



Diamonds in the Dust.



**To the women in our community,
thank you for making our
Diamonds in the Dust evening a
huge success.**

Diamonds in the Dust was held at the Willaura Memorial Hall on Thursday 10 October, and what a fantastic night it was.

Thanks to the efforts of our local Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank Branch, with the support of the Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch, the Bendigo Bank Ballarat & Western District Collaborative Marketing Cluster and Rural Bank, a wonderful night of entertainment and inspiration was enjoyed by close to a hundred women. Our guests travelled from all over the state, from Melbourne, Bendigo, Warrnambool, Hamilton, Dunkeld and Lismore just to name a few.

Dressed with a nod to the Spring Racing Carnival, the ladies were greeted with special edition wines and a 'Marquee' that wouldn't have been out of place at Flemington. Many treats were in store for our guests, from the gift of a beautiful necklace with its own inspirational message, to the delicious food served up by our own Paula Symons.

The guest speakers were an amazing trio who'd all encountered difficulties in their past, but were well and truly getting on with living their best lives, and enjoying the journey they had created for themselves.

Dr. Jodie Fleming's enthusiasm for life, despite the health challenges it had presented her with, showed us how a positive mindset and a determination to focus on living well can help us all.

Alexandra Gartmann, Executive Rural Bank, Partnerships, Marketing & Corporate Affairs also revealed how a busy person can be effective in many roles, and yet still create space to ensure their own wellbeing is protected.



Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank Branch staff with guest speakers following the formalities. L/R Simone McDonald, Don Elgin, Dr Jodie Fleming, Lynsey Deer, Alexandra Gartmann, Jo Byron, Lia Slattery and Lauren Givhan.

Paralympian Don Elgin was highly entertaining as he recounted stories from his youth and showed through his humour and a zest for life how challenges can be well and truly overcome.

A common theme with all three speakers was the need for us all to care for ourselves, to ensure our own glass is full, and in Don's words, to use the oxygen mask first when it drops from the plane's roof.

Certainly, the many women who attended enjoyed the evening and appreciated the numerous touches that made them feel (as they should) special and valued.

Kathy Mibus and Ali Goemans were awarded the best dressed ladies and the lucky chair winners were Val Albert and Linda Hughes who took home some pampering gift packs.

More photos of the night are on the next page.

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, Tim McDougall.



1. Jonathon Hewitt Head of Sales Rural Bank, WLBFS Chairman Colin McKenzie, Jason Chuck Bendigo Bank Regional Manager South West Region and Josie Zilm Regional Manager Rural Bank. 2. Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch Staff Susan Tully, Louise Field, Angela Linke with attendee Kathy Mibus. 3. Guest Speaker Don Elgin entertaining the crowds during his presentation.



4. Fiona Napier, Heather Fleming and Raelene Laidlaw. 5. Ellie McDougall, Niki Vrankovic CRO Bendigo Bank Hamilton Branch and Trudi Murrhy. 6. Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch staff Louise Field, Susan Tully, Angela Linke and Anna Watson.



7. Jane Vallance, Karen McIntyre and Sarah Carter. 8. Ali Goemans, Katy Price and Lesley Gibson. 9. Kerry Raptopoulos, Julie Townsend and Nicole Townsend.



Diamonds in the Dust.



10. Guest Speaker Dr Jodie Fleming during her heartfelt presentation. 11. Sarah Whinney, Fiona Whale Rural Bank, Lauren Harrison and Larelle McInnes. 12. Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank Branch staff Simone McDonald, Lynsey Deer, Jo Byron, Lauren Givhan and Lia Slattery.



13. Rachel Leishman, Julia Dawes and Tam Phillips. 14. Hannah Jenkinson, Julie McInnes, Carmel Price and Emily Anderson. 15. Wendy Gellie, Jodie Hucker and Felicity Brady.



16. Jane Higgins, Trish Higgins, Eileen Brady and Debbie Millard. 17. Lou Price, Jan Laidlaw, Val Albert and Jane Gibson. 18. Guest Speaker Alexandra Gartmann, Executive Rural Bank, Partnerships, Marketing & Corporate Affairs during her presentation.

Congratulations to the MDFL and MDNA winners!

The Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank Branch in partnership for the first time this year with Rural Bank was proud to support the MDFL this season by being the major sponsor of the U16.5 Football Competition and congratulations to all of this year's Grand Final winners. In perfect spring conditions Lynsey Deer along with Jo Byron and Simone McDonald attended the grand final and enjoyed watching both the football and netball teams vying for the ultimate bragging rights. Lynsey and Board Chairman Colin McKenzie were on hand to present the caps to the winning U16.5 football team.



Photo courtesy of Marius Cuming, Australian Wool Innovation.

Right: Winners are Grinners! Hawkesdale/McArthur U16.5 team with their Rural Bank caps and medals.



Lake Bolac Football Netball Club this season and understands their important value to our communities. We contributed \$1500 to each of these clubs showing that our commitment to our communities is the ultimate part of who we are!

Community Bank branch donations – making great things happen.

Your Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank Branch continues to support many fantastic community groups, events and projects and since our last newsletter we were pleased to provide the following donations:

Tatyoan Football Netball Club	\$900	Players Awards – Netball and Football
Ararat Rural City	\$100	Sue Pieters-Hawke Day at Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre
Willaura Bakery	\$710	Calico Bag Promotion
Chatsworth Kindergarten Occasional Care	\$666	Outdoor area play equipment
Willaura Golf Club	\$200	Tournament Sponsorship
Mininera & District Netball Association	\$260	Trophies & Medallions



Willaura Bakery chefs Peter Sporton and Susie Sporton showing off their Calico Bags that are popping up all over the world as travellers take them on their journeys.

Shop Local – September Promotion.

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

Willaura Winners were:
Casey Walker and Fiona Scott.

Lake Bolac Winners were:
Julie McInnes and Lois Brain.



Drawing the luck winners were: Left: Lynsey and Peter Sporton. Middle: Lynsey and Terri Hall. Right: Lauren Givhan with Nolene Fraser.

We are out and about...

We continue to be busy and have attended many functions over the past six months. We have really enjoyed getting out and about chatting to many of the locals, meeting new people and learning new things along the way.

Here are just some of the events we have attended.

At... Mellow in the Yellow.

Branch Manager Lynsey Deer recently supported this most worthwhile annual fundraiser enjoying a relaxing and lovely day with friends. Set in the middle of a flowering canola crop near Tatyoon. It was a day dedicated to raising funds for farmer health and farming communities as well as bringing people together for a fun day in a gorgeous setting. Congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who strive to help this valuable and worthwhile cause.



Above L-R: Ellie McDougall, Lynsey Deer and Laura McDougall enjoying a relaxing afternoon in the canola field at Mellow in the Yellow

At... Dove Café.

Branch Manager Lynsey Deer dropped into the Dove Café for a cuppa and cake on a cold winter's day in August and enjoyed chatting to the many locals who attended. This is a fantastic monthly initiative of the Willaura Uniting Church giving locals a chance to catch up with friends while enjoying a cuppa and a delicious morning tea. Well done to the volunteers who organise such a valuable local gathering.



Above: Lynsey managed to take a few selfies with the locals in particular Elsie Duver and Val Albert.



At... Daffodil Day at Willaura Parkland Hostel.

Like the golden canola we see all around us at springtime, Daffodils were a welcome sign that Spring had arrived. They also herald the Cancer Council's 'Daffodil Day', raising funds for research into this insidious and all too common disease. In late August Willaura's Parkland Hostel was the venue for a 'Daffodil Day' afternoon tea hosted by the Uniting Church and attended by Community Bank branch staff member Jo Byron. Guest Speaker Heather Fleming spoke of her recent travels to China, where she and her son Tom visited the Special Developmental School at Yiew, and rekindled friendships formed there during their last visit five years ago. Afterwards residents and visitors alike enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea and the raffle prizes the bank donated were well received along with every attendee taking home a popular Rural Bank squeegie.



Above: Staff member Jo Byron presenting Raffle Winner Val Albert with her prize.

Left: Resident Mary McNab, Nurse Yvonne Moore and Jo enjoying a cuppa, cake and a chat.

We are out and about...

At... WWW Dinner.

East Grampians Health Service Auxiliary 'Women Wisdom and Wellbeing' Dinner 2019.

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun..."

Branch Manager Lynsey Deer, along with staff members Jo Byron and Lauren Givhan recently supported this most worthwhile fundraiser and had a great time in the process. An IntelliVue Patient Monitoring System for the EGHS Urgent Care Centre is being sought, and our staff helped bring this aim closer to reality. Ararat's Town Hall was packed with women from all over our district, and everyone was there to not only help EGHS, but have fun as well.

Dressed to kill in 70's inspired sequins and plenty of colour, our girls danced along with everyone else to the music of S.O.F.T (aka EGHS staff Ziggy and Ruth), and enjoyed a three course gourmet meal.

They didn't do so well in the Marshmallow and Kebab Skewer Tower Construction Competition, but that didn't matter. They were there in force, contributing to a wonderful night of laughter and goodwill. Congratulations go to the organisers, the volunteer waiters, and all who strive to create a health service for us that is one to be proud of.

1. Lauren, Jo & Lynsey just wanna have fun... in their sparkly dresses. 2. Heather Fleming, Lisa Heard & Jane Vallance. 3. Winners of the best dressed table were "The 50 Shades of Grey" ladies. Congratulations! 4. L/R Heather Fleming, Lauren, Lynsey, Jo, Jane Vallance and Lisa Heard. 5. Lynsey, Lesley Gibson and Heather Fleming. 6. Nicola and Jenny Pearse busy working on our marshmallow and kebab skewer tower. 7. Girls just wanna have fun in their PJs. 8. Getting into the spirit of the night in their 80's party outfits.

Images 3, 7 and 8 are courtesy of EGHS.



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We are out and about...

At... 3 Peaks Festival.

Staff members Simone McDonald and Lauren Givhan had a lovely day at the 3 Peaks Festival in Dunkeld recently. The Festival is an outdoor market showcasing local crafts, food, wine, beer, live music and kids activities. Although it was a chilly, rainy day they still made the most of what was on offer even getting in early and buying some Christmas presents. They also caught up with the staff from Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch who were doing a fantastic job handing out the children's activities wristband.

Right: Minnie McDonald looking gorgeous with her face painted and getting up close and personal with a lizard in the reptile exhibition.



At... Willaura's Big Night Out – Back to the 70's & 80's!

Our branch was pleased to be able to support the Willaura & District Community Development Group's recent efforts to bring 'Back to the 70's & 80's' show to the Willaura Memorial Hall. The night was a huge success and very much enjoyed by the large number who attended.

Over a hundred guests came dressed (accidentally or not) in their finest 70's and 80's gear, enjoyed a meal, and were treated to the best live music they'd heard in ages. It really was a night of nostalgia and a trip back to the 70's and 80's with the hall transforming all party animals back in time.

The six-piece professional band from Melbourne were thoroughly convincing as they transformed themselves into over 15 different 70's and 80's legends. One moment we had the Village People on stage, and then it was Tina Turner, Elton John, The Blues Brothers, Devo and the Proclaimers just to name a few. Sandi from Grease produced an electric performance, and to the crowds' delight Billy Idol strutted his stuff.

The audience got into the action too, and the dance floor was full. The Best Dressed winners were Karen McIntyre, whose Madonna outfit even included the famous beauty spot, and Ron Timms, who was Rod Stewart (or Brian Mannix) all over again.

The laughter in the Hall on the night and the positive comments that followed indicate that music and dance is what people love. In fact, rocking the dance floor were our very own staff members Jo Byron and Lynsey Deer – dancing along with many friends and customers.

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. Karen and Geoff McIntyre all dressed up ready for a fun night. 2. Getting into the theme of the night was Jane and Max Vallance with Larelle and Colin McInnes. 3. Abba Tribute. 4. Branch Manager Lynsey Deer, staff member Jo Byron, Development Group Committee members Heather Fleming and Lisa Heard catching up with the performers of the 70s & 80s in the green room prior to the show. 5. Proclaimers Tribute. 6. Performers ready for action. 7. Tina Turner Tribute. 8. Attendees up and enjoying the music.

We are out and about...

At... Hamilton Sheepvention!

Plenty of eager crowds came along to see what Sheepvention had to offer in 2019, and many locals attended. Branch Manager Lynsey Deer, along with staff members Simone McDonald and Jo Byron enjoyed the remarkably balmy weather on the Monday. They happily took in the fashion parade, ram judging, and of course the array of delicious food options available. Lynsey and staff member Luran Givhan went along on the Tuesday and enjoyed watching the dog trials and ram sale as well as helped serve lunch to our customers at the Rural Bank tent.

The event showcases the work of our committed and skilful farmers, and all those who support the industry so effectively through their own specialized businesses. It is an excellent opportunity for 'non farmers' like Lynsey to learn about the industry firsthand, and to gain insights from those with years of experience and practical knowledge.

Congratulations to the organisers of Sheepvention on bringing the community together for such a positive, interesting and successful three days, and best wishes to our many customers who sold or bought rams, wine, clothing, foodstuffs, machinery and equipment.



1. Catching up with Board Member Rowly Paterson in the ram shed was Simone, Lynsey and Jo.
2. Rural Bank staff enjoying a chat at the Rural Bank tent.
3. Lunchtime for Simone and Lynsey – Yum delish pizza!
4. Heather Fleming, Jo Byron, Lynsey Deer and Simone McDonald enjoying a chat at the Rural Bank Site.
5. Lynsey and Lauren at the Rural Bank tent.
6. Checking out the Dog Trials.
7. Lynsey catching up with Geoff and Karen McIntyre at the Rural Bank tent.

Happy snaps to make you smile!



1. Our Branch Manager Lynsey Deer went out visiting and met some baby goats! Who doesn't love a baby goat?
2. How good does the lovely Lyle look in his Rural Bank beanie? Perfect match with his striped scarf!
- 3 / 4. Getting into the agricultural spirit once again the girls were out and about having some fun at a local farm recently. Lucky, we didn't come across any snakes during crop inspection! Although they did live dangerously by climbing a windmill in the wind!

Season's greetings.

From all of us at Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank branches best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support.

Christmas/New Year opening hours

Monday 23 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Lake Bolac
Tuesday 24 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Willaura
Wednesday 25 December	Closed	
Thursday 26 December	Closed	
Friday 27 December	Closed	
Monday 30 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Lake Bolac
Tuesday 31 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Willaura
Wednesday 1 January	Closed	
Thursday 2 January	11.00am – 4.00pm	Willaura
Friday 3 January	9.00am – 12 noon	Willaura
	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Lake Bolac



The girls got into the spirit of Christmas recently hopping into Colin and Alison Holmes's Austin Truck or should we say Santa's vintage red sleigh!



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Willaura/Lake Bolac Community Bank® Branch

Willaura

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Phone: 5354 1170

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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

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