

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Martha

## Manager's report



The first quarter of 2021 has seen us settle into our new premises with customers becoming aware of where we are situated.

Another five-day lockdown showed just how unpredictable life is at the moment, but we seem to be managing COVID-19 pretty well at the moment.

It has been very pleasing that I have been able to attend several functions with our local community groups, which I hope to continue during 2021.

### Our growth continues

As of 31 March 2021, we have experienced the following growth:

	June 2020	September 2020	December 2020	March 2021
Footings	\$157.49 million	\$167.80 million	\$178.62 million	\$182.77 million
Deposits	\$ 80.52 million	\$ 87.30 million	\$ 92.54 million	\$91.51 million
Lending	\$ 75.50 million	\$ 78.93 million	\$ 84.60 million	\$89.93 million
Other facilities	\$ 1.47 million	\$ 1.57 million	\$ 1.48 million	\$1.33 million

That's a growth of \$4.15 million (2.3%) for the third quarter of this financial year, lower than our first two quarters, which both had \$10 million growth in each. That's \$25.28 million year to date against a budget of \$7.02 million. It is pleasing that all of our growth for the quarter came from lending, which is also strengthening the company's footings.

We continue to work under COVID-19 restrictions and thank our customers for their understanding when they come into the branch.

We said farewell to one of our part-time staff in Julie Nairn who took up a position with Community Bank Mt Eliza at the end of January 2021. We wish her every success there. We welcome Debbie Yallop as our new full-time Customer Service Officer who started with us in March 2021.

We now look forward to the last quarter of this financial year and the continued success of Community Bank Mount Martha.

**Gary Sanford**  
Branch Manager

# The Bank celebrates 10 years trading



When in 2009 another financial institution announced that it was closing its Mount Martha branch the Mount Martha community, and in particular its traders, were concerned that the village would be left without a bank.

Very quickly a Steering Committee was formed and by the beginning of 2010, following the lead of the Community Bank Rye Group, the Steering Committee approached Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited for its support in establishing Community Bank Mount Martha.

The task which faced the steering committee was to raise \$1.1 million as the seed capital for the new Bank. To do that it sought the support of the wider Mount Martha community.

By late 2010 the \$1.1 million had been raised and with the support of the Mount Martha Traders Association, who took a lease on the two shops in Bay Road that had formerly been occupied by another bank which closed, the Steering Committee was able to register a company to trade as Community Bank Mount Martha and take a franchise from Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited.

With the support of Mr Fergus Nutt of Warlimont & Nutt during 2010 the Bank traded from Warlimont & Nutt in Lochiel Avenue as a sub agent of Bendigo Bank Mornington branch. The success of the sub-branch and the support of the Mount Martha community persuaded both the Steering Committee and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited that Mount Martha was ready for a Community Bank.

Early in 2011 the fit out of the Bank's premises in Bay Road was completed and on 7 April 2011 with much fanfare, CEO of

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited Mike Hurst and Chairman of the Community Bank Mount Martha Nick Roberts OAM declared the Bank open for business.

Our first Manager Greg Hilton and his team worked tirelessly to build the Bank from its small beginnings into what became within three years a Community Bank that had a real prospect of success. The initial aim of the Bank was to achieve footings of \$50 million and that hurdle was passed by the end of year three, however due to changing economic conditions that did not bring the Bank into profit.

For the next three years and with a change of Manager the footings increased to \$80 million (or thereabouts). Management of the Bank passed into the hands of Kerry Debernardi who had formerly been the Bendigo Bank Mornington Branch Manager.

Kerry and his team guided the Bank into profit with the footings rising to just over \$120 million and community contributions from the Bank passing the \$120,000 mark.

By mid-2019 Kerry decided that it was time to retire, and the Board went searching for a successor. In November 2019 Chairman Nick Roberts OAM announced that Gary Sanford, formally the Manager of the Community Bank Rye Group had agreed to step into Kerry's shoes and take over management at Mount Martha. Gary commenced in December 2019 and brought with him a level of enthusiasm that reinvigorated the Bank and its staff which enabled the Bank's footings to rapidly rise. The Bank declared its first dividend of 2.25 cents per share in 2019.

The leases of the Bank's premises in Bay Road were due for renewal in February 2021 and as 2020 moved slowly through the pandemic, new premises in the Clock Tower building in Lochiel Avenue became available. The Bank readily accepted the challenge to move into new premises and commenced trading from its new Lochiel Avenue premises mid-December 2020. It is now a well-established part of what is sometimes referred to as the 'Paris end of the Village'.

As of April 2021 the Bank's footings stand at just over \$182 million and for second year in a row a dividend has been declared in 2020, this time 3.5 cents per share.

Chairman Nick Roberts OAM said that whilst the past 10 years has been a challenge, he looks forward to the next 10 years and with the Bank's continued success, bigger and bigger community contributions.



## Balcombe Probus Club Inc

We all know that COVID-19 has impacted everyone in many different ways but for Balcombe Probus Club Inc it was not being able to meet and catch up together during 2020 that had the biggest impact. Now that meetings can be organised in greater numbers the Club was experiencing some reluctance of past members to come back and be part of the Clubs activities again. So a luncheon was arranged, which was greatly subsidised by the Club so that those attending did not have to worry about high costs.

When representatives from the Club contacted Gary Sanford, Manager of

Community Bank Mount Martha, about assisting with funding the event the Board of Community Bank Mount Martha immediately approved funding so the event could go ahead as planned.

The photo shows the large number that attended and helped make the luncheon a great success. Lets hope all will be eager to continue meeting in the future and be part of Balcombe Probus Club Inc.



## Bowls and Petanque opening

On Friday 12 March 2021, Gary Sanford, Manager, Community Bank Mount Martha attended the official opening of the new 24 Piste Petanque playing terrain, which has been nearly two years in the planning.

A merger between the Mount Martha Bowls Club Inc and Mornington Petanque club Inc has seen the Mount Martha Bowls & Petanque Social Club INC become a reality.

The new 24 Piste terrain now has a the ability to hold national and state competitions and is only the second in Victoria currently capable of doing so.

As a proud sponsor of the Mount Martha Bowls & Petanque Social Club INC we congratulate everyone involved in the amazing outcome and look forward to supporting both Bowls and Petanque in Mt Martha for a long time to come.



## Supporting local kids in need

Narelle Lear, Senior Customer Service Officer at Community Bank Mount Martha knows of the good Fusion can do to support local homeless kids in need.

As a staff member of Community Bank Mount Martha, Narelle has used her annual funding approved by the Board to nominate Fusion as a worthy local not-for-profit group to receive a \$500 staff donation or sponsorship.

Fusion Mornington Peninsula's Housing Support Program provides accommodation and support for young people experiencing homelessness between the ages of fifteen and twenty-one. Caitlin Swanton, the Business and Communication Manager of the centre gratefully accepted the cheque. The Frankston City Council noted in July 2019 that, "There are 220 young people homeless every night in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula in need of safe, stable and affordable accommodation."

Fusion has a strong community approach, with live-in mentors providing a sense of stability and a family like environment to the kids that reside there. They operate on the philosophy that all people have a fundamental need for community and purpose. Volunteers are also very welcome. If you would like to help them as a volunteer, call Fusion on 5974 1442.

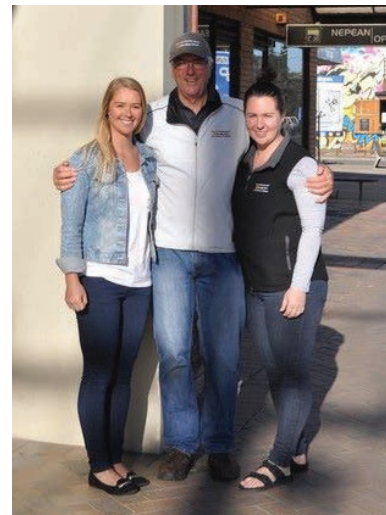


## 20 Years service award

Congratulations Gary on your 20 year service anniversary.

Gary commenced with Community Bank Rye in 2001 and very quickly grew the business for this company to three sites. Gary is passionate about the community and this is evident by the hundreds of community events he has attended over the journey to promote the Community Bank message and support the local community.

Congratulations on such a fantastic achievement and your contribution over the years. We are very lucky to have you here at Community Bank Mount Martha.







## Mount Martha CC womens team make finals!

As the team sponsor of the Mt Martha Cricket Club Womens Team for 2020/21 season, Gary Sanford, Manager, Community Bank Mount Martha attended the last home and away game, where a win would secure them second spot on the ladder and a home final at Ferrero Reserve Mt Martha. Win they did making 9/159 off 40 overs and restricting the opposition to 4/40 off 40 overs – it's been some years since they have played finals.

Gary presented a cheque for \$500 as his Community Bank Mount Martha staff funding amount as recognition of the team playing finals in 2021. We wish the Mt Martha CC Womens Team every success..

## Talk to us today

### Community Bank - Mount Martha

Shop 6, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue,  
Mount Martha VIC 3934

P 5974 4518

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[f /MountMarthaCommunityBankBranch](https://www.facebook.com/MountMarthaCommunityBankBranch)

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### We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

### Directors

Nick Roberts (Chairman), Colin Forsyth (Treasurer),  
Geoffrey Kidd (Secretary), John Schubert, John Forsyth,  
Bruce Rankin, Matt Forsyth

Mount Martha Community Enterprises Ltd  
Shop 6, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue, Mount Martha VIC 3934  
ABN 25 142 190 949

## Butterflies for the Deafness Foundation

Community Bank Mount Martha is supporting Deafness Foundation by selling Butterfly Merchandise and going casual for a day. Customers were able to drop into the branch and pick up a butterfly for as little as \$2.50.

Sarah, a staff member at Community Bank Mount Martha, has been given the opportunity to give \$500 to a not-for-profit community group. She has chosen to give these funds to the Deafness Foundation so they can continue to support the deaf and hard of hearing community. Read about Sarah's story below.

"When my daughter Hazel was born the hospital offered us a new born hearing test. The first two tests came back inconclusive leading us to further testing with the Monash audiology department. The further testing confirmed Hazel had very little hearing in her right ear – diagnosed with Profound Unilateral hearing loss. For the past two years we have been consulting with Hearing Australia, Monash Children's Hospital, Cochlear implant clinic along with a Speech Therapist and Teacher of the deaf. As new parents this has been a very overwhelming journey but Hazel is an amazing little girl who is hitting all her milestones despite her hearing loss."

