



Newsletter

Community Bank · Mount Barker

Empowering Plantagenet Seniors

Community local, Sue Etherington, noticed there was a gap in the services provided to the senior residents of the Shire of Plantagenet. This led to Sue setting up a committee and saw the opening of Empowering Plantagenet Seniors (EPS). The aim of EPS is to provide a place for seniors to come and socialise in a safe and friendly environment. They also aim to provide formal and non-formal information and advocacy where required. This includes information relating to health services, estate planning, elder abuse and where necessary and to direct them to the appropriate external agencies.

During COVID-19 restrictions EPS started a volunteer grocery delivery service which they plan to continue. They can assist with help for those that do not qualify for some of the government assistance packages and provide seniors with access to services such as Silver Chain and Clarence Estate.

EPS plan to develop programs that seniors may be interested in like bingo, book club and craft workshops. Students of aged care and hospitality gain practical experience putting their skills to work providing services for those attending the EPS Hub. EPS engage with other local community groups such as the Country Women's Association, Men's Shed and Scouts encouraging members to get involved.

The Empowering Plantagenet Seniors Hub is currently open on Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00am – 2.00pm for morning tea and lunch and Sundays for roast lunch. There is a lounge area for seniors who may not want to participate in activities but prefer to sit and enjoy a cup of tea, read a book, or socialise with others. Membership is available, drop into the branch and pick up a membership application.



Lisa's great adventure



Many of you may be aware that staff member Lisa Clode has taken extended leave to travel around Australia. Lisa took some time from her travels to give us an update on what she has been up to.



Our planned 2020 trip around OZ was thrown out the window when COVID-19 struck, not to be perturbed we accepted a job as caretakers on Lakeway Station. Lakeway is a 1.5 million acre cattle station situated near Wiluna on the edge of the little sandy desert in WA. On arriving at the station on 10 April I very quickly realised how remote this place was, no internet, no mobile phone reception,



no wifi and no landline! We lived and worked on Lakeway Station for nine weeks. When the WA regional travel border opened we packed up and headed for Broome. Arriving in Broome was a revelation, civilisation at last! We could get haircuts, go to a coffee shop and swim in the ocean. From Broome we travelled to Derby and hit the Gibb River Road for a six day adventure finally arriving in Kununurra. We enjoyed a month exploring the town and surrounds including Lake Argyle, Purnululu (Bungle Bungles), Wyndam, the Ord River and amazing Kimberly Rock Art. We finally decided to cross the border into the NT early August, travelling to Katherine, Edith Falls, Litchfield National Park, Berry Springs and Darwin. We plan on busting Kakadu for a few days before hitting the highway again to make our way to Far North QLD before the wet season arrives then to SA for the summer months.

Visiting author workshops

On Friday, the 18 September, the kids of Kendenup were lucky enough to have not one, but two outstanding local authors come to visit us. Cristy Burne and Dianne Wolfer ran workshops with all of the classes on how they come up with the ideas for their books, and helped give us inspiration on how we could find topics for our own stories.

The two authors had very different styles as writers and as teachers, which we really loved. The one thing that both authors had in common was that they drew their ideas from real life, and from nature. They encouraged us to go out and pay attention to the world so that we could find things that would inspire us.

Having the authors at the school was a privilege. It not only gave us insight into the authors lives, and introduced us to their fabulous books, it also gave us experience with plotting our own stories. It was really great, and we will all benefit from having them speak to us. We would like to thank the authors for a great day, and both the Kendenup P&C and the Community Bank Mount Barker for helping to make the whole thing happen.

Written by the students of Kendenup Primary School.



Message from our Business Development Manager

2020 has been a year like no other however the 2020 financial year has seen the Community Bank Mount Barker go from strength to strength. This has enabled us to once again proudly participate in providing much needed sponsorships to our community. All up, over \$45,000 was contributed to 21 organisations including the Mt

Barker Swimming Club for hosting the upcoming Country Swimming Championships, the next episode of Mountains and Murals and more recently the establishment of the Empowering Plantagenet Seniors facility.

The more customers we have and the more services we provide,

the more we can give back to the community – a pretty simple equation! So tell your friends, tell your family to come into the branch and say hi. They'll be glad they did.

Jason Price
Business Development Manager

2020/21 Sponsorships

Our Directors and staff have been busy excitedly handing out sponsorship packs to local organisations. So far this financial year we have sponsored the following:

CWA – Mount Barker Branch	Roof maintenance
Kendenup Primary School P & C	Visiting author workshops
Kojonup Child Care Centre Inc	Washing machine and evacuation cot
Mount Barker Amateur Swimming Club	Country Pennants 2021
Mount Barker Bowls & Sporting Club	Kitchen refit
Mount Barker Golf Club	Bendigo Bank Community Bowls and score cards
Mount Barker Mountains & Murals (Inc)	Mountains & Murals Festival
Mountains & Murals Festival	Maintenance and repairs
Mount Barker Wildflower/Nature Photo Competition	Prizes
Mount Barker RSL Sub-branch	Maintenance and repairs
Plantagenet Players Inc	Insurance
Empowering Plantagenet Seniors	Supplies for the new seniors Hub
Porongurup Promotions Association Inc	Insurance and eftpos machine hire for Porongurup Festival
Rocky Gully CWA (Inc)	Rocky Gully Memorial project
Rotary Club of Mount Barker	Seniors Christmas lunch
Shire of Plantagenet	Rates prize
YouthCARE	Bush dance, pool parties and humanitarian awards
Kendenup Primary School	End of year book awards
Mount Barker Community College	End of year book awards
Two x Scholarships for students from the Shire of Plantagenet entering university and tafe in 2021	



Scholarships



This year we offered two scholarships to students entering university and tafe for the first time in 2020. Niamh Healy received the tafe scholarship and is studying Certificate III in Accounts and Administration. She plans to complete her studies to Associate Diploma level and find work with an accounting firm. Niamh would like to give back

to her community offering her skills as a volunteer to local clubs. Lewis Broad received the university scholarship and is studying a Bachelor of Science Degree. Lewis hopes that his study will provide a foundation to start a career in the aquaculture industry or similar marine based work fields.

Applications for 2021 are now open. Please visit <https://cia.communityenterprise.foundation.com.au/Program/Index/2> and scroll down to Mount Barker WA.

Talk to us today

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We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Directors

John Howard, James Rhind, Elizabeth Van Zeyl, Grant Cooper, Ben Broad, Leonard Handasyde, Shaun Higgins

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From the administrators desk

Well, what a year it has been! Luckily for us West Aussies life didn't change too drastically for too long. I hope everyone has pulled through well. I can't believe that Christmas and the new year is already upon us. Our 2021 calendar will be out in December so make sure you drop in and grab yourself a copy. These are a highly coveted item and will go fast.

I have a few shareholders that I do not have correct details for. If you hold shares in Plantagenet Community Financial Services Ltd please contact me directly to make sure your details are up to date.

If you are not a shareholder but are interested in becoming one, give me a call.

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the branch? We have a fabulous Board of volunteer Directors who provide leadership and strategic guidance to the branch. Our Directors are deeply engaged in fostering community engagement and creating prosperity. If you are a like minded person with a connection to the Plantagenet and greater Mount Barker region we invite you to come along to a Board meeting and experience what it is like to be a Director. As a Director you will have a real say in the future direction of the branch and community.

We have just celebrated an amazing 19 years in your community. Thank you to all of those that have supported us over the years. Next year we will be celebrating our 20 birthday. I wonder what we might have in store for you all as we celebrate.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Heather Bateman

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