Manager’s report

Welcome to the 10th anniversary newsletter for Oak Flats Community Bank® Branch.

Oak Flats Community Bank® Branch has reached many goals over the last 10 years and we will try to summarise just some of the highlights in this edition.

Firstly, the work and dedication of the original Board to open the branch with the support of the community should be recognised.

It is also pleasing that Jenny Zoccoli, Jenny McCallum and Paula Ramstadius have worked at the Community Bank® branch from the start, and continue to contribute to the success of the branch.

The support of all the staff at both the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches has enabled our Community Bank® Company to be successful.

Since 2002, we have continued to support our community through donations, sponsorship and grants to local community groups. It’s this community spirit that led to our branch being awarded the Shellharbour City Council’s Australia Day award for Corporate Social Responsibility.

The continued success of the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches is only possible with the continuing and growing support of our customers and shareholders and the dedication of our staff and Board.

It is with great thanks to all of you for the support that you have shown our Oak Flats Community Bank® Branch that has made it what it is today.

Karen Layton
Branch Manager

Chairman’s report

The initial idea of a Community Bank® branch in Oak Flats was first floated in September 1999 by Jenny Butler. Jenny and I then formed a committee to look at the steps needed to start up a franchise of Bendigo Bank, the rest is history.

The past and present Board members, have put a lot of effort into the planning and expansion of the Company, which has contributed to its current day success.

This year Oak Flats Community Bank® Branch will celebrate it’s 10th anniversary and the Board and staff are endeavouring to ensure, it is a memorable occasion on the calendar.

This year the Community Bank® branch will surpass the $1 million mark in community donations and sponsorships. The shareholders have also been receiving dividends for the past six years.

Another positive contribution to the community is achieved by running our 2 branches and the employment of our 11 dedicated staff members. Not bad for a community that could not sustain a couple of the other banks.

Please enjoy reading some of our achievements and if you currently bank with us then we hope you recognise these achievements are only possible with your support. If you bank elsewhere, then just imagine what could be possible with your support.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board, staff, shareholders and customers that have supported the branch and me over the past 10 years.

Geoff Egan
Chairman

Ten years in the community!

Come down and help us celebrate our 10th Birthday!

Where: Oak Flats Community Bank® Branch
When: Saturday 4 September 2010
Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Oak Flats staff, above left: Jenny Zoccoli, Jenny McCallum, Peter Quetcher, Paula Ramstadius and Jodi Da Silva-Witt.
Above right: Karen Guyer, Karen Layton and Cheryl Pusell.

Shellharbour staff: Gabrielle Hunter, Robyn Stocken and Lesley Lipscombe.
Taking flight

The signature red and yellow aircraft of the Aerial Patrol is now sporting an additional colour; the signature maroon of Bendigo Bank. Bendigo Bank has joined forces with five Illawarra Community Bank® branches to help keep our coastline and locals safe. Proudly named the Bendigo Bank Aerial Patrol, the service relies on vital community funding to keep its patrol aircraft in flight.

The branches commenced their support for the service in 2006 and last year renewed their assistance for a further three years, becoming the major sponsor.

Geoff Egan, Chairman of Oak Flats Financial Services, the Company that owns and operates the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches said the Aerial Patrol provided an important service to the local community.

“The renewal will assist the Aerial Patrol to continue its vital service to the communities along the southern NSW coast from Stanwell Park to Mollymook,” Mr Egan said.

Look out for the aircraft, now displaying our Bendigo Bank logo.

Banking on education

Understanding the importance of investing in education, the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches have established two scholarships to assist promising, local students with their studies.

Our Alan Brooker Scholarships are in memory of one of our founding Board members who passed in 2001.

The scholarship supports 12 local public schools each year, providing $500 to every school and two additional individual student scholarships, each worth $250. Over the years, the school funding has been used for various items including a water tank, white board and an outdoor basketball play area.

The Community Bank® Company also supports tertiary students through the Connie Gamble Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2006, when the bank sadly lost another much-loved Board member.

The scholarship assists local students undertaking a degree in Connie’s specialty of media and communications. Congratulations to our first recipient Vanessa Mitrevska, who has graduated this year and we welcome our latest recipient Alyce Erickson.

Workshopping mateship

Shellharbour Men’s Shed not only provides men with a chance to have a yarn but allows them to learn new skills and give back to the community.

The fully equipped workshop means retirees and other men can produce items that benefit schools and local organisations, all while meeting new people.

We are proud to help with the purchase of equipment, tools and materials for this lively activity that has dual benefits for our community.

Big plans for track work

The Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches are helping the Illawarra Light Rail Museum to preserve Australia’s transport heritage by providing funding for track restoration work.

The museum has also been involved with the launch of a new initiative of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank PlanBig. The website creates a forum for community projects where innovative ideas can receive community and financial support.

Got a big plan? Network online at www.planbig.com.au

Community involvement on fire

Our involvement with the Oak Flats Rural Fire Brigade began back in 2005.

During this time, the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches have helped to ensure the safety of the hard-working volunteers through the purchase of new equipment.

Recognising the significant impact of the funding, the branch extended their support to the Albion Park, Calderwood and Dunmore Rural Fire Services.

Well done to all the dedicated volunteers providing emergency services to our community.

— Paul Jewell – Chairman Fairy Meadow, Kylie Douglass – National Sales Manager Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd, Geoff Egan – Chairman Oak Flats and Harry Mitchell – General Manager Australian Aerial Patrol.
Smiles all around

Camp Quality aims to put smiles on the faces of sick children and they most definitely achieved it with this year’s Great Illawarra Walk. Illuminating smiles and high-spirits were all around as the children and their supporters made the 100 kilometre trek from Shellharbour Village to Stanwell Park. As an organisation that is close to our hearts, the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches were involved in the April event, which raised vital funding for children affected by cancer.

It doesn’t end there. Our branch staff and Board members also participated in the very successful Truck Convoy as well as the Camp Quality EsCarpade. Our branches sponsored a car’s drive from Nowra to Gilgandra in the Esacrpade. Always a fun day out, we thank the organisers for their overwhelming enthusiasm.

You’re a lifesaver!

The Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches came to the rescue of Shellharbour Surf Lifesaving Club, assisting with the construction of a much-needed new club house.

The Shellharbour North Beach Development will help provide training facilities for the club and in turn help to keep our local beaches incident free.

Previous branch funding has been used to educate and train team members to provide a safe environment for beach-goers.

Check out the new building, located next to Seaspray Function Centre.

Aged caring

Acknowledging the importance of aged care services to our community, we have supported Warrigal Care Illawarra Auxiliary for five years now. Our continued funding has helped provide a palliative room and extra large single bed at the Warilla Nursing Home. Well done to all the volunteers who tirelessly help our elderly locals.

Thank you for recognising our hard work. It is always a special moment to open your letters and know we are valued by the community we work so hard for.

A card from Greg Wells, principal of Oak Flats Public School:

Karen,

On behalf of the students, families and staff of Oak Flats Public School I am writing to thank you so much for everything that you do to support all the community groups and associations in our area. The care, thought and leadership offered by you and the bank as an organisation is exceptional. Please pass on to the staff and all the Board members my deepest appreciation for their enormous generosity and sense of community spirit. The area is so much richer for the hard work, values and principles that the bank puts into action.
Our community support

Listed here are some of the other community organisations, supported by the Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank® branches.

- Shellharbour City SES
- Port Kembla Palliative Care
- Cancer Council
- Beacon Foundation
- Balarang P & C
- Oak Flats Public School P & C
- Warilla North Public School P & C
- Barrack Heights Public School P & C
- Lake Illawarra South P & C
- Oak Flats High School P & C
- Warilla High School Canteen
- Central Oak Flats Scout Group
- Scout Association - Warilla branch
- Shellharbour Sports Star Assist Fund
- Warilla Barrack Point SLSC
- Oak Flats Tennis Club
- Oak Flats Cricket Club
- Oak Flats Junior Soccer Club
- Oak Flats Swim Club
- South Lake BMX club
- Shellharbour City Soccer Club
- Shellharbour City Ladies Soccer Club
- Stingrays JRLFC Shellharbour Inc
- Shellharbour Netball Club Inc
- Shellharbour City Sharks RLFC

Full range of services

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Over $300,000 shared with our community this year