



Mooroolbark Community Bank® Branch newsletter.

The Babes Book 'Rewriting Motherhood' Launch.

The Mooroolbark **Community Bank**® Branch has been a supporter of The Babes Project for a number of years now. Recently we were made aware of a desire by The Babes Project to produce a book to enable them to share their message of hope to new mothers in crisis. The book was a dream of Helen Parker, the Founder and Managing Director, who felt it very important to share the stories of other women and in return provide confidence and support to those who need it during their perinatal period.

Helen commenced on a journey to develop and produce the book. This included a 'crowd funding' appeal along with other donations. Our branch, along with other Yarra Ranges **Community Bank**® branches, was in the fortunate position to provide much welcomed funding to ensure the book production costs was fully covered. We are proud to be able to support this project with the final funding of \$5,000 to get it over the line.

The Babes Project titled their book 'Rewriting Motherhood'

and it was launched in May at the State Parliament building in Melbourne with much fanfare, where the group could promote its activities to our State politicians and other dignitaries.

Pictured below is representatives of various Yarra Ranges **Community Bank**® branches along with Helen holding a copy of the Rewriting Motherhood book.



Mooroolbark & District Financial Services Limited PO Box 360, Mooroolbark VIC 3138 **ABN** 45 098 234 354

Directors: Peter McGowan (Chair), Joan Drew (Secretary/Treasurer), Terence Avery, Peter Verhoef, Richard Nicholas, Anthony Wright, David Wright, Richard Higgins

Welcome Katrina.



We welcome our new Customer Relationship Manager, Katrina to our Mooroolbark **Community Bank**[®] Branch. Katrina lives locally and comes to us from

the Ringwood East **Community Bank**[®] Branch, she has a wealth of experience in the banking industry.

Katrina is married to Richard, who works in the insurance industry. They have two adult children Courtney and Benjamin. On weekends, Katrina and Richard are kept very busy renovating their house and keeping family commitments. They especially enjoy a break with trips to Mirboo to visit Katrina's family.

Katrina says she is very excited about her new role at Mooroolbark, "I am looking forward to helping our customers with their various consumer lending needs – such as home and personal loans."*

Katrina is developing her understanding of our customers from Rowan and is looking forward to this new stage in her career.

Next time you are visiting the branch why not pop in to say hello and introduce yourself to Katrina.

* Bendigo Loans and Credit Cards are subject to terms and conditions, fees and charges apply. All loans are subject to Bendigo Bank's normal lending criteria. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879.

Mooroolbark East Primary.

Mooroolbark East Primary has been able to install a fence and automatic gate through our Community Grant Scheme. The school was concerned about safety for its students and had approached the Mooroolbark **Community Bank**[®] Branch for support with this initiative.

Our Grants Committee was impressed by the school's submission and supported this over two years for a total of \$20,000.

We now find that the fence and new gate are operational.

Teachers, students and parents are very appreciative of the support and none more so than the school captains Georgia, Ashley, Cooper and Spencer who took the opportunity to write and thank our branch:

"We would like to thank you for your kind donation towards our new solar paneled school gates. Thanks to you the children, especially the little ones, feel safer and happier at school by having the new solar paneled gates.

Our old gates beforehand were self close gates but now, since it is automatic, we don't have to worry about kids running out onto the road chasing balls. With the automatic gates we don't have to worry about parents and staff forgetting to close the gates and so everyone is safer.

Having solar power makes it more sustainable for the future by using renewable energy."



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Mooroolbark Community Festival.

This festival has become a major community event for Mooroolbark holding a special place on our calendar each year. This year the Mooroolbark Community Festival was held on a wonderful sunny day.

It was great to see so many stalls from diverse organisations. Fun and information for all was there. Stalls such as those with food, face painting for kids, community groups doing their stuff, support groups, schools and local businesses were represented.

Our branch continued to be involved with a stall providing giveaways for children (even some adults liked the balloons) and information about our banking and financial services.

Bendigo Bank's mascot Piggy was there entertaining the kids. Piggy was very popular and was eagerly followed wherever Piggy went. It was great to see so many smiling faces and the happiness that Piggy brings. Well done Piggy!



Have you noticed our Facebook page?

We are very proud of what we do for our local community. Many people do not fully understand or are aware of what we have done over the many years, and of course we continue to do so.

We have supported local not-for-profits of many wide and varied organisations and we are proud to do so. Some of those we have supported include:

• Local sporting clubs including:

Aussie Rules, Basketball, BMX, Cricket, Soccer, Tennis, Golf, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Swimming, Grid-Iron, Table Tennis, Little Athletics and Pony Club.

• Local support groups including:

Caladenia Dementia Care, Croydon Rotary, Eastern Volunteers, Footmen's Charity, Mooroolbark Men's Shed, The Babes Project, Lilydale and Mooroolbark CFA's, Spectrum Journeys and Yarra Ranges L2P.

• Local schools including:

Mooroolbark East Primary, Pembroke Primary, Bimbadeen Primary, Rolling Hills Primary, Manchester Primary, as well as the Life Education Program.

• Local arts groups including:

Mooroolbark Theatre Group, Mooroolbark Umbrella Group, Yarra Ranges Photographic Society, Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival and Mooroolbark Community Centre.

We strongly believe that we are part of a community that from time to time needs some support and we are glad to be able to assist. It is only through our valued customers that we are able to do this. We thank all our customers for their support in allowing us to be their banking and financial service provider. If you are not already a customer why not come on board and help us to provide more local community financial support.

Since we started our Facebook page we have tried to keep you abreast of what we do. Check us out by liking and sharing our Facebook page and find out more about the projects we support.

Find us on 

Search for our Mooroolbark **Community Bank**® Branch Facebook page.

Branch Manager's report.



Having opened our doors for business on 24 May 2002 we have just ticked off our 15th birthday. I believe this gives reason to pause, look back and reflect on what has been an amazing period of time for our Bank.

Mooroolbark **Community Bank**[®] Branch was opened a day earlier

on 23 May 2002 by the late Peter Brock. I still clearly remember standing on the terrace area in front of the branch addressing the people below at our official Opening Ceremony. At that time I only knew a handful of people in the crowd and really had little insight as to what the next 15 years would bring. I guess at that stage I was just hoping we would get some customers in when we opened the doors.

Before a **Community Bank**[®] branch can open, significant funds are raised from the sale of shares to mainly local residents. Funds raised are used to finance the new branch fit out and dwindled down over time as the first year or two will see the branch operating on monthly losses. Over time the losses plateau out and profits start to flow in. At Mooroolbark we progressed through this phase in our first four to five years. As we grew so did our ability to financially support local not for profit groups as well as pay dividends to our shareholders.

Today we support over 50 not-for-profit groups each year. We are about to tick over returning \$1.5 million via our

Sponsorship and Community Grant Programs. We have been able to do this whilst continuing to build a most viable and sustainable business. The ability to work with these groups and to support their projects over time has given me great satisfaction that I never dreamt of when I spoke at the Opening Ceremony.

On a sadder note we have had two of our founding Board members pass away. I will forever be grateful for the support I was provided by the late Peter Higgins and Jean Mitchinson. Both Peter and Jean were instrumental in getting our Bank up and going. They also had a profound effect working for other local community groups/events.

Whilst branch staff members have come and gone over this time, all leaving their own positive impact on our branch, we celebrate still having four of our original staff – myself, Julie, Rosemarie and Ann. Hopefully I don't get three staff all wanting their long service leave at the same time!

Finally, thank you to our Board of Directors, shareholders and of course our wonderful customers who have been with us throughout this 15-year journey. Thank you for your individual support for without this we would not have the success we have today or nor could we be as supportive as we are towards local community groups.

Here's to the next 15 years.

Rowan Alexander
Branch Manager

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Mooroolbark Community Bank[®] Branch

Shop 19 Mooroolbark Terrace, 66-74 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark VIC 3138 Phone: 9726 5388

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

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/mooroolbark twitter.com/bendigobank  Mooroolbark **Community Bank**[®] Branch

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