Welcome to 2010!

Somehow another year is upon us and our Community Bank® branch is about to turn 4 ... yup, that’s four years old. And thanks to our customers, staff and shareholders, we have some wonderful achievements to brag about.


Despite some scary financial things happening around the world, Clifroy performed very well, beating our budget forecast on income by 2.5% in the last financial year. Clifroy Chairman, Adrian Nelson, reported to the meeting on the Company’s strong performance in increasing business activity and account numbers in difficult times.

Manager Rod May reported that as at 30 June 2009 we held 3,454 accounts and $80.7 million in total business; deposit accounts totaled $54.4 million and lending totaled $26.3 million.

Through to the end of 2009, our business has continued to grow and our total business is now hovering around the $90 million mark!

But this is no time to relax; it’s time to keep our business growing. Almost half of our shareholders do not bank with Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch! What are you thinking?

And whether you are a shareholder or not, remember that the success of our Bank means greater contributions to our community.

Introducing ... our Manager

You may have seen another bank spending squillions on advertising how they are bringing back bank managers.

But we Community Bank® branches know the importance of relationships between customers and branch staff, and we never lost sight of it.

Rod May, Manager of Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch, has been with us since the branch opened in February 2006. Rod is not some new-fangled marketing strategy, but is a part of our community. When he isn’t ensuring that our customers get a full range of banking services, he may be found supporting local sports & events, getting coffee for the branch staff (mid-morning, every day), and even helping out on the counters in busy times.

Call Rod on 9482 9040, or call in and have a chat. He will set you right on loans & investments, organise some financial advice or business banking, whatever banking advice you need. Oh, and he can help you with gardening advice too.

And while you are visiting, say hello to the other lovely people that make our Community Bank® branch a great place.

Shareholders, Community Partners, Staff and Board Members at the Old Colonists in Clifton Hill after Clifroy Ltd’s 4th AGM.
Introducing our staff... David

David Burdett, our Assistant Manager, has also been here since our branch opened. He can help you with all types of banking things too. In fact, the only thing he can’t do is resist chocolate!

As well as working on Queens Parade and being a part of our Bank’s community, he is also a part of the QP traders’ family (literally!)

There’s plenty happening around the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch

Traders Association in Queens Parade

A steering committee to establish a Traders Association in Queens Parade has been formed and our Bank has agreed to provide an initial contribution of $5000 to help get things going, as well as organising and Chairing the meetings.

The Committee has agreed on the objective of developing and sustaining the appeal of Queens’s Parade as a distinctive, safe, convenient and comprehensive seven-day leisure and shopping destination for locals and visitors by focusing on appearance, economic activity, security and networking.

Traders associations have proved to be effective in promoting other shopping strips in Melbourne and we all wish the QP Traders well in their work. The Parade must continue to be a place where shoppers, businesses, kids, dogs and passersby can meet and mingle.

Walker St Community Kindergarten

The Walker St Community Kindergarten, formerly St Andrews Kindergarten, moved into its new home at 89 Walker St in early October, after a 9-month interim sojourn at the Mark St community hall. We celebrated the move with the official opening of the Kindergarten on Friday 13 November, attended by the local Member, Richard Wynne, the Mayor, Amanda Stone, and Bendigo Bank Chairman, Robert Johanson.

Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch worked with the kinder community and the City of Yarra to provide local children with a wonderful learning and play environment.

Fair Play Happy Football Cambodia Australia holds tournaments twice a year to support soccer (some people call it football!) for kids in disadvantaged circumstances in Collingwood and Cambodia.

Piggy accompanied a couple of Clifroy Directors to the tournament in October and had a great time, making lots of new friends. The next tournament takes place at Mayors Park in Clifton Hill on Saturday 13 March, and it looks like Piggy is already in training.

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Anand Bharadwaj

Nine year old Anand Bharadwaj, a Grade 3 Student at Clifton Hill Primary School, was the youngest person selected to represent Australia in the 4th World Youth Scrabble Championship held in Malaysia in December 2009.

Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch is proud to have contributed to Anand’s airfare and accommodation, to say nothing of some pretty snazzy t-shirts!

Collingwood Alternative School

Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch was pleased to sponsor circus training at Westside Circus for students from Collingwood Alternative School. These students then acted as circus trainers to share their skills with prep grade students from Fitzroy Primary School, and everyone had a great time, as you can see in the picture below.

Westside Circus

Westside Circus is a community arts program for young people between the ages of 3 and 25 from diverse social and cultural backgrounds. It aims to give them access to exciting and challenging programs which build confidence, promote personal wellbeing and create positive relationships both with peers and the community.

Introducing our staff... Toni

Toni Vavalo, our wonderful Customer Relations Officer, joined Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch in November 2006 and her helpful and generous personality makes banking easier for our customers. Not only in English, she can do it in Italian too! When she isn’t behind our counter, you might see her in Queens Parade shopping.

Introducing our staff... Jessica

We are lucky that country girl Jessica McKean came to the big city and joined our Bank in March 2007. Our customers appreciate her cheerful and calm approach to those pesky banking bits and pieces.

Richmond Toy Library

Our Community Partner Richmond Toy Library - www.rtl.org.au - recently turned 21 and with our help put on a real celebration with a big $2100 splash-out on new toys. The Richmond Toy Library helps over 130 local families borrow a wealth of high quality toys that extend their children’s play opportunities and learning experiences.

Collingwood Toy Library

The Collingwood Toy Library’s Annual Pre-Loved Toy & Clothing Fair is on again on Sunday 14 March 2010 from 9am to 1pm in the Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill. Come along and get yourself a bargain or set up your own stall and make some money from all those clothes and toys that you no longer need. In addition to the many stalls there will be plenty of food and entertainment on offer, including a petting zoo and jumping castle. Entry to the fair is free so mark your diaries now and come along and grab yourself a bargain. If you would like to book your own stall please call Wendy Diamond on 9489 8420 ASAP to reserve your place.

Carlton North Primary School

32 Grade 6 students from Carlton North Primary School recently embarked on a 2-hour sailing adventure around Port Philip Bay aboard Melbourne’s tall ship “The Schooner Enterprise”, which is a replica of the ship which brought the first European settlers to what was to become Melbourne. The activities combined a history lesson with learning new skills, and developing leadership, teamwork & self-confidence. Although the students and teachers suffered from seasickness, it was a life-changing experience and a bonding for these students who will disperse to many different Secondary Schools next year. Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch is pleased to have sponsored this valuable experience.

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St. John’s Clifton Hill

Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch community partner St. John’s Clifton Hill will celebrate its 125th Birthday in 2010 with 2 major functions: 15 August 2010, the opening of the new school to which everyone in the community is invited, and a Dinner Dance on 21 August. St. John’s is a Clifton Hill landmark and the church is classified by the National Trust.

Collingwood Alternative School gets creative

The students at Collingwood Alternative School are very clever and creative and the School is always on the lookout for resources they can use. If you would like to donate wood (offcuts are good), art supplies (remember when you decided that there was a great artist inside of you?), photography equipment (as per art supplies), cooking equipment (how many pasta makers do you need?), or sports equipment (New Year’s resolution perhaps) ring the school on 9419 3816.

Do you have time to help your community?

If you like what our Bank is doing in the local community, you could help us do even more. If you have a few hours to spare each week, and have public speaking, writing, marketing or organisational skills, talk to us about helping one of our Sub-Committees, or even joining our Board. Leave your contact details with our Branch Manager Rod May, and one of the Clifton Board members will get in touch with you.

Introducing our staff... Carole

Carole Malone, is our “newbie”, joining us in September 2009. Carole also enjoys providing efficient service to all our customers and looks forward to becoming more a part of our community. Carole describes herself as a “Diehard Carlton Nut” – mmm, what can I say?

Overload Poetry Festival

The Overload Poetry Festival was established in 2002 and in 2009 Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch was pleased to become a sponsor of Overload to promote participation in arts in the inner city.

James Waller, Festival Director, reported:

The 2009 Overload Poetry Festival was the finest Melbourne has seen. Great events with the NGV, ACMI & Fed Square complimented an outstanding programme which included performances by 15 interstate/NZ guests and over 60 local poets. Some highlights included a panel discussion on Indigenous poetry and the Stolen Generation at the City Library, a session at Fitzroy High School (with interstate guests) and a night of Arabic poetry at the Atherton Gardens Estate. With a growing partnership base Overload Poetry continues to grow, confirming its place as the peak body for performance poetry in Victoria. We are proud to have been partnered with the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch for the 2009 Overload Awards and hope that partnership continues in the future.

Secondary School Scholarships

Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® Branch is now partnering with the John Cummins Memorial Fund to offer scholarships for secondary students attending Fitzroy and Northcote Secondary Colleges. The scholarships are intended to support students who display determination, commitment and passion and are financially disadvantaged.