

Community Investment Program

Community Bank · Lara District

Community Bank Lara District currently hold bi-annual application rounds for not-for-profit community groups to apply for grants or sponsorships. We are proud to support groups with projects and sponsorship which clearly show a community benefit to align with our strategic vision of cultivating a vibrant, connected, innovative and caring Lara District community.

To date, Community Bank Lara District has shared \$3 million of our profits with over 100 groups within the Lara, Little River and Anakie

district. These groups fall within the categories of health and wellbeing, educational, environmental, sporting and recreation, emergency services, arts and culture and community facilities and infrastructure. We have also worked closely with the City of Greater Geelong on infra-structure projects, with other Geelong Community Banks on the Barwon Health Foundation Kid's Rehabilitation Centre and also contributed to Barwon Health's Project North dental facility to support projects which positively benefit people within our community.



2023/24 grant and sponsorship recipients

Grant, Sponsorship or donation?

Grant: A sum of money received by an organisation for a specific purpose. There is an expectation of a commercial benefit being returned to the Enterprise in the form of promotional activities as listed in the application form.

Sponsorship: The purchase of tangible potential rights and benefits associated with an event, group or organisation, which results in increased brand awareness, communication of key messages and increased customer base for the Enterprise.

Minor Sponsorship: for sponsorship requests up to a maximum of \$2,500

Donation: Free money given with no perceived benefits to the Enterprise.

Funding decisions

The Community Investment Program (CIP) committee review the applications and make recommendations to the Board on which projects to fund. As such, the Board's decision to approve, decline or approve partial funding, will be final. At times, the Board may wish to use funds which are held in trust by the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF). If applications are to be funded from this source, the applicants may need to provide additional information or engage the support of a project partner to secure their funding.

Our expectations of applicants

- Keep us informed. If there is a delay or change to your project, we like to know about it
- Demonstrate a willingness to be a positive advocate to enhance our profile and encourage members to be their bank of choice
- Authorise us to promote our sponsorship and/or support of your group within internal and external marketing, including social media
- Complete all required acquittals within 30 days of completion of your grant project/sponsorship
- Obtain Board approval for use of our logos, naming conventions and press releases within your own promotion of our support
- Stay in contact – invite us to see completed projects or to group events, share our posts and tag us on Facebook @CommunityBankLaraDistrict



Eligibility Criteria

- A representative from your group/ organisation must attend the grant/ sponsorship information evening to apply in the corresponding round
- contributions should enhance and promote infrastructure, services and development within the community
- be non-political
- be allocated to organisations who are preferably Community Bank Lara District customers, or are willing to move their banking business to Community Bank Lara District
- applicants should be incorporated, either as associations or companies and be able to demonstrate an appropriate level of fiscal responsibility
- where the project involves the purchase of a specific items of equipment or erection of a specific facility, the applicant must provide means of attaching the Enterprise's signage acknowledging the contribution of the Bank
- projects must have a definite starting and completion date

We are unable to consider any application which fall into the below categories:

- take place outside of the Lara District unless it clearly demonstrates direct benefits for the community members in our district
- support any activity that is political or sectarian in nature
- is for the sole benefit of an individual
- is commercial in nature
- events or programs that denigrate, exclude or offend minority groups
- events that create environmental hazards
- programs that may represent a hazard to the community
- programs sponsored by competitor banks, brokers and financial institutions
- third party funding
- wages/administration costs for an ongoing or long-term position

Scholarships

Community Bank Lara District also offer three forms of scholarships:

- University/TAFE scholarships – one university and one TAFE scholarship is awarded each year. University scholarships cover a 3 year period, while the TAFE scholarships are over 2 years.
- Sports Equity Scholarships – these scholarships are submitted at the discretion of a sporting groups committee for an individual. Maximum amount of funding is \$250 per applicant which can be used to cover items such as membership fees or uniform
- Sporting Excellence Scholarship: up to \$2,500 awarded to students who demonstrate excellence in a sporting field with an opportunity to compete at a national or international level. Applications must be submitted via student's school or sporting club

More information and eligibility criteria for our scholarships can be found at:
<https://communitybanklara.smartygrants.com.au/>



Testimonials

“ These guys really know where to invest their profits, and it certainly isn't into a shiny corporate office! They would much rather return their profits back into their local community and you can really see the results right around the Lara District!

If you want to bank with a big bank that actually cares about the community that they are a part of, then we would highly recommend popping in to see the amazing team at the Community Bank Lara District. ”

Marcus – Lara RSL Sub-branch

“ As an emerging community group, the support we have received from the community has been incredible. The bank's role – over and above our grant – in giving us a performance opportunity and promoting our work on their social media, has truly helped us to build a profile which in turn has attracted more musicians and performance opportunities. Thank you for being a valued partner to us. ”

Cam – Lara Big Band

How to apply

- Follow our social pages or contact mail@ldce.com.au for when applications will open
- Attend our information evening to receive access to the application form
- Read through our CIP guidelines to ensure your project meets eligibility guidelines
- Have a clear idea of your project. Please make sure you include a budget, quotes, current financial statements and documents to support your application such as photos or support letters where applicable

Assistance with the process and application

For information on round dates or to discuss projects, please contact:

Sheyne Berry

M: 0426 197 702 (business hours)

E: mail@ldce.com.au

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

www.bendigobank.com.au/lara

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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.



\$3.4 million

Reinvested in Lara and district since 2009



\$500,000

Reinvested in 2024/25



108

Groups supported since 2009

Groups supported

Lara Combined Churches
Lions Club of Lara
Lara Heritage & Historical Society
Lara & District Men's Shed
Holy Trinity Parish
Mittagong Girl Guides
Lara RSL
Little River Historical Society
St Anthony's Church
Lara Food & Wine Festival
Anakie House
2nd Lara Scout Group
Australia Day Breakfast
Barwon Health Foundation
Rotary Club of Lara District
Lara Legends Cycling Group
Little Teapot Café & Play
Lara Chamber of Commerce
Balliang Hall
Lara CWA
Little River Mechanic's Institute & Free Library
Lara Community Centre
Wandarrah Arts & Crafts Group
Lara Lifestyle Village
Austrian Club
L2P Driving Program
German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria
Little River Sporting Centre
Lions Club of Little River
Friend In Me Charity

Lara Tennis Club
Lara Bowling Club
Lara Swimming Club
Friends of Elcho Park
Lara Golf Club
Lara Baseball Club
Lara Latte Cycling Group
Lara United Football Club
Riki Martial Arts
Lara Giants Basketball Club
Lara Cricket Club
Anakie Football Netball Club
Lara Sporting Club
Lara Fun Run
Lara Football Netball Club
Junior Quarter Midgets
North Geelong Warriors Football Club
Little River & District Pony Club
Lara Runners
Geelong Rams Rugby Union Club
You Yangs Mountain Bike Club
Lara Little Athletics Club
Anakie CFA
Lara CFA
Balliang CFA
Little River Fire Brigade
Corio/Lara SES
Little River Primary School
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Lara Lake Primary School

Lara Secondary College
Lara Primary School
Anakie Primary School
Lara Kindergarten
TLC Group
Friends of Serendip Sanctuary
Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk
Mt Rothwell Landcare Volunteers
Little River Community Landcare Group
Lara Community Garden & Arts Precinct
Geelong Kettlebell Sports Association
Combined Probus Group of Lara
Geelong Pool Club
Wombat's Wish
Geelong Youth Engagement Program
Aikijujutsu Australia
Lara Big Band
Larinda Calisthenics
Hope Bereavement Centre Geelong
Little River Cricket Club
Bluestone Community Hub
Croatian Cultural Association
Christmas in Lara
Geelong Arts Centre
Lara Lake Helping Hands
Lara Lake Community Pre-School
North Geelong Community Women's Shed
Lifeway Christian Church
Bowl For Your Lives

