



Community Bank · Balnarring & District

Whatever the problem, community is the answer

COVID-19 has created unrelenting havoc across the world and for many in Australia this followed a harrowing bushfire season. An unimaginable beginning to 2020. As we try to make sense of the communal tragedy, we are aware there will be a deep, long-lasting impact for many. The importance of connection and compassion is paramount in these challenging times.

At a community level it has been comforting to witness the caring acts and initiatives from so many of our colleagues, friends and peers. Whether it is kindness being spread in the form of rainbows and teddy bears, dawn service in our driveways, a collective sewing of face masks to protect our essential workers or local businesses pivoting as lockdown measures were put into place, they have all been amazing acts of social connection.

We would like to thank everyone for their response and proving we are a community that cares.

Somers Camp Food Drive

In times of crisis, communities 'need' to pull together to support their own. The last three months have been the most challenging many of us have faced in our lifetimes. It took away our freedom and for many people their main source of income, making it hard to provide for themselves and their families. We celebrate groups like the Somers School Camp that put their heads together to find a way to help those in need during this time.

Not being able to have students in their camp, they decided to use their facilities to make and deliver meals to families all the way from Baxter to Sorrento which were suffering hardship. They provide a minimum of 250 meals per week and to date have delivered 9,000 meals. Each meal serves a family of four and by the beginning of Term 3 they will have made and delivered 14,000 meals!

We were so pleased to be able to help with a donation of \$5,000, which was presented to Lars, who runs the kitchen. He was thrilled that this support would assist the camp to deliver more meals to the community. They have received heartfelt cards from recipients of meals, which goes to show what a great difference Lars and his team at Somers School Camp have made throughout this tough time.



Top: Greg Hood presenting Lars with a \$5,000 cheque.
Above: Greg Hood helping Franki out with the cooking.

From our Manager



Welcome to our July newsletter.

Since our previous newsletter, our banking and everyday activities have changed drastically due to COVID-19. In the branch, we have come up with solutions to allow us to continue our exceptional customer

service. The bank has also proactively introduced procedures for customers to do business with us without needing to come into the branch unless completely necessary.

The current COVID-19 situation has placed many people under financial pressures and part of this has been a reduction in interest rates. With so many changes within the financial sector, our Board of Directors and staff continually monitor how they affect our business, customers and our community.

A very big thank you to my staff, who throughout the pandemic came along to work each day ready to work with our customers to help them through these difficult and uncertain times. Even in the face of so much change, Sharra, Elyshia, Glenys, Jo and Tracey continue to ensure that all customers' needs are always met.

I would like to welcome back Elyshia, who has returned from maternity leave to be with us in a part time capacity, working in the branch on Mondays and Tuesdays. It's great to have someone of Elyshia's enthusiasm and professionalism back with us.

Behind the branch is a very committed Board of Directors, who continue to plan for how we best grow and improve our business in the current financial environment. Growth achieved by attracting new customers to our branch or by existing customers doing more business with us, is the constant need if we are to do more for our community, so I would like to offer huge thanks to Board members for their commitment, adaptability and support.

Lastly, thank you to all our loyal customers, shareholders and community groups as without your continued support, none of what we do would be possible.

As we start to see some relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions, I ask that if you are attending our branch please continue to observe social distancing rules out of respect to our staff and other customers.

Remember - switching your banking is not as difficult as you may think. If you require any banking products or advice, come in and talk to us. My friendly staff will be more than willing to show you how easy it is to switch.

Greg Hood
Branch Manager

Our local Country Fire Authority brigades.

Most people in the community would have unfortunately been affected by fire, either first hand, through family and friends or hearing about it through the news and feeling empathy for the people involved. It is hard not to when living in Australia and our community does such a terrific job supporting those affected by the fires whether it is donating food, clothes or money to help rebuild their lives. Another vital part of the community is our local CFA brigades – the volunteer members of which are on the front line fighting to save our property and lives during these times.

Although it seems like only yesterday that we were fighting our biggest battles with bushfires, before we know it the fire season will be once again upon us. To assist our CFA brigades in Balnarring, Bittern, Flinders, Shoreham and Somers, we have donated \$5,000 to each, a total \$25,000, to enable them to get much-needed equipment or upgrades so they are ready to help us when we need it. We would like to thank them once again for the countless hours and sleepless nights, often putting their own lives at risk, to save our communities.

They are true heroes in our local community and because of the difference you make by banking with us, we are very pleased to be able to continue supporting them.



Bank local

If you don't bank with us, your locally owned Community Bank branch, please consider it as we need your banking to help us continue to make a difference.

Our ability to support local community groups is only possible because of our wonderful customers. The community shares in the income generated by their banking and the more they bank with us, the more our community benefits.

These profits make our community a more vibrant and exciting place to live whilst also keeping money in our local economy and employing local people.

There has never been a better time to Support Local. Bank Local.

**BANK
LOCAL**

It's our 12th birthday.

We recently celebrated our 12th birthday and are incredibly proud of our efforts in giving back \$1.65 million to our community since 2008.

As always, our customers enjoyed popping into the branch for a sweet treat and a chat.



The best present you could give us for our birthday would be telling your family, friends, club members and your business contacts that we would love the opportunity to meet their financial needs.

Tell them to consider switching to a bank they can feel better about, and in turn their banking will help us make a difference in our community.

Hay Drive

We all know the devastation caused by the bushfires in Victoria and NSW earlier this year and many of us have friends or family who have been affected. It's been amazing to see the Australian public and many from overseas, come together to help support those affected by this devastation.

The local Community Bank branches heard that local people had been sending donated hay to East Gippsland for the last 18 months to support those affected by the drought. They were inundated with offers of standing grass but needed funding to assist with baling and transportation. The Rye, Dromana, Rosebud, Hastings, Balnarring and Mt Martha Community Banks all contributed to provide sufficient funds to make sure this grass was baled and loaded onto trucks to be taken to East Gippsland.

A huge thank you to the local Mornington Peninsula volunteers who continue to do this great work and to all the customers of these Community Banks who have made this possible by doing their banking at one of these branches.

We must also thank our community for their donations and contributing an incredible \$38,000 to the Bendigo Bank National Bushfire Disaster Appeal.



Above: Hay being baled and sent to East Gippsland and Jo in our branch collecting donations for the Bendigo Bank National Bushfire Disaster Appeal.

Our team

Since the last newsletter, we are excited to announce that Elyshia Thobe has returned from maternity leave and is back in the branch with us on Mondays and Tuesdays. Elyshia and Sharra Valentine are our Customer Relationship Managers. Pop in and say hello to Elyshia next time you are in the branch (be sure to admire the photos of her gorgeous little boy too).

It is with regret that we farewell former Director on our Board Chantelle Waterson. We thank Chantelle sincerely for her significant contribution to our Board over the last seven years. Chantelle was great fun to work with and she genuinely enjoyed improving and empowering our local community. We wish her all the best.



Top: It's great to have Elyshia back with us.
Above: Chantelle Waterson.



**BANK
LOCAL**

**Big on products.
Big on service.**
And big on local banking

Call us on 5983 5543 or search Bendigo Bank Balnarring.

bendigobank.com.au

Bendigo Bank

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879.
(1455031-1455027_01) (06/20)

See the change your banking can make.

Balnarring & District Community Bank continue to support the Balnarring Primary School. Herb, from class 4A wrote:

"I am really happy with all the new furniture, it's wonderful to have new seating and it allows us to enjoy the reading space

so much more. We also use it as a communal learning space as it's much bigger than our classrooms. Thanks so much to our local Community Bank. We look forward to showing Piggy around."



Year 6 children from Balnarring Primary School enjoying reading in their new Literature Circle Library.

Talk to us today

Community Bank

Balnarring & District

Shop 28, Shopping Village,
3050 Frankston-Flinders Road, Balnarring

P 5983 5543

E balnarringmailbox@bendigobank.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/balnarring

f /BalnarringCommunityBank

ig /bendigocb_balnarringdistrict

We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Directors

Heather Goddard (Chair), Chris Gurney (Treasurer),
Mark Laughton, Ron Kempster, Stuart Whiteley,
Pam Ford, Kym Bridgford, Michael Treadwell,
Sarah Moran, Mark Holland.

Company Secretary: Mel Symes

Balnarring & District Community Services Ltd
Shop 28, Shopping Village,
3050 Frankston-Flinders Road, Balnarring VIC 3926
ABN 00 127 842 059

Your banking has enabled us to support these local community groups

Balnarring Scouts

Rylee Yong from 1st
Balnarring Scouts



Womin Djeka festival

We were again delighted to sponsor the annual Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee.

Crib Point Football & Netball Club

We were delighted to contribute \$17,000 towards a new sound system for Crib Point Football & Netball Club.



Somers Tennis Club

Somers Tennis Club has reopened and Piggy popped down to lend a hand (or a hoof).

Westernport Yacht Club

Work is about to begin on the project to install an accessibility lift at the Westernport Yacht Club thanks to our donation of \$20,000 and the generous donations of others.



We're here for you

