

better business

Bendigo Bank milestone

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IT is party time at Bendigo Bank Tugun Community Branch and it has a lot to celebrate.

The bank will celebrate its eighth birthday this Friday, it has reached \$100 million in banking business and donated about \$100,000 to community organisations in that time.

Chair Allan Blenkins said directors of the local community company were watching the steady progress of the branch and had plans to increase community grants and to reward shareholders.

"It has been a successful eight years for our bank branch, as local residents, traders and business people continue to put their support behind the business," Mr Blenkins said.

Tugun branch celebrates eighth birthday and strong community support and plans to reward its shareholders

"The \$100 million in banking business marks an important high point for our business, which is continuing to record a healthy monthly surplus."

Mr Blenkins said he would like to thank residents for their continuing support of the branch.

"Since it opened its doors in 2003, our branch has attracted more than \$100 million worth of business. To reach this significant milestone in less than eight years is a major achievement," he said.

"A product of this support is our ability to contribute to several local community groups and businesses in

the form of sponsorships and donations."

The branch has been able to give more than \$100,000 to various endeavours, including Tugun Surf Life Saving Club, Currumbin Sanctuary Wildlife Hospital, Currumbin Primary School and Tugun Nippers.

"As our profitability grows, so too will our ability to channel a percentage of our profits into these community projects and organisations – and also to reward our loyal shareholders," Mr Blenkins said.

Residents are invited to join in birthday celebrations from 10am on Friday.



BIRTHDAY BASH: Tugun Bendigo Bank branch will celebrate its eighth birthday on Friday with the help of Dave Mitchell, Ely Ward, Wendy Anderson and Allan Merlehan.

PHOTO: JOHN GASS D131049



BEANS ON WHEELS: Nikki Rydlicki is ready to bring her Cafe2U.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mobile cafe a success for owner and coffee fans

GOLD Coaster Nikki Rydlicki is ready to bring her Cafe2U.

She underwent a drastic change, while seeking a new challenge and a more flexible lifestyle, when she introduced the Australian-born (and world's biggest) mobile coffee franchise to the Gold Coast three-and-a-half years ago.

After working in pharmaceuticals for more than 20 years, Ms Rydlicki said it was time to take her destiny into her own hands and, sick of working indoors, decided she needed a job where she

could frequently enjoy her love for the outdoors and interact with the local community.

"I decided on a lifestyle change, which gives me the flexibility and time to do the things I really love," she said.

"My husband and I love to go for long strolls on the beach, have picnics in the sunshine and go camping for a few days, if we manage to get some time off."

The move has proven to be a successful one, with her new coffee run becoming a hit with locals, as she covers a Burleigh

Heads run – mainly servicing businesses in the Reedy Creek and Currumbin areas, including Robina and Carrara.

Ms Rydlicki said she wanted to be her own boss and in addition wanted a job that would work around her social lifestyle.

"Now, after three years of nurturing my business from its humble beginnings, I am able to work part-time, while still earning full-time wages," she said. "This has always been a dream of mine."

"When making the initial business decision, a

key factor was the introduction of Cafe2U's 'Acceleration Package,' which helps to fast-track franchisees three months ahead of schedule.

"A daily business schedule was constructed with the assistance of my allocated franchisee development manager."

Ms Rydlicki said a lot of time and research had gone into this chapter of her life, so she was prepared to work hard to make sure she would continue succeeding.

For more information visit www.cafe2u.com.au.

Taskforce to boost Coast surf industry

A TASKFORCE designed to further develop the Gold Coast's surf industry has held its first meeting.

Establishing the taskforce was part of Gold Coast City Council's Surf Industry Development Project which aims to identify strategies and initiatives for future surf industry development.

The Council's Economic Development and Tourism Committee chair, councillor Suzie Douglas said the taskforce, which includes surfboard makers, representatives from learn-to-surf schools and the tourism sector, was focused on pushing the industry forward.

"The Gold Coast's surf industry contributes significantly to the city's economy with \$3.3 billion in gross output annually – and the taskforce is the result of strong collaboration between council and industry representatives," Cr Douglas said.

"The goal is to identify opportunities to further enhance this industry, which will ultimately provide greater career opportunities and more industry jobs."

Cr Chris Robbins, who attended the first taskforce meeting, said the sky was the limit for the area's surf industry.

"The Gold Coast has already established a

reputation as a leading surf industry hub – the surf culture here is very strong and so we are building on our strengths," Cr Robbins said.

"The taskforce is all about industry representatives connecting with each other and the local surfing community and establishing a clear direction on how to maximise development opportunities."

Taskforce chairman John Nielsen said the first meeting had been a success and provided a strong platform to move forward from.

"This is not a committee to reinvent the surf wheel, as the surf industry has so far succeeded on its own merit," Mr Nielsen said.

"However, it has now been identified as a major local industry sector. Our goal is to value-add to the industry and in doing so, help secure the future of those who depend on it now – as well as our future generations."

"We have established there is human resource expertise available that can help in establishing career paths and acknowledge trade skills for people who want to work in the surf industry as qualified professionals."