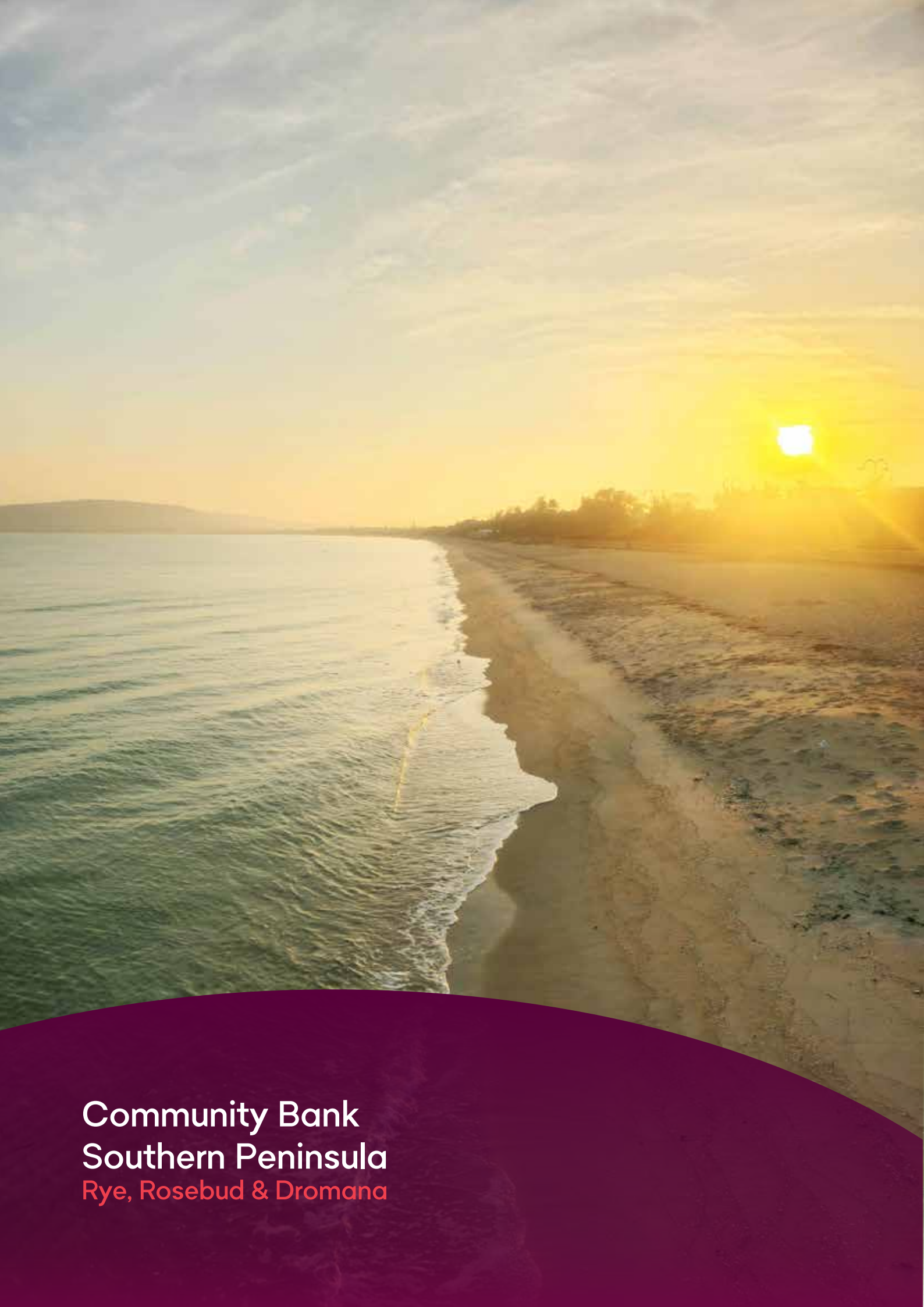


# Community Impact Report 2024/25



Rye & District Community  
Financial Services Limited



**Community Bank**  
**Southern Peninsula**  
Rye, Rosebud & Dromana

# Introduction to Community Impact Report



I am once again honoured to present the Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited Community Impact Report for 2024 – 2025. This provides a detailed review of how Community Bank Southern Peninsula has supported our local community over the last 12 months.

The Board continues to centre its community investment/returns around two distinct areas:

- The popular Community Funding tranches in March and September where we encourage a diverse array of community groups and organisations (these range from sporting clubs, arts projects and community events to name but a few) to apply for funding across a range of sectors; and
- Specific and targeted funding into those areas that align with our community impact strategy and the pillars we have identified as being of significance, including educational attainment for our young people, food security and the growing and complex issue of housing security in our local region.

The Company transitioned to the Bendigo Bank-endorsed SmartyGrants platform for its community funding endeavours in the FY 25 year and this has proved very successful. We look forward to enhanced capabilities and increased capacity to track the impact of our community funding as we continue to utilise the platform and build on the data being captured.

This Report is a reminder of the reach our community funding program continues to demonstrate in the local region. I hope you enjoy reading about the array of events, clubs and initiatives that have been supported by Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited in FY25, and our resounding commitment to *"inspiring a thriving community"*.



**Vin Cheers**  
**Chair**  
**Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited**



Board Members from L to R: Josh Oppy, Oriana Tessari, Vin Cheers (Chair), Helen Murphy, Craig Dowsing, Sarah Marshall (Company Secretary), Steve Robin and Renee Bowker (Second Chair)

# About us



Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited (Rye & District or Company) is a public company governed by a Board of Directors drawn from the local Mornington Peninsula community. The Company has entered into franchise agreements with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, to operate Community Bank branches at Rye, Rosebud and Dromana. The branches are collectively known as Community Bank Southern Peninsula. Rye & District has over 400 shareholders with approximately 2.9 million ordinary shares on issue and is a certified Social Enterprise, which embodies the ethos of “profit for purpose”. To date, it has returned over \$10 million to local projects, clubs and organisations via its community funding program.

## 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.

## Support Categories



Emergency and community support



Sport and recreation



Environment and animal welfare



Arts, culture and heritage



Health and wellbeing



Facilities and infrastructure



Education and research

# Community Company Manager report



It is with great pleasure that I present the Community Company Manager's report for Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited for the year ending 30 June 2025.

Despite ongoing economic challenges, easing inflation and two RBA rate cuts provided welcome relief for households, improving affordability and confidence in the housing market. This translated into stronger demand from first home buyers, with lending settlements increasing across all three of our branches. Our consolidated footings grew to \$812.6 million, up 7.7% for the year, supported by growth in deposits, lending and financial planning products.

While cost-of-living pressures remain, our customers have shown resilience and adaptability. We continue to support them through tailored lending solutions, hardship assistance, and rate reviews, while also adapting our service model to meet growing demand for digital banking alongside the high standard of personal service we are known for.

These results are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and managers, the guidance of our Board, and the strong advocacy of our community partners. To our customers and shareholders, I sincerely thank you for your ongoing support of the Community Bank model. Together, we are not only building a stronger business but also delivering lasting benefits for our local community.

We remain committed to being the best Community Bank we can be—supporting our customers, growing sustainably, and helping to build a stronger, more financially secure Southern Peninsula.

**Fiona Somjee**  
**Community Company Manager**  
**Community Bank Southern Peninsula**



Senior Management Team from L to R: Karen Okeeffe (Branch Manager Dromana), Renae Dunston (Branch Manager Rosebud), Fiona Somjee (Community Company Manager), Vanessa Curtis (Branch Manager Rye).

## Community Bank Southern Peninsula

# \$10 Million Reasons to Bank with Us

This year, Rye & District Community Financial Services celebrated a significant milestone by revealing that it has returned \$10 million in community contributions to our region since 2001. This announcement was made at our 2024 November Community Funding Awards Evening, held at the Rosebud Country Club, which 200 guests attended. Over \$221,000 in funding was awarded to over fifty community groups. Attendees, including Board Members and staff, were greeted by some large, feathered friends—giant seagulls—that entertained the crowd and set a festive tone for the evening.

A highlight of the night was a 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 announcement of \$10 Million in funding. This unique artwork is on display in the newly refurbished Community Bank Rye.

We also hosted a panel discussion featuring community partners from various clubs, schools, organisations, and workplaces. Fiona Somjee, our Community Company Manager, and our Chair, Vin Cheers, spoke passionately about our customers, shareholders, community, and dedicated team. Both recognised our guests and volunteers, paying tribute to their significant roles within the community.

The celebrations continued the following week as we took the party to our three local branches. 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 joined us. A special thank you to our local Lions Clubs for their help; we couldn't have done it without you.



# ... Another significant highlight was the refurbishment of Community Bank Rye.

Our first Community Bank opened in Rye over 23 years ago, and the refurbishment of Community Bank Rye is a testament to our ongoing commitment and reinvestment in the Peninsula community—a project made possible by the support of our customers and shareholders.

This refurbishment was a significant milestone and celebration, with Community Bank Southern Peninsula defying the trend of bank closures. We will continue to provide banking and financial services to our community while supporting local clubs, community groups and local events.

The branch was temporarily closed for just over two weeks for the refurbishment, and we are all proud of the result.

The reopening was a community celebration, with our local Lions Club providing a sausage sizzle, and our loyal customers and staff from other branches joining in the festivities.

While Community Bank Rye underwent its transformation, our team volunteered at Vinnies Kitchen Rosebud, assisting with their emergency food program.



# Celebrating 50 years of service and commitment



We congratulate Fiona, Mel, Gemma, and Mary on their impressive combined 50 years of service to the company: Mel, 20 years; Gemma, 15 years; Mary, 10 years; and Fiona, 5 years.

The ladies gathered for breakfast to reflect on their journeys. Throughout their careers, they've embraced diverse roles across all three branches, benefiting from growth opportunities in a flexible workplace. Above all, they cherish the opportunity to support the community, which they feel a deep connection to.

## Easterland A Kids Wonderland

Easterland Egg and Spoon races, ice cream, loads of Easter eggs, rides, music, and family fun.

We partnered with the MRC as a naming sponsor for their Easterland family day activation on Easter Saturday, and it was eggciting. There were numerous free family activities available on the day, which made the event truly memorable.

We ran egg and spoon races, and as you will see from the pictures, we all had a great time. Thank you to the families who participated in our races. We hope the kids had a wonderful day.



# Business Breakfast with Bendigo Chief Economist, David Robertson

If statistics, figures, and insights are not your thing, you haven't attended one of our business breakfasts or lunches with Chief Economist David Robertson who brings the numbers to life.

David visited the Peninsula on a cold morning in October to provide a brief overview of the local and global economic markets, along with some predictions for the future, as well as regional insights.

This was a free community event, with over 80 guests braving the early start to attend. The early wake-up was worth it, as the view from the Safety Beach Club that morning was exquisite.

The event was enjoyable and offered valuable insights for all attendees.



## Bendigo Bank Regional Awards

During the year the Bendigo Bank Regional Awards were held. 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 our wonderful local staff, positive influence, marketing support, volunteering, and so much more.

# 2025 Grants and Sponsorship Awards Evening

In May 2025, we celebrated our Awards Evening at the Mornington Racecourse, attended by over 180 guests from our Clubs and Community Groups.

On the night, we had over 10 million reasons to celebrate, awarding more than \$209,000 in community contributions, pushing our total contributions to well over the \$10 million mark. Over 50 groups received community funding. This has contributed significantly to the Peninsula community over the past 24 years.

We can only offer this support because our community have chosen to bank with us. We can only continue this commitment if our customers encourage others in our community to bank with us.

We are grateful to all the community groups and clubs that attended our Community Funding Awards. Although it was a chilly night, the warmth of our community was inspiring, and it was wonderful to see so many happy faces.

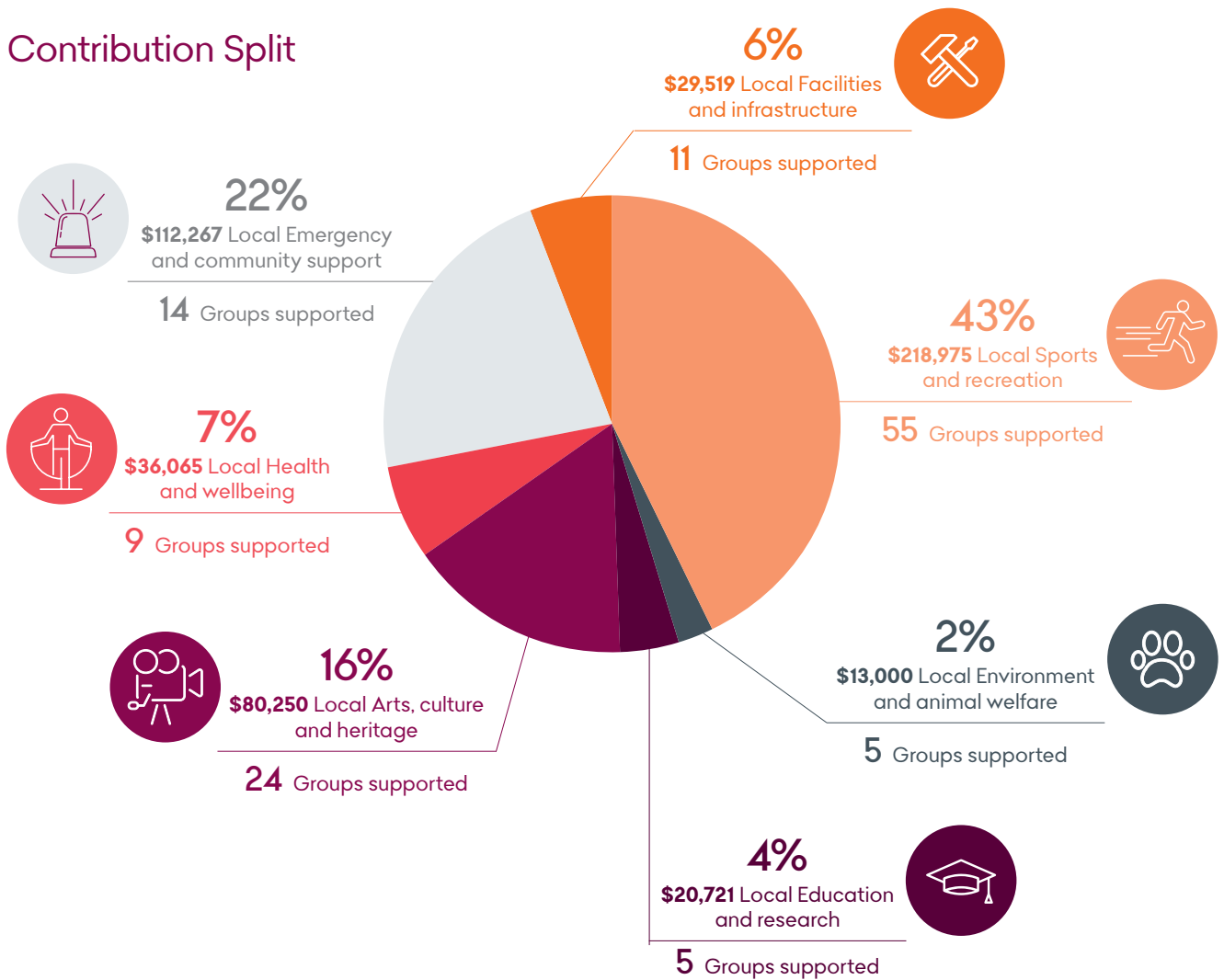
The event featured representatives from various organisations, including Emergency Services, Arts & Culture, Men's Sheds, Education, Community Clubs, Emergency Food Services, All Sports, Scouts, Community Gardens, Choirs, and a large contingent of firefighters.

The theme of the night centred around the spirit of sport and volunteering within our community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our panel of guest speakers, which included AFL legend Nathan Burke, local Olympian Caitlin Parker, and Kristy Marshall from Bendigo Bank. They shared valuable insights on the role of sport in our communities, both on and off the field. Dave Burt, from SALT - Sport and Life Training, hosted the evening and spoke about the importance of unity within clubs.



# The numbers 2024/25

## Contribution Split



24

Years of providing community service



\$10+ million

Contributions to the community to date



\$567,450

Contributions to the community



125

Local organisations supported 2024/25



1

Local Bus



25

Local staff



4

Local branches (including a dedicated lending HUB)



15,829

Local customers: Dromana: 4,432, Rosebud: 5,064, Rye: 6,333



400+

Local shareholders



7

Volunteer Local Directors



# Emergency and community support

We continue to forge strong connections with community stakeholders through local emergency and community support groups. These are not just volunteers but integral members of our community who provide unwavering services and support.

## Supporting our Local CFA Brigades

CBSP has a long-standing relationship with the Peninsula CFA Brigades through Grants and Donations. This year, we partnered with the MRC for a charity golf day, raising funds for the Peninsula Fire Brigade Group, which includes nine brigades and over 360 volunteers.

It was a fantastic day at Mornington Golf Course, with over 100 participants, including our firefighters, staff, and community members. The event was successfully organised by the MRC events team, who did an extraordinary job, especially with running the Foundation raffle, which raised a significant amount of money!

The event raised over \$3,500, which the MRC Foundation matched, totalling nearly \$7,000 for a much-needed support vehicle. Our Community Company Manager, Fiona, presented the cheque to Chief Eddie and his crew at the Dromana CFA, and we received appreciation letters from the local brigades.



## Vinnies Kitchen Rosebud

In July, we presented Anne-Maree and her team from Vinnies Kitchen in Rosebud with a \$10,000 cheque, thanks to the generosity of our staff.

Vinnies Kitchen provides hot meals five days a week, serving over 60 people daily. The donation helped purchase a new oven, which significantly reduced cooking time and the dishwashing workload.





## Emergency and community support

### Southern Peninsula Community Support

Fresh Food is a cornerstone of Southern Peninsula Community Support's food program. The SPCS Fresh Food Walk Up program had over 2,100 attendances and provided over \$120k of food while a further 1,700 or so of Fresh Food bags were distributed through their main centre's Emergency Relief program. Overall, \$733,612 of food, (total aid provided \$1,209,850) was given to nearly 2,000 individuals and their families last year. Our \$25,000 donation contributes to running their Fresh Food Program. We will continue to support their emergency food relief program so they can continue helping those most vulnerable.



### Making a Splash

CBSP has a long-standing and engaging relationship with Jeremy, Kera, Miranda, and the team at Southern Peninsula Community. We support them through our Grant program and actively seek additional opportunities to assist. Our three branches serve as drop-off points for much-needed pantry items, so we encourage you to donate if you can. Last Christmas, we contributed to SPCS through our in-branch Christmas appeal and participated in events that support their fundraising efforts.

Throughout the year, Board Member Helen, along with Branch

Managers Renae and Gemma, and Community Engagement Manager Nat, attended the Splash for Women fundraising event. The proceeds from this fundraiser will enable SPCS to initiate a program that provides a safe and private space for women experiencing hardship to shower and access laundry facilities, meals, and specialised services.



# Sport and recreation

Sport and recreation are central to our communities. The benefits of sports participation extend beyond the players themselves; they also positively impact families, volunteers, and the community, fostering a sense of belonging and creating lasting friendships.

The influence of sports on our communities is evident in immediate improvements to social, economic, and environmental well-being for both individuals and organisations.

This year, CBSP is proud to have supported over 55 local clubs through sponsorships, grants, and donations totalling \$112,267.

We support a wide variety of sports, including football, netball, cricket, tennis, basketball, soccer, bowls, athletics, volleyball, sailing, surf lifesaving, horse riding, golf, and pétanque, among others. Our passion for sports and their significance to our community continues to grow. Did someone mention pickleball?

Additionally, we have provided marquees for our seven cricket clubs, offered door prizes, supplied marketing materials, and participated in over fifty events.

## Empower Her Carnival, Throw Like a Girl

The Sorrento Sharks Cricket Club, in collaboration with local artist Jackie Green, hosted the EMPOWER HER girls' multi-sports carnival at the Sorrento David MacFarlan Reserve. This free event, part of the "Change Our Game" initiative, aimed to increase girls' participation in sports.

Participants had the opportunity to try cricket, baseball, football, and soccer, as well as a fun paint-throwing activity. The event fostered connections among local clubs and new friendships.

A standout moment was the mural created by Jackie with the girls' help. This community effort contributed to the Sharks Cricket Club winning the Victorian Cricket Club of the Year award. Congratulations to them!



## Partnering with Rosebud Junior Cricket Club for Growth

In August of last year, we discussed funding with Paul from the Rosebud Junior Cricket Club to help grow their junior cricket program, which had only two returning junior players at the time. They sought support for subsidising fees, purchasing cricket equipment, and covering match-day expenses.

Paul highlighted the Club's struggles the previous year, and support from CBSP was essential, providing both financial assistance and affirmation for the Committee's direction. By the end of the season, junior registrations had soared to 47, with 23 in the Woolworths Blast program and others in under-10 and under-16 teams.

The Club anticipates continued growth, aiming to expand from two teams to four, including an under-18 girls' team. Paul emphasised how encouraging CBSP's support was during their crucial rebuilding phase.

Well done!



### We Are Sailing

We have a strong partnership with the Safety Beach Sailing Club, primarily through our support of their junior program. They received funding from our grant round to purchase an RS Tera training boat for juniors aged 8 to 15, which will help meet the growing demand.

The junior sailors have been learning valuable skills, including knot-tying and practising capsizing on land. They've also experienced being towed by training RIBs to understand boat behaviour in the water, making their training both educational and fun.

The Safety Beach Sailing Club is more than just a club; it's a vibrant community focused on adventure and water safety. We're excited to see the kids apply their skills on the water this summer.

### Rye Sports Social Club

Our relationship with the Rye Sports & Social Club and the Rye Gift began over 18 years ago when we became major sponsors. CBSP has contributed over \$100,000 in sponsorship during this time.

We enjoyed participating in the 2025 Gift, helping with marshalling and engaging with the kids. We wish the Committee the best for this year's event, which will celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Rye Gift in 2026. Congratulations on hosting such a fantastic local family event!



### Grassroots Sport

The CBSP Sponsorship Program is making a difference, and we would like to thank Capel Sound Tootgarook Netball Club for your kind words and congratulations on a great season!

*Capel Sound Tootgarook Community Netball Club is incredibly grateful for the generous support from Community Bank Southern Peninsula, which has made a significant difference to our club and the young athletes we support. As a junior netball club, our mission is to make netball accessible and enjoyable for all children in our community. Thanks to the funding received, we've been able to:*

*Provide uniforms free of charge, helping to reduce the financial burden on families and ensuring every player feels part of the team.*

*Purchase essential equipment, allowing us to run safe, engaging, and well-resourced training sessions and matches.*

*Launch a free Net Set Go Program, which we're thrilled to be running in Term 4. This initiative introduces young children to netball in a fun and inclusive way, and we're excited to see new players getting involved.*

*This support has helped us grow our club, remove barriers to participation, and foster a strong sense of community and belonging among our players and their families.*

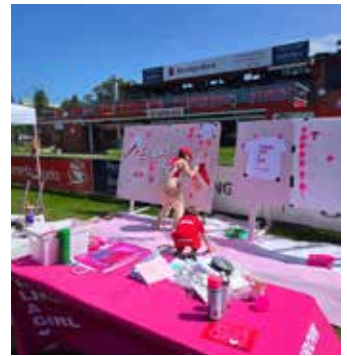
*Thank you for believing in grassroots sport and helping us build a brighter future for our young netballers.*

*Kelly Hales*

*Secretary - CTCNC*



 Sport & recreation





# Environment and animal welfare

## Red Hill Mountain Bike Riders

This year, we proudly sponsored the Red Hill Mountain Bike Riders, a group of enthusiastic mountain biking enthusiasts and strong advocates for the beautiful Arthurs Seat National Park.

Their trail networks are built and maintained by their club volunteers in close collaboration with Parks Victoria. We are the adoption sponsor for the Eastlink Trail, which presents a challenging experience for riders. We applaud this club for its commitment to native tree planting, controlling noxious weeds, and maintaining our parks.



## Dromana Community Garden A Place to Grow

This garden continues to flourish, providing a haven for the community to visit. Since the all-purpose shelter was completed, the garden community has expanded, along with the variety of activities it offers. From worm farms and potting to polytunnel gardening, market days, and classes to harvesting, this community space is a must-visit. They love gardening and especially welcome newcomers—no green thumb is required. This space is for everyone and is a lovely place to connect with nature and people.



## Dromana Sea Scouts: Below the Surface

We were delighted to provide a Grant for the Dromana Sea Scouts' Below the Surface project. This initiative will engage Sea Scout groups from the Southern Peninsula in an immersive marine education experience. Scouts will cycle to Sorrento, take a ferry to Queenscliff, and participate in activities such as snorkelling, marine tours, and environmental education. After the trip, youth ambassadors will share their learnings through community presentations, promoting environmental awareness and action.



## Environment and animal welfare



### *A Testimonial from The Peninsula Obedience Dog Club*

*Established over 45 years ago in Tootgarook, the Peninsula Obedience Dog Club Inc. offers training sessions for all members every Sunday and Wednesday morning, lasting about 3 to 4 hours. Our entirely volunteer team of office bearers, committee members, and instructors dedicates their time to help members train their dogs to be friendly and well-behaved companions.*

*We aim to create a friendly, safe, and enjoyable environment that fosters a sense of community through social events catering to both dogs and their owners.*

*We would like to thank Community Bank Southern Peninsula for their continuous support of our Club and for recognising the efforts of our volunteers.*



## Arts, culture and heritage

This year, we were proud to support local artists, writers, orchestras, film festivals & makers, theatre companies, cultural programs and the International Cool Climate Wine Show.

### **Local scribes, supportive vibes**

We continue to support and sponsor the Peninsula Writers Club Writer in Residence competition, providing members with the opportunity to have their talents recognised, their work compensated, and their professional development valued and supported.



Congratulations to Rebecca Fraser for winning the 2025 Writer in Residence competition with her short story, "Blue Elephant." The runner-up was Sarah Halfpenny for her story, "Permanent Marker." The two Highly Commended titles were awarded to Dawn Markowitsch for her story, "Red Haze," and Carly Foster for her story, "The Bag."

If you are looking for a writing group that offers support, connection, skill-building, and encouragement, please contact [hello@peninsulawritersclub.com.au](mailto:hello@peninsulawritersclub.com.au).



## Arts, culture and heritage

### The Wannaeue Window & Barnacle Studios a Creative Partnership

We are excited to sponsor The Wannaeue Window, a public exhibition space located in the entrance window of the Broadway Theatre in Rosebud. This initiative serves as a platform to showcase the work of local artists and creatives, transforming the streetscape into a vibrant representation of the Barnacle ethos.

Supporting this initiative means contributing to local cultural enrichment, providing both emerging and established artists with opportunities for exposure, engagement, and financial sustainability.

Best of all, it's a no-cost, no-commission opportunity—purely a space for creative expression, accessible to everyone.

As the Broadway Theatre nears its 100th year, we are truly excited to be on this journey with Sally and Max, and the cultural space they are creating, which will reignite community spirit in Rosebud.



Right: The Wannaeue Window  
Co-founder Sally Baillieu & Artist John Baird





## Arts, culture and heritage



### Dreamhouse Theatre Company

Dreamhouse Theatre Company exists to inspire, empower and creatively engage young people through youth theatre, community arts, and cultural development projects. At the heart of our work is a deep commitment to co-designing with young people. We value and encourage their ideas, voices, and lived experiences throughout every stage of the creative process. The funding support from Community Bank Southern Peninsula was critical to Dreamhouse being able to provide more performing arts opportunities to more young people on the Southern Peninsula, meaning more opportunities to build community connection. We know the arts are a powerful vehicle for youth empowerment, mental well-being and social connection. We are so grateful to be able to offer our proven program with the support of Community Bank Southern Peninsula.

#### *A quote from May, a Dreamhouse Member*

*I have joined many a theatre company over the years and I can say with confidence that no other group fosters the sense of belonging, creativity and passion that greets me when I step into Dreamhouse. This play has bought endless opportunities for joy, skill development and connection into my life. I cannot overstate my gratitude to every person that made it a possibility. It was so rewarding to take part in the process and experience a truly beautiful atmosphere, where I am always valued and my voice always heard.*



# Health and wellbeing

Our commitment to supporting local community organisations that promote the health and wellness of people of all ages, genders, and abilities remains steadfast. We offer financial support to ensure these vital initiatives can continue to thrive.

## Dromana Fundraising Ladies a Sea of Pink

We are proud to have sponsored the Dromana Pink Stumps Ladies Day and the Dromana Fundraising Ladies for the first time this year. Their annual event is led by a group of dedicated local women who embody the heart and soul of our community.

What began as a small gathering of friends and community members seven years ago has grown into a cherished annual tradition. The Pink Stumps Ladies Day celebrates women and community spirit and has raised over \$120,000 to date. This achievement is made possible by the hard work of our volunteer committee and the generous support of our local community and businesses.

Pink Stumps Day has evolved into more than just a fundraiser. It is a testament to our community's resilience, generosity, and commitment to giving back.

The event money raised benefits local causes, ensuring that the funds raised have a direct positive impact on the Peninsula and establishing a legacy in our community.



## The Men's Sheds: A Palace for Gathering

We truly appreciate the work our local Men's Sheds do for our community.

Originally established as a place for men to meet and engage in woodworking and metalworking projects, these gatherings have evolved into much more.

The members create toys for local schools and collaborate closely with the schools and the Shire to identify various projects. Their work includes building bird boxes, planters, micro bat boxes, toys, and even billycarts—all through recycling and repurposing materials. They charge a minimal fee to cover material costs.

Additionally, they take their projects into schools to teach children woodworking skills.

We also appreciate the work they do in raising money for local Dementia Cafes.



## Health and wellbeing

### **Bendigo Bank has a long-standing relationship with SALT (Sport and Life Training).**

We offered our football clubs the opportunity to participate in a Wellbeing and Mental Health Session, and most clubs took advantage of this offer.

Here is an excerpt from a testimonial from David Wainwright, Rye FNC.

Dear Dave and the collective SALT team,

On behalf of the Rye Football and Netball Club (RFNC), I wanted to express our sincere thanks for this week's, SALT, Wellbeing and Mental Health session. The timing, context and relativity of this work cannot be overstated. The session was of extreme value and had an immense impact comprehensively on all that attended. The unique privilege to gain insight into the collective health and wellbeing of our people and breadth experiences from the attendees was of immeasurable value.



## Facilities and infrastructure

We continue to support our community groups and gardens, clubs, and schools to provide equipment to improve their facilities and add value to their organisations.

### **Congratulations to Red Hill & District Lions!**

A gathering, including representatives from Community Bank Southern Peninsula and Red Hill Consolidated School, celebrated 40 years of the Lions Club at The Epicurean.

The Club's principles of "living with purpose" were evident as they shared their impactful community work since 1985, including managing car parking at the Red Hill market and providing support to local infrastructure, schools, and organisations. They also coordinate drives for Southern Peninsula Community Support and publish the Hill N Ridge newsletter every two months.

The Lions focus on developing community, supporting youth, and addressing disadvantage. We extend our thanks to the Club for their service and congratulate long-standing member Rob Connor on receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from District Governor Ian Davey. It was a wonderful celebration of community!





## Facilities and infrastructure

### Lions That Sizzle

Each month, we host a sausage sizzle in conjunction with our local Lions Clubs in front of our three branches: Rye, Rosebud, and Dromana.

The sizzle is a free community event enjoyed by our customers and passersby. We estimate that over 2,000 sausages in bread have been cooked and handed out this year and the odd egg and bacon muffin. A big thank you to our Lions Club volunteers!



### *A Testimonial from the Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad*

*On behalf of Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad (SPRS) members, I want to thank Community Bank Southern Peninsula for the sponsorship of SPRS Community Promotions trailer. As a local organisation, run 100% by volunteers, we appreciate your support.*

*The trailer is loaded with our marquee, table, chairs, flags, etc. and enables us to easily move this equipment between events in the local community. It also promotes both of our organisations with its signage.*

*Once again, thanks for your support.*

*Garry Snell*

*Treasurer*

*Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad Inc*





# Education and research

Supporting our schools, kindergartens, educators and support programs is integral to the prosperity of our community. We continue to support the Mornington Peninsula Foundation with over \$300,000 in support being provided to support their literacy program. The community impact and results have been astounding, with students in the program directly benefiting and changing their lives.

## Light Up Autism Foundation – Shining a Light

We have been supporting the Light Up Autism Foundation for several years by funding school programs. Our latest grant will go towards supporting students in our foundation’s program and training new schools in our positive support program. They hope to offer free training to two schools.

We congratulate them on their unwavering commitment to their students. If you are interested, please reach out!

Email: [lightupautism@gmail.com](mailto:lightupautism@gmail.com)



## A Testimonial from The Mornington Peninsula Foundation

Thanks to significant support from the Community Bank Southern Peninsula, Mornington Peninsula Foundation (MPF) has been able to partner with one secondary school and three primary schools on the Southern Peninsula as part of MPF’s wider Mornington Peninsula Learning Guarantee initiative. This initiative addresses low literacy and low educational attainment by supporting schools to transition to evidence based, high impact teaching, as well as provide specialist literacy books and resources essential to learning. Increasing numbers of children are now reading and writing proficiently and in turn behaviour, attendance and well-being are positively impacted. This partnership is highly valued by MPF and the wider community with the positive impacts of this work to be felt for generations to come.

*Stephanie Exton CEO Mornington Peninsula Foundation*



## The MANA Youth Project

The MANA Youth Project has been providing intergenerational mentorship across the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston for the past eight years.

This year, we partnered with them for the first time to help cover operational costs, ensuring they can continue running their programs.

Their Afterschool Akademy Clubs offer young creatives in our community a space to explore extracurricular hobbies, develop new skills and passions, and make new friends while having access to mentors across four unique clubs.

The Rotary Club of Dromana has also supported them, along with the Seawinds Community Hub. It's fantastic to collaborate with other community organisations to ensure the Club can continue to deliver fun, social, and creative programs, with mentorship at the core of what they do.



## RYE Primary School Mural

### Celebrating 150 Years

A Grant was provided to Rye Primary School and its Project Partner, the Rye Historical Society, to engage First Nations artist Shanai Kellett in creating a mural to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary.

The mural acknowledges the millennia-long presence of the Bunurong/Boonwurrung people on the Peninsula. This project recognises the Bunurong/Boonwurrung community's presence long before the

school's establishment. School children, particularly Aboriginal children, were actively involved in the content and creation of the mural.



### A note from Katie Wettenhall - Rye Primary School

*Working with Shanai on this project has been a wonderful experience. It was important that the school children had a voice as we reflected on 150 years of Rye Primary School and our role in that journey. The process involved explaining the project to the school community, after which student leaders brainstormed ideas with their classes about what story the mural could tell. These ideas were then presented to Shanai, Lynne from the Historical Society, and our Koorie Education Support Officer as we explored both First Nations' connections and our own personal journey and place in the story of Rye Primary School together.*

*Shanai has truly brought this story to life with her creative interpretation of the students' voices, paired with her own story of connection, as she also grew up on the Mornington Peninsula. We are proud to showcase Shanai's beautiful mural in our school grounds, to show the community that we celebrate and honour our shared history.*



# Groups supported 2024/25



## Emergency Services & Support

Payton Foundation  
Dromana Community House  
Main Ridge CFA  
Vinnie's Kitchen  
Boneo Rural Fire Brigade  
Rye Fire Brigade  
Rosebud Fire Brigade  
SES Sorrento  
Southern Peninsula Community Support  
Dromana CFA  
Rosebud Sea Scouts  
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard  
(Safety Beach)  
Gunnamatta Surf Lifesaving Club  
Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad Inc



## Sports & Recreation

Sorrento Sea Scouts (Scouts Australia)  
Tootgarook Senior Citizens Club  
Boneo Adult Riders Club  
Sorrento Probus  
Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula  
Dromana Bay Probus Club  
Dromana Bowls Club  
Dromana Cricket Club  
Dromana Valley Probus Club  
Janice Earth Community (Skate Event)  
Main Ridge Bowls & Petanque Club  
Main Ridge Junior Cricket Club  
Main Ridge Tennis Club  
MP Veteran Golfers' Association  
Red Hill Riders MTB Club  
Rosebud Beach Community Bowls Club  
Rosebud Country Club (Bowls Division)  
Rosebud Country Club (Golf)  
Rosebud Cricket Club  
Rosebud Junior Football Club  
Rosebud Soccer Club  
Rye Beach Probus Club  
Rye Bowls Club  
Rye Cricket Club  
Rye Football Netball Club  
Rye Tennis Club  
Rye Yacht Club  
Safety Beach Sailing Club  
Sorrento Cricket Club  
Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club  
Southern Peninsula Classic &  
Historic Car Club  
Tootgarook Cricket Club

Beachcombers Basketball Club  
Boneo Tennis Club  
Capel Sound Tootgarook Community  
Netball Club  
Dromana Football Netball Club  
Dromana Tennis Club  
Fatima Basketball Club  
Karingal Bulls Junior Football Club  
Karingal Football Club  
Mornington Volleyball Club  
Peninsula Strikers Football Club  
Red Hill Basketball Club  
Red Hill Football Netball Club  
Red Hill Junior Netball Club  
Rosebud & McCrae Lifesaving Club  
Rosebud Football Netball Club  
Rosebud Heart Junior Soccer Club  
Rye Football Netball Club  
Rye Junior Football Club  
Rye Sports & Social Club  
Sorrento Football Netball Club  
Southern Peninsula Little Athletics Club  
Tootgarook Netball Club  
Red Hill Cricket Club



## Environment & Animal Welfare

SKOMP (Save the Kangaroos on the  
Mornington Peninsula)  
Dromana Sea Scouts  
Dromana Foreshore Committee of  
Management  
The Peninsula Obedience Dog Club  
Dromana Community Garden



## Arts, Culture & Heritage

Dromana Potters Group  
National Serviceman's Association of  
Australia - MP Branch  
Peninsula Country Music Club  
Peninsula Writers' Club  
Anglican Parish of Rye & Sorrento  
Southern Peninsula Choir  
Rye Primary School  
Dreamhouse Theatre Company  
Peninsula Film Festival  
MP Theatre Co  
Peninsula Chamber Musicians  
Peninsula Writers' Club  
Rosebud Christmas Carols  
Rosebud Italian Club  
Rosebud Rock N Rods Festival

Spirit of Sorrento Community Network  
(Carols by Candlelight)  
Sorrento Chamber of Commerce  
(Taste of Sorrento)  
Dromana Australia Day Association  
Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival  
International Cool Climate Wine Show  
Barnacle Studios Collective  
Peninsula Studio Trail  
The Revivaging Project (auspiced  
by Living Culture)  
Sorrento Chamber of Commerce  
(Taste of Sorrento)



## Health & Wellbeing

Cure 4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Village Glen Fidelity Club  
Mount Martha Valley Probus Club  
Southern Peninsula Cancer  
Transport Group  
Red Hill Junior Football Club  
Safety Beach Dromana Men's Shed  
The Portsea Camp  
Dromana Pink Ladies Day  
Point Nepean Men's Shed



## Community Facilities & Infrastructure

Dromana Foreshore Committee of  
Management  
Martha Cove Community Garden  
Dromana Rotary Club (Tiny House Project)  
Rosebud Police Senior Citizens Register  
Rosebud Soccer Club  
Seawinds Community Hub  
Rye Cemetery Trust  
Rotary Club of Sorrento  
Rye Community House  
Red Hill District Lions Club



## Education & Research

Rye Preschool  
Sorrento Preschool  
Light Up Autism Foundation  
Mana Youth Project (auspiced by  
Rotary Club of Dromana)  
Capel Sound Community Group (auspiced  
by Seawinds Community Hub)



Franchisee: Rye and District Community Financial Services Limited  
 ABN 67 095 766 895  
 239 Point Nepean Road, Dromana 3936  
 Phone: 5981 0106  
 Email: admin@ryedistrict.com.au

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

Rye & District Community Financial Services Limited proudly acknowledges the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of this nation and the traditional custodians of the land where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to elders past and present as it is their knowledge and experience that holds the key to the success of future generations.