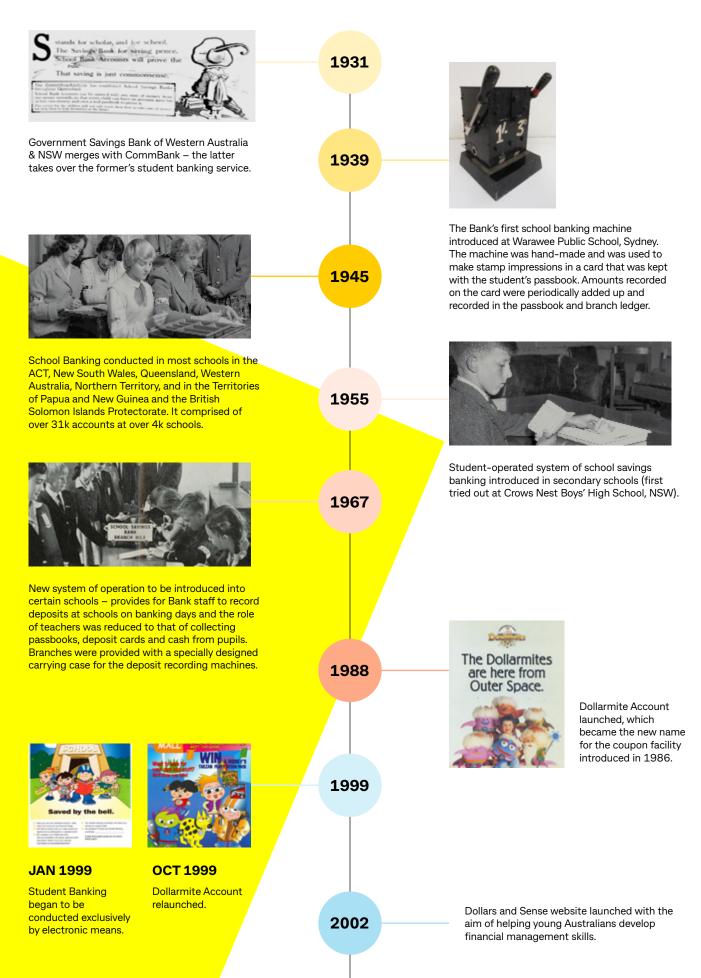
Celebrating 90 years of School Banking.

Over the School Banking program's 90 year legacy, we helped more than 15 million Australians take their first financial steps. As the program drew to a close at the end of 2021, we said goodbye to decades of community initiatives that championed financial education, practical learning, and regular savings habits.

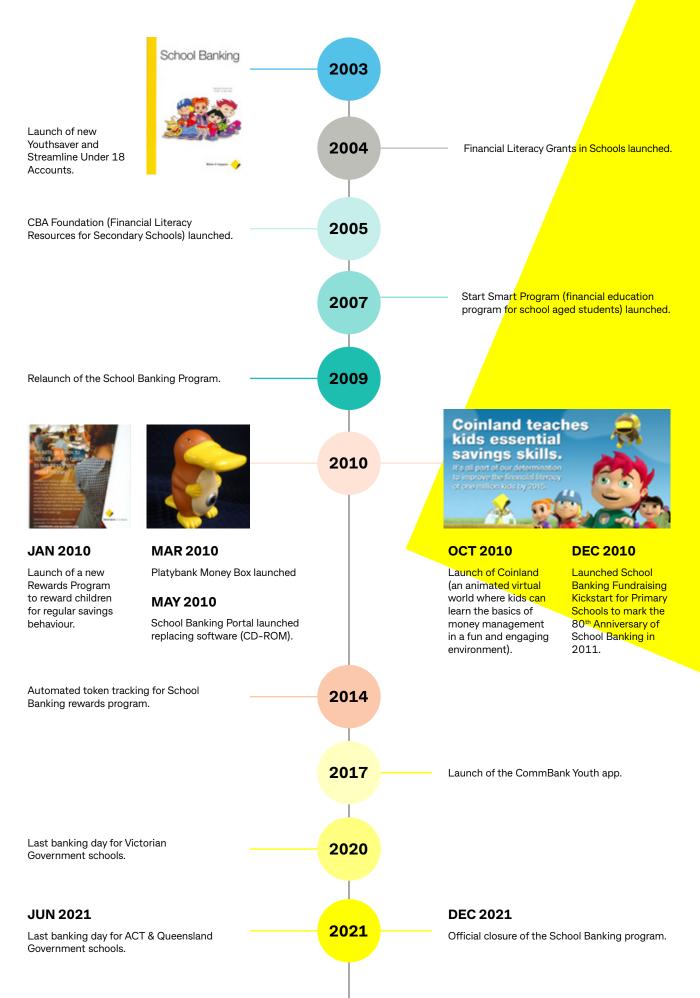
We asked the community to tell us about their memories of the program whether that be as a participant, a staff member or through the eyes of their children or the children in their local community. What follows is a collection of memories that span across CommBank's history and commemorates a rich Australian legacy.

Even though School Banking has ended, CommBank is still here to support young people's financial education. We'll have exciting new tools available this year for families, so keep an eye out for more to come.

Our history 1931 – 2021.



Our history 1931 – 2021. (cont)



Our participants and volunteers.





CommonwealthBark

Our participants and volunteers.



I have such fond memories of that yellow plastic sleeve. I remember when the \$2 coin was introduced and I was so excited to slip it into that little pouch and add it to my account. So sad to see this program end – but what a lovely gesture to ask for our memories!

Loved School Banking. Regret not having kept my School Banking passbook. Also miss the Elephant money box. I had a blue one which I loved.

It's a shame because I think it's important kids learn about saving. I also remember how great it was having my own bank book as a kid!

Sad day... Dollarmites is such a fond memory from my primary school years. I surely wouldn't have the financial literacy I have today without that early engagement. I still remember the excitement of going into the Commonwealth Bank branch to withdraw my hard-earned savings to buy toys

I still have the metal money box that looks like the branch and I still use it.

I remember going to school and receiving my savings book. It was so exciting. I didn't spend my lunch money so I could save every Monday morning. Taught me about saving at a young age. Thank you, CBA.

I remember in kindergarten when I would put all my silver coins and five dollar notes in my Dollarmites banking sleeve... I'm now 18 and have built some great saving habits from the program!

remember enjoying handing in my yellow bank book each week and it being returned with the stub stamped. I found

it satisfying to watch my savings grow and before I got to high school I had over \$1,000 saved. This started me off on my savings journey where I was able to buy my own car.

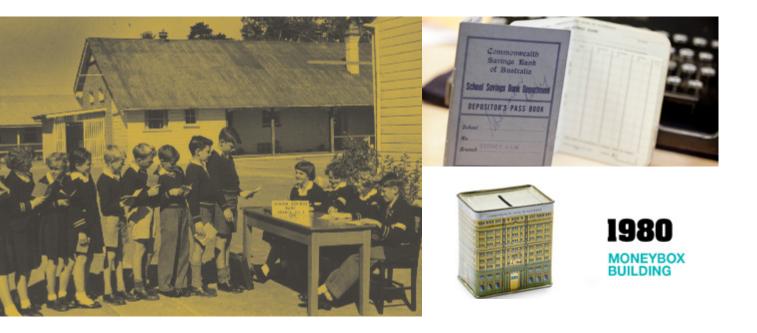
I cried watching the video because it reminded me of all those incidental memories of me with my yellow passbook on the banking morning, talking to my Mum about saving, and spending. And then me doing the same when my little brother joined in years later. Sad day for all the people who won't get to experience these conversations.

Started School Banking in about 1975 using the passbook. It was a huge deal for me to deposit my 5c – and especially 10c – coins and watch that money grow. Later on, this money helped me fund a deposit for my apartment.

"We make saving fun and easy, whatever the amount..." This advert was released when I was a School Banking participant in primary school. I still find it bouncing around my head as I count the deposits as the co-ordinator at my child's school. School Banking taught me a lot – especially about how a little bit often – adds up fast. I have enjoyed sharing those lessons with my child and we will both miss the program.

The School Banking program taught me the value of saving and that a little each week can become big over time. Although my schooling pre-dated Dollarmites, I can clearly remember being sent to school every week with 10c to be deposited into my State Savings Bank passbook. We had passbook covers with a big press stud to prevent the coins from falling out.

Our participants and volunteers. (cont)



In the 70s, I had a Commonwealth Bank passbook in primary school and would deposit 20 cents. It was exciting to see the value add up. I wish I could find that passbook now to see how much I managed to save!

My parents migrated to Australia with very little money, and always placed an emphasis on saving and staying out of debt. They were very happy that Dollarmites existed, as it enabled them to teach their kids the importance of saving in a fun and practical manner. They used to give me \$2 at regular intervals. I would put [it] into the Dollarmites pouch, fill out the deposit slip, and hand it over to the teacher. On my birthday, I would often get cash – e.g. \$20 – which I would also save, thinking that one day I would be able to use the money to buy a car... Whilst it seems trivial, these habits are built at a young age and it is without a doubt, these habits that have made me better off financially today.

My earliest memory of understanding the value of money was when I was in primary school in 1973 and became a participant in the School Banking program. My parents were small business owners and worked tirelessly to make ends meet. I could not wait for every Tuesday, which was our School Banking day, to deposit some coins in my account. It brought me closer to my goal of owning a pair of roller skates. I still have them today and they're hanging in the garage as a reminder of my first taste of 'financial independence'.

I'm proud to have started my banking journey with this program. I'm grateful for the lifelong skills it taught me, the enthusiasm it generated regarding saving money, and fond memories it provided. I still remember being part of this program while I was in primary school. My mum would put coins or notes into the plastic sleeve in the yellow Dollarmite book and I would bring it to school so excited.

I loved saving money and doing it by the School Banking program. I had my CBA wooden ruler for my whole school life. I have fond memories. My parents had bank accounts and spoke of saving and I did too!

My father was a manager of a Savings Bank branch... I can clearly remember lining up in our classroom – after we had had our small bottle of milk – handing over my passbook and whatever small change I hadn't spent at the school tuck shop. Then later in the day you would have your passbook returned and eagerly look to see the balance had increased by as much as \$0.50!

I have fond memories of putting my coins in my tin CBA moneybox – in the shape of the old CBA building – each week. And, with Mum's help, somehow that money would appear in my bank account via my old physical chequebook!

Every Wednesday my school would do our banking. I always worked hard at my chores so I could earn more pocket money than my siblings. It was a challenge between the four of us to see who could save the most. We loved getting visits from CBA staff and the Dollarmite gang. The multi-coloured pencils you'd get for banking with CBA are a childhood fave I wont forget. Very sad to not watch my daughter enjoy the fun in school banking.

Just found my bank book from 1966. The last entry in this book is my conversion of my savings from pounds, shillings and pence to dollars and cents.

Our participants and volunteers. (cont)

Always did School Banking every week in primary school during the 90s. Also added my birthday money and Christmas money.

I loved the sound of the Velcro ripping open to put in my money and the smell of the yellow pouch. I was a 90s kid when I was a part of the program. So sad to see it go. I was looking forward to doing this with my daughter when she reached primary school.

The Dollarmites was one of my most memorable school activities in the 1980s. Every week we would bring in change and we would sit in class and together with the banker, fill out our own deposit slip. I came from a poor family so always strived to save every cent to be richer like my friends. This saving education gave me a deposit for my first home when I was 22. When my kids started primary school a few years ago, I signed them up for Dollarmites too. And even though our school cancelled it, we regularly invest a tiny amount each week into their savings. We now put their coins into piggy banks and each year we count it together and deposit it in branch. Thank you for the education! When no other bank cared, you did!

I started banking with Commbank when I was six years old and I just started Primary school and I got a Dollarmite book from my mum. I remember always carrying that book in my bag every day and doing chores at nome to get money to keep adding to it. I'm very sad that it's gone now as I was hoping to be able to use it when I have kids.

It's such a truly sad and deeply disappointing decision that has been made for us. I've learnt the value of regular banking and working hard to save for all things I've needed in life, which started when I was a child banking with my Dollarmite account. It saddens me that my children have only had a brief time enjoying the same benefits that I had now that this has taken away from them. I've loved being a banking coordinator for our school, for my children, and for all the happy faces I saw every week, I will truly miss being a part of all of this.

I loved visiting our local school and seeing all the equipment, library books and sportsgear that they had been able to purchase because of the School Banking program. I also got a lot of joy seeing the kids get gratification from their deposits, and learning the value of money.

I remember being in primary school and once a week I would bring in my money in my little Dollarmites bank book. I saved so much. I was so hoping my sons would get the joy of doing this and seeing their savings build. The true excitement of saving money as a child. Sad to see it go, but great job, Commonwealth Bank.

Fremember getting all my Dollarmite goodies, my favourite being a lenticular ruler! Those were definitely simpler times. I remember every week handing in my yellow book with pocket money I'd earned by doing odd jobs around the house. I quickly grew my savings and learned great savings habits from this... I am so disappointed that my son won't be able to participate in this great program.

Each week my dad would send me to school with a 50c coin in my yellow Dollarmites envelope to bank in and slowly build up my account. 50c seemed like so much back then and I was so glad to drop off my bank book each week. Fast forward and I'm in my 30s... while the amount has increased from 50c, the habit of banking has remained unchanged.

School Banking 1931-1939 (approximately)... I remember that School Banking was always on a Tuesday before we went into class. I remember that I was given a threepence coin to bank and I remember getting a brand-new bank book to record my weekly banking. When my sisters started school, they were also given threepence a week to bank... Later I was able to supplement the amount that went into my account because I had a cleaning job for a nearby neighbour in addition to my daily farm work.

In kindergarten, we had our Dollarmite pouches [and] we would all bring them in and it would all go to the bank and come back to us with our little chequebooks completed by the staff... The program and experience taught me valuable lessons about saving and about looking after your money. It was an amazing tool for establishing routine and I'm sad to see it go.

Good times, I miss it. Grateful to have been a part of the program and it was an enjoyable experience.

Financial education is essential and the School Banking program delivered training in financial literacy to Australian children in a fun and engaging way. I was my son's primary

Our family immigrated to Australia in 1984 and I attended a suburban primary school where I was introduced to CBA's School Banking. Even though I was only primary school age, I was in control and could participate in learning about the virtues of saving. I am now in my 40s and responsible for the money of a household of two adults and two primary school aged children. My children have had the chance to participate in School Banking to learn the same way I did so many years ago. Thank you CBA and the School Banking team for your contribution to the community!

Our participants and volunteers. (cont)



school School Banking Coordinator for five years, starting back in 2010. I loved seeing the joy on the children's faces throughout that time. I'm sad future generations won't have the opportunity to experience this. The program has set my son up for financial success by teaching him the value of regular saving and it helped develop his financial capability at a young age. CommBank's School Banking program gave children the best financial start to their lives.

I remember the man from the Bank carrying a big brown leather case with a big stamping machine to the office at school. He would put the yellow card into the machine and turn a handle and it would stamp the card with the amount. Generally I banked 20c. The ink was purple.

I learnt about compound interest, the value of money, and delayed gratification from my years as a Dollarmite and then through high school and uni. The lessons from CBA School Banking got me my first laptop, my first car, my first share portfolio, my first home, my investment portfolio and my own small business. I became a Certified Financial Planner Practitioner after learning these valuable lessons, wanting to do more with money and to empower everyone around me. I am grateful to the CBA for running School Banking during my lifetime.

I have loved being a School Banking volunteer this year. Each week I get to greet the children and listen to their stories of how they have earned their money or if they have had a birthday recently and that is why their bank book is bulging.

I still have a purple elephant and two bank building money boxes. Our teens started with Dollarmites and are now managing their own accounts.

I started with CBA in 1988 with a Dollarmite account. I had most of these money boxes, and I'm still [with CommBank] now. That's 33 years, and I always get a congratulations when I call on the phone... that's longer than most marriages!

That's very sad to hear, end of an era, an Australian tradition I did every Monday morning through school. Taught me values. I had both the metal boxes and remember the slogan 'States savings bank of Victoria'.

Had two of the [money boxes], started my Commonwealth account at school in the late 1950s, and still have it.

Oh the Dollarmite! Wish I still had that. Mum and Dad still had the 1960s elephants. We played with them as kids.

I've still got the little square tin after 43 years. Now my daughter has it. Taught me to save.

I still keep my coins in a platypus. I'm 40.

I still have a few of the money boxes from 32 years ago.

I remember meeting a special little boy and he was telling me how he used to save all his money. I asked him what he was saving for and he said, "His grandmother's headstone" At the time his grandmother had passed away and the family were doing it tough and he wanted to help them. He said to me – "Don't worry, once we get my grandmothers headstone, I will save for my Ferrari." I really hope Jack is still aiming for that!

I still have my Dollarmites account and use it every day! I'm 33 now. I loved taking my bank book in with my pocket money and putting it into the grey bag to take to the office!

Our parents.

Our parents.



Without this program being in the school, we would have started this conversation [about money] with our children at a much later age. We are grateful to have had it.

My favourite memory is the banking excursion. What great money advice, education and slogans you taught our children. And me too if I am honest

It's been a great way to teach my daughters financial literacy and also help other parents at their school think through how they can teach their kids to develop positive savings habits.

I have helped with School Banking since my girls started primary in 2013. It was a great way to start them saving their "pocket money" with the added bonus of a little prize at the end of each term. My youngest, who was three at the time, would always go up by herself to the ladies and after banking they would give her a stamp... Made her day. I am now a coordinator and it's still the same excitement from the little kids. Sorry to see you go.

My son loved this program in primary school. Always excited about School Banking day! The learnings from this program were many – being organised with his \$5 weekly deposit, how interest accrues and is calculated (basic maths, but helpful to see how it works in real life), and that consistent savings (even small amounts) add up over time to a nice lump sum. All fundamental skills to direct young people in achieving financial well-being. [In] my first branch of work as teenager in the late 80s... we all used to take turns to go and do the School Banking at the local schools. What fond memories I have of that branch and School Banking. And what a sad day that we'll no longer have this for our younger generations as I truly believe that this helped shape the way my children look after their own finances today.

It was a pleasure to volunteer at my son's primary school. He was so proud of me and would look forward to come into the room on Tuesdays to drop the class bag and give me a little kiss. Such beautiful and fond memories. I made good friends with mums who volunteered with me. I got to speak and promote School Banking at school assembly. I had good support from our school banking coordinators as well. Now alas, the program has come to a close. I am sure many of our children will always treasure memories of their dollar accounts, and their rewards – the silver and gold tokens. Thank you for great memories and opportunity to serve in School Banking.

Thank you CBA! This program brings back many pleasant memories of when I opened my account 40 odd years ago now... Also, more recently in the last 10 years opening my son's account and watching the excitement of banking day living on through him. Well done.

My youngest child was a school banker. His banking day was Tuesday, so on Monday we sat down and counted his jobs for the week and how much he would get paid. I then asked him how much he would like to save (which was usually all of it because we never went to the shops). He managed to save over \$1,000 through Primary school and continued saving. He graduated this year and now has a share portfolio worth over \$4,500. Not bad for a 17 year old.

Our parents. (cont)



I have happy memories of my kids taking their Dollarmites wallets to school and enjoyed their eagerness in counting up their totals each week. It was a fantastic initiative by CBA to teach children money awareness. Such a pity it cannot continue. I still have the CBA Bank building style money box for my gold coins.

My kids have banked since starting primary school and my eldest sent her book to school with her other siblings right through to Year 12<mark>!</mark>

Both my daughters participated in the School Banking program and always happy to lend a hand on banking day or whenever I needed them. They have since finished school and currently attend uni. Both paid for their own cars and are still great at saving. Both my children participated in the CBA School Banking program. It was such a useful tool to teach them how money works for a grown up i.e Mummy's boss needs to pay money into my account before I can use my plastic card. When they experienced part of their pocket money going to the bank for safe keeping, they soon realised that I did not, in fact, have a magic plastic card. Since prep [school], my children have saved in their accounts and when ready bought: sleeping bags, iPads, their first phones and finally their own cars with cash. They continue to save for what they want to this day and always, always look for the best deal.

Our people.

Our people.



I was a junior teller in 1969. The school was across the road from the branch. A beautiful young teacher arrived and was put in charge of School Banking. We have been married for nearly 52 years.

The best part of my job is knowing that the School Banking program has made a big impact in the financial wellbeing of our children. It is such a rewarding role – knowing for 90 years, we have helped so many children learned the value of making regular savings, and hopefully they will pass this on to the next generation.

From my days of being a kid at primary school and bringing the coins in, to being a junior teller and going to the schools to collect all the coins and stamping the cards and then balancing. It was a step in learning responsibility and it was a fun time.

The School Banking Program was the job I felt the most connection to in my career to date - helping increase financial literacy of young Australians.

Like many others, I started School Banking many years ago, when I was in kindergarten at primary school. [Many years later when my son started School Banking, I realised] this is what I want to do! I want to go into schools and teach children and parents about saving and setting Financial goals. I landed a job in School Banking and have loved every day of the last four years. Such an amazing team and program to be part of.

It has been an absolute privilege to be a part of this program. To hear of the milestones people have achieved because they we introduced to saving at an early age has been rewarding in itself. I used to love my Dollarmites account when I was in primary school in the 1980s. I always remember the iconic yellow wallet and the cute characters. School Banking is a great thing and taught me about money and made me feel very grown-up to have my own bank account at a young age. Not only am I still a CBA customer today, I actually work for CBA myself so it's come full circle. It's sad to see it go and the end of an era. Thanks to all the CBA staff who worked on the School Banking Program over the years.

I started [working] at a branch in 1986. One of my first jobs in the bank was travelling around to the schools during the week in my little yellow Datsun 120Y, to collect the deposits the children made to their accounts. I think this also gave me the realisation that I too, as a young adult, needed to save my money so that I could save for a newer car and to buy my first home. I know that this position I held, was definitely helping all the young people to be able to buy those things that they were dreaming of having and/or needing.

I have worked for CBA for almost 30 years. When my children went to school, I was happy to see that the school participated in our School Banking program. Much so that I became a School Banking co-ordinator myself four years ago. I have loved seeing the school kids hand in their deposit books with pride on a weekly basis and their excitement when they would claim their rewards. From a parent, co-ordinator and staff perspective – I will be sad to see it go, but have very fond memories and was proud to be involved.

My first account with the Bank was an account opened at school in approximately 1965. My father used to give us money every week and we would take it to school and the Bank would receipt it with Australian native animal stamps. When I joined the Bank in 1979, one of my first and favourite jobs was being the School Servicing Officer. Each weekday I would travel around visiting the various local schools and accepting deposits to the children's account only returning to the branch in the afternoon to balance the cash and attend to any enquiries received at from the school.

Our people. (cont)

I was involved in the project team that developed the Dollarmite School Banking program. From reviewing designs of the Dollarmites, the envelopes, and the process of converting from the old passbook and stamping machines. All those years ago. Sad to see it go.

My love for the program started in kindergarten in 1986 when I became a member of the Dollarmite Club! I can hand on heart say that my dream to become a 'Bank Manager' evolved as part of the journey, one that I feel honoured to have been a part of for the last 35 years. Each and every day I wake up with a purpose and drive knowing that we are in a privileged position to provide opportunities for the youth of today to build a better financial future. We genuinely love what we do. We are in a position to see and hear stories of how lives have been changed. We gain feedback and hear testimonials from teachers and parents of how we have delivered valuable lessons and provided them with tools to guide their own students and children to stronger financial wellbeing. We are grieving a program we adore, but we are proud.

Joined the CBA in 1970. One of my first jobs was going around the local schools with the old hand-cranked stamping machine.

I had the pleasure of leading a team of School Banking Managers at CommBank. This team was the most committed and passionate group I have ever worked with. They understood the difference it made to children and relayed stories to me regularly on the positive impact they made to individual children who reached their savings goal, to schools who shared their stories... on the importance of financial literacy. I have twins who were in primary school while I was part of this team and am glad they have learned to set financial goals and save towards them. They learned this from School Banking.

I had the privilege of being part of this team for 8 years. I truly believe that we had a great impact on the financial well-being of thousands of children and parents... To be able to educate people on savings skills and developing a regular savings habit is something to be proud of. Thank you.

When working at a branch in the late 80s, [my] town had a Carnivale parade. We borrowed a flat bed truck from the local greengrocers. Decorated it in CBA colours and logo. Staff were dressed as Dollarmites with others wearing Dollarmite t-shirts. Joined the parade and handed out Dollarmite merchandise to the local kids. Fun time had by all. We probably made the local newspaper.

Back in the early 90s I worked for CBA and drove around high schools and talked to students about how the bank could help them with life after school and handed out budget planners and Velcro wallets... I still do a great job at budgeting, and still have one of those Velcro wallet somewhere in my parents' garage! Congrats on 90 years on giving Aussie kids a good start to banking CBA! When I was at CBA as very young junior in 1976-77, I used to do School Banking... [I] used to trundle off with the franking machine to stamp cards with [money] in little envelopes of 20c, 50c. \$1 was for rich kids. VERY sad time from memory point of view as well as kids not learning importance of saving.

School Banking is about so much more than providing a way for children to save. One of the main stories I hear from my SBCs [volunteers] all the time is about the little shy bankers, some nonverbal, that come to banking. The SBC is sometimes the only adult they interact with outside the family, on a one on one basis and they explain to me that over a number of weeks/ months/years, those children start to make eye contact, laugh, converse, ask questions, answer questions, etc. In a world full of digital, human interaction is what we facilitate. It is about so much more and often about nothing we intended.

Being the School Banking Specialist for CBA on the Mid North Coast will always be a highlight in my working life. My fondest memory was interacting with the children. In some cases we did games where the children gave presentations about why saving was important in their life. This would include how much we save from pocket money, how you could earn pocket money – it was amazing. The interest that was demonstrated when explaining where banking started made me so happy to be part of such an amazing program. I know this program will always be a strong part of our education memories in Australian schools and I cannot thank CBA enough for letting me experience this.

I once used to be the School Banker at a branch that had so many schools attached to it was a full time role! Later on, the bank acquired a Dollarmite robot – approximately the size of R2D2 – that was remote controlled and you could speak through it! So much fun with the customers.

My story starts sitting around a campfire, celebrating a 40 year old's birthday and a guest said to me: "I remember you – you did my banking at primary school with my Snow White bank book". It was a positive memory for her, so when my son started primary school I volunteered to help with Student Banking. It has been a rewarding experience and one I will miss. The rewards program was such a hit and a perfect way to help them save consistently.

In January, I'll clock up 40 years working for CBA. One of my first jobs in the Bank in 1982 was School Banking officer. As a 16 year old with no drivers licence, I'd have to catch cabs from one school to another lugging around two wooden suitcases. One with a 'franking' machine that was used to stamp a card with small amounts until the card was full and then the total from the card would be recorded in the child's passbook, and the other with the cash – mostly coins in those days.

Our people. (cont)



Who remembers the "Dollarmites" visiting the schools and talking about learning to save? Hope no-one remembers I was one of those "Dollarmites". Question time from the littles was the best part of the exercise.

I was a School Banking officer back in the day when you used to get the stamps on the cards. Then when I came back part time, I was lucky enough to get to be a School Banking officer with the Dollarmite accounts.

My kids or I had all of them. So many kids learnt how to save through this program. 40+ years working for CBA. I remember collecting School Banking from school and returning to branch to process.

I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of a program that teaches young children to learn the value of money and initiate saving habits at a young age. It never ceases to amaze me how a little thing goes a long way, the smile in the customers' voice when they call for something so simple and you "wowing" them with exceptional customer services make my job so rewarding.

The best part of my job is helping families to understand the value of money and a regular savings habit. I love meeting and working with the school community and branch staff.

School Banking is a legacy. It's something that is a part of Australian history. I am very proud to say I contributed to that journey. Over the last 11 years, we were integrated into a community with schools and families that will leave a lasting memory for all of us. I loved watching the children that started in kindy – the same year I started in this program – go through their schooling. I would run into them in the community and they come say hi and they would share their savings and goals, and now those children are now in year 11 at school and are buying their first cars.

My favourite memory is the children's faces with the Dollarmite visits and the quirky answers that they come out with when you are presenting at an assembly or in the classroom.

I loved working with teens in low socio areas where mums and dads don't talk about or understand money. I loved sharing stories and giving them some vital tools and understanding around money, spending and budgeting. Things they can go home and help not only themselves, but their families too.

It was so inspiring hearing the stories of how School Banking impacted people's lives for the better from saving for their first car, house deposit or just something special a lot of Australians learnt to save with the program so I will miss hearing those.

[I'll miss] hearing about the stories from kids of where they started and continued to. [Whether to] save to buy their first car or house, or whatever their goal was. Absolutely incredible.

The best part of my job is helping people, making a difference. Seeing confidence grow within a volunteer who had never touched a computer before. Listening to a child outline their plans for how they'll achieve & spend their savings, right through to hearing about how a school utilises their fundraising to create an inclusive and welcoming community for all families.

For more information



Visit us in branch

Call us on **13 2224**



CommBank Website

www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

