



## Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch announces \$1 million in community contributions.

On a special Mirboo North night, at the opening of the Art Show, Alan Bannister Manager of the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch, made a remarkable announcement – over \$1 million in contributions have been distributed to our communities through the work of the bank.

Twenty years ago, the district was left without adequate banking services, after two major banks left Mirboo North, and a group of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to establish an agency. Ten years later, it was time to up the ante and in July 2010 the **Community Bank®** branch was established. The **Community Bank®** model sees a locally owned business, run by a volunteer Board, sharing its revenue with Bendigo Bank and its profits going back into the local community, and of course its shareholders.

With strong support from shareholders and customers, a full suite of services comparable to that of the 'Big 4' banks, was now brought back to the area. Over the ensuing years a strong community asset evolved, enabling funding support to a total of 107 community groups and organisations in the Boolarra, Mirboo North and Yinnar districts.

Excellent profits over time from an increasing customer base have made it possible to reinvest \$1 million into our district facilitating strengthening and growth within our communities.

"We exist to provide banking services, employment opportunities and support to our community with much needed funding through grants, sponsorships and donations. It is with great pleasure that we make this announcement and we look forward to the community's continued support enabling the bank to distribute further funding," Alan explained.

The **Community Bank®** branch has provided \$443,796 in grants, \$301,323 in sponsorship, \$16,840 in donations and \$241,462 for the Education Support Fund (now perpetual).



This comes to a spectacular grand total of \$1.003 million. Not included in this total are dividends of \$200,030 paid to our shareholders.

Kerry Peachey, current Chair of the **Community Bank®** branch Board of Directors had this to say, "I'm proud to be part of this exciting event and to work with the Directors in continuing to build on this great result. We thank our customers, staff, shareholders and Board Directors past and present for making this significant achievement possible. We also thank those who were responsible for the initial establishment of the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch."

This result truly highlights what people can achieve when working together; those whose vision saw the inception of the bank, the investment made by our community and the support of a trusted bank – The Bendigo, all confirming our motto 'Banking is our Business, Community is our Purpose'.



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

**Directors:** Thomasin Bales, Colin Brick, John Butler, Margaret Lynn, Anne Marie Dieperink, Matt Gleeson, Janette Head, Kerry Peacey, Marg Thomas, Warren Warner.



## Thanks Bendigo Bank.

Little did a group of local women know four years ago, when they revitalized the flagging St Paul's Festival and initiated the first Mirboo North Italian Festa that it would grow to be such a hugely successful event, attracting thousands of people from the local area, metropolitan Melbourne and many other regions of Victoria.

Now with the ongoing backing of major sponsors the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch, the Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Mirboo & District Community Foundation – the future of Festa is assured for the next few years according to coordinator Rosie Romano. “Without the generous sponsorship and commitment from the Bank – as well as support from other sponsors, the free event would simply not be possible to stage” said Rosie.

It's become an event where families and people of all ages come together to enjoy a wonderful day of Italian food, entertainment and cultural immersion and has grown from around 5,000 attendees in its first year (2016) to an estimated 20,000 this year.

The crowds enjoyed a fantastic array of authentic foods from all the regions of Italy served at over 40 food stalls. Cooking demonstrations featured guest chefs and also local nonna's

sharing their secret recipes.

The cultural highlight this year however was the performance by the Sbandietori di Faenza. Festa attendees were transported back centuries as the sbandietori put on a spectacular performance tossing and twirling their flags high in the air. Their stunning Renaissance inspired costumes of intricately embroidered velvet and their colourful individual flags made for an impressive entry as they strode in to the performance area to the dramatic beating of drums.

Travelling from the Emilia Romagna region of Italy, the sbandietori spent a week in the rural area of South Gippsland prior to travelling to the Hobart Italian Festa. Other performers

included Roman re-enactors who patrolled the Festa in full battle armour, metal shields and swords, helmets, chainmesh and headgear. The Melbourne School of Tarantella and Rustica Project band, Dean Canan and Angelo Maglioccio who had everyone up and dancing.

“The feedback about the Festa has been so positive and it is growing every year,” Rosie said. We are proud that a tiny town of less than 2,000 people is showcasing the very best of Italian culture in Regional Victoria. It's certainly becoming the place to be on the second Sunday in February each year!



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## Bank a major contributor towards Yinnar wood sculpture.

On 7 April in Yinnar, the first major event of the Yinnar Sculpture Exhibition was a demonstration of chainsaw wood carving by Rob Bast. Rob is the current Australian National Chainsaw Carving Champion and visitors were enthralled by Rob's skills as over the course of several hours he produced a stunning wood sculpture of Billy Hillier on horseback with his faithful working dog by his side. Billy, along with Nicholas Brown, were the first squatters to take up Scrubby Forest Run, and area of 5,730 acres, in 1848. The run incorporated what was later to become the Yinnar township.

The finished sculpture will be permanently displayed in Yinnar. The Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch is thrilled to have been one of the major contributors to the provision of Rob Bast's skilled demonstration and the resultant beautiful woodcarving which will become part of Yinnar's heritage.





## Mirboo North & District Vital Signs reveals its 'Village of 100'.

Supported by the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation and the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch and led by an advisory committee of individuals representing our communities, the Mirboo North & District Vital Signs Project is gathering data and talking to local experts in relation to health, education, economy and environment.

Mirboo North & District's Vital Sign project is a community check-up that aims to measure the vitality of our community and identify significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life.

The Project covers Dumbalk, Allambee, Thorpdale, Narracan, Yinnar and Yinnar South, Boolarra and Boolarra South as well as Mirboo North, and many smaller communities in between.

To provide an initial snapshot of our communities, we have been building a profile and putting it together as if our communities were a 'Village of 100'.

For example, in our Village of 100, 80 of us were born in Australia. More of us work part-time than the Victorian average, and also, more of us work over 49 hours per week. More of us are self-employed, no doubt partly accounting for the higher hours worked.

If our communities were a 'Village of 100', 44 of us would be earning below \$650 a week and one of us would be earning over \$3,000. It is interesting to note that in 2016, the minimum weekly wage for a full-time job (38 hours) was \$672.

Marg Lynn, **Community Bank**® Director and member of the advisory committee said "We have been gathering data on our themes, and defining our Village of 100, and we are now turning to the communities to consult them on how this information resonates with them and what the lived experience of these dimensions of social life might look like".

In late May and June four community forums will be run, one in each of Boolarra, Mirboo North, Thorpdale and Yinnar. We would love to see as many of you as possible there, as we want to hear your community voices.

To find out more, follow us on facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/mirboonorthdistrictsvitalsigns](http://www.facebook.com/mirboonorthdistrictsvitalsigns)  
or email: [mirboonorthdistrict@vitalsignsaustralia.org.au](mailto:mirboonorthdistrict@vitalsignsaustralia.org.au)

## Community reinvestment: Smart Science.



Photo of Matthew Cook and Chloe Durkin

New lab coats are boosting the pride and sense of belonging for science students at Mirboo North Secondary College. "They feel very professional," said Chloe Durkin, a Year 10 student who modeled a lab coat for our story.

Our **Community Bank**® branch provided \$3,500 sponsorship for the purchase of 65 lab coats to replace a many years old set of rather worn garments, which will become cut-down primary school art smocks.

Science teacher Tom Holman, said the Year 7 students feel very grown up and special in their new coats. They cover all sizes up to the senior school's adult dimensions.

The lab coats bear the logo of the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank**® Branch and the school's own logo and look very smart indeed.

## Your best interests at heart.

If your bank isn't doing the right thing by you, change to one you can feel better about.

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

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## Mirboo North Business Expo.

After huge success in 2015 it was time to run this event again and this year the Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch were the hosts.

At the expo we had over 35 business stalls and around 100 people came through the door.

Outside, Boolarra Koffee Kart, Wednesday Warriors and Café Escargot were serving delicious food and beverages.

Not only did the event allow the community to see what wonderful businesses the area has to offer; the businesses themselves commented that the networking opportunity the Expo provided was fantastic.

There were many lucky door prizes donated by the businesses themselves as well as a generous major prize of a \$500 bank account from Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch. This was won by John from Kangura Craft. Congratulations John.

All in all, a very successful Expo that showcased not only our local businesses but, also the support our **Community Bank®** branch provides to the district.



## A word about shares.

Readers of previous newsletters might have noticed that we often tell you about having shares to sell.

Some shareholders have moved away, some sadly have died, some need the money for their next big purchase.

Buying our shares makes economic sense as well as being a good investment in our community. In December the dividend we paid was 5c in the dollar, a good bit more than bank interest these days!

Owning a piece of our **Community Bank®** branch may make you feel good, as well as helping out someone who needs to sell their shares now.

Contact Anne Marie Dieperink on 0428 844 298 if you are interested in buying shares or extending your existing shareholding.

Mirboo North & District **Community Bank®** Branch

## There are four big reasons to try number five.



If your bank isn't doing the right thing by you, change to one you can feel better about.

- Australia's 5th largest retail bank.
- 1.6 million customers.
- Competitive products. Innovative service.
- \$200 million back to communities.

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

 **Bendigo Bank** The better big bank.



## Community Bank® branch announces \$1 million back to the district.



## Be prepared for stormy weather.

With storms, floods and cyclone season fast approaching, it's timely to think about the protection of your home, contents or investment property.

And knowing your biggest assets are properly covered is important.

Is the insurance you have, the cover you need?

To review your insurance needs, get a quick quote or arrange cover call 5668 1231 or drop into Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch at 88 Ridgway.

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## 2018/19 Grant recipients.

Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch are proud to support the following local clubs and organisations.



Applicant	Project title	Amount granted
Hallston Mechanics Institute	Heating and cooling for Hall	\$8,650
Mirboo North Grainstore Committee of Management	Defibrillator	\$2,865
Grandridge Railtrail Committee of Management	Workout pod	\$10,000
St Andrews Child Care (YMCA)	Refurbish outdoor learning play spaces	\$3,000
Yinnar/Boolarra Boomerang Bags	Sewing equipment	\$1,521
Mirboo North Artspace	First aid kit	\$250
Boolarra Memorial Hall	New electric stove	\$3,428
Boolarra Bowls & Recreation Club	New refrigerator	\$800
Mirboo North Country (MCDI)	Mirboo North Community Project Officer	\$5,000

## Our staff and Directors.

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

The branch is staffed by the following team members:

**Branch Manager** – Alan Bannister

**Customer Service Supervisor** – Kim Farquharson

**Customer Relationship Officer** – Samantha Gardiner

**Customer Service Officers** – Sarah Lawson, Susan Clark, Nicole Smith.



## Meet our Directors.

Kerry Peachey (Chair),  
Thomasin Bales (Deputy Chair),  
Colin Brick, John Butler, Anne Marie Dieperink,  
Matt Gleeson, Janette Head, Margaret Lynn,  
Marg Thomas, Warren Warner.



## Mirboo North & District Community Bank® Branch

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

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

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**Yinnar agency** Shop 3, 42-44 Main Street Yinnar VIC 3869

Opening hours: Wednesday afternoons 1.30pm – 5.00pm



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