

Starbucks Australia Social Media Audit

COMM2872 Social Media Communication Student ID: S4190622 Laura Lorenzini

Introduction

Starbucks Australia is the local arm of the world renowned coffee chain. Starbucks Corporation, developed in Seattle, Washington in 1971 entered the Australian market in 2000, bringing a global reputation for consistent customer service, strong brand identity and high quality coffee. Besides facing early challenges in a background where coffee was already settled, Starbucks Australia has reestablished itself through a growing digital presence, strategic store placements and convenient prices. Nowadays, it operates across major cities including Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

This report shows a comprehensive social media audit of Starbucks Australia, analysing its present performance and position in the main platforms such as Tiktok, Instagram and X. The analysis delves into the audience engagement, brand's content strategy, and visual consistency, illustrating comparisons with the two relevant competitors in the Australian market: Gloria Jean's Coffees, and The Coffee Club.

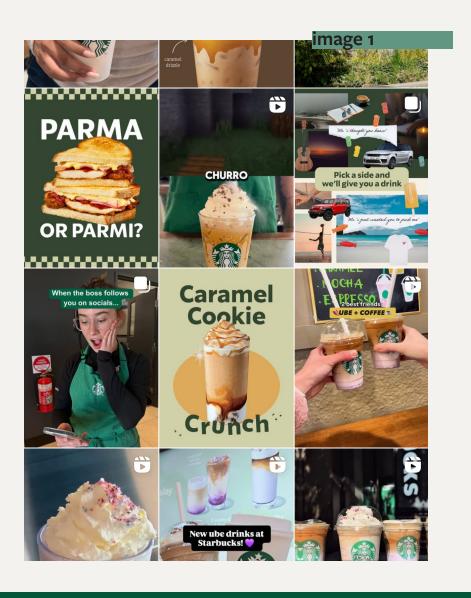
Client Data

Starbucks Australia's social media strategy shows a brand consistent, coherent and neat approach across its many platforms: Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and all the others. The brand keeps a visually integrated presence through the strategic use of its iconic white and green palette, with quality images of its signature beverages, and a consistent communication centred on quality.

Across platforms, Starbucks Australia posts frequently, with Instagram and Facebook updated up to 5 times a week, while their TikTok profile is restored less frequently, with an average of 1-2 videos per week. Content mostly consists of product promotions, seasonal campaigns, community engagement and in store experiences. The brand has also added user generated content (UGC) and reposts stories from their loyal customers, strengthening its focus on creating a community and customer inclusion.

The brand's tone is inclusive, experience driven and warm, with captions that want to stimulate feelings of connection and comfort. Figure 1 (Instagram Grid Sample) shows how Starbucks merges a strong brand consistency with a clean aesthetic to appeal consumers to engage.

Starbucks's social strategy profoundly promotes owned media through neat content and paid media via sponsored posts, especially on Facebook and Instagram. On the other hand, unlike some competitors, Starbucks Australia doesn't use a lot of earned media, such as trend participation or influencer collaborations. This can restrict organic engagement, particularly on platforms like TikTok, where algorithm driven visibility and relatability determine reach.



Starbucks Social Channels

Figure 1

	FIGURE 1: <u>STARBUCKS.AU</u> SOCIAL CHANNELS											
Channel	URL	Profile Name	Profile Picture / Header	Followe rs	Post Frequency	Description/Info	ER					
Instagram	https://ww w.instagra m.com/st arbucksa u/	@starbucksa u	Australia	103.22	3-5 times a week	To inspire and nurture the human spirit — one person, one cup and one neighbourhood at a time. Proudly Australian owned and operated.	0.36%					
Facebook	https://ww w.faceboo k.com/Sta rbucksAt HomeAU	@starbucks AtHomeAU	Australia	104.09	3-5 times a week	For more informations and to find our nearest store, visit: https://www.starbucks.com.au/	0.36%					
TikTok	https://ww w.tiktok.c om/@star bucksau	@Starbucks au		1010	1-2 videos a week	Starbucks Australia Official	10%					
Linkedin	https://ww w.linkedin .com/com pany/star bucks-aus tralia/	Starbucks Australia	TM TM	6020	Once a month	With our partners, our coffee and our customers at our core	10%					

Table 1 combines Starbucks Australia's presence across its four platforms: Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Linkedin, detailing their profile pictures, follower counts, posting frequency and engagement rates (ER).

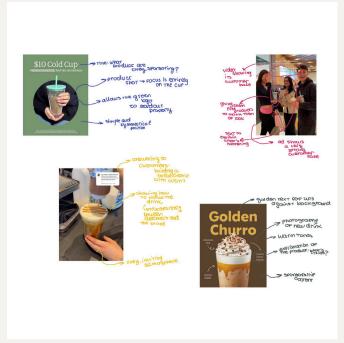
- Instagram/Facebook -> shows a high number of followers (104k) with similar post frequencies (3-5 times a week) with an ER of 0.36%. This is a low percentage, indicating a strong brand awareness but with a limited active engagement, probably due to a strong amount of promotional content instead of an interactive or trend-driven.
- TikTok -> 1000 followers, post 1-2 videos per week achieving a maximum of 10% ER. This shows that even if the audience is smaller, its content works better, probably due to TikTok algorithm preferring visually engaging and relatable videos.
- Linkedin -> posting once a month to a 6020 follower base, also reaches a high 10% ER, proving that employer branding content motivates strong interactions with a professional audience.

Social Channels

Figure 2

					U						
	FIGURE 2: @StarbucksAU Instagram Content										
POST	Post Date	URL	Caption	Likes	Co mm ents	Best comment	ER				
\$10 Cold Cup	08.08.25	https://www .instagram. .com/p/DNC wGJlqrup/	Don't miss out on snagging one of our leconic Cold Cups for just \$10 when you purchase any handcrafted beverage. Sip, sip, hooray! Signature (T&Cs apply).	138	,	,	0.13%				
	05.08.25	https://www instagram, com/p/DM8 ZqYITHP3/	You asked, we delivered! Comment below what custom beverage we should make next	182	5	*Starbucks pls I need the pumpkin spice cream cold brew back. I had 17 last season. I need more."	0.18%				
	31.07.25	https://www .instagram. com/p/DM wMLbUsjoj/	We recently reached 100k followers! It to fund we went to @Chadstone au and handed out goodies like free Cold Cups and vouchers. Which store should we head to next? Drop your suggestions in the comments.	270	40	"How about Murdoch, Piara Waters, Mandurah, Ellenbrook, Clarkson or Butler? ""	0.30%				
Golden Churro	27.07.25	https://www .instagram. .com/p/DMI 48SIR/H8/	*Cue the angels singing* = Churro meets coffee in the new Golden Churro range. This dip is pure heaven, case closed.	893	10	"I've tried this and def wasn't my fav :/"	0.87%				

Figure 3



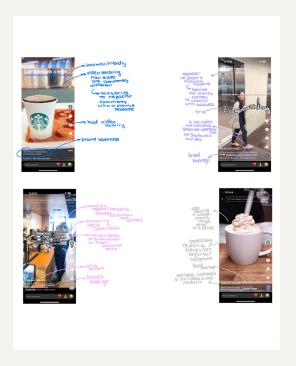


Figure 4

	Figure 5						
Post	Post date	URL	Caption	Numbe r of likes	Number of comments	Best comment	ER
	06.02.25	https://www.tik tok.com/@sta rbucksau/vide o/7511114120 859503880	DEBUNKE D! #sterbucksa u #sterbucksa ustralia	58	2	'Can you PLEASE come to canberra, like the Woden area, I beg'	%5.9
Andrew Control	23.05.25	https://www.tik tok.com/@sta rhucksau/vide o/7507442973 437742354	Perfect morning routine = Jans + Matcha ** #atarbuckaa ustralia #atarbuckaa u #matcha	47	D	,	%4.6
	05.05.25	https://www.tik tok.com/@sta rhucksau/vide o/7500710100 772900104	that's us #starbucksa ustralla #starbucks #nametrend	89	1	Hey that's my Starbucks I go to like everyday	%8.9
	22.08.24	https://www.tik tok.nom/@sta rbucksau/vide o/74020619 547610374	A creamy, toasty Burnt Caramel Latte is all you need #starbucksa u #burntoars mel #carameliat te #fyp	27	0	,	%2.6

Competitor Data

At first, both competitors The Coffee Club and Gloria Jean's Coffees show a different creative direction for their social media presence. The Coffee Club's channels (see Figure 4) show a brand-led aesthetic consistency among TikTok, Facebook and Instagram. Each platform has the same themes and messaging focused on "Good Times, Great Coffee" ethos, strengthening a premium cafe position. While Gloria Jean's channels (Figure 7) are less united, varying in bio structure and the visual approach between platforms. While the brand identity is still recognisable, the theme changes in each channel. For example, TikTok has more relatable and lifestyle content, while Instagram has more of a product centric approach.

Both brands use the trend based content to connect with their consumers, The Coffee Club focuses on a limited edition product launches and experiential promotions. By the creation of inspiring cafe moments they encourage in-person visits. Gloria Jean's Coffee also likes to be part of trend based content, like using POV storytelling connecting products into lifestyle moments as shown in the next table or styling chilled drinks as "accessories". These strategies work with a younger demographic responding to culturally relevant and relatable content.

Both competitors encourage a community through interactive campaigns and comment responses. The Coffee Club's posts and events foster a direct customer interaction, while Gloria Jean's themed product drops issue content that drives user participation. This two way engagement strengthens the brand's relationship with customers, positioning both companies as audience focused and approachable within Australia's coffeehouse market.

The Coffee Club

FIGURE 4: THE COFFEE CLUB SOCIAL CHANNELS										
Channel	URL	Profile Name	Profile Picture	Followers	Post Frequen cy	Description / Info	ER			
Instagram	https://www.i nstagram.co m/thecoffee clubaustralia ¿	TheCoffee clubaustra lia	coffee clus	41.8k	1 per day	Australian Feel Good Cafes. Filling Cups & Hearts Since '89. #TCC Download & Join The Club App]	0.17%			
Facebook	https://www. facebook.co m/tocau	The Coffee Club Australia	COFFEE CLUE	104.255	1 per day	Australian Feel Good Cafés. Filling Cups & Hearts Since '89. #TCC Download & Join The Club App.	0.01%			
TikTok	https://www. tiktok.com/ @thecoffeed lubaustralia	Thecoffee clubaustra lia	COFFEE CLUB.	2290	Once per month	Filling Cups & Hearts Since '89. #TO0	1.04%			
Linkedin	https://www.linkedin.com/ company/th ecoffeecluba ustralia/abo ut/	The Coffee Club Australia	COFFEE CLUE.	5k	Once per month	The meeting place for small moments that matter.	1.2%			
Youtube	https://www. youtube.co m/c/thecoffe eclub	Thecoffee club	COFFEE CLUB	4.340	never	The Coffee Club is Australias largest home-grown cefé group with over 400 stores across Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, New Caledonia and China, serving more than 40 million cups of coffee every year and employing more than 6,000 staff.	/			

Table 4 shows The Coffee Club Australia's presence across its main social media platforms: Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and Linkedin posting frequency, follower counts, brand descriptions or engagement rates (ER).

Instagram and Facebook -> strong customer base (Instagram: 41.8k, Facebook: 104k), with a consistent posting frequency of 3-4 times a week. Engagement rates (ER) are still low TikTok (2290 followers) -> posts with an average of once a week and has a higher ER of 1.04%, suggesting a stronger resonance on video platforms, probably due to its use of aesthetic beverage content, trend integration and behind the scenes preparation.

Linkedin -> has a smaller audience (4340), but still has more followers than TikTok. The ER is not present because the brand has never posted on the website.

STARBUCKS

	FIGURE 5: THE COFFEE CLUB INSTAGRAM											
Post	Post Date	URL	Caption	Likes	Comme nts	Best Comment	ER					
on correction	08.08.25	https:// /www.i nstagr am.co m/p/D NFTE _2tPy c/	Hello Helensvale! We unveiled our fresh new look with our Super Saturdsy and \$2 Brekkie Bun Run. Make sure you like + follow to see where the next transformation will be. Comment below what store you want to see next	83	1	,	0.19%					
FEED THE STOUP	01.08.25	https:// /www.i nstagr am.co m/p/D Mzi2t gNZ_ p/	Good times. Great coffee. Classic bites. #TCC	31	3	"coffee & yap"	0.08%					
SWEETNESS OVERLOAD.	30.07.25	https:// /www.i nstagr am.co m/p/D MuJY bjOiw o/	Little moments, big memories. It's the little things that stick. #FeelGoodCafes	41	1	*Yum!"	0.04%					
THE CLUB YOUR WAY	29.07.25	https:// /www.instagr arn.co m/p/D MqtQ _pyYZ p/	For those who know chips are the main event, are you team chips stuffer or team side piece?	47	2	"Both ÿ ⇔"	0.01%					



Figure 7



Figure 9

FIGURE 6: THE COFFEE CLUB TIKTOK										
Post	Post Date	URL	Caption	Likes	Comments	Best Comment	ER			
	04.02.25	https://w ww.tiktok. com/@th ecoffeecl ubaustrali a/video/7 4885928 7032514 4887	8 cold drinks, 8 incredible flavours! Interest out the Summer Sip Club range at The Coffee Club. Which one's your fave?	34	2	"I Want these"	%1.61			
CRACKING MILKSHAKE	20.03.25	https://w ww.tiktok. com/@th ecoffeecl ubaustrali a/video/7 4836670 1147036 3909	Crack into the fun with our Cracking load Latte and Milkshake, with an ultra-cool, crisp chocolate shell that's just waiting to be cracked! Because your drinks should be as exciting as they are delicious. Crack, sip, snap a pic! Here for a limited time only! #TCC	12	1	I	%0.52			
MANGU MANGU MACHA METANGRA	24.01.25	https://w ww.tiktok. com/@th ecoffeecl ubaustrali a/video/7 4633832 6068132 5841	There's nothing more Aussie than sipping something cold while the sun's out.	504	5	"Meow"	%22.2			
- Tarman	20.02.25	https://w ww.tiktok. com/@th ecoffeecl ubaustrali a/video/7 4733617 2379000 3461	The pop-up stall at Westfield Southland had Coconut Cloud leed Lattes to try, and after one sip, a full-size was a must—especially for just \$5! @ hf you haven't tried it yet, here's your sign. Keep your eyes out for the next pop-up coming near you	27	1	/	%1.17			

Gloria Jeans Coffee

						Figure 11					
FIGURE 7: GLORIA JEANS COFFEE SOCIAL CHANNELS											
Channel	URL	Profile Name	Profile Picture	Follower s	Post Frequency	Description/ Info	ER				
Instagram	https://w ww.instag ram.com/ glorialean scoffees/	@gloriajea nscoffees	Gloria Geoms	21.9k	Every three days	Good cupping since '79. Chats & brews, old school.	0.30%				
Facebook	https://w ww.faceb ook.com/ gloriajean scoffees AUS	Gloria Jean's Coffee AUS	Gloria Jeans	321k	Every two days	The Official Gloria Jean's Coffees Facebook Page	0.02%				
TikTok	https://w ww.tiktok. com/@gl oriajeans coffeesau	Gloriajean scoffeeaus	Gloria Jean's	1118	Once a month	Good cupping since '79. Chats & brews, old school.	3.22%				

Table 7 shows Gloria Jean's Coffee social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and TikTok) and an analysis of their presence.

Instagram -> 21.9k followers, has a solid following with posts published 2-3 times per week, reaching a positive outcome having a bigger customer base than other cafe brands.

Facebook -> 321k followers, posts on a similar schedule but has a very low ER of 0.08%, showing that besides its high number of followers, interactions are still minimal.

TikTok -> considered a newer channel with just 1118 followers, still has a stronger ER, 3.2%, thanks to engaging and short beverage preparation content and lifestyle videos.

STARBUCKS

igure 12	FIGL	JRE 8: GL	ORIA JEANS COFFEE	INSTAG	RAM		
Post	Post Date	URL	Caption	Likes	Comme nts	Best Commen t	ER
	08.08.25	https://w ww.inst agram.c om/p/D NDC8c KousK/	The obsession is real. Iced Matcha = smooth, creamy, and worth every sip What's your go-to matcha moment?	31	1	1	0.14%
WHAT IS YOUR FAVE DRINK TO MAKET	05.08.25	https://w ww.inst agram.c om/p/D M7S3x Nv_6Z/	Behind the scenes at Gloria Jean'swe got the inside scoop on favourite drinks and more!	45	3	"Bless"	0.21%
	02.08.25	https://w ww.inst agram.c om/p/D M1O-G NCjMl/	Because being a passenger princess is that much better with a Gloria Jean's Strawberry Chiller in hand #GloriaJean's #AllAboutFlavour	52	2	" ************************************	0.24%
	30.06.25	https://w ww.inst agram.c om/p/D LgQna WJrw-/	Quick stop, quality coffee. Get in, get out, and get on with your day Gloria Jean's style. #Timeless #GloriaJeans	40	1	" <u>19</u> 0"	0.18%

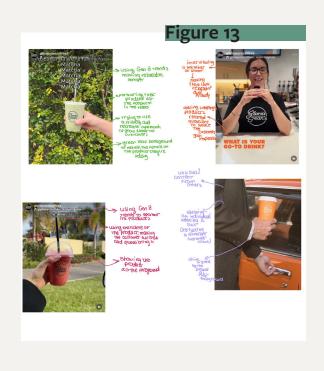


Figure 14

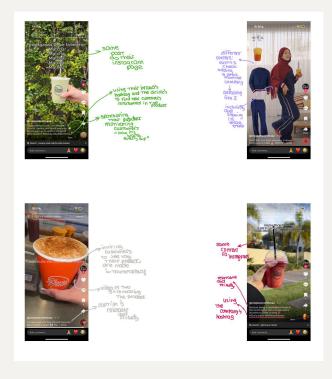


	FIGURE 9: GLORIA JEANS COFFEE TFIGURE 15										
Post	Post Date	URL	Caption	Likes	Comments	Best Comment	ER				
	08.08.25	https://www. tiktok.com/ @gloriajean scoffeesau/ video/75357 6193038075 8277	The obsession is real. Iced Matcha = smooth, creamy, and worth every sip. What's your go-to matcha moment? #GloriaJean's #Matcha #AllAboutFlavour	34	1	/	3.04%				
	14.05.25	https://www. tiktok.com/ @gloriajean scoffeesau/ video/75040 8438104519 8086	Proof that your best accessory is always a Gloria Jean's Chiller * #OOTD #Timeless	3	1	1	0.26%				
	05.03.25	https://www. tiktok.com/ @gloriajean scoffeesau/ video/75000 0247194362 1894	A sneak peak into how the cult favourite Biscoff latte is made •• The @gjcravenhall girls show us how it's done	8	1	1	0.71%				
	08.02.25	https://www. tiktok.com/ @gloriajean scoffeesau/ video/75337 7122879283 5384	Because being a passenger princess is that much better with a Gloria Jean's Strawberry Chiller in hand #GloriaJean's #AllAboutFlavour	28	1	/	2.50%				

Client Analysis

Starbucks Australia's social media strategy focuses on a brand consistent, organised approach among all platforms. With a strong following on both Facebook and Instagram (over 100k on both), their ER remains moderate (0.36% in both platforms), while Linkedin and TikTok achieve a higher engagement besides their smaller audiences (See Figures 1,2,3). This distinctiveness implies that while their visual branding is instantly visible and coherent, the professional nature of their content might restrict interactions, especially on platforms where trend led content flourishes.

The brand has a strong focus on owned media, with content conforming to promotional posts aligned with global Starbucks ads. While this results in a professional and precise feed, it risks creating an idea of repetitiveness, leading to customers getting bored of the company. Without integrating more experimental formats or trend driven content Starbucks's social media page might struggle to leverage through platform algorithms that prioritise authenticity, reliability and authenticity (Tuten 2024, p 106). While this approach ensures a brand familiarity, Serazio and Duffy (2018, p. 746) states that controlled and corporate messaging lower relatability, making consumers less stimulated in engaging naturally. According to Hootsuite's social trends 2024 survey (cited in Tuten 2024, p. 110), "brands that publish entertaining content on social media will succeed in winning eyeballs and engagement, (compared to) brands that keep on publishing the same old stuff", emphasizing the need for Starbucks Australia to diversify its mix of contents.

When compared with competitors like The Coffee Club and Gloria Jean's Coffees, Starbucks social media marketing strategy looks more centralised and corporate, as these brands exhibit trend driven TikToks, behind the scenes clips, and a lifestyle focused photography, to strengthen a community engagement and make their products reliable

Even though Starbucks sometimes features user generated content and local store activations (e.g. 100k Followers Celebration), these examples are rare and usually obscured by global brand imagery. These contrasts with competitors who regularly feature customers, influences or employees, strengthening relatability and agreeing with Tuten's (2024, p. 121) awareness that community representation and public figures enhance positive brand associations and consumer interaction.

Concluding, Starbucks Australia keeps a premium and precise brand image, reinforced by a strong visual identity and a consistent posting. However, compared to competitors' strategies, the brand looks more conventional and less original. A prominent investment in trend responsive and earned media initiatives could not simply improve the ER, but also strengthen the brand's positioning within the highly competitive Australian coffee market.

SWOT Analysis

Strenghts

- -> Starbucks is really well known with a strong international reputation, having this recognition strengthens loyalty and customer trust in Australia
- -> Starbucks keeps a coherent brand identity among platforms, from its premium to its green logo, this creates an inspirational image (Tuten, 2024, p.139).
- -> Starbucks influences multiple platforms (Tik-Tok, Instagram, Facebook) with adjusted content strategies to interest and attract diverse demographics.
- -> The company uses improved loyalty program data and analytics to personalise offers through email marketing and fortify customer relationships (Sutherland, 2022, p.609)
- -> High quality images and storytelling work well with lifestyle branding, strengthening the brand's affiliation with premium coffee culture

Weaknesses

- -> Previous issues in Australia due to the mismatch with the local cafe culture (favoritism towards artisanal expertise and independent cafes)
- -> Social media content may look overly professional and less authentic, lowering relatability (Tuten, 2024, p.111)
- -> Limited local storytelling might make content feel detached from the Australian customer values and preferences.
- -> Dependence on algorithm driven reach and paid promotion may put the brand at risk of a low organic engagement (Serazio & Duffy, 2018, p.484)
- -> Propensity to concentrate on follower counts and likes instead of building a meaningful relationship with the consumer base (Sutherland, 2022, p.613)

Opportunities

- -> The company could motivate customers to share coffee moments, this would amplify its authenticity and reach. (Serazio and Duffy, 2018, p.484).
- -> Potential collaborations with Australian influences or food bloggers would boost relevance and credibility.
- -> TikTok trends, polls and quizzes can strengthen engagement and coincide with participatory culture (Tuten, 2024, p.121)
- -> Explaining the Australian coffee culture and sustainability efforts could enhance a better customer relationship with the brand and increase the brand's relatability.
- -> Trying TikTok trends/challenges or behind the scenes storytelling might improve its relevance with younger demographics.

Threaths

- -> The company could motivate customers to share coffee moments, this would amplify its authenticity and reach. (Serazio and Duffy, 2018, p.484).
- -> Potential collaborations with Australian influences or food bloggers would boost relevance and credibility.
- -> TikTok trends, polls and quizzes can strengthen engagement and coincide with participatory culture (Tuten, 2024, p.121)
- -> Explaining the Australian coffee culture and sustainability efforts could enhance a better customer relationship with the brand and increase the brand's relatability.
- -> Trying TikTok trends/challenges or behind the scenes storytelling might improve its relevance with younger demographics.

Recommendations

Social media is known as "the ideal means for commercial coaxing", (Serazio & Duffy, 2018, p.726). While Starbucks Australia keeps a polished and consistent feed, its strategy risks becoming repetitive. To stand out in a filled market, Starbucks could:

- -> Make interactive content (polls, challenges) to activate a two way engagement (Tuten, 2024).
- -> Use Australian influencer partnership to boost reach and add authenticity
- -> Using humorous content, trend driven to correspond with customer culture (Braun & Eklund, 2019)
- -> Evolve a distinct brand persona that goes farther than the visuals to promote a genuine connection (Sutherland, 2022).

These changes could help Starbucks Australia move from consistency to cultural relevance and a stronger engagement.

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