

Media Release

Altona and Laverton/Altona Meadows
Community Bank® branches



Young People take control through Victorian Youth Foundation

An exciting and innovative Youth Foundation Victoria project has just been launched. The project gives young people the chance to help grow their own communities and their prospects, and obtain first-hand philanthropic experience through the Foundation. As part of this unique State Government and Bendigo Bank project, young people from Victorian Communities will form local groups to determine the needs of their communities. With mentoring from local leaders, the groups will then undertake fundraising and grant-making to help other local young people solve those needs.

The **first** of 15 Victorian Youth Foundation Programs will be set up in Laverton due to a tremendous show of support from the Altona **Community Bank®**, Laverton / Altona Meadows **Community Bank®** and Point Cook Sub-Branch who have committed up to \$100,000 over four years to establish the local Laverton arm of the Youth Foundation Victoria.

The Company Secretary Mr Michael Pernar said it is a great opportunity for the young people in the Laverton community to produce great outcomes with this Youth Foundation. Enabling the young people of all backgrounds within our community to come together and giving them a real chance to become involved can only help to make a meaningful difference within our community.

The local group of diverse young people will be supported by mentors to:

- Research their community
- Manage and develop a pool of funds
- Assess and participate in making grants for charitable purposes for the benefit of young people
- Link to a state-wide network of the Victorian Youth Foundation and a global network of similar organizations

The young people will build skills such as:

- Working in leadership and decision-making roles
- Developing networking and community planning skills
- Volunteering based on stronger community connections
- Project management
- Communication and marketing; and
- Developing the attitudes and values that will enable them to effectively contribute to their communities.