

Spring/
Summer
2020/21

Newsletter

Community Bank · Willaura and Lake Bolac

Welcome!

Welcome to our Spring/Summer 2020 Newsletter, and what a year we are having.

It's been a series of ups and downs, and while we are lucky to live where we live, we've all had to change and adapt to the COVID-19 world around us. But, we are happy that spring has sprung, summer has arrived, and the days are getting longer and warmer. Most importantly we hope you and your family are keeping safe and well in what has been a very challenging time.

We trust that this publication will help you remember good times, brighten up your day and put a smile on your dial.

Supporting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

In support of the Cancer Council's 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' in May the Dove Café at Willaura hosted a "Morning Tea at a Distance". Observing COVID-19 restrictions, over sixty morning tea packs were purchased by local residents raising around \$800 for this worthy cause. Lots of delicious homemade goodies were donated and then packaged into containers ready to be collected. Our staff at the bank got behind this wonderful initiative and sent Lynsey off to collect their packs of goodies to enjoy for morning tea.



Top: Lynsey Deer collecting packs for her staff from Dove Café volunteer Val Albert.

Above: Tea-Rific... Lynsey, Lauren and Jo showing off their delicious packs. And how about our Bendigo Bank twins! A little matchy, matchy going on at the branch.



Farewell Lynsey – Our Branch Manager is moving on...

After more than two years at the helm of Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac we are sad to say goodbye to our branch manager Lynsey Deer. Lynsey and her family are moving to Canberra to pursue new career opportunities.

The Board and staff wish her well and thank her for her enormous contribution to our Community Bank, and our local communities.

As Branch Manager, Lynsey became an integral member of our fantastic team and together we have achieved great things. She has done a tremendous job in ensuring that our branches have been an ongoing success – always in a positive, energetic and dedicated manner.

We wish Lynsey all the best in her new role, and we will always value the time she has spent at Willaura and Lake Bolac.

Lynsey's last day was filled with many happy memories of her time with us but at the same time it was bittersweet for our branch. We bid farewell to her, but at the same time welcomed our new Branch Manager Jack Oswald. Many customers and locals dropped by to wish her well, meet Jack, and grab a piece of delicious takeaway cake and a cuppa. If anyone knows Lynsey, they would know she loves her animal print so what better way to farewell her with than a leopard print themed cake.



Awww.... one last team photo together! L-R: Simone McDonald, Jo Byron, Lauren Givhan with Lynsey. We will miss your bold laugh, easy going attitude and your love for our team.



How amazing is this cake! Specially made by the very talented Jodie Hucker - JD Cakes.



L-R: Jack Oswald, Vin Hanrahan and Lynsey having a chat.



Lynsey with her cake - and it's all things leopard!



Board Member Tim McDougall and Poppy the cute puppy catching up with Lynsey before she leaves.



L-R: South West Vic Regional Manager – Jason Chuck, Jack Oswald and Lynsey. Jason presenting a small gift to Lynsey on behalf of the region thanking her for her contribution to Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac.



WLBFS Chairman Colin McKenzie and Board member Lyn Webster presenting Lynsey with a farewell gift.



Judy Aldous saying bye-bye to Lynsey on her last day.



L-R: Chas Armytage, Pat Millear, David Hucker, Lynsey, Jack Oswald and John Higgins.



Sarah Millear dropped by to see Lynsey for a catch up before she leaves.



Lynsey and Eddie Balliro catching up one last time.



Les Bright and Lynsey.



L-R: Staff members Lauren Givhan and Jo Byron with Lynsey as she hands the keys over to new Branch Manager Jack Oswald. (Picture courtesy of the Ararat Advocate.)

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

We've had a most pleasing run up to harvest this year, with rain and sunshine at the right times, and the district looking glorious in its mantle of green and gold. Though wool prices have taken a tumble it's never the less pleasing to see the many lambs around,



How cute is Elmo the Golden Retriever... following the mandatory mask rule while getting ready to round up the chooks recently.

and an optimistic hope from all farmers that things will look up. Speaking of all things agriculture did you know that Rural Bank produces a monthly report called 'Insights' which provides commentary on production and pricing trends for Australian agriculture?

The publication gives producers a timely overview of current trends and future outlooks. For more information or to subscribe or download the report please go to the Rural Bank website and follow the prompts.



Getting into the Agriculture spirit Lia, Simone, Jo and Lauren were out and about having some fun at a local farm recently.



The team got up close and personal recently having lots of fun and cuddles with three cheeky lambs, Sadie, Danni and Coco. How cute are they?

Welcome to our new Branch Manager - Jack Oswald

Jack has been settling into his new role as Branch Manager with great passion and gusto, and his warm and welcoming attitude is being well received by the local community. Originally from Adelaide, Jack moved to Hamilton in 2000 where he completed his secondary education at Monivae College.



He joins us with almost five years of finance and banking experience with Bendigo Bank at Hamilton including roles as a Senior Customer Service Officer and Customer Relationship Officer. He also spent six months at the Portland Branch as a Customer Relationship Manager.

Jack brings with him local knowledge of our communities, enthusiasm for the agricultural industry and a great understanding of all things banking. He is looking forward to meeting and working with you all to continue a successful and collaborative partnership.

In his spare time Jack enjoys playing senior football for Glenthompson/Dunkeld FNC, working out in the gym and renovating his house.

If you haven't met Jack yet, please feel free to come into the branch and say hello. He can also be contacted on 0409 846 980 or email jack.oswald@bendigoadelaide.com.au



A local contract sprayer was kept busy over the past months aerial spraying many crops in the district.

What's happening in our district?

Unfortunately, many activities in our district continue to be cancelled due to the Pandemic, however the organising committees are working hard to overcome these disappointments and have been channelling their energies into next year. Our bank is proud to have supported these community events in the past and thanks the volunteers who put so much time and energy into making them happen.

Some of these postponements include:

Willaura's Big Night Out



The Willaura Memorial Hall was rockin' last year at the 'Back to 70s & 80s' night.

Over the years, Willaura's Big Night Out has become a popular event on the local calendar and Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac is proud to have been a supporter since it started. Committee Member Jo Byron said "Unfortunately, the Willaura & District Community Development Group has had to make the difficult decision to not run the event this year but the committee has been pro-active and tapping into information from Regional Arts Victoria on how to develop a COVID -19 Safe Plan and will look at ways we can safely bring quality shows to Willaura in the future".

The Mik Maks ROCK Lake Bolac

Kids' entertainment dynamo The Mik Maks were to return home for a special one off appearance at the Lake Bolac Town Hall for the Lake Bolac Kindergarten's major fundraising event. Born and bred just down the road at Wickliffe, this band of brothers



love nothing more than sharing their show with friends and the local community. They were going to ROCK Lake Bolac in September but due to COVID-19 restrictions have had to postpone for the second time this year. So unfortunately, Piggy might have to wait a bit longer to join his idols on stage, and the colouring competition we were going to run as part of the event will still happen when the times right. The Mik Maks have been re-scheduled for 2021 so keep an eye out for new dates.

The Lake Bolac Eel Festival

The Lake Bolac Eel Festival is also a COVID-19 casualty, and has again had to reconsider the full program that was scheduled for March next year. The committee is planning to conduct various events that can fit in with whatever restrictions will be impacting them at the time, and is hopeful that there may yet be opportunities for a reduced but valuable series of Eel Festival activities in 2021.



2018 Eel Festival Celebrations.

Lake Bolac Music Club

Also a disappointing loss at Lake Bolac is the Music Club's annual performance. Many community organisations have benefited from these nights, and much pleasure has been gained by everyone involved. Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac has proudly supported this valuable community event in the past and hopefully 2021 may see a welcome return to the boards for the members and all those who've been part of the fun.



Lake Bolac Music Club actors Leigh Coutts, Paula Symons, Grant Gibson, Geoff Britten and Ruth Sweatman rehearsing for one of their past performances.

Swing into Spring – Daffodil Day

Like the flowering canola on display in abundance in our district, Daffodils were a welcome sign that Spring had arrived. In support of the Cancer Council's 'Daffodil Day', which raises funds for research into this insidious and all too common disease, the Willaura Uniting Church usually holds an afternoon tea at the Parkland Hostel. However, due to the pandemic it had to be cancelled, so instead our branches turned into a florist for the day, selling bunches of daffodils on the Church's behalf.



Branch Manager Lynsey with our neighbour Peter Sporton at the Willaura Bakery supporting Daffodil Day in August.

Helping keep our communities safe

Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac recently donated two hand sanitising stations to the Willaura and Lake Bolac communities.



The sanitising stations were presented to the Willaura Bakery and Lake Bolac Diner & Cafe recently to help keep the local community safe.



Staff Member Jo Byron presenting the new hand sanitising station to Suzie Sporton from the Willaura Bakery.



Kathy Matthews from the Lake Bolac Diner and Cafe with staff member Simone McDonald.

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Technology isn't life...

I had spent an hour in the bank with my dad, as he had to transfer some money. I couldn't resist myself and asked...

"Dad, why don't we activate your internet banking?"

"Why would I do that?" He asked...

"Well, then you won't have to spend an hour here for things like transfer.

You can even do your shopping online. Everything will be so easy!"

I was so excited about initiating him into the world of Net banking.

He asked "If I do that, I won't have to step out of the house?"

"Yes, yes"! I said. I told him how even groceries can be delivered at door now and how Amazon delivers everything!

His answer left me tongue-tied.

He said "Since I entered this bank today, I've met four of my friends, and chatted a while with the staff who know me very well by now.

You know I am alone... this is the company that I need. I like to get ready and come to the bank. I have enough time; it is the physical touch that I crave.

Two years back I got sick, the store owner from whom I buy fruit, came to see me and sat by my bedside and cried.

When your Mum fell down few days back while on her morning walk our local grocer saw her and immediately got his car to rush her home as he knows where I live.

Would I have that 'human' touch if everything went online?

Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact with just my computer?

I like to know the person that I'm dealing with and not just the 'seller'. It creates bonds of relationships.

Does Amazon deliver all this as well?"

Technology isn't life: Spend time with people, not with devices.

Writer Unknown



Our 2020 AGM went virtual

The AGM was webcast LIVE via zoom or shareholders could listen via telephone where the Annual Report was presented including the Chairman's report and the Manager's report. South West Vic Regional Manager Jason Chuck also presented a report which was followed by the election of Directors who were due for re-nomination. Chairman Colin McKenzie also made a special announcement in his report that a dividend of five cents per share, fully franked will be paid to our loyal shareholders for the 2019/20 year.



Season's greetings

From all of us at Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support. Please take care, stay safe and remember during these difficult and challenging times 'we're in this together'.

Christmas/New Year opening hours

Thursday 24 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Willaura
Friday 25 December	Closed	
Monday 28 December	Closed	
Tuesday 29 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Willaura
Wednesday 30 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Lake Bolac
Thursday 31 December	11.00am – 4.00pm	Willaura
Friday 1st January	Closed	



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and we hear those sleigh bells jingling. The team got into the spirit of Christmas recently and took a sleigh ride together in Rob Guttler's WB Holden Ute or should we say Santa's Classic White Sleigh. Thanks Rob for polishing up your bute ute for us to jingle and sleigh ride in.

Happy snaps to make you smile!



What better way to reward ourselves after another busy EOFY at the branch than pizzas from the Willaura Bakery.



It was a lovely day in May for a rural photo shoot. Along with beautiful blue skies, Branch Manager Lynsey Deer had Ricky the gorgeous sheep dog join her for the photos

This year Bendigo Bank made available a downloadable Mother's Day Card and Colouring Sheet for all those who found themselves in a pickle and couldn't go shopping due to COVID-19 restrictions. For a quick and crafty solution Daisy McDonald got creative and coloured in a beautiful bunch of flowers card for her special mum Simone on Mother's Day.



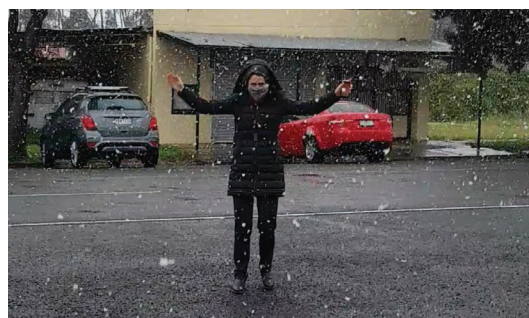
Jack inspecting a locally grown crop of canola during September.



Lauren and Simone on the first day of mandatory mask wearing. Great fashion statement Ladies!



Our wonderful bubbly Simone celebrated her birthday in April with a delicious American special - Cookie Cake creatively cooked by our very own Lauren.



Frosty the snowman... Oh no its not! It's Lauren dancing in the snow. A chilly day in late September saw snow falling in our district. Along with many locals, Jack, Jo and Lauren took some time out to enjoy the beautiful sight in Willaura.



Branch Manager Jack Oswald enjoying the fine weather recently while checking out the rams at the Stud Park South Sales in Willaura.



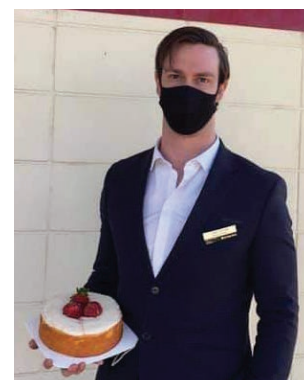
Say Cheese! Lauren having fun with her pet sheep. Taking centre stage though was Annie the Alpaca but Percy her cute baby was a little camera shy and hid behind his mum with only his cute little ears showing.



The celebrations continued with Jo celebrating her birthday in August. Once again our very talented Lauren cooked up an amazing carrot cake which was demolished by lunchtime with all of us having more than one piece.

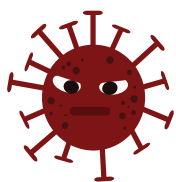


Heads up! Canola buddies Lauren, Jack, Jo and Simone were blown away literally in a golden canola crop recently.



Jack's second day on the job had us celebrating his birthday. Lauren quickly whipped up a fluffy sponge cake which was enjoyed by all.

Not really out and about



There's no denying that 2020 has been an incredibly difficult year due to the widespread impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately due to the restrictions we have been unable to get out and about this year as much

as we would have liked. But we are looking forward to the day when we can visit our customers and attend community functions once again. It's what makes our roles so enjoyable, and creates value for us and our community alike. So while we can't come to you at the moment our branches remain open to help see you through this challenging time and we look forward to discussing your needs next time you visit us.

Talk to us today

Community Bank · Willaura

70 Main Street, Willaura VIC 3379

P 03 5354 1170

E WillauraMailbox@bendigobank.com.au

W bendigobank.com.au/willaura

We're open:

11.00am - 4.00pm Tuesday and Thursday

9.00am - 12 noon Friday

Community Bank · Lake Bolac

2110 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac VIC 3351

P 03 5350 2374

E LakeBolacMailbox@bendigobank.com.au

W bendigobank.com.au/lake-bolac

We're open:

11.00am - 4.00pm Monday and Wednesday

2.00pm - 5.00pm Friday



Search 'Willaura & Lake Bolac Community Bank Branches'

Directors

Colin McKenzie (Chairman), Lyn Webster (Secretary), David Hucker (Treasurer), Jane Blackburn, Rowly Paterson, Lisa Wills, Andrea Armytage, Tim McDougall, Emily Anderson

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

Are you on Facebook?

Did you know your local Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac has a facebook page? It is designed to spread our news and to connect with our amazing community, so please follow, share and enjoy!

Over the past few months we have been publishing a series of videos featuring the activities and projects we have supported over the past 15 years. We hope you are enjoying these 'Blasts from the Past' videos and if you

haven't already done so, please go to our Facebook page and check them out. You'll enjoy seeing familiar faces and recalling all the good things that have happened in league with our Community Bank.



Search 'Willaura & Lake Bolac Community Bank Branches'

Willaura/Lake Bolac
Community Bank Branch

A look back in time

2004 - 2020

Always here for you - a message from Marnie Baker, Managing Director, Bendigo Bank

Bendigo Bank offers an essential service. And we'll support you as we've always done.

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We've always been here for you. And we always will be.

