

Our Community Our Impact

2026 Impact Report



70%



profits returned to community
in the past 12 months



The Power Of Local

\$12.4 Million invested back into our community since 2003

Banking that builds a stronger community.

Every community needs people who invest in its future. At Community Bank Inner East, that's exactly what we do. Since opening our doors in 2003, we've reinvested almost \$12.4 million into the Inner East, supporting 431 local organisations and funding 2,847 community projects and programs. Every grant awarded, every sponsorship provided and every partnership formed has helped create stronger clubs, thriving schools, innovative research, inclusive programs and vital services that improve lives every day.

The difference is simple: when you bank with us, your money stays here, helping local organisations provide opportunities for children, support vulnerable families, strengthen mental health, create places of belonging and build a community where everyone has the chance to thrive. That's the Community Bank difference.

The impact reaches every corner of our community. It's the sporting club that can keep participation affordable. The

school that can deliver an event bringing families together. The neighbourhood house providing food relief and support for those doing it tough. The young person discovering their potential through a leadership program. The person with disability taking their first steps towards independent living. These aren't just projects, they're lives changed because local people chose to bank locally.

Choosing Community Bank Inner East costs nothing extra, yet every dollar you bank with us helps build a stronger, more connected and more resilient community.

Every account opened, every home loan settled and every business supported helps create even greater impact.

Together, we're proving that banking can be about more than transactions, it can be a powerful force for lasting local change.

Snapshot

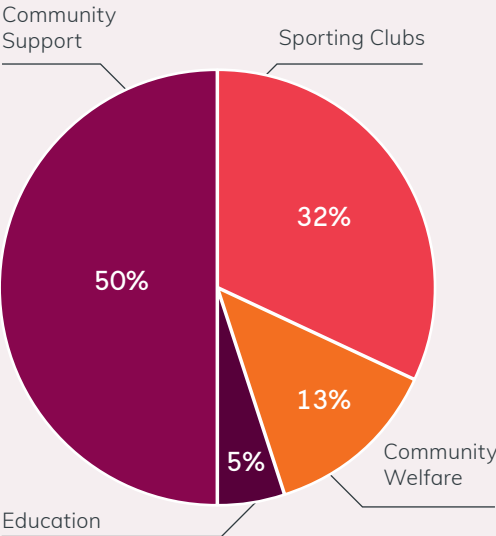
2025–2026

In the past 12 months, we have proudly reinvested almost \$1.5 million into our local community through 220 projects and initiatives, helping strengthen our community and create lasting positive change.

Every investment reflects our commitment to supporting the people, organisations and initiatives that make our community stronger, more connected and more inclusive. From grassroots sporting clubs and local schools to community services and organisations providing vital support, we are proud to back those making a meaningful difference every day.

The following pages highlight the incredible projects, partnerships and people we have supported this year, and the impact these investments are having across our community.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY SECTOR



\$1.5M

in community investment



220

projects & initiatives



186

individual recipients



61

supporter sponsorships

All Time Investment

Where our money has been invested since 2003



\$5.0M

Sporting Clubs



\$2.7M

Community
Support



\$2.6M

Community
Welfare



\$1.4M

Community
Projects



\$0.6M

Education

WHAT WE FUND



Mentoring and leadership



Rotary, Lions and Probus clubs



Neighbourhood houses



Traders Associations



Aged care services



Community centres



Disability support



Community events



Facility upgrades



Youth programs



Scholarships



Scoreboards



Food relief



Equipment



Transport



Uniforms



“ We're here to deliver strong, sustainable banking while reinvesting in the community that supports us. That commitment doesn't change, only the ways we get to put it into action each year.

Bob Stensholt, Chair

Our Impact



Image credit: Passion Creations.

Community Support



\$110,000
for critical medical
training

Supporting Better Health Outcomes for Our Community

One of our largest commitments this year went to Eastern Health, reflecting how central public healthcare is to a thriving Inner East.

Our funding covers new equipment as well as longer-term investment in research, innovation grants and workforce training, support designed to strengthen the health system well beyond this year's budget.

Through one of our Community Bank Inner East Research & Innovation Grants, we supported groundbreaking research

led by Dr Antonia Clarke exploring how Place, culture and connection influence brain health and dementia care for Aboriginal communities. The project brought together Aboriginal community members and healthcare workers, with insights helping to shape more culturally responsive models of care, including a new locally led brain care clinic. By turning community voices into meaningful action, this research is influencing future policy, improving care and creating lasting impact for Aboriginal communities.

“ Thanks to funding from Community Bank Inner East, Eastern Health now has invested \$110,000 into the Simulation Laboratory for new advanced equipment to train over 4,000 staff every year. These state-of-the-art tools, from paediatric and adult life support mannequins to central venous access simulators, help doctors and nurses practice critical procedures like CPR and resuscitation in a safe, realistic environment.
Eastern Health





“ The funding from Community Bank Inner East means so much as we wouldn't be able to put on the event without it. We're greatly appreciative!

Burwood Traders Association

Supporting the Heart of Our Local Precincts

Vibrant local shopping villages are the heart of a connected community, but many are facing increasing pressure in the current economic climate.

Our ongoing support of local traders' associations helps bring these precincts to life through community events, festivals and initiatives that attract visitors, support small businesses and create places where people want to gather. Many of these activities simply would not be possible without our funding. By investing in our local retail precincts, we are helping businesses remain resilient, strengthening the local economy and fostering thriving, welcoming neighbourhoods for everyone.

“ This funding has made a significant impact on HART, local businesses and the wider community. As an Association without a special rate scheme, grants like this are vital in helping us deliver events and initiatives that increase visitation, support traders and strengthen community connection. The funding has helped create a more vibrant and welcoming precinct, and we are grateful for the support that enables Hartwell to continue thriving as a valued local hub.

Hartwell Traders Association



Supporting the Hubs that Hold Our Communities Together

We launched a pilot program to strengthen the sustainability of local Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres, recognising that these organisations are often the first place people turn when they need support.

By investing in additional staffing and management capacity, we enabled centres to expand programs, increase their reach and respond to growing community needs. This means more people can access vital services such as food relief, disability advocacy, social connection and practical support, while ensuring these essential community hubs remain resilient, sustainable and able to continue making a meaningful difference for those who need them most.

“ The grant has enabled the delivery of a nurturing, inclusive playgroup that supports children's confidence, social development and early learning during the critical early years. The program has provided a vital pathway for children experiencing anxiety, developmental challenges and communication delays, while also strengthening connections for families who may otherwise be isolated. By supporting early intervention, inclusion and access to additional services, the funding has created lasting benefits for children and their families.

**Bowen St Community
Neighbourhood Centre**

“ Our grant has enhanced the Centre's capacity to deliver quality services by strengthening administration, supporting staff and volunteers, and improving the overall member experience. The funding has driven membership growth, improved financial sustainability and enabled the delivery of important community education and support programs, ensuring the Centre remains a thriving and responsive community hub.

Ashburton Community Centre



“ The grant has been transformative for Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre, providing the management support needed to strengthen the centre’s long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on volunteers. It has enabled the expansion of community programs, increased participation and hall hire, enhanced food relief and community meals, and improved volunteer support. Most importantly, the centre has become a stronger, more welcoming hub where more local people can access services, build connections and receive the support they need.

Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre

“ The grant has enabled the successful expansion of programs to a second site, creating new opportunities for community participation and connection. Within five months, 11 new programs were established with 91 participants enrolled, while enhanced marketing and promotion contributed to membership growth of more than 50 people. The funding has laid the foundation for continued expansion, increasing access to community activities and supporting the organisation’s long-term growth and sustainability.

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre



Supporting Communities Through Crisis

When devastating bushfires impacted communities across Victoria in 2026, we proudly contributed to the Bendigo Bank Bushfire Appeal to help those affected begin their recovery.

While the fires were beyond our local community, supporting the appeal reflected our commitment to standing alongside Victorians in times of crisis. Together, we helped provide vital assistance to individuals and families as they rebuild their lives, demonstrating the power of collective action when communities need it most.

Community Welfare



10





Opening the Door to Independence

We funded the entire construction of a self-contained two-bedroom house on site at Alkira in Mont Albert.

Our investment in this transitional home marks a defining milestone in our commitment to creating lasting community impact.

As the largest single project we have ever funded, it will provide more than a place to live, it will open the door to independence, confidence and opportunity for people living with an intellectual disability. Residents will be supported to develop the skills needed to live more independently, while gaining greater choice, dignity and connection to their community.

For families, it offers peace of mind knowing their loved ones have the opportunity to build fulfilling, meaningful lives with the support they need to thrive. This is a legacy project that will transform lives for years to come.

“On behalf of everyone at Alkira, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Inner East Community Finance for their extraordinary support in funding the construction of our new bungalow, now proudly known as Bendigo House.

For many years, Inner East Community Finance has been a valued community partner, sharing our commitment to creating opportunities for people with intellectual disability to live fulfilling and independent lives. Their generous investment has transformed what was once a vision into a reality.

Bendigo House provides a beautiful, purpose-built home where people can enjoy greater independence, choice, dignity, and security. This project represents far more than bricks and mortar—it creates lasting opportunities for individuals to thrive within a supportive community.

The impact of this contribution will be felt for many years to come. We are deeply grateful to Inner East Community Finance and the Community Bank Inner East network for their belief in our vision and their commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we support.

Alkira

Together, Supporting Local Families

Our ongoing support for **The Edge Community Fund** helps children in Ashburton, Ashwood and Chadstone access the everyday building blocks of childhood, playgroups, kinder, school camps and sport, that some families would otherwise have to go without.

“As the Edge Community Fund enters its 21st year of operation, we would like to acknowledge the unwavering support of Ashburton Community Bank. Without this support, we would not have been able to assist so many local families experiencing hardship. The Bank's partnership has provided the foundation for us to expand our charitable work and build strong collaborations with local primary schools and other organisations supporting children and families, enabling us to reach more people in need.

The Edge Community Fund



Connection Through Digital Inclusion

We are pleased to have provided new portable computers to Burke & Beyond.

The not-for-profit disability service provider, empowers people with disability to build confidence, independence and meaningful community connections. Through personalised day programs, outreach support, life skills development and employment and volunteering opportunities, the organisation helps participants achieve their goals while fostering inclusion and lasting friendships. Its community-based approach creates stronger, more connected communities where people with disability are supported to thrive and participate fully in everyday life.



“ Thanks to the support of Community Bank Inner East, we have been able to purchase portable laptops that are transforming the way people engage in our programs. Participants with disability now have greater access to technology, helping build confidence, strengthen communication skills and develop digital capabilities that support greater independence. By breaking down barriers to digital inclusion, this funding is creating new opportunities for learning, connection and participation, ensuring more people can build the skills they need to thrive.

Burke & Beyond

Education



Image courtesy of Swinburne University

Inspiring Young Minds, Creating Possibilities

In addition to funding a scholarship at Swinburne University we also supported their Children's University Program.

Children's University (CU) Swinburne is an early intervention program that inspires a lifelong love of learning and helps young people from disadvantaged communities reach their full potential. Working with students from Grade 2 through to Year 12.

Our funding supported the CU Secondary Program through the Passport to Volunteering initiative that enabling students to develop leadership, communication and teamwork skills while building confidence and community connections through meaningful volunteering. Specifically, our funding provided the opportunity to deliver a series of workshops including Financial Literacy and Health and Wellbeing, equipping

students with practical knowledge and strategies to support their transition through their senior school years and beyond.

Students' achievements were recognised and celebrated at the annual graduation ceremony, reinforcing the value of their contributions and encouraging continued engagement. As the only Children's University program in Victoria, Swinburne continues to expand its reach, creating greater opportunities for young people across the state.

“ I learned that volunteering is something really important for the community and for yourself. You get to learn lots about other people. It's a way that you can grow.

I liked raising money to help with the sustainability of the school. I found out what I'm passionate about, so I might want to explore further.

Children's University – Passport to Volunteering, students in Year 9 & 10

Building Strong Foundations for Future Generations

Schools and kindergartens are much more than places of learning, they are the heart of their communities, bringing families together and creating lifelong connections.

Throughout the year, we proudly supported major fundraising events including school fairs, fetes, trivia nights and colour runs, helping these communities raise vital funds to enhance facilities, resources and opportunities for local children.

Beyond the dollars raised, these events strengthen the fabric of our community. They create opportunities for families to connect, volunteers to come together and local businesses to get involved, fostering a strong sense of belonging and shared purpose. By backing these initiatives, we are helping schools and kindergartens continue to thrive as vibrant community hubs where children, families and neighbourhoods can grow together.

“ We are incredibly grateful for the generous funding provided to Summerhill Park Kindergarten. This support has made a meaningful difference to our kindergarten community, helping us enhance the learning environment and provide enriching experiences for our children. Thank you for investing in the wellbeing, development, and future of our youngest learners.

Summerhill Park Kindergarten

“ We are very appreciative to the Community Bank for the grant we received to purchase new equipment for our kindergarten. The items have enhanced our learning space, and supported our children in the kindergarten journey through to school.

Davis St Kindergarten



Unlocking Confidence and Possibility

Investing in young people is an investment in the future of our community.

By supporting local secondary school students to attend the **Magic Moments Youth Leadership Summit**, we gave them the opportunity to develop the confidence, resilience and leadership skills needed to thrive both at school and beyond. Through practical learning in communication, financial literacy, emotional wellbeing and personal leadership, students returned with a greater belief in their own potential and the confidence to make a positive contribution to their schools and communities. Experiences like these help shape capable, connected and empowered young leaders who are ready to embrace future opportunities.

“ I had the opportunity to attend the Magic Moments Summit thanks to your amazing support. When I first arrived at the camp, I was unsure how to feel, but over the 5 days, I have felt so much love and learnt so much about myself. We have built a community based off vulnerability, openness and kindness. I am going to move forward from this with an open and curious mindset and new confidence. I am so grateful for this opportunity, thank you.

Mary

“ From this experience, I feel I am so ready to go and take on the world. I know I'm ready to go thrive, make an impact and leave my mark. Without your support, I would never have been able to experience this. You've changed the direction of my life for the best. Thank you, thank you.

Brigitte



Sport

Grassroots Grows Here

Grassroots sporting clubs are the heartbeat of our community, bringing people together, fostering friendships and creating opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to be active, connected and supported.

This year, we proudly supported 76 local sporting clubs across 18 different sports, helping remove barriers to participation and ensuring more people can experience the physical, social and mental health benefits that community sport provides.

Our funding extends far beyond the playing field. By supporting uniforms, equipment, coaching development, facility improvements and inclusive programs, we are helping clubs create safe, welcoming environments where everyone feels they belong. These investments strengthen the long-term sustainability of local clubs, enabling them to continue serving their communities and inspiring generations of players, volunteers and leaders.

We also continued our partnership with **Sport and Life Training (SALT)**, providing more than 15 local clubs with free mental

health and wellbeing programs. By equipping players, coaches and volunteers with the tools to support positive mental health, we are helping build stronger, more resilient sporting communities where people are valued not only for how they perform, but for who they are.

“Community Bank Inner East have been a long standing sponsor of the club and have been vital contributors to a number of projects over many years. Their grant for our new sightscreens continues a lengthy tradition of supporting our infrastructure and equipment requirements, and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.

**Camberwell Magpies
Cricket Club**

Leadership & Governance in Sports Clubs

Strong sporting clubs rely on strong leadership behind the scenes.

Our funding provided to the **Eastern Cricket Association**, enabled the delivery of the ClubMAP program to more than 80 member clubs, equipping volunteers and committee members with the skills, knowledge and resources to build stronger, more sustainable organisations. By improving governance, strengthening leadership and supporting long-term planning, ClubMAP helps clubs attract and retain volunteers, grow participation and secure their future. The result is more resilient clubs that can spend less time on administration and more time creating inclusive, thriving sporting environments that benefit players, families and the wider community.

“ The partnership we have with Community Bank Inner East provides significant financial support to enable the CLUBMAP program to be run for our 80+ clubs in the Eastern Cricket Association. This program with help our participating clubs to survive and in many cases thrive into the future. In the current challenging economic conditions, it can be the difference between a community cricket club disbanding to being able to keep going and growing.

Eastern Cricket Association

Funding Recipients 2025–2026

1st Canterbury Scout Group
1st Glen Iris Scout Group
1st North Balwyn Scout Group
Alamein FC
Alkira
Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre
Ashburton Baptist Community Services
Ashburton Chinese Senior Friendship Association
Ashburton Combined Probus Club
Ashburton Community Centre
Ashburton Netball Club
Ashburton Primary School
Ashburton Tennis Club
Ashburton Traders Association
Ashburton United Junior Football Club
Ashburton United Soccer Club
Ashburton Willows Cricket Club
Ashgrove Calisthenics
Ashwood Preschool Association
Ashwood School
Auburn Primary School
Australian Boys Choir
Balwyn Historical Society
Balwyn Saints Cricket Club
Bendigo Bank Bushfire Appeal
Bengali Cultural Association
Boroondara Community Outreach
Boroondara Eagles Football Club
Boroondara Netball Association
Boroondara Stroke Support Group
Box Hill Arts Group
Box Hill Athletics Centre
Box Hill Ballet Association
Box Hill Golf Club
Box Hill Hawks Football Club
Box Hill United Soccer Club
BUGS Gymnastics
Bulleen Cricket Club
Burke and Beyond
Burwood Cricket Club
Burwood District Bowls Club
Burwood Uniting Canterbury Cricket Club
Camberwell Central Bowls Club
Camberwell Community Centre

Camberwell Dragons Basketball Club
 Camberwell Hockey Club
 Camberwell Lacrosse Club
 Camberwell Magpies Cricket Club
 Camberwell Petanque Club
 Cantate Singers
 Canterbury Area Toy Library
 Canterbury Cougars Basketball Club
 Canterbury Council of Churches
 Canterbury Cricket Club
 Canterbury Football Club
 Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre
 Chinese Seniors Cultural Association
 Churches of North Balwyn
 Davis Street Kindergarten
 Deakin Cricket Club
 Deepdene Bears Cricket Club
 Deepdene United Cricket Club
 East Kew Football Club
 Eastern Cricket Association
 Eastern Cricket Umpires Association
 Eastern Football Netball League
 Eastern Health
 Eastern Legal Service
 Eastern Lions Soccer Club
 Education Chances
 Eva Tilley Memorial Home
 FC Bulleen Lions
 Glen Iris Cricket Club
 Glen Iris Junior Football Club
 Glenferrie Brass
 Go Girls Foundation
 Grace Park Hawthorn Club
 Hartwell Association of Residents and Traders
 Hawthorn Amateur Football Club
 Hawthorn Boroondara Cricket Club
 Hawthorn Bowling Club
 Hawthorn Hockey Club
 Hawthorn Rowing Club
 Highgate Early Learning Centre
 It's the Little Things Community
 KBH Brumbies Hockey Club
 Kew East Primary School
 Kew Football Club
 Kew High School
 Kew Junction Business Association
 Kew Little Athletics Centre
 Kew Rovers Football Club

Kew Toy Library
 Kiwi Hawthorn Rugby Club
 Koonung Heights Cricket Club
 Kooyongkoot Alliance
 Learning For Life Autism Centre
 Life Activities Club Boroondara
 Lynden Park Scouts
 Magic Moments Foundation
 Maling Road Business Association
 Melbourne Ice Women
 Midweek East Metropolitan Region
 Ladies' Tennis Association
 MND Victoria
 Monash Chinese Senior Friendship Association
 Mont Albert Cricket Club
 MUPPITS
 North Balwyn Community Men's Shed
 North Balwyn Cricket Club
 North Balwyn Tennis Club
 North Kew Tennis Club
 Old Carey Cricket Club
 Old Carey Grammarians Football Club
 Old Scotch Cricket Club
 Old Scotch Football Club
 Old Trinity Grammarians Amateur Football Club
 Old Trinity Grammarians Water Polo Club
 Old Xavierian Soccer Club
 Our Holy Redeemer Primary School
 Playstation Incorporated
 Probus Club of Balwyn Central
 Probus Club of Camberwell
 Probus Club of Glenferrie
 Probus Club of Maling (Combined)
 Probus Greythorn
 Richmond Union Cricket Club
 Roberts McCubbin Primary School
 Rotary Club of Balwyn
 Rotary Club of Box Hill Burwood
 Rotary Club of Camberwell
 Scouts Australia - Camberwell Showtime
 Servants Community Housing
 Shirdi Sai Sansthan Melbourne
 Skunkworks
 Solway Primary School
 South Yarra Football Netball Club

Sports and Life Training
 St Mary's Salesian Amateur Football Club
 St Michaels Primary School
 St Pauls Kindergarten
 STC South Camberwell Cricket Club
 Strathcona Girls Grammar School
 Summerhill Park Kindergarten
 Surrey Hills Baptist Children
 Surrey Hills Music Festival
 Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre
 Surrey Hills Netball Club
 Surrey Hills Pre-school
 Surrey Hills Primary School
 Surrey Hills Traders Association
 Surrey Park Football Club
 Surrey Park Lacrosse
 Swinburne Chorale
 Swinburne Football Club
 Swinburne University
 The Alice Anderson Memorial Project
 The Compassionate Friends Victoria
 The Edge Community Fund
 Trinity Willison Cricket Club
 U3A Box Hill
 Unit Committee TS Melbourne
 Vietnamese Community in Australia, Victoria Chapter
 Vietnamese Senior Cultural Association
 Wattle Park Amateur Football Club
 Wattle Park Ladies Golf Club Inc
 Wattle Park Saints Basketball Club
 Waverley Hockey Club
 Waverley Woodworkers Inc
 Whitehorse Pioneers Football Club
 Wyclif Cricket Club



Who We Are

Community Bank Inner East is operated by Inner East Community Finance, a locally owned company operating as part of the Bendigo Bank Community Bank network. For more than 23 years we've provided banking services to individuals, families and businesses across Melbourne's Inner East, through our four branches and mobile lending specialists.

The difference is what happens to the profit. Up to 60% of what we make is reinvested straight back into the community through grants and sponsorships, which means the more our business grows, the more we're able to give.

Banking with us is a way of directing your own money back into the community you live in.

\$12 million and counting.

Get in touch

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145 Maling Road, Canterbury

Branches

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Ashburton:	☎ 9885 2666
Balwyn:	☎ 9836 8029
Surrey Hills:	☎ 9890 7188

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Community Bank
Inner East



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