

December
2025



Community talk!

Community Bank · West Beach

A message from our Chair

Welcome to our final *Community Talk* for 2025. Once again, it's been a pleasure supporting so many fantastic local community projects and events and we're excited to share some of these stories with you.

We recently welcomed Keely and Hayden - bringing additional financial expertise to our West Beach team. We also farewelled our long-serving volunteer director, Tim Dodds, after 10 years. Thank you Tim for your dedicated service & passion for our local community.

My sincere thanks go to all our staff and volunteer directors for their commitment throughout the year. Their passion for our community shines through every story in this newsletter.

Special thank you to our customers, shareholders and partners for your ongoing support of our community branch. We wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you again in 2026.

Rae Lawson, Chairperson

Community Bank West Beach

Happy 100th Birthday

We had the pleasure of surprising Joan Mutton on her 100th birthday with a lovely morning tea.

Joan is one of our most dedicated and inspiring pioneers - who started with the community bank at the age of 75 and incredibly, served the bank and community over the years as a Director, Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Marketing Assistant and passionate Ambassador.

It was a true delight to have Joan and Malcolm visit our branch for morning tea and to celebrate this incredible milestone with her. Congratulations Joan from all the staff and Board (past and present). You are a true inspiration.



Rolling into the future

We're thrilled to hear the Woodville Bowling Club has been putting our sponsorship to great use — helping introduce nearly 200 local high school students to the game of bowls. With our support, the club purchased eight new beginner-friendly bowls sets, giving students a great start as they learn the sport with guidance from Brett Herbert (Bowls Australia) and local club members. It was a fantastic community outcome, and we're proud to be part of it.



Driving community impact

We were thrilled with the strong interest in our Grants and Sponsorship Program this year.

It's a fantastic opportunity for local clubs and organisations to secure support for new projects, boost community engagement, or develop programs that benefit their members.

We're also pleased to share that we've provided funding to 24 local clubs and organisations across the western suburbs. From surf clubs to soccer programs for disadvantaged kids, to partnerships with educational initiatives and more — we're proud to see our profits going back into the community and making a real difference.

Maximising our business means greater returns for our community — with \$65,000 already provided so far. Congratulations to all our recipients.



Spotlight on emerging young artists

We were thrilled to host our very first SALA Festival display throughout August.

'Embracing Youthful Creativity' showcased inspiring artworks by talented students from Henley High School and Nazareth Catholic Community High School. Thank you to all the incredible students who allowed us to display their work — it was a real honour to celebrate the vibrant creativity of South Australian youth and explore fresh, imaginative pieces from emerging local artists.

We loved sharing this artistic journey with our community and can't wait to see even more amazing submissions next August.



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Seeing the difference

Community Relationship Manager, Matt, attended the Lockleys Football Club Sponsors Day in August and although the game result wasn't ideal, it was a great opportunity for him to connect with key club members and fellow sponsors and see the video screen scoreboard in action that we helped fund. It's always great to see the real difference our sponsorship makes to our local clubs and their members.



Giving back where it matters most

Supporting our local community isn't just something we say — it's something we do.

This year, we've partnered closely with the Rotary Club of Kidman Park on several meaningful initiatives. During winter, we helped fund Shelterbags; lightweight, warm and waterproof sleeping shelters for people experiencing homelessness. Through Rotary's global connections, these bags reached those who needed them most in our local community.

Matt also visited the Rotary Bookmart and was amazed by the volunteer effort behind its success, generating \$42K in 2024/25 from just 20 hours of trading a week. He also viewed the publicly accessible defibrillator outside the Bookmart; co-funded through a Community Bank West Beach grant.

Projects like the Shelterbags and Bookmart defibrillator, show how our profits go directly back into supporting the people and causes that matter most.



A special tribute and a well-earned award

A heartfelt thank you to the Henley & Grange RSL for hosting a wonderful afternoon to celebrate the funding provided by our West Beach Branch to enhance their outdoor courtyard area. We're proud that our contribution has helped create a welcoming, comfortable space for the community — young and old — to gather, share stories and connect.

This project also serves as a meaningful tribute to our long-standing Chair, Rod Beames, whose dedication to the RSL over many years is fondly remembered and honoured through this space.

Adding to the celebrations, we extend our warmest congratulations to the RSL, winners of Best Licensed RSL and/or Service Club at the Clubs SA 2025 Clubs and Community Awards. This recognition is truly deserved.

A fabulous venue, with fabulous people. We're proud to stand alongside you and support the incredible work you do for our community.



Share in the merry

From silent nights to loud Christmas lunches, may your festive season be a special one.



Protecting our kids, building connection

Protecting our kids' wellbeing starts with showing up for our community. That's why we're proud to team up again with the West Beach Lions Club to install another Buddy Bench — this time at Cowandilla Primary School. We couldn't be more excited!



Celebrating 100 years of service, sport and community

We're incredibly proud to support Henley SLSC as they celebrate an extraordinary milestone — 100 years of keeping our coastline safe.

From humble reel-and-line rescues to today's modern lifesaving techniques, Henley's volunteers have served with dedication, courage and heart. Over a century, they have:

- patrolled thousands of hours
- saved countless lives
- trained generations of lifesavers
- built a surf sports legacy at state, national and international levels.

As the club marks its centenary, we honour the pioneers, members and families who have shaped Henley SLSC and built the strong, community-driven culture it's known for today.

Here's to the past, present and future of surf lifesaving at Henley. Congratulations from all of us at Community Bank West Beach — an outstanding achievement!



Road safety is everyone's responsibility

We're passionate about supporting initiatives that make a real difference in our community. That's why we're proud to stand behind Darren and his incredible team from the Get Home Safe Foundation, who are helping educate tomorrow's drivers on making smart choices and staying safe on our roads.

Darren's recent presentation at Henley High School was inspiring — his ability to communicate the importance of safe driving really resonated with the students. The hands-on driver education sessions, complete with a state-of-the-art vehicle simulator, gave students the chance to test their skills and better understand the rules and responsibilities that come with being behind the wheel.

A huge thank you to Henley High School and their Year 10 students for engaging so enthusiastically in this important learning experience. We're confident these lessons will stay with them — whether they're driving themselves or riding with others and help shape safer roads for everyone. Together, we can make a real difference.



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Same great service, fresh new look

We are proud to have provided our local community with excellent banking services for nearly 25 years. While our fresh new look brightens the outside of our branch, the same great friendly staff are still here to assist you with all your banking needs.



New IRB Thundercat strengthens patrol capability

We were thrilled to recently visit the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club to present their brand-new IRB Thundercat, a vital addition to their lifesaving fleet.

Our Community Relationship Manager, Matt Tscharke, joined club representatives on-site to officially hand over the new vessel, funded through our recent Grant Program in partnership with the Community Enterprise Foundation.

The Thundercat will play a critical role in boosting the club's patrol capability, ensuring surf lifesavers have the equipment they need to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. From performing rescues to supporting water safety operations during busy periods, this IRB will significantly strengthen West Beach SLSC's ability to serve and protect the local community.

We are incredibly proud to continue our long-standing support of West Beach SLSC and to help ensure their volunteers have the tools they need to keep our beaches safe.



Honouring Rod Beames

We were honoured to attend the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at Apex Park in late November, recognising Rod Beames for his extraordinary contribution to the West Beach community.

Rod was a passionate local who dedicated countless hours to Neighbourhood Watch, Henley & Grange RSL, the SA Royal Regiment Association and our own Community Bank West Beach. As our longest-serving Board Chair and a director for more than 12 years, his commitment to strengthening our community never wavered. Rod's passion, good humour, and generosity left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Thank you to our Director, Andrew (Fazz) Farran, was proud to speak on behalf of the Board at the unveiling ceremony.

We extend our thanks to Neighbourhood Watch for inviting us to be part of this meaningful event. Rod's influence on West Beach is enduring, and his contribution to community life will be remembered for many years to come.



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You are invited to participate in our FREE Community Family Fun Day

Save the date and come and celebrate our 25th birthday at Apex Park

When: Saturday 28 March 2026

Where: Apex Park, West Beach

Time: 9am-1pm

To celebrate 25-years of banking service to the local community, we are hosting a Community Family Fun Day at Apex Park in March 2026.

There will be entertainment, jumping castle, music, food, stalls and much more for all the family to enjoy.

We are inviting our partners, like yourselves, to hold a stall at the event. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase your club/organisation and share your services with the broader community and hopefully find some new members too.

For details on how to be involved email: communitybankwestbeach@gmail.com



Young leaders shine at Magic Moments Camp

Congratulations to Natasha, Ava, Sahira and Eva – outstanding students from both Woodville High and Henley High – who were selected to attend this year's Magic Moments Leadership Camp in Sydney.

Over five inspiring days, students took part in a unique program designed to build their physical, mental and emotional resilience. With keynote speakers from across Australia and around the world, they explored strategies for goal-setting, leadership, financial wellbeing and emotional intelligence.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all four students thoroughly enjoying the experience and already expressing interest in returning next year as Graduate Leaders.

We're excited to share that more placements will be offered for the 2026 camp. Ask us how your young leader can get involved.

Community events for 2026

Pink & Blue Walk/Swim

- Sunday 8 February
- West Beach Surf Life Saving Club
- Register your interest with the club

Bulgarian Zdravei Festival

- Sunday 8 February
- Bulgarian Club, Fulham Gardens
- Everyone welcome

25th Birthday Family Fun Day

- Saturday 28 March
- Apex Park, West Beach
- Everyone welcome



AGM success

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our AGM on Monday 10 November. It was wonderful to see such strong community support and to celebrate another year of impact.

We're proud to share that \$2.3 million has now been invested back into community partners across the western suburbs through our grants and sponsorship program – made possible by our amazing customers and shareholders.

We also farewelled Arthur Economos, retiring after an incredible 24 years on our Board. Arthur's dedication has shaped our branch from the very beginning.

Giving back to our community

Ever wondered where your banking profits go?

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We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

 [/communitybankwestbeachdistricts](https://www.facebook.com/communitybankwestbeachdistricts)

Directors

Rae Lawson, Kosta Manning, Yasmin Spina, Alison Amber, Andrew Farran, Sue Mitchell

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