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### Community Bank Pinewood Newsletter - Winter 2020

Welcome to our fourth 'e-newsletter' for the 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 of Directors.

### A message from our Chairman - Robert Davies



### To our valued Pinewood community,

Thank you for your continued support of the Community Bank Pinewood Branch though the current health and economic crisis. We remain open, ensuring our customers and community have access to financial services and loans when needed. We have established proper procedures in the branch to ensure the health and safety of our staff and customers. While inconvenient, they bring peace of mind to everyone, and ensure we can continue operating.

Although these are difficult times, we have continued to grow our business this year by engaging with new community groups and providing valued advice and service. This growth and your support means we can continue to sponsor our local Community Groups and Sporting Clubs through this period, ensuring they can emerge with strength in due course.

This season has seen a longstanding Pinewood community champion, Merv Ericson resign from the Board of Community Bank Pinewood. Merv was the first Branch Manager of Pinewood (appointed in 2002) and has served on the Board for many years as Chair of the Community Engagement Committee. We thank Merv for his service to the community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Please stay safe through these difficult times.

Regards,

Robert Davies Chairman

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### To all our valued customers and supporters

We find ourselves in unprecedented, difficult times and we want to let you know that here at the Community Bank Pinewood we are doing our very best to support our customers, local businesses, our community groups and sponsorship clubs at this time.

We'd like to thank our customers for their continued support and assure everyone that we have taken all necessary precautions to keep you safe if you are coming into the branch.

Our doors are open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5pm and continue to be at this stage. Please note you may be asked to remove your mask briefly for identification purposes only. We'd like to remind you that we have excellent, competitive products and details can be found by clicking <u>here</u> to visit our website where you may also logon for your online banking.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and board for all of their assistance and incredible adaptability in accepting the changes we have had to implement along the way. A special and heartfelt thanks goes to Merv Ericson for his work as both inaugural Bank Manager and most recently as our Community Engagement Committee Chair and Director of our Board. We attribute our success at Community Bank Pinewood to his strong leadership and guidance and we will miss his continued input which was always positive, informative and beneficial.

Lastly we'd like to wish you all the very best as you navigate the current situation, we'll get through this together and we're here for you.

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## COMING SOON

# Pitch It 2020! Pinewood Community Grants Program

Pitch It 2020! Pinewood Community Grants Program

We are very excited to announce that Community Bank Pinewood will be donating \$30,000 in funds via our 'Pitch It 2020' Community Grant Program to selected community group finalists this year. Applications open on Monday 24th August via the <u>Community Enterprise Foundation</u>.

A free online Information Session about eligibility criteria and how to apply is taking place via Zoom on Thursday 20th August at 4.30pm - <u>click here</u> to register and Zoom details will be emailed to you.

Due to the current situation things will be a little different from our previous three years of our "Pitch It" program - the selected finalists will be asked to 'pitch' their idea in a 2-3 minute video for our 'Pitch Panel'. If you wish to subscribe for our 'Pitch Newsletters' please email our <u>Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator</u>.

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understand and support his decision to focus on his health and his retirement - we will miss his him immensely.

Merv was the very first Branch Manager when the Community Bank Pinewood Branch opened it's doors back in 2002! Merv built a community of customers who he knew by name and his friendly, professionalism was admired by everyone who came into contact with him. Merv worked tirelessly and knew everything there was to know about

the business and about Bendigo Bank. Merv retired from his position 11 years later in 2013 and was sorely missed. However, the Board of Directors was delighted to welcome Merv back early in 2017 and he took on the role of Community Engagement Committee Chair. With his outstanding people-skills and knowledge of the business Merv was an asset to the Board and we're extremely grateful for his hard work and dedication.

Two of our longest serving members of staff had the following to say about their beloved Mentor: "I will forever be grateful to Merv for employing me and for being a wonderful boss, an all round good guy & a perfect gentleman. I will miss seeing his face around the office immensely. said Cathy Torpy. Paul Tyson said "Merv was a fantastic Manager to work for. He knew everything and knew everybody. He always had the staff's best interests at heart, inside and outside the office."

We will miss you Merv - thank you!



### Meet the Team

We're so pleased to be able to welcome Emily back to work in the branch! Emily has been on maternity leave looking after her gorgeous new baby boy and doing an incredible job. We really appreciate Emily and have missed her personality, efficiency and work ethic, she really is an asset to the team here at <u>Community Bank Pinewood</u>. Please give Emily a warm welcome if you see her in the branch!

### **Looking Back**

We know many community groups are facing extreme difficulties with restrictions making it impossible to operate, however we know they are resilient and will bounce back. We've been proud to be able to continue to contribute sponsorship monies towards many of our groups. Join us as we look back over the last few months.



### **Board of Directors**

Not only are our branch staff still working hard to take care of all of your banking needs, our dedicated Board continue to work behind the scenes to offer as much support as they can to our staff, shareholders and all of our community groups.

Like everyone we've had to rethink the way we work and in particular how we meet - since restrictions were introduced back in March we have held five 'virtual' Board and Committee Meetings and they have been very productive.



### Sponsorship

Community Bank Pinewood are proud to sponsor and support many sporting clubs and community groups. Groups and Clubs were extremely grateful for our continued support in the last two months in the wake of such difficulties during the Pandemic. We look forward to the days we can support these clubs in person and attend events they are able to organise one day in the future! Clubs and groups we were able to support were the Mulgrave Football Club, Monash Community Arts Society, Ladies Combined Probus Club, Glen Waverley Tennis Club, Mount Waverley Bowls Club, Waverley Basketball Association, Waverley Blues Football

Club, Oakleigh Amateur Football Club and the Glen Waverley Bowls Club.

Pictured are our Chairman - Robert Davies, Waverley Blues President - Stephen Pewtress and Pinewood

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