

‘Our community focus has never wavered’

In very hot and sunny conditions on March 18 2003, something very significant happened in the City of Manningham. The official opening of the Doncaster East Community Bank® Branch Bendigo Bank took place and it has now become a major part of the community.

Doncaster East Community Financial Services Limited will present its sixth Annual General Meeting on Thursday November 13 at the Manningham Council offices.

Doncaster East Community Financial Services Limited Chairman Ray Lord said.

“In 2006, we were delighted to announce our very first dividend payment of 7.5 cents per share unfranked. Last year we announced a dividend payment of 10.5 cents per share unfranked. This year following the Company’s continued strong performance; the Director’s have announced a payment of a dividend of 11 cents per share fully franked.”

Ray said the community focus of the branch and positive benefit it brings to the local community has never wavered. “Our Community Bank® branch has allocated thousands of dollars to a wide range of not for profit organisations in the community.

“In the last year, we allocated \$66,024 to 33 community organisations. This is an increase of 65 per cent on the previous year. The organisations to benefit included service groups, sports clubs, aged care, schools, theatre groups and local festivals.

“The 2008/2009 financial year will see many new challenges however the Director’s look forward to those with much enthusiasm.

“One of our undertakings is to work with the Steering Committee for Templestowe Village in their quest to establish a Community Bank® branch in the Templestowe Village Shopping Centre.

“An exciting project we have been working on is a Junior Observer Program to encourage youth to play a key role within the future of our community. Our Community Bank® branch will give six students the opportunity to gain experience from exposure to the running of a publicly listed company. Two students have been selected from each of the following schools: Doncaster Secondary College, East Doncaster Secondary College and Templestowe College. The program will commence in early 2009.

“One of the Directors recently said the reason why we established the Community Bank® branch was to give back to the community and support local not for profit organisations, we are doing our very best to ensure this is happening”, Ray added.

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