

Newsletter!

Community Bank Trafalgar & District

An update from Our Chair, Debbie Di Sisto.

Welcome to our Q3 newsletter!

A new financial year is here and we're excited to share that, to date, we have reinvested over \$2 million back into our community — a huge milestone we can all be proud of. We are currently in the process of another Community Investment round and our Community Investment Committee are working hard to ensure funds are allocated to deserving organisations that will make a real difference.

It's also a great time to reflect on the dedication and hard work of our Board of Directors. Their unwavering commitment ensures our community continues to thrive, through the investments we make and the strength of our governance framework. Stay tuned for announcements soon on the recipients of this next round — awards will be presented after our AGM on November 5 at the Trafalgar RSL. We hope to see our shareholders in attendance as we review the year, re-elect Directors, and welcome new Board members with a range of expertise.

While we were saddened to say goodbye to Director Geoff Conway, who played a vital role on our Board, we are thrilled to officially welcome Sally Neenan and Kevin McLaren as new Directors.

Finally, our branch has been officially refurbished, and we are proud to bring a new level of professionalism and convenience to our customers. If you haven't already, we encourage you to come in and see the improvements for yourself!



**Our point of difference,
is making a difference!**

Supporting Our Juniors

We recently joined the **Hill End Grove Juniors Football Club** Presentation Night to celebrate a fantastic season of effort, teamwork, and achievement. It's been a privilege to support the juniors this year, and we look forward to cheering them on again next season!



We're Back and Better Than Ever!

On June 10, we officially reopened our doors and what a celebration it was! Triple M Gippsland kept the vibe alive with great tunes, while the Gippsland Jersey handed out free milkshakes to everyone who stopped by. It was a fantastic day that brought locals together.

A Refreshed Branch, A Stronger Commitment

Our refurbishment is more than just a fresh new look, it's a powerful reminder of our commitment to Traralgon and the wider district. This investment demonstrates that we're here to stay, and as long as you continue to support us, we'll continue to support you. Being a bank run by the community, for the community means the majority of our profits are reinvested directly back into the region. This refurbishment helps us deliver even better service while staying true to what makes us unique.



What's New?

Along with a bright, welcoming entrance, we've introduced features designed to make banking easier and more comfortable for everyone:

- Private offices for confidential, one-on-one conversations
- Digital screens sharing the latest updates and community news
- A coin counting machine to simplify deposits
- A Teller Cash Recycler (TCR) for faster, more efficient service

"Our physical presence matters – and bricks and mortar remain a vital part of how we connect with and serve our local area. Our focus remains on continuing to provide meaningful support and service to our region and contributing to the growth of our community."

– **Di Sisto, Chair**

Come Say Hello!

The feedback so far has been fantastic, and we'd love for you to come in, see the new look, and chat with the team. Thank you for your continued support – together, we're keeping our community strong.



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Meet Jemma!

We're thrilled to introduce Jemma Bailey, one of last year's successful recipients of the Community Bank Trafalgar & District Scholarship Program. Jemma has shown dedication and passion in her pursuits, and we were excited to learn more about her journey, aspirations, and how this scholarship is helping her achieve her goals.

Below, we asked Jemma a few questions about her studies and how the scholarship has supported her along the way:

What are you currently studying?

This year I am studying a Bachelor of Biotechnology at The University of Queensland

What are your plans for after you graduate?

After I graduate, I plan to go onto do an Honours year and then ideally a Masters.

How has the Community Bank Trafalgar and District scholarship assist you in achieving your goals?

The scholarship takes the stress away from the smaller costs like field trips and PPE that accumulate over time.

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

My advice for Year 12 students is to try and maintain a routine. As enticing as it is to use free periods and the days off before exams for things other than study, a routine is what keeps you organised and stress free, especially when you know others will be cramming in the days before. But make sure you leave a couple of days after your exams completely free so you can do whatever you want!!



Supporting Our Community at the Thorpdale Potato Festival

We were proud to sponsor the Thorpdale Potato Festival this year. Recently, we had the pleasure of celebrating the distribution of over \$60,000 to 16 local community groups and schools, supporting a wide range of projects that are making a real difference in the community. It's inspiring to see how the festival's efforts directly benefit local initiatives, with every cent of profit going straight back into the community.

The Thorpdale Spud Festival continues to be a shining example of community spirit and generosity, and we look forward to seeing the impact of these contributions in the months ahead.

Connecting with Our Community

Earlier this month, we held our second Community Investment Program information session for the year at the Trafalgar Bowls Club, and we were thrilled with the fantastic turnout!

It was wonderful to connect with so many local community groups and hear firsthand about the difference they're making. Our funding support plays an important role in helping these groups continue their valuable work, and it was inspiring to see how our community investment can make a real impact.

We are currently in the process of selecting successful applicants and look forward to promoting them soon — stay tuned!

Bottom Left Photo: The Community Investment Information Session

Proudly Supporting Trafalgar Bowls Club

Branch Manager Torina had the opportunity to attend the Trafalgar Bowls Club Opening Day for the new season, as well as the presentation of the 24/25 season club award winners. Pictured: Torina with Pat Tatterson, who won the Mixed Pairs with her son Sean (absent).

We're proud to support our local bowls club and celebrate the achievements of their members.



Supporting the 1st Trafalgar Scout Group



With our contribution, the group has recently purchased brand new Trangia stoves and compasses, giving the scouts the tools they need to put their camping, bushwalking, and bushcraft skills to the test.

It's fantastic to see local young people gaining hands-on experience, learning resilience, and creating adventure memories that will last a lifetime.

Well done to the 1st Trafalgar Scout Group, we look forward to seeing what adventures you take on next and to supporting your upcoming Kangaroo Camp.



Supporting the Trafalgar Football Netball Club



How good is it to support our community? We're proud to partner with the Trafalgar Football Netball Club and play a role in helping create successful outcomes for everyone involved.

We recently had the pleasure of attending a home game, which doubled as the club's Mental Health Round and Sponsors Day. It was a fantastic opportunity to create more connections with the club and engage in some great conversations.

Through our referral program partnership with the Trafalgar Football Netball Club, your banking can directly benefit the club. Ask us how your banking with Community Bank Trafalgar & District can make a difference.

Supporting Willow House Community Support

As part of our Team Donation program, Gavin has chosen to support Willow House Community Support LTD, an organisation dedicated to mental health support, suicide prevention, and providing meals and retreats for those in need in Gippsland.

We're proud to back such a meaningful cause and encourage others to get involved.



Supporting Local Talent – Trafalgar High Live

Earlier this month, our Directors had the privilege of seeing the brand-new equipment the Trafalgar High School Music Department purchased through our grant funding.

The evening featured fantastic performances, including the talented band Jaded Pulse. We're proud to support our community and local talent!



Meet Maddison

2025 Scholarship Recipient

We're proud to introduce Maddison, one of our successful 2025 Community Bank Trafalgar & District Scholarship recipients.

Maddison is currently completing her Diploma in Nursing at Chisholm. After graduating, she hopes to complete a graduate year as an Enrolled Nurse before pursuing further studies in either Nursing & Midwifery or Paramedicine, with a strong interest in the latter.

She shared that the scholarship has lifted financial pressure, particularly after moving out of home. It's enabled her to dedicate more time to her studies and placements, helping cover essentials like fuel, school fees, and materials while reducing the need to work as many hours.

Maddison's advice for Year 12 students:

"Success isn't measured by perfectionism. Determination, perseverance, and passion will open doors, and effort and consistency are just as important as your ATAR or exam results. Most importantly, balance is key—don't forget to have a bit of fun."



Trafalgar Holden Museum Expands

The Trafalgar Holden Museum has opened the Neil Joiner Holden Heritage Centre, a new showroom celebrating the legacy of founder Neil Joiner. Community Bank Trafalgar & District was proud to attend the special preview, with Directors Kevin McLaren and David Balfour representing the bank.

The expansion features 18 historic vehicles on loan from General Motors, alongside memorabilia and locally loved classics. Founded in 2014, the museum now houses over 75 vehicles and continues to preserve Holden's story while showcasing the strong community spirit of Trafalgar.

As long-time supporters of the museum, we are proud to have contributed a total of \$48,000 over time to this iconic local attraction.

For opening times and more information, visit:

www.trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au



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Supporting Young Women in Policing

We were proud to support the **Girls in Blue** program again this year, run by Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN and our local police stations.

The program gives young women a chance to tour stations, learn about the recruitment process, and connect with officers over lunch.

This is a fantastic way to back our youth as they explore their future careers.



Farewell to Director Geoff Conway

It's a bittersweet moment for Community Bank Trafalgar & District as we say farewell to our fellow Director, Geoff Conway. From the very beginning, Geoff has brought wisdom, calm, and a grounding presence to our Board. More than a Director, Geoff has been a mentor, sounding board, and always giving his time and energy with humility and grace.

Geoff has shaped not only the direction of our Board but the spirit in which we work together — ensuring everyone feels heard, supported, and valued. His insight, kindness, and dedication has left a lasting mark on our team and Community.

While we are proud of Geoff as he steps into a new role with a Government Advisory Group, we will deeply miss his presence around the table. Geoff, we wish you every success in this exciting new chapter. Thank you for everything you have contributed.

Welcome to Sally Neenan

We're excited to welcome Sally Neenan to the Trafalgar & District Financial Services Board!

Sally is happily settled in Trafalgar with her partner, daughter, and Labrador. Her daughter attends Trafalgar High School, where Sally also serves on the School Council.

An engineer working in quality control for a services contractor, Sally's career spans water authorities, local government, mining and 10 years in the Army Reserve. She is also a dedicated volunteer firefighter with the Trafalgar CFA and a strong advocate for equality, passionate about removing barriers to equal opportunity. Sally joined the TDFS Board to support its work in increasing access to education, improving community wellbeing, and building financial literacy. When time allows, she enjoys bushwalking, reading, and keeping her vegetable garden alive. Sally is a great asset to our Board and we look forward to the valuable knowledge and experience she will bring to our team.



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Supporting R U OK? Day

This R U OK? Day, we were proud to support the movement that reminds us all to check in with those around us. A simple "Are you OK?" can make a big difference.

To help spark conversations, our team handed out chocolate freckles as a sweet reminder to connect and support one another.



Talk to us today

Community Bank Trafalgar & District

103a Princes Highway Trafalgar VIC 3824

P P563 32783

E E trafalgarmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
trafalgar

We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

 [communitybanktrafalgardistrict](https://www.facebook.com/communitybanktrafalgardistrict)

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

Directors

Debbie Di Sisto, Debbie Litkowski, David Balfour,
Matt Steendam, Melanie Cahani, Edwin
Vanderburg, Konrad Kucianski, Kevin McLaren and
Sally Neenan.

Trafalgar & District Financial Services Limited
86 102 573 222

An update from our Branch Manager, Torina!

We've settled into our newly refurbished branch extremely well and are enjoying some great conversations with customers about our commitment to remaining within the community. The refurbishment celebrates that commitment, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have shared how much they're benefiting from the upgrades, and we're excited to continue providing the high level of in-person comfort and service we're known for.

We're also continuing to strengthen our connection with the community. A great example was our recent attendance at the Trafalgar Football Netball Club home game, where we showcased our new referral program with the club. It's a fantastic opportunity for members to see first-hand how their banking is helping make a real difference in their community.

The branch has been buzzing, which is always a great sign! With interest rates dropping, we're seeing more confidence return. As spring gets underway, we traditionally see more buying and selling activity in the property market. We encourage anyone considering their options to come in and chat with our experienced team.



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