

Winter
2025



Newsletter

Community Bank · Casey–Cardinia

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

Welcome to this Winter edition of our newsletter where we highlight some of the ways our Community Bank branches are helping our customers and communities to thrive. Our six branches return most of the profit they make to the organisations, clubs and schools in the City of Casey–Cardinia Shire regions.

Farmers' Luncheon 2025

Our annual Farmers' Luncheon was held in late May at Caldermeade Farm & Café. Guests gathered for lunch and the opportunity to connect—all on what happened to be International Potato Day!

This year, we welcomed the following guest speakers:

- John Droppert, Head of Insight and Government Services at Bendigo Bank Agribusiness
- Ray Cullen, Livestock Property Specialist from Elders Delaney.

Both shared valuable insights and updates, sparking great discussion among attendees.

We were also joined by team members from Bendigo Bank Agribusiness and Business Banking, along with managers and staff from several of our Community Bank branches, all showing their support for our farming community.

On the day, we raised \$1,000 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, thanks to the generosity of guests. You can still donate online at: pcfa.org.au

A big thank you to Ali at Flower Fixation for the beautiful floral centrepieces, which were available to take home for a donation supporting the fundraiser.

We'd also like to give a special shout-out to the wonderful staff at Caldermeade Farm & Café for ensuring the event ran smoothly and successfully.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day such a success—we're still feeling the positive energy some weeks later.

The Farmers' Luncheon is becoming a must-go-to local event. To join the waitlist for next year, email: admin@ourcommunitycompany.com.au



Above: Our annual Farmers' Luncheon was an opportunity for our agricultural community members to connect and engage.
Top: Our 2025 Scholarship recipients, their families, our staff and directors at the scholarship presentation evening.

Scholarship recipients 2025.



Above: Some of the 2025 Scholarship recipients with our branch staff.

Scholarship presentation evening

In April this year, Our Community Company Ltd, along with our six Community Bank branches, proudly hosted our annual scholarship presentation evening at Settlers Run Golf & Country Club, honouring 14 inspiring young people from our communities.

We awarded eight first-year and six second-year scholarships, supporting students as they pursue their dreams through higher education.

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Since 2012, our six branches have collectively supported **77 students** through our scholarship program, investing \$687,000 into the future of our local youth.

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Throughout the evening, we heard from our scholars about what inspired them to choose their fields of study and how receiving this scholarship has made a meaningful impact on their journey. For those unable to attend due to study commitments, their messages were shared by their branch managers.

It was a wonderful evening with directors, staff, recipients, and their families coming together, a true reflection of how our Community Bank network is making a lasting difference in the lives of local youth.

1st Year recipients

- Sienna Michie—Bachelor Degree, Medical Science & Doctor of Medicine
- Bonnie Sharp—Bachelor Degree, Forensic Science
- Bridie Jagoe—Bachelor Degree, Occupational Therapy

- Erfan Kamali—Diploma of Higher Education
- Mei Waterman—Associate Degree, Information Technology

2nd Year recipients

- Kayla Humphrey—Bachelor Degree, Biomedical Engineering
- Grace Healey—Bachelor Degree, Biomedicine
- Charlotte Cartmel—Bachelor Degree, Nursing & Midwifery (honours)
- Ashwin Amalraj—Bachelor Degree, Computer Science
- Abbey Howes—Bachelor Degree, Paramedicine
- Dylan Vincent Bachelor Degree—Engineering

This year the board also approved three one-year Community Bank resource scholarships for a family of three sisters all attending university for the first time in 2025:

- Faiza Faizi—Bachelor Degree, Biomedicine
- Fayzah Faizi—Bachelor Degree, Biomedicine
- Taiba Faizi—Bachelor Degree, Pharmaceutical Science

Congratulations to all our 2025 recipients, we look forward to seeing you thrive in your studies and beyond.

Switching to the better big bank

If you're with another bank, moving everything over to Bendigo Bank isn't as hard as you might think, and we're right here to help. Join over three million other customers, and feel better about banking with Australia's most trusted bank.[^]

[^] Roy Morgan Risk Monitor 2024.

Better banking. Big local impact.

Celebrating Michael Duff's 25 years

We recently had the pleasure of celebrating an incredible milestone—25 years of service by one of our long-standing directors, Michael Duff.

Michael has been part of Our Community Company since the very early days and has played a key role in shaping our direction and impact, including 12 years as Chairperson. His leadership, dedication and commitment to community values have left a lasting legacy.

A belief in giving back to the community in which you live and prosper is something that was instilled in Michael from an early age—a reflection of the strong family values he was raised with.

To celebrate, we came together for a special lunch joined by those who've worked alongside Michael and a few of his loved ones, making it a truly memorable celebration.

Thank you, Michael, for 25 years of commitment, wisdom and passion for your community.



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THANKS
MICHAEL



Above: Inaugural chair Max Papley, Michael and current chair Gordon Smale celebrate Michael's 25-years of service.

Beyond the Farm Gate

Bendigo Bank produces a podcast that shines a light on great Australian stories in agriculture.

Hear from farmers and producers who've made it through challenges such as fire, flood and drought, who run innovative and unique agribusinesses.

Listen via your favourite podcast app and enjoy the stories.



Bendigo Bank

Join Australia's better bank.

Talk to us today

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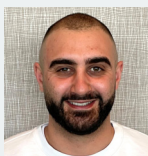
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Operating hours

Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5:00pm

Our Community Company Ltd

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Directors

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



Above: Laura and her family

Congratulations and farewell Laura

Early May marked the official farewell to our much-loved Executive Officer, Laura.

Laura has been on parental leave the past two years, but we couldn't let the moment pass without acknowledging the incredible journey she's had with us.

Laura began her career with Our Community Company as a trainee and, through hard work and dedication, progressed to become a Customer Relationship Officer. She then stepped into a board support role before taking on the role of Executive Officer—a position she held with integrity, warmth and commitment for seven years.

Laura began her parental leave when she and husband Brandon started their family. She has since welcomed a second baby boy and made the decision to resign.

Laura, thank you for the care and professionalism you brought to every role you held. Your contribution to our organisation and community has left a lasting mark, and we wish you and your beautiful family all the happiness in the world for this next chapter.

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 how to protect your family and business. Head to the bank's website: bendigobank.com.au/security

Big on security.
Bigger for helping protect you from scams.



**Stop. Think.
Protect.**