

Community Impact Report 2025

Trafalgar & District
Financial Services Pty Ltd



Celebrating \$2 million in local contributions

On behalf of Community Bank Trafalgar & District, I am delighted to welcome you to our 2nd Annual Community Impact Report, showcasing the contributions we have made to our local community throughout the 2024/25 financial year.

This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the positive impact we have been able to achieve, thanks to our customers who choose to support a bank that gives back. We are thrilled to announce that in the 2024/25 financial year alone, we contributed \$165,109.10, helping us reach a remarkable milestone of over **\$2 million** invested back into our community, an achievement we can all be very proud of.

In FY25, our contributions included \$85,127.19 in sponsorships, \$32,000 in grants, \$16,981.91 in donations, and \$31,000 in scholarships, bringing the total to \$165,109.10.

We hope you enjoy reading through the report as we showcase the incredible organisations and initiatives that have benefited from this support, and the difference your banking choices make in our local community.

Debbie Di Sisto

Chair

Trafalgar & District Financial Services

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



About us

Trafalgar & District Financial Services works in partnership with Bendigo Bank to operate Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

We reinvest the majority of our profits back into the community through sponsorships, scholarships, donations, and grants.

As a locally owned and operated business, we are committed to supporting and strengthening Trafalgar & District.

Community Bank
Trafalgar & District



Our Purpose

To contribute to the growth of our community by being our community's choice of bank.

Our Mission

Trafalgar & District Financial Services Limited's mission is to be a substantial, sustainable community-built business that contributes to community prosperity.

Support categories



Emergency and community support



Sport and recreation



Environment and animal welfare



Arts, culture and heritage



Health and wellbeing



Facilities and infrastructure



Education and research

Community Bank · Trafalgar & District

Making good things happen

Find out more. Call 5633 2783 or search Bendigo Bank Trafalgar.

COMMUNITY
\$2,000,000
INVESTMENT



 **Bendigo Bank**

Emergency & Community Support



Our contributions ensure local emergency and community support groups have the resources to assist our community.



The Yarragon Book Fair was selected by Branch Staff Member Rebecca Schena as part of our ongoing team donations initiative, receiving a \$500 contribution from our branch.

This major annual event, held each May, raises vital funds to support both the **Yarragon Fire Brigade and Yarragon Primary School**.

In addition to our donation, we also supplied hundreds of bags to help book buyers carry their purchases home.



Willow House Community Support LTD provides free services to all of Gippsland, including mental health support, suicide prevention and awareness, and food assistance for those in need.

Branch Staff, Gavin Duffy was proud to select the organisation as part of our team donation initiative, contributing \$1,000 to support their valuable work.



The **Trafalgar Farmers Market** brings the community together every first Saturday of the month. We're proud to support it with a \$3,000 sponsorship for new marquees.



We're proud to support **Girls in Blue**, a program giving young women the chance to explore policing careers, tour stations, and connect with local officers. It's a great way to inspire youth as they consider their future pathways.



For the second year running, we have supported the **Yarragon Good Friday Appeal** and their incredible efforts to host a community event that sends the town on a hunt for chocolate eggs.

All funds raised go to a well-deserved cause, and we were proud to support the event with a \$1,000 donation to help ensure it runs smoothly.

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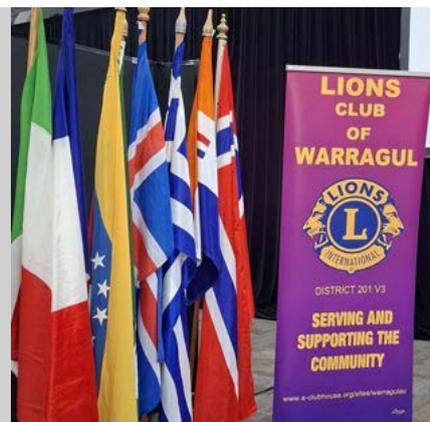
The **Trafalgar Playgroup** is an important volunteer-run community support group for both parents/caregivers and children. The group operates every Thursday morning during school terms, providing a safe and welcoming space for children to play and interact. We supported the playgroup with a \$2,000 sponsorship to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the group.

Baw Baw Food Relief plays a vital role in supporting our community.

For the December round of team donations, our Branch Manager, Torina, selected them to receive a \$1,000 contribution, recognising that this time of year is when their support is needed most.



The **Lions Convention** is a jointly funded sponsorship with Drouin and Neerim Community Banks, assisting with the running of the District Convention at Lardner Park. Our equal contribution of \$1,667 will go towards supporting the event. The convention highlights the projects and fundraising activities of the Lions, showcasing the positive impact their members make in the community.



We Have Also Supported

- Trafalgar Public Cemetary
- Traf News Inc
- Hill End Community Centre Incorporated



Sport and Recreation



Supporting community sport benefits both physical health and mental wellbeing. It encourages fitness, strengthens friendships, and teaches important life lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship. Sport continues to be a vibrant passion in our community.



We were proud to support the **Trafalgar Football Netball Club**, contributing \$5,500 to improve club facilities, including a new chip fryer for the canteen.

In addition, we provided \$1000 to help cover costs for their Mental Health Day. We have also partnered with the club through a referral program, demonstrating another way your banking can make a real difference in the community.

The **Yarragon Bowling Club** was a successful recipient of a \$2,500 sponsorship to help improve facilities in their clubroom with a much-needed air conditioning unit.

Over the years, the clubroom has undergone extension work, and this new addition is the perfect touch. We are proud to be long-standing supporters of the club.



We are proud to support the **Trafalgar Bowls Club**, contributing \$2,500 to upgrade the concrete at the front of the building.

This improvement creates a more welcoming outdoor area, making the entrance more presentable and easier to access for everyone. It also enhances the overall appearance of the club, providing a safer and more enjoyable space for members and visitors alike.



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We supported the **Yarragon Football Netball Club** with a \$2,500 sponsorship to assist with upgrading their scoreboard electronics, modem, and laptop. This upgrade enables the Senior and Junior Football Clubs, as well as the Cricket Club, to operate the scoreboard remotely—an important improvement for the clubs' operations.



As long-time supporters of the **Trafalgar Cricket Club**, we were thrilled to contribute \$2,000 to purchase a FrogBox.

This will allow the community to watch their beloved local cricket games from interstate, internationally, or simply from the comfort of their own home— helping keep everyone connected from afar.



We are proud supporters of the **Hill End Grove Rovers Junior Football Club**, contributing \$2,841 to provide essential equipment, a first aid kit, and a game day laptop. These upgrades will help the club run smoothly on game days and ensure the safety and enjoyment of all players. We loved being part of this close-knit community club and are thrilled to support the development of young athletes and foster a love of sport in the local community.

Better banking. Big impact.

Community Bank
Trafalgar & District

Bendigo Bank

Sport and Recreation



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The **Hill End Grove Rovers Football Club** received a \$2,500 sponsorship from us to purchase a commercial ice machine for their social rooms.

This supports players after training and games by helping treat soft tissue injuries and strains from the football field and netball courts, while also catering for club members..



We were proud to support the **Trafalgar Golf Club** as a major sponsor for the 2024 Pro-Am with a \$5,000 contribution. The day was a fantastic community event, with many people getting involved and enjoying themselves. A further \$5,000 was provided through our community investment to repair the suspended roof in the main clubhouse.

Supporting the Trafalgar Golf Club is important because it's more than a sporting venue—it's a hub for community connection, offering people of all ages the chance to stay active, build friendships, and develop teamwork.

We supported the **Trafalgar Junior Netball Club** with a sponsorship of \$3,128 to supply players with new equipment.

The club plays an important role in developing young athletes, building confidence, and encouraging participation in sport. We are proud to help their members continue to thrive both on and off the court.



Environment and animal welfare



At Community Bank Trafalgar & District, we are passionate about protecting our environment and the lifestyle it supports. As a business, we are committed to being mindful of our environmental impact. This includes making careful decisions to reduce printed materials and ensuring that our promotional merchandise is reusable whenever possible. Through these efforts, we aim to contribute to a sustainable future while supporting our community.



Creative Harvest is an edible gardens weekend aimed at educating and inspiring home food growing as part of a broader sustainability mission.

Held annually in January across West Gippsland, the festival offers participants the chance to celebrate sustainable gardening, meet creative makers and innovators, and sample sensational local produce.

We are proud to support the Harvest Festival with \$1,360 in funding, helping to promote sustainability and community connection.

The **Tanjil Valley Landcare Group** has received \$4,600 in funding to purchase a ride-on mower. This new equipment will help members maintain the extensive grassed verges along the 1.2-kilometre walking track at Blue Rock Lake, Willow Grove, ensuring it remains safe and accessible for all.

The track, built by the group in 2015, has become a popular destination for both the local community and visitors alike. This funding will allow the group to continue their vital work in keeping the area well-maintained, safe, and enjoyable for everyone who visits.



Arts, culture and heritage



We're committed to supporting arts, culture and heritage in our community. These initiatives celebrate creativity, protect our history, and bring people together — helping to build pride, connection and vibrant places to live and visit.

We're proud to support **Baw Baw Arts Alliance**, a group dedicated to inspiring and fostering a vibrant, creative arts environment in our community.

Operating from Trafalgar and Yarragon, our \$1,320 sponsorship helped cover the cost of refreshing the painting at the front, bringing new life to a local community space.



The **Trafalgar and District Historical Society** is a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the history of Trafalgar and the surrounding district by gathering information from old historical homes.

We supported the Society with \$2,000 to purchase new computer hardware and set-up, helping them continue their important work of preserving our local heritage.

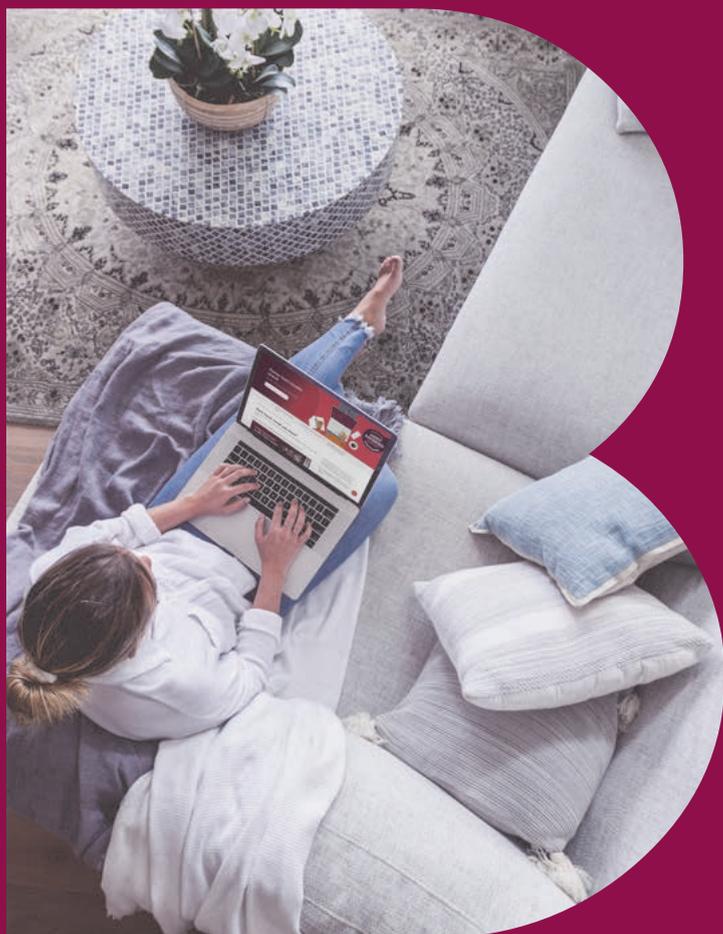


We have proudly supported the **HECI Tanjil Valley Art Show** since its inception in 2007. The event showcases the incredible talent of our local artists and attracts visitors from across Gippsland to the Hill End Community Centre over the King's Birthday long weekend.

Our \$2,500 sponsorship contributes to the major prize for the winning artist and helps cover the costs of running this vibrant community event.

We Have Also Supported

- [Walhalla Heritage and Development League Inc](#)



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The better big bank

Health and Wellbeing



As a regional community, we know how important health and wellbeing is. We're proud to support local programs that make a real difference, helping create stronger, healthier, and more connected communities.

Our town is fortunate to have **Bettermentall Australia** based right here, and we're proud to support the incredible work they do.

Over Christmas, we teamed up with the group to help local families who might not have been in a position to afford the festive lunch or dinner they wished for. Our Branch Manager, Torina, personally selected and hand-picked the food items to make those celebrations special.

We also supported Bettermentall's Christmas Drive, not only by donating our own toys but also by acting as a community drop-off point to help others get involved. Following our \$1,200 team donation, we were thrilled to also be involved with Jason's Have a Chat Runs by sponsoring him and running alongside him to support Bettermentall's mission. More recently, we've provided \$2,500 to help fund their youth mentoring program, which assists young adults transitioning from school into the workforce.



In another joint venture alongside the Drouin and Neerim District Community Banks, we're proud to continue supporting the annual **Baw Baw Community Bank Charity Golf Day** with a \$2,000 sponsorship. This much-loved event is a highlight on the local calendar, bringing together community members, local businesses, and golf enthusiasts for a fun and meaningful day on the course. After a friendly round of golf, participants enjoy a shared dinner and the opportunity to connect, reflect, and celebrate the community spirit that makes events like this so special. Funds raised go directly towards supporting the West Gippsland Hospital and the Warragul & District Specialist School, helping provide important resources and programs that make a real difference in our region.

We have also supported:
Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre

Facilities and infrastructure



We're helping our local clubs and community groups upgrade their equipment and facilities, ensuring they're safe, modern, and fit-for-purpose. By supporting these improvements, we're helping them continue delivering valuable programs, events, and activities that strengthen our community.

The **Gippsland Pride Initiative**, with the support of West Gippsland Healthcare, has proudly established its base in Trafalgar.

Now co-located with the Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre, the organisation has made significant investments into improving and activating this valuable community facility.

To assist with their growth, Community Bank Trafalgar & District provided a \$5,000 sponsorship to help erect a secure storage shed for their equipment and resources.



The **Thorpdale Mechanics Institute Reserve**, known as Thorpdale Hall, is a well-loved community space used throughout the year by groups such as Thorpdale Kindergarten, Thorpdale Primary School, the Thorpdale Potato Festival, and many other local organisations.

We were proud to support the hall with a \$2,000 contribution for the installation of ceiling fans, enhancing temperature control and comfort for current users while also making the space more appealing to future community groups.



Big on banking.
Bigger for you.

Facilities and infrastructure



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The **Trafalgar Holden Museum**, an iconic landmark in our town, is a source of pride for the community. We are thrilled to support them with a \$3,980 sponsorship to help improve visitor experiences.

The funds will contribute to an additional Point of Sale for busy group visits and large events of up to 1,000 attendees, easing pressure on volunteers. They will also assist in acquiring hand-held UHF radios, enhancing safety, security, and operational efficiency across the museum's seven buildings and 19 sections.



Community Bank Trafalgar & District is proud to support the **Trafalgar-Thorpdale RSL** with a \$500 donation to assist with a speaker and music for their commemorative events. The RSL organises ANZAC Day Services, Remembrance Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, and supports the ceremonial aspects of the Trafalgar Football and Netball Leagues ANZAC Round each year.



We are proud to support the **Trafalgar Park Bowls Club** with a \$3,500 sponsorship to fund essential repairs and repainting of the main hall, store room, and men's toilets. This upgrade will create a more welcoming space for regular users and community groups. The venue is also available for hire, making it perfect for meetings, social events, and celebrations, helping the club remain a vibrant and valued part of our community.

We Have Also Supported

- **Walhalla Heritage and Development League Inc**

Education and research



*We're helping our local schools, kindergartens, playgroups, and community groups with funding to enhance education, learning, facilities, and resources!
Helping ensure our next generation can thrive!*



With our help, the **1st Trafalgar Scout 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. Our support included a \$942 donation for equipment, as well as a \$1,828 sponsorship to support their Kangaroo Camp. It's fantastic to see local young people gaining hands-on experience, building resilience, and creating adventure memories that will last a lifetime



Led by the inspiring music coordinator Ben Smith, Traf High Live creates access and equity in live music for students at **Trafalgar High School** and young people across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley. With limited opportunities in rural communities, this project empowers students to perform, be inspired, and connect through music.

We're thrilled to support Traf High Live with a \$12,000 grant for new tech and upgraded equipment.



We're proud to support **The Little Village Project**, a program founded on the belief that every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and thrive no matter their circumstances.

With a \$30,000 grant, this incredible initiative provides evidence-based support to vulnerable children, including those in foster care, experiencing housing insecurity, from low-income backgrounds, or who are neurodiverse. Thanks to our funding, The Little Village Project will be working alongside Trafalgar Primary School, Tanjil South Primary School, and Thorpdale Primary School to create lasting impact in our community.

Education and research



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Helping ensure our next generation can thrive!*



We supported our local **Trafalgar Primary Early Learning Centre** with a \$2,295 sponsorship for new STEM materials. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is so important for young children, as it encourages hands-on learning, problem-solving, and creativity. We're glad to play a part in enhancing their preschool learning experience and helping make a meaningful difference for local families.



We are proud to invest in our youth through the **Community Bank Trafalgar & District Scholarship Program**, supporting students throughout their studies. This year, we are thrilled to have committed \$31,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to our successful 2025 recipients: Keeley Lewis-Ryen, Sarah Seddon, Joshua Mills, Nicholas Johnson, Poppy Susa, Jemma Bailey, Finch Elwyn-Fey and Maddison Collins!



The Baw Baw Youth **Live4Life** program is taking a stand for youth mental health by breaking stigma, recognising the signs, and empowering young people to seek help. This vital initiative is strengthening the wellbeing of our local youth and building a more supportive community.

We proudly supported their launch into Baw Baw with a \$3,333 donation.

We provided \$3,429 in funding to support upgrades to the outdoor playground at **Thorpdale Kindergarten**. The project included replacing the ageing 3-metre slide, reinforcing the surrounding wooden slats, and installing a passionfruit trellis to create a shady, welcoming play area. These improvements not only enhance safety but also provide a more engaging and inspiring outdoor learning environment for children, helping local families enjoy the space with confidence and creativity.





Community Bank · Trafalgar & District

Community Investment Program



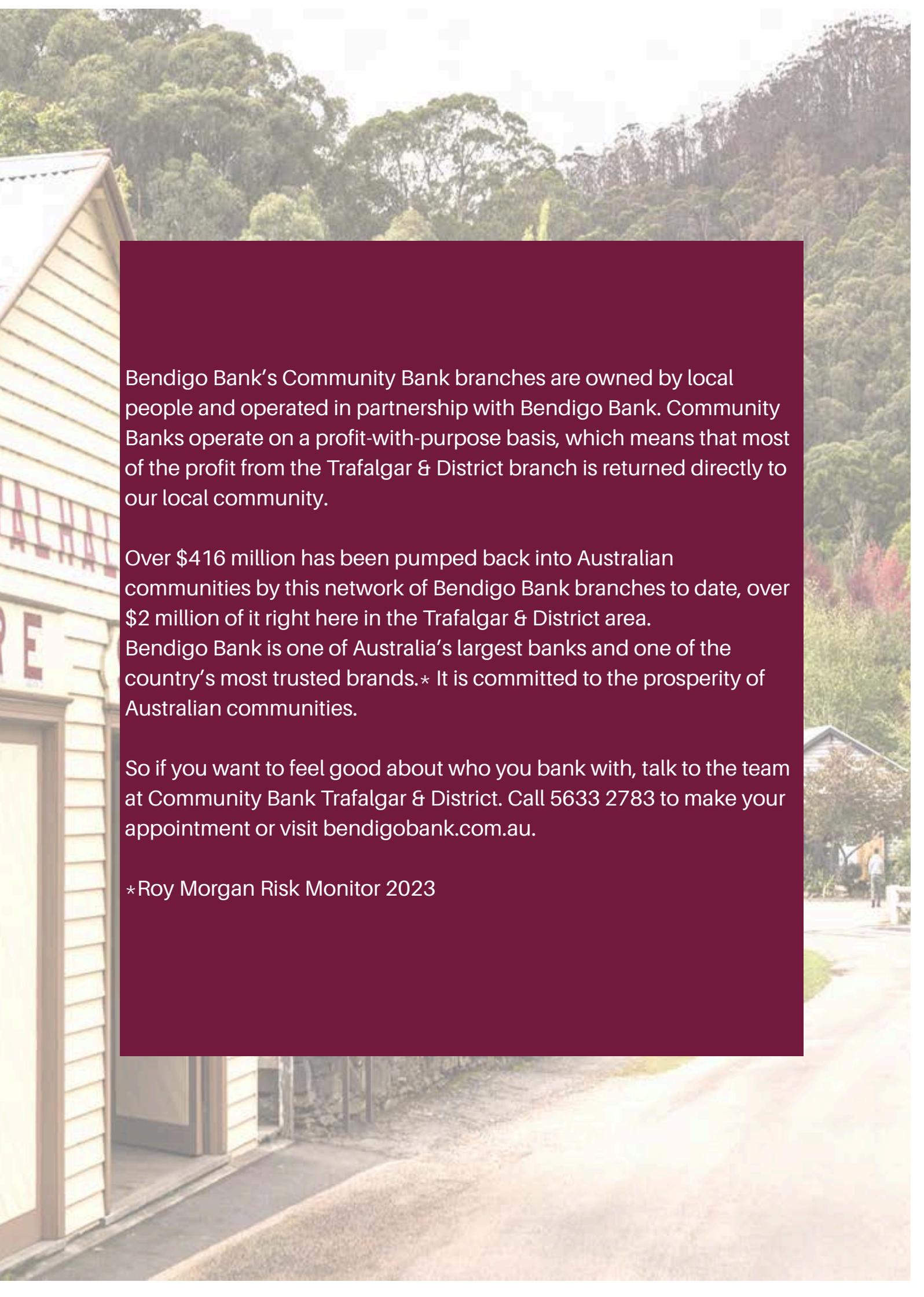
A Community Grant can support your organisation when it needs it the most.

**We're committed to strengthening our local community.
Find out how we're investing locally and how we can assist you.**

communitybanktrafalgar.smartygrants.com.au

 **Bendigo Bank**

Community Enterprise Foundation™



Bendigo Bank's Community Bank branches are owned by local people and operated in partnership with Bendigo Bank. Community Banks operate on a profit-with-purpose basis, which means that most of the profit from the Trafalgar & District branch is returned directly to our local community.

Over \$416 million has been pumped back into Australian communities by this network of Bendigo Bank branches to date, over \$2 million of it right here in the Trafalgar & District area.

Bendigo Bank is one of Australia's largest banks and one of the country's most trusted brands.* It is committed to the prosperity of Australian communities.

So if you want to feel good about who you bank with, talk to the team at Community Bank Trafalgar & District. Call 5633 2783 to make your appointment or visit [bendigobank.com.au](https://www.bendigobank.com.au).

*Roy Morgan Risk Monitor 2023

We couldn't have
done it without your
generous *support.*

Thank you

to all our
Customers, Staff,
Directors and
Shareholders

Our community funding is only
made possible when our
community supports us with
their banking facilities.

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