



We celebrate our 5th birthday.

What an achievement! This July marks five years of full banking services in Mirboo North and district, the fulfilment of a dream after much tireless commitment.

The **Community Bank**[®] branch is run under franchise from Bendigo Bank by the Board of Strzelecki Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd who employ our Manager Alan, and staff, Kim, Adriana, Susan, Sarah and Nicole.

We are very grateful to our shareholders who enabled a great start with a generous level of capitalisation. We are proud to have been able to offer two dividends already in return.

We have grown steadily in our five years. We are now a robust and sustainable business that is coping well within a challenging economic climate. We still have huge potential for growth, and the

more we expand, the more we can help our communities to meet their own needs.

Our customers invest in their community with every transaction – every loan, deposit and banking product.

This celebration also recognises 15 years of banking with Bendigo Bank in Mirboo North. The agency that preceded the branch supported local households and businesses for a decade until the time was right to develop a full **Community Bank**[®] branch.

Shareholders are invited, along with other invited guests, to share our celebration morning tea on Friday 17 July at the RSL, and customers are invited to call into the branch to receive a birthday cake as our thanks for your loyal support.

Arty Gras support.

Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch has been a strong supporter of the Arty Gras festival with yearly sponsorship. This year our participation of a 'Maypole' in the parade (shown right and above) showcased some of the groups that we sponsor or have received grants.



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

Community Grants 2015.

Q. What makes your Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch Bigger than a bank?

A. The majority of our profits go back to our community as Community Grants.

The Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch is committed to helping advance the physical and social wellbeing of our communities. By improving facilities and encouraging social interaction, grants empower community groups to grow, to include more people of all ages and to enrich their lives. Some examples are:

- Last year we supplied funds for the Mirboo North Kindergarten to purchase a Recycling Station. This may appear to be a small thing but it teaches children a life ethic;
- By assisting the Mirboo Recreation Reserve to purchase Solar Panels for their clubrooms this facility has become more sustainable and so can be accessed by more groups;
- We have enabled the Yinnar Scouts to build a shed to store all their equipment. We've helped the Boolarra Memorial Park Committee fund the preparation of a master plan for redevelopment of the Park facilities;
- We have supported our three major community festivals – Mirboo North's Arty Gras, Boolarra Folk Festival and Yinnar's Fiddlehead Festival;
- The Mirboo North & District Energy Hub is an ongoing project aiming to make all residents more aware of the benefits and sustainability of cutting energy usage and costs. Their workshops, partly funded by our **Community Bank®** branch, are for your benefit and we encourage you to attend when one is held in your area.

SRCEL approved the funding of the following local community projects in 2014 after a successful financial year for 2013/14.

Applicant	Project	\$
Mirboo Recreation Reserve	Solar power	\$2,500
Boolarra Football Netball Club	Solar panels & air-conditioning	\$7,000
Mirboo North Kindergarten	Recycling station	\$879
Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding	Water tank & CFA outlet	\$2,500
Italian Australian Seniors Group	Fridge freezer	\$1,000
1st Yinnar Scout Group	Store shed - concrete floor	\$3,000
Mirboo Nth Golf Club	Defibrillator	\$1,650
Yinnar & District Housing Development	Concrete driveway	\$1,500
Mirboo North Community Energy Hub	Workshops & seminars	\$2,500
Yinnar and District Preschool	Rubber bike track	\$4,000
Total		\$26,529



Clockwise from left: Mirboo North Kindergarten cubby; Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding; 2014 Grant recipients; Mirboo North Kindergarten recycling station.

Grants? Donations? Sponsorships? Dividends?

What are they? What's the difference?

The **Community Bank**[®] branch supports the communities of Mirboo North, Boolarra, Yinnar and Districts in a number of ways. Each year the Board of Directors sets aside funding to assist our communities. A small amount (\$2,500 in 2015) is set aside for donations. This enables us to respond quickly, usually through Branch Manager Alan, to a small but urgent issue for a community member or an organisation.

Providing community grants is what makes our **Community Bank**[®] model unique. In big banks 100% of their profit is returned to shareholders but with the **Community Bank**[®] model we are different. Our shareholders agreed at the outset to receive only a 20% share, leaving the remaining 80% for reinvestment in the community via community grants. That's where the money comes from and that's how we've been able to put \$ 143,000 into the community in four years via community grants. These grants are an investment in our communities and their future prospects, with no consideration of any return to the **Community Bank**[®] branch or company.

As stated above, shareholder dividends are paid from the 20% of our annual profits set aside for this purpose. As our profits grow, so will the dividends paid to our shareholders, the local residents whose commitment enabled the establishment of our **Community Bank**[®] branch.

Although the sponsorships paid to date by the **Community Bank**[®] branch have been similar in magnitude to our community grants, their purpose is very different. Like all sponsorships, these are a business investment, intended to provide a financial return to the **Community Bank**[®] branch by increasing the number of branch customers and their level of banking. Sponsorships paid to local clubs and groups are reviewed on a regular basis to assess their effectiveness.



Right: Funding for the 1st Yinnar Scout Group for a store shed and concrete floor.

Equipment finance.

Did you know that Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch has a full suite of banking products available including equipment finance products such as a chattel mortgage, hire purchase or lease? As a **Community Bank**[®] branch we are able to offer you every banking product that Bendigo Bank has to offer its customers.

Equipment finance products are designed to provide a very competitive interest rate and a quick approval and funding time (often within 24 hours) with little provision of paperwork. This procedure lets you get on with your busy schedule and gives confidence that your proposal will be funded promptly.

The Federal Government has recently announced tax concessions for small business to purchase new equipment and receive an immediate tax benefit of up to \$20,000.

So, if you are considering purchasing equipment for your business why not contact us on 5668 1231 for a competitive quote and take advantage of the new tax concessions available?

Bendigo Loans and Credit Cards are subject to terms and conditions. Some fees and charges to apply and valuations will be necessary for refinancing and attracts charges from the valuer. All loans are subject to Bendigo Bank's normal lending criteria. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879.

Mirboo North Business Expo.

The Old Shire Hall was bursting with life on 30 April when traders, customers and interested community members demonstrated or explored what the district's businesses have to offer. It was a highly successful night for participants, including the **Community Bank**[®] branch. Branch Manager Alan Bannister held numerous conversations around the hall with folk interested in pursuing banking products. Alan is still following up many of these enquiries.

A feature of the night was a competition for a Samsung 10.1 tablet donated by the MNCB and was won by Tamara, a staff member at the Mirboo North Pharmacy. Congratulations Tamara.

The Expo was organised by Mirboo Country Development Inc's Traders' Group.



New Executive Officer.

Anne-Marie Dieperink

Last October Strzelecki Ranges Community Enterprises Limited, operating company for the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch, announced a new appointment to the dual roles of Company Secretary and Executive Officer.



Following the resignation from these positions of Peter Gardener, who has played a significant part for many years in the provision of banking services to Mirboo North and establishment of the **Community Bank**[®] branch, Anne-Marie Dieperink has been appointed as his replacement.

Anne-Marie will bring a new perspective to the roles with her business background, skills and qualifications. In a quickly changing business environment her past experience in business administration and management will be valuable.

The Board is very fortunate to gain someone with extensive and relevant experience, together with a commitment and involvement in community development in Mirboo North and District.

The Board.

We currently have 11 Directors on the Board. In the last 12 months we have welcomed Anne Marie Dieperink as both a Director and Executive Officer, and Sam Carbone and Alan McNamara (pictured right) as new Directors.



Following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, the Board elected Dr Marg Lynn as the new Chair, and expressed its huge appreciation for the work of John Harris, who stood down after three years as Chairman. John has led the Board through a period of consolidating its governance structures, clarifying policies and directions, broadening its community relationships and developing a more strategic approach to its work.

Peter Gardener regretfully relinquished the Executive Officer role for health reasons but has remained as a Director, and has recently filled in for Anne Marie during her overseas holiday.

Warren Warner continues as Treasurer.

The Board has five committees:

- Business Development and Marketing – Chaired by Rob Herni
- Community Advancement – Chaired by Jan Head
- Finance and Audit – Chaired by Peter Gardener
- Governance – Chaired by John Harris
- Human Resources and Property – Chaired by Marg Lynn.

So, put your thinking caps on, prioritise the projects which will assist your group's future development, and contact the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch on (03) 5668 1224 to see when grants are available. And remember, the more you support Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch with your banking, the more we can support the community.

Our staff.

For all your banking needs call in and see us at 88 Ridgway, Mirboo North, phone 5668 1231 or at Shop 3, 42-44 Main Street Yinnar (Wednesday afternoons) and you will receive the friendly, informed service for which Bendigo Bank is renowned, we welcome your enquiry.

The branch is staffed by the following team members:

Branch Manager	Alan Bannister
Customer Relationship Officer	Adriana Tumino
Customer Service Supervisor	Kim Farquharson
Customer Service Officer	Susan Clark
Customer Service Officer	Nicole Smith
Customer Service Officer	Sarah Lawson



Business Bank of the Year. Four years running.

At Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch we make it our business to make your business better. It's why we've been awarded Business Bank of the Year by Roy Morgan for the fourth year in a row.

Drop into your nearest branch at 88 Ridgway, Mirboo North or phone 5668 1231 to find out more.



bendigobank.com.au/business



Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879. S51836-06 (259238_v1) (30/06/2015)



Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch

88 Ridgway, Mirboo North VIC 3871 Phone: 5668 1231 Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/mirboo-north

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

Agency: Shop 3, 42-44 Main Street Yinnar VIC 3869 Opening hours: Wednesday afternoons 1.30pm – 5.00pm



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