



Our Journey So Far



Avoca · Maryborough · St Arnaud



We opened a bank to grow a community.

Avoca **Community Bank**® Branch was the sixth Community Bank® to open in Australia. When we opened our doors 20 years ago, we made a promise to the community that we would make things better.

Two decades, two branches, one agency and one million dollars later we've made good on that promise.

Our founding group of community leaders not only returned a traditional bank branch to the town of Avoca, they reignited the spark in this community. They didn't just set out to open a bank, they set out to grow their community.

In 2019, 20 years on, let's see how we've done and our journey so far...

February
1999

Avoca **Community Bank**® branch opened

April
2000

Maryborough agency accepted management

December
2006

Maryborough branch opened

December
2004

St Arnaud agency accepted management



Our shareholders

Twenty years ago our shareholders committed to a model that held great potential to support communities across Australia. Today our shareholder base is made up of members of the community from Avoca and surrounding towns and spans over several generations.

Our partner

Our partner Bendigo Bank was founded 160 years ago in the wake of a community's need for a financier to develop the fledgling goldrush city of Bendigo.

As Australia's only regionally-based bank, and currently Australia's fifth largest retail bank, Bendigo Bank never lost sight of its community origins. Bendigo Bank is proud of **Community Bank®** and the community partners who have helped make it happen.

Our Staff



Original Avoca Staff



Current St Arnaud agency Staff



Current Avoca Staff



Current Maryborough Staff

“ We thank all of our past staff and board members who have contributed to our success over the past 20 years. ”

Our directors



Original Board of Directors and Rob Hunt



Current Board Members



Our children

Avoca **Community Bank**® Branch supports the children of our district in a variety of ways, including programs through schools, and involvement with our local kindergartens and playgroups.

We consistently invest in initiatives that support the development of young people within our community with projects such as infrastructure, school banking programs, breakfast programs and children's events.

In 2012 we committed \$60,000 to the Avoca Children's Centre, a new facility which included Pre-School, Playgroup, Day Care and Specialist Services.

Without the **Community Bank**® investment into these programs many would not have developed into what they are today.



Our young people

Youth engagement has long been an area in which our **Community Bank**® branch has felt its largest connection. Our company strongly believes that investing in our young people is an investment into the future of our communities.

This support is completed through a variety of programs including:

L2P Learner Driver Program (supply of a vehicle)

Community Bank® Scholarship Program

LifeChanger

Central Goldfields Shire Council "Get Up & Go"

School banking sessions

Infrastructure investment

Scouts & Guides

Energy Breakthrough

Right Choices Program



Our health

The health of our communities is important to us. Here are some of the ways we have contributed to the health of our communities.

Maryborough District Health Services

When Avoca **Community Bank**® Branch first opened, we knew the time would come when we would be in a position to invest in our community – after all, that is what our **Community Bank**® Model is all about.

In 2011 we formed a key partnership with Maryborough District Health Services and purchased the Cancer Care Car.

In 2012, we committed a further \$100,000 which contributed to the Wellness Centre, Wellness in Motion vehicle and Centre of Inspired Learning (COIL).



Saving lives

We have helped install 14 defibrillators across the three communities that our **Community Bank**® branches represent. These machines are located at local sporting clubs and organisations which identified a need for these lifesaving machines.



The power of partnerships

When organisations come together with a common vision of building better communities, great things can, and do happen. We hold long standing partnerships with a variety of large organisations including Pyrenees Shire, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire, Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball

League and Maryborough District Health Services. We also recognise the power of partnerships with smaller organisations, including local clubs, businesses, sporting groups, and many more. The very definition of a partnership is to work together, which is why we partner with strong organisations that seek the same outcome as us – to create strong communities.



Our sporting groups

Our sport and recreation clubs are the hub of community life, especially in rural communities. We are proud to support numerous sporting clubs including:

Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball Club (11 years as major sponsor)

Amphitheatre Tennis Club

Avoca Basketball Club Inc

Avoca Country Golf & Bowls Club

Avoca Cricket Club

Avoca Football Netball Club

Avoca Riding Club

Avoca RSL Indoor Bowls

Avoca Shire Turf Club

Bealiba and District Pony Club

Carisbrook Bowling Club

Carisbrook Football Netball Club

Colts Phelans Cricket Club

Maryborough Basketball Association

Maryborough Cricket Association

Maryborough Golf Club

Maryborough Harness Racing Club

Maryborough Little Athletics

Natte Yallock Cricket Club

Pyrenees Petanque Club

Royal Park Football Netball Club

St Arnaud Turf Club

St Arnaud Country Club

St Arnaud Cricket Club

St Arnaud Football Club

St Arnaud Harness Racing

St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club

St Arnaud Pony Club

St Arnaud Rifle Club

St Arnaud Tennis Club

St Arnaud Turf Club

Talbot Football Netball Club

Talbot Golf Club



Our future – what's next?

If the past 20 years has taught us anything, it's that we're on the right track. We will continue to build strong partnerships with aligned organisations to ensure we support the development of our young people and the overall social wellbeing of our communities.

Mission statement

Together, we make great things happen.

Together, we've invested in multiple community projects, sports, aged care, and education. We've hosted hundreds of special events and organised countless fundraising activities. Our communities are thriving, and our future is bright.

So if you still need a reason to bank with us, simply look around you... and make the change.

Avoca **Community Bank**[®] Branch of Bendigo Bank
125A High Street | Avoca VIC 3467 P: 03 5465 3804

Maryborough branch
54 Tuaggra Street | Maryborough VIC 3465 P: 03 5461 4384

St Arnaud agency (Sportsfirst)
113 – 115 Napier Street | St Arnaud VIC 3478 P: 5495 1283



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