

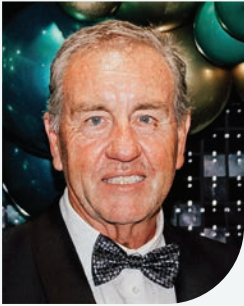


Spring  
2025

# Hello South Coast

Community Bank · South Coast

## Chair's Message



The last few months have delivered some significant reminders of why we show up for community.

In August, we attended the Shoalhaven Business Excellence Awards. While we didn't take home the trophy, we

certainly felt like winners surrounded by such incredible community leaders, organisations and businesses. A huge congratulations to BCR Communities on their well-deserved win and to all the changemakers doing great work across our region. Being recognised as a finalist in our 21st year of local impact and after receiving our Social Traders certification, was a real honour.

This newsletter is full of the kind of stories that reflect what we're here for.

From supporting local events and cheering on community theatre, to helping deliver cancer care closer to home, we're proud to play a small role in so many moments. You'll read about the magic of StoryFest, the buzz of 'Meet the Makers' returning in 2025 and what it means for locals participating in our 'Banking Online Safely' sessions.

We also had the joy of handing over \$500 of community investment funding to Ulladulla Physie Club (thanks to our 'Follow Us' winner Shelley!), sizzling sausages for school athletics and being part of the 'Do It For Dolly' round with our netball community. These are the moments that remind us just how powerful people-powered banking can be.

**Mike Devlin, Chair**



## Recognised as a local change-maker

We had an incredible night at the Shoalhaven Business Chamber Awards on 1 August. Such sincere congratulations to BCR Communities on their well-deserved win for Outstanding Community Organisation and a huge thank you to our event sponsor Care South for supporting such a special night.

While we didn't take home the trophy, we felt like winners surrounded by such amazing friends, customers and colleagues on our tables, and the groups championing community in the room.

We're proud to be celebrating 21 years of local impact, achieving Social Traders Certification and returning more than \$1.6 million to our community along with our finalist status.

## Our Follow Us Winner

Big congratulations to Shelley, the lucky winner of our 'Follow Us' promotion we ran back in June. Shelley took home a \$500 Mastercard as her prize and chose to gift \$500 of community investment funding to Ulladulla Physie Club.

Here's our Community Engagement Manager Caroline (left) and Shelley (middle) proudly handing over \$500 of community investment funding.

Founded by Robyn Phillips (right), this inspiring club has spent five decades building confidence, strength and self-esteem in local girls and women through the art of physie.

We're so pleased Shelley got to experience the 'feel-good-feels' of distributing community investment funding. It's the magic of the community banking model, and we feel so lucky to be able to do this every day.



## Business After Five

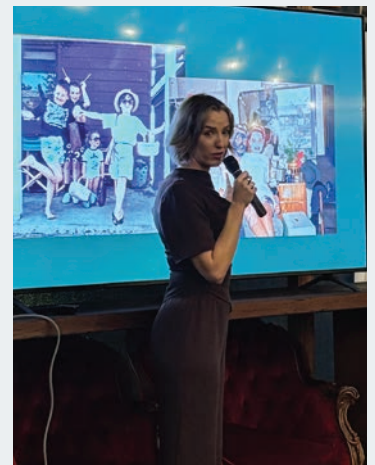
Bold ideas, brilliant insights and seriously good food, that was the vibe at our latest Business After Five hosted by Business Milton Ulladulla at the Altar Bar in Milton.

The evening featured two incredible speakers: Dr Nici Sweaney, a globally recognised AI strategist and founder of Ai Her Way and our very own Justine Cox, connected leadership expert, co-author and Chair of the Community Bank National Council.

Nici broke down the complex world of artificial intelligence into something human, hopeful and ethical. She challenged

the room to think about AI as a tool that, when used right, can elevate small businesses and drive impact without losing our values.

Justine brought her trademark clarity and warmth, sharing insights from her chapter in the global book Women Living Fearlessly. She reminded us that leadership isn't about ego, it's about connection, care and courage



# Banking Online Safety Sessions

## Milton Ulladulla Rotary Club

A big shout-out to the Milton Ulladulla Rotary Club for hosting us for a Banking Online Safety session. From phishing scams to password tips, we taught them how to stay one step ahead in the digital world.

## Ulladulla Evening View Club

We had a fantastic evening with the Ulladulla Evening View Club presenting our Banking Online Safety session. It's wonderful to see our community embracing digital banking with confidence and security.

And we always appreciate lovely things like this note from Club President, Janelle Chapman:

"Your presentation on scams and internet banking was very helpful and informative. Also thank you to Community Bank South Coast for further supporting the planning, printing and publication of our Ulladulla Evening View cook book".

## Conjola Stingrays Outrigger Canoe Club

The Conjola Stingrays Outrigger Canoe Club helped us host a fantastic Banking Online Safety session at the Lake Conjola Bowling & Rec Club!

Our Community Engagement Manager Caz ran the session and said, "It was a good turnout, considering the State of Origin was on. We're so glad people came as it's a really important conversation to have!"

Caz shared practical tips on how to:

- Spot and avoid scams
- Keep banking information secure
- Use online banking tools with confidence.

Our Business Development Manager Leah, was also there to answer questions and offer advice.

## Is your group interested?

If you're part of a local community group that would like to hold a Banking Online Safety session for your members, contact Caroline on [caroline.boland@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:caroline.boland@bendigoadelaide.com.au)



Milton Ulladulla Rotary Club



Ulladulla Evening View Club



Conjola Stingrays Outrigger Canoe Club



Conjola Stingrays Outrigger Canoe Club

# Community Impact Stories

## We Brought Our Own Team

Our branch team was all on board for Supporters Day at the Milton-Ulladulla Bulldogs RLFC.

We're proud to back the Bulldogs and celebrate the players, families and volunteers who bring footy to life on the South Coast.

**But seriously, have you seen a cuter pic anywhere with our name on it?**



## Meet the Makers Returns in 2025

The Meet the Makers Committee officially convened in a paddock, naturally. Our Community Engagement Manager Caz and Business Development Manager Leah might have heard about this, brought along a couple of signs and next thing you know ....

We are stoked this dream team is whipping up something truly special for September that will see the return of this highly successful event. We're absolutely thrilled to be supporting the Meet the Makers Festival in 2025 and love everything this crew is bringing to life.

Happening every weekend from 6-28 September (yep, get the diary out), our region will be packed with workshops, feasts, makers, bakers and a whole lot of local goodness.

**Follow along @southcoastmakersfestival.**

## The Future of our Town is Pink!

We had a special drop-in from the amazing staff and committee behind the McGrath Foundation and Pink Up Your Town Milton. They popped by the branch to personally thank us (pictured below left) for our support and shared some incredible news that McGrath nurses are now supporting all cancers, not just breast cancer.

Our Community Engagement Manager Caroline said, "We're thrilled to support Pink Up Your Town's passion and help the McGrath Foundation extend their vital care across all cancer journeys."

They're celebrating 20 years of service and have helped over 161,000 families through one of life's toughest journeys. That's real impact and we're proud to stand behind what they're doing.



# Community Impact Stories

## A Dinner with Purpose

Our Branch Manager Anthony and Community Engagement Manager Caroline were thrilled to attend the Milton Ulladulla Rotary Club's Changeover Dinner and celebrate the incredible impact of this volunteer-powered group. With over \$61,000 given back to our community, Rotary continues to show what's possible when people come together with purpose.

It was great to see familiar faces too, including Jason Cox from Community Bank Nowra and to meet the newly inducted Rotary board (aka the new dream team!).



## We Did Walk Together!

Our branch team joined in the celebrations at the Ngulla NAIDOC Festival connecting with our community and proudly backing Walking Together.

Held at the Ulladulla Civic Centre, the festival marked 50 years of National NAIDOC with weaving circles, live music, cultural exhibits and more. This year's theme, 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision, Legacy', couldn't be more fitting.

You'll spot us proudly bottom right on the event shirts. Thanks to everyone who came up for a chat about how community banking builds local impact, yep, it's our favourite subject to talk about!

You can learn more at [walkingtogether.au](http://walkingtogether.au)



## Let's Be Friends!

Jump on your socials and follow us on Facebook and Instagram

@communitybanksouthcoast for local impact stories featuring your clubs, organisations and the community.

We'd love to show you more of what we do each week.



# Community Impact Stories

## Inspired to Live Fearlessly

Our cups are full after the incredible 'Women Living Fearlessly' launch at Gwylo Mollymook.

Hosted by Justine Cox, local co-author, leader and our very own immediate past Chair, the afternoon was filled with heartfelt stories, conversations and a whole lot of connection.

We understand how important it is to support events like this that empower and connect local women which is why we said a big

"YES" to getting on-board. And let's be honest, living fearlessly, well that's something we can all lean into a bit more.

Big thanks to Where We Escape, Harbour Bookshop Ulladulla and everyone who came along and made it so special.



## Loving the Jazz & Blues Festival

The streets of Milton came alive with music and community spirit as the inaugural Milton Folk, Jazz and Blues Festival brought everyone together across more than 20 venues.

With 40+ free performances and standout gigs at the Milton Theatre and Altar Wine Bar, it was a fantastic celebration of live music and local talent. These events are challenging to start, which is why we said a big 'YES' to getting behind it.

Our Community Engagement Manager Caz said, "There's something pretty special about live music weaving through a town like Milton. It was more than a festival, it was a celebration of community which is what we're all about."



# Community Impact Stories



## Family Day Out

We were thrilled to join the NSW RFS Conjola Brigade to celebrate the official refurbishment of their local station and what a turnout from the community! There were demonstrations, information, activities for the kids... and no show without punch... Smokey the Bear was in attendance!

Our Community Engagement Manager Caroline said, "They opened up a 25-year time capsule which was amazing. It was great to see the community get behind the group. The bushfires several years ago really showed the importance of having a strong local brigade."

The time capsule was a real highlight packed with old photos and memorabilia that gave everyone a glimpse into the brigade's history.

## Bringing the House Down!

We were so proud to support the Milton Ulladulla Entertainers 'Connecting Hearts' showcase and what a show it was!

Our Community Engagement Manager Caroline attended with the amazing Shoalhaven Palliative Care volunteers and it was a full house!

So many talented locals donated their time to put on an incredible performance all in support of community groups across our region. Naturally, this is something we can get behind as a Social Traders certified community organisation!

And Caz said... "One of the best ones yet!"

## Community Spirit on Centre Stage

Our Community Engagement Manager Caz had a real moment at the recent Milton Ulladulla Entertainers cheque presentation.

Thanks to generous sponsor support (including us!) and packed-out shows, the Entertainers raised a whopping \$45,000 for an incredible 36 or so local community superstar groups including:

- Marine Rescue Shoalhaven
- Shoalhaven Palliative Care
- Dunn Lewis Centre Ulladulla Youth Foundation

It was a night full of heart and community giving. Our favourite type of night! So proud to back events that uplift and give back. After all, this is the foundation of the community banking model and why we exist.



# Community Impact Stories

## Serving up Service!

An event to remember at the Business Milton Ulladulla luncheon beautifully hosted by the talented TAFE NSW Ulladulla hospitality students.

Our Community Engagement Manager Caz was in attendance and said "The meal was absolutely delicious, the service was impeccable and there was so much pride in the room".

Watching these students shine as they put their skills into practice was a real joy and the passion from their TAFE teachers was truly heart-warming.

"There may have even been a few happy tears in the room", Caz said.



## We're Great on BBQs Too!

Chloe, Caz, Anthony and Teresa got their backsides trackside at the Ulladulla Public School athletics carnival! We were proud to support the P&C with the carnival BBQ including sizzling a few sausages!

Always a pleasure to cheer on our local schools and back the volunteers who make these days happen.



## A \$5000 Boost for Local Cancer Support

We were thrilled to present \$5,000 to our local Cancer Support Foundation Milton Ulladulla, a service that means locals don't have to travel an hour for treatment.

This contribution will help ease financial pressures for people going through cancer, right here on the South Coast.

"It's about more than money, it's about providing local care and being there when our community needs it most," said Caroline Boland our Community Engagement Manager.

Caroline, Branch Manager Anthony van Breugel and Board Director Gavin Hart met the team and delivered the good news.

## Do It For Dolly Action

Our Branch Manager Anthony was on the tongs at the 'Do It For Dolly' Round at Ulladulla & Districts Netball Association — all in the name of kindness.

Our community came together to support Dolly's Dream and local champions MUCK Up, to raise awareness about the devastating impacts of bullying and the power of everyday kindness.

It wasn't just about netball or snags (though Anthony's BBQ game was on). It was about starting meaningful conversations and showing that Thursday nights can be more than just the game.

Thanks to everyone who got involved, wore blue and in doing so, stood up for something bigger.



# Community Impact Stories

## Get Involved in Marine eDNA Testing

We're thrilled to share that the marine water monitoring program at Collers Beach has officially kicked off and we're proud to be part of it!

Thanks to our partnership with Treading Lightly, the National Parks Association Milton Branch, and the incredible crew at Blue World Bondi, the collection of the very first eDNA samples has begun. By pumping and filtering four litres of seawater, scientists will soon reveal the incredible mix of species living just offshore. How cool is that?

eDNA testing isn't cheap, which is why we're so passionate about backing this important work.

Want to get involved? Sampling happens every three months and there's always room for more ocean lovers to jump in.

Follow Treading Lightly for updates, and if you're in a position to help fund this game-changing work, you can donate here: <https://tlinc.org.au/make-a-donation/>



Photo credit: Treading Lightly



## Need Assistance?

If your community organisation has a bold idea, but needs support, get in contact with our Community Engagement Manager Caroline Boland by email [caroline.boland@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:caroline.boland@bendigoadelaide.com.au)



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## Our People

### Out and About

Anthony, Leah and Caz attended Business Milton Ulladulla's 'After Five' at One Wok in Ulladulla.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with local businesses, hear from new chamber members Taelyn and Neung and sample some of the impressive food from One Wok's kitchen.

Thanks to Business Milton Ulladulla for another well-organised event.



### Morning Tea for a Cause

Our branch got on board for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of the Cancer Council NSW.

We had sweet treats and friendly faces, all raising funds for cancer research and support services. Every cuppa counted!



## Let's Be Friends!

Jump on your socials and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @communitybanksouthcoast for local impact stories featuring your clubs, organisations and the community.

We'd love to show you more of what we do each week.



The LOCAL LOOP

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Brekky with Dynamic Tradies talking impact

## Talking with Tradies

Our Business Development Manager Leah Spiers and Community Engagement Manager Caroline Boland kicked off a morning with an energising breakfast hosted by Dynamic Tradies. It was the perfect chance to share the incredible things happening in our community and explore how local businesses can grow together.

We're excited to keep the momentum going and welcome more connections back into the branch.

**You can contact Leah on 0418 459 416.**

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Are you enjoying our latest newsletters? Want our news, impact stories and community updates delivered straight to your inbox?

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Jump on board now by following the link:  
<https://forms.gle/yts9FDbxpAcfaf7t6>

# StoryFest Wrote its Own Story

We were thrilled to be part of the sold-out 'Opening Lines' event that kicked off StoryFest 2025 with over 300 guests, two powerhouse speakers and a whole lot of inspiration!

International bestselling author Markus Zusak and acclaimed journalist and author Tracey Spicer AM delivered thought-provoking and heartfelt talks about the power of story and what a way to start the festival!

Our Community Engagement Manager Caroline was in attendance and loved seeing the brilliant high school students take part in the Schools Program we support. Their energy, creativity and courage lit up the room.

Caz said, "I was genuinely moved watching the students we supported take the stage. You could feel how much this moment meant to them and to the audience. StoryFest is something really special for our region."

A big thanks to Adam for the kind words during the night, it means the world to know our support helps make this event possible.



We had the absolute pleasure of attending the StoryFest Long Table Lunch at the stunning Bannisters by the Sea, featuring Fiona McIntosh, author of more than 40 novels and one of Australia's most beloved storytellers.

From sweeping historical fiction to gripping thrillers, Fiona took us behind the scenes of her writing life, where inspiration strikes, how characters come to life and the curious (and often hilarious) ways her stories evolve.

Our Community Engagement Manager Caz was at this Storyfest event as well... "It was so entertaining to hear how Fiona finds her spark. She's a brilliant storyteller in every sense and she had the whole room in stitches!"



## Local and Free Skin Checks, No Excuses!

Free checks thanks to us, Community Bank South Coast

The Skin Check Truck is rolling into town! Skin cancer doesn't discriminate and early detection saves lives. This is your chance to get checked by the pros from the **Australian Skin Cancer Foundation** right here in our own backyard. Spots are limited, so don't wait. Your skin will thank you!

**Monday 29 September | Ulladulla Civic Centre | 8am - 4pm (bookings essential)**

Book now at [australianskincancerfoundation.org](http://australianskincancerfoundation.org)



# Are you in business or just getting started?

Open a new business account with us and you'll receive a **FREE** copy of 'Small Town, Big Impact' by Jenn Donovan.

This book is a powerful, practical marketing toolkit packed with 107 simple, actionable strategies to help small-town and regional businesses go from strength to strength.

Whether you're a sole trader, startup or scaling up, Jenn's advice speaks small-biz language and helps reach areas outside your postcode.

## Why is this book perfect for you?

Jenn Donovan is a marketing expert, regional business advocate and the founder of 'Spend With Us, Buy from a Bush Business'. She knows what it takes to grow a business in a small community and how to make a BIG impact without a big budget.

Learn more about Jenn and her work:

[www.socialmediaandmarketing.com.au](http://www.socialmediaandmarketing.com.au)

## Ready to grow your business and your impact?

Let's chat about your business banking needs. And don't forget to claim your **FREE** copy!

Visit us in branch or give us a call today **4454 2659**.



## Talk to us today



**Anthony van Breugel**  
Branch Manager  
**4454 2659**  
anthony.vanbreugel@  
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### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday

### Our Leadership Team:

**Chair:** Mike Devlin **Secretary:** Laura Bacon

**Treasurer:** Wayne Simpson.

**Directors:** Justine Cox, Gavin Hart, Katie Macartney, Michael Ramsden, Justin Field, Marie-Claire Piga.

**Branch Manager:** Anthony van Breugel

**Community Engagement Manager:** Caroline Boland

**Business Development Manager:** Leah Spiers

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## Upcoming dates for your diary



- **Meet the Makers Festival**  
6-28 September @southcoastmakersfestival
- **Community Impact Showcase + Annual General Meeting** 26 November, 6pm

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