



Spring
2024

Newsletter

Community Bank · Altona and Laverton

COMMUNITY
\$6.4 million
INVESTMENT

Hot Meals at Home

Those doing it tough in Melbourne's west will now be able to enjoy hot meals at home.

Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) has been able to deliver "a year's supply" of microwaves to struggling families with help from Community Bank, Altona and Laverton branches.

WERN Administration Manager Ross Butterworth said the microwaves would make a big difference to people in need who are going into a home for the first time in a long time. According to Mr Butterworth, 12 to 15 families come through WERN's warehouse every week and most of them have a microwave at the top of their wish list.

Community Bank - Altona and Laverton Senior Branch Manager Daniela Guertler said the bank got involved with WERN because they are a local organisation addressing a crucial need for people trying to establish their households. "Being involved in these efforts is incredibly rewarding."



WERN volunteer Sue Selleck and Community Bank - Altona and Laverton Senior Branch Manager Daniela Guertler with the microwaves. (Photo by Damjan Janevski)



Meet the Team

We've got two new faces on the team in our Community Bank family. So if you're in the Laverton branch give them a warm welcome.

Stacey (left) worked in healthcare focused customer service before deciding to make a change.

"I already have strong ties to the Laverton community, being involved with the Laverton Football and Netball Club for many years, as such Community Bank Laverton appealed to me due to their strong focus on customer service and giving back to the community."

Ali (right) loves to camp, travel and hang out with friends, family and her baby (dog) Max!.

"I have always been inspired by what Bendigo Bank brings to the community. I can't wait to see where life takes me at Bendigo Bank!"

Message From The Chairman



Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, our Community Bank has allocated over \$200,000 to support 28 different community organisations.

Our commitment to nurturing healthy, thriving communities in the Hobsons Bay and Wyndham regions remains strong, providing opportunities and assistance to groups supporting people of all ages and backgrounds, including those most in need.

Amidst the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis, we have continued funding for various local relief programs, providing essential items such as food and household goods. These contributions aim primarily to alleviate the immediate needs of individuals and families. In addition we hope to help ease the workload of the volunteers and staff who tirelessly serve these organisations and advocate for their causes.

Empowering young people with opportunities and life skills remains a cornerstone of our Community Bank. We have awarded scholarships, provided laptops to students and supported events such as Wynspeak, a youth public speaking competition.

In addition to sponsoring a number of local sporting clubs, we are proud to be supporting TeamSports4ALL, an organisation dedicated to enabling children from financially constrained families to participate in community sports.

Furthermore, we are committed to enhancing community vibrancy through cultural events and celebrations by funding community festivals, art and music. These events bring our community together to create joy and a sense of belonging.

Coming into the warmer weather now, we are working closely with Lifesaving Victoria to help fund multicultural water safety education programs. Plus we are pleased to announce our sponsorship of the Altona Yacht Club contributing to a new boat which will help keep our local boating community safe on the water.

We are very pleased to announce that we are contributing even more to our community with our latest round of applications for grants about to commence in September. You can find out more about this later in this newsletter.

Welcome to Sally Hicks, our new Marketing & Events Coordinator. Sally is coordinating all the sponsorships and grants applications through our Community Engagement Committee. If you have any questions about your application you can contact Sally on E: bdm@hobsonsbaycfs.com.au or M: 0430 430 824.



Tony Ferreri (left) being farewelled by Chair Henry DaSilva

The wonderful Tony Ferreri, who was Chair of our Community Engagement Committee for many years, retired as a director of our board on 31 July this year. Tony joined us in 2017 as a committee member. His immense financial experience and passion for the community made him a great fit for our Board. In November 2019 he officially became a director. Tony worked tirelessly in the community and served our company with great dedication and skill. We wish Tony all the very best and thank him for his very significant contribution to our community.

It is a real honour to be part of an organisation that contributes so much to our local communities. All this is made possible by our friendly team of hard working staff at

our Community Bank branches, our corporate team, Board members and volunteer committee members. And most importantly our customers. Thank you for your ongoing support of our bank branches and your community.

To stay connected and for regular updates on what is happening at your local branches and around the community, you might like to follow us:

 /communitybankAltonaLaverton

 /communitybank_altlav

Yours sincerely,

Henry Da Silva
Chairman

Ready to make your community-building dreams a reality?

Don't miss this opportunity to be a catalyst for positive change. Apply for our Community Grants program today. Contact us on E: bdm@hobsonsbayfs.com.au to learn more about the application process and eligibility criteria.

Applications period:
2 - 29 September 2024



Home Lending expertise to you at a time and place of your convenience.

As well as our friendly team of staff in our Altona and Laverton branches, we have a dedicated manager who can bring lending expertise to you at a time and place of your convenience.

Phil has more than 22 years' experience helping people purchase their first or subsequent homes, investment properties, building, refinancing and more.

Meet Phil
Your mobile
lending specialist

Call 0411 436 996



A Tribute to Andrew Denis Shanahan

Recently we said goodbye to Andrew Denis Shanahan, a long-serving, former Director, who sadly passed away.

Denis was a great ambassador and advocate of our Community Bank branches and was one of our most dedicated collaborators who was knowledgeable about issues affecting our community. His background in education led him to work to improve education and career opportunities for young people. His passion for community, its people and businesses, helped lead our company to support many worthwhile community projects that would benefit our community. As such, Denis was often present at various community events together with his wife Gwen, celebrating our collaborations and achievements. Sadly Gwen also passed away last year.

Denis served the Board with great dedication and professionalism. He was a hard-working Director who served on multiple board committees over the years. He took an active interest in advancing the success of our business and was always generous with his time.

Denis retired from the board in 2016 to spend more time with his family. We are honoured to have worked with him and will miss his generosity and wisdom.



We are Proud to Support

Organisations

- Altona City Rotary
- Altona Rotary
- Altona Italian Social Club
- Altona Yacht Club
- Hobsons Bay Chess Club
- Hobsons Bay Men's Shed
- Hobsons Bay SES
- Jamieson Way Community Centre
- Latitude Directions for Young People
- Laverton Community Integrated Services
- Laverton Youth Foundation
- Lost Dogs Home
- Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre - Altona
- Outlets Co-operative Neighbourhood House Ltd
- Point Cook Village Services Pty Ltd
- Sovereign Hill Museums Association
- Truganina Fire Brigade
- Western Emergency Relief Network
- Young Achievers Foundation

Programs We Support

- Altona College Breakfast Program
- Defibrillators
- Equipment and training for emergency services
- Food Relief Programs
- Hobsons Bay Art Show
- WynBay L2P
- Ourania Papageorgiou - MATHESI
- School Scholarships
- St Mary's Primary School - Well Being Tram
- TeamSport4All
- Very Special Kids
- Water Safety and Swimming classes
- Wynspeak

Sports Clubs Supported

- Altona City Soccer Club
- Altona Sports Centre
- Essendon Baseball Club
- Gellibrand Cricket Club
- Laverton Cricket Club
- Point Cook Cricket Club
- Truganina Thunder Football Club

Annual Events

February

- Altona City Rotary Charity Golf Day
- Laverton Festival

March

- Hobsons Bay Community Fund Golf Day

May

- Newport Jazz Festival

August

- Greek Orthodox Parish of North Altona Festival

October

- Young Achiever's Foundation Golf Day
- Hobsons Bay Art Show - Altona Rotary
- Monster Mayhem

December

- Christmas at the Lakes

Out and About



Top row: Gellibrand Cricket Club Presentations, Hobsons Bay Community Financial Services Strategy Day, Wynspeak.

Bottom row: TeamSports4All, Point Cook Cricket Club Presentations, Multicultural Water Safety Education Forum.

Young Achievers

Lincoln Gunning – Customer Service Officer, Community Bank Altona and Laverton

Congratulations to Lincoln for achieving a certificate 3 in business. All that hard work and dedication has paid off.

A great partnership between Community Bank Altona and Laverton, Westvic Staffing Solutions and Integrity Business College.



Pictured is Murray Fielding, the trainee consultant from WestVic Staffing Solutions (left) Lincoln Gunning (middle) Daniela Guertler, Senior Branch Manager, Community Bank – Altona and Laverton, Bendigo Bank Well done Lincoln!

Talk to us today

Community Bank - Altona

64 Pier Street, Altona

P 9398 8922

E altona@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/altona

Community Bank - Laverton

3/28 Aviation Road, Laverton

P 9369 8455

E laverton@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/laverton

 /communitybankAltonaLaverton

 /communitybank_altlav

We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday

Directors

Mr H Da Silva (Chairperson), Mr M S Pernar (Secretary),
Mr G Ryan (Treasurer), Ms E Driscoll, Mr M Fischer,
Mr J Gundran, Ms M Serle

Hobsons Bay Community Financial Services Limited
PO Box 139, Altona VIC 3018
ABN 39 091 661 166

Branch Manager's Message

Scam awareness has been the focus of many of my previous messages. I am continuing with this theme, as it is so important to help keep you and your family safe.

Protect yourself from scams – Scams often start from a phone call, email, social media or SMS – it's important to learn how to identify common scams and what you can do to protect yourself.

Scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious personal and emotional harm to victims and their families.

In 2023, combined scam losses reported to Scamwatch, banks and other government agencies amounted to \$4 billion, up from over \$3.1 billion in 2022. One third of victims do not report scams, so actual losses would have been well above this.

Suspicious phone call – If you receive a suspicious phone call (that you suspect might be a scammer), and you've provided any personal or account information, contact us immediately on 1300 236 344 (option 4 then option 2), or by visiting any Bendigo Bank branch.

If you receive a suspicious call but did not provide any personal or account information, contact us at your earliest convenience.

Suspicious email – Never click on a link in an email. If you have received a suspicious email you can forward it to phishing@bendigoadelaide.com.au.

Suspicious SMS – Bendigo Bank will never ask you to click on a link in an SMS text message. If you receive a text message that you suspect is trying to impersonate Bendigo Bank, please forward it to 0429 557 997, or take a screenshot and email it to phishing@bendigoadelaide.com.au. Then delete the message.

Please be aware that a personal response will not be sent to any SMS text messages you send.

3 steps to remember:

1. Stop - don't give money or personal information to anyone if you're unsure.
2. Think - ask yourself, could the message or call be a fake?
3. Protect - act quickly if something feels wrong.

Daniela Guertler Senior Branch Manager

P: 0402 609 502

E: daniela.guertler@bendigoadelaide.com.au



A poster for the 'Monster Mayhem In The Meadows' event. The background is red with a large yellow full moon. A witch is flying on a broomstick. The text reads: 'Monster Mayhem In The Meadows Sunday 27th October 2-7PM AB Shaw Reserve Hall Ave Altona Meadows'. At the bottom, it says 'Proudly supported by' followed by logos for AMCA (Altona Meadows Community Association) and Bendigo Bank. The Bendigo Bank logo also includes 'Community Bank Altona, Laverton & Point Cook'.