

Spring
2026

Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Martha



Volunteer week

Community Bank Mount Martha had the privilege of attending The Bays Hospital Volunteer Recognition Week Morning Tea — a special opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary people who quietly give their time, kindness and compassion to others.

During the morning, The Bays CEO Jade described the hospital as having “unicorn status” — something truly rare and special. Looking around the room, hearing the stories shared and witnessing the dedication of its volunteers, it was easy to understand exactly what she meant.

It was incredibly moving to recognize volunteers receiving five, 10 and even 15 years of service. Years spent showing up for others. Years of offering comfort, reassurance and kindness — often to people experiencing some of the most vulnerable and difficult moments of their lives.

These milestones represent so much more than years volunteered. They represent thousands of quiet acts of generosity, compassion and human connection.

Hospitals are places we often turn to in times of uncertainty, fear and need. As a community, we are incredibly fortunate to have somewhere as special as The Bays — a place that not only delivers exceptional care, but where warmth, dignity and genuine compassion are so deeply felt.

To every volunteer at The Bays, thank you. Thank you for the time you give, the comfort you provide and the difference you make to patients, families and our broader community.

You help make The Bays the special place it is, and our community is better because of you.



From banking locally to giving locally

Community Bank Mount Martha was established on a simple idea: when a community supports its local bank, part of that success can be returned to the community that made it possible.

Every account opened, every home or business loan and every customer who chooses to bank locally contributes to our ability to invest back into the place we all call home.

Over the past 15 years, that has grown into more than \$2 million in community contributions.

But perhaps the real story isn't the number.

It's the fresh food placed into the hands of a family doing it tough.

It's making sure someone struggling with their mental health knows where they can turn for help.

It's helping our local hospital access equipment to care for patients close to home.

It's a rescue boat ready to respond when someone needs help on the water.

And it's the hundreds of volunteers and community-minded people behind these organisations who take that support and turn it into something much bigger.

Something bigger than banking

Our Stronger Community presentation night gives us an opportunity not only to provide funding, but to celebrate those people.

They are the volunteers, healthcare workers, community leaders, coaches, fundraisers and everyday locals who quietly give their time and energy to make life better for someone else.

Community Bank Mount Martha is incredibly proud to stand behind them.

And none of this happens without our customers.

Every account. Every loan. Every conversation. They have all played a part.

When you choose to bank locally, you're helping us continue to support the organisations doing extraordinary things right here in our own backyard.

Fifteen years. More than \$2 million returned.

And countless local lives touched along the way.

Thank you, Mt Martha. We're proud to be part of something bigger than banking.



Community impact



\$263.6 million

Community Bank Mount Martha footings as at 30 June 2026



3,885

Local Mount Martha customers at 30 June 2026



\$426,028

Reinvested to Mount Martha in 2025-26



12

Directors working for Mount Martha as at 30 June 2026

Director and staff donations

Narelle: Mount Martha Life Saving Club

Narelle, our Senior Customer Service Officer, has chosen to donate her \$1,000 staff contribution this year to the Mount Martha Life Saving Club. Narelle and her family have been proud members of the club for 12 years, during which she has seen firsthand the vital role it plays in our community.

Through its Nippers and Seniors Programs, the club helps young people build essential water safety knowledge, confidence and basic lifesaving skills while learning about being safe down at the beach.



These young participants can go on to become qualified surf lifesavers who are a familiar sight on our beaches each summer in their red and yellow, providing patrols, preventing accidents, and performing rescues when needed. Last year alone, 30% of visitors to the Peninsula attended Mt Martha beach, where club lifesavers carried out 1,310 preventative actions (up from 699), nine rescues and patrolled a total of 4,801 hours.

Club President John Harvey expressed his gratitude for Narelle's support, noting that the funds will be put to very good use.

Narelle and Community Bank Mount Martha are proud to stand behind an organization that strengthens safety, community spirit, and the wellbeing of everyone who enjoys our beautiful coastline.

Martin: Speak and Share

This year Martin chose to give his Directors Donation to Speak and Share.



The three founders of this non-for-profit recognized a growing need for support during the COVID lockdowns as mental health challenges became increasingly prevalent for many people.

Since then, Speak and Share has continued

to make a meaningful impact through programs delivered in schools, workplaces and sporting clubs, encouraging open conversations and promoting their powerful message: "A problem shared is a problem halved."

By helping break down the stigma that can still surround mental health struggles, they are creating safer spaces for people to speak up, connect and seek support when they need it most.

Thank you Speak and Share for all you do for our community.

Jen: Mornington Mt Martha Model Railway Club

Back in May 2025 as part of our Staff donation program, Jen donated to the Mornington Mount Martha Model Railway club. With some of the funds the group were able to purchase a long-awaited ship for their Dock area.



The ship had come out from America and when it arrived was just plain white. After many hours of delicate work, the ship was painted and began to come to life.

Jen was very humbled when she was told the ship was to be named the JEN DENMAN after herself as gratitude for the donation.

Thanks so much to the group for having us down for the launching with a miniature bottle of Champagne to christen the ship.

Tara: Southern Peninsula Cancer Transport Group

This year, Tara chose to donate her Director's Donation of \$1,000 to the Southern Peninsula Cancer Transport Group in honor of her dad, who sadly passed away from cancer last year.



Throughout a cancer journey, there are so many moments that can feel overwhelming — appointments, treatments, long days and the emotional toll that comes with it all. Organizations like Southern Peninsula Cancer Transport Group provide more than just transport. They provide companionship, kindness, reassurance and support during what can often be some of the hardest days in a person's life.

Entirely volunteer-run and not-for-profit, this incredible organization helps transport local patients to and from treatment, easing some of the burden for both patients and their families.

Sometimes, it's not only the practical support that matters most, but simply knowing someone is there beside you.

In honor of Tara's Dad, She is incredibly proud to support an organization that brings comfort, care and connection to so many people within our community during difficult times.

Thank you to all of the volunteers for the compassion and generosity you show every single day.

More than \$2 million returned to the Mt Martha community

It started with a community coming together.

Fifteen years later, that same spirit has helped Community Bank Mount Martha return more than \$2 million to the local community — supporting the organisations, volunteers and initiatives working every day to make our community stronger.

That spirit was celebrated recently at the 2025/2026 Mt Martha Stronger Community program presentation night, bringing together some of the remarkable local organisations receiving funding this year.

And behind every grant is a very real story of community impact.

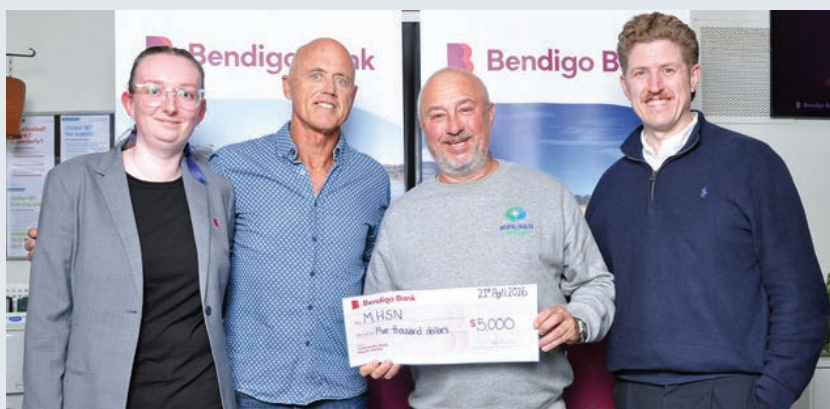
This year's funding includes \$20,000 for Mornington Community Support Centre's Fresh Food Program, helping provide fresh, nutritious food to local people and families experiencing hardship.

A further \$5,000 will support Mental Health Safety Net, helping fund suicide prevention and community support booklets designed to connect people with potentially life-saving information and services when they need them most.

At The Bays Healthcare Group, a \$10,000 contribution towards a new colonoscope will support the hospital in continuing to provide important diagnostic and preventative healthcare to our local community.

And on our waters, Mornington Yacht Club will receive \$10,000 towards a new MYC rescue boat, helping provide greater safety and support for those enjoying one of the things our coastal community loves most.

These are just a handful of the organisations and projects supported through this year's program, but together they demonstrate just how far the impact of community banking can reach.



Grassroots football

There's something pretty special about junior footy on a winter's morning. The frost is still on the ground, the BBQ is already firing, volunteers are setting up before the first bounce, and excited young players are pulling on their boots ready for a day with their teammates.

Recently, Community Bank Mount Martha spent the day at South Mornington Junior Football Club, presenting Community Bank Mount Martha Coaches Awards across a number of games and experiencing first-hand the incredible community spirit that exists throughout the club.

While it was wonderful to celebrate some standout performances on the field, what stood out most was everything happening around it. The volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes, the coaches giving up their time, the families cheering from the sidelines and the friendships being built each week.

Established in 1970, South Mornington Junior Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, with a record 371 registered players taking the field in 2026, including a record 56 girls. The club now fields 18 teams across boys, girls and mixed competitions, while almost 150 young footballers take part in Auskick each Saturday morning.

Behind every game is an army of volunteers. From coaches, assistant coaches and team managers to trainers, runners, umpires, canteen helpers and committee members, close to 200 volunteers help make game days possible every week. Their commitment creates opportunities for hundreds of local children to learn, grow, build friendships and be part of something bigger than themselves.

Community Bank Mount Martha is proud to support South Mornington Junior Football Club and the volunteers, families and players who continue to make it such an important part of our community.

Thank you for welcoming us to be part of a fantastic day of grassroots football, community spirit and plenty of smiling faces on a crisp winter's morning.



Business breakfast

Over breakfast recently, local business owners, community leaders and banking representatives gathered to hear from Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Chief Economist David Robertson and discuss the issues shaping our economy.

From interest rates and inflation to the broader economic outlook, attendees were given practical insights into the challenges and opportunities facing businesses and households in the year ahead.

What made the morning particularly valuable wasn't just the presentation itself, but the conversations that followed. Bringing local people together to learn, connect and share ideas is an important part of building a strong and resilient community.

At Community Bank Mount Martha, we're proud to facilitate events that provide access to expert knowledge while creating opportunities for local businesses and community organizations to connect with one another.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a fantastic morning of conversation, learning and community connection.





Talk to us today



Stacey Wakeman
Branch Manager
5974 4518 or 0407 778 737
Stacey.Wakeman@
bendigoadelaide.com.au

Community Bank • Mount Martha

Shop 6, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue,
Mount Martha VIC 3934

P 5974 4518

E mountmarthamailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/mount-martha

 /communitybankmountmartha

We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

Directors

Bruce Ranken (Chair), Matt Forsyth (Treasurer),
John Schubert (Secretary), Colin Forsyth, Martyn Baker,
Shane Pope, Charles Smitheram, Philip Fitzpatrick,
Jennifer Spicer, Tammy Coady, Tara Perkin.

Mount Martha Community Enterprises Ltd
Shop 6, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue,
Mount Martha VIC 3934
ABN 25 142 190 949

Biggest morning tea

On 28 May we hosted another Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea; this being our 10th year hosting. The branch was a hub of activity with many in our community popping in for a cuppa and cake. We are delighted to announce that we raised \$2,995.37 this year and in the 10 years of hosting, we have now raised \$27,854.53 towards this worthy cause. Many thanks to the 37 local businesses who collected donations, donated items for our raffled hampers and tasty treats for our morning tea. A special thanks to Fergus and the team at Warlimont & Nutt who put on a BBQ sausage sizzle to support us in raising funds; raising \$1121.82 towards this figure. Another example of the good we do in the community

