

Spring
2026



Newsletter

Community Bank · Casey–Cardinia

Lang Lang
Pearcedale
Koo Wee Rup
Narre Warren South
Tooradin & Coastal Villages
Bunyip & District

Welcome to the 2026 Spring edition of our newsletter. In this issue we highlight our Community Investment Program and the funding we returned to our communities this year (see inside). Our six branches return most of the profit they make to the organisations, clubs and schools in the Casey–Cardinia region—over \$15 million worth to-date.



Buwat Laa

Meet Buwat, your new Branch Manager at Tooradin

We sat down with Buwat for a quick Q&A to get to know him a bit better.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself and your journey to joining our team?

My journey in banking has always been driven by a passion for helping people secure their financial futures and helping local businesses thrive. Stepping into the role of Branch Manager at the Tooradin has been an incredibly exciting milestone for me. I bring a strong background in retail banking and relationship management, and I am currently deepening my strategic skills by undertaking a double master's degree (MBA and Master of Global Project Management). Joining this team felt like a natural fit because Bendigo Bank's values of care, connection, and community align perfectly with my own professional and personal philosophy.

Q: What are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to getting out of the branch and into the heart of Tooradin to meet our wonderful customers and community groups face-to-face. Professionally, I am eager to work closely with residents on key milestones—particularly helping

families navigate their home ownership journeys and supporting local businesses as they grow. I'm also excited to lead a fantastic team of local banking specialists, helping them develop their careers while we collectively deliver a premium, personalized service to everyone who walks through our doors.

Q: What does community banking mean to you?

To me, community banking is so much more than transactions; it is about shared prosperity. Unlike standard banking models, our Community Bank model reinvests its profits directly back into the local area. Supporting local communities' means being an active partner in local progress—whether that is funding junior sports, supporting local events, or helping a first-home buyer down the street. It means that when our customers choose to bank with us, they are directly investing in the future of Tooradin. That is an incredibly powerful purpose to wake up to every day

Q: Outside of work, what do you enjoy—and what is something we'd be surprised to learn about you?

Outside of work, staying active and healthy is a big priority for me—I love working out, keeping fit, and enjoying the great outdoors. Balancing my branch role with my MBA and Master of Global Project Management studies means a good workout is my favourite way to clear my head and recharge!

As for what might surprise people, I have two fun facts. First, I have lived in almost every single Australian state and territory, with Tasmania being the only one left to tick off my list! Second, I come from a very big family—I am the youngest of 10 siblings, so I certainly know a thing or two about teamwork, communication, and negotiation.

Sharing our profits with you.



27 years of giving back

For 27 years, we have been proud to give back to the communities that support us. Together, we have reinvested more than \$15 million into local schools, sporting clubs, emergency services, community groups and projects that make a genuine difference. Here are just some of our 2026 highlights so far.

Lang Lang — \$88,894 reinvested

Our support in Lang Lang included funding for:

- A new walking track at Lang Lang Primary School. The facility will be accessible to the wider community outside school hours, supporting local health and wellbeing
- Installation of solar panels at the Nyora Men's Shed
- A new security camera system for the Lang Lang RSL



Our community investment event in Lang Lang.

Pearcedale — \$32,407 reinvested

In the Pearcedale area, we supported:

- Pearcedale Fire Brigade to update its firefighting equipment
- Cranbourne Rotary and Victoria Police's Blue Bike Patrol, increasing police access to areas not readily accessible by cars through the use of e-bikes
- The annual Peninsula Toy Run, providing Christmas presents for children experiencing disadvantage



Support of the Cranbourne Rotary and Victoria Police's Blue Bike Patrol.

Koo Wee Rup — \$63,005 reinvested

Our support in Koo Wee Rup included:

- Television and audio equipment for the Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Centre
- A Better Life for Foster Kids, providing crisis cases for children being placed into foster care
- Life Education lessons for students at Cardinia Primary School



Supporting the Senior Citizens Centre.

Thank you for helping us make a difference

Every customer who chooses to bank with us helps strengthen our communities. Your banking contributes to the funding of local projects, services and organisations—keeping more money local and helping our communities thrive.

Supporting grassroots sport

We are passionate about supporting grassroots sport and proud to back the local clubs that bring people together, encourage participation, and help build stronger, healthier communities. Throughout the year, we were also proud to support many sporting clubs across the region.

Narre Warren South — \$45,503 reinvested

In Narre Warren South, we supported:

- The Isabella and Marcus Foundation's Ladies Morning Tea, raising funds for research into treatments for DIPG, an incurable childhood brain cancer.
- Oakgrove Community Centre's Women's Wellbeing Program (we've been the major sponsor for the past nine years)
- Ball Balla Community Centre's Connected Communities Program



The Oakgrove Community Centre's Women's Wellbeing Program.

Tooradin and Coastal Villages — \$99,746 reinvested

Across the Tooradin area we supported:

- The purchase of a new vehicle for Coastal Villages Buses
- Continued funding towards the annual registration and insurance costs of all the community buses
- Berwick District Woodworkers Club's Geppetto Project, creating Christmas toys for children experiencing disadvantage



Branch Manager, Kylie Lee with representatives from Coastal Villages Buses.

Bunyip and District — \$157,946 reinvested

In the Bunyip area we supported:

- Moy-Yan Neighbourhood House's Repair Café—a welcoming community space where people of all ages can gather, connect, share skills and repair or repurpose household items that may otherwise end up in landfill
- Bunyip Fire Brigade to install a security system, including monitored intrusion alarms, access control across all entry points and an automated emergency-unlock function.
- Garfield Community Association to provide a Community Christmas Day lunch for people experiencing financial hardship or who may otherwise spend Christmas alone



Our Bunyip team and members of the Bunyip Fire Brigade.



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Operating hours

Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5:00pm

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Michael Duff, Andrew Bullen, Glenn Barwick, David Williams,
Angela Bullen, Nicholas McKinnon, Angela Banbury,
Joshua Busuttill, Jade Taylor



Magic Moments attendees: Jonah, Hannah, Natalie, Minuka and Seth.

Supporting young people in our communities

We supported five students to attend the Magic Moments Youth Leadership & Business Summit in July.

The five-day event gives young people aged 14–17 the confidence, skills and mindset to lead in their own lives and make a meaningful difference in their communities. Through workshops, real-world business learning, team challenges and personal development activities, participants explore leadership, entrepreneurship, health, wealth and self-awareness.

We also provided funding to Bunyip Primary School, Koo Wee Rup Secondary College and Cranbourne North Secondary College to deliver Speak & Share mental health and wellbeing workshops for students.

SALT offer for local sporting clubs

We are proud to partner with SALT–Sport and Life Training, an outstanding not-for-profit organisation supporting sporting clubs both on and off the field. SALT delivers practical, engaging sessions covering vital topics such as mental health and wellbeing, peer pressure and decision-making, leadership and positive coaching. We are pleased to offer funding for your club's first SALT session.

Contact Sonia at admin@ourcommunitycompany.com.au, or visit your local branch for more information.

www.sportandlifetraining.com.au

Farewell and thank you, Di

July marked the end of an era as we farewelled Di Kennedy after 25 years of dedicated service.

Di was part of the Pearcedale branch from day one, and her commitment to our customers and communities has been truly valued. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues, customers and the many people she has supported over the years. We thank Di for everything she has contributed and wish her all the very best for a happy and well-deserved retirement.



Di with Chairman, Gordon