



Summer  
2021

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Pinewood

Welcome to our 'e-newsletter' for Community Bank Pinewood! We hope you find it informative as we keep you up to date with what's been happening here at the branch and with our Board of Directors.

## A message from our Chairman



To our valued Pinewood community,

At Community Bank Pinewood, we've done our best to keep a sense of normality through these difficult times.

In April 2020 we committed to continuing our sports sponsorship program despite many clubs being completely

shutdown for the year. The 'Monash Community Podcast' was created in September 2020 by one of our Directors, Charles Kovess, to improve community connectivity in this time of social isolation and we are proud to be major sponsors of the podcast. It's been a real hit with some great interviews of local community leaders, a 'Council Watch' segment, and other features. If you keep scrolling through the newsletter you'll find more information about the Podcast below.

In November 2020 we held our fourth annual Pitch Night, with 10 lucky local community groups pitching for their share of \$30,000 (entirely funded by Community Bank Pinewood) towards their projects. We had to make a few alterations to the usual format in order to conduct the program online, but it was a highly successful event nonetheless. It has been a great pleasure of mine to have the opportunity to meet many of these groups in person and present them with cheques as restrictions eased.

Through the past difficult year, we have continued to focus on our local community and delivering value wherever and whenever we can. Thank you for all your continued support of Community Bank Pinewood and we look forward to the year ahead!

Regards,

**Robert Davies**  
Chairman

## A message from our Community Bank



To all our valued customers and supporters,

We hope you all enjoyed the break over Christmas and in the school holidays, and had time to relax and share time with family and friends. It has been great to see the Pinewood Shopping Village become busier now that restrictions have eased, and we love being part of such a great community here in Mt Waverley. We have returned to our normal hours and staff have had a much-needed rest and respite on their annual leave. We'd like to again recognise the resilience and adaptive nature of both staff and Board as requirements often evolve quickly in the face of the on-going nature of the pandemic.

Community Bank Pinewood held our fourth Pitch Night in November and although it was online, it was a great success with ten very enthusiastic community groups pitching for their share in \$30,000. We thoroughly enjoyed the sense of community as we all navigated this new platform whilst being able to give back to these well-deserved groups.

We have also been fortunate to be able to meet up with some sporting clubs and groups in person more recently, including affirming our sponsorship of Ashwood Sports Club where team members were generous enough to meet with us on Christmas Eve! We also met with Eastern Maroons Cricket Club and St Kevin's Cricket Club, attended a thank you lunch held by Friends of the Children Foundation and took part in a Golf Day hosted by Mulgrave Cricket Club.

We look forward to the year ahead and thank you for your continued support of Community Bank Pinewood, we're here for you.

**Indu Angammana**  
Branch Manager

**Suraj Ranaraja**  
Senior Business  
Development Manager

## Staff news

Our staff have been extremely resilient and adaptive over the ever-evolving situation with the pandemic, once again wearing masks indoors as required. Please note you may be asked to remove your mask for identification purposes.

If you have been into the branch recently you may have noticed the new leaflets featuring our very own staff, we think they look great!

We're very fortunate to have such a wonderful team here and we encourage you to pop in to receive friendly, professional service right here Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm. You can find us at the Pinewood Shopping Village, 65 Centreway, Mt Waverley or give us a call on 9886 6477.



## Ericson Community Service Award

Nominations  
Open Soon!

For those of you who have been supporters of Community Bank Pinewood for some time you may be very familiar with the name 'Merv Ericson'. Merv was our inaugural Branch Manager

and later became a Director of the Board and was integral to the success of the branch and business. Merv retired last year and to recognise his outstanding contribution and work within the community we are proud to launch the 'Ericson Community Service Award'.

The Ericson Community Service Award will recognise a remarkable, community-focussed individual for their outstanding voluntary work within the City of Monash. The recipient will receive a certificate and \$1,000 grant to be nominated to a not-for-profit group of their choosing (also within the City of Monash).

Nominations will open in March and close May with the recipient being announced in June. Watch our socials, website and newsletters as we send out further details on how to nominate your chosen community warrior!





## Pitch It 2020! The results!

We held our Pitch It 2020! Finalist event online in November 2020 and it was a huge success! Ten worthy community groups pitched their projects by showing us their 'Pitch' videos and answered questions earning them a share of \$30,000 in funds donated by us. Thank you to everyone involved and to our judging panel – the results are below and it has been a pleasure being able to meet in person with some of the groups in the past months as restrictions eased! Watch this space for news on our fifth Pitch It event to be launched later in mid-2021!



Clayton Church of Christ & Love Loud	Free Meal Delivery	\$2,900
Chinese Stroke Support Group Inc.	Health Card and Health Awareness	\$2,900
Friends of the Children Foundation	Bread Brigade 2021	\$2,300
ROBWC Inc	Making a House a Home	\$3,300
Waverley Woodworkers Inc	Money for Materials	\$3,000
Rotary Club of Glen Waverley	Support for Monash Residents Adversely Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic	\$2,400
Rotary Club of Mount Waverley	Kangaroo Chairs Monash Hospital	\$3,000
Rotary Club of Waverley	End the Coward Punch	\$3,900
Radio Lollipop	Christmas Project	\$3,500



## Monash Community Podcast

We hope you've had the opportunity to tune in to the Monash Community Podcast. The podcast is hosted by our very own Director of the Board, Charles Kovess. Charles is the CEO of Kovess International, a former lawyer and a professional speaker, author and executive coach.



The purpose of the Podcast is fourfold:

1. To replace the massive hole left in information by the demise of the Monash Leader newspaper
2. To build relationships and share information amongst Monash stakeholders
3. To help Monash stakeholders help one another, and
4. To help Monash stakeholders learn about the City of Monash and the amazing organisations and people doing great things in this City.

Charles has adopted the motto for the podcast: "Greatness can only be accomplished with passion". Community Bank Pinewood is proud to be the major sponsor as our sponsorship enabled the design and launch of the Podcast.

Segments on the show include a community group of the week, Monash Council review, sports report, business environment and happenings, interesting events coming up in Monash, reports on community events held over the past week, some humour, key elements of the life of Sir John Monash, after whom our city was named and community and not-for-profit groups that seek or need help.

Charles is keen to receive your contributions to the show and suggestions about what you would like discussed and which guests he could interview. So far he has interviewed an amazing range of guests over the past 20 shows, and listeners can go back and listen to any previously published podcasts. You can listen on Buzzsprout, Spotify and Apple Podcasts (just click on your preferred platform). If you would like to contact Charles with your ideas you can email him here: [charles@kovess.com](mailto:charles@kovess.com)





## Sponsorships in our community

We've been extremely happy to be able to engage in person with many of our local sporting clubs and community groups to see them return to sport or their community work. Since our last newsletter we have been able to provide additional sponsorship for the History of Monash Inc, Ashwood Sports Club, and St Kevin's College Cricket Club,

If you feel your club or community group would benefit from sponsorship with Community Bank Pinewood and operate within the City of Monash please contact Louise – Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator via email for an Application Form.

**Top left:** Robert Davies - Chairman presents Ann Nield - Secretary and Helen Gobbi - President of the History of Monash Inc. with their sponsorship cheque at long last.

**Top right:** Suraj Ranaraja - Senior Business Development Manager presents Frank Botheju - President of the Easter Maroons Cricket Club with their sponsorship cheque.

**Bottom left:** Indu Angammana - Branch Manager presents Paul Hattersley - President and members of the Ashwood Sports Club with their sponsorship cheque on Christmas Eve.

**Bottom right:** Members of the Mount Waverley Bowls Club sporting their new uniforms complete with Community Bank Pinewood logo – we think they look great! Robert Davies - Chairman and Suraj Ranaraja - Senior Business Development Manager visited the club this month.

## Talk to us today

### Community Bank • Pinewood

65 Centreway, Mt Waverley VIC 3149

P 9886 6477

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 /pinewoodcommunitybank

 /communitybankpinewood

### We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

### Directors

Robert Davies, Sharyn Cowley, Dwayne Wathen, Anna Lane, Bronson Justus, Charles Kovess, Peter Pan, Sue Cornelissen, Shruti Verma, Jamie Bedelis, Stephen Pewtress

Pinewood Community Financial Services Limited  
65 Centreway, Mt Waverley VIC 3149  
ABN 26 099 420 050

## Board news

The Board had their first meeting for the year just after the Australia Day Public Holiday with some Directors attending in person and some from home online in order to be COVID-safe. The Board are looking forward to another year of working hard for the branch and the community together. Pictured here are our wonderful branch staff and Board of Directors at their annual Christmas dinner in December 2020 – we were so grateful to be able to get together at long last!

