



2022-23

Newsletter

Community Bank · Robe & Districts



Vic Dawson turns 100

One of our favourite Robe locals turned 100 in July of 2022. Mr. Dawson was one of six children, and was born in Robe in 1922.

Vic told ABC news he has always loved the open air and country life. He and his family produced vegetables, farmed sheep and had plenty of fish and rabbits on the farm he grew up on. He believes that it was the freedom of the bush that could have been a contributing factor to his long life. He loved roaming the bush, hunting, and keeping fit; and was able to walk for miles 'back in the day'.



While his health has been up and down, Mr Dawson says that people are often surprised at how healthy he has been over the years. He claims that living for 100 years has been a great achievement and largely credits his outdoor activities like lawn bowls and gardening, to have helped to keep him fit and healthy. He began playing bowls at only 26 years of age, and the Robe Bowling Club has become like a second home for him, being a member there for over 70 years. In recent years, Mr Dawson says he has also spent a lot of time at the Robe Community Garden. "Overall, I would have to say it's been a wonderful life," says Vic.

We wish Vic all the best for his life ahead, and thank him for being a wonderful asset and community member to our town.



Learn to Sail

Together with our customers and shareholders, we are proud to sponsor another year of the 'Learn to Sail' classes, again ran by the Robe Yacht Club. Each year, Ali and her support crew bring Yachting Australia accredited instructors to our shores to teach vital sailing skills to participants. This program has been long-running in our community, and we are glad to see it continue into the foreseeable future.

Congratulations to the amazing instructors; Simon, Megan and Harry, for running a fun-filled week of sailing classes. It was a windy week, putting the students skills to the test, however they were all competent sailors by the end of the classes. The Robe Junior Challenge was once again won by Tristan Fox, and crew Hailey Provis. Congratulations to all sailors! The Robe Yacht Club has put forward their special 'thank you' to the Community Bank Robe & Districts, who have generously supported this program and made it possible to run.

Robe Christmas Parade

For over 10 years now, our branch has proudly supported the Robe Christmas Parade. The 2022 parade did not disappoint, which was again filled with lots of creative and festive floats. This year, your Community Bank and South East Excavations were major sponsors. We hope those who attended the parade enjoyed the show, and were able to sit for a photo with Father Christmas afterwards.



Beachport Agency

We would like to introduce you to our new home (every Thursday); the Beachport Agency. The new space is situated at 11 Railway Terrace, Beachport.

We're so excited to finally bring the power of community banking to the people of Beachport and surrounds. This project has been a long yet rewarding

feat, and we are very proud of what we have achieved in turning this dream into a reality. Come visit us on Thursdays from 10am to 4pm, or phone 8768 1855 or 0400 403 771 to make an appointment. We can't wait to see you in our new space.

Lucindale Working Dog Auction

After the big success of the inaugural 2021 Lucindale Working Dog Auction, the event was held again in September 2022, at Yakka park in Lucindale. Community Bank Robe & Districts were again proud major sponsors for the day, and we are told the event did not disappoint. Well done to all involved with the organising and running of the day. Keep an eye out for announcements for a 2023 show later this year.



Lions Club Scholarship

Congratulations to our 2022 scholarship recipients. Erika Watson from Kingston won \$1,000 to put towards her tertiary education and two winners from Lucindale; Logan Whiteford and Dominic Carter both won \$2,000 to put towards theirs. This year there were no applications submitted from Robe. We are proud to again partner with the Kingston, Lucindale and Robe Lions Clubs to offer these awards to the graduating students.

The Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation™ assess all applications and Community Bank Robe & Districts, in conjunction with the respective Lions Clubs, make the final decision on the successful applicant.

We are also pleased to announce that the program has recently been opened up for those wishing to begin an apprenticeship or a trade after their secondary education. For details on how to apply and the criteria for our next round of applications, please be sure to contact your local Community Bank Robe & Districts.



Robe, Kingston SE & Lucindale Scholarship Program



AGM highlights support for the community

Thank you to our shareholders, customers and community who attended our AGM in November 2022. We did things a little differently this year, opting to host a morning breakfast instead of an evening supper. The meeting saw shareholders, community members, Directors and branch staff enjoy bacon and egg rolls cooked outside on the BBQ, served with tea and coffee.

We were pleased to see a few more numbers attending this year's meeting. It was wonderful to be able to share how community funding had benefited 34 community groups in the last financial year, with \$113,196 of our branch's profits being reinjected back into various projects and initiatives in our region. This funding was all made possible by our customers choosing to bank local. This now takes our total community contributions to \$581,702 since opening our doors 19 years ago. We believe you will agree that this is a wonderful feat and we are very proud of what we have been able to achieve and offer to our Robe, Kingston, Lucindale and Beachport communities. Also at the meeting,



Chairman of the Board, Andrew Brown, announced another 5 cent dividend, that was paid to shareholders in December 2022. Thank you again to all who attended; we hope you enjoyed the morning, and look forward to welcoming you back in 2023.

Meet Annie Matthews



Annie has been a valued member of the Community Bank Robe & Districts Board of Directors for many years. But where did it all start for Annie? How did she end up in Robe with a farmer and a beautiful family?

Annie explains, "My family came from Adelaide and I grew up near Henley Beach. After completing Year 12 and keen for an adventure, I moved to the Northern Territory

where I stayed for many years, studying teaching in Darwin and living and working in many remote locations in the desert and the top end. While I was there, I met my husband, Mal, in the pub in Elliott, a very small town in the centre of the NT."

"After travelling around, living in some beautiful, tropical places and having our first child, Hannah, we decided to settle back in SA. We bought Mal's family farm at Bray when his parents retired to Robe and started a new adventure, having two more children, Eliza and Patrick, planting a vineyard and working in schools in Millicent, Robe and at Kangaroo Inn."

Annie is also well respected in the local community in her role as Principal of Kangaroo Inn Area School. The school itself is an anomaly, situated alone on the road from Robe to Penola in the bush, having been built in response to the many soldier settler farmers and their families that were established in the area after World War II. Numbers may be lower than in the past, but it's progressive reputation for education is far reaching.

"I am really passionate about rural education and proud to be part of the Kangaroo Inn Area School community as a parent, a teacher and a principal. Our school is unique in that it caters for students from Preschool to Year 12 and, considering that we are a very small school in a rural location, we certainly offer a broad range of opportunities to support our students."

"Along with many other locals, our three children successfully completed all of their schooling at Kangaroo Inn and are now employed in Human Resources, Medicine and working with a local employer in an electrical apprenticeship.

Annie's passion does not stop at teaching; having been involved in many parts of the local community.

"I have been involved in a number of community groups over the years, including fundraising for the foreshore playground, the Robe Village Fair committee, the Robe Grape-growers Association, the Netball and Football clubs, Governing Council in Robe and Kangaroo Inn and now, Community Bank Robe & Districts."

But how did Annie hear about our Community Bank?

"I became involved with the Community Bank when applying for grants on behalf of our school and later was invited to join the Board."

"I have really enjoyed meeting new people, but also participating in a group who are having such a positive impact in the local community, supporting groups and individuals to make our community a better place. My role on the Board is Samantha Matthews and by Branch Manager, Tracey Bainger."

Community is everything. What are some of the things that you enjoy about living in a rural area?

"I love watching the seasons change the landscape at home, but I also appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the lives of local families through teaching their children and watching them grow and achieve into adulthood – what a privilege!"

"Living 20km out of town at Bray means we have the best of both worlds, the benefits of Robe – food, wine, interesting shops, beautiful coastlines and beaches and a quieter life on the farm with Mal, Paddy and Rory the dog!"

Sounds wonderful to me.

Greenfleet

You should feel good about who you bank with. Bendigo Bank are proud to have hit a major donation milestone with non-for-profit carbon offset provider, Greenfleet. Over half a million dollars has now been donated over the lifetime of the eight-year partnership between Bendigo Bank and Greenfleet; helping the Bank offset its carbon footprint at the same time as helping the country's natural habitat survive and thrive. The partnership began in 2014, and has contributed to nearly 120,000 trees being planted while supporting several other bio-diverse revegetation programs across the country.



Kingston Show

We were beyond excited to be a major sponsor for the 136th Annual Kingston SE Show, which hosted a new and exciting attraction known as the 'Family Zone'. This area in particular, was proudly brought to you by your local Community Bank Robe & Districts. The show was held on the first weekend in October 2022, with the main show day being on Sunday 2 October. The event was jam packed with activities and attractions for the whole family. Be sure to make a day of it the next time this event is put on.



Kingston Agency

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new Kingston Agency, located within the Kingston Electrical & Renovator Centre. Peter and Brianna officially opened the doors to new and existing Bendigo Bank customers on Wednesday 12 October 2022. To celebrate, we hosted a 'meet and greet' for community members, shareholders, Directors and branch staff on Friday 14 October. The new Agency will be operating from Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. We look forward to welcoming you to this fantastic new asset to Kingston and surrounds.

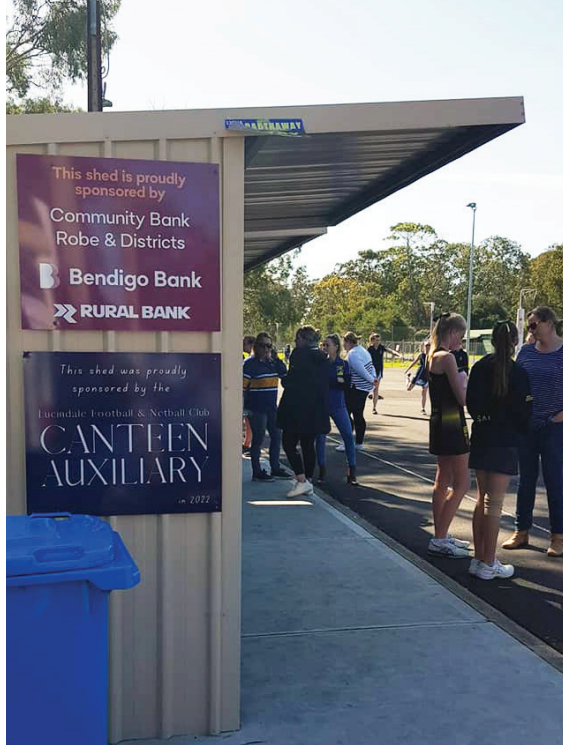


Get Home Safe

Community Bank Robe & Districts would like to congratulate Tess Gibbons and Holly Varga for winning second and third respectively in the Get Home Safe Foundation competition that was held in November 2022.

Students were asked to design a poster that reflects safe behaviours when travelling to and from school. Well done girls, your illustrations looked great!





Lucindale Netball Club

How great do the new shelter sheds at the Lucindale Netball Club look?! Local banking has allowed us to provide recent funding to assist with revamping the shelter around the netball courts. Great work by all volunteers and club members to complete this project. If you're part of a local club or group that could use some funding to take a project to the next level, please be sure to get in touch with us to talk about a sponsorship application. Community banking is powerful.

Kingston SE Bowling Club – Ladies Invitational Fours

Community Bank Robe & Districts are proud to announce that the women's prize money, awarded as part of the



annual Ladies Invitational Fours, this year matched that of the men's competition. This increase in the women's prize money was due to the funding Community Bank Robe & Districts was able to provide to the Kingston SE Bowling Club. There were loads of prizes raffled on the day, and we were told the event was a success and was lots of fun for all involved.



Meet Antony Kokiousis

For those who haven't already met him, we introduce to you, Antony Kokiousis, our Customer Relationship Officer. Antony joined our team in February 2022 and we are sure many would have seen him in branch and at our Beachport and Kingston offices since then. Antony has always had an interest in finance, and the prospect of assisting customers to achieve their financial goals was a significant draw card that encouraged Antony to apply for the role at our branch.



So far, Antony is really enjoying the fast-paced environment and the challenges around learning the ever-evolving policies, but says a big adjustment has been working a 9-5 role after years of evening work.

The lifestyle Robe offers Antony and his family makes Robe the perfect place to work and raise kids. Antony loves the beach, so if home was anywhere other than Robe it'd be Byron Bay – his favourite holiday spot!

Prior to life at Bendigo Bank, Antony was the owner of a successful restaurant business in Robe, where most locals would have had the pleasure of dining at. Antony spent years in the hospitality industry; his first role was a 'dishy' at Imaj Café. If you know Antony, you'll know he's a great chef and an easy-going person who enjoys sharing a beer or wine with his friends and family. We hope you've been able to experience the great skills Antony has brought to our team and we look forward to his banking career with us.

Meet Karla Hondow

Introducing our Customer Service Officer, Karla Hondow! If you don't already know Karla, please be sure to pop in and say hello.

Karla's journey began with us in May 2022. She grew up in Robe, spending most of her life living just out of town on the family farm and kick-started her employment in Robe as a youngster selling lollies at Sea Vu Caravan Park. After a stint over on the West Coast working in Real Estate, Karla returned to Robe in 2016 and continued her journey in real estate, managing holiday rentals at Ottoson & Partners Real Estate. Karla has a passion for all things finance and helping people, which is what sparked her interest when a role was advertised at the branch.



When Karla isn't spending time with her partner Zac and kids, or trying to catch up on reading, 'Where the Crawdads Sing' being a current favourite, Karla is busy with her studies and is currently completing a Bachelor of Commerce. Karla loves the great outdoors and she's a morning person; you'll often see her out and about in town bright and early with her idea of the perfect day being a clean house, happy kids and beautiful weather to enjoy, bliss! She enjoys travelling but has no specific favourite place to visit, as for Karla, it's all about who you are with, not where you go, that makes any time away her favourite. In Robe, Karla has created many fond memories, but her favourite memory would have to be sitting in front of the fire on a Friday night listening to records with her mum, dad and brother. Speaking of mum, the surname 'Hondow' may sound familiar... Karla is the daughter of our previous Assistant Branch Manager, Sharon Hondow, who has recently retired.

Karla is inspired by anyone who is willing to give things a go, no matter how hard it may seem, and it's that exact attitude that makes Karla a valuable addition to our branch. She's a caring person (animals naturally gravitate towards her, especially stray ones, we are told!), and highly organised. We are excited for what her future with the bank holds!



Community BBQ

We hope you were able to join us for a BBQ lunch on Robe's foreshore in the 2nd week of January this year, with staff swapping the office lighting for sunshine, to cook a BBQ for beachgoers or passers-by. The influx of tourists Robe sees over the summer period saw this event a success. Community Bank Robe & Districts was again fundraising for our local communities, and was grateful for all they received in donations and as payment for their delicious sausages in bread.

Talk to us today



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We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 4.30pm Friday

Kingston

30B Agnes Street, Kingston

P 8767 2403

We're open: 10.00am - 5.00pm Wednesday

Lucindale

21 Musgrave Avenue, Lucindale

P 0400 403 771

We're open: 10.00am - 5.00pm Tuesday

Beachport

11 Railway Terrace, Beachport

P 0400 403 771

We're open: 10.00am - 4.00pm Thursday

Directors

Lyn Schinckel, Annie Matthews, Geoff Saunders, Tom White, Samantha Matthews, Michael Mattei, Andrew Brown, An Tran

Robe Community Financial Services Ltd

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Guichen Bay Challenge

The 2023 Guichen Bay Challenge was held on Sunday 15 January. Robe turned on very strong winds for the event (wind in Robe?? You wouldn't read about it!), which unfortunately reduced the number of entrants, however the race went on, despite being officially shortened after the sixth leg. Nevertheless, and yachts competing still completed the course.

While the wind conditions were too much for some boaters, those on shore had a very exciting spectacle. We would like to mention a big 'congratulations' to the winner of the Guichen Bay Challenge - Chris Lynch, with crew Tom Paltridge, in a Noelex. Congratulations also to John Hunt, Steve Dyble, Mark Ramsey and their crews.

Although the 'Challenge' seemed a particularly exciting challenge this year, it undoubtedly drew many yachts to the Saturday Yacht Club races. A wonderful weekend was had by all, which included a very well attended 'Shin Dig' on the Saturday night! The Robe Yacht Club would like to thank the Port MacDonnell Sailing Club for all their support, especially their rescue support. Community Bank Robe & Districts are proud sponsors of this event once again.