



Chairman's report.



A report to shareholders and customers has been a pleasant duty as we continue to help our community grow. I was privileged to be at the official opening of the new entrance to the RSL with our Branch Manager Rhonda Lowe. Congratulations to the RSL for having the foresight to bring this wonderful project to conclusion and it now offers a great meeting place, in very modern conditions for the whole community to enjoy.

We originally formed the Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch to help projects like this and to make Creswick a better and stronger community. The customers of the Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch

donated \$22,000 towards this wonderful project. We have also donated community grants to Clunes Booktown, Creative Clunes, Creswick Dance and Fitness and the Creswick Hospital Auxiliary. These donations have all been made possible by the loyal customers of our Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch. We as a Board are looking for a major project to help our town. Your suggestions are most welcome and any other potential projects will be welcomed. Current examples are Creswick Hospital, Creswick John Curtin Hostel, the Aquatic Centre and Callembeen Park. We welcome any input from our community and district.

The last few months we have been trading consistently and close to our budget forecast. My thanks go to the Board and staff for their continuing efforts to keep our Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch vibrant. I would like to welcome Angela McCrow to our staff and wish her a happy and successful time while working in our Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch.

In closing I ask you to promote our Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch with friends and neighbours because a stronger **Community Bank®** branch can do more for our community.

Graeme Mitchell
Chairman

Support from the **Community Bank®** branch.

Creswick and district community groups and organisations wishing to apply for funding support should complete the branch's standard funding application form. Copies of these can be obtained from the branch at 1 Raglan Street, Creswick or by phoning on 03 5345 1233.

Thanks to those who have supported the branch by bringing their banking to it, Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch has returned over \$472,000 to the community in grants, donations and sponsorships in the seven years since it opened in May 2007.

A second round of funding is available after 1 April 2015.

Creswick & District Financial Services Limited 1 Raglan Street, Creswick VIC 3363 **ABN** 14 119 315 258

Directors: Graeme Mitchell (Chairman), Michael Daunt (Secretary), Bob Orr (Treasurer), Marcus Walsh, Margaret Giles, Bernie Charleson, Janine Booth, Quentin Turner, Alan Gay, Michael Beaumont, Tim Hayes and Narelle Barrett.

Manager's report.

By the time you receive this newsletter I will have enjoyed some annual leave, travelling around Tasmania.

I cannot believe we are now four months into the New Year already, my how time flies. At the time of writing this report I am pleased to announce that our balances are sitting at \$153 million, which is very good growth for this year so far. These results are very pleasing not only for our shareholders but also for the many organisations and sporting clubs who benefit from our contributions.

On 1 April 2015, the Creswick-Smeaton RSL officially opened their new entrance to the RSL Hall and were thrilled to be part of this special event, our contribution of \$22,000 was able to assist with their renovations. A plaque will be placed at the entrance in honour of our customers at the Creswick & District **Community Bank**® Branch, when you have a chance pop over and have a look.

You may also notice a few of our signs popping up around the community acknowledging the sponsorships and grants Creswick & District **Community Bank**® Branch has supported, the larger signs are located at the Mt Prospect Tennis Association and the Doug Lindsay Reserve. Our total contributions to the community including these two now exceeds \$472,000.

On 21 January we said good-bye to Louise while she enjoys 12 months maternity leave after having her second child, a boy named Ethan. Sophie Murphy has stepped up as the Customer Relationship Officer in Louise's absence we wish them both all the best.

In closing I would just like to ask you, if you're not banking with us, "what's holding you back?" You are missing out on the opportunity to being part of something **bigger**, so pop in and see us today, my staff and I would love to assist you with your financial needs.

Rhonda Lowe
Branch Manager

Staff profile.

Angela McCrow.

Hello my name is Angela McCrow and I have the pleasure in joining the team at the Creswick & District **Community Bank**® Branch as a casual staff member. I've previously worked at the Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank**® Branch part-time for five years over a period of 10 years.



My husband and I own a sheep and grain farm in the Western District and I am currently living in Ballarat with my children whilst they complete their education.

I have so far enjoyed my time here and have been warmly welcomed by the locals and hope to learn more about the town and district of Creswick.

Moving toward electronic shareholder correspondence.

Our Board now has the capacity to offer shareholders several options to receive their correspondence.

In the future we will be looking at providing our Annual Report, Newsletters, Dividend Statements and AGM notices electronically.

In the next newsletter we will offer you the option to have your correspondence emailed to you. You will also have the option to

download the information from our website. In doing this we hope to reduce our impact on the environment but also to reduce printing costs in an effort to increase profit. You will still be able to request to receive hard copies of all of the shareholder correspondence if this is the option that best suits you.

Michael Daunt
Secretary







Business banking advice in the palm of your hand 24/7. We call it miBanker.

miBanker is a mobile platform that can help you manage and grow your business.

Drop into your nearest branch at 1 Raglan Street, Creswick or phone 5345 1233 to find out more or download the app today.



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Community Bank® delegates set to converge on Creswick.

The inaugural Regional Victoria **Community Bank®** conference will be held in Creswick this May, and is expected to attract more than 200 **Community Bank®** delegates from across the state to the region.

Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Company Chairman Graeme Mitchell said the conference will provide a welcome boost to the local economy, with the visitors already booking out the Novotel Forest Resort.

“Securing the conference is a real coup for Creswick and affords us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase the region and the wonderful tourist attractions we have to offer,” he said.

“Delegates value these conferences as they give us an opportunity to meet like-minded people, share ideas and stories about community building, and celebrate the success of the **Community Bank®** model.”

Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch Manager Rhonda Lowe said delegates will start arriving in Creswick on Monday 11 May, and will stay for the conference which runs from Tuesday 12 to Wednesday 13 May.

“Some of the delegates are arriving early for a pre-conference game of golf at the international-class course,” she said.

“It’s also expected that many people will bring family or friends and stay on over the weekend, which will be of great benefit to local restaurants and retailers.”

More information: Rhonda Lowe 03 5345 1233

Fancy winning \$10,000?

Insurance is something we all need but often don’t think about until we need to make a claim.

With that in mind, the branch is offering customers the opportunity to not only protect their homes but to potentially win \$10,000 to help pay off their mortgage.

To help customers to better protect their big assets, the Creswick & District **Community Bank®** Branch is giving you the opportunity to win \$10,000 between now and 30 June 2015.

Customers who take out a new home and contents or landlord’s policy in that time, immediately go into the draw for one of ten \$10,000 prizes.

Winners can choose to pay off their home loan sooner or kick start an investment fund to help them plan for the retirement or save for that something special.

Let’s face it most of us only think about insurance when something goes wrong.

But whether it’s something as simple as a window breaking, or as serious as a house fire, protecting your big assets in one of the most important things you can do.



Creswick & District
Community Bank® Branch

Proudly supporting
our community

 **Bendigo Bank**
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Rhonda celebrates 10 years with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

On 10 March, our Branch Manager Rhonda Lowe travelled to Bendigo to receive her recognition pin from Mike Hirst, Managing Director, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank after celebrating 10 years of service with the company. We would like to congratulate Rhonda (pictured right with Mike Hurst) on a successful 10 years and wish her all the best for her future endeavours with the Creswick & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch.



Baby news.

On Saturday 21 February Louise and Damian Clarke welcomed their little man Ethan John Clarke, weighing 61b 3oz, a little brother for Sylvie. Mum and bub are all going well, we look forward to Louise bringing Ethan into the branch so we can all enjoy lots of cuddles. Congratulations Louise and family.

What are your community shares worth?

Most of our present shareholders who helped by subscribing to start up this company in 2007 have in fact tightly held onto their shares. In the past six years they have been rewarded by growing annual dividends. However, each year a number of shares are traded due to change in shareholders circumstances such as moving from district, death, family reasons and the necessity to free up cash. Fortunately to date there has been a ready market for anyone wishing to sell for whatever reason. In fact at this time there are no sellers listed and six buyers for various sized parcels. As Directors we must point out we cannot offer advice to any enquiring buyer or seller of shares as to what they should ask if selling, or pay if buying. This has to be negotiated by the parties themselves. The best way to monitor share trading is to go online to the Bendigo Bank website, then to **Community Bank**[®] branches and to our Creswick & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch. Under the Investor Relations heading you are able to see what parcels are for sale, latest transfers and what buyers are prepared to pay.

This method of Share Trading is called operating on the Low Volume Market. You can download the applicable forms necessary or in fact fill out on line. If in doubt our staff can provide direction. Sales over the past two years have been in the range of \$1.20 to \$1.70.

So, should your circumstances change and you wish for whatever reason to sell your holding this may be of help.

Michael Daunt
Secretary

Let's talk Farm Management Deposits

Drop into your nearest branch at 1 Raglan Street, Creswick or phone 5345 1233 to speak to a local specialist about how a Farm Management Deposit can help grow your farming operations.

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