



## Chair's update.



Welcome to your first newsletter for 2017. We have had a very busy and rewarding 2016, and in December we marked the 15 year anniversary of the opening of our branch in Mount Gambier. The Mount Gambier and districts community and courageous first shareholders were pioneers in the establishment of the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch back in 2001, and is now part of a network of more than 300 **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branches throughout Australia.

Fifteen years ago we never expected to have achieved what has been done. Thanks to our customers more than \$678,000 has been distributed to our local communities. 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.

The last few months we have been trading consistently and close to our budget forecast. We have also finalised our Strategic Plan which will help facilitate a clear vision for the future, a solid understanding of the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> model and effective community engagement.

At our recent Annual General Meeting we farewelled Directors Jane Fetherstonhaugh and Ros Crispino. Jane and Ros have contributed significantly to the success of the company and will be missed. We extend a warm welcome to Josh Heaver, Ute Herrmann-Bullock and John Millhouse to the Board and look forward to their involvement to the betterment of the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> company.

Our dedicated team is our greatest asset. Not only do they provide great, expert banking service, but are relentlessly out in our communities, at events and functions representing the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch.

Our **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch is well recognised for supporting our community. But 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 branch with friends and neighbours because a stronger **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch can do more for our community.

**Helen Strickland**  
Chair

## Happy 15th birthday to us!

In December we were very proud to celebrate our 15th birthday! We held a cupcakes morning tea with Piggy, staff, Board Directors and our customers. We also drew the winners of our birthday competition, where 15 lucky customers had \$150 credited to their accounts!



Thanks to everyone that helped us celebrate this milestone.

## Scholarships for local students.

We recognise rural and regional students (and their families) 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. In 2013 we began offering scholarships to students located in our Mount Gambier and district area to assist them with tertiary study. The 2017 recipient of the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch Scholarship is Rachael Hines, who is undertaking a Bachelor of Medical Imaging at the University of South Australia. Another local student, Eilish McKay, was awarded a Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship. She will be commencing her Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at Flinders University this year. We wish Rachael and Eilish all the very best with their future studies.

Our **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch also funds two scholarships annually through the Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Health Education Grants program.



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.

## Welcome Michael!

We would like to extend a huge welcome to our new Business Banking Manager, Michael Moubey. Michael is joining us from the Penola & District **Community Bank**® Branch and has 24 years of experience in commercial finance, business and personal banking. Michael is taking over the reins from John Buchanan who is now enjoying retirement.



## Shareholder news.

Shares are now available in Mount Gambier & District Financial Services Limited. Over 300 residents are today shareholders in this local community company. Please visit our website if you are interested in learning more about buying shares. Once there, click the "Trading shares (LVM)" button located on the left hand side of the screen.

If, after consideration of this information and consultation with your professional advisor you would like to register your interest, please contact Anne Eitzen (Company Secretary) on 0411 161 708 for further details.

We are moving towards sending information to shareholders via email. If you would like to receive communications straight to your inbox, please send an email to the branch ([info.mgdfs@gmail.com](mailto:info.mgdfs@gmail.com)) stating you're happy to receive correspondence from the Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch by email.

## Red Cross Anniversary.

We recently celebrated five years of our partnership with Red Cross Mount Gambier. We are part of the Red Cross phone support program, where regular calls are made to isolated people in the area.

The Red Cross phone support program calls over 70 clients every day and will soon be calling over 100 isolated people. These calls help connect the clients to their communities and bring a sense of security knowing they will be called.



## Mount Gambier & District Community Bank® Branch

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

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

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

## Giving back to the community.

Thanks to those who have supported the branch by bringing their banking to it, Mount Gambier & District **Community Bank**® Branch has returned over \$678,000 to the community in grants, donations and sponsorships in the 15 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 July - December 2017 need to be submitted by 1 June 2017, with the next round closing on 1 December 2017.

Recipients of our recent round of community investment grants are:

**Bayside Festival** – \$5,000 for sponsorship of annual Port MacDonnell Bayside Festival

**Beachport Bowling Club** – \$500 tournament sponsorship

**Blue Lake Dog Obedience Club** – \$500 for Blue Lake Dog Obedience Easter Trials

**Blue Lake Knights** – \$1,000 sponsorship for 2017 rugby season

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

**Glencoe National Trust** – \$500 sponsorship for new signage for Glencoe Woolshed

**Limestone Coast Football Referees Association** – \$2,000 sponsorship of referees for 2017 season

**Mount Gambier & District Baseball League** – \$1,000 contribution towards defibrillator purchase

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

**Mount Gambier Showjumping Club** – \$1,000 sponsorship for annual tournament

**Mount Gambier Vintage & Veteran Car Club** – \$500 sponsorship for annual Australia Day Tour

**Neighbourhood Child Care Centre** – \$1,000 for centre upgrades and renovations

**Rotary Club of Mount Gambier** – \$1,000 sponsorship for Rotary Book Fair

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

**South Coast Cricketers Club** – \$1,000 contribution towards defibrillator purchase

**South East Animal Welfare League** – \$1,000 for Paws Walk Around The Lake fundraiser

**South East National Dancing Association** – \$100 for annual Southern States Championship

**Stand Like Stone Foundation** – \$2,000 for Back to School program

**Western Border Football League** – \$10,000 sponsorship for 2016 season

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



[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au)