

Our Community Impact 2024-25



We aim to develop long-term community prosperity by supporting programs that help empower local individuals and groups. We are committed to investing in the growth of a strong, connected and vibrant community.

Sport & Recreation
\$97K



Health & Wellbeing
\$47K



Environment & Animal Welfare
\$123K



Education & Research
\$168K



Facilities & Infrastructure
\$1,380K



Arts, Culture & Heritage
\$52K



\$1,867,483

\$11m

Provided to empower the local community to date

19

Scholarship Recipients

82

Organisations supported in 2024-25

23

Years providing a community banking service

Rotary Club of Bungendore Youth Mental Health First Aid Course



Palerang Financial Services Ltd (PFSL) proudly supported the Rotary Club of Bungendore with a \$1,000 sponsorship to deliver the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course, run in collaboration with the Phynix Initiative. Over a two-day program in March 2025, 10 local community members—including parents, carers, and school representatives—were trained as Mental Health First Aiders.

Participants gained vital skills to recognise and respond to common mental health problems in young people, learning how to start conversations, offer support, and guide youth towards professional help when needed. The training not only provided practical tools but also encouraged open dialogue, with some participants sharing their own experiences, reinforcing the importance of building community-wide awareness and support.



It takes a community to raise the next generation. This course goes a long way to helping support the next generation who may show signs of mental health issues as they navigate life and its ups and downs.

Rotary Club of Bungendore

Bungendore Bowling & Sports Club Playground Project



PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Bowling & Sports Club with a \$32,000 Community Grant to build a new fenced playground, creating a safe, family-friendly space that encourages outdoor play and community connection. Since opening, the Club has seen more bookings and enquiries from families and local groups, and a grand opening on 21 Sept drew ~200 attendees. The project has strengthened social inclusion and wellbeing; parents have peace of mind while children play, and more community events (including kids' parties) are now choosing the venue. The Club also contributed additional funds and volunteer labour to complete the build, reinforcing the community's commitment to the space.

The overwhelmingly positive response to the new playground is fantastic. Our volunteers worked tirelessly to deliver a community-focused space the whole town can enjoy for years to come.

Lindsay Noone, Bungendore Bowling & Sports Club

Investing in Our Future 2025 Scholarship Recipients



PFSL proudly awarded \$72,000 in scholarships and bursaries this year, supporting local students to pursue university and TAFE studies. Our recipients span a wide range of fields—from medicine, teaching and paramedicine to engineering, politics and the arts—showcasing the breadth of ambition in our region.

Recipients:

Nelson Sargent (Political Science, ANU), Isabella Hindmarsh (Biomedical Engineering, ANU), Jacob McEndry (Social Science, UOW), Adelaide Wall (Paramedicine, CSU), Sam Watson (Mining Engineering, UNSW), Chloe Parkinson (Medical Studies, UNSW), Charlotte Jones (Medical Studies, ANU), Lachlan Vearing (Creative Arts, UOW), Meg Donnelly (Health & PE, UC), Claire Schweikert (Politics, Science & International Relations, UC), Lachlan English (Diploma of Engineering, SCU) and Telara-Ann Edwards (Education Support, Goulburn TAFE).

These scholarships ease financial pressures, inspire achievement, and strengthen the future of our communities.

I am so very grateful to the Community Bank for supporting me as a young local music student. This scholarship has made a massive impact on my musical journey, allowing me to pursue incredible opportunities like performing the National Anthem at The Australian of The Year Awards. Thank you for helping me follow my dreams.
Emma, previous scholarship recipient



Crookwell Rugby Club – Celebrating 50 Years in Local Sport



In 2024/25, PFSL proudly sponsored the Crookwell Rugby Club with \$5,000 to support uniforms marking the Club's 50th anniversary. This partnership not only helped the players take the field with pride but also reinforced the Community Bank's commitment to strengthening local sport and celebrating milestones that matter to our region.

The club is excited to welcome our partnership with the Community Bank. This sponsorship is more than just a logo on a jersey, it's a commitment to strengthening local sport and our community.

Rachael Croker, Crookwell Rugby Club

Braidwood Preschool Open Gardens 2024



PFSL proudly supported the Braidwood Preschool's 10th annual Open Gardens weekend with a \$1,000 sponsorship. The funding enabled wider advertising and event promotion, helping attract visitors from across NSW, Canberra, Sydney, and beyond. The result was a record \$15,608 raised for much-needed preschool maintenance projects, while the event also delivered family-friendly activities that enriched the Braidwood and Araluen communities.

Having the support of the Community Bank allowed the Preschool to advertise our event more broadly than we would have otherwise been able to afford. The additional funds raised mean we can now complete important maintenance projects for our children.

Rachel Farley, Braidwood Preschool



Braidwood FM Promotional Apparel



PFSL supported Braidwood FM with a \$1,000 sponsorship to provide branded shirts and caps for their presenters and tech team. The new apparel gave the station a professional and unified look during their open broadcast, building pride among volunteers and strengthening their connection with the local community.

Had a fantastic open broadcast where all presenters and tech team were in their shirts and caps looking very professional.

Crystal Hart, Braidwood FM



Braidwood Swimming Club 2024/25 Season Sponsorship

PFSL provided \$5,000 to support the Braidwood Swimming Club's 2024/25 season, enabling the purchase of high-quality swim parkas for 72 junior and senior swimmers. The sponsorship removed cost barriers for families, fostered a strong sense of team identity, and ensured children could stay warm and engaged throughout the season. Importantly, it also strengthened water safety outcomes by encouraging participation in swimming programs that build skills, confidence, and community spirit.

We feel so lucky to have a swim club like this in our town. Our kids have not only become stronger swimmers, but they've also gained real confidence in the water... It's not just about competition, it's about belonging, learning, and growing. Huge thanks to everyone who makes this happen each season.

Parent of two club swimmers

Bungendore Preschool Annual Fair 2025



PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Preschool with a \$7,500 sponsorship for the Bungendore Preschool Fair 2025, which was named in honour of the Community Bank. This major community event raised vital funds for the preschool while creating a day of celebration that brought together families, local businesses, and community groups.

The fair featured market stalls, entertainment, and family activities, while also providing a platform to showcase local small businesses and charities, strengthening connections and boosting the local economy. More than just a fundraiser, it was a chance for the whole community to come together and celebrate Bungendore's unique spirit.

Thanks to the sponsorship, we were able to name the entire Fair after the Community Bank, creating a special event that truly brought people together.

David Webster



Bungendore Campdraft 2025



PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Campdraft Club with a \$5,000 sponsorship as Major Event Sponsor of the Bungendore Campdraft 2025. Held over three days on the Easter weekend, the event drew over 300 competitors and their families, plus 500 spectators, creating a major boost for the local economy and community spirit.

A highlight of the weekend was the inaugural Remount Veterans Campdraft event, attended by special guests The Hon Kristy McBain MP and Air Marshall Robert Chipman AO CSC. Twelve veterans competed while their service histories were read aloud, receiving strong support from both the crowd and fellow competitors. The moving ceremony and competition provided a memorable experience for the veterans and their families, embracing them as part of the Bungendore community.

Having the support of Community Bank Bungendore for our three-day community event was fantastic. The sponsorship helped us introduce new initiatives such as the inaugural Remount Veterans Campdraft, improve the event layout, and ensure competitor and livestock safety. The success of the event is a credit to Community Bank Bungendore.

Steven Hart



Queanbeyan Evening CWA International Women's Day High Tea 2025



PFSL proudly supported the Queanbeyan Evening Branch of the Country Women's Association with a \$2,500 sponsorship for their International Women's Day High Tea, raising funds and awareness for the Love Your Sister charity. The event drew 170 community members and was supported by 40 volunteers, creating an inspiring afternoon of connection, education, and generosity.

The High Tea raised an incredible \$31,000 for Love Your Sister, with funds going towards advancing precision medicine in cancer treatment. Attendees also heard personal stories, celebrated the legacy of Connie Johnson OAM, and enjoyed the involvement of Sam Johnson, who continued fundraising that evening at the Queanbeyan Rodeo.

The event gained wider recognition when Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Australian Story filmed on the day, showcasing the power of community spirit and the importance of the cause.

What an inspiring afternoon! A big congratulations to the CWA NSW Evening Branch on their amazing High Tea and for giving us the opportunity to hear from Sam from Love Your Sister. Like most Australians, I knew of Sam and his sister Connie's story, but hearing it told so personally was incredibly moving. We cried and we laughed, and we left feeling inspired, proud and humbled by their bravery and the heroic difference they have made for every Australian. The fact that over \$30,000 was raised is simply astounding. I feel privileged to have attended and proud that our Community Bank supported such a powerful event.

Helen Farley



Braidwood Quilters Airing of the Quilts 2024



PFSL proudly supported the iconic Braidwood Airing of the Quilts with a \$2,300 sponsorship, enhancing one of the town's most celebrated cultural events. The funding provided significant prize money, attracting an impressive number of quilts of outstanding quality from across Braidwood, Queanbeyan-Palerang, wider NSW, and even Victoria. Beyond the financial support, the Community Bank team actively participated by attending the event and rolling out a red carpet at the entrance – a detail that created a sense of occasion and was widely complimented by visitors. The result was a vibrant celebration of textile artistry, showcasing the dedication of the Braidwood Quilters and strengthening community pride.

Crookwell Senior Green Devils Major Sponsorship 2025



PFSL proudly partnered with the Crookwell Senior Green Devils Rugby League Club through a \$5,000 major sponsorship. The support reduced player registration costs, funded uniforms and equipment, and ensured players had the resources they needed for the season.

More than financial relief, the sponsorship helps keep rugby league a unifying force in Crookwell—bringing neighbours together, fostering pride, and strengthening traditions. The Bendigo Bank logo now features on jerseys, polos, signage, and programs, highlighting the partnership both on and off the field.

Our partnership with the Community Bank has been a game-changer for our club, teams, and the community. The support has provided us the opportunity to lower our player registrations and help provide our players with the resources they need throughout the season. We are grateful for their commitment to making an impact on the 2025 season. Crookwell Green Devils Committee



2 Fires Festival Smoking & Welcome Ceremony

PFSL proudly supported the Smoking and Welcome Ceremony held in December 2024 as part of the establishment of the Braidwood Yarning Circle. With a \$1,000 sponsorship, the event reinforced the importance of Aboriginal culture and participation within the community.

The ceremony attracted around 80 participants and drew wide attention, including front-page coverage in the *Changing Times*. It played a key role in embedding the Yarning Circle as a lasting symbol of First Nations culture and connection in Braidwood.



The smoking ceremony was an enormous success, attracting a significant crowd for an important Aboriginal event in the Braidwood community. The event received page 1 coverage in the local paper and played an important role in the establishment of the Yarning Circle.

Sheelagh Noonan, President, Two Fires Festival



Tarago Show Society 2025 Tarago Show



PFSL proudly supported the Tarago Show Society with a \$5,000 sponsorship to help deliver the much-loved 2025 Tarago Show. The funding enabled important grounds upgrades for safety and accessibility, including new signage, internet access, and a concrete slab. It also allowed the Society to provide extra entertainment for families, from live music and performers to fairy floss and popcorn stands.

The event drew an estimated 1,630 visitors and was made possible thanks to the efforts of around 50 local volunteers. Together, they created a vibrant, family-friendly celebration that showcased rural life and strengthened community pride.

Consensus Education Foundation ThinkTank Program



PFSL proudly supported the Consensus Education Foundation with two Community Grants totalling \$24,930 to expand the innovative ThinkTank program. ThinkTank brings students together from across the Southern Tablelands to sharpen their critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills by investigating key questions from history and contemporary society. Our funding enabled the program to grow from 4 to 6 classes, providing more options for busy students and opening up 31 additional Community Bank Scholarships. As a result, participation soared to 82 students across 17 schools by Term 3, 2025, compared to just 29 students in late 2024.

*Think Tank has really helped me gain more understanding of the world around us!
Angus, Year 6*

I liked the collaborative discussions based on what we were learning. It's an incredible way to develop a variety of skills. From critical thinking to articulating an idea, ThinkTank has strengthened how I look at the world. Chelsea, Year 12



Captains Flat Fishing Club – Sponsorship

PFSL proudly supported the Captains Flat Fishing Club with a \$2,000 sponsorship to purchase paddle boards and life jackets for community use at fishing competitions and social gatherings. The new equipment has already brought joy to children and families, adding a fun and safe activity alongside the club's traditional fishing events. The initiative has helped strengthen community ties by encouraging participation from both young people and adults, while also promoting safe enjoyment of the local waterways.

*The sponsorship will help bring Captains Flat and the surrounding community together. We were able to purchase paddle boards and accessories for everyone to use at our events, and the children had a wonderful time enjoying them.
Anita King, Captains Flat Fishing Club*



Gunning Pastoral & Agricultural Society 2025 Gunning Show

PFSL proudly supported the Gunning Pastoral & Agricultural Society with a \$2,000 sponsorship for the Show Jumping section at the 2025 Gunning Show. The funding enabled a full program of six events, attracting strong competitor numbers and delighting spectators with one of the show's most popular features.

*Bendigo Bank's sponsorship helped us run an amazing event programme that boosted competitor numbers and added to the community spirit of our show.
Belinda Cosgrove, Chief Horse Steward*



Braidwood Show Society 2025 Braidwood Show

PFSL proudly supported the 2025 Braidwood Show with a \$12,000 sponsorship, helping deliver one of the district's most anticipated community events. The funding enabled quality entertainment and activities, boosting attendance and creating a vibrant platform to showcase local talents – from horsemanship and livestock to arts, crafts, and produce.

With more than 1,700 people attending, the show once again brought together farmers, families, and the wider community, strengthening local pride and connection.

Word of mouth to the committee from most of the attendees said it was a very successful show.

Community feedback, Braidwood Show Society

Braidwood National Theatre Heating & Cooling Upgrade



PFSL proudly supported the Braidwood National Theatre & Community Centre with a \$7,500 sponsorship to replace its outdated gas heating system. The upgrade has transformed the heritage venue, ensuring year-round comfort for audiences and volunteers alike.

The impact was immediately felt during the January Book Fair, where more than 1,000 visitors enjoyed a cooler, more welcoming environment across five days of trade. Likewise, the Braidwood Film Club has reported strong attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback on the improved heating and cooling. The investment ensures the Theatre continues to thrive as a hub for arts, culture, and community connection.

In past summers volunteers were walking the floor with jugs of water to prevent people from fainting. Now, with efficient heating and cooling, the Theatre is safe, comfortable, and more inviting for everyone. Marjorie Lemin, Braidwood Citizen of the Year 2025



South Coast Australian Stock Horse Branch Braidwood Event

PFSL proudly supported the South Coast Australian Stock Horse Branch with a \$1,000 sponsorship to help deliver their event at the Braidwood Showground. The funding contributed to prizes for competitors and accommodation for judges, ensuring a successful and well-run competition.

The event provided the local community with a valued opportunity to showcase and compete with their Australian Stock Horses, celebrating the breed's heritage and role in both farming and sport.

The generosity of your sponsorship helped us successfully run our event at Braidwood Showground. It helped with purchasing prizes for our competitors and accommodation for our judges.

Tiffany Watterson



Bungendore Netball Club New Uniforms

PFSL proudly supported Bungendore Netball Club with a \$5,000 sponsorship to supply new uniforms for the 2025 season. With 13 teams and 120 players competing in the Queanbeyan Netball Association winter competition, every player stepped onto the court in fresh kit, building pride, unity, and confidence across the club.

The uniforms not only reduced the financial burden for families but also lifted the club's identity, drawing positive feedback from players, parents, and even rival clubs. The partnership was showcased in local media and across social channels, highlighting the Community Bank's commitment to encouraging healthy, active lifestyles.

Bungendore Netball Club has been fortunate to have Community Bank Bungendore as its major sponsor and this support has enabled us to expand our club and provide our netball community with essential goods. Recently, we were able to upgrade our uniforms, which was made possible by Community Bank Bungendore's sponsorship. This alleviated some of the financial burden on our families. We appreciate Community Bank Bungendore's dedication to encouraging healthy lifestyles through local community sport.

Heidi Walsh

Bombay Landcare Information Board Project

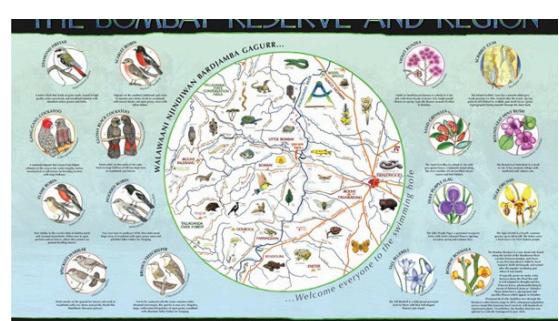


PFSL proudly supported Bombay Landcare with an \$11,000 Community Grant to design and install an interpretive information board at Bombay Reserve. The project, years in the making, was sparked after the devastating North Black Range Fire of 2019 and has since grown into a powerful symbol of resilience and care for the local environment.

The project brought together volunteers, artists, historians, scientists, and Indigenous knowledge holders, who gave countless hours to research, draft content, and guide the design. Their collective effort ensured the board authentically reflects the history, ecology, and cultural heritage of the reserve. The hand-illustrated display now welcomes thousands of visitors each year, deepening understanding of the landscape and encouraging shared responsibility to protect it.

This board tells the story of the Bombay reserve and region—from the geology under our feet, to the local flora, fauna, stories and events that have shaped this place. It's a beautiful example of perseverance and what can happen when Landcare, art and local community come together.

Erin Brinkley, Local Landcare Coordinator & Bombay Resident



Bungendore Bunyips Junior Cricket Club 2024/25 Season

PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Bunyips Junior Cricket Club with a \$3,000 sponsorship to provide essential cricket equipment and team uniforms for the 2024/25 season. The funding ensured all children could compete safely in the ACT Junior Cricket Competition and proudly represent Bungendore in matching team uniforms. With registrations growing each year, this support meant more young people had the chance to learn, play, and enjoy community sport locally.

As relative newcomers to Bungendore, our family could not be more grateful for the warm welcome we've found with the Bunyips cricket team. The inclusiveness, especially in championing a side with so many talented girls, is truly remarkable. Over the past few years, we've watched their confidence grow, their skills sharpen, and their friendships flourish. It's a joy to be part of such a community-focused club where everyone belongs and every player gets to shine.

Parent of two players

Braidwood Jockey Club Big Screen at 2025 Races



PFSL supported the Braidwood Jockey Club with a \$3,300 sponsorship to provide a big screen at the 2025 Braidwood Races. The screen allowed visitors to follow the action throughout the day and ensured sponsors were well acknowledged, adding to the atmosphere and professionalism of the event.

The sponsorship meant the Club could deliver a key feature that would otherwise have been unaffordable, making the race day more enjoyable and engaging for the community.

Due to your sponsorship the Braidwood Jockey Club was able to have the big screen broadcasting races for all visitors to see on the day. We were also able to advertise all our generous sponsors. If the Committee had to pay the full amount of the big screen they would not have been able to afford it and it would have taken away from the atmosphere on the day.

June Williams, Treasurer



Braidwood Show Society Bendigo Bank Buckles

PFSL proudly supported the second annual Braidwood Show Society Campdraft with a \$1,000 sponsorship, funding the Bendigo Bank Buckles as highly valued trophies. The prizes added prestige to the event, making it more attractive to competitors and helping to ensure the weekend ran at full capacity.

The sponsorship also enabled the Committee to preserve income generated from the event, which will go towards future improvements at the Braidwood Showgrounds, benefitting many community groups who use the facilities year-round.

The Braidwood Show Society Campdraft ran at capacity and was heralded as a huge success by competitors and other Campdraft Committees. We couldn't have achieved this without sponsorship
Catherine Daniel, Committee Member

Braidwood Junior Soccer Club Upskilling Coaches and Players



PFSL proudly supported the Braidwood Junior Soccer Club with a \$5,000 sponsorship to deliver professional coaching clinics for both players and volunteer coaches. The program, run by COERVER Coaching ACT, gave 95 junior players aged 3-16 the chance to experience higher-level skills training locally, while 12 volunteer coaches were equipped with age-appropriate drills, techniques, and confidence to lead their teams.

The sponsorship not only reduced the need for families to travel outside Braidwood for development opportunities but also helped retain players in the local competition. The investment extended into the community, with funds reinvested into local businesses through catering and supplies. The result is stronger skills, greater confidence, and a more vibrant soccer culture in Braidwood.



I recently attended a Coerver coaching clinic in Braidwood. I was expecting a mostly sit-down, theory-based course – but it turned out to be the complete opposite in the best possible way. The sessions were hands-on, energetic, and fun, with activities tailored to suit each coach's own fitness level and learning pace. Although I've been involved in football for a few decades as a player, the clinic offered fresh insights into how to better connect with junior players. One of the most valuable things I learned was how to structure age-appropriate sessions focusing on fun and skill development in a motivated environment. The experience has made a real difference to my confidence and approach as a coach. This kind of training will have a lasting impact on our community.

Dale Gallagher, Coach

Rotary Club of Bungendore Annual Christmas Hampers 2024



PFSL proudly supported the Rotary Club of Bungendore with a \$2,000 sponsorship for the Annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. This community-driven initiative brought together local groups and partners, including Anglicare, to provide 88 hampers to families in need during the holiday season.

With rising financial pressures affecting many households, the hampers offered not only food and essentials but also a reminder that the community cares.

The Annual Christmas Hamper Appeal brings together community groups to support those in need over this difficult time. It may be for financial, health or other issues but knowing someone is thinking of them makes life just a little easier. The support of our Community Bank of Bungendore helps make this happen each year. Thank you so much.

Christine Allard



Lions Club of Canberra City World Festival of Magic 2024

PFSL proudly supported the Lions Club of Canberra City with a \$1,680 sponsorship for the World Festival of Magic 2024, providing tickets so local families, including those with children with disabilities and additional needs, could attend the show.

The event delivered inclusive entertainment designed to be accessible and welcoming, with flexible seating, adjusted lighting, and a relaxed environment for all. For many families, this was a rare chance to experience live entertainment together, free from financial barriers.

Thanks for sending through tickets—we had a lovely time and really enjoyed it. We deeply appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts. It's the little things you do that make a difference. Every year we look forward to it.

Bungendore Quilters Inc Annual Quilt Exhibition 2024



PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Quilters Inc. with a \$400 sponsorship for their Annual Quilt Exhibition, held at the Bungendore War Memorial Hall in November 2024. The event drew over 400 visitors, including a bus group of 43 Illawarra Quilters who travelled to enjoy both Bungendore's show and Braidwood's Airing of the Quilts. The exhibition showcased local creativity and craftsmanship while also attracting tourism and boosting the local economy. Supported by 22 volunteers and contributions from local businesses, the event was a true community effort.

We had over 400 people come through the door who enjoyed the show very much.

Jane Bloomfield



Braidwood & District Heavy Horse Association Alma Cup Sponsorship



PFSL supported the Braidwood & District Heavy Horse Show with \$2,500, funding the creation of the prestigious Alma Cup trophy, a cash prize for the Grand Champion, and transport to ensure local seniors could attend. The sponsorship helped celebrate the region's heavy horse heritage while making the event accessible to more of the community.

The Alma Cup now stands as a lasting tribute to both the district's history and the Bank's support of local traditions.

The Alma Cup represents the pinnacle of achievement in our Show, a perfect embodiment of your commitment to excellence in community support.

Emma Thomas, Secretary, Braidwood & District Heavy Horse Association



Braidwood Golf Club Golf Opens & Recycling Upgrade



PFSL supported Braidwood Golf Club with \$5,000 to elevate the Men's and Women's Opens (drawing players from across the region) and kick-start an environmental upgrade with new recycling/waste/sand stations built with the Men's Shed and Scouts, including permanent Community Bank signage.

I have never experienced anything like the funding the Community Bank provided. It is exceptional. What a great partnership—and how beneficial for the students to have a local business contribute this kind of money to boost fundraising efforts.

Adam Zanco, Principal

This isn't just a tractor for the school. It's a resource that benefits the whole community. We're incredibly grateful to the Community Bank for making it possible.

Jill Kuchel, Head Teacher Agriculture

Braidwood Central School P&C Tractor Purchase

PFSL provided a \$31,500 community grant to Braidwood Central School P&C for the purchase of a new tractor. The equipment is already transforming agricultural studies at the school, giving more than 100 students access to safe, modern machinery as part of the curriculum.

The tractor will also benefit the wider community, with plans for its use on the Braidwood town common to support weed control and land management.



Majors Creek Recreation Land Manager Hall Verandah Upgrade

PFSL awarded a \$22,500 community grant to Majors Creek Recreation Land Manager for the repair and refurbishment of the verandah flooring at the village's Recreation Hall. The upgrade will bring the facility up to current building and safety standards, ensuring it continues to serve as a safe and welcoming space for the 2,000 people who use it each year. The Recreation Hall is the heart of the Majors Creek community, hosting local sports, social gatherings, the annual New Year's Day Picnic, and the well-known Majors Creek Music Festival. This grant helps safeguard the Hall's future as a vital venue for community life and cultural events.



PFSL proudly supported the Rotary Club of Bungendore with a \$2,240 sponsorship for its Defensive Driving Course 2025, at the Sutton Road Driver Training Centre. The program gave 17 young drivers the chance to build confidence and skills for driving safely in challenging local conditions, including wet, icy roads and encounters with wildlife.

This was the eighth course run by Rotary, meaning almost 130 young people in the district have now benefited from defensive driver training. The day included hands-on sessions, practical demonstrations, and even a BBQ lunch to keep energy levels high. Families also shared the benefits, with parents feeling reassured that their children were safer behind the wheel.

Bungendore Seniors Association 2025 Seniors Festival



PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Seniors Association with a \$4,000 sponsorship for the Queanbeyan-Palerang Seniors Festival 2025. Now in its seventh year, the event was fully booked once again, with 44 seniors attending and a waitlist for places. The day provided a relaxed and welcoming environment where older community members could learn about topics such as positive ageing and self-care, seniors' rights, and practical strategies for strength and balance from Arthritis ACT. Guests also enjoyed a superb morning tea and roast lunch provided by The Carrington, along with showbags filled with information and treats. Importantly, the event fostered connection, laughter, and community spirit. Many participants, also active members of local service groups like Lions, Rotary, and VIEW, will take the information learned back to share with others across the region.

Now in its seventh year, the 2025 Seniors Day was fantastic. It's centred around important information for seniors, given in a relaxed, safe and welcoming space. It's also about connection, laughter and good food. We are so grateful to our Community Bank as without this generous sponsorship the day would be unaffordable to our local seniors. Sharon Baxter-Judge



Bungendore Rugby Football Club Playing Gear for Mudchooks and Mudchicks

PFSL proudly supported the Bungendore Rugby Football Club with a \$4,546 sponsorship to provide new playing gear for the Mudchooks and Mudchicks teams in the 2025 winter competition. With around 60 players and volunteers involved, the funding ensured that everyone could participate fully and proudly represent their club without financial barriers.

The club plays a vital role in the Bungendore community, offering a welcoming environment where players gain not only fitness but also social connection and mental wellbeing. During the winter months, when seasonal depression can be more prevalent, the club's family-centered approach provides a place of belonging and support.

By ensuring no player has to pay to play, the club fosters inclusivity and strengthens community ties—making sport accessible to all.



Captains Flat Community Preschool Step by Step: Walking for a Brighter Future

PFSL proudly supported the Captains Flat Community Preschool Association with a \$500 sponsorship for its Step by Step 45 km walk fundraiser. The event aimed to raise money for much-needed outdoor play equipment, while also strengthening community connections and raising awareness of the preschool's role in supporting local children and families.

The walk brought together parents, educators, and supporters who took on the challenge as a shared effort to invest in the future of local children. The sponsorship helped provide essential gear and t-shirts for participants, ensuring the event's success and creating strong visibility for the cause.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from the Community Bank, our 45 km walk fundraiser has gained incredible momentum. Their support has allowed us to raise awareness for the preschool's need for new outdoor equipment and it has brought our community closer together in a shared effort to invest in our children's future. We are deeply grateful for their contribution, which has made this event possible and is helping us reach our fundraising goal. Maggie Sing