

UMBRELLA GROUP REPORTS

Small Farm Field Day

This years field day was held on Saturday the 6th April. It was a very warm day with 34 degree Celsius reached. The crowd was counted at 4500 including stall holders and volunteers. The day ran well but the crowd was less than we hoped. A number of factors were suggested for this

1: a hot day with people not expecting it.

2: the apple festival the weekend before.

3: cost of living pressures.

All of the above are out of the control of the committee we can but hope for better conditions next year.

Even with increased costs we still managed a small profit of \$5000, we also have a reserve of \$40,000. To address some of the above issues the committee has resolved to not replace our coordinator Corrine Rule who has done a fantastic job for the last two years, Corrine is leaving the role to start her own business. The funds saved will be used to top our reserves and to do more promotional activities.

Next years event will be on the 12th April 2025 one week before the apple festival. We face competition from the Apple festival as they have free entry and local stall holders are free as well. They are able to attract funding from government sources to subsidise their event. We have applied for some funding but some funding bodies say we have always made a profit so they are reluctant to be involved. Sponsorship is being sought from businesses in the district to help us fund this great event.

As per usual we have been supported by group of loyal supporters plus community groups. Special thanks to Damian Cameron and John Hancock from the medieval carnivale, Balingup primary school P & C, Balingup friends of the forest, the GREENBUSHES lodge, Bridgetown high school P&C, Shamrock sports club and kirup primary school P&C and the GREENBUSHES school. The many gate volunteers who come every year. Anish and Bhavni who are our IT experts who donate their time and expertise to us and the carnivale.

Changes for next years event include moving the Black stump talks into the sports pavilion and moving the kids corner onto the oval. Our theme will be "Back to basics" As always we need more people on our committee of which number who are retiring this year a parking coordinator, a meeting secretary (just minutes taking), social media person, scarecrow coordinator and advertising coordinator. If you can fill one of these roles please contact Andrew on 0428 641 197.

Special thanks to all of my committee for the great effort they put in. Sonja Franks Dave Franks Michelle McManus Stu Walls Anne Morton Karen Connor Cynthia and Martin Copeland Richard Malpass Bethany Chia Elizabeth Verheyen Karen Magi Andrew Sinagra Russell Price

Belting Progress Association - Small Farms Field Day

29/05/24 Balance Sheet
As of May 29, 2024

	May 29, '24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Current/Savings	
Field Day Account	11,133.80
Mastercard	50.34
Savings	29,193.12
Total Current/Savings	40,377.26
Total Current Assets	40,377.26
TOTAL ASSETS	40,377.26
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	16,777.01
Retained Earnings	26,580.29
Net Income	-2,980.04
Total Equity	40,377.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQU...	40,377.26

2023/24 Total Profit and Loss

Jul '23 - Jun '24

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Entry Sales	51,209.85
Sponsorship/Grants	2,515.00
Stall Income	44,221.00
Sundries & Farm Visits	833.72
Total Income	98,779.57
Gross Profit	98,779.57
Expense	
Admin & Sundries	9,852.33
Advertising	10,827.80
Awards	500.00
Bank & Card Charges	482.07
Capital Works/Assets	1,485.97
Cleaning & Waste Management	12,466.50
Coordinator	23,658.05
Demos & Entertainment	11,414.98
Gates & Cleanup	3,200.00
Hire	8,289.47
Parking	6,312.50
Photocopy/Stationery/Print	2,188.00
Visits to Farms	90.00
Website	1,389.30
Total Expense	92,156.97
Net Ordinary Income	6,622.60
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Earned	397.56
Total Other Income	397.56
Other Expense	
BPA / BADSA	10,000.00
Total Other Expense	10,000.00
Net Other Income	-9,602.44
Net Income	-2,980.04

Balingup Medieval Carnivale 2024

President's Report

The Carnivale was held over the weekend of 23/24 August. Despite heavy rain both before and during the event, the event turned out to be a huge success with overwhelmingly positive feedback from visitors and stall holders. The occasional muddy patches created a rustic medieval feel which many visitors seem to enjoy.

Ticket sales were in the region of 8500 with many more people coming through the gates including the volunteers, entertainers, stall holders and of course children under 12 who were free of charge. The income this year was approximately \$246,000.

The Committee managed to obtain extra land which resulted in the event land size to be nearly double that of last year. This meant a completely new layout could be developed with a lot more space and less congestion around the food trucks.

Many thanks to our King Alpin and Queen Laura who once again did a wonderful effort into pulling all the Medievalist Groups together and created a festive atmosphere of medieval times. The entertainment during the week-end was fabulous and received great reviews. The feast was as usual a great success and managed to break even. In future this should be managed as a financially sustainable business.

Over the past 12 months significant ground works were carried out on site. This included a new stage, shower, drainage works and other minor works around the site. There was a specific focus on the decoration of the two containers to create a castle effect, complete with a turret and castellations. We also commissioned a local artist to create art works to decorate the castle walls.

Not only does the Medieval Carnivale bring volunteers and townspeople together but it also supports local businesses in Balingup and surrounding towns. We understand that all local accommodation was booked out and the local school managed to raise some funds by organizing parking on their grounds.

A thank you lunch for the volunteers was held on the grounds of the BMC in front of the castle and attended by approximately 60 people. I would like to express a big thank you to the committee for all their effort and dedication which ensured the 2024 Carnivale was a big success.

BMC 2024 Profit/Loss

Income		Expenditure	
Tickets, sales, stalls, feast, costumes etc 2024 *	\$245,714.85	24 Promotion	-\$9,246.90
Goods Sold	\$1,370.00	24 Site Costs	-\$160,568.67 includes capital expenditure
Total	\$247,084.85	24 Administration	-\$6,431.32 includes honorarium and contracts
* Costume cash hire to be calculated/included		24 Costumes*	-\$3,000.00 estimate/costs to be added
		24 Entertainment	-\$59,948.78 includes honorariums
Available funds as of 11/23	\$169,500.00	Committee Sundries	-\$9,209.45
		Grounds Maintenance	-\$29,574.78
	\$416,584.85	Bank fees	-\$25.54
		Donations	-\$1,999.04
		Grounds Honorarium	-\$5,473.18
		24 Feast	-\$15,574.50
		Stall refunds	-\$605.00
		Insurance	-\$8,435.00 to be paid
		Total	-\$310,092.16
		Available funds	\$106,492.69

Balingup Townscape

The committee members are Helen Christensen (Chair) Geoff McMullen (Treasurer) Noelene King (Secretary) Fred Mills, John Bailey, Mark Giles, Damien Cameron, Wendy Ayers, Ros Benson, Rick Thomas.

Items from our 2022/23 budget.

- 6 double sided banners completed. The banners represent what Balingup is all about they include all the sporting and social activities you can enjoy in our town. It will be necessary to re-weld two of the arms on the banner poles before the banners can go up. We will be hiring a cherry picker for this work and hanging the banners.
- Planter Boxes and hanging baskets completed. Plants have been replaced when necessary.
- Bike rack ready to be galvanized.
- Foot bridge not going ahead.
- Retic to the planter boxes on hold until Water Authority complete their works on the highway.
- Red flowering gums on the highway near Amber Valley entrance have been planted.

Items from our 2023/24 budget.

- Scarecrows have been sand blasted and are back to their intended rusty look.
- Grass trees plantings are on hold until we are certain we can comply with all Talisons requirements re watering etc.
- Trees on the Golden Valley path have been planted.
- Southern entry statement: A contractor is undertaking the wall behind the scarecrow.
- The Council was unable to replace the Balingup sign north of town that was stolen. TSC will be replacing it.
- The weir was repaired and cleaned out.
- New bench has been installed by the swimming hole.
- Some of the culverts have been enhanced with river rocks. Ongoing.
- The bridge over the Brook in Kulya Mia Park has had a wood treatment as has the post/rail fencing.
- Solar lighting on the northern entry to town still to be installed. Telling Tales cut out progressing.
- Planting in the boxes is ongoing throughout the year.

We have not applied to the Council for budget item in the 2024/25 year as funding was unavailable. We will apply in the 2025/26 financial year. I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their dedication to the completion of the projects they took on in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years. They are always very willing to give up their free time to work on projects every year. I will be sending a copy of this report to the Council.

Balingup Night Markets

The Balingup Night Markets have continued to run every month come rain, hail or shine. We saw the markets gain popularity over the September to February months with increased attendances. We also noted an increase in tourist attendance with many noting they had seen the event online. This indicates successful promotion of the event by local business and tourism outlets. An increase of stallholders in the warmer months, particularly the December Christmas market saw stalls set up in the grassed area around the Peace Pavillion as well as the area in front of the Packing Shed. Feedback from vendors was that this worked well for them.

Once again during the winter months we saw a considerable drop off of our stall holders and in turn with the attendance of visitors and locals. The consistency, however, of the markets was well appreciated in the winter months by those who did attend.

In this last year the Night Markets Committee and stakeholder group has undergone some changes. Firstly the Packing Shed was sold and the new owner is now Brian Foster. The new Committee is Sharon Keady, Mike Gittos, Brian Foster and Amy Baker. Beth Chia has provided wonderful support to the markets in sourcing local music talent to entertain patrons each month.

Another pleasing aspect of the markets this last year has been the utilisation of locals for celebrations. We have hosted a number of birthday parties and a farewell party at the markets.

The committee intends to continue to explore grant opportunities to provide heating and lighting to enhance the experience for our vendors and attendees.

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. All income is spent on paying for entertainers.

Current cash held: \$0

Vendor and Stall Information

We currently have 24 stallholders listed with us of which all have attended at least once. The stalls offer a wide variety of wares from fresh produce, handmade jewelry, preserves, olive oil, skincare, gems, linen, clothing, tarot readings, second hand goods, art and craft.

We recently had the inclusion of a local honey vendor and a local mushroom grower. In addition we hosted some home school groups and some of our younger demographic selling some home-made items.

Acknowledgments

The BNMC would to acknowledge BPA for their assistance through the provision of a governing body under which we can operate. Special acknowledgement to our committee member Amy for taking on additional workload of stallholder coordinator and doing a fantastic job.

Balingup Historical Group Report for the Balingup Progress Association AGM 2024

Members Noelene King, Sharon Smith (Treasurer) Helen Christensen

Once again, we held two six monthly exhibitions. The first was the about all the Italian migrants who came to start a new life in Western Australia and choose to come to Balingup. Noelene did a huge amount of research which including visiting and talking with many of the families. They were very helpful providing written information and photographs. These Italian families made a big impact around the district, very hard-working practical people a bonus for any town with descendants still living locally. Most of the families then visited the exhibition and we had great feedback and complimentary comments on how the exhibition was presenting their stories.

Our second exhibition continued the theme early settlers most of these coming directly from the UK or via the eastern states. Once again Noelene gathered all the necessary information and photos. These families also visited the exhibition and were pleased to see recognition being given to their hard working, pioneering forebears.

With the Packing Shed being sold we had a substantial rental increase, so it was necessary for us to apply for a once off grant from Talison to go with the reduced community grant from the Shire and some of our gold coin donations to be able to sign a new lease of our space for 2024.

We have been very fortunate and are very grateful to the Village Pedlars Committee who have given us a substantial grant towards our rent for 2025. But with our area in the shed about to have renovations starting this month we have had to pack up everything and store it in our container, a friend's garage and in a corner of our current space. We are not sure whether we will be able to work within the space in the future. Time will tell.

But we would once again like to thank everyone for their continued support in kind and financial, and we have a new plaque on our supporters board to acknowledge all the "blokes" with know how who have helped us out over the years with practical advice and grant.

BALINGUP HISTORICAL PROJECT GROUP			
	INCOME	EXPENSES	
Bank Balance as at 09/08/23			\$5,805.89
Income			
Donations	\$976.95		
Talison Grant	\$3,500.00		
Shire of Dbk/Bal	\$1,600.00		
	\$6,076.95	\$6,076.95	
			\$11,882.84
Expenditure			
Reimburse H Christensen – Laminating Sheets		\$32.00	
Reimburse N King – Laminator, Pouches, Photocopies		\$107.65	
Reimburse H Christensen – Booties, Guest Book, Pouches		\$88.95	
B Foster Packing Shed - Rent		\$5,500.00	
		\$5,728.60	
Total Expenditure			\$5,728.60
Balance at bank as at 24/05/24			\$6,154.24
We were extremely fortunate and grateful to receive a donation recently from the Village Pedlars of Balingup in the amount of \$5000 which will greatly assist us with rent for the coming year.			

BALINGUP COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

REPORT 2024

THIS YEAR:

- New plant species have been planted to build up garden diversity
- Around 150 plant and tree species have been identified and new name plaques are being established.
- Many visitors have been enjoying many species of citrus fruits, apples, plums and also tasty herbs.
- Many bird species using garden and a new bird species has been observed which is an indicator that we are reaching some of our garden goals for creating habitat and food for a diverse range of local wildlife
- Jesse Humphries has been doing fortnightly Permaculture gardening classes for homeschool kids. Children from ages 8-12 are learning permaculture principles and ethics, earth cycles, biological sciences, biology and Permaculture gardening techniques.
- New sandpit area and sand for young children.
- A generous outpouring of plant donations from the community during the winter
- New paths are working really well at creating an even, hard surface and keeping couch grass away.
- Packing shed has been providing a steady source of cardboard which has been fantastic in supporting our community recycling initiative.
- A new member committee has been very active and getting some regular events and future sustainable garden management systems in place.
- Members have been busy organizing the new signage material for the sign grant that we received. Signs will be installed at the end of the year.

FUTURE PLANS:

- Members are excited about the new visitors and members communication board for under the gazebo that will be finished this year, and the many new information signs and garden map that will assist people visiting the garden.
- A community garden herb harvest will be occurring in October and we will be making some herbal balms.
- Working with the shire to minimize fire and snake danger in surrounding unused land, to slash and mulch some of the excess vegetation surrounding garden.

Balingup Art & Cultural Hob (BACH)

See Annex B-1 for detailed report. Summary as below:

- Actual attendance figures for 2024 (so far) **450**
- Expected attendance for 2025 (estimated) **500**
- Value of gate takings for 2024 (so far) \$16 640 in ticket sales and the contract employment of 31 artists, three event stylists, two technical professionals and a print/social media specialist, the latter group all Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Shire residents
- Expected gate takings 2025 **\$12 000**

BACH ANNUAL PROGRAM 2024-2025 BALINGUP TOWN HALL

BADTA/BACH Wedding Expo (Set up 1 November 2024) 2-3 November 2024

Libby Hammer Duo 2 November 2024

Rock and Song 16 November 2024

Summa Music Christmas Concert 7 December 2024

Morning Melodies 15 February 2025

Theatre 180 Lighthouse Girl Professional Multi Media Live Drama 14 March 2025 (

Morning Melodies April 12 2025

Big HOO-HAH stand up comedy June 2024

May Café Cantata Australian Baroque TBD

May Tipping Point residency Hall TBD

Morning Melodies 14 June

11 June 2025 Whalebone (Kerfuffle Children's Theatre NSW)

21 June Mid Winter BACH Ball

14 March 2025 Theatre 180 Lighthouse Girl Professional Multi Media Live Drama (Set up 30 November 2024 Breakdown/clearance 30 November 2024)

11 June 2025 Whalebone (Kerfuffle Children's Theatre NSW)(Set up 11 June 2025 Breakdown 11 June 2025)

2026 She is Strong aerial and two week residency Grant Round 2025

Balingup Rail Group

See Annex B-2 for report.

Balingup Rail Group 23/24

Incoming		
Date	Received from	Amount
7-Jul	Talison	25000.00
21-Jul	Shire Bri-Gre	5000.00
27-Jul	Shire Dbk-Bal	5000.00
10-Aug	Shire of Dardanup	5000.00
30-Aug	City of Bunbury	5000.00
26-Oct	Shire of Capel	5000.00
13-Dec	BRG Future's Fund grant (Trust fund)	5000.00
13-Dec	BRG Future's Fund loan (Trust fund)	5000.00
Totals		60,000.00

Outgoing		
Date	Paid to	Amount
14/21 Dec	Lanegold Pty Ltd Linqage (BRG)	14300.00
28-Feb	Nelson's Bridgetown (BRG funds)	285.00
8-Feb	BREC (BRG funds)	488.00
8-Feb	EHB Holdings (BRG funds)	200.00
12-Apr	Shire of Manjimup (BRG funds)	36.00
12-Apr	Lanegold Pty Ltd Linqage (BRG)	14300.00
30-Jun	Repay BPA Future's Fund loan amount	5000.00
Totals		34,609.00

Monthly Summary:

Funds received	\$ 60,000.00
Outgoing funds	\$ 34,609.00
BRG available funds	\$ 25,391.00

Balingup Health & Wellbeing

Balingup Health & Wellbeing is focused on responding to the growing interest in health and wellbeing within the South West, the local businesses of Balingup and the practitioners from Bridgetown to Donnybrook. They ran one event in 2021 and hope to run a similar event in the future.

There are no paid entertainers – all are volunteers.

The group understands that BPA insurance does not include professional Indemnity.

This is a free event, no tickets or payment required to enter event.

If this group run an event in 2025, they will aim for 40 stall holders and between 300- 400 visitors.

Location will be at Village Green in Balingup.

Event application form will be submitted to the Shire.

Resilience Group

This group is focused on improving the ability of Balingup to respond in times of community stress. A detailed set of guidelines exist for how/when the group would swing into action and includes contact details of key agencies. W.Trow has attended Local Emergency Management Committee meetings to ensure they are aware of the aims of the group. She has also, with funding from Rural Aid, rolled out a similar project in four other communities.

In February 2024, Balingup took delivery of a 22kva generator which is stored on a trailer in the Fire Shed. This critical piece of equipment can be quickly moved to the Recreation Centre in the event of power outages. The group comprises 13 members and plans to hold its 2024/25 meeting with the Shire and Department of Communities on 15th October. No funds are held.

Birdwood Avenue of Honour

Work in the Avenue of Honour concentrated on maintaining the Commemorative Plaques and the Information Boards. Of concern was that two plaques came from the new mounts. These plaques were reattached by the supplier. Road erosion caused by heavy rain is still burying two plaques at the start of the Avenue of Honour.

The Shire undertook a substantial pruning and weed removal of the gardens. This work was much appreciated by all.

Investigations are continuing into the health of the oak trees in the Avenue of Honour. While there has been no definitive findings as yet by the Consultants, a Health Amendment Strategy is planned. This strategy will be gradually introduced to specific oak trees with ongoing monitoring. Final plans are still under discussion with the Shire who has fully funded this work.

It is of note that the 100 year Anniversary of the official opening is coming up on the 20 August 2032. Consideration should be given to the staging of a celebratory event.

Balingup Men in Sheds 23/24

Men in Sheds still continues to attract men of varying ages albeit over 60 !

Despite the difficulty of sourcing guest speakers we are now discussing various topics which are usually nominated at the previous meeting.

Some background reading is usually needed to be ready for some vigorous debate Which is always to be expected!!

I remain optimistic that we will be still persist for a few more years



Geoff McMullen
Treasurer

Report of 2024 Telling Tales Event to Progress Association

After a five-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions, Chrissy Maddison, Leonie Creagh, and I decided to revive Telling Tales in Balingup. Fortunately, our bank account still held funds, supplemented by a contribution from the finalization of the Balingup Art and Craft Affair. This financial backing allowed us to print new flyers, place banners at either end of town, and order calico bags screen-printed with our logo.

We applied for additional funding to cover the award rates for our authors and artists, successfully securing \$3,000 from Upcycled and \$5,000 from Talison. The support of numerous volunteers and local businesses, which hosted our storytellers, was instrumental in the success of the event.

The weekend was a resounding success, with authors and presenters thrilled to be part of the revived festival. We estimated an attendance of 170 children, not including parents and other adults who joined them.

Plans are already underway for the 2025 festival. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Balingup community for their unwavering support in bringing this beloved event back to life.
