



March 2013

Made possible by the customers of
Mt Evelyn and Montrose **Community Bank®** branches



Top: Year 9 Students were exuberant as they posed for a group photo on the last day of the camp.

Youth Development Program for Year 9 Students

Camp Awakenings is a youth development program for Year 9 students, which is held over two and a half days and focuses on building support networks for the participants by way of friendship and trust. Through self-belief and motivation, participants develop their own methods to counter the challenges faced by the youth of today.

The program began in 2001 with the support of Rotary and has since expanded with interest from various corporate bodies. The camps are coordinated and run by former and current youth leaders, most of whom have attended leadership development courses, for example Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). The leaders also remain in contact with participants after the camp to assist in further development and support. Two months after the camp there is an opportunity also for participants to come back together as a group to be involved in a 'Recharge' program.

The first camp offered to our local schools in the Yarra Valley, was held at the YMCA Recreation Camp, Mt Evelyn. We were proud to be part of the jointly sponsored event, which saw the collaboration of the districts Rotary Clubs and **Community Bank®** branches in the Yarra Valley. The next camp will be held in July 2013 and camp organisers will soon visit local schools to make a presentation to the students and teachers to recruit this year's participants.

Chairman's report

Well another year is upon us and we are already starting to talk about when Easter falls this year. Our company certainly finished up on a high note for 2012, with our celebration of ten wonderful years of providing Mt Evelyn with 'good old fashioned' banking services and supporting our community with \$1.4 million in bank profits. I must also add, as reported in the 2013 Annual Report, that in addition to this fantastic achievement, we have also paid in full for our branch building at Montrose, giving us two property assets now.



A wonderful night was had by those attending our joint AGM/10th birthday celebration held at Swinburne Lilydale Campus. Finger food, refreshments and entertainment made for what was a most enjoyable and wonderful night of celebration. A demonstration by Mt Evelyn Karate Club inspired the guests as 'littlies' as well as adults showed their moves.

The night was a perfect opportunity to bring our shareholders, our Bendigo and Adelaide Bank support team, our community partners, and State, Federal and Local Government members together to celebrate our marvellous collaborative achievement.

As I said previously, we certainly ended the 2012 calendar year with some wonderful milestones. Montrose **Community Bank®** Branch is now breaking even on a monthly basis and slowly recouping prior losses. The half year profit before tax to 31 December 2012 was \$118,334, a 40 per cent increase on last year. During the six months to 31 December we also paid a fully franked dividend of 2.5 cents per ordinary share totalling \$73,502. Both branches teams continue to provide excellent service and look to our customers' needs.

As a result, both Mt Evelyn and Montrose **Community Bank®** branches continue to trade well and we are able to continue our support of local community groups. As a mature company now, and as our income and profitability increases, we are able to look at larger community contributions. We have successfully put a wonderful major sponsorship into place with one of our local schools (please read article following). We are also currently in discussion with large community service groups in our area on a couple of important initiatives that will change the lives of some of our local people who face challenges on a daily basis.

We look forward to another successful year in 2013 of continued growth and making a significant contribution to our communities in which we live.

In closing, on behalf of the Board and branch management, thank you all for your ongoing support and please remember to tell others about what a difference their banking could make if they embraced the **Community Bank®** way of banking.

Jill Rule
Chairman

Mt Evelyn & Districts Financial Services Limited

37 Wray Crescent, Mt Evelyn Vic 3796 ABN 93 096 782 240

Directors: Jillian Rule (Chairperson), Gai Williams (Deputy Chairperson), Margaret Sank (Treasurer), Georgia Donovan, Iain Fraser, Craig Keithley, Gareth Little-Hales, Janette Simmons.

Affordable Food Market

With a grant from Mt Evelyn **Community Bank®** Branch, the first Affordable Food Market run by Morrisons and Inspiro, was held in November 2012 at the Mt Evelyn Scout's grounds.

The market was very successful and it was extremely pleasing to see more than 120 people attend. The market seeks to increase access to fresh produce to ensure that each member of the community has an opportunity to purchase nutrient-rich fresh fruit and vegetables. The growers sold out of most of their fresh produce, which is a wonderful result and shows the real need for affordable fruit and vegetables in our community.

The second market held on 14 December 2012 was unfortunately rained out and had to be held indoors, but still saw many attend to buy the fresh produce.

Heidi Smith, Morrisons Community Development Manager said, "We are very pleased with the response to the markets and we hope that more stall holders will participate in future markets."

The details of the next Affordable Food Markets are as follows;

When: 9.30am – 1.30pm. 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December.

Where: Mt Evelyn Scout Hall – 23 Station Street, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

The Affordable Food Market will run on the second Friday of the month – see poster for details.



Above: Locals snap up fresh produce at the December market.

Community Enterprise Project

As part of the maturing of your **Community Bank®** branches, your Board has looked at various larger scale community projects.

In late 2011, we commenced discussions with Mount Evelyn Christian School to investigate a meaningful way that your **Community Bank®** company could make a contribution to the education of our local youth.

For many years we have supported various programs at Mount Evelyn Primary School and Yarra Hills Secondary College, and we have now commenced building a similar relationship with Montrose Primary School.

Your Board felt that making a contribution to Mount Evelyn Christian School, where students commence at pre-school level and finish at Year 12, would be a good way to continue to assist all the educational institutions in our community.

Mount Evelyn Christian School told us that their trade campus (TEC) in Lilydale was in desperate need of a bus to transport students to various educational opportunities associated with their selected trade course.

The opportunity then arose to assist the school with the provision of a bus, and throughout 2012 your Board worked with the school administration to make this happen.

Your Board undertook proper due diligence and received legal advice as to the best way to undertake such a project, bearing in mind the

Annual Grants Program

As part of the 2012 AGM proceedings, we were delighted to present local organisations with \$80,000. The mix of applications was wide and varied again this year.

One application this year was from the Junior School Council of Mt Evelyn Primary School. The students, who were directly involved, were extremely enthusiastic about this project, which was evident when we met with them and Cathy Sanders, Vice Principal.

The students identified two projects and undertook the application process with the school's assistance:

Making History Project - Purchase a set of class ipads to learn and record directly from our local senior residents. The idea was to work alongside the Mt Evelyn History Group and RSL members to make movies, take photographs and make digital images of our local history. The students would pass on their IT knowledge to our senior residents in the process.

Community Music Project - Set up a recording studio by purchasing instruments, Apple computers and a microphone. The school has a strong music program and the students wanted a way of sharing, recording and showcasing their music beyond school. A newly formed Community Choir involving three of the local Primary Schools would also benefit from the studio.

The students were thrilled that both applications were successful. Two students accompanied by their school Principal, Phil Comport attended our AGM to receive the grants.

In obtaining a grant via Mt Evelyn **Community Bank®** Branch, the students achieved a positive outcome for their school and created wider links to our local senior community.



Mt Evelyn Primary School students Jade Tully and Bailey Johnson, accompanied by school Principal Phil Comport, accept the grants on behalf of the school's Junior School Council



Above: The new bus that will transport TEC's students to on-site locations for hands on learning.

needs of the school and our opportunity to brand the bus with the Mount Evelyn and Montrose **Community Bank®** branches logo to have the bus driving through the outer east promoting our branches.

The end result was that in December 2012, Mount Evelyn Christian School took delivery of a striking brand new bus branded with Mount Evelyn and Montrose **Community Bank®** branches, much to the great delight of all concerned.

Mt Evelyn Town Planning Day

Mt Evelyn **Community Bank**® Branch was again delighted to sponsor the Town Planning Day for the Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee (METIC).

This annual event held in February, has now been running for seven years. The forum provides local residents the opportunity to have a say and input into what they value about their town, and guide what METIC might support in the coming year. The event also provides an opportunity for community groups and services to identify projects that they could engage with or drive forward.

This year 80 people came together to discuss possible directions. We were especially delighted to welcome students from both secondary and primary schools. One young man, who is in Year 7, is still 'buzzing' about the night. "How can I get more involved? Could I attend the meetings?" he asked. Perhaps we have a future councillor here!

METIC is a group of local volunteers, who aim to support projects that will improve the town in any way, artistically, culturally, educationally, environmentally, through improved business, improved safety and security etc. METIC is also an active member of the YRC's Yarra Ranges Township Group Network.

METIC often works by supporting projects of other groups in the town or working with others to achieve a common goal. This year they are likely to once again chair, and be the main drivers for a Street Party/Festival at the end of 2013, which will also proudly be sponsored by Mt Evelyn **Community Bank**® Branch. New members are welcome to join the working committee for the Street Party.

Please contact Morrisons on 9736 1457, if you would like to become involved.

"Our branches are always looking for new ways to support our community and we regard this event as a wonderful opportunity for us to be aware of any future initiatives that we might be able to assist with," said Mt Evelyn **Community Bank**® Branch Manager Leanne Vaytauer.



Left: Yarra Hills Secondary College student Taniwha and Riley-May, Brett, and Gypsy from Mt Evelyn Primary School show off their blueprint for Mt Evelyn.

Mount Evelyn Community Bank® Branch Business of the Year Award

This award, sponsored by Mount Evelyn **Community Bank**® Branch is to recognise the outstanding achievements overall by a Mount Evelyn business. The 2012 Winner is Methven Professionals.

Methven Professionals was established in 1964, with the Mt Evelyn office opening 24 years ago. They employ eight local people at their busy office and are both proud and privileged to be part of this wonderful local community.

Not only does this business support the local township with their expertise in real estate sales and rentals, but they are also very active in the community. Some of their achievements include the sponsorship of local football and netball clubs, as well as running sports auctions. They also provide sponsorship signage boards for many community groups, including the Scouts, Mt Evelyn Street and Twilight Markets, school fetes and garage sales.

Methven Professionals also provide support and financial assistance to the Neighbourhood Watch group in the local area and have supported the National Breast Cancer Foundation with a major fundraiser Gala Night annually.

Congratulations Methven Professionals! A worthy recipient of the 2012 Business of the Year Award.



Above: Jill Rule Chairman presents Liam Jackson, Manager Methven Professionals Mt Evelyn and Greg Earney, Director Methvens Group with the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce 2012 Business of the Year Award

Mt Evelyn Business Awards 2012

The Mount Evelyn Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, in partnership with Mount Evelyn **Community Bank**® Branch, held their inaugural Business Awards Dinner in late November at the Twisted Vine Restaurant, with many local businesses and community groups represented.

The ten awards on offer and the award process allows Mount Evelyn businesses and organisations to nominate themselves and be recognised for their achievements and their efforts to succeed in 2012. Congratulations to All winners.

Award Winners

Retailing Excellence Award	Billy Goat Brasserie	Outstanding Achievement Award	Jobo Design
Service Excellence Award	H'Diva	Best Presented Business Award	Shear Obsession
Industry Achievement Award	Kieran Cox Solicitor	Environmental Award	MEEPA
Community Group of the Year Award	RSL	Youth Development Award	Mount Evelyn Scouts Group
Best Home Based Business Award	Yarra Ranges Country Apartments		

Fundraising Evening in support of Maroondah Breast Clinic



Above: Jill Rule Chairman, Gai Williams Deputy Chair and Marge Sank Company Secretary and Treasurer present a cheque to Dr. Michael Law, Breast Cancer Surgeon, Epworth Eastern/Maroondah Hospital.

Organisers of the Melbourne Breast Cancer Bra Walk, held a fundraising evening in support of the Maroondah Breast Clinic and the Yarra Valley Ladies in Pink, at Linley Estate in Kilsyth.

Guests enjoyed finger food and beverages, while listening to anecdotal stories from breast cancer survivors and special guest speakers. An auction and raffle also added to raising funds, in what was a most inspiring and enjoyable evening.

The Hon Tony Smith MP, who is a great supporter of the cause, paid tribute to the Pinker sisters Sue, Katherine and Kim on the night and in a following parliamentary address. The sisters, since being touched in their family by breast cancer, have undertaken to bring about greater awareness within the local and broader communities. Their aim is to build on the great work already being done by cancer organisations and to draw attention and raise funds at a local level.

Montrose **Community Bank**® Branch was delighted to sponsor the evening, plus present a cheque to Maroondah Breast Clinic for the purchase of a digital camera, to assist with monitoring any changes following surgery.

Montrose Community Bank® Branch puts sunshine into children's lives

In our Community Grants Program, Montrose **Community Bank**® Branch granted \$3,806 to Hills Community Child Care in Olinda, for the installation of new all-weather blinds at the centre. The project has recently been completed with blinds now enclosing the entire wooden deck area, creating a wonderful dry play area for the children during the winter months. Previously the children had to remain inside on wet or chilly windy days.

Jenny Oakley, HCCC Care Co-ordinator, said the grant from the bank enabled the project to proceed. "I am amazed at the difference this has made to the children, who can now enjoy sitting in the sunshine, as the blinds act like a glass house on sunny days. There are very few days during winter where the children can enjoy fresh air and run around outside."

For information on Hills Community Child Care, Olinda, please contact the centre on 9751 0001 or Enrolment Officer, Sue Clark on 9728 3233 or visit their website www.hillschildcare.org.au



Left: Children attending HCCC enjoy sitting in the newly enclosed deck area as Kevin Wilson, Branch Supervisor Montrose **Community Bank**® Branch, presents the grant cheque to Jenny Oakley, HCCC Care Co-ordinator.



Above: Full attention was paid as men listened to important discussion on health issues.

Blokes Night Out

Last year the Rotary Club of Montrose and District came up with the idea of holding a health information evening for men of all ages. The idea came to fruition at the Kilsyth Club, where over 160 men gathered to hear health professionals speak of issues particular to men, and have the opportunity to share stories and their own thoughts.

Guest speakers included AFL personalities David Parkin and the intellectual wit of Sam Kechovich, AFL celebrity and the 'face of lamb' advertising in Australia. Health specialists, Associate Professor Paul Katz and Professor Chris Gilfillan were also invited to provide expert comments.

It was truly an evening of great inspiration and Montrose **Community Bank**® Branch was proud to be part of such an event. "We look forward to further opportunities in years to come to support such causes that provide much needed information and a forum for open discussion on this very important subject," said Senior Group Manager David Watt.



Watch the **Community Bank**® story at www.bendigobank.com.au/snapshots

U can find our branches at...

Mt Evelyn Shop 2, 35-39 Wray Crescent, Mt Evelyn VIC 3796 Phone: 9737 1833 Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/mt_evelyn

Montrose 7-926-930 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Montrose VIC 3765 Phone: 9728 3177 Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/montrose

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

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. BMPNL0550 (02/13)

Mt Evelyn and Montrose **Community Bank**® branches

