



# Newsletter!

## Community Bank Trafalgar & District

### A message from our chair, Debbie Di Sisto

In November, we held our Annual General Meeting, which provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on a successful financial year at our branch. It was a chance to showcase not only our achievements as a business but also how we continue to reinvest in the community that supports us.

Thanks to our customers who support a bank that gives back, we contributed more than \$147,000 in sponsorships, donations, and grants this year, plus eight tertiary scholarships valued at \$15,000, continuing our commitment to local students and lifelong learning. That takes our total community contributions this year to near \$165,000, funding projects across youth, health, sport, and the arts, real outcomes that make a difference to people's lives.

We're also excited to announce the release of our second Community Impact Report, highlighting the ways we've supported our local community throughout the year.

Following the AGM, we celebrated with our Community Investment Awards Presentation Evening. This event was a fantastic way to hear from our latest round of recipients about their projects and the positive impacts they will have on the local community. Our Community Engagement Advisor, Moriah, works closely with each group to ensure that funding is making the greatest possible impact and helping our community thrive.

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our shareholders, customers, Board of Directors, and staff for their continued support throughout the year. Your commitment allows us to keep giving back to the community. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, here's to another year of growth, connection, and positive impact!

Warm regards,

**Debbie Di Sisto**

**Trafalgar & District Financial Services**

This year, we had the pleasure of celebrating with a wonderful group of local community organisations at our latest round of sponsorship awards. Thanks to our amazing customers, we're able to reinvest in the community and support projects that make a real difference.

We're proud to share that during this round, we awarded \$37,000 in funding, bringing our total community investment to over **\$2.1 million** since we first opened our doors!

## Here's who benefited:

Hill End FNC / Willow Grove Recreation Reserve

Trafalgar Cemetery

Trafalgar Playgroup

Trafalgar Football Netball Club

Rawson Cricket Club

Thorpdale Football Netball Club

Trafalgar Bowls Club

Trafalgar Cricket Club

Tanjil Valley Landcare / Willow Grove Community Garden

Trafalgar Golf Club

Thorpdale CFA

Tanjil Valley Art Show

Trafalgar Junior Football Club

West Gippsland Concert Band

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Stay tuned as we continue to share the amazing projects we're helping bring to life.

Supporting our community is at the heart of everything we do and it's thanks to the support of our customers that we can make such a positive impact!

## Supporting Our Local Volunteers: Tanjil Valley Landcare

How wonderful it is to have dedicated volunteer groups like Tanjil Valley Landcare who take on the responsibility of caring for our community!

The group looks after the extensive grassed verges along the 1.2-kilometre walking track by the shoreline of Blue Rock Lake, Willow Grove – a track they built in 2015 that is loved by both locals and visitors.

We were honoured to support their efforts by funding a ride-on mower, helping make this important work a little easier. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to keeping our community beautiful!



## Supporting the Inspiring Young People Evening

We were thrilled to join our neighbouring Baw Baw Shire Community Banks – Community Bank Drouin & District and Community Bank Neerim District – in supporting the Inspiring Young People evening.

It was an amazing night of conversations with youth exploring their next steps and career goals, alongside inspiring stories from guest speakers.

A big thank you to Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN for organising the event. We're proud to support this program for the second year, helping make a real impact in our community and inspiring the next generation.



# We Want to Hear from You!

At Community Bank Trafalgar & District, your feedback helps guide our future community investments. We'd love to hear your thoughts, it only takes a few minutes. Complete the survey using the link below or scan the QR code. Take the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/33y4SKzh1i>

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Community Bank Trafalgar & District Survey



## Scholarship Program Applications Now Open!

Our Scholarship Program is designed to support the future of our community by helping local students pursue further education at TAFE or university. These scholarships provide financial assistance to ease the pressures of study, including support for accommodation, course materials, travel, study equipment, and tutoring. Applications for the 2025/26 program open on 1 December 2025 and close on 31 January 2026.

Students who reside or have attended secondary school within our catchment area are encouraged to apply and take the next step towards achieving their educational goals.

For more information or assistance with your application, please contact Moriah Taylor on 0402 106 088 or visit our Community Impact Hub: [communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au](http://communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au)

**Investing in education is investing in the future! We're proud to help students in our community reach their full potential!**



## Team donations!

Team donations are back for the 2025/26 financial year and to kick things off, Customer Relationship Manager, Gavin Duffy, had the opportunity to chat with Glen Westbury, a dedicated committee member of Talk and Tongs.

This community men's group, created by local farmers for farmers and community members, provides a relaxed space to gather around the fire, share a meal, have a yarn, check in on mates, or make new connections — no agenda, just connection. Men's mental health is no joke, and we are proud to support groups like this one, helping ensure there's always someone to talk to when needed.

For November, Gavin's team donation goes to Talk and Tongs, and we're thrilled to back their work in supporting men's mental health.



## Share in the merry

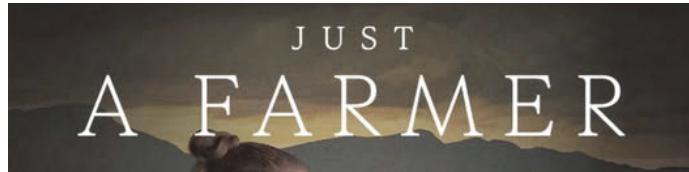
From silent nights to loud Christmas lunches, may your festive season be a special one.



# Investing in our local golf community

Through our recent sponsorships, we've helped upgrade the main clubhouse roof and are proud supporters of the 2026 Pro Am.

Exciting things are happening at **Trafalgar Golf Club**!



## Supporting rural mental health: Just a Farmer

In October, we were proud to support the Trafalgar District News with funding for the powerful film *Just a Farmer*, an authentic portrayal of the challenges and triumphs of resilient farmers in rural Australia.

The free screening was more than just a movie – it's a movement that raises awareness, breaks down stigmas, and shines a light on the mental health struggles in our rural communities.

We're proud to stand behind this initiative because the wellbeing of rural Australia matters, and every conversation helps build stronger, healthier communities.



## Supporting Trafalgar High Carnival

We were thrilled to attend the **Trafalgar High Carnival** and see the brand-new equipment the Music Department purchased with our grant funding. It was a fantastic evening!



## Supporting fire safety in Thorpdale

We were thrilled to visit Thorpdale recently to present Captain Paul McLure with a new thermal imaging camera as part of our latest round of sponsorships.

This essential equipment will support volunteers and enhance fire safety in the community. We're proud to back the Thorpdale CFA, locals supporting locals!



## Supporting Trafalgar Playgroup

We're proud to support Trafalgar Playgroup again this year, helping keep their doors open and updating some well-loved toys.

Open today 9:30 am – 11:00 am and every other Thursday during the school term.

## Community Bank Investment Program

Open	Close
2024	March 4

We return profits to the community, so local initiatives like yours get the funding they deserve

To find out more please visit  
[communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au](http://communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au)



## Ribbon Cutting for a New Slide at Thorpdale Kindergarten!

Thorpdale Kindergarten received a \$3,429 sponsorship to replace their old 3-metre slide, enhancing the safety and enjoyment of the play area for the children.

The funding will also contribute to a new passionfruit trellis, providing a shaded, fun space where the children can play, explore, and learn. This upgrade will make the playground a more welcoming and engaging environment for all the little ones.



## Community Connections at the Lions District 201 V3 Conference

We were thrilled to attend the Lions District 201 V3 Conference at Lardner Park, proudly sponsored alongside our neighbouring Baw Baw Community Bank Drouin & District and Community Bank Neerim District.

Hosted by the Lions Club of Warragul, the conference provided a fantastic opportunity for Lions members to come together, collaborate, and celebrate the incredible work being done across our communities. From sharing ideas to recognising achievements, the day highlighted the passion and dedication of Lions volunteers in making a positive difference locally.

We were truly honoured to be part of this special event and extend our sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen. It was a wonderful reminder of the strength and impact of community partnerships!

## Youth Mental Health Ambassadors

Our Director, Kevin McLaren, recently attended the end-of-year Live4Life Crew Celebration, an event dedicated to thanking and recognising the incredible efforts of the 35 Youth Mental Health Ambassadors (the Crew) for their contribution to Youth Live4Life Baw Baw throughout the year.

Live4Life is a vital program that takes a stand for youth mental health by breaking down stigma, helping young people recognise the signs of mental health challenges, and guiding them towards the support they need. Through these efforts, the program is creating a healthier, more connected, and supportive community.

We are proud to support such an important initiative that champions the wellbeing of our local youth and strengthens the foundation of our community.

## Share Your Event in the “What’s On” Section!

Our “What’s On” section in the **Traf District News** is the perfect way to let the local community know about your upcoming events.

If you have an event you’d like included, please reach out to our Community Engagement Advisor, Moriah Taylor, to have it featured for free.

Please note: submissions need to be sent at least one month in advance to be included in the newspaper.

*Get your community event noticed and make sure everyone knows what's happening in 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)  
[www.bendigobank.com.au/trafalgar](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/trafalgar)

#### We're open:

9.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 5.00pm Friday

 [@communitybanktrafalgardistrict](#)

#### Directors

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  
ABN 86 102 573 222

## Branch update from our Branch Manager, Torina

As we head into a new calendar year, it's a great time to review your banking, set some savings goals, and explore options that could benefit both you and our community.

We're excited to introduce new lending platforms that make it easier than ever for our customers to navigate different home loan products. One of the highlights is the Bendigo Easy Home Loan, which offers no monthly service fees, no application fees and competitive interest rates.

These new platforms aim to simplify the process and provide quicker turnaround times, giving you more choice and convenience when it comes to home loans.

Our Referral Program is also going strong with the Trafalgar Football Netball Club. As a member, supporter, or friend of the club, if you mention the club when applying for personal lending, the club benefits – at no cost to you. You still enjoy all the advantages of Bendigo Bank products, including competitive home loan rates, while helping your local club share in the profits.

It's the perfect time to come into the branch, review your financial goals, and see how we can support you and your community in the year ahead.

**We wish you a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**



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