



From the Chairman.

Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited are pleased to announce another milestone. Shareholder dividends and community contributions combined are now in excess of half a million dollars, which is a great return back into our district. The Board, management and staff are extremely proud of this achievement and can see the benefits the **Community Bank**[®] model brings to our towns. We thank our shareholders and loyal customers for making this possible; with your ongoing investment into Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch great things come to our community.

Completing the half year financial audit showed Rushworth & District Financial Services Limited has traded close to budget in both profit and expense and that the Board are adhering to ASIC and Bendigo Bank's guidelines for financial compliance and showing strong governance of the company.

Going forward into the next 12 months, the Board realises that in this era of lower financial returns, there is a need for us to broaden our area of operations. We are therefore investigating how to grow our presence in other localities within our district. In doing so, we acknowledge the limiting factors brought about by lower population densities in our rural areas and challenging periods of drought and farm gate pricing however we are confident we can continue to offer competitive banking products that fit our district's needs.

There are changes coming regarding our profit share arrangement with our partners, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank which comes into effect on 1 July. This model restructures the method that profit share is calculated and will have some minor impact to our profitability, however we still remain robust and expecting to report a healthy profit for the 2016 financial year. Going forward, we expect to continue to grow the business over the next 12 months as Bendigo and Adelaide Bank continue to expand the products we can offer in branch to complement all our customer's requirements.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your ongoing support of the Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Bank.

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 Ristrom, Matthew Ryan, Janice Smith, Michelle Baker, Christine Borger.

Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival.

Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch were very proud to receive a Best Community Float in the 2016 Rushworth Easter Festival. The festival is a significant event for our district over the Easter period, bringing welcomed tourists to our town and an opportunity to showcase our town and community groups. Congratulations to the Easter Heritage Festival Committee and the Moora working Draught Horse group for their efforts in running this fantastic event. Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch are proud sponsors of these events as well as participants in the parade.



Colbinabbin Primary School gets new laptops.

Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch are proud to invest \$6,400 into Colbinabbin Primary School to support purchasing new laptops for their students. As a tiny rural school of 36 kids, finding enough funding to support learning and technology is difficult and the **Community Bank**[®] branch were happy to support rural kids getting the best education possible. Principal Robyn MacLean said, "We are so grateful for the Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch's support of this initiative, and of our school in general. Unfortunately in today's educational climate, small schools are struggling to purchase all the resources that are needed to ensure our children become high functioning digital citizens."



Tertiary Scholarships Winners Announced.

Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch are excited to introduce our two scholarship winners, Jessica Wyse and Josh Hamilton.

Jessica, from Girgarre, has won a \$2,000 first year tertiary scholarship which has enabled her to move to Wagga Wagga to begin her studies in agricultural science at Charles Sturt University. Jessica and her family are well known for their success in horse competitions, and along with Jessica being an exceptional student at St Augustine's college, she has also competed at State and National level reining events. Jessica and her family learned of the scholarship whilst banking in the Stanhope Service Centre in December.

Josh, from Colbinabbin has also won a \$2,000 first year tertiary scholarship to begin his studies in Physiotherapy at Deakin Geelong. Josh has been an excellent leader at the Rochester P-12, serving as School Captain, representing his school with pride and achieved excellent results in his VCE and winning the Rochester P-12 All Rounder award in 2015. Josh has also captained HDFL interleague teams, Colbinabbin Under 17's premiership team and also finds time to work on the family farm. His family are passionate community members in Colbinabbin, volunteering their time supporting Colbinabbin Football Netball club and are wonderful advocates of the Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch.

Rushworth & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch understands the financial pressures of rural students to attend university and are proud to be able to support Jessica and Josh in their education. Chairman Slim Perry says that helping young people in our community is a fantastic reflection of what the **Community Bank**[®] concept is all about; young people are our future in this region and we are excited to support them achieving their dreams and in years to come, bring those skills back to this region.

Congratulations Jessica and Josh, we wish you all the very best in your studies over the next 12 months and wish you every success.



Rushworth & District Community Bank[®] Branch

Rushworth 623 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 11.00am – 3.00pm and Thursday to Friday 11.00am – 3.00pm

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/rushworth facebook.com/bendigobank twitter.com/bendigobank



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