



Autumn - Winter  
2024

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Pinewood

## Welcome to our latest Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter Newsletter for Community Bank Pinewood! We hope you find it informative as we keep you up to date with what's been happening here at the branch and with our Board Directors from March to June 2024.

## A message from our Chairman



To our valued community,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, which covers March to June. We are sharing some exciting updates with you.

During this period, we sponsored many sporting clubs, community groups, and local events. We are also proud to announce some huge projects we are funding

which include a new playground development at our local Pinewood Reserve, construction of a new Outdoor Education Space at Mount Waverley Secondary School, contribution towards the purchase of a new truck for the Monash unit of Victorian SES and provision of ten new laptop computers for their use, funding for Monash Ronald McDonald House to fix significant storm damage to their building, and funding to Monash Children's Hospital for a new ultrasound machine which will make a big impact on the lives of children. We can't wait to update you on these projects as they are completed!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Sharyn Cowley who was a Director and Company Secretary for almost nine years. Sharyn's attention to detail, work ethic, and dedication to the role were invaluable and we will miss her immensely. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours. We welcome Malwina Peacock to the team. Malwina has taken on the

role of Director and Company Secretary, and I am certain she will do an excellent job. I would also like to welcome Jenny Li to the role of Director, Jenny will concentrate on our Chinatown Office business. Welcome, and good luck to both exceptional Directors.

I also wanted to say congratulations to our staff member Paul Lai for reaching seven years of service and to Louise Gracey for reaching twelve years with us! I'm sure you will agree these are great milestones to celebrate and we value the work they do for Community Bank Pinewood and our communities.

Our staff members are committed to providing excellent service to our customers, under the guidance of our Branch Manager, Indu Dehipola. Please feel free to contact them on 9886 6477 or visit our branch for all your banking needs. We are dedicated to giving back to the community we care about, and the more you bank with us, the more we can achieve together. Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

**Robert Davies**  
Chairman

# A message from our Community Bank Pinewood



To our valued customers and supporters,

We hope you're doing well and enjoy our latest newsletter, which covers the months of March to June 2024.

We've been incredibly busy over the past few months, and I want to give a big shoutout to the team for their hard work and dedication to delivering excellent service to our customers every day.

As always, we've continued our commitment to support and attend local events in our community which are outlined later in the newsletter. We're also thrilled to have provided sponsorships, grants, and donations to numerous community groups and sporting clubs throughout the City of Monash. Most notably our contributions to the soon-to-be-developed Pinewood Reserve Playground, Pinewood Reserve digital scoreboard, Monash Children's Hospital Ultrasound Machine, building works at Monash Ronald McDonald House, contribution to Monash SES for a new truck and ten new laptops and an Outdoor classroom for Mount Waverley Secondary - what an impact we are making!

I want to thank Sharyn Cowley for all her work on the Board of Directors as Company Secretary, she will be missed. I welcome new Directors Jenny Li and Malwina Peacock - our new Company Secretary - congratulations to you both on your appointments. Congratulations also go to Paul Lai - Customer Relationship Manager for seven years with us and to Louise Gracey - Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator for twelve years with us - the business would not be the same without you!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and share it with your friends and colleagues, so we can continue to make a difference in the community we care about. Remember, we're more than just an ordinary bank, and we're committed to giving back to the community that supports us.

Warm regards,

**Indu Dehipola**  
Branch Manager

## Board News

Our Board of Directors continues to meet monthly where an extensive agenda is followed to ensure all business is attended to. The Board aims to complement the work our incredible management and staff do within the branch.

We want to thank and acknowledge our incredible Director and Company Secretary - Sharyn Cowley as she retired from the Board on 30 June. Sharyn has been with us for years and during that time she has been indispensable in ensuring our professionalism, efficiency, and compliance. We will miss Sharyn enormously and we have been honoured to have her work with us for all of this time. We sincerely wish Sharyn good fortune moving forward in her professional and personal life and, particularly as she goes overseas shortly to support her son in the upcoming Paris Olympics! Keep in touch Sharyn and thank you from all staff and the Board at Community Bank Pinewood.

We welcome two new Directors to the Board our first being Jenny Li. Jenny brings with her over 10 years of experience in the finance industry and has held executive and consulting roles with multiple financial institutions, specializing in fund management, corporate mergers and acquisitions, and community projects. You can read a little more about her via our **Facebook page**.

We also warmly welcome Malwina Peacock to the Board who has taken on the role of Director and Company Secretary. Malwina holds a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Performing Arts from Monash University and is currently undertaking postgraduate study with the Governance Institute of Australia. She has been a corporate lawyer and governance professional for 20 years and gained recognition in various legal awards. To find out a little more about Malwina via our **Facebook page**.

You can find our Annual Reports online at our website, please visit [www.bendigobank.com.au/pinewood](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/pinewood) for more information.



Sharyn Cowley



Jenny Li



Malwina Peacock





# Pitch It 2024!

## Community Bank Pinewood Grants Program

This will be the eighth year of our community Bank Pinewood Grants Program - Pitch It. To date, we have given away almost \$350,000 with our Pitch Partner businesses to community groups within the City of Monash. This year we will be giving away \$60,000 in funds to twelve local finalist community groups!

Applications will open on 5 August, and we encourage all community groups in the City of Monash to apply via [www.communitybankpinewood.smartygrants.com.au](http://www.communitybankpinewood.smartygrants.com.au)

Please support our Pitch Partner businesses who made a big difference and help us ensure these community projects become a reality. They are tagged here: Mulgrave Country Club, Showbiz Cinemas Waverley, Rogerson Kenny Business Accountants, Garry and Warren Smith Springvale - Honda and Kia Dealership, Waverley Mazda and Garry and Warren Smith Chadstone - Kia and Mitsubishi Dealership.

## Staff News

Our branch staff continued to provide top-notch service to our customers - professional, informative, and fantastic as always and we are so grateful for the work they do here in Pinewood. Our customers can always rely on our staff to help them with all their banking needs. For anyone needing assistance, the branch is open on weekdays, Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 4pm and on Friday from 9.30am to 5pm. you can find us at Pinewood Shopping Village, 65 Centre way, Mount Waverley.

We were also delighted to celebrate our team members Jeremy, Eraj, and Lai's birthdays during this time. We extend our warmest wishes to both of them for a happy year ahead, filled with success and joy. Pictured above left to right are Eraj and Lai who share the same birthday and Jeremy on the right.



Louise, our Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator (pictured right) celebrated twelve years of service, and Lai our customer Relationship Manager celebrated seven years of service and we congratulate them both for these impressive milestones!

Lastly, we wanted to give a huge shout-out and congratulations to our casual Customer Service Officer - Rhiannon who graduated from Monash University with a double degree! Rhiannon (pictured far right) received a Bachelor of Science Major in Immunology and a Bachelor of Global Studies in International Studies. We are all so incredibly proud of her achievements after four long years of study and we know she has a brilliant and bright future ahead, well done Rhiannon!



As always, we would like to express our gratitude to our customers for their continued support and trust in our services.

# Sponsorships & Donations - March to June



It's been another very busy period of giving back to our community and we are very proud of all the sponsorships, grants, and donations we were able to give. Most notably we have made commitments for a grant towards a new playground at Pinewood Reserve in conjunction with Monash City Council. We can also announce grants to the Monash Children's Hospital towards an Ultrasound Machine which will make a huge difference to children with chronic bowel illness. We have contributed to Mount Waverley Secondary School for the build of an outdoor classroom, there has been significant progress to date, and we can't wait to see the final result. Ronald McDonald House will put our grant to good use towards improving the building which suffered due to storm damage back in March. We are also very proud to have been able to supply a grant for the Monash SES division for the purchase of ten new laptops and a grant towards a new truck which will make an impact on the incredibly valuable service they offer our local community.

Here is a snapshot of the groups we impacted by providing sponsorships, donations, and scholarships during this period:

- International Women's Day Breakfast - Rotary Club of Monash
- Monash Precinct Network Event
- Pinewood Playground Upgrade
- Monash Pony Club Easter Event
- Monash Interfaith Gathering Lunch
- Monash Biomed Society Sponsorship
- Monash University Deans Excellence Award
- Glenvale Tennis Club Sponsorship
- Mount Waverley Secondary School Year 11 Community Scholarship
- Mount Waverley Secondary School Outdoor classroom
- SES Monash Division
- Springvale Chinese Ethnic School
- Monash Teddy Bear Hospital
- Love Your Sister
- Mulgrave Football Club
- Monash Health Organisation
- Waverley Garden Club - Bonsai Group
- Monash Youth Music Festival
- Old Josephine's Club of Australia
- Mazenod Football Club
- Glen Waverley Probus club
- Lions Club of Wheelers Hill
- Waverley Park Hawks Junior Football Club
- Monash Croquet Club
- Holy Family Netball Club
- Glen Waverley Rovers Football Club
- Eastern Devils Football Club

If your club or community group would benefit from sponsorship please head to [www.communitybankpinewood.smartygrants.com.au](http://www.communitybankpinewood.smartygrants.com.au) to apply or for further information contact Louise our Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator by emailing [marketing@pinewoodcb.com.au](mailto:marketing@pinewoodcb.com.au)



Photos top to bottom: Pinewood Playground Project: Indu Dehipola: Branch Manager and Pearl Lin; Senior Recreation Project Officer, Community Services. Monash Pony Club: Bronson Justus; Director, Sara Leitch, and Katie Lee; President Monash Pony Club Monash University: Marian Hamilton and Robert Davies; Chairman Rotary Club of Monash IWD Event: Rhonda, Andrea, Sharmila, Indu and Kehela.

## Events - March to June

We attended many events from March to June and we want to thank all the sporting clubs, community groups, and local businesses for extending invitations to us. It was an absolute pleasure to be part of the Monash Children's Hospital Shine Gala event at Crown Palladium and the photo on the left shows some of our team all 'glammed up' left to right: Angela, Louise, Indu, Lai, and Jeremy. The Hospital was raising funds for its work in genomic medicine, paving the way for better diagnostics and treatments for children with rare diseases. The night was filled with positivity and generosity of spirit raised a huge \$ 1.1 million with Community Bank Pinewood proudly contributing to the overall total. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this a night to remember.



We have a great relationship with our neighbour, 'Showbiz Cinemas Waverley' and we are thrilled they have joined us as Pitch Partners this year. Back in March, we were very proud to support their free outdoor pop-up community movie event showing Barbie the Movie, even Barbie herself came along to give out some prizes (pictured here is Jessica Sterle as Barbie). We want to thank the team at Showbiz Cinemas - Waverley for hosting and organising such a community-spirited event, we hope to be a part of the next one. We highly recommend our local cinema for great movies, session times, lovely staff, and reasonable prices. Head to <https://waverley.showbizcinemas.com.au>



Other events we attended included the Monash Women's Business Network lunch, Monash Business Awards breakfasts, Mulgrave Cricket Club Awards, Mulgrave Football Club Waverley Blues Football Club match day barbecue where our staff volunteered, Mount Waverley Bowls Club Presentation Night, the opening of the new Sports Hub in Wheelers Hill and the Monash Community Arts Society art gallery opening.

Customer Relationship Officer; Eraj Rajapakse attended the 'Battle of the Rocks' to watch and present the Man of the Match Award. The 'Battle' is an annual cricket match between pupils of Maliyadeva College and St. Anne's College (Sri Lanka). In the end, the prestigious title was won by Maliyadeva College. Best batsman and Man of the Match was awarded to Rasanjana Jayarathne, he is pictured here with Eraj receiving his trophy.



We are always happy to support our local community and we feel that meeting face-to-face is a wonderful way to strengthen our bond.

## Community Bank Pinewood - Chinatown Office News



Did you know that Community Bank Pinewood has a Chinatown Office in Melbourne's CBD that supports many different organizations and community groups? This arm of our business enables us to do

even more good in the community and the team works tirelessly to strengthen these connections and promote inclusiveness and diversity. The team is made up of Paul Lai (Lai) - Customer Relationship Manager, Jeremy Zhang - Customer Service Officer, and Rose Yang - Marketing Coordinator, and is supported by Directors Robert Davies, Philip Le Liu, and now Jenny Li.

We are very excited to welcome new Director Jenny Li to the Chinatown Office team, she is heading

the Engagement Committee, and we know she will give great direction and support going forward. The Chinatown Office supported many groups and projects from March to June including the Executive Wealth Circle (EWC) Gala Dinner, Shanghai Overseas Friendship Association, and the Melbourne Property Expo to name only a few. Our team was hard at work on the Labour Day weekend back in March when both the Community Bank Pinewood branch staff and our Chinatown Office took part in the 2024 Melbourne Property Expo at the Exhibition Centre. They talked to hundreds of visitors over the 2-day event which featured developers, agents, and other industry professionals from around the country and internationally. For those who visited there was the opportunity to explore a wide range of properties, including new developments, commercial properties, and residential homes. They could also attend seminars and workshops, network with industry professionals, and learn about the latest trends and developments in the real estate industry. We were very proud of our hardworking team pictured here left to right Rose, Lai, and Angela who added value to the experience of those who dropped by.

# Time for a home loan health check!

With the current cost of living, there's never been a better time to review your home loan.

Enquire online at [bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck) or call your nearest branch on 9886 6477.

 Community Bank · Pinewood



## Bendigo Bank

\*Source: Roy Morgan Single Source Australia, May 2023. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions, available online at [www.bendigobank.com.au](https://www.bendigobank.com.au) or upon request from any Bendigo Bank branch, before making a decision. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879 (1676698-1734981) (05/22) OUT\_35989379, 15/03/2024

## Talk to us today



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### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

### Pinewood Community Financial Services Limited

65 Centreway, Mt Waverley VIC 3149

ABN 26 099 420 050

## Ericson Community Service Award



We are delighted to announce the recipient of the Ericson Community Service Award 2024 (ECSA). Our heartfelt congratulations go to Anthony Tipton for his years of service to the City of Monash.

Anthony is such an incredibly worthy recipient of the Award and is donating his funds to Fusion Australia. Anthony has a mild disability and has been volunteering for Fusion Oakleigh Youth and Community Centre for over 17 years and other settings in the City of Monash. Anthony volunteers 10-15 hours per week at the Centre and most recently has been integral to the completion of the new Community Garden which opened officially on 27 June.

Anthony is described by his peers as a caring, kind, reliable, and dedicated volunteer and we are very much looking forward to meeting him in person soon. Anthony and his Mum Cathy will also join us at our Pitch It 2024 Finalist Event in November to talk about the Award and how the funds were used - the plan is to purchase equipment to refresh the playgroup equipment at the Centre.

We want to thank everyone who nominated for the ECSA particularly Jackie Gleeson from Rotary Club of Oakleigh Clayton Huntingdale and Fiona Gunnion from Fusion Oakleigh Youth and Community Centre who nominated Anthony. Anthony is pictured here with his certificate with (left to right): Jackie Gleeson, Fiona Gunnion, Merv Ericson the Awards namesake, Indu Dehipola; Branch Manager, and Robert Davies; Chairman. We were very impressed with the calibre of nominees this year and we hope for even more nominations next year!