

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Martha



## Chair's welcome

The following is an abridged version of an address given by Chairman Nick Roberts OAM to the recipients of the Community Bank Mount Martha first Community Grants presentations held at the Mt Martha Life Saving Club on Tuesday 18 April.

Community is an amazing organism. Those of you who have watched Sir David Attenborough's many wonderful programs will readily recognise how successful communities that work together can be and how divisive communities that do not work together inevitably are.

Tonight, is an example of how communities and in particular our community here at Mount Martha can be successful by working together.

Each and every one of you in your own way work towards the benefit of our community and I see here in the front row representatives of our Mt Martha Fire Brigade and I recall the challenge of the 1.00 am call to which all of the volunteers readily respond.

Late in 2009 the NAB decided that it's branch in Mount Martha upon which our community had become so dependent was no longer profitable and decided that it should close.

Almost immediately after the announcement of the closure was made the Mount Martha Traders Association stepped up, took over the lease of the two shops in Bay Road that the NAB was vacating, paid the rent and supported the formation of a steering committee with a view to establishing a Community Bank.

The community stepped up and within a month or so a steering committee was formed and set about the challenging task of persuading the Bendigo Bank as it then was that Mount Martha was a suitable site for a Community Bank.

After much persuasion and heartburn on the part of the members of the steering committee the Bendigo Bank agreed, but made it a condition of granting approval that the community raise \$1 million in seed capital.

A company was formed, Mount Martha Community Enterprises Ltd and the community stepped up and the \$1 million was relatively quickly raised with about 350 community minded citizens purchasing shares. A Board of Directors representing the Mt Martha community was appointed.

Fergus Nutt who I see sitting over there stepped up and said, "whilst you're getting started you can use my office as a temporary branch". That worked well. The Bank is very indebted to Fergus for that early support.

The Bank ultimately opened in April 2011 with the Board believing that it was going to be easy, and that large profits would quickly be made for the benefit of the community. In fact, only a few months after the opening a meeting was called of local citizens to seek community input as to how then Bank could best use its anticipated profits for the benefit of our community.

Well things didn't quite go so well and for the first five years the Board struggled and were it not for the support given by the Bendigo Bank would have given it away.

But with community support things progressively improved. ▶

## ◀ Chair's welcome (continued)

Kerry Debernardi, who I see sitting over there, came to us from Bendigo's Mornington branch and I have to say was the catalyst that saw the Community Bank edge towards profitability.

Upon Kerry's retirement this man over here Gary Sanford, who I often say approaches his job with a religious fervour, stepped up and has guided the Bank to the point where now 12 years in we are able to come to you hard-working supporters of our community groups and distribute \$250,000 in Community Grants.

Ladies and gentlemen that is what community is all about. That is what we can achieve if communities work together and if our community supports its Community Bank.

I am confident that tonight is not the last of these nights and that as each year passes future greater and greater community contributions will be made by the Bank.

But only if our community works together and supports the Bank.

I have now pleasure in handing over to Gary Sanford who will present the grants to each of the community groups represented here tonight.

That is intended to recognise the contribution which each and every one of you makes to our community in your own special and individual way

Thank you.

**Nick Roberts**  
Chairman



## Fusion Gala Dinner

Gary Sanford, Community Bank Mount Martha Branch Manager attended the Fusion Gala Dinner on Saturday night 1 April 2023, along with all the branch staff and several partners. Nick Roberts and his partner Sandra also attended.

Community Bank Mt Martha was the Naming Rights sponsor of the event. Gary spoke about how the sponsorship for this annual event had grown from, \$2,500 the previous two years to \$10,000 this year. He also mentioned the annual support of the Fusion "Sleep in your Car" fundraiser, which the Board donates \$2,000 per annum, plus \$500 for each staff member that participates, ending up in a \$4,500 funding. Also, at its March Board meeting a Scholarship of \$8,000 was approved for a past youth resident of who had commenced a University Degree this year.







## Manager's report

As of 31 March 2023, we have seen continued growth in our business and community engagements.

The Mt Martha Stronger Community Grants closed on 18 January 2023, which saw 21 applications for the \$250,000 budgeted for this project. This provided engagement with these not-for-profit groups, which in turn generated more people finding out about the Community Bank model.

We continued operating with the following opening hours:

Monday to Thursday; 9.30am to 4.00pm and Friday: 9.30am to 5.00pm

As of 31 March 2023, we have experienced the following growth:

	30 June 2022	30 September 2022	31 December 2022	31 March 2023
Footings	\$225.72 M	\$232.58 M	\$237.45 M	\$247.37 M
Deposits:	\$134.55 M	\$134.12 M	\$139.63 M	\$141.87 M
Lending:	\$90.30 M	\$97.47 M	\$96.70 M	\$104.43 M
Other facilities:	\$0.87 M	\$0.99 M	\$1.12 M	\$1.07 M

That's a growth of \$21.65 million YTD (9.59%), which is a great result, and we are fast approaching the \$250 million milestone.

Funding for local not-for-profit groups has continued to grow with the 2022 financial year reaching \$113,000. Year to date we have funded \$162,678 to local community groups with our budget increased to \$200,000 for this financial year.

On top of this, a local Consultation Committee was formed, made up of Greg Hunt, retired politician, Kerry Debernardi, previous Community Bank Mount Martha Branch Manager, Fergus Nutt, Warlimont & Nutt Real Estate owner and Dan Force, Via Batista owner. Prior to the Committee reviewing the 21 Grant applications the Board approved to move one of the applications to a three-year sponsorship agreement:

Mt Martha Life Saving Club accepted a three-year sponsorship agreement for a new beach buggy vehicle at a cost of \$40,000 approx. \$20,000 will be funded in June 2023 and two x \$10,000 amounts funded in June 2024 and June 2025.

This left the Committee to allocate the \$250,000 to all 20 applications, which ranged from \$2,500 to several \$20,000 amounts, all for capital works initiatives in our area. A Grants Presentation Night was held at Mt Martha Life Saving Club on Tuesday 18th April 2023, where approx. 60 local volunteers attended from the 20 recipient Groups.

Our community funding has grown from \$35,000 in 2020, \$80,000 in 2021 and \$113,000 in 2022. Year to date we have funded \$162,678, with expectation that this will reach \$200,000, plus the \$250,000 Grants that all must be funded by 20 June 2023. This year we will fund back to our local community more than \$450,000, which is an amazing achievement.

This shows the strength of the Community Bank model in how the local customers can influence the local community's prosperity. Thank you to every customer that banks at Community Bank Mount Martha, you can see what impact this is having.

**Gary Sanford**  
Branch Manager

## Community impact



**\$247.37 million**

Community Bank Mount Martha footings as at 31 March 2023



**3,166**

Local Mount Martha customers at 30 December 2022



**\$113,000**

Reinvested to Mount Martha in 2021-22. Budget for 2022-23 is \$180,000.



**9**

Volunteer Directors working for Mount Martha

## Shares now Available

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)



## Welcome new Directors

### Charles Adam Smitheram

Charles has over 30 years' experience as a senior manager in corporate finance, treasury and investor relations for ASX listed companies. He also spent several years as a Director and company secretary of a family owned residential and commercial property development company. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University and is a Certified Finance and Treasury Professional. Charles moved to Mount Eliza in 2005 and since then has been active on management committees for kindergartens, schools and children's sporting clubs in the Mount Eliza area.



### Philip Fitzpatrick

Philip is an 18 year resident of Mount Martha and has worked around the world as a quantity surveyor and builder. Philip has been involved with many not-for-profit organisations promoting young people in the construction industry and working with homeless charities to find real solutions.



Philip has three adult children living in Mount Martha and eight grandchildren attending local schools. Philip is the author of two best-selling construction books with a third scheduled for release this year.

## Talk to us today



**Gary Sanford**  
Branch Manager  
**5974 4518 or 0409 194 314**  
[gary.sanford2@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:gary.sanford2@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank · Mount Martha

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

 [/communitybankmountmartha](https://www.facebook.com/communitybankmountmartha)

### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday  
9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

### Directors

Nick Roberts (Chairman), Matt Forsyth (Treasurer),  
John Schubert (Secretary), Bruce Rankin, 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



Community Bank  
Mount Martha

**BANK  
LOCAL**

## Big on products. Big on service.

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

As one of Australia's biggest banks, our heartland remains firmly local. As does our focus on you and the quality banking products you need.

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

 **Bendigo Bank**

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