



Pyrmont **Community Bank**[®] Branch Newsletter Winter 2011

Focus on Costa Karas

New Branch Manager of Pyrmont **Community Bank**[®] Branch



Costa Karas may have only been with Bendigo Bank a short time, but he already feels at home in the driver's seat of Pyrmont **Community Bank**[®] Branch.

With more than 20 years of experience in banking, including international banks, and having also worked in investment and financial planning, Costa is a very valuable addition to the Pyrmont **Community Bank**[®] Branch team.

Costa appreciates Bendigo's focus on the community. He began his career in banking in Pyrmont/Ultimo a couple of decades ago and is pleased to be back in his old stomping ground.

As a child, Costa often accompanied his father to the family service station business in Marrickville, where he would spend hours watching his father work and interact with customers.

This experience instilled the importance of exceptional customer service and a good product offering in Costa, which had his customers returning and referring business to him.

"Here at Bendigo we pride ourselves on providing the same level of exceptional service and range of products that meet the client's needs and objectives." Costa said.

If you'd like to meet Costa, just pop into the branch or contact him on 0422 605 329. He'll also be around the area, getting to know the people and businesses that make Pyrmont/Ultimo such a great community.

Thought for today

*A society grows great when old men plant trees
whose shade they know they shall never sit in.*

Greek proverb.

From Anu Garg, <http://wordsmith.org/>

Pyrmont Luncheon Club

This group now has 80 members who meet for lunch and an informative talk bi-monthly.

Pyrmont **Community Bank**[®] Branch sponsored the April gathering by arranging for Dave Robertson, Chief Economist at Bendigo Bank, to give a talk titled "Financial Markets Update – The key drivers for 2011/2012". The talk was very much enjoyed by the 40 members who attended.



▲ Director Peter Devoy with David Robertson.

Community Forum

The **Community Bank**[®] network has celebrated a significant milestone with the return of more than \$50 million to support local community groups and projects right across Australia.

Would you like to come to a forum we are organising for Wednesday 22 June 2011? We are inviting community groups to attend our community forum to try and identify priorities in community projects that might gain from **Community Bank**[®] branch assistance.

As our business grows, we will be able to provide more funding and leverage for these projects. If you are a member of a local community group, then you should attend the forum and interact with others to evaluate worthy project priorities.

Please register your interest in attending by leaving your contact details with the branch staff.

More than \$50 million in community contributions

Bendigo Bank's national network of locally-owned **Community Bank**® branches has reached a significant milestone, returning \$50 million in contributions to local communities across Australia.

These funds have helped disabled riders, community gardening groups, pre-schoolers, footballers, tennis clubs, students and many, many others to achieve great things.

And they've provided much-needed financial support to the community groups, clubs and not-for-profit groups that are the backbone of local communities.

Congratulations and thank you, we know this milestone is just an indication of things to come.

"It's just a fantastic, logical, simple idea... everybody needs banking services, we can provide them and by doing so we keep money in our community" said Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch, Manager, Costa Karas.

Since its inception in 1998, more than 275 **Community Bank**® branches have been opened in partnership with 1,680 volunteer Directors and more than 66,100 local shareholders, dedicated to delivering better outcomes to their local communities.

Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch was the 250th branch to open its doors to the public just 16 months ago. Although we are not yet making a profit to distribute to the community we can still "Share in the Dream" through payments by Bendigo Bank as we reach milestones in business development.

Since opening in 2009, Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch has provided support or sponsorship to the following organisations and events.

- Uniting Church Trivia Night
- Wenty Park Games
- Harlequin Inn Pink Party for the Breast Cancer Council
- Ultimo Public School Year 6 trip to Burren Junction
- The Uniting Church "Carols by Candlelight" in Quarry Park.
- The Jackson's Landing Community Christmas Concert
- Maybanke BBQ Party in the Park
- Underneath the Arches evening in Wentworth Park
- UPTown Festival
- Open Day at Notre Dame University
- Pyrmont Luncheon Club April meeting
- Pyrmont Uncorks Mudgee Festival of Food Wine and Art

At this stage of our profitability our support for these ventures has been small but the more our business grows the more our **Community Bank**® branch will put back into the community of Pyrmont.

If your community group would like to be considered for support from your local **Community Bank**® branch you can find out how by talking with any of our staff at the branch or by contacting John Marsden on 9660 6481.



▲ Whitney from Greyhounds as Pets with handlers Tracey and Laura and Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch Director Robert Gavagna at the UPTown Festival.



▲ Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Directors John Marsden and Ashley Limbury with Ashley's wife Christabel and new arrival Alleander at the bank marquee that was serving sausages to the crowd at the Jackson's Landing Community Concert in support of the Salvation Army and the Men's Shed.



▲ Stars of the UPTown Festival in Quarry Park, of which Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch was a sponsor, Peaches from Greyhounds as Pets; a Greyhound Racing NSW sponsored organisation with two of the Stilt Walkers from the Flying Pigs.

▲ Some of the Year 6 children from Ultimo Public School fossicking for opals during the end of year trip to Burren Junction that Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch was proud to support.



▲ Mentoring the young - Director Peter Devoy passes on his skills at burning a sausage to the next generation at the picnic party the Maybanke Youth Centre put on for Pyrmont in January of this year. The Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch was delighted to support this event.



▲ Pymont Sings! Entertaining all at the open air concert.

Pymont Sings!

Each Tuesday at 6.15pm, people assemble in the Pymont Community Centre, to rehearse as Pymont Sings.

Patiently and professionally, Nancy Dudley and Jan Martin coax our raw material into harmony for public performances – usually at local community events like the UPTown Festival and Carols by Candlelight. Afterwards, most of us dine together.

An exciting off-shoot, Pymont Kids Choir, rehearses at 5.00pm, directed by Julie Blewitt.

Recruits - however raw - are always welcome for either choir. Enquiries: Mary Mortimer 0410 679 204, mortimer@docmatrix.com.au

Pymont Community Centre

Did you know that the Pymont Community Centre, on the corner of John and Mount Streets, offers an affordable Community Gym for residents, workers and visitors to the City of Sydney? Facilities include weight and cardio rooms and a punching bag (subject to availability). There are a number of fitness classes, including lifestyle, dance, lunchtime classes and an over 55's circuit class.

Harris Community Centre News

The centre and the community of Ultimo and Pymont are very sorry to have said “goodbye” to Lorraine Findlay after a restructure in Uniting Care made her position redundant.

Her position as Manager at the Harris Community Centre has been pivotal in the many services offered to the local community. For the past 10 years she has fought long and hard for accessible and equitable services for all, no matter what their cultural or socio-economic standing. The time and effort that she put in to supporting the general community was huge and she will be sorely missed.

The Harris Community Centre runs many activities, and would like to remind readers that the Social Club meets on Wednesday during school terms. The centre will also offer an affordable Tai Chi class (\$2 per session), which starts this June. Ring the centre on 9552 1140 or email harriscentre@harriscentre.org.au for more details.

Pymont Wrap with love

Wraps with Love collects colourful knitted squares, which are sewn together by volunteers, and sends them to poor people in cold countries all round the world.

A circle of knitters from Pymont and Ultimo meet every six weeks or so on a Saturday morning in The Station at Jacksons Landing and have fun debating and deciding how to put the knitted squares together .

The group has finished 246 wraps so far to contribute to the grand total of more than 250,000 wraps sent to 75 countries over the last 18 years – a unique Australian initiative that is supported by 702, ABC Sydney KNIT IN on the first Friday in August each year.

Last year over 7,000 wraps were created by ABC listeners.

To join the group, or for more information, contact Mary on 0410 679 204.



Switching's as Easy as ABC

Would you like to transfer your banking to Pymont **Community Bank**® Branch but think it might all be too hard?

Be part of the action – you can change your bank accounts and product use to our local **Community Bank**® branch by:



A. Call into Pymont **Community Bank**® Branch, located on the corner of Harris Street and Union Square and talk to a staff member about switching banks.



B. Bring copies of your recent bank statements, which contain details of the payment in and out of your accounts that you want to be transferred.



C. Our friendly staff will do the rest. Staff can show you a product disclosure statement (or you can read it on the Bendigo Bank website) which should be read before opening an account with Pymont **Community Bank**® Branch.

Business profile



Gus D'Souza opened Viva Goa at 2 Scott Street in Pyrmont on 3 March 2003 and has been serving Pyrmont locals and visitors "the food I grew up eating in Goa" ever since.

Gus was an apprentice in the Sheraton Hotel in Delhi and trained

in the art of Western cooking but moved to the Maharaja of Jodhpur's Palace Hotel in Jodhpur for four years.

To escape the heat Gus moved to Zurich in Switzerland for two years before coming to Australia to live in 1999. His first job here was at the Taste of Goa restaurant on the same site, he changed the name to Via Goa when he bought the business.

The food that is served at Viva Goa is the food Gus grew up eating. He has recipes from his grandmother, mother and aunts. He still has his grandmother's hand written recipe book with the measures given as per cost, as in 30 paise (cents) worth of cinnamon or 5 rupees worth of fish. These were 1935 rates so the conversions had to be to Australian dollars and allow 65 years of inflation; it is lucky that he was able to speak with his grandmother before she died to fine tune the amounts. Gus now feels that she lives on in the spirit of the food he serves.

The family has banked with Bendigo Bank for five years after hearing about it from a friend. He finds the website the best one he has ever used. He also thinks that Bendigo's online banking security token is the best he has seen and, when it was introduced, was ahead of its time.

Although most of his family's banking is done online, Gus is even more impressed by the service he and his family receive when they go into the branch. All the staff know their names and the names of the children, something they had not experienced before in a bank.

The family was originally with the bank's Leichhardt branch and was really delighted when they heard the locals at Pyrmont were working to establish a branch in Pyrmont. The whole family has committed its support by investing in shares in the Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch.

Staff profile

Cassandra Brisbane

Our Customer Service Officer, Cass, started life in Manly, grew up in Yamba on the NSW north coast, and lived in Brisbane for six years before moving to Pyrmont in January 2010.



Cass has been working in the banking industry for eight years and has worked in home loans for Suncorp, ANZ and Bank of Queensland. She has worked for the Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch for five months.

She loves travelling. Cassandra travelled to Europe in January and is planning to visit Japan end of this year or the beginning next year. Her other interests include writing and computers.

Cass loves living in Pyrmont and very much enjoys working for Bendigo Bank. Local customers might see her around the place – she hopes they say hi!

Complimentary first appointment

A Bendigo Financial Planner can help you identify your financial goals and assist you to implement achievable, understandable and cost-effective ways to make them a reality.

So think about how you'd like to live tomorrow, and talk to a Bendigo Financial Planner today.



To arrange an appointment call:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Your appointment:

Date: _____ Time: _____

With: _____

Bendigo Financial Planning ABN 81 087 585 073 AFSL 237898. A member of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group. (S34896)(05/11)

Bendigo Financial Planning

Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch

Pyrmont **Community Bank**® Branch,
148 Harris Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009
Phone: 9518 9866

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/pyrmont

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
and Saturday mornings 9.00am – 12 noon

City West Community Financial Services Limited

148 Harris Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009

ABN: 34 134 051 219

Chairman: Bruce Napthali

Directors: Margaret Broadbent, Geoffrey Davies,
Peter Devoy, Robert Gavagna, John Hoff,
Ashley Limbury, John Marsden, Charles Perry,
Ian Bullus, Patricia Strong.