

Spring
2025

Newsletter

Community Bank · Mt Gambier & District



Mt Gambier Support Group of Royal Flying Doctor Service

The Mount Gambier Support Group of the Royal Flying Doctor Service is celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. We are thrilled to donate \$30,000 funding to the Support Group. This dedicated group puts in countless hours to raise funds and awareness for the RFDS, ensuring this vital service continues to support our community.

The RFDS has touched the lives of many of our staff and Directors, with family members relying on its care and support over the years. We believe this is an invaluable partnership to continue, helping to ensure the service can keep making a difference in our community.



Story Dogs

We love supporting local education initiatives through our community grants program, especially Story Dogs! Story Dogs Australia is a not-for-profit reading support program that help make reading fun for primary school children.

There are 14 volunteers and dogs across the Limestone Coast that provide the program to local schools. We provided \$1,600 funding for Story Dog Carlee to be part of the program at Glenburnie Primary School.

A message from our Chair

To our valued community,

Welcome to our 2025 newsletter.

Our Community Bank has performed well again this year. In our current changing environment, the Board regularly analyses our financial situation, to ensure we fulfil our responsibilities. We recognise your key role as our shareholders and thank you for your support.

We have provided a dividend this year to our shareholders of a final fully franked dividend of 10 cents per share.

Our strong performance is due to the leadership of our Branch Manager, Emma Horrigan, who gives so much to our branch. Emma brings knowledge, experience, but most of all, that elusive and important talent for a community bank manager, of building relationships with people from across the community.

Thank you to the dedicated work of staff, who are part of our community and provide exemplary customer service, as our feedback surveys consistently show. We are a high performing branch that can deliver great services and make a profit that benefits our shareholders and our community. The Board Directors recognise that when staff and the Board Directors pull in the same direction, we can achieve at a level that is recognised as excellent.

We have now provided over \$1.5 million in financial support for community initiatives and projects. We are also delighted to continue and grow a partnership that has been in place for a number of years with the Mount Gambier Support Group of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. To recognise that the Royal Flying Doctor Service has been providing invaluable services in our region for 30 years, we are donating \$30,000 to the local group. I think we have all been touched by this service or know someone who has been.

This is what makes our Community Bank special – we give back to our shareholders and to our community and we see this as a critical factor in our company. In addition, we have the benefit of being part of a national, highly respected Bendigo Bank brand, and can therefore provide a wide range of quality products to our customers.

I encourage all of you to help spread our story and promote our branch with friends and neighbours, because a stronger Community Bank can do more for our community.

Helen Strickland
Chair



Scholarship for local students

In 2025 we awarded four \$6,000 scholarships to local students for our Community Bank Mount Gambier & District scholarship program!

St Martins Lutheran College students Shae Delaney (studying a Bachelor of Law at the University of Adelaide) and Remy Duckworth (studying a Bachelor of Dental Sciences at La Trobe University) and Tenison Woods College student Sophie Wrightson (double degree of Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Finance & Banking at the University of Adelaide) were awarded the School Leavers' scholarship. Claire Hunter (Bachelor of Oral Health at University of Adelaide) was awarded the Open Scholarship.

The scholarships are provided to a first-time tertiary student to supplement their study costs (such as such as residential college accommodation and textbooks) in their first year of higher education. Applications for our 2026 program are now open – find out more at <https://communitybankmountgambier.smartygrants.com.au/>



West Gambier Netball Club

In 2022 after nearly two decades of saving and fundraising, the West Gambier Netball Club was able to resurface all courts and expand to three courts. This year we provided \$3,500 funding towards the installation of three shelter sheds on their third court, which can finally provide protection from the elements for teams and officials and a dry space for gear.



LCFA Uniforms

We provided \$5,000 funding to the Limestone Coast Football Association junior players for new uniforms! Representative teams headed to Adelaide for the State Championships were very proud of their new strips.

Mount Gambier & District Pony Club

The Mount Gambier & District Pony Club have undertaken a huge project of replacing their dated and damaged yards with new steel yards, which now provides a safe environment for the horses and members. We were very proud to provide \$10,000 towards their horse yard redevelopment project through our grants program.



Talk to us today



Emma Horrigan
Branch Manager



Julia Paech
Branch Operations Manager



Jenny Dobie
Customer Relationship Manager



Adam Jones
Customer Relationship Officer



Abdullah Kamara
Customer Relationship Manager



Kristy McKinnon
Customer Relationship Officer



Alisha Stephens
Customer Relationship Officer



Anita Gerritsen
Customer Service Officer



Janet Walters
Customer Service Officer



Dulashini Ganepola
Customer Service Officer

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We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Directors

Helen Strickland, Anne Eitzen, Rodney Summers, Barbara Munt, Mark Fullford, Francis Wilcox, John Millhouse, Helen Carlson, Lance Pedlow

Mount Gambier & District Financial Services Limited
16 James Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290
ABN 42 096 059 997

Does your club or organisation have a project planned that will have a positive impact on our community?

Are you looking for some funding for a community project or event? Applications are now open at our online grants application hub:

<https://communitybankmountgambier.smartygrants.com.au/>

If you would like to discuss your idea before you apply, double check eligibility terms or don't know if you should apply for a grant or a sponsorship, contact info.mgdfs@gmail.com.

Staff news



We warmly welcome our new staff members Julia and Dulashini! Julia has joined our team as our Branch Operations Manager, and Dulashini is our new Customer Service Officer. Drop by the branch and say hi!

You're invited

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th November
6.30pm, Wulanda Centre

Community Bank
Mt Gambier &
District