



New Longwarry agent.

Residents of Longwarry will continue to have access to real-time banking with the re-opening of the local Bendigo Bank agency under new ownership.

Operations recommenced on Thursday 13 August from the Karen McCormick Real Estate Office, 5 Kennedy Street Longwarry and as a result, the agency will now be operated by Karen McCormick.



Above: Eleisha Merritt, Karen McCormick, Craig Black and Bruno Persico outside the new Longwarry agency. Photo courtesy of the Warragul Gazette.

Drouin & District

Community Bank® Branch Manager Craig Black and his staff will deal with all referrals from the agency to ensure that the Longwarry community continues to have access to a full range of banking services and products.

Under the **Community Bank**® model a percentage of profits made at each outlet are returned to the local area, assisting with projects and events deemed important by the community.

"The more customers who do business with the agency and Drouin & District **Community Bank**® Branch, the more money we can give back to local community groups and organisations," Mr Black said.

Drouin & District **Community Bank**® Branch have already supported a range of community groups within the Longwarry community including schools, sporting clubs, local CFA and various community groups. The agency has certificates of recognition from the community groups that have received support which are proudly displayed for public viewing.

The agency will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 11.30am – 4.30pm and Saturday mornings 10.00am - 12 noon.

For help with all your banking needs, call in and see your local agency staff at Karen McCormick Real Estate or phone (03) 5629 9010.

More than \$280,000 returned to the community for the year.

The company recently capped off the 2014/15 financial year with its fourth quarterly community investment presentation evening at the Warragul Golf Club with nine groups receiving a total of \$18,850 on the night (pictured above). This brought the total of funds returned to various community groups during the year to \$288,003.45 via community investments and grants.

During his speech, Chairman Bruno Persico highlighted how important the community's support is in order to continue being able to return funds. "We need people to continue to support Drouin & District **Community Bank**® Branch in order to make nights like tonight possible," he said. "The branch now manages over \$200 million in funds for approximately 4,500 account holders. With the continued support of the Drouin community we can continue to grow our business and in turn our community."

Community investment recipients on the night included the West Gippsland Volleyball Association, Variety the Children's Charity, 2015 West Gippsland Dance Festival, U3A Baw Baw and the Drouin-Bunyip Parish Uniting Church Playgroup.

Welcome to Michaela Williams.

The Board and branch staff would like to welcome Michaela Williams as the branch's new Customer Relationship Officer while Michelle Owen is on maternity leave. When recently asked about her appointment Michaela commented, "I have recently moved to the local area with my husband Rick and daughter Emily. We are all looking forward to being able to enjoy our weekends on our property as well as four wheel driving and camping."



I have been working in the financial/banking industry for the past eight years and I am looking forward to working with the community to help them meet their financial goals.

Working with in a **Community Bank**® branch to create an alternative source of income so communities can fund activities and make a difference is an exciting prospect for myself. It's about keeping local money and jobs in the community."

Drouin Secondary College students Thailand trip.

At the October 2014 community investment presentation, 21 students from Drouin Secondary College received funds to assist with a trip to Thailand. Student Lachlan Crampton and Teacher Jo Brauman attended the June Community Investment Presentation to talk about the students' experience.

For many of the students, the trip was their first time overseas and they spent the first week immersing themselves in Thai culture before spending their second week at an orphanage where they undertook painting tasks, built garden beds and taught English and football.



Above: Chairman Bruno Persico, DSC student Lachlan Crampton, Branch Manager Craig Black and DSC teacher Jo Brauman. DSC presented a photo display as a thank you for the company's support.

The students concluded their trip by spending their third week at an elephant sanctuary, caring for the elephants. During this time they also built a toilet for a Burmese refugee family. The gratitude shown by the family helped the students to realise what we take for granted can mean so much to others.

Lachlan also showed a video and presented the company with a photo display of the students' trip. Lachlan took the opportunity to thank the company for helping to provide them with the opportunity to become good global citizens.

Branch Manager Craig Black congratulated the students, and highlighted to all in attendance that the students were the driving force behind the trip as they undertook much of the organising and fundraising themselves.

A new playgroup in Drouin.

Drouin & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch recently provided funds to assist the Drouin-Bunyip Uniting Church Parish establish a new local playgroup.

The Parish Council identified that due to the large development of residential areas within Drouin, coupled with an increasing population of nearby smaller towns, many families may not have access to an early year's playgroup and as such determined to start their own.

The group meets every Thursday morning in the Uniting Church hall on Sinclair Street and provides a safe supervised play area where children can improve their motor and socialisation skills and parents can receive support.

The service is provided at a low cost to ensure everyone can participate and is open to children up to five years of age. If you would like to join the group, please call Annie on 0410 046 239 or Margaret on 0418 854 498.



Above: Vice Chairman Rod Dunlop, Playgroup representative David Toy and Branch Manager Craig Black at the recent official opening of Drouin's newest playgroup and proudly supported by Drouin & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch.

Corporate office part of Drouin's Open House Weekend.



Above: A Street view of the company's corporate office located in Drouin.

The company's corporate office was open recently as part of the Committee for Drouin's Open House Weekend which saw 12 of Drouin's historic buildings open to the public for a whole weekend.

The corporate office was once the State Savings Bank of Victoria's Branch Manager's residence. It once consisted of a kitchen, lounge, bathroom and two bedrooms. Structure wise the office remains the same today, although the lounge and bedrooms now serve as offices and a boardroom.

Over the course of the weekend Director Terry Williamson greeted over 200 visitors including the last Branch Manager to live in the premises Max Hine. Max was surprised to see little had been altered.

Congratulations to Kim Nelson.

The Board and branch staff would like to congratulate Kim Nelson who has just completed 10 years of service with the branch.



Drouin & District Community Bank[®] Branch

42 Princes Way, Drouin VIC 3818 Phone: 5625 4544

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/drouin www.facebook.com/bendigobank twitter.com/bendigobank

Longwarry agency 5 Kennedy Street, Longwarry VIC 3816 Phone: 5629 9010

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11.30am – 4.30pm and Saturday mornings 10.00am – 12 noon



bendigobank.com.au