

Winter
2021

Newsletter

Community Bank · Lara District



Message from branch Manager



Hello, and welcome to our Winter edition of the Community Bank Lara District newsletter. My name is Galen Munari, your local Branch Manager.

We have been very busy here at the branch with helping many new and existing customers maximise their banking

experience, while also being super active in the community by attending a range of events across our many local community groups. In the past few months, our Board and staff have attended events with Lara Cricket Club, Little River Pony Club, Lara Chamber of Commerce and Lara RSL, amongst many other of our community groups.

We also ran a few events of our own; our Twilight at the Range – Networking Event was held at the Lara Golf Club, where with the help of the Lara Chamber of Commerce we invited many local businesses to join us in a relaxed evening of a barbeque and a few drinks. We had our Community Investment Program (Grants) evening in March where we presented certificates to 27 groups from Lara, Little River and Anakie who we supported with grants of over \$200,000. Lastly, we ran two eBanking Masterclass sessions at the Lara Community Centre to equip those in the community with all the skills they need to use our innovative eBanking platform.

Our team recently said goodbye to our wonderful Customer Relationship Manager Michelle Duncan, whom many of you will know for her amazing customer service, warm personality and great banking knowledge. She has taken on an exciting new opportunity with Bendigo Bank in our Loan Support Team. Michelle joined our branch team when we first opened in 2009 and has been a huge asset to our branch and community in this time. Whilst we will miss her friendly face each day, I'd like to personally thank Michelle for her support, contribution and friendship and wish her all the very best in her new position.

On a business front, our branch recently celebrated reaching \$200 million in branch footings (loans and deposits under management) which is an amazing achievement and something all customers, staff and community should be very proud of. To have a Community Bank here in Lara that is growing at such a fast rate will only help continue our momentum in delivering much needed funding to our local community. Your banking makes a difference in your community and is very powerful. To date, it has enabled us to contribute over \$1.4 million back into Lara and surrounds.

Our Community Bank Lara District plays a pivotal role in the growth of our community and I encourage you to



◀ Message from branch Manager (continued)

reach out to see how we can help you. When you bank with us, you bank with one of Australia's biggest banks, however a share of the profits from your banking goes straight back to your community.

If you haven't compared your banking with our innovative and competitive range of products – there's no better time like the present. We would love to help you with your banking needs – Monday to Saturday, in-branch or over the phone.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe (and not too cold!) winter and thank you for your ongoing support.

Galen Munari
Branch Manager

Round 1 grants launch

Our first grant round for this year was launched on 4 March. Thanks to Michael Helman (Lara Golf Club) and Gary Bascomb (Lara CFA) who were guest speakers on the night. We also used the night to present certificates to our successful grant applicants (pictured above) from the 2019/20 financial year as we were unable to do so at our 2020 AGM.



Message from our Chair



Dear shareholders and friends of Lara District Community Enterprise Limited.

Our year, while still having its challenges, has been giving us a taste of some normality with more freedoms than what we enjoyed last year. Weekend sport has made a return and lots of

the groups we support have got back into their regular activities.

Just this last week I dropped by the Little Teapot for a quick coffee and yummy cake and I was delighted to find that they were well on their way to doing what they do best; support young families and people new to our community. If you have never dropped by, you will find a lovely play space for young kids, as well as warm and welcoming volunteers providing lots of support for families. Over the years we have assisted them with improvements to their play spaces, so it was great to see it all being put to good use.

Our first grants round for 2021 was very well subscribed, with a wide range of great projects supported and over \$130,000 committed. As projects are completed, we will share the details via social media. In fact, the Geelong Independent picked up on our grant to the Wandarrah Arts and Craft Group who operate out of St Laurence Park aged care facility. It is a great story where we purchased two sewing machines to allow the volunteers to sew teddies and clothing for distribution to other

groups in need around Geelong, such as Geelong Mums and Cottage by the Sea.

At the end of March, I had the pleasure of attending the Lara CFA dedication of their new ultra-light tanker. While our bank contributed \$50,000, it was super pleasing that other local businesses and individuals provided around another \$130,000 to allow the volunteer brigade to have a highly valuable piece of equipment totally funded by the community.

We have now made our Share Registry more accessible to our shareholders by moving our registry to an online format. Shareholders can still use paper form if they wish, but they now also have the option of finding resources and information online for more efficiency. AFS sent emails/letters to shareholders to advise them of this; please contact us if you did not receive this information.

Lastly, but very importantly, we farewelled Michelle Duncan, our Customer Relationship Manager at the end of May. Michelle has moved to another role with Bendigo Bank. Michelle joined us when we opened in 2009. Thanks to Michelle for her dedication and friendship.

Thank you to our shareholders who had the vision to support a Community Bank for Lara, Little River and Anakie. Of course, we also need to acknowledge the thousands of customers who have moved their banking to Community Bank Lara District.

Andrew Hilliard
Chair Community Bank Lara District



Making good things happen

When you bank with us, profits pour into the community; **\$131,450** so far in 2021.

Here's who we've helped in our latest round:

Lara RSL Sub-branch
Lara Primary School
Lara Secondary College
Lara Cricket Club
Little River & District Pony Club
Lara Golf Club
Lara Heritage & Historical Museum
North Geelong Warriors Football Club
Friends of Elcho Park

Lara Giants Basketball Club
Lara Lifestyle Village
Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk
Lara Food Relief
TLC Group
Wandarrah Arts and Crafts Group
Lara Football Netball Club
Mittagong Girl Guides

Find out more. Call 5282 6430 or search Bendigo Bank Lara.



Your banking helps us to give back to our community

Here's a snapshot of some of our recent community events that we have been involved in over the past few months:

Lara CFA ultra-light tanker launch

On 28 March, representatives from our Board, Andrew and Charles, attended the launch of Lara CFA's ultra-light tanker. We are very proud to have assisted in the fundraising for this vehicle; it will be an extremely valuable fire-fighting piece of equipment come the bushfire season.



Wandarrah Arts and Crafts Group

Branch Manager, Galen along with Director Libby and ASO Sheyne met representatives from Wandarrah Arts and Crafts Group at The Heights Sewing Centre to purchase two sewing machines they successfully applied for in our latest grant round. These sewing machines will be put to fantastic use to create products for Geelong Mums, Cottage by the Sea and other local groups. Thanks to Tracy and Nathan from The Heights Sewing Centre for sourcing the sewing machines to meet the needs of this very enthusiastic craft group!



Talk to us today

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We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

9.00am - 12 noon Saturday

Directors

Andrew Hilliard (Chair), Libby Bate (Deputy Chair), Graeme Duff (Treasurer), Ann Butcher (Secretary), Natalie Candy, Jurgen Strauss, Charles Saliba, Sheyne Berry (Admin Support Officer)

Lara District Community Enterprises Limited

5 Waverley Road Lara Vic 3212

ABN 67 134 347 087

Twilight at the Range

On a beautiful evening in March, we held a networking session for our local businesses. It was wonderful to get together in person after a challenging 2020 to have a hit, a giggle and a sausage sizzle! Thanks to members of the Lara Golf Club for providing the venue and running our competitions.

