



Spring 2023 -
Summer 2024

Newsletter

Community Bank · Pinewood

Welcome to our Winter/Spring Newsletter for Community Bank Pinewood! We hope you find it informative as we keep you up to date with what's been happening here at the branch and with our Board Directors from November 2023 to February 2024.

A message from our Chairman



Firstly, I would like to thank all our Pitch Partners for contributing to our Pitch It 2023 night, which was a huge success. We managed to support the seventh year of this initiative with \$66,000 and distributed the funds to twelve finalist groups. We are thrilled to have been able to support such worthy causes.

To Our Valued Community,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter where we cover the period from November to February and share some exciting updates with you.

Firstly, I would like to thank all our Pitch Partners for contributing to our Pitch It 2023 night, which was a huge success. We managed to support the seventh year of this initiative with \$66,000 and distributed the funds to twelve finalist groups. We are thrilled to have been able to support such worthy causes.

During this period, we sponsored many sporting clubs, community groups, and local events, including Monash Carols by Candlelight and Chinese New Year in Glen Waverley. We were delighted to see so many members of our community attend these events and enjoy the festivities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Pavla Ford, who joined us in January as our new Director and Treasurer. I would like to express my gratitude to

Dwayne Wathen for his excellent work as Treasurer. Although he has stepped down from this role, he remains on the Board as a Director and he has now joined our Community Engagement Committee.

Our staff members are committed to providing excellent service to our customers, under the guidance of our Branch Manager, Indu Dehipola. Please feel free to contact them on 9886 6477 or visit our branch for all your banking needs. We are dedicated to giving back to the community we care about, and the more you bank with us, the more we can achieve together. Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Robert Davies
Chairman

A message from our Community Bank

To all our valued customers and supporters,

We hope you're doing well and enjoy our latest newsletter, which covers the months of November 2023 to February 2024.



We've been incredibly busy over the past few months, and I want to give a big shoutout to the team for their hard work and dedication to delivering excellent service to our customers every day. Special thanks to Lou Qian, our Mobile Relationship Manager, who's doing an outstanding job since joining the team.

As always, we've continued our commitment to support and attend local events in our community. We're thrilled to have been part of Monash Carols by Candlelight, where we had Santa in our marquee, and more recently, as a major sponsor of the Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival in Glen Waverley. It was such a fantastic event, and we were delighted to be a part of it.

In November, we held our Pitch It 2023 event, where twelve community groups pitched to earn their share of \$66,000 in funds. We were so proud of their achievements on the night and proud to be able to give back in such an important way. A big thank you to our Pitch Partners and all the community groups for their enthusiasm and involvement in making this event a success.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and share it with your friends and colleagues, so we can continue to make a difference in the community we care about. Remember, we're more than just an ordinary bank, and we're committed to giving back to the community that supports us.

Warm regards,



Indu Dehipola
Branch Manager

Board News

Our Board of Directors continue to meet monthly where an extensive agenda is followed to ensure all business is attended to. The Board aims to complement the work our incredible management and staff do within the branch. Behind the scenes of Community Bank Pinewood, we have a very professional and highly skilled Board of Directors.

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest Director to the Board, Pavla Ford. A local to the area and passionate about her community, Pavla brings a wealth of knowledge in the finance sector and will take on the role of Treasurer at the end of the month. We asked her a few questions to get to know her better.



Why did you join the Community Bank Pinewood team?

Since we moved into this area five years ago, we have been involved in several community initiatives and events that my husband and I have really enjoyed. In community engagement sometimes even a small effort goes a very long way and that definitely applies to our community. When the opportunity of joining Community Bank Pinewood came up, I thought I could continue doing meaningful community work whilst applying my professional skills and experience.

What does community mean to you? Community means a sense of place for me. Communities can be very diverse demographically and culturally, however sharing a place where everyone lives and sometimes even works brings people together in a unique way. Most people are passionate about making the area where they live a better place which in turn creates a community vision and shared goals.

What is something people don't know about you? I love two sports that are let's say 'niche' in Australia – skiing and ballroom dancing.

We wish Pavla every success with her role as Treasurer and thank Dwayne Wathen as he steps down from this role but remains as a very valued Director and the newest member of our Community Engagement Committee.

You can find our Annual Reports online at our website, please visit www.bendigobank.com.au/pinewood for more information.

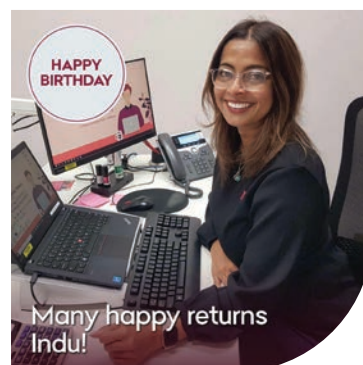
Staff News

We are pleased to share that our branch staff have continued to provide top-notch service to our customers - professional, informative, and fantastic as always and we are so grateful for the work they do here in Pinewood.

Our customers can always rely on our staff to help them with all their banking needs. For anyone needing assistance, the branch is open on weekdays, Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 4pm and on Friday from 9.30am to 5pm. you can find us at Pinewood Shopping Village, 65 Centreway, Mount Waverley

We were also delighted to celebrate our team members' birthdays. In December, we celebrated Paul's birthday, and in February, we celebrated Indu's birthday. We extend our warmest wishes to both of them for a happy year ahead, filled with success and joy.

As always, we would like to express our gratitude to our customers for their continued support and trust in our services.



Sponsorships & Donations - November 2023 to February 2024

It's been a busy period of giving back to our community and we are very proud of all the sponsorships, grants, and donations we were able to give. Most notably December 2023 was our sponsorship of Monash Carols by Candlelight. The weather was perfect and our local community came out in its thousands to support this festive event. We were fortunate to have a very special guest in our marquee - Santa! He posed for photos with both the little kids and big kids and got us in the mood for Christmas! Thank you to everyone who dropped by and said hello, we enjoyed being part of this incredible event.



Above L-R: Bronson, Indu, Sharyn, Robert and Dwayne at Monash Carols by Candlelight.

In February we were proud to be major sponsors of the annual Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival in Glen Waverley to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Again, we were blessed with wonderful weather and there was a real sense of community spirit on the day with many dropping into our marquee for the various activities we had planned for the day.



Above L-R: Robert, Jeremy, Philip and Lai at Chinese New Year Festival.

If your club or community group would benefit from sponsorship contact Louise, our Marketing & Sponsorship coordinator by emailing marketing@pinewoodcb.com.au

We partnered with Glen Waverley Bowls Club as they began their venture to offer a new sport at the club - the increasingly popular 'Pickleball'. Our sponsorship enabled the club to set up four courts and purchase equipment, we hear they are going very well which is great news! Other sponsorships include but are not limited to our support of Glen Waverley Tennis Club, Mulgrave Football Club annual golf day, and Trinity College Kandy Rugby Club where our very own Eraj plays. We also enjoyed a visit to the branch from our sponsored Therapy Dog - Freud from Wavecare Counselling Inc in Glen Waverley. Freud is doing well with his training and hopes to be out of his 'L' plates very soon!



Above L-R: Poly and Freud from Wavecare, Indu and Michelle Gilmore - CEO Wavecare.

We made donations to Escabags for their 'AWEARness Day', the McGrath Foundation in support of Mulgrave Cricket Club's Pink Stumps Day, the Blackburn Cricket Club, and the extremely worthy SES Monash division. We know how much our support is valued in the community and we feel so grateful we are able to make such a big difference to community groups, sporting clubs and not for profit organisations in this way.



Above: Indu and Paul Bowman, President Glen Waverley Tennis.

Events - November 2023 to February 2024

We attended many events from November 2023 to February 2024 and we want to thank all of the sporting clubs, community groups, and local businesses for extending invitations to us. In the photo (right), you can catch a rare glimpse of the Branch staff and Board of Directors coming together at our Christmas party which took place at our neighbour and Monash Business Award Winner in 2023 - 'Marketa'.

We were thrilled to join Mount Waverley Bowling Club for their official Deck Opening celebration especially as we provided funding for the shade umbrellas pictured here with our Community Bank Pinewood logo. The Club have been working hard on organising the building of the deck for many months and to see it come to fruition is amazing - well done to all involved, particularly Sponsorship Coordinator - Howard Rose. The deck will make a big difference to the club offering another social meeting place for members and guests. In addition, thank you to the Club for having our Chairman Robert Davies at their Christmas event as well, we are always so welcomed as a sponsor and it is very much appreciated! Pictured below, left to right from Community Bank Pinewood are Thomas Pewtress - Director, Robert Davies - Chairman, Indu Dehipola - Branch Manager, Bronson Justus - Director and lastly Howard Rose - Mount Waverley Bowls Club Sponsorship Coordinator.



Of the many Christmas functions we attended one was at the Monash Croquet Club where our Director Debby had the honour of presenting the Community Bank Pinewood Handicap Trophy! We have been proud supporters of the Club for many years now and it is so nice to be invited to be involved with the club and its members. Congratulations to Omer Soyda who won the trophy, he is also the Club Champion after winning the Club Division 1 Championship. He is pictured (right) with our very own Director - Debby Chiang on the left, then Kaye Molyneux - Club President in the centre.



Among other events we attended were the Ashwood High School Presentation Awards, our Chairman, Robert Davies was there to officially present the recipient of the Community Bank Pinewood Scholarship for 2023 offered to a Year 11 student awarded earlier in 2023. The recipient of the full scholarship of \$1,500 was William Lee, we also gave a Highly Commended Award to Callum Tran for his excellent application of \$500. We hope both boys will benefit from this extra assistance with school-related costs and activities. Our Director Philip Le Liu also attended the Presentation Awards Ceremony at Mount Waverley Secondary College and officially presented the recipient of the Community Bank Pinewood Year 11 Scholarship to Alanah Ruyg who was awarded \$1,500 to assist with her school related costs. Congratulations to these excellent young people!

We were also grateful to attend many other events including Mulgrave Football Club's annual 'Mully Grubs' Golf Day and the free try Pickleball sessions at Glen Waverley Bowls Club amongst many others. Thank you to all our community groups and sporting clubs for engaging with us as sponsors and supporters, we always appreciate the opportunity.



Community Bank Pinewood - Chinatown Office News - November 2023 to February 2024

Did you know that Community Bank Pinewood has a Chinatown Office in Melbourne's CBD that supports many different organisations and community groups? This arm of our business enables us to do even more good in the community and the team works tirelessly to strengthen these connections and promote inclusiveness and diversity. The team is made up of Paul Lai (Lai) - Customer Relationship Manager, Jeremy Zhang - Customer Service Officer and Rose Yang - Marketing Coordinator, and is supported by Directors Robert Davies and Philip Le Liu.

In October, we proudly sponsored the captivating Melbourne Fashion Week event - 'Ancient Tales Retold' hosted by the Chinese Museum and showcasing stunning Chinese traditional outfits and accessories from the Han, Tang, Song, and Ming dynasties. We felt very proud that the event took place in the Community Bank Pinewood Bendigo Bank Conference room.



Above: Ziyue Xu and Paul Lai at the Fashion Festival event.

In November, our sponsorship extended to a heartwarming charity event organized by the Lions Club of Melbourne Chinese. With our very own Paul Lai as the MC of the charity ball, 250 attendees came together to raise over \$35,000 for charitable causes including Lions Club International, Childhood Cancer Research, Federal University, and the Chinese Museum.

2024 is the Year of the Dragon in the lunar calendar and holds significant meaning for many Chinese communities. We were deeply honoured to receive a Community Service Award at the 'Sleepless Tonight' 2024 Australian Chinese New Year Gala, a prestigious event

broadcast internationally. Throughout the Chinese New Year festival, Paul represented the bank at numerous celebrations and events, distributing beautifully decorated red packets as a symbol of our support. From Springvale to Box Hill, Chinatown to the QVM, and our title sponsor event in Glen Waverley, our Chinatown Office was actively engaged in community outreach and support.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne (CYSM), Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA), Asian Business Association of Whitehorse (ABAW), Victorian HongKongers Association (Aust) Inc. (VHKA), and Monash Chinese Events Organizing Committee Inc. for their invitations and unwavering support in Chinese New Year.



Above: Councillor Philip Le Liu - Director and Paul Lai at 'Sleepless Tonight' event accepting our Community Service Award



Above: Spectacular line up of Lions at Chinese New Year Festival in Melbourne close to Chinatown Office:

Pitch It 2023 Community Bank Pinewood Grants Program

In our last Newsletter, we shared the results from our Pitch It 2023 Community Bank Pinewood Grants Program. We wanted to share a few more photos with you from the event and say once more a huge congratulations to all twelve finalists! We are looking forward to hearing about how their projects turned out once they were/are completed.

Please support our Pitch Partner businesses who made a big difference and helped us give away a huge \$66,000 to ensure these community projects become a reality. They are tagged here: Mulgrave Country Club, Glen Waverley McDonald's, Rogerson Kenny Business Accountants, Garry and Warren Smith Honda, Chadstone Kia, Chadstone Mitsubishi, Garry and Warren Smith Mazda and Garry and Warren Smith Suzuki.

Congratulations to all the community groups involved and for your community-changing projects! Watch this space for news of our next program which will be announced later mid-year.



Talk to us today



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We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

Pinewood Community Financial Services Limited

65 Centreway, Mt Waverley VIC 3149

ABN 26 099 420 050

Ericson Community Service Award

Applications are now open for the Ericson Community Service Award 2024 (ECSA)!

The Award was created to recognise the years of hard work and dedication to the community by Merv Ericson, our inaugural Branch Manager and later Director of the Board. The ECSA

recognises a remarkable community-focused individual for their voluntary contribution within the City of Monash. The recipient of the award will earn a certificate of recognition and a \$1,000 grant which they will donate to their chosen not-for-profit organisation (also within the City of Monash).

If you know someone who does incredible work in our community and deserves to be recognised for it, please nominate them!

You have until 1st May to submit – to nominate please scan the code or email marketing@pinewoodcb.com.au for a nomination form.

