



Community Banking Since 1869

## MEDIA RELEASE

17 March 2011

### **SBS Bank Tauranga celebrates fifth birthday**

The team at SBS Bank Tauranga were quick to leave a positive and lasting impression when they first opened their doors in the Bay of Plenty five years ago. They set out to build ongoing relationships and give back to the community and were quickly told how much their involvement meant.

One of their initial community sponsorships with Omokoroa Bowling Club resulted in the club president emailing to say: "The best thing that has happened to Omokoroa is when SBS came to town."

SBS Bank Tauranga manager Terri Gregory said the first five years in Tauranga had been an "absolute blast" for their team, their customers and their community partners.

"As part of our week-long celebrations, from March 21 to 25, our SBS Bank Tauranga team is inviting people to pop into our branch and share some coffee and birthday cake as a big thank you for the community support we have received during the past five years.

"Although SBS Bank is still relatively new to Tauranga, the people here just love the fact that we are a New Zealand-owned organisation that benefits New Zealanders – and I love that too.

"SBS Bank has a proud 143-year history of giving back to its customers and its communities and that is why we make it no secret that we are constantly trying to find more innovative ways to provide them with additional benefits," Mrs Gregory said.

Examples of products and services specifically developed by SBS Bank to provide direct benefits include its SBS Star banking package for non-profit groups, which provides fee-free transactional banking along with the chance to win \$1000 in 10 prize draws held every month. It also offers free event promotion through its online member events calendar and community noticeboards in its branches, free business or community group promotion through the SBS Bank online member web community, ticket discounts to some sporting events and community facilities and product discounts through online business and sponsorship promotions.

Mrs Gregory said they would welcome anyone that wanted to pop in to their Tauranga branch during its week of fifth birthday celebrations and find out what makes the SBS Bank difference so exceptional.

SBS Bank Tauranga was one of six new branches opened around the country over a two-year period as SBS Bank grew its national footprint between 2004 and 2006. The bank now has 17 branches throughout the country, including two branches of HBS Bank in Hawke's Bay with plans to open another branch in Havelock North in the near future.

**For further information please contact:**

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