

# MEDIA RELEASE



## TERANG CO-OP ANNOUNCES NEW CEO

30 June 2023

*For immediate release*

The Terang Co-op Board has today announced the appointment of a new CEO, who will replace outgoing leader Kevin Ford upon his retirement later this year.

Experienced retail manager Gary Tempany, who currently heads the Mt Barker Co-op in Western Australia, will officially commence at the High Street operation in November 2023.

Co-op Chair Geoff Barby said Gary was well-known amongst the community of retail co-operatives, having spent the last six years at the Mt Barker Co-operative in Western Australia.

“Although there’s more than 3200km between our own Co-operative here in Terang and the location of his current role, Gary has, for the past six years, had a genuine interest in our operation and its growth under Kevin’s stewardship – simply out of an awareness, as a committed Co-operative manager, in who we are and what we do,” Geoff said.

“And so he was one of the first potential candidates to reach out when we began our search for Kevin’s replacement in the second half of last year.”

Geoff said that one thing that stood out in the Co-op’s dealings with Gary was how ‘at home’ he clearly was amongst the Terang and South West community. “Gary is originally from Kyabram, and so has a passion and sensibility for regional communities that is clearly in his bones.” Geoff said this, coupled with Gary’s extensive retail experience – including as a National Category Manager for Coles Supermarkets; Group Manager of Merchandise and Marketing for Metcash Trading and General Manager of Merchandise and Marketing for Tradelink – made him the ideal choice to lead the Co-op into the future.

Geoff also acknowledged that the announcement of Gary’s appointment came with some sadness, as it signalled Kevin Ford’s final months at the organisation after six and a half years.

“It does mean that it’s the end of an era for a great CEO who has achieved much in his time here,” Geoff said. “But, that said, we are also pleased that Kevin’s final months at the Co-op will be spent overseeing a crucial final project in his transformative time with us: helping to complete the implementation of a new operating system. So his work is not done yet, and he has indicated he intends to be very hands on until his last day at 30-38 High Street.”

Geoff explained that while Kevin oversaw the new system install, Gary would be working with Kevin on a number of projects and activities, to facilitate as smooth a transition as possible when the changeover occurred.

“Thanks to technology, and the capacity of our team developed in recent years, this will be done by Gary from his current post in Western Australia, as he does there what Kevin will be doing here – finishing off important projects and ensuring *his* exit is smooth,” Geoff explained.

He said the Board looked forward to sharing more information with Co-op staff, members and the local community about Gary over the coming months to ensure that he was a familiar face by the time he arrived in Terang later this year.

Geoff also acknowledged the cooperation and forward planning offered by Kevin to ensure the transition between CEOs would be as seamless as possible. “Rest assured we will also be saying and doing more later this year to acknowledge Kevin’s valuable and impressive contribution to our organisation and wider community,” he promised.

*Release ends*

**For further comment and information, please contact:**

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