

Newsletter

Spring Newsletter

Chairman's report

After two full years of operation, the Heathcote and District **Community Bank**[®] Branch is well advanced towards its goal of providing a banking service to Heathcote and district which will return tangible benefits to the local community.

The Board of Directors believe shareholders will be encouraged by the performance of the bank.

It has been a busy few months recently. We said goodbye to our original Manager, Sally McGaffin, and we have welcomed our new Manager Les Owens. Sally took up a new appointment with the Bendigo Bank in Bendigo and Les comes to the Heathcote branch with a lifetime of banking experience behind him. He has shown a commitment to the **Community Bank**[®] concept and already is making his mark in the community of Heathcote. Apart from his obvious professional qualifications, he is also a Heathcote resident.

In recent months, the Board accepted the resignation of Jeremy Davis, one of the original Directors who resigned because of work commitments. The Board has since welcomed long-time Heathcote resident, Greg Speirs. He brings to the boardroom table extensive experience in local government and, of course, great local knowledge.

The Heathcote and District **Community Bank**[®] Branch was pleased to note that the outcome of the proposed merger between the Bendigo Bank and the Adelaide Bank would have no effect on our branch. The two banks are currently working their way through the process.

Members of the Board and Manager Les Owens are working together with leaders of the Heathcote Winegrowers Association on a project which hopefully will result in a strong relationship between the two groups.

It is with pleasure that I remind all of our shareholders that they are most welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting of the H&DCB. It is hoped that we will be able to offer an informative evening at the RSL Hall on Monday, 22 October.

And while we are all quietly pleased at the progress we are making, it is also worth reminding our shareholders that the job is not done. To achieve the final goal of being able to return tangible benefits not only to our shareholders but also to the community, we need our shareholders to be ambassadors of the Heathcote and District **Community Bank**[®] Branch. Please take every opportunity to talk with family, friends and neighbours to tell them about the benefits of being a **Community Bank**[®] supporter. In the end, the entire community will benefit.

Barry Cail
Chairman

Bendigo Bank and Adelaide Bank announce plans to merge

The Boards of Bendigo Bank and Adelaide Bank recently announced their intention to merge.

There are a number of advantages in bringing these two strongly performing Australian companies together.

But most importantly for you and your community, this merger secures the unique Bendigo style of banking, including the **Community Bank**[®] model.

The merger will bring together two banks with different but proven strategies, to create a unique customer and partner focused financial services organisation.

It will maintain Bendigo's community focused banking model and introduce Adelaide's wholesale banking strategy to form a more robust and diversified business.

Under the merged group, the unique **Community Bank**[®] model will continue to grow and prosper, and new Company-owned and **Community Bank**[®] branches will continue to open.

The Bendigo Bank brand will be retained, customers' accounts will not change and the same friendly faces will be at your local branch to provide for your banking needs.

Nationally, the merger would increase Bendigo Bank's network, delivering our customers access to 24 branches in South Australia and 90 ATMs. Over time, new products and services will follow.

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Branch Snapshot as at 31/08/07

Total number of customers: **1,214**

Total business base: **\$33,777,000**

Lending %: **42%**

Notice of AGM

Guide Hall, High Street, Heathcote
Monday, 22 October 2007
at 7.00pm

Heathcote & District
Community Bank[®] Branch  **Bendigo Bank**

Board of Directors, Heathcote & District Financial Services Limited,
2/19 High Street, Heathcote, VIC 3523

Barry Cail, Caroline James, Greg Williams, Keith Chambers, Jeremy Davis, Ian Cordiner, Colin Stobaus,
Joe Zurek, Patrick Connally, Danielle Gilmore.

Bendigo Bank and Adelaide Bank announce plans to merge continued

The merger is still subject to Adelaide shareholder approval, in November, as well as a number of regulatory and court approvals and other conditions. Implementation is expected to take a number of months.

In the meantime, Bendigo Bank welcomes your views as a **Community Bank®** shareholder.

To share your views, or to find out more information, you can visit www.bendigobank.com.au and follow the merger link to the feedback form.

Or you can phone Bendigo Bank's merger hotline on 1800 730 426, or write to Bendigo Bank Share Registry, PO Box 480, Bendigo, Victoria 3552.

We are excited by the prospects for this merger.

The Bendigo Bank brand has inherent value built up over many years. This merger secures that and improves future growth opportunities. We look forward to bringing you more news.

Tim Rodda

**Regional Manager – Bendigo & Central Victoria
Bendigo Bank**

Staff profile - Marnie

Position: Customer Service Officer

Background: Barista, baker and soldier.

Why I joined Heathcote & District Community Bank® Branch: I was really impressed with what Bendigo Bank was doing for their customers and communities.

What Makes Heathcote & District Community Bank® a great place to work?: Great staff that are very giving, understanding and have a sense of humour.

Career Aspirations: Learn as much as I can.

On A Personal note:

Interests: Big rugby union fan!

Pets: 1 dog and 1 cat.

Favourite Book: I'm addicted to the Harry Potter books at the moment.

Favourite TV show: Pretty much anything on the ABC.

Favourite Food: Anything from a bakery.

Two people I'd invite to dinner and Why: Old friends, long story.

Favourite saying: "Yes, dear."



Sponsorship

Heathcote Taekwondo Club are proud to be sending 10 of their members to represent Victoria at the National Taekwondo Championships in Adelaide this year. These students qualified to represent Victoria by entering Victorian selection competition.

In preparation for the National competition, the students have put their own time and money into training at Heathcote and also with the Victorian squad at Albert Park Melbourne.

It was with great pleasure that Heathcote and District **Community Bank®** Branch presented this dedicated team with new training bags.

Congratulations and good luck Heathcote Taekwondo Club!



Make your impact on the environment less noticeable.

When you buy Carbon Offsets from the Bendigo, we replant native vegetation on your behalf to offset greenhouse emissions, giving you a cleaner conscience and a cleaner environment.

It's just one of our Generation Green™ initiatives. To find out more drop into Shop 2, 119 High Street, Heathcote or phone 5433 3115.

www.bendigobank.com.au Bendigo Bank Limited, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo, VIC 3550. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. Carbon Offsets are issued by Community Energy Australia Pty Ltd ACN 102 412 386, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bendigo Bank Ltd. (43213-v1) (26/09/2007)



Heathcote & District **Community Bank®** Branch

**For more information please call into
2/19 High Street, Heathcote
or phone 5433 3115**

**We are open:
Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon**

Heathcote & Districts **Community Bank®** Branch  **Bendigo Bank**