Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac – *TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP CRITERA and GUIDELINES*

The **2026 Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac Tertiary Scholarship Program** aims to assist academically motivated students from the Willaura, Lake Bolac and surrounding communities, who have been offered a place at an Australian **University** to study for the first time a **Tertiary degree level in 2026** and are experiencing challenging circumstances.

The Scholarship program supports the following study related expenses – accommodation, course costs and study-related materials and equipment. Other expenses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Key general qualification criteria:

- You are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- Students must currently reside and have been a resident for more than 6 months in Willaura or Lake Bolac and surrounding communities.
- You can demonstrate leadership both within, and outside, your school community.
- You can demonstrate the challenging circumstances (financial and/or social) hindering your ability to undertake further study.
- You are a motivated student who can demonstrate community involvement and a desire to return to work in rural areas.
- You must supply a letter of support from a referee.

For study at undergraduate Tertiary degree level –
Qualification criteria:

- You will be a first-time tertiary student at first year undergraduate tertiary degree level in 2026.
- You have been offered a **full-time place to study** on campus for a tertiary degree in an approved Australian course at an Australian university, TAFE institute or College Campus.
- You have completed Year 12.
- You must be **aged 25 years or younger** as at 31st January 2026.
- Students under the aged of 18 years will require parental/guardian consent to accept this Scholarship.

Key dates:
Applications open 9am on 1st November each year. Application close 5pm on 27th January each year.
Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview with the selection committee during February.
Successful applicants advised no later than end of February each year.

The Scholarship award value is **up to $5,000 per year for up to 3 years** for each successful recipient.
The awarding of this scholarship is subject to the criteria set out above, proof of satisfactory academic performance and re-enrolment of years 2 and 3.
If the student withdraws from the course, the board reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship.
Applications for deferrals or gap years will be assessed by the selection committee on an individual basis.

Scholarships will be awarded on the recommendation of a selection committee and will be based on how an applicant addresses the qualification criteria.

For further information please contact the Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac Secretary on wlbfs.secretary@gmail.com or phone 0409 200 991.

The Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right, at its discretion, not to award this scholarship in any given year.

Community Bank Branch Scholarships are funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund.