

12 March 2007

Bendigo Stock Exchange
PO Box 191
Flinders Lane Vic 8009

Company Announcement

At the AGM held today the Chairman, Maureen Newman, updated Shareholders present by stating that Coolalinga & Districts **Community Bank®** Branch of Bendigo Bank had passed the \$11 million in deposits and lending since the bank opened on 19 September 2006.

The chairman also advised that share subscriptions had nearly finished with approx. 12,000 shares left on offer

Maureen was pleased to advise that tonight we are starting the process of returning monies back to the community as promised at the outset and cheques were presented to various local community groups after the closing of the AGM.

The Branch Manager, Steve Purkis, stated the response from the Community had been great and not only was the location of the bank a winner, but the extended opening hours was popular.

Steve stated that at the end of February, 5 months after opening, the Bank had approx. 800 loan and deposit accounts. Deposits were \$4.3 million and settled loans \$6.46 million. There were \$4.4 million loans close to settlement and new applications totalled approx. \$3 million.

Steve was confident that after 12 months of operations the balance of total portfolio would reach the Year 1 Modified Forecast of approx. \$26 million as outlined in the Prospectus.

Shareholders were advised that there was expansion planned as both Alice Springs and Katherine were expected to open **Community Bank®** branches before the end of this financial year and Bendigo Bank was expected to open a Company owned Branch in Darwin in July 2007.

**Coolalinga & Districts
Community Finance Limited**

Steve also advised that Roger Ind had been appointed by Bendigo Bank as a Business Banker and that a Financial Planner was expected within the next few months.



Roger Ind, Business Banker, Bendigo Bank, also gave a speech to shareholders advising his role in the Community was to increase the business lending portfolio and that several million \$ would come on line for Coolalinga & Districts **Community Bank®** shortly.

Roger stated that one of the main reasons he switched to Bendigo Bank was that they returned something back to the community which he saw as different to the major banks.

He spoke about Bendigo Bank's **Community Bank®** branches totalling now over 190 and how both Alice Springs and Katherine have had successful Prospectus launches over the last 5 weeks. He spoke about how Bendigo Bank had over 350 branches and \$19 billion under management. Communities served have in the past 9 years received \$235 million in revenues from Bendigo Bank, with \$76 million of that in the past 12 months. Local Boards have paid \$6.1 million in sponsorships and donations. Roger also spoke how one particular South Australian **Community Bank®** in its 8th year, had put \$510,000 in infrastructure and dividends back into its local community, with most of that paid in the past few years. Part of this was \$55,000 for a swimming pool, \$50,000 to the local hospital and \$28,000 to light the local airstrip for the RFDS.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Newman".

Maureen Newman
Chairman