

## Bellarine Peninsula Community Branch Limited Newsletter August 2008

### Chairman's report

We are continuing to grow stronger and this is in no small part due to our shareholders continuing to spread the word about 'our **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch' and the good we are doing in the community. You'll read shortly about our Community Grants Scheme applications opening in August, and some of the other projects, big and small that we are planning to undertake in order to give greater benefits to your community.

As you know, we are working on a major project at the moment, converting Drysdale into a full **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch and increasing the size of the premises. When completed, we will have a full banking service to support the local area for years to come and the Drysdale/Clifton Springs community will reap the rewards to be made with the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> concept. We hope to open this branch by the end of the year and will be keeping you up to date in future newsletters.

Our bank management and staff continue to excel in supporting our customers with outstanding service, and this is greatly appreciated by the Board. I'm sure you will agree that it is still a delight to walk into the branch and be greeted with smiling, friendly faces.

**Russell Enders**  
Chairman

### School breakfast program

Bellarine Peninsula Community Branch Limited. is proud to continue its sponsorship of the breakfast program at Portarlington Primary School with a **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch sign displayed on the school's front fence showing our involvement in providing students with breakfast.

The program has been running for the past five years with the main aim to provide local children with a good breakfast, as this helps them last the day, and statistics show a good breakfast helps them concentrate longer.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity of being involved with this program.



### Branch Manager's report

Having recently attended the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> National Conference in Bendigo, which was timed to coincide with the ten year anniversary of the opening of the first **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch, we realise how successful the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> concept has been in all states and territories. There are now 219 **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branches right around Australia. It is also 150 years since Bendigo Bank started in 1858 as the Bendigo Building Society.

It will be nine years at the end of October since we opened in Portarlington and I think we can all be proud of what our Company has achieved in that time. At the end of June this year we had total business of \$99 million. We did not quite make the \$100 million!!

It is pleasing to see the support that we are getting from the Drysdale/Clifton Springs community with business at Drysdale sub branch of over \$22 million. This has been achieved by the hard work of Craig Taylor and his staff of Sheena, Mandy, Wendy and Christina. They have also been assisted by efforts of the Drysdale Steering Committee who have given their time to raise the awareness of the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> concept in the area. Hopefully it will not be long before we have a full **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch and new enlarged premises to handle the increasing business.

Portarlington branch has continued to grow with business totalling over \$76 million. I would like to welcome our new staff member Tonia who started with us in June and has settled in well.

It is through the efforts of everyone that we continue to grow and are able to continue our Community Grants Program, provide on going funding to the Youth Foundation as well as continue sponsorships for clubs and organisations. The breakfast program at the Portarlington Primary School is an excellent example of a project that is assisting our children. By providing breakfast for the students this assists them in concentrating during their classes thus improving their education.

**Ian Faulkner**  
Branch Manager

## Youth foundation

The Youth Foundation was launched at Parks Hall, Portarlington on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. The opening was attended by The Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, James Merlino, members of the Board of Bellarine Peninsula Community Branch Limited and numerous other dignitaries

Youth Foundations Victoria is a partnership between the Victorian Government, Bendigo Bank and local communities to enable young people to look at the needs of their local area, develop funds and make small grants for local youth-led activities.

The young people will build skills, such as:

- leadership and decision making
- network development and community planning
- volunteering based on stronger community connections
- project management
- communications and marketing
- developing the attitudes and values to enable them to effectively contribute to their communities.

Rob Evans (pictured right) has been employed as the part-time facilitator and is very passionate about his part in helping the youth in the area becoming an established group which successfully makes a real difference in the area.

Rob has a background in: psychology, secondary school education, community development and youth work. He has travelled, lived and worked in numerous places around Australia including the last ten years in Arnhem Land.

Rob has been very busy visiting local schools, groups and businesses, introducing himself and the work he will be doing with the Youth Foundation in the Portarlington, Drysdale, and St.Leonards area.

He will be in regular contact with the Board giving progress reports on the Youth Foundation, with up-dates to be printed in future newsletters for you to read about the work being done.



## 2008 National Conference

This year's **Community Bank**® National Conference was held in Bendigo on 8 and 9 July. The conference was attended by Russell Enders (Chairman), Bob Hynes (Director), Ian Faulkner (Manager, Portarlington) and Robyn Durran (Board Support Officer).

The conference was also a celebration of Bendigo Bank's 150th anniversary as well as the 10 year anniversary of the opening of the first **Community Bank**® branch.

There were many opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas and stories of how **Community Bank**® branches help their local and wider communities.

Bellarine Peninsula Community Bank Limited,

### Portarlington

44 Newcomb Street, Portarlington VIC 3223 Phone: 5259 3266

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am – 4.00pm,  
Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

### Drysdale

11 Clifton Springs Road, Drysdale VIC 3222 Phone: 5253 3192

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm,  
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

## Introducing...

### Kerry Firth - Customer Service Officer

Kerry has been with the Bellarine Peninsula **Community Bank**® Branch for over seven years. In this time she has seen the Portarlington branch grow, and continuing to grow with the inclusion of Drysdale branch.

Kerry finds it very rewarding to go to the AGM and see the grant recipients and shareholders each year and enjoys hearing how community grant money has made a difference in the community.

It's great to see how the local community benefits from our **Community Bank**® branch, which in turn has created a rewarding job for Kerry.



## Drysdale branch

The volunteers on the Drysdale Steering Committee have been working very hard at getting the **Community Bank**® message out. They are holding regular information booths, as well as visiting local markets, shops and businesses.

With community interest growing, a successful update evening was held at the Drysdale Bowling Club on 4 June, with over 70 people attending. Locals were able to ask questions and get answers from many representatives from Bellarine Peninsula **Community Bank**® Branch and Bendigo Bank who attended.

Everyone is looking forward to moving ahead to the next stage in the opening of a community branch of the Bendigo Bank in Drysdale.

## Community Grants

### St.Leonards Community Hall Water Tanks

Last years' grant to the St.Leonards Garden Club paid for the installation of a water tank at the community hall in St.Leonards.

The tank has made a substantial difference to the water account, with only a service charge now being paid, and no usage charges at all. Running and maintaining the community hall costs a lot of money, and the money saved can now be used for maintenance and upgrading facilities.

A water filter has been installed under the sink to make the water safe for people to drink, and the garden at the hall is also benefiting from the currently full tank.



**Chairman:** Russell Enders

**Directors:** Justine Finlay (Vice-Chair),  
Stephen Wight (Treasurer), Karen Woodhart  
(Secretary), Robert Hynes, Frank Kelloway,  
Stephen Thew, Gary Irving.