

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS AGM 2007

It has been four years and three months since we opened the doors on our Community Bank.

What have we, as a community, gained from this?

1. A banking facility, manned by extremely able and friendly staff.
2. In those four years we have contributed in excess of \$81,000 back to the community through sponsorships and grants.
3. A small dividend has been paid to our shareholders.

Where do we go from here?

Our Cowes steering committee is currently going through the feasibility study process. Pledges for Cowes are at \$470,000 which is still a bit short of the target.

The Grantville community approached us in early July at our first meeting to discuss the grants process. They expressed interest in getting a Community Bank at Grantville. Such has been their drive and enthusiasm, that they now have a steering committee of sixteen people working towards their goal. They launched their pledge drive last weekend. Both Cowes and Grantville will be part of our company, San Remo District Financial Services.

For our past achievements and future expectations I thank our very loyal shareholders, about 90% support us with some form of banking. I believe that this is the highest percentage of shareholder participation as customers in the community bank network.

I thank our most competent and loyal staff headed by manager Michael Scott who joined us last December. The

staff have been through some trying times this year as we lost our friend and previous manager, Fred Borg, to cancer in early March.

To my team of directors, my thanks for your time and services which have been given so willingly, and to our secretary Catherine who handles a demanding position very well.

Our shares are listed on the Bendigo Stock Exchange via the internet www.bsx.com.au We have had a few shares traded over the last year and had a sale **OFF** the BSX a few weeks ago where shares were transferred for \$1 each.

If, as expected, the Cowes branch goes ahead this year our company will need to be valued and present shareholders will be advised of a bonus issue of shares.

Finally I wish to express my thanks for the continued help and support we receive from the Bendigo Bank staff at Regional, Docklands and Bendigo Head Office.

I now invite our manager, Michael Scott, to address the meeting.

AT END OF NIGHT

I welcome our three new directors, Sue Becker, Craig Semple and Paul Crosby to the board and hope you find the challenge enjoyable.

Would Bruce Adams please come forward? Bruce was one of our original directors and has served for five years in various capacities – treasurer, audit committee member and odd jobs man at the branch. Bruce decided to retire from the board due to work commitments and we wish him all the best. As a token of appreciation I would ask Bruce to accept this gift. Thanks Bruce.