



Newsletter!

Community Bank Trafalgar & District

A message from our Chair

It's been a busy and exciting start to the year! As always, we love seeing the impact we're making across the community and truly enjoy getting out and about with local groups and organisations to experience that impact firsthand.

Our first round of Community Investments for the year has now closed, and we're in the process of selecting the successful recipients. It's always inspiring to see the incredible work being done across our district, and we're proud to be able to support so many meaningful projects.

As we head towards the end of the financial year, we're also preparing for another big change—one that reflects our commitment to staying local and investing back into our community. We're thrilled to announce that our branch will soon be undergoing a much-needed refurbishment! To allow for the works, the branch will be temporarily closed from 12pm on Thursday 16 May and will reopen Tuesday 10 June at 9.30am ATM access will also be unavailable during this time.

Exciting changes underway

Even though we will be closed, you can still reach us at 5633 2783! Our team will be working at nearby branches to continue to provide you with assistance.

When we reopen, we'll unveil a completely refreshed space—featuring a modern new look, a coin deposit machine for Bendigo Bank customers, and a Telecash Recycler (TCR) to streamline cash handling. These upgrades are designed to improve your in-branch experience and ensure we're continuing to meet the needs of our community into the future.

We're incredibly excited about what's to come and look forward to welcoming you back into our new-look branch soon!

Debbie Di Sisto

Chair, Community Bank Trafalgar & District



Live4Life – Standing Up for Youth Mental Health

We are proud to take part in the Baw Baw Live4Life program, standing up for youth mental health. This important initiative helps break down stigma, recognise early warning signs, and connect young people with the support they need.

We're honoured to back a program that puts the well-being of our youth first.



TDFS Best Work of Art in the Wonder of Mt Worth exhibition

We were privileged to work alongside the Baw Baw Arts Alliance and were given the great (and very challenging!) task of selecting the winning piece for the TDFS Best Work of Art in the Wonder of Mt Worth exhibition at the Station Gallery.

Our Director, David Balfour, and Community Engagement Advisor, Moriah, were truly impressed by the range and quality of the artworks on display. After much deliberation, they selected Russell's photograph, Ferny Path, as their top choice.

That said, we want to emphasise just how incredible all the submissions were — the standard was exceptionally high, and the decision certainly wasn't an easy one!



Thorpdale Potato Festival – Supporting Community, One Spud at a Time

As a proud major sponsor, we were thrilled to once again be part of the Thorpdale Potato Festival this year. Our team had a fantastic day joining in the festivities and handing out colourful Whirly Windmills to local children — always a highlight!

Much like Community Banks, the Thorpdale Spud Festival is all about giving back, with proceeds reinvested into local community initiatives.

We're now looking forward to attending the grants evening later in June, where we'll learn which local organisations will receive funding from this wonderful community event.

Big on banking.

Bigger for you.

A man with curly hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is in a social setting, possibly a bar or restaurant, with other people visible in the background.

The Bendigo Bank logo, consisting of a stylized 'B' icon followed by the text 'Bendigo Bank' and the tagline 'The better big bank' below it.



Meet Keeley

Keeley is currently studying a double degree in Psychological Sciences and Criminology & Criminal Justice at Australian Catholic University. With hopes of one day becoming a forensic psychologist, she plans to begin her career as a counsellor within the criminal justice system after graduating.

Thanks to the **Community Bank Trafalgar & District Scholarship**, Keeley can focus on her studies without the added pressure of financial stress. The support helps cover essentials like textbooks, transport, and accommodation.

Her advice to Year 12 students? Don't sacrifice your mental and social wellbeing over a score. There are many paths to success—this is just one part of the journey.

The Scholarship program will assist me in achieving my goals by allowing me to focus on my studies rather than casual work, and prevent financial stress.

- Keeley, Scholarship Recipient



Good Friday Appeal

For the second year in a row, we were proud to support the passionate volunteers behind the Community of Yarragon Good Friday Appeal by sponsoring the Community Bank Trafalgar & District Easter Egg Treasure Hunt.

Our contribution helped make the event possible, ensuring every young hunter had eggs to collect and treasures to find! Meanwhile, all raffle ticket sales directly supported the Good Friday Appeal.

With sunshine overhead and smiles all around, it was a fun-filled day of Easter excitement — made even more memorable with our Community Bank mystery token challenge.

Thanks to the generosity of our amazing community, \$677 was raised through raffle sales on the day. In total, an incredible \$41,349.49 was raised in 2025 alone, bringing the grand total since 2015 to \$367,276.41 — all in support of the Royal Children's Hospital.

What a wonderful community we're part of!

Supporting our local market

The Trafalgar Farmers Market has been a wonderful part of our town for over 12 months! Each month, it provides a fantastic opportunity for the community to support our local stallholders. No matter the weather—rain, hail, or shine—the market always delivers fresh local produce and a great experience for everyone.

We're proud to support the market by contributing funds to cover the costs of personalised marquees at both entry points, helping to create a welcoming environment for all who visit.

The Trafalgar Farmers Market is held at the Trafalgar Park Bowls Club on the first Saturday of every month.



Trafalgar Holden Museum

Board Members Matt and David, along with Branch Manager Torina and team member Chloe, recently toured the Holden Heritage Centre with committee member Phil and Museum President Jennifer.

It was fantastic to see the progress on this impressive project, which we're proud to support with a \$33,000 contribution!



Team Donations Update – Supporting Local Groups Every Month

As part of our ongoing commitment to community, our team continues to give back through monthly staff donations — supporting local initiatives that mean something personal to our team.

February – Yarragon Book Fair

Chosen by Customer Advisor Bec Schena, this donation helps support the much-loved Yarragon Book Fair. Proceeds from book sales go directly to Yarragon Primary School, the Early Learning Centre, and the Yarragon Volunteer Fire Brigade. The dedicated team behind the fair has been working tirelessly to prepare for another successful year!

March – Walhalla Goldfields Railway

Our Customer Service Officer Mel selected the historic Walhalla Goldfields Railway, run by a passionate group of volunteers. With exciting upgrades and projects on the horizon, our \$500 donation will help ensure this local treasure continues to attract visitors to the region. ➔ Learn more at walhallarail.com.au



April – HECI Community Centre, Hill End

Chosen by Customer Service Officer Thao, this donation went to the HECI Community Centre, a hub for local events and the home of the Hill End Herald. When we visited to present the donation, President Debra and Secretary Margaret shared they are currently fundraising for a new laptop — making the timing of our support just right!

We're proud to empower our team to make a real difference, one month at a time!



Walhalla Art & Craft Exhibition

A combination of perfect weather, creativity, and community spirit brought Walhalla to life over the Easter weekend, with the town buzzing with visitors.

We were proud to support the Walhalla Art & Craft Exhibition, a fantastic event where guests could explore a diverse showcase of local art, enjoy fun activities for kids, and support the ongoing work of the Walhalla Heritage & Development League.



Welcome Chloe!

Meet Chloe, our new Customer Relationship Officer!

Chloe may be a familiar face to some of our Bendigo Bank customers—she’s been in the industry for almost six years and brings a wealth of experience with her.

She lives in Warragul with her partner, Trenton, and is passionate about her community, loves to thrift, and is always up for a good chat!

Be sure to pop into the branch and say hi!

Welcome, Chloe — we’re thrilled to have you as part of our team!



Welcome Konrad!

We are pleased to welcome Konrad to the Trafalgar & District Financial Services Board. Konrad brings with him over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry, having worked across a number of major banks, including roles within superannuation.

He holds a Bachelor of Laws and Commerce, is a Chartered Accountant, and has been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Victoria. Konrad is also a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, reflecting his commitment to strategic improvement and operational excellence.

Passionate about the growth and prosperity of regional Victoria, Konrad is eager to give back to the community through his role on the Board. We look forward to the expertise and insight he will bring to our team.

Community Investment Program - Sponsorships

Our next investment program

	Open	Close
2025	August 3	September 6

Our customers help return profits to the very community that generated them—supporting great local initiatives like yours. Learn more:

communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au

Find your better home loan

🔍 bendigobank.com.au/homeloans

Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. Full details available on application. Lending criteria apply. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879, (1771408-1770886) (08/22)



Talk to us today

Community Bank

Trafalgar & District

103a Princes Highway, Trafalgar

P 5633 2783

E trafalgarmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

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, David Balfour, Matt Steendam, Geoff Conway, Melanie Cahani, Edwin Vandenberg, Konrad Kucianski and Kevin McLaren.

Trafalgar District Financial Services Limited

86 102 573 222



Branch Update from Our Branch Manager, Torina!

We've had a really strong year so far in terms of performance and growth. We've welcomed many new customers, and we're proud that our face-to-face service continues to set us apart from other banks. It's something we truly value, and it's great to see how much our community values it too.

We've also recently welcomed a new, experienced team member. With a combined 53 years of industry experience between Gavin, Chloe, and myself, I feel incredibly confident in the capability and knowledge we have within our team.

As we approach the end of the financial year, now is the perfect time to consider whether your current banking setup is still the right fit. If you're looking to start the new financial year on the right foot or make a change, we'd love to help. Book an appointment with us – we can take a look at what you've got and show you what we can offer.

We're excited for the fresh opportunities ahead as we move into the new financial year and can't wait to share what's coming next!

