



Summer
2024-25

Community News

Community Bank · Southern Peninsula

Seasons Greetings!

Hi everyone,

If we still need to meet in person, my name is Nat, and I am the Community Engagement Advisor at the Community Bank Southern Peninsula. Welcome to our summer newsletter!

This is my favourite time of year, especially living on the Peninsula. We are fortunate to reside in this special place with a strong community spirit. Since joining the bank, I have developed beautiful friendships and have felt more connected to our local community.

I have been in this role for eight months, and it has been a productive time. We have successfully completed two community funding rounds, hosted two awards evenings, organised many events and community group visits, finished our Community Bank Rye refurbishment, held branch parties, and produced a community impact report, among many other activities.

My role also involves managing marketing and advertising, social media, and events while supporting and enhancing our community partnerships. I focus on sharing our stories and the stories of local community organisations.

My vision in this role is to create a stronger and more connected community while building brand awareness. I want to share the benefits of banking with us and highlight the positive impact on our local community.

I am passionate about photography and enjoy sharing photos from our community events and visits, telling visual stories that reflect our experiences. Sharing our combined stories is a powerful way to offer



support. With my event background, I aim to ensure our community awards evenings are unique, providing an evolving platform for celebration. It's a fantastic opportunity for our community groups, the Board, and staff to connect.

I hope you enjoy the summer newsletter. Happy reading!

And from all of us at Community Bank Southern Peninsula have a joyful and safe Christmas with family and friends.

Nat Sevier
Community Engagement Liaison



Community Impact Report 2023/24

In October, we released the Community Impact Report for 2023/24.

The report highlights the community groups and organisations we have supported this past financial year and outstanding local and community stories.

If you are a Community Bank Southern Peninsula customer, your better banking has had a BIG impact in 2024. Because of our customers, we could distribute over \$547,000 across 103 local community clubs and organisations. This is a testament to the power of our community and your role in it. You should feel proud of the positive impact you've made.

Where else can great banking create such a positive impact!

Our presence on the Peninsula for over twenty-two years has resulted in the return of 10 million dollars in community contributions, a significant achievement we are immensely proud of.

Our Vision

To be the bank of choice on the Southern Peninsula.

Purpose

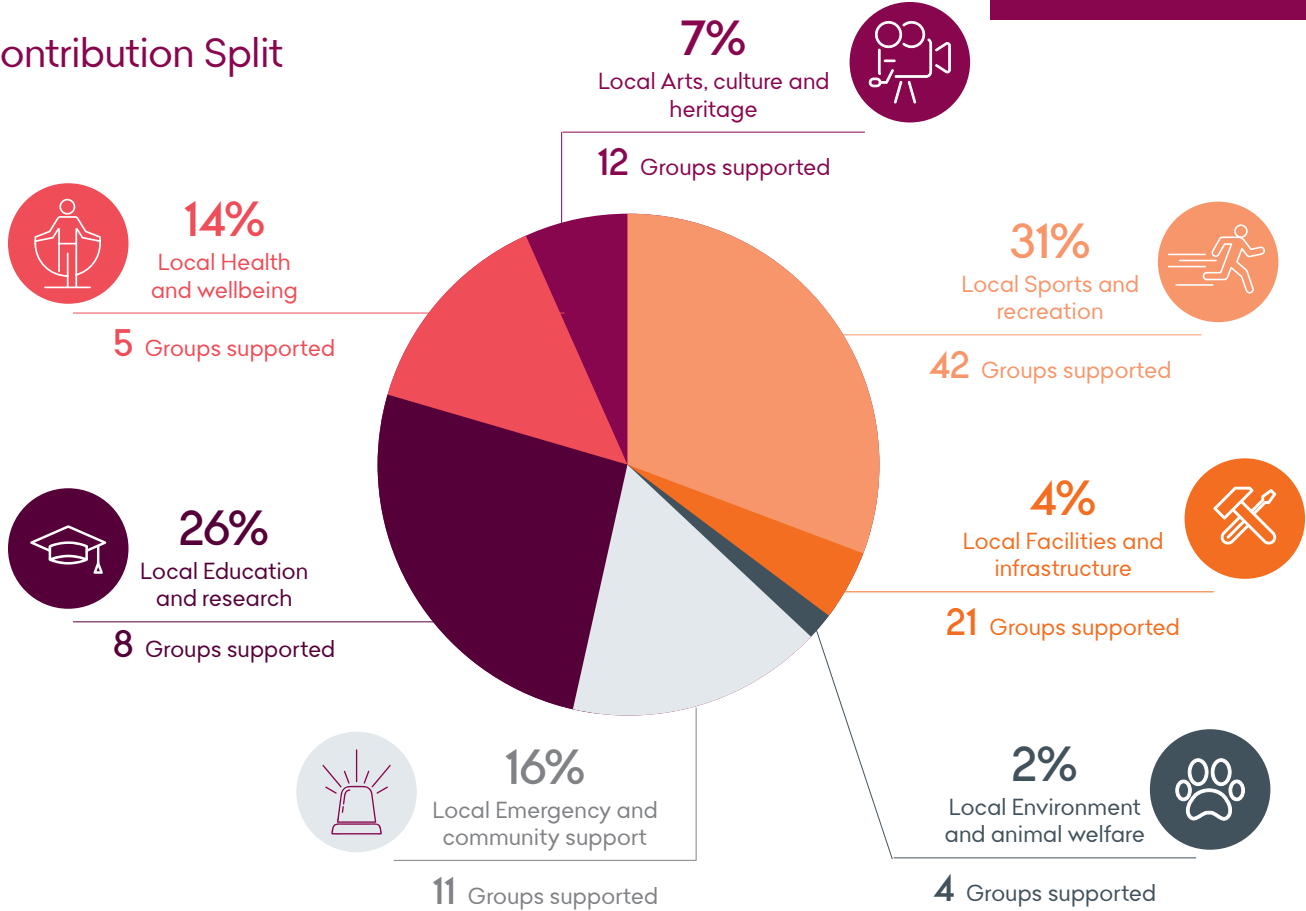
To feed into the prosperity of our local Southern Peninsula Community and not off it.

Mission

To focus on building and improving the prospects of our customers, community partners and shareholders whilst offering an exceptional Community Bank experience.

The numbers 2023/24

Contribution Split



23
Years of providing community service

\$9.5 million
Contributions to the community to date

\$547,000
Contributions to the community

103
Local organisations supported

1
Local Bus

22
Local staff

4
Local branches: (including a dedicated lending HUB)

12,308
Local customers: Dromana: 3308, Rosebud: 4070, Rye: 4660

451
Local shareholders

8
Volunteer Local Directors

Community Funding Awards: \$10 Million Reasons to Celebrate and Bank With Us

On Wednesday 20 November, Community Bank Southern Peninsula celebrated a significant milestone by announcing \$10 million in community contributions returned to our region since 2001. This announcement was part of our Community Funding Awards evening at the Rosebud Country Club, attended by two hundred guests.

Our guests, Board members, and staff were greeted by some large, feathered friends (giant seagulls) who flew in to join the festivities and entertain the crowd, setting a festive tone for the evening.

The local band, The Warrains, provided entertainment. At the same time, guests enjoyed canapés and pink gin cocktails, allowing everyone to reconnect.

A highlight of the night was the live mural painting by local artist Jackie Green. Our creative brief to Jackie was to create a peninsula-centric community painting that reflected our values, support categories, geography, landscape, and the \$10 million announcement. The painting evolved throughout the evening, mesmerising our guests. This unique artwork will be displayed in the newly refurbished Community Bank Rye.

We also hosted a panel discussion featuring community-minded individuals we partner with through various clubs, schools, organisations, and workplaces.

This was our first time experimenting with this format, and it received an enthusiastic response. The panel discussion showcased diverse perspectives on community, sport, culture, leadership, youth, and collaboration. It was both fantastic and inspiring.

The panel included Lisa Holt, Principal at Rosebud Secondary College; Lionel Launch, CEO at Living Culture; Brett McRae,



President of Rosebud Football Netball Club; and Renae Dunston, Branch Operations Manager at our Rosebud Branch. Renee Bowker, Board Member and Second Chair facilitated the discussion, whose guidance helped create a memorable evening for all.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from our guests highlights the impact of the panellists' insights, anecdotes, and life stories. Their authenticity truly resonated with the audience, and we thank them for participating.

We also heard from Fiona Somjee, Community Company Manager, and our Chair, Vin Cheers. Both spoke passionately about our customers, shareholders, community, and dedicated team. They paid special tribute to our guests and volunteers, acknowledging their significant roles within our community.

After the formal proceedings, The Warrains kicked off the celebration with lively music, and we enjoyed pizza, cake and each other's company.

We extend our gratitude to the Rosebud Country Club for hosting us. It is a beautiful local venue, and we look forward to future collaborations.

Three Branch Parties in One Day

The party didn't stop there; we took the party to the streets the following week, and our locals in Rye, Rosebud and Dromana had the opportunity to join the celebrations. Each branch celebrated with a sausage sizzle, more cake, lolly bags and balloons. The parties were a lot of fun, and we thank everyone who celebrated with us.

A huge thank you to our local Lions Clubs, who were cooking with gas; we couldn't have done this without you.



Seen at the Community Funding Awards



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Bendigo Bank Regional Awards

Last month at the Bendigo Bank Regional Awards, our teams from Rye, Rosebud and Dromana, and Board were honoured with the region's Best Community Bank Award for our service to the local community.

This award recognises our commitment to our community organisations through sponsorship and grants, attending and facilitating community events, three local branches, customer service from FABULOUS local staff, positive influence, marketing support, volunteering, and so much more.

We are proud of the unique Community Bank model that allows us to support many initiatives within our region because of our customers and shareholders. This model, built on community involvement and support, makes us different and successful. You, our customers and shareholders, are the heart of this model, and we couldn't do it without you.

We thank the Bendigo Bank for the award and ongoing collaboration. But most importantly, we want to thank you, our community members, customers, and shareholders. Your support and involvement are what make our initiatives and events successful. We appreciate you and look forward to continuing our journey together.



Rye & District Community Financial Services AGM

Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27 November, at the Rosebud Country Club. Over 50 shareholders, Directors, staff and guests shared in the evening's proceedings. Resolutions of note included the members officially voting Board-appointed Director Josh Oppy into the Company and adopting (by special resolution) a new Company Constitution that aligns it with corporate governance best practice (endorsed by the Bendigo Bank and the Community Bank National Council). The announcement of a 12-cent per share fully-franked dividend for FY 24 was also roundly appreciated by the audience!

Other highlights included acknowledging the historic \$10 MILLION in community funding returned to the region since 2001, the Company's social enterprise certification with Social Traders and the recent refurbishment of Community Bank Rye. The attendees were also lucky to hear from guest speaker David Robertson, Chief Economist of the Bendigo Bank, who provided entertaining and informative commentary about global and local economics and trends for FY 25.

It was a great evening and a reminder of the importance of investing in a successful and resilient community asset. If you are interested in purchasing shares in the Company via the Low Volume Market, please contact the Company Secretary, Sarah Marshall, at sarah_marshall@ryedistrict.com.au or 0494 026 296 or learn more about the LVM at <https://www.bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-rye-district/lvm-shares/>.

Farewell Colourful Kristy



We are saying farewell to Kristy, who has been with us for over five years. During that time, she held several leadership roles, including Customer Relationship Manager, Branch Manager, Small Business Manager, and Branch Operations Manager.

All her roles focused on customer engagement, and she provided our customers the best solutions and outcomes. Kristy was also instrumental in developing and initiating the sponsorship of the Karingal FNC and driving our referral program.

We will miss Kristy's vibrant personality, love for gin cocktails, city stories and creative ideas. We wish Kristy all the best in her future endeavours and new opportunities.

As we say goodbye, we also look forward to welcoming our new Branch Operations Manager, Karen O'Keefe. Karen brings five years of experience in a similar role at BEN and will join us in the New Year. We are excited to welcome her and will officially introduce her then.



A Creative Partnership



In preparation for the awards night, we collaborated closely with local videographer Mick Russell to produce a series of vignettes highlighting some of our key community partners. We filmed segments featuring Southern Peninsula Community Support, Living Culture, Vinnies Kitchen, the Sorrento Sharks girls' multi-sport carnival, MPF, Dromana Community Garden, and our local staff. These videos were shared on our social media platforms leading up to the awards night, culminating in a seven-minute community video. It required significant work and coordination but was also an excellent way to strengthen our connections with community partners and staff. Mick is a pleasure to work with; nothing is too complicated for him.

We thank Mick for partnering with us!



Play Hard Like a Girl

We are passionate about sports, especially juniors, and we were recently invited to participate in an all-girls sports event hosted by the Sorrento Sharks Cricket Club.

The Sorrento David MacFarlan Reserve was buzzing, and the EMPOWER HER girl's multi-sports carnival was great fun. It was a free event and part of the Change Our Game initiative committed to increasing women and girls' participation, leadership, and visibility in sport and recreation.

The girls had the opportunity to try out cricket, baseball, football, and soccer, and they also got to participate in a

messy but fun paint-throwing activity. The day provided chances to try different sports, meet other local clubs, and make new friends.

Local artist Jackie Green was painting a mural live with the girls' help, and this activity was a clear standout. The girls had the opportunity to throw paintballs at the mural and imprint personal touches.

We hope this project becomes an annual event and one we will support.



The 2025 Rye Gift Athletics Carnival & Family Fun Day

Community Bank Southern Peninsula has been a major sponsor of the Rye Sports & Social Club for over 17 years as major sponsors of the Club & Gift. Then, in 2007, our branches, Rye & Dromana, became sponsors of the Bendigo Dash for Cash.



We remain a significant club sponsor, providing \$100,000+ in community contributions over the 17 years. We are steeped in history and proud of our long-standing relationship.



The 2025 Rye Gift Athletics Carnival & Family Fun Day is fast approaching, and we look forward to participating in this iconic Mornington Peninsula event. The Rye Gift will again be held at R J Rowley Reserve, Melbourne Road, Rye 3941, on the second Saturday in January (11 January 2025).

We proudly sponsor the 2025 Rye Gift Athletics Carnival & Family Fun Day. Again, we will be event sponsors of the Senior & Junior Community Relays and the 120M Boys and Girls Under 18 races.

We wish entrants all the best on the day.

For further information on this event, please visit the Rye Sports and Social Club Facebook Page.



A Fantastic Farewell to Craig

We recently bid farewell to Craig Casey, who is embarking on a new retirement chapter filled with travel and cherished moments with friends and family.

Craig joined us just over two years ago as the Rye Branch Manager. He briefly explored retirement but soon realised he wasn't ready to leave. He returned to work in community engagement, where he built strong and meaningful relationships with our community groups, particularly with local sporting clubs.



As a Rye local, we look forward to seeing him regularly as he drops by the branch for coffee and a chat. He is sure to make us smile with his sense of humour.

We wish you a FANTASTIC retirement, Craig, and hope you don't become a stranger!

Community Bank Rye Refurbishment

Our first Community Bank opened in Rye 23 years ago. The recent refurbishment of Community Bank Rye is a testament to our ongoing commitment and reinvestment into the Peninsula Community, a project that wouldn't have been possible without the support of our customers and shareholders.

This is a significant milestone and celebration, with the Community Bank Southern Peninsula going against the norm and countering bank closures. We will continue to provide banking and financial services to our community while supporting our clubs, community groups, neighbourhood houses, and local events. The branch was temporarily closed and reopened in just over two weeks, a result that we are all proud of. The reopening was a community party, with our local Lions Club providing a sausage sizzle, and our loyal customers and staff from other branches joining in the celebration.

Whilst Community Bank Rye underwent the refurbishment and makeover, our team had the opportunity to volunteer at Vinnies Kitchen Rosebud, assisting with their emergency food program.

We are deeply grateful to Ree and her team for welcoming Ness, Sammy, Wendy, Katrina, and Craig into their kitchen during the refurbishment. Their daily exposure to the work of your volunteers was insightful, and they truly appreciated the experience.

Congratulations to Vanessa and her team and their lovely beachside Community Bank Rye.



Safety Beach Sailing Clubs Juniors

We have had a longstanding relationship with the Safety Beach Sailing Club, particularly the sponsorship of their junior program. The club received funding in our recent grant round to assist in purchasing an RS Tera training boat, to suit juniors aged 8-15 years. The club needed to secure another boat of this size to add to our fleet, as we can now accommodate the higher demand in that age group. The club said it is a wonderful and needed addition to our fleet of junior training boats.

Their juniors have been actively involved in learning various skills. They have mastered the art of tying knots and practicing capsizing on land. They have also been towed around by the training rhibs to gain a better understanding of how boats behave in the water. These activities have not only been educational but also engaging for our young sailors.

The Safety Beach Sailing Club is not just a club, it's a community. With a strong sense of adventure, a focus on water safety, and a welcoming, volunteer-run spirit, it's a



perfect fit for our sponsorship. After all, we're surrounded by water, and this club is our backyard.

We're eagerly looking forward to our upcoming visit to the club. We can't wait to see the kids in action, putting their newfound skills to use on the water.

Rosebud Junior Cricket Club... HOWZAT!

It was a very hot night for the year's last Woolworths Blast training night, but that did not deter the kids at Rosebud Junior Cricket Club from having a fun night. At the beginning of the season, we provided the seven local cricket clubs that we sponsor with marquees for the purpose of shade, and this night it was welcomed.

When Nat, met Paul at the beginning of the season, the club had two junior players. Now, we are thrilled to announce that we have 43 junior players, including both girls and boys. This remarkable growth is a testament to the club's unwavering commitment to local junior sport and the community.

After a fun cricket session, we celebrated the club's success with a sausage sizzle, and Nat handed out bags and soft cricket balls to the kids.

We're truly grateful for the invitation and the opportunity to be a part of the Rosebud Cricket Club. We had a fantastic time and appreciated the club's ongoing support. We're looking forward to more such events in the future. And yes, we've noted that Nat needs to improve at fielding!

We're already looking forward to the next season, eager to see the club's continued growth and success. The future of Rosebud Cricket Club is bright, and we can't wait for Blast to fire up again in 2025.



Tis the Season to Give Christmas Appeal

This year, the Community Bank Southern Peninsulas Christmas appeal will support Vinnies Kitchen in Rosebud and its emergency food program.

Visit our Rye, Rosebud, or Dromana branches to purchase a B Bauble. Your purchase will help decorate our Christmas trees and support someone in need.





Talk to us today

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Fiona Somjee

Community Company Manager

Rye, Rosebud & Dromana

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Community Bank · Rye

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Community Bank · Rosebud

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Southern Peninsula Lending Hub

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Community Bank · Dromana

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www.bendigobank.com.au/dromana

We're open: 9.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Business Breakfast with David

In October, we hosted a business breakfast with David Robertson, the Chief Economist for the Bendigo Bank. David is a fabulous speaker who shared his insights on the economy, interest rate outlook, global financial markets, property and job markets, and business sentiment, providing an overview of the current economic landscape.

The event was held at the spectacular Safety Beach Sailing Club, and although a chilly morning, we had eighty-plus guests in attendance. The early start was worth it, as the view from the Safety Beach Club was exquisite.

David provided a snappy view of the economic market and local and global predictions for the future. The event provided an enjoyable experience and left you with valuable insights. A successful local event and one that will become an annual event.



Directors Vincent Cheers (Chairman), Renee Bowker (Second Chair), Craig Dowsing (Treasurer), Sarah Marshall (Company Secretary), Steve Edmund, Steve Robin, Helen Murphy, Josh Oppy, Oriana Tessari

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