

Autumn  
2024

# Newsletter

Community Bank · Trafalgar & District

## An update from our Chair, Debbie Di Sisto!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well in the aftermath of the recent wild weather. As Chair, a customer and shareholder, I understand the closure of the Branch following the storm and disruption to power supply across the community may have caused challenges for some of our customers,



however, at Community Bank Trafalgar & District the safety of our employees, customers, shareholders and community members are our top priority and will never be compromised. Our thoughts are with all those affected, and we extend our sincere wishes for a swift recovery and restoration.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting modernisation for the branch's interior, and we encourage all our community to embrace the change as an opportunity for growth and development. Collaboration remains at the core of our mission, and I am pleased to report that our partnerships and community investment have continued to grow. We will continue to drive positive change, together we have the power to create meaningful impact and shape a brighter future for our community.

Thank you to our customers and shareholders for your continued support of Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

Debbie Di Sisto.

## Willow Grove & District Lions

A heartfelt thank you goes out to President David Renouf of the Willow Grove & District Lions Club and Ex-President John Brasher for presenting this delightful token of appreciation to our Branch Manager, Torina.

It's truly rewarding to support clubs like the Lions Club that, in return, contribute significantly to the community.



## Bendigo Community Banks Annual Charity Golf Day

A fantastic and highly successful day at this year's Bendigo Community Banks Annual Charity Golf Day, raising funds for worthy causes such as West Gippsland Hospital Supporters and Warragul and District Specialist School. Every year, the three Community Banks in the Baw Baw (Trafalgar, Drouin & Neerim South) region join forces to support this event. Our branch set up at hole 1 and participated in an "Unlock the Vault" activity, contributing a noteworthy \$735 to the already impressive grand total of \$35,000. We eagerly anticipate reaching the milestone of the 10th year for this event!



**Pictured:** Principal, Brett Pedlow & Community Engagement Advisor, Moriah Taylor.

## \$30,000 Grant Awarded for Major Flooding!

For several years, the northern section of the Trafalgar High School's oval had suffered from considerable flooding, a long-standing issue, this condition rendered the area unusable for a substantial nine months annually!

Trafalgar High School were successful in obtaining a \$30,000 grant to address the issue, which included: installation of underground drainage, additional drain pits, and proper plumbing/drainage systems to facilitate the effective flow of water from surrounding buildings.

Furthermore, a durable pathway was constructed around the oval, ensuring year-round usability for students and the community alike!



**Pictured:** Branch Manager, Torina (Trafalgar), Rob (Drouin) & Samantha (Neerim South)

## Insurance through Bendigo Bank

Be prepared for fire season



[bendigobank.com.au/insurance](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/insurance)

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## The Good Friday Appeal!

We had the wonderful opportunity to support the Good Friday Appeal alongside the Yarragon community by sponsoring the Annual Easter Treasure Hunt. This event contributed funds to the overall grand total of \$45,034.80! It was indeed a fantastic day and a fulfilling event, made even more special with appearances from Piggy and the Easter Bunny!



Mitch was one of the lucky winners who found the Community Bank tokens during the hunt!



**Too Hip To Hop** - Charlie & Thomas had a 'eggsellent' time at the Trafalgar Kindergarten Easter Disco.



The Branch Manager, Torina, had the opportunity to spend time with Santa and, in the spirit of giving, handed out goodies to children at the Trafalgar Playgroup.



## Live4Life!

Live4Life stands out as the sole youth mental health education and suicide prevention model tailored explicitly for rural communities in Australia. The Baw Baw community embraced the Live4Life model in 2020 and, over the past four years, has collaborated all eight secondary schools to effectively implement the program throughout the shire including the Trafalgar High School.

**Stay tuned for the Live4Life launch scheduled for April!**





## Welcome Thao!

Earlier this year, we welcomed Thao to our branch. Thao is the friendly face behind the counter serving as our Customer Service Officer. Thao resides in Drouin with her husband, their 4-year-old daughter, 14-year-old step son and their puppy. Thao is a quick learner and is happy to assist with any of your banking needs. If you haven't already, please feel free to stop by the branch and say hello.



## YCC's new bowling machine

In-action photos of the Yarragon Cricket Club utilising the bowling machine, which was a part of our Community Investment Round. 🏏  
The bowling machine not only provided an asset to the club but also enhanced their training and performance on game day.

## Homeloan Health Check!

All over Australia, homeowners are saving money with a free Bendigo Bank home loan health check.

Whether its refinancing, investing in property, or lowering your repayments, let us give your home loan a check-up to make sure it's still right for you.

New and existing customers find your better homeloan at Bendigo Bank - the better big bank!

## What's on!

**Keep an eye out for upcoming local events in our community! Here's what's happening:**

- April 6th: Trafalgar Farmers Market
- April 20th & 21st: Baw Baw Radiomodellers – Float and Fly Event
- April 22nd: Live4Life Launch
- April 27th: Yarragon Craft & Produce Market
- April 28th: Tanjil Valley Community Environment Festival
- May 4th: Trafalgar Farmers Market
- May 4th & 5th: Yarragon Book Fair
- May 25th: Yarragon Craft & Produce Market

*If you have a community event or idea coming up that you would like us to be a part of, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Community Engagement Advisor, Moriah Taylor, at 0402 106 088 or via email at [marketing@tdfs.com.au](mailto:marketing@tdfs.com.au).*

*We are always looking for opportunities to support the community we live in.*

# Health, Safety and Wellbeing Expo.

Our Branch Manager, Torina Johnston participated in the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Expo at the West Gippsland Hospital in early March.

This event served as an great platform for us as a Community Bank to engage in discussions about lending and healthy home loan checks.

*Across Australia, homeowners are benefiting from a Free Bendigo Bank Home Loan Health Check!*



## Meet James Pettifer!

James was a successful recipient of our 2024 Community Bank Trafalgar & District Scholarship Program. Remarkably, James achieved the title of dux in years 7, 9, and 11. In his final year at Trafalgar High School, he was honoured with the titles of Valedictorian and Dux. James's exceptional efforts have made us incredibly proud, and we are delighted to support him in his continuing studies. We asked James the following questions:

### **What are you currently studying?**

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Science.

### **What are your plans for after you graduate?**

I don't have any specific plans for after uni, but would be interested in working in the ADF.



### **How will the Community Bank Trafalgar and District scholarship assist you in achieving your goals?**

The Community Bank Trafalgar and District scholarship will greatly assist this year. It will reduce the number of hours I will have to work, allowing me to volunteer more, whilst still fully applying myself to my studies.

### **Do you have any advice for students currently in Year 12?**

My advice for current year 12 students would be to study hard - you're only in year 12 once, but not at the expense of your health, as there are always alternate options into university (if that is where you want to go after high school).

*Thank you, James, for generously giving us your time. We wish you all the very best for your future studies. We eagerly anticipate following along on your journey and have every confidence that you will achieve amazing things.*

- Community Bank Trafalgar & District.



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## Talk to us today

### Community Bank

#### Trafalgar & District

103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar Vic 3824

**P** 5633 2783

**E** [trafalgarmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:trafalgarmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

[bendigobank.com.au/trafalgar](https://bendigobank.com.au/trafalgar)

#### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

 @communitybanktrafalgardistrict

 @communitybank\_trafalgar

#### Directors

Debbie Di Sisto, Debbie Litkwoski, Tony Staley,  
David Balfour, Matt Steendam, Geoff Conway,  
Melanie Cahani and Edwin Vandenberg

Trafalgar District Financial Services Limited  
86 102 573 222

## Branch Manager Update

The new year has begun and we've hit the ground running, welcoming a new staff member Thao to our team. Thao has already made a significant impact in the branch and we're excited to see her continued growth. Keep an eye out as we'll soon be welcoming another Customer Service Officer to the team in the coming weeks.

Chair, Debbie's Di Sisto's mention of the recent storms serves as a timely reminder to assess your insurance coverage. With the rising cost of living and increase to construction costs in recent years, it's important to review your current level of coverage. Our staff are prepared to assist you in evaluating your insurance needs and making any necessary adjustments.

We encourage you to contact our branch, either by visiting in person or giving us a call, to schedule an appointment. Our team is available to help you update your existing policy or explore options for a new one to ensure comprehensive protection. Your peace of mind is our priority, and we're committed to supporting you every step of the way.

As always, we extend our gratitude to our staff, directors, customers and shareholders for their unwavering support.

