



## From the Chair.

Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd has finished the 2015 financial year in a very strong position and shown consistent growth over the last 12 months. This last quarter of the financial year has shown changes for the Board and company. We recently welcomed new Director, Jan Smith from Girgarre to the Board and look forward to utilising her experience in community building to complement the current Director skills. The company has invested funds into the Community Enterprise Foundation™ which is both tax effective and holds funds solely for community investment and grants. This investment was made with the consultation of the Company Accountant, AFS Pty Ltd and only strengthens our financial position.

At the Regional Conference, our partners Bendigo and Adelaide Bank released significant changes to the **Community Bank®** model after a joint review conducted by the Bank and **Community Bank®** company Boards called Project Horizon. The outcome of this review and the changes that follow bring exciting opportunities for Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd to develop through collaborative marketing project opportunities and **Community Bank®** branches working together more. There have been changes to how the **Community Bank®** companies are paid their profit share and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank have moved to a more equitable profit model based upon fluctuating cost of funds. This model presents many benefits to our company, as well as providing more transparency and fairness when sharing profits between **Community Bank®** branches and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

In an ever changing industry, the Board see that these changes to the **Community Bank®** model will ensure a strong and sustainable partnership with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and see no expected net impact on the company in the foreseeable future. Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd will make further announcements to shareholders if the Board's assessment of these changes will impact the company significantly.

## Welcome Jan Smith to the Board.

The Board recently welcomed Jan Smith to the Board of Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd. In her own words, Jan tells us about her involvement in the Girgarre community and life as a dairy farmer.

"I arrived in Girgarre in 1962 as a primary school teacher. I taught at the Girgarre School for two years before marrying a local dairy farmer Garry Smith. From small beginnings big things grow. Our herd of 50 cows thrived and grew into a herd of 650 cows and two remarkable children who have grown into amazing women.



New Director Jan Smith and Treasurer Christine Borger.

Teaching was always in my blood and so I returned to spend 28 years teaching at the Girgarre Preschool before spending three years with the Goulburn Valley Preschool Association.

My final years of work were spent with the Department of Education and working as a Tutor for the Ballarat University teaching childcare. As the drought hit I retired to assist running the farm with my husband who was experiencing the first throes of poor health.

During this time a group of Girgarre residents realised our small town was on its knees and set about forming a Development Group to address the huge social change that was happening before our eyes. This was the beginning of the regeneration of our community. We started the Girgarre Farmers market, the Girgarre Moosic Muster, Jigarre Jammin and are in the process of creating a walking track to Stanhope and beyond and the jewel in the crown will be Gargarro, a unique botanical gardens.

My interest in the Rushworth & District **Community Bank®** Branch began when it became apparent how similar the **Community Bank®** branch's philosophical values were to the Girgarre Development Group:

- Both having a huge sense of community and service. Rushworth can be truly proud of its **Community Bank®** branch and the results that flow into the surrounding communities
- What a great organisation to belong to!



## Colbinabbin Kinder gets some chooks!

Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd recently sponsored the Colbinabbin Kinder for \$1,000 for the purchase of a state of the art (and very fox proof) chook shed and chooks for the kinder children to care for. It has been a wonderful project where the children have developed a sense of responsibility and understanding the requirements for taking care of animals. The children also enjoy learning about cooking and using the eggs their chooks provide to create healthy food.



## Victorian Regional Conference 2015.

Chairman Jeff Perry, Treasurer Christine Borger, Company Secretary Michelle Baker and Branch Manager Kevin Livingston recently attended the 2015 Regional Conference where Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd had been nominated for a 'Community Choice Award' for



our major community sponsorship of the refurbishment of the Rushworth **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch Sports & Recreation Complex. We were very proud to be able to show our **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch community how far \$50,000 can go when a community rally together to ensure our town were able to complete the exceptional facilities upgrade at the reserve. This could not be done without shareholders and customers within our community; your investment into this community benefits all.

## A personal loan to get you there quicker.

Loaded with benefits and tailored to suit your needs, a personal loan from Rushworth & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch may be just what you need to make your big ideas a reality.

Applying is fast, simple and no fuss.

**Drop into your nearest branch at 23 High Street, Rushworth or phone 5856 2122 to find out more.**



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Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited 23 High Street, Rushworth VIC 3612 **ABN 97 101 461 125** **Directors:** Jeffrey Perry (Chairman), Robert Armstrong, Frances Oliver, Rhonda Risstrom, Matthew Ryan, Janice Smith, Michelle Baker and Christine Borger.

## Rushworth & District Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch

23 High Street, Rushworth VIC 3612 Phone: 5856 2122

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am – 4.00pm and Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm

**Stanhope Customer Service Centre** – 25 Birdwood Avenue, Stanhope VIC 3623 Phone: 5857 2361

Opening hours: Monday, Thursday & Friday 11.00am - 3.00pm.

Website: [www.bendigobank.com.au/rushworth](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/rushworth) [www.facebook.com/bendigobank](https://www.facebook.com/bendigobank) [twitter.com/bendigobank](https://twitter.com/bendigobank)

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