



Message from Branch Manager.

I am very proud of what Sarina **Community Bank**[®] Branch has achieved since we reported to you last.

We have had some exciting progress in the banking world recently launching a new mobile EFTPOS device that runs through your Bluetooth which means no more delays, it's quick and easy, and only cost \$12/month.

We also won the School Banking Tender so we can now support your children with school banking whilst offering a new product with higher interest and no fees. Possibly most exciting of all, recently BIG Bendigo Benefits has been introduced. BIG Bendigo Benefits is a package for members and staff of local clubs, community groups and workplaces that provides benefits on a special range of products and services. How nice is it to know that your banking is going towards the bigger picture of supporting your own backyard?

There have been a number of substantial community projects and also some smaller ones, all having a massive impact. None of which would have been possible without our customers and other stakeholders, so thank you again for banking with us. During these times our community needs us more than ever and we are going to keep on giving, so please tell your family and friends if they would like to be a part of something **bigger** to come and see us. I am looking forward to the new projects that will come out of the grants program in 2015.

Roanna Bella
Branch Manager

The Sarina Men's Shed.

The Sarina Men's Shed have received \$87,055 from the Sarina **Community Bank**[®] Branch over the course of the grants program. This significant funding has enabled them to complete construction of their new shed. The Men's Shed provides a valuable resource to the local community enabling men a place to do 'hands on' work, or even somewhere to have a cuppa and a chat. It is also of huge benefit to the wider community as we will all, in some way, be touched by the support of the Men's Shed. President Jon Eaton has said of the new shed, "This is a culmination of three and a half years of long, hard work and made possible with support from the Sarina Community. The Sarina **Community Bank**[®] Branch made this happen."

Laura's Scholarship.

A passion for community involvement has not only set Laura Burrows up for a successful career but has also earned her a scholarship thanks to the Sarina **Community Bank**[®] Branch. The third-year CQUniversity Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Accounting student has been awarded a \$4,000 scholarship payable across two years. Laura volunteers in a number of ways in the community, including as a Student Mentor for CQUniversity, as the volunteer Company Secretary for the Sarina and District Community Financial Services Limited, and as a Widening participation Assistant delivering a six-week program to year 11 and 12 students in the region giving them a realistic expectation of higher education. Laura is extremely humbled and thankful to be awarded the 2015 scholarship. The Sarina **Community Bank**[®] Branch encourages all community-minded students to apply for the 2016 scholarship by visiting www.cqu.edu.au/courses-and-programs/scholarships/offerings/sarina-community-bendigo-bank-scholarship



Skills Centre.

The Ted Malone MP Rural Skills Centre received \$10,850 from the Sarina **Community Bank**[®] Branch Grant Program. The students at the Skills Centre purchased materials with these funds and then built a multi-purpose trailer and portable yards for cattle. The crate on the trailer has been designed to be able to be removed, so that it can also be used to transport materials or tools. Ted Malone MP Rural Skills Centres' Bob North said, "The trailer is a much needed and welcome addition to the Rural Skills Centre and is also available for the community to use."



Sarina BMX.

"The Sarina & District BMX Club greatly appreciate the support received from the Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch over the years," said Club President, David Wray. Last year the Sarina & District BMX Club



Photo credit Minco Photography.

membership increased 60 to 120 members. This increase involved a significant rise in cost to maintain the quality and safety of the track, and also impacted the cost of the two day Carnival in August. David said, "Without the support of Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch, the club would have struggled to make this all happen." The Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch provided a grant of \$8,000, which was used to bitumen the largest berm (corner) of the track to reduce the ongoing maintenance and improve the safety. The Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch was also the main sponsor of their two-day carnival, with the sponsorship going towards prize money and canteen supplies.

Sarina Tourist Arts & Crafts.

Benefiting from a Grant of \$12,555 from the Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch, the Sarina Tourist Arts & Crafts were able to move their latest building to their complex in December 2014. This building, built in 1926, was previously the Mount Pelion State School. Just like the other two buildings

located at the site, this building will also be fully restored to be used as an administration office, workshop, teaching and meeting room.



Chamber of Commerce reminder.

Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Sarina Coffee and Chat on the first Wednesday of every month commencing on 1 April at Shaznic. This will be a great opportunity to meet other Sarina business owners and their teams and to establish new networks. No RSVP is needed! Just grab a coffee and enjoy some great conversation. Don't forget to bring along your business cards!

Sarina Community Bank® Branch

37 Broad Street, Sarina QLD 4737 Phone: 4943 2634 Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/sarina

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

Drought relief.

The Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch has contributed \$6,400 towards the Longreach and District Drought Relief Appeal, and is partnering with Rotary Australia through Pioneer Valley Rotary Club to help raise much needed funds



to support those still in the grip of drought. Branch Manager, Roanna Bella, said Longreach and surrounding areas had been declared a natural disaster by the State Government, with the local community ravaged by the effects of prolonged drought. "These communities have been doing it pretty tough, yet the stoicism displayed has been inspiring," Roanna said. "Although some areas in Queensland are enjoying wet season rains, there's places around Longreach that have totally missed out with no relief in sight and the situation is desperate. Even when rain comes it will take our affected communities and farmers' years to recover from this drought." Roanna stated that money raised would be used to provide assistance to property owners, with a focus on their mental health and well-being "Rotary is doing a fantastic job and have been contacting families living in drought stricken areas."

Zonta Club.

Thanks to the Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch, three representatives of Sarina State High School travelled to Mackay to attend the Zonta International Women's day luncheon on 8 March 2015. The students were lucky enough to listen to a number of women speak on the topic of "How to be a Feminist". Topics that were discussed included Aboriginal women's rights, abortion rights, rights of women across the world, violence against women, and women in business. All representatives found this event a worthwhile and rewarding experience. The students were extremely grateful for the opportunity given to them.

Sarina Saints Football Club.

The Sarina **Community Bank**® Branch provided the Sarina Saints Football Club with \$10,000 via the grant program, which enabled the club to light up their field. The club can now train at all times and have evening home games for the Senior Men's and Women's teams this year. The grant has provided a key role in their growth, safety and sustainability.



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