

## Welcome to our 2010 Shareholders Newsletter

The last financial year has seen the continued depression of the financial sector. Overseas we saw the failure of several large institutional investors as well as several well known top 100 companies.

Many overseas countries have had to provide ongoing financial support to some of the household names in the financial services sectors.

To some extent we have been insulated here in Australia from the worst of this due to continued strong results in the natural resources sectors and the continuing growth in the housing markets.

In light of all this doom and gloom it is encouraging to see that our company has continued to perform strongly. I believe this is in no small part to the role that our team put in.

They have also managed to maintain the book balance between lending and deposits, which is so important to the actual income that the company generates from its total book value.

The other main contributing factor to the company's strong performance in the last financial year is you.

Chris Jensen  
Acting Chairman

## Community Celebrates Branch's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday

The Neerim community celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch recently. The birthday was celebrated with a Gala Dinner which was attended by more than 125 shareholders and guests.



Chris Jensen, acting Chair of the Neerim District Financial Services Limited, the operator of the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> said reaching 10 years of operation was a great result for the community

The partnership with Bendigo Bank has enabled local community organisations to share in our success, Mr Jensen said.



Jim Cunliffe cuts the Birthday cake

## Bill Cumming Young Achiever Award

During the 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday dinner, the inaugural Bill Cumming Young Achiever Award winner was announced.

The award has been instigated to acknowledge the achievements of a young person from the district.

Prior to his sudden death in 2009, Bill Cumming was very active in the Neerim community and was particularly keen to encourage the youth to achieve their best, no matter what activity they were involved in.

The inaugural recipient of the award was Sam Reid, who was named the best second year apprentice in painting and decorating in Gippsland during the year.



*Sam Reid (centre) pictured with Chris Jensen and Christine Cumming following the award presentation*

The award was presented to Sam by Christine Cumming on behalf of the Cumming family.

Mrs Cumming congratulated the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch on the instigation of the award.

Bill would have been very proud of Sam and his achievements, +Mrs Cumming said.

## In our community it starts with U

At the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch we are not just a bank to our community - we are getting involved in lots of other ways too. Our commitment extends to volunteering, fundraising, sponsorships and grants for our local groups and community projects. Here are some of the initiatives you have helped to support:

### Sponsorships

The Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch is the major sponsor of a number of sporting clubs in the district, including:

- Neerim Neerim South Football Netball Club,
- Buln Buln Football and Netball Clubs,
- Powelltown Football Netball Club,
- Neerim District Cricket Club,
- Jindivick Cricket Club,
- Neerim District Junior Basketball Club,
- Neerim District Bowls Club.

Through these sponsorships the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch is able to assist the clubs to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for the youth and the not so young of the district.



*The annual Challenge Shield between the Buln Buln and Neerim Neerim South Football and Netball Clubs is supported by Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch*

## Groups share in youth funds

A musical production, a camp for aspiring Neerim District writers and scout hall upgrades, shared in \$10,000 funding announced recently.

The funds were distributed at a Neerim and District's Youth Foundations Young People's Action Committee presentation night to support youth-led projects in the community.

The Neerim District Secondary College was awarded grants to fund its musical production and a camp for aspiring writers while the first Neerim Scouts and Neerim Girl Guides received funding to update hall facilities in order to attract more members



Grant recipients with Matt Viney (left) and NDFS Director Susan Allen (Right)

The presentation night was hosted by YPAC young members. Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria Matt Viney, congratulated community members and grant recipients on an excellent initiative.

Entertainment was provided by young local musical group, Jesse Wood Trio.



Jess Wood Trio performing at the YPAC Presentation

The Youth Foundations Project, a joint initiative of the Victorian Government and Bendigo Bank, through the Neerim District **Community Bank**® Branch, aims to facilitate and promote a number of activities and projects in the Neerim District, providing young people aged 12 to 25 years with opportunities to participate more actively in their community.

With the support of local partnership groups, the YPAC looks at the needs of the communities and makes grants available to groups and organisations with a youth focus to meet those needs.



Sam Charles talks about her experiences as a member of the Neerim District YPAC with the "Bendigo Bank Pig" an interested onlooker.

YPAC member, Sam Charles, believes Youth Foundations not only provide young people with a way to make a difference in their communities, but gave them the opportunity to learn new skills and provide a positive social outlet.

"I have attended workshops and forums and made a difference in my community by helping to improve facilities for young people and facilitate youth-led programs," said Mr Charles.

"It's been a great experience. I've met a lot of interesting people and made friends along the way."

### Shares Available

There are currently interested parties looking to sell shares in the Neerim District Financial Services Limited.

If you are interested in purchasing or selling shares please contact the Company Secretary (03 5628 1717) or the Branch Manager (03 5628 1079).

*Under law the Company cannot provide advice or guidance to sellers or purchasers on the price of shares.*

*This is purely a decision between the parties involved.*



## Have a say in the future of your community

### Director, Neerim District Financial Services Limited

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Director, Neerim District Financial Services Limited operators of the Neerim District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch.

As a volunteer director you will act as an ambassador for our branch, actively building its customer base. You will also provide the leadership and management skills at board level to support and drive the company's strategic direction, goals and objectives.

Although the position is voluntary, as a director of our company you will have a real say in the future direction of the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch and your community.

Further information is available from Chris Jensen

(03) 5628 4367

## Another milestone for the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> family

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> network recently celebrated a momentous achievement, announcing it had returned more than \$40 Million to support local community groups and projects right across Australia

The milestone further strengthens the importance of the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> network as an alternative source of funding for local community initiatives. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's Executive Customer and Community, Russell Jenkins, said the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> initiative has far exceeded all expectations

'Reaching \$40 million in returned profit to the community is a fabulous achievement and provides more proof that this innovative banking model is robust and sustainable,' Mr Jenkins said.

'Behind that statistic are hundreds of stories of **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branches making a real difference to the lives of everyday Australians.'

Neerim District Financial Services Limited, Acting Chairman, Chris Jensen, said he was proud to be part of a banking network that supports local communities.

'Neerim District Branch is dedicated to the continued prosperity of the Neerim community,' he said

'Since our business first turned a profit many years ago, NDFSL have supported countless projects with dozens of community groups and projects; all focussed on empowering community.'

'We look to the future with optimism that these wonderful relationships and achievements will continue,' said Chris.

## Who's Who on the Board

### Tony Allen (Company Secretary).



Tony Allen was appointed to the company Secretary position of the Neerim District Financial Services Limited in March 2010.

Tony has lived in Neerim South since 2001. He was employed by the Department of Agriculture for more than 37 years, working with the Horticulture industry. During this time he spent more than 15 years in Wangaratta.

During the latter part of his employment he was the Communications Manager for the Research Institute at Knoxfield and coordinated the communications group in Agriculture Victoria.

Since his retirement from the department in 2003, Tony has run his own event management company, AAA+ Events. Through this company he has been responsible for the coordination of the 2006 and 2010 Australian Cherry Industry Conferences.

He has been the Secretary of the Victorian Cherry Association since 2005 and in 2008-2009 was also Secretary of the Australian Rubus Growers Association.

Since moving to Neerim South he has served on the Committee of Management of the Neerim South Recreation Reserve and in 2005-2006 was the Secretary of the Neerim Neerim South Football Netball Club.

Tony is married to Susan and has three children and three grandchildren. He enjoys watching sport, gardening, wine and travelling.

### Have you moved or are you considering moving?

If so then please advise the company secretary of your new contact details.

We would also like to record your banking details in our records so we can pay your dividends directly into your bank account.

Please send updated information to:

Company Secretary

Shop 3 115 Main Rd Neerim South VIC 3831