

Spring
2022

Newsletter

Community Bank · Willaura and Lake Bolac

Welcome

Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter: we hope you enjoy this edition and that you're enjoying the start of a new season.

There is nothing lovelier than springtime in the country. The days get longer, the weather begins to warm up, and colourful flowers start popping up. We've all been tucked up for long enough, and now it's time to get out and about and appreciate the great outdoors after what has been a very cold and wet winter. We are ready to bask in the glory of the new season and look forward to seeing you again soon, whether it be at a local event or in the branch.



Bright yellow paddocks of blooming canola are a glorious springtime sight in our district and a sign that winter is behind us. Photo taken locally showing a vibrant sea of yellow.

Top: The team had some fun with their photo shoot recently and making a cameo appearance was Dusty the puppy... how cute is he!

A Night With The Blokes

To the men in our community... thank you for making our "Night With The Blokes" a huge success.

"A Night With The Blokes" was held at the Willaura Memorial Hall on Wednesday 2 March, and what a fantastic evening it was. After such a difficult 18 months with COVID-19 and lockdowns it was great to finally be able to get together and enjoy a night out with friends and meet new people.

Thanks to the efforts of our local Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac, along with the support of Community Bank Dunkeld & District, the Bendigo Bank Ballarat & Western District Collaborative Marketing Cluster and Rural Bank, a superb night of entertainment and inspiration was enjoyed by close to a hundred "blokes".

The highlight of the evening was our guest speaker Glenn Cooper AM, Chairman of the largest Australian owned brewery in the country; Coopers Brewery. His presentation was very insightful and interesting, and some light hearted humour thrown in had the guests laughing.

Glenn spoke of the highs and lows of his 160 year old family company. He particularly noted the values and traditions Coopers have focussed on in order to continue to grow their success. Guests (many of whom were farmers) were also interested to hear how their barley was used to produce the malt that goes into making Coopers beer.



Guest Speaker Glenn Cooper AM Chairman Coopers Brewery kept the audience highly entertained.

A Night With The Blokes (continued)

Guests were also able to hear from Branch Manager Jack Oswald and our Rural Bank Regional Manager Greg Kuchel. Jack explained how Community Banks not only provide banking and financial services but have a unique point of difference in that profit generated from customers' banking goes back into local community projects. Greg spoke about Rural Bank, the team and how they can support farming families. He noted some publications such as Insights and Farmland Valuation Reports that are available to assist farmers.

All enjoyed a delicious meal provided by EV Cuisine and later tucked into desserts made by Willaura Healthcare Auxiliary members. The Bar was run by the Willaura Hall Committee, and we thank both the Auxiliary and the Committee for their volunteer efforts.

Our guests travelled from all over the state, including Ballarat, Warrnambool, Hamilton and Dunkeld, and we appreciated their attendance. However, to the men in our local community, thank you for helping make the evening a huge success. We're very glad you could come!



1. Emcee and Board Chairman Rowly Paterson welcoming guests. 2. Gordon Hucker, Fiona Whale and Les Bright. 3. Laurie Higgins, James Higgins, Glenn Cooper and Charlie Vallance.



4. Brendan Menz, Rob Guttler, Scott Evans and Alex Fraser. 5. Charlie Vallance, Michael Blackburn, Suzanne Neumann and Nic Economou. 6. Staff members Lia Slattery, Suzanne Neumann and Simone McDonald.



7. Pat Millear, John Lucas, Tom Guthrie and Anna Watson. 8. Geoff McIntyre, Tony Millear, Gordon Hucker, Peter Bingley and Graeme McInnes. 9. Craig Wilson, Rowly Paterson and Dr Tim Harrison.



10. Guest Speaker Glenn Cooper, Peter Sporton and Jason Chuck Bendigo Bank Regional Manager South West Region. 11. Trevor Remfry, Toby Towell and Michael Blackburn. 12. Craig Oliver and Cam Conboy. 13. Glenn Cooper and Rowly Paterson. 14. Peter Bingley, Peter Gleeson and Chas Armytage.



15. Robyn Lang, Louise Field, Craig Oliver, Susan Tully and Anna Watson from Community Bank Dunkeld & District. 16. Scott Kumnick, Les Bright, Cam Conboy and Branch Manager Jack Oswald. 17. Mick Murray and Alex Fraser.



18. Anthony Brady, Fiona Whale and Max Vallance. 19. Timothy Blomeley, Nathan Blomeley, Joshua Blomeley, Rachael Root and Rowly Paterson. 20. Peter Armstrong, Jack Armstrong, Henry Armstrong, Greg Joyce, David Carter and Branch Manager Jack Oswald.

Our bank supporting your community....

We supported Willaura's Big Night Out – The Blues Brothers Tribute Show

Our branch was pleased to be able to support the Willaura and District Community Development Group's efforts in April to bring "The Blues Brothers Tribute Show" to the Willaura Memorial Hall. What a fantastic night and a huge success it was.

Around one hundred and sixty people enjoyed a great night of live music featuring the Blues Brothers Tribute Band. A Soul Food Café themed meal provided by local EV Cuisine Caterer was appreciated by all and the bar, run by the Willaura Hall committee were kept busy serving up "Orange Whip" cocktails.

The hall featured plenty of Sister Mary Stigmatas and has never hosted so many sets of 'ray bans' and black trilby hats. The dance floor was full with people shaking their tail feathers and jiving to 'Jail House Rock'.

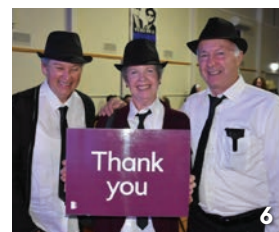
Thanks to Lisa Heard's generosity and wonderfully creative talent there were plenty of fabulous reminders around the walls of Jake and Elwood, and Bob's Country Bunker (complete with chicken wire) even got a look in.

Staff member Jo Byron attended the evening and thoroughly enjoyed not only the entertainment but also catching up with many locals, customers and visitors. She said that it was great to see so much laughter and fun in the hall on the night and to hear the positive comments that followed. Certainly, music and dance is what people love.

Congratulations to the Development Group and other volunteers who supported them in bringing this show to Willaura. Your hard work has paid off and we applaud your success.



1. L/R Willaura & District Community Development Group Members Lisa Heard and Heather Fleming, Cast Members Feisty Ellie, the great "Joliet" Jake and Elwood Blues, Staff Member Jo Byron and Development Group member Jan Laidlaw. What a great bunch of people in character! 2. Blues Brother's Band in action. 3. L/R Neil Vallance, Colin McInnes, Pat Millear, Laurie Higgins and Tom Fleming enjoying catching up before the show begins.



4. Karen Gleeson and Pat Millear enjoying the night. 5. Geoff and Karen McIntyre all dressed up ready for a fun night. 6. Jan Hillier, Jenny and Russell Pearse complete with trilbys.

We are proud to support the 2022 Lake Bolac Eel Festival



Enjoying the twilight celebrations were many locals and visitors.



Neil Murray and Elijah McLeod enjoying the Art Auction.

Congratulations to the Lake Bolac Eel Festival Committee for a successful weekend in April. Our branch was pleased to be able to support this Bi-annual Music and Arts Festival once again.

The weather on the lake was perfect, and there were over 700 attendees, many of whom said they enjoyed being able to get out of the city and soak up the relaxing surrounds.

A program highlight was the Festival Forum. It canvassed a wide range of work that has been in train since the last festival related to the theme of 'Caring for Country, Caring for Culture'.

The Art Auction at the town's Memorial Hall on the Friday night was a sell out. Staff member Lia Slattery was on hand to help with the catering and an artist herself enjoyed the wonderful paintings on display. Nearly 30 artworks were auctioned to a bidding audience of 150. Guests enjoyed an indigenous dinner by Bendigo Murnong Mummas as well as feasting their eyes on stunning works including a bag by Josh McLean fashioned from traditionally tanned skins including eel skins.

The festival by the lake the next day featured several busy workshops including eel-skin tanning, bird sculptures using farm waste, and ukulele lessons. Attendees were fed on barbecue eel, bush foods by Brett Clarke and Deadly Damper by Stuart MacCallum.

The Connection showcasing Glynn Coulson kicked off the festival music program. An array of impressive regional talent followed and then the Twilight Ceremony featuring local indigenous dancers performing beside the lake commenced. The audience was transported to the dreaming times past, where an annual autumn eel feast was enjoyed at Lake Bolac by regional indigenous clans. Lia once again attended the festival on the Saturday and enjoyed the crafts, live music and chatting to many of the locals and visitors alike.

The festival concluded spectacularly with a packed marquee to hear Yorta Yorta man Benny Walker, Best Aboriginal Voice of 2016, and Warumpi band founding member and local singer song writer Neil Murray, whose performance included his iconic song, 'My Island Home'.

The festival raised enough funds to be able to commit to staging the next festival in 2024 and the committee is now reviewing it to ensure the next one is even better.

Proud Supporters of the Willaura Health Care Auxiliary

The Willaura Health Care Auxiliary has had a busy year and we've been pleased to be able to support their efforts. Along with the 'Men's Night' catering already mentioned, the Auxiliary ran the popular Willaura Healthcare Market and also a Movie Night.

Willaura Healthcare Market 2022

In March the Market made a welcome return after being forced into recess by COVID-19 restrictions in 2021. With over forty-five stall holders from across the western district and mild weather conditions, the market attracted a large crowd of over 1,000 people.

Visitors were eager to purchase the quality goods on sale and were also entertained by popular local husband and wife duo Ziggy and Ruth. Attendees also enjoyed the art displays by local schools, and the Grampians Vintage Vehicle Club's fascinating old cars.

Children could take part in a scavenger hunt and handball competition, and there was plenty of opportunity for visitors to relax under the shady trees and enjoy everything on offer.

Our branch was pleased to be a market sponsor and commend the Auxiliary for its excellent efforts in creating such a successful and enjoyable event. We look forward to attending next year's market, catching up with the locals and snagging a bargain.

Another great initiative supported by the community for the community.



Entertainers Ziggy and Ruth with Auxiliary Members Heather Fleming and Jan Laidlaw. Photo courtesy of EGHS.



Leigh Coutts, Adele Coutts and Judy Paterson busy selling homemade produce at the market. Photo courtesy of EGHS.

Willaura Healthcare Movie Night

We would also like to congratulate the Auxiliary on a successful movie night held at the Willaura Memorial Hall in July. As mentioned earlier, our Community Bank was proud to have been able to support this wonderful initiative and members of the Auxiliary were pleased with the community's response to their fundraiser, "Dream Horse".

Based on a true story from a little village in Wales, "Dream Horse" starred Toni Collette and Damian Lewis in a warm hearted movie that showed how neighbours in a small community helped make a racing dream come true when they raised an unlikely champion.

Along with staff members Jo Byron, Suzanne Neumann and Board Chairman Rowly Paterson who all enjoyed the evening, over seventy children and adults watched the film on the Memorial Hall's relatively new 'big screen'.

Auxiliary President Heather Fleming said, "We were fortunate to receive support from Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac to help bring this movie to town, and were pleased to see how much the crowd enjoyed the evening." She added that all funds raised will go towards supporting the patients and residents at Willaura Health Care, so film goers not only had a good night out, but helped the local community as well.

East Grampians Health Service C.E.O. Mr Nick Bush commended the Auxiliary's efforts. He noted that EGHS is committed to supporting Willaura Health Care and is hoping to secure funding to complete major refurbishments at the facility. Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac Board Chair, Mr Rowly Paterson also commended the Auxiliary and the community, and reflected on how important it is for all to support local initiatives such as health care and community banking.

Together we make great things happen in your community.



Proudly supported by the customers of
Willaura/Lake Bolac
Community Bank® Branch

L/R: Anna Gray, Val Albert, Nick Bush, Suzanne Neumann, Jo Byron, Rowly Paterson, Judy Paterson, Heather Fleming, Annie Gellert, Jan Laidlaw, Heather Higgins and Sue Coutts.



Annual General Meeting

Willaura/Lake Bolac
Financial Services Limited

Thursday 20 October.

More information to come – please keep an eye out on our Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Out and about...

Although it has been cold and wet over the past few months, we have braved the icy conditions and have enjoyed getting out and about a little. Since COVID-19 restrictions have lifted and events have started to run again we have welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with many of the locals, meet new people and support local causes. Here are just a couple of the events we have attended since our last newsletter.

At... Lake Bolac Music Club Annual Play

Lights, camera, action! Our team stars! We all know our crew are multi-talented, but this was revealed in spades when we saw some of them perform in the Lake Bolac Music Club's recent production of the comedy "Above and Beyond". The show was a hit with audiences from across our district, and everyone enjoyed the antics of a hapless group of aliens as they negotiated the visit of earthling spies, unwanted guests and the GOB (Galactic Operations Bureau).

Staff members Lia Slattery and Simone McDonald, along with Board member Colin McKenzie whooped it up on stage, while Board Secretary Lyn Webster was in charge of sound. Also, on stage delighting the crowd were Simone's family, including husband Sam and daughters Daisy and Minnie.

Congratulations to the Music Club, its cast, crew and the many volunteers involved for the wonderful entertainment they provided the community. Staff members Jo Byron and Suzanne Neumann attended and said it was a treat to be able to go out on a cold winter's night to our hall and have our talented locals put on a fantastic show for everyone.



Cast of Above and Beyond.



1. Staff members Simone McDonald (Tourist) and Lia Slattery (Mrs Blowette). 2. Sam McDonald (Tourist), Daisy McDonald (Radar Dish), Simone McDonald (Tourist), and Minnie McDonald (Tourist). 3. Lisa Clark (Alexus), Simone McDonald (Tourist), Lia Slattery (Mrs Blowette) and Leigh Coutts (Mr Blowette). 4. Daisy McDonald (Radar Dish), Lia Slattery (Mrs Blowette), Jack Armstrong (Dee a secret agent), Liam McInnes (Ess - another secret agent) and Andrew Robertson (Alf - Green alien) in action.

At... Hamilton Sheepvention

Hamilton Sheepvention is one of Victoria's biggest farming events held annually in August. In previous years over the three day event around 25,000 visitors have attended to check out the Ram Sales, Sheep Show, Victorian Farm Dog Competition, New Inventions, Kids Entertainment, Food Shopping and loads more.

With an enforced hiatus of two years this Rural Expo made a welcomed return and there was plenty of eager crowds who came along to see what was on offer. Branch Manager Jack Oswald attended the event on the Sunday and Monday and reported that although it was windy and freezing, he enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with many local familiar faces and new people who popped into the tent to say hi or when he was wandering around the expo. He also caught up with Rural Bank Managers, Rachel

Root and Alex Fraser who were busy manning the tent and helping anyone who dropped in. Rural Bank was proud to sponsor the Victorian Farm Dog Championships this year and Jack was eager to check out the trials. He said he was amazed at how disciplined and obedient the dogs were.

Sheepvention is an event for the whole family and there was something for everyone to enjoy. The event showcased the work of our committed and skilful farmers, and all those who support the industry so effectively through their own specialized businesses. It was an excellent opportunity for 'non-farmers' like Jack to learn about the industry firsthand, and to gain insights from those with years of experience and practical knowledge.



Local farmer Pat Millear and his daughter Annabelle with their SPS sale rams at Sheepvention.



A sea of people watching the ram sales in action.



Branch Manager Jack Oswald and Board Chairman Rowly Paterson catching up at the Rural Bank site.

Happy snaps to make you smile!



Happy birthday Janet! Janet celebrated a very special milestone birthday in June and we wanted to acknowledge her special day with some flowers. Janet does an amazing job at keeping our Willaura branch spick and span. We hope you had a lovely day.



Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. We were happy to support this very worthy cause and congratulate the Willaura Branch of the RCH GFA on their efforts to raise funds for them. Simone and Jack were happy to get involved enjoying some time with Easter Bunny and receiving some yummy Easter Egg treats.



And that's a wrap! EOFY Done! What a busy time it was at our branches leading up to 30 June. Time to celebrate! We would like to thank all of our lovely customers who popped in to see us during the month of June. We wish everyone a "Happy New Financial Year" and look forward to seeing you again soon.



Go Jack! Supporting Multiple Sclerosis. Our Branch Manager Jack took part in the May 50K challenge to help raise funds for life-changing research into multiple sclerosis. MS strikes young people in the prime of their lives. The average age of diagnosis is only 30 years old, and there is no known cure. Jack was very grateful for all the support he received and all proceeds went to this worthy cause to help leave MS where it belongs, behind us!



Congratulation Simone on being awarded a Life Member of the Wickliffe/Lake Bolac Football Netball Club recently. Your dedication and commitment to the club is a fitting testament to you and all you have done for the club over many years. What a great honour and well deserved. The team were thrilled for you.



The team at Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac were proud to support the Willaura Bakery's fundraising efforts in aid of Motor Neurone Disease (MND). In July head chef Peter Sporton and his team were busy baking vanilla slices with a difference with all proceeds going to this worthy cause. Peter Sporton happily delivered our order for morning tea with Branch Manager Jack Oswald and Simone McDonald getting ready to enjoy this special treat.



Celebrating National Volunteer Week 2022. In May we celebrated National Volunteer Week 2022 and we took the opportunity to thank all our volunteers in our community and especially our volunteer Board of Directors who contribute their time, expertise and energy to strategically lead our branch and support our local community. Top L/R Board Members David Hucker, Jane Blackburn, Lisa Jobling, Colin McKenzie, Chairman: Rowly Paterson, Andi Armytage, Edward Weatherly, Tim McDougall and Lyn Webster.

Congratulations to Jo on fifteen years working for our Community Bank. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our customers and community. She got a lovely surprise when some of her friends Jane Vallance, Lisa Heard and Heather Fleming dropped by to help us celebrate her special day with us.



Have you ever wondered what the team at your Community Bank gets up to when they're not working and helping our customers? Here's a clue as to their favourite hobbies or sport they enjoy doing in their spare time. Can you guess what they are?

On the farm.... we are your partner in the paddock

2022 Australian agricultural mid-year outlook

Rural Bank's latest agriculture outlook is out now and shows a positive outlook for Australian farmers.

Seasonal conditions are continuing to underpin strong production across most agricultural sectors. High commodity prices will also remain heading into the back half of the year.

Supply chain disruptions are weighing on the outlook, with input costs also a key issue, although the combination of high prices and strong production will assist producers.

Despite difficult trade conditions, exporters have continued diversifying into alternative markets. As a result export demand is forecast to strengthen further over the next six months.

Rural Bank's Australian agriculture mid-year outlook report analyses six major commodities. Here we will give you a brief snapshot of two commodities: Cropping and Sheep outlook. To read the full report it is available to our Rural Bank Insights subscribers. To subscribe please go to [Subscribe \(ruralbank.com.au\)](https://ruralbank.com.au)



Cropping report: Greg Kuchel Regional Manager Agribusiness, Western Victoria reports that front of mind for growers this season is the cost of production. Most cropping regions have had a good start to the season and potential for above average production is high. With strong export demand and high prices expected to remain in place through to the new crop, the season is looking positive. But the high cost of inputs is cutting margins and producers are being faced with difficult decisions balancing the benefits to yield and quality by applying fertiliser versus the increased cost of production and heightened financial risk.



Sheep report: Simon O'Leary Regional Manager Agribusiness, Western Australia North reports as another wet year has unfolded in 2022, Australian sheep producers are well positioned to thrive. An expanded sheep flock and favourable seasonal conditions should produce a larger crop of lambs this spring. While increased supply will place some downward pressure on prices and see them trend lower than a year ago, strong export demand from a wide range of markets should offer support to sustain prices at above average levels.

Your banking is supporting local footy and netball

Your banking is helping to support local football and netball clubs so you can stay active, healthy and enjoy a great winter of community sport. Our commitment to Moyston/Willaura Football Netball Club, Wickliffe/Lake Bolac Football Netball Club, Woorndoo/Mortlake Football Netball Club, SWM Rovers Football Netball Club and Tatyoon Football Netball Club is the ultimate expression of who we are. We know that sport connects people and we recognise the impact it has on the happiness and wellbeing of its players, members and spectators. And that's something we are proud about!



Moyston/Willaura FNC L/R Terry Keilar, Josh Byron, Lydia Jackson, Luke Walker and Ned Bohner.



Wickliffe/Lake Bolac FNC L/R Jye Hare, Dave Keating, Angus Gilmore, Paula Symons and Billy Brain.



SWM Rovers FNC L/R Johnathon Box, Darcy Osborne and Nic Byrne.



Tatyoon FNC L/R Sam Anderson, Tom Quick, David Carter, Ben Clay and Briony Robertson.



Woorndoo/Mortlake Football Netball Club players.

Finals fever is here

With footy and netball finals in full swing we would like to wish all MDFL and MDNA football and netball teams the best of luck in the remaining final games. With the final series being cancelled last year due to COVID-19 it has been great to see a full season of sport played. The team at Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac have enjoyed attending games each week and helping out whether it be in the canteen, scoring, umpiring or being a runner and we look forward to being part of it again next season.



Talk to us today



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We're open:

11.00am - 4.00pm Monday and Wednesday

2.00pm - 5.00pm Friday



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Directors

Rowland Paterson (Chairman), Lyn Webster (Secretary), David Hucker (Treasurer), Jane Blackburn, Lisa Wills, Andrea Armytage, Tim McDougall, Colin McKenzie, Edward Weatherly

Willaura/Lake Bolac Financial Services Limited
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ABN 83 108 159 422

Supporting the Mininera and District Netball Association Junior Netball Squads

The MDNA Junior Netball Squads competed at the Western Region Association Championships on Saturday 4 June in Warrnambool. The girls represented the league showing off their skills and class. They didn't come away with a win but the girls fought hard all the same. Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac supported the MDNA representative teams by giving each participant a drink bottle and we congratulate them on their efforts. Coach Mathew McLeod said, "They were used on the day and he was very grateful for our support of junior sport".



The 13 and under squad, 15 and under squad, and 17 and under squad.