

March 2024

# Congratulations to the 2023 Bill Cumming Award recipient

## Community Bank · Neerim District

The Bill Cumming Young Achiever Award is for young people between 15 and 25 who live in the Neerim district. The annual award is named in honour of the late Bill Cumming and is presented in the spirit of Bill's commitment to the Neerim community and his passion for encouraging young people to strive for excellence.

The 2023 recipient of the award was Riley Morehu, a talented basketball player. "Riley loved basketball from an early age but was always a perfectionist and practiced his ball skills and shooting every spare minute he could, especially shooting 3 pointers," his mother Emily Morehu said.

Riley started playing basketball for the Neerim South Wolves when he was seven years old and also played for the Warragul Warriors. "One of my earliest memories was feeling nervous about being on the court for my first tournament in Korumburra playing for the Warriors," Riley said.

He began doing state tryouts, VJBL competitions and as an older player, CBL and big V competitions for Gippsland United.

He also played for Vic Country on a few occasions and participated in school national competitions.

Approximately three years ago Riley was selected for a State Development squad and began to play basketball with Gippsland United basketball team. In the last twelve months, despite him being only sixteen, he was selected for the Gippsland Senior CBL team.

"I couldn't believe I get to play basketball at the highest level possible and hopefully one day as a professional player," Riley said.

The Bill Cumming award will assist Riley with the costs that are involved with playing for Victoria.

"The travel and costs associated with basketball are massive, not only for the games, but training, physio, equipment, and travel. We as a family, and especially Riley, are so grateful to the committee for nominating Riley for the Bill Cumming award," Emily said. "The Cumming family have given so much to this community, and we are so grateful to receive this. It's a real honour," Emily said.

Nominations for the award open in October



"It was such a pleasure being a part of the Sculpture Festival. I think people really engaged with the painting element, and it was just so lovely seeing everyone - young and old - out and about to view the sculptures and engage in the arts community that surrounds Neerim South".

Melanie Capel, Mural Artist

## New Mural on IGA wall

The bi-annual Sculpture Acquisition event sees thousands of people come through Neerim South. The two-week event includes an indoor and outdoor sculpture exhibition. For the first time this year, the event incorporated a live painting of a mural on the IGA Neerim South wall.

The vibrant mural, painted by the talented Melanie Capel, will enrich the townscape and add to the ever-growing artistic flair of the town.

The next event will be held in 2026.

## Neerim District Community Enterprise

The Neerim District Community Enterprise (NDCE) is a trading name for Neerim District Financial Services Ltd, which operates the Neerim District Community Bank as a franchisee from the Bendigo bank.

It is dedicated to contributing the majority of its funds in cash and kind to support activities and organisations that serve the residents of the Neerim District.

Neerim District Community Enterprise's (NDCE) vision is for "A flourishing, healthy and united Neerim District community".

NDCE requires fairness, ensuring all supported activities are evaluated and conducted on the basis of fairness and equality for all.



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