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## Chairman's message

Nine months have now passed since the Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch opened its doors for business.

Your Directors are pleased with the progress the branch has made in that period and we are looking forward to reporting our results to you in coming months. Our report at the end of the financial year will represent a 10 month trading period and will give a good indication of our first year in business.

We are also looking forward to being able to make our first community grants at our annual meeting in November. This will be a very exciting event and will be a fore runner of many such events in the future. Details about the application process will be announced in July.

Last month we were disturbed by an article in The Age critical of the **Community Bank®** model. The article highlighted the fact that some **Community Bank®** branches were not making a profit and others took a long period to reach profitability. No mention was made of the vast majority of **Community Bank®** branches that do make a substantial profit and also provide an excellent dividend to their shareholders.

There is no secret about how your **Community Bank®** branch can reach profit and start returning those profits to the community. The more customers we have the better returns we have. It's no different to any other business in that regard. The big difference however is, with the **Community Bank®** model, our community shares the profit. If you haven't already done so, I urge you to start a banking relationship with your own branch and encourage your family and friends to do so as well.

In these early stages, we are able to distribute some grants and sponsorship to community groups from funds we receive from Bendigo Bank's market development funds. So, the quicker we can make a profit the quicker we can make a difference in our community.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or any Director, or alternatively talk to our Manager Lyn Southurst at the branch.

**Gary Pollard**  
**Chairman, MCEL**

**Murrindindi Community Enterprise Ltd**

PO Box 263, Yea VIC 3717

**ABN 141 660 086**

# Yea Breakfast Club



Customer Relations Officer, Alex Walters cooks up a storm and lends a helping hand at the Yea High School's Breakfast Club.

The Club was established by Berry Street, Victoria to ensure that students who have had to rise early, catch busses or have just skipped breakfast to commence their school day start with a good hearty breakfast. Our friendly branch staff are only too pleased to have the opportunity to help out and assist Berry Street.

Our **Community Bank®** branch recently donated 2 new fry-pans to assist with cooking the pancakes each Friday. Nikki Jenkins from Berry Street, said "Having the regular assistance of branch staff and donated frypans from our **Community Bank®** branch is just terrific."

## Thank U

A big thank you to our customers and the community for their support as we approach our first birthday.

It has been an amazing journey over the past 12 months, and one which our team are extremely proud to be part of.

We are pleased to celebrate what we have achieved; establishing then building the branch business forward. We're proud to contribute to the Yea and District community – so far more than \$8,100 in grants and sponsorships given to local not-for-profit groups.

We're keen to increase this amount and that's where you come in, as the volume we're able to give back depends on the amount of banking the community does with Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch.

All our staff choose to get involved with the local community they live and work in by volunteering or partnering with local organisations. This is just one way our staff strive to ensure we are Australia's leading customer-connected bank.

Our focus on genuine services is a priority at Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch – the same service that

has set Bendigo Bank apart for more than 150 years.

So if you're looking for a bank with a different outlook and friendly service that is second to none, in fact our customers are front and centre of everything we do, you will find the Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch at 66 High Street Yea, or phone us on 03 5797 2188 to make a personal appointment.

We offer all the business and personal banking products and services you need, and can do so at very competitive prices. For your convenience we open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Wednesday, 9.30am – 5.00pm Thursday to Friday and 9.30am – 12 noon on Saturday.

We're looking forward to continuing to make Yea and District a great place to live, work and to achieve your financial goals - whether it is to simplify your banking, plan for the future or just stay on track.

At Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch, it really does 'start with U'.

**Lyn Southurst**  
**Branch Manager**

## Home loan birthday special

As part of our first birthday celebrations, for the month of August only, we are offering fee exemption on our Home Loan products. This is certainly a great time to take advantage of our offer.

You'll find our rates are surprisingly competitive, and our packages extremely flexible and more importantly, that simply by being a customer your community benefits too.

For your convenience we open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Wednesday, 9.30am to 5.00pm Thursday to Friday and 9.30am to 12 noon on Saturday.



# Lessons learnt at the 2011 Community Bank® State Conference

The Mornington Peninsula Racecourse was the setting for this year's Annual **Community Bank®** State Conference in May.

Some 380 Company Directors and branch staff representing 80 **Community Bank®** branches attended this informative event. Murrindindi Community Enterprise Ltd was well represented with Company Directors, Russell Wealands and John Handsaker and Branch Manager, Lyn Southurst in attendance.

These events provide important opportunities for our Directors and staff to mix with and learn from those at the other 275 **Community Bank®** branches across Australia, and see what they do to service their customers' needs, grow their business and return profits to their communities.

Importantly, John and Russell took the opportunity to see and hear first-hand about several local projects that are making small communities like ours stronger and more sustainable. They returned home with a clear message:

"large, community projects can happen now as our community increasingly realises the potential and transfers its banking business to our branch."

John, Lyn and Russell would be happy to talk to you about some of these projects and even happier to work with groups like yours to explore ways that we can maximise the returns we have already generated from to our community.

The other clear message of course was:

"the more our community does its banking through our branch – the more we are able to make our community's dreams a reality."

You can do your bit just by talking to your friends and family and encouraging them to make an appointment with Lyn about banking the Bendigo way.

## see results with a Bendigo Farm Management Deposit Account

For more information drop into Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch or call 03 5797 2188 to arrange an appointment with your local branch manager.

[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au). Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. (S35175) (06/11)

 **Bendigo Bank**

## Autumn Festival in Yea

Piggy had a great time at the Autumn Festival, seen below with Director Sue Devereaux and below right making some new friends.



# Community Grant Information Night a success

In April, more than 49 community groups across the Yea district attended an information night at the new Sacred Heart Multi-function room to hear firsthand about how the **Community Bank**® network has returned more than \$56 million to communities across Australia.

This time though they were there to learn about the opportunity and the process to be used by Yea & District **Community Bank**® Branch, which after just nine months of operation is ready to put a further \$10,000 back into the community.

An excellent attendance of more than 60 people welcomed the opportunity to obtain information and tips on how to apply for much needed funding for their local community groups.

Noel Willerton, a Director of Mansfield **Community Bank**® Branch and Karen Pirie from the Mansfield Arts Centre were guest speakers.

Noel took great pride in letting everyone know that in Mansfield their branch has assisted by giving \$90,000 back to their community since opening in 2007.

Karen also spoke glowingly of her first hand experience relating to how the Mansfield branch helped to grow the High Country Arts Festival into a major tourism event, bringing benefits to the entire community.

In announcing that \$10,000 would be made available to the Yea district community, MCEL Director, Kim Chadband, noted that this funding allocation was the culmination of three years hard work to establish our own **Community Bank**® branch.

"Volunteers are stretched but we need them to keep working for our community because this is what keeps our community strong and functioning successfully.

"We are as excited as anyone that we are now in a position to giving financial support to our community groups"; Kim added.

"As our branch's viability grows our contribution back to our community grows".

Applications for community grants will be invited shortly and announcements will be made by the Board at its Annual General Meeting in late October or early November.

The Yea Scouts & Parents catered for the evening, providing a delicious supper.

## Book Week

Branch Manager, Lyn Southurst, enjoyed the opportunity to participate, reading to local students during Book Week.



Watch the **Community Bank**® story at [www.bendigobank.com.au/snapshots/story](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/snapshots/story)

**U can find our branch at...**

**Yea** – 66 High Street, Yea VIC 3717 Phone: 5797 2106 Website: [www.bendigobank.com.au/yea](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/yea)

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. BMPNL0281 (08/06/11)

Yea **Community Bank**® Branch

