



## Bushfire disaster appeal

On 3 January Bendigo Bank, in partnership with the Salvation Army, launched our Bushfire Disaster Appeal to help communities affected by the devastating bushfires. The appeal is run through the bank's Community Enterprise Foundation.

By 28 January the appeal had raised over \$30 million dollars. One hundred percent of funds raised are being directed to fire-affected communities across the country.

In Victoria, through Bendigo Bank's partnership with Emergency Management Victoria, the Victorian Government also helped direct the public to it as a credible donation point.

"The financial support generated by the Bushfire Disaster Appeal will be just the first step in a long road to recovery for these communities. We stand ready to support and assist them in the weeks, months and years to come. Funds are just one ingredient for recovery, but an essential one," said Alexandra Gartmann from Bendigo Bank.

Funds from the appeal have been hitting the ground. By late January the first allocation of \$5.35 million had been distributed.

Importantly, distribution decisions are being made in consultation

*Continued...*



Photo: DEWLP

## Summer activities

One of the great things about Mt Eliza and the Mornington Peninsula is the busy calendar of community events and activities on offer during the summer months. Here's a few of the local initiatives we've sponsored and supported with our volunteer team recently.

The annual Carols on the Green, held in mid-December, brings the Mt Eliza community together for an evening of music and Christmas cheer. We were delighted to sponsor the event again in 2019, and our volunteer team were on hand to support the Mt Eliza Chamber of Commerce with the event logistics. Highlights were the charming children's choirs from local primary schools, the Mornington Brass Band, and the visit from Santa Claus for the kids.

Rotary Mt Eliza organised the Australia Day free community BBQ on 26 January. It's always an enjoyable morning of music and celebration. There were kids activities, speeches from local representatives and the monthly Farmers' Market running on the same day. We were there helping the teams from Rotary and the markets to make it a success.

The Mt Eliza Farmers' Market is a popular monthly event we are proud to support. It runs on the fourth Sunday of every month and is an accredited Victorian Farmers' Market Association event. The market not only brings beautiful fresh food and produce to town, it allows shoppers to directly support local and regional farmers and producers. Our volunteers regularly lend a hand at the market information stall.

Commencing in early February, Mt Eliza Bowling Club's Community Bowls Challenge is on again. It is a fun, eight week competition designed for non-bowlers, and a great activity for business teams, community or sporting groups, families and friends. We're very proud to support it again this year. It's a great chance for local businesses and residents to get together and connect socially.

Again this year, we supported Equestrian Victoria's Barastoc Horse of the Year event in February. Our Customer Relationship Manager, Andrew attended and presented awards in a number of classes. With such a big local equestrian community, we're proud to sponsor it.

Above: Board member, Jo and Customer Service Officer, Bec with John Paterson from Rotary on Australia Day.

Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Limited PO Box 307, Mt Eliza VIC 3930 **ABN 18 139 499 326** **Directors:** Reagan Barry (Chairman), James Batty (Deputy Chairman), Robert Gauci (Treasurer), Alex Godfrey, Jo Horton, Peter Hutchinson, Carolyn Parker (Secretary), Greg Russo, Matthew Wilson.





BlazeAid volunteers rebuilding fences (Photo: Monique Satchell)

## Bushfire disaster appeal *(continued)*

with local communities in order to meet current and emerging needs such as:

- providing immediate relief (including funds to purchase fodder for livestock, vital infrastructure, and generators for essential power)
- rebuilding the social fabric of communities
- stimulating economic development, and
- improving social inclusion.

One of the most sought-after items on Kangaroo Island have been generators. They have been distributed to families and businesses for essential access to power. Generators were purchased locally, at Mitre 10 Kingscote, to help keep funds in the local economy.

We've also given funding to BlazeAid – a volunteer organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters. BlazeAid volunteers are rebuilding fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed. They now have funds to get on with this huge task.

Donations are assisting those who are no longer able to live in their home after the fires. Initial payments have been made to people to cover temporary accommodation costs. And in Victoria, we've funded Windermere Child and Family Services to support and counselling for families who have lost loved ones.



Generators have been supplied to residents and businesses on Kangaroo Island.

"From donations as small as \$2, up to \$2 million, Australians have been incredibly generous in supporting the appeal and we thank everyone for their support – from the kids emptying their piggy banks in our branches, to corporate and government partners such as United Petroleum, the Victorian Government, Crown Resorts and Provincial Home Living," said Alexandra Gartmann.

Disaster recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. Bendigo Bank and the Community Enterprise Foundation are in it for the long haul. As the disaster and its impacts unfold, we are committed to supporting communities in the months and years to come. And we look forward to keeping you posted on how the appeal funds are being put to use.

A big thank you to the hundreds of generous local people who were quick to donate in the first week of January. Our Mt Eliza staff were inundated with people making donations. We also thank the clubs and community groups who have been conducting fundraising activities to contribute to the appeal.

If you wish to, you can still donate via the Bendigo Bank website. Cash or cheque donations can also be made at any of our branches. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Follow our Facebook page (Mt Eliza Community Bank Branch) or visit [bendigobank.com.au](http://bendigobank.com.au) for regular updates on the Bushfire Disaster Appeal and the work that is being done by the Community Enterprise Foundation to distribute the funds.



## Our local board of Directors

Mt Eliza Community Bank Branch has a local board of directors who work with Bendigo Bank to run the branch and make decisions about our community contributions. Most of the Mt Eliza branch profits are returned to the Mt Eliza local community. These directors volunteer their time and professional skills in order to make a contribution. A big thank you to James, Greg, Carolyn, Peter, Jo, Matt and Rob (plus Alex and Reagan who are not pictured) for their hard work and passion for community development here in Mt Eliza.

## Community contributions

Mt Eliza Community Bank Branch has returned \$240,000 to the local community since it opened its doors in 2010. As our branch grows we have more capacity to invest in schools, clubs, community groups and local initiatives. We keep money here in our local economy, driving jobs and growth. We are committed to helping our community to stay healthy, vibrant and prosperous.



**Rotary Mt Eliza's  
Bark in the Park  
Dog Expo**

**29 March  
10am–2pm  
John Butler  
Reserve**



# Community Pitch news

At the Mt Eliza Community Pitch in August 2019 we teamed up with some generous local business partners (see below) to distribute \$40,000 to local community groups, clubs and initiatives.

Our 2019 Community Pitch recipients were: Mt Eliza Neighbourhood House, Mt Eliza Girl Guides, Peninsula Home Hospice, Mt Eliza Football-Netball Club, Mt Eliza Soccer Club, Dogs for Kids with Disabilities, Baxter Cricket Club, Overport Park Development Foundation, and Mornington Peninsula Legacy Club.

Here's an update from some of those groups, on how they've been putting the funds they received to good use.

- The Mt Eliza Girl Guides pitched their case and received funds to help improve the kitchen facilities in their little guide hall. In December their brand new kitchen was officially opened. Now the girls can cook up a storm and enjoy the learning activities.
- In October, Baxter Cricket Club held their first junior player mental health and wellbeing workshop. The session was run by the team from Headspace, Frankston and a crowd of children and parents attended. It was made possible by the funds they received at the 2019 Community Pitch, and more sessions are planned.
- Dogs for Kids with Disabilities welcomed two litters of puppies in late 2019. The Community Pitch funds have contributed to the food, immunisation and equipment these sweet puppies need to grow into highly-skilled assistance and therapy dogs.
- Mt Eliza Neighbourhood House launches its 'Welcome to Mt Eliza' website in early 2020 and printed information packs will follow. This initiative received funding at the Community Pitch, and it will provide information to help new local residents orientate to the community.
- Mornington Peninsula Legacy came to the Community Pitch looking for funds to help with their annual dependants with a disability respite holiday. The funds they received enabled them to take six participants and three qualified carers to Port Arlington for a much-needed weekend respite break in early February.

## Apply now for the 2020 Community Pitch

This year we have given a much wider window for organisations and community groups to apply for the Mt Eliza Community Pitch. Applications can be submitted from now until the closing deadline on 26 June 2020. Pick up an application form at our Mt Eliza branch, or download it from our website: [bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza](http://bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza) (Sponsorships and Grants link).

Get your application form in now and avoid the rush. We've already received a number of applications and are looking forward to the 2020 event. Please follow our Facebook page and keep an eye out in our Mt Eliza branch for information.



The Mt Eliza Girl Guides opened their new kitchen facilities in December.



Grant and Penny from Homes & Acreage with one of the Dogs for Kids puppies.



The team from Mornington Peninsula Legacy at the 2019 Community Pitch.

**Follow us on Facebook:**  
**Mt Eliza Community Bank Branch**

## Thank you to our 2019-20 Community Pitch partners



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## Great news for first home buyers

Bendigo Bank is proud to be a participating lender in the Australian Government's new First Home Loan Deposit Scheme initiative. Designed to help first home buyers purchase a property faster, the scheme lowers the deposit needed to take out a home loan.

The Australian Government, through the National Housing and Finance Investment Corporation will guarantee the difference between your deposit (of at least 5 percent) and 20 percent of the value of your home. This means first home buyers can enter the market sooner and be exempt from paying Lenders Mortgage Insurance, which can potentially save them thousands.

Learn more at: [bendigobank.com.au](http://bendigobank.com.au)

## Mt Eliza Community Bank Branch

89 Mt Eliza Way, Mt Eliza VIC 3930 | Phone: 9787 1224

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm

Website: [bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza](http://bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza)

Facebook: [facebook.com/mtelizacommunitybank](https://facebook.com/mtelizacommunitybank)



Director Matt and Piggy at the Carols on the Green in December 2019.



We were proud to support Equestrian Victoria's 2020 Barastoc Horse of the Year.

## Community contacts

### Chamber of Commerce

Trish Stamp 9787 5437  
[facebook.com/mtelizavillage](https://facebook.com/mtelizavillage)

### Lifeline

13 11 14

### Lions Club of Mt Eliza

Neil Wingrave 0428 362 755

### Mornington Peninsula Shire

Customer Service 1300 850 600  
[mornpen.vic.gov.au](http://mornpen.vic.gov.au)

### Mt Eliza Fire Brigade

Emergency: 000  
Station: 9787 2788  
Bush Fire Info Line: 1800 240 667

### Mt Eliza Men's Shed

Alex Anderson 0415 886 000  
[mountelizamensshed.org](http://mountelizamensshed.org)

### Neighbourhood House

90-100 Canadian Bay Road  
Mt Eliza VIC 3930  
Phone: 9787 8160  
[mountelizanh.com.au](http://mountelizanh.com.au)

### Rotary Club of Mt Eliza

Jim Young 0418 997 080  
[rotaryclubofmteliza.org.au](http://rotaryclubofmteliza.org.au)



### Fiona Parsons

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