



# Newsletter

## Community Bank · Trafalgar & District

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

I am honored to introduce myself as newly appointed Chair of Trafalgar & District Financial Services Ltd.

My name is Debbie Di Sisto, and I'm thrilled to step into this role, succeeding Christine Holland, who is moving to the West. We wish Christine all the best on her new journey and thank her for her commitment over the last six years.

I bring to this position a background in finance and administration, a long standing connection to Trafalgar and I am deeply committed to fostering the continued growth and success of Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

We recently celebrated our 20 year anniversary and can proudly celebrate \$1.88m of funds invested back into our local community, only made possible by our customers.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited about a branch refurbishment project and continued growth reflecting our mission and strategic plan.

I extend my deepest appreciation to my fellow Directors, Branch staff and Board staff for contributing to our shared success. Your dedication and enthusiasm fuel our progress, and I am confident that the coming year will bring even more achievements and opportunities.

Wishing all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



## Trafalgar & District Probus Club

"Probus Club provides outings, stimulating speakers & companionship. With the support we get from our Community Bank we can reach out to all over 60 in our community. Thank you for your generous gift to our club & town over the years". - E Fallon

**Pictured:** Elly Fallon, Torina Johnston and Glenda Mynard who presented Torina with a lovely token of our appreciation for our support over the years.



## Celebrating 20 years of Community Banking

Twenty years is a momentous occasion—a testament to the dedication of our incredible employees, Directors, past and present, and the unwavering support of our valued customers and shareholders.

Community banking is more than just a financial institution; it's a pillar of strength, a source of support, and a driving force behind the success and well-being of our community.

We celebrated the evening at the Yarragon Bowling Club where we had Frank Hernadi, Byran Leaf, Mick Bourke OAM & Goeff Conway AFSM each present a speech which have all played a critical role in shaping our Community Bank into what it is today.



To help mark the occasion Community Bank Trafalgar & District announced a further \$50,000 back into our local community groups and organisations, bringing our grand total to 1.88 MILLION dollars over the past two decades.

But the night was not just about the past; it was about the future. In which we look ahead with optimism, ready to embrace the next chapter of our story. Our commitment to innovation, integrity, and customer satisfaction remains unwavering. Together, let's continue building a legacy that extends far beyond these two decades. Here's to 20 years of success, and to the limitless possibilities that the future holds.



**Pictured:** Branch Manager, Torina Johnson & Chairperson, Debbie Di Siscutting the 20 years Community Banking cake

**Pictured:** Successful Community Investment recipients. Mick Bourke OAM, Bryan Leaf and Frank Herandi.



## Trafalgar Cricket Club's new pitch!

Works have started at the Trafalgar High Schools oval, which will now see TCC have an additional pitch to provide a ground for their junior sides and also their 3rd XI with the added benefit of the juniors training at the oval straight after school.

**Pictured:** Daniel Heathcote (TCC President) Moriah Taylor, & Rhys Holdsworth (Holdsworth Concreting and current TCC player).



Girls in years 9-11 from schools across the region had the opportunity to take a tour of local police stations as part of the Girls in Blue Program



On R U OK? Day, we expressed our solidarity by donning yellow attire and distributing freckles, aiming to initiate conversations and encourage people to ask, "R U OK?"



Emily & branch local Rodda at the Trafalgar Farmers Market, held the first Saturday of every month!



David attended Willow Grove where a wood raffle was given away to a member of the community.



We celebrated 20 years of service to Gavin Duffy. Thank you for your significant contributions and commitment over the years.



Torina & Moriah attended Trafalgar Kindergarten to present a donation for sensory toys & play equipment for children needing extra sensory support.

## Piggy joins in on the celebrations!

In commemoration of 20 years of Community Banking, we collaborated with our local radio partner, Triple M Gippsland. The community engaged in a two-week quest for the "Golden Pig" across our catchment area, with the chance to instantly win \$20 upon discovery. Successful finders were then entered into a draw, where one fortunate listener won \$1000. On November 24th, Triple M, along with Piggy, our staff, and directors, dedicated the morning at the branch, distributing giveaway prizes sourced from local businesses and spreading cheer.





## Welcome Jess!

In August, we were thrilled to welcome Jess to our branch, who brought along an invigorating energy. Jess is a local resident who lives in Thorpdale with her Husband Brian and their joint family of 4. Jess is always enthusiastic and ready to assist with any of your banking inquiries. If you haven't already, please feel free to stop by the branch and say hello.



## Farewell Lara

Sadly, in September we farewelled Lara who was a loved and valuable team member. Lara is embarking on a new professional journey, and we extend our heartfelt wishes for her success in the future. Thank you, Lara, for your outstanding contributions and dedication.



## Community Investment

This year we were able to support the below Community Organisations

**Trafalgar Junior Football Club**

\$5,214.00

**Willow Grove & District Lions**

\$7,190.00

**Yarragon Cricket Club**

\$4,695.00

**Trafalgar Cricket Club**

\$5,000.00

**Trafalgar Playgroup**

\$1,200.00

**Thorpdale Kindergarten**

\$3,000.00

**Trafalgar Park Bowls Club**

\$5,250.00

**2024 HECI Tanjil Valley Art Show**

\$2,500.00

**Baw Baw Radiomodellers Association**

**Gippsland**

\$3,000.00

**Trafalgar Mens Shed**

\$1,500.00

**Trafalgar Fire Brigade**

\$3,000.00

**Trafalgar Golf Club**

\$6,091.00

**Thorpdale Bowling Club**

\$2,500.00

## 2024 Scholarships – Apply Now!

Going to Uni or TAFE in 2024?

Applications are NOW OPEN for the Community Bank Trafalgar & District Scholarship Program.

<https://www.bendigobank.com.au/scholarships>



## Traf District News!

Trafalgar & surrounds saw the return of Traf News or should we say Traf District News. A slight name change but the same vision, to help keep our community up to date with the latest news, entertainment, and information. The monthly publication has been a stable part of the community for more than 20 years and although advertising will cover the costs of the production, the relaunching of the paper needs new computer systems and they are seeking donations.

<https://gofund.me/1b63fad3>



## Meet our new Directors!

### Melanie Cahani

MBA qualified, Melanie is a Marketing and Public Relations expert with more than 15 years' experience in marketing management and consulting. She is a skilled communicator who has previously served on the board of the International Association of Business Communicators Victoria.

Passionate about building positive relationships between businesses and customers, Melanie has been the driving force within multinational organisations in media, digital communications and community engagement.

Her expertise in multi-channel marketing and strategy development has been instrumental in helping organisations build strong, long-lasting relationships with their customers.



### Edwin Vandenberg

Edwin's career has included senior executive roles in agribusiness, manufacturing and retail including time in banking and finance.

He has completed degrees in agricultural science, economics, an MBA in agribusiness as well as the AICD company director course.

Edwin wants to help the organisation grow and continue in its assistance to the community.



Community banking is based on a 'profit-with-purpose' business model.

It means our profit is returned directly to the community that generated it.

## Celebrate the wonderful

However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always.



# Bendigo Complete Home Loan

Completely tailored to you

[bendigobank.com.au/homeloans](https://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. (1645921-1645702) (08/21)



## 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

**f** @communitybanktrafalgardistrict

**i** @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

## WE ARE NUMBER ONE AGAIN!

Bendigo Bank have been named Australia's most trusted bank for the second year running, and it's all thanks to you!

## Branch Manager Update

As we approach the conclusion of this year, I wish to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible year we have had, our customers and team consistently rise to the occasion, demonstrating unwavering reliability and support. Although we saw the departure of a valued staff member, Lara who headed in another direction for work, we welcomed Jess, whose arrival has infused the branch with a fantastic new energy.

Please remember to stay vigilant when it comes to scams. We have been made aware of over stamping and scammers now have the ability to impersonate phone numbers.

If you ever have concerns about a caller, simply inform them that you'll end the current call and call our number back. Otherwise, please communicate directly with our staff in person.

Wishing you a wonderful break, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

