



## Drouin & District Community Bank® Branch ANZAC medal recipients.

This year marks the centenary year of the Gallipoli landings and it was a great honour for the company to be the recipients of the ANZAC centenary medal in this important commemorative year.

Drouin & District **Community Bank®** Branch was chosen by the Longwarry RSL Sub-Branch to be the recipient of this award. The award is presented to local businesses or organisations that contribute greatly to the Longwarry community.

With a large crowd in attendance, the award was presented on 19 April after Longwarry's ANZAC Day service. The medal was awarded to the company in recognition of its support of many Longwarry organisations including the Longwarry Primary School, Longwarry Hall, Longwarry CFA and many others.

Vice Chairman Rod Dunlop, Directors Terry Williamson and Debbie Brown and Branch Manager Craig Black were all on hand to accept the award.

During their acceptance speech, they thanked the Longwarry RSL Sub-Branch for selecting them to be the recipients of this award and highlighted that this recognition was made possible by the customers who support the Drouin & District **Community Bank®** Branch and the new Longwarry agency and that by supporting these businesses; the company will be able to help grow Longwarry further.

After the ceremony Vice Chairman Rod Dunlop said "It was a real honour for Drouin & District **Community Bank®** Branch to receive this award."



Craig Black, Debbie Brown, Terry Williamson and Rod Dunlop accepting the Longwarry Sub-Branch's ANZAC Centenary Medal.

## Opening of the Baw Baw Equestrian Centre.

The new Baw Baw Equestrian Centre was formally opened on 21 March after the completion of stage one works.

The centre which is the new home of the Drouin and Warragul Pony Clubs as well as West Gippsland Adult Riding Club was realised after the culmination of a lot of hard work by the clubs that stretches back to 2006 when the need for better facilities in the region was identified.

Set on 8.5 hectares of land on Burnt Store Road Lardner, the facility will cater for a wide variety of competitions including cross country, dressage and show jumping and the facility will be able to host local and regional events.

Works commenced on the site in October 2014 and include the development of the clubhouse, improvements to the access road, car and float parking areas as well as the development of arenas.

Company Chairman Bruno Persico said the company was proud to support the project. "When considering the group's application, the Board identified what a great asset this facility could become to the area and we were happy that we could provide the funds to ensure its completion," he said



Debbie Brown & Bruno Persico at the Equestrian Centre's Official Opening along with Baw Baw Shire's Phil Cantillon.

During the official opening, Drouin Pony Club President Richard Stock thanked all those who contributed to the project, including Drouin & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, who provided \$20,000.

"What you see here today is a great example of a community working together to deliver a great outcome for the entire community," Mr Stock said.

The facility is already being well used with Drouin Pony Club hosting an event just one day after its official opening which attracted over 80 entries.

## 2015 Charity golf day.

The Board and branch team were proud to support the recent charity golf day in support of the West Gippsland Hospital.

In mid 2014 a group of ladies from the Warragul Golf and Country Club approached Bendigo and Adelaide Bank seeking their assistance to raise funds for the hospital and Drouin, Neerim, Trafalgar and Bunyip **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branches along with the Warragul branch quickly went to work to ensure a successful event was held.

The golf day included a pre-tournament breakfast and attracted over 100 entries with many entrants making further contributions to the cause by having pros take some of their shots on selected tees. Overall \$20,000 was raised from the event as well as a raffle which ran in the months leading up to the day.

Branch Manager Craig Black was very proud of his team's contribution to the day. "The staff worked very hard in the lead up to the event selling raffle tickets. They also sold other merchandise which raised a further \$300 as well as assisting on the day," he said

He was also grateful for the support of other local businesses. "Many local businesses contributed items for the raffle or offered sponsorship. It's pleasing to see so many people supporting our local hospital."

The funds raised will go to Ward Three for equipment. Anyone wanting to become involved in next year's event can contact their local branch or the Warragul Golf & Country Club.



Caption – Representatives from the various branches and golf club committee present a cheque to hospital CEO Dan Weeks.

## New equipment for the SES.

As part of their 2014 grants program, the Company were happy to assist the Warragul State Emergency Service Unit with a \$15,000 grant in order for the group to replace hydraulic equipment.

The equipment, which is used during the course of road rescue jobs, had reached the end of its usable life and as the SES serves as the primary rescuers at road accidents around Baw Baw Shire, it was essential that it was replaced.

The Warragul SES is responsible for Warragul and the surrounding areas. Its volunteers are on call 24 hours a day to assist with floods, storm, search and rescue, road accidents and more. The VIC SES is made up of volunteers from a variety of ages, professions and backgrounds.

The grant to the SES was one of 12 made at the presentation which totalled \$165,700 in funds returned to a wide variety of community groups.



The equipment purchased with the assistance of a \$15,000 grant from Drouin & District **Community Bank**® Branch.

## Drouin Men's Shed continues to grow.



DDCFS Ltd Director Kim Rees (Centre) making a presentation to the Drouin Men's Shed's James Hunt and David Mudge.

The company is proud to continue supporting the Drouin Men's Shed as it continues to grow. They now have over 80 members and have extended their opening times to cope with the high level of interest.

In recent times the group have received a defibrillator as well as a grant to assist with the development of a workable kitchen area at the shed.

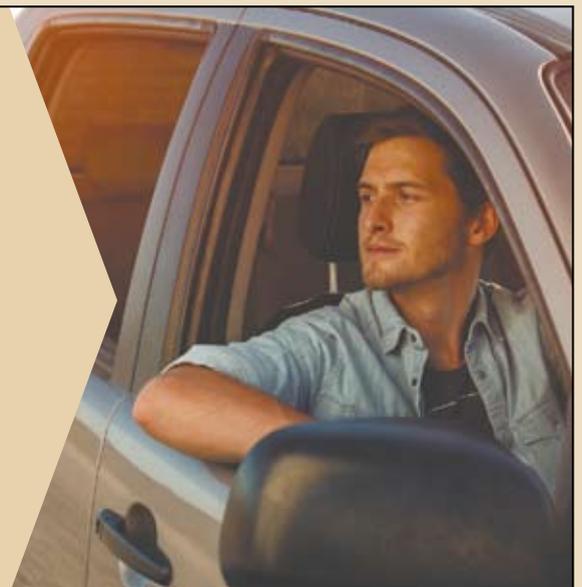
The grant allowed the group to enclose the existing area and install a stove and refrigerator so that the men can be taught to cook in a safe environment away from the dust that accumulates from working the shed machinery. For many of the men, this new area is proving to be a valuable resource as they cook for the first time.

## A personal loan to get you there quicker.

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Applying is fast, simple and no fuss.

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## Breakfast.

The branch team and Board are always looking for new ways to promote the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> concept and the services on offer.

In late 2014 a breakfast was held to showcase Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's innovations in the digital space.

Branch Manager Craig Black welcomed everybody to the breakfast and ran a pop quiz with prizes on offer before introducing guest speaker Andrew Cairns, Head of Customer Led Connections for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

Andrew's speech focussed on how the rate of change regarding the way in which businesses complete transactions has changed more in the last few years than the rest of history combined and how Bendigo is meeting these changing needs with innovations such as Redy. Short films were also screened to show the technologies discussed in action.

The event concluded with Chairman Bruno Persico giving an outline of the branch's history as well as highlighting its recent refurbishment and the opening of the new Longwarry Agency.

Guests were presented with show bags to take with them.



Andrew Cairns, Craig Black and Bruno Persico presented speeches at the company's breakfast.

Drouin & District Community Financial Services Ltd 26 Main Street, Pakenham VIC 3810 **ABN** 37 096 687 240

**Directors:** Bruno Persico, Terry Williamson, Chris Arnup, Kim Rees, Deb Brown, Rod Dunlop and Matt Middel.

## Drouin & District Community Bank<sup>®</sup> 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](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/drouin)

**Longwarry Agency** – 5 Kennedy Street, Longwarry VIC 3816 Phone: 5629 9340

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11:30am - 4:30pm and Saturday 10.00am – 12 noon

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