



Summer
2025

Newsletter

Community Bank · Seddon



Message from the Branch Manager



As I'm deep into the 'easy km running' during my training for my first marathon, I have had plenty of time to think – both a positive and a negative! What have I come up with? Banking is a people industry but so too is every other industry.

Whatever industry we are all in, it all revolves around people,

relationships and engaging with those around you. What sticks with us is the interactions we have with one-another – both good and bad. The joy / happiness from daily interactions with one-another are those which build not only our social circles but also builds our sense of community and belonging.

At Community Bank Seddon, we truly are local. From the branch to its staff, its Directors, shareholders, customers and all who we support are local.

I'm proud that at Seddon we are a part of our community and have helped many with their banking needs and this in turn has helped fund local projects and local organisations, associations and clubs.

We all want to make a positive difference in this world and often think of ways we can do it. Moving your banking to us is a way to make a real and positive difference in our part of the world!

Come and talk to us, whether it's in the branch or out on the street, whether it be about banking, interest rates (some of the best in the market, might I add), a community organisation or club that we could assist or even a chat about life.

Ashley Coles
Branch Manager

Welcome to the team, Michelle



Michelle joined the team at Community Bank Seddon in November 2024, after working as a Customer Relationship Officer for different Bendigo Bank branches in the Western Region. Prior to this, she has worked in the banking industry in the Philippines before migrating to Australia.

Michelle has really hit the ground running, completing her accreditation to be able to approve Personal Loans and Credit Cards in record time – a fantastic achievement and wonderful addition to the services our team provides.

Outside of work, Michelle enjoys quality time with her family – fun days at the park, explore new spots, grabbing a coffee at her favourite café and cheering on her two boys in their love for playing soccer. She is excited to become involved in the local community, support clients and businesses in their banking needs and give back to the community.

Branch of the Year 2023/24

Congratulations to the team for receiving the Branch of the Year Award for the Western Region at the Bendigo Bank Regional Awards last night for the fifth year in a row! The team also received the Wealth Award for the highest wealth referrals in the country.

Special mention to Dom Kovesy, who received the Community Engagement Award for her support of the local community particularly McAuley Women's Services.

Hayley from McAuley commented "it has been great story to share with our community - to highlight not only how you've supported us, but how what can sometimes feel like 'small' things like having a bank account can be so transformative for women who have experienced family violence."



We are proud of all our team members, whose professionalism and expertise in all areas of banking, customer service and community engagement have helped us achieve this outstanding result.

Message from the Chair

Welcome to 2025! It's a brand-new year and the team at Community Bank Seddon are excited to leap into the new year helping our customers with their financial goals and building resilience in our community. Wrapping up an enormous 2024 where we celebrated our 15th Birthday, paid tribute to the 15th work anniversary of our longest-serving staff members Teena and Esha, became a certified Social Enterprise, welcomed Michelle Gondra to our team and sadly said goodbye to Teena.

The crazy Melbourne weather played a part in the unfortunate cancellation of the much-anticipated Seddon Fun & Games Day at the end of November, and we wanted to say thanks so much to the organisers, volunteers and hardy locals who braved the rain to enjoy the entertainment and dog parade that they were still able to hold. The day was also a planned fundraiser for West Welcome Wagon and a follow-up raffle raised \$900 with an additional donation of \$500 from the CWA Footscray.

In November, Community Bank Seddon was also the presenting partner of Local Impact's event Gather for Good. As a newly minted Social Enterprise, we were thrilled to connect and collaborate with the 'doing good economy' to understand how we can empower social enterprises in Melbourne's west. I was delighted to host the event and moderate our panel with our amazing lineup of Marnie Baker - Former MD of Bendigo Bank, Andy Moutray-Read - CEO of Local Impact, Jen Riley - Chief Impact Officer at Our Community and local powerhouse Sally Quinn - CEO of Green Collect.

The feedback on the event was fantastic and the Community Bank Seddon team spent the day connecting with so many exciting social enterprises, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. As a team and Board, we are building strong connections and understanding what sort of partner you need and how we can support this important sector of our

community. If you are part of this economy or a business in the inner west and you want to talk to our team about how we can help you with banking, sponsorships and grants or even grant writing from our partner Local Impact; reach out to the team at seddon@bendigoadelaide.com.au or drop into the branch at 90 Charles Street, Seddon.

When you drop in you will notice that we have some exceptional art from local artists adorning our walls and there is a good chance we are collecting for a local organisation, issuing our Tokens of Appreciation and stocking the latest edition of The Westsider which has our double page Local Events Calendar. Community Bank Seddon branch is always a hive of activity and a great place for our customers to connect with what is happening in our community. If you belong to a community organisation that needs support then chat to us, you might be surprised by the ways we can assist.

Looking forward to 2025, we hope that the Doggies have a great year, our local businesses flourish, the local events calendar is full of fun activities and our community continues to be the best place in Melbourne to live, work and play.

Sarah Franklyn
Chair



Snapshots of Seddon

Thanks to a grant from Community Bank Seddon, the Seddon Village Traders Association has been able to successfully revive the Snapshots of Seddon Photographic Competition which has been run intermittently since 2005.

In 2024, the competition was open for entries between July and September, with a public voting period from September to November, with all entries displayed in local shop windows throughout Seddon.

There were 40 digital entries in total and many community members commented on their happiness in seeing the competition back again once they were on display in trader windows. Many community members also reported that they missed the deadline for this year and would definitely enter future competitions. Social media also played an important role for the first time in advertising this competition.

The voting categories included Kids (13 and under), Youth (13 -20) Open Category, People's Choice and Recording Seddon's History. The public were invited to vote on the People's Choice Award with 195 votes received.

The remaining categories were decided by a panel of judges including Suzanne Saunders (Community Bank Seddon), Julian Hills (Navi Restaurant), Margherita Coppolino (local photographer) and Larissa MacFarlane (local artist and competition founder)



The winners in each category were as follows:

Under 13s: Camille Lee - The Peanut Butter House

Youth: Atari Livingston - Mona by Night

Open: Ringvida Jonuskyte - Westward Motion

People's Choice: Robert Tenorio - Seddonly, It's Spring Time

Recording Seddon's History: Pamela Mulready - 71 Gamon Street

Special Mention for Recording Seddon's History was added: Lana Mikovic - My Dad and his Friend, 1990s Albert Street

Winners each received a \$50 Seddon Village gift card and an A3 poster of their winning entry to frame.

The winners will be displayed in the Community Board in Seddon Village coming weeks.

No Strings Attached with IWSO

As we welcome the new year and look forward to another exciting year for the Inner West Symphony Orchestra (IWSO), I would like to introduce IWSO's Outreach Program which has been very dear to us from the beginning - 'No Strings Attached'.

As a community orchestra, we are committed to making classical music available to our Westside community through affordable and accessible performances and contributing to community wellbeing through shared live musical experiences.

The simple concept of 'No Strings Attached' is, well...that there are no strings attached. We believe in making music accessible without ask or obligation. For our first two large scale concerts in April 2024, we invited local community groups to attend our concerts on a complimentary basis. We focused on groups within the Maribyrnong and Hobson's Bay municipality initially due to the local proximity to our performance venue Williamstown Town Hall.

We were excited to welcome several community groups from Altona, Kingsville and Seddon, making up around 6-8% of our concertgoers. I spoke with a few of these

concertgoers doing the interval - for many, this was their first time attending a live orchestral performance or a rare musical outing within their local western municipality.

As an unfunded non-for-profit organisation, we have been exploring avenues in 2024 to allow us to sustain this offering and the opportunity to expand our outreach program going forward.

In October 2024, we were delighted to receive a grant from Community Bank Seddon. This grant has enabled us to increase our complimentary community ticket offering to around 10% of total concertgoers for our November 2024 and upcoming Children's Concert on the 27 April 2025.

We are extremely grateful for Community Bank Seddon's support and more so, the personable team who share our passion for music in the West and believe in our vision. Thank you to Suzanne, Esha, Ashley and Community Bank Seddon team for your time and interest in the IWSO. We look forward to supporting you in turn and growing our partnership.

Yilin,
IWSO President



Summer Fun at The Huddle

Each school holidays, The Huddle creates a huge schedule of activities to promote a happy and healthy lifestyle to local children of all cultural backgrounds. It includes a range of excursions and activities that rotate each school holidays, such as trips to the beach, sport clinics and art activities.



During the summer school holidays, Dom volunteered to assist the kids on a visit to the MCG Sports Museum and Angela got active supporting a Sports Clinic in North Melbourne. Learn more about the Huddle Holidays - <https://www.thehuddle.org.au/programs/huddle-holidays>



Just Some of our Sponsorship and Grants Recipients for 2024/25

- McAuley Women's Services
- West Footscray Roosters Football Club
- North Footscray Football Netball Club
- Mt Alexander College
- Rotary Club of Footscray
- Blacksmith's Festival
- Yarraville Christmas Carols
- Footscray Park Bowling Club
- West Welcome Wagon
- Inner West Symphony Orchestra
- Donations in Kind
- Seddon Community Playgroup
- Seddon Cricket Club
- Druids Cricket Club
- Golden Fish Synchronised Swimming team
- West Footscray Arts Inc
- Maribyrnong Swifts Football Club
- Green West Fest
- Women's Circus
- West Footscray Neighbourhood House
- U3A Maribyrnong
- Kensington Stockyard Food Garden
- Green Guerilla Group
- Kensington Neighbourhood House
- Yarraville Cricket Club
- Spotswood Cricket Club
- Rotary Club of Kensington Flemington
- Foodbank
- Footscray High School
- Footscray Angliss Cricket Club
- Kingsville Primary School
- Grand United Cricket Club
- Urban Camp
- The Huddle



1. Stu & Freddy at Grand United Cricket Club, 2. Dom presenting the winning trophy at Yarraville Footscray Bowling Club, 3. Piggy at Yarraville Carols with the Hyde St Youth Band, 4. Supporting Get Online Week at West Footscray Neighbourhood House, 5. Trish volunteering at The Huddle, 6. Wal congratulating scholarship recipients from Mt Alexander College, 7. Tokens of Appreciation, 8. Dom with Hayley from McAuley Women's Services, 9. Green West Fest 2024



“Being an Ally” Photographic Exhibition

In December 2024, Maribyrnong City Council celebrated International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) with a photography exhibition based around the theme of ‘Being an Ally’. Members of Council’s Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) collaborated in the project and shared their stories and were photographed as part of the project.

Community Bank Seddon is proud to exhibit, ‘Being an Ally,’ which captures the spirit of IDPwD’s call to reflect and celebrate achievements of people with disability. Through the photographs, we are given a glimpse into the everyday lives, talents, and experiences of the members of our DAC, who have not only shared their stories but have become champions for inclusion and advocates for accessibility in our community.

Each photograph tells a story of ally-ship, showcasing how powerful it can be when we stand together in support of one another highlighting Council’s dedication to continuing the important work of improving accessibility, not just physically, but also in how we foster understanding and empathy within our community.

The DAC members who participated in the project and who are featured in the photographs are:

- Helen Farquhar
- Lucas Carroll
- Ricki Spencer
- Kerrie Forber
- Lola Nicolouleas
- Geoffrey Nornor (Andy)
- Kate Hitchins

From now until 14 March, all are welcome to view the exhibition at Community Bank Seddon bank branch at 90 Charles Street Seddon, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.00pm. Photographer -

Nico Keenan nico@nicophotography.com.au



Christmas Toy Drive a Huge Success!

West Welcome Wagon and Community Bank Seddon are extremely grateful for the support of the local community with the huge response to our Christmas Toy Drive. The community came together to show West Welcome Wagon families that they weren’t alone over Christmas, and due to the amazing support, they were able to give Christmas toys to approximately 700 children. Each child received three toys and a book, equating to approximately 2,100 toys.

Fay Salem-Demeziers, the Operations and Engagement Officer at West Welcome Wagon, reported the heart-warming response from the children and their parents who said, “We are forever thankful to your organisation. Without your help we couldn’t do this on our own.”

The team at Community Bank Seddon were also thrilled to receive donations from local West Footscray Rotary charity, Donations in Kind, who donated numerous boxes of Lego. “It’s great to see support from our local community but even better when we can bring community groups together to support one another,” said Branch Manager, Ashley Coles. “We really appreciate the support of Donations in Kind for our Christmas toy drive this year.”



It’s NEW! The Westsider Online Events Calendar

Do you have an upcoming community event you’d like to promote?

Great news! Along with their newspaper event calendar, @thewestsider now has an online event calendar that enables you to promote your local event (and promote it in the newspaper edition if you make the deadline). Even better, it’s free!

Find out more: <https://thewestsider.com.au/event-directory/>



Seddon Playgroup is back for 2025!

Since closing during the pandemic, it's great to see the Seddon Playgroup back at Seddon Uniting Church in Gamon Street. A community callout in late 2024, created an overwhelming response from locals keen to reactivate the space and create a much-needed community hub not just for playgroup but for other community activities too.

After several community working bees and countless behind the scenes hours from volunteers, Pam and Deborah, the playgroup is up and running for 2025 with 30 children enrolled.

The playgroup caters for babies and children of pre-school age, supporting families from Seddon to Newport and operates every Monday at 10am. With a growing waiting list, Pam and Deborah hope to expand the program in the future. They also plan to improve the facilities, including the kitchen, heating and cooling to



accommodate increased use of the space by the wider community.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Community Bank Seddon for their generous support in revitalizing this much-needed community playgroup," said Deborah. "Their contributions have made a tremendous difference, provided funding to purchase essential items such as rugs, baby toys, and other priority resources, significantly supporting our preparation and ongoing operations.

They also gifted two beautiful children's tables and chairs as well as a professionally printed playgroup banner. These generous contributions have significantly enhanced our space."

Deborah and Pam welcome inquiries to hire the community hall. For more information about the playgroup or hiring the space -

Email - seddoncommunityplaygroup@gmail.com

Facebook - [@seddoncommunityplaygroup](https://www.facebook.com/seddoncommunityplaygroup)

Talk to us today



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 [/seddoncommunitybankbranch](https://www.facebook.com/seddoncommunitybankbranch)

 [/seddon_community_bank_branch](https://www.instagram.com/seddon_community_bank_branch)

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

Directors Sarah Franklyn (Chair), Wal Wiersma, David St John (Secretary), 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



Inner West Community Enterprises Ltd is a franchisee of Bendigo Bank operating Community Bank Seddon. They have nationally been recognised as a sustainable community-built business that contributes to community prosperity.

LAUNCHING IN APRIL
THE WESTSIDER ONLINE
RADIO STATION

THE
WESTSIDER

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