

# Newsletter

## Over \$20 million in business

Gympie and District Financial Services held its first full AGM in November, attended by a good roll up of shareholders who approved of the direction the Company was taking.

Our **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch continues to grow steadily. With business at well over \$20 million and an average of 18 new accounts per week, we are ahead of targets.

Bendigo Bank now has 190 **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branches throughout Australia with one of the latest openings just north of Gympie at Mundubbera.

In fact one of our original senior staff members - Adrienne Holzapfel - became the Branch Manager there and we wish her all the best.

### Board of Directors

Two of our Directors – John Joyce and Florence Dennis have stood down from the Board due to time commitments.

But we have welcomed two new Directors - Chris Hodges from Kilkivan and Dave Weller from Tin Can Bay.

We welcome them on Board and I'm sure we will benefit from their contribution.

**Ray Bird**  
**Chairman**

## From the Manager

Shareholders and supporters will be pleased to know that we have exceeded this year's budget forecast with deposit and loan business.

Your **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch has a new Supervisor, Andrea Raynel. She has a good background in banking and is settling in well.

Don't forget that in addition to our full range of personal and business banking services, we can also offer a great range of competitive insurance products.

We can arrange appointments with our Business Banking Manager Paul Hampson or our Financial Planner Michael Ansell, who will look at your individual circumstances and advise on your best solutions.

So call in and see our helpful staff – and remember that whenever you bank with the **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> branch, you're helping to support our local community.

**Michael Thornley**  
**Manager**

## Happy New Year to our shareholder and supporters

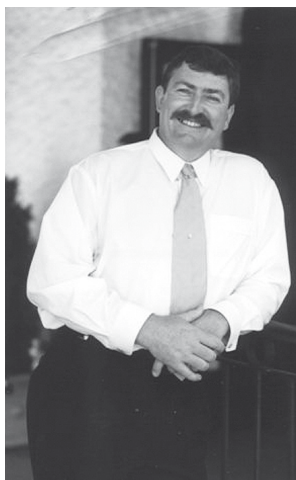
Welcome to our first newsletter of 2007. We hope it provides you with a full update on how our branch is tracking and what we hope to achieve over the next few years.

**Board of Directors, Gympie & District Financial Services Limited,**  
**68 Mary Street, Gympie, QLD 4570**

Raymond Bird (Chairman), Vicki Shapcott (Secretary), Rens Poels (Treasurer),  
Lesley O'Hern, Elaine Thomson, Michael Thornley, Beven Webb.

# Director's profile

## Michael Thornley



Last newsletter we profiled our Chairman Ray Bird and this time we will fill you in on another Director who is also your Branch Manager - Michael Thornley

Michael was born and raised in the Manly-Warringah area of Sydney, NSW.

After finishing Grade 12, he was accepted into the Bank of NSW (now Westpac) where he began his financial career as a junior, making coffee for his Manager!

But he did rise through the ranks to the position of head teller and was poached by the NSW Building Society where his last position, before joining American Express, was as Office Manager.

In 1986 he decided to journey to Brisbane where the rest of the family had moved some years earlier.

He worked for Suncorp Metway before being offered a position in the AGC's collection department.

During 1989, he met his future wife Joann, a Gympie girl and then finally, in 1994 they made the

'tree change' and came back to Gympie with their young son Blake.

They have lived in Gympie for more than 12 years now with Michael initially being a stay at home Dad and running his own garden maintenance business, before working for Petersen's Real Estate for three and a half years.

He has also been a member of various groups and organisations holding executive positions in many of them, and was a junior soccer coach for three years.

Michael became a part of the initial **Community Bank®** Steering Committee and took on the role of Deputy Chairperson.

Then, upon the creation of the Board, he was elected the first chairman of Gympie and District Financial Services.

However, he had to step down from this honoured role in order to apply for the position of Branch Manager, one which he has held since May 2005.

Michael retains the position of Director and is an integral part of the Gympie and District **Community Bank®** Branch.



## Bendigo Financial Planning

Bendigo Bank invites you to put yourself in the picture and take the first step towards reaching your financial goals.

Michael Ansell, our qualified Bendigo Financial Planner, is available now for a no obligation appointment. Drop in and see us at 68 Mary Street, Gympie or phone 5481 1787 to arrange a convenient time.

Gympie & District  
**Community Bank®** Branch **Bendigo Bank**

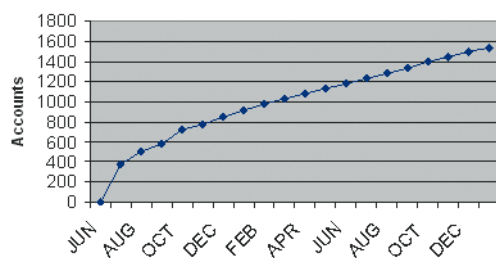


Financial advice is provided by Bendigo Financial Planning, 120 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands, Vic 3008.  
ABN 81 087 585 073 AFSL 237898. A member of the Bendigo Bank group of companies  
ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879. [www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au) (31588-v1) 14/02/2007

# Business growth

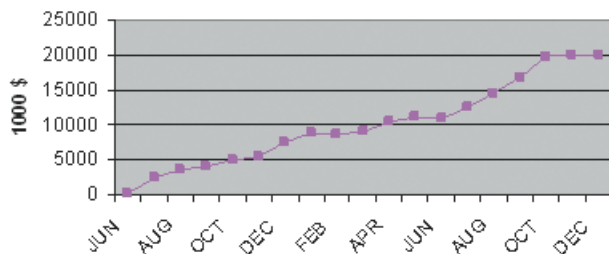
From the time of the branch opening in June 2005 to now, we have enjoyed steady growth with the number of accounts opened now exceeding 1500.

**Bank Accounts**



Business growth has been very good with more than \$21 million now on the books.

**Business Growth**



## Local group switches to Community Sector Banking

Local non-for-profit service, the Community Development Office moved its working account to Bendigo Bank, through Community Sector Banking, when they discovered that they could earn a great interest rate on their everyday account.

Finance officer Colleen Smith said: "Why wouldn't we go for an account that gives us interest on the money we have sitting there every day.

"We are a non-profit agency and we can do with any extra income we can get. It all goes towards providing more services for Cooloola in the end"

# What is a Community Bank® branch?



Bendigo Bank devised the **Community Bank®** model in the late 1990s.

Under the **Community Bank®** model, local communities form a community Company to oversee a franchise of Bendigo Bank.

The Company is owned by the community and overseen by a local Board of Directors.

Bendigo Bank provides all the banking infrastructure and support, and the community Company and Bendigo Bank share all branch profits.

The idea is for communities to pay their shareholders a prudent return, then plough the rest of profit back into local enterprise.

The enterprise already created just happens to focus on banking, but the underlying philosophy behind the **Community Bank®** model can be employed to equal effect across a raft of community needs.

Bendigo Bank is already involved in a community-based telecommunications solution, based on similar principles to the **Community Bank®** model.

## Gympie looks to its own Telco

Your **Community Bank®** Board is now working with Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Telco team to establish a local Telco outlet where 50 per cent of the net profit is returned to the community to benefit a pre-determined community project.

We will keep you informed on the progress of this initiative.

# Today I did something for the good of the community. I did all my banking.

When it comes to benefits for our community and for me, **Community Bank®** branches have several strong points:

- Face-to-face service from friendly, local staff.
- Opening hours that suit me better (9am – 5pm Monday – Friday, and Saturday mornings).

- The full range of banking products and services.
- More money stays in my area because our shared profits are used to help our community's future.

You can now do all your banking at 68 Mary Street, Gympie or phone 5481 1787.

Gympie & District  
**Community Bank®** Branch **Bendigo Bank**



[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au) Bendigo Bank Limited, Fountain Court, Bendigo, Vic. 3550. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. (S14124) (02/07)

## Supporting our community

This shed for the Special Olympics was assisted by funds provided by our **Community Bank®** branch.



Your **Community Bank®** branch sponsored several local organisations in 2006 from a special fund that Bendigo Bank provides to new branches.

Sponsorships that have been offered to date include:

Tennis Gympie	\$500
Blue & Gold Event Management	\$500
Special Olympics	\$1000

**Rens Poels**  
Treasurer

For more information please call into  
68 Mary Street, Gympie  
or phone 5481 1787

We are open:  
Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

Gympie & District **Community Bank®** Branch  **Bendigo Bank**

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