



Newsletter

Community Bank · Robe & Districts



Robe Primary School Nature Play

Wednesday 4 December was a special day, which was when we attended the official opening of the Chris McLay Nature Play area at Robe Primary School. This project has been a true labour of love from all the incredible teachers, Parents & Friends Committee and volunteers from around this fantastic community.



Community Bank Robe & Districts are so proud for this project to go down in history as our largest grant to date, of \$95,000. This was of course made possible by the profits made from the communities who support us.

Not only is the Nature Play area a place where children can interact with each other during recess, lunch and outside of school hours, but it also provides a natural space for other local and visiting children to challenge themselves and work together. As

well as being used during school break times, staff at the school try and incorporate the space into learning activities where possible. Dedicated to Chris McLay for his well-deserved retirement, this project was a way to say 'thank you' for everything he did during his 34 years at the school. "Half of his life..." Chris said, during the official ribbon cutting ceremony. What a man and what an achievement. We wouldn't be here supporting local projects like this one without the continued support from our customers. We would like to again thank our communities for supporting us by banking local.

Kingston Bowling Club

Community Bank Robe & Districts is a proud annual sponsor of the Kingston Bowling Club, Ladies Invitational Fours Tournament. Antony congratulated the winners from Kingston and Robe on the day (pictured above). Well done to all that played or are involved in the running of this fantastic event.

Lucindale Campdraft

The Lucindale Campdraft event gives local horseman the opportunity to show off their abilities in a competition setting. We have sponsored this event for the past few years, and each year, it draws in decent crowds. 'Well done' to first place winner of the junior girls, Georgia Eddy, who put on a fantastic show. We hope to see you there next year.



Balharrie Early Learning Centre

At our 2024 AGM, Sile Legoe was kind enough to provide an update and overview of their new outdoor learning space project, which is part of the Balharrie Early Learning in Lucindale.



This project came to light as part of their Quality Improvement Plan, and the centre wanted to further develop their outdoor learning space. The Governing Council pushed to have the work done as kids were landing in dirt as they came off the old slide and were getting splinters from some other equipment. \$30,000 seemed like a mammoth amount for the Centre to raise for the project, as shown on the thermometer sign they displayed out the front. Sile reported that it was fantastic to see how banking with the Community Bank can help with projects like theirs; seeing funds reinvested back into the community.

The project was completed around mid 2024, and our Business Development Manager, Antony, attended the opening. He was very proud of the beautiful new space. Sile thanks their local Community Bank Robe & Districts for supporting the development, and notes that they would still be raising the money if the bank hadn't contributed the \$10,000 we did.

SA Rural Women's Gathering Robe

'Relax to the Crayfish Crawl' was the theme for this year's event, held in Robe. An active team of Robe ladies generously offered their time and expertise to host the 26th SA Rural Women's Gathering over the weekend of 13-15 September, 2024.



The event is for all SA rural women, and we heard a whisper that the gathering in Robe has been one of the best they've seen in terms of the organisation and structure that went into all the planning. Well done ladies. The weekend includes concurrent practical workshops, guest speaker sessions, a gala dinner and social and shopping time. The gathering offers opportunities for all rural women, no matter whether they want agricultural insight, business information, personal development strategies or social/recreational opportunities; to gather in one place over a fun filled weekend. More information can be found at www.saruralwomensgathering.org.au

Your local community bank was a proud sponsor this year. Why not get in touch with us to find out how we can help with your next event?



Robe Bowling Club - Twilight Bowls

Another fun Corporate Twilight Bowls season came to end in late 2024. Congratulations to all the winners and local business teams who came together every Wednesday night to participate in this iconic showdown.

A big 'thank you' to the Robe Bowling Club and its members, who each year put a lot of their own time into making the event happen, and run so smoothly.

We love sponsoring this Robe tradition and are so glad to see it return each year. Winners: 'Bankroll', who scored 59 points, and 'Smashed Avos' coming in 2nd on 50 points, and the 'Callie Boys' rounding out the top 3 on 49 points. Congratulations as well to each of the weekly winners. The overall scores were an extremely close result. Bring on next year!



Robe & Districts Community Grants Program

Community Bank · Robe & Districts

We have \$100,000 in hard earned funds to return to our communities. Projects that benefit the whole community will be considered. We want to make a difference and support the communities who support us, when they need it most.

Think big or small and apply now.

Applications open 1 February – 14 March.
Scan the code to apply.



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Kingston Community School

At our 2024 AGM, Katie Hines spoke highly of the bank and how we helped them raise some much-needed funds for new fencing for their Agriculture program. Katie is an Agriculture teacher at Kingston Community School. Katie shared with the meeting:

“The sponsorship the bank is able to provide is important for all community groups. We are all lucky to have the bank’s support; for us it was in the way of helping to replace fencing on our school farm.”

Katie also shared how old, outdated fencing can be a hazard, both to animals and students. Your local Community Bank was able to provide sponsorship that helped with material costs for the fencing, and the school is very thankful for the support.

To them, the sponsorship is not just about building new fences, it’s also about community and about providing opportunities for students. Katie shared how important it is as a teacher to see students engage with the projects like this one. Without the financial support, helping with the cost of materials, the school would have been much more out of pocket.

The bank was able to contribute \$6,000 to the school, all made possible by our customers, who choose to bank local with us.



Kangaroo Inn Area School

Your local Community Bank continues to support its local youth, this time it was in the way of contributing \$6,000 to the Kangaroo Inn Area School to be put towards their 2024 Mt Buller Snow Camp. This sponsorship enabled the students to enjoy an incredible outdoor adventure; where they learned new skills and created lasting memories.

The bank is passionate about supporting our local schools and investing in the future of our community. We couldn’t wait to see photos and hear about the amazing experiences and stories that come from the trip.

Thank you for being part of our community and for helping us make a difference. Without the support of our community and shareholders, we wouldn’t be able to give back in the ways we do.

Lions Club Scholarships

Our Scholarship Program opens every year for new applications. If you are a year 12 student from Lucindale, Kingston or Robe postcode regions, (or studying Year 10 at Lucindale Area School), you may be eligible for one of the six scholarships that we have on offer. Community Bank Robe & Districts partners with the Robe, Kingston & Lucindale Lions Clubs to bring this scholarship program to the regional students in our area, who often need it most.

Please visit www.communitybankrobedistricts.smartygrants.com.au/ or call us on 8768 1855 for more information or to find out how to apply.

The scholarships help students manage the financial challenges that arise with tertiary education and can be put towards expenses such as travel costs, text books or general relocation or education costs.

Southern Ocean Arts Prize

Each year, Community Bank Robe & Districts pledge themselves as major sponsors of the Karatta Wines Southern Ocean Arts Prize.

Antony had a walk through amongst all of the amazing entries this year, and he reported that there were again some stunning pieces.

The bank’s sponsorship contribution of \$2,500 went towards providing supplies for the Kids Corner, and to the prize pool for some talented local artists. We would like to say a big ‘Congratulations’ to all the organisers of this event, as well as the artists themselves.

Southern Ocean Arts Prize, or ‘SOAP’ as it has become known, is such a special way of bringing Art to our community. By funding many youth activities and initiatives in Robe and surrounds, our Community Bank inspires our young folk to follow their passions and chase their dreams.



Get Home Safe Foundation

We would like to say ‘thank you’ to all of the students, staff and parents from Kangaroo Inn, Lucindale, Allendale, St Martins Lutheran College, Keith, Tintinara, Bordertown, Naracoorte, Millicent, Penola and Kingston schools for participating in

the Get Home Safe – Driver Education Foundation. This Regional program has again been funded by Community Bank Penola & District, Community Bank Robe & Districts, Community Bank Keith & Districts and Community Bank Mount Gambier & District. This partnership has continued for nearly a decade; helping to create a safer generation of drivers in the region.

Toyota Australia is the driving force behind the Foundation’s work in High Schools here, and all across Australia, providing the safest possible vehicles for students for their learning.

The Foundation also launched Australia’s first SA Regional Road Safety Alliance in Mount Gambier on 21 November. Details of the launch can be found at www.gethomesafefoundation.org.

We are proud to have contributed to the Foundation for the past nine years, helping protect our kids and wider community by means of making safer drivers for the long term.



2024 Annual General Meeting



On 16 November, Robe Community Financial Services Ltd again held its Annual General Meeting at the Robe Golf Club. While we moved our breakfast indoors this year, due to some often-typical Robe wind, our AGM did not fail to be a great opportunity for our

shareholders and community members to catch up and be informed of all the bank has been up to.

The meeting is a great way keep up to date on the recent success of our branch and for us to reflect on the impact we have had over the last year. The bank reported having given back over \$95,000 to more than 34 groups this past financial year, that are all working hard to better our communities.

Thank you to the Robe Golf Club for having us, and to Kahlia at The Pastry Place for our delicious breaky. Everyone raves about your croissants, and for good reason! We are proud to announce that we will be paying a 7.5c dividend to our shareholders this year. Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to be part of our meeting – both shareholders and our community. It's great to see you all.

Talk to us today




Robbie Chappel
Branch Manager
8768 1855 or 0400 403 771
Robbie.Chappel@
bendigoadelaide.com.au

Community Bank · Robe & Districts

9 Victoria Street, Robe
P 8768 1855
E robemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
bendigobank.com.au/robe

 /communitybankrobedistricts

 /communitybank_robe_districts

We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday
9.30am - 4.30pm Friday

Kingston Agency

33 Agnes Street, Kingston
P 8767 2403

We're open: 10.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday

Lucindale

21 Musgrave Avenue, Lucindale
P 0400 403 771

We're open: Tuesdays by appointment only

Beachport

Shop 1, 4 Railway Terrace, Beachport
P 0400 403 771

We're open: Thursdays by appointment only

Directors

Annie Matthews, Geoff Saunders, Tom White, Michael Mattei,
Samantha Matthews, Andrew Brown, Julie Merrett, Peter Stock

Robe Community Financial Services Ltd
9 Victoria Street, Robe SA 5276
ABN 24 101 974 887

The power of Community Banking

When you bank with your local Community Bank you make a difference in your community. \$292 million has been returned to communities and initiatives Australia wide, which includes over \$19 million in the last year alone! Behind the numbers are real stories and real branches, making a real difference for real people. Bank with your local Community Bank to make a difference to your community. Did you know that all Community Bank branches (including our very own Robe & Districts), give up to 80% of their profits back to the communities who support them? The Community Bank's aim is to develop long-term prosperity by supporting programs that help empower local individuals and groups within the local community. How amazing is that?

