



# Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Martha

## Branch Manager's update

Summer is here, and while we look forward to enjoying the warmer days, we are also looking ahead to what promises to be a big and exciting year in 2026. Momentum continues to build across our community with our third round of the Stronger Community Grant Program set to close in mid-January. These grants provide valuable opportunities to support local initiatives and projects that make a genuine difference where we live.

With continued growth, our team will also be expanding in 2026. Now is an ideal time to review your banking needs and ensure you are well supported for the year ahead.

### Thanks to you!

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our customers. By banking locally, you help us continue to invest in initiatives that make Mount Martha and the wider Mornington Peninsula such a great place to live.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to everything 2026 will bring.

**Stacey Wakeman**  
Branch Manager

## Peninsula Awards Night – Community Impact Award

On Thursday 9 October 2025, the Mornington Peninsula Region held its annual Awards Night, where Community Bank Mount Martha proudly received its first Community Impact Award.

When presenting the award, Regional Manager Helen De Ross said:

“Congratulations on your Community Impact Award. You are doing a great job, and I absolutely love your project with The Bays.”

The nomination highlighted how far the branch has come and noted that this significant new project is only possible due to the income the branch is now able to return to the community. Among many sporting and not-for-profit sponsorships, Community Bank Mount Martha has committed \$600,000 towards The Bays' new Cancer Centre – a contribution that will have a profound impact by allowing local patients to access latest in diagnostic, treatment and support services closer to home.

Congratulations to John Schubert, the Marketing Committee, and everyone connected with Community Bank Mount Martha – especially our customers – on this well-deserved recognition.



# Community engagement highlights

- Mooroooduc CFA Fundraiser:** On 18 October: several team members and our Business Banker Amanda attended the CFA's annual fundraiser, supporting this vital local service. The team walked away with some great sports memorabilia after many successful auction bids!
- Fusion Gala Dinner:** Held at Cape Schanck RACV Resort, the evening raised important funds for Fusion Mornington Peninsula. We are proud long-term supporters of Fusion's impactful work across the region and are looking forward to seeing all their amazing plans progress in the new year.
- Mornington Yacht Club Season Opener:** Stacey and Jen attended the club's 80th season celebrations. The room was filled to the brim with members and guests, some amazing costumes even added to the fun of the day.
- Story Dogs:** Benny popped into branch to say hello to the Community Bank Mount Martha team. We have been proud sponsors of Story Dogs since 2017. Story Dogs helps over 2,870 children every week to become confident lifelong readers.



## Shares available now

Did you know you can become an owner in Mount Martha Community Enterprises Ltd? The company which operates our locally owned Community Bank Mount Martha. Contact John find out more via email: [admin@mmcel.com.au](mailto:admin@mmcel.com.au)

From top: Mornington Yacht Club Season Opener. Mooroooduc CFA Fundraiser. Fusion Gala Dinner. Story dogs visit in branch.

## Community impact



**\$259.03 million**

Community Bank Mount Martha footings as at 30 June 2025



**3,906**

Local Mount Martha customers at 30 June 2025



**\$420,078**

Reinvested to Mount Martha in 2024-25.



**11**

Volunteer Directors working for Mount Martha

# Director and staff donations



## Chipmunks By The Bay Early Learning

As Directors of Community Bank Mount Martha, Colin and Matt Forsyth are strong advocates for giving back to their community that supports local families and future generations. When they became aware that Chipmunks by the Bay Early Learning Centre was seeking funding to upgrade its outdoor play equipment and nursery high chairs, they were pleased to support a cause close to their hearts. The centre is attended by Matt's son and Colin's grandson, giving them firsthand insight into the high-quality care and nurturing environment provided by the educators.

In recognition of the dedication shown by the team and the positive impact the centre has on young children, Colin and Matt each donated \$1,000 to assist with these improvements. Their contribution supports the creation of a safe, engaging space where children can continue to learn, play, and thrive.

The donation was warmly received by Centre Director, Kathie Servetas, who expressed her appreciation for the support. Colin also had the opportunity to visit the centre on Grandparents' Day, where photos were taken of the newly installed outdoor home-corner furniture and the new wooden highchairs, which have replaced outdated plastic versions. This initiative reflects a shared belief that investing in early childhood education helps build a stronger, more connected community – starting with its youngest members who bring so much energy and promise to every day.

Staff donations this year also supported:

## Peninsula Parkinson's Peer Support Group

The Peninsula Parkinson's Peer Support Group provides a supportive and inclusive environment for people living with Parkinson's disease, as well as their carers and supporters. The group is dedicated to education, wellbeing, and staying active, and meets monthly at the Mount Martha Community House. Each meeting features a guest speaker, with topics ranging from occupational therapy and physiotherapy to broader health and lifestyle support.

Earlier this year, Narelle from our branch generously contributed her \$1,000 staff donation to support the group's ongoing activities. Founding members Ken Wall and Phillip Hancorne advised that part of the donation would be used to host an afternoon tea at one of their monthly meetings, recognising the important role carers play in supporting people living with Parkinson's.

Narelle was later invited to attend the afternoon tea, which featured a Halloween theme. She shared that it was a pleasure to be included in the event, enjoy a coffee and treats with members, and help raise awareness of a group that now supports more than 200 members across the Peninsula.

## Community Kinder Plus Mount Martha

Bronwyn Sanford, our Board Minute Secretary, chose Community Kinder Plus Mount Martha, based at Community House Mount Martha, as the recipient of her staff donation. Bronwyn's grandson, Banks, attends the Kinder, and like many grandparents, she enjoys helping with pick-up duties.

When Bronwyn spoke with Kim, the teacher at the Kinder, about a possible \$500 staff donation, Kim was thrilled and suggested using the funds to purchase new Tonka trucks for the children. The exciting news was shared during their recent Family Art Show and Dance.

Photos of the Tonka trucks will be shared once they have been purchased. We sincerely thank our community members who bank with Community Bank Mount Martha, enabling us to support groups like Community Kinder Plus Mount Martha. These contributions reflect our shared belief that supporting people at every stage of life strengthens the whole community.



## Annual General Meeting

On 12 November, shareholders, staff, and Directors came together for our Annual General Meeting, held at a new venue. We were lucky to have Ben from Mornington Community Support Centre & Rob from the L2P program bring down the food van and training car. We thank the Mornington Yacht Club for hosting us.

## Annual Report 2025

Mount Martha Community Enterprises Ltd

Community Bank  
Mount Martha  
ABN 25 162 190 547

# Community celebrations and milestones

We were delighted to attend and support many local milestones, including:

## Mount Martha Tennis Club's 50th Anniversary

On Sunday 16 November, Mount Martha Tennis Club celebrated its first 50 years. With over 600 members and 400 kids playing tennis, Mount Martha Tennis Club is currently in a very strong position. It was great to see nine of the Club's 10 Life Members in attendance joining in the celebrations.

Thank you Mount Martha Tennis Club for allowing Gary Sanford our Community Liaison Officer to say a few words on our sponsorship and engagements with the Club. We wish the Club every success in the future and its next 50 years!

## The Bays Hospital AGM

The Bays Hospital & Dialysis held its 2025 Annual General Meeting at Alexandra Park, Mornington, on Thursday, 20 November. Attendees were provided with an overview of the exceptional medical care being delivered, as well as the strong community engagement and support that underpin the hospital's work.

Highlights shared included the opening of the Cancer Support Centre earlier this year and the outstanding services now provided by ICON – offering care that was previously unavailable on the Mornington Peninsula.

Community Bank Mount Martha was proudly acknowledged for its \$600,000 contribution to the Community Bank Mount Martha Wellness Centre, which allows all services at the Centre to be offered free of charge to users. We congratulate Bays Hospital for the vital services it provides to our community and for partnering with us to continue supporting those who need it most.

## Mornington–Mount Martha Model Railway Club's 50-Year Anniversary Open Day

On Sunday 30 November our Directors Martyn Baker, Tara Perkin and John Schubert, along with Branch Manager, Stacey Wakeman attended the Mornington – Mount Martha Model Railway 50 Year Anniversary Open day at Mount Martha Community House.

Martyn said; "I spent an hour and a half at the Mornington – Mount Martha Model Railway Open Day, which hundreds of people attended, including many children, which was great to see"

We highly recommend to go and see this display, which includes several Community Bank Mount Martha sights.

## Mount Martha Carols by the Bay

One of the biggest crowds attended Mount Martha Carols by the Bay on Tuesday 23 December 2025. The weather was kind this year and everyone had a great time.

Hundreds of children not only enjoyed the carols, but had fun with the age old tradition of sliding down the banks on cardboard. Congratulations and thank you to the Mount Martha Combined Churches who organise this event, which we proudly sponsor every year. Thank you for allowing our Community Liaison Officer, Gary Sanford to say a few words on behalf of our Board, shareholders, staff and customers, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

## Community Bank Mount Martha Supporting Health Initiatives

On Saturday 29 November 2025, Community Bank Mount Martha proudly supported three important health-related organisations and events.

Amye Tebbutt, Home Loan Lending Specialist, contributed her \$1,000 staff donation to the Mount Martha Cricket Club's Ladies Day, which raised funds for Breast Foot Forward. The cause is particularly meaningful to Amye, who lost her grandmother to cancer earlier this year. Directors Jenny Eickmeyer and Tara Perkin, along with Company Minute Secretary Bronwyn Sanford, also attended the event to show their support.

The Mount Martha Bowls & Pétanque Social Club hosted a Mental Health Day in support of "It's OK, Not to Be OK," with Community Liaison Officer Gary Sanford attending and delivering a few words to the group.

The third event was organised by Mount Martha Uniting Church for White Ribbon Day of Action. Michael Simmons, founder of Men's Health Safety Net, was among the guest speakers, an organisation we recently supported through their Charity Golf Day. Directors Phillip Fitzpatrick, Tara Perkin, and John Schubert attended, with Phillip delivering a short address on behalf of the Bank.

Community Bank Mount Martha customers make it possible for us to support these initiatives and many others simply by banking with us. We thank our community for their ongoing support.



## New Director Tara



Tara Perkin has lived on the Mornington Peninsula all her life and has called Mount Martha home for the past 32 years. She has enjoyed a long career in customer service, with experience at Virgin Australia Airlines and, more recently, the 000 Ambulance Service. Today, she and her husband run a dedicated EV charging solutions company, reflecting their shared passion for sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Tara is deeply committed to the local community, both as a resident and as a parent raising her three daughters by the beach. She actively supports initiatives that strengthen community connections, promote education, and protect the natural environment that makes the Peninsula so special.

She is honoured to join the Board of Community Bank Mount Martha, both to continue her late father's legacy as a former Board member and to bring the perspective of a young parent and active community member. Tara looks forward to contributing her experience, energy, and dedication to supporting local projects and helping the Bank continue its important role in enriching the lives of families across Mount Martha.

## Supporting Major Community Projects

During the 2024/25 financial year, we were proud to support several other impactful initiatives, including:

- A new Mitsubishi for the MPSC L2P Learner Driver Program, servicing Mount Martha, Mornington and Moorooduc
- A partnership with the Rotary Club of Mornington, with a combined \$40,000 contribution towards a new delivery van for the Mornington Community Support Centre's Fresh Food Program

These projects demonstrate the positive role your local Community Bank plays in strengthening our region.



## New Staff member Danni

### Welcome Danni!

#### Why did you apply?

I came into the branch with my son and said I would love to work here; it feels so welcoming – and then a position came up the following week and knew I had to apply. Bendigo Bank had always appealed to me the way they work with the community and offer all your banking needs.



#### What do you love about Mount Martha?

I have grown up in Mount Martha area and love that it still has the friendly, look after each other feel.

#### What do you do outside of work?

Outside of work I love exploring the Peninsula with my husband finding new places to eat and in the new year finding new walking tracks.

Community Bank  
Mount Martha

# Small town. Big bank.

Everything you need,  
right here

We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

Feel good about who you bank with. Try Bendigo.

Find out more. Call 5974 4518 or search Bendigo Bank Mount Martha.

Home loans

Accounts

Credit cards

Personal loans

Business

Insurance

Travel and  
International

Investing

Agribusiness

**B** Bendigo Bank

All lending products are subject to the Bank's normal lending criteria. Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply and may be varied at any time. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1455028 OUT\_45283861 28/05/2025

# Amye knows banking

If you need help with yours, you need to meet Amye.

Amye shares her knowledge of banking so you can achieve what you want from life.

**If you need help with your banking, call Amye, Customer relationship manager on 0359 744 518 or search Bendigo Bank Mount Martha.**



**B** Bendigo Bank

Mount Martha

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1415949 OUT\_48334629 21/01/2026

## 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  
**f** /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

## Celebrating 10 Years of Service – Stacey Wakeman



On 5 October, we proudly celebrated Stacey Wakeman's 10 years of service with Community Bank Mount Martha.

Stacey began her journey with the bank as a Customer Relationship Officer on a nine-month contract. Through her dedication, professionalism, and genuine commitment to customers and community, she has progressed to the role of Branch Manager, where she continues to lead with integrity and care.

Stacey is widely respected for her strong leadership, deep local knowledge, and unwavering support of both customers and staff. She plays a vital role in fostering the culture of service and community connection that defines our branch. Stacey's contribution over the past decade has been instrumental to our success, and she is truly a valued asset to Community Bank Mount Martha.

Congratulations and thank you Stacey for your outstanding service.

**B** Bendigo Bank

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. (BNPNL06799) (01/26)