

# Community News

## Community Bank · Mt Eliza

Welcome to this Summer edition where we highlight the ways Community Bank Mt Eliza is helping our customers and community to thrive.

Since 2010, our Bendigo Bank branch has been using its profit to support local not for profit community groups, clubs, schools and initiatives. We are proud to have returned over \$1 million in local contributions to the wider Mt Eliza area.

### A new bus port for Peninsula Transport Assist

There's a new bus port at Peninsula Transport Assist's depot in Baxter (pictured above), helping to protect their minibuses, and saving their volunteers hours washing the vehicles. We were delighted to help fund this new infrastructure. PTA's volunteer community transport services help transport-challenged local people get to appointments, do their shopping, or stay connected. Learn more at: [peninsulatransportassist.org](https://peninsulatransportassist.org)

### Student Support Program: update

We're making a significant investment to support the mental health, wellbeing and digital literacy of local students through our Student Support Program.

Over a three-year period, we'll invest \$250,000 in the health and wellbeing of local students through this initiative. Working with specialist partners, the aim is to help our schools deliver valuable extra curricular activities that set students up for success in life.

#### Inform & Empower program

We're extremely proud to be funding this ground-breaking digital wellbeing program at local primary schools. It teaches children about life in a digital world, how to navigate it, keep themselves safe online and look after their mental health in the process.

In 2025, the Inform & Empower program ran at Kunyung and Mt Eliza North primary schools with 1,277 students taking part. Parent information sessions have helped families get across the incoming social media ban for children, and understand and support their children to manage risks online.

Derinya and Mt Eliza primary schools commence the program in early 2026.



#### Speak & Share mental health workshops

In 2025, we funded 21 Speak & Share mental health workshops at five local secondary colleges, with 1,192 students taking part. After attending these workshops, 96% of students reported feeling more comfortable to now start a conversation with others about their mental health.

"Giving these students a space to reflect and share, has allowed them a safe space to be vulnerable and consider their values and the way they communicate with their peers. This was an incredible opportunity for our students and one that we are grateful they were able to experience," said the student mental health practitioner at Mount Erin College.



# We're backing our community.

## Mornington Lifesaving Club: congratulations Reagan!

We're long-term supporters of Mornington Life Saving Club. Their volunteers keep thousands of people safe on Mills Beach every Summer, and the club's popular Nippers program provides water safety education to hundreds of children. In January, one of the club's young members, Reagan Morel (pictured right with Mayor Anthony Marsh), was named Mornington Peninsula Shire's Young Citizen of the Year. It was a great accolade for a dedicated and impressive young volunteer.



## Supporting the 2026 Mt Eliza Swim Classic

The inaugural 2026 Mt Eliza Swim Classic was held in January. It's a new annual event on the Mornington Peninsula Summer calendar. Conditions were perfect on the day, and around 300 people took part in the 400m and 1200m ocean swim events at Ranelagh Beach. The performances by many junior swimmers were impressive. Thank you to the Ranelagh Club who hosted it, and the volunteers who made it such a great day. We were delighted to support it.



## A new rescue boat for Daveys Bay Yacht Club

We've helped Daveys Bay Yacht Club purchase a new inflatable rescue boat. This vessel supports their junior sailing programs, helping to keep participants safe, on Port Philip Bay. It is also used to support all other rescue and safety operations in the region. The IRB was christened by the club in late 2025, and helped to provide extra on-water safety at the Mt Eliza Swim Classic.



## Australia Day Community BBQ and defib donation

Every year Mt Eliza Rotary host the Australia Day Community BBQ, and we were proud to be a part of it again this year. It's great to see local families come together, enjoy a free sausage, and reflect. As part of it, we presented a new defib to Cr Stephen Batty (pictured right). It will be located in the Mt Eliza Village shopping precinct for easy access in an emergency. While we hope it never needs to be used, it's an important resource.

## Summer sport: we're backing local cricket

It's fantastic to see our local cricket clubs thriving, expanding their junior and womens programs and making a splash in the local competitions. We're backing five local clubs: Mt Eliza, Baxter, Baden Powell, Delacombe Park and Heatherhill—helping all of them to have a great Summer 2026 season.



Photo: Paul Churcher



# Over \$1 million reinvested.

## We're bigger for keeping it local

In 2024–25, we funded over 70 local community groups, clubs, schools and initiatives, distributing around \$300,000. Since 2010 we've reinvested over \$1 million here in our Frankston–Mt Eliza–Baxter–Mornington area.

Bendigo Bank has the products, services, technology and security you expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you need. So, If you're looking for better banking with a big local impact, there's a million reasons to choose Community Bank Mt Eliza.

**1 Million**  
**REASONS**  
*To bank with us*

## Is your teen starting their first job?

While it might only feel like months since you waved them off to their first day of school, getting a job teaches young people life skills and independence while earning their own money. Head to the Bendigo Bank blog for tips to help them manage their money. [bendigobank.com.au/blog](https://bendigobank.com.au/blog)



Photo: Neil Grant Jameson

## The Frankston Gift 2026

Again this year, we were proud to support the Frankston Athletic Club to host the Frankston Gift. It was held on 17 January at Kinetic Stadium. There were some fantastic performances by class athletes and plenty to inspire young competitors.

We love being part of what's known as the 'Bayside Trilogy' of Victorian athletics—the Rye, Frankston and Bayside Gift events—along with our Bendigo Bank colleagues in Rye and Parkdale who support their local events. It's a great illustration of how our network of Community Bank branches are backing community sport across our region.

**We've always been big on community. And because we share our profits, we're bigger for local organisations like these.**



## Supporting our firefighters and bushfire affected communities

In addition to our long-term support for the crew at Mt Eliza Fire Brigade/CFA, we've extended our help to Baxter Fire Brigade/CFA.

Our fireys protect and support our communities and we're here to ensure they have what they need.

Volunteers from both brigades had a busy Summer, taking part in bushfire fighting around the state, particularly at major bushfire events in January. Their members witnessed devastating scenes, including Victorians losing homes, livestock and in some cases entire communities.

Bendigo Bank launched its 2026 Bushfire Appeal in January raising well over \$450,000 to help affected communities. Thank you to everyone who made a donation here in our branch or online.

## Recent funding recipients

### Emergency and community support

Baxter Fire Brigade/CFA  
Mt Eliza Fire Brigade/CFA  
Mt Eliza Neighbourhood House  
Peninsula Transport Assist  
Rotary Mt Eliza

### Sport and recreation

Baden Powell Cricket Club  
Baxter Cricket Club  
Baxter Soccer Club  
Bruce Park Netball Club  
Daveys Bay Yacht Club  
Delacombe Park Cricket Club  
Frankston Athletics Club  
Frankston Districts Tigersharks AFL  
Masters Football Club  
Frankston Little Athletics Club  
Frankston Bombers Football Netball Club  
Frankston Dolphins Junior Football Club  
Frankston Dolphins Football Netball Club  
Frankston Football Club  
Mornington Life Saving Club  
Mornington Soccer Club  
Mt Eliza Bowling Club  
Mt Eliza Cricket Club  
Mt Eliza Soccer Club  
Mt Eliza Football Netball Club  
Mt Eliza Netball Club  
Mt Eliza Tennis Club  
Mt Eliza Girl Guides  
Mt Eliza Racing Team  
Old Peninsula Football Club  
Peninsula Flyers Swim Club  
Peninsula Strikers Junior FC  
1st Ranelagh Scout Group  
Ranelagh Club  
Somerville Junior Football Club  
The Village Baxter Bowls Club

### Arts, culture and heritage

Chamber of Commerce community events  
Derinya Art and Craft Exhibition  
Frankston Business Collective  
Mt Eliza Art and Design Show  
Peninsula Art Society  
PLOS Musical Productions  
RPP FM

### Education

Derinya Primary School  
Frankston High School  
Kunung Pre School  
Kunung Primary School  
Mt Eliza Primary School  
Mt Eliza Secondary College  
Mt Eliza North Primary School  
Mt Erin College  
Mornington Secondary College  
Walker's Road Pre School

### Health and wellbeing

Mornington Peninsula Legacy  
Mt Eliza Farmers' Market  
Probus clubs  
Project Fresh Start  
Speak and Share

### Animal welfare and environment

Mornington Obedience Dog Club  
Peninsula Cat Rescue





Big on banking.

# Bigger for keeping it local.

Talk to our team about your everyday banking, business and home loan needs.

Community Bank · Mt Eliza · 9787 1224

**Bendigo Bank**  
The better big bank

Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL / Australian Credit Licence 237879. (2057438-2272245) (12/25)

## Community contacts

**Lifeline** 13 11 14

**Lions Club of Mt Eliza** Neil Wingrave 0428 362 755

**Mornington Community Support Centre**  
5975 1644 | mcsc.au

**Mornington Peninsula Shire**  
Customer Service 1300 850 600  
mornpen.vic.gov.au

**Mt Eliza Chamber of Commerce**  
Sue Manson | manson sue@gmail.com  
facebook.com/mtelizavillage

**Mt Eliza Fire Brigade**  
Emergency: 000 | Station: 9787 2788  
Bush Fire Info Line: 1800 240 667

**Mt Eliza Neighbourhood House**  
90-100 Canadian Bay Road, Mt Eliza VIC 3930  
9787 8160 | mountelizanh.com.au

**Peninsula Transport Assist**  
9708 8241 | peninsulatransportassist.org

**Rotary Club of Mt Eliza** rotarymteliza.org.au

**Speak & Share** speakandshare.com

## We're keeping banking local

Our contributions touch the lives of most people living in the Frankston-Mt Eliza-Baxter-Mornington area, through a sporting club, a community service organisation, school or local event. So bank where your heart is and choose Bendigo Bank in Mt Eliza.



## Talk to us today

### Community Bank Mt Eliza

102 Mt Eliza Way, Mt Eliza VIC 3930

**P** (03) 9787 1224

**E** mteliza@bendigoadelaide.com.au

**W** bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza

### Hours:

9.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday  
and by appointment at other times

Community Bank branches are owned by local people and operated in partnership with Bendigo Bank – one of Australia's biggest banks and most trusted brands.

Community Banks return most of their profit directly to their communities through grants and sponsorships which facilitate community health, wellbeing and cohesion.

### Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Ltd

PO Box 307, Mt Eliza VIC 3930  
ABN 18 139 499 326

**Directors** Reagan Barry (Chairman), James Batty (Deputy Chairman), Robert Gauci (Secretary and Treasurer), Alex Godfrey, Jo Horton, Greg Russo, Matthew Wilson, Justin Holland.

## New customers: open your account online in minutes

If you're new to Bendigo Bank, you can open an Everyday Account online in minutes from our app. Search for Bendigo Bank in your app store, set up and verify your identity, and away you go. When choosing your domiciling branch, be sure to nominate Community Bank Mt Eliza.

## Keeping you safe online

Scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Bendigo Bank's website has information on how to spot the latest scams, keep your identity safe, and protect yourself. [bendigobank.com.au/security](https://bendigobank.com.au/security)