



Community update

Community Bank · East Ivanhoe

Celebrating our incredible community

We closed out 2025 with our annual Community Partners Night, where the Community Bank East Ivanhoe team proudly awarded grants and sponsorships to a wide range of local charities, sporting clubs, community groups, schools and kindergartens.

Throughout the year, an incredible \$358,478 was invested back into our community, supporting the dedicated volunteers who help make this area such a wonderful place to live, work and play. We extend our sincere thanks to our valued customers and shareholders – your choice to bank locally has a real and lasting impact. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community.

A new bus for Araluen

Araluen provides safe, high-quality support for adults with intellectual disability, empowering people to live lives full of choice, belonging and possibility. A trusted local not-for-profit since the 1960s, Araluen has been raising funds to replace its ageing buses – vehicles that are far more than transport. They are a vital link to independence, opportunity and connection.



Araluen clients and team with the new bus.

Thanks to generous supporters, Araluen raised \$44,105, and we were proud to fund the remaining shortfall. This ensures people can continue to travel safely and comfortably, opening the door to inclusion, everyday adventures and meaningful participation in our community.



Jenny Crosbie from Village Power receives a grant from Mat Harrison.

Neighbourhood battery for Alphington

Village Power is a volunteer-led group working to install a neighbourhood battery in Alphington. The battery will capture excess solar energy from local homes, store it, and return it to the grid at times of high demand.

To spark local engagement, artists will transform the battery into a public artwork, creating a community-driven installation and launch event. We proudly provided a \$15,000 grant to support the art project, helping to educate the community about renewable energy, storage and simple ways to reduce fossil fuel use.

We're bigger for our community.

Defibrillators in Banyule

Our commitment to ensuring community spaces and sporting clubs in Banyule have access to life-saving defibrillators continues. Recently, new units were donated to St John's Catholic Tennis Club and Heidelberg Presbyterian Church.



Mural for Community Garden

For the past 19 years, Banyule Community Health (now Holstep Health) and Community Bank East Ivanhoe have partnered to deliver a successful youth-led program supporting young people connected to West Heidelberg.

One of the many youth-driven projects in 2025 was the creation of a mural at the Buna Housing Estate. Designed and delivered by local young people, the mural celebrates creativity, community pride and connection to place.



Path to self-determination

Banyule is fortunate to be home to Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place, a vital hub for cultural engagement, community development and economic empowerment for Aboriginal people. In 2025, Community Bank East Ivanhoe entered a three-year partnership to support Barrbunin Beek's transition towards financial independence through the development of a social enterprise. This model creates sustainable employment opportunities for community members while generating ongoing revenue to support cultural activities and services.



Recycling chip packets for the homeless

Who would have thought chip packets could be transformed into warm, effective blankets? Inspired by a project in New Zealand — where 206 blankets were distributed over four months — the team at Rosanna Fire Station Community House brought the idea to Melbourne.

With the support of a Community Bank East Ivanhoe grant, the Chip Packet Project tackles multiple challenges at once: reducing landfill waste, supporting people experiencing homelessness, and encouraging volunteerism. The recycled packets are turned into insulated sleeping mats and blankets that are warm, lightweight and easy to fold.



Rosanna Firestation Volunteers.

Free horticultural programs for students with disabilities

Farm Raiser is a not-for-profit urban farm based in Bellfield, and we were delighted to support their Seeding Skills program. Delivered in partnership with Waratah Special Developmental School, the program gives students hands-on learning opportunities in nature, supporting mental wellbeing, physical health and environmental connection.

Thanks to our grant, all students at the school can now participate in the program free of charge each week — creating lots of happy (and very capable) young gardeners!



Farm Raiser educators in the field.

Congratulations Heidelberg Football Club!

Heidelberg Football Club President Chris Sutton recently visited our branch to proudly show off the club's silverware from an outstanding 2025 NFNL season — Premierships in Division 1 (after an undefeated season), Reserves and Thirds. An incredible achievement. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Almost \$5 million reinvested.

New furniture for The Sycamore Tree

Operated by the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches, The Sycamore Tree is a much-loved social enterprise café on Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. Staffed by volunteers, the café helps people build hospitality skills, improve confidence, develop English language skills and form meaningful friendships.

We were excited to provide a \$14,506 grant for a furniture upgrade, enabling The Sycamore Tree to better accommodate the large community groups they regularly host.



Jon and Mat with the Sycamore Tree team.

Empowerment for local African women

Community Bank East Ivanhoe is proud to support a community-based program designed to improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of disadvantaged African women.

Delivered by African Australian Women & Youth Service (AAWAY), the program offers weekly fitness activities — including dance, group walking and exercise — alongside mental health sessions focused on coping strategies for stress and social isolation. Held locally at The Mall in West Heidelberg, the program provides a welcoming and supportive space that fosters confidence, connection and empowerment.



Supporting our local traders

We proudly support local trader associations to help build thriving retail precincts. In the lead-up to Christmas, both East Ivanhoe Village and Macleod Village hosted festive fairs that attracted thousands of visitors and brought wonderful energy to the local shopping strips. The West Heidelberg community enjoyed a family fun day in the Village Green which we were thrilled to get behind.



Brother Harry Prout and Carly at the West Heidelberg Community Fair.

Meet the team

Our award-winning team continues to deliver outstanding customer service and competitive rates to our local community.

We're proud to share that Community Bank East Ivanhoe was awarded the Lending Award at Bendigo Bank's North East Region Awards in 2025 — a recognition of our team's dedication to supporting customers with quality advice and service.



SALT offer for local sporting clubs

Community Bank East Ivanhoe is proud to continue as a Foundation Partner of SALT – Sport and Life Training, an outstanding not-for-profit organisation supporting sporting clubs both on and off the field.

SALT delivers practical, engaging sessions covering vital topics such as mental health and wellbeing, peer pressure and decision-making, leadership and positive coaching.

To support local clubs, we're pleased to offer funding for your first two SALT sessions.

To get started, contact Carly at carly@conceptmem.com.au, or visit www.sportandlifetraining.com.au for more information.



Welcome, Mat

We are thrilled to welcome experienced lending specialist Mat Harrison to the Community Bank East Ivanhoe team. With over 30 years of experience in home lending, Mat is passionate about helping customers secure the best possible deal.

A keen bowler and sports enthusiast, Mat is happy to meet at a time and place that suits you to review your banking needs. Contact him for an appointment on mathew.harrison@bendigoadelaide.com.au or call **0407 699 501**.



A banker who comes to you!

Did you know Community Bank East Ivanhoe offers mobile banking, with bankers who can meet you at a time and place that suits you?

With a combined 40 years of banking experience, Syed Zaidi and Mat Harrison are passionate about getting out into the community and helping local customers with their banking needs — whether at home, work or your local café.

2026 Community Grants Program

Do you have a great idea or a community project that needs financial support to bring it to life?

Community Bank East Ivanhoe is now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program. Our grants support local organisations that make a positive difference across our community. If you'd like to learn more about the application process and what's involved, please contact Carly Kluge at carly@conceptmem.com.au

APPLY NOW

Approaching \$5 million in community investment

Our support of local sporting clubs, schools, kinders and community groups continues with much-needed sponsorship for many organisations. Here's a snapshot of some of the groups that recently received support:

Alphington Bowls Club

Alphington Cricket Club

Banyule Junior Football Club

City of Heidelberg Bowling Club

CWA Heidelberg

Diamond Valley SuperRules Football Club

Eaglemont Tennis Club

East Ivanhoe Bowling Club

East Ivanhoe Business Association

East Ivanhoe Primary School

Fairfield Primary School

Friends of Eaglemont Village

Friends of Wilson Reserve

Heidelberg Football Netball Club

Heidelberg Historical Society

Heidelberg Junior Football Club

Heidelberg Orchestras

Heidelberg Preschool

Heidelberg West Football Netball Club

Ivanhoe Bowling Club

Ivanhoe Cricket Club

Ivanhoe Harriers

Ivanhoe Netball Club

Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club

Jeff Wall Classic

Latrobe University Hockey Club

Lower Plenty Cricket Club

Macleod Football Netball Club

Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club

Melbourne Polytechnic

Mother Tongue Poetry

Northcote United Cricket Club

North East Neighbourhood House Network

North Heidelberg Sporting Club

Olympic Neighbourhood House

Olympic Village Exodus Community

Parkside Junior Football Club

Parkside Netball Club

Pascoe Vale Lions Futsal Club

Patchworkers and Quilters Guild of Victoria

Preston Cricket Club

Rosanna Cricket Club

Rotary Club of Heidelberg

SALT (Sport and Life Training)

SES Heidelberg Unit

St John's Catholic Tennis Club

Victorian Youth Polo Academy

Warringal Conservation Society

Yarra Valley Hockey Club

Sponsorship rounds close each year on 31 January and 30 June. If your group is interested in applying email Carly Kluge on: carly@conceptmem.com.au



Talk to us today



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We're open: 9.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday



Community Bank branches are owned by local people and operated in partnership with Bendigo Bank—one of Australia's biggest banks and most trusted brands.

Community Banks return most of their profit directly to their communities through grants and sponsorships which facilitate community health, wellbeing and cohesion.

To date this network of branches has returned over \$416 million to Australian communities, almost \$5 million of that right here in our community.

Feel good about who you bank with, talk to our team today.

Franchisee: Heidelberg District Community Enterprise Ltd

233-235 Lower Heidelberg Road
East Ivanhoe VIC 3079
ABN 62 095 312 744

Directors: Jeremy McAuliffe (Chair),
Nan Caple, Ann Rogan, Jason Talbot,
Paul Thia

