

BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AGM MINUTES 06/10/21

Meeting opened: 7pm

Present: Katherine Thoegersen, Fred Mills, Damien Cameron, Bronia Slava, Sonja Franks, Kerry Cooney, Rick Thomas, Ros Benson, Geoff McMullen, Wendy Ayers, Helen Christensen, Janine Milton, Joe Taylor, Ros Price, Russell Price, Peter Gubler, Gary Hodge, Jackie Massey, Jodie Hornum

Apologies: Lucy Bourne, Anish Shah, Bhavni Hindocha, Wayne Irvine, Fran Wilshusen, David Ayers, Pat Ridley, Sharon Smith, Shelley Gillespie, Norma, Mary Robinson, Mark Giles.

Confirmation of minutes of 2020 AGM:

Resolution - that the minutes of the AGM of the Balingup Progression Association held on October 7, 2020 at the Balingup Community Centre be taken and read as confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Helen Christensen Seconded: Geoff McMullen **Carried**

President's Report:

Strategy	Actual Outcome
<p>Activity. We ran a series of Open Space/Community Conversations on the topics of Environment, Economy & Tourism, Lifespan & Living and Community Governance. These were followed by more detailed conversation about Community Events and the Role of BPA.</p> <p>Desired Outcomes. To develop a Strategic Plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identified priority projects and people who might be interested in getting involved,• could be given to the Shire to guide their budget deliberations. <p>To engage younger residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Farm Field Day and Carnivale are progressing plans to employ a joint event co-ordinator. This will be funded equally by funds directed from both events and grants.• BalingUpcycle group has formed and will open a shop when a lease has been secured. All profits will return to BPA for distribution to the community.• Health & Wellbeing Group have met with the SFFD and, although they decided to keep the events separate, they have found areas where they can work together.• I am working with Shire to streamline the Events Application process – to make it easier to run small events.• BPA changed our meeting dates to suit younger people with children – every alternate month the meeting is now held on a Tuesday at 9am.• We now have a few more new young BPA members - many joining through the new Health & Wellbeing group!
<p>Activity. BPA co-ordinated a meeting attended by Telstra, NBN, Shire and others to discuss communication during an emergency.</p> <p>Desired Outcome. To minimize the impact of power outages – when mobile phones and landlines are not available.</p>	<p>The Shire has approved the purchase of a satellite phone. This will be positioned permanently in Balingup.</p> <p>The Shire carried out a test of its generator at the Balingup Recreation Centre so that we can use it as a "Community Cares Centre". They have also applied for a grant to provide a pop-up phone and internet service. The building will be able to be used as a place for people to rest, recharge their phones and use email.</p>
<p>Activity. Townscape carried out a footpath audit and BPA collate the audit results, lobbied Council and submitted it to the Shire.</p>	<p>Shire 2021-22 budget has approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$40,000 for repair of footpath between Brockman and Forrest St.• \$100,000 for footpaths and Townscape activities.

Desired Outcome. Improve quality of footpaths in Balingup.	
Activity. BPA Executive carried out major review of insurance. Desired Outcome. To ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities of all umbrella groups are covered and that they understand the limitations of that cover. We had the cheapest, most appropriate cover. 	We summarized the insurance into a (relatively) simple table and distributed it to the groups. We decided to stay with our existing insurer as none of the other brokers could cover all of our needs for a better price.
Activity. The BPA President has been representing the community at Local Emergency Management Committee meetings. Desired Outcomes To improve the community's ability to recover from disasters.	A group has been formed to develop a Balingup Local Recovery Plan. The plan is to enroll existing community groups; each taking responsibility in the areas of community (social), finance (business, tourism, farming), environment and infrastructure. This will give us greater confidence to respond to any future threats.

I wish to extend special thanks to the Executive who have allowed me to try out some very different ideas this year.

These are difficult times because no money was received from the SFFD in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid. It has forced us to think about 're-inventing' ourselves however and I look forward to discovering more opportunities if/when we run more follow up Open Spaces later this year.

Wendy Trow

Reports from Umbrella Groups: (listed at end)

- Balingup Art & Craft Affair
- Balingup Community Forest Garden
- Balingup Health and Wellbeing
- Balingup Heritage Exhibition
- Balingup Medieval Carnivale
- Balingup Men in Sheds
- Balingup Patches & Craft
- Balingup Rail Group
- Balingup Small Farm Field Day
- Balingup Townscape Committee
- Baling-Upcycle
- Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour
- Blackwood Passive Recreation Precinct
- Mullalyup Improvement Group
- Paths, Tracks & Trails
- Telling Tales in Balingup

Treasurers Report: (as of June 2021)

Closing Balance of Cheque Acc \$7.962.43

Closing Balance of Term Deposit 1 \$12.023.05

Closing Balance of Term Deposit 2 \$35,294.18
(Profit & Loss Statement 1/7/20 through 30/6/2021)

Resolution - that the Treasurer's report be adopted.

Moved Wendy Trow Seconded Roz Benson **Carried**

Nominations for 2020/21 Office Bearers

President: Wendy Trow (no other nominations)

Nominated by Fran Wilshusen Seconded Roz Benson **Carried**

Vice President: Janine Milton (no other nominations)

Nominated by Roz Benson Seconded Helen Christensen **Carried**

Secretary: Jodie Hornum (no other nominations)

Nominated by Jackie Massey Seconded Geoff McMullen **Carried**

Treasurer: Patrick Ridley (no other nominations)

Nominated by Patrick Ridley Seconded Geoff McMullen **Carried**

Executive Committee:

1. Rick Thomas	Nominated by Roz Benson	Seconded Wendy Ayres	Carried
2. Katherine Thøgersen	Nominated by Jackie Massey	Seconded Bronia Slava	Carried
3. Roz Benson	Nominated by Wendy Trow	Seconded Jackie Massey	Carried

Signatories: (appointed from elected office bearers)

1. Patrick Ridley
2. Jodie Hornum
3. Wendy Trow
4. Geoff McMullen

Seal Holders: (appointed from elected office bearers)

1. Jodie Hornum
2. Wendy Trow

Community Centre Coordinator

1. Helen Christensen

Meeting Closed: 8pm

2021 Balingup Art and Craft Affair Annual Report to BPA

The sixth Balingup Art & Craft Affair was held over the weekend of 8th and 9th May of this year (2021).

On the Saturday, Balingup town was bustling with a wide variety of stall showcasing wares made by local artisans and crafters, a wonderful upcycled/recycled fashion parade, a few hands-on workshops and demonstrations, live music by our local and very talented musicians, a kids craft corner and a face painting station, and a creative bird feeder exhibition by the Balingup Primary School students.

The Open Studios art trail was open on both the Saturday and Sunday, where 9 local studios opened their doors to the public.

All said and done, it was another wonderful weekend in Balingup!

The BACA committee would like to thank the BPA for their ongoing support, and the Balingup community for joining in on the weekend activities.

Bhavni Hindocha

2021 Balingup Community Forest Garden Annual Report to BPA

The Balingup Community Forest Garden is looking great at the moment with most of the original fruit trees and native plants well established and the understory well covered with self seeded crop of broad beans, parsley, coriander and other herbs and flowers.

Some of the activities this year

Balingup Primary School involvement

- educational morning with the kindergarten children learning about herbs and their propagation.
- Tree planting in our native revegetation area on the National Tree Day involving all the school children.
- Weeding Watsonia along the creek with the objective of learning about land care and maintenance

Fairyville initiative

Creation of a maze and a magical play space for the younger children with donated garden ornaments. This space was used for a very successful Fairy Sandy show and has a potential for more magical themed events in the future.

Bee hives

The existing and one additional bee hive have been moved further along the garden to the native area to eliminate any danger to visitors. Another 10kg of honey has been harvested and sold to members resulting with \$290 in total sales since the installation of the hives in the garden.

Plants

With a generous donation from some members more native trees have and small shrubs have been planted in the revegetation area and throughout the garden.

Two persimmon trees were purchased and planted, berry patch has been extended, a winter potato patch was created and a small crop harvested. Asparagus seedlings have been planted and more self seeding vegetables and herbs experimented with.

Maintenance and future plans

Ongoing weeding and mulching in the areas where the plastic cover has been removed.

Experimenting with chemical free sprays to keep the paths free of couch grass.

Awaiting a result of shire grant application for shade cloth patio to create a shady area essential for summer activities.

Organising fund raising activity for plant signage throughout the garden.

We have a good membership base and a small core group who are in the process of reforming themselves with Jesse now moving away from the organisational tasks. I would like to acknowledge her initial vision and inspiration for the creation of the garden and her determination and perseverance over the past 10 years. The garden has become and hopefully will remain a welcome addition to the Balingup landscape to be appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

Bronia Slava

Provided: Asset list

2021 Balingup Health and Well-being Annual Report to BPA

The Balingup Health and Well-being event in March was received well by all who attended. It successfully completed the following outcomes which were deemed important by members of the subcommittee:

- bringing education about health and wellness to the general public
- Allowing small local businesses and practitioners the opportunity to network with each other
- Promoting local and small businesses, stalls were free and by invitation only.
- Building community by making it a free event (accessible to all), family friendly with kids activities, & pet friendly.
- The event brought in an estimated 350-400 patrons, many using the local eateries which both sold out of their 'wellness' menus for the day.

Total Members 17

There is no money in any bank account or assets for the Health and Well-being committee.

Beth Chia

2021 Balingup Heritage Group Report to BPA

Members Noelene King, Carol Bullard, Helen Christensen.

We spent time organising our storage container and visiting the Donnybrook Men's Shed who had offered to make us a cabinet to house the Southampton Grave Stone, which has suffered a lot of damage over the years being made of Jarrah. We had obtained a grant from the Bendigo Bank to pay for a cabinet. The blocks did a fantastic job, using old jarrah from the Balingup Hall and pressed tin, safety glass, and installing lighting.

Our first six monthly special exhibition was Weddings from 1920/1965 ladies where must generous lending us their very special dresses. Many of the weddings had taken place in Balingup we had fantastic photographs and wedding items including invitations, flowers, cake decorations, mother of the bride outfits.

Even with CV 19 restrictions the exhibition had good visitation and great comments in our visitor's book. We would like to thanks all the ladies who contributed so generously to the exhibition.

Because of what took place all round Australia with the lockdowns and people taking up craft work to place the time our second special exhibition for the year is all about craft and hand work.

Noelene put a notice in the West Australian asking ladies to lend us items they had make at school onwards. The response was great with parcels arriving for a month before we set up the exhibition. Only one lady wanted her work returned, it was sad to hear that family members did not want the items. The ladies donated them to us.

We have kept a detailed list of who donated what just in case someone changes their mind.

We would also like to thank the D/B Shire for their grant of \$1,000 towards the rent of our space in the packing shed.

Helen Christensen.

Provided: Financial Statement, Asset list

2021 Balingup Medieval Carnivale Annual Report to BPA

After being unable to run the 2020 Carnivale due to the COVID19 Outbreak it was decided by the committee to run a smaller one-day event in 2021.

This decision was taken to ensure continued interest and support for the event in a format that minimises the risk of financial loss in case of the need to cancel due to a snap lock down.

The Committee chose to rebrand as Balingup Mini-Eval Fest to ensure the BMC Event brand remained intact and disavow the assumption that the event was being downsized permanently.

Further, the Committee decided to ticket the event to ensure we could contact all those planning to attend in the event of a lockdown or other circumstance change imposed by the State Government.

Based on the positive experience of the SFFD we chose to use the Humanitix online ticketing service and sold tickets in stages with a series of pre-releases for all visitors who had booked accommodation via a local

provider in Balingup as well as offering presale to any individual who could show proof of accommodation booked anywhere in the surrounding towns. Further pre-release sales went to Balingup locals and Committee members family. Then tickets went on sale to the general public and in total 1740 tickets were sold to a total ticket sales income of \$42, 000

This year the committee was focused on a more inclusive/engaged experience for local families by having the school, P&C and local Library actively involved inside the event to bring more locals and their kids into the event on free/volunteer passes.

The event was organised and run by a very small group of dedicated volunteers this year and whilst we pulled it off it was quite a massive undertaking for those dedicated few volunteers.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. People particularly noted enjoying more space, and a feeling of safety and easier access due to reduced number of attendees.

As President of the BMC Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who participated to bring this event together under somewhat difficult and changing circumstances. The event achieved a total profit of \$17,000 of which we hope to return the majority to the community via the BPA after we throw a thank you event for our volunteers and carry out some property maintenance.

Sincerely,

Nadia Adams

BMC President

Provided: Financial Report

2021 Men in Sheds Annual Report to BPA

Monthly meetings are still ongoing with guest speakers whenever possible.

Numbers have been a bit lower this year due to winter temperatures.

Our coordinator Douglas Gordon has been absent due to COVID.

Geoff McMullen

2021 Balingup Patches and Craft Annual Report to BPA

We have survived another year without too much to disturb our sanity except the Wall Hanging for the Lesser Hall. It has caused some stress among those of us who chose to participate in its making. However, we are so close to its completion and hopefully an invitation will be forthcoming in the very near future when we finally have them hanging up.

We had a mid year outing to Bunbury for the day and ended with a meal at the Rose Hotel. All those attending were happy to be enjoying the company for the day without having to think about Wall Hangings, COVID 19 or any other pressures. Some of the group went for our annual retreat to Cowaramup and spent the correct amount of money and enjoyed the odd glass of wine, did very little in the way of Craft but thoroughly enjoyed the break.

Our Membership for 2021 is 26 financial members. The members still 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 & Recreation Committee \$1500 and other minor expenses.

Rosslyn Price

Coordinator

6th October 2021

Provided: Financial Report, Asset List

2021 Balingup Rail Group Annual Report to BPA

BRG is a committee established by the Balingup Progress Association (Inc.) ("BPA") in 2018 as a result of community concern at the detrimental effect on road safety on the South West Highway, and on the amenity of Highway towns, caused by transportation on the Highway, and through the towns, of lithium ore from the Greenbushes lithium mine by high-frequency road trains.

BRG was established to examine and report on two issues. First, possible use of the South West rail line between Bunbury and Bridgetown to replace the road transport of lithium ore and, second, the prospect of establishing a tourist rail service between Bunbury and Bridgetown if use of the line became available.

Members of BRG are persons of considerable expertise with wide experience at managerial level in the fields of transport (road and rail), business, engineering, tourism, and finance. It includes the Operations Manager of Talison Lithium and a Councillor of the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire.

With reference to the first objective of the Committee's charter, namely, to secure road safety and preserve town amenity, BRG has supported, and through the BPA has kept the community informed of, the work of the South West Development Commission in establishing participation by Talison Lithium and Arc Infrastructure (lessee of the rail line) in a pre-feasibility study of the possibility of shifting the lithium ore transport from road to rail. As a result of that work there has been engagement in consultation with Government on the issue of re-opening the line and the recent announcement by Government of the provision of funds for a feasibility study into further development of the Bunbury Port complex and Kwinana Bulk Terminal to support the export and processing of lithium ore with the aim of assessing the viability of a rail based supply chain assisted by those improvements.

In respect of the second objective, examination of a tourist rail service between Bunbury and Bridgetown, BRG has submitted to the South West Development Commission that a feasibility study on that proposal should be conducted. The Committee considers that the outcome of such a study could provide substantial support for achievement of the first objective.

Total members 12

Malcolm Lee

2021 Balingup Small Farm Field Day (BSFFD) Annual Report to BPA

Due to ongoing COVID19 restrictions and the desire to keep the BSFFD event alive, the committee decided to run 3 smaller and discreet events- a long table dinner, a Saturday market and weekend farm visits- and call this the Balingup Small Farm Experience.

With a small committee of 5 volunteers (Janine, Russell, Michelle, Gary, Dave) and the added support of a paid coordinator (Jodie), we managed each event successfully with many positive comments from visitors and locals regarding the changes.

The long table dinner was a great success with a full house of 80 visitors and local people enjoying a sumptuous feast of local products. The hall looked magnificent thanks to the Mitchell family's decorations, the 8 volunteer local waiters/ waitresses were sensational and music by Louise Hodge added to the ambience.

The Village Green market was a smaller and more intimate affair than usual and the ambience of the Village Green made this a lovely day enjoyed by 30 stallholders and visitors alike. Talks and demonstrations managed by Michelle McManus continued our theme of education and innovation and music entertainment managed by Gary Hodge helped to create a relaxing space.

Farm visits to local farms and properties were well attended with nearly 200 tickets sold over the weekend. Unfortunately, we had to cancel and refund tickets on Sunday due to inclement weather. Thanks to Ron Robertson, Tom Benson, Steve Milton, Katherine Ferguson, Michelle McManus, Gary Hodge, Trevor & Simone Payne and Jesse Humphries for volunteering their properties.

We thank Talison for their sponsorship of \$1850 and we have \$2,000 sponsorship to come from the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire, bringing the total loss of \$5441.03 for events in 2021.

Overall, it was a vibrant and busy weekend with many lessons learnt about running multiple events with a small committee during a health pandemic.

To sustain the BSFFD and continue raising funds for BPA and the community, we are now embarking on contracting a joint coordinator for both BSFFD and BMC. The volunteer committee is looking strong with many new faces and some new ideas about incorporating a stronger focus on individual and community health.

I am keen to step down from the Chair and eager to find someone willing to take on this role- especially important with an incoming paid coordinator. I am willing to provide ongoing support for this person to take up the role.

Janine Milton
Chair, BSFFD Committee

Provided:
2020/21 Profit & Loss
Balance sheet (as of June 2021)

2021 Balingup Townscape Annual Report to BPA

Members are Fred Mills, Johns Bailey Geof McMullen, Wendy Ayers, Noelne King, Peter Hicks, Mark Giles. Denis Cortis, Helen Christensen.

The group met with Steve Potter Executive Manager Operations for the Shire and established a new policy for BTS to work under.

Our grant for the year covered buying seedlings for the planters and the manufacture of hanging baskets. This has not gone ahead due to CV 19.

Works done during the year included the continued watering of the street trees along the railway line and Brockman Street on a weekly basis from November to May. We would like to thank Geoff for his dedication under very trying conditions.

Planter containers using wicking method were placed in the boxes and around the town. Our thanks to John for his ongoing planting, watering.

The Ladies on the committee with the help of a survey template supplied by Wendy T completed a survey of all the footpaths in the town. The results were then submitted to the Shire our thanks to Wendy T for assisting with using her IT skills.

Meanwhile the job of demolishing the old CC toilet block fell to Fred, Mark, Geoff with help from Damien and Joe. All the materials had to be disposed of to make room for the new block to arrive. They had to find all the underground services, prepare earthwork ready for the concrete pad to be laid. They put in new septic tanks and leak drain. This was a monumental task and took many weeks to complete a huge thank you to all who gave their time.

We submitted our budget items to the Shire and are pleased to say all the projects were accepted. They are the stencil cut outs representing the events and GVTP on the northern approaches to town. Replacing the banners on the poles outside the Rec. Centre banners will represent community groups in town. Canoe launching platform next to the Birdwood Park bridge. Solar lighting for the picnic table near the weir.

Replace seedlings in planter boxes.

I would like to thank the Shire for their ongoing support of the BTSC because we do the work ourselves the Community and the Shire get good value for the dollars granted each year.

Special thanks to Secretary Noelene and Treasurer Geoff.

Helen Christensen (Chair)

Provided: Financial Report

2021 Baling-Upcycle Annual Report to BPA

Arising from discussion at one of the strategic planning café conversations held in May 2021, Baling-Upcycle was established in July 2021 with the following aims:

1. To raise funds for the Balingup Progress Association (BPA) and associated community activities
2. To encourage recycling/upcycling in Balingup
3. To establish an additional attractive shop in Balingup for locals and visitors

An enthusiastic group of volunteers has been meeting every few weeks since then to progress ideas.

We have concentrated on finding a shop to rent in the main street. Negotiations are ongoing.

We have determined the kinds of pre-loved items we will sell, with a focus on quality: clothing, homewares, jewellery, small items of furniture, possibly children's books.

Through the BPA we have obtained a quote for insurance for our enterprise under the auspices of the BPA.

We have commenced fundraising to cover initial set-up costs. We have been awarded a grant from Talisons. We have applied to Bendigo Bank. There are also some funds available from another group in the Balingup community. We have held a stall at the Medieval Carnivale, raising nearly \$500. Later this month, we will be holding another fundraising event at the rec centre, with theme of a Spring Fashion Sundowner.

We have opened a bank account through Bendigo. Cash at bank is currently \$579.53, with another \$15 still to be banked.

We would like to thank so many people and groups in the community who have offered assistance in one form or another: BPA, The Medieval Carnivale, the Recreation Centre, Peddler's, Ros Benson, John Bailey and all the many willing community members.

We are finalising our membership for the coming year. I have attached a list of people who have given a preliminary indication that they wish to be members of Baling-Upcycle, most of whom are already BPA members. I am currently finalising this list.

Jackie Massey
Convenor
Baling-Upcycle
30.9.21

2021 Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour Group Annual Report to BPA

General maintenance continued throughout the year on the gardens, around the Memorial Plaques, Interpretive Panels, and picnic tables.

The Donnybrook Balingup Shire continued with an agreed programme of pruning some of the Avenue of Honour oak trees that show signs of decline. This year the pruning was only of a minor nature. The Shire has allocated \$5000 for the pruning of the oak trees for the 2021/2022 financial year.

A new interpretive panel, titled 'An Avenue of Oaks' was produced for installation in the Avenue of Honour. The production of this interpretive panel was funded from a LotteryWest grant administered by the Balingup Progress Association.

An ongoing issue surfaced again this rain season. Due to inadequate drainage, water is running across the road through the Avenue, washing gravel around the memorial plaques. This issue has been discussed with the Shire staff to obtain a permanent solution to the problem.

No funds were raised during the year and \$756.04 remains in the Avenue of Honour account held by the Balingup Progress Association.

The Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour consists of 7 members, and all are members of the Balingup progress Association.

Wayne Irvine

2021 Blackwood Passive Recreation Precinct Annual Report to BPA

No report

2021 Mullalyup Improvement Group Annual Report to BPA

The group has held two events this year. Although the group has been low key, with the new people in the area we are hoping more will be happening.

Total Members 36

Peter Gubler

2021 Path, Trax and Trails Annual Report to BPA

Very little done this year and no new projects started.

Ongoing maintenance of the Pool Walk and some trees and branches cleared from Brook Walk.

We are still hoping to employ the prison group for ongoing maintenance in the future.

The Railway/Cemetery/Racecourse Walk is still being developed albeit slowly!

Geoff McMullen, Hon. Chairman

2021 Telling Tales in Balingup Annual Report to BPA

Telling Tales in Balingup is a two day weekend story telling/children's literacy event held once a year. The event is designed for children and young people aged 4 – 13 years. Families accompanying the children are also be enticed to join in the program.

Children's authors, illustrators and arts/crafts people facilitate small workshop sessions. This children's literacy event is based in the historic Balingup Town Hall and adjoining Balingup Library. In addition, workshops and exhibitions are held in two cafés, the Goldsmiths, the Balingup Museum, other local businesses/shops on the SW Hwy and the Balingup Primary School.

Additional entertainment including a lunchtime street parade of 'children's book characters' is also a regular feature of the event. Other general entertainment includes local musical entertainment/busker style (approximately 20 locals).

The event has been attended by an average of 300 people per day but was not held in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid19. The event is being planned for 2022. It is expected that around 500-600 people will attend the 2022 event along with approximately 20 presenters (authors & illustrators). The event is driven by a committee of volunteers (approximately 6 local people) and assisted over the weekend by an additional 50 volunteers.

Current Committee President – Deb Vanallen Vice President – pending Secretary – pending Treasurer – Yvette Peterson Committee Members - Beth Chai - Linda Mauger - Carolyn Austin - Raelene Bailey - Lee (Pharmacy)

List of Assets - 2 large crates of assorted arts, crafts materials and resources - logo and templates

Deb Vanallen

Provided:

Financial Statement

Bendigo bank Account statement