



## Community Stories.

### Flamingo Community Group Trivia Night.



The Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch recently supported the Flamingo Community Group's trivia night by providing two \$250 bank accounts for use as prizes or auction items. The branch further supported Flamingo by providing a delegation to participate in the trivia night.

Board Chairman Merv Ericson with wife Kay, Board members Margarita Pimentel with husband Victor and Col Fletcher with wife Lyn represented the **Community Bank®** company and joined with Teacher Leanne Mason and her husband to finish a creditable fourth out of ten tables. They lost by only a handful of points from the top three tables.

This was a very successful night for the Flamingo Community Group with the Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch pleased to be able to support this fundraising activity financially and through participation.



### Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch Business Breakfast.

The Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch held a business breakfast for local businesses on 22 September 2015 at the Knox Club. The event was well supported with over 60 people attending.

Guest speaker David Robertson – Head of Financial Markets at Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited spoke about the recent economic conditions, trends and financial indicators that effect not only the wider economy but also how they may effect local businesses. The breakfast started at 7.15 am and concluded at 9.00am with many reporting a very informative function.

Special guests at the event were The Hon Heidi Victoria – State Member for Bayswater, The Hon Nick Wakeling – State Member for Ferntree Gully and Councillor Joe Cossari Knox Councillor for the Collier Ward.

Local business supported the event with six door prizes. The branch would like to thank Snap Fitness Wantirna Mall, Back in Motion, Good Life Party Catering, King Bean and Bendigo Bank for their kind donation of prizes for the event. The branch would like to add special thanks to the Knox Club for supporting the Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch and providing the venue and fantastic breakfast for the successful event.

The Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch are planning to have another business information breakfast early in 2016, so please watch out for dates.

Wantirna Community Financial Services Limited

**Directors:** Merv Ericson (Chairman), Peter Sheehy (Treasurer), Adam Nichol (Secretary), Gary Hunter, Vivian Prasad, Colin Fletcher, Margarida Pimentel and Vivian Gonsalves.

Shop 5-6 Wantirna Mall, 348 Mountain Highway, Wantirna VIC 3152 **ABN** 43 118 000 230

## Meet our new Chairman, Merv Ericson.



It gives me immense pleasure to provide my inaugural Chairman's report for our October 2015 newsletter.

As some may already be aware, I am a relatively new Board member of Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch company having been elected to the Board in December 2014.

However prior to my retiring from full time employment, I spent 47 years in the banking and finance industry, including 11 years as the Branch Manager at Pinewood **Community Bank®** Branch in Mount Waverley.

It was during the last 11 years of my employment as a **Community Bank®** Branch Manager that I gathered a thorough understanding of the **Community Bank®** model, which was the catalyst for me deciding to volunteer my time and energies to contribute as a **Community Bank®** company Director.

I have personally experienced the efforts required to get a **Community Bank®** branch opened, then the pressures experienced to reach profitability and finally, the immense benefits available to local community groups by partnering with the **Community Bank®** branch in our Community Investment Program. Simultaneously, when profitability is achieved, our shareholders receive a proportion of the profits achieved.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and endeavours of our previous Chairman, Andy Moutray-Read, who stepped down from the Chairman's role in June 2015 to concentrate on his original Board mentoring role.

Between March and June 2015, we undertook a focused Director Recruitment Program to strengthen our Board of Directors. Nine applicants were identified as having the skills and experience we saw as beneficial to our company's efforts and they were engaged in a three-month training and familiarisation program. In July 2015, we invited five of those applicants to join the Board and on the 21 July they were formally appointed as Directors.

Profiles of the new Directors appear in this newsletter and I welcome their contributions to Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch.

Another two applicants were unable to commit to full time Director roles but they have agreed to join the Board as committee members and their support is also welcomed.

During June - July 2015, three of our existing Directors resigned from the Board and we sincerely thank Geoff Purves, Cassandra Hatton and Robin Stenzel for their worthwhile contributions whilst members of the Board. Cassandra and Robin resigned due to increasing work commitments and Geoff, who has been a Director for over three years, has resigned to more fully enjoy his recent retirement.

In addition to the aforementioned Board changes, our longest serving Customer Service Officer, Debra Frazer, who commenced with the branch on our opening in September 2006, also decided to resign as at August 2015. Debra's contribution to the branch's development was formally acknowledged at a joint staff and board social event held in late August.

Our existing Customer Relationship Officer, Liz, has moved into Deb's role and we welcome Chris Wood to the team as Customer Relationship Officer.

The entire Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch staff and Board members are focused on increasing our community engagement activities to assist further grow the branch, to bring the company into profitability.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25 November and further advices will follow to shareholders with full details. I am personally looking forward to meeting many of the supporters and shareholders of the branch, at the Annual General meeting.

Regards,

**Merv Ericson**  
**Chairman**

## Meet our new Directors.

### Gary Hunter



Gary Hunter is keen to be an active member of the local community and in the past has worked with local community organisations to develop strong community activities and funding.

Gary has over 25 years' experience in senior management roles in global consumer goods companies. He has strong senior management exposure in the areas of finance, consumer goods sales, marketing, retail, Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) and start-up businesses. Gary originally started a successful wholesale/distribution business in 1995 predominantly within the preschool and educational toy industry. In 2000 Gary sold this business to a Chicago based business and became the Managing Director of the Australian operation. Since then Gary has held the positions of Vice President of International, based in the USA and Managing Director/CEO of Tomy International based in London. In 2013 Gary returned to Australia and is currently a business advisor to SME within the consumer goods and retail sectors.

Gary has a Bachelor of Business and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, successfully completing the Director course.

### Colin Fletcher



Colin and his family have lived in Wantirna since 1979, moving from Sydney in 1977. Colin has served the Wantirna and broader Knox community over the years, having served eight years on the School Council at Wantirna Heights Primary School (including five as President), nine years on the Wantirna Tennis Club Committee (including four as President and two as Treasurer) and was the foundation Vice President and primary instigator for the creation and development of the Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club. Colin also spent three years as a member of the Studfield Wantirna Community News production committee with primary responsibility for marketing, advertising and sponsorships. Colin is currently a Community Representative on two Knox Council panels, the Community Development Fund (CDF) and the Recreation, Leisure Liaison Group (RLLG).

### Vivian Prasad



Viv's career spans across private, not-for-profit and government sectors.

His executive career started off as a supervisor with Southern Restaurants Pty Ltd, where between 2005 to 2009, he successfully managed multiple restaurants at various locations within Victoria. During this period, he consistently delivered on customer service, P&L, sales and employee performance targets.

Between 2009 to 2011, he was part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival team as their Finance

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## Meet our new Directors (continued).

Executive where he assisted in successful delivery of three comedy festivals and numerous other associated programs.

Since the middle of 2011, Viv has been working for the Parliament of Victoria as their budget officer where his day to day work encompasses provision of all aspects of budget management services and advice to the Victorian Members of Parliament.

Viv has extensive experience in community work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Viv's forte is in leadership and strategic Board planning and has served on many national and international Boards.

In 2011, Viv received Victorian Multicultural Commission's Award of Excellence for 'Service Delivery to Victoria' by the then Premier of Victoria the Hon. Ted Baillieu at the Government House,

Melbourne. He is also a recipient of Indian Executive Club's Award for Government Services.

### Margarida Pimentel



Margarida Pimentel has a genuine desire to contribute to our community in a tangible way, and she is keen to bring her professional experience to the Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch. She is also a mentor with the Fitted for Work team, supporting women experiencing disadvantage and seeking employment.

Margarida has worked in the energy industry, across a variety of disciplines for around 20 years and has engineering and business qualifications. She has facilitated industry-wide change processes

and helped the industry to adapt to disruptive regulatory, economic and policy shifts. Her areas of expertise include: forecasting energy consumption and supply; negotiating infrastructure contracts and project managing their delivery; modelling market behaviour; and leading industry working groups.

In particular, Margarida has been involved in facilitating physical and financial energy markets through her work with the Australian Energy Market Operator and the National Electricity Market Management Company.

Margarida and her husband Victor have several nephews and nieces who keep them grounded and busy, plus two schnoodles Cosmo and Molly that keep them active and outdoors.

### Vivian Gonsalves



Vivian was born in Madras, India where he spent his educational

and early employment years. After obtaining his BA Economics degree from Loyola College, Madras, his keen interest in economic and international trade issues, resulted in him working for export oriented units within the leather, pharmaceutical and readymade apparel industries.

Migrating to Australia in 1991, he settled in Sydney and was

# Helping our community grow.

At Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch we recognise that local clubs, projects and community groups are an important part of the community. That's why we show our support in many different ways – like providing sponsorship for education for tots to teens.

**So just by banking with us, you're automatically part of something bigger.**

**Switch your banking today and help us build a strong community.**

**Call into our branch at 348 Mountain Highway, Wantirna or phone 9720 4122 to find out more.**



Bigger than a bank.

Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch

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## Meet our new Directors (continued).

employed at specialty chemical trading firm Bronson & Jacobs (now an Orica division) and Quality Ingredients, a niche food flavouring manufacturer.

Since moving to Wantirna in 2004 for family reasons, Vivian has expanded his managerial experience at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and Tata Global Beverages / Tetley Australia where he held the Supply Chain Manager role.

Vivian is deeply interested in local issues and is an active member of the St Luke Catholic Church where he has been a member of the fundraising and stewardship committees. A lover of animals, he barracks for the Sydney Swans, West Indies (cricket) and Brazil (soccer).

Vivian is keen to share his global supply chain and international trade knowledge and his in-country Indian experience with progressive local organizations requiring strategic capabilities in these areas.

## Meet our new Customer Service Officer.

### Chris Wood



Chris Wood has joined us recently and has over nine years' experience with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, including five years in branches in Melbourne's east. He is looking forward to meeting everyone from Wantirna Mall and all of the various community partners of the Wantirna **Community Bank®** Branch.

Chris is an avid Melbourne Victory fan and keen sports observer (also known as an armchair critic), and can easily talk for hours about the latest comings and goings in the wide world of sports.

The same applies to banking and Chris can help you with your finance needs, whether you are buying your first home, looking for somewhere to put your hard-earned savings, or looking to switch your banking across to support your local community.

The next time you come to the branch, feel free to introduce yourself to Chris!

Like us on facebook search for Wantirna Community Bank® Branch.



## Bendigo Home Loans.

### A fresh start is the start of something bigger.

While you're having your cuppa, ask yourself; "**Can I do better with my home loan?**"

Bendigo Bank customers are paying off their home loans at a record rate<sup>^</sup>.

So, consider a home loan from Australia's most reputable bank.

**Drop into your nearest branch at Wantirna Mall, 348 Mountain Highway, Wantirna or phone 9720 4122 to find out more.**



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Terms, conditions, fees, charges and lending criteria apply. Full details available on application. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879. <sup>^</sup>Based on excess repayment figures since 2012.\*As ranked by AMR Corporate Reputation Index 2015. The 60 companies included in the Reputation Index are sourced from the IBIS World Top 1000 Company list. The Reputation Index collates insight direct from consumers, and does not rely on any information provided by the companies being studied. S52650-12 (277475\_v1) (9/10/2015)



## Wantirna Community Bank® Branch

Shop 5-6 Wantirna Mall, 348 Mountain Highway, Wantirna VIC 3152 Phone: 9720 4122

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

Website: [www.bendigobank.com.au/wantirna](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/wantirna)



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