



Valley Visions

December 2011

Hurstbridge & Districts **Community Bank®** Branch
 Diamond Creek **Community Bank®** Branch
 Eltham & District **Community Bank®** Branch
 Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank®** Branch
 and Kinglake branch

Welcome to our Christmas edition of Valley Visions for 2011. Valley Community Financial Services Limited (VCFS) is the publicly listed Company that owns the franchises for the Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham and Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank®** branches and Kinglake branch. We hope you find this edition entertaining and enlightening.

*"Our **Community Bank®** branches proudly supported by our customers"*

Chairman's chat

A lot of things have happened since our last issue. We have been successful in holding two Community Forums – Doreen & Mernda and Kinglake. We have supported numerous community groups and the Community Bank Stadium is well on its way to be completed by February 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continuing support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Dividend payment

On 28 October 2011, Valley provided a dividend to shareholders of 4 cents per share. In the interests of efficiency and to reduce costs, payments can be made by electronic transfer. Please contact Melissa Vickrage, Administration Officer on 9438 3194 or email m.vickrage@valleyfinancial.com.au if you would like to receive future dividend payments this way.

Board members

A big thank you to all of our volunteer Directors who commit their time and effort into making our **Community Bank®** branches a success:

- Barry Henwood, Chairman, appointed 2001
- Malcolm Hackett, Deputy Chairman, appointed 2008
- David Wheeler, Treasurer, appointed 2000
- Ingrid Crichton, Director, appointed 2008 and Company Secretary, appointed 2011
- Stephen Bennett, Director, appointed 2008
- Philip Marendaz, Director, appointed 2009
- Hugh Stuble, Director, appointed 2005
- Daryl Brooke, Director, appointed 2010
- Carole Bury, Director, appointed 2011



Annual General Meeting

The 11th Annual General Meeting of VCFS was held on 9 November 2011 at Bridges Restaurant, Hurstbridge. We wish to thank shareholders and staff members of our **Community Bank®** branches for their attendance. After the formal meeting, Barry Henwood, Chairman, introduced Malcolm Hackett (pictured above) who went on to introduce four of our sponsor recipients. All shareholders should have received a copy of the Annual Report, either by post or email. If not, please contact Melissa Vickrage at our Administration Office in Diamond Creek and she will arrange for a copy to be forwarded to you.

Thank U

It is with regret that the Board accepted the resignation of Director Julie Reid, who has been a Director since 2003. We wish Julie all the best for the future and thank her for her valuable contribution.

We're supporting the community

The **Community Bank®** model is all about supporting our communities in every way we can. Apart from the convenient, old-fashioned friendly banking services, we grow our business by supporting our local communities with the profits that we earn. The more our business grows, the more funds we put back into the community. Currently, we have given over \$3 million back to the community. The following organisations were the successful beneficiaries for sponsorship in 2011 with more than \$98,390 being donated back into our local communities this year:

Sacred Heart Netball Club;

Nillumbik Scout District;

Diamond Creek Women's Football Club;

Mernda Football Club;

Eltham North Jets Basketball Club

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival Live Stage and Steam Train;

Diamond Creek East Primary School;

"On the Hill" Pantom Hill Festival;

Eltham Junior Football Club;

Whittlesea Show 2011;

SES Eltham Unit (CEF);

Arthurs Creek Primary School;

Run for the Furies (Kangaroo Ground and Research Fire Brigades);

Bollygum Kinglake Community Market (CEF);

Hurstbridge Cricket Club;

Diamond Creek Bowling Club;

St Andrews Film Society;

Strathewen Cricket Club;

Lower Eltham Cricket Club;

Eltham District Historical Society;

Doreen Primary School;

Research Tennis Club;

Strathewen Public Hall (CEF);

Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair;

Strathewen Memorial;

The Blacksmith's Tree Project;

Eltham Cricket Club;

Nillumbik Community Health Service;

Mernda Cricket Club;

Mernda Football Club;

Laurimar Town Fair (through Laurimar Primary School);

Plenty Cricket Club;

North East Blaze Netball Club;

Yarrambat Golf Club;

Laurimar Football Club;

Eltham Junior Football Club;

Nillumbik Group of Fire Brigades (CEF)



Images from top:

Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair.

Strathewen Memorial.

Wattle Festival 2011.

Bollygum Kinglake Market.

Tree Project.



Staff changes – Naomi Pickford

Naomi has recently been appointed our new Customer Service Officer at our Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank®** Branch. Naomi relocated with her family from Perth in April this year. This was so that their children could get to know Naomi's side of the family. She has previously worked at a credit union (10 years) in Perth doing Insurance and then later changing to CSO in the Head Office. She is hoping to travel to the east coast and to New Zealand in the future. Naomi's two children keep her extremely busy and on her toes daily! She enjoys all sports (watching and participating) and plays for the Greensborough State League Women's 1 team of hockey, which won the premiership this year. Naomi also enjoys camping, spending time with family and friends and socialising in her down time.

"The staff at the Doreen & Mernda Community Bank® Branch have made me feel very welcome and I already feel like part of a great team!"

Introducing CommunityPOS

Helping your community raise money

Schools, clubs and not-for-profits that bank with Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank®** branches and Kinglake branch, are able to apply for temporary access to our mobile EFTPOS machines, ideal for use at fundraising events, registration days, membership drives or school fêtes. The facility is a quick, low cost solution for community groups to accept real-time card payments on the day of their event. For further information or to use the facility, please contact any of our branches.

Key statistics

Hurstbridge Community Bank® Branch opened	April 2001
Diamond Creek Community Bank® Branch opened	March 2004
Kinglake branch opened	June 2009
Eltham Community Bank® Branch opened	October 2010
Doreen & Mernda Community Bank® Branch opened	February 2011
Number of shareholders	663
Listed on the Bendigo Stock Exchange	2006
Number of shares on issue	4,051,890
Employees	29
Volunteer Directors	9
Dividends to shareholders	\$886,139.00 approx
Community Grants and Sponsorships	Over \$3,400,000



For the kids

1. What do you call a ham that you really want?
2. What's green, round and goes camping?
3. Why do cars smell?

Knock Knock Who's there!
Adair! Adair who?
Adair once but I'm bald now!

Healthy, wealthy and wise

Healthy

What's a quick and easy way for men to improve their health and happiness? Hug more! Almost 60,000 people took part in the Happily Healthy Project test during the official 2011 test period, and the results found that men who hug a lot are much happier and healthier.

When comparing Australian male's HHQ score, those who do a fair bit of hugging scored above the national male average with a score of 63.9 whereas those who rarely hug scored well below the national average with a score of 54.9 (the national average is 60.4).

Whilst 37% of Australian men surveyed say they love to hug and hug a fair bit, 29% of our countrymen surveyed say they don't hug much or rarely hug at all and twice as many of these men (29%) rate their own health and happiness as below par, compared to their more cuddle friendly counterparts (14%).

For more information, see <http://www.happily-healthy.com.au/let%e2%80%99s-hug-it-out-men-who-hug-are-happier-and-healthier>.

Wealthy

Michael Parkes Adv. Dip. FS (FP)

Michael Parkes is our Bendigo Financial Planner. He has been working in the financial services industry for 30 years. Michael is passionate about providing practical and honest advice to his clients so that they can experience the peace of mind that a well-structured financial planning position can create. Michael likes to take the stress out of planning for his clients, and endeavours to make it an enjoyable experience. He always acts in the best interests of his clients.

"I treat my clients how I would expect or liked to be treated," says Michael.

Michael draws on his extensive banking and practical experience to assist clients in understanding and managing money issues such as budgeting to save for a home, protecting their wealth, restructuring investments and planning adequately for retirement. In his spare time, Michael enjoys spending time with his family, travelling both in Australia and overseas. He also enjoys listening to music, supports the mighty Kangaroos and loves all sports including EPL soccer and thoroughbred racing.

Please feel free to call and make an appointment to see Michael at any of our branches that is convenient for you. Your first appointment is complimentary.



Wise

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford (1863 to 1947)



Community Bank Stadium

The Community Bank Stadium is fast becoming a reality! The Stadium will feature three multi-purpose courts, a gymnastics centre and two courts that can be converted into a performance space with retractable seating for 900 people. Barry Henwood said "The project will provide a fantastic facility for two school communities as well as providing for the huge participation sports in the Diamond Valley including netball, basketball and gymnastics". This is the single biggest project undertaken by the Nillumbik Shire Council and demonstrates that the sky is the limit when a community decides to make things happen for themselves. The Community Bank Stadium is on track to open in February 2012.

For the kids (answers): 1. Pork-U-Pine! 2. A boy sprout! 3. Because they're full of gas!

Storyboards

Valley's branches are currently being fitted with Storyboards. These will display photos and stories of recent community groups that we have sponsored so you can see what we are up to. Please feel free to drop in and have a look at our Storyboards in Diamond Creek, Eltham and Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank®** branches.

Bendigo Stock Exchange

Change of listing to NSXA

VCFS is currently listed with the Bendigo Stock Exchange (BSX) but as of 3 January 2012, will be moving to the National Stock Exchange of Australia (NSXA). This move will give shareholders a broader market in which to trade their securities and provide access to more brokers. More information about the NSXA is available online at www.nsx.com.au. Until 3 January 2012, if you are interested in the price of recent trades or announcements we've made to the market, visit www.bsx.com.au click on "Markets" at the top of the page, then select "Community Boards" in the left margin. Choose "Valley Community Financial Ser" from the drop down box and then choose from a number of options (eg "announcements").

Questions? Ask us.

Do you have a suggestion that you would like to see in our next Newsletter? We would like to encourage you to email any suggestions or queries you have to us here at your **Community Bank®** Branch. Please send them to administration@valleyfinancial.com.au or if you don't have email access, just drop us a line, or call in to your nearest branch. We will do our best to answer all of your questions.

Hurstbridge & Districts **Community Bank®** Branch,
808 Main Road, Hurstbridge VIC 3099
Phone: 9718 0431
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon
Manager: Dion Shirley

Diamond Creek **Community Bank®** Branch,
Shop 8, 75-77 Main Hurstbridge Road,
Diamond Creek VIC 3089
Phone: 9438 4133
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon
Manager: Tina Elmer

Eltham & District **Community Bank®** Branch,
1036 Main Road, Eltham VIC 3095
Phone: 9439 0188
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon
Manager: Liam Jones

Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank®** Branch,
Shop 3, 101 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen VIC 3754
Phone: 9717 1433
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon
Manager: Jennifer Pearson

Kinglake branch,
1 Glenburn Road, Kinglake VIC 3763
Phone: 5786 1656
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 11.00am – 5.00pm
Manager: Dion Shirley

Valley Community Financial Services Limited
Shop 8B, 75-77 Main Hurstbridge Road,
Diamond Creek VIC 3089
Phone: 9438 3194
ABN: 86 092 399 730
Directors: Barry Henwood (Chairman), Malcolm Hackett (Deputy Chair), Ingrid Crichton (Company Secretary), David Wheeler (Treasurer), Hugh Stubley, Stephen Bennett, Philip Marendaz, Daryl Brooke and Carole Bury.

www.valleyfinancial.com.au