

Meander Valley Financial Services Ltd. Newsletter July 2009

Chairman's editorial



As we all work through the effects of the global economic meltdown, with its twists and turns, we can be mighty glad we are in Australia at this time. Our financial sector appears to be relatively robust and secure, albeit with some exceptions. As a community with our own **Community Bank**[®] branch, we are even better served. Not only do we have a choice about

our banking, (and competition between service providers is good for customers provided it is fair) we also, in the **Community Bank**[®] model, have a source of funds from our share of profits to assist our community into the future as the Bank grows.

The **Community Bank**[®] network in Tasmania continues to expand and attract interest. There are now six **Community Bank**[®] branches in the state. In April, Tasmania hosted a **Community Bank**[®] conference at Wrest Point for over 250 **Community Bank**[®] Directors and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank staff from SA, NT, Tasmania and Victoria. The Tasmanian **Community Bank**[®] Chairmen jointly opened the conference, and later that day, I gave a presentation to the conference about the history and current progress



▲ Meander Valley DVD Display at April Bendigo State Conference

of our Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**[®] Branch. In the gallery leading to the conference area, we had a DVD display showcasing Meander Valley, which Jan Blakeney, our PR/

Media Director had compiled, and which generated a lot of interest from other conference participants.

Also in April, we were delighted to be able to launch the first Tasmanian **Community Bank**[®] branch sponsored off-site ATM at Mole Creek's IGA Supermarket. This facility has been voted an overnight success by the community. The Board had identified its intention of providing this service as part of its first three-year strategic planning process. We are currently developing a new Strategic Plan for the Company which will set our direction for the next three years. One of the initiatives in the planning stages is a community grant round where groups and organisations in the community are invited to submit applications for project funding.

As we grow and bring the Company into profit, we continue to identify opportunities for us to improve our operations. We have a strong shareholder group, very community minded, and we are very grateful for your continuing support. Our branch staff are extremely competent and provide a wonderful service. We are always available to take your questions and to discuss Company issues and initiatives.

Please call into the branch and celebrate our fourth birthday anniversary with us with a cuppa on Monday 27 July during banking hours.

Lynn Hayward
Chairman



Branch Manager's editorial



I have now been in my role here as Branch Manager for over 12 months. These 12 months have seen one of the tumultuous times in finance in recent history. Although things have been tough, Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**[®] Branch has performed in outstanding fashion. We have continued to expand our customer base and provide quality service to an ever growing share of the community. This is due in no small part to the excellence of our staff and the quality competitive products we offer our customers.

I wouldn't be presumptuous enough to try and predict the year ahead, as a lot more qualified people than me are over estimating every "green shoot" that appears in the recovery process. Nevertheless, while I won't make a prediction, I am still incredibly confident that the Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**[®] Branch can once again have a productive and profitable year. The result that I am hoping for can only be obtained with continuing support of the community. I would encourage all shareholders who don't bank with us to give us due consideration when they next need a banking product. The **Community Bank**[®] concept that motivated you to support us in the beginning with a purchase of shares in our joint enterprise is just a valid now as it was then. I don't hesitate to say even more so in these economic times. The more we do together, the more the community benefits.

It's the branch's fourth Anniversary on the 27 July, so come along and join Board members and staff for a piece of well-earned cake and a cuppa and let's look forward to "the best of times" – with your continued support.

Darren Rumble
Branch Manager

Branch snapshot

Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**[®]
Branch

- > Branch opened 27 July 2005
- > \$53 million now on the books
- > 2,745 Account holders
- > 356 Shareholders
- > Tasmania's 3rd **Community Bank**[®] Branch

Director education, new Director appointments and departures

It is both a legal obligation and MVFS Ltd. Board policy to arrange for regular Director Education courses including the models regularly offered through Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's Company network, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and our own Company's legal team.



▲ MVFS Board Directors Training

New Directors are "mentored" by an appointed Board member. Existing Director's attend workshops as appropriate to up-date legal information and further develop knowledge skills.

The most recent Director's Education workshop was held with the Bendigo legal team at Campbell Town on Sunday the 31 May 2009 in Company with Directors from other Tasmanian **Community Bank**[®] Boards. Volunteering as a Company Director carries a great responsibility which all Board members take seriously.



▲ Jessica Leonard, New Director and Treasurer

MVFS Ltd. has welcomed to the Board Jessica Leonard. Jessica is a Deloraine resident and is filling the position of MVFS Ltd. Company Treasurer replacing former Treasurer, Nikki Atkins, who has resigned to take on a similar role for the Deloraine Rotary Club's Tasmanian Craft Fair organising committee. Jess

is an active stay-at-home mum with two children and three step-children. Weekends find her in the vegie garden or creative writing. She is currently completing qualifications in accountancy and is also Treasurer of the Toddle Inn Child Care Centre Inc.



▲ Drew Badcock, Retiring Director

The Board has accepted with regret the resignation of Director Drew Badcock of Exton. Drew has been a member of the Board since its inception in 2004 and has assisted overseeing Site Management and Maintenance at our branch premises. Shareholders will know Drew's alter-occupation as a fine

woodwork craftsman whose work is well known and admired in the district. Thanks, Drew, for all your hard work for the **Community Bank**[®] branch!

Tasmania's first **Community Bank**® branch off-site ATM

Launched at Mole Creek



▲ Branch Manager launches the Mole Creek ATM.



▲ New ATM at IGA Supermarket, Mole Creek.

It is with great pride and satisfaction MVFS Ltd. launched Tasmania's first off-site **Community Bank**® branch sponsored ATM at the IGA Value-Plus Supermarket in Mole Creek. After close consultation with the Mole Creek area residents through the Mole Creek Progress Association, and conduction of an area-wide banking services survey, the ATM was

formally opened for business on Wednesday 8 April. As predicted, the facility was a welcomed additional service for both residents and passing trade alike. The first two months of operation have been promising

and feedback has been very positive. Everyone will remember the severe thunderstorms that crashed through our district in May knocking out power and telephone-based EFTPOS systems for a full day in many places. Thanks to the new ATM at Mole Creek, (and backup power!) residents still had access to cash for their requirements on that day.

Customers to the Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**® Branch will have noticed that our old-style ATM has been replaced with a new model – like that at Mole Creek – so both facilities are up-to-the-minute technology.

Art at the branch: Eskleigh Art Award; Deloraine kinda & prep students shine!



▲ Larry Berg, Eskleigh Art Prize Winner.



▲ Deloraine Primary School Students "Animal Art".

Customers to our **Community Bank**® branch will be accustomed to seeing the walls glow with colourful creativity and recent displays have been no exception. We have been honored to display the winning entrant of the Eskleigh Art Award, "Road to a New Day," by Larry Berg. The bright exuberance of Larry's theme was immediately felt the minute one entered the branch.

Deloraine Primary School Kinda and

Prep students had their own show in the month immediately following the Eskleigh display. Their creativity was shown to great effect and what promising young artists they were! Animals of every style, colour and imagination were their subjects.

Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**® Branch is pleased to give recognition to our district's artistic diversity. If you, or an acquaintance, would like to have works displayed for a month at the branch, contact MVFS Ltd. Director Grant Ward, art display manager, at the Deloraine Deli for an application form.

Community groups sponsorships

MVFS Ltd. is pleased to announce more successful group sponsorships in 2009.

The following organisations have been supported so far this year:

- Deloraine Show Society "Meander Valley 8KM" Fun Run & Walk (4 October 2009)
- Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, Meander Group, First Aid Accreditation (2009)

- Deloraine Working Sheep Dog Trials (Craft Fair Weekend, Oct – Nov 2009)
- Deloraine Junior Soccer Club - Team Guernseys

Many of these activities are public events which attract state wide participation and bring business to our district. Local support is what we're into so come along on the day, support the locals and have a great time!

New opportunities for E-Trading with Bendigo Bank

E-Trading is a new service offered by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank to customers who wish to open a share-trader's account for share trading on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX). Customers who nominate Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**® Branch for their Bendigo On-line Share Trading account with a minimum balance of \$1,000 can help qualify our local branch for a referral fee when the branch reaches 15 plus referrals.

Customers who join now will not be charged a joining fee and can receive up to \$550 in FREE brokerage when they buy or sell shares within 60 days of opening their account. You can also earn Qantas Frequent Flyer points for each transaction. There is 24 hour access, low transaction fees and the latest on-line security and trading platforms.

For more information, go to this web link http://www.bendigobank.com.au/public/personal/investment/share_trading.asp

E-versions of newsletters and annual reports save paper and \$\$\$!

All shareholders are reminded that newsletters and our Company's Annual Report are available to you as "paperless" email documents. Each time we do a posting of newsletters, you are given the opportunity to respond to the Company secretary with your preferred means of receiving these documents. Unless you indicate you wish to be contacted by email, you will continue to receive paper-based documents by post. Why not help us save vital resources and your investment \$\$\$ by providing us with an email contact for notices and newsletters?

You can email us as meandervalleyfsl@gmail.com.au to lodge your request for electronic access to our Company communications or you can post the enclosed contact up-date form. When notifying us, please include your shareholders certificate number (this is shown on the front of your certificate). Please note that if you change postal address, do let us know! This can be done as above, either by email or post the enclosed form.

Community forums planned for Deloraine and Westbury in August

Listening to the needs of the community is a major focus for MVFS Ltd. with the aim of improving and developing local initiatives. To facilitate the flow of information, both to and from the people in our district, the first of what is planned to be a series of "Community Forums" will be held in August at two venues over two days on Wednesday 19 August at Deloraine and at Westbury on Thursday 20 August.

Guest speakers who are expert on economic matters as they affect local communities will present key ideas and then round table discussions involving everyone in attendance will work through how local actions can be implemented. Representatives of a broad cross section of the district's businesses, clubs and organisations will be invited to participate with the view of taking back to their colleagues a wealth of new ideas.

As the initiator of the Community Forums, your community Company Meander Valley Financial Services Ltd., is working in co-operation with the Meander Valley Enterprise Centre Inc. Both organisations will draw on the outcomes of the Community Forum for ways and means of helping our community survive the global financial downturn. Meander Valley Council will also participate in the forum process.

We'll report back in the next Shareholders News what issues and actions are identified for action.

Enjoy discounts at local shops when you bank with us.



Do You Have Your Saver Card Yet? ASK HERE!

Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank** Branch Bendigo Bank

BMPNL0036 (01/07/09)

Deloraine & Districts **Community Bank**® Branch,
49 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine TAS 7304
Phone: 6362 4801
Website: www.bendigobank.com.au

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

Chairman: Lynn Hayward.
Secretary: Laura Richardson.
Treasurer: Jessica Leonard.
Directors: Steve Blakeney, Jan Blakeney, Gordon Brookes, David Bounds, Barbara Harvey, Christopher Moorhouse, Ken Philpott, Grant Ward.