Annual Report 2024

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited

Community Bank
Deloraine & Districts

ABN 27 111 858 078

Contents

Chair’s report

On behalf of the Board of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited, I am delighted to present the 2024 Chairman’s Report.

As part of Bendigo Bank’s Community Bank network - one of the largest social enterprise models in the world - we are proud to be aligned with one of Australia’s most trusted brands. Together, we continue to work toward our vision of fostering sustainable, thriving, and connected communities.

It’s a privilege to be deeply engaged with our community and collaborate with such a dedicated team of branch staff and fellow Directors. Since 2005, we have reinvested nearly $3 million back into the Meander Valley region through grants, sponsorships, donations, dividends, and scholarships.

In 2024, our grant recipients received a combined total of $188,566. We look forward to seeing the positive outcomes from these community-led projects, which include initiatives from the Mole Creek Progress Association, Arts Deloraine Inc, Westbury Agricultural Society Inc, Aged Care Deloraine Inc, Parkham Community Inc, Deloraine A&P and Chudleigh A&H Societies, Westbury Preservation Association Inc, Westbury Primary School Parents Association Inc, Beacon Foundation, Rotary Club of Deloraine, Kentish Arts Commerce and Tourism Inc, and the Kimberley Improvement Association.

At the end of 2023, we partnered with Deloraine House, contributing $100,000 toward the purchase of a neighbouring property to help expand their services across the Meander Valley region. This project is a shining example of what can be achieved when the community works together.

These are just a few highlights of the many projects we've supported over the past 12 months. Each partnership, whether large or small, holds importance for us, and we are proud to see the impact they are having.

I would like to express my gratitude to our Community Bank Deloraine and Districts team for their professionalism, resilience, patience, and care for our customers. Special thanks to Katie, Oliver, Susan, Cassie, Kels, and James for their contributions over the past year. Our staff form the backbone of our business, and their unwavering dedication is central to our success.

We also want to extend our congratulations to Oliver on his recent promotion to Branch Manager at Community Bank Cygnet. His contributions to the bank and community have been significant, and we wish him all the best in his new role.

Thank you to Martyn Neville, our Tasmanian Regional Manager, and the broader Bendigo Bank state network for their ongoing support of our Branch team and Board.

While we face ongoing challenges, such as rising interest rates and the cost of living, along with broader social and environmental issues, it is heartening to see the commitment and teamwork demonstrated by our staff. Their dedication to delivering exceptional banking services and responsibly deploying funds continues to drive positive outcomes.

I would also like to thank my fellow directors for their passion and dedication to both the community and the business. Our volunteer directors generously give their time and expertise, helping to drive our strategies, distribute profits back into the community, and ensure we maintain a meaningful local impact.

Thank you to Kris Eade who recently departed the board, and we thank you for your local knowledge, ideas, critical thinking, passion and governance.

Lastly, I encourage you to refer your family, friends, and colleagues to Community Bank Deloraine and Districts. Together, we are creating positive change for our customers and our community. Thank you for being a part of it.

M. Norton

Melinda Norton
Chair

Manager’s report

2024 brought with it the completion of nineteen years in business. Thanks to our growing customer base, we continue to generate regular monthly profits which are being distributed back into the community in many shapes and forms and it is this distribution of profits back to the community that gives us (the staff) a great deal of pride and satisfaction in the role that we play within your Bank. It is worth noting a very important milestone was achieved during the past year, with in excess of $2.5 million having now been returned to the local community by way of sponsorships, donations and grants.

At Bendigo Bank we are 1 of over 300 Community Banks that have collectively returned over $320m to local communities just like ours. We are also very proud to have 11 community banks located here in Tasmania.

In FY24 we focused on our individual and team development that continues to enable us to offer face to face services including, Bendigo Bank home and personal lending, wealth advice, deposit products, everyday banking needs, insurance products and many more banking services. Our point of difference is that we are here, we are local and we do our job so that we can give back to those who support us, our community. This is accompanied by many years of banking knowledge and experience, our specialist are ready to support you whenever you need.

FY 25 is all about awareness. We are aiming to be a very well-versed community in understanding and protecting ourselves against scams whilst ensuring that we can continue to attract new local business enabling us to give more money back to our wonderful community. We will continue to share the Community Bank story and work hard to increase the support we currently give to both the community and local businesses alike.

We have developed a wonderful team of staff and as such we would like to acknowledge and thank the following staff for their efforts: Oli Bissett-Proudfoot, Cassie Hazeldine, Kels Taylor, James Newsum and Susan Drake for their commitment and on-going support. A special thanks to Oli as he led the team for a 5 month period whilst I supported the state in a secondment. Oli’s hard work has been recognised and in mid September, Oli will take on a new role as a Branch Manager of Community Bank Cygnet & District. Oli has been instrumental in the success of the branch over the past few years and his development is something we are all very proud of, he will be missed. Due to the internal development and succession planning, Oli’s departure has opened the opportunity for James to take on the home lending role. James has been acting in this role during the last 5 months and has proven to be a perfect fit. In addition to this Kels will now move into a Customer Relationship Officer role and we have advertised for a new Customer Advisor.

We are proud of the work environment we have created and the opportunities that have arisen as a result. We hope to continue to strengthen our succession planning to ensure that the team are here for our customers when needed.

We do this with the continuous support from our board of directors, it is an honour to work with such a passionate group of people who give freely of their own time, doing a thankless job for the benefit of the community and voluntarily use their expert knowledge and skills to continue to develop such a successful business. To our Bendigo Bank Team lead by Martyn Neville, Regional Manager Tasmania and Jon Pedler, Risk and Compliance Manager - thank you for your continued support throughout the year, it truly is a pleasure to work with you. It is your contribution to the success of our Community Bank, which ensures that the value of our partnership with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited is maximised. Finally, we wish to thank all of our customers and shareholders for their support, and we trust that our personal service and commitment to the community will ensure the continued future success of Community Bank Deloraine & Districts.

KBlandford

Katie Blandford
Branch Manager

Director’s report

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Directors' report
30 June 2024

The directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Directors
The following persons were directors of the company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Name:	Melinda Kaye Norton
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Melinda is the Chair of MVFSL and Treasurer of Weegena Hall Committee and is a volunteer fire fighter.
Special responsibilities:	Chair, Governance and Audit Committee

Name:	Laura Jane Richardson
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Significant governance, management and community experience, including Executive Officer and Regional Manager, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Past Chair and Company Secretary of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited. Current President of the Chudleigh Agricultural & Horticultural Society, Past President and Service Award recipient of Rural Youth Tasmania. 2022 Meander Valley Citizen of the Year. Life member Deloraine Amateur Basketball Association and Founding Committee Deloraine Devils Netball Club.
Special responsibilities:	Marketing and Communications Committee

Name:	Graham Stephen Dent
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Primary producer, seed cleaner, rotary, fire service. Former chair and director of Tasmanian Seeds Ltd.
Special responsibilities:	Vice Chair, Farmers Night Chair, Business Development Committee.

Name:	Anne Margaret Harvey
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Teacher. Current Dairy Farmer/Agistment Business. Diploma of Teaching and Bachelor of Education. Current life member of Deloraine Community band. Life member of Deloraine Primary School Association.
Special responsibilities:	Business Development Committee

Name:	Barry Gordon Pearn
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Semi Retired/IT Consultant. Barry has completed a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), Graduate Diploma of Applied Computing and a Masters of Computing. He has worked in a number of industries such as earthmoving and land clearing, managing onsite contracting at Woodchip Mill, earthmoving and farm drainage, civil contract administration and IT consulting. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Westbury, Whitemore Fire Brigade and served as a National Councillor and Treasurer of the Civil Contractors Federation.
Special responsibilities:	Treasurer

Name:	Andrew Raymond Johnston
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Primary Producer managing a mixed farming enterprise at Exton, Member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Deloraine. Past Director of Wool Producers Australia, and Vice Chair of the Wool Council for Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association. Chair of the Rotary Pratt Foundation.
Special responsibilities:	Vice Chair, Business Development Committee

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Directors' report
30 June 2024

Name:	Carmen Elizabeth Cresswell
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Farmer. Studied at the University of Tasmania before returning to work on the family farm. Owner of a White Suffolk sheep stud. Current vice-president of the Deloraine Show Society. Secretarial and administrative experience through past involvement with local sporting groups.
Special responsibilities:	Marketing and Communications Committee

Name:	Kim Maree Anne Rootes
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	School Business Manager. Worked for Tasmania Temptations from 1983-1994.
Special responsibilities:	Company Secretary, Governance and Audit Committee

Name:	Kristopher Kenneth Eade
Title:	Non-executive Director
Experience and expertise:	Current director of Facilities at St Patrick's College, previously Team Leader Facilities at Meander Valley Council.
Special responsibilities:	Governance and Audit Committee

Name:	Jason Donald Taylor
Title:	Non-executive director
Experience and expertise:	Deloraine Community Big band, Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Agronomist, Agricultural contractor, Deloraine Apex Club, JFH Student Club Committee President.
Special responsibilities:	Nil.

No directors have material interest in contracts or proposed contracts with the company.

Company secretary
The company secretary is Kim Maree Anne Rootes. Kim was appointed to the position of company secretary on 25 November 2021.

Principal activity
The principal activity of the company during the financial year was facilitating Community Bank services under management rights of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited (Bendigo Bank).

There have been no significant changes in the nature of this activity during the financial year.

Review of operations
The profit for the company after providing for income tax amounted to $85,905 (30 June 2023: $125,531).

Operations have continued to perform in line with expectations.

Dividends
During the financial year, the following dividends were provided for and paid. The dividends have been provided for in the financial statements.

	2024 $	2023 $
Fully franked dividend of 10 cents per share (2023: 7 cents)	65,000	45,500

Significant changes in the state of affairs
On 1 July 2023, Bendigo Bank updated the Funds Transfer Pricing (FTP) base rate on certain deposits which has reduced the income earned on these products.

There were no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the company during the financial year.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Directors' report
30 June 2024

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year
No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

Likely developments
No matter, circumstance or likely development in operations has arisen during or since the end of the financial year that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the company.

Environmental regulation
The company is not subject to any significant environmental regulation under Australian Commonwealth or State law.

Meetings of directors
The number of directors' meetings attended by each of the directors' of the company during the financial year were:

	Board	
	Eligible	Attended
Melinda Kaye Norton	12	12
Laura Jane Richardson	12	9
Graham Stephen Dent	12	10
Anne Margaret Harvey	12	12
Barry Gordon Pearn	12	9
Andrew Raymond Johnston	12	12
Carmen Elizabeth Cresswell	12	9
Kim Maree Anne Rootes	12	10
Kristopher Kenneth Eade	12	7
Jason Donald Taylor	12	10

Directors' benefits
No director has received or become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company, controlled entity or related body corporate with a director, a firm which a director is a member or an entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest except as disclosed in note 23 to the financial statements. This statement excludes a benefit included in the aggregate amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by directors shown in the company's accounts, or the fixed salary of a full-time employee of the company, controlled entity or related body corporate.

Directors' interests
The interest in company shareholdings for each director are:

	Balance at the start of the year	Changes	Balance at the end of the year
Melinda Kaye Norton	500	-	500
Laura Jane Richardson	751	-	751
Graham Stephen Dent	28,000	-	28,000
Anne Margaret Harvey	1,000	-	1,000
Barry Gordon Pearn	-	-	-
Andrew Raymond Johnston	500	-	500
Carmen Elizabeth Cresswell	1,000	-	1,000
Kim Maree Anne Rootes	-	-	-
Kristopher Kenneth Eade	-	-	-
Jason Donald Taylor	-	-	-

Shares under option
There were no unissued ordinary shares of the company under option outstanding at the date of this report.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Directors' report
30 June 2024

Shares issued on the exercise of options
There were no ordinary shares of the company issued on the exercise of options during the year ended 30 June 2024 and up to the date of this report.

Indemnity and insurance of directors and officers
The company has indemnified all directors and management in respect of liabilities to other persons (other than the company or related body corporate) that may arise from their position as directors or management of the company except where the liability arises out of conduct involving the lack of good faith.

Disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium is prohibited by the confidentiality clause of the contract of insurance.

Proceedings on behalf of the company
No person has applied to the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001* for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the company, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or part of those proceedings.

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the company with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Indemnity and insurance of auditor
The company has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the company or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor.

During the financial year, the company has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the company or any related entity.

Non-audit services
The company may decide to employ the auditor on assignments additional to their statutory duties where the auditor's expertise and experience with the company are important. Details of the amounts paid or payable to the auditor (Andrew Frewin Stewart) for audit and non-audit services provided during the year are set out in note 25 to the accounts.

The board has considered the non-audit services provided during the year by the auditor and is satisfied that the provision of the non-audit services is compatible with, and did not compromise, the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* for the following reasons:

- all non-audit services have been reviewed by the board to ensure they do not impact on the impartiality, integrity and objectivity of the auditor
- the non-audit services provided do not undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out in *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*, as they did not involve reviewing or auditing the auditor's own work, acting in a management or decision making capacity for the company, acting as an advocate for the company or jointly sharing risks and rewards.

Auditor's independence declaration
A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out immediately after this directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of directors, pursuant to section 298(2)(a) of the *Corporations Act 2001.*

On behalf of the directors

Melinda Kaye Norton
Chair

22 September 2024

Auditor’s independence declaration

Andrew Frewin Stewart
61 Bull Street Bendigo VIC 3550
ABN: 65 684 604 390
afs@afsbendigo.com.au
03 5443 0344

Independent auditor’s independence declaration under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* to the Directors of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited

As lead auditor for the audit of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Andrew Frewin Stewart
61 Bull Street, Bendigo, Vic, 3550
Dated: 22 September 2024

Adrian Downing
Lead Auditor

Financial statements

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Revenue from contracts with customers	7	1,668,437	1,831,732
Other revenue		-	18,925
Finance revenue		17,037	7,953
Total revenue		1,685,474	1,858,610
Employee benefits expense	8	(552,081)	(503,860)
Advertising and marketing costs		(21,241)	(4,974)
Occupancy and associated costs		(33,281)	(31,974)
System costs		(17,642)	(17,369)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	(81,952)	(66,370)
Finance costs	8	(7,781)	(8,247)
General administration expenses		(131,566)	(108,984)
Total expenses before community contributions and income tax		(845,544)	(741,778)
Profit before community contributions and income tax expense		839,930	1,116,832
Charitable donations, sponsorships and grants expense	8	(724,107)	(948,828)
Profit before income tax expense		115,823	168,004
Income tax expense	9	(29,918)	(42,473)
Profit after income tax expense for the year		85,905	125,531
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		85,905	125,531
		Cents	**Cents**
Basic earnings per share	27	13.22	19.31
Diluted earnings per share	27	13.22	19.31

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	30,961	44,537
Trade and other receivables	11	131,067	153,542
Investments	12	437,501	317,811
Current tax assets	9	4,807	-
Total current assets		604,336	515,890
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	13	246,063	233,739
Right-of-use assets	14	189,802	206,896
Intangible assets	16	12,971	25,941
Total non-current assets		448,836	466,576
Total assets		1,053,172	982,466
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	17	358,255	257,798
Lease liabilities	18	36,402	27,389
Current tax liabilities	9	-	18,673
Total current liabilities		394,657	303,860
Non-current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	17	-	15,821
Lease liabilities	18	166,666	189,190
Deferred tax liabilities	9	21,075	23,895
Lease make good provision		4,451	4,282
Total non-current liabilities		192,192	233,188
Total liabilities		586,849	537,048
Net assets		466,323	445,418
Equity			
Issued capital	19	618,894	618,894
Accumulated losses		(152,571)	(173,476)
Total equity		466,323	445,418

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Issued capital $	Accumulated losses $	Total equity $
Balance at 1 July 2022		618,894	(253,507)	365,387
Profit after income tax expense		-	125,531	125,531
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-	-
Total comprehensive income		-	125,531	125,531
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Dividends provided for or paid	21	-	(45,500)	(45,500)
Balance at 30 June 2023		618,894	(173,476)	445,418

	Note	Issued capital $	Accumulated losses $	Total equity $
Balance at 1 July 2023		618,894	(173,476)	445,418
Profit after income tax expense		-	85,905	85,905
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-	-
Total comprehensive income		-	85,905	85,905
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Dividends provided for or paid	21	-	(65,000)	(65,000)
Balance at 30 June 2024		618,894	(152,571)	466,323

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)		1,847,919	1,983,126
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		(1,542,693)	(1,762,768)
Interest received		17,037	7,953
Interest and other finance costs paid		(205)	-
Income taxes paid		(51,415)	(22,042)
Net cash provided by operating activities	26	270,643	206,269
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for investments		(119,690)	(65,887)
Payments for property, plant and equipment	13	(50,584)	(66,785)
Payments for intangible assets		(14,383)	(14,383)
Net cash used in investing activities		(184,657)	(147,055)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest and other finance costs paid		(7,423)	(7,946)
Dividends paid	21	(65,000)	(45,500)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(27,139)	(26,508)
Net cash used in financing activities		(99,562)	(79,954)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(13,576)	(20,740)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		44,537	65,277
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	10	30,961	44,537

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 1. Reporting entity

The financial statements cover Meander Valley Financial Services Limited (the company) as an individual entity, which is a for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The company is an unlisted public company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is 49 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine TAS 7304

A description of the nature of the company's operations and its principal activity is included in the directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

Note 2. Basis of preparation and statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. The financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual and historical cost basis and are presented in Australian dollars, which is the company's functional and presentation currency.

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to pay its debts as and when they fall due for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue, in accordance with a resolution of directors, on 22 September 2024. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Note 3. Material accounting policy information

The accounting policies that are material to the company are set out either in the respective notes or below. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, unless otherwise stated.

Adoption of new and revised accounting standards
The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current financial year. A description of the impact of new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have had a material impact on the company during the current financial year is outlined below:

AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates* is mandatory for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and was adopted by the company in the preparation of the 30 June 2024 financial statements.

AASB 2021-2 includes amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, requiring the company to disclose material accounting policy information in its financial statements rather than significant accounting policies which was required in previous financial years. Accounting policy information is material if it, when considered with other information, could reasonably be expected to influence decisions of primary users based on the financial statements.

Adoption of AASB 2021-2 has had no impact on the numerical information disclosed in the company's financial statements. Rather, adoption has required the company to remove significant accounting policy information from the notes to the financial statements that is not considered material.

Accounting standards issued but not yet effective
An assessment of accounting standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that are not yet mandatorily applicable to the company has been performed. No new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not mandatory have been early adopted, nor are they expected to have a material impact on the company in future financial years.

Current and non-current classification
Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 3. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Investments
Investments includes non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities where the company has the positive intention and ability to hold the financial asset to maturity. This category excludes financial assets that are held for an undefined period. Investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method adjusted for any principal repayments. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised or impaired.

Impairment of financial assets
The company recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets which are either measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income. The measurement of the loss allowance depends upon the company's assessment at the end of each reporting period as to whether the financial instrument's credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, based on reasonable and supportable information that is available, without undue cost or effort to obtain.

Where there has not been a significant increase in exposure to credit risk since initial recognition, a 12-month expected credit loss allowance is estimated. This represents a portion of the asset's lifetime expected credit losses that is attributable to a default event that is possible within the next 12 months. Where a financial asset has become credit impaired or where it is determined that credit risk has increased significantly, the loss allowance is based on the asset's lifetime expected credit losses. The amount of expected credit loss recognised is measured on the basis of the probability weighted present value of anticipated cash shortfalls over the life of the instrument discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For financial assets mandatorily measured at fair value through other comprehensive income, the loss allowance is recognised in other comprehensive income with a corresponding expense through profit or loss. In all other cases, the loss allowance reduces the asset's carrying value with a corresponding expense through profit or loss.

Impairment of non-financial assets
At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of any impairment loss.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset’s fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

Note 4. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires the directors to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. The directors continually evaluate their judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses.

The directors base their judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events that it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. Differences between the accounting judgements and estimates and actual results and outcomes are accounted for in future reporting periods. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Judgements
Timing of revenue recognition associated with trail commission
The company receives trailing commission from Bendigo Bank for products and services sold. Ongoing trailing commission payments are recognised on a monthly basis when earned as there is insufficient detail readily available to estimate the most likely amount of revenue without a high probability of significant reversal in a subsequent reporting period. The receipt of ongoing trailing commission revenue is outside the control of the company.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 4. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)

Allowance for expected credit losses on trade and other receivables
The allowance for expected credit losses assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. It is based on the lifetime expected credit loss, grouped based on days overdue, and makes assumptions to allocate an overall expected credit loss rate for each group. These assumptions include recent sales experience and historical collection rates.

The company has not recognised an allowance for expected credit losses in relation to trade and other receivables for the following reasons:

- The company's trade receivables are limited to the monthly profit share distribution from Bendigo Bank, which is received 10 business days post month end.
- The credit risk (i.e. the risk that a customer will not make repayments) is for Bendigo Bank to bear as long as the company has complied with the appropriate procedures and relevant obligations and has not exercised a discretion in granting or extending credit. The directors are not aware of any such non-compliance at balance date.
- The company has reviewed credit ratings provided by Standard & Poors, Moody's and Fitch Ratings to determine the level of credit exposure to the company.
- The company has not experienced any instances of default in relation to receivables owed to the company from Bendigo Bank.

Impairment of non-financial assets
The company assesses impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions. The directors did not identify any impairment indications during the financial year.

Recovery of deferred tax assets
Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences only if the company considers it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Lease term
The lease term is a significant component in the measurement of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability. Judgement is exercised in determining whether there is reasonable certainty that an option to extend the lease will be exercised, or an option to terminate the lease will not be exercised, when ascertaining the periods to be included in the lease term.

In determining the lease term, all facts and circumstances that create an economical incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option, are considered at the lease commencement date. Factors considered may include the importance of the asset to the company's operations, comparison of terms and conditions to prevailing market rates, incurrence of significant penalties, existence of significant leasehold improvements and the costs and disruption to replace the asset. The reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option, if there is a significant event or significant change in circumstances.

The company includes extension options applicable to the lease of branch premises in its calculations of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability except where the company is reasonably certain it will not exercise the extension option. This is due to the significant disruption of relocating premises and the loss on disposal of leasehold improvements fitted out in the leased premises.

Estimates and assumptions

Estimation of useful lives of assets
The company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives or assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
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Note 4. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)

Incremental borrowing rate
Where the interest rate implicit in a lease cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for the company's lease agreements, an incremental borrowing rate is estimated to discount future lease payments to measure the present value of the lease liability at the lease commencement date. This rate is based on what the company estimates it would have to pay a third party to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset, with similar terms, security and economic environment.

Sublease classification
Judgement is required to determine the classification of the sublease as either an operating or a finance sublease.

Lease make good provision
A provision has been made for the present value of anticipated costs for future restoration of leased premises. The provision includes future cost estimates associated with closure of the premises. The calculation of this provision requires assumptions such as application of closure dates and cost estimates. The provision recognised for each site is periodically reviewed and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time. Changes to the estimated future costs for sites are recognised in the statement of financial position by adjusting the asset and the provision. Reductions in the provision that exceed the carrying amount of the asset will be recognised in profit or loss.

Note 5. Economic dependency

The company has entered into a franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank that governs the management of the Community Bank. The company is economically dependent on the ongoing receipt of income under the franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank. The directors have no reason to believe a new franchise arrangement under mutually acceptable terms will not be forthcoming following expiry in July 2025.

The company operates as a franchise of Bendigo Bank, using the name "Bendigo Bank" and the logo and system of operations of Bendigo Bank. The company manages the Community Bank on behalf of Bendigo Bank, however all transactions with customers conducted through the Community Bank are effectively conducted between the customers and Bendigo Bank.

All deposits are made with Bendigo Bank, and all personal and investment products are products of Bendigo Bank, with the company facilitating the provision of those products. All loans, leases or hire purchase transactions, issues of new credit or debit cards, temporary or bridging finance and any other transaction that involves creating a new debt, or increasing or changing the terms of an existing debt owed to Bendigo Bank, must be approved by Bendigo Bank. All credit transactions are made with Bendigo Bank, and all credit products are products of Bendigo Bank.

The company promotes and sells the products and services, but is not a party to the transaction.

The credit risk (i.e. the risk that a customer will not make repayments) is for Bendigo Bank to bear as long as the company has complied with the appropriate procedures and relevant obligations and has not exercised a discretion in granting or extending credit.

Bendigo Bank provides significant assistance in establishing and maintaining the Community Bank franchise operations. It also continues to provide ongoing management and operational support and other assistance and guidance in relation to all aspects of the franchise operation, including advice and assistance in relation to:
- the design, layout and fit out of the Community Bank premises
- training for the branch manager and other employees in banking, management systems and interface protocol
- methods and procedures for the sale of products and provision of services
- security and cash logistic controls
- calculation of company revenue and payment of many operating and administrative expenses
- the formulation and implementation of advertising and promotional programs
- sales techniques and proper customer relations
- providing payroll services.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
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Note 6. Change to comparative figures

Classification of term deposits
During the year the directors reviewed the requirements of AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows and noted term deposits normally qualify as a cash and cash equivalent only when they have initial investment periods of three months or less. In previous financial years the company classified all term deposits as cash and cash equivalents in the preparation of the financial statements even if they had initial investment periods greater than three months.

In the preparation of the financial statements for the current financial year, the directors updated its accounting policy to align to the requirements of AASB 107, restating comparatives figures to reclassify term deposits with initial investment periods greater than three months as current investments instead of cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of financial position.

The change in classification had the following impacts on comparative figures:

- Cash and cash equivalents decreased and investments increased by $317,811 at 30 June 2023 as reported in the Statement of financial position.
- Opening and closing cash balances were reduced to exclude term deposits with initial investment periods greater than three months as reported in the Statement of cash flows.
- Investments in and redemptions of term deposits with initial investment periods greater than three months are now classified within investment activities as reported in the Statement of cash flows.

The change in classification had no impact on the company's net profit or net asset position.

Calculation of right-of-use asset cost and accumulated depreciation
On adoption of AASB 16 Leases on 1 July 2019, the company previously recognised the right-of-use asset cost and accumulated depreciation on a gross basis from the commencement of the lease as if AASB 16 had always been applied by the company.

During the financial year the company recorded a change in accounting policy, whereby it elected to recognise the right-of-use asset net of accumulated depreciation on initial adoption of AASB 16. The change in accounting policy had no impact on the company's net profit or net asset position, however it did reduce the company's right-of-use asset cost and accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023 by $18,714.

Note 7. Revenue from contracts with customers

	2024 $	2023 $
Margin income	1,428,817	1,583,483
Fee income	79,934	80,045
Commission income	159,686	168,204
	1,668,437	1,831,732

Accounting policy for revenue from contracts with customers
The company has entered into a franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank. The company delivers banking and financial services of Bendigo Bank to its community. The franchise agreement provides for a share of interest, fee, and commission revenue earned by the company. Interest margin share is based on a funds transfer pricing methodology which recognises that income is derived from deposits held, and that loans granted incur a funding cost. Fees are based on the company's current fee schedule and commissions are based on the agreements in place. All margin revenue is recorded as non-interest income when the company's right to receive the payment is established.

The company acts as an agent under the franchise agreement and revenue arises from the rendering of services through its franchise agreement.

Revenue is recognised on an accruals basis, at the fair value of consideration specified in the franchise agreement, as follows:

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Note 7. Revenue from contracts with customers (continued)

Revenue stream	Includes	Performance obligation	Timing of recognition
Franchise agreement profit share	Margin, commission, and fee income	When the company satisfies its obligation to arrange for the services to be provided to the customer by the supplier (Bendigo Bank as franchisor).	On completion of the provision of the relevant service. Revenue is accrued monthly and paid within 10 business days after the end of each month.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of GST. There was no revenue from contracts with customers recognised over time during the financial year.

Revenue calculation
The franchise agreement provides that three forms of revenue may be earned by the company which are margin, commission and fee income. Bendigo Bank decides the form of revenue the company earns on different types of products and services. The revenue earned by the company is dependent on the business that it generates. It may also be affected by other factors, such as economic and local conditions, for example, interest rates.

Margin income
Margin on core banking products is arrived at through the following calculation:

	Interest paid by customers on loans less interest paid to customers on deposits
plus:	any deposit returns i.e. interest return applied by Bendigo Bank for a deposit
minus:	any costs of funds i.e. interest applied by Bendigo Bank to fund a loan.

The company is entitled to a share of the margin earned by Bendigo Bank. If this reflects a loss, the company incurs a share of that loss.

Commission income
Commission income is generated from the sale of products and services. This commission is recognised at a point in time which reflects when the company has fulfilled its performance obligation. Refer to Note 4 for further information regarding key judgements applied by the directors in relation to the timing of revenue recognition from trail commission.

Fee income
Fee income is a share of what is commonly referred to as 'bank fees and charges' charged to customers by Bendigo Bank Group including fees for loan applications and account transactions.

Core banking products
Bendigo Bank has identified some products and services as 'core banking products'. It may change the products and services which are identified as core banking products by giving the company at least 30 days notice. Core banking products currently include Bendigo Bank branded home loans, term deposits and at call deposits.

Ability to change financial return
Under the franchise agreement, Bendigo Bank may change the form and amount of financial return the company receives. The reasons it may make a change include changes in industry or economic conditions or changes in the way Bendigo Bank earns revenue.

The change may be to the method of calculation of margin, the amount of margin, commission and fee income or a change of a margin to a commission or vice versa. This may affect the amount of revenue the company receives on a particular product or service.

Bendigo Bank must not reduce the margin and commission the company receives on core banking products and services to less than 50% (on an aggregate basis) of Bendigo Bank's margin at that time. For other products and services, there is no restriction on the change Bendigo Bank may make.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
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Note 8. Expenses

Employee benefits expense

	2024 $	2023 $
Wages and salaries	432,760	404,243
Superannuation contributions	50,675	44,276
Expenses related to long service leave	5,477	9,682
Other expenses	63,169	45,659
	552,081	503,860

Accounting policy for employee benefits
The company seconds employees from Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited. The total cost of these employees, including an allowance for accrued annual and long service leave, is charged to the company by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited by offsetting against the monthly profit share arrangement. The company recognises these costs as an expense on a monthly basis.

Depreciation and amortisation expense

	2024 $	2023 $
Depreciation of non-current assets		
Leasehold improvements	20,842	17,816
Plant and equipment	6,729	5,726
Motor vehicles	10,689	927
	38,260	24,469
Depreciation of right-of-use assets		
Leased land and buildings	30,722	28,929
Amortisation of intangible assets		
Franchise fee	2,162	2,162
Franchise renewal fee	10,808	10,810
	12,970	12,972
	81,952	66,370

Finance costs

	2024 $	2023 $
Lease interest expense	7,424	8,098
Unwinding of make good provision	153	149
Other	204	-
	7,781	8,247

Finance costs are recognised as expenses when incurred using the effective interest rate.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 8. Expenses (continued)

Leases recognition exemption

	2024 $	2023 $
Expenses relating to low-value leases	6,070	6,750
Expenses relating to short-term leases	1,636	1,637
	7,706	8,387

The company pays for the right to use a self-storage unit. The lease agreement is expired and continues on existing terms on a month-by-month basis with no significant penalty for termination. As such the lease has been assessed as short term and exempted from recognition under *AASB 16 leases*. Expenses relating to short term exempt leases are included in occupancy and associated costs expenses.

Charitable donations, sponsorships and grants expense

	2024 $	2023 $
Direct donation, sponsorship and grant payments	78,561	201,782
Contribution to the Community Enterprise Foundation™	645,546	747,046
	724,107	948,828

The overarching philosophy of the Community Bank model, is to support the local community in which the company operates. This is achieved by circulating the flow of financial capital into the local economy through community contributions (such as donations, sponsorships and grants).

The funds contributed to and held by the Community Enterprise Foundation™ (CEF) are available for distribution as grants to eligible applicants for a specific purpose in consultation with the directors.

When the company pays a contribution in to the CEF, the company loses control over the funds at that point. While the directors are involved in the payment of grants, the funds are not refundable to the company.

Note 9. Income tax

	2024 $	2023 $
Income tax expense		
Current tax	32,738	35,422
Movement in deferred tax	(2,820)	7,051
Aggregate income tax expense	29,918	42,473
Prima facie income tax reconciliation		
Profit before income tax expense	115,823	168,004
Tax at the statutory tax rate of 25%	28,956	42,001
Tax effect of:		
Non-deductible expenses	962	472
Income tax expense	29,918	42,473

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
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Note 9. Income tax (continued)

	2024 $	2023 $
Deferred tax assets/(liabilities)		
Property, plant and equipment	(26,528)	(28,636)
Right-of-use assets	(47,450)	(51,724)
Lease liabilities	50,767	54,145
Provision for lease make good	1,113	1,071
Accrued expenses	1,023	1,249
Deferred tax liability	(21,075)	(23,895)

	2024 $	2023 $
Income tax refund due	4,807	-

	2024 $	2023 $
Provision for income tax	-	18,673

Accounting policy for income tax
The income tax expense or benefit for the period is the tax payable on that period's taxable income based on the applicable income tax rate adjusted by the changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences, unused tax losses and the adjustment recognised for prior periods, where applicable.

Accounting policy for current tax
Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at amounts expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities. It is calculated using tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Accounting policy for deferred tax
The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised.

Note 10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 $	2023 $
Cash at bank and on hand	30,961	44,537

Note 11. Trade and other receivables

	2024 $	2023 $
Trade receivables	98,089	110,730
Other receivables and accruals	24,213	34,923
Prepayments	8,765	7,889
	32,978	42,812
	131,067	153,542

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
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Note 11. Trade and other receivables (continued)

Accounting policy for trade and other receivables
Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected credit losses. The company's trade receivables are limited to the monthly profit share distribution from Bendigo Bank, which is received 10 business days post month end.

Note 12. Investments

	2024 $	2023 $
Current assets		
Term deposits	437,501	317,811

Note 13. Property, plant and equipment

	2024 $	2023 $
Leasehold improvements - at cost	322,200	289,356
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(158,760)	(137,918)
	163,440	151,438
Plant and equipment - at cost	146,087	128,346
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(95,528)	(88,798)
	50,559	39,548
Motor vehicles - at cost	43,680	43,680
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(11,616)	(927)
	32,064	42,753
	246,063	233,739

Reconciliations of the carrying values at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

	Leasehold improvements $	Plant and equipment $	Motor Vehicle $	Total $
Balance at 1 July 2022	151,568	39,855	-	191,423
Additions	17,686	5,419	43,680	66,785
Depreciation	(17,816)	(5,726)	(927)	(24,469)
Balance at 30 June 2023	151,438	39,548	42,753	233,739
Additions	32,844	17,740	-	50,584
Depreciation	(20,842)	(6,729)	(10,689)	(38,260)
Balance at 30 June 2024	163,440	50,559	32,064	246,063

Accounting policy for property, plant and equipment
Property, plant and equipment are measured at cost or fair value as applicable, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

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Note 13. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Depreciation is calculated on a diminishing value and straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment over their expected useful lives as follows:

Leasehold improvements	10 years
Plant and equipment	2 to 10 years
Motor vehicle	4 years

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the assets.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

Note 14. Right-of-use assets

	2024 $	**2023 $**
Land and buildings - right-of-use	322,214	308,586
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(132,412)	(101,690)
	189,802	206,896

Reconciliations of the carrying values at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

	Land and buildings $
Balance at 1 July 2022	187,341
Remeasurement adjustments	13,316
Transfers in/(out)	35,168
Depreciation expense	(28,929)
Balance at 30 June 2023	206,896
Remeasurement adjustments	13,628
Depreciation expense	(30,722)
Balance at 30 June 2024	189,802

Accounting policy for right-of-use assets
Right-of-use assets are initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the unexpired period of the lease. Right-of-use assets are subject to impairment and are adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities.

Refer to note 18 for more information on lease arrangements.

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Note 15. Investment properties

	2024 $	2023 $
Reconciliation		
Reconciliation of the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:		
Opening amount	-	35,168
Transfer in/(out)	-	(35,168)
Closing amount	-	-

Accounting policy for investment properties - sublease
The company subleases some of its property. The company initially measures the head lease in accordance with the accounting polices in note 18 'Lease liabilities' and note 14 'Right-of-use assets' before separately identifying the sublease portion under *AASB 140: Investment property*. The investment property is initially measured at cost under *AASB 16: leases* and subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation under *AASB 140: investment properties*. The separately identifiable portion is calculated based on the sublease term and size of subleased area as a percentage of the head lease term and area.

During the prior year the company terminated the sub-lease prior to the end of the term and now uses the office space for meetings and hiring out to other companies.

Note 16. Intangible assets

	2024 $	2023 $
Franchise fee	93,722	93,722
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(91,561)	(89,399)
	2,161	4,323
Franchise renewal fee	168,613	168,613
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(157,803)	(146,995)
	10,810	21,618
	12,971	25,941

Reconciliations of the carrying values at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

	Franchise fee $	Franchise renewal fee $	Total $
Balance at 1 July 2022	6,485	32,428	38,913
Amortisation expense	(2,162)	(10,810)	(12,972)
Balance at 30 June 2023	4,323	21,618	25,941
Amortisation expense	(2,162)	(10,808)	(12,970)
Balance at 30 June 2024	2,161	10,810	12,971

Accounting policy for intangible assets
Intangible assets of the company relate to the franchise fees paid to Bendigo Bank which conveys the right to operate the Community Bank franchise.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
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Note 16. Intangible assets (continued)

Intangible assets are measured on initial recognition at cost. Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the specific asset to which it relates.

The franchise fees paid by the company are amortised over their useful life and assessed for impairment whenever impairment indicators are present.

The estimated useful life and amortisation method for the current and comparative periods are as follows:

Asset class	Method	Useful life	Expiry/renewal date
Franchise fee	Straight-line	Over the franchise term (5 years)	July 2025
Franchise renewal fee	Straight-line	Over the franchise term (5 years)	July 2025

Amortisation methods, useful life, and residual values are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Change in estimates
During the financial year, the company assessed estimates used for intangible assets including useful lives, residual values, and amortisation methods. There were no changes in estimates for the current reporting period.

Note 17. Trade and other payables

	2024 $	2023 $
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	326,817	231,015
Other payables and accruals	31,438	26,783
	358,255	257,798
Non-current liabilities		
Other payables and accruals	-	15,821

	2024 $	2023 $
Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as trade and other payables		
Total trade and other payables	358,255	273,619
less other payables and accruals (net GST payable to the ATO)	(24,213)	(34,923)
	334,042	238,696

Note 18. Lease liabilities

	2024 $	2023 $
Current liabilities		
Land and buildings lease liabilities	36,402	27,389
Non-current liabilities		
Land and buildings lease liabilities	166,666	189,190

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Note 18. Lease liabilities (continued)

Reconciliation of lease liabilities

	2024 $	2023 $
Opening balance	216,579	229,619
Remeasurement adjustments	13,627	13,316
Lease interest expense	7,424	8,098
Lease payments - total cash outflow	(34,562)	(34,454)
	203,068	216,579

Accounting policy for lease liabilities
A lease liability is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the term of the lease, including renewal options if the company is reasonably certain to exercise such options, discounted using the company’s incremental borrowing rate.

The company has applied the following accounting policy choices in relation to lease liabilities:

- The company has elected not to separate lease and non-lease components when calculating the lease liability for property leases.
- The company has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases and low-value assets, which include the company’s lease of information technology equipment. The company recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The company's lease portfolio includes:

Lease	Discount rate	Non-cancellable term	Renewal options available	Reasonably certain to exercise options	Lease term end date used in calculations
Branch	3.54%	5 years	1 x 5 years	Yes	July 2030

Note 19. Issued capital

	2024 Shares	2023 Shares	2024 $	2023 $
Ordinary shares - fully paid	650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Less: Equity raising costs	-	-	(31,106)	(31,106)
	650,000	650,000	618,894	618,894

Accounting policy for issued capital
Ordinary shares are recognised at the fair value of the consideration received by the company being $1 per share. Any transaction costs arising on the issue of ordinary shares are recognised directly in equity as a reduction of the share proceeds received.

Rights attached to issued capital

Ordinary shares
Voting rights
Subject to some limited exceptions, each member has the right to vote at a general meeting.

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Note 19. Issued capital (continued)

On a show of hands or a poll, each member attending the meeting (whether they are attending the meeting in person or by attorney, corporate representative or proxy) has one vote, regardless of the number of shares held. However, where a person attends a meeting in person and is entitled to vote in more than one capacity (for example, the person is a member and has also been appointed as proxy for another member) that person may only exercise one vote on a show of hands. On a poll, that person may exercise one vote as a member and one vote for each other member that person represents as duly appointed attorney, corporate representative or proxy.

The purpose of giving each member only one vote, regardless of the number of shares held, is to reflect the nature of the company as a community based company, by providing that all members of the community who have contributed to the establishment and ongoing operation of the Community Bank branch have the same ability to influence the operation of the company.

Dividends
Generally, dividends are payable to members in proportion to the amount of the share capital paid up on the shares held by them, subject to any special rights and restrictions for the time being attaching to shares. The franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank contains a limit on the level of profits or funds that may be distributed to shareholders. There is also a restriction on the payment of dividends to certain shareholders if they have a prohibited shareholding interest (see below).

Transfer
Generally, ordinary shares are freely transferable. However, the directors have a discretion to refuse to register a transfer of shares.

Subject to the foregoing, shareholders may transfer shares by a proper transfer effected in accordance with the company's constitution and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Prohibited shareholding interest
A person must not have a prohibited shareholding interest in the company.

In summary, a person has a prohibited shareholding interest if any of the following applies:

- They control or own 10% or more of the shares in the company (the "10% limit").
- In the opinion of the board they do not have a close connection to the community or communities in which the company predominantly carries on business (the "close connection test").
- Where the person is a shareholder, after the transfer of shares in the company to that person the number of shareholders in the company is (or would be) lower than the base number (the "base number test"). The base number is 316. As at the date of this report, the company had 336 shareholders (2023: 336 shareholders).

As with voting rights, the purpose of this prohibited shareholding provision is to reflect the community-based nature of the company.

Where a person has a prohibited shareholding interest, the voting and dividend rights attaching to the shares in which the person (and their associates) has a prohibited shareholding interest in are suspended.

The board has the power to request information from a person who has (or is suspected by the board of having) a legal or beneficial interest in any shares in the company or any voting power in the company, for the purpose of determining whether a person has a prohibited shareholding interest. If the board becomes aware that a member has a prohibited shareholding interest, it must serve a notice requiring the member (or the member's associate) to dispose of the number of shares the board considers necessary to remedy the breach. If a person fails to comply with such a notice within a specified period (that must be between three and six months), the board is authorised to sell the specified shares on behalf of that person. The holder will be entitled to the consideration from the sale of the shares, less any expenses incurred by the board in selling or otherwise dealing with those shares.

In the constitution, members acknowledge and recognise that the exercise of the powers given to the board may cause considerable disadvantage to individual members, but that such a result may be necessary to enforce the prohibition.

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Note 20. Capital management

The board's policy is to maintain a strong capital base so as to sustain future development of the company. The board monitor the return on capital and the level of distributions to shareholders. Capital is represented by total equity as recorded in the statement of financial position.

In accordance with the franchise agreement, in any 12 month period the funds distributed to shareholders shall not exceed the distribution limit.

The distribution limit is the greater of:
- 20% of the profit or funds of the company otherwise available for distribution to shareholders in that 12 month period; and
- subject to the availability of distributable profits, the relevant rate of return multiplied by the average level of share capital of the company over that 12 month period where the relevant rate of return is equal to the weighted average interest rate on 90 day bank bills over that 12 month period plus 5%.

The board is managing the growth of the business in line with this requirement. There are no other externally imposed capital requirements, although the nature of the company is such that amounts will be paid in the form of charitable donations and sponsorship. Charitable donations and sponsorship paid for the financial year can be seen in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive Income.

There were no changes in the company's approach to capital management during the year.

Note 21. Dividends

The following dividends were provided for and paid to shareholders during the financial year as presented in the Statement of changes in equity and Statement of cash flows.

	2024 $	2023 $
Fully franked dividend of 10 cents per share (2023: 7 cents)	65,000	45,500

Franking credits

	2024 $	2023 $
Franking account balance at the beginning of the financial year	6,875	-
Franking credits (debits) arising from income taxes paid (refunded)	51,415	22,042
Franking debits from the payment of franked distributions	(21,667)	(15,167)
	36,623	6,875
Franking transactions that will arise subsequent to the financial year end:		
Balance at the end of the financial year	36,623	6,875
Franking credits (debits) that will arise from payment (refund) of income tax	4,579	23,256
Franking credits available for future reporting periods	41,202	30,131

The ability to utilise franking credits is dependent upon the company's ability to declare dividends. The tax rate at which future dividends will be franked is 25%.

Accounting policy for dividends
Dividends are recognised when declared during the financial year and no longer at the discretion of the company.

Note 22. Financial risk management

Financial risk management objectives
The company's financial instruments include trade receivables and payables, cash and cash equivalents, investments and lease liabilities. The company does not have any derivatives.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 22. Financial risk management (continued)

The directors are responsible for monitoring and managing the financial risk exposure of the company, to which end it monitors the financial risk management policies and exposures and approves financial transactions within the scope of its authority.

The directors have identified that the only significant financial risk exposures of the company are liquidity and market (price) risk. Other financial risks are not significant to the company due to the following factors:

- The company has no foreign exchange risk as all of its account balances and transactions are in Australian Dollars.
- The company's franchise agreement limits the company's credit exposure to one financial institution, being Bendigo Bank. The company monitors credit worthiness through review of credit ratings, Bendigo Bank is rated A- on Standard & Poor's credit ratings.
- The company has no direct exposure to movements in commodity prices.
- The company's interest-bearing instruments are held at amortised cost which have fair values that approximate their carrying value since all cash and payables have maturity dates within 12 months.
- The company has no borrowings.

Further details regarding the categories of financial instruments held by the company that hold such exposure are detailed below.

	2024 $	2023 $
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Trade and other receivables (note 11)	122,302	145,653
Cash and cash equivalents (note 10)	30,961	44,537
Investments (note 12)	437,501	317,811
	590,764	508,001
Financial liabilities		
Trade and other payables (note 17)	334,042	238,696
Lease liabilities (note 18)	203,068	216,579
	537,110	455,275

At balance date, the fair value of financial instruments approximated their carrying values.

Accounting policy for financial instruments

Financial assets

Classification
The company classifies its financial assets into the following categories:

- Amortised cost

Financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial asset.

The company's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents and investments in term deposits.

Derecognition
A financial asset is derecognised when the company's contractual right to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 22. Financial risk management (continued)

Impairment of trade and other receivables
Impairment of trade receivables is determined using the simplified approach which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The company has not recognised an allowance for expected credit losses in relation to trade and other receivables. Refer to note 4 for further information.

Financial liabilities

Classification
The company classifies its financial liabilities at amortised cost.

Derecognition
A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, cancelled or expires.

Financial risk management
The company has exposure to credit, liquidity and market risk arising from financial instruments. The company's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the company. The company does not use derivative instruments. Risk management is carried out directly by the board.

Market risk
Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices - e.g. foreign exchange rates, interest rates, and equity prices - will affect the company's income or the value of its holdings in financial instruments.

Interest-bearing assets and liabilities are held with Bendigo Bank and earnings on those are subject to movements in market interest rates. The company held cash and cash equivalents of $30,961 and investments of $437,501 at 30 June 2024 (2023: $44,537 and $317,811).

Price risk
The company is not exposed to equity securities price risk as it does not hold investments for sale or at fair value. The company is not exposed to commodity price risk.

Liquidity risk
Liquidity risk is the risk that the company will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. The company's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the company's reputation.

The following are the company's remaining contractual maturities of financial liabilities. The contractual cash flow amounts are gross and undiscounted and therefore may differ from their carrying amount in the statement of financial position.

2024	1 year or less $	Between 1 and 5 years $	Over 5 years $	Remaining contractual maturities $
Trade and other payables	358,255	-	-	358,255
Lease liabilities	36,988	147,952	40,070	225,010
Total non-derivatives	395,243	147,952	40,070	583,265

2023	1 year or less $	Between 1 and 5 years $	Over 5 years $	Remaining contractual maturities $
Trade and other payables	257,798	15,821	-	273,619
Lease liabilities	27,389	138,456	72,113	237,958
Total non-derivatives	285,187	154,277	72,113	511,577

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
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Note 23. Key management personnel disclosures

The following persons were directors of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited during the financial year and/or up to the date of signing of these Financial Statements.

Melinda Kaye Norton	Anne Margaret Harvey
Graham Stephen Dent	Andrew Raymond Johnston
Barry Gordon Pearn	Kim Maree Anne Rootes
Carmen Elizabeth Cresswell	Jason Donald Taylor
Kristopher Kenneth Eade	David Frank Cameron
Laura Jane Richardson	

Key management personnel compensation comprised the following.

	2024 $	2023 $
Short-term employee benefits	16,000	12,000
Post-employment benefits	1,760	1,260
	17,760	13,260

Compensation of the company's key management personnel includes salaries and contributions to a post-employment defined contribution plan.

Note 24. Related party transactions

Key management personnel
Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 23.

Receivable from and payable to related parties
There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Terms and conditions of transactions with related parties
transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Transactions with related parties
The following transactions occurred with related parties:

	2024 $
The company provided a grant to the Rotary Club of Westbury Inc., which is a related party due to a director's involvement.	7,000
The company provided sponsorship to the Deloraine Show Society, which is a related party due to a director's involvement.	3,000
The company provided sponsorship to the Deloraine Community Band, which is a related party due to a director's involvement.	1,000
The company provided sponsorship to the Rotary Club of Westbury Inc., which is a related party due to a director's involvement.	2,000
The company provided sponsorship to the Chudleigh Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc., which is a related party due to a director's involvement.	3,000

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
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Note 25. Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by Andrew Frewin Stewart, the auditor of the company:

	2024 $	2023 $
Audit services		
Audit or review of the financial statements	6,450	5,400
Other services		
General advisory services	3,245	3,180
Share registry services	5,223	4,601
	8,468	7,781
	14,918	13,181

Note 26. Reconciliation of profit after income tax to net cash provided by operating activities

	2024 $	2023 $
Profit after income tax expense for the year	85,905	125,531
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	81,952	66,370
Lease liabilities interest	7,423	8,098
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	22,475	(71,705)
Decrease/(increase) in income tax refund due	(4)	7,583
Increase in trade and other payables	94,216	57,395
Increase/(decrease) in provision for income tax	(18,673)	5,797
Increase/(decrease) in deferred tax liabilities	(2,820)	7,051
Increase in other provisions	169	149
Net cash provided by operating activities	270,643	206,269

Note 27. Earnings per share

	2024 $	2023 $
Profit after income tax	85,905	125,531
	Number	**Number**
Weighted average number of ordinary shares used in calculating basic earnings per share	650,000	650,000
Weighted average number of ordinary shares used in calculating diluted earnings per share	650,000	650,000
	Cents	**Cents**
Basic earnings per share	13.22	19.31
Diluted earnings per share	13.22	19.31

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2024

Note 27. Earnings per share (continued)

Accounting policy for earnings per share
Basic and diluted earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to the owners of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited, by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the financial year.

Note 28. Commitments

The company has no commitments contracted for which would be provided for in future reporting periods.

Note 29. Contingencies

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets at the date of this report.

Note 30. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

Director’s declaration

Meander Valley Financial Services Limited
Directors' declaration
30 June 2024

In the directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board as described in the notes to the financial statements;

- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date;

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and

- the company does not have any controlled entities and is not required by the Accounting Standards to prepare consolidated financial statements. Therefore, a consolidated entity disclosure statement has not been included as section 295(3A)(a) of the *Corporations Act 2001* does not apply to the entity.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors made pursuant to section 295(5)(a) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

On behalf of the directors

Melinda Kaye Norton
Chair

22 September 2024

Andrew Frewin Stewart
61 Bull Street Bendigo VIC 3550
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Independent auditor's report to the Directors of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited (the company), which comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended
- Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policies
- The directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Meander Valley Financial Services Limited, is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

i. giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Andrew Frewin Stewart
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Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that it gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

Andrew Frewin Stewart
61 Bull Street, Bendigo, Vic, 3550
Dated: 22 September 2024

Adrian Downing
Lead Auditor

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