



Summer
2025-26

Hello Buninyong

Community Bank · Buninyong

Welcome to Our New Forever Home

We're thrilled to share that our brand-new branch at 407 Warrenheip Street is officially open and we couldn't be happier to welcome you through the doors.

This move has been a big moment for our community company. After years of growing, supporting local projects and welcoming thousands of customers, this is us investing in something that's ours and as such a company-owned community asset. This now provides a long-term home for the work we do and the impact we create.

Thank you to everyone for your patience as we packed up, shifted equipment (including an ATM in pieces!) and settled into the new space. Your support, understanding and encouragement have reminded us exactly why we do what we do.

Inside the branch you'll find a fresh, welcoming environment designed for conversations, service and community. New paint on the walls, new carpet, but the same friendly faces ready to help you with your banking and continue all the good we can do together.

We'd love for you to come in, say hello and look around.

You'll now find us at:
407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.



Chair Message



This year has been one of impact, collaboration and significant milestones for our community company. In our 15th year,

we returned more than \$310,000 in profit to support 61 local projects delivered by 50 community groups. This is the perfect demonstration of what happens when customers, community and purpose-driven banking work together. We also continued to uphold our Social Traders Certification, reinforcing our commitment as a recognised business for good.

We celebrated distributing \$50,000 at SparkTank, joining forces with neighbouring Community Banks at Commerce Ballarat's Forage & Feast to showcase over \$7 million reinvested collectively, and representing our region at the Bendigo Bank Community Bank National Conference where future-focused themes like AI, sustainability and generational change shaped the national conversation.

Locally, our community impact stories continue to motivate us, whether it's supporting junior sport, backing environmental stewardship, preserving local history or championing inclusion and connection. These stories now total more than \$2.5 million reinvested since opening.

We also farewelled and celebrated long-serving volunteer Directors who helped build our organisation from the ground up, and honoured four exceptional team members, Jenny, Narelle, Lea and Director Ron Delaland on their 15-year service milestones at our recent AGM. Their commitment has played a significant role in our achievements.

Our investment in Buninyong and district is a promise: we are here to stay. From funding local projects to supporting community groups, we will keep strengthening our partnership with the people who make our region exceptional.

Brett Jones
Chair

Our new branch under construction



2025 Impact Snapshot

Community banking creates change and impact. Last financial year (2024/25) our Community Investment Program returned **\$310,000** of company profit to **50** community groups to support **61** impact projects for the betterment of our local area. We think that's pretty special in our 15th year.

Every step forward, we're doing together with our customers and community. You should be as proud as we are.

Last financial year we:

Invested \$310,592 in community impact	Backed 61 local projects, supporting 50 amazing groups	Our community company continued recognising our Social Traders Certification proving we recognised as a business-for-good!	Celebrated 15 years of community connection	Distributed \$50,000 of community investment funding at SparkTank!
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Download or read our brand new Impact Report

www.communitygrowshere.com.au/social-impact
or call past the branch for a copy.



Celebrating 15 Years of Service to Community

At this year's AGM, we were thrilled to honour four remarkable people who have helped shape our community company from the very beginning. Jenny, Narelle, Lea and Director Ron Delaland who each received their 15-year service awards. This is a milestone that speaks to their dedication, loyalty and a genuine belief in the power of community banking.

These four have been part of our story since day one (and in Ron's case, even before the doors officially opened). They were around for the early days, are responsible for building the business from the ground up, experienced the challenges, and the celebrations.

Every customer, every project supported and every partnership created can be attributed to the work they've done.

We thank Jenny, Narelle, Lea and Ron for their hard work. Our community company simply wouldn't be what it is today without them.



Learning Within the Network

Our Chair Brett and Director Omaru proudly represented us at the Bendigo Bank Community Bank National Council Conference in Canberra.

The conference was attended by over 600 people and covered some big themes shaping the space we work in including:

- Technology
- Sustainability & Climate
- Generational Change
- Trust
- The Future of Work



As Brett said, the standout insight for him was:

"Leaders must master the balance of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and HI (Human Intelligence). This is where the future is being shaped for CEOs and Directors. We're proud to have our local leaders bringing these insights back and helping us stay connected to the bigger picture while keeping community at the heart."

Collaboration at the Core

For the first time in years, we came together with Community Bank Ballan & District and Community Bank Creswick & District, and stood united backing a vital local sector and showcasing the true power of the Bendigo Bank community banking model.

Together, we've returned over \$7 million in profit back to the broader Ballarat community and Commerce Ballarat's Forage & Feast launch was the perfect moment to share that impact.

A highlight of the day? Hearing Blaz from Ballan and our very own Peita speak passionately about why the community banking model works and how it's creating real change in the area. We're so proud of Peita for representing Buninyong so beautifully.

It was also wonderful to have Nikki in the room with our neighbouring colleagues, all standing together in support of community, collaboration and local industry (and to talk on-the-spot banking!).

This event wasn't just about supporting local producers, it was about what we can achieve when we work together.



Community Impact

Sewing for Heart

This is exactly what our Community House is all about. The CWA Buninyong came together for a Sew-a-thon with nearly 30 women and girls rolling up their sleeves to cut, stitch and sew with purpose. They created over 150 cloth reusable menstruation pads to support women and girls in Uganda.

It was a beautiful picture of experienced women teaching younger women, all for the benefit of other women. The room was full of energy, generosity and community spirit and we loved seeing it all under our roof. Arhhh!

A huge congratulations to Hayley, Ava and every single person who contributed.



100 Years of Service Recorded



We said 'YES' to supporting the Rotary Club of Ballarat publish a stunning 419 page coffee-table book celebrating a century of service. It was launched in the very room it all started, in the City of Ballarat Town Hall's Trench Room.

The launch was brilliant: 90 people attended, Tracey Hargreaves officiated, speeches were given (including from our Branch Manager Randall and Partnerships Lead Kelly), and this local Rotary story was really celebrated.

Rotary Club President Peter Dunn said, "The production of the book detailing 100 years of dedicated service not only highlighted the extensive achievements of the Club over the past century but also served to emphasise the ongoing importance of the work of Rotary to the development and wellbeing of the Ballarat community and through its international links to communities across the world."

The book is now available in Ballarat's key libraries: Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, Federation University Australia and the Ballarat Historical Society to name a few.



Community Impact

A Trailer for Trees



Thanks to Sparktank funding, the local Leigh Catchment Group now has a brand new lockable trailer and tools to support tree planting events for decades to come!

- Over 6000 plants in the ground already this year
- Partnerships with groups like Rotary, CWA, Bunnings and The Med Shed
- A boosted sense of appreciation and team spirit among volunteers.

And we're here for all of it!

Group Secretary Jess Higgins-Anderson said, "Being part of the Sparktank event was a real pleasure and we were honoured to receive the \$10,000 funding. Thank you Community Bank Buninyong!"

This isn't just about trees, it's about connection, climate resilience and recognising the quiet doers of community work. This is the REAL power of community banking in action.

Building Skills, Team Spirit and Inclusion

Mount Clear Cricket Club has powered up junior development with new training gear, subsidised playing tops for U13-U17 girls' teams, and created a more engaging, fun environment for all.

- Better coaching tools
- Reduced costs for families
- Higher energy, more participation!

"We've been able to provide improved training opportunities... and it's had a big impact on the enthusiasm of our players," said Richard Matters, Junior Parent and Senior Cricketer.

Local sport thrives when community backs it. Thanks for helping us grow the game from the ground up!



Stories for Generations to Come

We were proud to support the recent "Elaine Thru the Lens" exhibition by the Meredith History Interest Group which is a powerful snapshot of community, history and the people who make our region special.

Held as Part One of a two-part project, the exhibition featured historical and contemporary photos of Elaine and surrounds. Part Two will be a published book and is coming next year, capturing even more stories for future generations.

The group has also published "Steiglitz Thru the Lens" and "Morrisons Thru the Lens", available at

www.meredithhistory.com.au/shop.html

Our volunteer Director Andrea Mason headed along to see what all the hype was about and wasn't disappointed. "These are exactly the type of projects and events we like to support, all wrapped up into one neat package. It was great to see people out and about, and getting involved".



Babies Above

When the team at Babies Above pitched at SparkTank with the idea of supporting families through baby loss, we knew it was something special. The project was heartfelt, community-led and unlike anything else in Ballarat.



Thanks to our support, the team at Babies Above now offer curated bereavement care boxes to local families facing the unimaginable heartbreak of baby loss.

These care packages are filled with meaningful keepsakes and resources and are being personally distributed across Ballarat, including via Grampians Health and St John of God Ballarat Hospital.

Babies Above Co-founder Maddison Hutchison said "Community Bank Buninyong's support has not only helped bring our project to life, but it's also been a part of our own healing."

We're so rapt to support Babies Above on this heartfelt project of care with local families.

Retiring Proud

We celebrated the incredible contribution of three long-serving volunteer Directors, Ian Corcoran, Ron Delaland and Richard McDowell, who officially stepped off our Board at the November AGM.

These three (...along with many others) have helped shape our community company from the ground up. Over 15 years they can be so proud of ...driving over \$2.5 million of profit back to meaningful community projects, achieving Social Traders certification and helping build our much-loved Community House. And, all at the helm of our award-winning organisation.

Each shared their personal reflections to our 25+ guests at The Shared Table. Ron reminded us that "everything we do is for our community", Ian looked back on just how far we've come, and Richard spoke about finding his place on the Board after moving to Buninyong not knowing a soul.

We were joined by founding Chair John Emery, Bendigo Bank's David Impey, Col Brady and Leanne Martin, along with our branch team, Directors and new Chair Brett Jones as MC. Special guest, and past Director, Gary Trotter had us all reminiscing and feeling all the 'feels' with his heartfelt words.

Ian, Ron and Richard, thank you. You've helped build something truly special and your time on the Board leaves a significant legacy you should be rightly proud of.





After hours lending appointments

We get it, life is busy! And that's why we're offering out-of-hours lending appointments, giving you more flexibility to chat with us at a time that suits you.

You can book a one-on-one appointment with Peita weeknights or weekends at an agreed time. After hours appointments will be held at the Community House, 407A Warrenheip Street (right next door to the new branch).

Be sure to book at least 24 hours ahead!

Regardless of your requirements, we're here to help ...on your schedule.

Book now by calling the branch on **5341 8066** during business hours or email Peita directly on peita.mcnaught@bendigoadelaide.com.au

Talk to us today



Randall Dreger
Branch Manager
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www.bendigobank.com.au/buninyong

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We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Our Leadership Team:

Chair: Brett Jones **Company Secretary:** Scott Sherritt
Treasurer: Graeme Benn **Directors:** Joanne Innes, Andrea Mason, Omaru Maruatona, Debbie Rybicki, Stacey Oliver, Karen Snibson.

Branch Manager: Randall Dreger

Community Partnerships Lead: Kelly Bevan

Buninyong & District Financial Services Ltd
407 Warrenheip St, Buninyong VIC 3357
P 5341 8066 ABN 63 137 673 388

New
location!



Let's Be Friends!

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

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

Legendary
customer
service
lives here



Visit our branch.



Bendigo Bank
The better big bank