



Chairman's report



Dear shareholder,

As we rapidly move forward in 2015 with the year almost half over we provide you with an update on the current situation at your **Community Bank®** branch.

In July we celebrate our 14th birthday. It seems such a long-time since the start of the pledging and the slow movement of the Board in Sculley's window to the reality today of a very profitable and operational branch. It is now a very viable business.

Our profit margins continue to be squeezed due to competition pressures in all the areas of banking however we are still maintaining profitability in spite of the current financial climate.

A few weeks ago both Philip and I attended the Bendigo Metropolitan Conference in Melbourne; this covers all the Metro **Community Bank®** branches. It is where **Community Bank®** company Board Directors can exchange ideas or perhaps pick up those extra hints on how to do things at their respective branches.

There is a further conference that now covers the rest of Victoria and of course later in the year. In September the National Conference is to be held covering all **Community Bank®** branches in Australia. The total of all **Community Bank®** branches is now 307 which is remarkable. This year the National Conference will be held in Bendigo hopefully at the new Exhibition Centre.

We can now advise that effectively a few weeks ago the total of our grants sponsorships, donations and dividends back to

our community exceeds \$6 million. The figure as above also includes dividends to shareholders of \$613,000 which we feel also impacts on our community.

The current total given in the above areas for the whole of Victoria is now \$53 million and for the whole of Australia is \$135 million.

These figures are exceptional as all these funds have gone back into empowering local communities covering the majority of Australia.

However the truly amazing fact is our percentage of both the Victorian amount and then the total amount for Australia.

I also wish to advise shareholders that if there is any change to your shareholding, either a change of address or a shareholder name the obligation is for you to notify our Secretary. We have an obligation to ASIC to ensure that at all times our records are correct.

If you have been to North Essendon recently you may have noticed that the Bank of Queensland has closed and has relocated to Bourke Street in the City. We will be doing an advertising programme in the area to see if we can pick up some additional customers / business from the demise of this branch.

Again I would like to sincerely thank the staff for their efforts and the Board for their dedication in overseeing the business of the branch. Board members volunteer a considerable amount of their time on bank issues ensuring that the business operates efficiently and profitably.

Peter McKie
Chairman

Strathmore Community Services Limited 337 Napier Street, Strathmore VIC 3041 ABN 84 096 122 459 **Directors:** Peter McKie (Chairman), Peter Brown JP (Company Secretary), Glenn Clements (Treasurer), Kerri Osborne, Michael Garaffillis, Phil Lusher, Craig Jenkins.

Branch Manager's report.



As we approach the end of financial year at a rate of knots we can again look back on another successful 12 months. In recent times we have reached a terrific milestone of \$100 million of lending business on our books and we have also surpassed 8,000 bank accounts for the very first time. To top this off we have been able to assist

with protecting our customers with a record 100 insurance policies throughout the 2014/15 financial year which is also a fantastic new achievement for the Strathmore **Community Bank®** Branch.

As you can see, our team at the branch is really kicking goals. Unfortunately the Essendon Bombers don't seem to be kicking many at the moment, but the season still has a long way to go!

The economic environment has certainly continued to make things very challenging for businesses over the past 12 months and the branch is certainly not immune to this with near record low interest rates. This low interest rate period we are in certainly makes it more difficult for our customers to survive off the interest from cash investments alone and possibly having to look at alternative investment structures to help make their dollar extend further. Our Wealth Planners who have the ability to also consider other

investment options have certainly been kept busy over this time. At the same time the branch has seen record levels of debt reduction as low interest rates have also brought the opportunity for customers to continue repaying the same amount as in previous years which has meant they are paying down their debts quicker. This is of course a good time for our loan customers to better position themselves and create increased equity in their properties.

We continue to play a big part and provide substantial support back into the local and surrounding community. Our philosophy is that we are investing back into our community. The more successful our customers are, the more successful our local community will be, which in turn makes us a successful **Community Bank®** branch.

I would like to thank our volunteer Board of Directors for all the time and effort they put in to continue to help drive the success that is the Strathmore **Community Bank®** Branch.

Last but not least I would like to thank you, our shareholders for your support of your local **Community Bank®** branch as without you we wouldn't be **Bigger than a bank.**

Phil Stewart
Branch Manager

Get set for your next big trip - on us!*

At Bendigo Bank we're more international than you think with a range of products to help you get set for your next big holiday.

Simply purchase foreign exchange or international travel insurance products before 31 July for your chance to go in the draw to win a 15 night APT European river cruise.

Drop into your nearest branch at 337 Napier Street, Strathmore or phone 9374 2607 and talk to us about your travel needs.



 **Bendigo Bank**
Bigger than a bank.

Strathmore **Community Bank®** Branch

*Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879. Promotion applies to eligible Bendigo Bank foreign exchange and travel insurance products purchased between 9am on 01/05/15 and 5pm on 31/07/15 (AEST). Travel insurance issued by CGU Insurance Limited ABN 27 004 478 371 AFSL 238291. Bendigo Bank acts under its own AFSL and under an agreement CGU. Visit bendigobank.com.au for T&Cs. Permit numbers: VIC 15/754; ACT TP15/05453; NSW LTPS/15/02568; SA T15/571. S51636-5 (254653_v1) (21/05/2015)

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14 years serving our community.

It was our 14th birthday and we celebrated with our community.

On Saturday 28 March 2015 our local community celebrated our 14th birthday in style.

We had fun with an old-fashioned street party. Musicians got the feet tapping, while a jumping castle, face painters, and balloon modelling delighted all ages. Fairy floss and a sausage sizzle took care of heartier appetites.



Your Bank, Strathmore Community Bank® Branch has given over \$6 million back to the community!

Some of our recent sponsorships:

Strathmore Tennis Club

SES – Essendon Unit

Oak Park Community Sports Assoc

PEGS Soccer Club

Hillside Football Club

St Therese's Netball Club

Rotary Club of Pascoe Vale

St Vincent de Paul Primary School

Coburg Lions Football Club

Northern Golf Club

Clifton Park Bowling Club

Western Arts Theatre



Bully Zero Foundation.



In April 2012 a group of energetic, passionate and committed individuals consisting of families of bullying victims, senior members of the police force, volunteers, psychologists, teachers, politicians and professionals from various backgrounds established a Foundation like no other.

The Bully Zero Australia Foundation was launched on 16 March 2013 and continues to work tirelessly to deliver evidenced-based, effective programs on a National level. The Foundation exists to protect and empower children, adolescents, teachers, parents, employees and employers, to live fulfilling lives free from all forms of bullying.

Allem Halkic was a teenager with a promising future until he tragically committed suicide as a result of persistent and callous cyber bullying. In 2014 more than 2,500 Australians committed suicide, that is equivalent to 6 a day and 180 attempts are made daily.

These statistics are a tragic reflection of the magnitude of the problem. More than 250 children committed suicide in Australia last year alone. Some of these deaths were attributed to bullying. A staggering one in eight Australians is affected by workplace bullying and cyber bullying affects as many as one in five, often with devastating results.

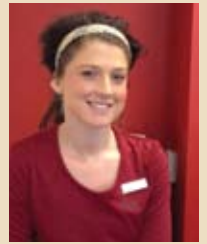
Bully Zero Australia Foundation has surveyed 308 parents of children aged 10-16 over the past 10 months and found 75% are concerned about the impact of Social Media on their children's on and off-line behaviour. Parents agreed they were digital natives of the online world and many were not sure about the language, apps and social media platforms their children were using.

More than 70% of parents were not aware that bullying was a crime in Victoria and anyone over the age of ten could be charged. Furthermore, 85% did not know about the Federal Crimes legislation amendment Act, which makes using a carriage way to menace, harass or offend others online a crime, punishable by three, seven or ten years imprisonment depending on the threat.

In May 2013 we joined the fight to help the Foundation provide genuine and enduring care for bullying victims and their families and to help create awareness and a permanent positive change.

Staff profile.

Edwina Baxter,
Customer Relationship Officer



What is your favourite emergency snack?

Thins Salt & Vinegar Chips and Chocolate

What would be your last meal?

2 x Tacos and a Chilli Con Queso (cheese Dip) from the Mexican Kitchen in Bendigo

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Bali

What is a typical Sunday morning for you?

Sleep in till 9-10am, make a Nutri Bullet juice then off for a walk with my dog

What would we find on your bedside table?

Lamp, Pink and Gold clock, good luck elephant, TV remote, perfume & sometimes flowers if I'm lucky.

What is your favourite sports team?

Carlton - the navy blues

How do you like to unwind?

Relax on the couch watching Home & Away or some sort of TV show

What has been your very best buy?

I'm not sure. Everything I buy is the best lol

Strathmore Community Bank® Branch

337 Napier Street, Strathmore VIC 3041 Phone: 9374 2607

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

Website: www.strathmore3041.com.au

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