



Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Gambier & District

Chair's update

Welcome to our 2020 newsletter.

We have certainly had a unique start to 2020 with the pandemic. COVID-19 has dismantled any plans we may have had for 2020, and we have all had to adjust to a different way of life. It has been a trying time for every member of our community and beyond. Right across the globe we have seen the effect with lives lost, businesses closed, people kept apart from loved ones. It is fair to assume that the impact will be felt well into the years ahead.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, our branch has remained open as an essential service to the community. I thank our hard working staff for their ability to adapt to the changes that have been required of them, and for keeping our doors open and providing excellent service in these trying times.

So, what do we do in the face of such uncertainty? We work together! Our mission has always been to build better communities by coming together through engagement and connection. We believe firmly that we are stronger together, so we invite you to be part of something bigger as we work our way through this.

Support local businesses in any way you can. Check in on those who may be more isolated than normal. Respect each other and follow restrictions as advised. We will get through this. We thank all our customers for their patience and support

over this difficult time. As restrictions ease, we look forward to working more closely with you to meet your changing banking needs. Without your support we would not be able to continue our growing and diverse community.

Thanks to our customers, this year we have reached a huge milestone of more than \$1 million distributed to our local communities by our branch. This enormous contribution has funded many community groups, schools, sporting clubs and large scale projects such as Royal Flying Doctor Service, Limestone Coast Prostate Cancer Support Group, Foodbank, Western Border Football League 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.

Our Community Bank 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 branch with friends and neighbours because a stronger Community Bank can do more for our community.

Helen Strickland
Chair

Limestone Coast Prostate Cancer Support Group

Community Investment Spotlight

The Limestone Coast Prostate Cancer Support Group (pictured above) have been tirelessly fundraising for some time to raise money for the purchase of a transperineal biopsy machine for local hospitals. Having the biopsy machine in the South East will save patients having to travel long distances for the procedure.

We are very proud to be able to provide \$10,000 towards the machine purchase (through our Community Investment Grants Program). It is hoped that the machine, costing over \$180,000, will be purchased this year. This is a great example of how we can provide funding to our communities from the support of our customers.

Mount Gambier & District Health Advisory Council

Community Investment Spotlight



We were very proud to provide \$8,500 for the purchase of a HoverJack for the Mount Gambier & District Health Service. The HoverJack effectively moves patients to bed height from a floor level, and is safe for both patient and staff.

Well done to the MGDHAC on their ongoing work for our local community health services – this will be a

valuable tool across the hospital wards. We were able to provide funding towards this important project through our community investment grants program.

2020 Annual General Meeting

A date has been set for our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 11 November**. As usual the meeting will be held at the The Henty (formerly Silver Birch Comfort Inn) and will commence at 7.00pm. If you are able to join us please RSVP to info.mgdfs@gmail.com and come along to celebrate our achievements, meet the staff and Board.

Talk to us today

Community Bank

Mount Gambier & District

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 /MountGambierDistrictCommunityBankBranch

We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Directors

Helen Strickland (Chair), Anne Eitzen (Secretary), Mark Fullford, Josh Heaver, Ute Herrmann-Bullock, John Millhouse, Barb Munt, Rodney Summers, Frank Wilcox.

Mt Gambier & District Financial Services Ltd

16 James Street, Mt Gambier SA 5290

ABN 42 096 059 997

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 prevent them from accepting their university course offer.



We are very pleased to announce the 2020 recipient of the Community Bank Mount Gambier & District Scholarship is Ben Dawe. This scholarship will help cover some of the costs of living on residence and studying at university in Adelaide this year, with Ben undertaking a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Adelaide.

We wish you every success for the future Ben, congratulations!

Giving back to the community

Thanks to those who have supported the branch by bringing their banking to us, Community Bank Mount Gambier & District has now returned over \$1 million to the community in grants, donations and sponsorships since it opened in 2001! What a huge milestone! This has been almost 20 years in the making, and was made possible by the loyal support of shareholders, customers and community partners.

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 Grant form (available at our branch and online). This year's next round of applications for events during January-June 2020 need to be submitted by 1 November 2020, with the next round closing on 1 May 2021.

Some recipients of our 2020 community investment grants are:

Bayside Festival – \$5,000 for annual Bay Escape Festival

South East Womens Football Association – \$2,500 sponsorship for 2020 season

Blue Lake Knights Rugby League Club – \$1,000 sponsorship for 2020 season

Limestone Coast Prostate Cancer Support Group – \$10,000 funding for purchase of transperineal biopsy machine for local hospitals

Royal Flying Doctor Service – \$50,000 towards construction of patient transfer facility at Mount Gambier Airport

Mount Gambier Private Hospital – \$4,000 continued sponsorship of Mount Gambier & District Tertiary Health Education Grant Program

Blue Lake Y Swim Club – \$500 funding for annual swimming event

Mount Gambier District Health Advisory Council – \$8,562 for purchase of HoverJack to safely move patients

Sunset Community Kitchen – \$2,000 towards ongoing kitchen expenditure

Western Border Football League – \$12,500 sponsorship for 2020 season

FoodBank SA – \$10,000 towards local School Breakfast Program

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