

Summer
2026

Newsletter

Community Bank · Seddon

COMMUNITY
$5,750,000
INVESTMENT

Message from our Branch Manager



There is plenty of reason to celebrate at Community Bank Seddon this month! We are thrilled to share that our branch was recently named Western Region Branch of the Year.

This marks our sixth win across the past seven years—a remarkable milestone for our branch. (While neighbouring Keilor East took home the honours last year, the friendly regional rivalry only spurred us on to keep raising the bar for our customers and community!)

An award like this is never just about numbers—it is about the people who show up every day with genuine care, dedication and good humour. Over the years, our team has mastered the art of working exceptionally hard while always making time for a laugh and putting community at the centre of every decision.

As we celebrate this achievement, we are also celebrating significant life chapters for several beloved team members who have helped shape the fabric of our branch:

- **Trish:** We wish Trish the very best as she sets off on an incredible 12-month adventure.
- **Loveleen:** A huge congratulations and warmest wishes to Loveleen on the arrival of her new baby!
- **Dom:** We extend our warmest congratulations to Dom as she steps into an exciting new role.

To each of them and to our entire team—past and present—thank you for your tireless commitment, warmth and service to the inner west. Achieving sustained success over seven years takes an entire network of passionate advocates and leaders working together behind the scenes.

- **Our Board of Directors:** For your volunteer leadership, strategic governance, and tireless championing of our local community enterprise.
- **Our Chairs Past and Present, Sarah and Andy:** A special acknowledgment of your steady leadership, mentorship and unwavering guidance over the past decade.
- **Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Leadership:** Thank you for your ongoing partnership, encouragement and belief in the Community Bank model.
- **Our Customers and Local Community:** Community banking is built on a simple yet powerful premise: when you bank with us, profits go back into supporting local clubs, initiatives and community projects. This award belongs to every customer who chooses to bank local with Seddon.

While saying goodbye to familiar routines brings a touch of nostalgia, it also opens the door to fresh energy and new opportunities.

While we are excited to welcome new faces to our team, our core mission remains unchanged: delivering outstanding, personalised banking while generating meaningful, lasting social impact for Seddon and the inner west.

Next time you're passing by 90 Charles Street, pop in, say hello to the team and share in the celebration with us!

Ashley Coles
Branch Manager

Message from the Chair, Sarah Franklyn



Missing: Have You Seen One of our Missing Community Legends?

Name: Community Bank Director

Date: Gone Missing: Sometime in the last 17 years

Last Seen: At a community event or committee meeting of Community Bank Seddon

Reward: Reconnect us with one of our Missing Community Legends and you will help them be part of the celebrations at the Community Bank Seddon Annual General Meeting

Are you one of the wonderful volunteers who has helped Inner West Community Enterprises Limited, the business behind Community Bank Seddon, become the success story we are today? Or do you know one of these Missing Community Legends?

Past Directors and Committee members from Community Bank Seddon, we want to reconnect with you! We need you to come forward and take a bow at our upcoming Annual General Meeting on 30 October at the Whitten Oval.

At this AGM, we want to honour our Community Legends and update them on all that's happened in the inner west as a result of their time, expertise, care and effort. But most importantly, we want to say thank you.

We invite you to join us for the meeting and refreshments, hear our latest news about the over $5 million we have invested back into the local community and meet the team and Board running the business today.

Community Bank Seddon's success was built on strong foundations: a great steering committee that helped us purchase the franchise and open the virtual branch in Footscray over 17 years ago, and Board members who have volunteered their time and expertise to help us become such an important part of the inner west. It's time to reconnect and learn all that's been happening since we last met.

We want to celebrate and acknowledge all of the people who have been part of our story to date. If you are one of our Missing Community Legends or can connect us to one, please contact us at eo@iwce.com.au or drop into the branch at 90 Charles St, Seddon.

I can't wait to see you there and say thanks.

Sarah Franklyn
Chair of Inner West Community Enterprises Limited



Welcome to the Team, Ivy

Hello Seddon! I'm absolutely thrilled to join the Community Bank team as your new Customer Relationship Officer. I recently traded the warmth of India for Melbourne, arriving in July right in the thick of peak winter. Talk about a chilly welcome!

Having previously worked in banking back home, I can't wait to bring my experience to Seddon. As a newcomer to Australia, my current inner circle is just me and my tiny kitten, 'Momo', so I am very eager to get to know the neighbourhood.

When I'm not talking finance, you'll find me painting, playing pickleball, cooking my signature pasta dishes, or café-hopping in search of Melbourne's ultimate brunch spot. Next time you drop into the branch, please come over and say hello. I'd love to meet you and swap local café recommendations.



Collecting Bikes for the Community Bike Hub

We proud to be partnering with the Community Bike Hub's Volunteer Program to refurbish and distribute bikes to community members in need. The program welcomes donations of bikes in good condition of all sizes, that are then serviced and repaired by a group of volunteers.

To celebrate our collaboration, we will be welcoming donations to our branch on a special bike donation day in January. So rather than see that old bike go to landfill when it's replaced at Christmas time, hold on and drop it to our branch in Seddon on:

Date: Friday 29 January

Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Where: Community Bank Seddon

90 Charles Street Seddon

Community Bank Seddon - Branch of the Year 2025/2026







Wowee, look what we have on show in the branch!

After casting my creative eye over our latest art installation, I can confirm we have some truly talented artists in the neighbourhood!

The brilliant students at Corpus Christi Primary School provided a carefully curated Art Show for us all to enjoy over the last school holidays. There is something particularly magical about children's artwork that brings a smile to everyone's face and has certainly been the most popular exhibition yet.

Learn more about the inspiration behind their art – iwce.com.au/news

And if you're a local artist or art teacher with students who are keen to exhibit, reach out to Suzanne@marketing.iwce.com.au

Ashley Coles





Finding the Courage to put his Health First: A “Sons of the West” Story

At 58, Pete knew looking after his health was important. Finding the time and space to actually do it was another matter. A former Defence Force member and now a train driver, Pete had spent years balancing shift work, sleep, family life and the responsibilities that come with raising children. Somewhere along the way, his own wellbeing had moved down the list.

“I think I’d lost my way a little bit in trying to focus on me and what’s important. I’d lost focus on the idea that a better me is a better everyone else around me.” Encouraged by his wife, Pete joined Sons of the West in 2026, initially expecting a fitness program. “When I turned up, I realised it was a lot more than that.”

For Pete, one of the most immediate impacts came through the program’s health education sessions. Learning about prostate cancer and stroke encouraged him to think differently about preventative healthcare and, importantly, to act. “The prostate cancer and stroke awareness sessions were probably the biggest realisation for me. Hearing the statistics around prostate cancer was scary.”

The very next day, Pete had an appointment with his doctor. He asked specifically about testing related to prostate cancer and has now incorporated this conversation into his annual health checks. But the impact did not stop with Pete. “I’ve also spoken to friends about it. I’ve told them, ‘When you get your bloods done, make sure this is included as well.’”

It is a powerful example of health promotion moving beyond awareness. Through Sons of the West, Pete gained the confidence to ask questions about his own health and start conversations with other men, extending the program’ reach into his wider social network.

For Pete, conversations about health, relationships and the kind of person he wants to be became practical ways of creating change, both for himself and for the people around him.

“What stood out to me was that it wasn’t just focused on fitness. It was also about connecting with other people, having a conversation and being part of a community.”

Perhaps one of the strongest signs of Pete’s experience is what happened within his own family. “I felt the program was that good that I encouraged my wife to do Daughters of the West. We’ve made adjustments to my work arrangements to make sure she can attend because I want her to have a similar experience.”

Pete began Sons of the West after encouragement from his wife. His own positive experience then led him to actively support her to invest time in her wellbeing. It is a simple but powerful example of the ripple effect community health programs can create. When one person is supported to make positive changes, the benefits can extend into relationships, families, friendship groups and the wider community.

Asked to describe the biggest impact Sons of the West had on him, Pete came back to one word. “Positivity.”

“Positivity in wanting to be a better person. Positivity in wanting better for the people around me. Positivity in knowing that the right balance is there and I’ve just got to work harder at getting it. Positivity in knowing there is support.” Pete's journey shows that the impact of Sons of the West is not measured by physical activity alone.

For him, it meant taking practical action on preventative health, discovering new ways to stay active, connecting with his community, reflecting on the kind of father and person he wants to be, and having greater courage to talk openly with family and friends. Most importantly, it helped Pete rediscover that looking after himself isn't separate from looking after the people he cares about. As Pete puts it: “A better me is a better everyone else."

Community Bank Seddon is a proud sponsor of the Sons of the West program. The next program is scheduled for April 2027. Dates to be announced. In the meantime, take a look at the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation website to find out more - https://westernbulldogscommunityfoundation.org.au/sons-of-west/



Staff Volunteering Program

As part of our Staff Volunteering Program, Stu participated in the Mock Interview Program at Sunshine College, supporting year 10 students develop their interview skills to find employment.

Being out in the community keeps our team connected and ensures our community funding goes where it is most needed and has the greatest impact. Plus volunteering just feels good!

Kensington Neighbourhood House



"Community Bank Seddon makes a big difference for our Study Support Program. Thanks to them, we are able to provide high-quality learning resources for students from Foundation to Year 12. Their sponsorship also covers the cost Wifi, helping children access their school portals and complete research. We really couldn't offer such a great program without Community Bank Seddon's support."

Rebecca, Kensington Neighbourhood House

Donations in Kind



A few weeks ago, Ash spent the afternoon visiting the Rotary supported Rotary Donations in Kind West Footscray warehouse in West Footscray with Colleen and Bronwyn.

The scale of what their volunteers achieve is genuinely inspiring, re-purposing unwanted items from stationery to office furniture to medical equipment to organisations throughout Australia and overseas.

They welcome donations of all sizes and are happy to repurpose back into the local community as well. So before you go shopping for new items for your organisation, perhaps consider reaching out to Donations in Kind. Learn more - iwce.com.au/news

Sponsorship & Grant Recipients

- Norfolk Street Kinder
- Yarraville Community Centre
- Footscray City Rowing Club
- MMVLLEN
- Westgate Basketball Association
- Western Crusaders Gridiron Club
- Yarraville Seddon Eagles FC
- Yarraville Cricket Club
- Union Road Traders
- Women of Colour Melbourne
- Westgate Cycle Club
- Kensington Neighbourhood House
- Women's Circus
- Footscray Trugo Club
- Seddon Playgroup
- Lions Club of Footscray
- Seddon Village Traders Association
- Footscray Historical Society
- Inner West Symphony Orchestra
- Share the Dignity
- Little Lorikeets Playgroup
- Corpus Christi PS
- Maidstone United FC
- Footscray Youth Club
- Yarraville Footscray Band
- Wembley Primary School
- Grand United CC
- Wets Footscray Football Netball Club
- The Huddle
- Community Bike Hub
- The Westsider
- Druids Cricket Club
- Western Bulldogs Community Foundation
- Spotswood Cricket Club





A few years ago, Piggy made a debut at Women's Circus

Women's Circus

This year, Melbourne's iconic Women's Circus celebrates its 35th anniversary with Murmuration, a spectacular new work devised and performed by a 60-strong ensemble of Women's Circus members, directed by award-winning performance maker Christy Flaws.

Featuring performers aged from 19 to 77, this exciting new offering from the organisation is inspired by the spectacle of thousands of wild birds moving together as one body. A Murmuration. Flocking together for safety, warmth and to share information, it truly is one of nature's great displays. The perfect image for a community that has spent 35 years moving and growing together.

Murmuration is a celebration of memories and connection from three and a half decades of bold, brave, creative people using their bodies to do extraordinary things together. Don't miss the opportunity to mark this incredible moment in the herstory of Melbourne's renowned Women's Circus.

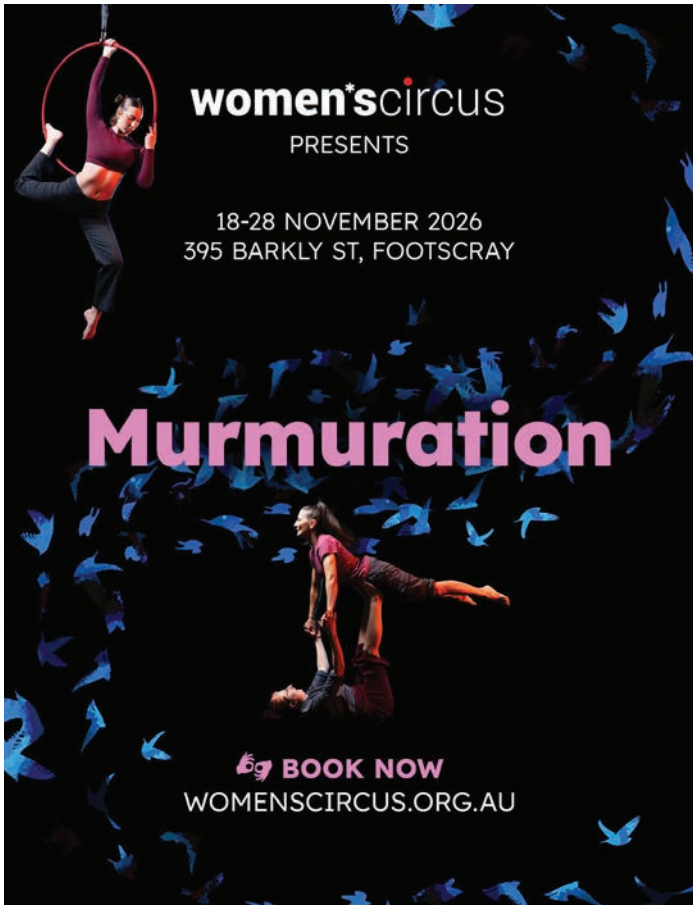
From Yarraville to Prahran: Samar Partap Singh earns Premier Cricket debut at 15



"Samar Partap Singh made his Victorian Premier Cricket First XI debut for Prahran on the weekend of 10 October 2026, just two years after making his senior debut for Yarraville at the age of 13. Samar is a product of the Yarraville Cricket Club's Junior Academy which is held each preseason and proudly supported by Community Bank Seddon.

The young all-rounder has risen quickly through Victorian cricket, taking a competition-high 21 wickets in last season's Dowling Shield and earning selection in Victoria's Under-17 Metro Emerging Players squad. Prahran says the 15-year-old has been selected on performance, not potential, after impressing throughout the pre-season."

David Keenan, Yarraville CC







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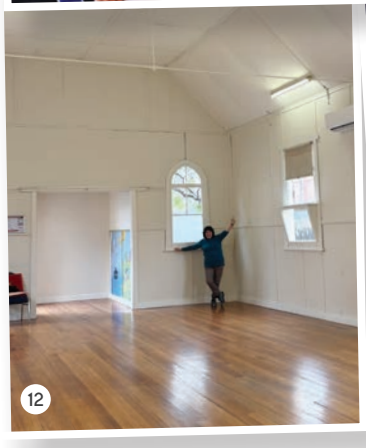
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1. Congratulations to the Footscray Historical Society celebrating 150 years of Ercildoune 2.Proudly supporting Western Crusaders Gridiron Club 3. Once again, the CWA Footscray Produce Stall has been a fundraising success story 4. Meet Lis, the new Centre Manager at Farnham St Neighbourhood Learning Centre 5. The Community Bank Seddon is a proud sponsor of Sons of the West 6. A token of appreciation for our support from Melbourne City FC 7. Wear it Purple Day - an annual day of awareness focused on creating safe, supportive, and empowering environments for rainbow young people 8. Wal presenting his bursaries to member of Inner West Symphony Orchestra 9. Michelle, Esha and Angela met the Mayor Mohammed Semra at the MMVLLEN Gala Dinner 10. Sarah welcomed at the Maribyrnong Swifts FC Presentation Day 11. EOFY celebration with the branch team, IWCE Board and Local Impact 12. Pam from Seddon UC Playgroup proudly showing off the renovated Community Hall 13. Stu celebrating Presentation Night at Maidstone United FC 14. Ash recording radio ads as part of our sponsorship of Westsider Radio

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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Directors Sarah Franklyn (Chair), Wal Wiersma, David St John (Secretary), Jack Fitcher (Treasurer), Pamela Sutton-Legaud, Freddy Lopez, Marcus Olive.

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Social Traders CERTIFIED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
Business for good

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**

Bendigo Bank

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