



Chair's update.



Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018. We have had a very busy and rewarding 2017 and continue to provide outstanding services and products in a challenging banking climate. The community of Mount Gambier and courageous first shareholders were pioneers in the establishment of the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch in 2001 and it is now part of a successful network of more than 300 **Community Bank**® branches throughout Australia.

Thanks to our customers, more than \$775,000 has been distributed to our local communities by our **Community Bank**® branch. This enormous contribution has funded many community groups, schools, sporting clubs and large scale projects such as Foodbank's Breakfast Program in local schools, defibrillator purchases and our scholarships program. If you belong to a community organisation or sporting body and have a worthwhile initiative that needs financial assistance, consider applying for one of our Community Investment Grants.

Over the last year we have traded consistently and profitably. The Board has a Strategic Plan which guides a clear vision for the future, a solid understanding of the **Community Bank**® model and effective community engagement. We work closely with staff to jointly achieve results.

Our dedicated team of staff and Board members is our greatest asset. Staff provide expert banking service, and Board members volunteer their time to guide the current and future direction of the **Community Bank**® branch. Staff and Board members represent the **Community Bank**® branch in our communities, at events and functions.

Our **Community Bank**® branch is well recognised for supporting our community as an essential part of our ethos. This is our point of difference. This is only possible because local people choose to do their banking business with us. I encourage all of you to help spread our story and promote our Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch with friends and neighbours because a stronger **Community Bank**® branch can do more for our community.

Helen Strickland
Chair

We're past the \$750,000 mark!

This year we reached a milestone \$750,000 in community contributions, distributed back into our community to support local projects and initiatives – what an achievement! The money comes from a percentage of profits earned through the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch, which stays in the region and goes towards community investments. We would not be able to do this without the support of our customers and shareholders, so thank you to all that support us.

Scholarship for local student.

We recognise regional students face an additional cost burden as they often must move away from the family home to study. Our scholarships help relieve some of that cost burden for students whose circumstances might otherwise preclude them from accepting their university course offer. We are very pleased to announce the 2018 recipient of the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch Scholarship is Lacey Burston. Congratulations Lacey!

Five minutes with Lacey Burston

Name: Lacey Burston **Age:** 19

What course are you enrolled in? A Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Chemical and Pharmaceutical) at the University of Adelaide.

Where will you be living? At St Mark's residential college.

What difference did this Community Bank® branch scholarship make to you and your family? I can now afford to live and study in Adelaide. Although I worked all of last year, I still did not have enough funds to cover the costs, so this scholarship is a huge help.

What are your plans post university? To get a job as a pharmacist or chemical engineer / work in the pharmaceutical industry.



Mount Gambier & District Financial Services Ltd 16 James Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290 **ABN** 42 096 059 997

Directors: Helen Strickland (Chair), Roberta Coke, Anne Eitzen (Secretary), Mark Fullford, Josh Heaver, Ute Herrmann-Bullock, John Millhouse, Barb Munt, Terasa Nearmy, Karen Olive, Rodney Summers, Frank Wilcox.

New staff.

We would like to extend a huge welcome to new staff that have joined us in 2018.

Sami Stafford has taken over the reins of Customer Service Supervisor and has over 10 years' experience in leadership and administration roles. Dylan Hill and Ashleigh Johnstone (doing her gap year after completing Year 12 last year) have joined us as Customer Service Officers, and Lachlan Wookey has joined our Business Banking team as a Business Banking Manager.

Come in and say hello to our new team members next time you're going past the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch.

Shareholder news - shares for sale.

Are you a **Community Bank**® branch shareholder – do you wish to acquire additional shares for yourself or family? A number of shares are presently available for purchase and these are listed on the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch website – www.bendigobank.com.au/mtgambier – under Trading Shares (LVM) / Register of Interested Parties.

Should you wish to acquire any of these shares, please obtain your own financial advice prior to purchasing. Enquiries may be made to the **Community Bank**® branch staff or the Company Secretary, Anne Eitzen - email anneeitzen@icloud.com

Dividends

This year dividends were paid by EFT. Please check your bank account and if you have not received your dividend, please update your bank account details with the Share Registry.

A form for this purpose was enclosed with your dividend advice. Please complete this and return to the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch or by email to the Company Secretary – anneeitzen@icloud.com. Please call into the branch should you require assistance.

Community investment spotlight.

One of our recent recipients of our community investment grants program was Boandik Lodge. We provided funding of \$2,800 for the purchase of a Nikki pump for their residential unit at Lake Terrace. The Nikki pump is used frequently in palliative care settings and for persistent pain syndromes, providing relief to those who cannot take medications orally.

Miroma Incorporated recently opened their second disability out of home facility, 'Maruwa'. Miroma Inc provides in home support, out of home and emergency care for up to 60 people and their families.

We were able to provide \$4,500 to Miroma as part of our community investment grants program for a wheelchair access ramp to be built. Well done Miroma Inc on expanding their out of home services for parents and carers of people with disabilities.



Giving back to the community.

Thanks to those who have supported the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch by bringing their banking to it, Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch has now returned over \$775,000 to the community in grants, donations and sponsorships in the 16 years since it opened in 2001!

If you're a not-for-profit club or group who would like to apply for funding, there are two application opportunities each year. Requests must be on the official Community Investment form (available at our branch and online). This year's next round of applications for events during January-June 2019 need to be submitted by 1 November 2018, with the next round closing on 1 May 2019.

Some recipients of our 2017/18 community investment grants are:

Blue Lake Dog Obedience Club - \$1,000 for Blue Lake Dog Obedience Easter Trials

Blue Lake Y Swim Club - \$500 for 2019 National Qualifying Meet

City of Mount Gambier Junior Sports Assistance Fund - \$4,000 continued sponsorship of Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Health Education Grant Program

Foodbank SA - \$10,000 for School Breakfast Program

Mount Gambier Family Truck Show - \$1,000 for Family Truck Show

Mount Gambier Gun Club - \$1,000 sponsorship for annual tournament

Port MacDonnell Bowling Club - \$793 for new bowling mats

SA Rostrum - \$2,500 for annual schools public speaking competition

South East Art Society - \$500 for annual Open Art Awards

South East Animal Welfare League - \$2,500 for cattery huts construction project

South East National Dancing Association - \$1,000 for annual Southern States Championship

South East Womens Football League - \$5,000 sponsorship for 2018 season

Western Border Football League - \$12,500 sponsorship for 2018 season

Win TV Biggest Golf Day - \$6,000 sponsorship for golf day fundraiser.

Mount Gambier & District Community Bank® Branch

16 James Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290 Phone: 8726 3200

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/mtgambier [facebook.com/MountGambierDistrictCommunityBankBranch](https://www.facebook.com/MountGambierDistrictCommunityBankBranch)

twitter.com/bendigobank

Port MacDonnell Agency Port MacDonnell Community Complex, 7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell Phone: 8738 3000
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm



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