

Winter  
2026

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Monbulk & District



## Strengthening community connection in Monbulk



Monbulk & District Community Enterprises Ltd is proud to introduce our **Community Development Advisor**, a role dedicated to strengthening the connections that make our region such a vibrant and resilient place to live.

Many in the community will already know Aimee through her long involvement with Community Bank Monbulk & District since

its establishment in 2012, and this new role builds on that deep local commitment. Focused entirely on community impact, the position brings people and organisations together, township groups, community services, churches, aged care providers and volunteers to ensure our community's needs are understood, supported and championed.

A key part of this work is fostering deeper collaboration across the region. The Community Development Advisor will support local organisations to coordinate efforts, share resources, and develop new initiatives that respond to local needs. This includes identifying opportunities for grassroots projects, securing external funding, and helping to deliver long term social, economic and wellbeing outcomes. Through strong partnerships and transparent engagement, the role will help build a more connected and future ready community.

This investment reflects our commitment to a thriving Monbulk, one where collaboration is strong, community voices are heard, and local initiatives can grow with confidence. By supporting new projects, strengthening relationships and building local capacity, the Community Development Advisor will help ensure our region continues to flourish. Together, we are laying the foundations for a community that is not only connected today, but resilient, empowered and ready for the future.

## Community BBQ

Our monthly free community sausage sizzles continue to be a crowd favourite, and our BBQ is always a welcome addition at local events. These simple, back-to-basics moments create a relaxed space to connect with our community – giving us the chance to have genuine conversations, build relationships, and share how we're making a positive difference locally.



# A winter welcome from your Community Bank



As the crisp winter air settles in across our beautiful Hills community, it's a great time to pause, reflect and reconnect with what matters most – each other. It has been a period of immense activity and connection, and I am delighted to share some of the highlights with you in this Winter edition of our newsletter.

At Community Bank Monbulk & District, winter is often a time where we see the true strength of our community shine through. The first half of this year has been a whirlwind of community activity, and a true testament to the power of what we can achieve together.

It feels like just yesterday we were partnering and attending the Australia Day Breakfast with the Rotary Club of Monbulk & District, and since then, we've had the pleasure of being involved in so many wonderful local events. We were proud to support and attend the season launches for both the Monbulk Football Netball Club and the Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club, and it was a joy to be on hand to present medals to the children who attended the Monbulk Mini Bash program. From cheering on the Hawks as their season got underway to admiring the amazing vehicles at the Monbulk Car Show, the energy has been incredible. It was also our privilege to once again support and attend Monbulk RSL's ANZAC Day dawn service and serve the gun-fire breakfast. Seeing our community come together for these diverse occasions is a powerful reminder of what makes Monbulk & District so special.

We are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to meet with and present, to our successful latest round of community funding recipients, and to also share our upcoming annual Community Night with many of you that are a members of local clubs, groups and schools that we support through our Tokens of Appreciation program. Our Community Night will be held on Tuesday 2 June at the Monbulk Recreation Reserve.

It's been a busy six months for our staff members too, including the recent arrival of Hannah's baby girl Mia Mae in February.

I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Hannah and her partner Matt, and the whole family. We are all so happy for them and wish them all the best on this exciting new journey.

I am also thrilled to welcome two new faces to our Monbulk branch team: Mark Davenport, our new Business Development Manager, and Alison Wills-Pettitt, our new Customer Relationship Officer. Both Mark and Alison bring a wealth of knowledge to their roles, each with many years of dedicated experience within Bendigo Bank. They are passionate about providing the personalised service our community deserves and are eager to assist you with everything from your day-to-day banking and customer service questions to your home and personal lending needs. Please join us in giving them a warm Monbulk welcome when you next visit the branch.

Underpinning all of our community contributions is our unique 'profit for purpose' model, which is the very foundation of our existence. We are incredibly proud that this commitment has earned us official recognition as a certified social enterprise. This means that a significant portion of the profits generated from your banking is reinvested directly back into the Monbulk & District community. Every time you choose to bank with us – whether for a home loan, a savings account, or your daily transactions – you are actively contributing to a powerful cycle of local investment. These are the funds that enable us to sponsor the local footy club, support school fetes, and invest in projects that make our district a better place for everyone.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our customers and shareholders for your unwavering support. It is your loyalty that allows us to continue to give back and make a real difference in the lives of our friends, families, and neighbours.

I hope you enjoy reading about our recent endeavours in this newsletter. We are excited about what the rest of 2026 holds and look forward to continuing to work alongside you to build an even stronger Monbulk & District Community.

Stay warm and well,

**Bec Turpin**  
Branch Operations Manager

# Welcome to new staff members Mark and Alison

Mark has more than 20 years of experience in the banking sector, encompassing a broad range of areas including retail and commercial lending. His extensive knowledge enables him to effectively assist clients in finding tailored lending solutions for their personal needs.



Outside of work, Mark is passionate about Men's Health and Wellness, particularly for those 40+ and he is an advocate for more open conversations around this important topic. When he's not in the branch you will likely find Mark involved in Rugby Union, a sport he has been passionate about all his life.

Whether your lending needs are straightforward or more complex, Mark's got you covered. Get in touch today. Call Mark on 0493 434 062 or mark.davenport@bendigoadelaide.com.au

Alison says, "As a returning staff member, I am delighted to be back working within the wonderful Community of Monbulk and District.



Having lived and worked for nearly 20 years in Monbulk it feels like coming home. My three children attended local schools and sporting groups as they grew up, hence making this a cherished place for me.

The close-knit community of Monbulk and District is what makes it so special and unique. I look forward to greeting and assisting you all again with your banking needs."

## Supporting Inclusion at Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club

Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club was a recent recipient of our Community Funding Program, using the grant to purchase lightweight, accessible equipment for its members.



The club has shared that this support has played an important role in fostering greater social cohesion by increasing participation across all groups within the community. By providing more accessible equipment, Monbulk Rangers has created a more inclusive environment where members—regardless of age, gender, or ability—feel welcome and supported.

These improvements have not only enhanced the experience for current players but have also encouraged new members to join, strengthening community connections through shared involvement in sport. In particular, the introduction of lightweight equipment has enabled more women, girls, and people living with disabilities to actively participate in training, games, and broader club activities.

The result is a more inclusive and welcoming club environment, where confidence is growing, connections are strengthening, and everyone has the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from being part of the team.

# Community Discovery Day

In April a wide range of community groups from across our local area came together to showcase everything our town has to offer at the Monbulk Discovery Day, organised by volunteers from our township group MADCOW and proudly supported by Community Bank Monbulk & District.

It was wonderful to see locals wandering through, chatting with club members, and discovering the many opportunities to get involved.

The day wasn't just about connecting with the community – it was also a great chance for our local groups to come together, share ideas, learn from one another, and highlight the incredible work they do, all under one roof.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and made the day such a success. Our community truly shines when we come together.



## Expanding access to lifesaving defibrillators

We're proud to be playing a role in expanding the number of publicly accessible defibrillators across our community. These devices are vital in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, where every second counts. Having a defibrillator nearby—and knowing where to find it—can significantly increase the chances of survival before emergency services arrive.

Access to defibrillators in convenient, well-known locations helps create a safer community for everyone. Whether at local clubs, schools, or community hubs, these devices provide reassurance that help is close at hand when it's needed most.

We'd like to sincerely thank Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club, Sylvan Glades Retirement Village and Monbulk College who have jumped on board to host a defibrillator at their site. Local organisations supporting this initiative is helping build a stronger, more prepared community.



## Congratulations Hannah

Baby news for the Community Bank Monbulk & District family: our staff member Hannah and her partner Matt welcomed their little girl, Mia, on 26 February weighing 7lb 1oz.

Wishing Hannah, Matt and their family every happiness as they begin this special new chapter together!



## Groups supported in 2026

- 1st Kallista Scouts
- 1st Monbulk Scouts
- Christmas Decorations Group Monbulk
- CWA Monbulk
- Emerald Monbulk Wildlife Shelter
- Kallista Primary School
- Kallista Village Inc
- Kallista-The Patch Fire Brigade
- Macclesfield Primary School
- MADCOW
- Monbulk & District Men's Shed
- Monbulk Bowling Club
- Monbulk College
- Monbulk Cricket Club
- Monbulk Emergency Relief Fund (MERF)
- Monbulk Fire & Rescue (CFA)
- Monbulk Girl Guides
- Monbulk Historical Society
- Monbulk Junior Football Club
- Monbulk Landcare
- Monbulk Marlins Swimming Club
- Monbulk Netball Club
- Monbulk Pony Club
- Monbulk Pre-school
- Monbulk Primary School
- Monbulk Produce Market
- Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club
- Monbulk RSL Sub Branch
- Monbulk Senior Football Club
- Monbulk Table Tennis Club
- Monbulk Tennis Club
- Mums of the Hills (MoTH's)
- Open Door Community Care - Op Shop
- Open Door Community Care - Pantry
- Rescue Logs Inc
- Rotary Club of Monbulk & District
- Sherbrooke Lyrebird Study Group
- St Paul's Primary School
- Sylvan Glades Retirement Village
- The Patch Primary School
- Trek Learning Centre
- Tribe Youth Monbulk

# What is Community Banking?

Community banking is banking with a purpose. Your everyday banking helps deliver real benefits back into our community. A portion of profits is reinvested into local clubs, schools, and projects that make our town a better place to live, work, and connect.



**Business for good**

Monbulk & District Community Enterprises Ltd, the owner of the franchise of Community Bank Monbulk & District is a certified Social Enterprise. A social enterprise is a business that exists to make a positive difference in the community, not just a profit. It operates like a traditional business, but profits are reinvested back into social, environmental, or community causes.

This means your banking doesn't just support you – it supports the people, places, and groups that matter most in our community.

## Talk to us today



**Bec Turpin**  
Branch Operations Manager  
**9752 1130**  
Bec.turpin@  
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/communitybankmonbulkdistrict



/community\_bank\_monbulk

### We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

### Directors

Leo Koelewyn, Peter D'Abico, Jennifer Nash, Stephen McDonald, Kellie Clay, Rita Hughes, Simon Yates, Paul Utting

Monbulk & District Community Enterprises Limited  
70 Main Road, Monbulk VIC 3793  
ABN 76 146 945 959

## Ways we support our community

We're proud to support our local community through a range of funding opportunities and initiatives.

Our Community Funding Program runs twice a year, in April and September, offering local clubs, groups and schools the chance to apply for financial support for events, projects and initiatives that benefit our community.

In addition, our in-branch Tokens of Appreciation wall provides another way to give back. Every time our customers bank with us, they can choose to allocate tokens to support a local club, group or school.

All local organisations are represented on the wall, and each year the tokens are counted, with funds distributed accordingly—ensuring ongoing support reaches a wide range of community groups.

We'd love to chat – drop into the branch and speak with our team to learn more about how your group can get involved in our community funding initiatives.



# Mark's bigger for getting you moving.

Whether you're looking to refinance, invest in a new property, or check your repayments, talk to Mark about your home loan needs.

**Mark Davenport**  
Business Development  
Manager  
Yarra Ranges  
☎ 0493 434 062



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**Bendigo Bank**  
The better big bank

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