



# Newsletter

## Community Bank · Casey-Cardinia

Welcome to the 2026 Summer edition of our newsletter. In this issue we highlight our Community Investment Program and the funding we returned to our communities in 2025 (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.

### Region Awards Night 2025

The Bendigo Bank Outer East Region Awards Night was held in October 2025, and what a night it was. We were thrilled that Community Bank Tooradin & Coastal Villages took home the big award—Branch of the Year.

It was a fantastic night all round, with our branches picking up a number of awards:

- Community Bank Tooradin & Coastal Villages won Branch of the Year and the Lending Growth Award.
- Kylie Lee from Community Bank Tooradin & Coastal Villages took home the Community Spirit Award.
- Community Bank Narre Warren South won the award for Operational Excellence.
- Community Bank Bunyip & District picked up the Rising Staff Award.

These awards were a great reflection of the passion, teamwork and commitment our people show every day—and the strong connections they've built in their local communities. A huge thank you to them, and our customers, for being part of the journey, we couldn't do it without you.

Put your money where your heart is and bank with us. We reinvest our profits to benefit our communities.



Congratulations to the team from Tooradin: Kylie, Penny and Fiyaz

### 2026 Victoria Bushfire appeal

We are deeply saddened by the profound impact of the Victorian bushfires on our customers, team members and communities. The fact that this tragedy is unfolding so close to home deeply affects us all.

Bendigo Bank have launched the Victorian Bushfire Appeal to provide crucial support for impacted communities, enabling both immediate relief and long-term recovery efforts.

Your generosity, no matter the amount, will make a real difference to those affected.

Administered by Bendigo Bank's charitable arm, the Community Enterprise Foundation will consult with impacted communities to ensure funds are directed to the priorities set at a community level.

Please donate at your local branch or via the bank's website.

# We share our profits with you.

## 15 Million Reasons To bank with us

### A big year of local contributions

In the 2024–25 financial year, Our Community Company (OCC) returned a huge \$491,254 to our region through our Community Investment Program. Since opening our first branch, OCC has reinvested almost \$15 million into local clubs, schools, community groups, and essential services—a milestone that reflects the power of community banking.

We have supported our communities with the Community Bank model for over 26 years in partnership with Bendigo Bank. From a single branch, we have grown to operate six—all united by one purpose: to strengthen the communities we serve.

### Investment highlights for 2025

#### Bunyip – \$92,675 returned locally

Funding supported a wide range of local sports clubs, including cricket, football, netball, soccer, golf, and pony clubs, helping create safe and inclusive environments for young people. Schools and kindergartens received support for educational programs, while Moy-Yan Neighbourhood House benefited from funding for its Weld Like a Girl workshops. Local CFA brigades were also supported to continue their vital emergency services.

#### Koo Wee Rup – \$73,905 returned locally

Education and wellbeing were areas of focus, with Cardinia Primary School receiving a classroom TV to enhance learning, and Koo Wee Rup Secondary College supported through the PAWsitivity assisted animal therapy program. Sporting clubs benefited from facility upgrades, while community safety and inclusion were strengthened through support for the Fire Brigade and an Indigenous space at the Community Garden.



Team Koo Wee Rup with representatives from the Mens Shed



At the Lang Lang Community Investment Program evening

#### Lang Lang – \$133,000 returned locally

Investments supported sports and recreation clubs, seniors groups, and community facilities. Key projects included upgraded toilets at the Lang Lang Showgrounds and solar panel installation at the Community Centre, improving accessibility, sustainability, and long-term cost savings. These projects help ensure Lang Lang remains a welcoming place for events and community connection.

#### Narre Warren South – \$81,000 returned locally

Funding supported creative learning at Narre Warren North Kindergarten, women's wellbeing initiatives, community events such as local carols, and the Isabella & Marcus Foundation—supporting childhood brain cancer research. A major highlight was funding toward the Narre Warren Fire Brigade's new catering unit truck, providing critical support to emergency responders during incidents across multiple agencies.



Narre Warren South Fire Brigade got funding towards a new vehicle

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

# Over \$15 million to-date.



Team Pearcedale with Richard from Beyond Disability Inc



Penny with representatives from Warneet Blind Bight CFA

## **Pearcedale – \$55,608 returned locally**

Safety and inclusion were prioritised, with funding for a thermal imaging camera for the Pearcedale CFA, improving firefighter and community safety. Local sporting clubs also received funding to make their activities accessible for everyone.

## **Tooradin & Coastal Villages – \$55,065 returned locally**

Funding supported community transport services, sporting and pony clubs, and vital CFA infrastructure upgrades. Key projects included a portable power station for Warneet Blind Bight CFA and a PPE decontamination laundry facility for Tooradin CFA, improving emergency response capability and firefighter health across the region.

Additional funding supported mental health programs in schools, sport-based wellbeing initiatives, and the installation of life-saving defibrillators.

## **We'll continue to invest locally**

Our branches will reopen the Community Investment Program in February 2026, and organisations are encouraged to contact their nearest branch to discuss funding opportunities. When you bank with a Community Bank branch, your banking creates real impact—supporting projects, wellbeing, and the volunteers who keep our communities strong.

## **Investment scams**

Don't get caught out. Investment scams are becoming more sophisticated. Scammers are using professional-looking materials and even fake celebrity endorsements to lure people into fraudulent investments. Before you invest your hard-earned money, make sure you know some of the key red flags:

- offers that sound too good to be true
- unexpected contact from 'investment firms'
- pressure to act quickly.

Protect yourself and your loved ones. Learn more about how to identify and avoid all sorts of scams on the Bendigo Bank website: [bendigobank.com.au/blog](http://bendigobank.com.au/blog)

## **Home loan health check**

All over Australia, homeowners are saving money with a free Bendigo Bank home loan health check. Let us give your loan a full check-up to make sure it's still right for you and your current needs.

Whether you're an existing customer or new to Bendigo Bank, we're here to help you get the most out of your home loan. Contact your local branch to book your appointment today (see back page).



**Big on banking.  
Bigger for you.**

Your financial goals, our expert support.

Get local, personalised help with your everyday banking, home loan, and business needs.

Contact your local team to get started.

**Bendigo Bank**  
The better big bank

# Join Australia's better bank.

## Talk to us today

### Operating hours

Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5:00pm

### Community Bank Lang Lang

29 Westernport Road, Lang Lang

03 5997 5019

[langlang@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:langlang@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

Branch Manager, Sonja Bale

0402 110 249

[sonja.bale@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:sonja.bale@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank Pearcedale

Shop 4, Pearcedale Shopping Centre

Baxter-Tooradin Road, Pearcedale

03 5978 7566

[pearcedale@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:pearcedale@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

Branch Manager, Kylie Lee

0412 110 549

[kylie.lee@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:kylie.lee@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank Koo Wee Rup

28 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup

03 5997 2266

[kooweerup@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:kooweerup@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

Branch Manager, Prement Thiagarajoo

0412 061 627

[prement.thiagarajoo@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:prement.thiagarajoo@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank Tooradin & Coastal Villages

2/106 South Gippsland Highway, Tooradin

03 5998 3038

[tooradin@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:tooradin@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

Branch Manager, Fiyaz Bazeer

0419 042 478

[fiyaz.bazeer@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:fiyaz.bazeer@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank Narre Warren South

Amberley Park Shopping Centre

Shop 8/101 Seebeck Drive

Narre Warren South

03 8790 3411

[narrewarren@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:narrewarren@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

Branch Manager, Hus Suleyman

0478 435 119

[hus.suleyman@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:hus.suleyman@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

### Community Bank Bunyip & District

18 Main Street, Bunyip

03 5629 6091

[bunyip@bendigoaelaide.com.au](mailto:bunyip@bendigoaelaide.com.au)

### Our Community Company Ltd

ABN 51 092 756 351

29 Westernport Road, Lang Lang

Company Secretary/Executive Officer

Sonia Draxler, 0412 057 791

[admin@ourcommunitycompany.com.au](mailto:admin@ourcommunitycompany.com.au)

### Directors

Gordon Smale (Chairman), Michael Bushe (Vice Chair),  
Michael Duff, Andrew Bullen, Glenn Barwick, David Williams,  
Angela Bullen, Nicholas McKinnon, Angela Banbury,  
Joshua Busutil



Celebrating 25 years at Pearcedale

## Happy birthday Pearcedale

In October 2025, we proudly celebrated 25 years of community banking in Pearcedale.

Customers enjoyed a sausage sizzle kindly run by our friends at the Tooradin Lions Club, along with some delicious cake to mark the occasion.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our local Pearcedale shareholders who believed in the vision of community banking 25 years ago. Your support has helped shape what we are today, and we look forward to continuing to serve and invest in the Pearcedale community for many years to come.

## Shareholder update

Our 2025 Annual General Meeting, led by Chairperson Gordon Smale was held on Thursday 13 November at the newly refurbished Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club.

Our annual report and financial statements, were tabled and accepted at this meeting. If you have not yet accessed a copy of these documents, and wish to do so, they are available on the Bendigo Bank website. If you would like a hard copy email your request to: [admin@ourcommunitycompany.com.au](mailto:admin@ourcommunitycompany.com.au).

A dividend of 25c per share was declared and has been distributed to shareholders for the 2024–25 financial year.

Current directors Michael Bushe, Angela Bullen and Michael Duff were re-elected for a further 3-year term. Shareholders, directors and staff enjoyed a chat and refreshments provided by the bowls club after the meeting formalities. Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM.

Make banking easier with award-winning products and legendary customer service.