



## Heathcote & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch Newsletter July 2011

Residents of Heathcote and surrounding district have had plenty of experience in dealing with natural disasters.

The bushfire, which cut a swathe through the Redesdale area in 2009, was an example of how this community came together in time of trouble to offer help where it's needed.

Your Heathcote & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch recently continued its community commitment with a donation to the appeal for victims of the flooding in Rochester.

The Directors returned \$5,000 to the appeal, to be spent to assist victims in need. Chairman Barry Cail, said the farming communities of Elmore and Rochester were closely connected with the Heathcote district and were appreciative of help.

The Board also agreed to get behind an appeal supported by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd to help victims of the disastrous Queensland floods with a \$1,000 donation.

Heathcote & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch was quick to help out when fire ripped through the Redesdale district, making several thousand dollars available to victims.

### Good Friday Appeal

One of the many success stories of last year's community grants program was the purchase of a new heavy duty trailer for use by the local RSL branch. The trailer is used for many purposes including assisting RSL members to relocate as well as collecting firewood for the RSL's famous wood raffle. One trailer load of wood raised \$330 for the Good Friday Appeal.



The Board of Directors of Heathcote & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch welcome three new Board members.

John Webb, Richie Condie and Ian Rohde joined the Board this year, each with significant experience in the banking or finance industries.

Mr Webb, a resident of Nagambie, was sought out to expand the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch's interest and influence in the Nagambie district in support of its agency in the town. Mr Condie owns and operates Condie Heathcote Estate, a boutique vineyard in Lewis Road and Mr Rohde, who is executive director of an investment management company called Warakirri Asset Management Pty Ltd, lives in the Tooborac area.

Following on the success of last year's outstanding community grants program, the Heathcote & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch is again looking for ward to delivering more grants to the community this year.

The program starts on 25 July with an information evening at the RSL Hall, designed to assist local organisations with finalising their plans and completing their application forms.

This year, the H&DCB information night will be combined with an important community planning forum in which participants will also have the opportunity to discuss projects and initiatives for the future of Heathcote and district.

All shareholders are invited to attend the evening, to meet with community leaders and a large contingent of key Bendigo Bank officials who are looking at taking this innovative format to the wider community bank group.

The night starts at 7.00pm under the guidance of Bendigo Bank motivator Chris DeAraugo and will include light refreshments.

It is good to see that a number of projects, which were supported with **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch funding last year, have been completed. The Holy Rosary school has established its garden and chook shed, the Heathcote Bowling Club has installed safety lighting, and the Budd Hall op shop now has air conditioning. A number of other projects are yet to be completed. Community groups and organisations are reminded that there will be another round of grants made available later this year, so keep your eye out for information on where and when to apply.

Your **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch is always looking at ways to reduce costs. As a result, communications with shareholders will soon be available electronically. Shareholders will be given plenty of notice before newsletters, AGM information and annual reports are available via the internet and email.

The Directors of your **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch are always keen to hear from our shareholders. All communications with the Board can be made through the Company Secretary, by mail to  
PO Box 339, Heathcote VIC 3523.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd has notified Heathcote & District Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch that the Bank will be varying the amount of commission payable on certain products, with effect from 1 April 2011.

Heathcote & District Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch has assessed the impact of these changes and estimates that this will result in a change to commission earnings of about \$28,000 for the 2011/2012 financial year.

The Board is working with our Branch Manager, Les Owens, to find ways of off-setting this change through revised work practices.

An opportunity exists to buy shares in Heathcote and District Financial Services. Shareholders looking to increase their holdings will be interested to note that there is a small number of parcels of shares now available, ranging from 500 to 10,000 shares. For further information call the Company Secretary, Helen Bethune, or view on our website at [www.bendigobank.com.au/heathcote](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/heathcote).

## Staff news

Regular visitors to the branch will have met our new staff member Tania Perry who has settled in well and is enjoying her role as Customer Service Officer. Terri Johnson has taken over the role of senior CSO working closely with CRO Jodie Rowe to develop business and enhance the customer experience. The Board is very happy with the work and commitment of all staff.



Heathcote & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch,  
Shop 2, 119 High Street, Heathcote VIC 3523  
Phone: 5433 3115  
Website: [www.bendigobank.com.au/heathcote](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/heathcote)  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm  
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

### Heathcote & District Financial Services Limited

Shop 2, 119 High Street, Heathcote VIC 3523

**ABN:** 44 112 376 986

**Chairman:** Barry Cail.

**Company Secretary:** Helen Bethune.

**Directors:** Keith Chambers, Richie Condie, Rachel Paterson, Ian Rhode, Gregory Speirs, John Webb, Joe Zurek.