

MINUTES BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AGM 4/10/23

Meeting opened: 6pm

Acknowledgement of Country

Present: Jodie Hornum, Sonja Franks, Damien Cameron, Wendy Trow, Helen Christensen, Geoff McMullen, Gary Hodge, Beth Chia, Rick Thomas, Janine Milton, Deb Vanallen, Pat Ridley, Fran Wilshusen, Joe Taylor, Jess Humphries, Erwin Gerritsen, Sharon Burke, Brenda Wright, Tobias Newman, Lisa Seia, Brooke Hamilton, Andrew Scott, Nuala Scott, Tina Ridley, Chris Leam, Nicola Rigby

Apologies: Katrin Menard, Roz Benson, Wayne Irvine

Confirmation of minutes of 2022 AGM:

Resolution - that the minutes of the AGM of the Balingup Progression Association held on October 5, 2022 at the Balingup Community Centre be taken and read as confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved J.Milton Seconded S.Franks **Carried**

President's Report 2023: Tabled by W.Trow (Annex A)

Treasurers Report: (Profit & Loss Statement 1/10/22 through 30/9/2023)

Report tabled (Annex C).

Report has been independently checked by K.Haigh.

Resolution - that the Treasurer's report be adopted.

Moved J.Hornum Seconded R.Thomas **Carried**

Reports from Umbrella Groups: (reports attached) (Annex B)

	Provided by	Verbal/written
Balingup Community Forest Garden	J.Humphries	Verbal
Balingup Heritage Exhibition	H.Christensen	Written
Balingup Medieval Carnivale	F.Wilshusen	Written
Balingup Men in Sheds	G.McMullen	Written
Balingup Art & Cultural Hub (was Balingup Music Experience)	B.Chia/ G.Hodge	Written
Balingup Patches & Craft	H.Christensen	Written
Balingup Rail Group	G.Hodge	Written
Balingup Small Farm Field Day	A.Scott	Verbal
Balingup Townscape Committee	H.Christensen	Verbal
Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour	J.Hornum	Written
Mullalyup Improvement Group	E.Gerritson	Written
Paths, Tracks & Trails	G.McMullen	Written
Balingup Health and Wellbeing	B.Chia	Verbal
Baling-Upcycle	B.Wright	Written
Telling Tales in Balingup	D.Vanallen	Verbal
Balingup Resilience Group	W.Trow	Verbal
Balingup Night Markets	S.Burke	Written

The following umbrella groups have disbanded:

- Balingup Art & Craft Affair
- Blackwood Passive Recreation Precinct
- Balo Creative Hub
- Balingup Skate Park

Nominations for 2023/24 Office Bearers

President:	Jodie Hornum	
Nominated by	R.Thomas	
Seconded	H. Christensen	Carried

Vice President:	Rick Thomas	
Nominated by	R.Thomas	
Seconded	G.Hodge	Carried

Secretary:	Wendy Trow	
Nominated by	J.Milton	
Seconded	N.Rigby	Carried

Treasurer:	Pat Ridley	
Nominated by	P.Ridley	
Seconded	J.Hornum	Carried

Executive Committee:

1.	Katrin Menard	
Nominated by	R.Thomas	
Seconded	A.Scott	Carried

2.	Damien Cameron	
Nominated by	W. Trow	
Seconded	H. Christensen	Carried

3.	Janine Milton	
Nominated by	J.Hornum	
Seconded	G.McMullen	Carried

Signatories: (from elected office bearers)

1. Wendy Trow
2. Jodie Hornum
3. Pat Ridley

Seal Holders: (from elected office bearers)

1. Wendy Trow
2. Jodie Hornum

Community Centre Coordinator:

Helen Christensen

Meeting Closed: 7.00pm

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Balingup Progress Association now has 17 sub committees operating under our umbrella; I consider the number of groups to be the sign of a thriving community and once again wish to commend the early community leaders who had the foresight to set this model up over 30 years ago. We are the envy of many small rural communities.

I once again want to start off by reminding all sub-committees that the Agricultural Society insurance states cover is provided for “**any subsidiary organisation...under the control of the Insured and over which it is exercising active management**”. Active management means, as a minimum, providing a report to the BPA AGM. It is up to each group to determine your level of risk.

The format of BPA general meetings – where the updated Action Lists are issued with the agenda and General Business discussed at the start of the meeting - continues to work well. It has also reduced the time taken to run meetings.

The Small Farm Field Day and Medieval Carnivale were both held in 2023 – demonstrating that Balingup has not lost its knack of running top quality community events. I thank all the volunteers who contribute hundreds of man-hours during the year.

Balingup Progress Association is still in negotiation with the Shire regarding two lease agreements:

- Balingup Town Hall (being progressed by BACH)
- Community grounds (being progressed by BPA)

We hope that we can finalise these in 2023/24.

A Community Trust Fund was established in December 2022 and will be the model through which we distribute the Balingup community group grants process. We will be calling for applications in October and thank the Small Farm Field Day, Medieval Carnivale and BalingUpcycle for their generous contributions.

I would like to commend the work of Balingup Townscape Committee, operating under BPA umbrella, for liaising with the Shire to carry out townscape improvements. And also Balingup Rail Group, who have diligently progressed the concept of restoring the rail line. With a feasibility study about to begin, this project will have its challenges; but I hope that good community consultation will help alleviate any potential impact.

During my time as President I have been ably supported by Treasurer Jodie Hornum, Secretary Rick Thomas and the BPA Executive Team. Special thanks to you all.

I have now completed my three year term of office (as stipulated by the Constitution) and will be standing down today. This is a good thing as new people bring new ideas and we need fresh ideas to grow as a community.

UMBRELLA GROUP REPORTS

2023 Report – Birdwood Park Avenue Of Honour Group

Ongoing maintenance continued throughout the year.

Pruning of the oak trees was deemed unnecessary this year.

There has been no further investigative work on soils around the oak trees that was started last financial year by the Donnybrook Balingup Shire. The initial work gave no indication of what was causing the poor health of some oak trees. Further investigative work is being planned by the Shire.

Funding was obtained from the Donnybrook Balingup Shire through the Community Small Grants programme to produce a 1000 new and updated brochures for the Avenue of Honour. These brochures are available at the Balingup Visitor Centre.

The Donnybrook Balingup Shire proceeded to replace the steel stakes attached to the commemorative plaques in an effort to address the issue of the washing of gravel across the centre road and burying some of the plaques. The steel stakes were replaced with large granite stakes to raise the plaques and improve the appearance of the whole Avenue of plaques. This work was greatly appreciated but unfortunately the water and gravel still runs across the road.

No funds were raised during the year and \$827.04 remains in the Avenue of Honour account held by the Balingup Progress Association. \$30.00 was donated to a local resident for the production of 60 knitted poppies to be used during Commemorative Events.

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

Wayne Irvine.

2023 Report - BalingUpcycle

Since opening in November 2021 Upcycle has had good community support in the way of donated goods, mostly clothing, and volunteer support to staff the shop.

In the past 12 months over \$10,000 has been raised and the bank balance on September 24th was \$22,247.51. During 2022 \$5,000 was donated to Balingup Primary School and \$5,000 to BPA.

Our next meeting will be at the end of October and at that meeting we will discuss the further distribution of funds raised this year.

Many thanks to Jackie Massey, Lucy Bourne & Annie Hesford for their enthusiasm & creativity. We miss them all & would love to have new volunteers.

Thanks also to BPA for their support & to our hard-working volunteers.
Best wishes to the Balingup community for the future!

Brenda Wright
brendawright777@gmail.com

2023 Report - Mullalyup Improvement Group

The following is an update for the last 12 months:

Completion of the Shed Mural along South West Highway.
Installation of the community Street library boxes in Pioneer Park.
Election of President (Erwin Gerritsen), Vice president (Peter Guber). No change to secretary and treasurer.
Anzac day ceremony held at Mullalyup War memorial.
Setting up of Container for Change donation account for MIG.
Funds raised for MIG at Carols by Candlelight at Donnybrook Park.
Creation of Mullalyup Community Facebook Page.
Coordination of the Talision Rail feasibility study community meeting.
Organising "Slow Down "bin stickers.
Seeking expression of interest from the community about starting up a Community Garden.
Liaising with Donnybrook Balingup shire to undertake repairs and improvement (Gardening) to Pioneer Park.

Regards

Erwin Gerritsen
MIG President
0417 091 399

2023 Report - Balingup Medieval Carnivale

The Carnivale returned to its 2 day format this year and was a great success with overwhelmingly positive feedback and no significant problems or incidents.

Over 7500 tickets were sold and an approximate 12000 people total through the gates including volunteers, Entertainers, Stall Holder and children under 12.

The burning of the Dragon event on Saturday night was also very well received with a record attendance of approximately 3000.

It remained difficult to attract new active members and large amount of organization fell to a few. However, the few new members who joined are a very dynamic and positive group and stand well to carry the event forward. Also with the success of this year and substantial income it is now viable and in fact necessary to look at more paid positions moving into the organization for next year. A paid admin role has been put in place and the new Committee after the AGM will need to determine how they proceed with organization of Entertainment and Stalls. This supports the intention of the Carnivale which has always been to create paid employment opportunities in the community.

A second intent is to support current business in town. All Accommodation in the town and nearby areas was booked and Linga Longa provided additional glamping and camping opportunities at the request of the Committee. Mr Fosters Café provided a Friday evening themed meal and the Shamrock hotel catered for the Friday night feast. The Balingup Primary school raised funds by organising parking.

Following the event a volunteer Thankyou luncheon was held at the Recreation Centre.

A huge thank you is extended to all community volunteers and Contributors for Making the 2023 Balingup Medieval Carnivale such a success

Please see basic financials in the table below
(Full audited financials will be forwarded prior to BMC AGM)

Total Income from Carnivale 2023	\$ 215 260	
Carnivale Costs	\$ 79 950	
Ongoing Costs	\$ 28 806	re wiring, plumbing groundworks
Other Costs	\$ 25 000	BPA Fund Insurance
	\$7 029	BPA Fund Insurance
Balance Held in Account	\$ 184 953	

The BMC AGM will be held on November 19 Nov 2023

Fran Wilshusen
BMC President (on behalf of BMC Committee)

2023 Report - Balingup Night Markets

The Balingup Night Markets were initiated by invested local residents and business owners as a way of bringing the community together socially and providing a go to event that showcases local produce, arts and craft for tourists visiting the area. The Markets are non-profit and all proceeds go to the running of the event. In March of 2023, the Balingup Night Market Committee (BNMC) was formed and a proposal submitted to the Balingup Progress Association (BPA) to become an umbrella group within their structure. This was approved at the BPA meeting on the 1st of March.

The Night Markets have been officially operating since April 2023 on the first Friday of each month. Stallholders are situated on the grassed area adjacent to the Packing Shed on South Western Hwy. There are a number of key stakeholders involved in the running of the markets. These include:

- The BNMC consisting of Sharon Burke (Chair), Michael Gittos (Committee Member), Brian Foster (Committee Member), Kate Holmes (Admin/Secretary) and Aimee (Committee Member), (Treasurer vacant).
- BPA as overarching incorporated body.
- Balingup Property Enterprises leasor of The Packing Shed
- Donnybrook Balingup Shire

Financial Report. The Balingup Markets are a not for profit community event. All incoming monies are from stallholder fees and are currently accepted only in cash.

Incomings	April - Sept	Outgoings	April - Sept
Stallholder Fees	\$540	Signage	\$130
		Musicians	\$320
		Social Media	\$90
	Total: \$540		Total: \$540

Current cash held: \$0

Attendance and Visitor Statistics. April and May markets saw approx 30 people attend and stay for a meal and drinks. Several others came through intermittently to browse and buy from the stalls. Estimations place the ratio of visitors to local residents at 50/50. June to September saw fewer people attending due to the cold, winter weather. During those months we would have averaged only 15 – 20 visitors.

Vendor and Stall Information. We currently have 22 stallholders listed with us of which all have attended at least once. The stalls offer a wide variety of wares from fresh produce, handmade jewellery, preserves, olive oil, skincare, gems, linen, clothing, tarot readings, second hand goods, art and craft. Through an increased presence on social media, promotion from BADTA, Balingup Visitors Centre, Southern Forests and South West Markets, August saw an increase in stallholder inquiries with an additional 3 committing to upcoming markets.

Future Plans. We anticipate greater uptake as the warmer months arrive. In September a submission was sent to Talison Community Investment Program asking to be considered for funding to cover outdoor heating, portable lighting and additional signage.

Acknowledgments. The BNMC would to acknowledge BPA for their assistance in accepting the committee and providing a governing body under which we can operate. Thanks is extended to Fran Wilshusen for her support and guidance in the initial planning of the markets.

Conclusion. The Balingup Night Markets has had a successful start thanks to the commitment of our team, vendors, key stakeholders and the support of the local community. We look forward to growing the markets in the year ahead as we continue to provide a vibrant and enjoyable experience for visitors and local residents of Balingup.

2023 Report - Balingup Arts and Culture Hub (BACH)

BACH deliveries for 2022-23 FY

In its first full year of operation, BACH delivered the following to the Balingup community, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup residents and the South West region:

30 ticketed events covering professional Classical and Baroque orchestral concerts, jazz combos, contemporary, traditional Irish, French cabaret, Japanese classical mandolin and puppetry performances as well community forums and skills-based workshops on health wellbeing and individual and community resilience.

Artists-in-schools residency with Balingup Primary School also featured a public display of student art in the Balingup Town Hall that came out of the interaction between Australian Baroque's Four Seasons and students across the entire school in a week-long residency.

Revive and Thrive Community Resilience and Wellbeing Program 19-21 August 2022 – a three-day event funded by the FRRR (Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal) involving 400+ community members.

Launch of the Balingup Arts and Culture Hub – 30 April -7 May 2023 a seven-day event opening with Space Music performed by the Australian Baroque Orchestra and culminating in a series of community workshops and a cabaret featuring French Chanteuse Tess Merlot over the weekend involving 7yo – 90+ year olds.

Finances

Above activity resulted in \$60 276 passing through the BACH books made up of \$28 544 in ticket sales with the rest made up of grants from the FRRR (Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal) and small grants from Talison Lithium. All grants have been acquitted. Bendigo Bank indicated (4 October 2023) that ordinary statements currently unavailable, so full screen shot copies of transactions for the 2022-2023 Financial Year are attached.

Not for Profit. BACH has operated as a not-for-profit group as required by the BPA Constitution

Insurance. Currently BACH has no items listed under BPA policies. The BPA sound system is stored in the Balingup Town Hall.

Shire Event Approvals. All 30 ticketed events were lodged for approval by the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

Names of BACH Committee

Beth Chia	Chair
Chrissy Maddison	Deputy Chair
Gary Hodge	Secretary/Treasurer
Jan Michele Helsham	Member
Alison McMullan	Member
Mary Hockley	Member
Matt Andrews	Member
Sean Mitchell	Member

Treasurer' Report

Balingup Progress Association Inc, Balance Sheet as at 30 June, 2023

Assets

Operating account	12,263.09
Community Trust Fund account	16,183.77
Term Deposit account (Insurance Reserve)	35,511.31
Term Deposit account (Future's Fund)	1000.16
General account (previously Event Co-ord)	0.06
Net Assets	0

Equity

Balingup Progress Association funds	8,010.98
Balingup War Memorial Grant	260.17
Balingup Men In Sheds	400.00
Balingup Rail Group	0.00
Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour	827.04
Balingup Health and Wellness Group	1,250.00
Balingup Community Forest Garden	414.90
Bibbulmun Track event grant funds	1,100
Net Equity	0

Profit and loss for Balingup Progress Association as at 30 June, 2023.

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Yearly total
Income													
Room Hire								20.00					\$20.00
Membership fees			42.00	97.00									\$139.00
Donations/Contributions			5002.00			7294.38							\$12,296.38
Other				49.00							217.62		\$266.62
Grant funds*	2089.01					2000.00						2850.00	\$6,939.01
Gross Profit/ net income	2089.01	0.00	5044.00	146.00	0.00	9294.38	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	217.62	2850.00	\$19,661.01
Expenses													
Cleaning					480.00				420.00				\$900.00
Equipment									216.00				\$216.00
Event contributions							50.00				30.00	60.00	\$140.00
Fire extinguishers	235.95											187.55	\$423.50
Function hire/facilitation				237.38	200.00							30.00	\$467.38
Insurance						1444.96	8467.42						\$9,912.38
Memberships									150.00				\$150.00
Pest Control												495.00	\$495.00
Post box			49.00							52.00			\$101.00
Registration expenses				83.95									\$83.95
Repairs and maintenance					86.14					643.10	834.60	224.79	\$1,788.63
Review of Accounts/Audit			50.00										\$50.00
Software (annual)					129.00								\$129.00
Stationery and printing						56.00		23.10	152.00				\$231.10
Utilities (electricity, water)							122.09	8.80	203.74		206.79	403.87	\$945.29
Website (biannual)							56.25					200.35	\$256.60
Transfer to accounts							1000.00	4000.00					\$5,000.00
Umbrella group purchases/funds	2000.00	6447.00								1199.00		815.10	\$10,461.10
Total expenses	2235.95	6447.00	99.00	321.33	895.14	1500.96	9695.76	4031.90	1141.74	1894.10	1071.39	2416.66	\$31,750.93
NET PROFIT (net income)	-146.94	-6447.00	4945.00	-175.33	-895.14	7793.42	-9695.76	-4011.90	-1141.74	-1894.10	-853.77	433.34	-\$12,089.92

Assumptions:

Figures include GST.

* Includes funds held for Umbrella Groups