

Bellarine Peninsula and Drysdale **Community Bank**[®] branches Newsletter June 2009

Manager's report

We have had good growth this financial year with total business as at 30th April 2009 of \$129 million which is growth for the 10 months of \$30 million. Portarlington has increased by \$10 million and Drysdale by \$20 million. It is great to see the support at Drysdale since it became a full **Community Bank**[®] branch in January. Between the two branches we now have over 7,000 accounts.

Whilst business growth has been very good this has not translated into revenue and increased profits which is disappointing given the efforts of all to grow the business. The reduced revenue is due to interest rates during the year as a result of the global economic conditions.

With the majority of our growth in deposits and in particular term deposits this has increased our cost of funding and reduced our margins. However, in the last two months we have seen our income increase as margins have improved and we expect this trend to continue in the short term with the Reserve Bank now having left interest rates unchanged in April and May.

Our new staff members have settled in well at both branches and are getting to know our customers. Our Customer Relationship

Officers, Kerry at Drysdale and Sheena at Portarlington, are able to open new accounts, term deposits, arrange personal loans and credit cards and assist with other enquiries away from the counter. This ensures that our customers receive efficient service.

We have again sponsored the National Celtic Festival held over the long weekend in Portarlington. This was the seventh year the festival has been held in Portarlington and it goes from strength to strength with visitors from around the world. For the first time tickets have been purchased by people in France. The event helps promote Portarlington and gives the local businesses a boost during what would be a quiet time in winter.

One of our community grants last year was \$10,000 to the Clifton Springs Pre-school for a new playground. The pre-school was also able to obtain some funding from the City of Greater Geelong to assist with the project. The playground has now been completed with the official opening held recently.

We thank the community for their continued support that enables us to contribute to the various events and projects in the area.

Ian Faulkner
Manager



▲ Clifton Springs Pre-school new playground.



Introducing...

Wendy Calder – Customer Service Officer, Drysdale **Community Bank**® Branch



I have lived in the Drysdale/Clifton Springs area for over 27 years and in this time I have seen the town grow from a small country town with very few facilities to what it is now.

Likewise I have seen the Drysdale **Community Bank**® Branch grow from a small bank agency, to a sub-branch and finally to a full **Community Bank**®

branch in January 2009 through the assistance and support of local shareholders and the community.

I have been in the banking industry as a Customer Service Officer for more than 25 years and with Bendigo Bank through Company ownership and now the **Community Bank**® branch since 2004.

I am a proud team member of the Drysdale **Community Bank**® Branch; a branch that gives from its profits in the form of grants, donations and sponsorship to local groups/organisations and the community.

Wendy is the Customer Service Officer at the Drysdale **Community Bank**® Branch and is able to assist you with all your banking needs and enquiries.

Youth Foundation

The Youth Foundations Victoria North Bellarine site will be holding their inaugural grants presentation evening at the end of June. The group (a Board comprised of local young people) has named themselves M.I.S.S.I.O.N. which stands for Many Individuals Supporting Socially Important Options on the North Bellarine.

Their aim is to make a positive change for disadvantaged young people on the North Bellarine. The grants are decided upon by M.I.S.S.I.O.N. and priority is given to projects that involve local North Bellarine communities and activities that involve young people.

The funding priorities set by M.I.S.S.I.O.N. for this grant round were: transport, entertainment and social connectedness, sport and recreation. Applicants were also required to address a charitable purpose.

We will have a full run down of the grants awarded in our next newsletter.

State Conference

During April this year, our Board Support Officer Robyn Durran, Drysdale Manager Craig Taylor, fellow Director Sandra Baldwin and I attended the State Conference held by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank for the express benefit of **Community Bank**® branch staff and Directors.

These conferences are a chance for Directors to learn about what is happening in **Community Bank**® branches across the region (our region takes in NT, Tas, SA and Victoria). It is also a chance to showcase how branches are benefiting their communities and for Directors to get ideas and inspiration of how we could do similar things in our community.

An example of this is five years ago at a similar conference there was a lot of talk about how branches were helping their local Neighbourhood Watch groups. This got me thinking; Portarlington didn't even have a Neighbourhood Watch Group! So I came home and found out what I had to do to make this happen. I asked the Board for a small sponsorship of \$150 to cover postage and printing and setting up a Portarlington Neighbourhood Watch Group.

Neighbourhood Watch in Portarlington has now been going strong for five years, a great result for the community as a whole! Other examples are the opening of the Drysdale branch, Youth Foundations and our many other grants and sponsorships over the years.

Directors and staff attending these conferences not only benefit from the great learning opportunities, but such a gathering of like-minded individuals also provides us with great networking opportunities. Directors can often learn just as much by talking to fellow Directors at morning and afternoon tea as they do throughout the day!

I look forward to the opportunity to attend these events so I can continue to gather information and ideas to enable the Board of Directors to give our community the best possible outcomes.

Karen Woodhart
Director

New share registry provider

Shareholders will have recently received correspondence advising that as of 1st July 2009, Computershare Investor Services will no longer provide a share registry service to Bellarine Peninsula Community Branch Ltd.

We are pleased to advise that the Directors have appointed AFS & Associates, Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors as the new share registry provider.

If any of your details are not as they should be this is the time to act! We ask you to make sure AFS & Associates have your up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive all correspondence and dividends.

AFS & Associates' contact details are –

Address: 61-65 Bull Street, Bendigo VIC 3550

Postal Address: PO Box 454, Bendigo VIC 3552

Contact Numbers: Phone – 03 5443 0344
Fax – 03 5443 5304

Community Bank® branch sponsorships

Over the past three months, your **Community Bank®** branches have sponsored many local groups and events including –

- Portarlington Tennis Club who received a sponsorship for trophies.
- Concern received \$150 for a mixed bowls tournament held in March.
- Drysdale Bowling & Croquet Club received \$357 for bowls stickers.
- In March The Bellarine Agricultural Society received a sponsorship for \$200 to enable printing of the show program.
- Portarlington Annual Golf Charity Day received sponsorship of \$150. Proceeds of this annual event go to the Royal Freemasons. The Golf Club also received sponsorship of \$200 plus promotional items for their annual men's day.
- Portarlington Pony Club received sponsorship of \$120 for the show jumping carnival in May.



▲ Portarlington Pony Club.

- The Drysdale Bunyip Festival received sponsorship of \$100.
- Drysdale Football Club has received sponsorship of \$550 which will go towards the Drysdale Football Club Bronze sponsorship package.
- Portarlington Garden Club received sponsorship of \$250 for their show in November.
- \$250 for a performing arts program for pre-school and prep grade children to be held at the Potato Shed in October.
- The National Celtic Festival received sponsorship of \$5,000 for the festival held over the long weekend in June. (See photos right)



◀ The Escapologist drew a crowd.



BSX announcement

The following announcement was lodged with BSX on 21 May 2009

The Board of Directors of Bellarine Peninsula Community Branch Ltd. wishes to advise that as a result of economic circumstances and the reduced margin income, it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the forecasted position of the Company for the year ending 30 June 2009.

Although business levels have continued to grow over the reporting period, our profit is less than expected because of the reduced margin in the market place. We anticipate that these margins will improve in the near future.

The Board will continue to closely monitor the position, and further commentary will be provided to the market as the position warrants.

Banking like it should be!

Banking with the Bellarine Peninsula **Community Bank**[®] Branch and Drysdale **Community Bank**[®] Branch is a great way to support your community because profits made by the branches stay in the local community – through our sponsorships, community grants and shareholder dividends.



But in addition, banking at Bellarine Peninsula **Community Bank**[®] Branch and Drysdale **Community Bank**[®] Branch is banking like it used to be. So if you're thinking about your banking, come down and say hello.

2009 Annual General Meeting

Planning has begun for the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bellarine Peninsula Community Branch Ltd. The meeting will be held at the Portarlington Bowls Club on 11th November 2009. Make a note in your diary to attend the AGM, meet your Directors and to hear of all the good work your banks are doing in your community.

Bellarine Peninsula **Community Bank**[®] Branch and Drysdale **Community Bank**[®] Branch website

Go to our website at www.bendigobank.com.au/community_bank/our_community_banks.asp



Under Bellarine Peninsula you can find all sorts of information on our branches as well as download Newsletters, Annual Reports etc. All staff and Director changes are also on display on the website.



BMPNLO027 (16/06/09)

Bellarine Peninsula **Community Bank**[®] Branch,
44 Newcombe Street, Portarlington VIC 3223
Phone: 5259 3266
Website: www.bendigobank.com.au
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am – 4.30pm,
Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm and Saturday mornings
9.00am – 12 noon

Drysdale **Community Bank**[®] Branch,
11 Clifton Springs Road, Drysdale VIC 3223
Phone: 5253 3192
Website: www.bendigobank.com.au
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon