

## Media Release

Wednesday 13 March 2024

### **Milestone Reached - Over \$2 Million Donated into Creswick, Clunes & District**

Community Bank Creswick & District will today reach a milestone, with a donation taking them in excess of \$2 million donated to many worthy recipients in Creswick, Clunes and districts.

Opened in 2007 as a community company, Creswick, Clunes and districts have embraced the Bendigo Bank Community Bank model which sees company profits carefully awarded back to the community to support a huge range of events, groups, infrastructure projects and more.

Community Bank Creswick & District's Chairman, Marcus Walsh said, "we are excited to reach this milestone donation this evening with some funds being allocated to the hard-working and dedicated Birch Group of CFA Brigades. Members volunteer their time and skills to keep our community safe and we are pleased to support them in their quest for a new vehicle."

The Community Bank Creswick & District have contributed to many large infrastructure projects, many small projects and everything in between in their 17 years of operation.

In the 2022/2023 year alone, over 30 projects were supported, and the Community Bank is starting to see the benefit to the region of a long-term partnership with Hepburn Shire where the Community Bank contributed \$250,000 to the Hammon Park Trailhead project. This project serves as the trailhead for the Creswick Trails, which is currently under construction, featuring over 60 kilometres of mountain bike and shared use trails located in the State Forest, Regional Park, and plantation land in Creswick. The Trailhead is a fully self-contained community focused reserve with a cycling theme that includes cycling jumps, children's play space, undercover BBQ area, new toilet block and many other elements for the whole community to enjoy not just the cycling enthusiast.

The Creswick & District Community Bank also invest in the youth in their district, partnering with Youthrive Victoria to donate one university and two vocational scholarships to be award to young people in the community looking to upskill or pursue tertiary studies each year. Youthrive is a fantastic local organisation who not only provide financial support, but strengthen rural and regional communities by supporting, empowering and developing young people to become leaders through capacity building, mentoring and leadership opportunities. This contribution reiterates the Community Bank philosophy of supporting the future leaders of our community.

Creswick & District Community Bank also contributed \$33,000 to the Central Highlands Rural Health Creswick Health Upgrade Appeal. This partnership saw the Community Bank match dollar for dollar an eight-week campaign where Creswick locals rallied to support their local health service raising more than \$60,000 for their building development project. This important upgrade to Creswick Health's facilities ensures they can continue to provide residents with the best care possible.

The Creswick and district community have shown how much they value their local health service by digging deep and donating to the appeal. It is fantastic that the Community Bank can then leverage against the generosity of the community to assist in the development of this critical community asset.

Tonight at 7:00pm at the Doug Lindsay Reserve, Creswick, the Community Bank Creswick & District will host a jam-packed community celebration for the milestone along with an announcement of the winner of the Jarred Tallent Junior Sportsperson of 2023 Award. Information will also be shared as they launch their new funding application platform and guest speaker, Sally Walsh from Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute will reveal some fundraising tips with the audience.

In excess, of 120 community members are registered to attend. The event is sure to be a wonderful celebration for the committed group who believe in giving back and investing in their community.

“As a Board, we come from all areas of the community with many different careers and business experiences between us. We are all passionate about keeping face to face banking available to our community, we’re committed to returning profits to worthy causes and as a result the community support us, and why wouldn’t they? It’s terrific! Judging by the number of replies to this evening, there are groups keen to learn some fundraising tips to empower and their good work too” said Michael Beaumont, Board Member, Community Bank Creswick & District.

### **Event Details**

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Date:** Wednesday 13 March 2024

**Location:** Doug Lindsay Reserve, Creswick

**Who:** Marcus Walsh, Chair, Community Bank Creswick & District and Board Members.

Birch Group CFA representatives

Jarred Tallent Sportsperson of 2023 Award Finalists and Recipient

Sally Walsh, Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute

### **Media Enquiries**

***Photo opportunity available Wednesday 13 March by request prior to the event at 6:30pm or by arrangement at a later date.***

***Please contact below:***

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Community Bank Creswick & District

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Community Bank Creswick & District