

Community Investment Grants – your support in action

Funds for the community investment grants program are generated through the generous support of local businesses and through Telco's contribution from profits made on Telco accounts. We are grateful for the support of our current business partners – **Bendigo Telco, Integra/Viewpoint Huntly** and **Epsom Sand & Soil**.

These supporters contribute at no additional cost to their customers. Your continued support of our partners plays a crucial role in helping them fund and support local projects within the community.

For more information on the grants program or to read about past grants stories, please visit our website at www.bndce.com.au

Small Community Investment Grants Program - Application Process

The grants program is open from February to the end of November. BNDCE strongly encourage your organization's representative to contact one of the BNDCE committee to discuss your grant application before submission. Any club or group applying for a grant is required to send a representative to one BNDCE meeting to explain key aspects of the application.

For full grant guidelines and application forms, please visit the BNDCE website at www.bndce.com.au

Bendigo Bank Partnership Ends

BNDCE wishes to inform the community that the long and substantial partnership with the Bendigo Bank has come to an end. However, as a community group, we will continue our efforts to support local initiatives.

Since our inception in 2006, the Community Enterprise program has returned more than \$18 million to community groups nationally and over \$355,000 to the community of Bendigo Northern District. On behalf of the BNDCE Committee, our volunteers would like to express sincere gratitude to Bendigo Bank for its generosity and unwavering support.

New Business Partner

BNDCE are **excited** to announce that **Epsom Sand & Soil** has joined us as a partner! Its financial support and donation of landscaping products will help fund the Community Grants Program. This will enable us to inject essential resources into important local projects to support, groups, clubs and schools within the Bendigo's northern district.



Together we are committed to making a positive impact in our community. A huge thank you to **Epsom Sand & Soil** for its generosity. Be sure to support our new partner for all your garden and soil product needs.



The impact of your support!

Support for BNDCE is support for local Kindergartens, Schools, Sporting Clubs, Churches, Community Groups and more.

Support BNDCE by supporting our partners and you can help make a difference.

BNDCE Committee Members

Sandra Young - 0428 995 399

Ken Beasley, Brooke Boulton, Leonie Francis, Ruth Fullard, Trudy Haines, Tony Jackson, Michael Lowther, Rob McClellan, Jim Mensforth, Sandra Young

Partner Contacts

Customer Centre - Bendigo Telco

Shop 34 Fountain Court, Bendigo Ph. 1300 228 123
www.bendigotelco.com.au

Viewpoint Huntly

Visit: www.viewpointbendigo.com.au

Epsom Sand & Soil

Visit: www.epsomsandandsoil.com.au

Contact Us

Postal: PO Box 21, Huntly Vic 3551

Scan the code or go to: www.bndce.com.au



/BendigoNorthernDistrictCommunityEnterpriseBndce



/bndce



Communities supported by BNDCE

Ascot
Bagshot
East Bendigo
Epsom
Fosterville
Goornong

Huntly
Kamarooka
North Bendigo
Raywood
Toolleen
White Hills



**Bendigo Northern District
Community Enterprise
Newsletter 2025**

Huntly Family Fun Day 2025: A Huge Success

Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise (BNDCE) has continued to support the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) in planning and organising the annual Huntly Family Fun Day. The 2025 event marked the seventh Family Fun Day since its inception. BNDCE has been proud to contribute financially and be part of the planning committee.

Agnico Eagle has been the major sponsor for the last four years and that support has been invaluable. A small group of dedicated local volunteers and the Bendigo Kiwanis group have been major contributors for the event's success, with approximately 2000 participants.

This year was bigger and better than ever, with an expanded number of stall holders sharing valuable information about community resources and networking with families. Activities included:

- Animal Farm and Wildlife Exposure -educational opportunities.
- Huntly Fire Truck and Waterslide -fun and engaging for all ages.
- Chair-o-plane, Landcare craft, Fusion games -interactive fun.
- music, dance, live performances – family entertainment.
- sand play, gold panning, sports, face painting, bubble man.

In addition, informative displays highlighted community services including early childcare options. Huntly Lions and Kiwanis provided the BBQs, whilst Super Doopers and fresh fruit were free. BNDCE would like to extend a big thank you to all volunteers who worked on the day and look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's event.

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2023

Bendigo Historical Society Support

BNDCE assists the **Bendigo Historical Society** with a contribution of \$2,000 to help complete the fittings for its Museum on Social History, located at **11 McKenzie St, Bendigo**. The museum host exhibitions showcasing local memorabilia that reflects Bendigo's rich past.

\$2,000
Grant



The museum features displays with specialised lighting for key items for visitors to explore. Exhibitions are held in this intimate space, welcoming all visitors. The Historical Society has also digitised many of its museum pieces, creating a new interactive and educational space on its website.

Epsom Primary School Green Magpies



\$5,000
Grant

Epsom Primary School Sustainability Co-ordinator Gill Davey, with students presented their grant application to the BNDCE committee. The students shared details of their sustainability project, which involved developing **Vege Pods**.

The space includes an outdoor classroom, orchard, chook house and gardens, all designed for hands-on learning and promoting the wellbeing of students. The school's Green Team, made up of grade 3-6 students, has been instrumental in planning and maintaining the space.

Their application sought funding for self-wicking beds, which will reduce the amount of watering required and improve vegetable growth. The aim of the project was to teach students how to grow their own food, to help the environment and encourage them to grow food at home with their families. The vegetables and herbs produced are planned to be used in their school canteen, promoting sustainability.

BNDCE/THALES Wellbeing Funding

The BNDCE was approached by a **Thales** Representative regarding funding for a suitable project related to **Health & Wellbeing** in our area. This funding was distributed across the four Enterprises within the Bendigo area. After careful consideration, the decision was made to install **12 defibrillators** across Bendigo to improve emergency response capabilities for residents and visitors.

BNDCE members were pleased to place Defibrillators in the Northern corridor, with installations at **Goornong, Huntly** and **White Hills**. In addition to the defibrillators, funding was also allocated for **first aid training** for 50 people from each Enterprise area.

The four Enterprises have now united to increase the available funding for several larger projects including the **Planetarium, RSL building upgrade** and creation of the new **Chinese Dragon** for Bendigo and the surrounding district.



2024

Huntly Community Hub

The newly formed **Huntly Community Hub** approached BNDCE for a \$2,000 grant to purchase a larger photocopier. This investment was crucial in enhancing the Hub's ability to serve the community in producing a bi-monthly newsletter with local news and upcoming events.

\$2,000
Grant



With the new photocopier, printing became more efficient, enabling the production of a high-quality newsletter that has become an important resource to the community.

Huntly Kinder Carving Post - \$3,000 Grant

Shine Bright Huntly Kindergarden Management wished to enhance their nature/play area by transforming the trunk of a gum tree into an educational feature. The grant meant the trunk would be carved to showcase native flora and fauna, incorporating the namesakes of the children's groups: **Rosella, Echidna, Whirraakee (wattle),** and **Sugar Glider**.



\$3,000
Grant

This carving will help children recognise and learn about their group emblems, deepening their understanding of local bush and how to care for the environment. Although the tree in the kinder yard had been lopped for safety reasons, it will now serve as a permanent totem and a stunning centrepiece for the community.

Other Major Investments - Defibrillators



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Bendigo Chapter of Cycling without Age / Trishaw Bendigo Project

BNDCE was impressed with the **Trishaw Bendigo Project** which aims to support older adults in aged care facilities and individuals with disabilities who experience mobility challenges and social isolation. The project provides a unique opportunity for these individuals to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air on a trishaw.



\$4,892
Grant

The group sought a grant for **\$4,892** to purchase equipment and insurance, enabling them to train pilots/drivers for the Trishaw. Once trained the pilots will escort participants in outdoor experiences taking them to local gardens and green spaces. The program's goal is to combat loneliness and depression by offering a fun and engaging way for people in the Northern Corridor to enjoy the outdoors and connect with their community.

The Trishaw Rides Program is set to be a wonderful experience for everyone involved, offering both physical and emotional benefits to participants.

Epsom Primary School/Energy Breakthrough Trailer

BNDCE is proud to support and enhance the **Epsom Primary School's Energy Breakthrough Program** by assisting with a \$4,000 investment. This funding was used to purchase a purpose-built trailer, to help improve the program by being able to easily transport equipment to training venues and race day events.



\$4,000
Grant

The program offers students the chance to engage in non-traditional physical education through participation in local & extended community sports events. Students will work together to continue developing the Program, ensuring its success for both current and future participants.