

# That's the spirit

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Mount Evelyn Community Bank branch manager Leanne Vaytauer and Lilydale Rotarian Cheryl Mackay are encouraging the community to donate gifts. 131301 Picture: KATHRYN BERMINGHAM

THE spirit of Christmas is thriving at the Mount Evelyn Community Bank.

Along with the Rotary Club of Lilydale, the bank will once again be hosting a Christmas gift appeal out of its local branch. Rotary club member Cheryl Mackay said that the drive has become a tradition within the community, and that there is always an overwhelming public response.

“We see amazing generosity in the amount of gifts that are donated every year.

“I encourage people to donate gifts for children of all ages as well as teenagers. It makes a real difference to people in our local area.”

At the conclusion of the appeal, the gifts are collected by the Salvation Army and then distributed to those in need.

Branch manager Leanne Vaytauer said the bank believed it was important to foster community spirit at Christmas.

“The community really get behind the cause. In previous years we have seen an incredible amount donated and it’s great to be a part of that.”

Those wishing to donate should leave an unwrapped gift under the Christmas tree at the branch. Donations of cash will not be accepted. For more information contact the Mount Evelyn Community Bank on 9737 1833 or visit [www.rotarylilydale.org.au](http://www.rotarylilydale.org.au).