour of opening this year's program at the McLaren Vale Function Centre.



The program brings together emerging leaders from across the region to develop their skills, build networks, and inspire positive change in their communities. It offers participants hands-on learning, mentoring and the opportunity to connect with other motivated individuals who are passionate about the Fleurieu's future.

This year also marks a special milestone for the Bank's own team, with Business Development Manager Bec Elliott selected as one of the program's participants. Bec's involvement reflects the strong values and leadership within Community Bank Fleurieu, and her commitment to supporting growth across the region.

The 2025 cohort includes participants from a wide range of backgrounds and communities, each bringing their own experiences, ideas, and drive to the program. The opening event marked the beginning of their leadership journey — one that will no doubt inspire meaningful change throughout the region.

SA Wooden Boat Festival

The 2025 South Australian Wooden Boat Festival proved to be a true celebration of place and community, drawing more than 18,000 visitors to Goolwa across the weekend.

Alongside the event's traditional charm of wooden boats, music, markets and more, this year's festival also marked the official opening of the redeveloped Goolwa Wharf Precinct, making the occasion even more significant for the region.

With the support of Community Bank Fleurieu, the festival delivered an experience that brought people together, boosted local business, and showcased everything that makes the Fleurieu special. From increased tourism to strengthened community pride, the benefits of this investment will continue to ripple long after the sails are packed away.

We're proud to have played a part in helping this iconic event grow, and we look forward to seeing its legacy unfold.



Making waves in the community

Across the Fleurieu, sport continues to play a vital role in connecting communities, and for Great Southern Swimming Club, that connection runs deep.

With around 100 members aged 8 to 16, the club isn't just a place to train, it's a place to belong. Assistant Coach Emma Rogers says the club is proud of its mix of abilities; from swimmers heading to Nationals to those finding their rhythm. "Our focus is on building confidence and keeping kids in the water," she explains.

The community support provided by Community Bank Fleurieu contributes to keeping their membership fees affordable. A recent investment from the Bank helped fund essential items, including a new laptop, a 3x3 gazebo for competitions, and club-branded banners. "Without that funding, we'd have to put fees up," Emma says. "And we know that would force some families to step back." Instead, Community Bank Fleurieu's contribution has allowed the club to remain accessible, ensuring more children across the region can stay active and connected through swimming.

The benefits stretch well beyond the pool. With swimmers travelling from Victor Harbor, Willunga and McLaren Vale, the club has become a central hub for families across the region. "We're like a big family," Emma says. "Swimming brings people together, and it's amazing to see friendships form both in and out of the water."

Investing in grassroots sport is essential to building strong communities. Community Bank Fleurieu proudly returns 80% of its profits to the local region — support that makes a real difference. For clubs like the Great Southern Swimming Club, it means more kids have the opportunity to dive into something meaningful.



Bec Elliott on growth, people and a purposeful role

In early 2024, we introduced Bec Elliott as our new Business Development Manager — someone who brought over two decades of banking experience and a whole lot of energy to her new role at Community Bank Fleurieu.



A year on, Bec is now a familiar face across the region — from boardrooms to sports grounds — and her passion for community connection has only grown stronger.

"My role allows me to be out and about in the community, building strong relationships, partnerships and friendships with all different types of people in businesses and organisations all over the Fleurieu," says Bec. "I'm pretty lucky really."

With over 24 years in banking, she says joining Community Bank Fleurieu has reshaped how she thinks about her work. "It wasn't until I started working for Community Bank Fleurieu over a year ago that I really understood what (banking for purpose) meant... to physically be able to see the impact that we are making across Fleurieu makes me feel proud to be a part of it."

This year, Bec is also taking part in the Fleurieu Future Leaders Program — a new challenge she's embracing wholeheartedly. "I'm so excited to be a part of the FFLP and I'm looking forward to the journey I am about to go on, the lessons I will learn both personally and professionally and more importantly all the amazing people I will get to meet along the way!"

Whether she's supporting local businesses, championing grassroots initiatives, or on the sidelines for her three teenagers' weekend sport, Bec brings genuine care and commitment to everything she does.

And just like the region she serves — she's continuing to grow where it matters most.

Community Bank · Fleurieu

Big on
community.

Bigger
for the one
you care
about.



Bendigo Bank
The better big bank



18 additional members across the Mawson group can now operate chainsaws when responding to a tree down, thanks to the support of Community Bank Fleurieu.

Talk to us today

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Backing the Volunteers Who Back Us (CFS)

On 2 May 2023, Community Bank Fleurieu proudly hosted a special Community Investment Night at Vale Restaurant and Bar, bringing together representatives from across Region 1 of the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) — including the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula, and Kangaroo Island.



The evening brought together 41 brigades from seven CFS Groups for a powerful celebration of the people who show up when it matters most.

Each brigade received a \$500 donation, and a further \$58,000 was invested into ten CFS-led projects - workshopped and proposed by the brigades themselves. In total, \$88,000 was committed to the CFS that night.

Like many community investments, the full impact wasn't immediate.

Since then, those funds have continued to translate into meaningful, practical outcomes. One example is the Mawson Group, where 90 volunteers have now been trained in first-aid, advanced resuscitation, and certified chainsaw handling. That's 90 local responders better equipped to act safely and effectively when emergencies strike.

These are the kinds of outcomes we're proud to support; investing in the vital work that happens behind the scenes, so our volunteers can continue to serve the community with confidence and care.

Mawson Group Officer, Peter Venning, recently presented our Board with a certificate of appreciation - a gesture that speaks volumes. We're honoured to stand behind those who protect our region and look forward to continuing this important partnership into the future.

Making good things happen

Sports

Great Southern Football Club

Great Southern Netball Association

Great Southern Swimming Club

Leadership

Year 9 Fleurieu Future Leaders Program

Year 2 Kangaroo Island Future Leaders Program

Business Partnerships

Business Victor Harbor

McLaren Vale Business & Tourism Association

Business Fleurieu Coast

Events

SA Wooden Boat festival

Victor Harbor Rock n Roll Festival

Community Assistance

3 trailers

4 programs to support health across the Fleurieu

Youth

4 youth programs across the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island