



Autumn
2026

Newsletter

Community Bank · Seddon



Update from Branch Manager



As the leaves begin to turn and we settle into the beautiful Autumn season here in Seddon, we're all noticing the pinch of rising fuel prices. It's a challenging time for many, with all the news and commentary highlighting the negatives of the situation, what if we instead chose to believe in finding the silver lining. This

Autumn, that silver lining might just be an opportunity to embrace a healthier, more connected, and more vibrant lifestyle.

What if we saw this as a chance to leave the car at home a little more often? Imagine starting your day with a brisk walk to Seddon Station, enjoying the crisp morning air and a friendly "hello" from your neighbours. It's the perfect opportunity to catch up on local news by reading a copy of the Westsider newspaper on your journey.

Or perhaps a bike ride along our increasingly cycle-friendly streets? If you don't have a bike, or if yours just needs a tune-up, pop in and see the friendly team at the Inner West Community Bike Hub. They can help you get rolling and explore our neighbourhood on two wheels.

Choosing to walk, cycle, or use public transport is more than just a way to get from A to B. It's an invitation to reconnect with our wonderful community. It's about the unplanned chats while waiting for a coffee, the joy of discovering a new shop on Charles Street, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the beauty of our local parks.

The health benefits are undeniable too. More time spent being active can lead to better physical and mental health, helping us to feel more positive and energetic.

At Community Bank Seddon, we're more than just a bank; we're a part of this community. We're proud to support local initiatives that make our neighbourhood a better place to live, and we're here to support you in finding new ways to thrive.

So, this Autumn, why not give it a try? You might just find that the best things in life aren't tied to the petrol pump.

Ashley Coles
Branch Manager



A huge thank you to the entire team at Bendigo Bank Seddon as well. Every time I walked in, I was greeted with a genuine smile. The branch doesn't feel clinical or corporate; it feels like a friendly local shop where the staff actually enjoy their work."

- Helen

Update from the Chair



It's no secret to anyone who knows me, that Autumn is my favourite season. There are lots of reasons from the AFL season start to the changing leaves and beautiful seasonal produce in our fantastic local markets. But the real reason is that it's event season and the City of Maribyrnong is the Festival city! There is such an array of things happening in our community that

showcase our culture, food and community and the team at Seddon Community Bank try and support as many as we can.

The Yarraville Festival is a long-term favourite of mine, where I always sneak a Greek doughnut or two from the wonderful Yiayia's at St Nicholas Church. The Festival of Colours, celebrating Diwali, brings such fun and laughter to the streets of West Footscray, The Footscray West Writers Fest celebrating our local storytellers and this year we have added a new celebration from our friends at The Community Bike; Bike Fest.

When you live in a community like Maribyrnong, there is always something to celebrate, and when we share in the traditions, food and music from our neighbours, we learn so much about their culture.

If you want to know about all the amazing events that are happening in our community, you need only look to the centre spread of The Westsider each month for What's On Westside. The page is sponsored by us at Community Bank Seddon and is where you can find all the details of the events, celebrations and fantastic gatherings that contribute to the wonderful patchwork of our community.

We are always keen to know about community groups and events that are happening, so feel free to drop into our branch at 90 Charles Street, Seddon and let us know the details. We might be able to support you with a Marquee or two. If you can't make it, drop us a line at marketing@iwce.com.au and tell us about your group and event.

When you visit our Community Bank Seddon Branch, we hope you will delight in the art of local artist Melissa Baldrey Brown.

Her lively art in glorious colour has had wonderful feedback from our customers and has been a favourite of our staff.

On a personal note, I would like to extend our congratulations to Councillor Cuc Lam on her recent Order of Australia Award. As a passionate community champion, the Board and Branch Team of Community Bank Seddon are lucky to catch up with Cuc at many events. Her passion, energy and work for our community deserve to be recognised, and we are thrilled to congratulate her on this award.

Sarah Franklyn
Chair

Meet Stacey, our new Executive Officer

A Newport local with a family lineage here stretching back 173 years, the Inner West Community Enterprises team are pleased to welcome Stacey Williams to the role of Executive Officer. After years in state government, she is thrilled to bring her experience in high-level support back to her own backyard, helping the IWCE team reinvest directly into the community where her roots run deep.



Her previous work experience brings calm, care and discretion to our team and local partners, managing the complex business side and stakeholder relationships so our leadership team can focus on helping the Inner West thrive.

She believes meaningful work only happens when leaders feel fully supported, with her mission to build community resilience and sustainability by strengthening the organisations that make a difference in Melbourne's West.



How healthy is your home loan?

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

We'll look at your rate, term, repayments, and equity, giving your loan a full check-up to make sure it's still right for you and your current needs.

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

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The better big bank



Meet our Scholarship Recipients, Gabby, Benison and Christian



Local Impact Building Strategy with 100 Story Building

Local Impact were thrilled to support 100 Story Building in their strategy making for 2026. Sponsored by the Seddon Community Bank, Local Impact Operations Manager Amy McArthur co-designed and facilitated a two-day strategy event for the 100 Story Building board members and staff.

Amy reflected that it was a “fabulous opportunity to work with another inner west not for profit organisation and to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of the not-for-profit sector in the west”.

Delivered under Local Impact’s Support pillar, Local Impact aims to build capacity and resilience within the community. They provide professional services that bolster capacity to help community organisations operate more effectively. When organisations are growing, they temporarily fill critical gaps, and for smaller organisations that lack the capability or capacity, they step in to fulfil essential roles on their behalf. Their professional services include:

- Bookkeeping and financial management
- Human resources support
- Operational and organisational management
- Marketing and communications
- Grant writing and fundraising
- Strategic planning and governance

Find out more: <https://localimpact.org.au/support/>

Last week, our branch team and members of our Board welcomed our latest scholarship recipients, Gabby & Benison, to our branch for morning tea. As described by our Chair, Sarah Franklyn, “it is always one of the highlights of my year”. Our team always walk away smiling, a privileged to meet such vibrant and enthusiastic young people, ready to get out into the world and make a difference – such an inspiration to us all.

With dedication to her studies, showing great leadership and engaging positively with peers and staff, Gabby’s efforts have been further rewarded with her acceptance into a Bachelor of Radiation Therapy, studying at RMIT University this year. “The sponsorship funds will help ease the financial pressure of starting university, including purchasing textbooks, equipment, and covering travel expenses, allowing me to focus fully on my studies,” she said.

Ben’s scholarship acknowledged his hard work, diligence and dedication to his studies, excelling in Maths and Science subjects. He will be undertaking is the Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne. We look forward to a receiving updates from our students later in the year and wish them all the best for the exciting times ahead!

In Ash’s words, “We’re all about supporting the goals and dreams of our local community members. The Betty McClafferty Judo Scholarship is a special part of this commitment, and we couldn’t be happier to see it go to such a deserving young athlete, Christian.”

Christian has demonstrated outstanding dedication, skill, and sportsmanship, both on and off the judo mat. We are so excited to be a part of his journey and can’t wait to cheer him on as he accomplishes great things in the world of Judo. His commitment hard and passion are truly inspiring.

“ Loveleen was very friendly, soft-spoken, able to answer all my questions and provide information I didn’t know to ask for. I felt very comfortable and am sure anyone wishing to use this branch would be happy with the choice.



– Katherine

“ Thanks to Angela’s support from start to finish, I’ve now successfully purchased my first home. I’m incredibly grateful and wouldn’t hesitate to recommend her to anyone — especially first home buyers”



– Aaron

Western Bulldogs Foundation

The Community Bank Seddon team are proud to announce the launch of a new partnership with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation which will support the continuation of Sons of the West, ensuring the program continues to grow and reach all segments of the community in the inner and outer western suburbs of Melbourne.

Foundation CEO, Hannah Singleton, said that while the program initially supported a more senior segment of the community, they are now seeing more younger attendees reaching out for support, often building friendships and support groups that last long after the course has concluded.

Sons of the West is a free men's health program for men aged 18 and over, focused on improving mental and physical health in a supportive and inclusive environment. To learn more about the program or enrol -

<https://westernbulldogscommunityfoundation.org.au/son-of-west/>



Supporting Local Artists

This year our branch has been privileged to exhibit the vibrant and colourful works of local artists, Louise Salmon and Melissa Baldrey-Brown. We welcome local artists to reach out to us to take the opportunity to brighten our walls and share your artwork with our customers and the inner west community with the added bonus of your profile in the Westsider and our community news.

To find out more, reach out to Suzanne or drop into our branch any time Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.00pm. Find out more about our local artists – iwce.com.au/news



“Michelle has that special ability to make you feel supported and completely at ease, and she’s incredibly quick to respond whenever an issue arises. Her dedication shines through in every interaction. I couldn’t recommend her more highly.”

– Hazel



“I chose Stuart Stirling for my home loan as he was recommended by a friend and now having personally experienced the exceptional level of service and care he provides; I cannot recommend him highly enough.”

– Angela



Celebrating some Big Wins with Grand United CC

It's been a big season for Grand United Cricket Club with a combination of new pavilion construction at Parsons Reserve, the club's 100 year celebrations and recently being recognised as Runner Up in Cricket Victoria's Community Cricket Club of the Year at the Cricket Victoria Community Cricket Awards.

This is fantastic recognition for the outstanding work that Grand United contributes to the community and the Community Bank Seddon is proud to be associated with their outstanding work on and off the field.

Club president Alan Hale said it's great for the club to be recognised. "It's a little bit of recognition for our whole club and the way we operate it and our values, making cricket accessible for boys and girls and adults as well", Hale said. "We really pride ourselves on having a good cricket program with people being able to enjoy themselves at our club. For a long time, we've done a lot of great things".



Stuart and Freddy with Grand United members Alan, Jack and Sean.

Reaching Out for Support for our Food Drive



Thank you so much to Hayley from the Westside Roller Derby for visiting our branch this week with food items to support our Food Drive. At this time of year, we usually have a Winter Coat Drive on behalf of Reaching Out in the Inner West of Melbourne, however when we asked them how we could help, their immediate response was "can you please help us with food?"

Randa Beirouti, key organiser of the charity, explained that Hudson's Dry Cleaners had kindly started collecting much needed winter coats, blankets and bedding in March however the demand for food had recently exploded with further economic stress.

In Randa's words, "the last two weeks have been absolutely crazy! With everything happening globally, we are probably up to serving 700 people. The line was out of control last night and the previous Monday and I think it's going to get worse. I'm having to buy more pantry items from FoodBank and the supermarkets to meet current need."

Our branch team at 90 Charles Street Seddon are welcoming food donations any time Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.00pm. Even if it's just one or two items, every little bit helps. Requested non-perishable items include pasta, rice, noodles, cereal, tinned vegetables, tinned fruits, tinned legumes, soy sauce, long life milk, 2 min noodles, tinned baked beans and spaghetti. We appreciate every donation, no matter how small.

Marquees for hire

Looking for a marquee to stay drive at your next Community event? We have three marquees available for free hire to our community organisations and sporting club. Email Suzanne or give the branch team a call on 9687 2500.



“Dom has always taken the time to support our family financial requirements, Dom always approaches our asks with a smile and she has been just amazing to do business with and just an overall pleasure to work with.”



– Joe & Helen

“Trish has been extremely helpful and kind. She is extremely knowledgeable and guided me through the various financial issues when my mother passed. I am grateful to her and all the staff. I always feel welcomed and supported. THANK YOU.”



– Laura

Latest Sponsorship Recipients 2025 / 2026

Women's Circus
Hyde St Youth Band
Footscray Trugo Club
Druids Cricket Club
Union Road Traders
Wembley Primary School
St Augustine's Primary School
The Hudde
Grand United Cricket Club
Seddon Village Traders Association
Inner West Symphony Orchestra
Footscray United Cricket Club
Western Crusaders Gridiron Club
Newport Judo Club
Yarraville Footscray Band
Mt Alexander College
MMVLLEN

Reaching Out in the Inner West of Melbourne
Corpus Christi Primary School
West Welcome Wagon
Yarraville Trugo Club
Green Collect
Braybrook Sporting Club
West Footscray Neighbourhood House
North Footscray Football Netball Club
Footscray West Writers Fest
Moonee Valley Bridge Club
St Augustine's Primary School
Yarraville Seddon Eagles Football Club
Westside Roller Derby
Nepalese Momo Festival
Parkside Football Club
Norfolk Street Childcare Centre

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
West Footscray Football Netball Club
Angliss Neighbourhood House
Melbourne City Football Club
Yarraville Community Centre
Yarraville Glory Football Club
Linking the Next Steps Walkathon
Footscray Dragon Boat Club
Footscray Rangers Football Club
Rotary Club of Footscray
Filipino Community Council of Victoria
TILDE: Melbourne Trans & Gender Diverse Film Festival
Western Bulldogs Foundation
Kingsville Netball Club
Walk a Mile in my Shoes

“We had a lot of questions being first time home buyers. Esha went above and beyond making herself available at all hours of the night to help us through it. Would happily recommend her to anyone looking at buying their first home.”



– Josh and Zoë

“A massive thank you to Ash for all the hard work and dedication in securing my home loan recently. Ash went above and beyond to ensure everything went smoothly, demonstrating professionalism and expertise throughout the process.”



– Melanie

iWSO

ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH LIVE MUSIC

SEASON 2026

CONCERT 1 26 APRIL

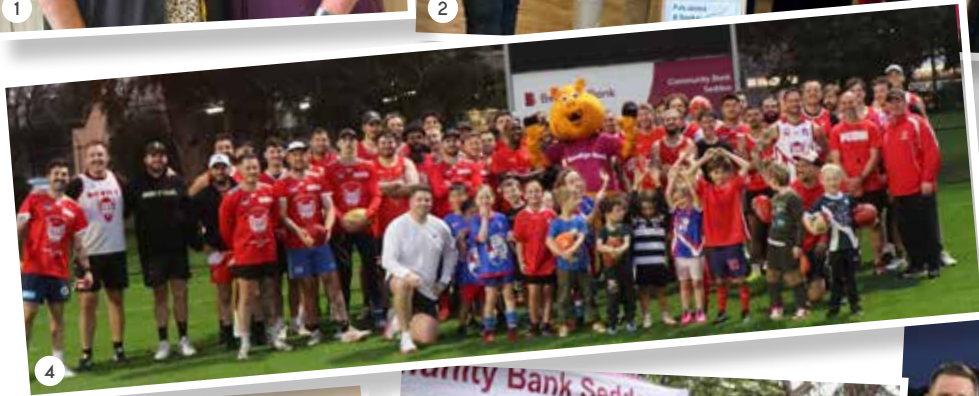
CONCERT 2 2 AUGUST

CONCERT 3 21 NOVEMBER

Proudly supported by

Community Bank Seddon

Bendigo Bank



1. Trish with Cheryl from Yarrville Trugo Club. 2. Thanks for your donations to Big Group Hug. 3. Ash with Dan from the Community Bike Hub. 4. Piggy and the team proudly supporting North Footscray Football Netball Club. 5. Thank you for all the amazing toys donated to the Christmas Toy Drive in support of West Welcome Wagon, McAuley Women's Services and Reaching Out in the Inner West of Melbourne. 6. The team volunteering at the Seddon Fun & Games Day. 7. Piggy picking up some soccer skills with Footscray Rangers Football Club. 8. Board Director, Jenny, celebrating the launch of the Footscray West Writers Fest. 9. Suzanne & Ash at Community Leadership Program with Local Impact. 10. Proud to help West Welcome Wagon to brand their new van. 11. The Westsider Radio team at Yarrville Festival. 12. Ash & Stu with Wendy from Story Dogs. 13. Angela volunteering at The Huddle.

Talk to us today



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Hours: 9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday
and by appointment other times



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Jenny Britt, Jack Fitcher (Treasurer), Pamela Sutton-Legaud, Freddy Lopez,
Marcus Olive.

Inner West Community Enterprises Limited
90 Charles Street, Seddon VIC 3011
ABN 93 124 893 705

Food Drive

on behalf of
Reaching Out in the Inner West of Melbourne

13th APRIL - 31st MAY

Urgent items include:
LONG LIFE MILK, RICE, PASTA,
GNOCCHI, CEREAL, RICE
NOODLES, 2-MINUTE NOODLES,
BAKED BEANS, SOY SAUCE,
CAPERS, TINNED FRUIT &
VEGETABLES

Other dry and canned goods
welcome

Drop off: Community Bank Seddon
90 Charles St, Seddon
Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.00pm



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Inner West Community Enterprises Limited is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank operating Community Bank Seddon. They have been nationally recognised as a sustainable community-built business that contributes to community prosperity. **To find out more, visit www.socialtraders.com.au**