



Christmas message.

The Directors and staff at Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch would like to wish all our customers, shareholders and their families a safe and happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Yinnar Pre-School - “Bookworms” Project.

This project was to implement a library system where children can borrow a book from pre-school, take it home for a week then bring it back and exchange it for another. In addition to the preschool’s current stock of books, they planned to purchase some sustainability books (to encourage discussion on looking after the world), bookshelves, library bags and a large reading mat.



Pre-school staff moved quickly to use the **Community Bank**® branch grant to establish the (library) before the end of the 2015 kinder classes. The initiative was a great success on all respects.

Left: First reading resource for new “bookworms” – their personal folder.

We’ve hit half a million!

We at Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch are celebrating a milestone, having recently clocked the return of over \$500,000 back to our community, a remarkable feat in just six years of operation! A **Community Bank**® company has a range of options for returning profits back to its community, and the breakdown from Mirboo North operations currently stands at:

Grants	\$187,430
Sponsorships	\$173,921
Dividends to Strzelecki Ranges Community Enterprises Limited shareholders	\$125,019
Education support	\$55,544
Donations	\$10,328

This is proving to be a remarkably rewarding business for our local community, and we extend our thanks to all those who have supported it, whether by working there, volunteering time, holding shares, or coming through the doors to provide the business that is vital for the success of our **Community Bank**® branch. Every bit of business through our branch contributes to the amount that we can distribute back to the community, so we’d encourage anybody thinking of taking out a new banking, superannuation, insurance, financial planning or agribusiness product to come in and have a chat with Alan.

Top of page: Boolarra Folk Festival Sponsorship.

Strzelecki Ranges Community Enterprises Limited 88 Ridgway, Mirboo North VIC 3871 **ABN** 76 139 013 095

Directors: Margaret Lynn, Anne Marie Dieperink, Warren Warner, Thomasin Bales, John Butler, Sam Carbone, Peter Gardener, Matthew Gleeson, Janette Head, Alan McNamara.

Yinnar CFA “Furphy” Renewal Project.

The Furphy fire tanker is a historic trailer tanker with pump and hoses. During the recent bushfire emergencies it has been the only firefighting resource remaining in the town. It is still operational but urgently requires refurbishment of the barrel, hoses and trailer. The Furphy Company in Shepparton can fit a new stainless steel barrel. A Community Grant for the project was awarded in October 2015.

The tanker has now been dismantled, and the tank loaded onto a trailer for transporting to Furphys in Shepparton. There it will be re-sleeved to make it watertight. Meanwhile the pump, hoses etc will be refurbished by CFA volunteers in Yinnar.

Right: The Furphy Fire Trailer tank barrel being loaded on a trailer for the trip to Shepparton for re-sleeving.



Your current Community Bank® branch staff.

Branch Manager

Alan Bannister

Customer Service Supervisor

Kim Farquharson

Customer Service Officers

Susan Clark, Sarah Lawson,
Nicole Smith

Customer Relationship Officer Sam Gardiner

L2P fundraiser.

Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch has recently gone above and beyond its usual remit of returning business profits to the community, with its staff choosing to spearhead a fundraising campaign (under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Mirboo North) towards the purchase of a locally based car for the L2P Program. L2P is a Learner Driver Mentor Program being run by South Gippsland Shire Council, which matches fully licensed volunteer mentors with young learner drivers so that they can gain the 120 hours of driving experience necessary to gain their License. The South Gippsland L2P Program currently has just one sponsored car for use by learner/mentor pairs, and it is based in Leongatha. Providing a vehicle to be housed in Mirboo North will make volunteering significantly easier for Mirboo North mentors.

Funds raised for the program now exceed \$10,000. Strzelecki Ranges Community Enterprises Limited has committed to contribute \$1 for every \$2 raised, up to \$6,000. We are now within \$2,000 of buying a Mirboo North-based car for the anticipated \$18,000 purchase price.



Above: L2P sponsor – Cap purchase.

Greenlight.

Driver education for young locals has received another boost recently with a Greenlight Youth Driver Education Course held at Mirboo North Secondary College. The Greenlight Road Safety Program is run by Motorvation



Mobile, who provide a fun and safe opportunity for hands on driving experience using world-class driving simulators, as well as a powerful focus on reducing risk through examining driver psychology and encouraging responsible attitude change. Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch, with the support of CGU Insurance and Lead On Australia, were keen to fund this program, which ended up benefiting 21 senior students at the school.



Above left: **Community Bank®** company Directors cooking lunch for participants.

Above: Inside Greenlight training bus.

New faces.

Our newest member of the **Community Bank**[®] branch family arrived on 22 February when Adriana gave birth to a son, Jake. Congratulations Adriana and Matt on your now strapping lad of nine months. Wow, how time flies!



Above: Adriana, Matt and baby Jake.

Adriana's replacement for 12 months is Samantha Gardiner, who has three years' experience in banking and has made a huge contribution to the team and to customers' banking experience.



Above: Sam Gardiner – new staff member.

The Board has welcomed Thomasin Bales as a Director. She is highly qualified in Environmental Science and spent a decade working as an Environmental Scientist before moving to Mirboo to raise a new family. Thomasin is now heavily involved in supporting local community groups, particularly within the early childhood and environmental sectors. Her recent appointment as Mirboo Community Development Inc's Community Project Officer will extend her experience of Mirboo North & District's wealth of community groups.



Above: Thomasin Bales – New Director.

A second new Board appointment is John Butler from Yinnar. John worked for 34 years as a Veterinary Surgeon in the Latrobe Valley and he brings small business knowledge and skills to the Board. He is actively involved in Yinnar Lions, the Fire Brigade and Yinnar Community Development Association. John's significant contribution to the Board through the Community Advancement Committee and the Business Development and Marketing Committee is already apparent.



Above: John Butler – New Director.

Departures.

John Harris and Rob Herni are foundation members of the Mirboo North and District **Community Bank**[®] Company Board, having joined the original steering committee in 2008/09. They resigned at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, leaving us with big shoes to fill.

John's extensive qualifications and experience in Education at Monash Gippsland was the background from which his eye for detail, analytical skills and sound policy development capacity came in his work with the **Community Bank**[®] company. He chaired the Board from 2011 to 2014, chaired Governance Committee 2010 to 2016 and was a member of all other committees. He was a keen advocate for Yinnar and District and will be missed, but we wish him and Marilyn some more free time to enjoy life and the grandchildren.

Rob also brought a wealth of experience onto the Board, from work with the Human Services Department to running his own nursery. Rob had extensive management and committee experience, and also a great depth of community experience. He knows Boolarra very well and has participated in or led community organisations for many years, representing Boolarra, from 2010 to 2016 and chairing Business Development & Marketing committee from 2013 to 2016. With his work on other committees, Rob's support for the Board will be missed, including his willingness to make his ute available whenever it was needed! We wish him and Marietta some quiet (?) time together.



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Community Grants 2015.

		\$
Yinnar CFA	Refurbishment of Historical Fire Tanker	3,300.00
Yinnar & District Lions Club	Vista Seating	739.96
Yinnar South Primary School	Frog Dreaming	1,549.97
Yinnar & District Preschool	Bookworms	2,420.95
Boolarra South Landcare	Signage - Boiler Track - Old Mill Site	4,900.00
Grand Strzelecki Track	Pattison Rest Area Picnic Table	1,950.00
Hallston Mechanics Institute	Refurbishment of Hallston Hall Front Porch	4,500.00
St Johns Ambulance Victoria	Equipment Upgrade	1,200.00
Mirboo North Kindergarten	Weather Not Permitting!	1,918.50
Mirboo North Community Shed Coop	Replace Air Conditioners	3,050.00
Mirboo North Historical Society	New Computer Hardware	3,193.95
Lions Club of Mirboo North	Purchase Industrial Quality BBQ	500.00
Mirboo North Art Space	Display Area Fitout	3,289.00
Young Mens Christian Assn of Ballarat	St Andrew Child Care Security	3,185.00
	Total	35,697.33



Above: 2015 Grant Recipients at cheque Presentation Night.



Above: Picnic Table purchased with MN&D Community Bank grant at the Pattison Rest Area on Grand Strzelecki Track.

Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch

88 Ridgway, Mirboo North VIC 3871 Phone: 5668 1231

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

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/mirboo-north facebook.com/bendigobank twitter.com/bendigobank



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