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September 2020

Thankfully, the winter months are behind us but alas, the Covid-19 virus continues to wreak havoc. Our thoughts go out to our Victorian colleagues who have had a particularly tough time over winter.

We have plenty of news to report this Spring. The most significant of which concerns the Australian Credit Union Archives Trust itself and the management of the Archives. The Trust bid farewell to Mark Genovese in June, retiring CEO of Unity Bank and a committed Trustee. With Mark's retirement we welcome two new Trustees, Rod Attrill, who is CEO of Woolworths Team Bank and Greg Stevens, who has had a long career in credit unions and features in an interview profile below.

At the end of September we bid farewell to John Cottee who has been Manager of Australian Mutuals History since 2005. John has overseen many changes in his 15 years with us and while we say goodbye to him as Manager we still may be working with him in another capacity - Watch this space.

We recently completed the second part of our VHS digitisation project. This time we have digitised videos made mostly during the 1990s by CUSCAL, Electricity Credit Union, Queenslanders Credit Union, NSW Teachers Credit Union, our forerunners the Australian Credit Union Historical Co-Operative and others. We will share some of these with you over the coming months.

Finally, we have been working with Ultradata on the production of a new website. Our soon to be revealed site will provide better access to our collection and services. The new look site will improve the user experience and enable us to better promote the unique archival collection we manage. We can't wait for you to see it.

Best of the Blog

Andrew Pellizer on 38 Years at Broken Hill

Alan Carter, The Chair of Broken Hill Community Credit Union (BHCCU), wrote to tell us that their long serving General Manager, Andrew Pellizer, was about to retire. We got in touch with Andrew and recorded his thoughts on his career and the customer owned banking sector more broadly. To learn more on the changes witnessed firsthand in a regional community credit union over a long period, [read here](#).



From left: Andrew Pellizer (retiring BHCCU General Manager), Louise Hunt (incoming BHCCU General Manager), Allan Carter (BHCCU Chair)

Satisfaction Guaranteed – The Life of Satisfac Direct Credit Union

When Satisfac Direct Credit Union merged with PowerState Credit Union in October 2009 becoming Credit Union SA, it had up until then served the people of South Australia for 51 years. “Satisfac” is an acronym that stands for South Australian Teachers Institute Savings and Finance Co-operative Society. Initially registered as a “Finance Co-operative”, it became Satisfac Credit Union Limited in 1979. Read more [here](#).



Satisfac Credit Union branch in 1981 [from Australian Credit Unions Magazine]

Greg Stevens – A Credit Union Renaissance Man

Greg Stevens (pictured below) is supremely qualified to take his place on the Board of the Australian Credit Union Archives Trust overseeing the work of Australian Mutuals History. Before he took up his role as Trustee we spoke to him about his career in customer owned banking which has included senior roles with the Association of NSW Credit Unions, CUFSAL, CUSCAL, Bananacoast Credit Union, FINCOM, Bankstown City Credit Union and Maleny Credit Union. Read more [here](#).



Jack Coyne - from the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the City Council Employees' Credit Union to AFCUL and WOCCU

In the oral history interview Jack Coyne (pictured below) recorded with us in 1989, Jack said that "We are making a profit for members. We are making a profit to improve things for our members. Service, interest rates and all that sort of thing. Which is a different philosophy altogether [from banks]. We are both using the same mechanism to make a profit, but we are doing it for different reasons. I think that is the very important thing of credit unions and while we can hang on to it, I think we have got a great future." Read more about Jack [here](#).



A Chat With Clive Skarott

Clive Skarrot was one of the founders of CREB Employees Credit Union in 1973. CREB Employees CU became Electricity Credit Union and eventually merged with Queensland Country Credit Union which is today known as Queensland Country Bank. Clive spent many years on the Electricity Credit Union Board and was CEO from 1989-2008. He is pictured below carrying the Australian flag at the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) Conference in Hong Kong in 2008. You can read about his career and his thoughts on the future of mutuals [here](#).



What we can do for you...

- Provide advice about transferring records to us
- Provide details about records we hold on your credit union/mutual bank, or its predecessors
- Give information about the history of your credit union/mutual bank or the movement generally
- Provide access to records we hold

We are here to help ...



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