

Signatories:

1. Helen van der Waal
2. Geoff McMullen
3. Jodie Hornum
4. Nominated by Helen Christensen Seconded by Noelene King **Carried**

Seal Holders:

1. Fred Mills
 2. Jodie Hornum
- Nominated by Helen Christensen Seconded by Noelene King **Carried**

Reports from Umbrella Groups:

Balingup Art & Craft Affair (financial report and on file)

THE EVENT The Balingup Art and Craft Affair committee designed a bigger event for 2019 by including Open Galleries to the existing program of street stalls, the Up cycled Recycled fashion parade and Children's Activities corner. The weather was once again perfect for the event. Peta Knapton has run the event for five years and 2019 was to be the handover event to Gill Edmeades to take over for the future. After initial committee planning for the event and successfully achieving support from the community locked in, Ms Edmeades suffered a major health issue leaving the event to be run by Peta Knapton who also experienced health problems but remained to run the event with a broken leg! Thank you Peta Knapton.

STREET STALLS There were fifteen street stalls in total placed along the main street outside local businesses. Feedback from businesses was positive. Some suggested more stalls in the streets would create a better 'vibe'. Most stall holders responded positively and expressed the same regarding more street stalls. This feedback has been noted for the 2020 event.

OPEN GALLERIES Eleven galleries in Balingup and the district were opened showing solo or group works. Of the eleven galleries six located in the village and five in the district (Mullalyup x 2, Jenkins St, Lukis St, Prowse Rd and Nannup Rd), several galleries sold works. Anecdotal feedback expressed a resounding success and Open Galleries will be added to the program for the 2020 event. Strategies will be put in place to ensure better signage, marketing and accountability of visitors to each gallery to provide a more accurate measure.

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES The Children's Activities area proved once again very popular. Held under the gazebo adjacent to the Packing shed. The weather on the day added to the success. Throughout the day an approx. 20 children from babies to teens participated. It is hoped to expand on this part of the event for the future by improving supplies and attractions to encourage children to be creative. A program of events will be developed for the 2020 and it is envisaged a children's performer/entertainer be incorporated into the 2020 event. The committee would like to acknowledge and thank Di Whincop, Wendy Holmes and Wendy Mills for their contribution to the Children's activities.

UP CYCLED RECYCLED FASHION PARADE The 2019 fashion parade was a resounding success largely because of the variety of designs, the cooperation from the participants, the volunteers, the volunteer models, the beautiful venue and the perfect weather. There were 10 participants showing several garments. The 2 participants wanted to do another parade and next year the theme will be '**Wearable art with a recycled component**'. The parade will continue to be a part of the event. A special mention to volunteer Irene Mader for coordinating the fashion parade held at the Village Green and thank you to John Bailey for the use of the house adjacent to the green. The 2020 fashion parade will be held in the Balingup Town Hall.

MARKETING 1500 full colour programs were produced and distributed throughout Balingup and the district. Balingup Art and Craft Affair has a facebook and Instagram page which were managed by volunteer Lela Scarrott.

The Balingup Art and Craft Affair annual event would not be made possible without the assistance from the Balingup Progress Association Inc., for auspicing the event and advice on financial management, The Small Farm Field Day for the continual financial and in kind support, the volunteer committee, the community volunteers, families and friends. But without the passion and hard work by Mrs Peta Knapton the event wouldn't happen. Thank you for your work.

Balingup Forest Community Garden (presented by Bronia Slava, financial report and asset list on file)

The first planting on the site of the Balingup Community Forest Garden was in 2013. Now, six years later the garden with its maturing trees, large variety of perennial and annual vegetables and herbs is a source of food for members and locals, as well as natural place of play and discovery for families and children. The monthly Gatherings were this year replaced by a nature playgroup, that meets in the garden fortnightly on Tuesday mornings. Play equipment has been donated for this purpose and play areas created. Children are encouraged to freely forage in the garden, while adults have a chance to do some watering and weeding. We are planning some evening family sundowner sessions, when the weather warms up, some workshop and busy bees when necessary. The emphasis is on social interaction, learning and sharing, as well as maintaining the garden.

Plants and produce The garden is looking very lush at the moment, with selfseeded rocket, kale, peas and broad beans all in flower. The fruit trees are well established and productive. The citrus trees this winter have produced a nice crop of lemons, oranges, mandarines as well as twelve enormous and delicious pomelos, that many of us have never tasted before. Looking for strawberries and other berries is always popular with children and the birds and us had a chance to enjoy apples and plums earlier in the year. Broad beans, garlic and various herbs were sold at the local market or distributed to the members. All the honey harvested in March last year has been sold, and no more honey has been harvested so far. The hive for the time being has been moved to a garden Bridgetown and will be relocated soon to a more suitable place, further away from

the garden as not to create problems especially with children. A donation of \$250 has enabled us to purchase a lot of native plants that were planted in and around the garden last July. This is to revegetate the area surrounding the garden, make the garden to look more interesting and encourage native birds and insects. Ideally we would like to eventually revegetate the whole area leading towards the Balingup Brook.

Garden Improvements and Future Plans Plastic tarps have been spread on the north slope of the garden among the macadamia trees to kill the grass and fennel so that next year the area can be used for planting. Large black wattle at the bottom of the slope has been cut down, creating another children's play area. A community initiative to recycle soft plastics has produced two wheelie bins secured to the garden shed, where clean dry plastic can be deposited for recycling. This initiative has been well supported, as since May 23 10kg bags of soft plastic have been taken to Manjimup for recycling, saving 230kg of soft plastic in landfill in just 6 months. Garden furniture, made from recycled plastic, has been purchased from \$1500 grant by the Donnybrook Shire. It will make a well appreciated addition to the garden and give us an extra incentive for recycling. Next year we would like to focus getting signs for individual plants as well as on signage in town so that more people can come enjoy the space and the produce. We are very grateful to Balingup Community Forest Garden members and other members of the community for their continual support. The support has been in many forms, donations of plants, seeds, cardboard, worm farm, play equipment, gardening tools, rolls of wheatbin plastic tarps, labour during busy bees or special skills and moral support through advice or appreciation. Thank you all.

Balingup Heritage Exhibition (presented by Helen Christensen, financial report and asset on file)

The Heritage Exhibition had a successful year despite the many challenges of moving spaces at the owners request. We relocated the war section into the shop front between the Exhibition and the Packing Shed Café. This required the area to be painted and blinds fitting and many items to be relocated. The small house needed to be relocated resulting in a great entry to the war section but unfortunately there was considerable expense involved in the move and we currently have a very depleted bank account. The bank account has also been effected by the lower than usual income from entry donations due to the fact the Exhibition was closed for a number of weeks.

The main exhibition this year depicts "ghosts" of a number of the early settlers. We are grateful to the SFFD Trust who in their 2018 grants have allowed funds to purchase a sea container to store our many historic items. The Exhibition Team have spent considerable time planning the Historical walk through town. The project has required hours of research to establish the correct location of a number of buildings. This project is nearly at completion as the sign maker has completed his work and the stands are being manufactured.

Balingup Medieval Carnivale (presented by Fred Mills, financial report and asset on file)

The 2019 Medieval Carnivale was again a great successful event with approximately 7000 paying adults 2293 16 years and under free entry and almost 1000 stall holders and their staff and entertainers through the gate. We were again blessed with fine weather. Temporary/permanent toilets were in place this year resulting in savings in toilet hire for future events. Also this year for the first time we had a transportable dish washing station in use. Plates, cups and cutlery was available for patrons to use instead of plastic items. Items were washed and reused providing an environmental benefit. The wash station can be used for other events. Work throughout the year resulted in improvements to the viewing area for the "Dragon Burning". Stall holders very happy with the event with some like last year running short of stock. Food vendors were allowed later hours to cater for the Saturday evening entertainment crowd. We had 125 stalls this year.

Again as last year approximately 150 volunteers gave freely of their time throughout the year and during the event, the setup and pack up. Their efforts ensured another successful Carnivale 2019. The Committee and other volunteers again worked well throughout resulting in a well organised and resourced event. The work undertaken by the Event Coordinator Ally, Stalls Manager Fran, Publicity Coordinator Carolyn and Feast Coordinator Janine all the other crew member made for another outstanding event. I must mention the support of Bunbury Regional Prison Pre-release Unit. The team from the Prison spent three days assisting at the Carnivale grounds preparing the grounds, installing street decorations and anything we asked of them. A great effort much appreciated.

The support the owners of the Tavern land who allowed us to use their properties is greatly appreciated. The use of their land adjacent to the Carnivale made it much easier for spectators view the events held there. Once again I would like to thank all involved my job was made so easy by the spirit in which everyone went about their tasks. Committee, Event Coordinator, Stall Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, Traffic control, stall setups, gate personnel, cleanup, setup of props, street flags, parking, camping, we will all remember those we worked with to make this event the event that it was.

Balingup Men in Sheds (report from Douglas Gordon, financial report on file)

The men in sheds group wish to thank the committee of the BPA for the comfortable use of the Community Centre room for their monthly meeting held on the last Tuesday of each month March to Nov. We have had a regular attendance at our meetings of between 10 and 20 members depending upon the weather and counter attractions. We have been fortunate in attracting good speakers to talk on varying subjects. Our membership remains at 53 from Balingup plus 8 good friends from Dbk/Argyle. We would like to thank our treasurer Geoff McMullan for his careful management of our meagre funds (report provided) The wall mounted TV screen has been used on many occasions by speakers and is much appreciated. Suggested that BPA buy a DVD player, there have been many requests from meeting organisers for this facility during the year for those without a laptop.

I have been acting as co-ordinator for a number of years and relinquished that position last year but will continue with the secretarial work. The organisation of a speaker has been the most difficult position to replace. Mike King, Damien Cameron, Joe Taylor and I have managed to provide a range of good speakers during the year, so gentlemen please give me some names for next year. The 2019 very popular ladies night dinner last February was held at the Balingup Tavern and was attended by 53 members and guests. This year's venue will be decided at our November meeting.

Balingup Night Markets (presented by Tim Colegate)

The Balingup Night Markets were held at The Packing Shed and on the grassed area adjacent to the Peace Pergola, every Friday evening from 2 Nov to 21 Dec 2018. Permission was granted by the Shire of Dbk-Balingup and support came from the BPA.

Each week included live music from local musicians, the Balingup Fruit Winery was open for drinks and the Old Shed Café was open for pizza. We averaged approximately 10 stalls per market. Stallholder fees were used towards advertising and musician costs, and we received a \$500 Community Grant from the Shire to go towards funding the musicians. We also contributed \$200 of market funds towards musicians playing at the 2019 Art & Craft Affair.

We thank the Balingup Progress Association for their support and willingness to act as an umbrella organisation for insurance purposes. Due to other commitments, we have decided that this year we will not be holding night markets at The Packing Shed. However, if there are some people who would like to hold a similar event in Balingup, we would be happy to do a hand-over, including the Facebook page and stallholder contacts. We would like to donate the remaining \$305.65 to the BPA, with the hope that seed funding could be available if a similar venture happens in the future.

Balingup Patches & Craft (presented by Rosslyn Price, financial report on file)

The Patches and Craft group have now been going for over 30 years and during this period the attendance, interests and goals have fluctuated and changed as the Balingup community has changed its needs. Our Membership for 2019 is 30 financial members and 3 nonfinancial friends of BP&C Group. The members pay an annual fee of \$50.00 and \$3.00 each week for morning tea, when attending. This covers the cost of rent to the Balingup Sports & Rec Committee and other minor expenses.

The group have two outings during the year, one midyear and the other at Christmas time, for these we usually try to hire the Royal Gala bus which then puts money back into the Community. The Group hold regular Workshops with local and visiting tutors. We also have a weekend retreat sometime during the year and attend the Quilt Show in Perth along with other Festivals.

2019 is the first time for many years that we have not had a Quilt Exhibition as part of the Small Farm Field Day, due mainly to the renovations to the Balingup Town Hall and the absence of several key members to organize the exhibition. We do intend to have an exhibition in 2020 as this is an integral part of our fund raising without traditional Raffle Quilt and serving morning and afternoon tea in the Town Hall.

Balingup Rail Group – no report

Balingup Small Farm Field Day (presented by Stuart Walls, financial report and asset list on file)

In our 28th successive year of the field day, we are pleased to say it was a successful day- fine weather, good crowd and no issues. Much of this success is due to the 16 community volunteers on the committee and also the many community groups with volunteers who assist in the setup, pull down and on the day. The aims and vision of the BSFFD have been consistent and progressed over time:

Put Balingup on the map. This year we had approximately 6-8,000 visitors and 350 exhibitors -many of whom return every year.

Promote clean green sustainable farming on small plots of land- educate, enthuse, share knowledge and innovations.

- Black Stump Speakers and Demonstrations have become our point of difference with other shows- doubling audience sizes at talks over recent years.
- All stalls are asked to have an education/ information focus- and many exhibitors do this really well.
- BSFFD is now recognised as Most Advanced Waste Aware event in SW. We are still developing this but feel that modelling our intent is important but can be VERY frustrating!
- Farm visits- Last year we tried to resurrect this as a separate event on Sunday after the field day and after a successful event, we passed the idea on to BADTA. However low ticket sales resulted in a cancellation. Hopefully they can try this again next year as it does provide an excellent extension to the field day and supports local tourism businesses.

Support local producers

- Local exhibitors (Balingup, local area, SW) have priority for sites
- Next year we plan to develop a stronger focus on local producers with ideas such as a special area for local food, badging local stalls, maps etc to strengthen our theme "Grow". This theme has an expanded meaning to encompass community, produce, sustainability, friendships etc.

Support local community groups fund raise

- Approx. \$30,000 is provided through payments for roles- gates, tap n go, carparks, clean up, speakers, musicians, social media. Next year we plan to implement this differently- setting out all the roles that community groups can do- with

clear guidelines, hours and number of people and ask for expressions of interest. Hopefully this transparency will enable groups of all sizes and capacities to actively engage in the field day.

- Most services are provided by local SW companies- many of whom have developed into active sponsors of the event.
- Continued grant support to BPA (25%) and BADSA (19%) with rest of funds being distributed through Trust fund Committee.

Creating and maintaining a dynamic community- Although this is not a stated goal, it is none the less one of the pillars of what makes this event and other Balingup events work and hence what makes our community function as it does. We are known as a community where people are passionate about creating the type of environment that we want to live in and where people can and do work together to get things done. This is the kind of dynamic community we have all chosen to live in.

Sustainability- The event and the committee who manages it treads a careful and dynamic balance between maintaining the vision and strong community focus and the need to innovate, change and improve. The committee needs to be refreshed with energised community members with new ideas and ways of working sitting alongside members who understand the history, traditions and procedures. We have a system of mentoring so that new people are inducted into a support role first before taking on a portfolio. We are hopeful of receiving some expressions of interest for people to take on some key roles in our committee.

BSFFD Trust Fund Committee 2019 (report presented by Russell Price, on file)

Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour (report from Wayne Irvine)

The Activities of the Birdwood Park Group included extensive replanting in the Avenue of Honour gardens. Gardens edging was purchased and installed around the gardens. The CCA poles used for the garden edging was purchased utilising a grant from the Small Farm Field Day trust Committee. General maintenance continued throughout the year on picnic tables, around plaques and gardens. The Donnybrook Balingup Shire continued with an agreed programme of pruning some of the oak trees that show signs of decline. The Shire also removed a large pine tree that was overhanging some of the smaller oak trees. The large pine tree completely overshadowed one of the oak trees resulting in severe stunted growth. The Birdwood park Group consists of 9 members.

Mullalyup Improvement Group – no report

Telling Tales in Balingup (presented by Committee Chairperson Deb Vanallen, financial report and asset list on file)

We made the difficult decision to cancel the 2019 Telling Tales in Balingup event which was scheduled to run over the weekend of 12th and 13th July, 2019! As many of you know, we've had a *changing of the guard* in the organising committee with a few of the long term event organisers having to withdraw due to health issues and/or family/work commitments. Time got away from us, and we felt that there was insufficient lead time to ensure that the event could be organised well! Telling Tales in Balingup has built a strong reputation, and we're keen to ensure that this is maintained.

We've had a fabulous group of committee members since the event's inception in 2010. As the new Chairperson I'd like to make a special mention and a HUGE shout out to Helen Christensen who chaired this event committee providing leadership and inspiration for 9 years since the event's inception. To Alison McMullen, a founding member alongside Helen, Alison's creativity, resourcefulness and positivity has contributed immensely to the event's success. And to Leonie Creagh, who joined the committee seamlessly several years ago. Leonie's background in teaching and her enthusiasm for children's literacy has been invaluable. We hope when Leonie returns to Balingup fulltime she will rejoin the committee! Thanks also to Yvette Buxton, who has quietly and effortlessly 'counted our beans' for the last 5 – 6years! We're very pleased that Yvette is staying on as Treasurer.

The good news is that we have some new committee members on board . . . although we're keen for another couple of people to join us, and Telling Tales in Balingup will be back, bigger and better in 2020! **Dates are set – Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July, 2020!** Grant funding is being sourced from a number of bodies, and we are waiting to hear from the Donnybrook Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Balingup Townscape Committee (presented by Helen Christensen, financial report on file)

This has been a very historic year for the Committee and BPA we had roughly six months working under the Shire and six under the Incorporated body of the BPA. After a few teething problems establishing exactly how the Committee would work under the new structure, the BTS has been operating like the SFFD, MC do with our own executive and bank account. Once again it has been a very productive, hand's on, very cost effective solid year. Works included;

- We developed an operating structure with rules and guidelines.
- Lighting was installed on the VG near the exercise equipment.
- Ch. Elms have been planted along the railway line along the edge of the new sealed car park at the Packing Shed. Also the south side of the road on the skate park side of the line.
- It was hoped to plant Deodars opposite the school, continuing the theme of "pine like" trees taking into consideration the historic connection of R. pines planted by the early settlers. We already have the two either side of the bus stop and on the corner of the VG. Due to the unavailability of seedlings this did not happen, ongoing.

- The 3 planter boxes have been planted with annuals, thank you to the business for watering these.
- Work was carried out to stabilize of old swimming hole steps.
- Work on the walk along the Brooke between the Hwy and Birdwood Park continued, with the clearing of logs, and earthworks on path. The native planting along the Brooke done in 2016/18 have matured especially the Banksia's.
- We purchased more river rocks to use on the northern approaches to town.
- Spraying of invasive weeds on the far bank on the creek at Kooyamia Park was carried out along with painting a timber treatment on the bridge. The Park sign was erected.
- Lilly Pillies were planted along the sides of the Shire Depot to try and hide the fence line.
- Work continued on the removal of the invasive Black Wattles in Walter Street above the oval.
- A "Welcome to Balingup" sign was placed on the Balingup signs on the entrances to town.
- We installed metal stencil cut out to hide the very ugly area between the Hall and next door property. Now that area has been beautified by the Shire under a Government grant the cut outs are available to use elsewhere.
- We had a quotation done to install solar lighting to highlight some of the large trees on the northern entrance to town this proved expensive, but the committee is still continuing to work on the idea. Solar lighting the Balingup sign/scarecrows/willow trees are also on the investigation list.
- A seat has been placed near the swimming hole and there will be a picnic table by the weir and a bench seat at the entrance to BADSA. A line of 5 Jap/Maples will be planted. The Shire gardening staff have been consulted re these works.
- Extensive work has been carried out along the Alan Rotherley Walk and the Brooke.
- Obstructions stopping the flow of water and causing extensive flood where removed.
- The path was repaired, pipes to drain water put in place.
- Limestone block have been laid along the southern edge to stabilize the bank. The old weir was removed and a new one constructed with removable boards. Consultation with the South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council & the Shire took place on site before work commenced. Native sedges/grasses have been purchased and will be planting between the water and the wall to stabilize the area.
- BHG has worked with TS to establish an historical walk around the town, a trail sign will be placed at the VC and plaques have been finished and will be erected soon.
- The 3 rubbish bins in town will have photographs on the 3 panels/per bin featuring our festivals and community groups.
- It is hoped to re-instate the banner poles on the southern entry to town with appropriate metal permanent banners.
- We will have a sign warning drivers to slow down between Bruno's and the bridge saying "Goose Crossing"

I hope I have not missed out any of the projects carried out on your behalf by what has been a very dedicated group. In closing I would like to thank the Shire, BPA Executive/Members, the Balingup gardeners for their support and co-operation. Special thanks to Mark Giles who has been working with the group and Joe Taylor for his expert input. But most of all our thanks should go to (sorry ladies I am putting the blokes up first they have done the very hard yards.) Deputy Chair Fred Mills, John Bailey, Treasurer Geoff McMullen, Peter Hicks, Dennis Cortis, Roz Benson, Wendy Ayers, Secretary Noelene King for their commitment of 120 hours, volunteering for this community most of this time over the last 6/8 months. They are as you will see prepared to continue their involvement in the BTSC.

Meting Closed: 7.45pm