



No stage fright for youth award winner.

The Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch's "Bill Cumming Young Achiever Award" for 2014 has been awarded to Brittany Coombs from Neerim South.

Prior to his sudden death in 2009, Bill Cumming was an active member of the Neerim community. The Bill Cumming Young Achiever Award was established in 2010 in Bill's memory to acknowledge the achievements of a young person from the Neerim district.

"Bill was particularly keen to encourage local young people to achieve their best, no matter what activity they were involved in," Neerim District Financial Services Ltd (NDSFL) Chairman Paul Bright said.

Matt Cumming, who made the presentation on behalf of the Cumming family, praised winner Brittany.

"Brittany's nomination was excellent and she obviously demonstrates initiative in all she has taken on in her young years," Matt said.

"The diversity of her interests and her achievements, particularly the work she does in the theatre, are quite amazing.

We would like to wish her all the best for the future, which I am sure will be successful in all areas undertaken."

Bruce King from Chairo Christian School nominated Brittany for the award for her achievements in theatre. In 2014 Brittany was appointed Drama Captain, House Captain and voluntarily took on the role of Stage

Manager for the schools production of "Annie" at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

She was also appointed Stage Manager for the Combined School's "Musarts" event.

Out of school,

Brittany was the Assistant Director and Floor Manager for the Warragul Theatre Company's production of "Phantom of the Opera" and is currently an active committee person for the company.

She was also involved with "Class Act Productions" a junior theatre company based in Newborough and was again Stage Manager for their production of "Seussical the Musical".

Within the past 12 months, Brittany was appointed as Youth Ambassador for the Warragul Theatre Company, and was accepted into the NIDA (National Institute for Dramatic Arts) Stage Management short course.



Brittany Coombs (centre) pictured with Christine Cumming and Matt Cumming receiving her award.

Seasons greetings.

From all of us at Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch, best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support.

Drop into your nearest branch at 143 – 145 Main Neerim Road, Neerim South or phone 5628 1079.

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Neerim District Financial Services Ltd 143-145 Main Neerim Road Neerim South VIC 3831 **ABN** 46 091 832 923

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Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch

Neerim community shares in grant funds.

Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch awarded its community and youth grants for 2014 at a special presentation recently, bringing the branch's total community contributions to more than \$2 million since it opened in July 2000.

NDFSL Chairman Paul Bright said the breadth of the branch's grants program was an "exceptional achievement" for a small community. "This result shows the foresight of the group of community members who set up Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch 14 years ago," Mr Bright said.

"They had a vision of a locally owned and operated branch that worked to serve its community, and that dream has certainly come to fruition."

This year seven community groups in the Neerim, Buln Buln, Jindivick and Warragul areas received grants totaling more than \$48,650, including:

- **Neerim District Rural Primary School \$4,000**

Project Title: Learning with Technology.

This grant will provide ipads for each student so they can use the latest technology to ensure their learning is up to date, exciting and challenging.

- **Jindivick Mechanics Institute - \$5,000**

Project Title: Repainting Exterior of the Jindivick Hall.

The Hall's exterior is badly in need of painting to preserve it as well as enhance its appearance as the hall is the focal point of the town.



Walter Willems (Jindivick Mechanics Institute) accepting grant from Ken Kercheval (Director NDFSL).

- **Buln Buln Primary School - \$4,162**

Project Title: Resources for Learning.

The school intends to use the grant to update their photocopier to enable students and the community to access printed material from digital media.

- **Warragul SES - \$5,000**

Project Title: Replacement and Updating Hydraulic Equipment.

Warragul SES currently has a set of hydraulic equipment used for road accident rescue work. Unfortunately this equipment is past its lifetime and needs replacing. The Warragul SES supplies the primary rescuers for road accidents around the Baw Baw Shire.

- **Neerim District Pony Club - \$1,500**

Project Title: Purchase of a Marquee for Club events.

The Pony Club would like to purchase a Marquee and safety fencing for use at club rally's and community events.

- **Neerim District Bowling Club - \$5,000**

Project Title: Updating Car Park.

The current car park at the bowling club is a mixture of gravel and grass. The grant will assist the club to upgrade it and make it safer for members and users.



Jim Schroeder, (Neerim District Bowling Club) being presented with grant by Peter Bain (Director NDFSL).

- **Neerim South CFA - \$8,423**

Project Title: Erection of an Community Emergency Information Board.

The Community Emergency Information Board will be erected at the site of the new Neerim South Fire Station. It will be clearly visible from both directions and will provide the community and tourists with up to date information concerning fire weather and conditions as well as other local community messages.



Brian Barwick (Captain Neerim South CFA), Tony Allen (Executive Officer NDFSL), Ken Kercheval (Director NDFSL) and Ian MacKay (Neerim South CFA) receiving their grant.

- **Neerim District Soldiers Memorial Hospital - \$15,565**

Project Title: OH&S for Tarago Views Ages Care Residents.

The grant will enable the hospital to purchase lifting equipment for the safe completion of our residents care activities and daily living. It will enable residents to be showered using a height adjustable, hygiene chair in addition to many other uses.



Geoff Neil (Chairman, Neerim District Health Services) and Kath Irvine (Nursing Unit Manager) accepting grant from Susan Allen (Deputy Chair NDFSL).

Challenge grants.

Challenge grants are issued to community groups to encourage them to go out and raise the additional funds to complete their projects. These grants assist organisation to leverage additional funds as they can be used in budgets to show they have some of the funds. Once a group can show they have raised the rest of the money they will be given their grant.

This year 3 community groups are being challenged

- **Nilma Darnum Netball Club - \$10,000**

Project Title: Construction of a multi-purpose meeting Room.

The Club wishes to extend their current rooms and erect a more appealing multi-purpose room including amenities to cater for a wide range of community groups.

- **Neerim District Agricultural & Horticultural Society - \$10,000**

Project Title: Construction of an all-purpose arena at the Neerim Recreation Reserve.

The project aims to construct an all purpose all weather sand arena at the Recreation Reserve that can be used for all standards of equestrian events.

- **Noojee Historical Society - \$20,000**

Project Title: Construction of stage 2 or Noojee Heritage Centre.

Stage 2 of the Noojee Heritage Centre involves the construction of a goods shed which would be the entrance into the Heritage Centre. The shed could also be used to store artifacts and as a meeting room.

Neerim District Community Bank® Arts Prize – A Neerim Bower Aquisition.

As part of the Neerim Bower Small Towns Transformation Program the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch sponsored a Public Arts Prize. The competition resulted in 19 sculptures being entered in the prize.

During the Neerim Arts Festival held at the end of October the entrants were exhibited throughout the Neerim South township. The entries were judged by Rob Robson, Arts and Culture Officer Baw Baw Shire and Mr. Anton Vardy, Director Gippsland Art Gallery Sale.

They selected the sculpture titled "Tranquility" by South Gippsland Sculptor Andrew Kasper as the winner.



Above right: Tranquility by Andrew Kasper.

Right: Presentation of Arts prize cheque to Andrew Casper (Sculptor), Debbie Brown, (Baw Baw Shire), Susan Allen (Deputy Chair NDFSL) and Neville Cousins (President, Neerim District Progress Association).



Branch contacts.

Call in and see us and you will receive the friendly, informed service for which Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch is renowned.

The branch is staffed by the following team members:

Acting Branch Manager Maureen Johnston

Senior Customer Service Officer Karen Johnson

Customer Service Officers Donna Field, Krystal Burnett, Paula Guy

For all your banking needs call into Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch at 143 Main Road, Neerim South or telephone us on 5628 1079.

Who's who at the branch.



Paula Guy

Hi my name is Paula Guy and I am excited and honoured to be commencing a role within the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch. I live in Neerim South with my husband Paul, and four children, Lachlan 13, Maddison 12, Mackenzie 3 and Lincoln 1.

Since Mackenzie was born I have been lucky to stay home and enjoy my children growing and learning, and now it's my turn to be learning, as I embark on a new career path. Coming from a law background, I am excited to be learning new skills and information which I can in turn, use to assist our community and the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch customers.

As a family we are very involved within the community. From Junior Basketball with the Neerim District Basketball Club as an Executive Committee member and the older children are current playing members. To the Neerim South Tennis Club, where I can be found enjoying a game on Saturday afternoons. Come football season, we can usually be found watching the Neerim South Cats and enjoying the community atmosphere that all activities bring.

We really love living in the peaceful town of Neerim South and I really look forward to meeting you, should you come into the branch.



Krystal Burnett

I'm from Warragul and have been there for the last eight years with my husband Adam. We have a beautiful daughter Alyssa who is 15 months old. I grew up in a little town called Avonsleigh, close to Emerald.

I have recently returned to work from maternity leave. I have been with

Bendigo Bank for the past seven years, starting at the Bunyip & District **Community Bank®** Branch back in 2007 and then I transferred to the Warragul branch to improve my skills as a Customer Relationship Officer.

Before working with Bendigo Bank I worked as a Property Manager in Berwick.

My interests are my horses (showing and Dressage) and supporting the Hubby with his show car, a 1977 Holden Torana, at all the car shows.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch and providing you with the friendly service you have received from the staff at the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch in the past.

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Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch



Youth Foundation grants.

In 2014 the Youth Foundation – Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch presented grants totalling \$38,000 to the youth of Neerim District. These grants were submitted by the youth for the benefit of the youth.

- **Neerim District Secondary College**

Project Title: 2014 Overseas Learning Experience Film.

This program was partnered by the Neerim & District Lions Club.

The project allowed students from the Neerim District Secondary College to purchase video equipment to take footage of their trip to China in April. On their return a film was to be produced of their time in China and the College now has this equipment as an asset in the library.

- **Neerim District Secondary College**

Project Title: Victorian Young Leaders to China.



L-R John Rochford (NDPA), Tom Liefman, Jeff Locklier and Jordan Komsky (Neerim District Secondary College).



Mr Jeff Locklier with the students pictured at Melbourne Airport before departure for China.

This program was partnered by the Neerim District Progress Association.

The Neerim District Secondary College was one of five secondary schools to be chosen to represent Victoria in China during six weeks in August and September during which they attended school plus the Youth Olympics. The video equipment already obtained for the trip to China in April was also used during this time.

- **Neerim District Secondary College**

Project Title: Greenlight Driver Education Course.

This program was also partnered by the Neerim & District Lions Club.

We worked with the students as part of the VCAL course to organise an event. Students applied for the grant, organised numbers to attend, catering, thank you packs for the participants and presenters.



Students at Neerim District Secondary College taking part in the Greenlight Driver Education Course.

- **Neerim District Secondary College**

Project Title: Neerim District Challenge Ride through the High Country.

The application for this program was completed by two students in partnership with the Neerim District Community House and Men's Shed.

Students from Neerim District Secondary College have taken up the challenge to participate in the 2014 Great Victorian Bike Ride which leaves from Wodonga and travels to Melbourne via the Alpine valleys and Mansfield.

- **The Noojee & District Historical Society**

Project Title: Our Youth Making a Difference.

This project will allow the purchase of a Laptop Computer with a Photoshop Program and internet connection to The Noojee Heritage Centre.

As junior members of the Noojee and District Historical Society, they would like to be an important part in keeping and preserving their local history by making sure that it will never be lost or forgotten.

These facilities will be available during opening hours at the centre and would be available for all to use and browse through the many photos and stories of precious local history.

- **Neerim South Co-Operating Church**

Project Title: Youth Group Resource.

This project will allow the purchase of a television and Blu Ray DVD player to assist in providing education resources for the youth group, under the direction of the Youth Leader John Van Der Marel. It will also be made available for use during larger funerals by providing a video link-up to an overflow room so those in attendance can see the church service in progress next door.



For more information and ideas:

Leave your name and contact details with the staff at Neerim District **Community Bank**[®] Branch.

Email: treasurer@ndfs.com.au

Website: www.youthfoundation.com.au

www.facebook.com/yfnetwork

Neerim District Community Bank[®] Branch

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



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