



Celebrating 10 years of the **Community Bank**[®] concept and \$1 million into our local communities.

Our Journey.

A group of interested community members was briefed by representatives from Bendigo Bank on 28 November 2005 in relation to the proposal to establish Gin Gin **Community Bank**[®] Branch, and a committee was formed to evaluate the proposal.

A Steering Committee was formed on 12 December 2005 comprising of 15 interested locals who met fortnightly in close consultation with representatives from Bendigo Bank.

A public meeting was held to discuss the **Community Bank**[®] concept on 10 May 2006 and the steps required to establish a **Community Bank**[®] branch at Gin Gin. As a result, the Steering Committee engaged an independent consultant to conduct a feasibility study in relation to the proposal. The results of the feasibility study were presented to the steering committee at a meeting held on 19 December 2006 and it was unanimously voted to proceed towards the establishment of Gin Gin **Community Bank**[®] Branch.

A Board of Directors was elected from the Steering Committee and our very own **Community Bank**[®] branch was opened on 11 December 2007.

The last 10 years have been a roller coaster ride but we are grateful for the community letting us share this awesome experience with them.

Gin Gin Recreation Area.

What an exciting day it was when the Gin Gin **Community Bank**[®] Clubhouse was opened out at the Gin Gin Recreation Area in 2015 (pictured above). It was a great testament to the hard work and perseverance of our local Gin Gin community to see the ribbon being cut. The **Community Bank**[®] branch was so honoured that the Rec Area Users Group chose to name it after us! It just goes to show what can be accomplished in our small community when we all work together. Gin Gin Rugby League, Gin Gin Touch Football, Gin Gin Little Athletics and the Gin Gin Football Club (soccer) should be commended for all the hard work they put in to fundraise the last \$20,000 to get the project across the line. By leveraging the \$110,000 they were granted by the Gin Gin **Community Bank**[®] Branch they were able to obtain a Sport and Recreation government grant for a further \$100,000. Well done to all involved, especially Petra Galea who was Project Manager for the building project.

Life Education.

Gin Gin **Community Bank**[®] Branch committed funds for every child in our district to attend a session in the Life Education van and to receive a workbook to continue their 'Healthy Harold' lessons in their classrooms. Students from Prep to Year 6 learn important lessons about food and nutrition, personal safety, physical activity, cyber safety, safety with medicine and legal drugs; tobacco, alcohol and caffeine. This funding commenced in 2015 and we hope to continue to partner yearly with this valuable service. More than 811 children over 12 different school in our district are able to hear the 'Healthy Harold' message without any extra cost from their parents.



Kolan/Perry Community Enterprises Limited 63 Mulgrave Street, Gin Gin QLD 4671 **ABN** 21 123 507 844 **Directors:** Lance Cislowski, Margaret Flanders, Susan Bengtson, Bruce Apel, Brian Flanders, Selwyn Bengtson, Paul Stehbens, Arthur Dingle, Wendy Burgess.

Meet our new Branch Manager Rick.

It has been an exciting time returning to the branch after some time away, and what an opportunity it is to come to the Kolan/Perry Community Enterprise Limited and the **Community Bank**® branch at Gin Gin as the new Branch Manager.

Having previously been a training officer who assisted the Gin Gin **Community Bank**® Branch staff it seemed natural that I could fit into the staffing of the branch as I already knew the majority of them. I feel very privileged to have been given the support of the local Board to return and to be given the opportunity to assist the greater Gin Gin community.

It is great to see the support offered to the prior Branch Manager Rob Atherton, who is still an integral part of the organisation. His move to a Mobile Relationship Manager based out of the Gin Gin **Community Bank**® Branch will further enhance our ability to assist the customers of the branch as well as the greater community.

It has been yet another excellent year for the team at Gin Gin with strong results across the board. We continue to support the community and our local customers where and when possible and I personally look forward to continuing the efforts already evident.

Let's all look forward to a bright and strong financial relationship in 2017/18 financial year that serves to assist both our customers and the branch, so that we can all continue to prosper and grow.

Supporting our schools.

Our schools are a major part of our town and we have always felt that our children are our most precious commodity. We love to help our students reach for their dreams and often give grants to our local P & C's so they are given every opportunity to shine.

Grants for disability swings, robotics, music camps and playgrounds are just a few of the investments we have made in our young people's lives.



Golf Club mower.

It was great to be able to help out the Gin Gin Golf Club with a new greens mower to replace the old broken down model. The Golf Club does some great things around Gin Gin to help out other organisations and also holds many fundraising days. Hopefully it will attract more people to come and utilise the golf course and stay a while in beautiful Gin Gin!



24 hour race.



The Gin Gin **Community Bank**® Branch has sponsored this event since 2013 and it is such a privilege to head to Maryborough every year and see the teams' endurance and perseverance in completing this 24 hour race. It is amazing to watch the encouragement, teamwork, mateship and comradery of these students, teachers and parent helpers. After all, these are all traits Gin Gin is well known for and it is great to see the next generation showing them already. Well done team Gin Gin!

Kids Alive.

Wow! What a day was had by all when the Kids Alive Do The Five show came to Gin Gin High School in 2015. It had become too costly for Laurie Lawrence to take his travelling show around Australia to promote this very important water safety message to our children. But we didn't let that stop us!!

A huge effort was made by Jane Stehbens to borrow the costumes and sets from Laurie Lawrence's Kids Alive Foundation and set in motion Gin Gin's very own version of the show.

The Drama teacher and students from the High School adapted the scripts and performed a fabulous show to over 300 children up to seven years of age. It was a fun and interactive feast for the eyes



which the children seemed to enjoy immensely. After watching the show, they were treated to displays from the Fire Service, Ambulance, Life Saving Australia and many more.

We hope to be able to bring this show back to Gin Gin in early 2018.

Driver Ed.

For the last four years we have committed to improving the safety of our young Drivers by sponsoring \$100 per student to attend the 'RoadCraft' Driver Training course in Gympie. This involves lessons completed at school, culminating in a two-day course held in Gympie where the students try out some defensive driving skills in a safe environment. To date we have helped up to 192 students attend the course.



Toddler pool.



It was very exciting times in Gin Gin when the opening of the new toddler pool was unveiled in 2013. This was a joint project between the **Community Bank**[®] branch, the Bundaberg Regional Council and the Kolan Swimming Club. A splash pool to promote water safety and awareness in young children replaced the old leaking pool. It has been a huge improvement to the area and it is great to see people travelling to Gin Gin to use it rather than out of Gin Gin.

Rural Fire Services.

For the last 10 years we have placed high value on what our Emergency Services accomplish in Gin Gin to keep our community safe. With this in mind, we have sponsored nearly every Rural Fire Service for varying amounts. Our first sponsorship was for mobile repeaters so our Emergency Services could extend their coverage for communications while an emergency was occurring. We have also helped numerous local services with funding for equipment not covered by government funding.



Pool amenities.

To complement the opening of the Toddler Pool two years before, the new Amenities building at the pool precinct was opened in December 2016. This was another partnership between the **Community Bank**[®] branch, Bundaberg Regional Council and the Kolan Swimming Club. An investment from the bank of \$165,000 encouraged the Council to upgrade the old facilities which were no longer suitable. It is great to see the Gin Gin pool have facilities that rival any you will see in Bundaberg.



Biggenden and Childers opening.

In 2014, we added to our **Community Bank**[®] family by opening an agency and an ATM at Biggenden. Like most small towns in the area they had lost some banking services in their town and asked if we would help to bring them back which we gladly did.



In 2016, Childers joined the family when, again, banking services were lost and the great folk at Leading Appliances asked if we would open an agency in the space left when another bank closed its doors. It has been a pleasure to have these two new communities come on board and join us in our journey!



Hospital equipment.

We have enjoyed great partnerships with the local Gin Gin Hospital Auxiliary, Bundaberg Hospital Health Care and more recently with the Biggenden Hospital Auxiliary. With nearly \$30,000 in investment going to these very important groups it has been wonderful to see what they have achieved with these funds. Bariatric beds, Tea and coffee kitchenette, specialised ICU chair, alarms for the PARAS ward in Bundaberg and a fluid warming machine just to name a few.



Year 6/7 bank accounts.

For the last eight years the Board of Directors gift a \$25 bank account voucher to every graduating Year 6 student in the district. We feel that this will encourage the students to start their saving future off with a little help.

The **Community Bank**[®] branch, can now also offer student banking through our schools and it has been wonderful to see most schools in the District start this service for their students.



Gin Gin Community Bank[®] Branch

63 Mulgrave Street, Gin Gin QLD 4671 Phone: 4157 3469

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/gin-gin-qld facebook.com/bendigobank twitter.com/bendigobank

Biggenden agency: 25 Edward Street, Biggenden QLD 4621 Phone: 4127 1480

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm and Saturday mornings 9.00 am – 11.30am

Childers agency: 128 Churchill Street, Childers QLD 4660 Phone: 4126 1586

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm



www.bendigobank.com.au

