



\$7,000 donated to community groups.

Community Enterprise Foundation™ Grant Program 2019 – banking locally benefits the local community.

Thank you to all the community groups who submitted applications to the Community Grants Program this year. A total of \$7,000 has been distributed to the following successful groups:

Willaura Hospital Auxiliary	\$1,000	2019 Willaura Hospital Outdoor Market
Willaura Memorial Hall	\$2,000	Carpet
Lake Bolac Eel Festival	\$3,000	2020 Festival
Willaura & District Kindergarten	\$1,000	Enhancement of learning project



Willaura Memorial Hall Committee member Ron Jenkinson accepting a cheque from Customer Relationship Officer Lauren Givhan.



President Willaura Hospital Auxiliary Ruth Gellert happily accepting the cheque for \$1,000 from Branch Manager Lynsey Deer.

Welcome to our new Board member.

Recently we welcomed Tim McDougall to the Board. Tim lives in Ararat with his wife Ellie and two children, Freddie and Sophie.

Tim grew up on a farm near Maroona and went to kindergarten at Willaura. He enjoys playing football for Tatyoon Football Club, as well as playing cricket.

Tim has a long list of credentials, he studied Graphic Design at university and later on completed an Advance Diploma in Business Management. He has worked for Horsham Colour, Pyrenees Advocate in Beaufort and for the past five years has been working for Ararat Rural City Council starting as the Tourism & Community Information Coordinator. In more recent times Tim has managed Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre and his current role is coordinating the Economic Development Team.

What Tim will bring to the table is a fresh set of eyes with close links to new businesses in the region. He understands the value of our regional communities and the benefits of collaboration and will continue to up skill in the economic development space through his role at Council which he hopes to bring back his learnings to the group.

Tim looks forward to meeting more people within the Lake Bolac and Willaura communities in the future.



Tim McDougall.

Willaura/Lake Bolac Financial Services Limited 70 Main Street, Willaura VIC 3379 **ABN** 83 108 159 422

Directors: Colin McKenzie (Chairman), Lyn Webster (Secretary), David Hucker (Treasurer), Jane Blackburn, Rowly Paterson, Lisa Wills, Andrea Armytage, Davina Stacey.

We are out and about...

At the Willaura Hospital Market.

The 2019 Willaura Healthcare Market was once again a resounding success and enjoyed by all who attended. Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank**® Branch was pleased to provide a donation of \$1,000 which assisted with expenses of hiring equipment and children's entertainment. Over seventy stalls from near and far attracted approximately 1,000 people, and much needed funds were raised for Willaura Healthcare. Other attractions included the little train and a jumping castle to keep the kids entertained and food outlets, coffee vendors and the ice cream van did a roaring trade. Homemade cakes and preserves, as well as those of the professional vendors were snapped up as well. Entertaining the crowd once again was Ararat 800 School's 'Bamboozle Circus' and Ziggy and Ruth with their band SOFT created a relaxing atmosphere. Branch Manager Lynsey Deer along with Customer Relationship Officer, Lauren Givhan and Customer Service Officer, Lia Slattery enjoyed the day chatting to many locals and visitors who were there to pick up some handmade goodies, picking up some great bargains themselves.



Customer Relationship Officer, Lauren Givhan and Customer Service Officer, Lia Slattery enjoying the market atmosphere.

At the Wimmera Field Days – all roads lead to Longy in March.

Branch Manager Lynsey Deer and Customer Relationship Officer, Lauren Givhan travelled up to Longerenong recently, attending the Wimmera Field Days for the first time. The day was hot but that didn't stop them from having a great time, catching up with locals and being available to speak to at the Rural Bank Site. They thoroughly enjoyed their day out and the opportunity to learn more about agriculture and now look forward to attending sheepvention in August.



Proving they made it and didn't get lost!



Branch Manager, Lynsey Deer, along with Nathan Smith, Senior Branch Manager, Horsham at the Rural Bank site.



Lynsey getting into the farming spirit and buying herself a new Akubra hat.



Lynsey and Customer Relationship Officer, Lauren Givhan keeping cool with a 'Tasty Timboon' ice cream.

At the Victorian State Rural Fire Brigade Championships in Bendigo.

Customer Service Officer, Jo Byron travelled to Bendigo recently to watch the Willaura CFA Senior team compete in the Victorian State Rural Fire Brigade Championships. It was a great day out with the team doing well. The junior teams competed on the Sunday coming home with a few medals, so congratulations and well done to all the teams on a great effort. Bendigo Bank in partnership with Rural Bank were proud sponsors of the championships.

We understand the significant role that clubs, projects and community groups play in building the fabric of a local community and bringing people together. That's why we're delighted to support the Victorian State Rural Fire Brigade Championships and the CFA's contribution to our community.



Willaura CFA Team Members: L-R, Mitchell Byron, Zac Chick, Ben McInnes, Annabelle Millear, Rob Guttler (Coach) and Josh Byron.

To the men in our community... thank you for making our Men's Nights a huge success.

The two Men's Nights hosted recently by the Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank**® Branch were an outstanding success. Both evenings were booked out and large numbers of our much-valued men turned up to enjoy speakers from a range of fields, as well as good food and good company.

Willaura Men's Night.

At Willaura the focus initially started on Dr. Jacquie Cotton from the National Centre for Farmer Health. Her presentation described recent studies into Agrichemical Exposure in Australian Farmers and provided an informative session detailing the various results.

Marius Cuming, General Manager, Wool Grower Engagement, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), entertained the group with numerous anecdotes about his life as a former local footballer, even presenting Pat Milllear with a long-lost Willaura Football Club jumper. He went on to detail work of the AWI in promoting wool in its 'Fibre of

Football' and 'Flock to the Baggy Green' projects. Plenty of attendees were happy to try on an actual 'baggy green' cricket cap and the 100% wool raincoat had everyone intrigued. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed his informative and interesting presentation as well as having the opportunity to catch up with him later in the evening for a chat.

Finally, Olympic Marathon Champion, Steve Moneghetti inspired the crowd with his story of a humble, skinny kid from Ballarat who made it to the top of his chosen sport. He emphasised the value of working hard, appreciating success, and then contributing to and making the most of the community around you.

Organisers and the crowd alike were appreciative of the catering and amenities provided at the Pop-Up Pub run by the Willaura Recreation Reserve's volunteers.



Jo Byron, Lauren Givhan, Guest Speaker - Dr. Jacquie Cotton, Lynsey Deer.



Lynsey Deer, Shane Dean, Guest Speaker - Marius Cuming, Jo Byron, Lauren Givhan.



Steve Moneghetti during his presentation.



Enjoying a chat following the presentation were Marius Cuming, Robert Cooper and Pat Milllear.



Board Member, Rowly Paterson and Geoff Laidlaw enjoying a chat.



Marius Cuming during his presentation.



Lynsey Deer with Ian Corcoran – AICD Ballarat Regional Committee.



Above: Shane Dean, Lauren Givhan, Jo Byron, Steve Moneghetti, Lynsey Deer, Colin McKenzie.

Right top: Trying on the Baggie Green cap was Tom Fleming, with Peter Sporton.

Right: Jim Gibson and Peter Gleeson enjoying a catch up following the presentations.



Lake Bolac Men's Night.

At Lake Bolac another large crowd turned out to hear from a range of interesting speakers which proved to be an informative and friendly evening where stories were swapped and plenty of laughs enjoyed.

First up was George Leishman from Rural Financial Counselling Services who spoke of the importance of careful succession planning and described the range of assistance available to help ensure individuals and businesses were financially secure.

Dr Richard Lunz from the National Centre for Farmer Health spoke about his life and experiences in South Africa and his transition to Australia as a remote physician. Richard had an open and warm discussion with the crowd creating a good rapport with them, with the hope that men's and farmers health will be more of a priority to them.

Para Olympian, Don Elgin, born without the lower half of his left leg, which proved no obstacle for him and went on to compete at an elite level of sport for over 20 years. He represented Australia in the athletics at four World Championships, three Paralympic Games, two World Cups and a Commonwealth Games. Don inspired the crowd, speaking about his life and how he overcame adversity. He had a

terrific sense of humour that left the audience entertained from start to finish. His amazing journey inspired the audience with the feeling that anything really is possible and if there was one message, he left us with was that it's about making the most of life and 'having a crack'.

Finally, travellers Pam and Peter Brennan from Ararat spoke about their expedition to the Antarctica explaining how they got there, what life on the ship was like and how research groups lived in Antarctica.

They also showcased some magnificent photos including those of icebergs, penguins, seals and whales which are some of the creatures that habitat the area.

Once again organisers, guest speakers and the crowd were delighted with the catering and the delicious platters Paula Symons served.

Branch Manager Lynsey Deer thanked all involved in the evening, particularly the staff, and urged everyone to continue to promote and value our small communities. Thanks go to all who made the nights the success they were, and we're glad we were able to bring them to you.



Above: Tom Peters, Shane Jackson and Luke Jackson.



Right: Guest speaker George Leishman, Rural Financial Counselling Service VIC with local resident Sam McDonald catching up after the presentation.



Above: Lynsey Deer, Dr. Richard Lunz, Lauren Givhan, Shane Dean; front – Simone McDonald and Jo Byron.

Left: Guest speaker Dr. Richard Lunz during his presentation.



Guest speaker Don Elgin entertaining the crowd during his presentation.



Jo Byron, Lauren Givhan, Simone McDonald, Lynsey Deer, Shane Dean. Front- Peter and Pam Brennan.



Rod Laidlaw, John Lloyd, Richard Gibson, Andy Lamont and James Luckcock enjoying a chat before the presentations.



Simone McDonald, Lynsey Deer, Shane Dean, Lauren Givhan, Jo Byron. Front- Board Chairman, Colin McKenzie, and guest speaker, Don Elgin.



Charlie Vallance, Joe Higgins, Vin Hanrahan, John Higgins and Alex Clarke.



Guest speaker George Leishman during his presentation.

December Shop Local Promotion.

Thank you to all participating outlets and all who supported the December Shop Local Promotion. Congratulations to the following winners who won a \$50 voucher donated by the Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank**® Branch.



Above: Jackie Elliot from Willaura redeemed her voucher from Willaura Supermarket.



Above: Zac Chick from Willaura redeemed his voucher from Willaura Bakery.



Above: Una Allender from Lake Bolac redeemed her voucher from Gorst Rural Lake Bolac.



Above: Pauline Graham from Streatham redeemed her voucher from Parupa Metal Art Lake Bolac.

Easter Egg Competition.

This year we once again ran our popular Easter Egg Guessing Competition with local entrants trying to guess the correct amount of Easter Eggs in the jar without going over. The Lucky winners were Maggie May Minie at Willaura and Philip Brain from Lake Bolac. The total number of eggs in the jar was 63.



Top Right: Lynsey Deer presenting Lake Bolac winner Philip Brain with the jar of Easter Eggs.

Right: Lia Slattery presenting Willaura winner Maggie May Minie with her jar which she was delighted about.



Community resources – brand your next event.

Sponsorship recipients are invited to borrow our Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank**® Branch banners, marquee, cool room or other items for their event or activity. These items are great ways of further promoting your sponsorship while adding colour, shade and community benefit to your day. We also have a community eftpos machine available for hire. Please call our branches to discuss what is available and for bookings.



CHOOSE A BANK THAT'S 100% FOCUSED ON AUSTRALIAN FARMERS.

Rural Bank is a partner you can rely on to help you take control of your banking, stay on top of challenges and make the most of opportunities.

To find out more visit your local branch at Willaura and Lake Bolac Community Bank® branches and speak to Lynsey Deer.

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Available through **Bendigo Bank**

Ewe are joking! What are the girls up to now?

Getting into the Agriculture spirit once again the girls visited a local farm recently to learn about shearing and how to shear a sheep. There was lots of fun and laughter as well as entertaining the shearers and scaring the poor sheep.



Bowled over at the Lake Bolac's Barefoot Bowls competition.

The Lake Bolac and District Bowling Club has again held a very successful barefoot bowls competition over a 12 week period from 5 October to 21 December 2018. The Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank®** Branch was the proud naming rights sponsor and contributed \$600 to enable the club to put on a free sausage sizzle throughout the duration of the competition.

The tea break catered for up to 56 players – many of whom participated every week and providing a most pleasant and social feature of the evenings. The club is most appreciative of the support given by the Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank®** Branch with barefoot bowls providing a weekly outing for both young and young at heart novice and experienced players – a very well supported community event.



Mininera & District Football League (MDFL) has bounced the ball on another exciting season of footy.



The Willaura/Lake Bolac **Community Bank®** Branch, in partnership for the first time this year with Rural Bank, is once again proud to support the Mininera & District Football League this season by being the major sponsor of the 16 and under football competition and continue our strong partnership supporting local football. It's already shaping up to be an exciting season and we wish all football and netball teams best of luck for the rest of the season. Draws are now available at Willaura and Lake Bolac **Community Bank®** branches or Ararat branch.

Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank® Branch

Willaura

70 Main Street, Willaura VIC 3379

Phone: 5354 1170

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/willaura

Opening hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11.00am – 4.00pm,
Friday 9.00am – 12 noon

Lake Bolac

2110 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac VIC 3351

Phone: 5350 2374

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/lake-bolac

Opening hours: Monday and Wednesday 11.00am – 4.00pm,
Friday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Find us on Facebook - search Willaura & Lake Bolac Community Bank branches twitter.com/bendigobank



www.bendigobank.com.au