

Chairman's Remarks: A G M held 14th November 2008

Earlier in this meeting I have been pleased to present the Company's financial report for the period ended 30th June 2008. This report covered the third full trading year of our banking operations from our opening on the 29th June 2005.

As stated in our annual report we have a total of \$34.45million on our books (last year \$24.7 million) which is an increase on last year of 40% and almost 1000 accounts (last year 750 accounts) which is an increase of 34%; this is a fantastic result and I believe that this increase in business activity is due to our community's acceptance of our Branch and the services that it now provides to our shareholders and customers alike.

Whilst these totals are a little under budget we are very mindful of the finances that are available to operate the banking business; we have been able to keep expenses well below budget and this will be of benefit to us as we go forward creating profits and supporting other tangible community projects in the future.

We are well aware that as a small business the manager and staff play a key role in the success of our branch, they are at the coal face, responsible for creating and promoting, as well as providing a level of service and support for our customers and shareholders. I acknowledge with appreciation the efforts of our staff, Karen, Maria, Christine and Debbie for their constant dedication and commitment to the objectives of our community bank.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of all Directors who have served the company during the past year, and I thank them for their ongoing commitment and support to our community bank company.

I also recognise with appreciation our partner Bendigo Bank Ltd who through our Regional Manager Libby Gleeson, Agribusiness Manager Angelo Rigano and Michelle Gosper continue to assist and guide us and our staff along the Bendigo way.

In closing, I would again ask that all shareholders act as advocates and try to encourage family, friends and associates to explore the products and services that the bank has to offer, because the more customers we have the faster we will achieve profitability and therefore you will get a return on your investment and we will be able provide for projects in our community.

Thank You

Darren West
Director / Chairman