



2023-2024 Community Impact Report

Community Bank Trafalgar & District

A message from our Chair, Debbie Di Sisto

We are delighted to introduce our first-ever Community Bank Trafalgar & District Community Impact Report for FY 23-24. We believe you will find the information both engaging and compelling as we showcase the impact we have made in our community.

What is Community Banking

Community banking operates on a 'profit-for-purpose' model, which means that profits are reinvested directly into the community that generated them.

The funding for our community investment initiatives is sourced from the profits generated by banking services offered at our branch in Trafalgar.

Our commitment to supporting and sustaining our community is not just our point of difference, it makes a difference too.

1.9 MILLION

Since opening our doors in November 2003, we've been serving our community for over 20 years. During this time, we've reinvested over **1.9million dollars back into the Trafalgar & District community.**

MOST TRUSTED

We're part of Bendigo Bank, one of Australia's biggest Banks and most trusted brands*

*Ray Morgan Risk Monitor 2022

Supporting your community

Community Bank · Trafalgar & District
5633 2783

Bendigo Bank

Trafalgar & District Financial Services Limited

Financial Year 2023/2024

Contribution Totals by Type

Donation	\$ 10,890
Grant	\$ 0
Scholarship	\$ 20,000
Sponsorship	\$ 53,642
Total	\$ 84,532

National Contribution

FY24	\$40,457,751
Projects funded	8021

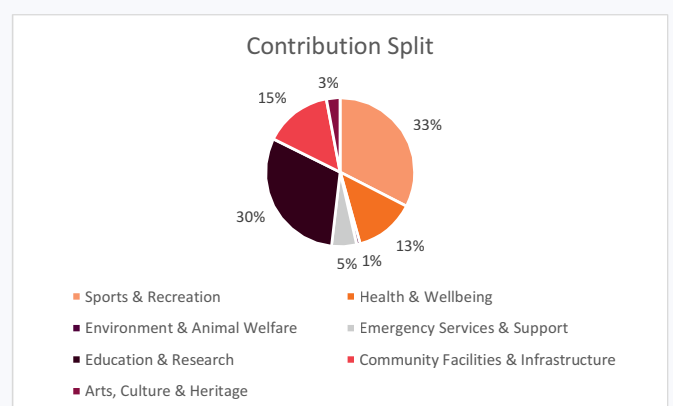
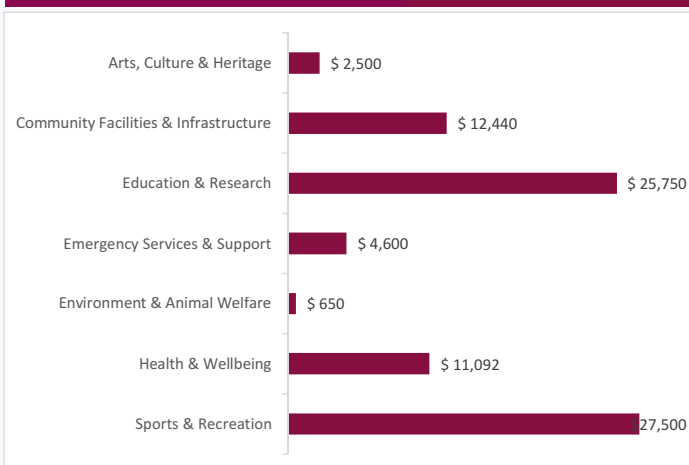
\$360 million reinvested back into local communities

Contribution Totals by Sector

Sports & Recreation	\$27,500
Health & Wellbeing	\$ 11,092
Environment & Animal Welfare	\$ 650
Emergency Services & Support	\$ 4,600
Education & Research	\$ 25,750
Community Facilities & Infra	\$ 12,440
Arts, Culture & Heritage	\$ 2,500
Total	\$ 84,532



Contribution Split by Sector



Community Bank Trafalgar & District Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027

Our Purpose

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

Our Mission

Operating a successful Community Bank branch that provides our community with customer focused, local banking services and plays a key role in contributing to the prosperity of our community

Our Values

Teamwork

We are one team with one vision. We work together, encourage diversity and respect the unique contribution of everyone.

Integrity

We build a culture of trust. We are open, honest and fair.

Performance

We strive for sustainable success. We seek and provide feedback and find a better way.

Engagement

We listen, understand—then deliver. We build our success through the success of others.

Leadership

We all lead by example. We show initiative, are accountable and empower others.

Passion

We believe in what we do and are proud of our Bank.

People

We are people centred and support our staff, board and those in the local community.

Our Objectives

Community

- Increase our presence in the community and the understanding of the story

Business

- There is a focus on growing our business through engagement with local residents, local businesses and those moving into the community

Engagement

- Our people are visible in the community, our shareholders are engaged and our story is understood

People

- We have the right people in the right roles and clear succession plans

Governance

- Our induction and governance processes are robust and thorough

Better banking. Big impact.
It's a win-win when you bank with us.

 Community Bank · Trafalgar & District · 5633 2783

 **Bendigo Bank**

Emergency & Community Support



We sponsored the **Community of Yarragon's Good Friday Appeal** in their annual Easter Treasure Hunt.

This event is incredibly popular, a group of volunteers organises a Easter treasure hunt for participants. It's an exciting experience for children, and all proceeds go towards a very worthy cause.

This year marked the 10th Anniversary for the Community of Yarragon's Good Friday Appeal and they managed to raise an impressive **\$45,034.85!**



The Probud Club plays a vital role in our community by offering outings, engaging speakers, and companionship. We are proud to be long-term supporters of the **Trafalgar Probud Club**.



The **Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund** is an organisation run entirely by volunteers, supporting Gippsland in times of need. We're fortunate to have such a remarkable not-for-profit organisation looking out for us! It is a true representation of Gippslanders looking out for other Gippslanders, and we were pleased to be able to assist.

This support was chosen by Gavin, our Customer Relationship Manager for a **\$1000** donation.

Emergency & Community Support



The **Trafalgar Fire Brigade** applied for our Community Investment program to purchase a water pump for hose testing and received **\$3,000** in funding.

Trafalgar Fire Brigade volunteers complete annual hose testing on all of the brigade hoses. At the station, volunteers also dedicate their time to repair Trafalgar and Thorpdale Fire Brigades hoses, to guarantee and maintain operational efficiency.

We take pride in supporting our local emergency services and extend our gratitude to them for their invaluable contributions to our community.



We supported the **Willow Grove & District Lions Club** in obtaining a Log Splitter for **\$7,190**, which they tell us has made an incredible difference to their weekly firewood collecting.

It's truly rewarding to support clubs like the Lions Club that, in turn, contribute significantly to the community.



To mark our 20th anniversary, we partnered with **Triple M Gippsland** for an exciting promotional event called "Find the Golden Pig," which was a hit with listeners.

Each pig found entered listeners into a draw for a chance to win **\$1,000**, courtesy of Triple M and sponsored by Community Bank Trafalgar & District. On the day of our celebration, November 24th, Triple M set up outside our branch. We engaged with the community by handing out giveaways, which were all purchased from local businesses.

There was also a special appearance from our very own Piggy to join in on the celebrations.

Sport & Recreation

Over the past 20 years, we have supported numerous sporting clubs within the Trafalgar & District catchment area. Country sport is highly valued in our region, providing individuals with support, a sense of connection, and significant mental health benefits, contributing to overall well-being and fitness.

We understand the importance of these clubs in our community and are proud to support them.



The **Thorpdale Bowling Club** has seen ongoing contributions to its projects over the years, and we are proud to have been there every step of the way. Our sponsorship allowed the club to proceed with widening the existing verandah concrete area by 1.2 meters, alleviating the congestion bowlers and spectators were experiencing.

In 2023, additional funding helped complete the works with the installation of synthetic grass over the pedestrian pathway. We are delighted to support the Thorpdale Bowling Club and have contributed to the improvement of their facilities which totalled **\$7500**.



The **Baw Baw Radiomodellers Association Gippsland** is an RC Model Plane club located at Willow Grove, on the water's edge of Blue Rock Lake. A range of RC airplanes are flown at the club, including scale model planes, trainers, sport planes, aerobatic planes, and even drones and helicopters.

Community Bank Trafalgar & District assisted with sponsorship of **\$5,000** for a portable disabled toilet for the club. This important amenity supports the club's senior members and enables the club to be all-abilities inclusive, which is something they were passionate about, and we were eager to support. The toilet is also available to locals in the community who require disabled amenities and want to enjoy the picturesque views of the lake.

The portable disabled toilet was partially funded by our Community Investment Program, the Baw Baw Shire Council, and contributions from the Club itself.

Sport & Recreation



The **Trafalgar Junior Football Club** is a local, family-friendly football club with a strong member base and a mission to provide a fun, safe, and inclusive environment for those who wish to play AFL.

We have been honored to support our local juniors for a number of years. In our 2023 contributions, they were awarded **\$5,214** to go towards storage and a trophy cabinet, where they can proudly display the club's achievements as well as effectively use their storage room.



The **Trafalgar Golf Club** has been based at its current location since 1949, boasting a wide range of members from ages 8 to 88. This diversity highlights that golf has no age boundaries and encourages great social, health, and well-being experiences.

We are thrilled to partner with the Trafalgar Golf Club by providing the funding of **\$6,091.00** to acquire a new oven for their kitchen. This marks a positive stride in the club's development, offering an upgraded setup for events or casual rounds with friends.



We assisted the **Yarragon Cricket Club** by providing funding of **\$4,695** for a bowling machine, which has become a valuable asset to the club. This machine has significantly enhanced the clubs training sessions and improved their performance on game day.

The Yarragon Cricket Club is a fantastic local and family-friendly cricket club, and we are proud to be one of their main sponsors for the 2023/2024 season.

Environment & Animal Welfare

We are passionate about our environment and want to protect it and the lifestyle it enables

We are making a conscious effort as a business to be more mindful of our environmental impact.

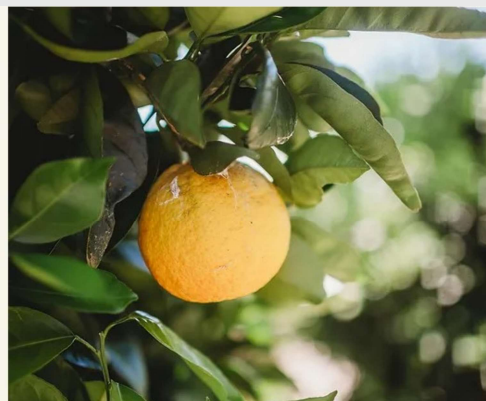
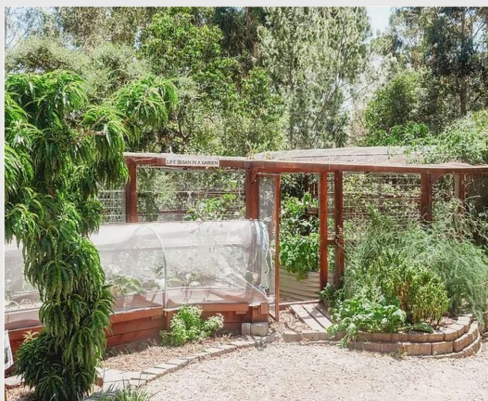
We have made careful decisions to reduce printed materials and are working to ensure that our promotional merchandise is reusable.



Creative Harvest is an annual festival held over a weekend in January, nurtured by a community dedicated to living lightly on our planet. It features open edible food gardens across West Gippsland, where participants can:

- Celebrate sustainable food gardening
- Meet creative makers, movers, and shakers
- Sample sensational local produce

We are proud to be able to support the Harvest Festival.



Pictures sourced from the Creative Harvest website
<https://www.creativeharvest.org.au/>

Arts, Culture & Heritage



The **HECI Tanjil Valley Art Show** has been running for 17 years, and Community Bank Trafalgar & District has been the show's Major Sponsor since its inception in 2007.

This year we sponsored the major prize for the winner and provided ongoing support to ensure the success of the HECI Tanjil Valley Art Show by awarding **\$2500**. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talented and creative artists in our region.

Pictured is the 2024 winner, Wendy Twyerould, from Warragul, awarded for the Best Portrayal of the Tanjil Valley and her piece "Blue Rock Silhouette".



We were invited to **Trafalgar High School** to present their Senior Music Awards, which we proudly sponsor. We gift six students music awards totaling **\$300** for their achievements.

We are proud to be a part of rewarding our youth, and the opportunity to be involved in such achievements is truly rewarding.

Noah Smith & Griffin Stewart proudly display these awards.



Arts, Culture & Heritage



We're thrilled to see construction underway at the **Trafalgar Holden Museum** for the extension project known as the **Holden Heritage Centre**. This expansion will accommodate around 20 more heritage cars and various displays, breathing new life into the project after much anticipation. We are excited to announce our contribution of **\$30,000** towards the project.

The Holden Heritage Centre will feature two floors: the lower floor will display heritage cars, while the upper mezzanine floor will host informative booths celebrating Holden's history, including its impact in Australia and overseas, the races it won, the people involved, and the generations of workers who were part of the Holden family.

Community Bank Trafalgar & District has been a consistent and generous supporter of our museum, and this new building exists in part due to the grant.

We are honored to be a part of such a significant landmark and tourist attraction for our town of Trafalgar.

Health & Wellbeing



For the 9th year running, we were actively involved in the 2024 **Bendigo Community Banks Annual Charity Golf Day**, raising funds for West Gippsland Hospital Supporters and Warragul and District Specialist School. It proved to be another successful day!

It was heartwarming to see the community come together to support such worthy causes. This year, we added another engaging activity, the “Unlock the Vault” game, giving participants an opportunity to win prizes while contributing to the charity.

The power of the three Community Banks in Baw Baw is outstanding, and we are proud to be a part of Baw Baw.

The event raised a record **\$35,000**.

The **Trafalgar Playgroup** is a fantastic non-profit group made up of volunteer parents who are dedicated to providing children with a safe, inclusive environment to explore, play, and develop meaningful friendships.

We were proud to support the Trafalgar Playgroup with a **\$1,200** contribution to help sustain their activities. Additionally, we have been actively involved in the playgroup, including assisting Santa in handing out gifts to the children at Christmas time, which were generously donated by Community Bank Trafalgar & District.

We are grateful that our community fosters groups like the Trafalgar Playgroup, and we eagerly anticipate their continued growth and success.

Health & Wellbeing



The Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre received a **\$1,000** donation as nominated by our Branch Manager, Torina Johnston. Including a further **\$500** as nominated by Director, Tony Staley.

The Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre is an incredible organisation playing a pivotal role in supporting the youth in our region.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the Trafalgar Resource Youth Centre in our community & we are proud to support you



The Trafalgar Mens Shed were awarded **\$1500** to purchase a wood fire heater for the shed, ensuring the group stays warm during the cooler months.

Over the years, we have been strong supporters of the Trafalgar Men's Shed, contributing to projects such as solar panels and a dust retraction system.

This brings our community funding to the Men's Shed to over **\$50,000**.

Health & Wellbeing



Bettermental Australia Inc offers a drop-in service providing support, mentoring, community groups, and access to resources.

During the Christmas season, Community Bank Trafalgar District proudly supported families in the local area with items that would make their Christmas day celebrations special. It is a wholesome feeling to be able to make a meaningful difference in our community's Christmas.

Over Easter, we also donated boxes of eggs to help make this occasion a more exciting time for the youth of the centre

Emily & Bec recently chose Bettermental as the organisation they would like to support as part of our staff donations in the amount of **\$1200**.

A heartfelt thank you to Bettermental for their invaluable support to making a difference within our community.

To get involved, you can contact them at info@bettermental.com.au.



We understand the crucial role of mental health in shaping the well-being of future generations. Nurturing both physical and mental strength in our youth is imperative. The **Live4Life** program holds special significance for us, as it aligns closely with our values and directly impacts our community. This program involves eight secondary schools in effectively implementing mental health initiatives throughout the shire, including Trafalgar High School.

We take great pride in being a part of changing the stigma surrounding youth mental health and contributed **\$3,333** to the launch of the program.



Education & Research



Thorpdale Kindergarten is a small rural preschool providing early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds.

We supported Thorpdale Kindergarten with funds of **\$3,000** to update and refresh their outdoor maintenance area, which they describe as the "jewel in our crown," and to continue their focus on outdoor play and exploration.



James Pettifer

We understand the financial burden that students can face while pursuing their studies, which is why we prioritise offering **scholarships** to alleviate some of that stress over a 3-year period. In our recent scholarship round, we are thrilled to announce that four recipients were successful in receiving our support.

Our 2024 successful recipients are:

- James Pettifer
- Kaylee Saddington
- Elizabeth Darvill
- Victoria Luque

We eagerly anticipate watching each of them thrive in their academic pursuits



Trafalgar Early Learning Centre were awarded **\$900** to the Kindergarten to go towards sensory toys & play equipment for children needing extra sensory support, through play.

Trafalgar Kindergarten strive to be a friendly and open environment inclusive of all children and where families can feel welcomed and valued.

Facilities & Infrastructure



The **Trafalgar High School Oval** was a major and exciting project for both the Trafalgar High School and the **Trafalgar Cricket Club**. The project provides the Cricket Club with a dedicated ground for their junior sides and the 3rd XI team, offering opportunities for junior games and training to be held locally, making travel easier for Trafalgar High students.

Partnered by the Trafalgar Rotary Club, Trafalgar High School received a **\$30,000** grant from Community Bank Trafalgar & District making this project possible. The funding enabled the school to install underground drainage, additional drain pits, and proper plumbing systems to manage water flow from surrounding buildings.



Additionally, a successful sponsorship of **\$5,000** with the Trafalgar Cricket Club funded the relocation of the cricket pitch at the High School to a more central location. These combined efforts not only enhance the overall functionality of the space but also create a more resilient and versatile environment, supporting a broader range of activities and significantly contributing to the local community's sporting infrastructure.



The **Trafalgar Park Bowls Club** is an incredible asset for the community of Trafalgar and the surrounding areas, serving as a venue for a wide range of community resources and activities.

The Trafalgar Park Bowls Club was successful in obtaining funding of **\$5250** which was used for a much-needed spruce-up of the exterior painting of the windows.

Why choose Bendigo Bank?

Bendigo Bank's network of Community Bank branches are owned by local people and operated in partnership with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. Community Banks operate on a profit-with-purpose model, which means our profits are returned directly to the people and communities that generate them.

It's one of the world's largest social enterprise businesses. Around \$320 million has been pumped back into Australian communities by the network of branches to date, over \$1,880,000 of it in and around Trafalgar & District.

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 local communities via Community Bank branches like the one in Trafalgar. If you want to feel good about who you bank with, talk to the Trafalgar team at 103a Princes Hwy, Trafalgar, or call 5633 2783 to make your appointment.

* Source: Roy Morgan Risk Monitor 2022

We couldn't of 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.



Contact the branch:

✉ trafalgarmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

📍 103a Princes Hwy, Trafalgar

🌐 bendigobank.com.au/trafalgar

☎ 03 5633 2783

Community Engagement Advisor: Moriah Taylor - marketing@tdfs.com.au

Company Secretary: Rosie Carroll - secretary@tdfs.com.au