



Autumn
2021

Newsletter

Community Bank · Robe & Districts

Changing the baton – a short farewell to Branch Manager, Tracey Bainger

Community Bank Robe & Districts staff are getting excited about a major change within the branch. We are very thrilled to announce that our Branch Manager Tracey Bainger and her husband Charlie are expecting their first baby in April. Whilst bets are on for pink or blue, the Board and staff wish them both well as they become their own little family. In Tracey's short absence, Robbie Chappel will move into the Acting Branch Manager position. Services and visits will continue in Lucindale on Tuesdays, and Kingston on Wednesdays, with Pauline Williams and staff maintaining the Agency presence in Kingston.

Tracey clearly embraces everything she is involved with, in the workplace, at home and with friends and family. Her job began as a Customer Service Officer, moving quickly to lending, as a Customer Relationship Officer. What attracted Tracey to apply for the position of Bank Manager? "The Community Bank and the Bendigo Bank network as a whole offers so many opportunities to further your career, and both organisations are extremely supportive of local growth. With over 500 branches Australia-wide, there could have been opportunity in the future to move to corporate banking or further up the ladder within the Bendigo Bank network. But once I had discovered the power of local banking, I really couldn't see myself straying from Robe."

"I thought the Branch Manager position was the perfect role for me to really make the most of my skills and give back to the community. I was also well supported by the Board of Directors and Bendigo Bank, so the transition was not at all rocky."

But what about her hobbies? "Oh jeez I dunno. I'm handy with a soccer ball?" Yes you are Trace. She sits at the top of the field locally in soccer and also in the women's league for Aussie Rules. Tough on the field, but an absolute softy when it comes to animals; forever checking the pouches of vehicle-injured native animals on the side of the road.

Tracey sees her major strengths as accountability to our customers and community. "We are seeing more and more banking institutions close their doors and restrict trading hours in rural communities. Accountability is the key, and connecting with our communities and customers is something I see as a strength of mine, as I'm focused on expanding banking solutions to communities outside of Robe."

Tracey's passion for assisting people shines through every time. As a Branch Manager, Tracey strives for success but unceasingly supports her staff in their endeavours, both in and out of the workplace, creating a work environment where we all share in the achievements of the team. Tracey inspires others, challenges us with new ideas, leads by example and is genuinely interested in attaining positive outcomes for customers. She will be missed, but we wish her all the absolute best with starting her family with Charlie and the new baby.



Welcome Acting Branch Manager, Robbie Chappel

Most of our customers will already know Robbie since beginning his role as Customer Relationship Officer in January this year. Robbie is soon to step into a Branch Manager role when we farewell Tracey in a few short weeks. We know Robbie will do great things in his new role, and the customers of Community Bank Robe & Districts will continue to feel supported.



Meet Jack Sneath

In February this year, Jack was welcomed into his new position at Community Bank Robe & Districts as a Customer Relationship Officer. Jack explains: "A Customer Relationship Officer is someone who can assist with customer's needs and provide solutions to them. I will be building up strong relationships with both staff members and community members throughout my time." Jack decided to apply for the position after seeing the impact the Community Bank can make in a small community. "I thought it was a great way to get involved and give back a little bit."

The staff have wholeheartedly approved of the appointment, with Jack already working conscientiously on his training and interacting with customers at the front counter. Jack's position will entail teller work as well as a lending role.

Jack was fortunate to grow up in Robe. "The best thing about growing up in Robe is that everyone knows everyone, being able to go down the shops or to the beach and seeing 50 people that you know is cool. The fishing and beaches are pretty nice too. I went to primary school here in Robe and high school in Kingston."

Amongst some of the best things that Jack rates about living in the small town are the beach, playing sport and the many eateries. He is clearly the outdoorsy type. In 10 years time, Jack says he can see himself "...sitting in the middle of the bay in my recently purchased Stabi-craft boat fishing for my dinner." We think that sounds pretty awesome too, Jack. We see Jack being a positive asset to the Community Bank team.



Meet Emma Brooks

Emma currently holds the record of being the longest running employee at Community Bank Robe & Districts. She values her role as Customer Service Officer and is known in the field for her professionalism and friendly nature. Emma moved to Adelaide when she was 20 years old not really knowing what career she wanted to pursue. She started applying for jobs and was fortunate enough to gain an interview for a Traineeship in Financial Services with financial institution in Unley. Her banking career had begun.



After completing her Traineeship, Emma transferred within that company where she was employed for another two years. "I decided I wanted to see the world and took a career break for six months. This flew by and I made the decision to give up my job there so I could work and travel in the UK for a further 18 months."

On her return to Australia, plans to travel more fell through, and the branch was lucky enough for Emma to begin working in her role and hasn't looked back.

Emma was born and bred in the township of Robe. "I grew up with three brothers and my sister. We were always really close growing up and Mum would work multiple jobs to make sure we didn't go without, especially when snap pants were a thing."

"Sport was big in our family growing up. Everyone would probably remember the Tarago (you could definitely hear it coming around the corner) which we would all jump into on a Saturday morning and head to footy/netball. I would usually make it by half time as Mum was known as 'late kate' and unfortunately, I've inherited that from her. The Brooks family and the Tarago were indeed famous."

What does Emma enjoy about living in Robe? "Robe is such a close knit community and I love that about this town. I enjoy netball in winter and the beautiful beaches in summer. It's an easy lifestyle here and a great place for kids to grow up."

Emma highly rates her position at the Community Bank. "We have a really good team here at the bank that get along really well, which makes it enjoyable to come to work. The best part is helping customers with their banking needs, whether it's the younger children opening their first bank account to helping our elderly customers with their financial goals. I love knowing all of my customers on a personal level and being able to chat to them on the street or at footy/netball on the weekend."

So there's a little peek into the life of our sparkling Customer Service Officer Emma Brooks. With over seven years of experience in banking, she is here with your best interests at heart.

Investing in our communities

When you bank with your local Community Bank, profits pour into the community. So far, we've invested \$455,000 into the Robe, Lucindale and Kingston communities.

A bank giving back sounds unusual. For us, it's business as usual.

Feel good about who you bank with.

Find out more. Call us on 08 8768 1855 or call in and see the friendly staff.



Meet our new Director, Tom White



In 2020, Tom was appointed as a new Director of the Board of Community Bank Robe & Districts. Tom says, "The Directors of the bank oversee its strategy and direction. Whilst Tracey and her team ensure the bank performs on a day-to-day basis, the Board

looks at things more holistically. Overseeing the financial performance, determining grants to be put back into the greater Robe community and promotion of the bank generally are all matters for the Board. Personally, my role as a Director is each of those tasks plus providing legal advice where required."

"I understand the Community Bank model and the way it contributes back into the community. The more people within the community that use the bank ensures the bank is more profitable and therefore has a greater amount of money that it can grant back to the community and it's various organisations."

It does not surprise us that Tom has found his way to Robe, given that many professionals are heading to the coast to find that work life balance much earlier in life than usual.

"In recent years I have been spending more time in Robe and have established an office for my law firm, Coulter Roache. Throughout my 23 years of being a lawyer I have always been involved in community organisations and thought Community Bank Robe & Districts would be something I could contribute to with my legal experience and previous bank involvement."

Tom used to visit Robe as a kid, with a wild passion for windsurfing/kitesurfing. "I have been coming to Robe for 35 years. The first time I came to Robe was with my family when we stayed behind the Caledonian Inn, back when the Food Lab was the newsagent! I have been a passionate windsurfer since I was 13 and in the windsurfing fraternity, Robe is a bit of a mecca because it is always windy with swell. I am one of the few people that loves those howling southerlies in summer. I competed in the Robe Easter Windsurfing Classic for about 10 years straight and may have won a couple of times. When the wind is not up, I am always chasing waves for my next surf."

The decision to move to Robe has been uncomplicated for Tom and his family.

As a Director, Tom White adds depth to our Board. As a part of our community, Tom and his family clearly have a love of small towns, its people and the great outdoors. We welcome you, Tom.

Mental Health First Aid

Held on 18 March 2021, Community Bank Robe & Districts sponsored a Youth Mental Health First Aid Course. The course, held in Kingston, was designed to assist with learning how to provide mental health first aid to young people aged 12 to 18. Instructor Joan Oldfield facilitated the training, which was successful in getting the message across to attendees.

A community story from the Robe Men's Shed

Purchased as a used boat in around 1948 from Don Taylor, a 'yachtie' in Port Adelaide, 'Hunter' became the property of Messers Ryk Tolley and Jim Roberts, publicans of the Robe Hotel. The boat was initially towed to Robe for January holidays behind the family's 1948 Cadillac.

At this time, the first Robe jetty, which extended into Guichen Bay from the heritage stone seawall, just west of the Robe Hotel and old Telegraph Station, had recently been demolished and Lake Butler remained isolated from the bay. A channel to the sea was later cut in 1964. 'Hunter' was powered by an inboard engine from a Ford Prefect car, protected from the weather by a boxed wooden cover.

Children of the pub owner Mr Ryk Tolley, and son of the lessee Mr Jim Roberts fondly remember their fishing jaunts on 'Hunter'. Early morning departures to fish and to check cray pots, in and around the obelisk, were much heralded in the cavalier fashion of the times. The local fisherman steward called "Sleepy" would often be on board. Some Robe locals might know this man as Howard 'Cokey' Sneath.

Children were to remain seated on the engine cover, and others held on during rough seas to look out for rogue waves and alert the captain to restart the engine when large waves approached. There was a pull-up arched canopy that seemed to be rarely used. The fresh catch was scaled and gutted onshore, ready for lunch to be proudly served in the Robe Hotel.

'Hunter' was later owned by Bub Thompson and Bill Hurst in the 1980s and appears to have been 'rescued' from the old heritage stone laundry area behind the Robe Hotel by Ron Dawson. His son, Tony Dawson, later offered the boat to the Robe Men's Shed for restoration.

Realising that the vessel was not going to be seaworthy again, members of the Robe Men's Shed, led by Kerry Ward, stabilized and erected 'Hunter' in its new home. Richie Wintle donated metal and galvanizing work and the vessel was hoisted into its elevated position on 3 August 2020.



Pictured here, their restored boat 'Hunter'.

The Beachport Surf Lifesaving Club sponsorship

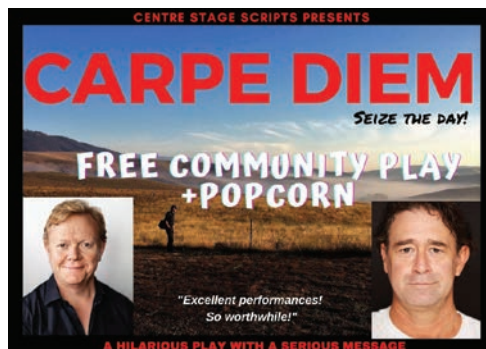
This club is our newest community group to benefit from sponsorship provided by your local Community Bank. The club were recently awarded sponsorship to the value of \$3,372 to purchase an Oxy Backpack with a Defibrillator for patrolling the surf beaches to keep the community safe. Branch Manager Tracey Bainger made the trip on Valentines Day to be in Beachport for the last Nippers meet for the season.

We would like to remind everyone that sponsorships like this one and all others, are made possible by our customers. We thank you again for all your support since the branch opened its doors.



Carpe Diem – Mental Health Play

Community Bank Robe & Districts was a proud sponsor of a play that came to Robe in late March. The play, held at the Robe Institute was a contemporary portrayal of every day Australian males dealing with issues of health, grief, loss and depression. It stressed the importance of professional care in times of crises and highlighted the importance of mateship and looking out for each other.



Your Community Bank staff attended the play, donating free popcorn to play-goers, and made a presentation to highlight the power of the Community Bank model and the effect that it has in our great little towns. We believe those who attended will agree that the event was a big success.

Longest Day of Golf – Robe Golf Club

On Saturday 12 December 2020, Robe Golf Club members Jordan Pettit and Robbie Chappel took on The Cancer Councils Longest Day of Golf. They played a mammoth day of 72 holes (four full rounds of golf) in one day! Going on Robbie's average arithmetic, he worked out that it was 34kms of pushing a buggy and about 360 in about 13-14 hrs.



The boys were very thankful for our branch's donation, along with everything they also received from the local community. No matter how big or small, all donations were greatly appreciated to help improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families and to fund research for treatments and cures.

Tree Drive

Community Bank Robe & Districts is extremely proud to be able to give their support to those fire affected Lucindale/ Avenue/Blackford communities. The branch is taking orders for native tubestock trees for all of those farmers affected by the fires. There are 3,500 plants available and orders close mid April. Phone the branch for more information or to place an order.



The Naracoorte Lucindale Council and Kingston District Council worked together to understand the damage the fire caused, across an area of approximately 17,000ha. There was significant loss of stock, infrastructure and fencing; and of course bushland as well.

Corporate bowls

Competition has been fierce throughout this season of corporate bowls held at the Robe Bowling Club, situated behind beautiful Front Beach. What a setting to hold this event each Wednesday evening. Pictured here is our Community Bank team; Sharon Hondow, Emma Brooks, Sophie Kokiousis and Robbie Chappel. On this particular night, the team were victors over local clothing and design business, Salubrious Hour.



Health Harmony & Happiness Festival

This group had yet another successful year, with their event 'Health Harmony & Happiness Festival' going off without a hitch at the Robe Institute. Community Bank Robe & Districts remain proud to sponsor this wonderful event year in year out. We hope you were able to make it to check out all that was on offer.



Robe Holiday Program

Program co-ordinator Melissa Gibson welcomes you to book your kids into the Robe Holiday Program if you need some ways to entertain the little ones throughout the school holidays! This is a fantastic initiative that the branch is proud to support through marketing and promotional costs. Well done to Melissa and the team!

Meet Neil Medhurst – Business Banker

If you're like a lot of people, you barely find time for the essentials on your to-do list, but your financial goals are too important to put off. If time is an issue for you, our Business Banker, Neil Medhurst, will meet you in-person, over the phone, or via video call when it suits you. Get in touch with him on 0427 468 810 or via the branch on 08 8768 1855. Together, you can talk about your goals and how to make them happen. Neil visits Community Bank Robe & Districts each Tuesday.

Netball Clubs sponsorship

The Lucindale Roos Netball Club, Robe Netball Club and Kingston Saints Netball Club have all received sponsorship from their local Community Bank, this time in the form of new training netballs for each club. After a rocky 'weird' season in 2020, we wish each of these clubs all the best for season 2021!



Lions Club Scholarships



There were three deserving winners in Robe and two deserving winners in Lucindale of this year's Lions Club / Community Bank Scholarships. Awards were recently presented at the 2021 Australia Day Ceremony on the lawns of the Robe Institute.

The scholarships open each year in October, and Year 12 students from Robe and Kingston planning for tertiary education are eligible, as are Year 10 students at Lucindale Area School who are Boarding at the agricultural-based school.

The awards have been long running and are a collaboration between Community Bank Robe & Districts and the Lions Clubs of Kingston, Robe and Lucindale.

Robe 2020 winners: Maya Keane, Lucy Smith and Halle Carter

Lucindale 2020 winners: Matthew Wachner and Elouise Turner

Maya was keen to "apply straight away as I'm always looking for ways to financially assist me with my studies so I can get the most out of my university experience. My main reason for applying was for the chance to buy my very first laptop which is a necessity in university."

Lucy knew that moving away by herself would be difficult, and balancing the move and study at the same time would be even harder. "I wanted to apply for this to assist me a bit in the transition."

Halle explains, "My plan was always to be studying full-time and picking up casual work, therefore when the opportunity arose to apply for the Robe Lions Club/Bendigo Bank scholarship, I grasped it. I hoped that in applying for this scholarship it would assist my independent living in Adelaide."

The scholarship monies will assist all three students with technology in the form of a laptop and new textbooks. All of these students are going places they have never been, and we all wish them the very best on their new adventure.

Learn to sail

Your Community Bank is again a proud sponsor of the Learn to Sail classes held over summer through the Robe Yacht Club. How magic does our Robe ocean look!? As in years gone by, the classes saw a lot of keen sailors participating and we were lucky for some ideal weather conditions.



Talk to us today

Community Bank · Robe & Districts

9 Victoria Street, Robe

P 8768 1855

E robemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/robe

 /RobeDistrictsCommunityBankBranch

We're open:

9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Kingston

26 Agnes Street, Kingston

P 8767 2403

We're open:

9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

9.00am - 12 noon Saturday

Lucindale

21 Musgrave Avenue, Lucindale

P 0400 403 771

We're open:

9.00am - 5.00pm Tuesday

Directors

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

Robe Community Financial Services Ltd

9 Victoria Street, Robe SA 5276

ABN 24 101 974 887

Community BBQ

The staff at Community Bank Robe & Districts raised a staggering \$2,318.25 from holding their Summer BBQ fundraisers in January at the Robe Foreshore. That is a lot of sausages and a lot of donations! We were fortunate to again hold the BBQs in line with VACSWIM lessons, and were grateful for all the swimmers, parents and instructors who came to see us after their sessions.

The proceeds went to the following groups:

- Rural Aid
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- The Duckaroo Wildlife Rescue Sanctuary (local)
- Lifeline.

Thanks to all the happy sausage-buying customers who made this fundraiser a success, and to Board Assistant Samantha Matthews and Board Secretary Annie Matthews for helping out with the BBQ. And of course, a big shout out to all of the wonderful branch staff.



Lucindale Show

Held on 27-28 February 2021, Lucindale hosted their 122nd Lucindale Show. This was again a fantastic country event with something for everyone.

As proud sponsors of these fun-filled days, we love watching this event unfold each year. With many shows cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are happy to say that this event was the mood booster we're sure many people needed. It was a great opportunity to get out, have some fun and admire the great exhibits. For the first time, Animals Anonymous offered interactive shows, which gave people a chance to get up close to some incredible Australian animals. Also included as part of the show was the men's and women's chocolate cake competition, an adult Lego® competition, a toddler play area, unlimited show ride passes, showbags, face painting and much more. Show secretary Laura Rivett said there was something for everyone.

