

Autumn
2024

Celebrating 25 years

Community Bank · Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud

Celebrating Bank Milestone

In December 1998, the Avoca District Co-Operative Ltd was formed. It raised \$245,000 from 230 shareholders to purchase the franchise for the sixth Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank. A Branch Manager and two Customer Service Officers were recruited, and our very own bank opened for business in February 1999.

In 1999, the co-operative acquired the Maryborough agency, which became the Maryborough branch in 2006, and the St Arnaud Agency in 2011.

The internationally acclaimed model has now grown into a network of more than 300 branches across Australia. Its point of difference is that the Community Banks return profits to their own districts by funding community agencies, organisations and projects which benefit their local areas. To date more than \$320 million has invested in improving the lives of residents around the country.

Locally, the Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud region has benefited, with \$2.2 million reinvested via sponsorships, grants and donations.

Different look. Same bank.

In October 2023 we relocated our Avoca branch. Our look is new, fresh and modern, but with a heritage twist. But the most important things haven't changed. You'll get the same, trusted service you always have, the same competitive products and the same commitment to the community. We still do good. Now we look good doing it.



\$2.2 million

Reinvested from
1999 to now



\$500K

Contribution to the
community in 2023



72

Organisations
supported in 2023



Community Grant Program recipients

ASTERIA Services Inc, Wheelchair accessible vehicle for disability support services

Avoca & District CWA, BBQ Trailer upgrade

Avoca Riverside Market, 2023 Christmas event

Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network, The Outdoors Landcare Classroom,

Carisbrook Disaster Recovery Committee Inc, 2023 Christmas event

Carisbrook Football and Netball Club Inc, Communications board

Central Goldfields Bushwalking & Hiking Club Inc., First aid equipment

Committee for Maryborough, 2024 Goldfields Community Festival

Kooreh Memorial Hall, Hall repairs

Maryborough & District Highland Pipe Band, Hall repairs

Maryborough District Girl Guides, Outdoor seating

Maryborough Family History Group, Microfilm digitisation

Maryborough Midlands Historical Society, Garden upgrades

Maryborough Theatre Company, 2024 Christmas event

Moonambel Arts and History Group Inc., Information board upgrades

NAIDOC Week 2024, Wildlife Animals Activity

Redbank Reserves Committee, Community First Response AED

Saint Arnaud Community Kitchen, Commercial appliances

St Arnaud Lions Club, 2023 Lions Club Christmas Procession

St Arnaud Debutant Ball

St Arnaud and District Orchid Society, Captivating Orchids in 2024

St Arnaud Community Resource Centre, IT upgrade

St Arnaud Historical Society, St Arnaud - 'Then and Now' historical book

St Arnaud Neighbourhood House Inc, AED fridge magnets

Stuart Mill Progress Association Community, Hall upgrades

Stuart Mill Racecourse Reserve Riding Club, Portable toilet

Talbot Football Netball Club, Kitchen upgrade



\$250,000 reinvested

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Community Grant Program. A total of \$250,257 has been awarded to 27 deserving community groups, marking a significant investment in initiatives that will positively impact the region.

Joel Condon, Branch Manager at Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud said, "If you are a customer of ours, thank you. Because of you, we have been able to support 27 wonderful community groups and bring our total contribution to over \$2.2 million."

"The selected projects showcase the incredible volunteers and diversity of initiatives aimed at making a positive impact on the lives of our community."

"Congratulations to all of the recipients. The positive impact of these projects will be felt across the region, fostering collaboration and enriching the lives of our community."



Maryborough District Girl Guides



St Arnaud Historical Society



Kooreh Memorial Hall



Maryborough Midlands Historical Society



Avoca Riverside Market



Maryborough Theatre Company



St Arnaud Lions Club



Stuart Mill Progress Association



Central Goldfields Bushwalking & Hiking Club Inc



Moonambel Arts and History Group Inc.



Carisbrook Disaster Recovery Committee Inc.



St Arnaud Community Resource Centre



Saint Arnaud Community Kitchen



Maryborough Family History Group



Avoca & District CWA

Mill House Food Security Program

Mill House provides a range of community activities to address social isolation and food security in Maryborough. In 2023 Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud provided a \$28,000 grant to support their weekly 'Food with Friends', 'Mill House Café' and 'Mill House Market' programs. The programs support over 150 people per week.

We love the services Mill House provides and are proud to support them!



Energy Breakthrough 2023

In 2023 we signed on as Energy Breakthrough's Official Volunteer Program Sponsor. The sponsorship assisted Energy Breakthrough in attracting new volunteers, supporting current volunteers and recognising the efforts of long-standing volunteers. It also provided uniforms, training and catering at the event.

We continued our support of 10 local schools, who received a share of sponsorship and equipment valued at \$4,000.



Talk to us today

If you need help with your banking, contact our lending team. They can meet you when and where it suits you; at the branch, over the phone, or via video call.



Joel
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5461 4384
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Community Bank - Avoca

121 High Street, Avoca

P 5465 3804

E avoca@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/avoca

We're open:

9.30am - 12.30, 1.30 - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 12.30, 1.30 - 5.00pm Friday

Maryborough

52 -54 Tuaggra Street, Maryborough

P 5461 4384

E maryborough@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/maryborough

We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

St Arnaud

88 Napier Street, St Arnaud

P 5495 2587

We're open:

10.15am - 3.00pm Monday to Thursday

10.15am - 4.00pm Friday



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[/communitybankavocamaryborough](https://www.instagram.com/communitybankavocamaryborough)

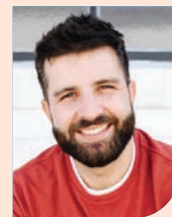
Avoca District Co-operative Ltd

PO Box 81, Avoca VIC 3467

ABN 82 022 501 598

Meet our new Director, Kristopher

Kristopher has been a self-employed Financial Adviser and business entrepreneur since 2012. His mission is to provide clients with financial advice coupled with unparalleled service and life changing outcomes.



Outside of his professional pursuits, Kristopher and his wife, Lauren, manage Huxter Estate, a small vineyard in Redbank with the aim of producing exceptional wine to share and savour with others.



Keeping you safe online

Cyber security and scams have taken on a new intensity this year. Bendigo Bank has been increasing education and awareness activities to help people understand what to look for, and what to do if they suspect they've been scammed.

We encourage all our customers to visit the security section of Bendigo Bank's website to learn more:

www.bendigobank.com.au/security

The bank has also recently announced a new scam awareness education program which people and community groups can access through our branch.

Speak to our team to book it for your organisation.

Customers are encouraged to call our branch if they are suspicious of any communication. The mantra to keep in mind is:

- **STOP** – don't give money or personal information to anyone if you are unsure.
- **THINK** – Ask yourself if the call or message could be fake.
- **PROTECT** – Act quickly if something feels wrong by contacting us on 5465 3804.

We opened a bank
to grow a community

Bendigo Bank

