

Summer  
2023-24

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Martha



## Mt Martha Stronger Community Grants

In June this year Mornington Salvation Army received \$20,000 in the first round of Mount Martha Stronger Community Grant for the installation of a new kitchenette.

Debbie Taylor, Corps Officer Mornington Salvo's said, "Mornington Salvo's want to express their appreciation for the funding we received for our community kitchenette. We are delighted with the result of finally having plumbing and water in this area! Many groups come through our building on a weekly basis and already having the kitchen in this location has been very beneficial. Thanks Community Bank Mount Martha for your support to us and to the wider community. Call in sometime for a coffee!"

Thank you to all our customers at Community Bank Mount Martha – your banking is making these great initiatives possible. If you want to find out more about



how the Community Bank Model works, please drop into Community Bank Mount Martha at Shop 6, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue, Mount Martha and have a chat to any of the staff. Or contact Gary Sanford Community Liaison Officer on 0409 194 314.

## Welcome to our newest team member Katy



**Why did you apply?** I have a keen interest in the financial world and love the community branch feel and the support for the local community, being \$1,000,000 is amazing and something I want to contribute to with the wonderful team here at Community Bank Mount Martha.

**What do you love about Mount Martha?** The community spirit, village feel, I love the beach and beach boxes, which remind me of Brighton in the UK

where I once lived. I love working in and getting to know the community where my husband grew up.

**What you do when your not at work?** My fur child Sean the Miniature cavoodle loves a walk and the beach also. Since relocating from Port Douglas my husband Adam and I have been exploring the national parks, local restaurants and I love catching up with friends going to the theatre, music or sporting events and look forward to visiting more sights in the warmer months ahead.



## Chairman's report

Welcome to 2024, and our summer additional of the Community Bank Mount Martha Summer Newsletter.

In November 2023, Community Bank Mount Martha held its Annual General Meeting, with a great turnout (pictured above are our Board Directors).

Nicholas Roberts OAM handed down the 2023 Annual Report to the shareholders noting a fantastic year had been achieved.

The Shareholders ratified the appointments of our two newest Directors – Philip Fitzpatrick and Charles Smitherman, along with the reappointments of Nicholas Roberts, Colin Forsyth, and myself, Bruce Ranken.

After 13 years of leading the Community Bank Mount Martha Board, Nicholas Roberts stood down as Chair, however, remains on the Board for a further 12 months as Past Chair. With the Board and shareholders support, I have now some very big shoes to fill – I am very excited about what 2024 holds for our community.

We said, "Thank you" and farewell again (second time) to Kerry Debernardi in late January 2024, Kerry joined the bank as Manager and retired in 2019, when the Board appointed Gary Sanford. Kerry accepted a nine-month contract role as Amanda Davidson took maternity leave mid last year.

We welcome back Amanda Davidson after her maternity leave. Amanda has also changed roles and is the communities Home Loan Specialist – please reach out to Amanda to do a health check on any of your loans.

As a Board we also would like to acknowledge Amanda's service with Bendigo Bank (although not all with Mount Martha). Amanda has been with the bank for 15 years – congratulations Amanda!

Narelle Lear – your branch's Senior Customer Service Officer has also reached a significant milestone of 10 years with the branch in February – congratulations Narelle.

We look forward to welcoming you and servicing your needs into 2024.

A big thank you to all the team, staff and Board members for a great year in 2023 and looking forward to an exciting 2024.

Regards

**Bruce Ranken**  
Chair

## New Director

Hello everyone, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joy Ball, I am a relationship counsellor and proud business owner on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula. For many years, I have been dedicated to helping individuals and couples navigate through the ups and downs of their relationships, and I am grateful to have built an established business that serves our community.



I am excited to share that I have recently been appointed as a new Board member for our Community Bank. As someone who is passionate about supporting our community's wellbeing, I am looking forward to utilising my expertise and knowledge in this new role. I am committed to making a positive impact and contributing to the growth and success of our community.

With my background in counselling and business, I bring a unique perspective to the table and I am confident that I can make a valuable contribution to the bank's operations. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working alongside my fellow board members to serve our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support, I am excited for what the future holds. Let's continue to strive for growth and success together.

## Projex J supporting our community



Projex J Limited was born out of Chantelle Ross's unimaginable pain and unwavering support she received from her community following Jamerson Ross, her son's tragic demise in a hit and run incident.

Determined to turn her grief into something positive Chantelle has embarked on a mission to create a system of care and support that fills the void for those navigating the difficult path of bereavement.

Projex J aims to raise funds to provide crucial resources to those mourning the loss of their loved ones, particularly to those on the Morning Peninsula where there is little current support available.

As a staff member of Community Bank Mount Martha, Kerry Debernardi used his staff donation allocation of \$1,000 to assist his very worthwhile cause. It is with thanks to community minded groups like Community Bank Mount Martha in providing financial support which will make this mission possible.





## Manager's report

It's been a whirlwind the last six months! I have been very lucky to be able to work alongside Kerry again while he has been back in the business for the last nine months. The team have loved having you here workshopping and having a set of fresh eyes. We wish you all the luck in your second retirement.

We have also welcomed Katy to the branch as our Customer Service Officer. Katy has made a great impression on our customers getting great feedback from day one. If you haven't met Katy yet please drop in and say hi.

In early January we welcomed Amanda back from maternity leave and she is your local Home Lending Specialist – give her a call today!

I was lucky to spend some time out in the community attending some pretty special events while Gary took some annual leave. Opening of the Mount Martha Yacht Club Season, South Mornington Football Club Presentation night and cutting the ribbon at Janets Garden opening just to name a few.

As at the end of December our footings sat at \$227,131,000 – this was made up of deposits \$129,112,000 and lending \$96,465,000, plus other business of \$1,554,000. Unfortunately lending has taken quite a hit YTD mainly due to the current interest rate climate. Now has never been a better time to have us review your home loan call the branch today and make an appointment 03 5974 4518.

The first six months of the financial year has seen our community contributions hit \$1,000,000 something the board and the branch are very proud to have been a part of.

**Stacey Wakeman**  
Branch Manager

## Balcombe Pre-School

Each year Community Bank Mount Martha offers their staff the opportunity to donate \$1,000 to a Not-For-Profit Community Group they have a connection or association with. Our Senior Customer Service officer Narelle Lear has this year chosen Balcombe Pre-School. Balcombe Preschool is a community-focused and parent-run preschool based in Mt Martha. Narelle's three children all attended this kinder, and she has had a long association with the kinder and knows many of the staff who are still working at the kinder some 20 years on from when her first child started. Narelle thought it was timely to donate to this community group as she, like many in our community, is aware of the struggles the kinder faced early this year and how important it is having local kindergartens.



In January, just four days out from the start of the new year, the school received notification that due to some issues being found within its buildings, the programs would have to be cancelled. The then school president Dan Steele said, "We had no building, no kinder site, no program, and no back up space". But thanks to local community support, particularly from Mount Martha Primary School and Community Kinders Plus at Mount Martha House hosting the preschool students and supporting staff, within a two-week window the kinder kids were relocated, and the kids only missed two weeks at the very beginning of the term. The kinder volunteers, parents and the staff, and of course the wider community rolled up their sleeves and helped the kinder continue to provide this vital service.

Dan said, "it turned an emergency relocation into a community building event that made the kinder committee, families and staff closer and connected".

This story really resonated with Narelle, as she is passionate about supporting her community and loves working for a Community Bank. The Community Bank concept was developed to provide communities with banking services and access to funding. Whether revitalising a local shopping strip, directing profits to community projects, or supporting schools, charities and sporting clubs, Community Bank branches continue to prove that many hands make light work. Just by doing something as simple as your banking, the same things happen in our local Mount Martha community; just like the branch supporting Balcombe Pre-School. Narelle said, "the more people that support us by bringing their banking, loans and insurances etc to us, the more we can support our community".

Balcombe Pre-School staff and past president were thrilled to accept the cheque from Narelle. The funds will go towards providing a new carpentry table for woodwork and water trough for water play!

## Large crowd at 2023 Carols by the Bay

Not even the restricted space with works being done at Mt Martha Tennis Club could stop a large crowd gathering for the 2023 Carol by the Bay at Mt Martha on Saturday 23 December 2023.

Grandparents, Mums and Dads and a large number of children all enjoyed the evening from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. A large number of children gathered together when Santa arrived on our local Mt Martha Fire Brigade truck.

Community Bank Mount Martha was represented by Gary Sanford, on stage with two of his grandchildren to congratulate the organisers of another successful Carols by the Bay as the Major Sponsor of the event. Gary also advised everyone 2023 has been a big year for Community Bank Mount Martha passing \$1,000,000 back into the local community, including \$450,000 back to 40 plus local community groups this year.

On behalf of staff and the Board of Directors he wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and he looked forward to what 2024 might bring.

Community Bank · Mount Martha

# Meet Amanda Your local home lending specialist

Introduce yourself

If you need help with your banking,  
call Amanda on 0359 744 518 or  
search Bendigo Bank Mount Martha

 **Bendigo Bank**



## 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

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[bendigobank.com.au/mount-martha](http://bendigobank.com.au/mount-martha)

 /communitybankmountmartha

### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

### Directors

Bruce Rankin (Chair), Nick Roberts (Vice Chair),  
Matt Forsyth (Treasurer), John Schubert (Secretary),  
Colin Forsyth, Martyn Baker, Shane Pope,  
Charles Smitheram, Philip Fitzpatrick

Mount Martha Community Enterprises Ltd

Shop 6, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue,

Mount Martha VIC 3934

ABN 25 142 190 949

## Mt Martha Life Saving Club hold Sponsor Information Night

Gary Sanford, Community Liaison Officer and John Schubert, Chair, Marketing Committee of Community Bank Mount Martha attended a meet and greet with other sponsors of MMLSC on Tuesday 12 December 2023.

In June this year Community Bank Mount Martha funded the purchase of a side by side vehicle/utility task vehicle, which is now up and running.



Gary and John participated in a brainstorming exercise with other sponsors in attendance on sponsorship and what sponsors would like to see as part of any funding. Some really good ideas were put forward, which MMLSC now have ideas to work on.

Thank you to all our customers at Community Bank Mount Martha – your banking is really having an impact on the prosperity of our local community.

## Piggy in the community!

Piggy is pictured outside our branch with Board Directors. Where will Piggy be seen next?

