

Branch one step closer

Following encouraging results from the recent feasibility study, the Rochester community looks set to celebrate the opening of a community bank branch soon.

The steering committee is set to go ahead with a public share offer to raise capital for the venture.

Steering committee chair Sharon Williams said more than 270 district residents had confirmed more than \$610,000 in pledges of support, which gave the committee the confidence to take the next step with Bendigo Bank.

"The committee will now work closely with Lockmore Financial Services in the coming weeks to prepare a legal prospectus," she said.

"All going to plan, we hope to launch our public share offer in May."

"The message now is for all of our supporters who pledged their support to follow through by investing in a Rochester Community Bank Branch and ultimately become a customer."

"I would like to thank the community for their early support for this venture and look forward to launching our share offer."

The committee and Bendigo Bank will start preparing for the prospectus launch, finalise plans for the premises at 24 Gillies St and consider recruitment of staff.

"We have seen the early success of nearby Elmore and Lockington Community Bank branch which has been in business for seven years," Ms Williams said.

"Now it's our turn to join this exciting community bank company."

John keen to get on with job

Member for Murray-Darling John Williams said he was looking forward to working with the new ministry over the next four years to ensure the best outcomes for the Murray-Darling electorate.

Mr Williams was commenting following his landslide victory in last month's NSW election. He said he was also looking forward to accessing the ministers more easily and being able to resolve issues in the Murray-Darling quicker.

"Over the next four years, I will bring the ministers to the Murray-Darling electorate," he said.

"Having the ministers visit the area will ensure they have an understanding of the challenges facing the people of the Murray-Darling."

Mr Williams said his ministry was stable and, unlike the previous Labor one, they would not be scandal-ridden.

"After four years in opposition and seeing the government ministers abuse their power with taxpayer-funded overseas trips, long lunches, taxpayer entertainment payment bills, endless scandals and a complete disregard for their responsibility to the constituents of NSW, it will be a pleasant change to see a ministry that will be trustworthy and will look after the constituents of NSW and not focus on planning their next overseas trip," he said.



On tour: Rotarians Miles Earwood, Suzanne Williams, John Buol, Michelle Martinez, John Dierksen and Echuca-Moama Rotarian Anne Peace.

'G'day' from US Rotarians

"Howdy y'all."

That's the greeting five Texan visitors to Echuca were giving this week, when they weren't trying out "g'day".

The five Rotarians have been guests of Echuca-Moama Rotary Club while on a month-long group study tour of Australia.

The team, led by New Braunfels lawyer John Dierksen, were special

guests at a Rotary dinner in Moama on Tuesday night, when they gave an insight into their careers and public affairs in the US Army Reserves and also edits a gun magazine.

The insight to their state included gun ownership, the drug cartels, the population's race demographic and sport, with most providing some comparison to the insights arranged during their visit to Australia.

Engineers to tour Echuca

A group of engineers and local government supervisors from South Australia will visit Echuca in July for a study tour.

South Australia Local Government Supervisory Officers' Association president Mal Chadwick said the study tours had been running for more than 18 years.

"We're a networking organisation," he said.

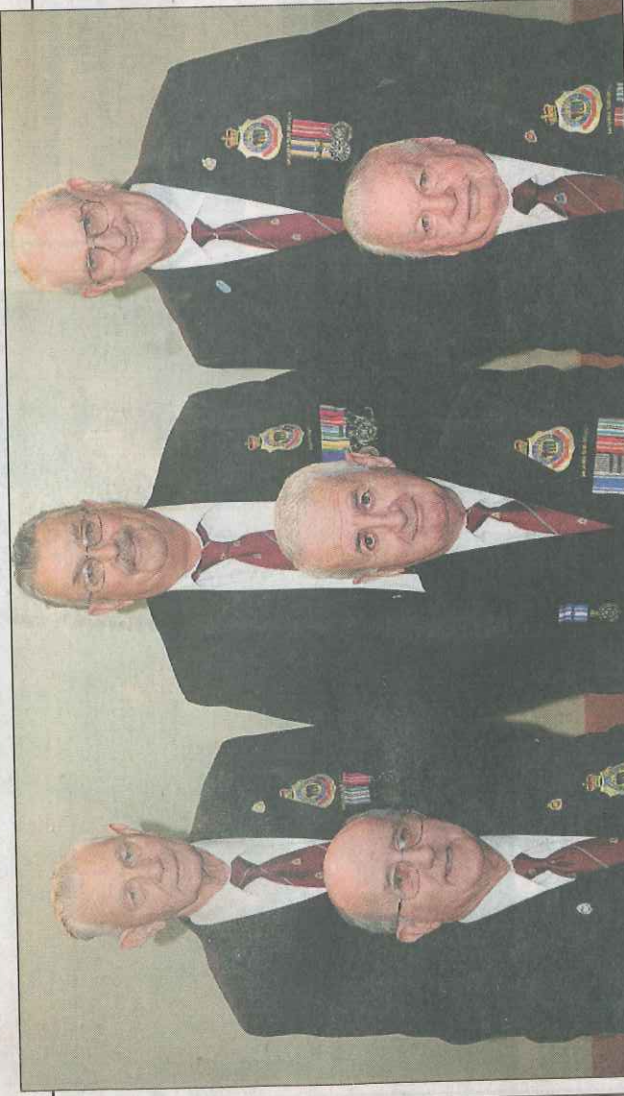
"Each year I take a tour group of 40 or so engineers and supervisors from local government in SA to are doing."

"The wharf restoration for example, you wouldn't find that in many other places across the country."

As well as seeing the wharf, the group will visit one other site.

"We will be coming to Echuca to look at the wharf restoration and a tour of the Humes pipe and culvert manufacturing plant in Echuca," he said.

"They manufacture the largest culverts, bridge structures and pipes."



Committee: John Lock continues as Moama RSL Sub-branch president, following the annual meeting. Mr Lock (centre front) is surrounded by his committee (clockwise from left), secretary Terry Veness, Roy Bowyer, Bill Muus, treasurer Stan Vote and vice-president Dutchy Williams. Committee member Betty Muus is absent.

Members of the Campaspe community are encouraged to attend a community meeting with trauma and disaster expert Rob Gordon to discuss the impacts of January's flood for weeks, months and in fact years," Mr Eastwood said.

"It is important that communities are given the information and advice that will help them through this period and give them tools to help combat some of the challenges."

Mr Gordon will speak at Rochester Sports Club from 7pm on April 13.

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The Fox and the Child (G) Friday 8 April, 1pm

The End of the Line (G) Friday 8 April, 7pm



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