

Warburton Community Bank® Branch Bendigo Bank



Community Bank® rewards for Warburton

Warburton, 13 September 2004: When Warburton locals paid \$1 per share to establish a Community Bank® branch in February 2000, their primary aim was to return a banking facility.

Today, four years later, the Community Bank® branch they helped to establish not only continues to grow as a business, but is also making a significant contribution to the community.

With a 2003/2004 pre-tax operating profit of \$272,757, shareholders and community groups, events and projects will again be rewarded.

Chairman Ian De La Rue said shareholders would receive a 9 cents per share fully franked dividend payment later this month.

"Our aim with opening a Community Bank® branch four years ago was to give our local residents, traders and business people access to a traditional bank branch in which to do their banking," Mr De La Rue said.

"We have achieved this and continue to provide this service.

"The payment of dividends and contributions to our community were always in the back of our minds, but never the true focus of Community Banking™.

"Today, to be able to pay our second dividend to shareholders and to continue to financial support local events and projects is a wonderful example of how Community Bank® is just so much more than banking."

Achievements:

Profit

- 2002/2003 pre-tax profit - \$209,822
- 2003/2004 pre-tax profit - \$272,757

Shareholder dividends

- 2002/2003 - 9 cents per share, not franked – total paid \$36,000
- 2003/2004 - 9 cents per share, fully franked – total paid \$36,000
- Contributions to community - More than \$70,000

Mr De La Rue paid tribute to his staff for continuing to provide an exceptional level of banking service and to the community for continuing to support Warburton Community Bank® Branch.

"This is truly a community spirited venture and one that, as a director and a Warburton community leader, I am extremely proud of," Mr De La Rue said.

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