

# Neerim District Community Bank® Branch



## 15th Birthday special edition.

### Chairman's message.



Since opening our doors in July 2000 the aims and ideals of the original committee has well and truly been achieved. Following the loss of banking in the district, the establishment of the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch has been vital to the district's development.

When the doors opened Chairman Paul Bright stated, "One day the branch may have a book of \$25 million." Today we have

far exceeded that figure with a current book of just over \$122 million and growing. This has occurred due to growth in customers, as the more people who bank with us the more money we give back to the community.

The original shareholders who put their hands into their pockets to establish the company have been rewarded for their trust. Their investment has now been returned to them in the dividends paid.

The Neerim community has also benefitted from the distribution of the profits. Over \$2.2 million has now been invested in community projects, infrastructure and sponsorships. More details of grants and sponsorships given by the branch is included in this newsletter.

In 2014 Neerim District Financial Services Limited was inducted into the **Community Bank®** Hall of Fame for its contribution to the **Community Bank®** concept in Australia and in 2015 the Neerim South Wetlands project which was supported by the branch was awarded the "Community Choice Award" at the Victorian State Conference for the Best Community project. These are a testament to the success of the branch and its contribution to the Neerim community.

Finally, I would like to thank all past and present Directors, staff and everyone in the Neerim community for making the Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch such a success story and long may we continue to help the community grow. Happy birthday.

**Tim Kubale,**  
Chairman

### Branch Manager's message.



It's personal service and more choice. But it's **bigger** than that.

At Neerim District **Community Bank®** Branch we like to make your banking as simple, straightforward and convenient as possible. That's why we're committed to providing you with access to our services, where and when you need them.

You'll be familiar with our friendly branch team, but there'll also be times when you

need to do your banking at midnight, while away on holiday or when travelling overseas.

Accommodating your needs is all part of Bendigo Bank service. We're open convenient hours, including Saturday mornings, and we make it easy for you to bank with us when you're on the go.

Some great reasons to bank with us; 2,000 ATMs nationally, internet, phone and mobile banking, convenient trading hours Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Saturday 9.00am to 12noon.

Why? Because we think banking is about more than just money. We're about the good that money can bring.

So if you're not banking with us already, why not join us and be part of something **bigger**.

Drop by and see us to find out more.

**Brendan O'Brien,**  
Branch Manager

## Community grants 2005 - 2014.

Since the first grants were given out in 2005, 78 grants have been given to 40 different community groups. In total \$670,314 has been given out in grants since 2005.

The following is a list of community groups who have received grants:

Buln Buln Football Club	Buln Buln Primary School
Crossover School	Friends of Nayook
Jindivick Cricket Club	Jindivick Hall Committee Inc
Jindivick Primary School	Jindivick Progress Association
Kydd-Park Recreation Reserve	Lions Club of Neerim & District
Mary Beck Kindergarten	Mawarra Centre Inc.
Neerim Cemetery Trust	Neerim District Ag & Hort Society
Neerim District Bowling Club	Neerim District Landcare Group
Neerim District Playgroup	Neerim District Pony Club
Neerim District Rural Primary School	Neerim District Scout & Guide Hall
Neerim District Secondary College	Neerim District Soldiers Memorial Hospital
Neerim Junction Mechanics Institute	Neerim Memorial Hall
Neerim Noojee Ambulance Auxillary	Neerim South CFA
Neerim South Primary school	Neerim South Public Hall Committee
Neerim South Recreation Reserve	Nilma North CFA
Noojee & District Historical Society Inc	Noojee News
Noojee Primary School	Powelltown Football Club
St Ignatius Church	St John's Ambulance
St John's Cooperating Parish	Tarago Senior Citizens
Warragul SES	Youth & Police Partnership (YAPP)

## Defibrillators.

Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, in partnership with St John Ambulance Victoria, has presented eleven clubs and organisations in the Neerim District with life-saving automatic defibrillator units.

Tim Kubale, Chairman of the Board which operates Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, said, "Access to a defibrillator is the most important factor in saving a life following cardiac arrest, according to St John Ambulance.

"We wanted to ensure the best possible chance of a good outcome for our communities."



## Schools.

The five primary schools in the district (Neerim South, Neerim Rural, Noojee, Jindivick and Buln Buln) and the Neerim Secondary College have all been recipients of grants from the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch. Grants to the schools have included assisting with the development of a Digital Music Studio at the Secondary College, Purchasing iPads for students at the primary schools and funding a violin music program at the Rural Primary school in Nayook. The Mary Beck Pre-school and district playgroups have also benefitted from the grants program which has enabled them to improve the playgrounds for the kids.



## It's our fifteenth birthday thanks to you

Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch is fifteen years old and we want you to celebrate with us on Saturday 18 July from 9.00am.

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

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. BDC16 (255709\_v1) (1/06/2015)

Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**



## Neerim South Wetlands.

Originally developed as a solution for the establishment of a sustainable water supply for irrigating the Neerim South Recreation Reserve during dry periods, the award winning Neerim South Wetlands project has identified numerous other benefits for the local community. The project has:

- Create an aesthetically-pleasing community space (a “park-like” setting) fostering passive recreation and social engagement
- Create an environmental centre-piece for the community and visitors
- Harvest storm water runoff from new developments to the east and west and from the drainage system to the south
- Treat and reuse storm water runoff to irrigate the Neerim South Recreation Reserve
- Transform an ugly un-used and weed-infested swampy piece of council-owned wasteland into an asset valued by the community.



## Neerim District Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

Since the branch started, one of the main recipients of grants has been the Neerim District Soldiers Memorial Hospital. The hospital has received over \$170,000 in the eight grants awarded to it. Grants have been made to improve the hospital's operating theatre, telephone system as well as purchase specialised medical equipment. In 2014 a grant was made to purchase lifting equipment for the Tarago Aged Care facility.



## Emergency services.

Over the past 10 years the local CFA units, ambulance service and SES have all received grants to improve their equipment and facilities. The CFA units in Noojee, Neerim South and Nilma North have all received grants to upgrade their equipment thus making the district a much safer place to live.



## Community infrastructure improvements.

Grants have been made to numerous groups to assist with improvements to community infrastructure. These include community halls, recreation reserves, and tourist facilities. The Noojee Heritage Centre being developed by the Noojee and District Historical Society received a grant to transport the locomotive now on site from Warragul to Noojee and the Friends of Glen Nayook were granted funds to install interpretive signage.



## Branch contacts.

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

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

Branch Manager	Brendan O'Brien
Customer Relationship Manager	Maureen Johnston
Senior Customer Service Officer	Karen Johnson
Customer Service Officer	Donna Field
Customer Service Officer	Krystal Burnett
Customer Service Officer	Paula Guy





## Sponsorships.

The Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch sponsors many local sporting clubs and organisations. The following is a list of the current sponsored clubs and organisations.

Baw Baw L2P Program	Bendigo Bank's Charity Golf Day
Buln Buln Cricket Club	Buln Buln Football & Netball Clubs
Buln Buln Tennis Club	Neerim District Rural Primary School "Function at the Junction"
Gardivalia Festival of Gardens	Haemophilia Foundation "Turn the Town Red Day"
Jindivick Cricket Club	Mawarra
Neerim District Agriculture & Horticulture Society	Neerim District Bowling Club
Neerim District Cricket Club	Neerim District Junior Basketball Club
Neerim District Junior Tennis Club	Neerim District Pony Club
Neerim District Progress Association Public Arts Prize	Neerim Neerim South Football / Netball Club
Neerim South Recreation Reserve	Neerim South Stadium
Nilma Darnum Football & Netball Club	Neerim South Primary School YeLP Program
"Against The Odds" Trailwalkers	Starlight Foundation Morning Tea
Tarago Senior Citizens Group	Warragul Industrials Football & Netball Club
Warragul Philatelic Society	Warragul Theatre Company

## Youth.

Youth Foundation Neerim District has been supported by the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, since 2008 when it entered into an agreement with the State Government of the day and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

It provides young people the opportunity to make a real difference in the community by providing funding for youth-led activities. As well as giving back to their community the young people involved acquire skills in leadership, planning, management and general practical experience in decision-making roles.

A total of 34 grants totaling over \$91,000 have been given out in the areas of safety, environment, health, education and personal development.



## Neerim District Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch

143 Main Road, Neerim South VIC 3831 Phone: 5628 1079 Website: [www.bendigobank.com.au/neerim](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/neerim)

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



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