



Newsletter

Community Bank · Lara District

As a branch owned by shareholders, we are a community-owned bank. That means we are here to stay! Over almost 17 years, we are proud to have supported over 100 groups, clubs and schools throughout the Lara, Little River and Anakie region. We have also supported some Geelong-based projects such as Barwon Health Foundation, Geelong Youth Engagement and Geelong Arts Centre due to their strong links with our local area.

Our commitment to strong community support is only possible due to our customers. It's profits from our banking business that has allowed us to distribute almost \$4 million in grants, sponsorships, scholarships and donations through our Community Investment Program. While community is our purpose, banking is our business. Our friendly and experienced staff are available to discuss your financial needs. As the only bank in Lara, we are here to support our local community and we would love for you to support us in return.



You Yangs Mountain Bike Club

The You Yangs Mountain Bike Club was established in 2009. They run social events and race days for members. They are an inclusive group, catering for a range of ages and abilities as well as being pioneers in encouraging female participation in the sport of mountain biking.

The most recent grants we funded were for a minibus, bike trailer and an e-bike. These projects have modernised and refreshed the group by providing equipment that encourages participation and has increased their volunteer base. The equipment has also increased their membership base. The trailer caters for riders with adaptive bikes and with the shuttle bus moving people more efficiently to and from trail heads, riders are enjoying more time riding the trails. The e-bike has proven itself as a vital addition by already being involved in responding to emergency situations.

We just love how the You Yangs Mountain Bike Club is having such a positive impact on our community. Their members come from many parts of the state, so we are proud our message of community impact through community banking is reaching so many people. Club President, Barry says "we're incredibly grateful for the continued support from Lara District Community Enterprise!" And we're looking forward to many more years of partnership with You Yangs Mountain Bike Club.

Recently funded CIP Projects



The **Lara RSL Sub-branch** were in need of a marquee to use at events, not only for weather protection but to promote who they were. The new marquees have been busy since they arrived with being set up at the Anzac Day dawn service and the open day at Lara Community Centre. It is wonderful to see groups such as RSL branches being promoted and visible to whole communities by something as simple as a marquee.



Aiki Jujutsu Australia is a small group based in Anakie who are learning the art of Aiki Jujutsu, a form of martial arts. The hall they train in needed some new safety floor matting which we were happy to provide for them via a grant. The new flooring, which was installed by the group's volunteers, has elevated the safety for students.

Local business matters. Especially to us.

As an award-winning business bank, we're focused on helping your business make it. Talk to our specialist team today.

🏠 5 Waverley Road 📞 5282 6430

Community Bank
Lara District

Bendigo Bank
The better big bank

For 2024 RFI Global Financial Awards information, visit rfi.global. Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL / Australian Credit License 237879 / (2057438) (05/25)

Meet Tejana



Tejana has grown up in the Corio and Lara area so you might have seen her face around. Tejana joined the Lara branch two months ago but prior to joining the Lara team, Tejana was working in education and youth work. Outside of work Tejana spends her time around the theatre scene, travelling the world and spending time with her two fur babies. Tejana is loving her time getting to know all the customers and is always happy to have a chat when you come in. She is excited to get out and involved in the local community groups.



Anakie Primary School – Our most recent grant with Anakie Primary School was to fund a magnificent nature play space. This inviting space will allow students to explore, create and play as well as enhancing their connection to culture and country. We can't wait to visit the school and see this new space in person.



The 2nd Lara Scout Group provide many adventures for children and youth and having a reliable and portable trailer is essential for them to keep having these amazing experiences! We funded a tandem trailer for the group which holds a range of equipment to take to activities or hold fundraisers.



Further Study Scholarship Program – Our scholarship program is now in its fourth year, and to date we have awarded scholarships to ten recipients to help cover the costs of university or TAFE study. Recipients have undertaken university courses including Education, Social Work, Sport Science, Science, Psychology and Commerce, while TAFE students have studied Visual Arts, Auslan and Veterinary Studies. Earlier this year, we caught up with some of the students over coffee and look forward to seeing where their studies take them next.



The Lara Big Band has only been in existence for a couple of years, but what an impact they are making. From only 4-6 members when first formed, they now have 24 members and have played at notable festivals such as The Port Fairy Jazz Festival and have regular gigs booked. Our recent grant funded rhythm equipment which not only elevates the band's performance but is important in being accessible and ergonomic for musicians to use.

Our community impact

We aim to be the bank of choice for Lara and district and a leader in our community. Banking is our business but community is our purpose in Lara.



\$3.7 million
Reinvested from
2009 to now



\$450,300
Reinvested in
2025/26



100+
Groups supported
since 2009

Our next Community Investment Program round will open in August.
Contact mail@ldce.com.au for more information



**Community
Investment Program**



Talk to us today



Kyna Woodford
Branch Manager
5282 6430
Kyna.Woodford
@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Mitch Austin
Customer Relationship Manager
5282 6430
Mitch.Austin
@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Josh Berry
Business Development Manager
0478 435 773

Community Bank · Lara District

5 Waverley Road, Lara VIC 3212

P 03 5282 6430

E laramailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/lara



[/LaraDistrictCommunityBankBranch](https://www.facebook.com/LaraDistrictCommunityBankBranch)



[/bendigocb_lara](https://www.instagram.com/bendigocb_lara)

We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

9.00am - 12 noon Saturday

Directors

Andrew Hilliard (Chair), Libby Bate (Deputy Chair),
Graeme Duff (Treasurer), Natalie Candy, Jurgen Strauss,
Charles Saliba, Sheyne Berry (Company Secretary,
Admin Support Officer)

Lara District Community Enterprise Limited
5 Waverley Road Lara Vic 3212
ABN 67 134 347 087

Branch news

Director Spotlight

Libby Bate OAM

Libby Bate OAM has lived in Lara since 1969 and has devoted decades to community service, leadership and volunteering.

A life member of the Lara Fire Brigade and CFA, she began with the Ladies Auxiliary, supporting fundraising, firefighter welfare and fire safety education.

Following her retirement from teaching in 2002, Libby became a long-standing President of the Lara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, helping establish much-loved community initiatives including Lara's Australia Day celebrations, Citizen of the Year Awards and the Lara Food and Wine Festival. She has also served the Anglican Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River and volunteered extensively at Avalon International Airshows.

Since 1978, Libby has supported Cancer After Care Geelong, later serving as President and helping raise more than \$4 million for cancer services. A founding board member of Community Bank Lara District, Libby is currently Deputy Chair and Convenor of the Community Investment Program committee.

She continues to champion grants, sponsorships and scholarships across Lara, Little River and Anakie and the Board value the passion, commitment and connection she has with our community.



Welcome back Josh!

We are excited to welcome

Josh back to the Lara branch. Josh grew up in Lara and started his banking career with us as a trainee back in 2022. He moved through different roles with us, and then more recently at the Highton branch. Josh returns to us in the role of

Business Development Manager. Josh says about his new role, "While my primary focus will be on our home lending services—helping our customers navigate the path to homeownership—I will also be a highly visible presence out in the community. I am passionate about being accessible and dedicated to deepening relationships with all of our Bendigo Bank customers, no matter their banking needs."

When he's not working, Josh enjoys all things sport, especially football and hiking, travelling and spending time with his two adorable fur babies.

