

Bellarine Peninsula



Community Bank[®] Branch Bendigo Bank

\$50,000 Community Grants from Bellarine Peninsula Community Bank[®]

Bellarine Peninsula: Monday, September 12 2005: Bellarine Peninsula Community Bank[®] Branch, in partnership with the Community Enterprise[™] Foundation, today launched its first annual community grants program.

A pool of approximately \$50,000 is on offer for the benefit of the Bellarine community, the funds are the result of profit generated by the local Community Bank[®] branch.

Individual grants of up to \$10,000 will be available for community organizations to develop and enhance the Bellarine community. Community Bank[®] Chairman Justine Finlay said, "This is a terrific opportunity for our Community Bank[®] branch, in partnership with the Community Enterprise[™] Foundation, to repay the faith shown in us by the community in the last 6 years".

Community Enterprise[™] Foundation is the charitable arm of Bendigo Bank and provides a tax-effective and strategic approach for community grants by Community Bank branches.

The Foundation CEO Natalie Elliott said "the Community Grants Program is available to registered charitable organizations and not-for-profit community groups and organisations who are working to benefit the Bellarine community."

All applications that develop some aspect of the community will be considered, but priority will be given to applications that:

- Provide or enable a service / facility to the community that would otherwise not be available to the Bellarine community
- Public education
- Community health and wellbeing

"Whilst this is our first year of allocating grants in partnership with the Foundation, we hope that with the continued backing of the community and business on the Bellarine Peninsula, this will be an annual Program," said Ms Justine.

Queries can be addressed to the Community Enterprise[™] Foundation on 1300 304 541 or email foundation@bendigobank.com.au or visit www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation or by calling into the Bellarine Community Bank[®] branch in Newcombe St, Port Arlington.

Applications must be signed and forwarded by post to PO Box 480 Bendigo 3552 and must be received by last mail on 13th October 2005.

To help applicants, the branch is holding an Information Session, with Maree Barling from the Community Enterprise[™] Foundation attending. The session will be held on Monday 26th September 2005 at 6.30pm at the Community Bank[®] Meeting Room in Newcombe St Portarlington.

Successful applicants will be advised in writing and publicly on 23rd November at the AGM of the Bellarine Peninsula Community Bank[®] Branch.

INQUIRIES: Maree Barling 03 5433 9969

MEDIA RELEASE